



HARBOUR DEFENSE MOTOR LAUNCH

The Harbour Defense Motor Launch (HDML) were 72 foot long (22 meters) wooden hulled motorized vessels designed for anti-submarine harbor defense.

Approximately 500 were built during World War II by many Allied countries. They were a British design fitted with large twin rudders and a keel ending 13 feet (4 meters) short of the stern. This gave HDMLs the capability of turning inside the turning circle of a submerged submarine. While seaworthy, these boats had a tendency to roll.

HDMLs were typically fitted with a QF 2-pounder gun on the foredeck, an Oerlikon 20mm mount on the stern cabin and either a Vickers K gun or Lewis gun on each side of the bridge. They also carried 6 to 8 depth charges on the aft decks. HMS Medusa (ex HDML ML 1387) is a museum ship near Portsmouth, England. A few other surviving HDMLs are in private hands.







