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Authority *MD 800910*
By *10* NARA Date *7/28/05*

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SECURITY: ~~SECRET~~ *CONFIDENTIAL*
TO: Department of State
OCT 2 - 1950
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Department of State

PRIORITY: AIR PRIORITY
793b.00/9-2150
OFFICE OF CHINESE AFFAIRS
OCT 3 1950
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FROM: New Delhi No. 663 September 21, 1950 Enclosure
REF: Despatch No. 661, September 21, 1950
SUBJECT: TRANSMITTING THE LOG OF MR. FRANK BESSAC'S JOURNEY FROM TIHWA, SINKIANG

I have the honor to enclose a copy of the log kept by Vice Consul Mackiernan and Mr. Frank Bessac during their journey from Tihwa to Lhasa, September 27, 1949 to June 11, 1950.

This document is classified Top Secret because there are important reasons why the route followed should not be disclosed

The first part of this log is a record kept by Vice Consul Mackiernan each day that the party was on the road. After Mr. Mackiernan's death on April 29, the record was kept by Mr. Bessac who made entries at irregular intervals whenever he was able. The enclosed is a verbatim copy of the log with very little editing or correction.

The party was equipped with various AAF maps of the area, a compass and an aneroid barometer. Most of the entries in the log are confined to a description of the course followed by the party and to comments on the topography, wild life, grazing and watering places along the way.

Table of Contents:

- Journey of Vice Consul Mackiernan's party from Tihwa to Lake Barkol (Sept 27 to October 20, 1949) -- no log kept.
- Journey from Lake Barkol to Ghaz Kol where the party spent the winter (Oct 30 to Nov 29) 1949, pages 1 to 6.
- Journey from Ghaz Kol to Sigarkhung Lung, Tibet (Mar 20 to April 29, 1950), pages 6 to 14.
- Description of the accident in which Vice Consul Mackiernan was killed by Tibetan border guards near Shigarkhung Lung on April 29, 1950, pages 14 to 18.
- Journey of Mr. Bessac and Mr. Zvansov from Shigarkhung Lung to Lhasa (May 1 to June 11), pages 18 to 26.

Bureau of FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
AUG 31 1951
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Department of State

For the Ambassador:
Lloyd Steere
Lloyd J. Steere
Counselor of Embassy

DForman/lbv
Enclosure: Log of Mr. Bessac's journey from Tihwa.

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-2-#591, September 8, 9 a.m., from New Delhi.

he is British toward which nation the Tibetans harbor few suspicions and some admiration. Bessac met Sinha on way to Lhasa to replace Richardson and believes Sinha will find going rough because in contrast to Richardson he is inexperienced, and Indian and seemed genuinely distressed at the prospects of his responsibilities in Lhasa.

5. Bessac found Tibetans and their leaders universally friendly toward him and very solicitous of his welfare and comfort. They expressed regret at the absence of western aid against the Chinese Commies but were rather resigned to placing blame on complexities of world politics which conspired prevent aid at this time.

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LOG OF MR. BESSAC'S JOURNEY FROM TIHWA

Left Urumchi on September 27/¹⁹⁴⁹ and arrived in Barkul about two weeks later in company of Ozman Bator's Kazak Hordes.

Mr. MacKernan's Notes.

October 30 - Camp #2

Left camp on S.W. shore Lake Barkul at 1500 October 29. Marched 3 hours - camped on (#1) plain at foot of Barkul Tagh. Left early morning and marched 5 hours due south. Crossed range 9200 feet and camped at 8100 feet during day. Taliham came to say good bye. Our party now 9 men. Expect to cross Hami-Turfan road tonight or tomorrow. Marching at night to avoid being seen.

October 31 - Camp #3

(Greenwich Time -- 1700 Local Time)

Left #2 at 1100Z-/marched south down very rocky gorge. Passed 1 aul and 2 zaimkas. Plenty water and food for horses. Arrived at foot of valley at 1500Z. Camp #3 - altitude 5600 feet. Hami-Turfan road about 25 km distant. Water and grass available. Ruined zaimka near by. Weather much warmer.

October 31 - #4

Left camp #3 at 0600Z - marched due south 4 1/2 hours, arriving at point about 6 km north of Hami-Turfan road - small well. Large lone poplar distant 3 km, bearing S.7° mag. is conspicuous landmark. Turki name this place is "Chidyeh" (means "berry"). Alt. 3900'.

October 31-November 1 - Camp #5

Left camp #4 at 1400Z - route SSE until across Hami-Turfan road (about 6 km) then S for about 8 km and SE for 3 more hours (total time 5 hrs) till 1900Z (2 a.m. L.T.) when we camped for night in dry desert. (stony)

November 1 Camp #6

Left #5 at 0030Z and traveled due south about 10 km (1 1/2 hours) to rim where desert drops about 500 feet. Ruins of old watch tower in rim. Camped in draw facing south - small spring and good forage. Altitude 2200 feet. Took P1 facing SE from beside old watch tower mentioned. P2 (of camp) NW from a little below same spot. Camp appears to be due south of main portion Barkul Tagh. Kara Doba visible to SE (E45°5) from watchtower.

November 1-2 Camp #7

Left #6 at 0900Z - travelled SE for about 15 km - passed through Kara Doba at night (about 12:30Z) and continued SW

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until 1330Z, then due south until 1800 when we reached tamarisk jungle on North bank Kuruk Gol. On way followed a cart road most of time until just before reaching Kuruk Gol - (road not on map). Spent night.

November 2 - Camp #8

Left #7 at 7:30 a.m. (L.T.) and travelled E about 10 km to Kuruk Gol. River about 2 meters wide 40 cm deep - flow at 0500Z November 2, 85 m/2. Alt. 800 feet. Fed and watered horses - left about 2 p.m. local. Traveled east until about 3:30 p.m. L.T., when camped for night on N. bank Kuruk Gol. - Camp #9.

November 3 - Camp #10

Left #9 at 8:30 a.m. local - travelled S50°E until 3 p.m. local, crossing stony and sandy desert. At 3 p.m. turned East, travelling until about 5:30 - then NE till dried up river bed to Camp #10 - no water.

November 4 - Camp #11

Left #10 at 7:00 a.m. L.T. travelling East or S80°E until 2 p.m. when crossed horse tracks leading SE. Followed these tracks S and SE until lost in darkness about 9 p.m. Just before losing tracks saw remains of old wagon road leading same way as tracks. Camped for night where tracks petered out - no water.

November 5 - Camp #12

Left #11 at 7:15 a.m. - picked up trail which led generally south and SSE. Followed this trail towards low mountain range SSE. At 1 p.m. arrived at well - water slightly brackish. Name of well in Kazak is "Kiegan Kuduk" - meaning "wooden well" i. e. well with wood sides. Watered horses which were about all in - spent night - Alt. 3500'. This well is not on map (AAF 331) but is about 6 miles north of Hung-mu-ch'uan-Tzu well. This latter is marked by dead stump and trunk of cedar on top of small hill. Two wells - water brackish.

November 6-7 Camp #13

Left #12 at 11:15 L.T. - passed Hung-mu-Ch'uan-Tzu. 25 miles S passed Shu-ku-tzu, wide valley with small tamarish

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mounds. No well. 16 miles further came to Tieh-Shui. Good water and plenty of graze for horses. Spent Nov. 7 here, resting and feeding horses. Alt. 4400'. Many gazelle seen - also tracks of wild camels. Saw one wolf. About 5 km west is another water hole - found by following animal tracks.

November 8 - Camp #14

Left #13 at 7:00 a.m. L.T., taking trail south. Passed through gravel flats and small hills. At 12:00 noon reached Ma-Lien-Chuan - good water (best so far) and some graze for horses. Ruined Sarai and pill box on hill. Left #14 at 6 p.m. L.T.

November 8-9 - Camp #15

After leaving #14 traveled south and southeast until 9:00 p.m. (1400Z) when we lost trail - so spent night in valley - no water or food for horses.

November 9 - Camp #16

Left #15 at 7:40 a.m. - traveled South and then Southwest, reaching a well about 7 km west of Min-Shu at 10:00 a.m. Water not too good. Not much food for horses. Rode over to Min-Shu. Plenty of graze and good water. Watch tower on hill and ruins of Serai - saw one big horn sheep - jemak. Alt. of #16 - 5500'.

November 10 - Camp #17

Left #16 at 6:30 am L.T. Rode South across low mountain range. Crossed Su-Lu-Ho (no water in river) and camped on South bank for night near pond of good water. Plenty of food for horses.

November 11 - Camp #18

Left #17 at 7:00 a.m. and rode due south until 3:00 p.m. 45 km - to point on North bank of Nan-Hu about 15 km due north of village of Nan-Hu. Good water in river and plenty food for horses. Alt. 3800'.

November 12 - Camp #19

Left #18 at 7:00 L.T. rode S.W. over large sand dunes and hills covered with sand. Rode 10 hours to Somotu, a river valley. Good water and food for horses. Two or three zaimkas and 4 or 5 Chinese living there. Bought flour and potatoes.

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November 13 - Camp #20

Left Somoto at 8 a.m. - rode up river valley for 8 hours (SW) to Khulyastay - a camp ground with excellent water and food for horses. Alt. 7750'. No one living there - many kekelik.

November 14 - Camp #21

Left #20 at 8:05 a. m. L.T. - rode Southwest until 4:00 p.m. L.T. to Yam-Bulak. People very hospitable. Nice and warm and first shelter since start of trip. Alt. 9850'. Spent night and ate like pigs - mutton, tea, etc., etc. People appear rich and have plenty of livestock - especially camels.

November 15 - Camp #22

Left #21 at 9:30. Rode to next awl - 3 km - where we stopped for the day and night. People here will supply us with horses and camels for Gas-Kul trip. Four Tungan traders from Tung Huang here. They buy opium from the Kazaks - who grow the poppies. 1 oz. gold equal 6 oz. opium. (1 oz. equals 35 grams) according to traders, Kazaks do not use opium themselves. Will spend night here - more mutton and lots of tea - very good. Alt. 9900'.

November 16 - Camp #22

Stayed over at same awl. Spent day getting camels - tent - which we bought from Tungan trader. Also cookstove and kettle and cloth for trading. Ended up with 8 camels (5 ours, 2 loan, 1 for Kazaks who are with us) and 5 horses. More meat tonight. I have had bad case of G.I.'s - will take sulfa tomorrow.

November 17 Camp #23

Left #22 at 11:00 a.m. - rode to where awl was supposed to be (6 hours) but no awl! Spent night where they had been. Cold but o.k. in tent. Alt. about 10,000!

November 18 - Camp #24

Left #23 at 9:00 a.m. Rode until 3 p.m. to awl of Kabaim Bastik. Everything fixed up for us. Yurt and best Bursak so far. Also big horn sheep meat - fried - very good. Alt. 9600'. Will probably stay here 4 or 5 days - getting ready for trip to Gas Kul. Need mittens, more camels - and make up bursak and cooked meat. Yurt at this instant is full of young Kazaks - most of whom have never seen foreigners before. They are interested in my writing -

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November 23 - Camp #25

Left #24 at 10:20 a.m. L.T. on November 23, with 12 camels, 2 horses, and 2 mules and 10 men in all. Marched west up valley till noon, when stopped for ice - last water. Went on up to head of pass which we reached about 5:30 p.m. Made camp - grass but no water. Alt. 10,600'.

November 24 Camp #26

Left #25 at 7:30 a.m. L.T. went over pass, then west down valley, over another pass. Hit Tunghuang - Chauklik road (truck road) at 453 km. Followed this road, which is in good condition, to km 498, where we made camp in dry river bed. Cold as hell - no water, no grass, no fuel. We picked fuel about 10 a.m. as we crossed second pass.

November 25 - Camp #27

Left #26 at 6:30 a.m. L.T., followed road till about km 501 - then took well defined trail which led to SW of mountain - road continuing north of mountain. Followed this trail over series of passes - generally heading WSW. Country absolutely barren. Many skeletons of men, horses, and camels. About 1:00 p.m. crossed last pass and emerged on wide plain or basin which stretched away to south and southwest, with conspicuous snow-covered range visible above rim of basin to SW. After marching west across this plain, following trail, until 8:30 p.m. (14 hours total) we came to Donbas Tau springs, good graze, little fuel. Alt. 9500'. Will stay here until about midnight of 26th - resting camels and getting ice and fuel for next stretch.

November 27 - Camp #28

Left #27 at 3:00 a.m. L.T. on 27th. Marched along old motor road, generally west. Crossed high pass about 8:00 a.m. alt. about 12,000'. Very cold at night but warmed up after sunrise. At top of pass Gas Kul lake visible to SW. Proceeded down old river valley, still following road (which badly washed out) and finally came out on steppe of Gas Kul basin. At 3:00 p.m. reached spring (Yulgundam) where we camped for night. Alt. about 9200'.

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November 28 - Camp #29

Left #28 about 8:30 a.m. L.T. - travelled towards west end of lake across salt flats. Many Kulam seen and hundreds of tracks. About 2 p.m. reached end of lake. Local Kazak informed us Kussaim Tadji was camped at Timerlik Bulak - towards which we proceeded. Camped at dark near spring. Weather very warm.

November 29 - Camp #30

Up at 8:30 and reached Timerlik Bulak at about 10:00 a.m. Royal welcome by Kussaim Tadji who had yurt all ready for us. This outfit is most wealthy so far - Kussaim has largest yurt I have ever seen. Will stay here until we find out about getting to India. May have to winter here.

Stayed at Timerlik Bulak from November 29 until March 20.

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#1 - March 20 , 1950 1500 L.T. - 0900Z

Left Timerlik Bulak at 10:30 L.T. and proceeded South 10° E to Chimen Tau. Went up valley whose entrance blocked by sand dunes. Near head of valley reached water - Kum Su - alt. 12,000'. (no correction). Arrived at 18:30 L.T. Not very cold. Nice camp with water and plenty of brush.

#2 - March 21

Left #1 at 09:30 L.T. and rode four hours (13:55 L.T.) to Kizil Chap. Water and feed for camels. Alt. 12,400'. Kizil Chap named for red sandstone cliff on south bank of river. Water in river slightly salty. Weather fine and not too cold.

#3 - March 22

Left #2 at 08:20 L.T. Marched W and SW and crossed range between Kizil Chap and At Atkan River. Altitude of pass 14,000'. Descended to At Atkan River and made camp at 14:00 L.T. Very windy but not too cold. Altitude of camp 12,500'. Good water; graze and feed. Tuz Bulak visible to SW.

#4 - March 23

Stayed at #3 until 12:50 L.T. in order to give camels chance to eat. Then marched south to entrance to Amban Ashkan pass. Camped at 17:10 at elevation 13,700'. No water or fuel here - we brought both from #3. Light snow falling after dark. Saw two herds of "Jorgah" - some sort of upland gazelle with long straight horns. Saw many big horn sheep skulls but not very large horns. No apparent effects from elevation. Tomorrow we will cross pass and reach lake Ayaghkun.

#5 - March 24

Left #4 at 08:20 L.T. and proceeded up valley and over Amban Ashkan pass, elevation 15,450'. Wind and fine snow at summit. Thence down valley to black plain in which Lake Ayagh Kun lies. Fog prevented seeing lake. Stopped for night (14:00 L.T.) at first river (very small - 15 feet wide). Elevation 13,300'. Cold wind from NW but no snow. Food for camels and firewood (bush) available. Will cross to other side of valley tomorrow and stay for day or so. Saw two kulan and many yak signs.

#6 - March 25

Left #5 at 10:15 L.T. marched SE, then S, then SW to point on west bank Petelik river. Amban Ashkan bears N 13° W. Elevation of camp 13,600'. Arrived at 17:00. Many kulan

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and Jorga, especially along bluff on east of river. View of Terme Tass mountains to south. AAF chart 333 apparently has location of Ming Bulag (which is an area about 10 sq. km.) and Samsa Bulag interchanged. Terme Tass means in Uigher "Stone Gate" which refers to entrance to pass. Petelik means in Kazak "Lousy" which refers to game - the area is "lousy" with it. Petelik river is about one mile wide - braided - with not much water in it now. In summer it is about one km wide and two to three feet deep. Good graze for camels and good firewood available, but food for horses scarce.

#6 - March 26

Spent day at #6, feeding camels and gathering firewood - this being best place for sometime where wood is available (or rather brush). Roots are thick and make good fuel. Brush is called in Kazak "Kara Barak" and in Uigher "Kuruk".

#7 - March 27

Left #6 at 08:40 and rode up Petelik river till 14:15. Camped on west bank where a number of springs from Ming Bulag enter river. Elevation 13,900'. Weather cloudy and snow squalls frequent. Kazaks returned today after taking us this far. Tomorrow we reach foot of Terme Tass pass over Su-Petelin Tau. Pass entrance bears S75°E. Water here but very little feed for camels or horses. Fuel scarce. Weather on trip so far pretty poor - every day but first two have been cloudy most of time - snow squalls common. Today coldest day so far.

#8 - March 28

Left #7 at 10:05 L.T. marched S 75° E across plain until 21:00, when camped for night on river bed, (river flowing out of Terme Tass pass entrance, although at time we didn't know it). NW winds and snow squalls all day - marched entirely by compass. After camping weather cleared and violent, cold wind blew all night down river valley. Water here but no feed or fuel.

#9 - March 29

Left #8 at 10:00, marched west until 14:00, towards what appeared to be pass entrance. Crossed end of wide valley running about SE-NW, conspicuous rocky peak at head of valley. On arriving at western end of valley obvious that pass entrance not there. Since feed for camels (very little) was available, decided to stay here one day and scout for pass. Fuel (dung) available, water at spring about 3 km south.

#9 - March 30

Spent part of day at #9. I scouted up valley to foot of rock peak; no pass. Saw one Yak, and got slight case snow

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blindness in right eye. Vasili went back to river (#8) entrance and found signs of route (tracks, fire places) and grave of Kazak. Left #9 at 17:00 and arrived at #10 at 21:00.

#10 - March 30

Spent night at pass entrance, water, some dung for fuel, no feed. Weather since March 29 has been fair during day, with strong NW to W winds; some clouds forming towards evening when wind dies.

#11 - March 31

Left #10 at 09:00, marched due south up river valley and at 12:00 arrived at summit of pass. Elevation 15,800'. Stone marker at top. At summit instead of view to south we saw only wide snow-filled plain, a few hundred feet below, with mountains on all sides. Large rock peak (estimated height 17,000') which was visible from #9, was conspicuous to right. Acting on principle that rivers eventually get out of mountains, we followed largest first south, then SE, and finally stopped when river ended in lake, elevation 15,400'. Spent night here. Water, fuel (dung) and very little feed.

#12 - April 1

Left #11 at 08:00. Retraced route to where river started, then headed SW across another valley. At far SW end river flows into this valley from SW. Went up river valley to point where river makes about turn to NW. Here turned south up small stream and crossed over pass - elevation 16,300'. Marker at top (pile of stones) and stone slab set up on hillside to right of route. After crossing pass went due south down little valley and camped for night to right of valley (W) entrance. Elevation 16,000'. From top of pass the Kara Tau hills visible to south, with pass over them bearing due south. Fuel (dung) and fair feed but no water except snow.

#13 - April 2

Left #12 at 11:05 and marched due south until 15:25, when we arrived at small hill (about 40 feet high) on north bank of river flowing W to E (no water now). Stone pile on hill top, also signs of other travellers long ago. Volcanic cone (on Kara Tau) to SW and much red and black scoria in riverbed. Dung fuel, fair feed, but no water except snow. Day fair, strong WNW winds all day, stopping at night. Will spend tomorrow here feeding camels.

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#13 - April 3

Spent day at #13, made radio contact. Tomorrow will leave for foot of pass over Kara Tau. Weather fair and windy.

#14 - April 4

Left #13 at 11:00 L.T. marched four hours due south to foot of pass over Kara Tau. Camped in river bed (dry). Snow squall as we arrived. No fuel, water (except snow) or feed.

#15 - April 5

Left #14 at 09:00 L.T. - up river and over Kara Tau (elevation 16,500') then down river valley which turned to SE and entered lake. We left valley and proceeded due south to grassy plain intersected by various small, dry river beds. Camped for the night. Fair feed for camels, no water except snow, fuel scarce. Weather fair, strong wind all day, night calm. Elevation 16,200'. Shot Yak near dry lake about four miles WSW of camp.

#16 - April 6

Left #15 at 10:00 L.T., followed old trail generally S or SSW, arriving at east end of Sabun Kul lake at 14:30 L.T. Lake frozen, water very alkaline. Made camp on NE shore. Elevation 16,300'. Weather fair, windy with strong W winds during day. Feed fair, dung fuel very plentiful, water (from melted snow in river beds) available but takes looking for. Will spend tomorrow here feeding camels. Saw two Yaks.

#16 - April 7

Spent day feeding camels at #16.

#17 - April 8

Left #16 at 09:00 L.T. followed old trail up pass at SE corner of Sabun Kol. After crossing pass trail (occasionally marked by stone pile) led generally SW, across many dry water courses and over small hills running East and West. After crossing last hill saw Ungurlik Tau to south with big snow-covered peak to SW and curious dome-shaped peak to S. In foreground the Kizil Uzun (Red river) runs (dry) from SE to NW. Crossed this river and camped for night about 5 km SW of river among grass-covered little hillocks. No water, fair feed for camels and dung fuel. Elevation 16,300'.

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#18 - April 9

Left #17 at 0855, marched SW across another river (dry), then S along west bank, then SE (recrossing river) and gradually upward through small hills towards dome-shaped peak. Recrossed Kizil Uzun and at 1800 camped next to peak (volcanic one). Elevation 17,100'. Dung fuel, snow for water, no feed.

#19 - April 10

Left #18 at 0900, LT, crossed small ridge between cone and cliff to W (elev. 17,300') and descended into valley, (E to W) in which are many small red hills, grass covered red dunes, lake to SE. At south side valley closed by range low hills and sand dunes. Peaks of Boka Dawan Tau (Kum Sun) visible to SSW. Camped at 1300 in hollow due south of cone. Water (salty), fuel and fair grass.

#20 - April 11

Left #19 at 0900 L.T., marching SW to get around sand dunes, then Sup river valley in hills south of main valley, then down another valley until 1700, when arrived at water flowing W to E between two lakes, with Buka Dawan visible across wide valley to S. Elevation 16,300'. Good water, excellent Grass and plenty of dung. Will stay here two days feeding camels.

#20 - April 12 and 13

Stayed in camp feeding camels, also tried to pick out valley leading to pass.

#21 - April 14.

Left #20 at 0900, marched SE across valley and then up river valley, generally south. Crossed pass at top (17,300') then down about 200 feet to valley. Hills all around. Camped for night - ice for water but no fuel or food.

#22 - April 15

Left #21 at 0845, marched SW down river valley, then finally S over hills (17,700') to another valley. Small hills in center of valley - many Yaks grazing and good grass, also dung fuel plentiful - snow for water. Shot some Yaks for hide, etc. Camped at small hills where Yaks grazed. (El 17,100').

#23 - April 16

Left #22 at 0700, marched SSW to end of valley and then down river valley (Bizan Kazar - lost calf) generally SW,

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until river emptied into lake; turned SE about 2 miles from lake and proceeded until 1800, when arrived at area of very good grass. Snow for water and dung fuel available. Elevation 16,600'.

#24 - April 17

Left #23 at 0830, marched SE to go around large hill to south, then due S all day across one range of small hills after another. Finally 1800 crossed series and arrived near N bank of large lake running E and W (salt). Camped for night in valley leading to lake. Water (slightly salt) in valley, some grass, dung and brush for fuel. One of our best camels stampeded during night.

#25 - April 18

Spent most of morning looking for camel, which we did not find. Finally left #24 at about 1100. Went around W end of lake, then SW, and finally S toward what looked like lowest part of range of small hills running E and W. Arrived at base of hills about 1830. Good water from spring, plenty of dung fuel, but no grass.

#26 - April 19

Left #25 at 1000, marched S up river valley, making detour slightly to W to avoid salt spring basin; finally over top of hills S across valley to entrance to another valley, arriving there about 1330. Camped (since needed make radio contact) just inside valley. Some grass and dung, snow for water. Will continue up valley tomorrow.

#27 - April 20

Left #26 at 0900, proceeded up valley to S. After marching all day until 1800 reached SE bank of salt lake ringed with hills to S, W, and NW. Camped near base of small hill to keep out of violent W wind. Water from snow, some grass and dung.

#28 - April 21

Left #27 at 0830. Marched south over many small hills - about 1800 crossed last hill and descended SW via river valley to large salt lake. Went around this lake to E and camped on E bank. No water, no fuel, some grass.

#29 - April 22

Left #28 at 0930 - marched SE up wide valley. At foot of valley went S up river to W of red peak, finally crossing pass (17,800') about 1630. Camped in dry river bed at 17,300'. Snow, no fuel, no grass.

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#30 - April 23

Left #29 at 0800, marched SW towards low spot in hills to south. After crossing several small hills arrived at river valley leading S. Marched down this and camped at 1400 since radio contact needed. Some grass, dung plentiful, water. Many signs of Kazak camps.

#31 - April 24

Left #30 at 0900. Marched SW to west end of hill blocking view to S from river valley. At west end found wide valley lead up and due S. Went up this valley to head, then over several small hills and finally reached head of pass (17,300'). Followed river down S side of hills - very steep and rocky (granite). Many Tibetan sheep folds (made of stone), main stores, etc. From signs believe people left about one month ago. About 2 miles down valley camped beside good spring. Tibetan sheep fold and enormous quantities Yak dung, but no grass. Elevation 16,600'.

#32 - April 25

Left #31 at 0900. Marched about 2 miles S down valley to where grass excellent. Stopped to feed camels. Brook from spring at Camp 31 runs by here. Plenty of fuel. Best camp since Ming Bulak. Large salt lake to S and SW about 7 miles distant. Wind light today and weather mild.

Mr. Bessac's notes foregoing ----- by ViceConsul Mackiern

The following is as far as the road log was kept. The following (although kept up to date, is historical) will be given in chronological order. Not having Mac's notes on altitude, direction and time, altitude will be mostly left out and time and direction approximated.

#33 - April 26

Left #32 at 0700 and marched SW down stream bed and then S across end of lake and then SE up valley over small ridge and 2nd ridge. After descending ridge into stream bed made camp at 1730. One camel could barely make it down and it was decided to abandon it on morning. Dung fuel, ice in stream bed for water and moderate graze.

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#34 - April 27

Left camp #33 at 0730 and marched 5 hours SE toward W side red cone-shaped peak and over pass (17,800?) and then S down stream bed (water) to EW valley with lake 4k x 4k in West End Valley. Upon reaching valley marched 3k. W to camp on NE corner lake. Very high snow-covered peaks to E of red cone. Also snow-covered peaks to W of lake. Dung fuel, water about 1.5 km west of camp. Good graze.

#35 - April 28

Left #34 at 0800 and marched SE and SW 5 hrs around end of lake and over hills. Then SW up valley to head 3 hr and then 1 hr SE down valley to spring. Should have gone S over hills rather than SW up valley. At spring old Tibetan quarters. Water good. Plenty of dung fuel but no graze for camels and but little for horses. However, there was very good graze in valley we had just left. (The correct way to travel in this area is to carry cooking and drinking water and fuel with you and pitch camp upon reaching good graze or dark.) Since camp #24 we have run into the strange phenomenon of whenever there is water there is no graze for the camels although or perhaps because the water holes are Tibetan camp grounds. Camels are naturally a browsing, not grazing, animal. Thus they can't graze as close as either Yak or sheep and if Yak and/or sheep have grazed an area beforehand, the camels go hungry. This is especially true since graze near springs is moss rather than grass.

#36 - April 28

Left #35 at 0700 and traveled SE down stream to wide SSE to WNW and then N to S valley then left stream and traveled S over slope of long hills. Valley enclosed by hills all but to exact S. Camped at 1630 at stream NW end of valley. Far to south clouds of salt can be seen arising in the strong wind from large lake or lake bed running W. To our SE is another small salt lake. Grass and water good. Dung fuel. (Dung fuel all way to Shen Taa Dzong).

#37 - April 29

Mac's birthday. Left #36 at 0800. Traveled straight South down valley to west of small lake, crossed stream which must run into small lake. Another stream to W which comes from NW to W of ridge bordering stream at which we camped. Stream runs S upon entering Valley. At 1100 Tibetan tents upon hillside to SSE seen through glasses. Mac and I (armed) proceeded ahead of main party which was to follow slowly. After about

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one hour Tibetans saw us. Mac Proceeded about 1/4 mile ahead of me waving white flag. Tibetans sent delegate (girl) to meet Mac. They grinned at each other and tried to speak to each other. Then girl left with us following slowly behind. Girl met a man at the top of the hill and talked for a few minutes. Man unlimbered gun and both disappeared over hill. We followed slowly. Upon reaching top of hill Tibetans were seen reinforcing a small family fortification with rocks and with guns ready for use. I went 1/2 way to them waving white flag until Mac stopped me and told me to come back. His idea was to strike camp, make a fire and act as peacefully as possible hoping thus to convince Tibetans that we could not be Kazaks because Kazaks wouldn't act in such a fashion and that in any case we were friendly and not after sheep or property. At about this time the rest of party appeared and we pitched camp at E bank of above-mentioned stream. Immediately after pitching camp six men on horseback were seen approaching us from W or NW. In this general direction was a Tibetan tent and two men with a flock of sheep. It was decided that I, unarmed and with a small gift of raisins, tobacco and cloth, waving white cloth would go to two men and try and make friends. Mac then changed his mind and told me to go see people in rock fortification. (Two of which were now on top of slight hill between fort and camp watching our activity). Upon my approach the two men made off for their fort with Bessac and flag close behind. I made certain that they understood that I was not armed and stopped about 50 yards from fort. Tibetans waved me on but kept guns pointed at what seemed to me to be the middle of my abdomen. Upon arriving at fort I saw what appeared to be a biological family of about 7 people including women and children. They had three old but fancy muzzle-loaders. I made my presentation, convinced them I was an American, and a friend, and started to return to camp. They also left their fort and started on their way to their tent. Just before reaching top of rise, before tent could be seen, shots were heard to my immediate front. I assumed that the six men had fired on tent. I returned to Tibetans to try and persuade one of them to go with me to area of conflict and establish peace. However none would go. They all returned to their fort. I therefore proceeded alone to area of tent from where frequent shots were heard. Waving my white flag I reached top of rise and was about to approach Tibetans firing on tent who were behind a slight embankment about 75 yards from tent and 100 yards from me in attempt to stop this nonsense. Just then Tibetans rose from behind embankment and beckoned to someone to come to them (not me). Four men with hands above head left the tent (one slightly behind the rest) and approached the Tibetans who also approached our men. Just before the two groups met two shots, Mac's shout, "Don't shoot," and another shot were heard. Three men fell to the

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ground. The fourth was running to the tent. A fusillade of shots was heard and when about 1/2 of the way to the tent the left leg of the person running doubled under him, but he managed to make it to the tent. A great deal of talk was heard and the six men retired behind the embankment. I remained standing during this time with flag in hand on top of the rise. More shots were fired and judging from the sound of bullets past my ears I assumed this inhospitable act was directed at me and accordingly hit the ground where I sprawled as if dead. Just as I was about to raise my head more shots were fired some from the tent and some from the Tibetans. I quickly dropped my head. After the passage of a certain amount of time (3 - 30 minutes) I again raised my head. No one shot at it. From the prone position I began to wave the flag. I also for the first time noticed that my right hand was bleeding profusely. ^{was} I thought that it had been cut by a rock although I thought it strange that splinters of wood were lying flat across the wound - not stuck in it. The flag pole was also splintered and torn where my hand had been. How strange I thought. The Tibetans were now standing and waved me forward. I approached slowly with both arms and stretched. It was impossible to not make half glances to the side - were those three grotesque shapes in the right men or sacks? Before this question had been settled I was in front of the six men who had formed a semi-circle with rifles on the ground in front of them. They appeared to be wearing a uniform of some sort. I was told to "Ke-t'u". This made me angry and I told them I was an American in Chinese, Mongolian and English. The leader made as if to grab his gun. Unable to "Ke-t'u" I looked beseechingly, I guess, at the other soldiers. A sympathetic face met mine and he frantically pointed to the ground. I fell to my knees and stayed there. (That seemed at that time a natural inclination) sufficient. My hands were bound behind and I was made to walk in front of the soldiers to the tent. Vasili fell to his knees and "lau yehed" the conquerers. I discovered that I was humming the song "Who". I went to the three objects on the ground. They were men all right - very dead. Mac was lying on his back with his legs crossed. He looked not uncomfortable and was smiling, perhaps slightly ironically. I had a very strong emotion of envy which lasted until one of the Tibetans while going through Mac's pockets came across some barsak, (fried biscuit). He offered me a piece but I refused. He laughed, put the barsak to Mac's teeth and then in his own mouth. Mac's lower jaw relaxed and his mouth fell wide open. I felt a little sick in the stomach and walked away. The Tibetans realized by now that they had made a mistake and although some seemed sorry about the incident the leader and to some extent all were flushed with victory. They were also more or less very interested in

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looting. My hands were unbound and somehow the Tibetans and I managed to strike camp and load the camels. One of the camels had been killed. Immediately after the camels were loaded my glasses were taken from me after my protest and at the point of a gun. For that reason the log from #35 to Shen Tsa Dzong will be brief. Bessac without glasses is just about blind. After a march of an hour or so much interrupted by balking camels between whom and the Tibetans a mutual fear existed, and falling loads we reached a Tibetan camp to SW of incident across stream and at base of hills. There was a spring at the camp which was pitched in gully. After unloading the camels and settling them for night we were invited into the leader's tent. I helped Vasili down hill and to the tent and dressed his wound there. In the tent we met other people and were convinced by now those who had fought us were soldiers connected in at least a slight manner with the Tibetan Government. This was especially brought home when we were told that we were only 20 Yak days from Lhasa. Up to then we had imagined that we were about 40 days from Lhasa and well north of the 33rd parallel where according to stateside cable there was neither law nor God but much banditry. I talked of La Brong, Kun Bun, the Panchen Lama, of how the Tibetan Government knew we were coming, etc. Said how, although three men were dead, I wasn't angry, but still must get to Lhasa. I also grinned at whoever grinned at me. The situation became less tense. The Tibetan sent to me gave raisins (ours which someone had looted since this man was not one of the original soldiers) to me and Vasili. Later he stealthily passed other raisins to me making sure he was not seen. The Tibetans went through their knowledge of English for me, lor (dollar), cigarette, salaam (salute) yes, no, etc. Time came to sleep. We knew that we would not be allowed to sleep in the tent but were not prepared for the spot they lead us to - a narrow gully just wide enough for one person to lie in but long enough so that the two of us had room to lie in it. A better place to kill us while we slept could hardly be conceived. It was a ready made grave. I doubt that either of us slept more than a few minutes that night. Tibetans came to the site continually throughout the night and we thought each and every were our executors. Assuming that they were to kill us only because we might prove embarrassing to them and not because they did not like us, I thought they would not shoot us until we fell asleep. Therefore I let each group that approached our, as I then thought, future grave, know that I was awake. I actually tried to sleep. The image of Mac's peaceful face

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(before the barsak episode) reappeared and my main ambition that night was to reach, without effort on my part and without pain or preliminary fuss and fear, that state of bliss. Just on the point of sleeping some time early in the morning an explosion seemed to occur right within the gully. I thought that was it and now to die, easily I hope. Then I heard the whine of projectiles over head and knew that whatever it was it had missed. One of the Tibetans had toyed with one of our Chinese grenades, bad things to have anything to do with at any time.

The next morning we moved from the gully into the sun. I told the Tibetans that I wished an escort on my immediate trip to Lhasa, trying to make it appear that our going was a conclusion much foregone. I also showed them an identification card with my portrait. Tibetans came and asked for objects that morning and from the much more considerate manner in which we were handled, I presumed that the crisis was over, that we would live and that we would go to Lhasa. I tried to sleep. Merry laughter and excited voices were heard from the hill above the camp where the Tibetans were examining and looting our goods. I thought it best not to interfere and after the looting one of the men was sent with a letter to higher authorities concerning us. We were informed that we were to leave in the morning. That night, although we occupied the same above-mentioned gully we slept well. Tibetans, especially those not concerned with the affair, have proved very sympathetic, nice people.

#38 - May 1

Left #37 at about 0900 and traveled S along mountain slope down valley until about 1300. Snow flurry and wind in afternoon. At this camp came across first tall (chi-chi) graze since Timerlik. This is the only sign of it between Timerlik and Shen Tsa. Ice for water.

#39 - May 2

Left #38 at approximately 0900 and traveled S 3 hrs down valley to W end of large EW lake. Lake was not frozen and Vasili could not see Eastern end. Made steep descent of 200 feet to large river bottom with 20 yards of 1 ft³ swift; water in it, river runs from W to E and must enter lake. Then made quick ascent from river bottom up and over low ridge and then slight ascent to small lake where at 1330 we made camp. Tibetan encampment, water, fuel, but no or little graze for camels. Have made friends with our escort, (the leader Tserindorji, his No. 1, a soldier, and a civilian who does the dirty work of the camp.)

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#40 - May 3

Left #39 at 0900, traveled 4 hrs. S up wide valley and over low range of hills to W end large lake (Vasili could not see eastern end). Tibetan encampment on NW end. Went around end of lake and then SE along S shore of lake for 1 hour and then SW over hills on S border of lake. There descended to narrow river valley running N and SE (NW and S). Followed stream up valley to 1500 when made camp at Tibetan encampment along bank of stream. Graze poor. This afternoon a messenger from Lhasa arrived. Tserindorji refused to let us see him and appeared worried when he re-entered the tent. That night he asked if I would write a letter to Lhasa absolving him of any blame in the incident. This I promised to do. He decided to make it to Shen Tsa in two rather than four days since the orders from Lhasa were to bring us as quickly as possible from point of contact to Shen Tsa.

It was today that we determined that the three round balls in the sack packed in the camel in front were the heads of our recent friends. The dead camel's head was also carried on the same camel on the other side. Heads are going to Lhasa with us.

#41 - May 4

Left Camp #40 at 0500 and traveled S 3 hrs up valley to base of long range where we made first contact with main body of Lhasa messengers, and our planned to be welcome, bearing red flag. Thus it was a matter of five days too soon or too late, according to the point of view, that determined that three men should die and one should be wounded rather than all of us receiving a royal welcome. I identified myself. Here is the first of many times that I was offered an opportunity by Tibetan officials to kill Tserindorji. We went over pass and descended half way down to EW valley which was bordered to S and SW by two very high snow-covered mountains. Here at spring and Tibetan encampment we stopped for two hours for tea. Here met more Tibetan officials.

#42 - May 4

Left #41 and went SE S down valley and then SSE on wide plain in which were many shallow streams now with but little water, and then ascended and descended long slope and small ridge. Here we met a stream which had just made a right angle turn from S to N to a W to E direction of flow. Went S upstream

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for three hours until at 1900 made camp at Tibetan encampment.

#43 - May 5

Left #42 at 0600 and proceeded S up valley. Stream becomes marsh and at places frozen lakes as we went higher and higher. After 5 hrs stopped at Tibetan encampment for lunch.

#44 - May 5

Left #43 at 1300 and again proceeded S up valley. After 2 hrs. came to Tibetan encampment. Here caravan stopped. The Bambo Rubin (Co. General) of area who lives at Shen Tsa had come to meet us with candy, sugar, good will and good rice. We camped here for day. Here I was not only given opportunity to shoot Tserindorji but until I said no, Tibetan officer of Robin wanted to shoot him that night as we slept.

#45 - May 6

Left #44 at 0700 and proceeded S up valley for hr and then S for hr up steep mountain. From here Shentsa presents itself as group of mud houses in enclosures and small temple. To S of valley in which Shen Tsa is located is a very high snow-covered range. Also to far N and far E. Descent here extremely precipitous. Vasili's leg had been troubling him very much for last two days and descent kept him in great pain. Within two hrs. a descent of over 3000 feet was made. By 1200 we were in Shen Tsa. Here we were put in the guest house of one of the Dzong officials. This is the first building and home I have entered since leaving the Consulate grounds at Urumchi. We are treated very well by our host.

May 7

Army officer has gone to Shigarhung Lung to bring back looted articles. Heads of three deceased are going with him to be buried with bodies. Camel head still to go to Lhasa.

May 8

Tserindorji on way to Lhasa to report. We must wait until letter from Lhasa arrives before proceeding further.

May 11

Army officer who had gone to Shigarhung Lung returned with most of our articles including the gold. For his cut most of the clothing of deceased and many things no longer of use

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were given him. The soldier under Tserindorji's command who had accompanied us was given the second series of 40 across the bare buttock today. Tibetan officials greatly incensed at looting after incident and I was asked to witness. Man is laid flat on ground with BTM skyward in this ceremony. Two officers whip from both sides. I must admit that I derived some satisfaction from proceedings. Mac's, Yovka's and Stepan's faces and bodies as they lay by the stream bed kept coming to mind - especially Mac's after the bursak had been put to his teeth. Also that of the 20-year old boy Yovka. He looked as though he died crying. It will be a long time before this smarty pants of a soldier sits down. This is all the punishment he will receive. Opinion here is that Tserindorji will be beheaded in Lhasa. I will stop this if possible but will not object if he also gets a taste of the lash. Also am going to try to arrange it so that he gives me three good K-tous on stone floor. I have been brought to my knees but once and the person who caused it must reply in kind with interest.

May 12

Although we knew neither the frequencies or the call letters used between Mac and the two stations we had been contacting, we tried to make contact. The list of frequencies and call letters Mac gave me in Barkol to use in case of emergency seemed outdated. It at least was not in use by the other stations during May when we attempted radio contact; first by attempting to break in on the other stations on their sending frequency and later by using all the crystals found in the tool kit box. All to no avail and when both stations went off the air on or about the twenty 2nd of May (6 day of 4th Tibetan month), we discontinued our attempt to make radio contact.

6th Day of 4th Tibetan Month

Tserindorji returned from Lhasa today accompanied by Dr. Lahsunyarpil and another Tibetan soldier. The good doctor has a slight command of the English language. It was very pleasant to hear his words of salutation, "Good morning. How are you?" Vasili's wound, according to the doctor, is healing well but slowly. Tomorrow he is to give him penicillin injections. I think the wound is healing slowly because, due to the high altitude, there is not a great deal of oxygen in his blood.

The Lhasa Government, Foreign Bureau, sent me a letter with the doctor stating their regrets concerning the incident.

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They also sent some food, including jam and canned fruit. This is the first such food I have eaten since leaving Urumchi.

The military commander, Bambo Ruben, and all six soldiers who took part in the shooting are to report to Lhasa. It looks very bad for them. I will try to help them, especially Ruben who has been very nice to us.

Expect to leave for Lhasa within four days.

#46 - 114th day of 4th month - May 30th
(May 28th)

On 12th, second officer dispatched to area of incident returned to Shen Tsa with most of the articles that had been missing. However, Vasili's 10-oz. of gold still not found. 12th was Buddhist holiday and we were guests of Ruben Gushi (Bomba Ruben).

Vasili, Doctor, soldier and I left Shen Tsa for Lhasa on morning of 29th. Vasili's wound is nearly well but he is still being carried on six-man stretcher. Leaving Shen Tsa went ESE for 3 hrs and then ENE for three hours. In general followed stream which runs through Shentsa and then to Kyaring Tso but when stream and valley make right angle turn from ESE to ENE three hours from Shen Tsa trail goes over mountain. S to East of stream three hours later. After crossing stream we proceeded ENE for two hours, crossing low hills to East of stream and then descending into valley with stream and small (1 x 1 kil) lake on south end. Here, 1 mile or so ENE of lake made camp. Camp all set up before we arrived. Doctor had informed people of our intended route to Lhasa and time of departure from Shen Tsa and thus all in readiness. Stretcher arrived about three hours later. Snowed at night.

#47 - May 30

Left camp #46 at 0700 a.m. elevation 15,800'. Traveled 5 hrs ENE up valley and over mountain range, elevation at pass 16,700'. Then East three hours down mountain to high valley and up valley to Eastern end, crossing river in process. At 1300 made camp #47 elevation 16,200'. Vasili arriving at 1730. Tomorrow he shall either ride a camel or stretcher will be carried by 4 yaks. Snowed during trip. There has been no food for camels since we left Shen Tsa and I was forced to abandon the bull this morning. Tibetans promised to bring him food and if he lives he will proceed slowly to Lhasa. Stay at Shen Tsa has greatly sapped camel's strength. They have all lost wool - some as much as fourth. Country is just turning green and might, by fall, contain enough grass to keep camels going.

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This is long road to Lhasa from Shen Tsa. Short road goes over mountains to Sand SE of Shen Tsa by one animal mountain pass. Long road by which we must go because of Vasili takes ten days. Short road six or five.

#48 - May 31

Left #47 0630 and traveled East up Valley and stream for two hours, then south up same stream for 2 hrs, then where valley and stream fork took left-hand fork to SE, other fork to West reaching camp at 1130. Planned to only have tea here but no change of horses and no preparation made ahead of us so we will stay here rest of day making 1 1/2 days' march tomorrow. No graze for camels but people have brought some hay for them. Female camel's feet have gone bad again and she will probably be left behind. Vasili rode some today with no noticeable bad effects on leg. Elevation 16,700'.

#49 - June 1

Left #48 at 0630 traveling E upstream on slope of hills west of stream for four hrs then, still following stream, turned to SE and traveled 1 hr reaching Tibetan encampment and nearly at head of valley. Will stop here for tea and then cross hills to ESE valley surrounded by hills except to NW. Elevation 16,900'.

#50 - June 1

Left #49 at 1330 traveled 2 hrs SE up valley then 1 hr E over pass (el 17,650). To NW of pass is 1 x 1 1/2 kil lake (still frozen) - Nyenchentangla and Range seen from pass. Then followed stream 2 hrs, except for cutting over nose of hill to NE of stream, to valley and encampment. Elevation of #50, 16,700'.

#51 - June 2

Left #50 at 0715 and traveled SE just over low hills enclosing #50; then down valley with stream, then up very slight rise to drop 3 or 4 hundred feet to bed of box canyon and stream. Here made camp (TC) at 1300, El 16,750' Nyanchentangla to E and Range to SE covered with snow.

#52 - June 3

Left #51 at 1430 and leaving valley which here runs south went SE for one hr over nose of range to left valley and then 4 hrs SE down valley crossing large stream several times. After 2 1/2 hrs 2nd valley from south opens out on SE-NW valley. At this point over Guorila (Guori Mt.) to Zamsa. We continue SE.

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Nyenchentangla to SE 5 hrs after leaving #51 made camp at NW side of river flowing from above-mentioned North to South valley. Time 1945, El 16,100' (TC), tea and cookies.

#53 - June 23

Left #52 at 0830 and traveled due E until 1315 where made camp #53. Crossed to SE side of river (100 ft wide, 1 to 2 1/2 ft deep, rapid flow, biggest flowing body of water since perhaps stream from E to W lake at Azik Batar Kol area) and kept to NE slope of hills gradually leaving stream. At 1130 abreast of SW shore of Nam Tso. At camp #53 lake is only about 2 kil. to N in distance. Camels eating brush again for first time since we left Meng Bulak. Brush is low (never more than 1 ft tall) and reddish black without leaves. Tibet name Pierna. Will stop here today to feed and rest camels. El 16,200'.

#54 -55 - June 24

Left 53 at 1430 and arrived at #55 at 1655. Altitude at #54 16,200 same from which Nyenchentangla had picture taken. El #55 16,150. El Nam Tso 16,050. From #53 to #55 have followed along south shore of Nam Tso (fresh) crossing the nose of nine ridges running from mt. to lake. Tenth ridge we went around on ledge above lake and then to lake shore. In valleys between ridges are streams of varying size. Some crossable in fact by hopping from stone to stone. Some 30 ft. wide and 1 ft deep. Valley #10 is about 2 miles wide and contains 3 streams. Many Kulan seen. Snow-covered mt no more than 4 miles to S and SW. Many flowers, 1 large (1-inch at mouth 2 in. long) lavender, looks like cross between orchid and snapdragon, 1 small (1/2 inch mouth) yellow but same snap as lavender and sage. Tibetan name Song Kangba.

#57 - June 25

Left #55 at 0615. Traveled 30°N of E 4 hrs along alluvial plains crossing 4 streams then crossed nose of ridge and descended to wide valley and recommencement of alluvial plains. Here at 1115 (snow-covered peaks to S) made Camp #56. Left #56 at 1230 traveling along plain and very low ranges. Crossed three streams and camped at 4th at 1630. Snow-capped peaks due east. End of lake to North and highest of snow-capped peaks about 5° N of E. On leaving #56 traveled 30° N of E but gradually turned more and more E until by time of arrival at #57 rode due East. El at #56 16,100 - El at #57 16,350.

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#58 - June 6

Left #57 at (sprinkled today) 0700 and crossed stream then nose of high hill and then head of broad valley which merges with plain to north shore of Nam Tso. Crossed to slope of hills to East of valley and then proceeded south over mt. to Lakin pass (El 17,200'). Crossed pass in about 3 hrs. Then descended steep winding valley in general southerly direction. At 1400 arrived at Dam (El 14,800') Lowest since Pirene Pass.

#60 - June 7

Left #58 at 0330 and traveled SW down valley, then over low range and into 2nd valley. In middle of 2nd are a few low hills. To south of hills is home of Ba Dzong magistrate and we made #59 at 1300. Given empty barren house which soon changed under threats of Lobsunyarji and Pindsarji. Left #59 at 1630 and after precarious crossing (sprinkled today) of 100 x 2 ft. turbulent stream arrived at 2045 at #60. #60 at head of 2nd valley. El 15,125. (Notes for map - Nyenchentangla to NW Sharno is nat dam at foot of Luckinla. Ba Dzong. Dashi Tonggin Gomba). (Note to National Geographic:- Dzong - Mag. district. la - pass or mt.)

#61 - June 8

Left #60 at 0800. Rained during night and at 0700 in morning reached top of pass (El 15900). Sprinkled on road. Pass exactly opposite Nyenchentangla. One river comes down 1/2 way slope of NC and L where it separates 1 to NE and 1 to SW. Continued SW to Zamsar, arriving at 1400. Ruben Gusho and six soldiers were met here on way to Lhasa. He had crossed Guarila to our north. El 15,450'. Pactai 3rd N hill E Zamsar on side river.

#62 - June 9

Left #61 0700 traveling down river. Immediately before leaving Zamsar crossed stone bridge only after one camel fell in drink and much difficulty. Camel fished out. At El 14,500 rye planted. Dejin Dzong El 14,100 and planted either to rye or peas. Trees appear at 14,250. Crossed 2nd bridge about 1 1/2 hrs from Dejin Dzong. Arrived at Dejin Dzong at 1250. Will eat eggs if shock is not too great.

#63 - June 9

Left #62 at 1445 and arrived at Ma (#63) at 1745. Ma is name of white flower. Here met employee of Indian Mission and Foreign Office cook. Will eat roast chicken tonight. Eggs were good. Heavy rain just before arriving Ma. Received letter from Richardson of Indian Mission. Will meet Deishu Gusho, interpreter of Foreign Office tomorrow.

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Authority AMP 800910
By CA NARA Date 7/28/05

SECURITY: ~~SECRET~~ SECRET

#64 - June 10

Rained heavily during early morning. Left #63 at 0815 and arrived at Nhantax at 1215. As with #63, #64 is tent in grove of willow and poplar. Ride and camp both extremely pleasant. Girls from Dejin and Lhasa decorate their faces with a black tree dye, some only under eyes, other on side of nose and some as wide streaks on the face. I do not approve. Nhantax 400 ft lower than Ma.

#65 - Lhasa - June 11

Left #64 same time and arrived at small village 6 miles from Lhasa one hour before dark. Rained like hell in late afternoon and I rode ahead of rest of party. Met Tse Gung, my official interpreter and Henrig Harrer, Austrian, just before arriving. Presented me, among other things, Tibetan clothes. Left at 0600 next morning and, after coffee at British Consulate (Indian Mission), came to house prepared by Foreign Bureau. Chinese Communist delegates here but ^{have} not succeeded as yet. Good to be here - Oh God. Log will not be kept for rest of journey. Thousands have been over Lhasa-Kalimpong road.

Action Assigned to CA
Action Taken Review undertaken by A45-CA
State, KGB handling claims aspects with TET.

Date of Action 11/3
Action Office Symbol CA
Name of Officer MTW
Direction to DC/R File