

Ghost Ship

Researched by David Weale

Fishermen were reported to have seen burning ships, ships without crews and ships coming to a harbour in the dark of night and just as mysteriously disappearing from view. A fisherman tells the following, a true story of his own experience as a fisherman on the North side.

We were fishing lobsters this other fellow and me. We were fishing out of season. Today they call it poaching. Well, we used to go and sell our lobsters at night. It was about 12 miles by water from the Phee Shore to where we sold our catch.

I remember well the night. We were going with a load. It was calm, calm. It was a beautiful night. We left with a full load of lobsters. I tell you, there were lobsters then! We sold part of our load to one man and the rest to his father.

Well, we started back to the Phee Shore with the empty boat. There were capes all along the shore. We could see boats fishing. By this time it was about 10 o'clock. We saw a boat coming towards us. The fella with me said, "Let's scare him. Let's get after him with the boat." We turned the boat toward him and off we went. He seemed to be coming from the shore when we turned towards him.

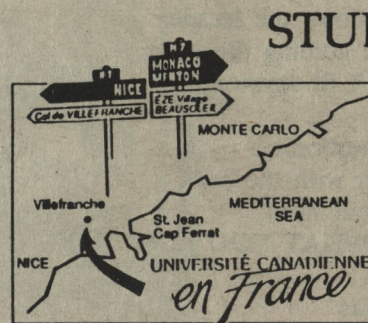
Before we knew it our boat hit shore. Form our boat to the Cape it was about the width of the house. Lo and behold, in front of my eyes the other boat turned on the sand in that small space. It was a schooner fitted with sails flying full. When it turned the arm which holds the big sail passed

just above my head. Remember that boat was still on the shore. It continued turning and sailed over the water heading full into the Nor'west.

"Did you see that?"

"I saw it all right," says he, "and I tell you it won't be tomorrow that I will go out at night to sell poached lobsters."

Well, the schooner was an American ship. Many years before an American ship with seven sailors aboard had gone down in a bad storm near the very spot we had seen the boat. This particular ship would be seen before a really heavy storm at sea. Well, the episode ended my night trips to sell lobsters.



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