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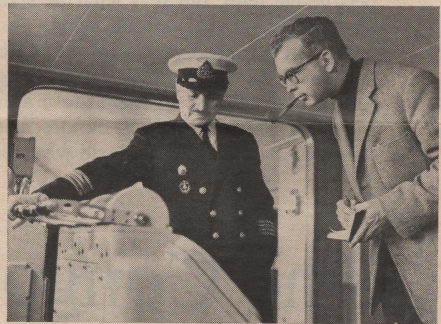
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Gloucesterman in Russia

Robert Brigham hails from Gloucester, Mass. He has a Gloucesterman's love for the sea and he sometimes complains that we seem to be trying to keep him as far from it as possible. Maybe the facts bear him out; now as LIFE Regional Editor and head of our bureau in Moscow, Bob is responsible for covering a land mass so huge that it includes both deserts and icecaps and so wide that there is an eleven-hour time difference between its East and West. For an American newsman in Russia, Bob has covered a lot of his enormous and difficult beat. Working on our special issue on The Soviet People last summer (LIFE, Sept. 13, 1963) he traveled 15,000 miles through Georgia and Kazakhstan and up into Estonia. Now, to take the pictures and write the article in this week's lead story (pp. 30-34C), Bob has gone to sea again. He flew 950 miles from Moscow to Murmansk, boarded the Soviet nuclear-powered icebreaker *Lenin* and sailed with her a satisfying 1,350 miles as she crunched her way to Dickson, an icebound Russian port far north and east on the Kara Sea. He testily cables that he has lost his sea legs and I suppose it is our fault.

But Bob has fitted quite a lot of water into his career. He crossed the North Atlantic twice (on a troopship in the '50s), stayed submerged five days (in a U.S. Navy nuclear sub) and chased a fleet of square-riggers up the English Channel (in a rented trawler). All these he considers "nonships." Real ships to him are the ones he worked on as a boy in Gloucester—druggers, seiners, mackerel netters, herring torchers and lobster boats (he owned and captained one of the latter, the *Hesperus II*). When he came to LIFE as a reporter in 1957, he started to build a sloop in the living room of his apartment in Scarsdale. When he became a correspondent in our Chicago bureau in 1959 he took the pieces along and kept them under his bed. Now the pieces are in storage here in the U.S., and Brigham and his wife are living in one of the large apartment houses which Moscow reserves for diplomats and correspondents.

Bob says his present lodgings are probably the only ones in the city boasting 1) a home-cured tail of a 750-pound tuna—for luck, 2) a 150-year-old New England sailor's sea chest and 3) a dog-eared copy of Bowditch's *Practical Navigator*.



BOB BRIGHAM ABOARD THE "LENIN"

George P. Hunt
GEORGE P. HUNT
Managing Editor

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