

Stephen Robertson

Lucy

four tankas

the Lucy Lavers
eighty some year old lifeboat
restored to glory
motors smoothly up the creek
in livery resplendent

one of the small ships
sent out in nineteen forty
to pick up soldiers
from the beaches of Dunkirk
and ferry them to safety

at ten I would climb
onto her stand on the beach
of Suffolk shingle
or watch her slide down the ramp
and set out into the waves

she has a new home
some eighty miles north-west
moored on a pontoon
in a tidal Norfolk creek
a hundred yards from my door