

RAF MARINE CRAFT CLASS DIRECTORY VOLUME THREE

INTRODUCTION

Following the trend of previous volumes, Volume 3 covers craft from 41.5 ft down to 27 ft, and thus covers all the seaplane tender types, the fire float conversions, the bomb scows, armoured target boats and includes the ferry boats of which the last craft, the 27ft type is still around. Please note that the airborne lifeboats that fall in the length range of this volume will be covered together with all other airborne lifeboats in Volume 4. The sourcing of drawings for most seaplane tenders was relatively easy going, however the fire floats had all to be drawn from scratch and as you will see photographs of the latter appear to be very rare. Finding photographs was, as usual, made a great deal easier with the assistance of Ken Hunter at the RAF Museum and my colleague Donald Smith and through their many contacts. Some of the material for the "lesser known types" was only recently retrieved after two visits, one to RAF Stafford to raid Ken Hunter's filing cabinet and through my first, and thus far only, visit to the Public Record Office. Both proved very rewarding and information gained filled in gaps that have been in my records since I started this venture.

The craft covered in this volume in one way are very similar, especially the seaplane tenders, and thus to avoid repetition of construction details etc, certain types have been fully expanded to give in depth details of layout and construction. For other types the same reasoning has been followed, but details of construction for craft built of mahogany, mild steel, light alloy and GRP are all contained in this volume. As with previous volumes and craft covered in them, I have included details of craft transferred to other services, other nations and some indication of similar types built for either private or commercial use, but based on craft built for the RAF. Volume 4 will cover Marine Tenders, Motor Dinghies, Dumb Dinghies, Airborne Lifeboats and depending upon space, craft acquired or requisitioned for RAF use.