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## Thanksgiving

The 920 officers and men on the *Eastwind* had their turkey day earlier than their stateside loved ones, but it was legitimately Thanksgiving all the same. In crossing the international date line westbound on Tuesday night, Wednesday was lost and so while it was still Wednesday in the states it was Thursday on the *Eastwind*.

At sea 30 days since leaving her homeport of Boston on October 25, the *Eastwind* was diverted from her destination of Christchurch, New Zealand, to assume an uncovered ocean station midway between New Zealand and Antarctica.

The 269-foot white Coast Guard Cutter remained on station for almost a week guiding supply planes on the overwater flights to McMurdo Sound, Antarctica. Then she steamed for New Zealand arriving there on December 2nd for a few well earned days of rest and recreation.

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Thanksgiving Day was celebrated reverently as the ship's complement attended special Thanksgiving religious services below. Hymns were sung, a simple prayer offered. Then, the traditional feast. Officers and men gathered together on the crew's mess deck and partook of turkey, ham, candied sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie with whipped cream, and all the other trimmings which brought thoughts to all of other Thanksgivings at home. There were printed menus, decorations, and complimentary cigarettes. The recurrent conversation theme was "mail". There would probably be bags full waiting at New Zealand. News from home, word of loved ones, a tie to familiar surroundings now far removed from the near-bottom of the world.

After arriving at Christchurch the *Eastwind* would take on supplies before leaving for the McMurdo sound area to churn through icy South Polar Seas.

