

MASB 27 update. (with HSL102, taken from MGB81)

Further to previous updating messages, the MASB completed in excess of 200 sea miles in June. This was the first time under her own power since 1945 with an historic voyage to Normandy in replication of the crossing in support of the US 1st Army assault on Omaha Beach 75 years ago. Thanks again to our intrepid RN crew, with valiant helm assistance from the Guards.

On returning from the Channel Islands, our elderly gunboat suffered some bruising and is now at Hamble Point Marina undergoing repair. Nothing major has been found at fault; there were some omissions of sundry items in the restoration due to running out of time before Normandy and we had a couple of minor timber splits in hull structure. All things considered, this old girl stood up to the tough challenge brilliantly.

Being now out of the water, we've taken this opportunity to grind off and re-coat hull undersides where it appeared the anti-foul coating wasn't doing its job. Remedial work is now nearing completion and the vessel will likely be settled down in her current location for the winter season. It is unfortunate that Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust is unable at this time to take our gunboat into the Memorial Squadron so we will look for an alternative home for 2020.

Our next excursion is planned to be across to Guernsey next May to join celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the liberation. Meanwhile, please access the link below to see MASB 27 returning home on 11th June after her historic Channel dash.

<http://bit.ly/MASB27-HSL102>