BELLE ISLE

Length, overall	256' 0"	Gross tons	1,960	Propulsion	Recip. eng.
Beam	37' 6"	Speed (knots)	9	Passengers	163
Draft	15' 4"	Radius (miles)	5,335	Cargo (cu. ft.)	89,681

Built in 1932 by Swan, Hunter & Wigham Richardson, Newcastle, England
In operation prior to World War II by Newfoundland Canada Steamships, Ltd.

THE BELLE ISLE was formerly of Canadian registry. She was purchased at Halifax by the Maritime Commission and bareboat chartered to the War Department 3 September 1942.

The vessel left Halifax in September and went, via Sydney (Nova Scotia) to the following and other ports in Greenland: Kungnait Bay, Skjoldungen, Torgilsbu and Narsarssuak. She returned, via St. John's (Nfld.) and Halifax, to Boston in January 1943.

After major voyage repairs and alterations the BELLE ISLE sailed in April for Argentia and Halifax. On her next trip from Boston, which began in May 1943, she voyaged to Fort Chimo (Quebec), Churchill, Frobisher Bay, Padloping Island and Southampton—all in Canadian subarctic areas.

Returning to Boston in December, the ship underwent extensive voyage repairs by the Bethlehem Steel Co. before going to New York. In mid-January 1944 she sailed from there to Guantanamo, Trinidad, San Juan, Aruba, Curacao, Key West and Havana, and returned to Boston in May.

The vessel left Boston on 1 June 1944 for Sydney (N.S.), St. John's, Narsarssuak and Ivigtut, Greenland, and Reykjavik, Iceland. This service was continued until late November 1945, with periodical visits to Boston.

In January 1946 the BELLE ISLE transferred from Boston to New York, where she was redelivered to the War Shipping Administration on 29 January 1946. The vessel was, however, again taken for Army service in April 1946.