

Press release: Wednesday 7 November 2018

Historic First World War buses to join Remembrance Day people's procession



- **Contribution of First World War bus drivers to be commemorated in A Nation's Thank You - The People's Procession on Remembrance Sunday**
- **Two vintage First World War buses will be on The Mall, one – known as 'Battle Bus' – in khaki green camouflage, the other in civilian red**
- **The first time B-type buses which served as military vehicles have taken part in an Armistice Day parade since the 1960s**

Two of the last surviving London buses to serve during the First World War will take part in A Nation's Thank You - The People's Procession to mark the centenary of the Armistice. This will be the first time B-type buses which served as military vehicles between 1914 and 1918 have appeared in an Armistice Day parade since the 1960s.

A hundred years ago, London's camouflaged khaki-green Battle Buses returned from the Western Front. In 1914, around 1000 red London B-type buses were commandeered by the War Office for military service. Many were sent to the front lines in France and Flanders, and as far off as Greece. Others remained in Britain, carrying troops and wounded soldiers. In 1917 alone, the drivers of these buses drove 1.2 million men nearly 3 million miles.

Only four of B-type buses are now left in the world. Two are part of London Transport Museum's collection. On Sunday 11 November, both will take part in A Nation's Thank You - The People's Procession on The Mall from 09:00 to 15:00.

- Bus B2737 – known as Battle Bus – can be seen in khaki-green livery. Restored thanks to National Lottery funding, Battle Bus reveals how London’s recognisable red buses were transformed into military vehicles.
- Bus B340, which carried wounded troops in the Capital during the First World War, will appear in its post-war civilian red and cream livery.

The presence of the buses will pay tribute to the contribution and sacrifice made by men from across Britain who enlisted and served as drivers during the First World War.

One such hero was Joe Clough. Born in Jamaica in 1886, Joe moved to England in 1906 where he became a London bus driver, before moving to Bedford. After the outbreak of war, Joe joined the Army Service Corps in 1915, leaving his wife Margaret and two daughters at home.

Joe went from having driven a B-type bus in East London to driving a B-type bus converted into a military ambulance in France. Under the constant threat of battle, Joe and other drivers carried wounded soldiers from the front lines to nearby army field hospitals.

After the war, Joe returned home to his family. During the interwar years, he would drive a B-type bus decorated with poppies in the Bedfordshire Remembrance Day parade.

Sam Mullins, Director of London Transport Museum, said: “As the nation commemorates the centenary of the Armistice, we are proud to see these historic B-type buses take to the Capital’s streets once more, paying tribute to the brave sacrifice made by their drivers.”

After the procession, Battle Bus will be on display in London Transport Museum, Covent Garden until Spring 2019.

Families are invited to visit London Transport Museum on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 November between 11:00 and 15:45 to make poppies together and learn more about the role of London’s bus drivers during the First World War.

A new artwork ‘Forget Me Not’ can also be seen on display. Made from over one hundred paper flowers, it represents the hand embroidered postcards soldiers sent to their loved ones from the front lines.

ENDS

For media requests and images please contact:

London Transport Museum	
Esther Rush – Corporate Communications Manager Phone 0203 054 6504 Email esther.rush@ltmuseum.co.uk	For further information, please see: www.ltmuseum.co.uk
Candice Jones – PR and Marketing Manager Phone 020 7565 7448 Email candice.jones@ltmuseum.co.uk	Follow us on Twitter and Facebook at: https://twitter.com/ltmuseum https://www.facebook.com/ltmuseum
Claudia Pearson – Marketing Executive Phone 020 7126 1807 Email claudia.pearson@ltmuseum.co.uk	

Notes to editors

- Only four B-type buses remain in existence in the world. Two are owned by London Transport Museum. One belongs to the Imperial War Museum. The last is part of a private collection. Built in Walthamstow and introduced in 1910, B-type buses like these were the first, reliable mass-produced motor bus to dominate London's streets. In their day, they were a ground-breaking feat of engineering, overcoming the challenge of keeping London moving as the city and its industries expanded. Built from interchangeable parts they could be repaired and returned to service quickly to keep the Capital moving.
- Transport for London is marking the centenary since the end of the First World War by displaying Poppy Roundels at ten Underground and four Overground stations. Multiple transport modes - including Santander Cycles, eight London buses, DLR, trams and London Overground & Underground trains - have also be covered in poppy vinyls.

About London Transport Museum

- The Museum is situated in the heart of Covent Garden and filled with stunning exhibits; the Museum explores the powerful link between transport and the growth of modern London, culture and society since 1800. Historic vehicles, world-famous posters and the very best objects from the Museum's extraordinary collection are brought together to tell the story of London's development and the part transport played in defining the unique identity of the city.
- The Museum is a charity and the world's leading museum of urban transport and a place for everyone to come to understand and enjoy the story of London's journey. No other capital city is defined and shaped so much by its transport as London. Yet the scale of influence of transport can be invisible to those who use it every day. The Museum and its collections are a window into the past, present and future of how transport keeps London moving, working and growing, and makes life in our city better. The Museum's charity number is 1123122.

Ticket information

- Adult prices from £16.00 (concessions £13.50).
- Cheapest tickets available online. Kids go free.
- Adult tickets allow unlimited daytime access for the Museum for a whole year.

Travel to London Transport Museum:

- Address: Covent Garden Piazza, WC2E 7BB.
- The nearest stations to London Transport Museum are:
 - **Underground:** Covent Garden, Leicester Square, Charing Cross, Embankment, Holborn
 - **National Rail:** Charing Cross and Waterloo
 - **Boat:** Embankment or Westminster pier
 - **Bus:** Strand or Aldwych

Public information:

- Talks & events bookings: +44 (0)20 7565 7298
- www.ltmuseum.co.uk

