



## Provincial Guy Arabs Part 2 - Post War Guy & Park Royal Bodied



## Provincial Bus Community

*Provincial*

If you had time machine the question would always be "what time would you return to?" In my case I think it would have to be 1970, and the place? Fort Wallington Car Breakers at Fareham (armed with a wad of cash) Why you may ask? This was the final resting-place for most of the Guy Arabs purchased by Provincial from 1949 to 1953. In my view it is a great shame that none of these were preserved. I have a great affection for Park Royal products and these were particularly handsome (although most were actually built by Guy). It could be argued that very similar examples from Southampton still exist but this does not make up for the fact that all the Provincial ones have long gone. I would say that these vehicles are probably my favourite Provincial buses, although all broadly similar in appearance they had different characteristics. I will share some of these with you, and also my reminiscences of them.

3- JOT 288 - All of these vehicles had hand painted rear number plates. After a repaint in the 1960's, I remember JOT 288 in service with JOT 289 painted on the rear for a period of time before anyone noticed.

6 -HCG 41, 7- HCG 42 - These two were always some of my favourites of the batch as they were always quite rare on the number 1 and 3 routes on which I lived. I don't know why this was but they seemed to spend most of their time on the routes around Gosport.

20 - KOR 462 This vehicle had a particularly loud and distinctive exhaust note. During my childhood I used to lay in bed at night and try and guess which bus was passing outside by listening to the sound. It was never a problem identifying KOR 462. David Whitaker informs me at one time it had the Provincial fleetname above the destination blind in SCRIPT. It also, unusually, had TWO bells on the platform, one in the RT position.

22 - LHO 252 This was the last of these vehicles delivered. 22 entered service with chromium plated Guy hub caps on its front wheels, It also had a large T shaped heater fixed to the front bulkhead in the lower saloon, which the others did not have. 57 - EHO 869 had something similar I recall.

The bodies of these vehicles were also interesting, most were by Guy to a Park Royal design, and on one (22) the frames were built by Park Royal itself. You could not easily spot the difference.

Fleet No.	Reg No.	Chassis Type	Entered Service	Bodied by	Withdrawn
3	JOT 288	Arab III	1951	Guy	1970
4	JHO 129	Arab III	1951	Guy	1970
5	HOR 792	Arab III	1950	Guy	1970
6	HCG 41	Arab III	1949	Guy	1970
7	HCG 42	Arab III	1949	Guy	1970
20	KOR 462	Arab III	1952	Guy	1970
21	KOR 462	Arab III	1952	Guy	1970
22	LHO 252	Arab III	1953	Park Royal	1970



*No 3 JOT 288 seen here when relatively new, as the front route number box has not yet been added.*

**Photo: Stephen Didymus collection**



No 4 JHO 129 seen at Gosport Ferry just about to depart for Fareham (West End)



No 5 (HOR 792) seen at Gosport Ferry in its early days.

**Photo: Clive Wilkin**



No. 6 (HCG 41) is seen here Hartlands Road Fareham.

**Photo: Fred York**



No. 7 (HCG 42) at Gosport Ferry.

**Photo: Stephen Didymus Collection**



No. 20 (KOR 462) at Gosport Ferry on service 11 to HMS Dolphin. **Photo: Cliff Essex**



No. 21 (KOR 463) at Hoeford. **Photo: Nigel Wheeler**



*The last of the batch No. 22 (LHO 252) at Gosport Ferry.*

**Photo: Fred York**

