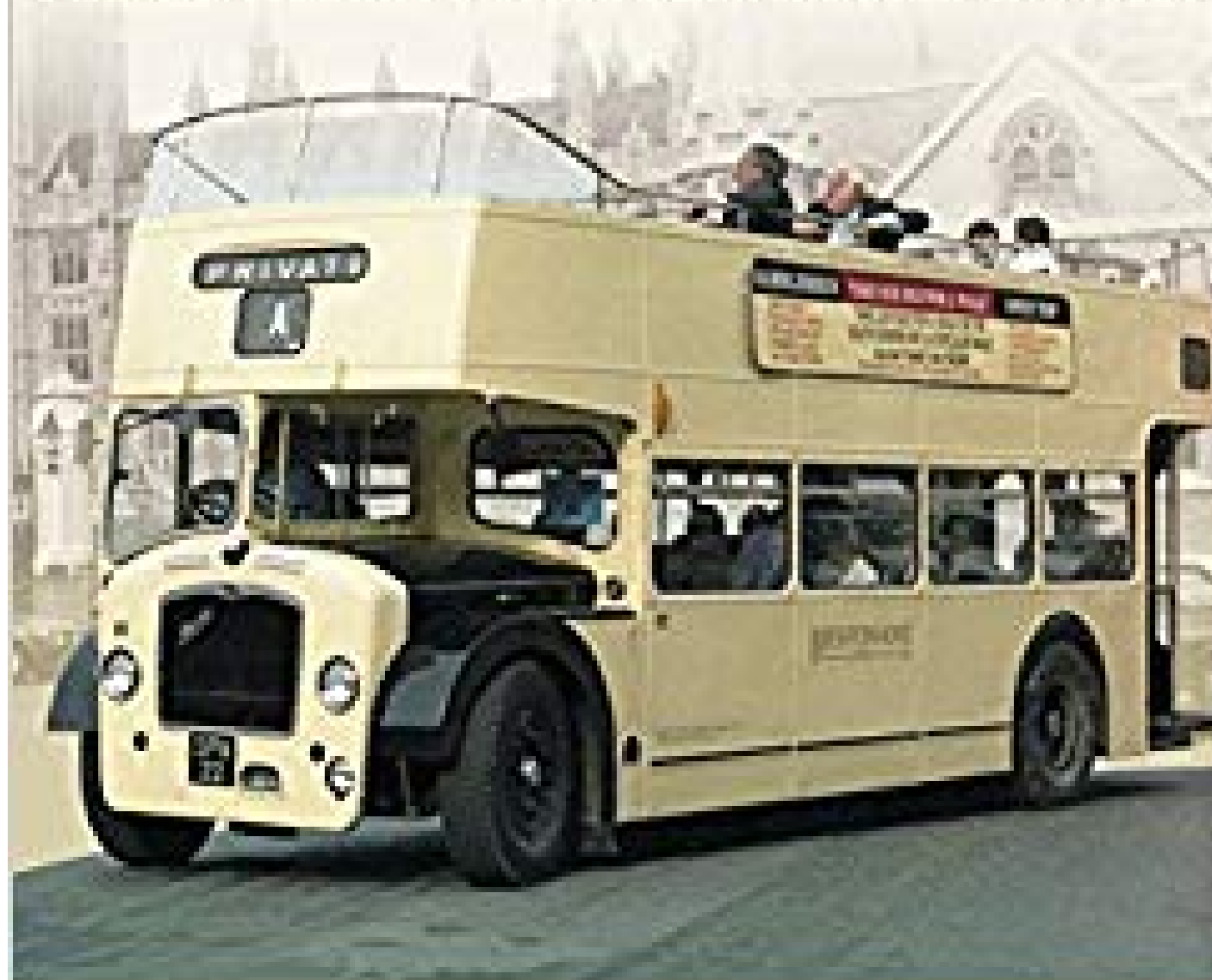


THE BRITISH TRANSPORT COMMISSION GROUP

FORMER THOMAS TILLING COMPANIES IN THE 1960s



JIM BLAKE

Jim Blake

The British Transport Commission Group: Former Thomas Tilling Companies in the 1960s



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This fascinating and informative book looks at the Tilling Group of bus companies through the 1960s. These operated about 50 % of the inter-urban and rural bus services in England and Wales, and had been nationalised by Clement Attlee's Labour Federal government in 1948 under the control of the British Transportation Commission. Many have never been published before. Derby, whose livery was an attractive dark blue and cream; This was a result of these producers also having been nationalised and controlled by the BTC and THC. However, some Tilling Group operators still got earlier vehicles with, for example, AEC or Leyland chassis, which were acquired prior to the requirement for them to get only Bristol items, whilst some also got coaches with Bedford or Ford Thames chassis built in the 1950s and 1960s. Unlike the Wager fleets throughout England and Wales, many Tilling fleets also had highly standardised liveries, either of reddish with cream comfort, or green with cream relief for their stage carriage buses, or the reverse of this for his or her coaches. Throughout the majority of the 1960s, Jim Blake travelled to these operators and photographed their vehicles, and spent many summer Saturdays at London's Victoria Coach Station, where their service buses and also express coaches could be seen. Decreasing ones were Midland General and Notts & During the period included in this book, the operators within the group had very standardised fleets, with almost all their buses and instructors having Bristol chassis and Eastern Coachworks (ECW) bodywork. along with the Royal Blue instructors of Southern and Western National and the maroon and cream instructors of Thames Valley subsidiary South Midland. All Tilling Group businesses became portion of the National Bus Business in early 1969, and in a short time their traditional liveries became just a storage when the NBC imposed regular red or green liveries. There have been some exceptions, though. He was fortunate to capture much of this changing transport scene on film, and presents a few of these photos in this volume. Possession passed to the Transport Holding Business Ltd in 1963, although fleets remained under Tilling Group control.



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