

# RAF MARINE CRAFT CLASS DIRECTORY ADDENDUM ONE

## INTRODUCTION

As is always the case, as soon as any compilation is completed and “printed”, then more information and occasionally additional photographs appear from the woodwork. However I would like to thank those who have submitted extra information and of course the additional photographs. The snippets of info - the odd report, the odd Yard No, and in the case of the post-war craft some disposal information kept coming in - or was found out, all being filed for this very Addendum. I did expect the Addendum to be a much slimmer affair, but after my last trip to RAF Stafford, I was lucky to be invited to copy any documents in collections that had arrived since I started the compilations - and was essentially not available prior.

The main part of the Addendum is however a wealth of additional photographic material, much of which is accredited to the RAF Museum, but a good number have been trawled from a variety of sources. The latter have bolstered out the Addendum, and I took the opportunity to study the additional photos, analyse them and point out some of the variations in arrangement, colour schemes, and inevitably the positioning and sizes of RAF numbers and roundels. All no doubt invaluable to both the historian, enthusiast and modellers alike. Where possible I have added the RAF service history with the photos. Some additional information regarding craft in post RAF “services” is also included. At a casual count within the 200 odd pages are around 280 more photos, a lot of which have, to my knowledge, not been published before and are additional to those already used in the respective compilations.

The layout is similar to the respective volume and in the main the craft covered in the Addendum are in the same order as in the respective volume(s). However most will notice that a few types have not been covered in “full” as the number of photos and amount of information gleaned since the relevant volume was “finished” would be too much for this, and ruin the balance of content ; - thus it is still my intention, in conjunction with Donald Smith, Phil Simons and David Linley to continue with the series of Appendices as follows.

68ft RTTL Mk 2	By T. Holtham & D. Smith
63ft PINNACES	By T. Holtham & D. Smith
60ft PINNACES	By T. Holtham & P. Simons (Will include RN, and RAAF craft)
43ft RSL	By T. Holtham & D. Smith (A rewrite of the book compiled much earlier by myself)
63ft MIAMI	By T. Holtham & D. Linley (Will include all built - not just RAF)

The Appendices will include all details of building and layout, full details of the history of each individual craft and will be illustrated with photos of the craft in RAF service, post RAF “service” and where applicable as survivors.

If asked what is the most significant “find”, I would put the drawing of the 23ft W/T tender up there as it not only provided the GA, but also numerous yard numbers to boot. It also gave me the underwater section for several drawings. On the photo side, the 36ft dumb refuellers, like a London bus, for ages there are none, then they all appear at once, but for rarity the photo of Plywood Dinghy MD5 (one of only two craft of the type) is not only a superb photo but gave the info that the craft was not “Mooring” but “Dory”. However the photo of the 45ft Refueller 1126 is top of my list as it is of the only unit of the MkVI type, and furthermore the view shows the very part of the craft that made it so different. As regards favourites - personally the 23ft Marine Tender MkII 3179 - as I think the type just look really great.