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HENRY A. LARSEN PAPERS

MG 30 B 75

Finding Aid No. 773 / Instrument de Recherche no 773

Prepared by Mr. Paul Prieur  
Socio-Economic Section in 1973

Préparé par M. Paul Prieur  
de la Section Socio-économique en 1973

LARSEN, Henry Asbjorn (1899-1964). R.C.M.P. Officer.

Originals, 1920-1969. 1.1 m. Microfilm, 1928-1937, 1944. Reel M-2173.  
Finding Aid No. 773.

Born in Norway, Henry A. Larsen went to sea at the age of 15. He made one trip to the Canadian Arctic, wintering there, 1924-1925. In 1928 he joined the R.C.M.P. and was sent on the first voyage of the schooner ST. ROCH on Arctic patrol that year. During the voyage he became master of the ship. He was with the ST. ROCH until 1949, making many trips to the Arctic and crossing the northwest passage in both directions, 1940-1944. In 1949 Larsen became commander of G Division of the R.C.M.P. which controlled police work in all northern Ontario. He retired in 1961.

Finding Aid No. 773 is a list of file titles.

Correspondence, 1924-1964. 17.5 cm (volume 1).

Subject Files, 1920-1963. 23.75 cm (volumes 1-3).

Diaries, Logs, Notes, and Reports, 1924-1954. 12.5 cm (volume 3).

Speeches, n.d., 1947, 1957. 1.25 cm (volume 3).

Publications, 1930-1966. 23.75 cm (volumes 3-4).

Clippings, 1925-1969. 20.7 cm (volumes 4-5).

Presented in 1973 by Gordon Larsen of Beaconsfield, Que. and transferred from the National Photography Collection in 1982.

Autobiography, n.d. 10 cm (volume 6).

Copy of a manuscript prepared by Henry Larsen as the basis for his autobiography, The Big Ship. Presented in 1973 by Frank Sheer of Ottawa, Ont.

Records written at Winter Harbour, Melville Island, 1944, by Staff Sergeant Henry A. Larsen, typewritten list of cairns erected by Larsen and copy of a record left at Winter Harbour by Inspector Joy, R.C.M.P., 19 April 1929 (0.6 cm, volume 3). Transferred in 1962 by the R.C.M.P.

Microfilm copy of the private log, 1928-1937, 1944, of Henry A. Larsen as master of the ST. ROCH (reel M-2173). Loaned for copying in 1971 by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Historic Sites Branch.

## HENRY LARSEN - DATES

- 1899 - Born near Oslo Fiord, Norway.
- 1914-19 - Merchant seaman on sailing ships.
- 1920 - Graduated from Norwegian State Navigation School, Oslo.
- 1924 - Navigator on Christian Klengenbergs MAID OF ORLEANS bound for the Arctic (18 months).
- 1927 - Became a Canadian citizen.
- 1928 - Enlisted in the R.C.M.P. Served as Seaman, First Mate and then Captain of the ST. ROCH.  
Left Vancouver for Arctic patrol.
- 1929 - Promoted to Corporal. Returned to Vancouver.
- 1930-34 - Arctic Patrol
- 1935 - Married Mary Hargreaves, February 7.  
Left on Arctic patrol in June
- 1937 - Returned to Vancouver
- 1938 - Left on Arctic patrol.
- 1940 - Canadian Police College, Ottawa.
- 1940-42 - ST. ROCH became the first ship to sail the Northwest Passage from West to East.
- 1943 - ST. ROCH returned to Vancouver through the Northwest Passage in 86 days.  
Larsen received Patron's Medal of the Royal Geographic Society.  
Visited Director J. Edgar Hoover of the F.B.I.  
Promoted to Inspector.
- 1945-46 - Arctic Patrol.
- 1947-48 - ST. ROCH's last Arctic patrol.
- 1949-61 - Commanding Officer "G" Division, H.Q., Ottawa.
- 1953 - Promoted to Superintendent
- 1957 - Canadian representative at Sverdrup ceremony in Norway.
- 1960 - Received Royal Canadian Geographical Society's Massey Medal.
- 1961 - Retirement.
- 1964 - Henry Larsen died 29 October in Vancouver.

HENRY A. LARSEN PAPERSFinding Aid No. 773Correspondence (1925-1964)Volume 1

Miscellaneous Correspondence (2 files 1925-64)  
 Auld, John W. (1931-1934)  
 Bailey, Doreen M. (1958)  
 Cyriax, Richard J. (1950)  
 Fisher, O.H. (1957)  
 Fripps, J. (1945-1961)  
 Gorman, J.O. (1957-1964)  
 Henry P. O.M.I. (1950, 1962)  
 Herridge, Herbert W. (1956)  
 Hoover, J. Edgar (1944)  
 Howarth, Tom (n.d., 1949, 1955, 1957)  
 Jakeman, B.C. (1948)  
 Larsen, Henry A. (n.d., 1944)  
 Larsen, Mary (n.d., 1941-47)  
 Learmonth, L.A. (1960)  
 Matthews, Major J.S. (1948-1964)  
 McGavin, Andrew (1942)  
 Neuberger, Richard L. (1945, 1947)  
 Norwegian Letters (n.d., 1950, 1952, 1954, 1957, 1959, 1964)  
 Pedersen, C.T. (1942, 1948)  
 Ridler, Gladys L. (1964)  
 Robertson, Terrence (1964)  
 Rowley, Graham (1955)  
 Secretary of State (1946, 1947)  
 Smellie, Captain Thomas F. (1957)  
 Stefansson, Vilhjalmur (1945, 1954, 1962)  
 Wood, S.T. (n.d., 1943, 1945-47, 1950)  
 Wright, Rear-Admiral (1953, 1954)

Volume 1  
(Cont'd)

Subject Files (1852, 1920-1963)

Miscellaneous Subjects (n.d., 1927-1929, 1935, 1940, 1944)  
 The Arctic Circular (1958)  
 Awards & Memberships (1920, 1947, 1950, 1952, 1953, 1956,  
 1958, 1963)  
 Biographical Sketch of Supt. Larsen (n.d.)  
 Burrard Ship Makes History (n.d.)  
 Captain John Ross's "Cache" (1950)  
 C.B.C. Radio Interview with Larsen (1938)

Volume 2

Cards & Letters from school children (2 files 1962-1964)  
 Collinson Cryptograms in "The Times", (1947)  
 Construction of 47' Patrol & Cargo Boat for "G" Division  
 (March 14, 1956)  
 Correspondence concerning the publication "Northwest Passage"  
 (1949, 1950, n.d.)  
 Extract from Quebec Chronicle Telegraph (1943)  
 Extract & summaries of the private journal of Mr. F. Skead  
 (1960)  
 Journal of George Shingleton on the H.M.S. ENTERPRISE (1852, xerox copy)  
 Library List; Henry Larsen (n.d.)  
 List of names for various localities in King Williams Island &  
 Boothia Peninsula & Queen Maud Gulf Area (n.d.)  
 Maps (2 files, n.d.)  
 List of Useful Words of the Sonatomiut dialect (n.d.)  
 The Native of the North - Study Group (1958)  
 Notes for the North-West Territories Council Debate (1959)  
 Patron's Medal R.G.S. (1946)  
 Questions for interview with Staff Sergeant Larsen (1944)  
 Reports of the proceedings R.C.M.P. Schooner ST. ROCH in  
 Canadian Arctic (1935-1948)  
 Roll of those who served on the R.C.M.P. Auxiliary Schooner  
 ST. ROCH (1928-1954)  
 Royal Canadian Geographical Society (1959)  
 Royal Geographical Society (1946, 1957)

## Volume 3

Subject Files (1852, 1920-1963) - Continued

Site Conditions of the Settlements in the North-West Territories  
(n.d.)

Some Reflections on the Present Evolution of the Eskimo (1958)

ST. ROCH Preservation Society (1956)

Summary of "Inuktitut" (1962)

Travel Certificates & Visas (1916, 1921, 1922, 1924)

Diaries, Logs, Notes & Reports (1924-1954)

Diaries (1924-25, 1949, 1952)

Log of the ST. ROCH (1938-1954) See also Henry Larsen's private  
log 1928-37 and 1944, microfilm reel M-2173

Field Note Book (n.d.)

Trip Reports (1934-1947)

Record, Winter Harbour - Melville Island (1944)

Speeches (n.d., 1947, 1957)

Copy of Address by Inspector Larsen before the Hill Mens'  
Forum (1947)

Speech delivered by Larsen on the occasion of the unveiling of  
the monument of the Arctic Explorer, O. Sverdrup (1957)

Speech by Larsen introducing Mr. J.A. Gregory (n.d.)

## Volume 4

Publications (1851, 1930-1966)

Miscellaneous (n.d., 1895, 1944, 1947-49, 1951, 1952, 1954-58, 1962)

Arctic Sledge Travelling, by officers of the Royal Navy 1819-49:  
Author's letter - Richard F. Cyriax - (1963)

Article published in the Frankfurt Illustrated (1951)

*The Beaver* (1945, 1946)

*Canada's Arctic Islands* (1927), *Canada's Western Arctic* (1931)

*Canada Month* (1966), *Canadian Geographical Journal* (1951)

*Conquest of the North West Passage by the Schooner Ship, ST. ROCH*  
(1945)

*The Conquest of the North West Passage* (1947), *Exercise Muskox*  
(1947)

*The Desperate People:* Farley Mowat (1959)

*Eskimo* (1949-51, 1954, 1957, 1960)

Volume 4  
(Cont'd)

Publications (1851, 1930-1966) - Continued

- The Imperial Oil Review* (1944), *International Criminal Police Review* (1961)
- Introduction to the Canadian North* (1957)
- List of Arctic Books (n.d.)
- "The Loss of the ST. ROCH" Poem by G.L. Ridler (1964), The First Aid Attendant (Industrial)
- MacLean's* (1945)
- "Museum for the Preservation of the R.C.M.P. Schooner ST. ROCH" (n.d.)
- North West Passage* (n.d.)
- North West Territories* (1944), *An Outline of the Canadian Eastern Arctic* (1944)
- Patrolling the Arctic & the North West Passage in the R.C.M.P. Ship, ST. ROCH* (n.d.)
- Plarskipet Fram* (1954)
- The Polar Times* (1945, 1947)
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police* (1945)
- The R.C.M.P. in the North* (1957)
- The R.C.M.P. Quarterly* (1937, 1942, 1948, 1950, 1957)
- ST-ROCH Comes Home* (n.d.), *Canada & Our Eskimo* (1955)
- Scarlet & Gold* (1959)
- "Sir John Franklin's Last Voyage" (1937), "Trace of the Franklin Expedition" (1851, xerox copy)
- Union Diesel Engines* (1945)
- Viewpoint* (1964)
- What's New* (1964)

Clippings (1925-1969)

- Miscellaneous Clippings (1926-1963)
- Amundsen, Roald (1926, n.d.)
- Awards & Presentations for Henry Larsen and Crew, Includes Speech (1944, 1950)
- BAYCHIMO - Hudson Bay Company Ship (1931-32, n.d.)

Volume 5

- Byrd, Richard E. (n.d., 1926, 1932)
- Eskimo Hoax (1943)
- Farrar, Sgt., F.S. (1942, 1943, 1950)

Volume 5  
(Cont'd)

Clippings (1925-1969) - Continued

Franklin, Sir John (n.d., 1924, 1949, 1959)  
 International Dog Derby in Ottawa (1951, 1952)  
 International Dog Derby in Ottawa: Court Action (1951, 1952)  
 Klengenberg of the Arctic (1931, 1933, 1934)  
 Larsen, Henry A. (1935-1963)  
 Mad Trapper of Rat River (n.d., 1932)  
 MANHATTAN S.S. (1969)  
 Matthews, Major J.S. (1951-1964)  
 Nicholson, L.H. (1957, 1959)  
 Northern Arctic: Eskimos & Explorers (1925-1959)  
 North West Passage (1930-1954)  
 Norwegian Newspaper Items (1940-1961)  
 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (n.d., 1932-1959)  
 ST. ROCH, North West Passage (1942-1962)  
 Stanley Park dedication: Lord Stanley statue (1960)  
 Stefansson, Vilhjalmur (1929, 1947, 1961-1963)  
 ST. ROCH (1931-1966)  
 Vancouver's Maritime Museum (1955-1962)

Volume 6

Autobiography

Copy of the autobiography of Henry A. Larsen entitled *The Big Ship*.