

PERRIN. Edward Victor & COLES. Alfred Thomas 29, Oliver Street NORTHAMPTON

Another of Northampton's post-First World War operators about which details are scant was the partnership of Edward Victor Perrin and Alfred Thomas Coles, based at 29 Oliver Street, Northampton.

What is known for sure, however, is that on 27th September 1919 a Guy described as a box van was registered as BD 3788 to F H Spencer of Earls Barton who used it also as a public conveyance. By February 1921 it had passed to Edward Perrin and was at this time recorded as seating twenty-five passengers and adorned in a crimson livery. Less certain is precisely what Edward Perrin and his partner Alfred Coles did with this Guy. There are nevertheless two pointers - the first being that in May 1921 Edward Perrin applied to Northampton Borough Council Watch Committee for a Hackney Carriage licence for a "motor saloon bus". The second pointer came within a month when Perrin and Coles jointly applied to the General Purposes Committee of Wellingborough Urban District Council for a licence in respect of a bus to seat eighteen inside and two outside. Whether the two applications mentioned above were to run excursions from the two towns or to run a local service between Northampton and Wellingborough are questions that remain unanswered. It is not known how many passengers BD 3788 could accommodate when owned by Spencer of Earls Barton and conflicting reports of it accommodating either twenty-five or twenty are noted above.

Messrs Perrin and Coles were still operating tours and private hires in May 1922 when the appended advertisement was placed in the Northampton Daily Chronicle for 30th May 1922. It should be noted that the advertisement makes reference to a twenty-seater being available for hire.

HOLIDAY PARTIES.
20 SEATER MOTOR FOR HIRE.
Seats vacant Sunday, June 4th, for
Wicksteed Park, Kettering.
Apply :
PERRIN and COLES.
29, OLIVER-STREET.

PERRIN & COLES - NORTHAMPTON

It is also unknown when Edward Perrin and Alfred Coles ceased trading but an educated guess would be at the end of the 1922 summer season and it may be that Messrs W A Nightingale & Sons of Northampton purchased the Goodwill of the business, or at least bought the bus, as BD 3788 passed to this firm at about this time and it was last licensed in June 1924. Fairly indistinct photographs of BD 3788 may be found in paper NN-NI1, but with Nightingale & Sons it carried a charabanc body and was not a saloon bus as earlier described.

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Body No.	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Nts
							New	S/H	W/D			
BD 3788	Guy	?	464	?	B25?/ B20?	?	9/19	2/21	10/22?	F H Spencer, Earls Barton	W A Nightingale & Sons, Northampton	1

Notes: 1 - BD 3788 started life as a box van but was also used as a public conveyance. In Perrin & Coles ownership it was described as a saloon bus and whilst with Nightingale & Sons was a charabanc.