Booze, Bullets, and the Coasties: Rumrunners at War!

The Prohibition era created a special kind of sea-going smuggler who was more resourceful, clever, and elusive than any of his earlier brethren. Not unlike fighting today’s drug smugglers, it took all the skill the US Coast Guard could muster to outwit crafty adventurers anxious to make quick fortunes with a single load of illegal liquor.

Boatswain Teevens, the skipper of the 75-foot Coast Guard Cutter CG-336 was angry. Day after day and night after night, he had taken his patrol boat out in search of “rummies.” Other boats from the New London, Connecticut, Coast Guard base had captured rumrunners, but Teevens still had not made his first arrest.

Finally, Teevens approached the commanding officer of the New London base, Commander Fred H. Young, and stated bluntly that, “I am going out tonight and will stay out until I get something.” Commander Young, sensing Teevens’ deep and bitter frustration, allowed him to take his boat out on yet another patrol and added, “You are on your own until you bring one in. Good luck to you.”

For two days, Teevens and his small crew patrolled the waters off Block Island and did not see a single ship. Then, on the third day, Teevens sighted the British schooner Pesquid, a known rumrunner that had been seized on two previous occasions. Since deteriorating weather conditions had made the seas too rough for boarding, Teevens followed the Pesquid for two more days. When the seas finally calmed, the CG-336 came alongside the Pesquid and Teevens and his men boarded and searched the ship. They found, much to their amusement, 500 cases of illegal whiskey. Teevens quickly put the Pesquid’s entire crew the American Issue

U.S. IS VOTED DRY
36th State Ratifies DRY Amendment Jan. 16

Nebraska Votes Out Woman for Honor of Completing Job of Writing DRY Act into the Constitution: Wyoming, Wisconsin and Maine are Left to Their Fortunes

January 16, 1919, Momentous Day in World’s History