



Base McMurdo with the channel through the winter ice in the background.

McMurdo

Unusual opportunities challenge **Westwind's** crew. Morris and Traver climb Observation Hill for exercise and pictures. The cross is a memorial to Scott and his expedition who perished on their return from the South Pole.



McMurdo station was established in 1956 during the international Geophysical Year on a volcanic rock known as Ross Island. Visited many times in the past by early pioneers of the Antarctic, Ross Island still contains many reminders of its history. An outpost built in the beginning of the century and used several times by the great Antarctic explorer, Scott, still exists on Hut Point. It is now preserved as a museum.

McMurdo is the largest US base in the Antarctic and serves as headquarters for the entire US scientific program on the continent. Operated year round, McMurdo has a summer population of 1000. However, only 200 winter over. It is in itself a complete and growing community. Construction of a major, new building went on 24 hours a day in three shifts. All the services necessary to maintain a community this size are available: bus, hospital and movie theater are just a few. In addition, McMurdo has one of the few churches on the continent—Chapel of the Snows.

The constant flow of supplies needed to operate a base the size of McMurdo come in by ship and plane. An airfield constructed atop the Ross Ice Shelf a few miles from McMurdo provided adequate landing facilities. Flights come from Christchurch, N.Z. starting in October and ending in March. In addition, all outlying U.S. bases are supplied by air from McMurdo with the exception of Palmer Station.

Recreational and club facilities are available for officers, scientists and enlisted men. In addition, hiking and exploring the surrounding area is a sport engaged in by many. Friendly Kiwis at nearby Scott Base provided a change of pace and many hours of international fun.