

APRIL 22ND BASECAMP - CAMP 2

WE WERE WOKEN AT 4.00AM, BUT HAVING HAD BREAKFAST AND ROUNDED UP THE GROUP WE DIDNT ACTUALLY LEAVE CAMP UNTIL 6.00AM. THE FIRST PART OF THE ICEFALL FEELS FAMILIAR(ISH)AND MOST OF THE AVALANCHES HAVE BEEN UP HIGH SO FAR. I MANAGED TO LOOSE MY POLE DOWN A CREVASSE AND HEARD IT OMINOUSLY CLINKING DEEPER INTO ITS DEPTHS. THE ICEFFALL FEELS REALLY LONG TO ME AND I ALTERNATE FROM FEELING VERY STRONG AND THEN SUDDENLY AN EXHAUSTION I HAVENT EXPPERIENCED BEFORE KICKS IN.

WE FILMED WHERE THE 5 LADDERS HAD COLLAPSED, WE NOW HAVE TO RAPPEL DOWN INTO THE CREVASSE AND CLIMB OUT THE OTHER SIDE VIA A LARGE LADDER OR TWO!

IT WAS HERE THAT WE MET VEIKER AND ED VIEUSTERS WHOM HAD BEEN UP AT CAMP 2 AND FIXING LINES TO CAMP 3 FOR 9 DAYS (THATS A LONG TIME TO SPEND AT

21,500FT) I WAS DELIGHTED TO OBSERVE THESE TWO HIGH ALTITUDE MACHINES DO ACTUALLY DEEP BREATHE (I MET THEM AT THE TOP OF A CREVASSE THAT THEY HAD JUST JUMARED UP) WE ALSO FILMED AGAIN AT THE SIX LADDDER SECTION WHICH PROBABLY COST US AN HOUR AND A HALF. I THEN MOVED AHEAD WITH RODRIGO, ANDRONICO AND MISAIL TO FIND THE ICEFALL HAD DRAMATICALLY CHANGED. THE SERAC WHICH USED TO HANG OVER YOU LIKE THE LEANING TOWER OF PIZA HAD COLLAPSED AND YOU HAD TO RAPPEL DOWN INTO A CREVASSE AND CLIMB OUT THE OTHER SIDE.

BY THE TIME I ARRIVED AT CAMP1 WAS SO TIRED AND WHILST THE OTHERS WERE DOING A VARIETY OF THINGS, I ATE MY WAY THROUGH HALF A PACKET OF DIGESTIVE BISCUITS. I JUSTIFIED THIS IN THAT IT WAS MY ENERGY TO GET TO CAMP 2.

WE FINALLY LEFT CAMP 1 AFTER A BREAK OF HALF AN HOUR AND I WAS FEELING OK AGAIN. ABOUT HALF WAY TO CAMP 2 THE WEATHER CHANGED DRAMATICALLY, EVEN WHEN ITS SNOWING IT CAN BE HUMID IN THE WESTERN CWYM BUT SUDDENLY IT WAS BITTERLY COLD AND A WHITE OUT. I COULD ONLY SEE THE TWO PEOPLE IN FRONT OF ME AND NONE OF US COULD SEE CAMP 2 JUST WHITE, WHITE, WHITE...

MISAIL GOT OUT THE GPS AND MANAGED TO KEEP US GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, I WAS REALLY TIRED, WE HAD BEEN GOIN G ABOUT 8 HOURS BY NOW, INCLUDING OUR FILMING.

I WAS DAYDREAMING AWAY MONOTONOUSLY FOLLOWING ANDRONNICOS FOOTSTEPS WHEN SUDDENLY HE DISSAPEARED DOWN A CREVASSE. I SCREAMED BEING THE USELESS FEMALE ON THE SCENE. LUCKILY HE HAS EXPERIENCED FALLING INTO A CREVASSE ON ILLIMANI IN BOLIVIA SO HE MANAGED TO JAM HIS CRAMPON AGAINST THE BACK OF THE CREVASSE WALL TO PREVENT HIM

FALLING INTO ITS BOTTOMLESS ABYSS (I WOULD HAVE SHOT DOWN LIKE AN ARROW). MISAIL PULLED HIM OUT AND FINALLY WE WEARILY SHOWED UP AT CAMP 2 - IT TOOK JUST UNDER 10 HOURS (DONT FORGET FILMING IF YOU THINK THIS IS SLOW!!)

PATO OUR DOCTOR WAS FEELING VERY WEAK, HE HAS LOST A LOT OF WEIGHT A WAS A GOOD HOUR AND FORTY FIVE MINUTES BEHIND US. EVERYONE WHO LAUGHED AT ME FOR BRINGING WHEY POWDER (PROTEIN POWDER) TO KEEP THE WEIGHT ON, IS NOW USING IT.

WE HAD DAHL BAHT FOR DINNER AND I HEADED STRAIGHT TO MY TENT COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED.