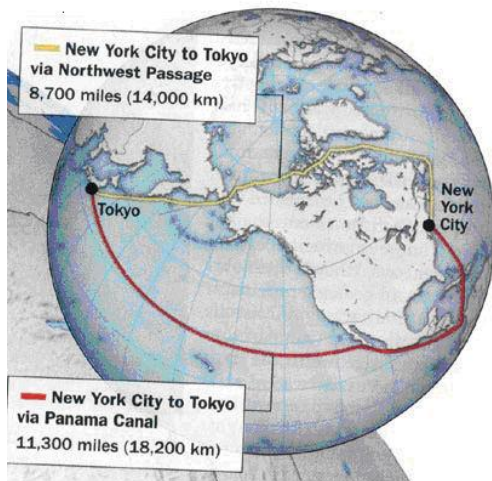


DC3 AIRWAYS FLIES THROUGH THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE TO CHECK IF THE ICE HAS MELTED

By Norm Holman.



For Centuries, Explorers sought an ice-free route to Asia. A thawed Arctic meant Shippers could cut Transportation costs dramatically.

The above picture shows how the NW-passage could shorten the route by some 2,600 miles to the Pacific in order to get the tea from China and spices from the "Spice Islands". England started searching for this sea route in the 16th century, but never found it.

Many explorers perished in this desolate mostly frozen part of the world. In London, there is a statue of Sir John Franklin who died along with all his expedition members ~ 1850's. They were trapped by the ice in the NW-passage.

Another tragedy was Henry Hudson, who discovered Hudson Bay, (named after him) which was a dead-end in terms of connecting to the NW-Passage.

His Ship was stuck in the ice in James Bay during the winter. In the spring, his crew mutinied, then cast Henry, his son and a few loyal Crew members adrift in a 'Life boat' and they were never seen again

The NW-passage was finally traversed by Roald Amundsen (of South Pole fame) in 1906, but it proved to be of no value because it was blocked by Ice most of the time. The Suez and Panama canals didn't exist then, so it was all the way round via the Cape of Good Hope or via Cape Horn.

This Charter is dedicated to those brave Pioneers.

Now for the first time ever, it is said that due to global warming the NW passage is now free of Ice. In early spring, DC3 Airways has been chartered to carry out a Survey from Gander, Newfoundland to Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, to ensure that this portion of the NW Passage is free of ice and can be opened to Shipping.

NOTAMS

- Press B and D frequently on this trip to reset the Barometer and Directional Gyro.
- Survey requires Daylight Travel only and ensure that your Calendar is set to between 22nd to 31st March.
- Altitude of 6,000/6,500ft ASL should be maintained for good visibility.
- Make your own way from home base Boston to Gander. From there, we travel up the Coast of Labrador, then across the Hudson Strait to Baffin Island, staying on the right side of the island all the way to the top, entering the Arctic Circle en-route.
- We then turn left into Lancaster Sound, travel along Viscount Melville Sound and part of the McClure Strait, then between Banks and Victoria islands into the Amundsen Gulf to Sachs Harbour, and then to Prudhoe Bay, which concludes this part of the NW Passage. Routes and more details are on the individual Flight Plans.