

7TH MAY

Once again we were not woken up with frost dripping down on us so i guessed rightly that the weather was still not good enough for us to move up to high camp. It was clear and sunny when i emerged puffy eyed and greasy haired as usual from my tent. Before i gave Clark a bewildered look as to what we were still doing here and why we hadnt moved up, i saw a big plume of snow blowing off the summit ridge. Clark said that it would be "nuking it up there" as he put it, so we were staying put here at 14,200ft again today. This is where the importance of patience and safety in the mountains prevails over u wanting to achieve your goal no matter what. Before setting off on this trip i made it very clear to myself and to the guides that i wanted to do this in the safest manner possible and if i didnt get to the summit, whilst not great, i would far rather live to try it again. So whilst nice and sunny at camp 4 we hung around another day to wait for the right opportunity to move up to high camp. The rangers have installed the loos at camp now! Its a very public loo with two small planks of wood either side and a full view of all the tents in camp from the front!! I couldnt help but notice people sitting there with their pants down and when it came to my turn i actually saw one guy staring so intently that i waved at him from the loo!! Anyway you know how the British can talk lavatorial incessantly so ill leave it at that!! I ate a lot and rested and before i knew it another day was nearly over.

Jerry Humphreys son Jeremy did the most amazing thing today... he left camp 4 and ascended the west rib (a slightly more technical route than the one we were taking on the west buttress) and he traversed the football field beneath the summit headwall and had returned back to camp 4 all in one day... Really amazing. We were all talking about him as we had dinner and headed off to bed. We chatted to his father Jerry, whom was going to go for the summit with his twin brother Terry via the same route as us. Jerry had climbed Denali before and was planning to go to Everest next year and he was here to go to the summit with his twin brother Terry.

We crawled into our sleeping bags ready for another night of 10 hours sleep - i love it as im almost an insomniac when im not on the mountains i have so much to get done i cant sleep!!