

# Ross Sea

## OPERATIONS

### McMURDO: LITTLE AMERICA: BYRD LAND: THE POLE:

**O**n October 16 the newly installed GCA radar at McMurdo Sound picked up the first plane, an R5D flown by Commander Henry Jorda which was winging the Task Force Commander southward.

Flying over the icepack Commander Jorda spotted Cape Adare on schedule, then Mount Erebus and Observation Hill. On the bay ice the 6,000-foot airstrip looked like a small ditch with its snow mounds on both sides.

Admiral Dufek stepped off the R5D to be greeted by LtJG David Canham, Officer in Charge at McMurdo, whose men had accomplished the near-impossible to get a landing strip ready for the fly-in. The admiral had brought their first mail.

The admiral wired New Zealand: "Launch aircraft!" The planes roared skyward.

He was standing by the GCA tower at McMurdo when tragedy struck. An R5D piloted by Commander Edward Ward (VX-6 exec) and a P2V flown by Lieutenant David W. Carey were arriving almost simultaneously. Squaw weather was setting in. GCA operators were alert to handle the planes landing with low fuel supply.

Lieutenant Carey was in voice contact with GCA. He made a pass, saw the landing strip through a low cloud, and decided to land by visual rules instead of GCA. He began a low circle to get into a landing pattern. His right wingtip raked the snow about a half-mile from the strip. His nose came down. The Neptune cartwheeled and broke into fragments which littered an area of several hundred yards.

By the time a rescue party reached the crashed plane the only part that could be recognized was the tail assembly.

Dead were Lieutenant Carey, radioman Charles S. Miller, AT2, engineer Marion B. Marze, AD1. Seriously injured were Marine Captain Bayburn A. Hudman, squadron survival officer, who died eight hours later, Marine Staff Sergeant Robert C. Spann, navigator, Ensign Keith D. McAlpine, co-pilot.

Almost beyond belief, rescuers found plane captain Clifford C. Allsup, AD2, standing by the crash trying to aid his crewmates.

Crewmen and passengers in the R5D and the four B4Ds coming in to land were not informed of the crash until after they had landed.

All crash survivors were rushed to the base dispensary for first aid until they could be flown back to a New Zealand hospital.

#### CTF-41 GREET'S WAOP MEN AS HE LANDS THERE.



• MOUNT EREBUS, only known active volcano in Antarctica, floats ethereally like Byrd's "enchanted castles" in the sky, like a pale sleeping princess in icy beauty.