

11TH APRIL, EASTER SUNDAY

EASTER SUNDAY AND ANDRONICO SURPRISED US ALL WITH EASTER EGGS AT BREAKFAST WHICH I HAPPILY WOLFED MINE DOWN BEFORE HEADING OFF TO CAMP 1 AT 8.30AM. IT WAS SUNNY BUT EXTREMELY WINDY. I'VE NOW CONCLUDED THAT IN THE HEART OF THE ICEFALL NEAR THE HUGE SERACS THAT TOWER OMINOUSLY OVER US THAT I GET MINOR PANIC ATTACKS WHICH MAKES MY BREATHING VERY LABORED TO SAY THE LEAST. THIS ICEFALL IS A LONG MEANDERING LABYRINTH AND I ONLY STARTED BREATHING NORMALLY, AMAZINGLY ENOUGH, AT THE 5 LADDER CROSSING WHERE THE ICEFALL OPENS INTO A MORE OPEN ( IF THAT'S CONCEIVABLY POSSIBLE) SPACE. IM NOW VERY COMFORTABLE WITH CRAWLING ACROSS THE LADDERS ( IM BORROWING ANDRONICOS KNEE PADS THAT HE USES FOR DESCENDING) DESPITE THE VAST BOTTOMLESS ABYSS'S THAT I STARE DOWN INTO WHILST CROSSING. NEAR THE TOP OF THE ICEFALL WE RAPPALLED INTO A HUGE CREVASSE AND THEN CLIMBED UP 6 ROPED TOGETHER LADDERS TO THE TOP OF THE ICEFALL AND THEN IT WAS A 40 MINUTE WALK JUMPING YET MORE CREVASSES TO CAMP 1.

PALDE OUR AMAZING COOK HAD HOT TEA FOR US AND WE IMMEDIATELY SETTLED INTO OUR TENTS. THERE ARE 3 OTHER SETS OF TENTS UP HERE SO PRETTY QUIET FOR THE MOMENT. WE THEN GOT PREPARED FOR OUR CLIMB TO CAMP 2 AND BACK TO CAMP 1 THE FOLLOWING DAY. WE ALL HAD REALLY BAD SUNBURN FROM THE ICEFALL, THE SUN IS EXTREMELY POTENT AS IT REFLECTS OF THE ICE AND SNOW, WE ALL LOOK REALLY ATTRACTIVE WITH BRIGHT RED FACES AND EARS!! LIKE LITTLE NODDYS!