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New details of a ship's battle with superstorm Sandy

By [Claudine Zap](#) | [The Lookout](#) – Mon, Dec 3, 2012

A new account of the HMS Bounty's last hours battling Hurricane Sandy reads like a novel. But unfortunately the story is true, and ends tragically with the death of the captain and a crew member and the destruction of the ship.

Reports have emerged that Capt. Robin Walbridge chose to ride out Hurricane Sandy at sea instead of keeping the ship docked, where it would most likely have sustained major damage without any loss of life.



Bounty survivors on "Good Morning America"

The details as told by surviving crew members, to the [German publication Spiegel](#) and published on [ABC's website](#) in English, claim that the captain's risky decision could have been swayed by the ship's owner, New York businessman Robert Hansen, who was trying to sell the Bounty for \$4.6 million.

As the publication describes the choice:

Captain Walbridge had a decision to make. He could leave the ship, the Bounty, in the harbor at New London, where it would be tossed back and forth by the storm and would presumably sustain serious damage. Or he could try to save the ship by taking it out into the Atlantic, thereby putting his life and the lives of his 15 crewmembers on the line. Walbridge wanted to save his ship. A ship versus 16 human lives. How can such a decision be explained?

The Spiegel report adds that the 63-year-old, normally calm and level-headed, who had been at the helm of the Bounty for 17 years, turned into someone different, a man "who overestimated himself and his ship, and who felt invincible after all those years at sea." One interview revealed he discussed "chasing hurricanes," whereas the common wisdom is to follow them.

