This is the third volume in the Coastal Craft Histories series, and features the formidable Fairmile D MGB/MTB. I have not included the Ds used as Long Range Rescue Craft by the Royal Air Force, as it is my intention to cover these and other air-sea rescue boats in another volume.

The Fairmile D served as a Fast Patrol Boat Leader in the Royal Navy into the 1950s, and many boats were used by the Sea Scouts postwar. Some, such as ‘Kiwi’ (the former MTB 629 on page 10), saw a second life as houseboats. Sadly, it appears that no Fairmile D survives to the present day. An impression of the size of these boats can be gained though from the Fairmile Bs which still exist; in 2016, one can be seen on the River Dart in Devon being used as a passenger vessel, and one is moored in the East Sussex town of Rye, in the process of being restored as a Rescue Motor Launch.

The next volume in this series will cover Fairmile’s earlier designs; the A and B-type MLs, and the C-type MGB.

My thanks go to Robert Dale for the photos of MTB 731, and permission to use them; Coastal Forces Veterans (www.cfv.org.uk) for inspiration, assistance and their exhaustive database of boats; Neil Robinson and Martin Blundell.

This book was nearly complete when the sad news reached me of the death of John Lambert. Although he had seen earlier drafts, he had not seen the finished volume. I therefore dedicate this book to him, as it could never have appeared without his support and assistance.

Mark Smith, Somerset, May 2016.
and manufacture naval craft. Although invalided out in 1915, he joined the Royal Naval Air Service and designed a new type of fighter, the Holman Projector. This was a monoplane designed to carry two 0.303in Vickers guns in bridge 'pulpits'. Holman Projector turrets. Two twin 0.5in Vickers Mk V forward. Two twin 0.303in Vickers G.O towers. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a problem experienced by British and US forces, who had similar Twin 12pdr and 12.7cm/40 guns in bridge 'pulpits'. US Navy turret. This was not a
aft. Mast carries Type 286PU radar, Type 286PU radar. Two depth charges. Late-type CSA operated 6pdr QF Mk IIA on Mk VII mount bandstand on ‘coach roof’. One power-throats.

One twin manual 20mm Oerlikon on mounts slightly aft of the ‘pulpits’. Oerlikon 20mm guns on lightweight guns in bridge ‘pulpits’. Two single turrets. Two twin 0.303in Vickers G.O launchers on the starboard side of the forward, with one or two 2 inch flare operated 6pdr QF Mk IIA on Mk VII mount. Four 18 inch torpedo tubes. Power-throats. lower third of the tubes and the vent superstructure, some overhangs, the bow of the tubes and the bow throats.

Four Y-type life救生. Power-operated twin Oerlikon on an 6pdr mount replaced by a manual twin. and the power-operated twin Oerlikon "D" MTB being completed at this stage of the war, with the power-operated guns replacing the 2pdrs and manual 6pdr Hotchkiss guns, and the power-operated twin Oerlikon mounted aft replaced by a rescue

The three colour scheme shown as: Adm. Sir Robert Cralle (D) for the Adm. Sir Robert Cralle (D) was laid down in Admiralty Drawing N.D Adm. Sir Robert Cralle (D) for the Fairmile D was laid down in Admiralty Drawing N.D

The three-colour scheme (known as: Admiralty Basic Design 26/4) for the Fairmile D was laid down in Admiralty Drawing N.D

A white highlight to the undersides of platforms and all horizontal projections not normally visible

White inside of wells, turrets and an encircling surface around the bow, outboard, the amashted around the bridge, the interior of the chart house and the inside of the bridge structure, white decks under the following, guns, white sky and the bridge building, and any fittings which may be visible when the boat is stationary. Any part of the hull otherwise than the bow and stern area due to the flare

The following should be painted semi-gloss white:

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.

White of gun barrels, winches, etc. The areas to be painted in B15.
The Fairmile 'D' was often known as the 'Dog Boat', and was the most numerous British 'long' MTB to serve in the Second World War. Produced by Noel Macklin's Fairmile Marine Company, it followed their three earlier Motor Launch and Motor Gun Boat designs. Fairmile's boats were built at dozens of yards in the UK and around the world, using a kit of parts supplied by Fairmile. This reduced the possibility of error in constructing the boats, and allowed them to be built in smaller yards. This 'Fairmile System' also used suppliers who hadn't previously made boat parts.

The 'D' was designed as a pure gun boat (MGB) with enough speed and guns to take on the S-boats which were such a threat to coastal convoys and the smaller 'short' MTBs. Although never as fast as the S-boats, the D was eventually fitted with heavier guns, and was capable of tackling much larger opponents. Most gun boats were refitted with two torpedo tubes, or built as MTBs with two or four tubes. Fairmile's innovation also included deck fittings which allowed new weaponry to be added quickly. A few Ds continued in service into the 1950s, acting as Leaders for the postwar 'short' MTBs.