



CANADA

# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 17, No. 33

August 15, 1962

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## 1962 ARCTIC SUPPLY OPERATION

This summer, more than 85,000 tons of supplies are being carried north during the annual Arctic supply operations of the Department of Transport by a fleet of more than 30 vessels, including seven of the Canadian Coast Guard's powerful icebreakers and an equal number of its small northern-supply vessels. Some 18 chartered freighters and tankers complete the fleet. The largest vessel taking part is the 17,000-ton chartered tanker "Arctic", but the 6,000-ton icebreaker CCGS "John A. Macdonald" is the most powerful.

The vessels, sailing in convoys, are carrying 18,000 tons of cargo to Foxe Basin and Baffin Island, 10,000 to Resolute, 15,000 to Gap Pine and 11,000 to Mid-Canada Line sites. The "John A. Macdonald" and the "d'Iberville" will leave the convoys at Resolute and steam north to Eureka, 750 miles from the North Pole, with a full year's supplies for the eight-man population of that remote weather station.

The supply operations got under way with the July 4 departure of the CCGS "Puffin". She was followed on July 5 by the "Howe", carrying the Eastern Arctic Patrol to administer the law and care for the health and well-being of Eskimos and other residents of the Far North.

The CCGS "Wolfe", based at Halifax, sailed on July 16 and the "Labrador" left on July 21. All other Coast Guard vessels left from Montreal. The last to leave was the "d'Iberville", on July 30.

The icebreakers, in addition to conveying supply ships, are taking scientists north to carry out research and surveys of northern waters. On board the "d'Iberville" and the "MacLean" are magnetic specialists, who are to undertake geophysical observations of the earth's magnetic field. They will study the North Magnetic Pole in order to establish its 1962 position.

The "Howe", "Macdonald" and "Labrador" in the Eastern Arctic and the "Camsell" in the Western Arctic are carrying hydrographers to chart the depths of the waters and improve their knowledge of large areas of uncharted waters.

The "Labrador" is engaged in hydrographic studies of Smith Sound, a narrow channel separating Greenland and Ellesmere Island. Later in the fall she will carry out an extensive oceanographic survey of Baffin Bay, Davis Strait and the Labrador Sea.

### MOST VARIED MISSION

It will be left to the "John A. Macdonald" to engage in the most varied aspects of this year's Arctic scientific programme. This ship will try to penetrate the archipelago as far as Tanquary Fiord, Ellesmere Island, where supplies for a research station will be cached for next year's use. Hydrologists from the Water Resources Branch of Northern Affairs and National Resources will fly over the fiord in helicopters to pick the spots where fresh water flowing into the fiord can be measured.

(Over)