



# COAST GUARD NEWS

Commander (dpi)  
Third Coast Guard District  
Governors Island  
New York, N. Y. 10004

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*to CCGO1 (dpi)*

TWO U. S. SHIPS PRAISED FOR  
RESPONDING TO DISABLED SOVIET  
SUB

*Boutwell  
file!*

GOVERNORS ISLAND, N. Y., Nov. 10 --- Two Atlantic based Coast Guard 378-foot cutters, the Boutwell out of Boston, Mass., and Gallatin out of Governors Island, N. Y., have won Navy Meritorious Unit Citations for their part in operations involving a disabled Soviet submarine in heavy wind-whipped North Atlantic seas.

The submarine, according to records, became disabled in late February some 800 miles northeast of St. Johns, Newfoundland. The Boutwell, on patrol in the North Atlantic was dispatched to the sub as a ready search and rescue unit and stood by the vessel from February 26 to March 5. Hurricane force weather buffeted the Boutwell with 60-foot seas and winds of up to 80 miles an hour. The Gallatin relieved the Boutwell and from March 5 to the 21, was tossed by strong gale force weather conditions with seas averaging 17 to 20 feet and winds of up to 50 miles an hour.

Other Soviet vessels surrounded the submarine working on repairs and eventually it was taken in tow by one of them to a Russian port.

Although the exact nature of the sub's disablement was not learned, the Navy praised both cutters for their "exceptional professionalism, determination and resourcefulness through this period."

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CCGDTHREE REL. NO. 161-72  
Add 1 --- BOUTWELL, GALLATIN WIN MUCs ----

The Boutwell is skippered by Captain Frederick J. Lessing and the Gallatin, although he is now retired from active duty, was commanded by Captain Donald D. Davison. The present Gallatin skipper is Captain Charles B. Hathaway.

The awards bring to three the number of Meritorious Unit Citations which have been won by cutters of this class since the Coast Guard began commissioning them in 1967. Their sister ship, the Sherman, also out of Boston, received the first such citation for her operations in Southeast Asia.

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