

1st DECEMBER

We all woke up around 9.00am, this time i was hot in the night with my multitude of layers on but by early morning it had cooled down substantially by morning. We had breakfast and then took down our huge taj mahal tent and loaded up our sledges for the move up to camp 1. Andronico and co were taking a rest day and Guys group, Phil Ershlers group and ourselves were moving up. We left camp at noon (this is one of the best things about Antarctica - the 24 hour daylight and hence the late starts) and began walking up the slope to camp 1. About 6 hours later, towing extremely heavy loads we finally arrived in camp 1. My sledge drove me mad by capsizing at least 3 times, which brought our rope team to a grinding whiplash type halt which didnt amuse Luis and Hamish. Once in camp we set about sawing ice blocks to surround our tent to protect if from any potential wind or storms. It was exhausting work and rob kept stealing my carefully sawn ice blocks for his and Kats tent! Poor Hamish had to build our Loo - everything gets carried out from Antarctica - i just hope the loo is not in my sledge on the way down! Luis has assured me that it will be on my sledge! Its now about 9.00pm at night and Luis is making dinner and we are boiling water which seems to take forever and it is so time consuming as we are all meant to be drinking 3 litres a day!

Guy and co are camped next door and we all have a big day tomorrow as we are doing a load carry to camp 3 and it looks like we will skip camp 2. Camp 2 has very little sun so we have been told that its going to be much colder than basecamp, hence the decision to go directly to camp 3. Im definatley looking forward to any further temperature reduction!

Ill just end up on my aches and pains, my blister on my heel is killing me and it is at least 2 inches in diameter, my shoulders are throbbing from carrying my pack, my hips are in agony from towing my sledge and my back is seriously sore - other than that im fine and getting ready to do an interview with Hamish before going to sleep. Hamish has accused me of sleeping so high up on top of clothes and thermorests etc that he thinks ill get vertigo.. nothing wrong with my nose being pressed to the ceiling of our tent and as far from the ice as possible!