

APRIL 17TH BASECAMP

THE LATEST GOSSIP IS THAT DUE TO AN AVALANCHE DURING THE NIGHT, THE ICEFALL HAS BEEN BLOCKED. OUR SHERPAS HAD TO TURN BACK THIS MORNING AND EVERYONE WHO IS AT CAMP 1 AND ABOVE HAS TO STAY THERE!!! THERE ARE 3 ICEFALL DOCTORS WHO WERE IMMEDIATELY DISPATCHED TO SORT OUT THE ROUTE... IT SHOULD BE FIXED BY THIS AFTERNOON.

AFTER BREAKFAST RODRIGO AND I WENT OVER TO ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS TO SPEAK WITH GUY COTTER ABOUT AN UPCOMING PROJECT THAT WE WANT TO DO.. HIS MESS TENT I THINK TAKES THE PRIZE FOR BEING THE NICEST IN BASECAMP. ITS GOT LOVELY CUSHIONED CHAIRS, FLOWERS AND IS A LIGHT AIRY COTTON TENT.. RATHER LIKE AN ENGLISH COUNTRY HOUSE IN THE SUMMER...I WAS VERY IMPRESSED! HAD 2 GREAT GUPS OF COFFEE AND WOLFED DOWN 2 CHEESE SCONES FRESHLY BAKED...HIS CLIENTS WERE SHOWING UP FROM GORAK SHEP, HE HAS SEVEN PEOPLE ARRIVING. I AM THE ONLY PERSON WHO HAS GAINED WEIGHT HERE, I DONT KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON BUT I HAVE SOME APPETITITE ON ME!! A VERY LAZY DAY TODAY..

TOMORROW WE ARE GOING INTO THE ICEFALL TO THE FIRST LADDERS SO PHILLIPE CAN DO SOME FILMING AND THEN WE ARE PLANNING TO HEAD UP TO CAMP 2 ON AROUND 21ST SO A FEW MORE DAYS OF REST.. THE KEY TO BEING HERE IS PATIENCE, WE ARE NOT ANTICIPATING OUR SUMMIT WEATHER WINDOW UNTIL SOMETIME AROUND 10TH MAY ONWARDS AND THEN ALL THE POLITICS OF FIXING LINES AND WHICH EXPEDITIONS WILL ATTEMPT TO SUMMIT WHEN WILL OCCUR.. APPARENTLY OUR SHERPAS ARE GOING TO BE FIXING THE MOST TECHNICAL PART OF THE ROUTE FROM CAMP 3 TO THE YELLOW BAND..IT WILL BE PROPER CLIMBING ROPE AND NOT KOREAN PLASTIC ROPE THAT WE ARE CLIPPED INTO IN THE ICEFALL!!!

NOT MUCH ELSE FROM HERE - OUR FIRST DELIVERY FROM THE KHUMJUNG BAKERY HAS ARRIVED!! A HUGE APPLE PIE!!