

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-AY3

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AYRES. Walter Henry

139 Wellingborough Road

RUSHDEN

Walter Henry Ayres is believed to have established himself as a carrier of both goods and passengers circa 1919. His first vehicle was BD 1649, a Ford T purchased in 1919, painted green and fitted with fourteen seats. Ayres operated only private hires and he apparently used his bus to deliver cigarettes wholesale to shops in the Rushden area.

Walter Ayres must have enjoyed some success with his private hire work as on 30th May 1925 he bought a new REO Speed Wagon which was registered RP 1207. This fourteen-seater vehicle was supplied by Messrs York, Ward & Rowlatt of Wellingborough and fitted with one of their bodies. It is understood Ayres' original Ford T - BD 1649 - was traded in to York, Ward & Rowlatt and subsequently bought by the Melchbourne operator, John Woodham, later noted for owning the first, or a very early, Bedford chassis registered TM 9347.

Walter Ayres is said to have operated a second REO but if he did, details of it have not been uncovered. This operator's passenger carrying activities came to a close at the time of the introduction of the 1930 Road Traffic Act but Ayres continued to operate goods transport until the second World War.

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Body No.	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Nts
							New	S/H	W/D			
BD 1649	Ford	T	1716120	?	B14	—	-/19	—	5/25?	—	York, Ward & Rowlatt, W'boro?	1
RP 1207	REO	Speed Wagon	116781	YW&R	B14	—	5/25	—	3/43	—	No further owner	
?	REO	?	?	?	?		?		?			

NOTES:- 1 - BD 1649 last owned by J Woodham, Melchbourne and last licensed 9/31.