



ONE ANSWER to the housing problem may lie on the sands of Poole, Dorset, where these "little ships" have been put on the retired list. See story below . . .

## 'LITTLE SHIP' AS BUNGALOW HOME

By A. V. SELLWOOD

**W**ANT to buy a bungalow? Why not buy one that floats?

Yesterday I went to Poole and saw, in narrow creeks and inlets, the Navy's most tragic spectacle.

The once-proud prows of the little ships of Britain—no longer needed to fight in Europe, unsuitable for the war against Japan—lie huddled in funeral file along the mud off Shipstal Point.

Soon the little ships—I saw 127 of them—will be up for sale.

But they may fulfil a more noble purpose than providing scrap for the broker's yard.

Out of their hulls can be carved pleasant and spacious post-war homes. Officers proudly showed me Motor Torpedo Boat 685.

No. 685 is now their accommodation ship. She houses over 40 officers and men.

### Engine-Room Lounge

Her radio room has been altered to hold a luxury bath and shower. Her tanks have been removed—two bedrooms take their place. Where twin 1,500-h.p. engines raced against the swell in heat and clamour there is now a quiet, well-lighted lounge.

The ward-room, stripped of bunks, holds a dining-room and a set of chairs.

And there is still ample space

tric geyser. Its serving hatch opens on the "dining-room."

There is plenty of cupboard room—provided by the former magazine.

The cost of reconversion? Lieut. F. M. Shore, D.S.C. and Bar, estimates that a "short" MTB—one-third less in length than the D-class to which 685 belongs—could be fitted as a floating home for a family of five for anything between £200 and £1,000.

"It depends on the degree of the luxury you want. The joy of these things is that you can carve them up and add to them when and how you like."

The sales are controlled by the Director of Small Craft Disposals.

Whether the little ships will go to the scrap heap or be turned into homes depends on the prices offered.

They will go to the highest bidder.