

## WALMSLEY. Alfred Ernest t/a The Ex-Servicemen's Bus 17 Marefair, NORTHAMPTON

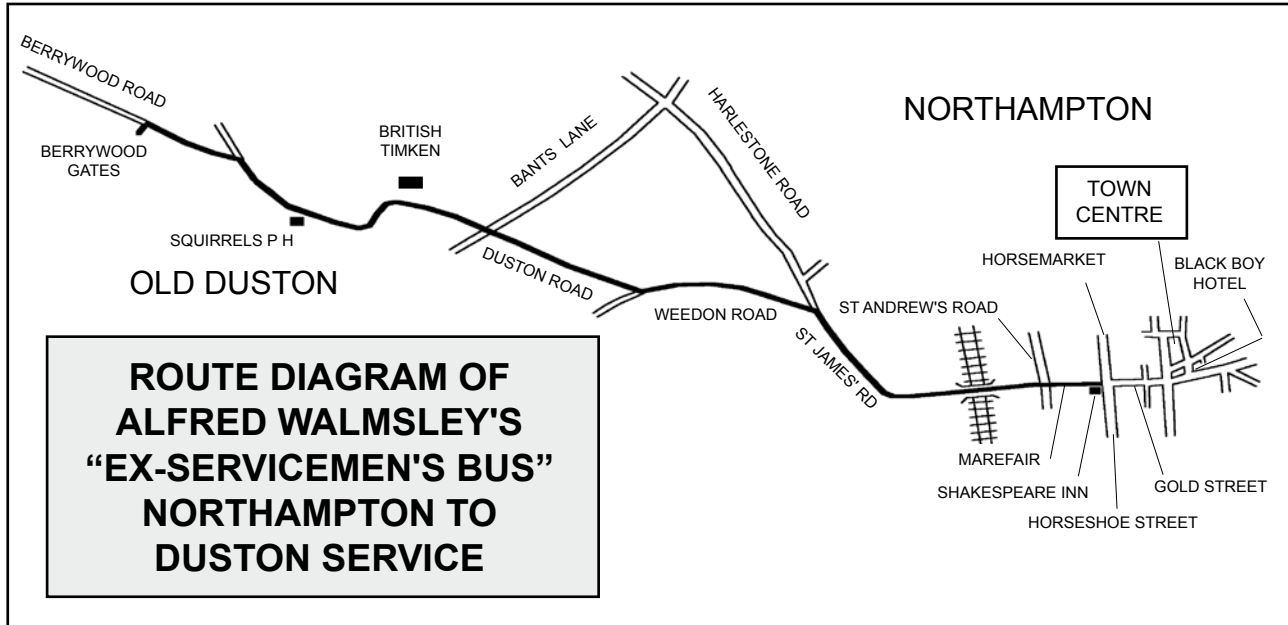
Mrs Violet Andrews was the proprietress of a Sausage & Mash Bar situated at 17 Marefair, Northampton and one of her associates was Alfred Walmsley who, with capital said to have been supplied by Mrs Andrews, started a bus service from the stable yard at the rear of the nearby Shakespeare Inn to the Squirrels PH at Duston in 1921, soon extending the route to Berrywood Gates.

Walmsley's first vehicle was BD 4255, a Daimler lorry fitted with longitudinal seats for six on each side of the vehicle and able to carry another two passengers alongside the driver. The lorry was painted dark green and had a dark green canopy over the seating area. BD 4255 was new in March 1920 and Walmsley bought it second-hand from its Foster's Booth owner in 1921.

In either late 1921 or early 1922, Walmsley again, apparently with Mrs Andrews' financial help, bought a fourteen-seater chain driven Ford T which was painted black in its entirety and was known as the "Black Maria". Not long afterwards Alfred Walmsley and Violet Andrews had a disagreement which resulted in Walmsley leaving Andrews' establishment and taking the "Black Maria" with him, henceforth operating from nearby Horseshoe Street to Duston.

From 1921 Walmsley had employed a man named Charles Swann as a driver of his horse-drawn carts, which he operated in addition to his bus, and in 1922 Swann transferred to bus driving. In his new capacity Charlie Swann got on well with his passengers and developed a rapport with them, thus building up a strong local following for the service. When Walmsley and Andrews split up, Charlie Swann continued his employment with Mrs Andrews rather than with Walmsley and the former equipped herself with a bus whilst Swann retained the loyalty of most of the patronage. As a result of this Alfred Walmsley could not make a living from his 14-seater Ford and soon ceased trading on the Northampton to Duston route. That was not the end of the story, however, and readers are referred to papers NN-AN3 and NN-BI2 for its continuation.

### WALMSLEY A E - NORTHAMPTON



#### Rolling Stock:

BD 4255 - Daimler - B14R - New 3/20 - Acquired by Walmsley -/21 - Withdrawn 6/22 - No subsequent operator but last licensed in Mrs Violet Andrews' name.

NH xxxx? - Ford T - B14 - New -/22? - Withdrawn c12/22 - To C E Billington, Northampton. (possibly known as the "Black Matia"). Note 1.

NH xxxx?- Ford T - B14F - New 6/22 - Withdrawn c12/22 - To C E Billington, Northampton.

Note 1 - This vehicle was said to be chain driven indicating that the chassis had been extended by one of the proprietary conversion kits such as Baico.