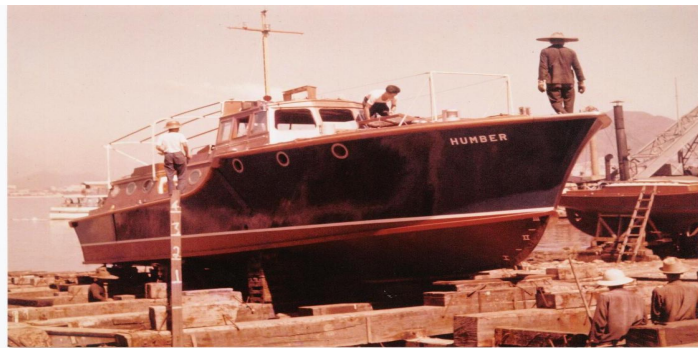
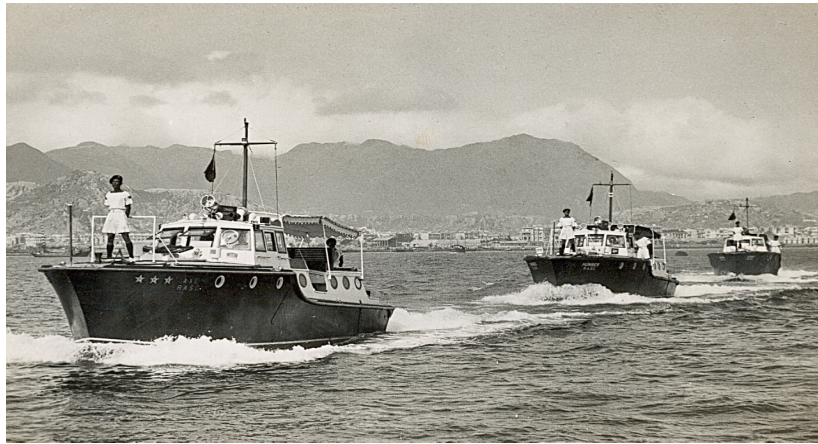


An update on RASC Humber



In service, 1946 onwards.



In Portsmouth. June 2005.

Humber was at one stage of her life, based as a gate guardian at the Nelson entrance, to Portsmouth Naval Base.

From there, she was moved to Husbands Shipyard, where she was set up as a display boat, and open for visitors to board, inside the shed.

See www.bmpt.org.uk

The BMPT (British Military Powerboat Trust) was asked to remove all its boats and vacate the boatshed, as it had been sold to new owners.

At **ODEON** Southampton

See **Daily Echo**

Thursday 14th April

for full details

VOUCHER REQUIRED

Trust has to lose another historic craft

A GROUP of boat restoration experts based at Marchwood have been forced to part with another of their craft.

The high-speed launch Humber, pictured, has become the latest vessel to leave the British Military Powerboat Trust, which must vacate its site by September.

As reported in the *Daily Echo*, attempts to find another site for the boats in the Southampton area have failed.

The trust is hoping to move to a former power station site at Poole but the proposed new facility is unlikely to be ready for several years.

Six boats bound for Poole will go into storage and the rest of the craft will either be found new homes or broken up.

Humber, thought to be last military vessel built by the British Powerboat Company at Hythe, has been moved to Norfolk.



My task was to sort this problem out.

As many of the boats as possible were returned to owners.

Even more were offered to the then Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust, who kindly offered to take some on .

Unfortunately we were left with a small number of orphan boats, for which new homes were proving impossible to find.

Humber was one of these orphans, and despite advertising her as being available free of charge, did not attract any new owners.

As luck would have it, a very good friend of mine, George Black got to hear of our plight, and offered to take her on.

George and I had both worked for Union Castle, at one time in our lives.

George was a mobile phone tech fundi, and owned a large farm up in Norfolk county, with loads of shed storage space..

Humber was duly loaded onto a road trailer, and off she went to Norfolk.



January 2000. In Husbands Shipyard.
Humber. Departing BMPT Hythe Southampton.



George Black and two sons, collect , January 2000.



On arrival Norfolk, Humber stored in one of Georges sheds.



Humber arrives in Norfolk, and into shed. April 2005

Having safely berthed Humber, the next step was to find a place where she could be made seaworthy, with engines fitted, and all systems reinstated.

I was tasked with sourcing 2 engines with gearboxes.

As I was volunteer working at the PNBPT, I had access to the stores there, and ascertained that 2 Perkins T6 354M engines with gearboxes, were available, as being surplus to PNBPT requirements.

A sale agreement was reached, and George came down to Portsmouth, and collected both units.



March 2009 1 of the engines. 2 Engines loaded ready to leave Portsmouth. George, with Brian, PNBPT Manager.

Humbers next move was from the farmyard shed, to Newsons Boatyard in Lowestoft, and it was to there that she was moved.



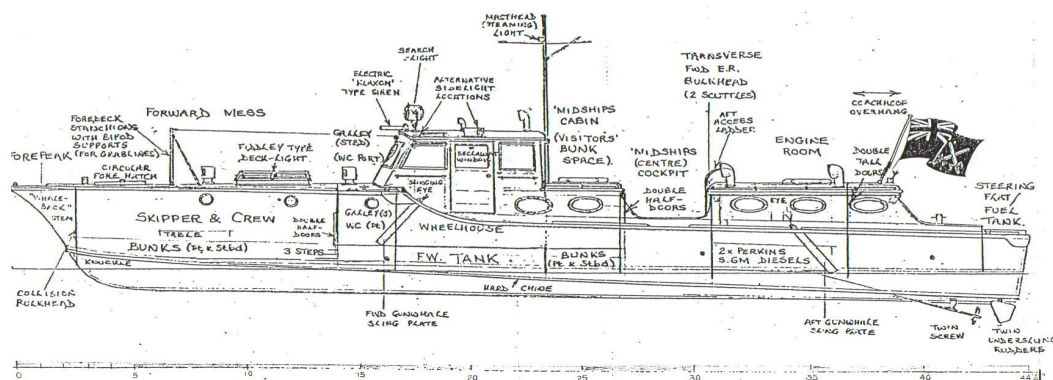
July 2009. Exit farmyard. Onto her trailer. In Newsom's shed.

The trailer was an original trailer, which she had been landed upon whilst with us at BMPT, and I assume came with her from Portsmouth. She lived on it for many years, but it was broken up when she went afloat.

Work then commenced on getting her seaworthy, fitting engines and all the peripheral work needed to complete the jigsaw puzzle.



FML CONWAY 45.5' "RIVERS" CLASS



In the Newsons boatshed. July Sister boat plan.

George Black bought Newsons Lowestoft, and upgraded the facilities there.

Richard Basey was also located in Newsons, with the MTB102 Trust, and MTB102.

After suitable care and maintenance, Humber was launched on 10th October



Launching day, 10th October 2010, note MTB102 in the centre photo.

Humber became operational, and went to sea on a number of occasions

Her hull colour was changed to grey, and she remains that colour to this day.



At sea September 2013 and July 2014, Lowestoft area.

Sadly, on October 12th 2014, George Black passed away.

As with all these things, one mans dedication to a cause, ceased to be, and the wind was taken out of Humbers sails.

In the course of time, Richard Basey and the MTB102 Trust, took over the yard, and in that process, Humber was included.

Not much has happened to her since then, albeit a change in hull colour, and the removal of her engines.

She is currently lying afloat, under the care of a friend of Richard Basey.

I have asked Richard Basey if there is any interest in taking Humber back to an operational mode, but am advised that at this time, the answer is no.

It would need about £35,000.00 to bring her back to life.

Richard has indicated that he would be interested in setting up a historic boat collection at the yard

Richard has approved my including his phone number, 07921 389158 so feel free to pass it all on.

Richard is happy to hear from anyone interested in Humber.



HUMBER AS SHE IS TODAY, 27-03-2025 , LOWESTOFT.