

## DUNNETT. Harry Peacock P.H. Spring Gardens WELLINGBOROUGH

Thomas and Caroline Dunnett at one time kept the Peacock public house in Spring Gardens, Wellingborough and they had quite a number of sons and daughters, of which Harry Dunnett was probably the youngest, being born in 1905. On the opposite side of the road to the Peacock was a farm which it is understood may also have been connected with, or owned by, the senior Dunnetts.

The first vehicle recorded as having been purchased by Harry Dunnett was BD 9858, a Berliet supplied on 1st August 1924 by Messrs. York, Ward & Rowlatt of Wellingborough and possibly bodied by them. It is not evident that this vehicle was used for the conveyance of the public.

The usual story related by people remembering Harry Dunnett is that he first bought a REO bus which he used for private hires, some of which were in connection with the Peacock Inn. It is then reported that he obtained cartage work from an organisation called 'Boots Direct' and transported footwear manufactured in the locality, from Wellingborough to Manchester using his REO bus.

The problem with this is that Harry Dunnett did not appear to own a REO bus, but he did have his Berliet. However, a few months prior to purchasing the Berliet, a blue and red REO was acquired on 10th May 1924 by F Dunnett of Spring Gardens, Wellingborough. F Dunnett may well have been an older brother of Harry, or some other relation, but whether this REO - registered BD 9407 - was the bus used by Harry remains uncertain. It is, however, evident that BD 9407 was being used as a Hackney Carriage in April 1926 when being driven by Thomas Dunnett, an elder brother of Harry.

Irrespective of the above, in the following year on 30th May 1925, Harry Dunnett did purchase a twenty-seat REO bus which was supplied by Messrs. Allchin & Son of Northampton and this took the registration RP 1209. It was a twenty-seater with a body by an unknown builder.

# Bygone Buses

of  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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*Just a small part of the REO registered RP 1209 is visible in this picture of the bus taken later in its life after passing to A R Surridge of Harpole (NN-SU2).*

No other details of Harry Dunnetts buses are recorded but several of his contemporaries recall that he ran three REO buses with York, Ward & Rowlatt bodies. These were operated until circa 1929 or 1930 but not afterwards. They were garaged in a former cow shed on the farm opposite the Peacock Inn.

Harry Dunnett concentrated on the carriage of goods and was associated with Reginald Kearsley, whose name has appeared in paper NN-KE2 along with that of his brother Oswald. Reginald Kearsley later parted with Harry Dunnett and joined his parents in running 'Reliable Transport Service' of Wellingborough. Harry Dunnett, on the other hand, went on to form 'Direct Transport Service (Wellingborough) Ltd', operating from premises at Dulley's Yard in Sheep Street and later from Croyland Road, Wellingborough. This sizeable business was in due course absorbed into British Road Services in November 1948.

Interestingly, after the sale of Direct to B.R.S., Harry Dunnett used some of his compensation payments to purchase the bus and coach operation of the late Francis Belgrove of Cold Higham (NN-BE2) when it was sold by auction in March 1950. Cold Higham was too distant from Wellingborough to manage the new business easily and, accordingly, it was immediately sold to Harry Webster of Pattishall (NN-WE2).

**DUNNETT. H. - WELLINGBOROUGH**

**Rolling Stock:**

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Nts
						New	S/H	W/D			
BD 9407	REO	?	100212	YW&R?	Lorry/ Bus	5/24	—	by -/32	F Dunnett?	?	1
BD 9858	Berliet	?	14326	YW&R?	Lorry?	8/24	—	by -/32	Supp York, Ward & Rowlatt, W'borough	?	2
RP 1209	REO	?	119189	?	B20R	5/25	—	c3/27	Supp Allchin & Son, Northampton	Y.W & R, W'boro/ Surrudge, H'pole	
?	REO	?	?	YW&R	B20?	?	?	?	Supp York, Ward & Rowlatt, W'borough	?	

**Notes:** 1 - BD 9407 was being used as a Hackney Carriage at 4/26 by Thomas Dunnett, brother of Harry Dunnett. Last owned by H Wood, Milton as a goods vehicle and last licensed 7/32.

2 - BD 9858 last owned by C Storer, Hornsey N8 as a lorry and last licensed 9/32.