

## CORRESPONDENCE

## METHOD OF CARRYING PROVISION BOXES ON SLEDGES

Alan Reece is mistaken when he states, in his description of the sledges of the Norwegian-British-Swedish Antarctic Expedition of 1949–52, that “the standard-size provision boxes were intended to fit between the outer longitudinals, but were found to be some 6 cm. too long. To prevent them from shifting sideways, standard-size boxes should fit between the outer longitudinals”.<sup>1</sup> In the past, provisions have always been carried in boxes which straddled all the longitudinals. There has never been any suggestion that boxes should fit *between* the outer longitudinals, for this would mean that the entire weight of the load would be borne by the inner longitudinals. It was originally intended that wooden chocks should be nailed to the bottom of the standard-size provision boxes used by the expedition. These chocks were to fit inside the outer longitudinals of the Norwegian sledges, and outside those of the narrower British sledges, and thus hold the boxes in position. In fact chocks were not used in Dronning Maud Land because, as Reece points out, the steep gradients, broken sea ice, ice falls and crevassed areas common in the Falkland Islands Dependencies do not occur there. There is no doubt whatever that in Graham Land “unchocked” boxes would never stay on a sledge.

BOUNDLE BY PETERBOROUGH  
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<sup>1</sup> See the *Polar Record*, Vol. 6, No. 46, 1953, p. 779.