

## ENTERING FAST ICE



Fast ice... we had arrived. As you stood on the deck and looked out over the ice, the smallness of man became apparent. For this immense field of ice which stretched from horizon to horizon was a flat stretch of whiteness interrupted occasionally by Weddell seals sunning themselves, and those inquisitive penguins.

On 28 December, cutting operations commenced. The "Railroad Track" method was employed with the Burton Island and Edisto working 100 yards apart driving a single channel toward a point 800 yards ahead of Hut Point. The ice was between 6 to 8 feet thick with snow covering up to 12 inches. Average ice broken per day was 1,793 nautical miles.

On 6 January 1970, the channel was choked with brash, block and cake ice which refroze solidly as temperatures took a nose dive. The two ships started on a dual channel adjacent to the original channel so that the ice in between would be carried out to sea by favorable winds.

