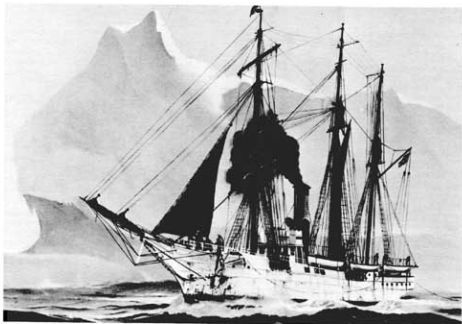


Dateline

1874	1881	1883	1884	1885	1897-8	1914	1917	1926	1927
Bear built in Scotland as Arctic whaler	International Polar Year — Greely Expedition leaves Newfoundland on <i>Proteus</i>	<i>Proteus</i> crushed and sunk by ice while attempting rendezvous	USN bought Bear to find Greely party on Cape Sabine under CDR Schely, USN	Bear enters Revenue Cutter Service	Reindeer supplied to Alaska from Siberia	Delivered doctors to Eskimo tribes during world-wide flu epidemic	Entered WWI service	Last Alaskan patrol before retirement	Retired in Oakland, Calif.; owned by the city



U. S. REVENUE MARINE CUTTER BEAR

The original BEAR was a steam barkentine, 199' overall in length, of heavy oak construction, powered by a compound reciprocating steam engine which produced 300 horsepower.

Built in Dundee, Scotland in 1871, the BEAR served for 10 years in the seal hunts in the Canadian Arctic. In 1881, BEAR was purchased by the U. S. Government to rescue the survivors of the Greely Expedition. In 1886, the BEAR was transferred to the Treasury Department for use in the U. S. Revenue Marine's Alaskan Patrol. BEAR served in this capacity for the next forty-one years and became a legend in the lost, hawling, new territory of Alaska. The BEAR embodied the concept of the multi-mission ship by rescuing shipwrecked mariners, breaking ice, enforcing fisheries laws, carrying mail, supplies, and government agents far to northern outposts, making hydrographic surveys, and often carrying a U. S. judge who held court and dispensed territorial justice. It was also from the decks of the BEAR that reindeer were introduced to Alaska.

BEAR's most dramatic rescue was the "Overland Expedition" which was launched in the winter of 1897 to bring relief to Alaskan whalers frozen in the ice off Point Barrow. Stopped by ice and storms, BEAR put ashore a party of men headed by LT D. H. Jarvis. The party made an epic dog sled trek over 1600 miles of frozen Arctic wilderness to Point Barrow, driving a herd of reindeer ahead of them. They arrived in time to save the survivors of eight trapped vessels from almost certain starvation and provided shelter and medical attention until BEAR was able to break through the ice and lead them out.