

Federation of Mountaineering and Sport Climbing of the Republic of Kazakhstan

**Report of the national team of the Republic of Kazakhstan
on the ascent of Verniy Peak (5,250 m) along
the north-west wall, first ascent,
6B category**

as part of participation in the ISMA Mountaineering Championship
in the high-altitude technical class

Almaty, Kazakhstan 2022

Climbing passport:

1. Region: Tien Shan, Western Kokshaal-Too ridge **2. Summit:**

Verny peak, 5,250 m along the northwest wall, first ascent **3. Expected:** 6B category, - first ascent

4. Route type: combined

5. Route characteristics:

The length of the entire route is 1670 m.

The difference in altitude of the entire route is 910 m.

The difference in height of the wall part of the route is 690 m.

The length of the wall part of the route is 705 m.

Length of sections:

- VI category - 630m
- V cat.sl - 115m

Average steepness:

- main part – 87.4 °
- entire route – 76.1 °

6. Number of hooks left on the route:

total: 12 pcs

including pitons: 12 pcs.

Total number of artificial support points (AFP) used: 151

7. Team running hours: 85 hours, 7 days

8. Number of overnight stays: on the route - 6; at the summit before the descent - 1

9. Head: Ten Maxim Valentinovich, MS

Participants: Shesternin Roman Valerievich, MS

Krupa Leonid Andreevich, MS

Abduraimov Zakirzhan Zaripzhanovich, CMS

Lainopulo Stanislav Fedorovich, 1st birth

10. Team coaches: Skopin Artem Alekseevich, MS

Titov Vyacheslav, MS

11. Departure on route: 9:00, July 15, 2022

Summit Reached: 20:15, July 21, 2022

Return to BL: 12:30, July 22, 2022

12. Organization: Federation of Mountaineering and Sport Climbing of the Republic Kazakhstan

General photo of the summit



General photo of the summit with the route line



July 8, 2022, filming from the site of the advanced base camp, altitude 4200m

Drawn route profile

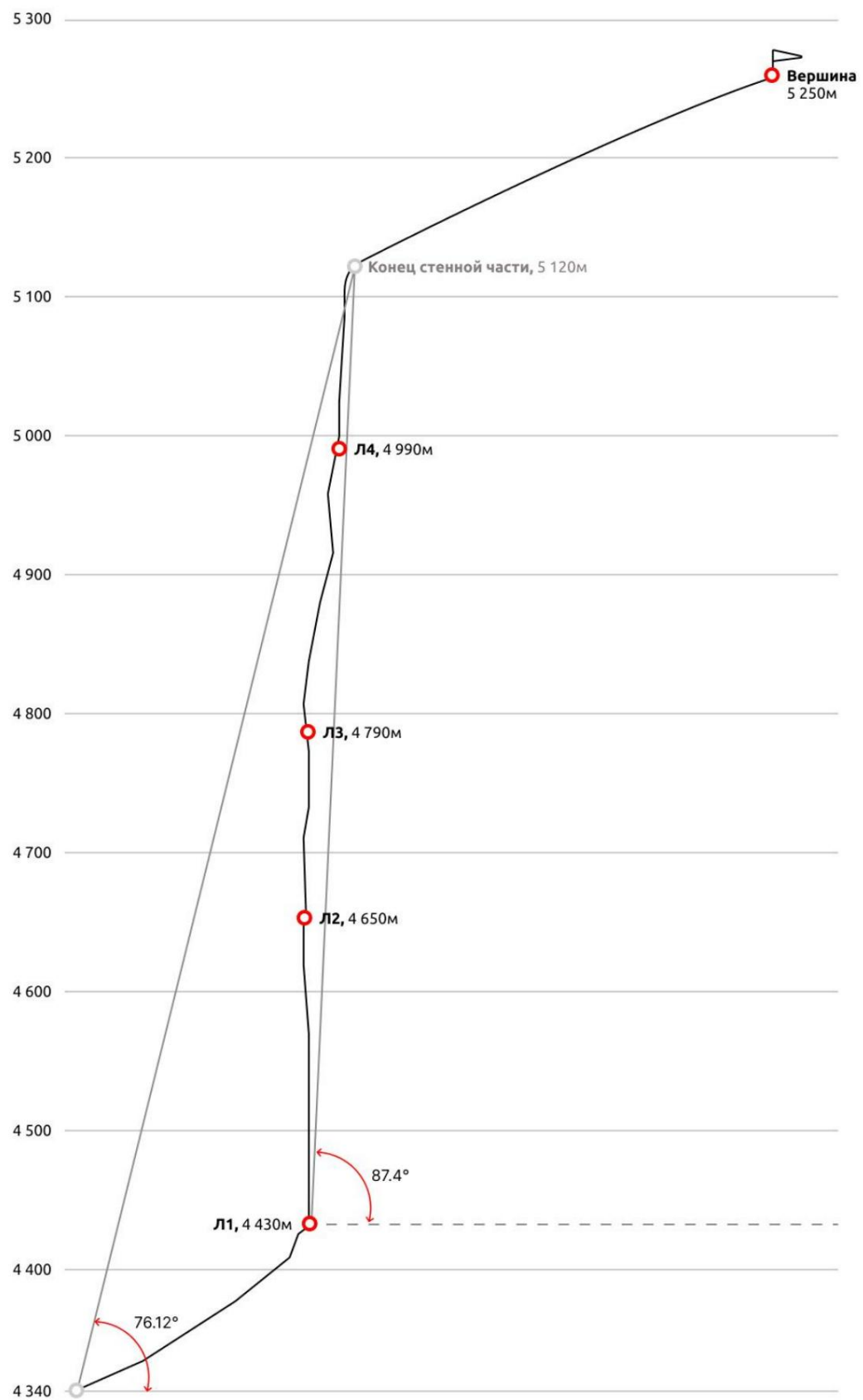
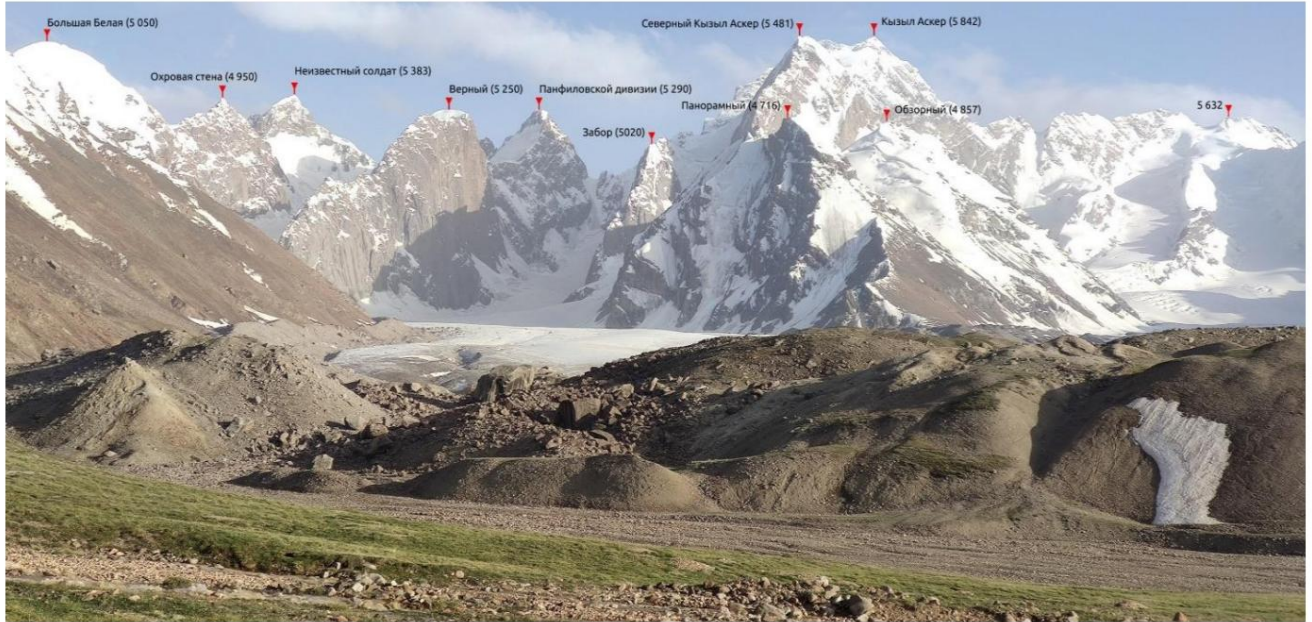


Photo panorama of the area



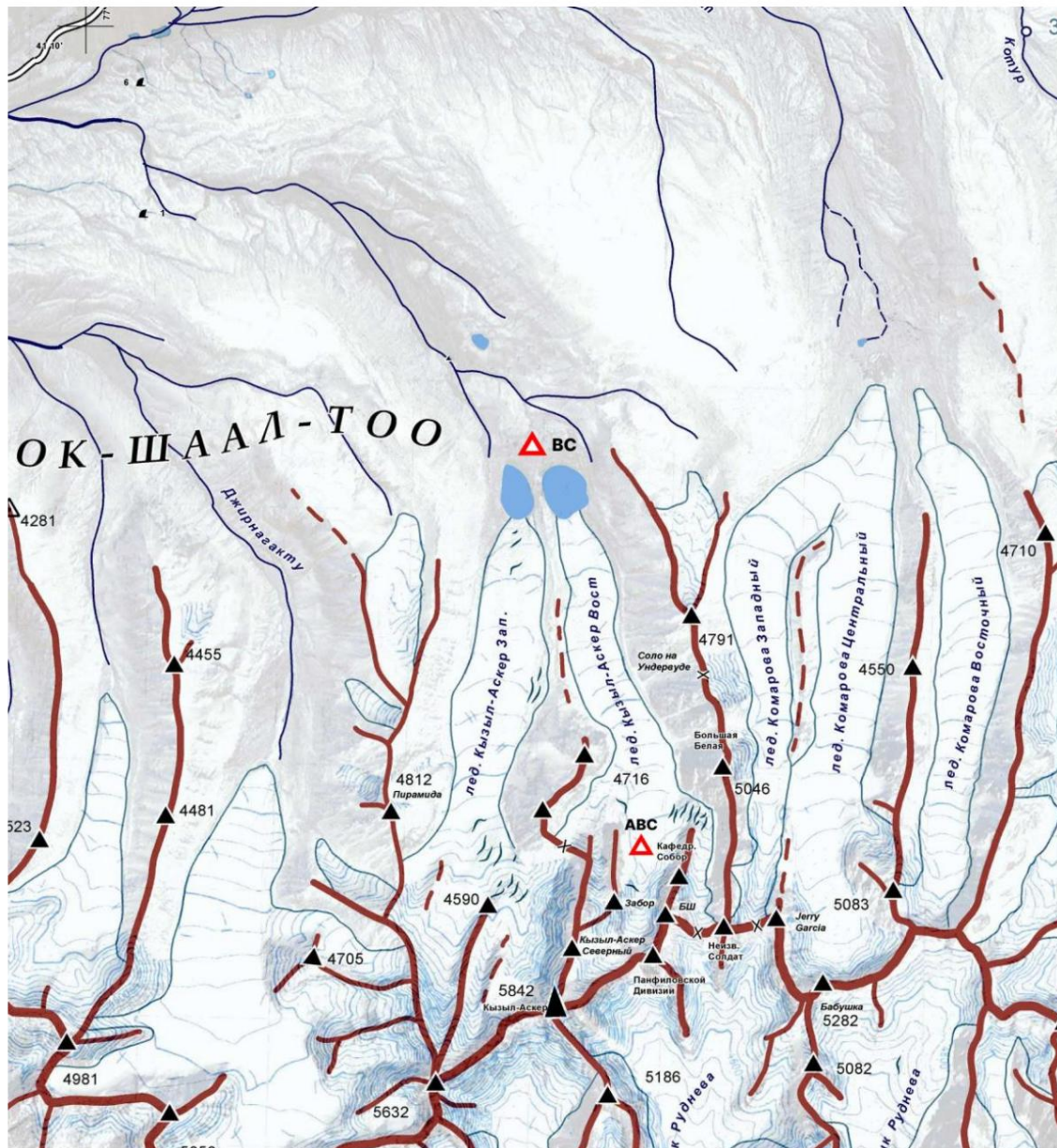
Description of the area

The area of the Kyzyl-Asker peak (5842 m), the Central Tien Shan, the Western Kokshaal-Too ridge, has been studied much less compared to other mountaineering areas, although it cannot be said that it is a "blank spot". The area itself is characterized by unstable weather, which tends to change several times a day "sun-snow-blizzard-sun again". Temperature fluctuations in summer can range from +10 to -15 -20 degrees. The average daytime temperature is +3+5. Summer in the area is short: it begins in June-July and ends in late August-early September. The area is exposed to strong winds at any time of the year, which blow non-stop, day and night.

In winter-autumn and early spring, the region experiences extreme amounts of precipitation: the thickness of the snow cover at altitudes of 3300-3600 m can reach one and a half to two meters, and the temperature can drop to minus 40-50 degrees.

Due to complex and expensive logistics, harsh climate and other factors, the area has been little studied in terms of mountaineering and has great potential for first ascents and first ascents.

In terms of relief, there is a great variety here: the rock, its hardness, type, relief forms, etc. can vary greatly depending on the mountain or even the exposure of the walls of the same peak.



Map of the area with the location of the Advanced Camp (ABC) and Base Camp (BC) and the main peaks

Road

The road from Bishkek to the Base Camp takes 1.5-2 days. First, take the asphalt road to Naryn (600-700 km), then take a good dirt road and pass several border posts (you must have a permit to stay in the area and a border pass). Over time, the road gets worse, there are swampy areas, numerous fords across rivers, etc. An ordinary car, even a specially prepared SUV, cannot get to the gorge itself to the BC site; you need special caterpillar transport: there is no road, swampy terrain. The base camp is located at an altitude of 3700-3800 m on the grass, one hour's walk from

glacier.

Our group got to the area in a day and a half. At first we moved in jeeps, then we transferred to a tracked swamp vehicle, which took us to the Base Camp site. The place is very remote and hard to access. It is closer to people in China than to people in Kyrgyzstan. We were warned that there are wild animals in the area, including those dangerous to humans - wolves and bears. For safety reasons, in the alpine meadows and Base Camp area we always walked in at least twos, and each had a flashbang. The tents at the BC site were all grouped and located close to each other and the kitchen. Products that could attract animals, not only predators (bread crumbs, bones, potato and onion peelings, etc.) were buried every evening in a pit away from the camp and covered with earth.

Ten M. had already had experience of meeting a bear in the Kokshaal-Too area during his previous trips and therefore instructed us all in detail on what and how to do in order to minimize the chance of meeting predators. We were on guard all the time: traces of bears and wolves in the form of droppings and paw prints were found everywhere over a large territory, even in the glacier zone.

General characteristics of the ascent object

Verny Peak, 5,250 m (aka Cathedral Peak, Minsk Peak, "Tien Shan Petit Dru"), is a massive wall made of dark granite rocks, with a clearly expressed large internal angle

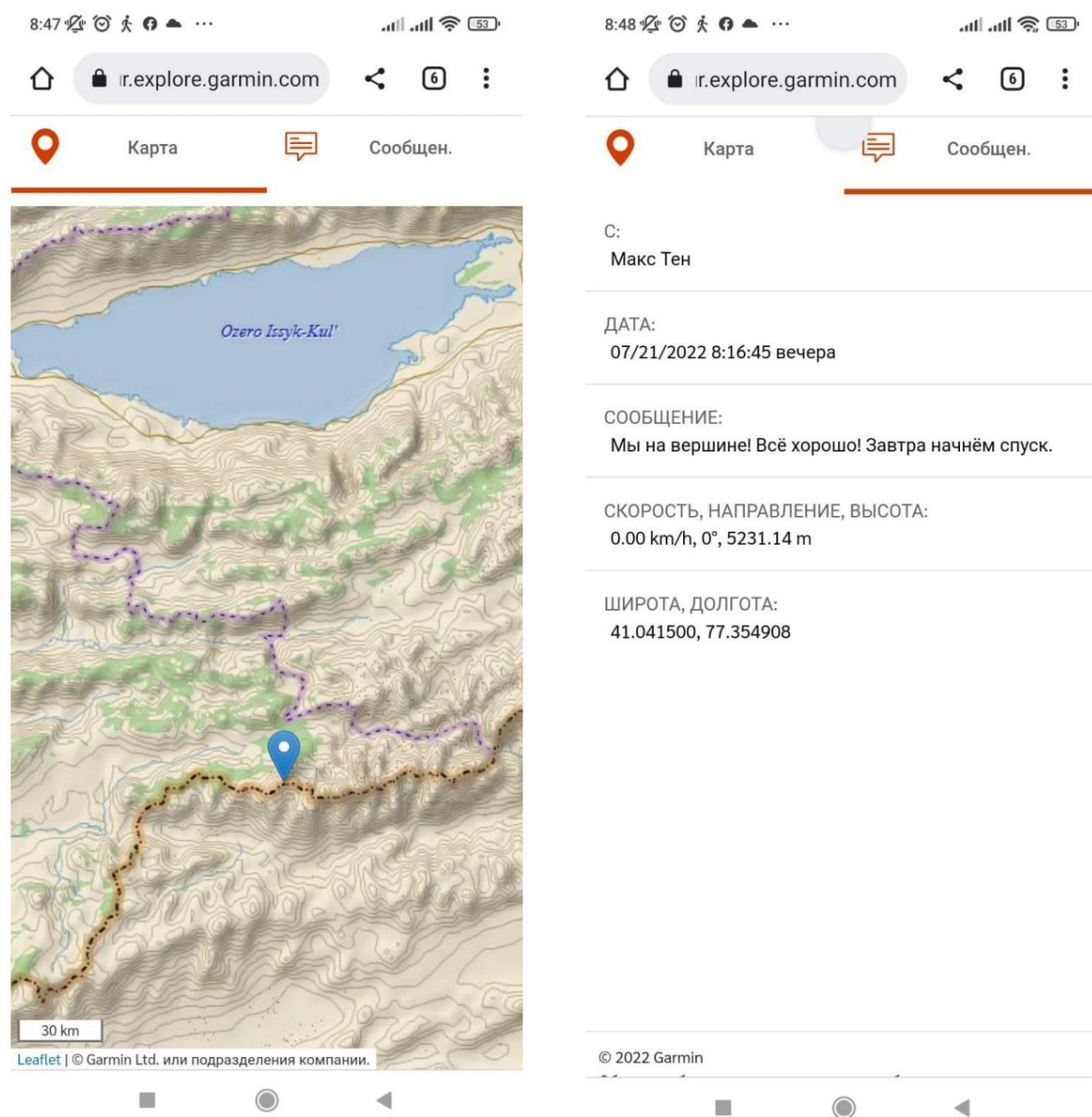
("Book"). The North-West wall is of the greatest interest from the climbing point of view. The relief on the wall is complex: monolithic caverns predominate, similar from the side to "cheese with holes" and smoothed chimneys, blind cracks, monolithic smooth slabs without relief. Despite the fact that the length of the north-west wall of Verny is less than the south-east wall of Kyzyl-Asker, the relief on Verny is more complex. This was said by Sergey Nilov, a participant in the ascents of both mountains. [\[1\]](#)

Due to the complex monolithic relief, there have not been many ascents to this peak, and the main problem of the wall – passing the route along the inner corner of the "Book" – has never been solved.

The sun illuminates the wall only in the afternoon. The wall is quite cold and warms up (and only partially) only towards evening, at sunset. As a result, there is a lot of ice and icicles on the wall.

I would like to separately note the initial inaccuracy of the height of Verny on Soviet maps, where the height of the summit is indicated as 4,750 m. Even when studying the Nilov-Golovchenko report, we found out that the height of the summit (according to GPS) is 5,250 m, which is actually 500 m higher than indicated on the maps.

During our ascent we regularly measured the altitude using a GPS tracker (Garmin InReach MINI, serial number 5HT277102). Our measurements at the summit with its help confirm its altitude as close to 5250 m.



At the time of our team's departure from Almaty, the most difficult route to Verny Peak was Nikolai Bandalet's route, which runs to the right "Books", along the buttress of the western wall (see diagram 1, route no. 8).

Based on information from the Internet, we were able to find only the following facts of successful ascents to this peak [2, 3, 4]:

1. In 1988, a team of supporters (from the expedition of E. Ilyinsky and V. Sedelnikov) led by Vladimir Tugalev, consisting of Evgeny Karpov, Alexey Ivanov and Viktor Zapyatoy, passed a new route of 5A difficulty category along a small buttress between the peak of the Panfilov Division and the Verny peak itself, with an approach to

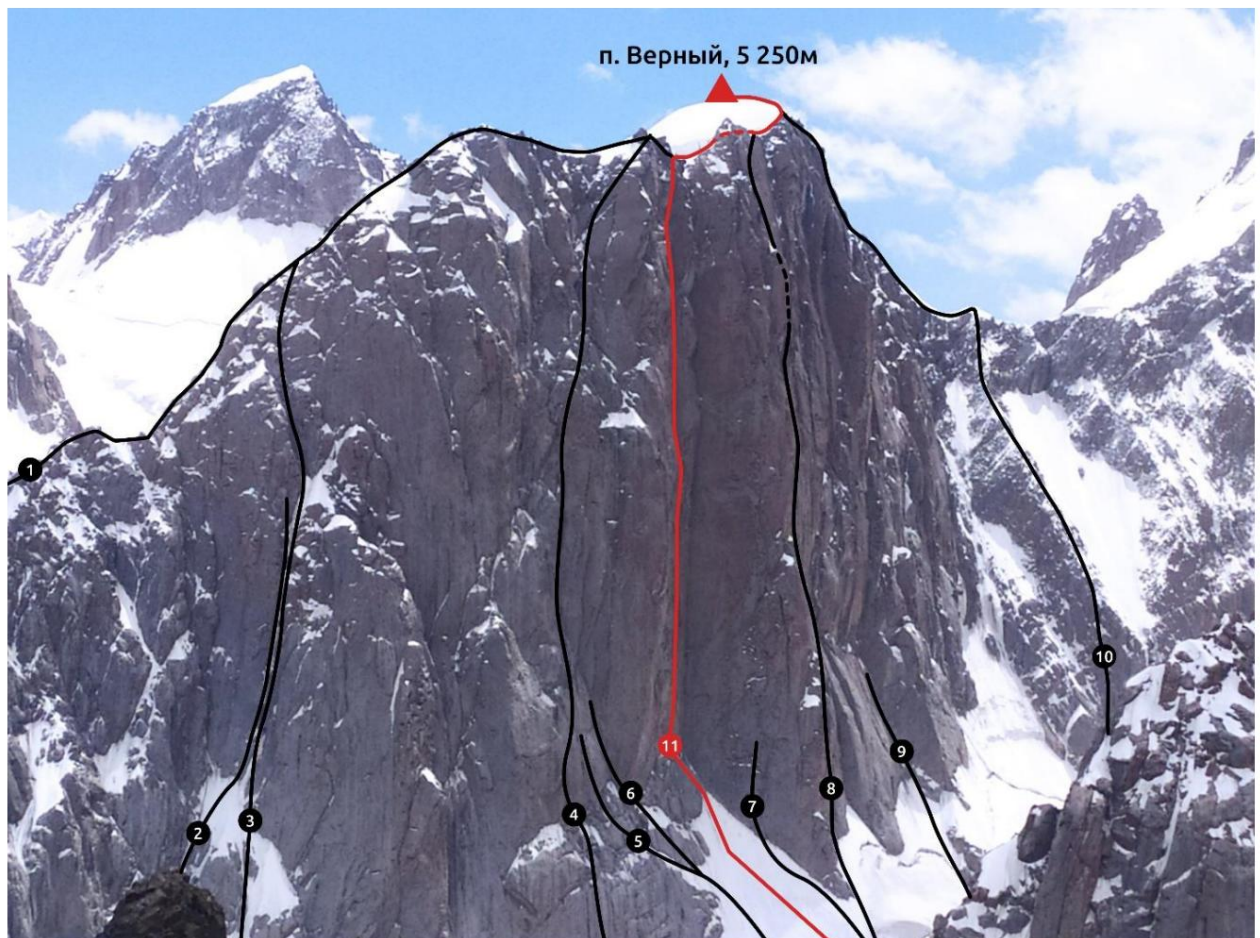
the summit along the ridge. By right of the first ascensors, it was then that the summit and was named after the old name of the city of Almaty - Verny Peak.

2. In August 2002, the Scottish climbers Meanwhile Blair Fyffe and Neal Crampton made the first ascent of Verny Peak via the long and difficult northern ridge, spending two days ascending and about the same amount of time descending. They rated the difficulty of individual sections of the route as ED+.
3. In 2009, a team led by Nikolai Bandalet, consisting of Dmitry Golovchenko, Alexander Malakhovsky, Sergey Mikhailov and Sergey Nilov, made a first ascent along the center of the northwest wall. The route was initially presented as 6B, but the commission rated it as 6A.
4. In 2010, the Christie-Gal-Gottfrey group climbed the corner and buttress to the left of the Knigi massif, rating the line as 6c A3 M6. Unfortunately, apart from the line in the photograph in the American Alpine Journal, we did not find any other information about this ascent.
5. In 2011, Michal Krol and Andrzej Sokolowski successfully climbed their unfinished line from 2009. This time, they climbed the lower part "head-on", and it turned out to be an excellent direct.

In addition, there were also unsuccessful attempts at ascent:

1. In 1988, the Kazakhstan team (the expedition of E. Ilyinsky and V. Sedelnikov) tried to pass two lines (to the left of the main massif of the "Book" and to the right, to the right of the Bandalet route)
2. Odintsov-Ruchkin-Mikhailov tried to climb their line in 2007. But, after a day of work, they retreated, because (literally) "the terrain is difficult, there are no ledges for spending the night, and there is no platform either, and besides, there is a large mountain ahead (Kyzyl-Asker)" (c) Alexander Odintsov
3. In 2007, an attempt on the right side of the "Book" by the Bandalet-Golovchenko team. After a day of work on difficult terrain, cold weather and a slow pace, it was decided to descend.
4. In 2009, Poles Michal Krol and Andrzej Sokolowski attempted to climb the mountain along the ice rivers to the left of the main massif of the "Book". Two ropes from the ridge, one of the participants was injured and it was decided to descend.

This short list, perhaps, exhausts the history of ascents to the north-western wall of Verny Peak.



Scheme #1. Completed routes on Verny Peak, first ascent attempts and the team's route. Photo taken on 26.07.2022 from the summit of Panoramny Peak (4,716 m)

1. The route of Scottish climbers Meanwhile Blair Fyffe and Neal Crampton, 2002 ED+
2. Attempt of Polish climbers Michal Krol and Andrzej Sokolowski, 2009 3. Michal Krol and Andrzej Sokolowski, direct, 2011 4. Christie-Gal-Gottfrey, 2010 (approximate line, 6c A3 M6) 5. Attempt of Odintsov-Ruchkin-Mikhailov, 2007 6. Attempt of the Kazakhstan team, 1988 7. Attempt of the pair Bandalet-Golovchenko, 2007 8. Nikolay Bandalet, Dmitry Golovchenko, Alexander Malakhovsky, Sergey Mikhailov, route along the buttress of the northwest face, 6A 9. Attempt of the Kazakhstan team, 1988 10. Vladimir Tugalev, Evgeny Karpov, Alexey Ivanov and Viktor Zapyatoy, 1988, 5A 11. The team's first ascent route

Key features of the route chosen by the team to Verny

- Steepness of the wall. The main part of the wall is a series of vertical (and in places overhanging) walls, internal corners and fireplaces. In places the railing rope did not reach the rock by 3-4 meters or more.
- Monolithic terrain that is difficult to belay, but is completely visible from the glacier.
- Aesthetic beauty of the chosen line: almost perfectly straight direct to the top of the bastion, maximally tied to the relief
- Solution to the "Book" problem, the first route in the Big Inner Corner, which is the hallmark of Verny Peak.
- The absence of a long and flat "roof" - the wall does not let go until the very last rope and does not "lie down" until the very exit to the top, to the ridge.
- Safety. Due to the steepness of the wall, everything that flies from above (mostly ice) flies over those who are on the route.

General tactical plan

Studying and searching for a suitable mountain to make a first ascent began several months before departure. After analyzing the area and the most interesting objects for ascents, it was decided to climb Verny Peak. We analyzed the history of successful, and not so successful, ascents to this peak. We compared and saved the active and unfinished lines with the relief in the photographs. We roughly determined the possible lines for the first ascent, choosing them in such a way that they would not intersect with other routes (or attempts of previous expeditions) and, at the same time, would solve the problem of the "Book".

Initially, the first ascent was planned in a team of three: Ten M. (leader), Shesternin R., Krupa L. However, on July 8, after the team approached the wall of Verny Peak, we changed the plan somewhat.

Using binoculars and high-resolution photographs, the relief of the wall was analyzed. Based on the analysis, the following conclusions were made:

- 1) The relief of the entire wall is a monolithic rock with poor belay, in some places there is no belay at all. For safety, you may have to use pitons.
- 2) The nature of the route excludes the presence of convenient overnight shelters the entire wall section.
- 3) Due to the steepness of the wall, there may be problems with drinking water: there are few shelves, the snow does not stay. As a result, you will have to carry some water with you.
- 4) The nature of the route is combined: in addition to rock equipment for the wall, to pass the lower and upper parts it is also necessary to take ice equipment (drills, crampons, ice tools, etc.).
- 5) For a successful and safe passage of the wall, in addition to the standard equipment, it was necessary to take additional equipment: large camalots, platforms, punches, bolts and "ears" for them, an increased supply of water and food, a large number of anchor hooks, rock fifis, etc.
- 6) The above points increase the weight of the already heavy backpacks.

As a result, it was obvious that the proposed route for the first ascent was physically difficult and very labor-intensive. For a successful and safe passage of the route, it was decided to strengthen the team with two more athletes. After the meeting, we included Abduraimov Z. and Lainopoulo S. in our group.

Tactics during the ascent

The ascent was carried out in a capsule style: a platform was installed, ropes were hung, and then the platform was moved higher to the end of the railings. The leader worked on a double rope, without a backpack. The second participant walked with a lightweight backpack in order to pass the hung railings as quickly and efficiently as possible and collect hardware. The third, fourth, and fifth participants carried the main equipment in backpacks. The fourth and fifth participants, in addition to backpacks, also had a duffel bag, which they dragged, hanging it under themselves.

Due to the difficult terrain and high labor costs, we decided to change the leader in the middle of the day: it was more effective. On difficult sections of the wall there were monolithic sections with a complete lack of belay. Having tried all the methods, we were forced to hammer bolts at some stations and particularly monolithic sections of the route in order not to fall completely. A lot of time was spent on organizing safe belay.

In total, the total amount of equipment and food that we took to the mountain exceeded 200+ kilograms. Backpacks reached a weight of 25-30 kilograms.

At the end of this climb, all participants lost 8-10 kilograms, and Tena M. even developed six-pack abs that he hadn't had before.

Tactical actions of the team by day

On July 5, 2022, the team arrived at the Base Camp in the Kyzyl Asker peak area.

On July 7, the group went out for acclimatization with an overnight stay at Ecstasy Peak (4,700 m).

On July 8, on the descent from acclimatization, we made a radial exit and established an Advanced Base Camp under the wall of Verny Peak.

Due to the large amount of snow on the glacier, we had to use snowshoes for approaches. We also marked the glacier with poles so as not to get lost in the fog.

From the site of the Advanced Base Camp, up-to-date photographs of the wall were taken and its condition was assessed objectively. The line for the first ascent was finally chosen, the team composition and the list of equipment were specified.

On July 10, a cargo trip to the advanced base camp was made. In total, Almost 240 kg of equipment and food were carried to the advanced base camp.

On July 14, a group consisting of Ten, Shesternin, Krupa, Abduraimov, and Lainopulo approached the advanced base camp. The weather had been bad all day: snow was falling, wind was blowing, and there was fog.

On July 15 at 9:00, the Ten-Shesternin pair was the first to hang the fixed ropes. Krupa, Abduraimov, Lainopulo made two cargo trips from the advanced base camp to the R2 station, brought bivouac and other equipment. Overnight at R2 in two platforms. The weather is bad: snow, wind, fog. Cold.

On July 16, Ten-Krupa began work at 6:30. Due to the difficult terrain, the work progressed slowly, and they were constantly on aid climbing. Having tried all the options, for safety reasons at some stations they had to hammer in bolts with removable ears: the terrain is very monolithic, and there is simply nothing for insurance. That day, they hung handrails up to R5. They spent the night in platforms

in the same place (R2) as the previous night.

On July 17, the pair **Abduraimov-Shesternin** hung several more difficult ropes, which allowed the rest of the participants to move the camp higher, to the R7 station. All the ropes that day went along a series of overhanging smoothed chimneys. The platforms and camp were moved to R7 only by evening, the platforms had to be set up in complete darkness. There is a small elongated shelf here

where you can put up a little more than half of the tent.

On July 18, the terrain continued to "twist". That day, the fixed ropes reached the R10 section. There was a lot of soft, crumbling rock, in which reliable insurance did not feel. The cracks have destroyed edges that crumble under load. Lots of AID on relief sky hooks. Second overnight stay on R7. That day, on the R10 section, at the station, under load, an anchor that was well driven into the crack flew out, simply chipping off a large piece of rock nearby. There was no sense of reliability in the insurance.

On July 19, we worked one of the key sections: a large overhanging corner with a break. We worked on aid. That day, the weather deteriorated significantly: strong wind with snowfall, lightning discharges. We worked up to section R13, after which the leader was literally "washed away" by falling snow and a storm wind. It felt like you were standing under a huge waterfall and tons of water were falling on you from above, trying to crush you. The temperature dropped significantly that day, there was a storm in the area. Krupa L.A. got frostbite on his fingers.

Overnight stay at R10 station on platforms.

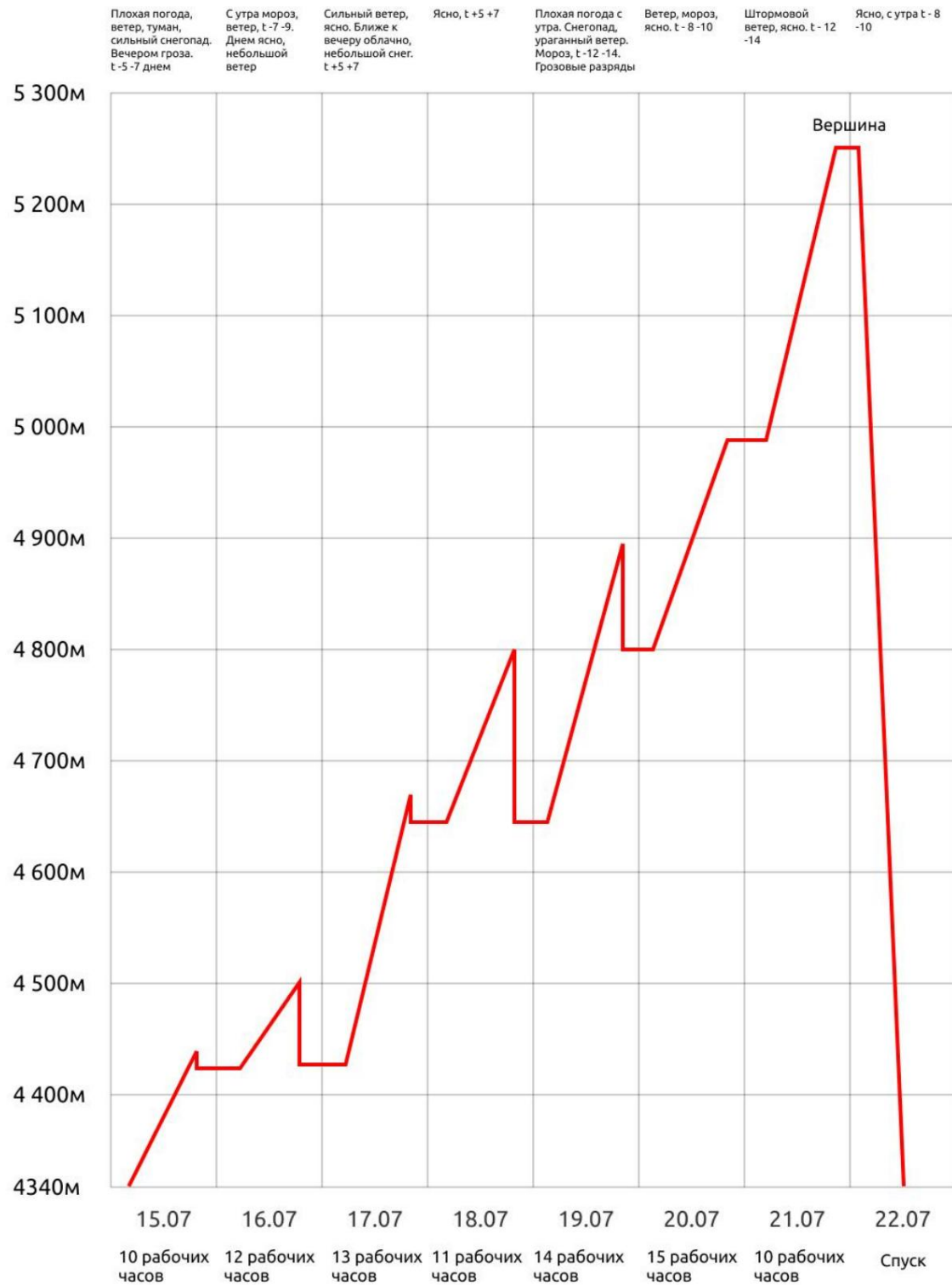
July 20, work on the fixed ropes begins at 7 a.m. Ten-Abduraimov works ahead, the rest carry bivouac and other equipment. On this day, they worked the key, most difficult section of the route: a vertical, sometimes overhanging chimney with ice drifts and rare belay. Due to the difficult terrain, all movement is by aid climbing, very slow. They did not put up bolts, they were almost gone and it was decided to save them "just in case". The speed of movement is low, difficult terrain is almost without belay.

Already at dusk, in the light of lanterns, we climbed out to the breakaway on R16. We managed to set up the platforms only at half past twelve at night. The place to spend the night is very inconvenient, it is possible to spend the night only on the platform. From fatigue, we fell asleep just sitting while cooking.

On July 21 , the remaining two ropes of the wall were completed. By 15:00, the entire group climbed to the top of the bastion, where after repacking the equipment, they continued moving along the snow-ice ridge towards the summit, bypassing the gendarmes. The weight of the backpacks reached more than 30 kg. Due to the heavy backpacks and the presence of ice, the first 3-4 ropes along the snow-ice ridge had to be fixed with handrails. Then they moved in simultaneous belay, twisting the screws into the ice. At 20:20, the entire group was at the summit. It was decided to spend the night right on the summit in a snow pit, and begin the descent in the morning.

July 22nd rise at 5:00 am. Descent begins at 5:45 am. A new, easier and faster descent from the summit was explored.

Climbing schedule and weather conditions



Participants' impressions

Ten Maxim

"I have long wanted to go to Verny Peak, even when I saw a photo of the wall and saw many unclimbed lines of the Kazakh SSR team. I wanted to climb some of our, Kazakh, lines. Having approached the wall, we assessed in person where it would be logical and safe to go and that this line would be aesthetically beautiful. Having finally decided on the option, we thought out the tactics in detail and went on the assault.

From the very beginning, the wall was pressing and hanging. There were no shelves for sleeping, we slept in platforms. It was cramped. You know, that feeling when just to perform elementary actions - like going to the toilet or cooking - you need to perform entire acrobatic etudes - well, we had 7 days and nights of such "etudes". In general, the route was very memorable. First of all - monolithic relief with poor insurance. It was difficult. We spent a lot of time organizing at least somewhat satisfactory stations and railings. The large weight of the backpacks also brought special "pleasure". It's good that we went with platforms, it at least somehow allowed

not depend on shelves for overnight stays.

The most memorable day was the 6th, when we were climbing the key: an icy chimney with water running through it. There was no safety net. We were saving the pitons and only putting them in the most necessary places, but even with such savings, there were almost none left by that time. We had to climb somehow. It was cold. Wet. Icicles were flying from above. Chipping the ice with a hammer, on the very tips of the fifi, I moved up a blind crack in a huge chimney with no room for error. Water was flowing into my sleeves and flowing out around my feet into my boots. By the end of that key rope I was wet from head to toe, frozen and tired, but happy – I had climbed that rope."

Leonid Krupa

For some reason, the ones I remember most were the overnight stays. Probably because the three of us (*with Shesternin R. and Abduraimov Z.*) slept in a two-person platform for 6 nights. It was very cramped. Boots and all the extra gear, clothes, had to be hung outside in a duffel bag, they simply did not fit inside the platform! We slept in a "jack" position, with my and Romina's shoulders pressed tightly against each other, and we slept half-turned. Zakirzhan's legs lay on our heads and chests. Needless to say, in such a cramped space, every time we cooked or just went outside for snow turned into a real quest, a role-playing game. A game where two people sit

motionless, huddled in the corner of the platform and huddled as tightly as possible, while one performs the necessary actions.

When on the 7th day we reached the summit and spent the night without a cramped space for the first time platform, just under the open sky in a snow pit, despite the wild wind and cold, I just squealed with delight - finally free space and no one pressing against you! Finally you can lie down at full height and your feet do not rest against someone's head! To say that we were tired during this ascent is to say nothing. I just felt, with each day on the wall, how the wall was devastating us - both physically and morally."

Shesternin Roman

"When I got under the wall, it was clear that it was vertical, but it looked small and didn't inspire any concerns. After I passed the ice and started the mixed climbing under the wall, I started to get nervous because the part that seemed to me to be "20 meters" turned out to be all of 60, and I went out on the whole rope, and it turned out to be even more vertical than it seemed from below. When I started working the first ropes on the rock, I was in shock and very surprised by how ~~smooth the~~ smooth the monolith was - not even a tiny bit to hold on to when you stand on the skyhook. When I got to the crack that seemed really great, I saw that only the tip of the anchor fits into it, everything is not as it looks from the outside - it's very annoying.

The gap in the fireplace, which seemed to hold normally, turns out to be very loose. You have to put a friend, pull it, everything collapses at the edges, you take a size larger, do the same, and in the end you put on another size bigger.

The slow progress upwards and the lack of prospects to speed up put a lot of moral pressure. The entire second part of the wall was waiting for "it to fall down any minute", and this expectation was very oppressive. In the end, the wall did not fall down until the very exit to the ridge, it seems that no one was fully prepared for this, they just did not expect this - from the outside it looked a little different. I was very pleased with the summit - a snowy football field."

Abduraimov Zakirzhan

"The guys are just great. Cars. When I looked at the route in the photo, before I was offered to climb the wall in the main team, I could not even imagine SUCH a monolithic and complex terrain walls.

Maxim deserves great credit for thinking through the tactics and overall strategy for the entire time we were on the wall. I remember when we reached the top, all we had left to eat was an "emergency" supply of food that we took in case of an emergency, and half a gas cylinder. In general, the relief of the wall is a separate topic that can be discussed and associated with many things: here you have "cheeses" - like melted rock with many large (up to several meters in diameter) holes and "roosters" - long vertical wavy ridges resembling a bird's comb in shape, "asphalt" - perfectly smooth mirrors without the slightest hint of relief, "halva" - crumbling rock, in which there is no sense of reliable insurance, it chips away under hooks, friends, sky hooks.

We even had one station in such rock sag because the anchor chipped off a piece of rock (laughs). In general, insurance on such terrain is a separate conversation. In fact, there is none. And even a bolt hook here is not always a guarantee of safety."

Lainopulo Stanislav

"Certainly, this ascent, and the whole trip in general, will be remembered for a long time. First of all, by a very difficult road, with complex logistics. Secondly, by the weather, which is very unpredictable, wild winds. In our base camp, the wind tore our tents apart, not to mention the weather on the wall... On day 5, I think we just got caught in a real squall. The wind roared like crazy, snow was falling from all sides: from below, from above, from the side... Entire avalanches of snow were coming down the wall. Despite such weather, we continued to climb slowly but surely, simply digging in our heels. Sometimes, it seems that we did it by sheer force of character. We just grabbed on and climbed – straight ahead. I worked mainly as a "truck driver", carrying loads. Of the five of us, I am the tallest and healthiest (*laughs*).

The hardest thing (for me personally) was probably mental: we climbed for days, but the wall never ended. There was no end in sight, behind the next bend there was another cornice or slab, and after that another one and another... and so on ad infinitum. This was my first experience of such difficult wall ascents, and also with an overnight stay in a portaledge.

When we finally got to the top tower, I was very happy that finally, for the first time in 7 days, there was a solid surface beneath me, and not the fabric of the platform or the straps of the safety system.

I got a great and very cool experience working as an equal in such a team."

Route diagram in UIAA symbols

Номер участка		Длина • Крутизна • Сложность
R21-R22		200 м 20° I-II
R20-R21		150м 30-40° II-III
R19-R20		350м 35-55° III-IV
R18-R19		45м 65-80° III-IV
R17-R18		10м 85° VI A2, 30м 75° V-VI, 15м 50-60° IV
R16-R17		50м 90-85° VI, A2+/A2
R15-R16		50м 70-85° V-VI, A1
R14-R15		50м 90-110° VI A3/A3+
R13-R14		40м 90° VI A2/A3
R12-R13		20м 75-80° VI A1/A2
R11-R12		5м 95° VI, 20м 80° V+-VI, 20м 90-95° VI A2
R10-R11		35м 90-105° VI A2/A3, 20м 80° V-VI

Номер участка	Длина • Крутизна • Сложность	
R10-R11		
R9-R10		
R8-R9		
R7-R8		
R6-R7		
R5-R6		
R4-R5		
R3-R4		
R2-R3		
R1-R2		
R0-R1	240м, 40-55°, IV-IV+	

Description of the route by sections

Plot No.	Description	Photo number
R0-R1	The route starts with passing the bergschrund on a snow bridge (depending on the route conditions, sometimes there may be no snow bridge). Then up the ice 4 pitches towards the Big Inner Corner of the "Book". The last station on the ice is before a clearly defined chimney, which leads to a rocky "island" under the main part of the wall. 240m, 40-55° IV-IV+	Photo 2
R1-R2	Up the chimney, covered with ice (mixed climbing), then along the inclined walls-shelves covered with ice and snow slightly to the left, going around the protruding "finger". After the "finger" straight up to the visible shelf under the main part of the wall. The station is complex, multi-component, due to the ledges and microrelief. There is an anchor for a bolt. 35m, 75-55°, V-V+ -VI	Photo 3
R2-R3	On the right side of the ledge, straight up the monolithic slab on hole sky hooks, focusing on the inner corner, which starts 20 meters above the ledge. There is no insurance. There are two bolts on the slab. The station at the base of the corner on a removable bolt (you need an ear) and your own hardware is inconvenient, hanging. 20m, 90-95°, VI A3	Photo 4
R3-R4	Up the inner corner with a gap on the ITO on small bookmarks, small-medium friends. Overhangs. The station is inconvenient, hanging at the base of the chimney, there is an anchor for a bolt. 45m, 90-110°, VI A2	Photo 5
R4-R5	Up the chimney, filled with ice on sky hooks. There are two bolts. The station is in the chimney above the plug, there is an anchor. 30m, 85-90°, VI A2+	
R5-R6	Up the chimney on ATO on anchors, small friends, sky hooks. The station is on a plug inside the chimney. There is an anchor for a bolt. 45m, 80-90°, VI A2	Photo 6
R6-R7	Up the icy chimney by climbing in a strut. The station is on a two-tiered shelf. Overnight in a tent is possible. 40 m, 90 °, VI A1	Photo 7
R7-R8	From the shelf up the chimney. First, AID on medium and large friends. After widening the chimney, you need to climb inside and in the spacer, climbing with substeps on AID on large friends 10-15m. The rock inside the chimney crumbles in layers, very fragile and unreliable. Then AID on sky hooks, after which you go to AID in a crack (on the left side of the chimney) on small chocks and friends, which leads out of the chimney slightly to the side. The station is on a sloping monolithic slab to the left of the chimney. There is one anchor for a bolt and one hole for a removable bolt. 45m, 90-100°, VI A2/A3	
R8-R9	Up the fireplace. Insurance by friends, ITO on friends and skyhooks (on the relief and perforated). The rock in the fireplace is unreliable, it chips off under the skyhooks and embedded elements. The fireplace ends with an overhanging forehead.	

	Across the forehead up and to the left, onto a sloping slab (65-70°), along the slab along the crack to the left onto ITO (small, medium, large friends, bookmarks, anchors, skyhooks) to a small forehead-shelf in front of the monolithic wall. At the station there is one anchor for a bolt. 45m, 90-75°, VI A2+/A2	
R9-R10	Up on hole sky hooks along a monolithic overhanging slab. No belay. In the middle of the slab there is one anchor for a bolt for safety. The slab ends with a crack for medium-large friends, which leads to a small shelf (overnight with a tent is possible). Station on the shelf. 35m, 90-100°, VI A3/A2	Photo 8
R10-R11	Up the sloping corner (rock crumbles, unreliable belay) first by AID, then after a small sloping ledge, a bit of climbing along the crack and then again by AID through the overhang along the crack up behind the bend into the chimney. Strong overhang, sloping rock. The chimney is covered with drip ice. The station is under the overhanging forehead-niche, in front of the steeper part of the chimney. There is one anchor for a bolt. 35m 90-105°, VI A2/A3, 20m 80° V-VI	Photo 9, 10
R11-R12	Up the icy slightly overhanging fireplace by the bend. Then up the crack in the inner corner (medium, small friends) to a small shelf. The crack climbs difficult climbing (V+/VI), but due to very bad weather (storm), we climbed using AID. After the shelf into the chimney, through a small overhang on AID. All the cracks are filled with ice. The station is in the middle of the chimney, in its sloping part under a huge plug on a monolithic slab. There are two anchors for bolts. 5m 95° VI, 25m 80° V+/VI, 20m 90-95° VI A2	Photo 11
R12-R13	Up the chimney under a huge plug along a good gap. Medium-large friends. Station on a small shelf above the plug. 20m 75-80° VI A1/A2	Photo 12
R13-R14 From	the shelf up the chimney along the breakaway, first along a small crack on the right (small friends), then straight up on sky hooks. Insurance with ice drills in the flowing ice in the depth of the chimney. Then the chimney narrows, the exit from the chimney to the outside and ATO along the crack on medium-large friends, there is one "hourglass". Then the chimney widens again. The station is very inconvenient in the depth of the chimney in its rather narrow part, hanging multi-component on anchors, small and large friends. Water drips from above and ice flies. 40m 90° VI A2/A3	
R14-R15	The key section of the route. Up the chimney, which hangs, narrows and widens. The chimney is filled with drip ice, water runs on top of the ice. Complex AID on relief sky hooks. In the middle part of the chimney, a blind crack appears under the ice. On the tips of fifi up the blind crack to a small grotto, filled with ice. The belay is poor, in fact, there is none. Then through a strong overhang to the right of the grotto and through icicles	

	(larger than a human in size) up - to the exit from the chimney to the right through a small cornice to the shelf. The station is good. This section is dangerous due to falling ice blocks on the R14 station from under the leader when passing the cornice. Therefore, the leader first made a station in the grotto. The second participant belayed the first from the grotto, the rest of the participants waited at this time at the R12-R13 station. After the leader successfully passed the cornice with icicles, the railings for the rest of the participants were straightened. 50m 90-110° VI A3/A3+	
R15-R16	Up a small chimney covered with ice. Then along a crack by climbing, then along an inner corner and a sloping slab by easy AID up to a breakaway. Overnight above the breakaway. The place is not suitable for pitching a tent, only a platform. 50m 70-85° V-VI A1	
R16-R17	Up the widening chimney, in places filled with ice. At first on sky hooks. Then a crack appears, passable on AID (small-medium friends, nuts). The crack comes out of the chimney slightly to the side. The station is hanging to the right of the chimney on a monolithic forehead. There is a hole for a removable bolt. 50m 90-85° VI A2+/ A2	Photo 13
R17-R18	From the station up the crack, first on aid, then climbing. Then up through the "feathers" and the monolithic slab. The station is at the base of the gendarme. Exit to the top of the bastion. End of the wall section. 10m 85° VI A2, 30m 75° V-VI, 15m 50-60° IV	
R18-R19	From the station, first take a simple traverse along the slab to the right, then around the corner and up the wall-shelves to the top of the gendarme. 45m 65-80° III-IV	
R19-R20	Movement along the snow-ice ridge. First in a simul (100m), then 3-4 ropes of railings around the rock gendarme (on the left) and again to the ridge. Exit to the shoulder, where the Bandaleta-Golovchenko route leads. 350m, 35-55° III-IV	Photo 14
R20-R21	Up the snow-ice ridge at the same time, twisting the drills. On the right is a rocky ledge, on which the control tour and the note were found. 150 m, 30-40 ° II-III	Photo 15
R21-R22	Further along the ridge at the same time. Exit to the summit. 200m, 20° I-II	Photo 16

Photos



Photo 1. Carrying equipment on snowshoes to the advanced base camp under the wall of VERNY Peak



Photo 2. Working on ice at the beginning of section R0-R1. In the upper left part of the photo you can see the R2 shelf



Photo 3. Beginning of section R1-R2.

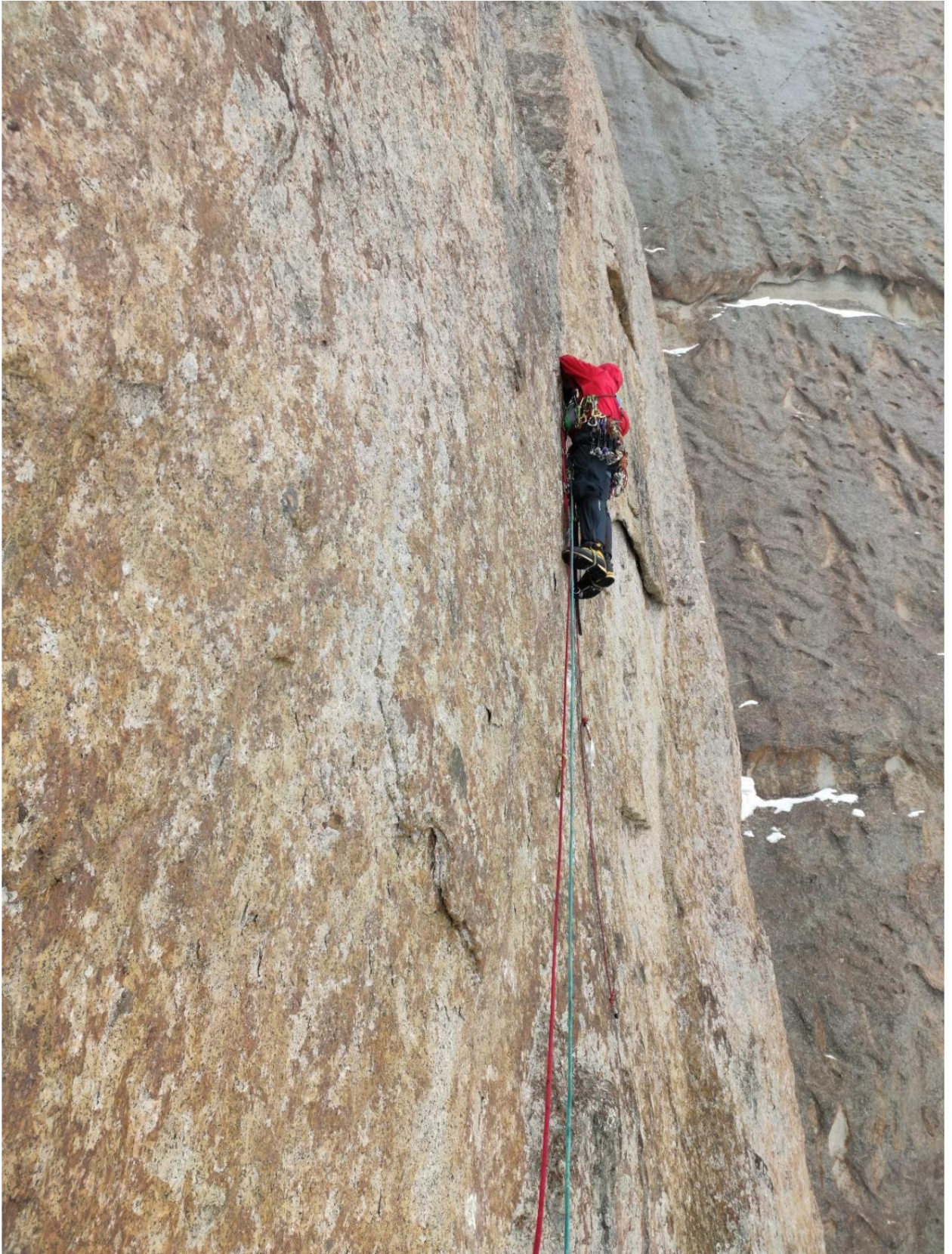


Photo 4. Complex AID on sky hooks on a monolithic slab. No insurance. Section R2-R3



Photo 5. View of the completed section R2-R4 from the R4 station



Photo 6. Platforms (two yellow dots in the center) at the overnight site, station R6. Drone shot by Matyushin N.



Photo 7. Bad weather, overnight stay R6



Photo 8. Railings on section R9-R10



Photo 9. The first key section R10-R11. The fourth participant working on the railings.



Photo 10. Section R10-R11. Working on the railings. On some sections of the route the rope didn't reach the rock by several meters.



Photo 11. Beginning of section R11-R12

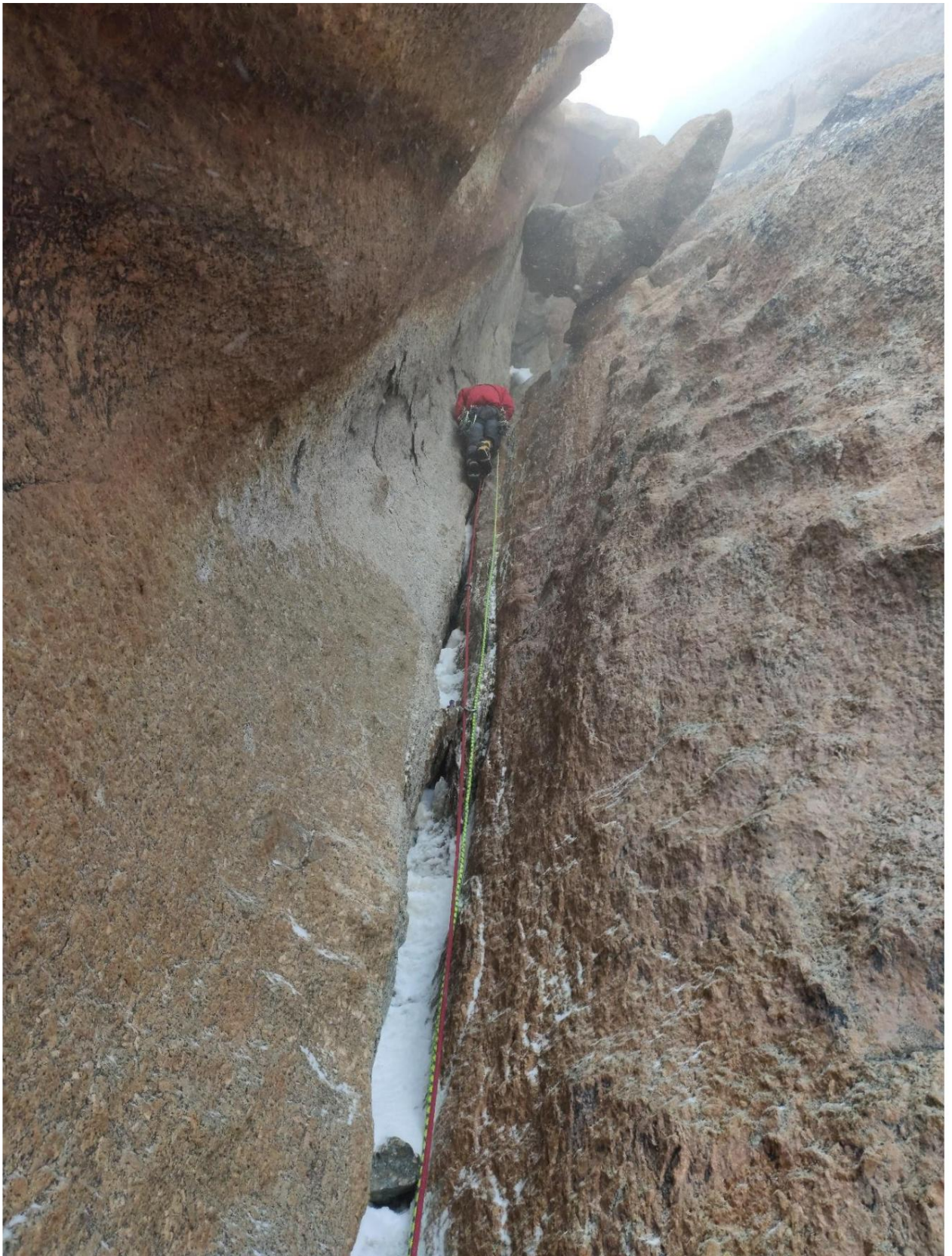


Photo 12. Working in bad weather in the fireplace on section R12-R13. There is a "plug" above the head

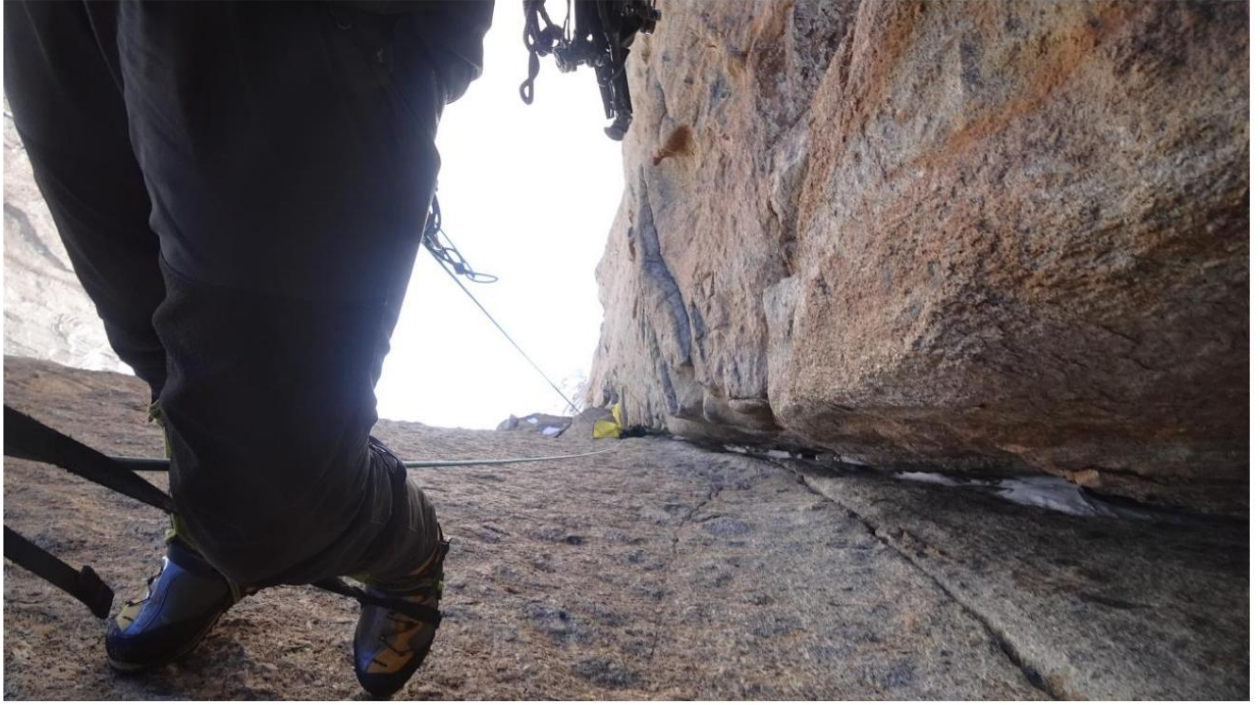


Photo 13. Section R16-R17. View of the overnight stay from the railing



Photo 14. View of the snowy summit ridge

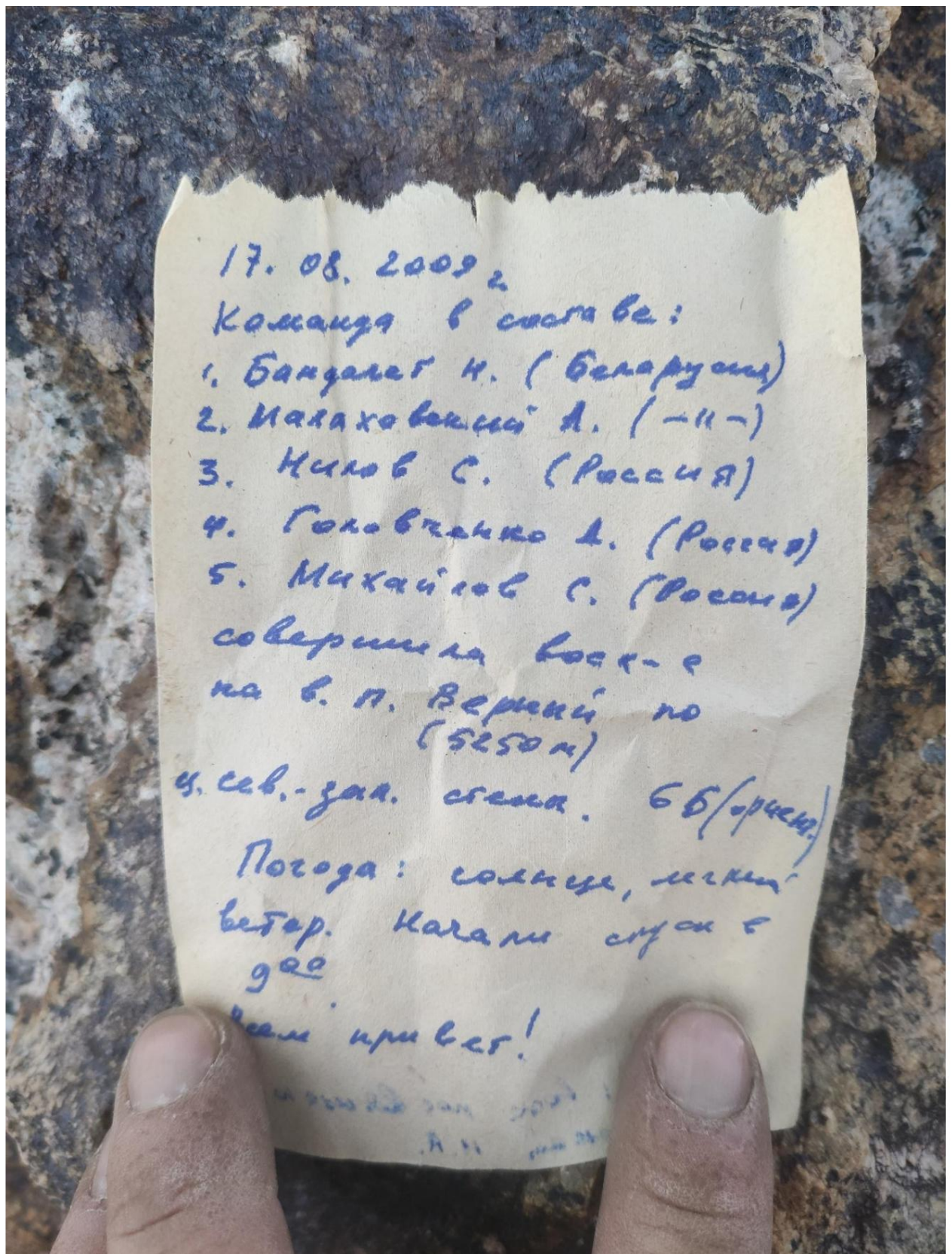


Photo 15. Note from the tour of N. Bandalet's team



Photo 16. The team at the top of Verny Peak. July 21, 2022, 20:32. Kyzyl Asker Peak is in the background.

Recommendations for future climbers, descent options

description

The route's relief is very monolithic. Periodically, there are sections of destroyed relief with layered, chipping rock and, as a result, unreliable belay (sections R7-R9, R10-R11 and others). When observing the wall and on the route itself, the team did not observe any rockfalls, although traces of falling rocks were visible on the snow under the wall after several days of sunny weather. Due to the overhang of the main wall section, everything that falls from above flies over those who are on the wall.

During the ascent, we observed the constant fall of individual pieces of ice: their size ranged from a fist to the size of a refrigerator.

It should also be taken into account that during precipitation, the series of corners and chimneys along which the route passes turns into a natural "drain" for precipitation along the wall, so large downward flows of water and snow are possible on the route (we observed this on the day of bad weather on July 19, when the leader was simply washed away by a stream of snow falling along the chimney).

It is recommended to climb the route with a portaledge due to the small number of shelves and their quality. For greater convenience, we tried to install portaledges near at least some of the shelves.

For safety reasons, in some areas, after trying all possible options, we were forced to hammer bolts with a removable ear: removable "ears" for an 8mm anchor and one or two removable "Petzl" bolts will come in handy. Also needed are hole skyhooks for 8mm holes in areas of monolithic slabs, where there is no relief at all.

Descent

While studying the available options for descending from the summit of Verny, we came across the following option: descending from the summit first on foot along the ridge (*note: the ridge that goes from the summit of Verny towards Bolshaya white (5050), route of Scottish climbers Meanwhile Blair Fyffe and Neal Crampton, 2002*), and then by oblique rappels towards the isthmus in the ridge and from the isthmus further down in an easterly direction to the glacier (photo 17)



Photo 17. Option of descent from Verny peak. Photo from mountain.ru

We found this option not very convenient: to start the descent, you need to make a detour - first climb to the top, which is at the opposite end of the ridge, and then go back along the same ridge, going around the gendarmes and laying oblique rappels.

After reaching the summit, it was decided not to go back along the ridge, but to descend to the east, towards the isthmus between Verny Peak and Unknown Soldier Peak. The descent is quite simple: 300 meters along a snow-ice slope in ropes, then, just before reaching the rock gendarme and the isthmus, 6 rappels (approximately 300-350 meters) on ice on self-screws or ice eyes towards the glacier of the cirque of the Unknown Soldier Peak. Then down the glacier through the icefall to the Base Camp.



Photo 18. Photo of our version of the descent from the Circus of the Unknown Soldier



Photo 19. Descent options from Verny Peak. 1 – our option, 2 – alternative descent option via the ridge (from mountain.ru)