



## AAC Publications

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### **Qianarteq Island, Peak 620m, Northwest Face**

Greenland, East Greenland

**Peak 620m (65°55'5.53"N, 6°40'57.51"W) lies on the north coast of Qianarteq Island, opposite the abandoned American military base at Ikateq (Bluie East Two Airfield, built during World War II). I first caught sight of it while working in this area on mountaineering trips. From the water, the northwest face seemed like a "must climb" line.**

I climbed this face alone in August. Approximately 50m of easy grass led to 200m of delicate slabs with an occasional steeper section. I back-roped one 20m pitch to the midway ledge, above which the face steepened to give five excellent pitches on immaculate rock. The crux was two corner cracks that could be jammed/laybacked and had excellent protection. I back-roped the last two pitches, finishing about 50m right of the true summit, though a direct finish looked very tempting.

I was on the summit after six hours climbing, out of food and water. I then began an epic 7.5-hour descent of the west-facing slope over scree, boulders, and slippery grass—all in rock shoes. Luckily, daylight is not an issue during the Greenlandic summer, although I couldn't walk properly for weeks. I would estimate the grade at British E2 5c.

I am sure the peak had been climbed before, possibly via my descent route, though I saw no evidence. Future parties can access the route by chartered boat from Tasiilaq or Kulusuk.

– David Gladwin, France

## Images



One of the corner cracks on the northwest face of Peak 620m.



The pointed summit of Peak 620m from the northeastern end of the Ikateq strait.



The northwest face of Peak 620m seen from the Ikateq strait. The 2019 route starts up the left side of

the wall, via the obvious left-facing corner in the shade, then continues straight up the steep headwall above a halfway ledge to finish just right of the summit.

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