



Christchurch schoolboys practice rowing on lower reaches of Avon River.

On December 10, 1960, the 290 officers and men of the Coast Guard icebreaker *Eastwind* bid a fond "Cheerio" to their hospitable New Zealand hosts as the 269 foot white cutter cast off her lines and headed for Antarctica.

After spending a week in Christchurch loading 75 tons of cargo bound for scientific stations in the South Polar regions, her decks were cluttered with radio antennas, telephone poles, containers of concentrated battery acid, and a prefab cosmic ray building.

Nearly 40 days at sea before reaching New Zealand, the officers and men made the most of their liberty. Some toured the scenic Southern Alps. Others were invited on hunting and fishing trips. Many had dinner in New Zealand homes and sampled the delicious mutton for which the sheep raising country is known the world over.

Spending much time during the day in Christchurch, the men rented bicycles, canoed on the Avon River, gaped at vintage cars in everyday use, and wrestled with the system of pounds, shillings and pence.

In the evenings there was always the "Cinema," a party that would inevitably turn out to be "super", coffeehouses where one could have a "nibble".

During her stay in New Zealand, over 500 people visited aboard the *Eastwind* with the "Yanks". About 170 of these were school children. They were most fascinated by the

helicopters the *Eastwind* carries for ice-reconnaissance work since there are few whirleybirds in their country.

Just prior to her departure for McMurdo Sound Antarctica, Rear Admiral David Tyree, Commander of the Naval Support Force for Antarctica paid an informal visit to the *Eastwind*. He wished the officers and men a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, both of which were scheduled to be spent in the ice.



Cathedral Square, Christchurch