

lieved the monotony; in between times the crew read, or listened to the radio, especially when the Northern Messenger brought them news of the outside world and the folks back home. The Arctic cold and darkness was hard, but these men were accustomed to it, had tasted it before.

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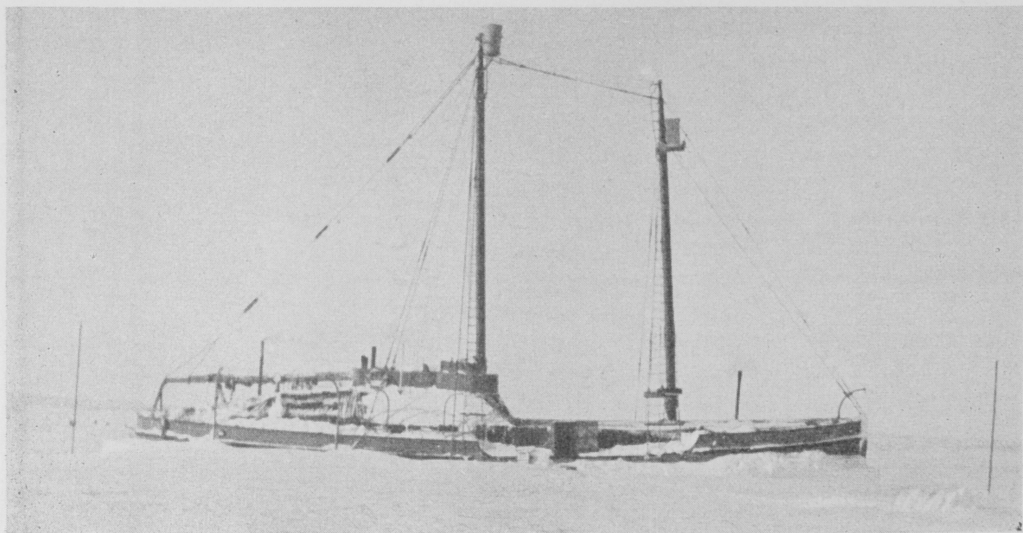
FOR ten months the *St Roch* remained fast in her wintry berth. Then, on July 31, 1941, after she had been scraped and painted, her machinery overhauled and examined, the winds slackened enough to allow her to leave winter quarters. Progress was slow. After a few hours she was blocked by large ice-floes between Mount Phayre and Pemmican Point; however, she reached Holman Island that night.

At this point an investigation was made of the accidental shooting of a native boy, Jack Goose, who had to be taken aboard for transportation to Aklavik for medical attention. Upon leaving Holman Island the *St Roch* encountered vast quantities of scattered ice and thick wet fog. Progress was slow and finally she had to be moored to an ice-floe so she wouldn't become entangled in blind leads. In this manner the

vessel inched her way along, stopping often to avoid danger; on August 2 she anchored off Cape Bathurst in an impenetrable fog. Next day the voyage was continued and at midnight the ship hove to in very shallow water near Toker Point. Several times the little schooner almost lost the struggle against a fierce gale as she fought to get back in deep water. But finally she won through and on August 4 the wind and sea abated, allowing her to round Toker Point and put in at Tuktoyaktuk.

The following day, as the *St Roch* rested alongside the Hudson's Bay Co. wharf, Inspector Bullard came aboard; the loading of freight for Coppermine and Cambridge Bay detachments began at once.

Departure for Coppermine was delayed by fog and dirty weather until August 8. Two native boys, Jimmy Panaktuk and David Adam, from the Anglican mission at Aklavik were taken aboard. Fair speed was made through scattered ice and rain, and on August 9 Baillie Island was passed. From this point the ice became very heavy with large unbroken floes. But good time was made by proceeding inside these and on the 10th the vessel passed close inshore



St Roch in winter quarters—1940-'41—at Walker Bay, Victoria Island, N.W.T.