

LAKES ON GEORGE VI ICE SHELF, ANTARCTICA

By

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[This article is dedicated to the memory of James F. Bishop who was tragically killed in the Karakoram, Pakistan, on 14 July 1980, while participating in the Royal Geographical Society's International Karakoram Project.]

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Introduction

George VI Ice Shelf is about 450 km long, 20-70 km wide, and averages 250 m in thickness. It is bordered by Alexander Island to the west and by the Antarctic Peninsula to the east (Fig 1). The ice shelf is fed by glaciers flowing westwards from the Palmer Land plateau. In summer (November to late February) the ice shelf undergoes considerable surface melting and melt-water lakes form over an area of 4 500 km² between 70°15'S and 72°00'S. The lakes and pools

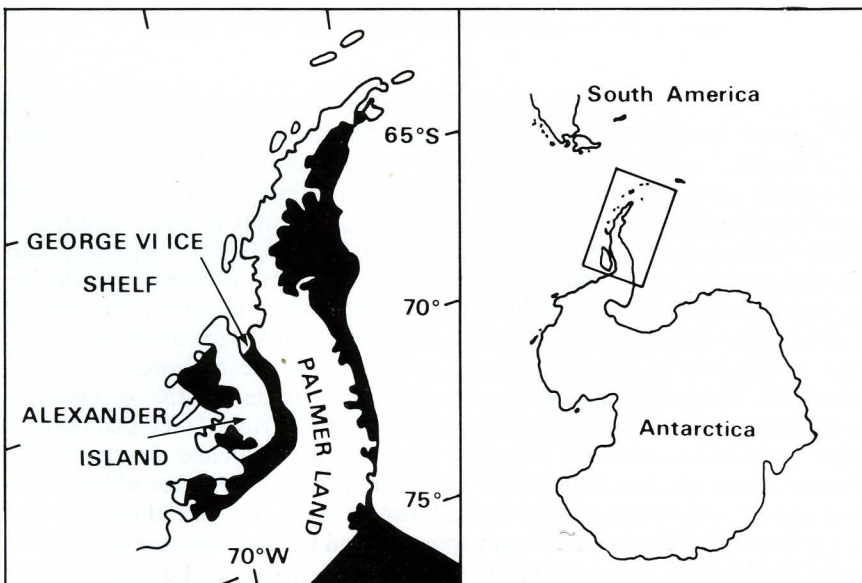


FIG 1. Map of the Antarctic Peninsula showing the position of George VI Ice Shelf.

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