

*This week, a short true story about Tower Bridge:*

At 21.35 hours on 30th December 1952 a crowded RT double decker bus was heading towards Dulwich on route 78. The bus was nearly half way across Tower Bridge when the bridge began to rise.

Albert Gunter, the 46-year old driver, said at the time, "I just couldn't believe it. I was driving over the bridge when suddenly it seemed as if the road ahead was starting to sink. Then I realised that the part I was on was rising – and I had only a split second to make up my mind what I was going to do."

Albert slammed his foot on the accelerator and the bus leapt across the widening gap and smashed on its chassis as it landed on the other side. Several passengers were injured, but they all survived and Albert was hailed as a hero.

Albert had driven a London fire engine during the Blitz in the Second World War. In 1945 he joined London Transport as a conductor and two years later became a driver.



After his terrifying experience, he was commended for his courage by the police and London Transport, who gave him a £10 reward. He received many letters of congratulation at his Islington home, appeared on radio and was filmed for a newsreel. One of the injured bus passengers, May Walshaw, was married shortly afterwards and she insisted that Albert be her best man.

Albert said, "it might have been any of the drivers on the route. I just happened to be there."

From <http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/research/faqs/5.shtml>

Do any of you remember this?

*Do you have a poem, short story, picture, article, crossword, thought or other item  
you would like to contribute to this space in future weeks?*

*If so, please give a copy to Steven Moe  
or email it to: [steven.moe@nortonrose.com](mailto:steven.moe@nortonrose.com)*