

APRIL 25TH CAMP 2

I DIDNT HEAR ANY WIND IN THE NIGHT (NOT OUTSIDE THE TENT ANYWAY) SO I WAS NOT SURPRISED WHEN WE WERE WOKEN AT 5.30AM TO HEAD TOWARDS THE LHOTSE FACE.

THE DISCOVERY GUYS SENT ONE OF THEIR SHERPAS TO FILM US AS UNFORTUNATELY MY MACHINE ANDREW HAD NOT YET RETURNED FROM BASECAMP. ITS ALWAYS WHEN THE CAMERA IS ON ME THAT I HAVE PROBLEMS WITH MY CRAMPONS AND HARNESS - ALWAYS LOOKING A REAL NOVICE!!

IT TOOK US ABOUT AN HOUR AND A HALF TO REACH THE LHOTSE FACE. TO GET TO THE

FIXED LINES IS A LONG UPWARD WALK IN THE WESTERN CWYM JUMPING CREVASSES

UNROPED WHICH I ABSALUTELY HATE.

AT THE BERGSCHRUND I CLIPPED IN BEHIND KIKO AND MADE IT TO THE FIRST ROPE NO PROBLEM, YOU THEN HAVE TO TRAVERSE ON A LEDGE IN DEEP SNOW TO START JUMARING VERY SHARPLY UP THE LHOTSE FACE. HERE, CAPTURED ON CAMERA OF COURSE, I SLIPPED AND FELL, LUCKILY I WAS CLIPPED IN OR I WOULD HAVE SLID EXTREMELY FAST DOWN INTO THE CWYM.

AS TODAY WAS JUST A PRACTICE DAY, WE ONLY JUMARED TO ABOUT 6,700 METRES AND ANDRONICO AND MISAIL WENT TO 6,900M. THE BAD NEWS IS PROBABLY JUST ANOTHER

4 HOURS OF CONSTANT JUMARING UP SHEER ICE, NOT TO MENTION THE CONCENTRATION REQUIRED TO GET TO CAMP 3 WITH ALL THE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS ON THE ROPES. I THINK IF YOU FELL ANYWHERE HERE YOU WOULD NOT MAKE IT..

CHIPS OF ICE KEPT FALLING ON KIKO FROM THE TRAFFIC ABOVE ON THE ROPE, I THINK HELMETS MAY BE THE WAY FORWARD. WE GOT BACK TO OUR CAMP AT AROUND 11.30 AM HAVING BUMPED INTO WILLY VENEGAS FROM MOUNTAIN MADNESS HEADING UP TO THE LHOTSE FACE WITH SOME CLIENTS.

I HAVE TO CONFESS THIS IS EXHAUSTING STUFF, WAY MORE DIFFICULT THAN I HAD ANTICIPATED. TOMORROW THE PLAN IS TO LEAVE AT 5.00AM TO TOUCH CAMP 3 AND RETURN TO CAMP 2. IM TAKING IT EASY IN MY TENT IN PREPARATION FOR ANOTHER 10 HOUR DAY. IM ALSO NURSING A SLIGHT ALTITUDE HEADACHE.

IVE WORN MY ARCTERYX SHELL PANTS EVERY DAY FOR A MONTH AND I THINK THAT THEY COULD SUMMIT EVEREST ON THEIR OWN AT THIS STAGE.. I LOVE THEM AND WANT THEM IN MORE COLOURS! ANYONE WHO KNOWS ME, KNOWS THAT WHEN IM SHOPPING AND I LIKE SOMETHING I WANT EVERY COLOUR!!!

IM VERY NERVOUS ABOUT TOMORROWS ATTEMPT TO REACH CAMP 3..ITS SO STEEP I CANT EVEN START TO TELL YOU. IM OFF TO SLEEP NOW TO ENERGISE MYSELF, GOODNIGHT..