



## AAC Publications

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### Heritage Range First Ascents

Antarctica, Heritage Range

Calvarin Peak from the southwest with the approximate line climbed by the French team to make the first ascent. Photo by Manu Pellissier

**French guides Sam Beaughey and Manu Pellissier, with their client François Calvarin, left ALE's Union Glacier camp on November 27 with loaded sleds for the 170km journey north to Mt. Vinson.** Their aim was to make first ascents in the Heritage Range along the way. Ski journeys between Vinson and ALE's bases at Patriot Hills or Union Glacier had been done before, but only in 2017 had ascents been made along the way, and that was in the reverse direction.

The French team skied north up the Driscoll Glacier, crossed into the Schneider Glacier, and camped near Rogers Peak (1,521m), first climbed in 2017. On the 29th, the trio climbed a striking, leftward-slanting gully on the southwest face of a 1,729m summit to the southeast of Rogers Peak, which they named Calvarin Peak (79°21.409'S, 84°08.716'W). They climbed ten 60m pitches of generally steep snow with difficult belays. Traversing the very sharp summit crest, they descended the north ridge and returned to camp after 10 hours.

Over the next five days they continued north, across the Minnesota Glacier and then into the Nimitz Glacier, which drains the southern reaches of the Ellsworth Mountains. They camped on the eastern side of the southern Bastien Range. On December 5 they set off up the east ridge of a nearby peak, climbing 500m of snow and mixed terrain to a summit they named Bogets Peak (78°55.965'S, 85°24.481'W, 1,567m GPS). Descending to the west (with one rappel) they continued on to another summit, recorded as 1,468m and named Peliss Peak (78°55.978'S, 85°26.667'W, mostly rock to 3). They descended the north ridge to a col and continued up the easy south face of a third summit, Suzanne Peak (1,381m, 78°55.690'S, 85°26.997'W), completing the trilogy of ascents in 10 hours.

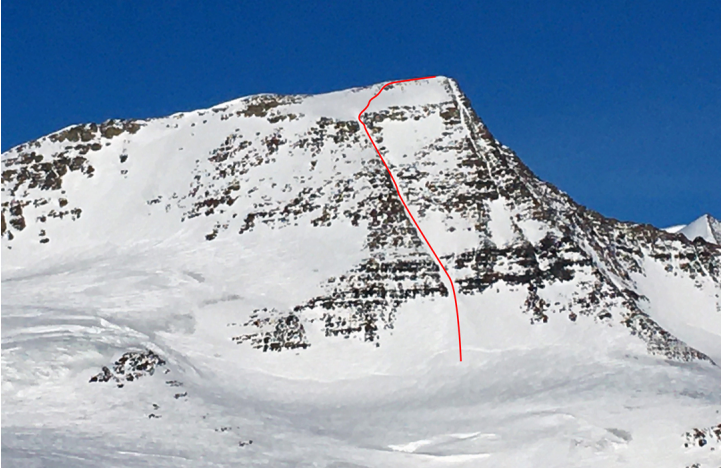
Leaving the Bastien Range, the team continued up the Nimitz, turning into the Zapol Glacier to make their way across into the lower Branscomb Glacier and to Vinson Base Camp, a route negotiated a number of times in the past. Beaughey and Pellissier made one foray onto Vinson's normal route but retreated in the face of unusually high avalanche danger (higher than average snowfall being a feature of the season). After waiting for weather and conditions to improve, all three returned and ascended the rocky ridge left of the steep snow face that forms the first part of the normal route. This feature had first been climbed in the late 1980s but very rarely since. After a 12-hour climb from Low Camp, they reached the summit at midnight on Christmas Day and were in base camp eight hours later.

– Damien Gildea, with information from Manu Pellissier, France

## Images



The elegant pyramid of Bogets Peak in the southern Bastien Range.



Calvarin Peak from the southwest with the approximate line climbed by the French team to make the first ascent.



Manu Pellissier during the first ascent of Calvarin Peak in the Heritage Range.

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