

YEO



DATE BUILT. 1959	BUILDER. E.C JONES, BRENTFORD
TYPE RIVER CLASS	LENGTH 71.5 FT

THE RIVER CLASS BOATS REPRESENT ONE OF THE FINAL ATTEMPTS TO STREAMLINE OPERATIONS AND GAIN FREIGHT TRAFFIC ON AN ALREADY DILAPIDATED CANAL SYSTEM.

BUILT TO CARRY LARGER PAYLOADS WHILST HAVING A SHALLOWER DRAUGHT THESE BOATS WERE ALSO FITTED WITH FIBREGLASS HOLD COVERS AND HAD A SPECIAL CONTAINER SYSTEM DESIGNED TO SPEED UP MATERIAL HANDLING TIMES.

BUT THE NEW BOATS AND NEW PRACTISES WERE NOT POPULAR WITH THE BOAT PEOPLE AND THE BOATS GAINED THE UNAFFECTIONATE TITLE OF 'DUSTBIN BOATS'

SPECIFICALLY BUILT FOR THE NATIONALISED WATERWAYS DEPARTMENT 'BRITISH WATERWAYS' TRAFFIC IN THE SOUTH EAST ON THE GRAND UNION CANAL FROM LONDON TO BIRMINGHAM AROUND 25 RIVER CLASS BUTTY BOATS WERE BUILT TO BE TOWED BY EXISTING MOTOR BOATS. ONLY TWO PROTOTYPES WERE BUILT WITH DIESEL OUTBOARD ENGINES AND LIFT OUT CREW CABINS, THESE INNOVATIONS WERE EVEN LESS WELL RECEIVED AND NEVER SAW PRODUCTION.

ONLY THREE RIVER CLASS BUTTYS REMAIN IN ORIGINAL CARRYING CONDITION.