



Jim Blackaby purchased B11HM (a 1936 41/4L Derby Bentley) in the mid 1970's in very poor condition. It is a unique and very attractive 2 door saloon by Vanden Plas. As time permitted, Jim removed the body and, in the late 1970's, began restoration of the chassis. He never completed the restoration and sold the car in the late 1980's. The restoration was beautifully completed by Alpine Eagle in Clanfield, England. Jim documented chassis disassembly with isometric projection drawings showing how all the parts in each sub-assembly went together. Chassis complexity required 102 of these drawings. Jim's training as an aeronautical engineer helped provide him the skills that made these drawings possible. They are beautifully executed with every fastener documented!

We all owe Jim a profound debt of gratitude.

I am currently re-assembling the chassis of my 1938 41/4L (B138LS) and, in spite of notes taken and a fotografhic record kept, these drawings have been invaluable. While earlier and later chassis differed from B11HM, the vast majority of these drawings will be useful whatever the chassis date. Once knowledge of the value of these drawings circulates among Derby Bentley owners, I believe they will give impitus to the re-assembly of chassis long ago taken apart and give current owners the courage to make needed repairs they have been too timid to undertake.

Neal Kirkham