

18th DECEMBER

Its my sister Lucy's birthday today and i felt homesick. Iv been on a mountain for the most part of this year missing tons of stuff that i would have loved to have been able to do and i wanted to be with my family in Aspen today celebrating my sisters birthday with them. I called her up and i miss her a lot.

The germans rather selfishly woke us all up at 6.30am as they yelled loudly and inconsiderately to each other from their various tents.

Getting crosser and crosser at the continuing yells i finally yelled at them to shut up much to Luis's horror. They all left to try for the summit at around 7.30am which we all thought was a little late to be departing.

There is never more hours in a day than a restday at 20,000ft. I felt average but luckily my lips had resumed their natural colour so i just chilled in the tent and made a few calls. A restday when its nice weather outside is also pretty hard to deal with and i was by now very anxious that the weather remained good in order to allow me an attempt at the summit tomorrow. I dozed in the afternoon, went for an hours walk with Dorje and we met the germans returning from their summit attempt.

They had got to indepenca pass and turned back due to highwinds. One of their guys had gone onto summit and the rest of them packed up and headed back down to camp 1. I went to bed at 6.00pm and when i heard Luis on the radio sometime later, i presumed it was morning. It was only 8.00pm that same night which gives u an indicator of how slowly time passes whilst your waiting up here.