



## Previous Lives - Part 1



## Provincial Bus Community



Here is a selection of buses which have served with Provincial, depicted in their previous lives. This part covers the era up to the nationalisation of the company in 1970.



*New to Halifax Corporation, Park Royal bodied A.E.C. Regent JX 7048 looks very smart in the livery of Beckett of Bucknall. During its time with this Staffordshire independent, it was refurbished with various parts (including the radiator) from an ex-London Transport STL. It later spent from 1957 to 1959 as Fleet No. 1 with Provincial Traction Company Ltd.*

**Photo: Stephen Didymus collection**



*New to Glasgow Corporation, No 2 (BUS 107) seen here with its previous owner Procter's of Hanley in Staffordshire.*

**Photo: Stephen Didymus Collection**



*Glasgow 572 (BUS 138) seen at Carlton Place terminus c.1950. Despite spending 1955 – 57 as Provincial 16 ( before becoming one of the Hoeford fire victims ), no views of this bus in Gosport & Fareham livery have been found yet. **Photo : Roy Marshall***



*Southampton 151 (FCR 452) which became No 11 in the Provincial fleet.*

**Photo:Stephen Didymus Collection**



*Seen here in Burgess Road on route 15, Southampton 140 FCR 441 (Provincial 16).*

***Photo: Stephen Didymus Collection***



*Inside Portswood garage, Southampton 141 FCR 442 (Provincial 19).*

***Photo: Paul Redmond***



*The Provincial bus that never was, Southampton 142 (FCR 443). Provincial fleet number 39 was allocated to this bus but it never entered service due to a cracked chassis.*

**Photo: Paul Redmond**



*Southampton 144 (FCR 445) later to become Provincial 40, seen here at the old floating bridge terminus.*

**Photo: Douglas Parker**



*FCR 446, No 145 in the Southampton fleet, was destined to become Provincial 41.*

*Photo: Stephen Didymus Collection*



*In this atmospheric photo, Southampton 139 (FCR 440) is on route 12 to the docks via Portswood and St Marys. It was No 48 in the Provincial fleet.*

*Photo: Stephen Didymus Collection*



*Southampton 108 (FCR 198) - 62 with Provincial, laying over at what appears to be the Floating Bridge terminus.*

**Photo: S.J. Butler Collection**



*109 (FCR 199) - 63 with Provincial, seen here in Southampton on route 6.*

**Photo: Roy Marshall**



110 (FCR 200) seen here on route 6 followed by a Park Royal bodied Leyland Titan. This bus was No 64 with Provincial. **Photo: Paul Redmond**



Southampton 111 (FCR 201) is travelling along Above Bar, on route 11 Bassett Green, one the posh areas of the City. This bus became No 65 with Provincial. **Photo: Paul Redmond**



*This 1932 photo shows JO 5404 at Weymann's prior to entering service with City of Oxford. This bus was one of six AEC Regents purchased by Provincial from COMS in 1940, becoming no. 20 in the Gosport & Fareham fleet. Although withdrawn in 1948, the chassis was stored and various parts were subsequently used in the 1956 construction of coach 69 ( PCG 436).*

**Photo : Martin Shaw collection**



*A rare late 1930s view of Tynemouth & District No. 95 ( FT 4222 ) with its original Weymann body. Re-bodied in 1949, it was acquired by Provincial in 1957 as one of the fire replacement vehicles and given fleet number 39. **Photo : Stephen Didymus Collection***



*Western National LS 1351 (OTT 33) was a familiar sight in our area long before becoming Provincial 58 in 1969. Here it is in Park Gate on 11 September 1966. Photo: Fred York*



*Red & White 1249 (HWO 335), later Provincial 13, was one of three Duple-bodied Guy Arab IIIs acquired for contract work in 1967. Photo: Stephen Didymus collection*



*Another batch of Red & White vehicles to find employment with Provincial were three 1954 Bristol LS coaches. MAX 134 was fleet no.30 during its time at Hoeford.*

***Photo: Stephen Didymus collection***



*New to Red & White in 1942, this Guy Arab had its original Duple body replaced in 1950 by BBW (Brislington). Seen here in Westgate Street, Gloucester in 1961, EWO 467 subsequently became Provincial 77 in 1965 where it was used mostly on the Foster Wheeler contract to Fawley.*

***Photo: Colin Routh***



*This early post-war photograph shows EDG 975 with its Northern Counties Utility body, carrying its original Red & White fleet number 783. In 1952, this bus was given a new BBW lowbridge body and was purchased by Provincial in 1966 in whose fleet it became no 31.*

**Photo: Stephen Didymus Collection**



*Ex Red & White EDG 976 (to become Provincial 78) seen here with its original Duple utility body.*

**Photo: Stephen Didymus Collection**



*This splendid photo of Tynemouth & District 95 (FT 4222) gives a good idea of just how advanced the Weymann body was, stylistically, for 1938 – it was a good few years before front entrance double-deckers became fashionable. Photo: Stephen Didymus collection*



*Whether the front entrance layout proved counter-productive or maybe the Weymann bodies had developed structural faults is not known, but in 1949, this batch was re-bodied by Pickering as illustrated by this mid-1950s view. FT 4222 later became Provincial 39. Photo: Roy Marshall*



*Guy Arab (72 with Provincial), HHA 84 is seen here in its original condition, with Midland Red.*  
**Photo: Stephen Didymus collection**



*UY 3186 with its original owner, Owen's of Abberley. This view is thought to date from about 1936 shortly after being rebodied by Grose.*

**Photo from the Roger Warwick collection**



64 (ETV 778) whilst with Nottingham City Transport during World War 2, note the white painted mudguards used to aid visibility during the blackout.

**Photo: Stephen Didymus Collection**



Later to become Provincial 63, Nottingham 213 (CTO 387) in its home city c.1950. Note the unusual siting of the route number blind.

**Photo copyright: Alan Cross**



Arguably the most attractive vehicle ever to operate for GFOC was this 1933 AEC Regal, FW 4054, seen here in the early 1930s with Provincial's sister company in Grimsby.

**Photo: Stephen Didymus collection**

