

*Hope for Cameraman*

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NEWS RELEASE

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FIBREGLASS BOATS FOR THE ROYAL NAVY

Admiralty are continuing experiments with fibreglass boats. For some time a 20 ft. motor dory has been undergoing sea trials and it is to be exhibited at the National Boat Show to open at Olympia on December 30th. A more complicated boat - a 25 ft. ship's motor boat - was completed recently and arrangements have been made to test the boat in a seagoing ship.

It is too early to predict precisely the future scope of fibreglass construction of boats and craft for the Royal Navy. The technique in construction and the basic materials are in the early stages of development; the possibilities of the idea are very attractive but the present high cost of the unworked materials and the uncertain quality of the product in some constructional efforts indicate the need for much further research in the materials and in the building technique.

Admiralty, S.W.1.  
23rd December, 1954

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THE ARMY AFLOAT

The Army's own Fleet will be represented at the National Boat Show at OLYMPIA from 30th December to 8th January. Generally assumed to be the land-fighting element of the three Services, the Army actually put to sea over 50 years ago when the RASC started operating transport ships. Since then the RASC Fleet has grown in size and responsibilities. Today it has in commission a wide variety of small craft and coasters for maintenance of coastal forts, movement of men and stores, and target towing. During the war new types of launches were used by RASC units in support of fighting formations, and harbour launch companies took part in the Normandy landings. The RASC is not the only Corps afloat. Tugs, lighters and other small craft are operated on inland waterways by men of the Royal Engineers. In port, this Corps is also responsible for deliveries between ship and railhead.

Among the craft on show will be "Queen Gull", a radio-controlled target boat used for coastal gun and searchlight practice. Without a crew, it has a speed of 21 knots. A model, also under radio control, will be demonstrated at the Exhibition together with other models of craft used by RASC and Royal Engineers.

War Office, S.W.1.  
20th December, 1954.