

AROUND THE COAST GUARD

Icebreaker Makes Call at Murmansk

MURMANSK — The Coast Guard Cutter Southwind, an icebreaker, homeported in Baltimore, has visited Murmansk. It is believed that this is the first American naval vessel to call at this northern Russian seaport since World War II. Southwind, which sailed for five years under the Soviet flag while on loan to Russia, received a warm welcome from the officials of the Soviet Navy and the city of Murmansk.

Southwind had just completed five weeks of oceanographic research operations in the Barents Sea and a visit to Tromso, Norway. It was during these oceanographic operations that Southwind penetrated into the Arctic ice pack northeast of the Franz Joseph Islands to a latitude of 83°-01 N.

This is the most northerly penetration into the Arctic Basin by any U.S. icebreaker. Southwind has a crew of 200 officers and men and is commanded by Capt. Edward D. Cassidy.

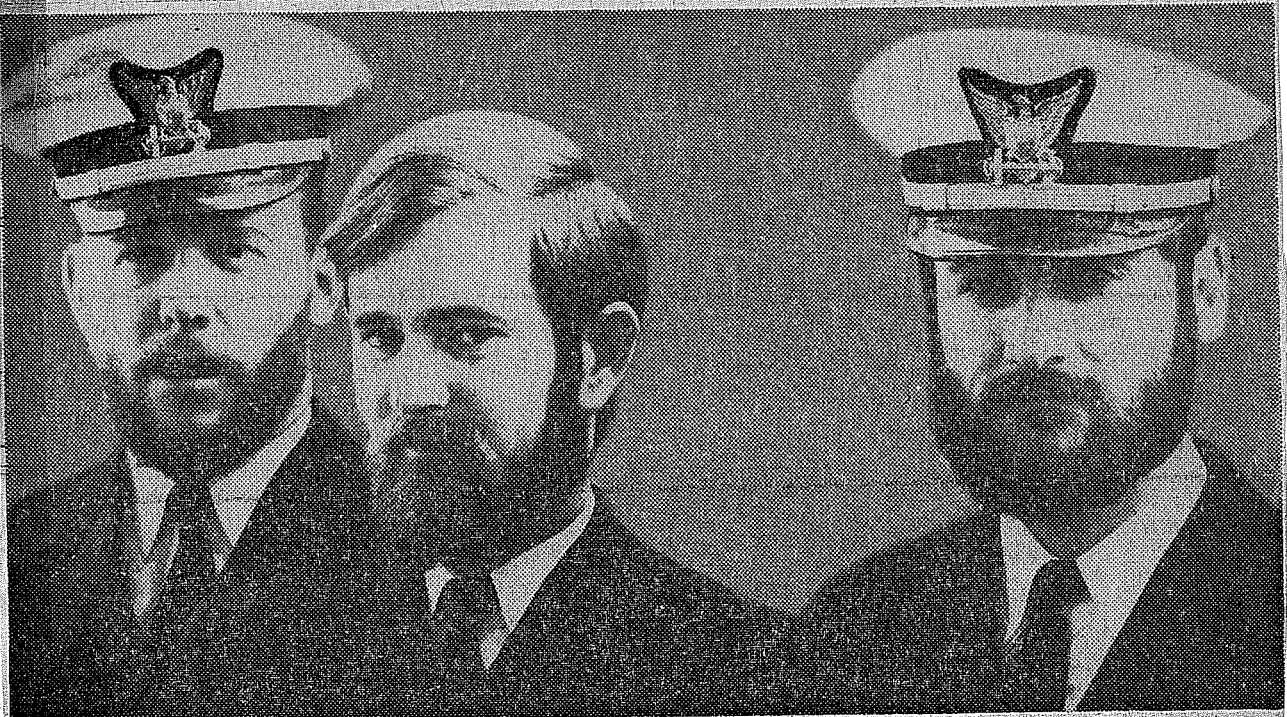
During the Murmansk visit Southwind was officially hosted by the Deputy Commander of Soviet Northern Fleet, Rear Adm. Garkusha and the mayor of the city, V. V. Sotnikov. Adm. Garkusha held a luncheon at his headquarters for Capt. Cassidy and representatives of the American Embassy in Moscow.

A highlight of the visit was a wreath laying ceremony honoring Soviet and American men killed during World War II. Three American Merchant marines were killed near Murmansk during the German bombing of the city in April 1942. They are buried in a cemetery along with a number of English sailors also killed during that period. Captain Cassidy placed a wreath at the grave site of Soviet World War II dead and then placed another wreath at the nearby grave site of the Americans.

Southwind departed Murmansk to conduct additional oceanographic research operations in the Kara Sea off the Siberian coast. Following

this, a port visit to Portsmouth, Eng. was scheduled. She will then cross the Atlantic Ocean to perform her final oceanographic survey of the season in the Baffin Bay area off Greenland.

THE EVENING SUN November 18, 1970



Sunpapers photo—Walter M. McCardell

ARCTIC SAILORS—Three bearded junior officers of the Southwind, a Coast Guard icebreaker, strike a rakish pose after returning from the Far North. Left to right, they are: Lt. (jg) Bob Glynn, communications officer;

Lt. (jg) Ken Riordan, navigator, and Lt. (jg) Larry Grant, assistant engineering officer. Neatly trimmed beards at sea or in port are now allowed as part of a top-level plan to abolish much-resented "chicken" rules.