

ice operations



Upon leaving Campbell Island, *SOUTHWIND* became a part of Task Force 43 for Operation Deep Freeze 1969. After rendezvous with the *BURTON ISLAND* and the *GLACIER*, followed by passage through the outer pack ice, the group arrived at the edge of the fast field ice. Side by side with the *BURTON ISLAND*, *SOUTHWIND* began a slow, tedious, and bone jarring ramming procedure that would eventually cut a channel from Cape Byrd to McMurdo Station. At first, progress was measured in miles per day---then, to the point of 25 feet per ram into the solid 9 foot wall of ice. With only 5 miles to go, and the station almost in sight, *SOUTHWIND* was faced with a problem more serious than thick ice; a sheared blade on her starboard propeller. Return to Wellington was imperative.



Campbell Island

