# Massey Bros coachbuilders 




$44^{2}-2=-2$

Phill hhomis

## PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS

The photographs used throughout this book have been accumulated over many years by the Author and his colleagues. Many from the former official collection were loaned by retired employees of Massey Bros. or Northern Counties, or rescued from the various skips when the factory was being rebuilt or, later, demolished. Arthur Tyldesley loaned his negative collection for printing many years ago, more recently his son, lan, donated a further selection. Other views have been loaned for the publication and where known the photographers are recorded alongside the images, using their initials as shown below. We sincerely apologise if anyone has been inadvertently missed out from these acknowledgements.

| ABC | ALAN CROSS | JK | JOHN KAYE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| AEJ | TED JONES | RCD | RC DAVIS |
| BB | BRIAN BKP550 | RD | ROBERT DOWNHAM |
| CMS | CUMBERLAND MOTOR SERVICES | RLK | RL KELL |
| CP | CLAIRE PENDROUS | JL | JOHN LOCKE |
| CT | CHRIS TAYLOR | LM | LEN MIDGHAM |
| DC | DAVID COLE | LMR | LIAM MILLER |
| ELCB | EAST LANCS COACHBUILDERS | OP | OWEN PHILLIPS |
| EO | ERIC OGDEN | OS | OMNIBUS SOCIETY |
| GA | GUY ARAB | PT | PETER TULLOCH |
| GL | GEOFF LUMB | RM | ROY MARSHALL |
| HSP | HARRY POSTLETHWAITE | RMC | ROY MARHSALL collection |
| HSPC | HARRY POSTLETHWAITE collection | SD | STEPHEN DOWIE |
| HWC | HARRY WALL collection | SLP | SLPOOLE |
| IGMS | IAN STEWART | ST | STEVE THOROUGHGOOD |
| JAS | JOHN SENIOR | STA | THE SENIOR TRANSPORT ARCHIVE |
| JFH | JF HIGHAM | WJW | WJ WISE |

## COVER and TITLE PAGE CAPTIONS

Cover: Heading out of town over the West Coast Main Line railway bridge at the foot of Wigan's Wallgate, Corporation No. 137 was a 1960 Leyland PD3/2 with Massey's more typical styling of the era. It is just about to pass the end of Melverley Street where the Corporation's depot was located - whilst the pub has seen better days. (AEJ)
Title page: Green Bus Service of Great Wyrley, near Cannock, operated this ex-Rees and Williams Guy Arab IV until 1987. It is pictured on a glorious winter's morning in December 1980, crossing Cannock Chase, en route for Wolverhampton. (CP)

Rear cover: The distinctive rear outline of a Massey double-decker destined for Great Yarmouth.


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If you'd like to make a donation to our charity of choice - The Christie, Europe's largest specialist cancer centre - there's a link here.


A fine example of Lancashire engineering showing a Massey-bodied Leyland Titan PD2/37 from the local Wigan fleet operating an enthusiasts'
special service to the special service to the Cobham bus museum in Surrey. This can rightly be considered as representative of the best of traditional bus manufacture
with front engine, half cab for the driver, and a forward entrance with sliding door to the saloon to keep passengers warm and safe. Number with front engine, half cab for the driver, and a forward entrance with sliding door to the saloon to keep passengers warm and safe. Number
140 was built in 1966 and withdrawn by GMPTE in 1983 after a spell as a driver trainer. 1 w was purchased by the Wallace School of Transport
in London, again for use as a driver trainer, before passing into preservation in 1991. (JAS)


# Massey Bros Coachbuilders 

## A history of the Company and its products from 1904 to 1968

by

## Phil Thoms

Computer Origination and Design: John A Senior

## Venture publications

## INTRODUCTION

This volume, the latest in the series of bodybuilders histories from Glossop continues the work begun with a modest picture album of Northern Counties photographs way back in 1974. Access to manufacturers and their management allowed greater depth of coverage but throughout the 1980s the pace of closure of the British Bus and Coachbuilding industry was greater than the resources of the publisher and its authors could match
Companies which had already gone out of existence took second place to those still trading, resulting in some - including Massey - being sidelined, either for lack of resource or for reasons of commercial viability. Eric Ogden and Harry Postlethwaite began to amass material for a Massey history in 1989 but various pressures caused the project to be put to one side for some years. More recently, we became aware that Phil Thoms had been working quite independently on the same project, unknown to the others, since 2004. His offer to take over the whole project was welcomed, and provided the necessary spark to reignite the concept. More research was necessary to bring the project nearer to completion for publication, with Phil now in the driving seat.

Sadly, Eric died on New Year's Day 2011 and so was not able to see the finished result, though we are sure he would have been proud of what has been accomplished. This book is, therefore, dedicated to his memory, as a tribute to the many years he spent researching and writing about matters pertaining to the bus industry. We shall miss him greatly.

Chester Corporation's ubiquitous No
I is a Guy Arab IV supplied in a batch of three in 1953. It ran in service for 22 years, subsequently being used as a driver trainer
for a short time for a short time before being preserved.
was spotted at a rally in the late 'seventies was spotted at a rally in the late 'seventies's
shortly after leaving the Corporation's ownership. (JAS)


## FOREWORD

Massey Bros. was one of the three principal Wigan bus bodybuilders, its well-rounded designs being instantly recognisable to the cognisant. Located in Pemberton, to the west of the town centre, it built bodywork for motor cars, light commercials, tramcars, buses and coaches - with occasional forays into railcars and hearses for good measure.
A family concern, it spread its connections to both Northern Counties, who eventually swallowed it up, and East Lancashire Coachbuilders, who managed to outlive both concerns, by the cross-fertilisation of personnel. Further afield, Leyland Motors Ltd also had former Massey personnel, and Leyland men went to Pemberton.
Whist the Northern Counties album was being produced, David Cherry, Northern Counties Managing Director, very kindly invited Eric Ogden and John Senior to look round the Pemberton site which NCME had just acquired by the purchase of Massey Bros. in 1967. Mr Cherry was very conscious of the heritage of the area, and carefully took them through the former stables and showed the hay loft - both items dating from the original horse tram operation before Massey had moved in. Little did he, or they, realise that in that loft were many hidden gems which would only surface many years later, some of which would find their way into this book - sadly much was thrown away 'in the skip'.
There were still a handful of bodybuilders left at that time: Alexander was still a family concern in Falkirk; Buringham had sold out to Duple; East Lancashire Coachbuilders were still on Whalley New Road, Blackburn; Eastern Coach Works, Park Royal and Roe had all been swallowed up by Leyland; Northern Counties was flourishing and expanding; Plaxton was still a family concern in Scarborough; Willowbrook had taken over Brush Coachworks. It is all so different now.
We hope that this long-awaited volume will bring equal measures of pleasure to those who remember the Pemberton products and to those who have only ever seen them in preservation. It may perhaps also facilitate the production of some more of those missing Company histories! We are always interested

Former Birkenhead Transport No. 242 at a Brighton Rally in the early 'seventies. This Guy Arab 6 6W was new in 1944 with a Massey utility body, as number 324 (BG 8557 ). It was rebodied by Massey in 1953 with a 7 ft 9 in wide body, possibly to stay within the weight limit. Oddly,
he high radiator was retained, unlike many rebodied Guys at that time. (IAS)


## CONTENTS



## FRONTISPIECE

Looking resplendent in the colours of its former owner, this preserved
lowbridge Leyland Titan PD2 sums up all that was so typical of
Massey's later days. The curved upper-deck profile is seen to good
advantage as are the clean lines of the whole bodywork. Number 3
advantage delivered to the Welsh municipality in 1967 , only months
Counties following that Company's take-over of Massey Bros. (JAS)


## CHAPTER I

## In the beginning

Mostenhusiasts in he bus world would recognise he curvaceous lines of a double-decker bodied by Massey Bros, but the roots of this wellknown coachbuilder go back much earlier than their first vehicle-building venture after the Great War. Back, in fact, to 1904 when the three brothers Isaac, Thomas and William Massey formed a partnership to carry on business as timber merchants and building contractors in the small parish of Pemberton, about two miles to the west of Wigan town centre. Isaac, born in 1879, had trained as an accountant. Thomas was born three years later and became experienced in building and construction work. Wililiam, the eldest son who was born in 1877, worked in the coal mining industry and became a sleeping partner.
The original products were greenhouses, soon followed by terraced houses in and around Wigan, several of which may still be seen adjoining the firm's former location at Pemberton, Wigan. The business flourished, and contracts were obtained in 1906 for the construction of the Carnegie Library in Ashton-in-Makerfield and the following year the Enfield Spinning \& Weaving Mill, next to their own premises in Enfield Street.
About 1908/9 Massey Bros became the official building and maintenance contractors for Eagle Picturedromes Ltd who owned and managed most of the cinemas in the Wigan area. Massey Bros started this contract with the building of the Pavilion Cinema in 1909, followed by the Palace Cinemas in Atherton and Platt Bridge, both completed in 1912, and the construction of the Gidlow Cinema in 1913. Contracts were beginning to come in thick and fast when the Company secured a large commission for what was, in those days, the princely sum of $£ 33,000$ for the building of Signal Cotton Spinning Mills. This was to be built adjacent to the huge Sandbrook Mills in Orrell, which, upon completion in 1914, employed more than 200 people. By the beginning of the First World War, cinema, or the flicks as it came to be known, was firmly established as a popular entertainment and a spate of cinema building and conversions was taking place throughout the country. In 1916 the Queens Cinema in Pemberton was completed and the County Playhouse in Wigan town centre was started, but not completed until 1919 owing to lack of materials and manpower. It was reported in The Times newspaper in October 1919 "that some 20 million people a week saw 'the flicks' at picture palaces and theatres, thereby being an unrivalled means of communication.

The wedding of Isaac Massey and Elizabeth Taylo Enfield Street in Pemberton, in 1911 In the picture left to right are:Miss Ellen Highto Miss Lily Taylor, Mr Billy Massey, Miss Elizabeth Highton, Mr Isaac Massey, Mr Tom Massey, Miss
Elizabeth Taylor Miss Ellen Taylor and Mr Tom Taylor whose son Joe was the well-known directo of Wigan RLFC.


Meanwhile, much maintenance work was arriving from Wigan Corporation and a substantial contract for $£ 9,774$ (worth about $£ 450,000$ today) was won in 1918 for the building of an extension and culvert at the Electricity Works.

Shortly after the end of the First World War, the temporary wartime restrictions on passenger transport operations were lifted, although some operators had been largely unaffected, and a period of considerable expansion took place. This provided good business for the coachbuilding industry, which manufactured bodies for new chassis, and also for reconditioned ex-war Department chassis. Many of these were purchased by ex-servicemen who had learned to drive and maintain motor vehicles in the armed forces, and using their gratuities, now wished to commence their own businesses as local carriers of both goods and passengers.
For some reason, perhaps nothing more substantial than coincidence, Wigan - which was already an important railway wagon building location - was to become quite a centre for the supply of bus bodywork. Santus had started trading in 1906 as wheelwrights and turned to coachbuilding around the beginning of the First World War. Their last buses and coaches were built in 1953 and the Company is one of many which is now almost forgotten. Wigan Motor Bodies Ltd was established in 1916 at the Old Haigh Foundry site but went out of business after only a couple of years. The Haigh Foundry was initially opened in 1810 for manufacturing engines and pumping equipment for the mining industry and later became involved in the building of locomotives. In 1919/20 both Massey Bros and Northern Counties Motor \& Engineering Co. commenced their operations in the vehicle bodybuilding industry following the end of The Great War.

Map taken from a 1955 Ordnance Survey plan of the Pemberton area showing buildings owned by Massey Brothers and epartmental usage for each phase of

Paintsh's shop (known as 'Stalag)
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { B } & \begin{array}{l}\text { Paintshop } \\ \text { C }\end{array} \\ \text { Upstairs-T }\end{array}$
Upstairs -Trimming, seats and
CI Lownstairs - Wood Machining
D1
Lower deck bodybuilding shop
D2
Top deck bodybuilding shop
D2 $\begin{aligned} & \text { Top deck bodybuilding shop } \\ & \text { (known as }\end{aligned}$
D3 $\begin{aligned} & \text { (known } \\ & \text { Stores }\end{aligned}$


George Danson, seen bare-headed and with works in 1925, the date that this Leyland C7 mod was bodied by the company and delivered to Royal Blue Line of Great Eccleston. (ELCB)

Isaac Massey, right, photographed whilst officiating at the Induction of Rev'd Parker
Johnson at St Matthews Highfield in I937.


- 1920 Massey Bros bought the Wigan Corporation tramcar repair depot in Enfield Street (originally home to horse, steam and then electric tramcars) together with some adjoining land from Lord Ellesmere for $£ 3,000$. This was to be Massey Bros base until their demise in 1967. Their registered office was actually in Farrell Street, off Enfield Street, until it was finally registered as being in Enfield Street, after rebuilding work on the site.
Massey Bros advertised in all the local newspapers from the beginning of 1920, and became agents for Tilling-Stevens petrol-electric vehicles, the American Columbia six-cylinder cars and Ford motor cars and landaulettes (see adverts on pages 19, 21 and 25). They were also advertising nationally in the Commercial Motor for 1s 6d (7.5 pence) per week and The Motor Trader. Passenger vehicle bodies built by Massey Bros at this time were almost always small normal-control buses and charabancs, but many other types of vehicle were built, adapted, repaired and rebodied. Bodies for such vehicles as light lorries, furniture vans, saloon cars, sports cars, taxis and even hearses were built and a selection can be seen on page 13.
During this early period, Massey Bros employed two particularly notable people, Harry Barton and Bill Danson, who, after a disagreement with the Massey brothers, left to start their own coachbuilding business trading as Barton \& Danson which was based in Orrell, a mile west of Pemberton. Harry Barton was also a director of the bus operating side of Cadmans Services, also based in Orrell, which started in May, 1930. Their services operated west of Wigan and they stopped trading in August, 1935 when the business was sold mainly to Ribble Motor Services and partially to Wigan Corporation. It was stated (by his nephew) that Harry Barton returned to Massey Bros sometime during the early 1930s probably after the cessation of Barton \& Danson at the end of 1931. Bill Danson's son George was also employed by Massey Bros as an apprentice draughtsman and it is believed that he also spent a short time at Barton \& Danson. He would later leave to start the reconstituted East Lancashire Coachbuilders in Blackburn, as detailed later.
Building and maintenance activities continued with the building of a screening plant for Wigan Corporation and the construction of more cinemas, this time
a few miles away in Tyldesley and in Atherton which was the home of Lancashire United Transport, the principal passenger transport operator in the area since 1905, later developing into Britain's largest independent bus operator. More houses were built, along with schools and industrial premises, and further maintenance contracts were secured for many of the mills in the Wigan environs, including the large Eckersleys Mill and Clifton Mill. Some semi-detached houses were built off Enfield Street in the late thirties. During this period Isaac Massey designed and built his own detached house named Somerville on Billinge Road not far from the Pemberton works. He also built Plane Cottage a little further along Billinge Road for his daughter Clara.
Much property repair work was carried out during and after the Second World War because of extensive bombing, notably in Liverpool. After the Second World War, Isaac Massey employed a certain Mrs Louisa Merrifield in the position of housekeeper but she was sacked after only a short time. A few years later in 1953, Mrs Merrifield was convicted of a murder in the Blackpool area and duly hanged.
During the 1940s contracts were won, initially from the colliery companies and after 1948 from the National Coal Board, for work in Rochdale and Wigan and also for work at the Beech Hill Royal Ordnance Factory plus many smaller companies; more houses were also built. A special lift shaft was built at Eckersley's Mill in 1958 and three churches were built for The Church of the Latter Day Saints.
In 1962 new houses were built in Chiswell Street, Conway Street and Linden Street, all in Pemberton. At the end of 1962 all such building activity ceased and thereafter Massey Bros concentrated solely on bus-bodying.
This dual-door single-decker was an early example of Massey bus bodybuilding on wartime reconditioned chassis, the rear artillery whelels giving the game away. Note the long
rear overhang, typical of buses at that time using a fairly short wheelbase chassis. Other rear overhang, typical of buses at that time using a fairly shortion, were noteworthy for
operators, including Barton Transport and Liverpool Corporation operating buses with a considerably longer overhang - road holding and ride quality must have been considered dubious at best.


The cotton mills were enormous, employing thousands, and the contracts to maintains, them must have thase been until the slump in the cotton trade put many of them un of business.



 the Author to tinsect the thocests togestrer with some old phocograph which we are pleased to oreproduce.
Axceot orter venicices show werer buit tor tocal operators



## CHAPTER 2

## Coachbuilding and the 'Twenties

n the early 'twenties many charabancs and small buses were built for the growing number of local operators, together with major customers such as Wigan Corporation and Cumberland Motor Services Ltd. As far as is known the connection between Cumberland Motor Services and Massey Bros started after the Meageens, who were the majority shareholders of CMS, and the Massey family, had met on holiday and would spend many holidays together in and around the Lake District. It is also known that Tom Meageen, son of the founder Henry Meageen, was a regular visitor to Enfield Street until his death in 1949. There were also orders from many independent operators in the wider reaches of Lancashire and the north-west plus Yorkshire, the North Midlands, North Wales and Isle of Man.
Wigan Corporation was obviously keen to support local industry as examples of all three major local bodybuilders (Massey, Northern Counties and Santus) featured in the bus fleet almost from the outset. Massey Bros bodies were first purchased in 1920, the year after the commencement of Wigan's bus operations, and were fitted to six Tiling Stevens petrol-electric normal-control chassis. The vehicles, numbered 4 to 9 , contained seats for 32 passengers. Four of them lasted for only two years, the other two being withdrawn in 1927 and 1928.

The holding of a Ford agency ensured a steady flow of bodies of varying types, passenger and non-passenger, on that model, and other small vehicles were fitted to imported Berliet and Fiat chassis. Full sized buses were usually found on former ex-war department subsidy chassis such as AEC or Daimler Y-types, Leyland RAF models, and less frequently, Thornycrofts from the Basingstoke builder. When Wigan Corporation disposed of four of its Tilling-Stevens models a Thornycroft bus was one entrant to the fleet in their place.
Manufacturers were promoting their wares by the construction and demonstration of their latest models and Massey Bros. were among the many bodybuilders entrusted with this work. Strangely, perhaps, both Massey and nearby Northern Counties found themselves bodying Albion chassis for this purpose - was there a connection other than geographical location?


Wigan Corporation's Tilling-Stevens petrol-electric chassis were fitted with dual-doorway bodies a s
seen here, but had short lives as noted in the text. The harf-open rear was quite common at the time,
heing favoured by several boydubilders being favoured by several bodybuilders. Note the
high floor, requiring steps for access, due to the high floor, requiring steps for access, due to the
straight-framed chassis - a normal feature until cranked chassis were introduced later in the 1920s.



The Tilling-Stevens and Thornycroft buses for Wigan have been mentioned and Massey Bros. were to continue building bodies for Wigan Corporation until 1967 when the takeover by Northern Counties occurred. Also ordered by Wigan in 1920 were twelve double-deck tramcar bodies to be built on English Electric trucks. The four-wheel, single-truck cars with electrical equipment also by English Electric, and numbered 81 to 92 , were, as far as is known, the only complete tramcars ever built by Massey. The Wigan tramcar bodies were identical to an earlier batch of English Electricbodied cars, so much so that EK Stretch who wrote several books covering tramway

Twelve double-deck tramcars were ordered from
Massey Bros. by Wigan Corporation in 1920 the Massey Bros. by Wigan Corporation in 1920, the
first car going into service in June 1921, though the order was not completed until April the following year. These cars were identical to the six English Electric cars supplied in 1920 and were probably
built from the same drawings, or possibly subcontracted from the Preston firm. They were withdrawn in March 1931 when Wigan abandone its tramway system.

Services had a long association with Massey Bros, commencing in 1923 . This 1925
Daimler $Y$-type, RM 1040 and numbered 20, was one of a batch of six. (HSPC)
operations in and around this area considered that these must have been built from the same drawings. This was not an unusual situation but equally it might have been an order sub-contracted from the Preston firm to Pemberton
A notable addition to these early customers - Cumberland Motor Services Ltd - has already been mentioned. The first bodies were supplied to this operator in 1923 and began an association which lasted until 1948, when Tilling Group policy required operators to take Bristol chassis with Eastern Coach Works bodies, thus terminating the association with both Massey and Leyland Motors Ltd. Interestingly, Cumberland had forward-ordered a large number of Leyland chassis which Tilling were obliged to take, but though some went to CMS others were dispersed in the Tilling Group
A change of General Manager in the nearby Salford Tramways undertaking around this time was shortly to have a marked effect at Pemberton. James Scott Duncan Moffet had been Manager at Belfast from 1916-23, joining Salford after the departure of GW Holford in 1923. Mr Holford had been with Salford since 1886, Manager since 1905, and left to go into commercial activities - rumoured to be with Karrier Motors of Huddersfield.
As the 1920's progressed, heavier-weight chassis with forward-control were introduced, where the driver was situated alongside the engine instead of, as previously, behind it, thus increasing the passenger carrying capacity. Massey Bros business began to switch to this type of vehicle as fewer operators ordered normal-control chassis. This variety of chassis configurations led to a wider number of body designs being produced.



Two examples of advertising from the early 'twenties. The display version on the right appeared
in The Motor Trader whist that on the left was one of a series of cards produced by the company to be given away as promotional material and highlighting local contracts. (RMC)


Keep Your Eye on the 'No. 4 Omnibus' $\cdots$ Noe 1, 2, and 3
CHARS-A-BAMCS DE LUXE $\approx$
Notice the Coachwork
pounte of, Divatinetion: MASSEY BROS, raveronnon


Taken on a trip to Southport this unidentified charabanc, above left, was owned by Lancaster's of Pemberton who were related to the Massey
family. Note the Massey motif on the door. Most family. Note the Massey motif on the door. Mo
of the charabancs in this fleet doubled as coal lorries during the week, which was frequen practice at the time.

Whilst many early photographs were taken in and around the works, local photographers used
more suitable backgrounds when they were more suitable backgrounds when they were
commissioned to take official views - standing outside Wigan Grammar School was a popular spot,
as here on the left. Cumberland Motor Services as here on the left. Cumberland Motor Services
No. 5, AO 6652 , was one of four ex-war department No. $5, \mathrm{AO} \mathbf{6} 6 \mathbf{5 2}$, was one of four ex-war department
Dimer Y -types fitted with a passenger body with eats for 32 passengers in the early months of 1923


Facing page: One of several adverts
used during the early 1920 in both the Wigan Observer and Wigan Examiner newspapers. Number 4 presumably refers
to the first saloon bus, EK 2287, whilst the charabancs presumably included the example shown at the left carrying
the Massey Bros. scroll and garter The the Massey Bros. scroll and garter. The
significance of the $f 10$ prize will have to remain a mystery.

Right: This Karrier WDS, registered EH 2684, with seating for 24 passengers, was
supplied in May 1921 to Cooke, Robinson \& Company, one of the major independent
bus operators in the Potteries, and based bus operators in the Potteries, and based
in the town of Hanley. They were later taken over by BET's Potteries Motor
Traction company.
at the rear, the dual-doorway bodywork with both acetylene side and electric head
lamps and the steps giving lamps and the steps giving access to the
saloon on this typical high floor chassis of saloon on this typical
the period. The coachbuilder's transsfer will be seen below the fleet number 4 .


Another Karrier, this time a K3 model delivered to The Tocia Motor Omnibus Company Ltd in December 1921. Tocia
were based in Pwllheli on the Lleyn Peninsula, North Wales, and were eventually taken over by Crosville in 1934. The outward-opening door with single
step was clearly not intended for normal passenger use.
A roof luggage pen is provided, and there would be steps at the rear to allow access for loading and unloading.
Headlamps are in position but sidelights remain to be fitted.



This Daimler B-type started life in London before being purchased by Royal Blue in Llandudno, North Wales, and fitted with a charabanc body as seen here in Rhyl. The robust, if somewhet rudimentary, chassis, was capable of more than seasonal summer excurtion work, of course, and like
many others purchased in the early post-war years was soon rebilt as a saloon bus. This example was rebodied with a Massey 32-seat body as seen below in May 1922 for new owners Brookes Brothers based in Rhyl. Trading as White Rose Motors the firm grew to an impressive size and
sean
became a considerable thorn in the side ond became a considerable thorn in the side of the Crosville Motor Company until the takeover after the LMSR investment in Crovsilie. The company had considerable charisma and one of its mid-'twenties Leyland-bodied Leyland SG-types has been lovingly restored by Mike Sutcliffe, the Leyland
specialist, ensuring this splendid livery and much-loved operator will not be forgotten. (STA upper)



Thornycroft vehicles would appear in the Wigan bus fleet in 1924, as seen on page 21. Note
the primitive metal passenger step over the rear wheel. (STA)
$\mathrm{E}^{\text {xallump revits. Kee mane }}$
$\mathrm{S}^{\text {aibox toee Atrouler nathe. }}$

$A^{\text {re. Resene exe }}$

$\mathrm{D}^{\text {anuine vina }}$
$\mathrm{L}^{\text {KYuxp, Demin. }}$
$\mathbf{G}^{\text {er, mentios. }}$
$\mathrm{C}^{\text {Massiar, Bethe }}$
Tenrnc. ne.
$\mathrm{B}^{\text {kis. wnit }}$
$\mathbf{R}^{\text {ro. Cantion }}$


A typical example of
Commercial Motor. (STA)



Top left: Maurice Kenyon bought this neat 14 -seat Ford Model TT in 1922 Top left: Maurice Kenyon bought this neat 4 -seat Ford Model Bridge in the Peak District. The service, when taken over by Hulley's of

Centre left: An early 1923 pre-delivery shot of a Fiat with 14 -seat bus body,
registered WY 6897 , for Barrett \& Thornton of Ottley, in the West Riding of registered WY 6897 , for Barrett \& Thornton of Otley, in the West Riding of
Yorkshire. Note that the opening door is in the second bay on this vehicle and the one above.


Top right: Another view taken outside Wigan Grammar School is this Guy model A (NT 2033) for the fleet of Davies of Worthen in Shropshire. This neat 20-seater was supplied in November
1922 for the 20 mile Chirbury to Shrewsbury service. 1922 for the 20 mile Chirbury to Shrewsbury service.
Centre right: H Brook \& Co. of Stranraer operated three
Berliet's similar to the above; this was registered OS 1358 and dates from 1925. Harry Brook had was registered OS 1358 and dates from 1925. Harry Brook had
first operated a bus service in Morpeth before moving across the horder to Galashiels where he started a partnership operating
as as Brook \& Amos. In 1924 Harry moved on to Stranraer and
established the business of H Brook \& Company which ran under estabished the business of H Brook \& Company which ran under
the name 'The Pilot' (visible on the vehicle behind) in the south west of Scotland and in some operations in Northern Ireland.

The Pye bus that never was'. Masseys completed the body on this Berliet at the time of the takeover of John Pye (Heswall) by Crosville in 1924. Intended to be No. 21 in the Pye fleet it was not required by Crosville, and was then registered in Wigan as EK
3622 and sold through an agent to Blue Bus Service of Bridlington. It was photographed outside Wigan Grammar School as were
many of the vehicles of this period.

After its experience with the Tilling-Stevens TS3 models Wigan Corporation turned to Basingstoke builder Thornycroft for their
replacements, replacements, with two BT models being
purchased, one bodied by Massey in 1924 and the other, numbered 3 , in the following
year. This vehicle, built on a Thornycroft year. This vehicle, built on a hornycroft
BT chassis, was the second bus to receive BT chassis, was the second bus to receive
fleet number I in the space of only 5 years, the earlier number I having been a locallybuilt Pagefield model.


By 1924 the growth of the various business activities became such that it was decided to create a limited company to handle the building and maintenance aspects (Massey Brothers Ltd - Company Number 197363) whilst the coachbuilding continued as a partnership (Massey Bros) and as the administration side of the business needed to keep pace, a Mr George Chapman was employed as shorthand typist and clerk and the employees of both organisations reported to the same office. In later years Mr Chapman was promoted to Company Secretary, a role he would retain until his retirement in the mid-'sixties. Also during this early period Mr Alfred M Alcock joined Massey Bros as works foreman/designer and also acted as part-time salesman. He had previously worked for Northern Counties in Wigan Lane.
In addition to supplying the small independent operators the Pemberton factory was also now supplying the needs of the companies which would grow to become major and well-respected names in the industry. One such was Westmorland Motor Services Ltd, formed in 1925 by the Meageen family of Cumberland Motor Services Ltd - the family also having business interests in the Isle of Man - and the first new buses purchased for this venture were three AEC Renowns with Massey single-deck bodies. The chassis was the first AEC model to have a name beginning with R, but this first use of the name 'Renown' is not to be confused with the later and much better-known examples featuring three axles. The 411 Renown broke new ground among forwardcontrol AEC models in having pneumatic tyres as standard from new.

The family connection between this vehicle and its cousin alongside are clearly apparent- same chassis, same body design, same livery, same lettering
style - and, of course, the same family ownership. (CMS)

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { clearly apparent - same ehhassis, same body design, same lif } \\
& \text { style - and of course, the same family ownership. (CMS }
\end{aligned}
$$




Lambsfield Motors Ltd of Lancaster became part of Lancashire and
Westmorland, seen on the previous page, and operated this Leyland Westmorland, seen on the previous page, and operated this Leyland
G6 with Massey 32 -seat body which was new in June 1924. It is
believed that it became No. 384 in the Ribble fleet when it passed into believed that it became No. 384 4 the Ribble fleet when it passed into
that company's stock after Ribble took over L\&M in 1927. The high that company's stock after Ribble took over L\&M in 1927. The high
bonnet line and even higher radiator top tank severely restricted the
body body designer's scope but clever use of livery could mollify the effect
as demonstrated by the Hebble vehicle on page 24 .


Since 1974 the name 'Pendle' has been associated with the Burnley and Pendle undertaking previously known as Burnley, Colne and
Nelson though, of course, it actually refers to Pendle Hill with its Iegendary Lancashire Witches. In early 1926, when this vehicle
was delivered, Pendle Motor Services was the trading name of was delivered, Pendie Motor Services was the trading name of
Lancashire Industrial Motors of Blackburn who were taken over by Ribble later that year. This vehicle was one of six supplied on AEC
413 chassis and became Ribble No. 214 . Note the more curvaceous 413 chassis and became $\quad$ reale No. 214. Note the more curvaceous practice - such brackets would often be formed from decorative
prought wrought iron scrollwork.

Decorated for a local carnival is Cumberland No. 57, RM 306, a Massey-bodied Daimler Y -type dating from 1924. It is shown in Central Square, Workington. (HSPC)


The next development in bus design came in the mid-'twenties when passenger carrying chassis were finally separated from goods models and the chassis frames were cranked to lower them over the rear axle, giving a lower floor line. Arguably, the most famous passenger vehicles of this period were from the Leyland L-range: Lion, Lioness, Leveret and Leviathan. The PLSC Lion quickly established itself as a simple and reliable vehicle and large numbers were produced, with the later longer model PLSC3 becoming an industry favourite.
Doug Jack, in his book The Leyland Bus, records that Leyland Motors bodied some $50 \%$ of all Lions built, and this gives a pointer to what was happening elsewhere. Operators wanting the Leyland body had four choices - join the wait for the Lancashire built product; purchase a lookalike built to Leyland patterns; purchase a genuine approved alternative via Leyland from one of its sub-contractors - or go elsewhere for something different. This situation would recur when the even-more popular T-range was introduced at the 1927 Commercial Motor Show as we shall see. Bodybuilders producing Leylandlook a likes, or sub-contracting included Massey, Ransomes, Short Brothers, Vickers and Chas Roberts among others, Vickers factory at Crayford in Kent was geared up for the mass-production of machined frames, in addition to building complete bodies as a Leyland sub-contractor.
Bodies on the PLSC chassis were supplied to British Automobile Traction Co subsidiaries Cumberland Motor Services and the-then Cumberland-controlled operator on the Isle of Man, Manxland Bus Services Ltd, which also received bodies on ADC Chassis that had been ordered originally for the Cumberland concern. Massey bodies on the Leyland Lion chassis supplied to Cumberland in 1927 were built to the standard Leyland design; however, Massey Bros own design, although similar to that of Leyland, did possess its own character, the most noticeable difference being a slightly sloping rather than a vertical windscreen, and a fully-rounded rear dome, thus producing a rather more modern appearance. Later Massey bodies as fitted to Leyland Tiger chassis also had similarity to the contemporary Leyland design, and in addition to being fitted to new chassis this basic design was used in 1932 to rebody a batch of 1926 Leyland Lions - once again for Cumberland Motor Services.
Despite all this activity at Pemberton in connection with buses large and small, high and not-so-high, there was other work going through the factory. When Mr Moffet (mentioned in the caption above) arrived in Salford he found a fleet of 225 trams of which 96 were small open-top single-truck cars, many built by GF Milnes and dating back to the beginning of electric operation in 1901/2. At the time Manchester were rebuilding large numbers of small trams in their own car works, converting them into fully enclosed bogie trams. Moffet may then have been made aware of Wigan's top-covered four-wheelers fitted with top covers manufactured by Massey Bros.
He persuaded his Committee to allow him to completely rebuild 55 cars by fitting the lower-deck 'cabins' with conventional rear-ascending staircases, enclosed platforms and enclosed top-covers as illustrated. The contract was placed in 1926 and the work was carried out by Massey's employees at Salford's main Frederick Road depot between 1926 and 1928 producing a design very similar to

trams Moffet had operated in Belfast. The price was $£ 630$ per car including $£ 50$ for contingencies. It is believed that there was a family connection in middle management between the two concerns, explaining this otherwise unusual contract.

As this work continued into 1927, Massey Bros received another order from Salford Corporation, for single-deck bodies on twelve Karrier three-axle chassis. Though almost all subsequent deliveries were on Leyland double and single-deck chassis this was the first of several orders for bus bodies from this operator in the pre-World War Two period and may be significant in view of the suggestion that Mr Holford had moved to Karrier Motors from Salford in 1923. A Massey advertisement of 1934 featuring a bus body built for Salford Corporation also included the statement, 'Salford use Massey tramcar bodies' and, comparing the original Victorian tramcars with the then-modern conversions, Massey no doubt felt fully justified in making that statement.
James Moffet died in harness in 1933 but Massey continued to supply bus bodies to the undertaking until 1937 when Salford changed its policy to purchasing only metal-framed bodies, and Massey's connection then ceased.

The twelve Massey-bodied Karrier WL6's supplied appearance to two Hall, Lewismodelssupplied a few mpenths earlier. Note the title of the undertaking painted on the lower side panel is 'SALFORD CITY TRAMWAYS'. The very prominent frontal
protuberance is the arrangement for the Gruss air springing, popular for a while in the late 'twenties and 'thirties. The glazed front door used as the
passenger exit was an attemt an passenger exit was an attempt at passenger flow.
Karrier chassis were known for their prodigious Karrier chassis were known for their prodigious
consumption of lubricating oil, but after an unrelated accident in Wallasey where a prop shaft
snapped and came through the floor causing snapped and came through the floor, causing a
fatality in the saloon, many operators withdrew them prematurely.
One of these monsters survives in preservation, having been completely rebuilt by Karrier expert
Geoff Lumb, and carries a clerestory-roofed English Geoff Lumb, and carries a clerestory-roofed English
Electric body from the Ashton under Lyne fleet. The opportunity to see, and hopefully ride, in that



Opposite: Hebble No. 14, (CP 4897), was an Albion Opposite: Hebble No. 14, (CP 4897), was an Albio
PK26 with 26 -seat body photographed in July 1926 and shows that some operators were still happy to stay with the normal control body useful fo one-man-operation with the driver in the saloon
amongst the passengers. Note the folding door and the very high entrance - perhaps there was a
folding step which is not visible. The makers badge folding step which is not visible. The makers badge
is visible, however, adjacent to the doorway at the is visibe, however, adjacent to the doorway at the
foot of the side panel. By 1929 Massey had bodied 15 Albions for this operator

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Tel. 9, Pemberton.
Grams, Massey, Wigan

In the late 1920s, there was increasing demand for double-deckers and Massey Bros made tentative moves into that market. Meageen influence continued when Cumberland Motor Services purchased a Guy FCX three-axle chassis in 1927 which was fitted with a Massey lowbridge body. This body was unusual in that it incorporated two sunken gangways, one at each side of the upper-saloon, this arrangement being necessary at that time to avoid infringement of the patent of the Leyland design with sunken offside gangway as fitted to the lowbridge Titan. It was Cumberland's first new double-decker and gained a reputation of 'not being very good at climbing hills', which must have been something of a handicap in a place like Whitehaven. When, many years later this point was put to Algie Corlett, a retired Cumberland Works Superintendent, his reply was, It was good for nowt . His remarks obviously referred to the chassis, rather than the body, as many more Massey bodies were purchased but no more Guy FCX chassis, apart from three second-hand from Morecambe and Heysham Corporation for a works service during the war, which had very short lives with the company.

Cumberland Motor Services No. 74 was built in 1927 with a lowbridge body and delivered with seating for 56 passengers, being modified to 52 before entering service. The upper-deck
seating arrangement was single back-to-back bucket seats seating arrangement was single back-to-back bucket seats
along the centre, leaving two aisles, one on either side as can be
seen in the ceiling in the seen in the ceiling in the lower photograph whilst the builder's
transfer can be seen above the rear window. The vehicle was transter can be seen above the
withdrawn in December 1933 .




Left: The patented Leyland Motors side gangway layout, designed by GJ Rackham, which reduced the height of the lowbridgeTitanTDI to I Ift I IOin and revolutionised the double-decker
market. market. Competitors were obliged to use alternative layout,
or, later, pay Leyland a royalty for use of the design. (STA)

Looking decidedly old
fashioned in 1929 when compared to the Leylan Titan of two years earlie
is this $T$ illing-Stevens typ TS ITA supplied to Widnes Corporation and given
fleet No. 25 (TE 9052). The fleet No. 25 (TE 9052). The
Massey transfer can be clearly seen on the pane next to the front wheel, a practice used by them
until 1967. Extending the upper-deck forward of the bulkhead behind the
driver was another of the driver'sas another


The long majestic bonnet clearly identifies this as a Leyland Lioness, and this LCI model was purchased new by Workington Motors Services in 1927 being numbered 55, (RM 3872), in their fleet. It passed to Cumberland Motor Services in 1932 . It has sometimes (wrongly of course) been thought to -range which included the PLSC Lion and the Levithan the latter having many similarities to Massey's double-decker design as seen above


Massey Bros. had bodied only a handful of
Dennis chassis - around ten in eight years - when, in 1929, the Guildford manufacturer commissioned a double-deck body on an HS
chassis for demonstration purposes. This was the prototype for the HV series and went on hire to Sunderland Corporation who bought it in
June 1930. Sunderland purchased three Dennis June 1930. Sunderland purchased three Dennis
HVs later the same year. The demonstrator was withdrawn in 1935 and converted to a tower wagon. The body style is very similar
to that fitted to the Widnes TSM 17 around this period, and the Guy FCX in 1927, and only
the third double-d this period, and the Guy FCX in 1927, and only
the third double-decker body (apart from the Wigan trams) built by Massey yp to this time. It
was the fourth demonstrator built, but the first for Dennis.


Manxland Motor Services Limited was, in Motor Services Limited whose influence was soon to be seen in choice of vehicles. This
Massey-bodied Leyland Lion No. 26 (MN 5106 ) Massey-bodied Leyland Lion No. 26 (MN 5106 )
was one of two dating from 1927 and diverted from a Cumberland order. Sister vehicle No. 27 was used as a tree lopper by Isle of Man Road
Services, after withdrawal in 1951 until 1967, Services, after withdrawal in 1951 until 1967,
giving 40 years of service. (HSPC)

Below: Cumberland No. 65 was one of two and is pictured here with Mr J Clements and his son outside Arlecdon outstation. Mr Clements built the garage and operated his own bus service
before selling out to Cumberland with whom he before selling out to Cumberland with whom he
became a driver. After takeover Cumberland



Leyland PLSC Lion number 31 was pictured in the twilight of its long life which began in 1928 with Manxland. It was transferred to the Isle of Man Railway Co in 1929, thence to the Isle of Man
Road Services in 1930. It was spotted in Douglas in 1951 being closely followed by a 1947 Leyland Titan PDIA with Leyland bodywork. Still looking good after 23 year's service it was withdrawn a
short time after this photograph was taken and was eventually scrapped in 1954. (ABC)

In February 1929, the works foreman/designer Alfred Alcock, seemingly in a freelance capacity, entered into an agreement with the Leeds-based bodybuilder Charles H Roe. This agreement allowed Roe, under licence, to build double-deck bus bodies with both a rear staircase and entrance for access to the upper-deck, and a front staircase and door for means of exit from the upper-deck. The agreement licensed Roe to construct and sell bodies of this type to the Mexborough \& Swinton Traction Company (though in fact none were supplied) and 13 municipal undertakings, and also stated that Massey Bros were excluded from supplying these 14 customers.
However, later in 1929, Massey Bros announced their own design for a
two-stairway double-decker which was detailed in the two-stairway double-decker which was detailed in the September 1929 issue of the Motor Transport magazine. Massey produced a body for Merseyside on a Tilling-Stevens TS15A petrol-electric double-decker to this specification, as shown. It cannot be a coincidence that Alfred Alcock's unusual design, with its nearside forward-ascending staircase, mimicked the very Salford trams which Massey had just finished converting from reversed-stair layout to conventional rear-ascending. The unusual design was featured in the trade press, as shown, This vehicle was one of only two of this chassis type to be built. Wolverhampton Corporation ordered the other one with a Dodson 66-seat rear-entrance highbridge body which was then featured in the 1929 Commercial Motor Show before entering service. Three months later, in the same magazine, details were shown of a 'clever dual-purpose' single-deck design from the drawing boards of Massey Bros
The Merseyside Touring Company was a regular customer (through its Liverpool based agent Garlick, Burrell \& Edwards) from 1928 until 1930 when it was taken over by Ribble Motor Services Ltd.

Merseyside also had bodies on Bristol and Tilling-Stevens chassis which seemed very like those of the Burlingham design of the time, perhaps another case of using other makers' drawings. Other notable clients during the late 'twenties were Hebble Motor Services, and Holt Brothers of Rochdale (better known as Yelloway). Although Ribble Motor Services only ever ordered two new bodies from Massey Bros (in 1928 on PLSC Lions) they were acquiring local operators in the counties of Lancashire, Cumberland and Westmorland, many of which had vehicles with Massey bodywork.

This Tilling-Stevens double-decker, supplied to the Merseyside Touring Co in December 1929, was the
subject of a full page article in September 1929 Motor Transport, as reproduced opposite. The small inustration of the Salford tram is a reminder that
the staircase layout, whilst unusual on a bus, was commonplace on contemporary tram iars. In fact Massey Bros. had 110 sets of these staircases on
their hands from the Salford contract to rebuild heir hands from the Salford contract to rebuild the 1901 cars, and it surely cannot be just a
coincidence that Alcock chose this layout for his coincidence-force.

Just how little the intrepid tram driver could see on his nearside
is amply demonstrated here. By leaning well forward he could just, see round. To assist him
further there was a set of small holes in one riser, at eye leve


A Clever Dual-purpose
Body Design by Massey Bros., of Wigan


THE idea of constructing a body
that can be used eitber for ordit that can be used either for ordi-
nary service bus worle or, with a few alterations, for long-dis.
ceach jobs, is not new, but in tance coach jobs, is not new, but in
the latest dual-purpose body designed by Massey Bros., of Wigan. certain
bifficultes that difficulues that have been met with
in the past are largely overcome. For the past two years the firm has been experimenting with various types of
bodies in order to arrive at a desiga bodies in order to arrive at a clesign
that would allow the complete change over to be easily made in five hours and would aflord maximum comfort
when the body was accommodating
loug-distance passengers. In connecWhen the body was accommodating
loug- distance passengers. In counec-
tion with this latter provision it was tion with this latter provision it was
considered necessary to incorporate considered necessary to incorpora
simple foolprool sunshine hood.
The body hus beca built on a for-ward-control type Tilling - Stevens
B. 10 A chassis, and its external ap pearance is quite normal. It was paade to the order of the Merseyside
Touring Co. LLt. Touring Co., Ltd., of Liverpool, who operate on both service and long-dis
tance routes. As a service bus the body provides seats for 32 passengers
all facing forward. The seats are of
all all facing forward. The seats are
bluce ceather with spring squabs an
and rolls, and, in place of the usual the
seats (facing each other) over th seats (facing each other) over the
whel arches, there is a sigle sat
facing forward over each arch; the wheing arches, there ise ach aver each; the
facches themselves are covered with a
are mahogany tray. Except for those
over the wheel arches the windows are of the adjustable type. Luggage nets are provided under the side domes ex-
tending the full length of the body tending the full length of the body.
The netsof blue mesh are suspended
from a blue Doverite-covered rail carThe nets of blue mesh are suspended
from a bue Doverite-covered rail car-
ried on the usual brackets. The body
is of the single front-entrance type
with an emergency door at the rear. The interion finish has been carried out entirely in polished wood arranged in
light panels set in dark matiogany framing. This gives a pleasing effect, and has the merit of being eastly polished up to give the nice appear-
ance for long-distance work. A clock is let into the bulkhead partition. In-
In terior lighting is provided by ten
lamps set in the side domes. The lamps are by Gabriels, of Birming. hamp, with rims coloured blue a
white, and having opaque stass.

## The Root

Although the roof is detachable for the greater portion of its length, there
is nothing to suggest this to the casual is no: the detackable portioa of the roof has the usual hand rails and
straps attached, while the interior ofraps attached, while the interior cok and mahogany. Three Airvacs are used, the grilles being finished
mabogany colour. Altogether, the in. mahogany colour. Altogether, the in-
terior apparance of the root is very neat.
When When it is intended to use the body
as a long-distance coach the detach. nole portion of the roof can be lifted off from immediately behind the bulk-
head partition as far as the scond head partition as far as the second
window from the rear, giving an opening in the permaneant roof of roft. by
oft. The remaining (undetachable) oft. The remaining (undetachable)
portion of the roof carries a large lug. portion or, access to which is gained
kyy bornar ladder by a rear ladder.
The bood used
The hood used to replace the de-
tachable root is of entirely new de-
sign, and it is operated essily by
means of a handle and gear box con-

Seating plan end side eleration drawinge
of the Mascy
converike pamenger
tained in the bulkhead partition. used in the arrangement of the boo control. When the hood is in the open position it remains in the fixed
rear portion of the roof under the rear portion of the roof under the
luggage box. It is not necessary to remove the hood when the bus is being used as a service vehicle, as it
is housed in such a way that it do not interfere with the general sym.
metry of the dome. At metry of the dome. At the moment
a full description of the a full description of the operating
mechanism of the hood cannot be mechan
given.
Naturally, two sets of seats are pro-
vided : those for long-distance work vided; those for long-distance work
are of the armchair type with woald rosts covered in red leather, and provide accommodation for ${ }^{26}$ persons
all facing forward. It is estimatel that the time taken to change from one set of seats to the other is five
minates per scat. Underneath the minates per seat. Underneath the
floor covering are bolted longitudinal plates to which are weldded a series of nuts spaced out to receive the bolts
holding down the seat legs. This holding down the seat legs. This
allows the seats to be taken out without any work underneath the chassis. Commendable arrangements are
made for carrying long-distanco pasmade for carrying long- distatice pas-
sengers lugage. Tho two seats on
either side of the rear emwerg either side of the rear emergency door
(in the service bas layout) are replaced (in the service bus layout) are replaceed
by two luggage racks giving accommodation lor 26 average-size suit-
cases ; these rack can be conveniently cases; these racks can be convenlently
loaded through the emergency door. The exterior of the emergency door. in the red and white colours of the
Merseyside Touring Co.

Reprinted from MOTOR


[^0]

Warrington Corporation purchased two $30 f t$ long AEC Renown chassis which were intended for London Transport. Massey Brothers supplied the 65 -seat dual entrancelexit bodywork and No. 39 (ED 5880) is shown in the Warrington livery of Munich Lake (Maroon) and Citron (Yellow) at the dangerous perhaps, it was no more so than the hundreds of tramcars then in use throughout the country with their equally restrictive layout as seen on page 30. Nevertheless, the front staircases were fairly soon removed, possibly following an inspection under the new 1931 Road Traffic Act. This was Massey's first order from Warrington; the operator took six Titan TD Is in 1931 but never patronised the Pemberton factory again. Had the body
design been a step too far, closing the door on any future prospects? (STA)


## CHAPTER 3

## The double-decker predominates

Whave seen in the previous chapter that double-decker production was minimal at Pemberton in the '20s. By December 1929 only four such vehicles had been produced: Guy FCX in 1927, and finally a Dennis demonstrator and the TSMs for Widnes and Merseyside Touring in 1929. Yet just a few miles away at Leyland the new Leyland Titan doubledecker - launched at the 1927 Commercial Motor Show - had swept the board and Leyland's bodyshop could not keep up with demand. Various bodybuilders were appointed as sub-contractors for this new design with its distinctive 'piano-front' but where possible Leyland kept these orders away from its home territory, frightened that it might lose valuable skilled staff to its competitors when it was desperately short of such tradesmen.
Thus, it came about that the model was produced by United in East Anglia, Vickers at Crayford in Kent, Charles Roberts in Wakefield, Short Brothers in Rochester, Ransomes in Ipswich and others. Massey's first foray into bodying this chassis came in 1931 when it supplied Warrington with six bodies on TD1 chassis. The two AEC Renowns supplied to the same operator in 1929 had mimicked the piano front, but there the resemblance had ended as we have seen. The piano-fronted Leyland-designed body associated with early Titans was also built under licence by a number of other bodybuilders including Massey Bros, Northern Counties Motor \& Engineering Co. and HV Burlingham to the specific requirements of certain operators, including Wigan Corporation, long after it had been discontinued by Leyland Motors and on later Titan chassis where it was clearly outdated.
Massey Bros also had their own design of body which was fitted to early Titans and other makes of chassis. Although similar in general outline to the Leyland design, the frontal treatment was different in that the vertical portion of the front upper saloon panelling was taken higher and then carried back horizontally to form a 'shelf' below the front windows.

West Bromwich, Widnes and Sunderland joined the growing number of municipalities placing orders at the end of the 'twenties. Widnes had taken the earlier box-like double-decker, actually only Massey's fourth double-deck body where the upper-deck sat on a flat-roofed saloon and stopped short at the front bulkhead, leaving the area above the driver's cab unused. West Bromwich



Wigan Corporation No. 74, one of ten Leyland Titan TDIs with was delivered in 1931 .


Nearby Bolton Corporation had bodies by Charles Roberts of Wakefield, better known as railway rolling stock builders, fitted to their TD Is, and No. is seen by the weigh

Leigh Corporation, like Wigan, took piano-fronted bodies long after they had gone out of fashion, and fitted them to later (new) Titan TD3 chassis in 1933. Number 47 is seen in these two views on a dismal day in Leigh town centre in 1934. (STA both)

Photographed in St Margaret's Bus Station, Leicester in June 1948 was
this Leyland TDI of Brown's Blue of Markfied acquired from Warrington this Leyland in of Brow's Bue of Markfield acquired from Warrington Corporation in December 1946. It was originally Warrington's No. 45 (ED
6464) and was one of a batch of six highbridge vehicles dating from 1930/31. It was withdrawn in December 1949 and scrapped a short while later.


Birkenhead Corporation withdrew their 1932 batch of five Daimler Here sold to Blair \& Palmers of Carlisle B \& P No. 14 is 139 and two were sold to Blair \& Palmer of Carlisle. B \& P No. 14 is seen shortly after
entering service, complete with wartime headlamp masks. It lasted in service until October 1948 when it was withdrawn and scrapped.


West Bromwich No. 38 was one of three Dennis HVs with lowbridge bodies delivered in July
1930 with the body again following the thencontemporary Leyland Titan 'piano-front' design. his was destined to be the only order from West
Bromwich ever received by Massey Bros. (OS)

and Sunderland each ordered three Dennis HV chassis with lowbridge and highbridge bodies respectively, but these, like the Warrington vehicles shown, were more akin to the Leyland design. Two of the bodies from the Wes Bromwich vehicles were later transferred to other chassis in the independen fleet of Green Bus of Rugeley, who themselves undertook the rebodying in the post-war period.
Perhaps not surprisingly Warrington did not repeat the order for the 65seat design body fitted to its Renowns, but as mentioned took further moreconventional Massey bodies on Leyland Titan TD1 chassis in 1930 and 1931. Massey Bros provided four similarly unusual bodies for Bury Corporation in 1930, a layout on which this operator standardised at
the time, (also taking Roe bodies in 1933, mounted on AEC Regent the time, (also taking Roe bodies in 1933, mounted on AEC Regent
chassis similar to the Warrington Renowns in that they featured a chassis similar to the Warrington Renowns in that they featured a
front door with an open rear platform and were of dual-staircase front door with an open rear platform and were of dual-staircase
configuration). As the 1930s progressed, the majority of Massey configuration). As the 1930s progressed, the majority of Massey
bodies ordered were double-deckers and this prevailed for the rest bodies ordered were dou of the company's history.
Use of the piano-front body design was not restricted to Leyland chassis, as an AEC Regent demonstrator was fitted with a Massey version in 1931. This was to be expected as GJ Rackham, designer of the Titan, was by now working at AEC and as such also took a very keen interest in body design, piano-front designs appearing on his new Regent double-decker, being the counterpart to the Leyland Titan. The AEC demonstrator was registered in Cumberland and after a period of hire to Cumberland Motor Services was purchased by the operator, becoming No. 47 in the fleet, until 1936 when it was sold for further service with Western SMT. Birkenhead Corporation also employed this design.
Having successfully placed a fleet of Leyland-bodied Titans in service in 1929, consideration was being given by Wigan Tramways Committee in the following year to replace their tram system. It was not surprising that Leyland Titans were again the committee's choice. The Leyland Society, in its history The Leyland Buses of Wigan Corporation, records that after agreeing a repeat order for Leyland-bodied Titans, it was provisionally agreed that Leyland would supply 20 further Titan chassis for bodying by local coachbuilders, who would mount bodies to a design that would not infringe the patent rights held by Leyland. These buses were required for delivery by March 1931. Subsequently, it was agreed in a meeting attended by representatives from Massey Bros, Northern Counties and Santus, that bodies would be built to the Leyland design at a cost of $£ 750$ per body. Leyland Motors agreed to



The similarity of outline with the standard Leyland bedy design is evident in this view of Cumberland
No. 47 a Massey-bodied AEC Regent dating from No. 47 a Massey-bodied AEC Regent dating from
1930. Originally buitt as a demonstrator and purchased by Cumberland in 1931 , number 47 was
unique in the fleet but was repla unique in the fleet but was replaced after sale in
1936 by another Regent, also numbered 47, and 1936 by another Regent, also numbered 4 , and
one of a pair from the Southall manufacturer. Ne of a pair from the Southall manuaccurer
Note the lower projection around the destination box; Massey's own version was much deeper

Wigan Corporation 62-seat tram No. 90 at the Abbey
Lakes terminus shortly before the abandonment of Lakes terminus shortly before the abandonment of
the tramway system in 1931 which brought more the tramway system in 1931 which brought more
Leyland Titans - but now with Massey bodies - into the fleet. Massey also built the bodies on these trams which, as described in the text, were then fitted to
English Electric equipment Note the English Electric equipment. Note the method of
securing the top deck cover to the canopy bend above the conductor's head.

As detailed in the text above, Maxways ordered six AEC Regals with 32-seat rear entrance bodywork BG 617 posing for the camera prior to delivery in June 1932. (STA)
a special concession in the case of these vehicles which were to be built for the Corporation, by allowing the local coachbuilders to copy the 'Titan' design on payment of $£ 1$ instead of the usual charge of $£ 50$. This concession was a special one acknowledging the Corporation's wish to maximise local employment. From this point on Wigan Corporation only ever ordered Leyland chassis (apart from wartime allocations) and bodywork was always built in the county of Lancashire, and more often than not, supplied by Massey Bros or Northern Counties from Wigan. Of particular note was a batch of piano-fronted bodies as late as 1938 for Wigan Corporation shared by Northern Counties and Massey Bros and built on Leyland Titan TD5 chassis.
A break from the supply chain to municipalities had occurred in 1932 when Wirral independent, Macdonald \& Co (Maxways) of Birkenhead, placed an order for six AEC Regal coaches for long distance work. These vehicles were acquired along with the Maxways business by Crosville in December 1934. At the same time Massey Bros produced a glossy pamphlet entitled Inspiration which illustrated the conversion of open rear-staircases on doubledeckers to the conventional enclosed type. This resulted in a contract for Birkenhead Corporation for the conversion of 15 Leyland-bodied Titan TD1s (fleet Nos. 79-93). Three years later, similar projects for Crosville Motor Services were undertaken on 13 Leyland-bodied TD1s (fleet Nos. 325-36 and 414) and for Millburn Motors of Preston who had acquired five ex-Boiton Corporation Leyland-bodied TD1s (fleet Nos. 52-6); these were promptly sold to other operators, four of which lasted into the mid-'fifties.



This Leyland Lion LT5, (DE 8942), with 3 1-seat Leyland-style body, complete with arched windows, entered service in July 1932 with Greens Motors Ltd the chassis specification had been upgraded the old-fashioned frontal the chassis specification had been upgraded the old-fashioned frontal
arrangement with short radiator made the vehicle seem quite dated. Note the roof-mounted luggage carrier and marker light above the indicator.


By contrast, the later LT7 model looked very much more modern with the deep radiator and flush frontal alignment. Caught in the summer sunshine is Widnes No. 38 (ATD 682) a
35 -seat vehicle with Massey body which lasted in service until 35-seat vehicle with Massey body which lasted in service until
1952. Sister vehicle No. 37 was destroyed in a whirlwind in 1943 while No. 39 became a towing vehicle and was later preserved.

As the 'thirties progressed there was a general trend towards smoother, more curvaceous contours incorporating a sloping front profile rather than the previously almost universal piano-front, and Massey Bros attempts in this direction first appeared in 1934 with bodies on Leyland Titan TD3 chassis built for Birkenhead and Chester Corporations and, again, Cumberland Motor Services. Their new design incorporated smoother and more rounded contours and perhaps the most prominent feature was the steeply sloping driver's windscreen which, together with the deep valance under the driver's canopy, retained some Leyland influence. An exception to this progression, however, was a batch of seven bodies (five on Leyland Titan TD3 and two on Crossley VR6 chassis) for Salford Corporation in 1934 which were to follow the general outline of Park Royal and then Strachanbodied Dennis Lances, delivered between 1930 and 1932, in which the sloping screen was surmounted by a vertical front destination panel above which the upper-deck front window was set well back and divided into three panels. It is believed that this upright front panel was an attempt to make the destination easier to read, avoiding the reflection on the sloping back aspect of the more modern curved outlines. Whereas the Park Royal and Strachans bodies were of five-bay construction, Massey stuck to its rather fussy sixbay formation, but nevertheless these vehicles possessed a majestic and imposing appearance in the Salford livery of bright red, lined out in gold, and a great deal of white. Generally, however, Massey Bros designs remained quite

[^1]

MASSEY
??? вettes than wonos



Salford Corporation may have shown it was capable
of moving with the times when it large section of its that but it was definitel large section of its tram fleet but it was definitely
in a time warp with its bus fleet - the admittedly smart-looking LeylandTD3 delivered in September 1934 built by Massey and shown above, RJ 3008, wa actually clarly related not just to the Dennis Lance
models supplied between 1930 and 1932 but even further back, to the H types of 1929 as shown in right, of BA 7686 from tha year. Progressive designers must have despaired at
being asked to perpetuate such outdated models, but, as we all know, the customer is always right.
Well, sometimes... (STA both)

conservative until the late 1930s, though always with a willingness to meet operators' preferences as with the Salford and Cumberland orders.
A non-standard design was again used in 1935 for a batch of Leyland TB4 lowbridge trolleybuses for St Helens Corporation, whose tramway system was slowly being abandoned. These bodies incorporated five-bay construction and full-width front. Unusual features were triple upper deck front windows and a step directly on the rear platform instead of in the more usual place from the platform into the lower saloon. This latter feature also appeared in a batch of five single-deck trolleybuses delivered to The Tees-side Railless Traction Board, mounted on Leyland TB3 chassis, in 1936. St Helens Corporation continued to order Massey-bodied trolleybuses through to 1942.


Either someone couldn't spell or Masseys had also moved into the bridal business when these smart-looking trolleybuses were the bridal business when these mat
built for St Helen in 1935. (STA)


St Helens Corporation trolleybus No. 127 is seen turning at Denton Green during what appears to be a demonstration ofthe hen new
introduced pedestrian crossings, complete with metal studs in the road surface, and flashing Belisha beacons named after Transport Minister Hoare Belisha. The evicice in a lowbridge Leyland TB4
delivered in May 1935. The three window arrangement at the front delivered in May 1935. The three window arrangement at the front
of the upper deck was a popular feature on buses and trolleybuses at the time, being a legacy of the route number boxes placed in that position in a number of fleets. It would was give additional
support for the overhead gantry and traction feed cabling seen support for the overhead gantry and traction feed cabling seen
here. Note the Bovril advert at the rear of the vehicle - some popular brand names still live on today. (STA)

Posed outside the main gates of Wigan's High Hall in December 1936 having been towed from Massey's factory by the Leyland
truck which would deliver it to Tees-Side is LeylandTB3 trolleybus truck which would deliver it to Tees-Side is Leyland TB3 trolleybus
No. IO, one of a batch of five, remaining in service until 1945 when they were bought by Southend Corporation for $£ 250$ each. The 'Scottish' style rear entrance is noteworthy. As is the continuation
of the six-bay construction in contrast to the five-bay design of the of the six-bay construction in contrast
St Helens models above. (STA both)


Chester Corporation fleet No.
27 (ARM 518 was one of three
Leland Titan TD4c Leyland Titan TD4c (torque--
convertor fitted) models which convertor fitted) models which
entered service in May 1936 and is seen at Enfield Street
and just before delivery. Chester's
livery was green and cream livery was green and cream
at this time, as it had been in tram days. The vehicle was withdrawn by Chester in 1945
and bought by Bee Regis \& and bought by Sere Regis \&
District Motor Services along
with sister vehicle No. 28, both with sister vehicle No. 28, both
remaining in service until the remaining in service until the
end of the 1950s.

This almost broadside view
clearly shows the share line clearly shows with the more rounded rear. Bolton number 33 was also a TD4c with torque-convertor
transmission, this being popular with many operators replacing trams and making the transition easier from driving trams
to driving buses. The deep to driving buses. The deep
housing on the front bulkhead (carrying the fleet number)
is the combined Autovac and is the combined Autovac and
header tank for the fluid for the convertor.



Wines Corporation bought their first of many Leyland double-deckers Cumberland's AEC Regent demonstrator, number 47, was replaced by in November 1936. This is No.42, BTD 123, and it was one of five Leland another AEC Regent when it was sold in 1936. Also numbered 47 and also
Titan TD4 type with highbridge 52 -seat bodies, again seen at Enfield bodied by Massey BAO 763 was one of afar, 12 and 47 , with the current
Street prior to delivery Street prior to delivery.



In 1935 Massey Bros. had co-operated with Leyland Motors and the General Electric Company in a unique project for the building of a double-deck low height trolleybus. It was mounted on a low-loading three-axle chassis and was exhibited on the GEC stand at the Commercial Motor Show held at London's Olympia later that year. The Massey body was of attractive, gently curving proportions, achieving an overall height of 13 ft 6 ins within an overall length of 30 ft . Designated TB10, it was of very modern appearance for its time, featuring a set-back front axle allowing a folding door ahead of the front nearside wheel There was also a conventional rear platform with a door to the lower saloon. The low, flat floor was achieved ingeniously by employing two traction motors, each positioned on the outside of each chassis side member. The drive shafts from the motors also ran outside the chassis members to the differential casings mounted adjacent to the wheel hubs on each rear axle. A dropped front axle with underslung springs, and inverted springs at the rear, contributed to the low floor height. The body of composite construction accommodated 63 seats, 29 in the lower saloon and 34 above with two staircases, one at each end, with the entry being at the rear and the exit through the front door. The twin staircases and doorways made for quicker loading and unloading but at the expense of seven seats within the then legal length on three axles.

Testing took place on the local system of the South Lancashire Transport Company and it later went on loan to London Transport. The vehicle was then shown on the GEC stand at the Olympia Show. From London it travelled north to Derbyshire where it ran for several weeks with Chesterfield Corporation and was often referred to as the 'Queen Mary' because of its size in comparison with the small capacity trolleybuses in the town. By January 1936 it was on loan to Doncaster Corporation, and in February, a full technical description of it appeared in the trade press, but by March the vehicle had disappeared from view. Regrettably, this advanced vehicle was later dismantled by Leyland


The Leyland Lowloader being tilt-tested
at Massey's and then towed out of the at Massey's and then towed out of the
Enfield Street works on its way to Leyland Eor checking out and official photographs, one of which is shown opposite.
Trials were carried out on the nearby SLT Trials were carried out on the nearby SLT
system, as was normal Leyland practice, and the lower view, opposite, shows the
and
vehicle turning of the and the lower view, opposite, shows the
vehicle turning off the A6 at Swinton Church with SLT and Salford tram tracks
visible. It is believed to have operated visible. It is believed to have operated
carrying fare paying passengers. (STA all)



A selection of detail views of the body and chassis, together with an extract from The
Leyland Journal for November 1935. The change in livery was effected in the Leyland studio with an airbrush, not in the workshops with a paintbrush. The view below really emphasises the extreme low level of the chassis and its various components. (STA all)


The long and the short of it - this Leyland Cub
SKP2 of 1936 was ordered by Edwin Dewsbury but due to their takeover by Yorkshir Woollen District Transport Co. Ltd was finished in Leyland's lightweight small vehicle of the period, in contrast to the monster below.

The three-axle concept was still popular in some quarters, though rear tyre wear could be excessive due to
'scrubbing' on corners. The greater 'scrubbing' on corners. The greater
length of the three-axle chassis length of the three-axle chassis
allowed a body up to 30 oft long to be constructed and this in turn obviously gave additional seating capacity. The
Thomas family of Llynvi Motors had just taken delivery of their 40 -seater Leyland Tiger TS7T when this picture was take in on the far right, had driven it down
from Oxford to meet the rest of his family outside the National Museum
of Wales in Cardiff. Note the former of Wales in Cardiff. Note the former
spelling of Llyvi, the later spelling sppeared with the letter $F$ replacing the $V$. (CT)

Motors and the overall concept never went into production. It was generally well received by staff and passengers alike, but no doubt it would have been expensive to manufacture because of the twin motor and transmission layout. Also in 1936, the sloping body profile succeeded the near-vertical profile, first on the lowbridge body and then on the highbridge version. At the same time the pronounced curvalure of the rear, which was to be a characteristic feature of Massey bodies for many years to come, began to take shape. The slope of the front was carried through to the bottom of the windscreen to present a neat and modern appearance. Another feature that began to appear at this time concerned the front side window of the lower saloon which incorporated a greater radius, the forerunner of the D-shaped window that was to become familiar on future Massey bodies.
A breakaway from the double-decker scene came in the same year when two interesting orders were received for single-deckers. A Leyland Cub SKP2 with 20-seat coach body was ordered by Edwin Box \& Sons of Dewsbury; this vehicle was finished in Yorkshire Woollen District livery as that company had taken over the former before the body was built. The other vehicle was a sixwheel Leyland Tiger TS7T, a 40-seat bus for Thomas of Maesteg better known as Llynfi Motors. Yet another non-standard body design was built by Massey Bros on a batch of Leyland Titans supplied to Southport Corporation in 1937, which included bodies conforming to an earlier style supplied to this operator by the English Electric Co. During the same year Massey Bros. commenced work on their first order for lpswich Corporation for twelve Ransomes Dtype highbridge trolleybuses, and three years later they built a one-off body on another Ransomes, Sims \& Jefferies chassis that had been intended as a demonstrator for export to South Africa. Wartime shipping restrictions prevented its delivery and the chassis was diverted to Ipswich Corporation.



Southport Corporation No. 53, a Leyland Titan TD5c, was one of a batch of five delivered with clearly recognisable English Electric-designed bodywork in 1937. This must either have been
an order placed with Massey to be built to EE design, or, possibly, sub-contracted from the Preston firm as it became increasingly busy with military orders. As Southport is only a few miles from Wigan it is perhaps surprising that Massey Bros. only ever received this one order from the seaside undertaking.
pswich Corporation bought 18 locally-built Ransomes, Sims \& Jefferies trolleybuses which were then fitted with Massey bodies with delivery spread over almost twelve
months during 1937/8. Here we see seven of them lined up at Cobham Road depot, and nearest to the camera is No. 79, (PV 4545).


It is also interesting that around this period, Walker Bros, a well-known Wiganbased engineering company, capable of producing almost anything, gave a contract to Massey Bros for the building of five railcars, which comprised of three for the Trujillo Railway in Peru and two railcar-cabs for the British-run Sao Paulo railway in Brazil. Similar work was undertaken by Northern Counties and later by East Lancashire Coachbuilders.
Alfred Alcock, as designer, was becoming increasingly aware of the growing demand for metal-framed buses but he could not obtain agreement to build them. As just one example of customers moving elsewhere, Salford, staunch Massey supporters from 1927, had first tried metal-framing from the MCW


Massey Bros. were contracted by Walker Brothers Massey Bros. were contracted by Waiker Brothers
to build three railcars for the Truillo Railway in
Peru. Here we see two views of a magnificent Peru. Here we see two views of a magnificent
Pickfords tractor unit built by Foden towing one of the raicars to Walker Brothers for completion and
final embellishments. The rather strange frontal final embellishments. The rather strange frontal
appearance of the tractor is explained by the fact appearance of the tractor is explained by the fact
that it could be used to pull or push heavy loads as
required.

Below we see the impressive finished product. Walker Brothers had their own sidings close to the factory for testing railcars. The ceremony
was witnessed by all the dignitaries involved but was witnessed by all the dignitaries involved but
unfortunately their identities were not recorded for this particular photograph.



Salford No. 6, RJ 7004, was one
of three.$e$ end of three Leland Tiger T57s buitt
in 1937. All were withdrawn in 1950 when the operator's need for singele-deccerseraters weeng
reduced, and were sold for reduced, and were sold for
further use, but they were the last Massey venicles delivered to the operator, Metro-Cammell
and end
andand
motal-framed and Leyland metal.
bodies being preferred.
organisation in 1934. Salford bought further MCW metal-framed bodies, and also examples from Park Royal, Leyland and English Electric between 1937 when they took three single-decker Leylands from Pemberton, and 1939, but never patronised Massey again. Arising from this impasse, he and George Danson, the Works Foreman, decided to leave and to form their own company for the manufacture of such bodywork. They intended to operate in Bolton but had difficulty in finding premises which they could afford. As a result they entered into an agreement with Mr Walter Smith of Blackburn to join him in his business, East Lancashire Coachbuilders Ltd., which had been first registered on 27 th October 1934. The company was involved in the manufacture of commercial vehicle bodies and small coaches.

EastL_ancashire Coachbuilders was reconstituted from 9 th May 1938 with the new directors being Walter Smith, Mrs Lilian Smith, Alfred Alcock and George Danson and it was decided to concentrate on the manufacture of bus bodies, including double-deckers, of which Alcock and Danson had experience.
Walter Smith owned Brookhouse Mill on Whalley New Road and this became the base for the company until 1994 when it moved to Whitebirk Industrial Estate. Brookhouse Mill is thought to be the oldest weaving mill in Lancashire and alternate vertical pillars had to be removed in order to manoeuvre the larger vehicles which it was intended to manufacture. Almost inevitably, other personnel from Massey Bros joined Alcock and Danson at East Lancashire Coachbuilders. These included Jack Thomson who became Fitting Shop Foreman, Gerry Cunliffe who became Sheet Metal Shop Foreman and Harold Disley as panel beater.
It was hardly surprising that the early ELCB orders were from operators already familiar with the products of Massey Bros, the first being from Bolton Corporation for ten double-deckers. The outline of these bore a strong resemblance to the Massey design but they were still of composite construction, being built before the design for metal framework had been finalised. The sons of Alfred Alcock and George Danson, George Alcock and Arthur Danson, later joined the company and became directors to succeed their fathers. The story of East Lancashire Coachbuilders up to the year 2000 is told in a book by Harry Postlethwaite, published by Venture Publications Ltd.
The loss of the two key staff members did not affect the Massey Bros enterprise, however, and production continued at full capacity throughout 1938 and 1939. William Massey, the sleeping partner, had three sons who became engaged in the business. Thomas was the eldest and became the foreman painter, Norman became works manager and Arnold the youngest worked on design and was responsible for the metal frame concept when it was eventually introduced. Isaac, the partner who had trained as an accountant, had a daughter Clara, who married Arthur Tyldesley, later to figure prominently in the business.

Leigh Corporation number 65 , right, shows the
final prewar design of single-deck service bus Linal pre-war design of single.deck service bus
bodies. Similar vehicles but with rear entrances were produced for Cumberland Motor Services.
The radiator confirms Masser's records that this is indeed a Titan double-deck chassis, and without auttovac. Is it by now diesel-engined? The maker's view in the eyard ofone
a dualdoorway layout The third photograp time waiting atgraph shows No. 65 again, this Manchester doubtless on hire to one of the conbine operators who then used this long-distance coach station where the Bridgewater Hall now stands.
(HSPC lower two) (HSPC Iower two)
 ———


Between 1934 and 1942, Birkenhead and Bolton Corporations proved to be two of Massey Bros bes customers. From 1936 to 1942, Bolton placed 120 Leyland Titans with Massey bodies in service, and the Birkenhead total was 112 during the period 1934 to 1939. Bolton had also purchased five Leyland Tiger single-deckers with Massey bodies in this period, three in 1935 and a further two in 1938. In echoes of Safford's policy, they also took two metal-framed examples from Park Royal in 1938.

The Bolton Leyland Titan TD4c and TD5c models, of which Massey Bros bodied 95, had six-bay structures There was a strong affinity between the Birkenhead and Bolton batches of 1936, except for the drivers' windscreens The Birkenhead batch had a sloping screen like the 1934 and 1935 series and resembling the Leyland Titan TD1 and TD2 Leyland body style, whereas the Bolton batch had a more upright screen.

The 1937 Birkenhead and Bolton batches were very similar, both having the more upright windscreen. There were also 25 TD7c, with five-bay bodies, built



Birkenhead Corporation No. 219 was the first of a batch of 40 Leyland Titans delivered in 1937; this TD5c models. The seating for 54 was finished in TD5c models. The seating for 54 was finished in
blue leather which became standard Birkenhead practice from this point on. Three of the vehicles
became air raid became air raid casualties but were rebodied/
repaired by Masseys in I942. (HSPC)

Burnley, Colne and Nelson's No. 152, (HG 6013), a was seen standing in a light covering of snow at their Nelson depot shortly after delivery and showing the Nody styling before the introduction of the curved
front to the upper deck. The logo, incorporating the front to the upper deck. The logo, incorporating the
coats of arms of the three authorities, was one of the most distinctive of the municipal embellishments carried by any public service vehicle. (LL)


Number 31 was one of five AEC Regents bodied by Massey's and supplied to Colchester
Corporation when they placed
thir Corporation when they placed
their first order with Masseys in their first order with Masseys in
1939. These were fitted with 52 -
seat highbridge bod seat highbridge bodies similar
in appearance to the vehicles in appearance to the vehicles
supplied to Chester Corporation during the same year.


Above: The final pre-war delivery to Birkenhead comp 1939. Number 286 is shown in the original thre cream bands version of the Birkenhead livery, an flared out panels are now in fashion. (HSPC)
Above right: Resting between duties at Bridgeman Street depot in April 1954 is this Leyland Titan war Massey body styling. Number 232 was part a batch of 50 similar buses delivered between 1940 and 1942
In 1938 Cumberland Motor Services took delivery of five Leyland TigerTs8 $\mathbf{8}$ alf-canopy single-deckers
with moquette covered seats that had higher tha with moquette covered seats that had higher than longer routes. Number 139 is shown comtsort on Enfield Street coachworks prior to delivery, with outswept panels again in evidence. Sister vehicle used as a static it serce unce Mest and was being used as a static site offic
late as the end of 1960 .
between 1940 and 1942. In fact, the last 25 TD5c and the TD7c models were built simultaneously, surprisingly so, given the structural differences between the two types. Both varieties featured very rounded lines with D-shaped end windows at the sides of the lower saloons
The 1939 Bolton batch (some may have been delivered at the end of 1938 as the Doffcocker and Montserrat tram route was abandoned on 31st December 1938 and some new buses would have been required) incorporated the more curved front profile introduced that year but the buses did not have the Dshaped windows at the ends of the lower saloon in the way that the Birkenhead 1939 design did. The last 25 examples of the Bolton order, delivered in 1940/41 were built on the later Leyland Titan TD7C specification and the Massey bodies were to the final pre-war design incorporating five-bay construction.
During the 1930s only small numbers of single-deck vehicles were produced; a notable customer for some of these being - perhaps unsurprisingly Cumberland Motor Services Ltd. The standard Cumberland single-deck bus body on the TS8 chassis showed a strong affinity to contemporary Ribble design with its half-canopy cab and general proportions at this time.



Until now Massey Bros had not shown any serious interest in building for the luxury coach market, but when three half-canopy bodies were fitted to reconditioned 1929 Leyland Tiger chassis for Cumberland in 1939, replacing the original Massey bodies, two of these were to dual-purpose specification, finished in bus livery and providing 32 bus seats and rear entrances. The third, however, although having a similar body shell, was fitted with front-entrance and 26 coach seats, those on the nearside being single units. It was finished An advertising exercise which was doomed to aiilure, even before the ink had dried, is seen
below. The front of the coach is captured quite eelow. The front of the coach is captured quite
faithfully but the gentle curvature to the rear is
missing - was there missing - was there a change of heart along the
line between concept and completion? Either ine between concept and completion? Either
way, Cumberland's number 31 was destined to remain a solitary example. (STA) in coach livery. With hindsight, this was hardly a propitious time to enter the luxury coach market, with the outbreak of World War 2 only months away, but, as we noted earlier 'the customer is always

right'.
This development of the single-deck design had its counterpart with the double-deck, which generally retained its six-bay construction now with characteristic D-shaped front and rear side windows in the lower-deck and wide-radius roof contours. Five-bay bodies were, however, supplied to Chester Corporation. Early in 1939 the design was changed to five-bay construction thus improving the overall appearance still further, although those supplied to Bolton and Cumberland during 1939 were of the six-bay layout. By this date the sloping front had given way to a gently curved profile with the curvature taken to the bottom of the windscreen, the lower edge of

Seen at Keswick Bus Station about to depart for Borrowdale and Seatoller was Cumberland Motor
Services No. 30, a Leyland TS2 dating from 1929 . Services No. 30, a Leyland TS2 dating from 1929.
Its original Massey bus body was replaced by this Itts original Massey bus boy was replaced by this
Massey dual-purpose version in 1939 and it remained Massey dual-purpose version in 1939 and it remained
in service until 1949 .The official view of No. 944 (RM
5629 ) left 5629), left, shows more clearly the glass cantrail lights
and glass loures over the windows and the sloping
roof line, whilst the familiar D-shaped windows are
also prominent. Note that a neat entwined logo also prominent. Note that a neat entwined logo
has replaced the former targe bold CUMBER has replaced the former large bold CUMBERLAND
lettering on the side panels - clearly this was felt to lettering on the side panels - clearly this was fert to
be more appropriate to a vehicle acting as a coach

- even if only indisuise. The deep - even if only in disguise. The deep Cov-Rad radiator
conversion was an attempt to modernise the frontal conversion was an attempt to modernise the frontal
appearance of the long-outdated chassis.


Cumberland No. 31 may have needed a Cov-Rad radiator conversion, and spats to cover the projecting dumb irons of its 1929 built chassis, but no
one could fault the interior body appointments. Two-and-one deep leather-trimmed moquette seats with arm rests, radio speakers and a clock, glass one could fault the interior body appointments. Wo-and-one deep leather-trimmed moquette seats with arm rests, radio speakers and a clock, glass
cantrails for better visibility in the glorious Lake District, curtains to the deep half-drop windows and a discrete measure of chromium trim put this in a top quality league. Note the Massey Bros. gilt transfer on the bulkhead above the chrome fire extinguisher.



Double-deckers always offered a challenge if the two decks were built separately - even in the 'seventies stories of men with brooms
marching in military formation whilst supporting the roof are not marching in military formation whilst supporting the roof are not
unknown. Here, though, it is a different proposition for the upperunknown. Here, though, it is a different proposition for the upper-
deck is exactly that, not just a roof and cantrail but the full framing and some panelling. Unfortunately, not all the sequence has survived but what the photographer has recorded is sufficient. The roof stands
on barrels and is going to be lifted high enough for the lower deck to on barrels and is going to be lifted high enough for the lower deck to
be driven below it, and then the two sections bolted together. Note the GEARLESS BUS lettering on the radiator front grille.
Below, the finished vehicle stands outside Bolton's Town Hall, the Below, the finished vehicle stands outside Bolton's Town Hall, the
deep maroon livery and excellent paint finish being testimony to deep maroon livery and excellent paint finish being testimony to
the quality of the Pemberton workforce. This is another torqueconvertorTitan, a TDSc, with the identifyying sign - the sight glass for
the fluid levels on the bulkhead, also carrying the fleet number 175 the fluid levels on the bulkhead, also carrying the fleet number 175
in the wonderful shaded numerals which nearly all good tramway operators used - and applied to their buses equally lovingly. The distinctive lettering on the radiator is no longer in evidence. (STA)



Showing its rear entrance body to good effect is this LeylandTiger $T S 8$ c which was one of two with Massey bodies
supplied to Bolton Corporation in the late summer of 1938 . There were two more similar vehicles supplied at the same time but with dual-purpose bodies by Park Royal. (STA)



The official photographer for some 20 years Was Fred W Dew of Wigan and these are tree
of his images, taken at Enfield street prior of his images, taken at Enfield Streep prior
to the delivery of Leyland Titans supplied to to the delivery of Leland Titans sien
Cumberland Motor Services in 193899.


The departure of Massey Bros. sales manage John Angus in 1939 had interesting results for
Northern Coachbuilders, his new employer 1944/5, orders were received for replacemen bodies on Leyland chassis for Bolton years a batch of lowbridge NCB bosies on PD chassis was built for Cumberland, but no repea orders ensued. (STA)

Whilst this is very clearly not a Massey design, records show that this Daimer COA6, No. 233 assembled in 1939 from metal sections, as were the other vehicles in the batch for Coventry, but the rest were either Brush or Metro-Cammell product and this example from Wigan was supplied fo ${ }_{f 1,021}$ for the Birmingham product, but maybe Massey had seriously underestimated the true cost of production. Whatever the actual situation the
outcome was clear - Coventry did not pursue the outcome was clear - Coventry did not pursue the
idea and Massey's next metal-framed bus would be for Birkenhead in 1950 as shown on page 86 .
which was in the form of a curve, although some of the Bolton examples had a horizontal lower edge to the windscreen. The final pre-war design incorporated front roof panelling that was continued downwards to form the front corner panelling, and so provided one of the most distinctive features of Massey bodies for many years when peacetime standards were re-introduced after the war.
The later 1930s had been particularly successful for Massey Bros, especially with sales to municipalities. It was a time of replacement of many trams by buses, thus increasing the demand for double-deck bodies to the extent that orders for up to 40 at a time were being received from customers whose earlier requirements might have been no more than ten vehicles. Perhaps the ultimate design of Massey Bros pre-war development could be seen in the batch of 40 Leyland Titan TD5c double-deckers supplied to Birkenhead in 1939, typifying the functional half-cab, open rear platform British double-decker in its municipal livery style of three cream bands, in this case with a main colour of pale blue. As with the orders for Bolton and Cumberland, progression continued into early wartime as Massey Bros managed to maintain production at almost normal evels for longer than most other bodybuilders in this period.
It is recorded that the first Massey Bros metal-framed body was completed in June 1939 as Coventry 223, DKV 223 a Daimler COA 6 with 56 seats. The chassis was one of a batch of 18, Nos. 212-2 carrying Metro-Cammell bodies and Nos. 224-29, Brush bodies. The single Massey body was bought as an experiment. The Transport Committee minute of 11 th July, 1938 reads, "of the tenders received for bodies, the Committee consider that those of the Brush Electrical Engineering Co. Ltd. and Messrs. Metro-Cammell Ltd., amounting to $£ 1,018$ and $£ 1,021$ per body, are the most advantageous, although, as an experiment, they propose to accept the tender of Messrs. Massey Bros (Wigan) for one body at a price of $£ 890$."
It should be borne in mind that buses were still being bought in 1938 and 1939 for a seven year life span. Sixteen of the Daimlers then being ordered by Coventry were for the replacement of buses bought in 1931 and 1932. It was said that the body for No. 223 would last for seven years but in fact it had to be rebuilt in 1946, and the bus was withdrawn in 1953, one of the first of the batch 212-29 to expire. As a matter of interest Coventry's six Brush bodies all had problems by 1945-6, and all were rebuilt between 1946 and 1948, mostly with new pillars and new front bulkheads supplied by Metro-Cammell. The MetroCammell bodies were never rebuilt although three required new roofs due to blitz damage, these being made and fitted by Brush in 1941. The first MetroCammell body to be withdrawn went in 1953 along with three of the Brush type, though it is thought that these had suffered collision damage. The remainder lasted until 1955 and 1956.



Chester No. 32 delivered in 1939 shows the curved frontal profile introduced
around this time. It is mounted on an around this time. It is mounted on an
AEC Regent II chasis. By the time the AEC Regent II chassis. By the time the
next Chester vehicles, including No. 39 also on AEC Regent II chassis, were delivered in June 1940 the frontal profile had changed yet again with increased
curvature to the front and heavier corner curvature to the front and heavier corner
pillars, a design that was to be used with
little modification for Pittle modification for some e ears in the
post-war period - see page 61. (HSPC)


竍 photographed on the edge of Enfield Street prior to delivery in October 1939. It was one of a batch of 20
handsome looking vehicles set off by the distinctive blue and cream livery of this operator.

Leigh and Salford were other notable municipal customers placing orders prior to the outbreak of war and the local operator, Wigan Corporation, continued to place regular orders apart from the early post-war period when allLeyland double-deckers were purchased exclusively. A number of new regular customers became apparent in the mid- to late-thirties from further afield including Colchester, Great Yarmouth and Kingston upon Hull Corporations who first placed orders in 1939, Colchester and Great Yarmouth also making many repeat purchases in post-war years. Alan Townsin has described the 1930s products of Massey Bros as having a characteristic flavour not generally found in bodywork built outside that area of Lancashire' and considers that this was most evident just before the Second World War.
However, not everything in the garden was smelling of roses. The structures of all the 1936-42 bodies supplied to Bolton proved to be rather troublesome. By 1943 some of the 1936 batch on wartime hire to Coventry Corporation (Coventry hired seven vehicles) had to be returned to Bolton with rotting pillars. Some of the bodies moved independently of the chassis while in motion. By 1948/9, Coventry was to experience a repetition of this problem with four wartime Massey bodies, two on Guy Arab I chassis (EKV 300/1), delivered in November 1942, and two on Daimler CWG5 (EKV 8212) dellvered in 1943. Of the five bodies supplied to Cumberland in 1941, numbered 159-63, one of these, No. 162 was destroyed by fire in December 1943 and was rebodied by Northern Coachbuilders in 1944. Of the others, Nos. 159 and 160 were rebuilt by the company in the postwar period whilst Nos. 161 and 163 were rebodied by HV Burlingham in 1950.
In an early form of recycling, the body of No. 161 ended its days as a beach bungalow at St Bees whilst the seats from Nos. 161 and 163, together with those from some of the Massey-bodied Leyland Titan TD4 and TD5 models rebodied in the postwar period, were used to replace wooden seats in wartime Guy Arabs including No. 217, one of the two Massey-bodied Guy Arabs in the Cumberland fleet. The other Massey-bodied Guy Arab No. 216 received the more luxurious moquette-covered seating from the Park Royal-bodied Leyland Titan TD7s built for Southdown and diverted to Cumberland on completion. The watch-words in those dark days were 'make-do-and-mend' and 'waste-not-want-not', sentiments lost on many in today's more affluent society.


## CHAPTER 4 <br> Wartime

AIthough bus body-building at Pemberton continued after the outbreak of war on 3rd September 1939, throughout 1940 and into 1941, some manufacturers had already been directed to war effort production Leyland Motors concentrating on manufacturing tanks, for example. Others, such as Park Royal and Duple, both in London, found themselves building wings and fuselages for Halifax bombers - alongside lines of wartime buses. Production at Masseys included the batch of Leyland TD5c Titans for Birkenhead (279-318), AEC Regents for Hull (170-89) with delivery to both completed in January 1940, and further Titan TD5c models for Bolton (193-242) completed in November 1941, before the influx of diverted or unfrozen vehicles (see page 67) of which full details can be found in the body list Appendix.

The 1939 contracts continued to be built to peacetime standards, but production gradually diminished because of the reduction in the number of available chassis and material shortages until it came to a halt early in 1942. It is calculated that up to this date Massey had built 1,330 vehicle bodies. In order to maintain the employment of those who had not been called up for military service, the firm reverted to the original business of building and contracting in the form of repairs to and reconstruction of bomb-damaged buildings. Engineering work consisted of assembly of mobile auxiliary fire pumps and, later, building of fire service van bodies on Austin and Ford chassis.
The Ministry of Supply was responsible for control of materials whilst the Ministry of War Transport (MoWT) was now busy planning to guarantee essential movement of war workers. Early steps had actually been counter-productive, when all bus building had been stopped soon after the outbreak of hostilities with materials and part-completed vehicles 'frozen' by Government directive.

It was quickly realised that people involved in work vital to the war effort needed transport, and that in many cases new provision would be required to cater for the vast munitions effort where, for reasons of local and national security, secret factories were established in remote locations where shell cases and bombs could be filled with the deadly explosive mixtures, away from towns and marauding German bombers.

Because these factories were so remote, and because very large numbers of people were working in them, frequently on shifts around the clock, the movement of several hundred people three times every day became a major task in itself. Operators such as Cumberland and Crosville found themselves unable to cope, and in urgent need of additional vehicles. At the other end of the country, restrictions on travel due to the threat of invasion meant that East Kent and Southdown found themselves with surplus vehicles, and also with orders in build for buses they were not going to need. Park Royal were nearing completion of orders for these two operators when the MoWT stepped in and arranged for the vehicles to be diverted to the two northern companies. They had already been allocated registration numbers and the GCD letters soon identified them to enthusiasts. Crosvile took the vehicles just as they came, but Cumberland arranged for Massey Bros to fit their standard destination display, and to repaint them.


Very few details of wartime non-psv production many other coachbuilders in those dark days, and even fewer photographs have been found. These wo fire appliaes for carry the Royal Cypher of in wartime grey and carry the Royal Cypher of
George VI. Austin P 2959 above, and Fordson $P$ 4696 below, are both fitted with wartime hooded headlamps.


Southdown Motor Services had ordered 27 Leyland TD7s with Park Royal bodies for delivery in 1941 but as explained in the text they were diverted
north, Cumberland Motor Services receiving four which were repainted into CMS livery at Massey Brothers at a cost of $\mathbf{E 4 7} 10 \mathrm{Od}$. per bus ( $\mathbf{£ 4 7 . 5 0}$ ). GCD 691 , was photographed at Enfield Street after receiving its new identity.


Ipswich No. 86 bodied by Masseys in 1940 was a
Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies trolleybus built as a demonstrator for a tour of South Africa, but due
to the outbreak of World War Two was diverted by the MoWT to Ipswich Corporation. It was the last Ransomes vehicle to enter service with a British operator, was the last trolleybus to be bodied by September I959.

The next move was to release those items, or part-completed vehicles, which had been frozen and thus became 'unfrozen'. Massey bodied a selection of these, as shown. Also made available were vehicles which had been intended to be exported, but which were now considered to be at risk from danger of $U$ boat attacks to shipping, or likely to be of greater value at home

A batch of vehicles built to utility specification that was of particular interest formed an allocation of ten trolleybuses for St Helens Corporation in 1942. These were to be the only utility trolleybus bodies constructed by Massey Bros. The Sunbeam chassis had been intended for export to Johannesburg but the outbreak of war precluded their shipping and they were diverted to St Helens. As the export chassis were 8 ft wide at a time when the British legal maximum was 7 ft 6 in special dispensation was granted to allow them to be operated in Great Britain. With full-width cab, low-height and extra width, together with a shallow roof, these vehicles looked most unusual for Massey products.
A number of Daimler COG6 motor bus chassis were similarly affected and one of these was bodied by Massey Bros for Sheffield Corporation, becoming No. 461 in that organisation's fleet, and four AEC Regent chassis were also bodied for this operator at the same time.

Todmorden No. 32, below, was one of four unfrozen LeylandTD7s supplied in November 1941 .Note the
wrong wrong registration-it should have been DWY 394-
the error was corre service. Todmorden withdrew itsTDTs in in 1948 , two years or more before the 1938, 1939 and 1940TD5s with Leyland bodies in the fleet. It has never been established exactly why the TD7s were withdrawn so early, but the TD7s were slower than the TD5s
due to their heavy flywheels and consequent slow gear changes, making them unsuitable for the hilly routes in Todmorden's territory. Significantly, they
saw further service with independent operators saw further service with independent operators,
three of them lasting until the late 'fifties.


Driver and conductress keenly pose for the camera in this early
postwar view, with the River Clyde in the background. The vehicle postwar view, with the River Clyde in the backgroun. The venicle,
Vs 4214 , is a Leyland Titan TD7 showing its lowbridge 'unfrozen' VS 4214, is a Leyland Titan TD7 showing its lowbridge 'unfrozen'
body and was one of two delivered to Greenock Motor Services in body and was one of two delivered to Greenock Motor Services in
February 1942 . The Greenock business was merged with Western
SMT in SMT in 1949.

Sheffield received four unfrozen AEC Regents with Massey bodywork
during March 1942 and the transition from prewar to wartime design during March 1942 and the transition from pre-war to wartime design
is becoming apparent on No. 466 (HWA 146) seen here in the late 1940s. A motley line up behind this bus reveals several other wartime vehicles with a selection of body makers. (RM)



Posing for the camera prior to delivery, below, on a bleak day in April 1942 is Sheffield Corporation's No. A461 (HWA
141) an 'unfrozen' Daimler COG6, in full wartime livery, and believed to have been the only such example from the Daimler output. The body will be seen to be of the
design as that fitted to the four Regents, as seen left.




Wartime shipping restrictions prevented 15 Sunbeam chassis being bodied and sent to Johannesburg, and they were diverted to be used in the UK instead. Five went to Nottingham, bodied by Weymann with an 8 ft wide version of the standara highbridge
wartime utility body, but the balance of ten, supplied to st
Hent Helens, were very different. Bodied by Massey they required to be of lowbridge format to pass below a a railway bridge
and the combination of lowbridge bodywork on an 8 ft wide and the combination of lowbridge bodywork on an 8 ft wide
vehicle resulted in the strange appearance seen here. In the upper view No. 158 (DJ 9006) stands in the yard at Pemberton, ready for delivery after its photographs have been taken. The
photographer is to be complimented on the finished result, photographer is to be complimented on the finished result,
taking into account the drab location and even duller livery. In the lower view the same vehicle is seen in service some years
later in the standard red and cream fleet livery. Note that the later in the standard red and cream fleet livery. Note that the
driver's cab door is located on the nearside, a feature of the St driver's cab door is located on the nearside, a feature of the St
Helens specification. Nottingham's vehicles retained normal Helens specific
offside access.

Massey Bros were also given the job of building six lowbridge bodies on Leyland Titan TD7 chassis. They were allocated by the Ministry of War Transport, one to Cumberland Motor Services, one to Greenock Motor Services and four to Todmorden Joint Omnibus Committee. The latter four were practically free from austerity features, whereas wartime features on the others included the omission of radii to the bottom corners of the windows (actually the omission of window pans, with glazing mounted direct into the framework of the body), the omission of interior lining panels, and simplified seating. Nevertheless, these unfrozen vehicles did not possess the utility features and austerity appearance of the later Ministry specification wartime vehicles.
Belatedly recognising that there would indeed be a need for bus production during the war, a joint committee representing vehicle builders, operators and unions was set up in 1942 to agree standard specifications for bus chassis and bodies, using minimum amounts of materials and labour. Certain manufacturers were authorised to build, initially Guy, later followed by Daimler and Bristol for the chassis. Massey Bros was among those coachbuilders authorised to build highbridge and lowbridge double-deck bodies on new chassis.
Vehicles were allocated to operators by the Ministry of War Transport on the basis of need for the war effort and had to be obtained through the provision of a licence, and the trading-in of a worn-out model for replacement. The story of wartime bus production in Britain is told in the book The Best of British Buses - Utilities by Alan Townsin, published by Transport Publishing Company in 1983. Although there was supposedly little flexibility in the basic design of these vehicles, coachbuilders managed to interpret the specification in their own ways - perhaps the fact


Although this vehicle wasn't actually built until 1945 it illustrates perfectly Massey's interpretation of the wartime highbridge utility bus, a Stockport example photographed in that operator's Heaton Lane depot as though it might have been posed especially for this book. The broadside view shows the angular body shape to perfection with the statutory single opening window on each side of each deck, and also illustrates the projection of the
bonnet to accommodate the long Gardner $\mathbf{L W}$ engine, though 5 LW units were also fitted in many Arab Ill, of course. Stockport obtained good
service from service from its allocation of 16 Guys and saw no


Newastie Corporation was supplied wite
 betwen duties. Both velicess were bought by AA Motor Services of Troon in 1950 , No. 245 only being used for spares but sister vehicle No. 246 was used in revenue earning service
until becoming their tree-lopper in 1955 .

Masseys suppied only one utility
vehicle to Rochdale Corporation above) in 1943, it was a Daimler
CWGS and numbered 187 in
and their fleet. Further Daimlers ere suppled more relaxed specification.

Massey Bros. supplied a number of Scottish operators with utility Wainter CWGS in 1943 This was No 101 (DGB 448) whi ho obviously been refurbished, re-glazed and re-painted in norma peacetime livery. It was withdrawn in 1954 and became a tow
vehicle shortly after with the dealer Max Speed of Mitcham.


Wooden seats became the order of the day than the picture might suggest. Although this is not a Massey body, the seating design was common to all the utilities and so $t$ is
hat the man leading the team responsible for the specification was the General Manager of Park Royal Vehicles might just have explained this and it was a subtle way of saying, "yes, all very well but we'll do it our way" Massey wartime bodies were particularly distinctive with the most outstanding features being the deep roof, shape of the offside cab windows and curved lower edge to the windscreen. The well-sloped rear profile of the upper-deck contrasted sharply with the vertical rear ends of some manufacturers but the angled rear dome left no doubt that this was a utility product.
The aim of the specification was to avoid the use of materials that were scarce or required for the war effort, such as aluminium alloys, and to simplify construction by the elimination of compound curves which required skilful panel beating at a time when such skilled labour was in short supply. This was, of course, in the days before glass fibre moulding. Massey Bros retained the polished timber area to the upper portion of the front bulkhead together with polished timber window finishers. Generally, window pans were not allowed, and glazing was mounted direct into the framework of the body. There was an exception to this just down the road from Massey Bros, where Northern Counties was allowed to use metal-framing, and this necessitated the use of window pans. This was partly due to large stocks of window pans being held by that company. The other exception was East Lancashire Coachbuilders where Alfred Alcock not only got away with using metal framing and window pans but manufactured bodies to the pre-war outline including curved rear domes. No explanation has ever been offered as to how he managed this, beyond the possible existence of surplus preformed stock, as at Northern Counties.
The seats in the bodies built to the standard specification were generally to a simplified design and covered in red leathercloth until mid-1943 when varnished wooden slatted seats became the standard. From observations at the time it appears that the unfrozen Leyland Titan TD7s, Guy Arab Is, including the 6LW variants, in the range FD 25451-FD 25950, and the Daimler CWG5s all had leather-covered seats whilst the later bodies up to 1945 had wooden seats. The Leyland Titan TD7 which went to Cumberland as their No. 176 certainly had seats covered in brown leathercloth but to a simplified specification compared to earlier bodies supplied to this operator. The Ministry relaxed the body specification towards the end of 1944 and upholstered seats and additional opening windows began to appear shortly after this.



The above letterhead clearly shows that, despite the significant volume of war work, Massey Bros. coachbuilding ar
explained on page 78 .
ANALYSIS OF WARTIME UTILITY BUS BUILDING AT PEMBERTON

| CHASSISTYPE | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 |
| :--- | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| GUY ARAB I |  |  |  |  |

The MoS allocation system meant that chassis arrived in batches at Pemberton and, again, the body list Appendix will show how this worked out between Guy and Daimler chassis. By the end of 1945 Massey had bodied 270 of the former and 65 of the latter, 321 being highbridge and 14 lowbridge. As shown, few lowbridge examples were built at Enfield Street, and Massey utility bodies were generally allocated to operators in the north of England and in Scotland.
There was a corresponding specification for wartime singledeck bodies but none were built by Massey Bros. New singledeckers were provided by Bedford with most of the bodies being built by Duple, Mulliner, Roe and Scottish Motor Traction Co Ltd., which, though primarily an operating company, was in those days the Scottish agent for Bedford and became the bodybuilder for many of the OWB models supplied north of the border. The rebodying of single-deckers, where authorised by the Ministry of War Transport, was undertaken by HV Burlingham of Blackpool.
Many bodies of utility specification were supplied to such traditional customers as Birkenhead, Chester and Cumberland Motor Services. However, the wartime allocation system made Massey bodies far more familiar nationwide, taking them into many fleets where they had never been seen before and a list of these will be found on page 72. Sadly, it transpired that once again the timber supplied to Massey Bros had been particularly poor, making the



SHMD SHMD fleet in 1943, being the last of three for
the operato. The Stalybridge-based operator was a staunch Daimler supporter and would have
doubtless been pleased to have received these instead of Guy Arabs. Number 193 (HMA 157) is seen in post war days.

Another of the municipal fleets combining the
interests of several authorities was Burnley, Colne interests of several authorities was Bulle Colne and Nelson and that undertaking's number 21,(HG
$8157)$, is seen above right in a dull post-war setting. BCN received 14 Massey bodies during the wartime allocation scheme

Coventry Corporation No. 321 entered service in July 1943 and is seen 20 years later in Cox Street
still looking very presentabe. It was rent still looking very presentable. It was renumbered 421 in November 1963 , withdrawn a month later, Independent. The smart two-tone Hillman Min (AEJ)



This advert was almost certainly produced for the overseas market - specifically the German one - to make the enemy
believe that despite the devastating Coventry blitz the Daimler believe that desple the devastating Coventry
factory there was still in business. It was not of course


In contrast, this advertisement, placed by the Ministry of Information, was very definitely aimed at the home market and clearly showed the very valuable contribution made to
the war effort by the UK vehicle manufacturers. (STA both)


Facing page: Photographed in
1947 this Bradford Corporatio 1947 this Bradford Corporation Hall Ings, resting behind an
unidentified balcony top-cover unidentified balcony top-covered
tram bound for Thornbury. Th tram bound for Thornbury. The
bus was scrapped in 1953. (AEJ)

Chester had need for more American airbase which provided
a home for many of the US bombers used during the conflict Here one of its Daimlers, No. 45
(FFM 270) is seen after the (FFM 270) is seen after the war in
the city's shopping area. This was a CWGGI, easily recognised by the
vertica slats of the vertical slats of the radiator.
second overhauls uneconomic. Many became trainers and early candidates for withdrawal. All had gone by early 1952 and relatively few went to new owners. Those that did were promptly rebodied and/or rebuilt to single-deckers.
The Ministry's utility specification was relaxed in November 1944, as previously stated, and early in 1945 Massey bodies began to appear with upholstered seats and additional opening windows. The original specification had been for one halfdrop opening window on each side on each deck. However, angled rear domes continued until the wartime standard was withdrawn at the end of 1945.
As soon as possible, some operators updated their utility bodies, with such improvements as upholstered seats and several extra opening windows, or, less commonly in attempts to improve the appearance of the vehicles by fitting rounded rear domes and by varying degrees of rebuilding. Others completely rebuilt existing bodies or re-bodied wartime chassis, some of which went on to give up to 20 or more years of service. The Guy chassis in particular proved to be a type that was simple, easy to maintain and economical with its Gardner engine. It continued to be in strong demand into the 1960s.
Some operators, such as Lancashire United Transport and the West Riding Automobile Company, adopted it as their standard double-deck chassis and others such as Chester Corporation continued to order Massey bodies on Guy chassis. As previously mentioned, it would later be said that Massey Bros seemed to suffer particularly from poor quality timber in wartime, though they were not alone as Brush Coachworks Limited were also mentioned in this context, and on the Ashton-under-Lyne Massey-bodied Guys, the pillars could be detected as loosening at the joints after only six months in service. However, two of these Ashton bodies remained in service for twelve years before rebodying took place. Just down the road from Ashton, Stockport Corporation received 16 Massey-bodied Guys and obtained 18-20 years of service from them with scarcely any outward evidence of major rebuilding having been necessary



Independent operator Lancashire United had a major
involvement in workers' transport for the war effort, involvement in workers' transport for the war effort,
serving coal serving coal mines, munitions factories, engineering works,
mills and the vast Trafford Park industrial complex near Manchester. This was reflected in the allocation of no less
than 76 vehicles into the fleet between 1939 and 1945 , than 76 vehicles into the fleet between 1939 and 1945 ,
including diverted South African exports, unfrozen and including diverted South African exports, unfrozen and
utility machines. Four Massey highbridge-bodied Guys were delivered in 1945 and one of the these, No. 312 (FTE 333 ) is
seen on service in 1957. The largest number were bodied seen on service in 1957. The largest number were bodied
by Northern Counties, and no more Massey bodies entered by Northern Counties, and no more Massey bodies entered
the fleet. The destination TT relates to the fact that the bus is operating instead of a Trackless Trolleybus near to the end of trolleybus operation by ysitser company nLT - woulddbe
Iste of Man motor cycling aficionados would thus have been Isle of Man motor cycling aficionados would thus have been
disappointed. The significance is that trolleybus fares were cheaper and this bus in charging the lesser rate! (JAS)
owestoft, Blackburn and London were operators new to Massey Bros. order book. Whilst the seaside town came
back after the war, as will be seen, no more Pemberton products were to enter the other two fleets. Blackburn,
like Lancashire United (aboev), was fuly strethed servicing like Lancashire U the factories involved in the war effort. London Transport
took almost 300 further vehicles, Guy, Daimler and Bristol chassis and a variety of body makes, from 1945 to spring 1946 to cover a perceived shortfall of new buses - the
famous RT class. The 20 Massey-bodied Guys were the first famous RT class. The 20 Massey-bodied Guys were the first
to arrive, from May 1945 , and $\mathbf{G 2 6 7}$ (GYL 406) is seen below. Why Lowestoft qualified for wartime vehicles is not clear but one is seen in the adjoining illustration, whilst a trio o
buses in Blackburn's town centre is led by a Massey utility buses in Blackburn's town centre is led by a
Guy Arab II. (RM lower left; ABC lower right)
In 1944 Grimsby Corporation were allocated three Guy Arab II's with Massey utility bodywork, and here looking in need of a wash is No. 79 . Fleet numbers 71 and 79 were withdraw
and scraped in 1963 and 1962 thin and scrapped in 1963 and 1962 respectively but the third
member of the trio, No. 88 , remained in service until 1969 making a very respectable quarter century's service for what was intended to be a stop-gap design. (OS)



Top of the page: Ashton under Lyne was fortunate in that all its wartime allocations
were Massey-bodied Guys, four in all, and the last ones were promptly repainted in the full and very smart dark blue, red and white livery shown here. Dangers from marauding aircraft were considered to be
over when the last ones were delivered in over when the last ones were delivered in
1945. Most operators received a mixed selection, often of chassis and body makes new to their fleets.


Above, left and right: Some Massey Bros. utility buses were painted a dark red, almost red oxide colour, and Stockport's 216 (JA 7716 ) is seen in Manchester's Parker Street bus station in this condition. cen in early post-war operating in its home town after a full repaint into the Corporation's smart red and white livery. Stockport was another operator which chose not to return to Pemberton after the wartime allocations which clearly served it well. Alongside No. 212
stands part of the answer - a locally-built Crossley with both chassis and body built within the Borough. Support home industry and
neep local people employed! (HSPC) keep local people employed! (HSPC)

## CHAPTER 5

## Postwar developments to 1950

Wth the end of hostilities, first in Europe and then in Japan, people in Britain looked forward to a return to normality, with peace and prosperity, but they would have a long wait. The cost of the war both in human and monetary terms, had brought the country to its knees and now the burden of wartime loans became apparent as they were required to be repaid. Added to all this was a change of Government, with very different aspirations from its predecessor. Laudable as some of those aspirations were, the bottom line was always the same - whilst there is no money available, little can be done. Austerity continued to be the key word, and even tighter restrictions than had applied during the war years became necessary. When bread was rationed that was seen as the last straw.
The effects were soon felt in the transport industry as raw materials continued to be in desperately short supply, especially so with aluminium and steel, whilst seasoned timber was virtually non-existent. Timber needed to be cut and left to dry out, otherwise it would rot very quickly. And, of course, that is exactly what happened, and why so many of the early post-war bodies were no better, or were worse, than their wartime counterparts. Bus bodies using unseasoned timber were doomed from the day they were built. Generally, rationing and allocations were the order of the day throughout the country, and red tape abounded.

Allocations of buses by the Ministry of Supply had brought many new 'customers' to Massey's doors, as they had to other bodybuilders. It would be interesting to see who would come back now that they had some measure of choice. Perhaps the greatest beneficiary of the situation was Guy Motors. It had been brought back from near oblivion in the late 1930s, and its wartime chassis had made it many friends throughout the industry. With Leyland building only double-deckers, and looking for export business, Guy would be able to capitalise on its wartime Arab masterpiece, gaining considerable business from those new friends.

In the half-decade 1935-39 Massey had bodied no Guy chassis; in the corresponding period from 1946-50 70 Guys passed through the Pemberton works. Operators supplied with utility bodies on Guy or Daimler chassis but not previously Massey customers included

Aberdeen, Accrington, Ashton-under-Lyne, Baker (Warsop), Barrow in Furness, Blackburn, Bradford, Brown (Gaerlochhead), Central SMT, Clyde Coast, Derby, Doncaster, Dundee, Edinburgh, Everingham (Pocklington), Glasgow, Graham (Paisley), Grimsby, Harper (Heath Hayes), Lanarkshire, Lancashire United, Lancaster, Laurie (Hamilton), London Transport, Newbury \& District, Newcastle on Tyne, Northern General, Nottingham, Rawtenstall, Red \& White, Rochdale, SHMD, Scottish Motor Traction
Severn (Stainforth), South Shields, Stockport, Truman (Shirebrook),
Walsall, West Hartlepool, West Mon, Western SMT, Yorkshire Traction, Yorkshire Woollen, Young (Paisley)
Not everyone would return of course; local operator Lancashire United had been allocated four highbridge Massey utilities on Guy chassis, but although they took large numbers of the post-war Wolverhampton chassis until 1967 they never took another Massey body. Some you win, some you lose

The post-war orders would continue the general previous pattern of coming from Municipalities and Independent operators, with South Wales being well represented as before. Tilling Group orders were non-existent, as were any from the other major group, BET. A revision of shareholdings during 1942 following a restructuring of these two giants had resulted in some operators 'changing sides', two prime examples being Crosville to the Tilling Group and
 CWD6 models delivered at the end of 1945 and showing the immediate post-war styling employed by Massey. The first
photograph shows No. 21 when new and howard bound on photograph shows No. 21 when new and homeward bound on
the 17 service from Manchester to Rochdale jointly operated with Manchester Corporation. The second picture shows the same vehicle some years later awaiting passengers in Rochdale
town centre. The blue and cream livery, with its swoops, town centre. The blue and cream livery, with its swoops,
contrasted with the red and cream of Manchester's vehicles, which by this time were being supplied in its post-war livery without streamline swoops. (STA left; EO below)


North Western to BET. It would be the movement of Cumberland from familyowned to joining the Tilling stable that would affect Massey Bros. though, for, at a stroke, they lost one of their oldest, most loyal and very significant customers, as we shall see.
Notwithstanding the many difficulties with staff and material shortages, Massey Bros was one of the first bodybuilders to return to peacetime standards, and superior bodies on Daimler CW chassis were delivered to Newcastle and Rochdale Corporations before the end of 1945. Daimler and Guy had, of course, kept the industry going with their wartime chassis, and Massey had bodied some 65 of the former and 270 of the latter between 1942 and 1945. These first post-war bodies were characterised by the provision of window pans giving radiused lower corners to the windows and outswept lower side panels, which contrasted greatly with the austerity appearance that had been imposed on manufacturers.
Government policy was, understandably, focused on the massive debt and our inability to import raw materials through our inability to pay for them. Accordingly, exports were given absolute priority and such scarce resources as were available were allocated, through Government directives, to those overseas orders which would bring in desperately needed currency.
It also became vital to maximise output, and at nearby Leyland Motors, as one example, all bus output was concentrated on standard double-deck designs, either 53 -seat lowbridge or 56 -seat highbridge, front engine and rear entrance. Livery and choice of seat trim was about as far as many operators could influence the finished product. Whilst this was fine for keeping production levels high at Leyland it did open the door for other bodybuilders, provided they could obtain chassis and materials to build bodywork. It is interesting to recall that between 1939, when it ceased peacetime bus building, and 1950 Leyland built no single-decker bodies whatsoever, returning to this market only when it introduced its underfloor-engined chassis, of which more later.

The dimensions to which buses and coaches could be built were, at this time, unchanged from pre-war days. All vehicles were restricted to an overall width of 7 ft 6 in , and whilst 2 -axled single-deckers could be 27 ft 6 in long, double-deckers were limited to 26 ft . Vehicles with three axles, of whatever body configuration, were limited to 30 ft . The industry was now pressing for change and bodybuilders would soon be faced with operators wanting to take advantage when the regulations were relaxed in 1946, initially allowing the width to be increased to 8 ft where the route had been approved for such vehicles by the appropriate Traffic Commissioners. By 1948 all vehicles could be built to the new width, but a small minority of operators continued to take 7 ft 6in vehicles where narrow streets were a particular problem. Warrington and Jersey were two widely separated examples, though the Warrington vehicles were bodied by ELCB.
Massey Bros. records do not indicate which operators were first in taking $8 \mathrm{ft}-$ wide vehicles, but looking through the many photographs it will soon become apparent where the change has taken place.
During the final two months of 1945 Massey's bodyshop turned out 16 vehicles on Daimler CWD chassis, ten for Rochdale and six for Newcastle, as previously mentioned. The Newcastle contract was completed by April 1946, and other customers taking bodies on that same chassis during the spring of that year included West Hartlepool, Sunderland, Chesterfield and the Scottish independent Sutherland of Peterhead.
Peacetime chassis supply began with the Guy Arab III single-deck examples, and the first AEC Regal chassis, both being completed by June, with two for Chester being first post-war AECs out of the factory. By Christmas some 68 bodies had been built in that first full year of peacetime production. Birkenhead had the honour of taking the first Leyland double-deckers, twelve of the new PD1 model being completed and delivered before the year end.

In December 1946 Mr CT Humpidge, general manager and engineer of Rochdale Corporation, designed a body for fitting to a 1938 Leyland Titan TD5c chassis of which the original Cravens unit had been severely damaged during an accident. Mr Humpidge's idea was primarily to reduce the number of platform accidents and secondly to eliminate draughts and dust, making the vehicle warmer and more comfortable, particularly on limited-stop services. The wider-than-normal central entrance was protected by double air-operated doors, which could be operated by the driver or conductor. A warning light was fitted in front of the driver indicating whether the doors were opened or closed. No further examples of this type were built, however.
An interesting design change at this period was the shape of the lower deck end windows, which at first were semi-circular. By 1948 the rounded shape had changed to incorporate a larger radius at the top as in the 1939 outline, of which examples had gone to Cumberland Motor Services and Bolton. The early post-war highbridge body possessed a more upright front profile, and the front corner pillars were more slender than in the final pre-war design
The immediate post-war highbridge design was something of an interim one and was soon superseded by the more traditional Massey curved-front styling. Examples of this traditional design were delivered to Birkenhead in late 1946 and to Chester in 1947. Neither of these long-standing Massey customers received the interim design.

In complete contrast to the first post-war highbridge bodies, a new lowbridge design was introduced in 1947, with examples being supplied to Cumberland Motor Services, Southend Corporation and several independent operators. This was notable for the extreme degree of curvature and

The body on this vehicle was originally attributed to the
South Wales coachbuilder DJ Davies. As can be see here JC 8427 was definitely Massey bodied, and stand outside the Pemberton Works awaiting delivery to Roberts (Purple Motors) of Bethesda in February 1947 ,
It was finally withdrawn in 1966 and went to Eddies It was finally withdrawn in 1966 and went to Eddies
Coaches of Dunstable where it lasted for three years oeaches being scrapped.
befable


The Rochdale Corporation Leyland Titan for which
the General Manager Mr Humpidge designed the forward entrance and staircase arrangement was duly completed in December 1946 and photographed on a typically gloomy winter's
day. The vehicle is also seen a few years later in day. The vehicle is also seen a few years later in
Rochdale town centre, surrounded by vehicles from the home and neightesouring fleets. The upper view shows the post-war body outline very clearly.



Sunderland Corporation No. 18 was one of four Massey bodies on Daimler CWD6 chassis delivered in 1946. They all gave twelve years service before being withdrawn and sold to Wesse vehicle three years later in 1961.
 Number 45 (EF 7529) in the West Hartepool fleet was one of three Daimler
CWD6 examples delivered in February 1946 with similar body styling to the vehicle in the previous photograph. Operators in the north east seemed very keen on displaying adverts at the front probably being the most famous. (RLK)


Above left: The Tees-Side Railless Traction Boar was based at South Bank, near Middlesbrough, an
bought this Leyland Titan PDIA in 1947 . It is see prior to delivery at the Summersales Colliery, just down the road from the Massey premises where newly bodied vehicles were take,
and often, as here, photographed.
Above right: Greenshields was a small independent operato from the e ictcuresqueve village of Salstsburgh,
17 miles east of Glasgow. T , seat lowbridge-bodied Guy Arab II in 1946 and it became No. 6 in their fleet. Photographed before
delivery, it shows the pronounced rront under. delivery, it shows the pronounced front upper-deck
rake to good effect. In 1960 Greenshields were taken over by Golden Eagle Coaches, also based in
Salsburgh. Salsburgh.
rake to the front which made these bodies even more distinctive than their highbridge counterparts. The roof of the lowbridge body was much deeper than the usual Massey deep and well-radiused design. This certainly avoided the flat-topped appearance found on some lowbridge outlines, although visibility was less satisfactory from the passengers' point of view. In both lowbridge and highbridge post-war designs the distinctive polished woodwork of the front bulkhead gave way to white paint, and on Leyland chassis, the curved lower edge of the windscreen was replaced by a straight edge. This was due to the Leyland dash which could not be cut because of the instrument panel. These variations, however, all managed to retain the distinctive Massey appearance. The early post-war single-deck designs were no less distinctive and characteristically 'Massey'. Appearing in 1946 they featured the D-shaped window to the first bay, a well-raked windscreen and a half-canopy which was unusual on a service bus, though common in coach design at the time. A later version incorporated a full-width front canopy. Orders for single-deckers were less numerous than those for double-deckers, largely for the reasons already


Stockton Corporation ordered their first Massey
bodies in 1947, and in a three year period to the bodies in 1947, and in a three year period to the
end of 1949 a total of 43 were delivered on various chassis. The two photographs on the left and below
left, are of vehicles from the initial order for six left, are of vehicies from the initial order for six
Daimler CWD6 models showing the more upright
frontal design used frontal design used during the immediate post-war
period. Numbers 45 and 43 were photographed in period. Numbers 45 and 43 were photographed in
the early 'fities. (RLK, below left)

Massey-bodied Bristols were something of a rarity Below is Stockton-on-Tees No. 10, a Bristol K6G buil
in 1947. Note the change in angle of the front panel, spoiling the line and giving the front of the body an

mentioned, but nevertheless a wide range of operators was supplied including Cumberland Motor Services along with Birkenhead, Chester and Newcastle Corporations, and some small independents.
During this period, Massey-bodied double-deckers gained popularity in the north-east of England, with substantial orders coming from Newcastle, Stockton and Sunderland Corporations. A surprising order during this period was for 20 Guy Arab III single-deck dual-purpose buses for Walter Alexander \& Sons Ltd and eight similar vehicles with bus bodies for Newcastle upon Tyne Corporation. There were many independents entering Massey Bros order book for the first time and two interesting orders for double deck bodies on Bristol K6G chassis were completed in
July 1947, four for Stockton-on-Tees and three for Merthyr July 19
Tydfil.
Tydfil. Perhaps the most prosperous time of Massey Bros history was this post-war period from 1946 to 1950 when the company still standardised on composite (timberframed) construction. Early post-war bodies invariably proved troublesome due largely to the use of unseasoned timber in the framework as discussed earlier, and many bodies required varying degrees of repair and rebuilding at a relatively early age. Massey Bros products were no exception, and itmay have been this factor, together with the general trend of the industry, which influenced the directors to look towards metal-framed construction as good timber became ever more difficult to obtain. All ten lowbridge

Pictured in July 1946 below and on the opposite page outside the finishing shop at Enfield Street,
with the engine running ready to embark on the long journey northwards, was Walter Alexander (Fife) Limited No. G38, a Guy Arab III which was one of 20 similar vehicles supplied in the late 1940 s .
Alexander,s bodyshops were busy rebuildng their own wartime double-deckers, and also building new Leyland PDIs under sub-contract to Leyland Motors at this time.



Stockton Corporation placed orders for Massey bodies on four
different chassis makes during the immediate post-war period. This different chassis makes during the immediate post-war period. This particular vehicle was one of eight supplied on Guy Arab chassis (two
on Mk II and six on Mk III). Number I0, (GUP 558), a Mk III model, awaits departure from Enfield Street to the north east on a dull February day in 1947. The Massey body transfer is just visible.

Chester Corporation purchased two AEC Regals in 1946, both with 32 -seat front entrance, half canopy bodies. Number 65 (FFM 661)
was spotted in the town centre in the early' fifties and ultimately gave was spotted in the town centre in the early fifties and ultimately gave
21 years service before being withdrawn and scrapped. Sister vehicle
No. 64 lasted until 1963. (HSPC)

As mentioned in the text the Guy Arab III single deckers supplied to
Newcastle Corporation were the first post-war chassis received by Massey Bros. Former Newcastle No 56 later ioned the fleet of $M$ Massey Bros. Former Newcastle No. 56 later joined the fleet of M
Charlton \& Sons Ltd, of Newburgh in the county of Northumberland. Charltons operated several stage carriage services in the Tyne Valley.
In 1961 their services passed to Mid Tyne Transport who Tontined In 1961 their services passed to Mid Tyne Transport who continued to
trade as Charltons and to Tyne Valley Coaches in 1967 . to Charltons it was given fleet No. 27 and is pictured at Haltwhistle. (RCD)

 advance of the rebuilding which took place on the Northern Coachbuilders bodies supplied at the same time.
This was the last order placed by Cumberland Motor Services due to the BTC/Tilling Group policy on vehicle purchasing. As part of the government's moves toward nationalisation of the transport industry, the Transport Act 1947 resulted in the formation of the British Transport Commission (BTC). The railway companies were nationalised from 1st January 1948 with the result that their significant stake in the Tilling and many BET bus companies passed into public ownership from that date. Tilling sold its remaining holdings to the BTC at the beginning of 1949, as did the Scottish Motor Traction group.
In 1948 the Massey brothers resolved to form the business into a limited company and the Certificate of Incorporation is shown on the facing page. The initial directors were, unsurprisingly, the three brothers but sadly William and Isaac died within a few years. As a result, Arthur Tyldesley, Isaac's son-in-law, who was born in Wigan in 1908 and who had been working in the electricity supply industry, initially in Wigan and then in Salford, as an electrical engineer, joined the company in 1950 as managing director. The surviving brother, Thomas (often referred to as Uncle Tom) died in 1954 and Arthur Tyldesley then became chairman of the company, assisted by George Chapman as company secretary. Although William was a silent partner in the firm, his three sons were all employed by Massey Bros. Arnold worked on the shop floor and died in the early 'sixties. Thomas became paint shop foreman but retired before the NCME takeover and died in 1975. Norman became joint managing director with Arthur Tyldesley and they both went to NCME on a consultancy basis. Arthur retired soon after to Ambleside but Norman did not retire until 1974 and died in 1983.


Leyland Tiger PSIs were thin on the ground when this one was supplied to the north Stafiordshire
independent Mainwaring in September 1947 Number 21 was the second of two, and is wearing the dark red livery which was changed to bue and going through at this. time, with an earlier fivethe first post-war Leyland single-deckers - going to Cumberland in March of that year.


Colchester Corporation No. 54 was one of four AEC Regent II models with classic late Torties body styling delivered in the spring o
1947. One was withdrawn in 1964 whilst the others, including this one, lasted another two years, until 1966

Link broken as Norman retires

ASSEY BROTHZR3 (PEMGRRTOM) LIMIRED
is this day Incorporated under the Companies Acb 1948 and that the Company is Limited.


As stated opposite, in 1948 the partners of Massey Bros. formed a company which was to trade as Massey Brothers (Pemberton) Limited. (The original papers referred to the company as 'Massey Bros. (Pemberton) Limited' but it would seem that such abbreviations did not find favour with the bureaucrats at Companies House!). The following year they had a sale agreement drawn up and sold the business to the new company for $£ 35,000$. The initial directors were William, Isaac and Thomas Massey and the share capital was set at $£ 70,000$. William and Isaac died in 1949 and 1950 respectively and were subsequently replaced by Clara Tylde sley (nee Massey, daughter of Isaac) and her husband Arthur.
In 1955 the share capital was written down by $50 \%$, quite possibly in a move which reflected the difficult trading conditions of the previous few years, (see production chart on page 144) and following from this the legal bar on paying dividends (including to the family members as shareholders) whilst the balance sheet was showing losses.
Although the company was no longer trading in its own right, it was not until 1997 that it was finally wound up.


Showing its well proportioned body and D-shaped windows to good effect was Chester Corporation's No. 60 (HFM 170), one of
three Daimler CVA6 types, here passing the town centre's famous Rows on route 25 in the early 'fifties. Andrews Liver Salts graced the sides of many buses in those days and every decent sized town the sides of many buses in those days and ever
boasted a branch of the Maypole combine.


West Monmouthshire Omnibus Board bought this lowbridg bodied AEC Regent right show the vehicle at Summersales Colliery down the right show the vehicle at Summersales Colliery down the
road from Massey's works, where, as mentioned previously vehicles were weighed before certification and delivery to the
customer. customer. Notwithstanding all the checks and inspection routines
it is displaying the wrong registration number (GWO 442) while being weighed. However, the error was later rectified and the necessary correction made (GWO 422), as shown in
the picture below when the bus was photographed on hom the picture below when the bus was photographed on hon
territory in service on its way back to Blackwood depot. It was numbered 17 in this mainly Leyland fleet and gave 17
years service before being withdrawn and eventually sold for Another vehicle with bodywork similar to the above, apart from a change
to the bottom curve of the lower-deck end windows, which are now straight. Great Yarmouth Corporation's No. 53 (EX 5933) was one of ten
Leyland Titan PDIAs delivered in 1948. It is seen on the sea.front near eyland Titan PDIAs delivered in 1948. It is seen on the sea-front near welington Pier. Note that at this time Great Yarmouth were still using
their original two-letter registration marks. scrap in 1966. (STA below)


These two Leylands were from the last batch of vehicles bodided by Massey Bros. for Cumberland
Motor Services, ending an association which had lasted 25 years. The views at the bodybuilders show
Leyland PDI number 245, (GAO 783) above, and Leyland PDI number 245, (GAO 783) above, and
246 (GAO 784) left, iust before entering service in 246 (GAO 784) left, just before entering service in
March 1948. An example in service from the same March is4. An example in service from the sam
batch is No. 219, (GAO 757) seen in Workington bus station an
(RM, below)


Pictured at the 1948 Commercial Motor Show in London is
Chester Chester Corporation's No.72, a Foden PVD6,'price, complete as shown $\mathrm{f4}, 13$ ', as stated in the catalogue. TTis venicle was
the first of a batch of eight with typical Massey body styling of the first of a batch of eight with typical Massey body styling of
that period. A further two had bodies of similar styling built by the firm of D J Davies based in south Wales. (PT)

Massey Brothers only ever bodied one Crossley after WWII, this bus becoming a firm favourite with many enthusiasts.
It was numbered 55 in the Colchester fleet and dates from November 1948. The long droopy wings spoil the appearance of an otherwise pleasing design. It is
on the number 6 service in the early 1960 s . (LM)



Burnley Colne and Nelson Joint Transport Committee, to give the full title, bought six Leyland Tiger PSI examppes in 1948. Number 16 is shown in a
pre-delivery shot with the Burnley driver Mr Bert Heaps in the cab; his son Cliff is a volunteer for the Leyland Preservation Society.


Between duties in the Queensgate depot yard is a Leyland Tiger PSI from the same batch as the vehicle above. The whole batch was rebuilt by BCN in
1958 and No. 19 shown here was the last one, being withdrawn in 1965. (JL)


A rather restrained (by Massey standards) highbridge body was introduced in the post-war period and seemed something of a compromise but was nevertheless attractive. LVK88 was one of
28 AEC Regent III 9612 E chassis supplied in $1948 / 9$ to Newcastle 28 AEC Regent III 9612 Ec chassis supplied in $1948 / 9$ to Newcastle
Corporation and is seen after repainting from the blue and cream livery as delivered into the later yellow version seen here. Most of
lhe batch lasted until $1962 / 3$. (RCD)


Milton Bus Service of Stoke-on-Trent purchased two of these Leyland PI Is in 1947 this one being No. 10 (NRF 950 . Milton's were taken
(Ni) over by Potteries Motor Traction four years later when they were
both renumbered $S 319$ (10) and $S 320$ (II) remaining in service until 1960. Compare the different door types on this and the Burnley PSI.



Top left: Twenty five Leyland Titan PD2/3s were delivered to Stockton Corporation in 1949 and number 63 (KPT 768) is seen suitably adorned for the local Festival Week in 1951.

Top right and middle left: The first of a batch of 30 Daimler CVG6 models or Birkenhead Corporation were delivered between August 1949 and March 1950. Number 172 (ACM 630) poses in the August sunshine at the
much-photographed Summersales Colliery location with Norman Massey standing alongside in the lower view. These buses gave an average of 15 years service before withdrawal in the mid-s'ixties.
elow: A splendid shot of Phillips of Hollywell's Foden PVD6 (FDM 724) as it wends its way through its hometown near to the Dee estuary in north
east Wales en route to the local Courtaulds factory in March 1967. The Foden bonnet blended very well with the Massey body curves.


## CHAPTER 6

## Changing times in the '50s

The firs pootwar meala boa wat of highbridge pattern and became No. 201 (ABG 301) in the fleet of Birkenhead Corporation, one of a batch of fifteen on Guy Arab 6LW chassis. The others of the batch were of the then-conventional composite construction. The metal-framed example omitted the then-current D-shaped end windows in the lower saloon and the outswept lower panels traditionally associated with Massey bodies. Good interior finish and appointment were always characteristics of the make. Even the wartime bodies retained the attractively grained interior window fillets and bulkhead framework. The metalframed designs maintained the tradition, together with that of attractive external appearance. Indeed, in some ways, the later metal-framed designs were reminiscent of the handsome outlines of 1939. Metal-framed bodies rapidly became the standard, and Massey Bros produced few composite bodies after 1952 and none after 1954. The company built up a good reputation among operators for solid and reliable construction of its metal-framed bodies.
With the advent of metal-framed construction, the lowbridge design was changed to incorporate a less sharply-raked front profile with a shallower roof line. This design was to continue to the end of production

Following the post-war bus boom, in 1951/2 body production at Enfield Street amounted only to a total of 23 new bodies for this period. However, this figure was augmented by the refurbishment of 20 Birkenhead Corporation TD5c double-deckers from a 1939 batch. A special single-decker was built for Barton Transport, the famous independent operator in the East Midlands, which was designated as a Barton BTS1 and given a dual-purpose body. Chester Corporation decided to rebody four wartime utility Guy Arab II double-deckers.

Birkenhead Corporation's No. 201, (ABG 301), had the distinction of being the first Massey all-metal bodied production double-decker, and was also
fitted with a sliding cab-door.The Guy Arab III is seen at Summersales Colliery prior to delivery in October 1950. The change from D -shaped windows has improved the appearance of the bodyside and this must be classed as one of the best traditional
Massey designs. Note how the Gardner 6LW engine causes the radiator to project forward beyond the
cab frone. This would not have been possible the cab front. This would not have been possible until
the permissible overall length was increased to the permissible overall length was increased to
27ft 6 in - wartime vehicles with this engine had needed a special MoWT dispensation.



AEC chassis were back in favour during 1951 whe mouthend Corporation purchased six Regent models of the 6811 A designation with lowbridge crash gearboxes and vacuum brakes but were crash gearboxes and vocuum brakes, ubt were
considered adequate for the short and relatively flat routes in operation before route co-ordination in 1955.The top and centre pictures show No. 262 at Summersales Colliery for weighing
delivery; note the old destination layout. The lower photograph shows No. 258 in service with the new destination display to accommodate the many permutations that existed once the route
co-ordination agreement with Eastern National was in force.



Complete with trade plates is Bury Corporation No. 73, one of four 1938 TS8c chassis rebuilt to TD5 designation and this time with double-deck
 bodywork but Bury were unable to sell them in this form and in late 1951 decided to have them rebodied.They were all withdrawn in 1958 and passed
to $T$ iger (dealer) of Salsburgh who sold three of them to Paton Brothers of Renfrew and the other to Dunoon Motor Services. Number 53 in the Paton to Tiger (dealer) of Salsburgh who sold three of them to Paton Brothers of Renfrew and the other to Dunoon Motor Services. Number 53 in the Paton
fleet was spotted a few years later at an unidentified location.



Barton Transport No. 65I was one of a number of rebuilds undertaken by this independent during the post-war period, and in this instance designated BTISI. The chassis on this vehicle
was previously a Leyland pSI from 1948 (No. 541 with a Duple body but it was rebuilt in in 195 ) was previously a Leyland PSI from 1948 (No. 541 ) with a Duple body but it was rebuilt in 1951
with a new 30 fft chassis frame and sent to Massey Bros. for a new dual-purpose body which was photographed in October 1951 prior to delivery. It was withdrawn in I 1966 and sold to a
church church youth club. In June 1972 it became a mobile caravan, but in 1973 was back in service
with Gosport Buses one with Gosport Buses of Glasgow and was last seen in Ayr in 1979. Pictured below is the rear of
651 also taken when new at Pemberton. Despite the extent of the reconstruction it retained
its original registration number throughout its life.



Lowestoft Corporation had previously purchased its bodywork from nearby Eastern Coach Works, ust a good stone's throw from their own depot in the seaside town. When ECW were precluded
rom supplying non-Tilling Group fleets the local Corporation turned back to Massey-the difference in distance between the two suppliers could hardly have been greater! Number 28, (LBJ 743), was one
of two AEC Regent IIIs about to make the long delivery journey to East Anglia in January 195 I.


Whieldon's (Green Bus) of Rugeley in Staffordshire bought many Fodens ove the years including this 37 -seat Foden PVSCC6 coach (XRE 979 ) delivered in
August 1952, and Massey's last coach body. Number 25 in the Whieldon fleet was caught on camera at Lamberhead Green near to Massey's works, often used in the 'fifties and stsixties for pre-delivery shots. It was to remain in service used in the 'fifties and 'sixties for pre-delivery shots. It was
until December 1964 when it was withdrawn and scrapped.
elow: Having just started its long journey
entes 631) a Leyland Tiger PS2/3 with dual-purpose bodywork, pauses in Lodge Lane on the western erimeter of Haydock Park Racecourse in April 1951 for a photographic session.



Pre-delivery views near Haydock Park Racecourse in May
1952 of a Foden PVD6 for Jmes 1952 of a Foden PVD6 for James Smith of Barrhead, part
of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society since 1947. The vehicle survived until 1963 when it was withdrawn and
scrapped. It is clear from these two pages, and reference to scrapped. It is clear from these two pages, and reference
the body list, that Massey and Foden were no strangers to each other.

As seen earlier Phillips of Holywell, a town near the River Dee estuary in north east Wales, purchased this Foden PVD6
(FDM 724) in 1949, and here it is pictured below outside (FDM 724) in 1949, and here it is pictured below outside
the Foden works in Sandbach before delivery. The front end arrangement of the Foden was particularly neat, as can be seen. The vehicle went into 'preservation' in January 1970
with Hollis of nearby Oueensferry, and thence to BaMMOT with Hollis of nearby Queensferry, and thence to BaMMOT
in December 1980 where it is currently stored pending eventual restoration. (PT)


Massey Bros receiving the order for two of these (46, (FFM 278) and 55, (FFM 299). It is interesting to note that the other two, 53 and 54, (FFM 297/8), rebodied by D J Davies of Merthyr Tydfil gave only a further nine years' service, whereas the Massey examples continued for another seventeen years. Yet another interesting vehicle was the full-fronted Foden coach built for Green Bus of Rugeley seen on page 91.
It was around this time that Southend Corporation decided to replace their trolleybus fleet and London Transport were replacing their non-standard wartime deliveries with new RTs. As a result a large number of Daimler CWs appeared on the second-hand market. Southend Corporation inspected 18 of these vehicles at the premises of second-hand bus dealer North's of Leeds. Thirteen were found to be suitable for rebodying by Massey Bros which they undertook between February and June 1954. These vehicles were the first in the Southend fleet to be fitted from new with the revised style destination display in readiness for their new co-ordinated services. The Corporation, still five vehicles short, ordered a batch of five Leyland Titan PD2/20s that Massey Bros duly completed in September.
Shortly after delivery of these buses, Massey Bros received a highly interesting 'one-off' order from another source in the town of Southend, which was for the building of a mobile police station on a Vanmaster trailer.

Moorfields of Pemberton, only a short distance from Enfield Street, subcontracted Massey Bros to build three 5 -ton HP Sauce vans on Austin chassis. These were to be used at the HP Birmingham depot, the order being completed in 1956. Unfortunately, no colour photographs exist of these vehicles.

Meanwhile Morecambe \& Heysham, Exeter and Maidstone Corporations placed their first orders for double-deck bodies. At this time there was a desire within the industry to reduce vehicle weight in order to lower fuel consumption (mainly due to sharp increases in fuel duty in 1951/2, followed by the Suez Crisis in 1956 ,making fuel supplies a bit worrisome), so lightweight bodies became the order of the day. The reduction in weight was generally achieved by simplified construction and spartan interior finish. Massey Bros, and
In 195 I Caerphilly UDC ordered a Leyland PS2/5 with bodywork from Bruce Coachworks of Cardiff but that organisation closed down before the order could be handled and the body
order was switched to Massey Brothers. Number 1 , looking very smart, was photographed in June 1952 and con tinued in service until 1969 when it became a training/towing vehicle and was renumbered 51 . It is worth reflecting that at the time this bus was being delivered to
Caerphill, Ribble vehicles passing through Wigan would have included examples of Leyland's. Caerphilly, Ribbe vehicles passing through Wigan would have included examples of Leyland's
Royal Tiger underfiloor-engined buses and coaches. This was the last-but-one front-engined Royal Tiger underfloor-engined buses and coaches.
single-deck bus Massey built for the home market.


indeed some other coachbuilders resisted the temptation and continued to produce well-proportioned and well-finished bodies. As part of this move, Park Royal Vehicles replaced their well-proportioned attractive and well-finished body style with what was often regarded as the ugliest double-decker of the time. Arising from this a number of operators, who had previously standardised on Park Royal bodies, looked elsewhere. Southampton commenced using East Lancashire Coachbuilders, whilst Barrow-in-Furness and the previously mentioned Morecambe \& Heysham turned to Massey Bros lpswich Corporation placed orders with both Massey Bros and ELCB. Production of single-deck bodies on underfloor-
engined chassis got under way in the early 1950s but these represented only a small proportion of the total Massey output. During 1953 and 1954, two fortyseater buses were supplied to the Wankie Colliery in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). A total of eight Foden FD6/12s, each seating 53, was supplied to the Mozambique Railways


In 1954 Massey Bros. received an order for the buiding of eight $53-$-seat bus bodies on specially
adapted Foden $\mathrm{FG} / 12$ commercial chassis for the Lourenco Marques section of the Mozambique Railways. Two are seen in build, above, whilist a
completed example is shown below about to be completed example is shown below about to be
hoisted aboard the ship before its long sea voyage on one of Clan Lines' vessels.
 During $1953 / 4$ Masseys also built two 31 -seat bus bodies on Foden PVSC6 chassis for the
Wankie Colliery in southern Rhodesia - now Zimbabwe - one of which is seen prior to Wankie Coliiery in southern Rhodesia - now Zimbabwe - one of which is seen prior to
delivery at Foden's works and described in the article above. The item will be seen to record a bonus paid to the drivers - a spring bonus - which resulted in an $80 \%$ reduction in broken springs. In between dodging potholes and avoiding senakes, their drivers appeared to have a
fairly normal sort of occupation for bus and lorry drivers. (PT)



Two regular attenders at rallies over the years have number I) (RFM 641), dating from 1953, seen here in Manchester's Heaton Park for the annual TransLancs Rally, and former Birkenhead Corporation number 242, (BG 8557), an Arab II dating from 1944
and one of IS rebodied by Massey in 1953, and seen far from home at the annual London to Brighton run at the beinning of May around 1970. (UAS both)

Shown just prior to delivery in March 1953 was this Daimler CVD (GBW 336) which was one of four ordered by Smith of Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire. Apparently these were the
painted by Massey Brothers.


A forward-entrance lowbridge double-decker, evolved for Baxter's Bus Services Ltd of Airdrie, became another design available from 1960 and was based on four bays with a single sliding door. Four bodies to this design were constructed for Baxter's, mounted on Leyland Titan PD2/37 chassis. The requirement was for lowbridge bodies and the design involved the use of a special staircase which featured two sections to its upper portion, one serving the front of the upper saloon and the other the remainder. Baxter's took four between 1960 and 1961 and this illustrates again Massey Bros readiness to provide what the customer required.
Three highbridge versions were ordered by Chester Corporation on Guy Arab IV chassis complete with Johannesburg-style bonnets/radiators. These were Chester Corporation's first 8 ft wide and 30 ft long vehicles.
At the same time Caerphilly UDC ordered two 44-seat bodies on Leyland PSU1/13 chassis (OTG 517/8). The next example was a single body, again on a Leyland Royal Tiger chassis, delivered to Barrow-in-Furness Corporation the following year. This bore some resemblance to the early 1950s Leyland body (Leyland body-building ceased in 1954) and was unusual in being fitted with dual-purpose seating - it was registered BEO 397.
The highbridge body was also slightly re-styled in 1954, the most visual change being the upper deck front windows, which now appeared with only a small radius to the upper-corner. Again, what might have been considered to be a more modern four-bay design was offered but most customers preferred the original five-bay construction. A distinctive feature of the four-bay design was the additional short window adjacent to the rear platform, balanced by a corresponding window or panel on the offside. A forward-entrance was offered on the highbridge 30ft body from 1958, employing five-bay construction, again with a single sliding door. The final permutation was the forward-entrance highbridge 27 ft body introduced in 1960, using four-bay construction and with the option of a single sliding door or a four-section jack-knife door.

This advert drew attention to the windows, but soon double-sliding units would become more
popular. The Barrow vehicle in which they were mounted appears overleaf. (STA)

Our contribution to road safety-perfect visibility in a sound frame, draught-free when closed,
sweet-moving to open-YOUNG WINDOWS sweet-moving to open-YOUNG WINDOWS of reliable service.
In addition to our standard range we manufacture windows to individual specifications, and welcom youser lon any apect

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { CLAYDON WORKS. WISHAW } \\
& \text { SCOTLAND }
\end{aligned}
$$

One of three stylish AEC Regent Ills supplied to Colchester Corporation in 1953 . This is number io
(WPU 732) shown before delivery. All gave invaluable service before being withdrawn in October 1971 .
Comparison of this vehicle and the Heyfordian Comparison of this vehicle and the Heyrordian
Daimler above clearly show the increase in width to 8 ft of the Colchester vehicle's bodywork.

Small batches of single-deckers were supplied to Birkenhead, Chester, Exeter and Ipswich Corporations and to Jersey Motor Transport in the 1960s. Those for Jersey were on special Leyland Tiger Cub chassis built to the dimensions of 27 f in long and 7 ft in wide, to comply with the maximum permitted size in Jersey at that time. They were readily identifiable by the reduced overhang behind the rear wheels. It is interesting to note that in reporting their arrival, the local press in Jersey referred to these 40 -seaters as "large capacity vehicles. Another innovation for Jersey reported at the same time was the use of continuous bell-press equipment.
These single-deckers were, however, to a later box-like design in which few established Massey characteristics were apparent. Four of these were supplied to Caerphilly UDC in 1963/4 and had seating for 55 which was a large capacity for single-deckers at that time. Dual-door versions of the same design were also built for Caerphilly and Chester Corporation in 1966. The three Chester vehicles were 40 -seaters and had bays of differing widths in order to accommodate the centre door. Just a short distance away from Pemberton, a first-tim order was received from J Fishwick \& Sons of Leyland who ordered two 45 -seater Leyland Tiger Cub PSUC1/12s.


Barrow Corporation had not ordered any Barrow Corporation had not ordered any
new single-deckers since 1933, when, in the early 'fifties, several were purchased,
one of which was this Leyland Royal Tiger one of which was this Leyland Royal Tiger
PSUI//3, number 52 (BEO 397) with dualPSUI/I3, number 52 (BEO 397) with dual-
purpose seating for 43 passengers, used purpose seating for 43 passengers, used
mainly for private hire.The vehicle was used
in an advertisement for 'rrighter windows' in an advertisement for 'brighter windows' as seen on the previous page.

Caerphilly UDC purchased two Leyland Royal Tiger PSUI/13s in 1954, and shown here is No. 7 before delivery. Note the flat
driver's windscreen compared to the Royal Tiger of Barrow Corporation in the adjacent illustration.



## New-tyge buses

 for JM.T.Tar E.3nt. Cearfe:th Lxels
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 What as Telan whara ment


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 reail:u: "haty za ou tsated sigh

 and concuenss sbeary


 bitas.


jersey Motor Transport No. 623 being unloaded from MV Statenlan at New North Quay in St Helier on 31 st May, 1962. This bus was later lengthened to $\mathbf{3 0 f t}$, in 1967 , giving five more passenger seats.

 Famous entertainers of the period including pianist Sempreni are
advertised at the entrance to Great Yarmouth's Wellington Pier, no
doubt ready to entertain the crowds who will be coming to escape the doubt ready to entertain the crowds who will be coming to escape the
rain coming in on the left of our picture. Meanwhile a Corporation rain coming in on the left of our picture. Meanwhile a Corporation
Leyland Titan PD2/22 from a 1957 batch awaits passengers taking shelter elsewhere. (STA)


Maidstone Corporation afser the initial leliveries in 1956. These two
photographs show number I (WKP 71) which was the first in a batch of
 six LeylandTitan PD2/20s noteworthy for having the revised front which
did away with the traditional radiator, as also seen on the Yarmouth and Southend vehicles on this page.
Southend Corporation No. 279, a Leyland Titan PD2/12 with lowbridge 55 -seat bodywork complete with 'new-look' front. It was one of a batch
of twelve supplied in 1955/6.



Above left: Maidstone number 9 with its distinctive registration
plate - 999 AKT - in its home town contrasts with fellow 413 seen above right in the Lancashire seaside town of Morecambe.
During the mid-seventies Lancaster City Council needed speedy replacement for some older vehicles and bought several second-hand vehicles including four Leyland Titan PD2/30's from Maidstone Corporation. Former number 13 (413 GKT) was spotted aering exercise making it into 413 and was cannibalised
renumber for spares later that year. All four vehicles retained Maidstone's livery throughout their short lives with Lancaster.


Corporation's first order placed with Massey Bros. wa for a batch of five Guy Arab IVs, placed in 1956. Number 51 is
seen passing Grey Cars attractive Beadie Commer ROD 756 . The newly appointed manager at Exeter had previously been at ester.


Wigan number 7, above, was one of three Leyland Titan PD2/30 models with platform doors, delivered in 1958 . On the right,
number 62 is the forward-entrance successor version to the above, one of four Titan PD3/2 examples delivered a year later. Both views to the Massey works.

Facing page, foot: In 1958 Baxter's of Airdrie ordered four Leyland Titan PD2/41 models with lowbrige 55 -seat bodies. Dolivery
started in January 1959 and ended with No. started in January 1959 and ended with No.
73 as shown in May of that year.



Turners of Brown Edge, a village between Leek and Stoke-on-Trent, took delivery of this Leyland PD2/30 in December 1957 with open rear platform bodywork and numbered it 11 in the fleet. When number 12 arrived in June 1959 it was a Titan PD $3 / 1$ and featured a forward entrance with sliding door as seen below. After sale by Turners it saw further service in the north east with three further owners and was finally scrapped in 1979.



This pristine Daimler, DCS 616 of the AI Group (Hunter) in Ayrshire, was originally built for them as a single-deck 35 -seat
coach by Irvine of Salsburgh on the Daimler CVD6SD chassis. It was rebuilt by Massey in 1958 with a double-deck body as seen here whilst en route to Ardrossan in the sixties. It is in the
typically smart condition of vehicles in this fleet. (RD)

Massey Bros. had provided the body on this Guy Arab III in 1948 for Rees \& Williams of Tycroes in south Wales and were called upon to rebody it ten years later. It was
photographed before being delivered to R\&W for the photographed bith trade plates accompanying the original registration mark of ETH 104.

Moorre's of Kelvedon were taken over by Eastern National his view shows No. 2015 ( 20 PVX ) in the livery of the latter company and is one
from 1959. (See also page 105)


## CHAPTER 7

The final years - 1960-1967

The introduction of the rear-engined Leyland Atlantean in the later 1950s was not universally welcomed in the industry, many operators preferring to wait and see how the new concept actually worked out in service. Accordingly there was a continuing demand for the well-tried and tested front-engined Leyland, AEC, Daimler, and Guy models, and Massey's order book reflected this. Operators taking these traditionar models included many long-standing customers of the Pemberton output, in
particular the Municipalities which had provided so much regular business.

During the final years Barrow, Bedwas \& Machen, Birkenhead, Caerphilly, Chester Colchester, Exeter, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Lytham, Maidstone, Morecambe \& Heysham, Southend, West Mon and Wigan double-deck vehicles continued the long municipal tradition, though some of these were customers new to Massey as the output charts in the appendices will show. There was also still a small amount of rebodying taking place, a routine which was easy to accomplish on traditional chassis but which would be much less so on the new rear-engined designs coming into fashion. Burton on Trent had three Guy Arab Ills rebodied in 1960, whilst Moores of Kelvedon had an Arab I and two Arab Ils rebodied around the same time.
The industry was changing, however, and the creation of large groupings in the chassis manufacturing side with AEC having earlier taken over Maudslay and Crossley, and included in the ACV empire the bodybuilding plants at Park Royal, Crossley and Roe were tending to push out the smaller manufacturers. The Transport Holding Company, owners of the Tilling Group including the Bristol chassis and Eastern Coach Works bodybuilders, represented a market closed to Masseys. Similarly, almost no BET business came to Pemberton, save where an independent had been taken over and outstanding orders were delivered to the new owner.
This changing scene was favouring the bigger manufacturers when large orders were placed, in quantities which Massey could not have accommodated - and probably not have financed even if it had had the space to build the vehicles. Thus the pattern of regular small orders in manageable batches was ideally suited to the Company, its factory, its workforce, and, no doubt the ethos of the method of doing business with, and obtaining orders from, its customers. When this began to change the Massey family began to question where


Below: The press and council
officials of Morecambe \& Heysham Corporation view their three new
buses outside the town hall in March 1960.The vehicles in camera are highbridge Leyland Titans
model PD $2 / 37$ with front entrance model
and seating for 64 passengers.Their fleet numbers are 87-89.
Number 87 seen again, below left, in the brighter livery opposite Central Pier, Morecambe in July 1971.These
three were the first Leyland doble deck chassis to be e purchased by the deck chassis to be purchased by the
Corporation. (RD)
Below right: Some vehicles were converted to open toppers and
number 34, now named Bashful is seen in Heysham village. (RD)

## Styles in . . . . .

 He unconventional seen here is to go go into service
shortly with Baxter's Bus Services Ld, of shortly with Baxter's Bus Services Lud., of
Airdrie, Scotland. The unconventional Airdrie, Scotland. The unconventional
features lie in the body design by Massey features lic in the body design by Massey
Brothers (Pemberton) Ltd. The chassis is a Leyland Titan.
The design provides more circulating space at the foot of the stairs than is usual with front entrance buses, in which the con-
ductor often finds himself in the way of ductor often finds humself in the way of pascengers boarding and alighting. In this compartment and the Y-shaped staircase where the conductor can stand, obstructing neither the passengers' or the driver's view
of the wide front cntrance, which has an air-
pressure operated sliding door with a low
window in it for the driver to see the kerb. -
Situated immediately opposite the entrance, the stair
Situated immediately opposite the entrance, the stair-
casc has two branches-the cft one lading to the fromt
case has two branches-the left one leading to the front row of seats in the upper saloon and the other to the
gangway running along the sides of the remaining seats. gangway running along the sides of the remaining seats.
Two of these buses have been builf for Baxter's, and three of similar design for Morecambe and Heysham Municipality. The Morecambe buses differ in being high bridge models, with a central gangway in the upper deck, and seats for 64 passengers.


eetween 1949 and 1956 Barrow-inFurness Corporation purchased only
Park Royal doobe-dek bodies, a total of 60 being taden into serrivec,
all on Leyland Titan PD2 chassis, ten all on Leyland Titan PD2 chassis, ten
of which were rebodied by Roe in 1959/60. In 1961 a further ten PD2s were purchased but these were fitted
with forward-entrance bodies by with forward-entrance bodies by
Massey Brothers. These were initially Masse brothers. These were initialy in 1970 to $101-110$ and remained in sevvice ceremony on the facing page
over Mr Arthur Tyldesley, then Managing Director of Masseys, is shown
nd from the right and Mr Albert 2nd from the right and Mr Albert
Burrows, then Barrow's General Manager, is on the far right. The view below demonstrates very clearly
the wide doorway and separation of passengers for the apper and lower pasenge It also shows that unlike
decks.
Baxters, Barrow gave no thought as Baxters, Barrow gave no thought as
oo where the conductor might stand. (STA both)


Mixing business with pleasure - when the Jersey single-deckers were delivered Arthur Tyldesley and his family were able to take the opportunity to go along and enjoy some of the sights on the island, and are captured here enjoying a ride in a more relaxed mode of transport. Below, the handover of
the Barrow vehicles was recorded for posterity as the Councillors and members of the Transport Committee inspected the vehicles. Municipal pride was always high on such occasions and the manufacturer would be secretly hoping that his workforce's efforts would find favour! Clearly everybody is very pleased with these new double-deckers and doubtless there will be a suitable buffet - or better - to follow. (STA below)



Wigan Corporation took 17 of these
Leyland Titan PD3 vehicles between Leyland Titan PD3 vehicles between
1959 and early 1962 , their fleet numbers
being scattered haphazardly as was being scattered haphazardly as was
Wigan's practice, and number 58 is Wigans practice, and number 58 is
seen here in service bound for Ashton
in seen here in service bound for Asten
in Makerfied. The boundary changes of
1974 saw Wigan absorbed into Greater 1974 saw Wigan absorbed into Greater
Manchester and, accordingly, its buses Manchester and, accordingly, its buses
passed into the Greater Manchester
fleet passed into the Greater Manchester
fleet. Like most of the GM constituents
Wigan had been fiecrcely proud and had Wigan had been fiercely proud and had
maintained its vehicles to a high standard in its distinctive and well-cared for maroon and white livery. In what may be construed as a small gesture of defiance
the final vehicle to be painted in the old colours was taken for a portrait to be made for posterity outside the gates of
Haigh Hall on Wigan Lane the sene of Haigh Hall on Wigan Lane, the scene of
many such pictures in happier times for many such pictures in happier times for
both Massey and Northern Countiesboth Massey and Northern Counties-
bodied brand new vehicles. The legal
lettering has not yet been applied, but lettering has not yet been applied, but
the fleet number 3230 confirms that it is now a Greater Manchester vehicle.
(STA below) (STA below)


Rees \& Williams were based in Tycroes, a village nea Ammanford in south Wales. They took several Masseypictured (YTH 815) was the last one purchased. It is a Guy Pictured Y with lowbridge body fitted with platform doors and
Are the distinctive if perhaps not very attractive 'Johannesburg'
front. It is seen in the lower view resting between iourneys front. It is seen in the lower view resting between journeys
on the Company's busy service I6, Llandilo to Ammanford on the Company's busy service 16 , Llandio to Ammanford,
whilst in the larger view above it is now in the service of Warstones, in Staffordshire. (DC)



Photographed in the arctic winter conditions of $1962 / 63$ was Morecambe's number 91, one of two Titan PD2A/27 models delivered some months earlier
in April 1962 . Whilst the lady strides purposefully towards the bus, standing at Happy Mount Park terminus, the other passengers are no doubt hoping in April 1962 . Whilst the lady strides purposefully towards the bus, standing at Happy Mount Park terminus, the other passengers are no doubt hoping
the driver will soon close the doors and shut out the cold! Morecambe Bay and the hills of the Lake District form the chilly backdrop. (STA both)




Massey-bodied buses were popular in East Anglia and Lowestoft Corporation was no exception to this trend, having purchased small
numbers from 1945 in the periods when the products of local builder Easters from 1945 in the periods when the products of local builder
Easte Works were not available on the general market. The contrast in deliverky wileare not couvailable hardy the general market. The
number 7 , one of a pair of AEC Regent Vs , is seen near the Wigan number , one of a pair of AEC Regent Vs, is seen near the Wigan
factory in late December 1962 before crossing the country to the
Norfoik coast and England's most easterly town, and just escaping the Norfolk coast and England's most easterly town, and just escaping the
big freeze of $1962 / 3$ which began over Christmas. big freeze of $1962 / 3$ which began over Christmas.

Below left and right: Exeter City Transport took delivery of 25 Leyland Titan PD2A/30 buses between 1961 and 1965 in batches of five. These
two vehicles are from 1963, No. 89 is shown on the left in the Exeter livery while on the right is No. 85 seen later and sporting the livery of


Below: This 1964 lowbridge AEC Regent $V$ was spotted on the lengthy Bedwas to Newport service. It was formerly Bedwas \& Machen No. 8 Valley District Council. (RD)
Below: Forward entrance Massey bodies came to the Fylde Coast in
when Lytham St Annes Corporation purchased three examples on Leylan PD2A/27 chassis and numbered them 68-70. One of the trio is shown in St Annes on 29th June 1974 after the undertaking had passed to Fylde Borough



Although there were by then many Leyland Atlantean, Daimler Fleetline and Bristol VR rear-engined buses on the roads carrying a variety of bodywork from the then existing rivals, Massey Bros first doubledecker body on a rear engined chassis did not appear until 1964. This was on a Daimler Fleetline chassis (modelCRG6LX)for $J$ Brown of Dreghorn, a member of the Ayrshire Co-operative, A1 Service of Ardrossan, and it was painted in their distinctive livery and registered AAG 312B. It was destined to be the one and only Fleetline chassis bodied by the Company.

Like the new single-deck design it was of square, angular appearance, possessing little in common with any previous Massey design. Nevertheless it was well-proportioned and stood out from some of the more ungainly-looking


Facing page: Masseys' first venture into front entrance/rear-engined double-deck bodies came in 1964 when James Brown of Dreghorn, part of the AI group of Ardrossan, bought this
Daimler Fleetline CRGLLX-30 seen above before delivery. The low height of the vehicle is clearly evident in the lower view which
also shows a former London Transport RT on also shows a former London Transport RT on
the left of the picture. The lowbridge design appears better balanced to the eye than the rather gaunt highbridge version as seen below
on this page. (LM)

Maidstone Corporation ordered their first rear
engined buses in 1965. These were eight Leyland Atlantean PDRI/II models and number 27 is show prior to delivery. Further batches, this time fo tweive similar vehicles, were ordered a year late
Maidstone chose Atlanteans as its trolleybu replacements.
rear-engined buses then being produced by some other bodybuilders. The trade press reported at the time that the interior appointment was to Massey's usual high standard. Extensive use was made of Formica panelling, and Easco fluorescent lighting along with 'Peters' air-operated doors contributed to the high-quality specification. Similar bodies were later supplied on Atlantean chassis to Colchester and Maidstone Corporations and to a number of independent operators. It is noteworthy, however, that none was supplied to such traditional Massey customers as Chester, Southend and the South Wales municipalities.
In 1965 the first orders for bodies on Leyland Atlantean chassis were put through the factory, comprising eight for Maidstone with bodywork of similar style to the unique Fleetline of two years earlier. Two further batches, in 1967 and 1968, brought Maidstone's order to 20 vehicles, just two-thirds of the total Atlantean output before ownership of the company changed. The other ten Atlanteans were supplied to Colchester, three in 1967 and seven in 1968.
Thus, in 1966 the final frontal design appeared on the traditional doubledeck body for front-engined chassis. The characteristic Massey curved frontal profile, originally introduced in 1939, was replaced with a straight, more upright front which still looked neat and well-proportioned. The lower deck panels were straight instead of curving at the bottom, thus facilitating the interchange of body parts with those of the new Atlantean design. This design was available in fivebay form when specified with rear entrance and four-bay arrangements when a front-entrance was required. It bore a clear resemblance to the NCME product and sliding or jack-knife doors could be specified.
However, the previous, more rounded, design remained available alongside the revised model, resulting in many permutations from which the customer could choose from this comparatively small supplier.
In amongst all this double-decker activity a small number of single-deckers were still being built and, in fact, the last new Massey design was another


single-decker. It departed from the box-like style with its BET-type double curvature windscreens, front panel with curved corners, and peaked domes, front and rear Two-piece jack-knife doors were fitted at front and centre, and the whole concep presented a much improved appearance. In 1966, five 41-seaters on Leyland Leopard chassis were delivered to Exeter Corporation and in 1968 four 40-seaters on AEC Reliance chassis went to Ipswich Corporation, both batches featuring a more rounded design. The very last single-decker, a Leyland Tiger Cub, was ordered by Chester Corporation, and had the previous box-like features.
The change of Government in 1964 had brought in a Labour administration and its Transport supremo - Barbara Castle - was pledged to improve public transport. This was to be accomplished by the formation of Passenger Transport Authorities in the main urban conglomerates, with the intention of also reducing congestion in the cities by encouraging better use of the buses.
One major effect of this new and laudable policy was the need to replace large numbers of old and sometimes obsolete vehicles with new, smart, comfortable and attractive machines. To assist in achieving this a grant - Bus Grant - was available to operators purchasing new vehicles which conformed to a specification which included the ability to operated by one person. Initially $25 \%$ of the cost this was later increased to $50 \%$ when the Tory Government came to power. At a stroke Massey's worst fears were realised and on their own doorstep the amalgamation of the various local authorities in Manchester and Liverpool meant that in future very large orders would be placed for completely standardised vehicles within the new organisations.

The time had come to call it a day and a buyer was sought, and quickly found, and the takeover of Massey Bros by the Northern Counties Motor \& Engineering Company Limited took place in March 1967.

Northern Counties of Wigan Lane, Wigan, was a well-respected bus body builder which had been established in 1919, at about the time that Massey Bros started their body building activities nearby. Unlike Massey Bros. there was the will, and financial backing, to cope with the potentially very large future orders; what was

Colchester Corporation's number 42, one of a batch of six Leyland Titan PD2A/30s dating from 196 and thus contemporary with the Maidstone Atlantean on the previous page. An unidentified
example of Colchester's own Atlanteans is seen example
behind.


On Ist April 1974, under Local Government reorganisation, the Rhymney Valley
District Council was formed in the new Welsh county of Gwent. It absorbed the administrative areas of Caerphilly, Gelligaer and Bedwas \& Machen and with them their bus fleets. LNY 536 D was one of two Leyland Titan PD2/375 with lowbridge bodywork supplied to Caerphilly in 1966 and is seen
of the new Council. It is now in preservation. (RD)



Looking like this vehicle is in operation on a country service when in fact it is making a pre-delivery photographic expedition
to Pemberton's Lamberhead Industrial to Pemberton's Lamberhead Industrial
Estate is Exeter City Transport's No. 4, a Leyland Leopard which was one of five delivered in October 1966. Local
landmark Hightield Church can be seen in landmark Highfield
the right background.

Number 3 in the fleet of the Leyland a Massey-bodied 45-seat Leyland Tiger Cub PSUCIII2 dating from 1966, is seen leaving Preston for Chorley in September,
1972. The photograp below shows it some years later in the fleet of Williams
sole Motors of Llangollen devoid of the Leyland
badge. (RD left)

lacking, however, was space to expand in that Company's Wigan Lane premises. Taking over Massey Bros. factory, workforce and customer base made perfect sense. Norman Massey was retained by Northern Counties as a foreman until he retired in 1974, while Arthur Tyldesley was retained as a consultant for 18 months, after which he retired to Ambleside in the Lake District.
Even after the takeover, bodies to the Massey Bros design continued to be built for some time in the Enfield Street Works. The last double-deckers comprised small batches of Leyland Atlanteans for Colchester and Maidstone Corporations, a solitary Atlantean for A1 of Ardrossan, and some frontentrance Leyland Titan PD2s for Wigan. These orders were punctuated with the building of the last lowbridge body, to the order of Bedwas \& Machen Urban District Council, on a Leyland Titan PD3/4 chassis (PAX 466F), of 30ft length and five-bay construction. This historic venicle turned ou to be the final traditional lowbridge body to be built in Britain and was subsequently sold for preservation. By this time all the vehicles in the fleets of Colchester and Maidstone had reached a state of standardisation, unique to them, in that all their then current vehicles were bodied by Massey Bros. Another interesting fact was that Massey Bros had at some time or another supplied bodies to each of the East Anglian municipal undertakings.

It is also worth noting that Newport Corporation were about to place an order for five bodies on Leyland Atlantean chassis but because Massey Bros could not meet the

Massey Bros. had the distinction of gangwayed) double-decker, and it is seen here. (RM)


When Wigan took two Leyland Panther Cubs in 1967 Massey supplied the 43-seat dual-door bodywork, as seen here on number 20 in the town centre not long after the
bus entered service. Following withdrawal in 1980 it was sold to an operator on the island of Malta and after finally being withdrawn from active service it was repatriate and is now being restored in preservation in the UK.

delivery date the order was given to the Scottish bodybuilder Alexanders. Between September and November 1968, 13 bodies were built by Massey Bros for Birkenhead Corporation on Leyland Atlantean chassis but these were numbered in the NCME body series and carried that builder's plates.
The final orders, comprising six double-deckers on Guy Arab V frontengined chassis were built by Northern Counties for Chester Corporation with Massey-style lower saloons and NCME-style upper saloons, between March and October 1969 (XFM 42-44G, DFM 345-7H). The final three represented the last Guy Arab chassis to be built for service in Britain and also the final batch of traditional British front-engined double-deckers.
High standards of interior finish were always associated with the products of Massey Bros Such details as polished timber interior fillets and fittings, leather cloth covered lining panels and diffused interior lighting come to mind, and the use of screws instead of rivets. In later years when, as previously mentioned, some of their competitors sacrificed standards of interior finish in the then fashionable quest for weight saving, Massey Bros continued to produce well-finished vehicles incorporating extensive use of laminated plastics as a finishing material. Of particular note were the gold anodised


Maidstone Corporation Leyland Atlantean number 45, body styling adopted when rear engined chassis came to
be dealt with. be dealt with.


Birkenhead Corporation No. 142 is seen at Spital
Cross roads, Bebington, in the early 'seventies. Cross roads, Bebington, in the early 'seventies.
This was one of the second batch with the newer style of bodywork, the familiar curved front and
roof profile giving way to a more upright frontal appearance. Rhymney Valley District Council's formation
was described on page 122 and here we see the
newer design of front entrance bodywork on newer design of front entrance bodywork on
former Caerphilly number 38, photographed in Caerphilly town centre on the long route 36 in Caerphilly town centre on the long route 36
from Cardiff to Tredegar. Author Michael Yelton
nas has produced histories of Bedwas \& Machen
Gelligaer in Venture's Prestige Series. (RD)


Number 47 in the Colchester fleet makes its way Number 47 in the Coichester fleet makes its way
down St John's Street on the number 2 service from Ipswich Road to Severalls. It was one of
ten Atlantean PDRRI/I models delivered to the ten Atlantean PDRI// models delivered to the
operator in $1967 / 8$. The box-line structure is a
far cry from Massey's earlier well-rounded and much-loved designs.


This Leyland Atlantean PDRIII was nine years old when photographed at the top, High Street in March 1977. Across the road are two 'household names', men's tailors and are two household names', men's tailors and
outfitters, Hepworth and Dunn \& Co., which outfitters, , , dipworth and Dunn \& Co., which
have since disappeared from the British retail scene. (SD)

aluminium window finishers which were unique to Massey bodies. It is believed that Massey Bros built over 2,600 bodies during their 49 years of service to the transport industry
As has been explained, most of Massey Bros customers had been independents, and small or medium-sized municipal operators, but some larger company fleets acquired Massey bodies through takeovers. In 1961 the Scottish independent J Laurie \& Co of Hamilton was taken over by Central SMT, a member of the Scottish Bus Group. Included in Laurie's 35 vehicle fleet were two Massey bodies, one on a Guy Arab chassis and one on a Leyland Titan PD3. The following year, Baxter's Bus Service Ltd of Airdrie was taken over by another large SBG subsidiary company, Scottish Omnibuses Ltd. Among the total of 53 vehicles were 21 with Massey bodies including the forward-entrance double-deckers mentioned previously.

The famous Essex independent operator, Moore Brothers Ltd of Kelvedon, with a fleet of 39 vehicles was believed to be the oldest continuous business of its kind in the country, with a history going back to 1815. It was taken over in 1963 by the Eastern National Omnibus Co. Included in the fleet were nine Massey-bodied double-deckers. In addition, two 30 ft -long Guy Arabs with Massey lowbridge bodies were on order at the time of takeover. These two were delivered direct to Eastern National with Tilling T-type destination indicators, making them the first new deliveries from Massey Bros to a BTC Group Company since the Leyland Titan PD1s for Cumberland Motor Services in 1948.
With the advent of the Passenger Transport Executives as operators in 1969, Massey Bros' largest customer, Birkenhead Corporation Transport, was swallowed up by the Merseyside PTE and so Massey bodies went on to carry the various liveries of that operator. Later, in 1974, the company's own local operator, Wigan Corporation Transport, was lost to Greater Manchester PTE. Here again, several Wigan Massey-bodied vehicles went into the PTE livery of orange and
white. One of these, a front-entrance Leyland Titan PD2, registered AEK 1B, went on to outlive white. One of these, a front-entrance Leyland Titan PD2, registered AEK 1B, went on to outlive the PTE as an operator by becoming a driver training vehicle with company successor Greater Manchester Buses South Ltd.
Another takeover of Massey-bodied buses came on 1st April 1971 and involved the purchase by the Devon General Omnibus \& Touring Co Ltd of the business and fleet of Exeter Corporation Transport Department. In a total fleet of 65 vehicles no less than 40 were Massey bodied, 35 being double-deck and five single-deck. They were initially operated in the Exeter
livery of green and cream but later received the National Bus Company poppy red livery of green and cream but later received the National Bus Company poppy red.

At the time of the takeover by Northern Counties there was still a considerable demand for new buses. At this period, Northern Counties' annual production was about 200 bodies, Massey Bros having averaged between 50 and 60 a year. Initially, both factories continued in use, with Northern Counties using the Enfield Street premises for finishing and painting, the partly completed vehicles being driven there from Wigan Lane. Northern Counties gradually developed the Massey site with a succession of ever-larger buildings around the periphery Finally, an impressive new single-span building was erected on the major part of the site in 1983. The Wigan Lane premises were vacated after sale to the North West Health Authority and production was then continued at the modernised Enfield Street works. In May 1995, Northern Counties was purchased for $£ 10$ million by the Henlys Group, then owner of Plaxton The Northern Counties name was dropped in 1999 and vehicles were badged as Plaxton.
In 2001 Henlys became part of a joint venture with the Mayflower Group, owner of the chassis manufacturer Dennis and the Scottish bodybuilder Alexander. The joint venture was known as TransBus, and vehicles were badged using the TransBus name. After the failure of the Mayflower Group in 2004, TransBus was sold to a private group of investors and became Alexander Dennis. The former Northern Counties facility was closed by Alexander Dennis in January 2005. The history of Northern Counties is recounted by Bob Rowe in his excellent book published in 2006 by Venture Publications.

A number of Massey-bodied buses have been restored and preserved; a few even remain in revenue earning service, a testament to their solid construction. As an ex-bus driver from the south-east of England recently remarked 'they were the only buses in Kent that didn't rattle'.
At the time of writing (August 2011) the Enfield Street premises are in use as part of an industrial estate, but many people in that area still remember Massey-bodied buses journeying down Enfield Street and onward to their many destinations, taking one of Lancashire's high class products to all corners of the country.


Former Wian Le 1 PD ACK IB now part of the GM Buses training fieet, makes a circuit of the Hyde Road
skid pan area for the photographer though sadly the oil-and-water patch was no longer in use. (JAS)


One of the three Chester Corporation dual-entrance Leyland Tiger Cub PSUCI/II Is seen here on 30 July 1977. Number 52 dates from 1966 and clearly shows the large destination displays favoured
by this operator. Notice also the flap for the 'Pay asYou Enter' sign, open in this instance but closed by this operator. Notice also the flap
when a conductor was being carried.
(STA)
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GUY MOTORS LTD.

Guy were pleased to be able to announce that they were supplying Arabs with forward entrance bodywork, and one - in later livery - is seen right, outside Chester Town Hall.
One of Crosvill's infamous Seddon single-deckers is seen behind in the days when chassis ne of Crosvill's's infamous Seddon single-deckers is seen behind in the days when chassis withdrawn, to replace the units in Leyland Nationals.


IN LATER LIFE


Above: Bury had its single-deckers rebuilt because they were unable to sell them after the arrival on the scene of the new
underfloor-engined vehicles. The rebuilds were withdrawn in 1958 and passed to a dealer in $\mathbf{x}$ alsburg who quickly sold three of them to Paton Brothers of Renfrew and the other to Dunoon Motor Services, EN 7704 and BG 9229 (formerly with Birkenhead, of course) are seen in service with their Renfrew owner during the early' sixties. (IGMS upper right)


Above, left and right: With the formation of the Merseyside PTE some transfer of vehicles from
constituent operators took place. BBG 19 C onstituent operators took place. BBG 119 C a
1965 Leyland PD2/40 formerly No. 119 in the Birkenhead fleet became 63 in the St Helens Birkenhead fieet became
district fleet and received the attractive $S t$ Helens red and cream livery. It was seen near
the town centre in March 1976. On the right is ane town cDP2/40, seen about the same time but
in the centre of Liverpool which was formerly in the centre of Liverpool which was formerly Birkenhead No. 83 now in Merseyside P
and numbered L459. (RD centre left)

Stevenson's of Uttoxeter had just acquired Maidstone's number 45, and renumbered it as Hheir number 34 when it was photographed at
Tutbury level crossing in south Staffordshire in Tutbury level crossing in south Staffordshire in
June 1979 , looking smart in its new coat of paint. It was by now some eleven years old. (AEJ)

MASSEY VEHICLES IN COLOUR



Photographed in Hamilton in 1971 this AEC Regent III was originally one of two such vehicles purchased
by Sutherland of Peterhead in by Sutherland of Peterhead in
1949. They were transferred into 1949. They were transferred into
the Alexander (Northern) fleet in 1962 and NRC22 (FAV 827) has
been in preservation since 1970. been in preservation since 1970 .
(GA)


In 1951 Caerphilly UDC ordered a Leyland PS2/5 with Bruce bodywork but Bruce Coachworks of Cardiff closed down and the body order was switched to Massey Bros. Number 1, photographed in June 1952 before
delivery, continued in service until 1969 when it became atraining/towing vehicle and was renumbered 51. It was later rescued for preservation and the finished result
can be seen below whilst the accuracy of the finished can be seen below whilst the accuracy of
result is clearly impressive. (HWC below)



Southend Corporation's number 298 was a Leyland Titan PD $2 / 12$ with 55 -
seat lowbridge bodywork. It was one seat lowbridge bodywork. It was one
of a batch of twelve supplied in $1955 / 6$ and is seen before delivery.

The evocative line up below shows
similar bodywork on Southend similar bodywork on Southend
rebodied wartime Daimlers, together rebodied wartime Daimlers, together
with a smart AEC Regent, and the with a smart AEC Regent, and the
unmistakable upright front of one of unmistakable upright front of one
Metro-Cammell's Orions. (IGMS)


Looking smart in its owner's livery, Rothesay Motor Services, is this Guy Arab II which was one of four wartime
chassis re-bodied with 58 -seat chassis re-bodied with
highbridge bodywork. The
brigeat
orinal bodies had been Park. Royal wartime utility models. (IGMS)

Birkenhead Corporation's intake
for 1956 was 15 Guy Arab IVs, five
with East with East Lancs,bodywork, the remaining ten by Massey including
No. 378 shown here prior to being exhibited at the Commercial Motor Show and having different
interior finishes from the others interior finishes from the others.
These were also the first vehicles in the fleet to be fitted with flashing direction indicators.


Exeter Corporation became a new Massey customer following the appointment of W Austin as general manager. He had previously held the manager's post at Chester, where he had been a regular customer for Massey products. He had previously held the manager'spos at Chester, ${ }^{2}$ here he had been a regur wastomer for Massey products.
Not only that, but he introduced the Devon city Guy buses, also a Chester choice. This is 54 (UF) 294), one of
the first batch, ready for delivery in 1957. Sister vehicle 52 from the same batch survives in preservation.



Showing the prominent colour scheme o McGill of Barrhead is this Leyland Titan
PD2/30 (NHS 764) completed in March PD2/30
1959.

Laurie of Hamilton number 69, a Leyland Titan PD3/2 operating under the name of
Chieftain, showing the forward entrance Chieftain, showing the forward entrance
and photographed in the glorious summer and photographed in the glorious summer
of 1959 .



About to embark on the long journey
to Essex in July 1959 was this Mis to Essex in July 1959 was this Moore of Kelvedon lowbridge Guy Arab IV.


Bedwas \& Machen UDC No. 91 (originally No. 5) is an AEC Regent V
dating from 1961 and is seen in the operator's attractive livery about to embark on a PSV Circle tour.

West Monmouth No. 13 (UWO 688) was originally a
Leyland Titan PD2/41 'special' with Willowbrook single-deck Leyland Titan PD2/41 'special' with Willowbrook single-deck body built for the Bargoed Hill route in 1959 but was rebuilt
in 1966 (when the route changed) with this Massey Bros lowbridge double-deck body. It was spotted in Wetteren, Belgium in August 2004.


This forward entrance PD3A/2, below, was delivered to Wigan in 1961 and now resides in the Museum of Transport
in Manchester. A handsome vehicle in an attractive liver.



Turning out of St Helier's Weighbridge bus station in 1969 was Jersey Motor Transport's
No. 611 , one of five Leyland Tiger Cub PSUCI/ 5s bought in 1961 This bus still survives today
as a travelling home in the Ipswich area. (JK)

Pictured running below the imposing
Gorey Castle in May 1973 is JMT No.
622, another of the Leyland Tiger Cubs, this time in the blue and
livery introduced in 1971. (JK)

 of three Leyland Titan PD2A/27 types dating from 1964. (JAS)
Caught between journeys on a Totally Transport enthusiasts' day in Blackpool, and standing outside where it now resides, was ex-


$\underset{\text { Easington, }}{\text { Connor }}$ \& $\quad$ neaham of Easington, near Hull,
operated this ex-Maidstone
Corporation Corporation $\left.\begin{array}{r}\text { Atlantean } \\ \text { from } 1978 \text { until } 1982 \text { when }\end{array}\right)$ it was withdrawn and used
for spares. for spares.
$\underset{\text { Maidstone }}{\text { Corporation }}$ (JKE 34IE) is seen in Mill Street on 19th June 1976, and the very upright design
gives an impression of gives an impression
greater height. (ST)



On the long interurban route from its home town, jointly-operated with St Helens Corporation,
Ribble and Lancashire United, Wigan's Leyland PD2/37 No. 46 with forward-entrance bodywork, arrives at South Castle Street in Liverpool's city centre on 30 th May 1968 , when only ywo months
old. The Metro-Cammel 'Orion' design of Liverpool's AEC Regent $V$ No.A213 old. The Metro-Cammell 'Orion’ design of Liverpool's AEC RegentV No.A213 of 1957 may look


The last buses built solely by Massey were 13 Leyland Atlantean PDRIII's's for Birkere 13
Corporation in Corporation in 1968 . This is No. 156 (LCM 156 G )
photographed shortly after delivery operating photographed shortly after delivery operat
on the Woodside to Heswall route. (TJ) Colchester Corporation's
No. 49 from the last batch
of Atlanteans displays the of Atlanteans displays the
operator's later livery schem on its Massey bodywork.

In 1969 Chester Corporation took delivery of six forward entrance Guy Arab V double-
deckers with Massey style lower saloons and NCME
tyyle style uper saloons following
the takeover by the latter the takeover by the latter
company. Number 42 shown here is now preserved. (JAS)


## PREAMBLE

## to the Massey Bros. body list

The earlier part of the list that follows on pages 145-160 is a compilation by the Author, from various sources, of all identifiable Massey bodies built up to
mid-1926. From the evidence of newspaper adverts there were many cars, mid-1 226. From the evidence of newspaper adverts there were many cars,
vans and small lorry bodies constructed during their initial bodybuilding venture which remain untraceable. Owing to the scant information from the period this section is inevitably incomplete.
The second part, covering body Contract on the work of the late Arthur Ellis who was allowed to copy information from Massey's records in 1958. This is followed by another compiat period Massey appear to have issued 264 Contract numbers but only 262 new 'bus' bodies (plus two rebuilds) have been identified.
of another researcher through Massey's records - by then at Northern Counties - whose identity has been mislaid but to whom we nevertheless owe our thanks. It is
efforts did not $j$ ioin up.
The body Contract numbers of virtually all the double-deck buses from 2140 onwards were checked on the individual vehicles by Martin Ingle stamped in their hidden-away place in the wooden framing for the emergency
exit door. Starting with 2675, 'body' numbers were proudly displayed on the Massey identification plate and all of these were likewise checked.
Arthur Ellis's notes show that Massey 'body numbers' were actually, in
Massey parlance 'Contract numbers' From the numbering perspective ich Massey parlance,'Contract numbers'. From the numbering perspective, each
individual body was regarded as a separate contract with its own individual Contract number. References to these numbers were inevitably shortened to ' $C$ numbers' or for example ' $C / / 1234$ ' and it would seem that this has led to

Massey's records sometimes only contained minimal details eg 's double-deck bus bodies on Leyland chassis'. Because of this it has not proved possible to attribute specificic Contract numbers to individual vehicles for several batches. These are annotated
with a in the list. The identities of many of the earlier vehicles with a * in the list. The identities of many of the earlier vehicles
have been deduced by a 'best fit' process but some have defied have been deduced by a 'best fit' process but some have defied
all attempts to identify them and the Author would welcome any further clues.
On a more specific point, there were minor anomalies
within Massey's records of Contract numbers 641 - 69 . Arthur within Massey's records of Contract numbers $641-69$. Arthur
Ellis noted that there were ten vehicles (only) recorded against Contract numbers $641-51$ - this appears to have been caused
by the omission of by the omission of a body from a batch for Cumberland but These two vehicles have merely been listed without attempting to infer their Contract numbers. Following on, two vehicles
were omitted from somewhere within the run of Contract were omitted from somewhere within the run of Contract
numbers to 669. The next 16 recorded vehicles are consequently isted below in the sequence in which they apparently appeared in the original records with $667 / 8$ arbitraraily nominated as the unrecorded bodies. With 30 bodies to fit in the range $641-69$ the
quoted Contract numberlvehicle relationships are somewhat quoted Con
footnote
Amyst many interesting vehicles bitt at Pembertor readers may find Body Contract numbers 735/40-2 rather unusual - these bodies were supplied with a detachable rigid centre section in the bus roof and easily-swapped seats to enable them to be quickly converted from service buses to long-distance
sunshine-roofed' coaches. There is an article taken from the Motor Transport magazine describing the design of such vehicles,
he chart below shows the annual output and it will be noted that the low point The chart below shows the annual output and it will be noted that the low point
in 1951 coincides with the writing down of capital as explained on page 79 .



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## KEY TO BODY LIST NOTES

## NOTES:-

An asterisk against the body number denotes true sequence of batch unknown
Rebody Rebody
Demonstrator bought by Huie \& Co. Campbelltown
Ordered by Pye, Heswall but did not enter service due to takeover by Crosville Rebodied as a lorry - originally a charabanc with Whitehaven Motor Services Demonstrator (possibly KM2742)
Demonstrator bought by Farghers, Richmond
Ordered through North Western Motors, Liverpoo Ordered through Bamber (Agent), Birkda Ordered through Loxhams (Dealers), Preston
Rebody - ordered through County Garage, Carisle Possible registration ED5175
Ordered through Garick, Burrell \& Edwards, Manchester A Tillings-Stevens B10A2 was originally ordered Sold to Sunderland Corporation $5 / 30$ (Fleet No. 22 )
Rebody ordered through Garic, Burrell \& Edwards, Liverpool Ordered through Garick, Burrell \& Edwards, Liverpo Ordered through Morecambe Motors as dealer Sold to Cumberlan Motor Services 932 (Fleet No. 47)
 Body overhaul only Refurbished 1947
Rebuilit following bomb damag
Rebuilt and fitted with streamlined cab
First melal--iramed bon
Mobile Police Station
Body No. 2412 carried in error
Lengthened to 30 feet giving B45F in $1967 / 8$
Originally ordered by Moores, Kelvedon before takeover by Eastern National Built by Massey but caried NCME hody numbers Ordered from Massey but built by NCME with Massey style lower saloons and NCME upper saloons.


PRESERVED MASSEY VEHICLES
THE VEHICLES LISTED HAVE AT SOME STAGE BEEN PRESERVED, OR EARMARKED FOR PRESERVATION THE LIST IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH BUT MAY NO LONGER BE FULLY UP-TO-DATE. FOR LATEST DETAILS WE RECOMMEND THE PSV CIRCLE LIST OF PRESERVED VEHICLES AND THIS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE CIRCLE OR FROM OUR MAIL ORDER DEPARTMENT AT PIKES LANE, GLOSSOP

| Bnum | Config | Reg | Make | Chassis | Year | Operator |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 623 | B28R | MN5105 | Leyland Lion PLSC1 | 45955 | 7127 | Manxand 27 |
| 780 | H2826R | ED 6141 | Leyland Titan TD1 | 71573 | 9/30 | Warington 42 |
| 927 | B32R | ATD 683 | Leyland Tiger TS7 | 8925 | $12 / 35$ | Widnes 39 |
|  | H30126R | BG 9225 | Leyland Titan PD1 | 460599 | 1246 | Birkenhead 105 |
| 2018 | H30126R | FDM 724 | Foden PVD6 | 28790 | 749 | Philips, Holywell |
| 2020 | L27726RD | FAV 827 | AEC Regent III | 9613 E 4331 | 949 | Sutherland, Peternead 124 |
| 2076 | DP39F | KTx631 | Levand PS2/3 | 501267 | 451 | Thomas (Llynfi), Maesteg 59 |
| 2083 | B35F | LTX 311 | Leyland PS2/5 | 52062 | 6152 | Caerphily 1 |
| 2093 | H31/28R | BG 8557 | Guy Arab II | FD26388 | 5/53 | Birkenhead 242 |
| 2113 | H30126R | RFM 641 | Guy Arab IV | FD71864 | 61/53 | Chester 1 |
| 2131 | L27128R | GLX913 | Daimer CWA6 | 11845 | 6154 | Southend 263 |
| 2148 | H331288D | RAL 795 | Daimer CVG6 | 18688 | 8154 | Gash, Newark DD10 |
| 2250 | H30126R | TFJ 808 | Guy Arab IV | FD73287 | 11156 | Exeter 50 |
| 2252 | H30126R | UFJ 292 | GuyArab IV | FD73680 | 6157 | Exeter 52 |
| 2254 | H30126R | UFJ 293 | Guy Arab IV | FD73686 | 7157 | Exeter 53 |
| 2268 | H31/28R | FBG 910 | Leyland Titan PD240 | 571367 | 3158 | Birkenhead 10 |
| 2280 | H32126RD | DEK 106 | Leyland Titan PD220 | 571197 | 1057 | Wigan 4 |
| 2300 | H33128R | DC S616 | Daimer CVD6SD | 16519 | 3158 | A1, Ardrossan (Hunter, Dreghom) 16 A |
| 2302 | H40133RD | RDM 200 | Guy Arab IV | FD73863 | $5 / 58$ | Loyd, Bagillt |
| 2303 | L35133R | PHJ 951 | Leyland Titan PD336 | 58882 | 6158 | Southend 312 |
| 2304 | L35133R | PHJ 955 | Leyland Titan PD336 | 580864 | 6158 | Southend 316 |
| 2305 | L35133R | PHJ 952 | Leyland Titan PD336 | 58830 | 758 | Southend 313 |
| 2306 | L35133R | PHJ 950 | Leyland Titan PD3/6 | 580828 | 7158 | Southend 311 |
| 2307 | L35133R | PHJ 953 | Leyland Titan PD3/6 | 58883 | 6158 | Southend 314 |
| 2308 | L35133R | PHJ 954 | Leyland Titan PD3/6 | 58883 | 7158 | Southend 315 |
| 2309 | H41/31F | YTG 304 | Leyland Titan PD334 | 571786 | 7158 | Thomas (Lyyfi), Maesteg 72 |
| 2310 | L29128R | YNY 922 | Leyland Titan PD240 | 581705 | 11158 | Caephily 22 |
| 2324 | H331288D | KAL579 | Daimer CVD6 | 15227 | 10,58 | Gash, Newark DD2 |
| 2361 | L34/33R | 20 PVX | Guy Arab IV | FD74288 | 759 | Moore, Kelvedon |
| 2373 | H33128R | FA9716 | Guy Arab III | FD36252 | 1160 | Burton 16 |
| 2383 | H31/26R | 974 AFJ | Guy Arab IV | FD74590 | 7160 | Exeter 74 |
| 2422 | H31/26R | 479 CFJ | Leyland Titan PD2A30 | 610091 | 461 | Exeter 79 |
| 2426 | B40F | J 26611 | Leyland Tiger Cub PSUC1/5 | ${ }^{614353}$ | 4161 | Jersey MT 611 |
| 2431 | L34133R | 373 WPU | Guy Arab IV | FD74911 | $5 / 61$ | Moore, Kelvedon |
| 2436 | L27728RD | 260 BAX | Leyland Titan PD240 | 603177 | 6/61 | West Monmouthshire 21 |
| 2447 | H41129F | HEK 705 | Leyland Titan PP3A/2 | 610873 | 7161 | Wigan 57 |
| 2459 | L31/28RD | YTH 815 | GuyArab IV | FD74812 | 1162 | Rees \& Williams, Tycroes |
| 2460 | L31128R | 422 CAX | AEC Regent V | MD3RV565 | $12 / 61$ | Bedwas \& Machen 5 |
| 2467 | H31/26R | 484 EFJ | Leyland Titan PD2A30 | 620425 | 462 | Exeter 84 |
| 2505 | H37127F | JJP 502 | Leyland Titan PD2AA27 | 622126 | 10162 | Wigan 35 |
| 2519 | H33128R | 918 NRT | AEC Regent V | MD3RV593 | 1163 | Lowestoft 8 |
| 2521 | L35/33RD | 31 SNY | Leyland Titan PD334 | 629094 | 3163 | Caerphily 31 |


| Bnum | Config | Reg | Make | Chassis | Year | Operator |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2527 | H31126R | 86 GFJ | Leyland Titan PD2A 30 | L00491 | 563 | Exeter 86 |
| 2529 | н33/28RD | KAL578 | Daimer CVD6 | 15226 | 1262 | Gash, Newark DD1 |
| 2555 | H33128R | 26 YKO | Leyland Titan PD2A30 | L01579 | 1063 | Maidstone 26 |
| 2558 | H33128R | 25 YKO | Leyland Titan PD2A330 | L01578 | 10,63 | Maidstone 25 |
| 2559 | H33128R | TFA 987 | Daimer CCG5 | 20060 | 1164 | Butron 87 |
| 2562 | H37127F | CTFF627B | Leyland Titan PD2A127 | L03683 | 564 | Lytham 70 |
| 2563 | H37/27 | CTF 625B | Leyland Titan PD2A27 | L03681 | $5 / 64$ | Lytham 68 |
| 2564 | H37/27F | CTF 626B | Leyland Titan PD2A27 | L03682 | 564 | Lytham 69 |
| 2572 | B42D | RCM 493 | Leyland Leopard L1 | L04497 | 5164 | Birkenhead 93 |
| 2584 | H37128R | ADX 63 B | AEC Regent V | 2022A1606 | $11 / 64$ | Ipswich 63 |
| 2585 | H37128R | ADX $64 B$ | AEC Regent V | 2028 A1607 | $11 / 64$ | Ipswich 64 |
| 2586 | L31128R | BW0 585B | AEC Regent V | 2MD3RA609 | 964 | Bedwas \& Machen 8 |
| 2597 | H38/32R | CJN 435C | Leyland Titan PD3/6 | L23728 | 265 | Southend 335 |
| 2600 | H38/32 | CJN 439C | Leyland Titan PD3/6 | L23815 | 265 | Southend 339 |
| 2602 | H38/32R | CJN 434C | Leyland Titan PD3/6 | L23712 | 1165 | Southend 334 |
| 2604 | H38/32 | CJN 336 C | Leyland Titan PD3/6 | L23729 | $3 / 65$ | Southend 336 |
| 2605 | H38/32R | CJN 441C | Leyland Titan PD3/6 | L23883 | 465 | Southend 341 |
| 2634 | H43131F | EKP 234C | Leyland Allantean PDR1/1 | L42269 | $1 / 66$ | Maidstone 34 |
| 2644 | H41/32F | FFM 136 C | Guy Arab V | FD76128 | 765 | Chester 36 |
| 2645 | H4132F | FFM 135C | Guy Arab V | FD76148 | 7165 | Chester 35 |
| 2646 | L35/33RD | GNY 433C | Leyland Titan PD334 | L42818 | 1165 | Caerphill 33 |
| 2647 | L35/33RD | GNY 432C | Leyland Titan PD334 | L42817 | 1065 | Caerphill 32 |
| 2652 | H33128R | OVX 143D | Leyland Titan PD2A30 | L43643 | 266 | Colchester 43 |
| 2680 | L27/28RD | UW0 688 | Leyland Titan PD2/41 | 583400 | $6 / 66$ | West Monmouthshire 13 |
| 2682 | L31/29RD | LNY 536D | Leyland Titan PD2/37 | L62869 | 1066 | Caerphill 36 |
| 2684 | H37/27F | DEK2D | Leyland Titan PD2/37 | L62941 | $12 / 66$ | Wigan 139 |
| 2685 | H37/27 | DEK 3D | Leyland Titan PD2/37 | L62942 | 1266 | Wigan 140 |
| 2692 | B43D | DJP468E | Leyland Panther Cub | L72703 | 767 | Wigan 20 |
| 2704 | H43131F | JKE 338E | Leyland Allantean PDR1/1 | L64010 | 467 | Maidstone 38 |
| 2713 | H36/30R | GCM 147E | Leyland Titan PD2/37 | 701235 | 6167 | Birkenhead 147 |
| 2718 | H36/30R | GCM 152 E | Leyland Titan PD2/37 | 701399 | 967 | Birkenhead 152 |
| 2721 | H34128R | PBJ 2F | Leyland Titan PD247 | 701793 | 967 | Lowestoft 12 |
| 2722 | H34128R | PBJ 1F | Leyland Titan PD247 | 701792 | 967 | Lowestoft 11 |
| 2723 | H37/27 | ONY637F | Leyland Titan PD2/37 | 702476 | 1267 | Caerphily 37 |
| 2724 | H37127F | ONY 638F | Leyland Titan PD2/37 | 702477 | $12 / 67$ | Caerphill 38 |
| 2725 | B400 | RFM 453F | Leyland Tiger Cub PSUC1/11 | 751014 | 967 | Chester 53 |
| 2732 | B400 | HPV 70 F | AEC Reliance 6MU2R | 6MU2R6318 | 1168 | Ipswich 70 |
| 2750 | H37/27F | FEK 3 F | Leyland Titan PD2/37 | 702713 | 5168 | Wigan 27 |
| 2751 | L35/33RD | PAX 466F | Leyland Titan PD3/4 | 703981 | 6168 | Bedwas \& Machen 6 |
| 2753 | H43131F | YWC648F | Leyland Allantean PDR1/1 | 801599 | 6/68 | Colchester 48 |
| 6814 | H41/32F | XFM 42 G | Guy Arab V | FD77081 | 369 | Chester 42 |
| 6818 | H41/32F | DFM 347 | Guy Arab V | FD77108 | 10,69 | Chester 47 |


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## AFTER THE EXTERMINATION ...

## Builders make a monster 'Dalek' for handicapped children

For many weeks now, a bunch of big-hearted guys at a local works have given up their scant lunch break and spent the time making a thrillingly lifelike Dalek monster, which is intended as a bumper Christmas present for the handicapped children of Mere Oaks School. The Dalek, which does everything except cry "Exterminate!", has been made by the men employed as coach-builders at the Pemberton works of Massey Brothers, a subsidiary of Northern Counties, with the kind approval of their boss, director Mr Jack Abbot.
Some years ago, the men made a similar machine for the youngsters in Wrightington Hospital, but when they heard of the unfortunate youngsters of Mere Oaks, there was no better excuse for making this Dalek. So the men of Massey Bros. led by body shop foreman Joe Bibby who designed the machine set to work with a will to produce a beautifully finished job. Among them were Teddy Gee, Tom Jones, Alan Brightcliffe, Frank Stubbs, Jack Carter, Jim Gore and Frank Brown, the foreman painter.
What a Christmas present the Dalek would make for any kid. Standing nearly five feet tall, it is manually propelled, has an electric buzzer, space guns and a door that can't lock, so that no young spaceman should ever feel trapped inside. Six year old Paul Walsh, who lives a few doors down from the workshop and who acted as 'model' while the men measured up, said, "I think it's smashing, I wish its was mine for Christmas". Another little chap who visited the works and saw the Dalek promptly offered to exchange his most treasured possession - an electric train - for it
The presentation of the Dalek to Mere Oaks will take place at Christmas, but before then it is being offered on loan to childrens' parties organised by local firms, in order to raise money for the children of Mere Oak.
Workmen picture, left to right:-
Alan Brightcliffe (NCME), Teddy Gee (MB), Joe Bibby (MB), Jack Carter (NCME), Tom Jones (?), Jimmy Gore (MB)

TAIL PIECE


Outside the Massey Bros office in Farrell Street just off Enfield Street in the mid-sixties was this Austin A40 with the work
cat Tush taking a well earned rest in between duties. Behind the cat can be seen the Registered Office plate and letterbox


Massey Bros of Wigan built buses from I919 until the Company was taken over by nearby Northern Counties in 1967. Phil Thoms' detailed interest in the subject is obvious and the collection of photographs amassed from the surviving Massey archive, and from a wide variety of other sources, provides a wonderful record of the output and the many once well-known customers, with evocative colour illustrations of many of them. A body list of all known vehicles built provides an invaluable reference.

## Venture publications <br> 128 PIKES LANE GLOSSOP DERBYSHIRE SK13 8EH 요 01457861508

E-MAIL enquiries@venturepublications.co.uk INTERNET www.venturepublications.co.uk



[^0]:    

[^1]:    Comparison of the vehicles shown in these Massey adverts reveals just how much or an advere sen ace curted propere of the Birkenhead venicle represented when seen against the rather ugly Salford-inspired
    vehicle. Indeed, echoes of the Birkenhead design would be seen again in venicle. Indeed, echose of the Birkenhead design would
    the 1960s as we shall see later in the story. (STA both)

