

PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2023

Western Desert Recce Group wins Restoration Award for Dr Lawson's 1942 Chevrolet Truck

The restoration of a Long Range Desert Group Chevrolet Truck, specially constructed as a mobile consulting room/casualty station for the Group's medical officer Dr Lawson has led to the Western Desert Recce Group (WDRG) being announced as a winner of a Restoration Award at the National Transport Trust's (NTT) annual awards. The Award was presented to Gary Wallace of the WDRG by the NTT's Royal Patron, Anne, HRH The Princess Royal at a ceremony held in the Railway Museum at Fawley Hill (www.fawleyhill.co.uk) on 18 September 2023.

The Long Range Desert Group operated during the Second World War behind Italian/German lines in the Egyptian desert and were involved in significant intelligence operations and the creation of logistical bases for other irregular operations. In 1941 the Group recruited Dr Lawson and he and his orderlies set about constructing a special-purpose vehicle to meet their needs. Based on a 15 cwt (hundredweight) Chevrolet CMP truck, the vehicle had demountable bodywork which could be used inside a tent.

NTT Awards Director Paul Brook comments: "The restoration and equipping of this showpiece by the Western Desert Recce Group, based on the painstaking notes of Dr Lawson, now held by the IWM, is a fitting tribute to a remarkable organisation, and it has provided hours of entertainment for its service veteran volunteers. The Group will now use the vehicle to celebrate the exploits of the Western Desert Recce Group and to support disabled ex-servicemen. As such, the Group is a very worthy recipient of a National Transport Trust Restoration Award."

Photographs

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The National Transport Trust

Founded in 1965, (as the Transport Trust), the National Transport Trust is the UK's only national charity established to promote and encourage the preservation and restoration of Britain's unique transport heritage in all its forms – by air, land (road and rail) and water (sea and inland). The Trust is managed within a very streamlined structure, with the Board of Trustees representing the wider interests of the nation, for whose benefit the Trust exists.

The National Transport Trust Awards

The National Transport Trust Awards are a key event in the Trust's calendar. Designed to recognise and reward the efforts of the UK transport preservation movement, a number of awards are made to individuals and organisations every year. Categories include Preservationist of the Year, Young Preservationist of the Year, Lifetime Achievement, and Restoration Awards.

Help us to help them

In order to help the UK's the preservation movement the Trust depends on its members and therefore encourages all those who share our aims to join us. Membership of the Trust is open to private individuals and affiliated organisations.

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