

Upper George River

Introduction

The George River was (re)named in 1811 by two Moravian missionaries Benjamin Gottlieb Kohlmeister and George Kmoch. The Moravian Church (its members known as Hussites - followers of Jan Hus) was founded in the fifteenth century Bohemia (currently the Czech Republic). These two missionaries came first to Labrador, then to Ungava Bay with a vision to evangelize the Inuit. They wrote in their diary: "We then proclaimed the name of the Kangertlualuksoak henceforth to be 'George River' ". The Moravian brothers wanted to honour George III, king of Great Britain and Ireland from 1760. It was under his reign that the United States got their independence. The George River is also called "Kangirsualujjuap Kuunga" (river of the great bay) in Inuktitut, or "Mushuan Shipu" (River without trees) in Naskapi and "Metsheshu Shipu" (Eagle River) in Innu.

The George is a big, wide river. Compared to other major rivers of this area, it offers relatively easy and inexpensive access to Ungava Bay, hence its popularity. The George originates about 175 kilometres east of Schefferville in Lac Janniere, between bogs and swamps. The headwater lakes are shallow, connected by rushing rapids. After Lake Advance, the river runs through heavy whitewater until it reaches beautiful Indian House Lake, which stretches 60 km if measured by Canadian topo maps, or 100 km if measured by its flatwater character. After Indian House Lake, the George really starts to flow. It offers an abundance of rapids with various levels of difficulty until it reaches Kangiqsualujjuaq close to Ungava Bay. Because of its easy access, many people without the necessary experience and skills have travelled this river and unfortunately lost their lives. The river is big and powerful - the french word "Fleuve", also used to describe the St. Lawrence, describes it's character better than the word "Riviere". The power of the George leaves no room for error. Climatic conditions are ideal for hypothermia. Canoeists have to contend also with serious tidal effects in the last 40 km.

Words of Caution

These maps are solely the topographical maps of the upper George River, i.e.: the section between the source at Lac Janniere and Lac Elson. The author of these maps only assembled these maps. There is no guarantee that these maps do not contain numerous errors. Use the information provided here with caution. YOU are the only one responsible for your own decisions and for your own safety. The River described here is wild and very remote. Weather can be also very tough. DO YOUR OWN scouting & reconnaissance. Nobody is taking any responsibility for the information provided here or for your safety.

Distances

The distance on these maps is calculated from Kangiqsualujjuaq, an Inuit village at the end of the George River.

Credits

Base Topographic Maps

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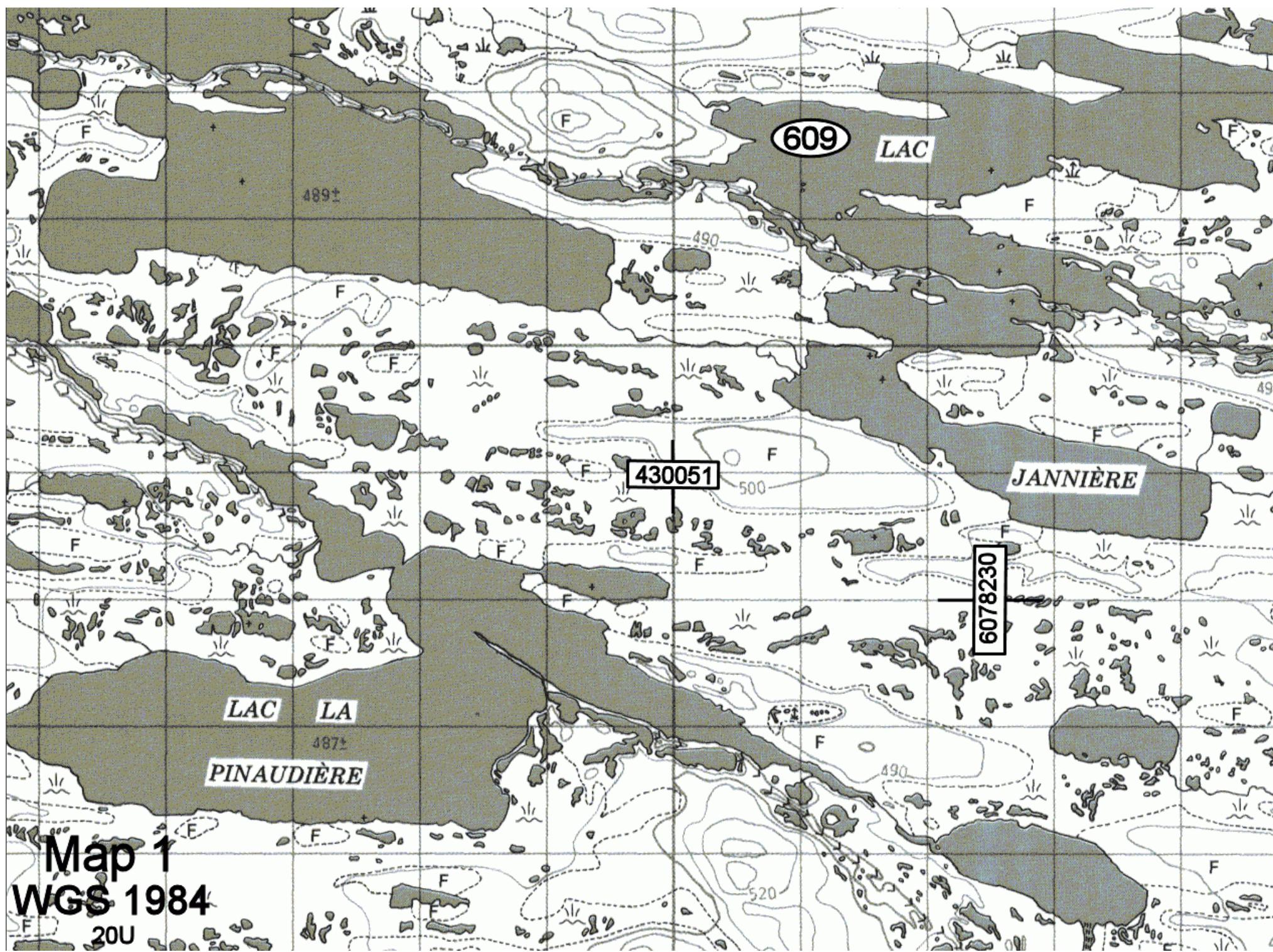
Map work/Text

Lester Kovac, summer 2008

Charles Leduc, fall 2008 (formatting)

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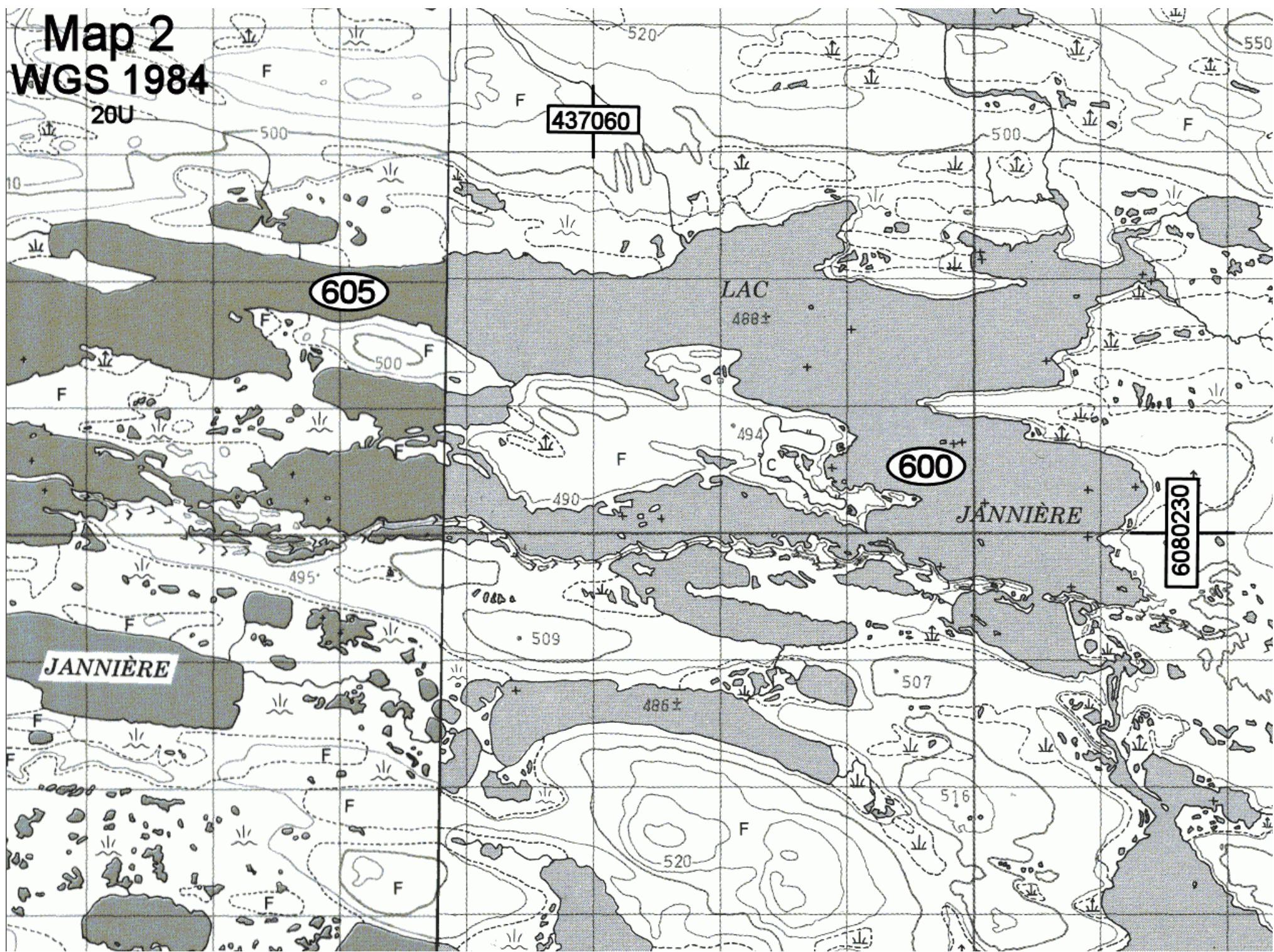


Map 1
WGS 1984
200

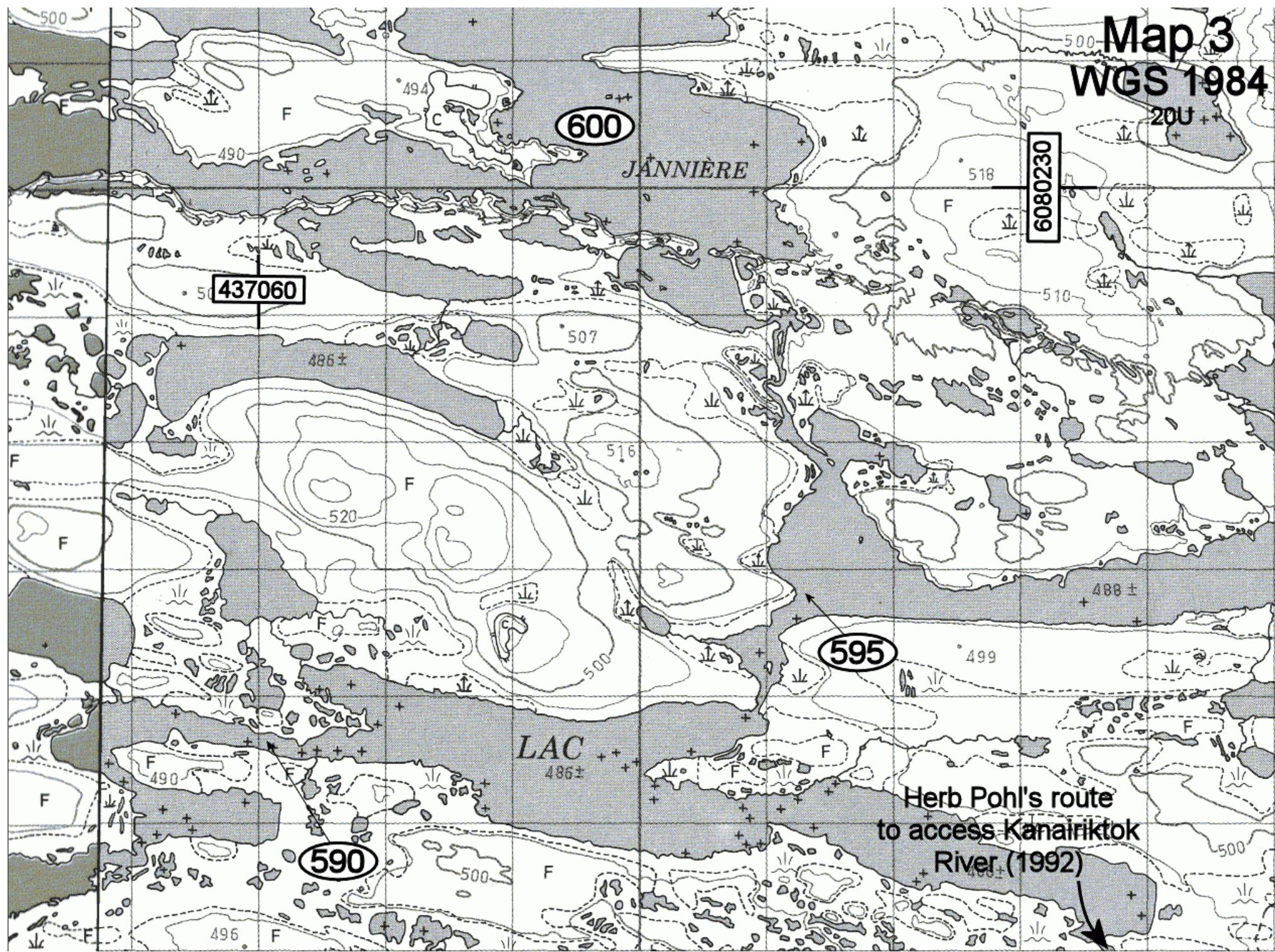
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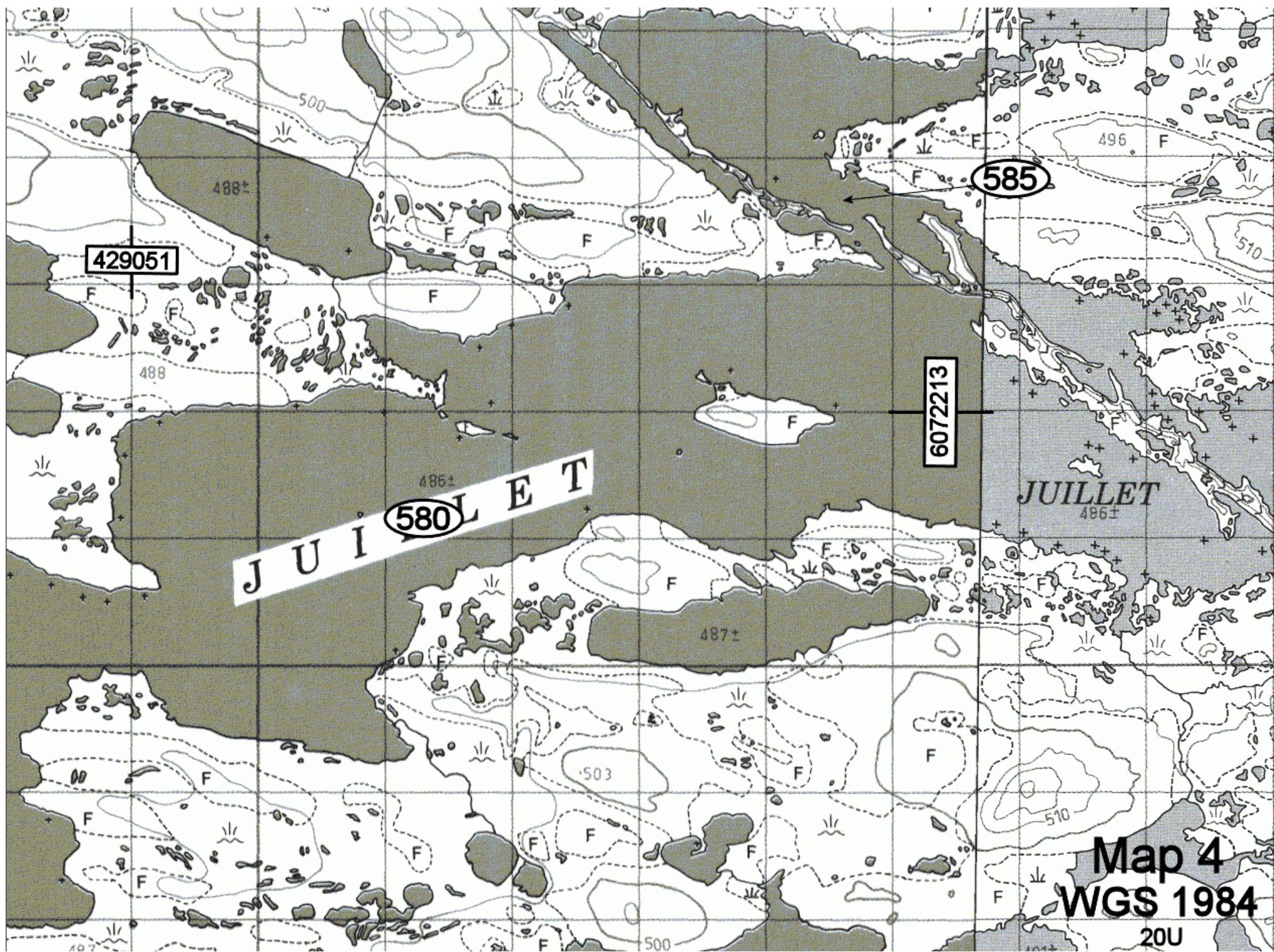
WGS 1984

20U



Map 3
WGS 1984





Map 5
WGS 1984

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570

GEORGE

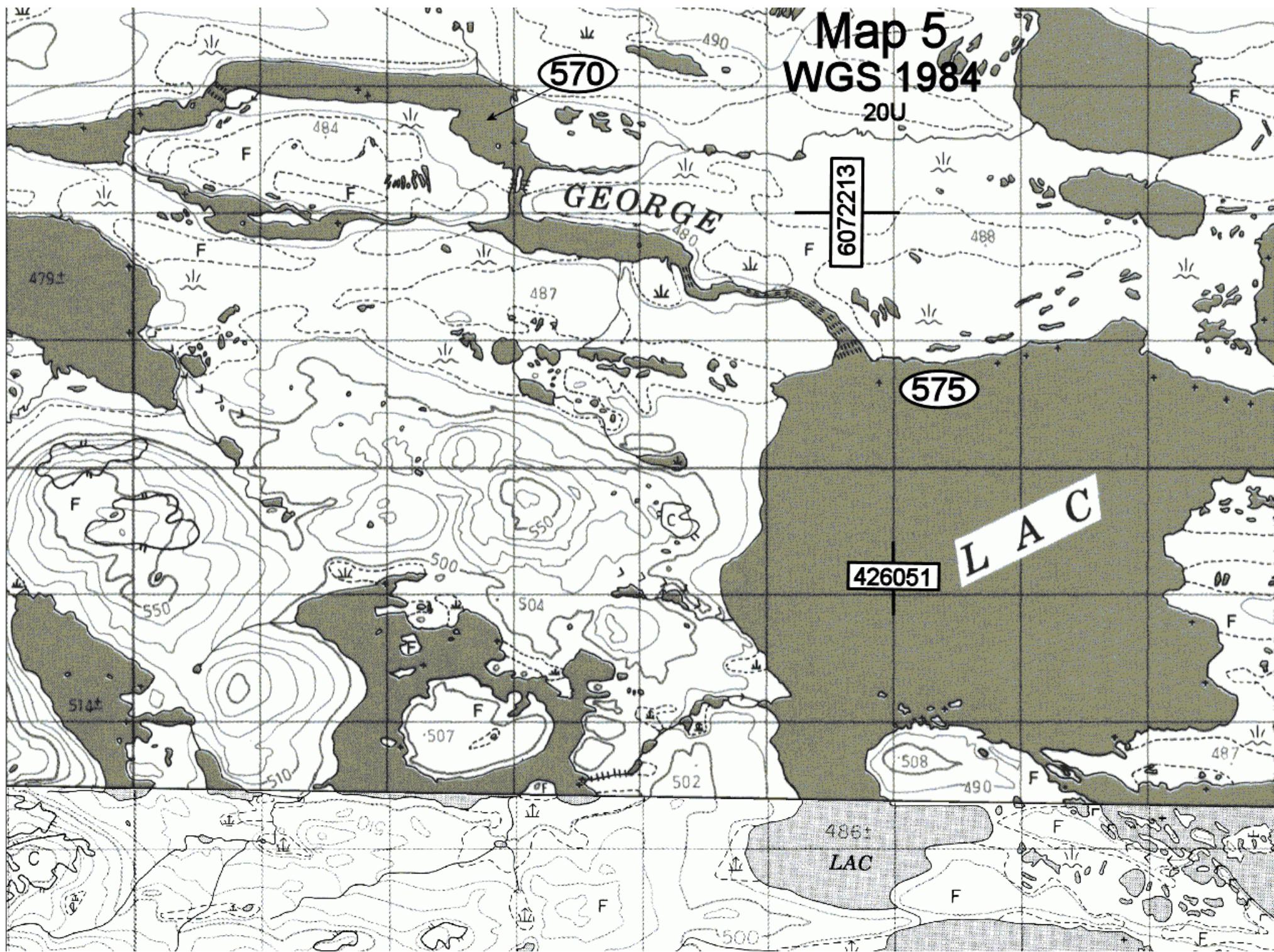
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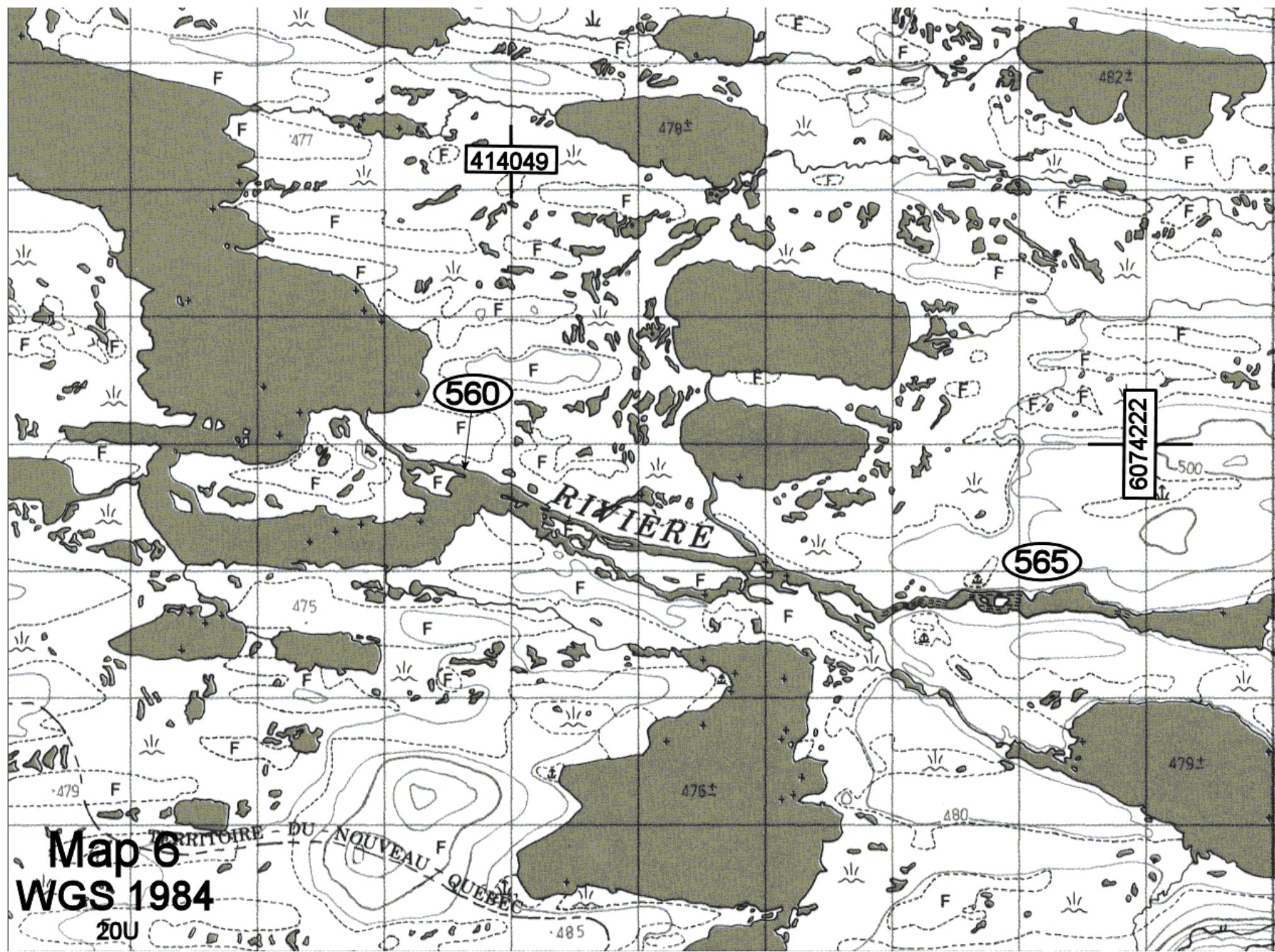
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L A C

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LAC





Map 6
WGS 1984
200' 100' 50' 0'

Map 7
WGS 1984

402040

6082220

411040

6076220

West George River

← Bourdon
Lake

L A C

ELSON

40433
607638

555

rock garden

shallow
R2

A map showing the George River area. A route is marked with the number 555 inside an oval. The river is shaded in grey.

R2-3