

"Battle stations!" ordered the icebreaker captain N. Khromtsov.

The sailors took up their stations at the heavy-calibre machine guns and other weapons with which the ship had been equipped while still in port. Opening a furious fire the crew forced the enemy to drop their bombs short of the target. Not one of them caused any damage. The convoy reached Archangel safely.

There were also setbacks. Once, in an unequal battle with heavy aircraft, the icebreaker was holed in 30 places. Fire broke out, but the sailors were able to put out the flames and bring the ship to a safe location. Repaired, it once again led convoys in the Arctic, and continued to do so until the day of victory.

The nation has acknowledged the "Lenin" crew's contribution to the defeat of the enemy. The famed icebreaker was awarded the Order of Lenin, and numerous members of its crew received combat medals.

After the war, having completed its service at sea, the icebreaker was taken out of service, but a new one also bearing the name of Lenin soon set out on Arctic routes. This was the world's first nuclear-powered icebreaker. For three decades it led convoys of ships through the ice with cargoes for the inhabitants of the remote shores of Siberia and Chukotka. This ship, too was awarded the Order of Lenin for its services to the motherland.