

2nd DECEMBER

I woke in the middle of the night as the cold was unbelievable, i had on down booties, 2 thermal layers, hat, gloves and i was in my minus 40 sleeping bag and i was still frozen it must have been at least 35 below. I installed myself halfway down my sleeping bag and didnt move again until 11.30am when the sun was up! We are on strange hours here, we go to bed around 1.00am and wake up anywhere between 9.30am - 11.30am when its warmer. I could hardly open my eyes and when i looked in the mirror i looked like id been punched in each eye. I looked accusingly at Luis and Hamish in case they decided to beat me up in the night! I got up and had breakfast and got ready to start doing our carry up to camp 3. In order to get there we have to climb a 2,000ft headwall of snow which is crevassed near the top. Struggling under the weight of my pack we left camp at 1.30pm all roped together and in our crampons. We arrived at the headwall about an hour or so out of camp 1. It was hot from the sun, but you couldnt take your clothes off because you instantly became too cold, its an annoying temperature down here where you are somehow both cold and hot at the same time.

We made great time going up the headwall and arrived at camp 3 after about 4and a half hours of climbing. There are a few crevasses that we had to jump over which i always hate doing, but we arrived safely at camp 3 with an icy wind blowing in our faces. I was now sporting my bank robber type face mask to protect my face from the elements and my goggles which annoyingly kept fogging up from my breath. We offloaded our packs at camp 3 and all began digging a hole to bury all our gear. We then did a quick turnaround and headed back down to camp 1. I found Andronico lying in his tent at camp 1 with the rest of his team about an hour behind him. We had a quick catch up before i headed back to our tent which is where i am now! Its about 9pm at night and sunny but of course cold!