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Report on the mountaineering project
"Ailama"

Category: **Technical**

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1

GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 TIME AND LOCATION

Whole period of the project:

28.09.2007–04.10.2007

Mountaineering period:

29.09.2007–03.10.2007

Mountaineering region:

C-Caucasus, Svanetia

Scheme of area:

see figure 1

Main bivouacs:

Korulbashi ice field, upper plateau



Figure 1. Scheme of the part of the main Caucasian ridge from the mount Uzlovaia till the mount Chernaia Neznakomka



1.2 PARTICIPANTS

Information about participants of the project is summarised in table 1. Note, what *mountaineering grade*, presented in the above mentioned table, is according to referee's board of Latvian Alpinist Association (LAA).

Table 1

Main and additional participants of the project

Id.	Name, Surname	Mountaineering (sporting) grade	Number of routes climbed during the project
1	Eduards Skukis	---	2
2	Anatoly Sukov	II	2

1.3 COURSE OF THE PROJECT

The main objective of the current project was to introduce the current region of Svanetia, together with climbing mount Ailama. As the most suited route was chosen I. Marra, G. Zurebiani, B. Hergiani, C. Chartolani (12 september 1947), Rus 4B, route. According to the current classification route is rated as Rus 4A. To avoid the descent off the upper plateau by the ascent route, descent was made by the Vahutsy summit, ascending it by the B. Gabelashvili, et al., Rus 2A route. Descent from the summit is made by the S ridge and down the Zagaro saddle to road to Ushguli. In the table 2 are summarized all activities (climbs), which was made during the project.

Table 2

Climbs performed during the project

No.	Date	Summit (height, m) and route	Grade of difficulty (RUS / UIAA)	Leader
1	01.10.2007	<i>Ailama</i> (4525), W ridge	4A / V-	Anatoly Sukov
2	03.10.2007	<i>Vahushti</i> (4000), E ridge	2A / III+	Eduards Skukis



2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SINGLE ROUTE

2.1 PASSPORT

Class of the route:	technical
Region of the route:	C-Caucasus, Svanetia
Summit:	Ailama
Height of the summit:	4525 m
Name of the route:	W ridge
Grade of difficulty:	4A (RUS), V- (UIAA)
Date of the ascent:	01.10.2007
Hours spent on the route:	26 h (ascent–14h, waiting–6h, descent–6h)
Participants:	Anatoly Sukov, Eduards Skukis

2.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTE

Height difference:	1100 m
Length of the route:	1600 m

The route can be conditionally divided into 4 ascent phases. Technical information about the route is presented in table 3, and the UIAA scheme is depicted in figure 2. The titles of the above mentioned phases are following:

1. ice field to the notch on the ridge;
2. from the notch to the base of the W ridge;
3. W ridge;
4. Snow covered ridge, snow fields to the summit.

Table 3

Technical information about phases of the ascent and descent

Number of phase	Sections	Times (01.10.2007)	Number of used: ice screws / friends / slings	Type of relief
1	R0, R1	04:00-11:00	26 / 0 / 0	Snow, ice, rock at the top of couloir
2	R2	11:00-13:00	0 / 0 / 1	Snow, rock
3	R3, R4, R5, R6	13:00-16:00	11 / 1 / 2	Ice, snow, ice-covered rock, rock
4	R7	16:00-18:00	0 / 0 / 0	Snow, snow fields

Route line is presented on figure 3, made from Vahutsy summit. Descent from the summit is made by the ascent route. Due to bad weather conditions descent was paused at the notch (B) and restarted six hours later. Figure 4 present various ascent routes on mount Ailama, current route is marked as Nr.76. Figure 5 shows the altitude mount Ailama and the upper plateau of the Koruldashi ice field from the South.

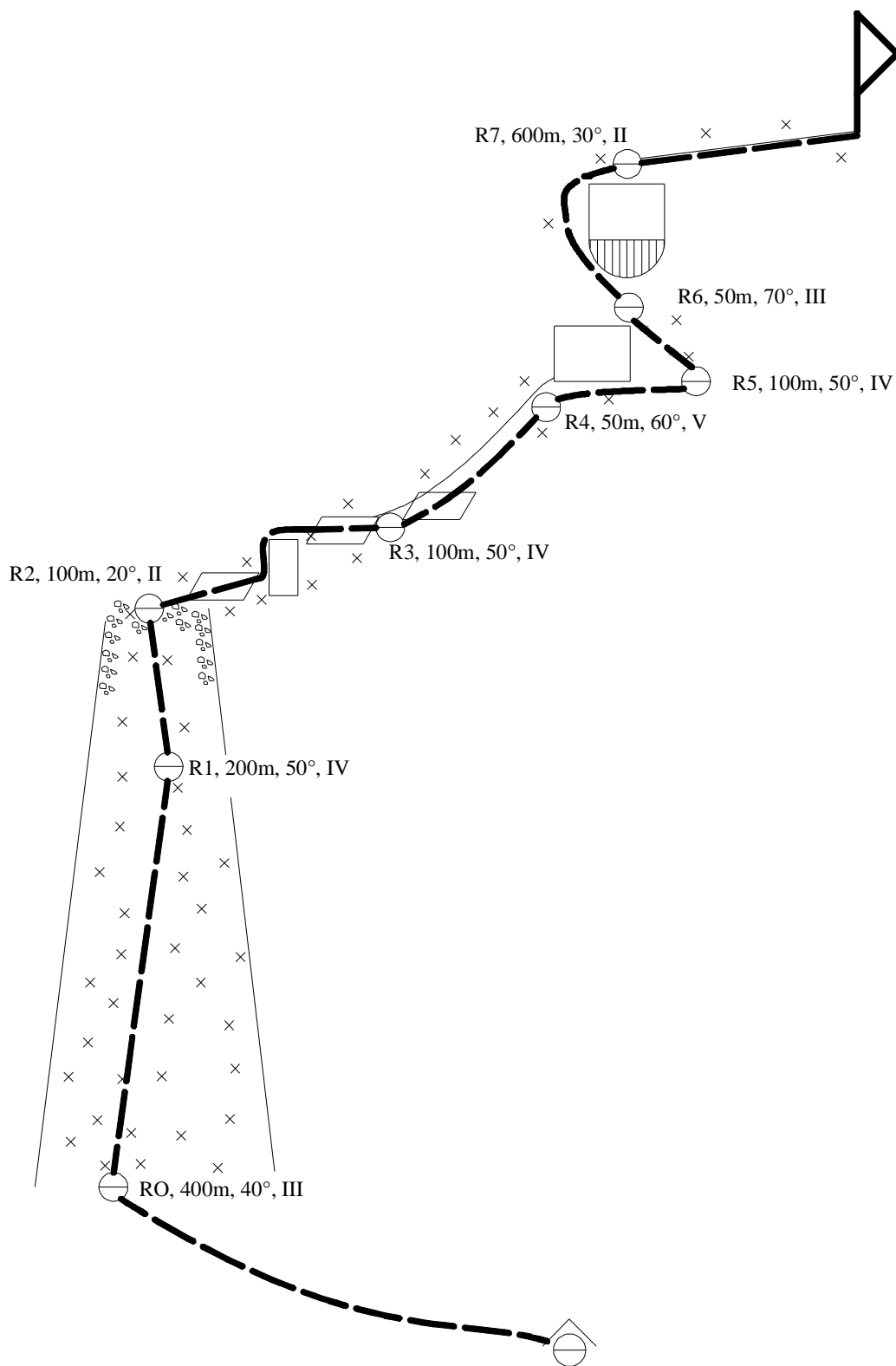


Figure 2. The UIAA scheme of the route

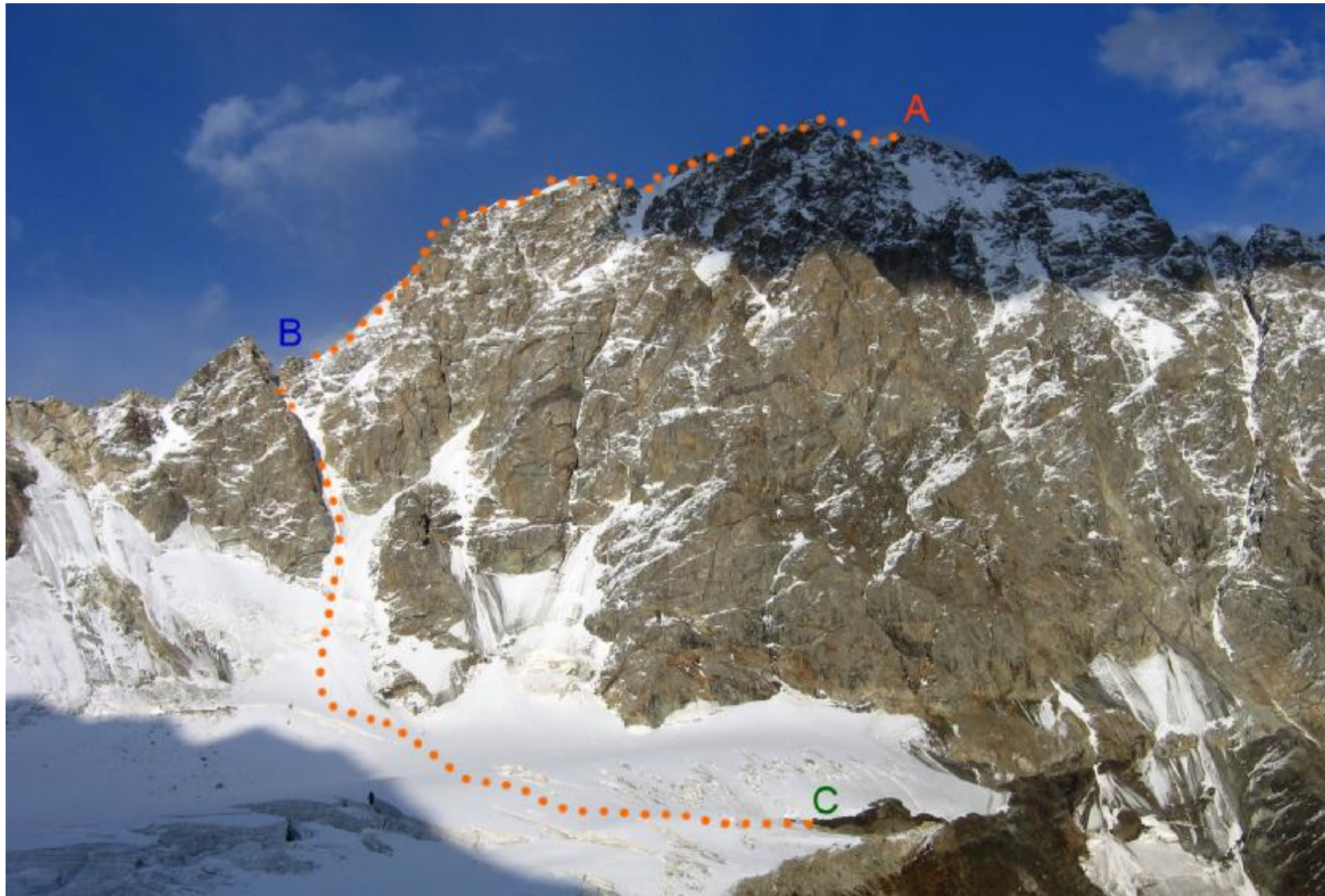


Figure 3. Line of the route (●), Ailama's summit (A), col (B), and bivouac (C); view from E ridge of Vahushti

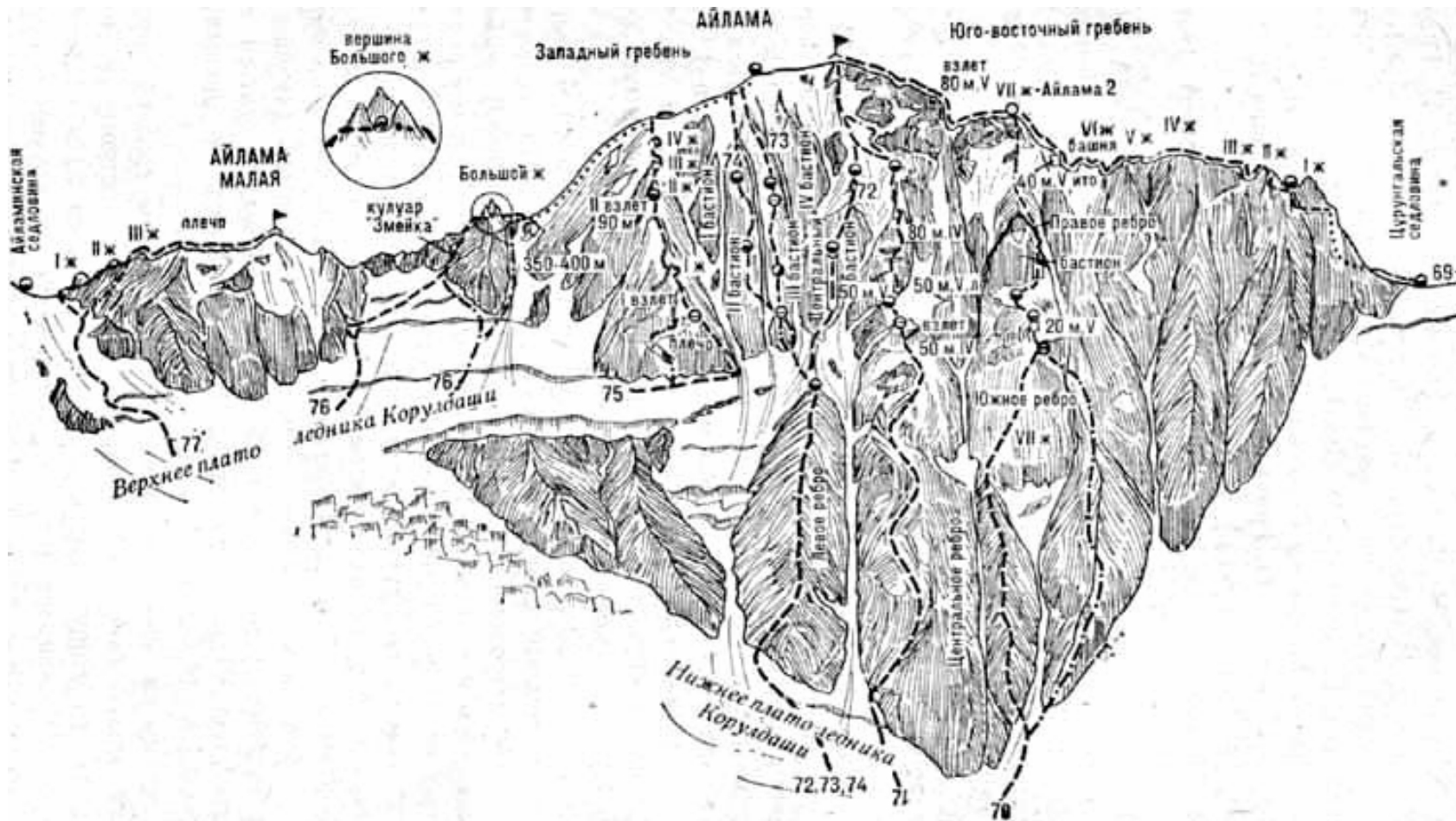


Figure 4. Various lines of ascents on mount Ailama



Figure 5. Mount Ailama and the upper plateau of the Koruldashi ice field from the South.