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# CANADIAN COASTAL FORCES TRUST NEWSLETTER



C/O RCSCC *VANGUARD*, HMCS *YORK*, 659 LAKESHORE BOULEVARD WEST, TORONTO, ONTARIO,  
M5V 1A7, CANADA  
416 960-0522, [CCFT29@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:CCFT29@HOTMAIL.COM), [WWW.CANADIANCOASTALFORCES.COM](http://WWW.CANADIANCOASTALFORCES.COM)

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## Sungo's Identity Confirmed

Sungo has been positively identified as the RCN's *MTB 486*

The CCFT has positively established that the houseboat *Sungo*, located on the River Itchen in Southampton England, is the former RCN *MTB 486*, the command of the Senior Officer of the 29<sup>th</sup> (Canadian) MTB Flotilla, Lieutenant-Commander C. Anthony Law.

Philip Simons, a Senior Analyst with Lloyd's and retired Honorary Historian to the British Military Powerboat Trust, visited *Sungo* on behalf of the CCFT on 16 December 2006 with a colleague, David Start. They were able to find a c12" square lifting hatch under the carpet in what would originally have been the coxswain's cabin. On one of the cross bracing pieces of timber was clearly marked the boat number "2263" pressed into the timber, which was the boat (yard) number assigned by the British Powerboat Company.



The boat number assigned to *MTB 486/Sungo* by the British Powerboat Company, "2263". The other symbols "3 SW" above are the individual panel position identifiers.

The CCFT has also obtained a copy of an original BPC document that clearly states that the boat number "2263" was assigned the

MTB number 486 by the RCN upon being commissioned. This document was provided by John Lambert, author of *Anatomy of the Ship: The Fairmile D MTB and Allied Coastal Forces of World War II, Vols I & II.* He has in his possession many original blue prints given to him by George Selman, the chief designer for the BPC and the designer of this class of MTB.

With her identity now proven, the CCFT is applying to the Movable Cultural Property Directorate to become a "designated institution and public authority". This is necessary for the purposes of applying to the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board to have *MTB 486* certified for income tax purposes and to apply for a Movable Cultural Property Grant.



*MTB 486/Sungo* (in background) and *MTB 458* (foreground) in July, 2006. Sadly, 458 is not restorable.

## Captain Morgan Drops Price

### Maltese MTBs becoming more affordable

In July 2006, the CCFT was informed by a representative of the British Military Powerboat Trust that they had been offered one of the Maltese G Type MTBs, *MTB 506/Ambra* or *Raia*, for a price considerably lower than the \$100 000



per boat first offered to the CCFT. Upon enquiry with Captain Morgan Cruises, the CCFT was offered a new price - \$50 000 for both boats.

The boats have now been retired since early in 2006 and we suspect that as they deteriorate, the price will continue to drop. It may also mean that they might become unsuitable for use by the CCFT as our functioning example of a BPC G Type MTB. We shall continue to monitor both the price and the condition of the boats in the hope that one may be eventually saved as an example of the boats used by the 29<sup>th</sup> Flotilla.

## Shipping Costs

Bringing an MTB across the Atlantic is more expensive than hazardous

Our biggest challenge in the preservation of *MTB 486* will be the transportation of the boat across the Atlantic Ocean, and the initial purchase price as the owners live aboard *486*. The latter will be a bit tricky when the time comes, but the owners are willing to sell as they are thinking of moving shoreside in a few years.



MV **SCHELDEGRACHT** under way with fifty yachts aboard.

The CCFT has made enquiries amongst various shipping companies that specialise in carrying yachts across the Atlantic Ocean concerning the transport of *486* home to

Canada (Halifax specifically). The best offer that we have been able to obtain, based upon the fact that the CCFT is a registered charitable organisation, is \$77 000 USD.

Any help that members of the CCFT can provide in the preservation of this rare and historically important vessel would be greatly appreciated and we invite past donors to become annual contributors to help in preserving this important part of Canada's maritime history.

## Burk's Boat Found

Former RCN officer's MTB found in Shoreham, England

A Royal Navy MTB commanded by Lt C.A. Burk before he joined the 29<sup>th</sup> Flotilla has been discovered in Shoreham-by-Sea, England. Known affectionately as "Daddy Bones", Lt Burk was the Divisional Leader and hence the second in command for LtCdr Tony Law. The boat has been identified as *MTB 439* (formerly *MGB 120*), Lt Burk's earlier command, before he took over *MTB 461* of the 29<sup>th</sup> Flotilla. Unfortunately, *439* is an earth-filled hulk and cannot be restored.



*MTB 439*, the former command of Lt "Daddy Bones" C.A. Burk

In addition to *MTB 439* there are another four G Type MTBs now serving as houseboats in Shoreham. Sadly, *MTB 481/Bimini* is being replaced in her berth for a larger vessel and if her owners cannot find a buyer, she will be broken up during 2007.