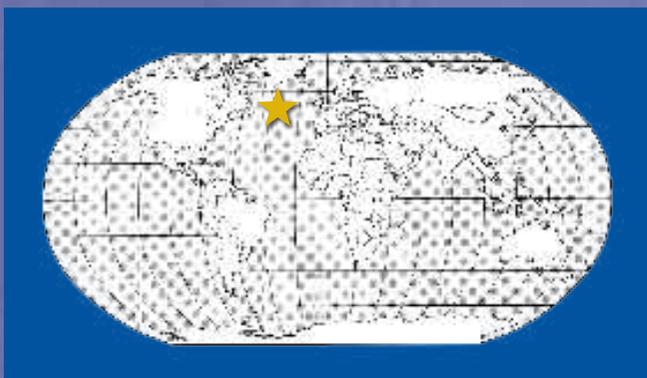




James Hirshfield

Commander
Class of 1925



**The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
the Navy Cross Medal to
Commander James Hirshfield
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

For service as set forth in the following Citation:

The Navy Cross is awarded to Commander Hirshfield, United States Coast Guard, for heroic actions as Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Cutter Campbell during the Battle of Convoy ON-166. The westward-bound convoy left the waters off Northern Ireland and sailed straight into a gale. As the high seas tossed the ships about, disrupting their formation, 21 U-boats closed in to attack. In escort group A-3, Commander Hirshfield noted with alarm the number of contacts his high frequency direction finder detected. The Campbell kept busy chasing down U-boats and rescuing survivors. In the running battle the Campbell engaged numerous U-boats, forcing them to submerge and damaging at least two. Its crew then rescued 50 survivors from a torpedoed Norwegian tanker. As the cutter returned to the convoy it detected a contact on radar. The Campbell raced toward it and soon made visual contact with surfaced U-606, earlier disabled by depth charges. The Campbell closed to ram while its gunners opened fire. The big cutter struck the U-boat with a glancing blow and one of the submarine's hydroplanes sliced open the Campbell's hull, flooding the engine room. The crew dropped two depth charges as the submarine slid past, and the explosions lifted the U-boat nearly five feet. The Campbell illuminated the U-boat with a spotlight and the gunners continued to fire into the submarine's conning tower and hull. Commander Hirshfield was hit by shell fragments but remained at his station. When he realized the Germans had given up, he ordered his men to cease firing. The crew then rescued five of the U-606's crew.

Commander Hirshfield later became Assistant Commandant of the Coast Guard and retired at the rank of Vice Admiral.
