

We were awed by our first glimpse of the Antarctic. Snow-covered mountains disappeared into the clouds. It seemed cold and unfriendly. But our attention soon focused on the Adélie penguins and the seals that greeted us as we steamed toward Anvers Island.

On paper our jobs seem small, yet many man hours were spent accomplishing the task. The helos were busy transporting scientists and equipment to vital locations in the area. EDISTO's small boats were in constant use. Every man had a job to do. He was expected to do his best.

A trip south to Adelaide Island enabled EDISTO men to cross the Antarctic Circle. It was a pleasant break in our daily routine of hard work. Travelling back and forth to Punta Arenas was also a welcome interruption.

It was an unexpected fourth trip that EDISTO made to the Antarctic Peninsula. Having already reached Punta Arenas we were required to return for medical evacuation of an injured Navyman. "Semper Paratus" we lived up to the Coast Guard's motto.

OPERATION DEEP FREEZE '69 was behind us now. We were in the South Pacific headed north. The penguins, seals, snow and ice, Palmer Station, and Anvers Island would only be revisited in the stories we would tell.

EDISTO visited the home of the Chilean Navy in Talcahuano. Our stay was an enjoyable one and we will long remember the friends that we made there.

Our final stop was at the U. S. Naval Base, Rodman, Canal Zone. Every country had something different to offer and Panama was no exception. Our trip through the canal added another to our long list of interesting experiences.

Six April 1969 was a special day. One hundred and fifty-two days had passed since we departed. One hundred and fifty-three would not come. We had arrived in Boston. Home at last.