

Drew Point. With arrival in the evening of 15 August, work began at the Drew Point site. Explosives were used to the maximum extent possible, and saved many man hours of slow drilling with augers. Although the tower was ready for lifting in record time, the onset of dense fog left the work party of 14 stranded ashore for approximately 20 hours. No immediate danger resulted from the fact that all personnel were warmly dressed, food and water were on hand, enough dunnage and scrap wood was present for a fire, and the styrofoam tundra anchor insulation served excellently as a means of keeping people off the wet ground. Communications with the ship via an AN/PRC-108 were excellent. With clearing on the morning of the 16th, work was finished without incident, although flying conditions deteriorated by afternoon. BURTON ISLAND weighed anchor late in the afternoon.

5. University of Connecticut, Beaufort Sea Project

The RACON tower team was returned to Point Barrow on 17 August. On 19 August, four members of University of Connecticut were embarked to conduct an ONR sponsored gravimetric survey of the Beaufort Sea. This was the lightest ice year in the past five, and penetration was made to 73 degrees north latitude and as far east as Barter Island. Tracklines crisscrossed most of the northeast Beaufort Sea. Nearly all data gathered this year was new, in regard to the areas which had never been surveyed before. However; again, extremely poor weather conditions precluded any helicopter operations, both for ice observations and the science project. Nevertheless, the results of the project were an overwhelming success. This team was returned to Barrow on 28 August and BURTON ISLAND began her return to homeport the same day.

6. En route Oakland, California

The return trip to Oakland was direct, with favorable winds and seas. After another calm transit of the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska the only heavy seas encountered came during the last night out before entering the Golden Gate. BURTON ISLAND arrived on schedule at Naval Supply Center Oakland on the morning of 8 September 1977.