

“Shortwave in the Movies”

These screen shots are from “The Finest Hours,” a 2016 movie inspired by the February 1952 Coast Guard rescue, by a motor lifeboat, of the seamen aboard part of a tanker that had broken up in hurricane-like seas off Chatham, Massachusetts. It is considered the greatest small boat rescue in Coast Guard history. What a surprise to see three classic shortwave receivers all in one movie: on board the tanker, a National NC-88 (which, however, came to market apparently in 1953, a year after the rescue); at the Coast Guard station, a Hallicrafters S-40; and in a widow’s living room, a Hallicrafters S-38. It’s a good movie, too. – Jerry Berg





