

P.M. (Pol)

1888.

ASSAM SECRETARIAT.

FILE No. 961J.

Exploration of the lower course of the Dihong.

7

78
1888

(Tribal Areas) Records.

REFERENCES TO FORMER CASES.

1888.

File or Progs. No.	Subject.
File No. 2339J. of 1886.
" " 2340J. of 1886.

ASSAM SECRETARIAT.

FILE No. 961J.

Exploration of the lower course of the Dihong.

LIST OF PAPERS.

REFERENCES TO LATER CASES.

File of Progs. No.	Subject.
File No. 917J. of 1889. Mily., B, Oct. 1890, Nos. 123-129.	Exploration survey in Sadiya frontier. Deputation of trained surveyors with officers on tour in the outlying districts of Assam dropped.
Ditto, Jan. 1891, Nos. 17-21.	Supply to the Quarter master General in India of a copy of the map of South-East Tibet adjoining Assam, by Renzin Nyngyal.

Serial No.	From or to whom.	No.	Date.	Remarks.
1	From Sir Charles Elliott.	Demi-official.	19th Oct. 1888.	
2	From C. J. Lyall, Esq.	"	25th "	
3	Notes	5th Nov. 1888.	See K. W.
4	To Sir Charles Elliott.	Demi-official.	6th "	
5	From the Officer in charge, Himalaya Party, Survey of India.	Telegram	14th "	Not printed.
6	To the Officer in charge, Himalaya Party, Survey of India.	"	16th "	Not printed.

(To be continued on back, if necessary.)

KEEP WITHS PRINTED.

Notes and orders.

Exploration of the lower course of the Dihong

K. W.

FILE NO. 961J. OF 1888.

Nos. 1-6.

Exploration of the lower course of the Dihong.

DEMI-OFFICIAL FROM SIR CHARLES ELLIOTT, DATED THE 19TH OCTOBER 1888.

Requests that geographical enquiry as to the course of the Sanpo be prosecuted, and forwards a letter from Colonel Tanner on the subject.

I dare say Mr. Lyall will know about this.

25th October 1888.

D. F.

To Mr. Lyall for remarks.

25th October 1888.

F. C. D.

DEMI-OFFICIAL FROM C. J. LYALL, Esq., M.A., LL.D., C.S., C.I.E., DATED THE 25TH OCTOBER 1888.

Says that Mr. Needham might be asked if he can do anything about exploring the course of the Dihong.

Secretary,

I don't know that you wanted all the Hukong Valley files. But Mr. Lyall should see Serial No. 58, of the file, as he says he has not seen it. I don't think you or Chief Commissioner will need the Hukong Valley files.

The Abor papers are still incomplete. They don't contain an account of a trip (in February-March 1886?) in which it was supposed the Chulikatas had designs on Mr. Needham's life. Deputy Commissioner's memorandum No. 2599 of 2nd November 1886 refers to this; and Mr. Ward decided the trip should not then be made. I have called for, and will send the original files next week.

27th October 1888.

R. S. G.

The Hukong Valley files may be withdrawn, and Mr. Lyall should at once see Serial No. 58.

What I now want is the complete set of the *original* Abor papers and any other papers bearing on the demi-official correspondence put up, with a *map** showing the places mentioned. The duplicates put up (A) do not suffice. Please see that the originals are put up and made quite complete. This should be done sharp, as it may possibly be necessary to issue early orders if anything is to be done this cold weather.

* Many of the places mentioned by Mr. Needham are not marked on the map, and cannot, therefore, be pointed out.

E. H.

The notes on the last Survey Report should also be put up. If they are with Chief Commissioner, get them back.

28th October 1888.

F. C. D.

Judicial Branch,

Put up file about Mr. Needham exploring up Dihong, with his letter dated the 28th October 1886, and letter from Geographical Society.
File No. 2340 of 1886 (Serial No. 7).

Assistant Secretary,

Files required put up ; also complete original about correspondence, with map, with reference to Secretary's note of 28th October. The map* put up does not contain all places mentioned by Mr. Needham. But see Mr. Stack's map in K. W. No. 2 of File No. 2339 of 1886.

*(Major Beresford's.)

M. J. R.—29th October 1888.

- (1) Docket the demi-officials and arrange notes.
- (2) The Survey Report and notes must be got from Residency, *as ordered by Secretary*.
- (3) What does Deputy Commissioner's last report say about the attitude of the Chulikatas and of Mr. Needham's later intercourse with Abors. The file does not show what came of the proposal to try and get *gams* to Calcutta. Put up the Lakhimpur Frontier Report if possible.
- (4) The file slips of these old files have not been numbered up. It need not be done now ; but Judicial must see it is done in future.

29th October 1888.

R. S. G.

(1) Done.

(2) Put up, linked.

(3) The Lakhimpur Frontier Report for 1887-88 has been put up with the Frontier Section. I have not been able to trace anything about the result of the taking of the *gams* to Calcutta. Record Department could not put up the Lakhimpur Frontier Report for 1886-87, in which, I think, some notice of the matter may be found.

M. J. R.—3rd November 1888.

What is being done about the file with a demi-official from Sir C. Elliott, about exploring the Sanpo ? I returned it to office some days ago for further papers ; and time presses if any instructions are to be given to Mr. Needham to be carried out this cold weather.

3rd November 1888.

F. C. D.

I returned it to office again. It should have come up next day. Send it to me *at once*.

3rd November 1888.

R. S. G.

Herewith.

M. J. R.—3rd November 1888.

Secretary,

I had to return the file for the Survey Report, and forgot to ask *about* it.

I marked a copy of the Survey Report and made notes, which office cannot now find. But see p. 68.

There is a sketch map by Mr. Stack (in K.-W. No. 2 of File No. 2339 of 1886). The Abor files are complete up to 1886.

I will see if there is anything in later frontier reports. So far as I recollect, there is nothing important. Certainly the Damro *gams* never went to Calcutta.

The first step is to ask Deputy Commissioner demi-officially if Mr. Needham can undertake another attempt to reach Damro Padam.

3rd November 1888.

R. S. G.

My dear Lyaal,

Yours of the 25th October, about exploring the course of the Dihong (Sanpo). Do you happen to remember whether the previous sanction of the Government of India would be necessary in the event of Chief Commissioner deciding to adopt the suggestions ? I am making enquiries in office ; but do you happen to know how this matter stands ?

4th November 1888.

F. C. D.

P.S.—Papers are going to Chief Commissioner (in case you may want to mention the matter to him).

My dear Daukes,

So far as I recollect Needham on previous

Is it the case that the previous sanction of the Government of India is necessary before Mr. Needham could be allowed to make trans-frontier explorations up the course of the Dihong (Sanpo)?

4th November 1888.

F. C. D.

The orders on the subject are in India's letter* on the report of the Rima expedition. They said that they should be consulted beforehand on such occasions in future. That was exceptional (if India had been consulted, it is very possible the thing never would have come off). India were not consulted about previous journeys to Abor villages (Secretary has the files). But if an attempt is to be made to reach Damro Padam, they should be informed under their last orders. If the Survey Department are to co-operate, we must inform India. It is no use doing so till Deputy Commissioner and Mr. Needham have been consulted.

I think a copy of India's orders is with Abor files. If not, the information can be put up tomorrow when office opens.

4th November 1888.

R. S. G.

Chief Commissioner,

Please see demi-officials put up. I put up papers with a map and have marked by slips* the more important.

* Personal Assistant's No. 47, dated the 4th December 1884 (File No. 172J. of 1884).
Deputy Commissioner's No. 2650, dated the 7th December 1885 (page 13, File No. 114 of 1885).
India's No. 403, dated the 3rd March 1886 (File No. 2337J. of 1886, page 9).
Secretary's No. 25J., dated the 1st February 1886 (File No. 2337J. of 1886, page 4).
Secretary's No. 709, dated the 16th May 1885 (page 63 of File No. 114 of 1885).
Foreign Department letter No. 374E., dated the 12th March 1885 (important), but see subsequent letter, No. 403, dated the 3rd March 1886, noted above (File No. 114J. of 1885, page 41).
Deputy Commissioner's No. B., dated the 16th June 1886 (File No. 2339J. of 1886, page 10).
Secretary's note dated the 21st June 1886 (File No. 2339J. of 1886, pages 3—6).
Secretary's No. 1596, dated the 7th August 1886 (File No. 2339J. of 1886, page 25).
Secretary's No. 2569, dated the 10th—14th December 1886 (File No. 2340J. of 1886, page 21).
Deputy Commissioner's No. 2599, dated the 5th November 1886 (page 18 of File No. 2340 of 1886).
Deputy Commissioner's No. 1062, dated the 25th June 1886 (page 10 of File No. 2340 of 1886).

Before any instructions are issued (in the event of Mr. Lyall's suggestion being accepted), I suppose we ought to consult the Deputy Commissioner and Mr. Needham. I am making enquiries as to whether the previous sanction of the Government of India is necessary.

(The papers are not very complete, but may suffice for the present purpose.)

The papers put up refer to the question whether it is necessary to procure the sanction of the Government of India before sanctioning any trans-frontier explorations by Mr. Needham this cold weather.

I had not overlooked one of the papers (orders of Foreign Department) marked amongst those which I sent you to-day, but I wanted to be sure. It seems clear that previous sanction is necessary, or at all events that it would be safer to procure it, of course after we have heard from Mr. Needham (if you accept the suggestion that the exploration should be undertaken) and the Deputy Commissioner.

4th November 1888.

F. C. D.

I put up a letter to Sir Charles Elliott to be copied fair.

Meantime nothing need be done until we hear again.

5th November 1888.

D. F.

[Demi-official to Sir Charles Elliott, dated the 6th November 1888.]

TELEGRAM FROM THE OFFICER IN CHARGE, HYMALAYA SURVEY PARTY, SIMLA, DATED THE 14TH NOVEMBER 1888.—[NOT PRINTED.]

Informs that Renzin explorer started to join Mr. Needham.

6

ASSAM SECRETARIAT PROCEEDINGS.

FILE No. 951J. OF 1888.

Exploration of the lower course of the Dihong.

Serial No. 1.

Demi- official dated Calcutta, the 19th October 1888.

From—Sir CHARLES A. ELLIOTT,

To—The Chief Commissioner of Assam.

I have been urging on the Survey Department, and Colonel Tanner in particular, the importance of prosecuting geographical enquiry as to the course of the Sanpo ; for I am pretty well satisfied, and so is Needham, that the last explorer mentioned in the recent Survey Report, who said that he reached a place on that river from which he could see the huge of the Assam Valley, was a father of lies. I enclose Tanner's reply to my last letter. If Needham can make any exploration either to Damroh Padam or to any less difficult place, perhaps you might think it worth while to write to Tanner and get him to depute this man of his to go with Needham.

Many thanks for your last long letter about petroleum, native Engineers, &c., which shall have my best attention ; just at present I am forbidden to read or write.

P.S.—If you come to Calcutta in the winter, we shall be delighted to put you up.

Demi-official dated Simla, the 18th October 1888.

From—Colonel H. C. TANNER,

To—Sir CHARLES ELLIOTT.

Your note of the 8th reached my quarters during my absence from Simla. I have shown it to Colonel Thuillier, and we agree that it will be too late now to carry out the trigonometrical operations that will be entailed in making a complete job of the survey of the tract adjacent to the lower course of the Sanpo. At the same time, if Needham is likely to visit Damroh Padam this year, the interests of geography will be well served if he could take with him explorer Renzin Nyngyal, a hardy, trustworthy, and intelligent man of my party, who could fix the route over which Needham might travel.

The two kinds of work necessary are—*first*, a trigonometrical operation and distant sketching of geographical features, being a continuation of work commenced some years ago by Harman ; and, *second*, a route survey up the river, as proposed by me above. With a fortnight's notice, I could send Renzin down to Sadiya fully equipped for the route survey proposed.

I may as well tell you that such a route survey can be conducted in secret, and would be carried out by Renzin without the people of the country being aware that any measurements were being carried on.

*Serial 2.**Exploration of the lower course of the Dihong.*

the Sanpo, and had followed its course downwards towards Assam from Gya-la-Sindong until he reached a place (or near a place) called Miri Padam. Sir C. Elliott wrote to me privately on the subject, and asked me to get Needham to criticise this explorer's account. I sent him Needham's reply, which was to the effect that he had never heard of Miri Padam, and that several statements made by the explorer seemed to him untrustworthy.

Notwithstanding this, the explorer evidently got among some people who spoke a language akin to that of the Miris. He gives a brief vocabulary, which Needham tested by his knowledge of Miri-Abor, and found to be cosely coincident with the language of that tribe.

I have not the Survey Report at hand, but it is doubtless in office. If Needham is not going to try the route to Hukong this year (and I suppose he is not, as I have heard nothing about it), he might very well be asked if he can do anything to pierce the country up the course of the Dihong (Sanpo), with reference to the statements of Colonel Tanner's explorer; and it would be a good thing if he could get hold of the explorer to go with him.

Damroh Padam is the headquarters of the Bor Abors. Needham has already tried to get there, but failed because the Abors feared that he would introduce disease, of which, like all the Sub-Himalayan tribe, they are exceedingly afraid.

Serial
No 4

(8)

Mr. B
Dec 7/88
No 34

Dated Shillong, the 6th November 1888.

MY DEAR ELLIOTT,

WITH reference to yours of the 19th ultimo, relating to the exploration of the lower course of the Dihong (*query* Sanpo?), I know nothing of that part of the world except from reading up back papers, and so my opinion is not worth much; but I am by no means hot on getting Needham to push his visits further, indeed, rather the reserve. I must, of course, look at the matter mainly from the political point of view, and, from that point of view, my inclination is to think that Needham's going among the Abors, as he has done on two or three occasions since 1884, can do no good, and might do mischief. I don't think his going merely with a few orderlies and getting cheeked by the men and pulled about by the young women, tends to enhance our prestige; and as to making friends with the heads of the villages, I think that could be done as effectually and in a more dignified manner at Sadiya. On the other hand, no one can read what we have on record about the Abors (an insolent and suspicious set of people, whom we have never yet properly taught their position in the only way such people can be taught), and, in particular, the narratives of Needham's previous expeditions, without feeling that there is a danger,—not a very great danger, but still a danger not to be neglected,—of his getting into a row up there which would compel us to undertake at once the expedition which we shall probably have in any case to undertake against the Abors some day or other. This is a thing we should, in my opinion, carefully guard against. We shall, for at least a generation to come, have our hands full, and more than full, with the country lying between Assam on the one side and Burma and Chittagong on the other, round from the Singphos to the Lushais. I am about, reluctantly (for I don't want to hasten matters) to submit to the Government of India a proposal on which you will doubtless be consulted for occupying the Ao portion of the Naga political control area, which may necessitate my drawing on the Lakhimpur Battalion. We look forward before long to opening up communication with the Hukong Valley, and in the natural course of things we shall be soon opening up communication through the Lushai country.

This (if we don't push on too rapidly for our very limited resources in men and money) is all as it should be, for of course we look to closing up with Burma and Chittagong eventually.

But from the Brahmakund round to Bhutan, with the exception perhaps of the tract between Sadiya and the hills, my inclination would be to leave things as much alone as I possibly could.

As regards merely geographical objects, I must say I share your doubts about K. P., at least until he explains why, if he got to a point from which the haze of the plains of Assam could be seen, he did not come on. It may, however, be that he has collected a pretty correct account of the country from the mouths of people he met, and I think he must at least have done that, or he would not dare to write about it as he seems to have done. But, however this may be, I don't see how Needham's going as far as Damro Padam, which is only three or four marches beyond where he has already been, would throw any additional light on the question. I observe that in some of his reports or letters he speaks of going there chiefly with a view to ascertaining whether he could pass into the countries beyond, and that is a thing which I should be dead against his doing. I should be opposed to any European going up there merely for the sake of advancing geographical knowledge, for even if a European altogether independent of Government were killed up there it would be a very awkward business for us, and it would be a very great deal more awkward for us if anything happened up there to Needham, who is now so well known to the people in those parts as representing the British Ráj.

However, so far as the mere proposal that Needham should visit Damro Padam is concerned, though I don't like it, I have no *very strong* objection to it. The people have offered to take him there, and the danger of his coming to grief would not be *great*. Moreover, I don't want to set up my own opinion against that of my predecessor's, which seems to have been ultimately* accepted by the Foreign Department (*see* Foreign Secretary's

* The inclination seems to have been the other way at first, *see* Foreign Secretary's No. 379, dated the 12th March 1885.

Department to address me

No. 403, dated the 3rd March 1886, to Assam), and accordingly, though I am not inclined to propose the thing myself, if the Survey Department will get the Foreign Department to address me on the subject I will return a reply which will not stand in the way of the proposal, and will, anyhow, have to go before the Govern-