

Glacier Hits the Ice



THICK ICE COATS DECKS AND SUPERSTRUCTURE, EVEN MUFFLING SHIP'S BELL, OF ANTARCTIC-BOUND USS GLACIER.

Powerful *GLACIER*, the icebreaking amazon who in *Deep Freeze I* had plowed through ice 20 feet thick to cut a channel for the fuel barges to reach Hut Point, had left its picket station on the fringe of the icepack after the initial fly-in from New Zealand. Bucking heavy park ice (ten-tenths coverage was fairly common) and field ice with no leads in sight for miles, *GLACIER* bulled her way southward through 800 miles of ice. Hummocks 30 feet thick were encountered. They were attributed to a winter-night storm that had broken up the pack, stacked layer atop layer, then refroze it as if in a concerted effort to deny *GLACIER*'s passage.

From a boom rigged forward, chief photographer's mate Calvin Larsen captured on film for posterity the most tenacious ice fields ever conquered by men and ship.

Using a combination of lookouts, helicopter reconnaissance, radar and the knowledge of veteran icebreaker officers, *GLACIER* arrived at McMurdo October 28, by far the earliest ship to ever penetrate the pack. She discharged critical cargo and passengers at Hut Point and rushed to Little America, arriving November 7 with JATO bottles for planes taking off and landing from the ice and 4,000 pounds of high explosives for the hard-pressed advance party to use opening crevasses. A six-foot crack in the bay ice at Kainan Bay meant her cargo and passengers had to be shuffled from ship to base by a lone helicopter of Helicopter Utility Squadron Two. Turnaround flights left the ship every 12 minutes until men, JATO, and dynamite were unloaded.

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