

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE BIGGEST ICEBERGS

In the Southern Ocean, says a current publication of the British Meteorological Office, the largest icebergs are the tabular bergs calved from the great Ross Barrier in the Ross Sea. They may float with a height above water of 200 feet and are sometimes of enormous length. On February 23, 1930, the research ship "Discovery II," in latitude 55 degrees 7 minutes S., during heavy weather, coasted along the lee side of a huge ice island that was between 60 and 70 miles in length. This is the largest berg thus far reported.

In the Arctic the tallest bergs are those calved from the Jakobshavn glacier, which reach a height of 447 feet above the water, though their horizontal dimensions do not approach those of the biggest bergs of the Antarctic. Their height decreases rapidly after calving, and by the time they reach the North Atlantic shipping routes they are not nearly so lofty. The height of the tallest one so far observed by the International Ice Patrol was 262 feet, while the longest one measured 1,696 feet.

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