

UNIT NUMBER:

FORT JAMES (ca. 1928-1937)
JEAN REVILLON (1923-ca. 1928)

AREA OF SERVICE: WESTERN ARCTIC (1928-1930)
 LABRADOR (1931-1932)
 WESTERN ARCTIC (1934-1937)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Two-masted auxiliary schooner, "Lunenburg banker" type. (Details about construction from memo dated August 1929 in HBCA, Series A.105/24; mention of concrete re-inforcement in Bonnycastle, p. 16)

Construction: Hull of hardwood sheathed in greenheart. Oak beams reinforced with concrete. Stern cut away about 39 feet for working in ice. Hold fitted to carry frozen salmon, with brine pipes fitted to underside of deck and refrigeration plant in engine room.

Designer and builder: Builder: J.A. Weingart, Shelburne, Nova Scotia.

Dimensions: Length - 100.25 feet; breadth - 23.60 feet; depth - 8.75 feet.

Draft: Light - 9 feet; loaded - 13 feet.

Number of passengers: Number of crew: Berths: 9.

Power: Main engine 120 BHP Fairbanks-Morse 4-cylinder, 2-cycle diesel, installed April 1927.

Speed: 6 1/2 knots

Registered: 150805

Tonnage: Gross - 116.80 tons; net - 95.92 tons.

HISTORY:

1923 Built for Revillon Freres Trading Co. Ltd., christened *Jean Revillon*, operated in Ungava Bay, Hudson Straits and Hudson Bay (A. Dudley Copland, *Coplalook...*, p. 212).

1925 Captain Jean Berthé wintered with her at Baker Lake (A. Dudley Copland, *Coplalook...*, p. 212)

1926, 1 December The Hudson's Bay Company acquired a controlling interest in Revillon's, Revillon's Directors authorized transfer to the Hudson's Bay Company (Unclassified: Revillon Freres Trading Co. Ltd. - Directors' Minutes).

1928-1930 Attempted to find a viable route for supplying the Company's Western Arctic Posts through the North-West Passage. Her farthest West point was Gjoa Haven, where she met the *Fort McPherson*, the two vessels thus completing a combined transit of the North-West Passage, earning her a place in Arctic history comparable to that of the *Erebus*, the *Terror* and Amundsen's *Gjoa* (W.E. Brown, p. 28; Maps of routes RG3, Latitude District Office, *Fort James*, 4 maps).

1931-1932 Operated as a supply vessel for Labrador Posts

1934 Transferred to the Western Arctic to act as a supply vessel out of Tuktoyaktuk. She sailed to the Western Arctic via the Panama Canal.

1935-1936 Winter Severely damaged by ice while anchored at Tuktoyaktuk, but salvaged (R.H.G. Bonnycastle; A. Dudley Copland, *Coplalook...*, pp. 184, 191-192).

1937, 5 August Crushed by ice off Chantry Island in Coronation Gulf and sank shortly after midnight. She had been voyaging in company with the RCMP vessel *St. Roch*, which rescued her passengers and crew.

MASTERS: 1928-1930 A. W. Bush

BIBLIOGRAPHY: R.H.G. Bonnycastle, "Salvage by the Midnight Sun", *The Beaver*, June 1937, pp. 12-16, 82; W.E. Brown, "Man and Machine Against the Arctic", *The Beaver*, September 1936, p. 28; A. Dudley Copland, "The Fate of Arctic Ships", *North*, May/June 1968, pp. 48-49; A. Dudley Copland, *Coplalook: Chief Trader, Hudson's Bay Company, 1923-1939*, Winnipeg: Watson & Dwyer, 1985; [R.J. Summers], "The Last Log of the *Fort James*", *The Beaver*, June 1938, p. 6; A.F. Wilson, "A Starboard Course Round North America", *The Beaver*, December 1934, pp. 16-21 and March 1935, pp. 9-14; *Vancouver Daily Province*, 16 September 1930; Simon Anaviapik, "Early Days in Mittimatalik", *Inuktitut* #72 (1990), pp. 57-58.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOCUMENTARY ART: 1965/15-5 to 15 - 1929-1930;

1981/47-8 & N1 - *Jean Revillon* at Baker Lake, 1925; 1981/47-N2 - Salvaging at Tuktoyaktuk, 1936; 1987/363-F-85; 1982/18-2 - 6 August 1937; A.92/38/5, fos. 11, 12

REFERENCES:

A.105/24	Correspondence	1928-1931
A.105/48	North-West Passage Correspondence	1929-1932
E.238	Cecil Bradbury diary	1928-1930
RG3/22B/6-10	Logs	1928-1930
RG3/22C	Records of North-West Passage Expedition	1928-1930
RG3/26D/1-8	Logs	1931-1932
RG3/27C/3-13	Logs	1934-1937
RG2/8/1286	Correspondence with Cecil Bradbury & excerpts from <i>Arctic Review</i> , December 1953	
*	Diary of L.H. R. Smyth, Radio Operator, 1928-1929, in National Archives of Canada	

MICROFILM REELS: