

Rongbuk Base Camp

May 2, 1922

My dearest Ruth, The General is in a great hurry to get a mail off this morning - for what reason I know not except that it must be a bad one, since it gives me insufficient time amid the activities connected with our establishment here to write you so full a letter as I should like. It ought to be rather easy to supplement the General's report of our progress as I can now hear him dictating it in a loud voice, while Morris takes it down with a type-writer - it is a little weakness or laziness of Bruce's that he hates writing; if only he could realize how deplorable is the result of his dictating he would perhaps bring himself to the effort.

2 The main fact is that we have failed to establish the base camp at the required point - we are now at my old 2nd base camp just below the foot of the glacier, a very good place; but three more camps will be necessary between here & the North Col whereas we hoped to manage with two. However with the aid of some Tibetan coolies & a few yaks we hope to get what we want up to the East Rongbuk stream during the next few days, & to use this dump as a sleeping place for journeys up but

not for journeys down. On the whole it's not an unsatisfactory result & there will be great advantages in bringing back everyone for rest to this place rather than a higher.

When I have written up my diary notes for these last few days I will send it along to you by the next mail. The differences in this frozen country now from my remembrances of it are most striking. Everyone is duly impressed by Everest. The weather is rather unsettled at present but I have little doubt we shall have many perfect days before the monsoon sets in. ~~It will be~~ as soon as the sun gets the best of it we shall be beautifully warm in this camp - not to climb higher up. Everyone is well & cheerful x.

I must get busy now arranging stores to go up. You shall have a proper letter next time - & before then I hope we shall have had a mail at last. I hate being without news of you all this time.

Great love to you always

Your loving George.

