

PHILIP SIMONS - COASTAL FORCES HISTORIAN

25 GREENWAYS, HIGHLANDS ROAD, PORTSLADE, BRIGHTON BN41 2BS

Telephone BRIGHTON (01273) 418474

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Details Of Craft

Current Name	FONTENAY
Former Names	none known
Pennant / Service Number	MGB 118 later MTB 437
Service	Royal Navy
Type of Craft	71ft6" Motor Gun Boat MK V
Number built	Of this type 96 (all marks)
Re-designated	Motor Torpedo Boat 9/43
Ordered	107-119 ordered 26/11/40
Cancelled	11/3/41
Re-ordered	115-119 re-ordered 7/4/42
Construction	Mahogany/Double Diagonal/Hard Chine
Tons Displacement	37 light / 41 full load
Tons Gross	n/a
Dimensions	71¾ x 20½ x 5¾
Builder / Yard / Hull Number	British Power Boat Co / Hythe / 1819
Year of Completion	31/3/43
Engines Original	3 x Packard 12cyl Petrol Engines each 1200hp, triple screw = 40kts
Engines Current	n/a
Armament as Specified	1 x 2pdr, 2x20mm (1x2), 4 mg's
Date Sold Out	For Disposal 10/45
Or Other Fate	n/a
Civil Registered / Official Number	n/a
Call Sign	n/a
Flag / Port of Registry	n/a

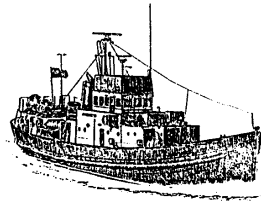
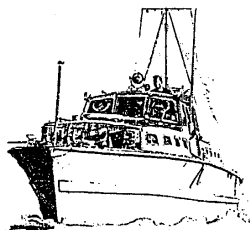
Any other Details:-

By 9/43 all MGB's had been re-designated MTB's and MGB 118 became MTB 437. She was transferred to the Royal Netherlands Navy 4/44 and returned 9/45.

MGB 118 was allocated to the 9th MGB Flotilla 1943 based Ramsgate and Dover

118 was in action 29th / 30th May 1943 covering mine-laying operations off Dunkirk under command of O'Mahoney.

In action 24th / 25th May 1943, 116 and 118(Lt. M. Forsyth-Grant) were despatched to intercept E-boats from the Cherbourg Flotilla known to be en route to Germany at



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speed. They intercepted two boats which split up and the two MGB's sunk S77 by gunfire, only four of the twenty crew were rescued (the boat having exploded when a torpedo was hit).

OS D.J. Francis and AB A.W. Carrington awarded DSM's on MGB 118

Lt P.G. Lee awarded bar to DSC on MGB 118

MTB 437 served with the 2nd MTB Flotilla October 1943 – 1944 and after 1944 was manned by a Dutch crew.

On 23rd / 24th December 1944 5 MTB's including MTB 437 (still without tubes) attacked off Dunkirk seven large "M" class Minesweepers. 437 (Lt.M Forsyth Grant) suffered several hits which set her on fire and killed the first Lieutenant (Ian Galbraith) and disabled the forward gun wounding one of its crew. She returned to Ramsgate independently. MTB 437 was paid off for repairs which lasted three months.

POMM R.D. Hanks won a DSM on MTB 437

(**Any other details** with thanks to Len Reynolds Home Waters MGBs & MTBs At War 1939-1945)

Post WW II:-

I have no firm details of "Fontenay" between 10/45 and 1974 when she was owned at Mill Rythe Boatyard by Albert, Vera & Kenneth Craig.

She has been there ever since, and I have seen her on regular occasions since 10/93

Philip Simons 24/8/15