



On 11 November 1969, Burton Island departed Long Beach, California enroute McMurdo Station, Antarctica. Stops were made at Honolulu, Western Samoa, Raoul Island and Wellington, New Zealand. At Honolulu and Raoul Island cargo was loaded for Wellington and McMurdo.

After an eight day stay at Wellington, Burton Island departed on 18 December for Antarctica. Five scientists destined for Campbell Island were flown aboard by helicopters from Christchurch, New Zealand. On 21 December the ship arrived and departed Campbell Island having off-loaded cargo and the scientists by helicopters and an LCVP.

On 24 December Burton Island entered the northern pack ice at position $63^{\circ} - 15'$ South, $175^{\circ} - 40'$ East. The next day, which was Christmas, rendezvous was made within the pack ice with the Edisto. Proceeding in column the ships transited the pack ice with no difficulties and late Christmas night entered the open water of the Ross Sea at position $76^{\circ} - 32'$ South, $177^{\circ} - 40'$ East. Two days later transit of the southern pack ice was commenced, and on 28 December the ships arrived at the fast ice, 13.3 nautical miles from McMurdo Station. On the same day channel cutting operations by both ships was commenced, using the Railroad Track method, from the edge of the fast ice to McMurdo Station.

Seven days later, having averaged 0.075 knots and working around the clock cutting eight foot thick ice, we reached Hut Point, which is in the vicinity of McMurdo Station. Due to unfavorable winds from astern, the brush was packed in behind us and soon refroze. Both ships proceeded back to the edge of the fast ice and commenced channel widening operations. In conjunction with this the original ice-filled channel was rerun several times, and another channel adjacent to the first was begun.