



what came before

The Arctic East Program is the yearly resupply of a few desolate military outposts maintained by the United States along the coasts of Greenland. In 1967, as in every year, many ships and many people were involved; however, the Coast Guard icebreaker SOUTHWIND was the sole entity participating from start to finish.

This annual is her view of Arctic East 1967. It is not a saga of erotic ports, carefree women, and foreign enchantment. Rather, it is simply the record of an experience or perhaps an insight into a totally unique type of existence and adventure.

The Arctic East mission is conducted during the summer when the weather conditions are at their best, and there is light twenty-four hours a day. But the ice is still there and the harshest natural barrier to commerce.

Sheets formed in the winter or winters before often stretch as far as the eye can see. Easily evaded but still the cause of immeasurable consternation are the offspring of the many northern glaciers which meander to the seas, the icebergs. They are often many hundreds of

yards in width and particularly hazardous because of their tremendous sub-surface volume and tendency to topple. The icebreaker's mission is to pave the way for the conventional ship plowing what can be plowed, moving what can be moved, and avoiding what can only be avoided.

