

Vehicle Profile: FTA 634

An initial look at a vehicle in the TV&GWOT Collection



This wartime Bristol K5G was first licensed in March 1941, FTA 634 joined the Western National Omnibus Co. Ltd fleet as No. 345. The original invoice shows the vehicle to have been collected from ECW by Driver R Crocker on 28th March 1941.

It operated in the Plymouth area being withdrawn from service in 1960. It passed through the hands of a dealer in 1961 before ending up on the premises of a brick works in Sussex. Some 30 years later it was rescued by a group of three enthusiasts from the Plymouth area known as the 345 group. They returned the vehicle to Devon and it was based at Winkleigh for many years.

The group did much work restoring the vehicle, Richard Cook particularly spending long hours re-framing parts of the vehicle during the short periods he was home from sea.

The group decided to pass ownership on and in 2004 it was bought by its present owner. It remains in Devon, now closer to its Plymouth roots. 345 was placed on long-term loan to TV&GWOT a decade later and now forms the focus for restoration work (structural and mechanical) for the Trust's West Country based Supporters.

DATA PANEL

Registration: FTA 634

Type: Bristol K5G

Built: 1941

Engine: Gardner 5LW

Body: Eastern Coach Works L30/26R

Operator: Western National Omnibus Co