



## GUNBOAT

## U. S. S. ERIE

The gunboat gets all the dirty jobs of the navy, from protecting American citizens when revolutions break out in South America to patrolling the waters of the Far East against pirates. Because she must always work in shallow waters, and frequently in waters where the charts fail to show many reefs, she has to be small and of light draft, able to turn quickly. In the U.S. service the gunboats are known as the "banana navy." The "Erie", one of our latest class of gunboats, is really a fine and powerful fighting ship. She has four 6-inch guns, a more powerful armament than is carried

by destroyers, as well as anti-aircraft guns; she has a good belt of armor, and carries a seaplane for scouting duties. Many smaller gunboats are maintained on the Chinese rivers and among the bays of the Philippines. They have double bottoms and carry bags of cement aboard. When they puncture the outer bottom on an uncharted rock, the commander has cement poured into the compartment to close up the hole. After a long cruise a gunboat frequently has to go into drydock and have most of her cement-loaded bottom removed and rebuilt.



"JEFFERSON" gunboat No. 5  
Launched 1803  
Length 50'



Double ended gunboat "SASSACUS"  
Launched 1863  
Length 240'



"YORKTOWN"  
Launched 1888  
Length 230'