

MTB102 - Under Three Ensigns

MTB102 – was launched 80 years ago this year and known as “**THE BLACK BOAT**” in Vospers Portsmouth yard and registered as a merchant vessel.

Later, as **HM MTB102**, was involved with the Dunkirk Evacuation over the nine critical days.

Although now a member of the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships, **HM MTB102** was not a Dunkirk Little Ship as she was a commissioned vessel in the Royal Navy sailing under the **White Ensign** at that time.

After the bombing of HMS Keith, **HM MTB102** became the flagship of Rear Admiral Wake-Walker and as such was the command vessel of the evacuation for the last three days.

HM MTB102 continued to sail under the White Ensign until the end of 1942 when she was transferred to the Army Fleet and sailed under the **Blue Ensign** until the end of WWII having been renamed **RASCV Vimy**.

After the end of the war “**Vimy**” was sold off and reverted to the **Red Ensign**, the ensign she wore for the first year of her life and is now known simply as **MTB102** or just “**102**” to her close friends.

Richard Basey