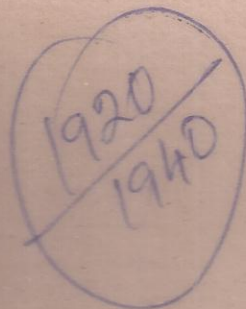


1940
GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
TRIBAL—A

June

Nos. 535-626

Indo-Tibetan Frontier Expedition to Towang



II

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1940
GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
TRIBAL—A
JUNE

Nos.535-626

Indo-Tibetan Frontier Expedition to Towang

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		No.585.—Telegram to Rai Bahadur Norbhu Dhondup, No.405-C.B., dated the 7th June 1938.
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No.589.—Telegram to Rai Bahadur Norbhu Dhondup, No.426-C.B., dated the 16th June 1938.

No.590.—Memorandum from the Inspector-General of Police, Assam, No.F.8886, dated the 13th June 1938.

No.592.—Enclosure.

No.592.—Demi-official from the Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract, No.242/Twg., dated the 16th June 1938.

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No.599.—Telegram to the Government of India, External Affairs Department, No.466-C.B., dated the 5th July 1938.

No.600.—To the Government of India, External Affairs Department, No.2967-G.S., dated the 5th July 1938.

No.601.—Memorandum to the Political Officer, Sikkim, and Rai Bahadur Norbhu Dhondup, No.2968-69-G.S., dated the 5th July 1938.

No.602.—To the Government of India, External Affairs Department, No.2993-G.S., dated the 7th July 1938.

No.603.—From the Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract, No.247/Twg., dated the 6th July 1938.

No.604.—Telegram from the Government of India, External Affairs Department, No.1107, dated the 7th July 1938.

No.605.—Memorandum from the Inspector-General of Police, Assam, No.F.10017, dated the 2nd July 1938.

No.606.—Enclosure.

No.607.—Demi-official from the Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract, No.248/Twg., dated the 7th July 1938.

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	No.617.—Telegram from the Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract, No.2658, dated the 19th July 1938.
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TRIBAL—A, JUNE 1940

Nos.535-626

Indo-Tibetan Frontier Expedition to Towang

FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.224-TWG., DATED THE 20TH APRIL 1938.

FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.225-TWG., DATED THE 26TH APRIL 1938.

Secretary.

For information.

Satish—27th April 1938.

J. N. Dutt—27th April 1938.

His Excellency,

For perusal. All is going well.

I will enquire what officials are referred to.

27th April 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

28th April 1938.

R. N. R[END].

Draft below.

28th April 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

TO THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.2136-G.S., DATED THE 29TH APRIL 1938.

DEMI-OFFICIAL TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY, No.2180-G.S., DATED THE 2ND MAY 1938.

FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.226-TWG., DATED THE 2ND MAY 1938.

Secretary,

For information.

Satish—4th May 1938.

His Excellency,

A draft is submitted for favour of approval. I have worded it rather strongly, as, in the absence of precise and firm orders from the Government of India, Captain Lightfoot is placed in a very difficult position indeed.

4th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

Issue. [Then please see about reorganizing this unwieldy file.]

4th May 1938.

R. N. R[END].

TELEGRAM FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, SIKKIM, No.898, DATED THE 4TH MAY 1938.

TELEGRAM FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, SIKKIM, No.899, DATED THE 4TH MAY 1938.

His Excellency,

This file has just reached me. In view of the telegrams received today, I beg to suggest that an addition at the end of the draft might be made, reading "particularly in view of the attitude of the Tibetan Government indicated in Mr. Gould's telegrams....., which have just been received."

5th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

[The file will be re-organized the moment this letter has been despatched].

5th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

I have added a paragraph—Issue.

5th May 1938.

R. N. R[END].

As regards Political Agent, Sikkim's telegrams (below)—

(i) I would wire India giving very briefly gist of Captain Lightfoot's report, and saying we have written on the same subject and asked for definite instructions.

(ii) Also write as proposed to Captain Lightfoot and give him the facts contained in the two telegrams. Say that we have asked for instructions, and say that he should bear in mind the possibility of having to stay there or leave a party there for a longer period than was originally contemplated.

5th May 1938.

Drafts below for issue.

6th May 1938.

R. N. R[EID].

J. P. MILLS.

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT,
No.2256-G.S., DATED THE 6TH MAY 1938.

DEMI-OFFICIAL TO MR. B. J. GOULD, POLITICAL OFFICER, SIKKIM, No.2261-G.S., DATED THE 6TH
MAY 1938.

DEMI-OFFICIAL TO CAPTAIN G. S. LIGHTFOOT, No.2262-G.S., DATED THE 6TH MAY 1938.

TELEGRAM TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, No.306-C.B., DATED
THE 6TH MAY 1938.

MEMORANDUM FROM THE HOME DEPARTMENT, No.3297-99-H., DATED THE 4TH MAY 1938.

Secretary,

Copy may be forwarded to Political Officer, Balipara. A draft for approval.

Satish—6th May 1938.

J. N. Dutt—6th May 1938.

6th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

MEMORANDUM TO THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.2274-G.S., DATED THE
9TH MAY 1938.

TELEGRAM FROM MR. B. J. GOULD, No.988, DATED THE 10TH MAY 1938.

Secretary,

Two drafts for approval.

Satish—10th May 1938.

J. N. Dutt—10th May 1938.

Send Norbhu's letter registered. Presumably he is still at Lhasa. Can we use service stamps for Tibet? If in doubt enquire at Political Officer's. Another draft added.

11th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

DEMI-OFFICIAL TO MR. B. J. GOULD, No.2318-G.S., DATED THE 11TH MAY 1938.

TELEGRAM TO MR. B. J. GOULD, No.2319-G.S., DATED THE 11TH MAY 1938.

FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.229/TWG., DATED THE 10TH
MAY 1938.

Secretary.

For perusal.

Satish—12th May 1938.

His Excellency,

Perusal. A satisfactory report.

12th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

Yes, I think Governor's Secretary might well to send a copy to Private Secretary to Viceroy.

12th May 1938.

R. N. R[EID].

Copies for Private Secretary to Viceroy, Political Officer, Sikkim and Norbhu, please.

14th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

Secretary,

Two drafts for approval.

Satish—17th May 1938.

J. N. Dutt—17th May 1938.

17th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

Inspector-General of Police unofficially,

Submitted for perusal.

17th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

TELEGRAM FROM MR. B. J. GOULD, POLITICAL OFFICER, SIKKIM, No.1007, DATED THE 16TH MAY 1938.

TELEGRAM FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, No.818, DATED THE 16TH MAY 1938.

Secretary,

Political Officer Sikkim's telegram—For information.

Government of India's telegram—For orders.

Satish—17th May 1938.

J. N. Dutt—17th May 1938.

His Excellency,

The Political Officer may be informed of the orders.

17th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

Yes. By wire.

17th May 1938.

R. N. R[EID].

Draft wire below. Please draft demi-officially.

18th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

TELEGRAM TO THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.2389-G.S., DATED THE 18TH MAY 1938.

Secretary,

Orders above. A draft for approval.

Satish—18th May 1938.

J. N. Dutt—18th May 1938.

18th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

TO THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY AND GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA, No.2383-G.S., DATED THE 17TH MAY 1938.

MEMORANDUM TO THE POLITICAL OFFICER, SIKKIM, AND RAI BAHADUR NORBHU DHONDUP, No.2384-85-G.S., DATED THE 17TH MAY 1938.

DEMI-OFFICIAL TO CAPTAIN G. S. LIGHTFOOT, No.2401-G.S., DATED THE 19TH MAY 1938.

Governor's Secretary,

Seen. Many thanks.

20th May 1938.

R. C. R. CUMMING.

FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.230/TWG., DATED THE 18TH MAY 1938.

TELEGRAM FROM RAI BAHADUR NORBHU DHONDUP, No.388, DATED THE 19TH MAY 1938.

Secretary,

For information.

Satish—21st May 1938.

J. N. Dutt—21st May 1938.

His Excellency,

For information. I will inform Political Officer of the substance of Rai Bahadur Norbhu's telegram.

23rd May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

23rd May 1938.

R. N. R[EID].

Draft demi-official to Political Officer, please.

24th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

FROM THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE, ASSAM, NO. F.-7689, DATED THE 19TH MAY 1938.
DEMI-OFFICIAL FROM CAPTAIN G. S. LIGHTFOOT, POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT,
No.231/C/TWG., DATED THE 23RD MAY 1938.

Secretary,

Orders dated the 24th May 1938. A draft for approval.

Political Officer, Balipara's demi-official No.231/C/TWG., dated the 23rd May 1938:—
For orders.

Satish—25th May 1938.

J. N. Dutt—25th May 1938.

Issue draft and put up again.

25th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

Secretary,

Resubmitted.

Satish—25th May 1938.

His Excellency,

Political Officer's action in reducing his force in order to permit of a longer stay may be approved and he may be told that he will not be ordered to return before the date given in his revised programme. Regarding the keeping of an officer up at Towang, I will consult Inspector-General of Police. I understand Major Brown is going on leave.

25th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

All right as regards the revised arrangements. But was it ever intended to keep an officer at Towang?

25th May 1938.

R. N. R[EID].

Draft demi-official to Political Officer, please, saying that the revised arrangements are approved and that the question of keeping an officer at Towang will be examined.

Copies of our demi-official and of Inspector-General of Police's letter No. F.-7689, dated the 19th May 1938 and revised programme to Political Officer in Sikkim and Rai Bahadur Norbhu for information.

Then put up again.

26th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

DEMI-OFFICIAL TO CAPTAIN G. S. LIGHTFOOT, POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT,
No.2467-G.S., DATED THE 26TH MAY 1938.

FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.233/TWG., DATED THE 24TH MAY 1938.

FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.234/TWG., DATED THE 24TH MAY 1938.

TELEGRAM FROM MR. B. J. GOULD, POLITICAL OFFICER IN SIKKIM, No.1132, DATED THE 26TH MAY 1938.

Secretary,

Orders dated the 26th May 1938. A draft for approval.

A copy of the revised tour programme may also be sent to Government of India, as was done previously. A draft for approval.

Satish—26th May 1938.

J. N. Dutt—26th May 1938.

Draft to Political Officer may issue. Draft to India should refer to them by wire and we should also send copies of reports 4 and 5 for information. Copies of report 5 to Political Officer, Sikkim and Rai Bahadur Norbhu.

26th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

Secretary,

Two drafts for approval.

Satish—27th May 1938.

J. N. Dutt—27th May 1938.

TELEGRAM FROM RAI BAHADUR NORBHU DHONDUP, No.398, DATED THE 25TH MAY 1938.

His Excellency,

We shall have to await instructions from India, but it seems clear that Tibet have forced an issue. Any effective action is likely to entail the keeping of a post up there. I may consult Political Officer at once as to size and cost, in order that if an estimate is called for we may send it in without delay and have time to push rations up before the winter.

I will inform Political Officer of Norbhu's views and attitude of Tibet.

27th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

As proposed. India won't like the idea of a permanent post !

27th May 1938.

R. N. R[ED].

DEMI-OFFICIAL TO CAPTAIN G. S. LIGHTFOOT, POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT,
No.2492-G.S., DATED THE 28TH MAY 1938.

MEMORANDUM TO THE POLITICAL OFFICER IN SIKKIM AND RAI BAHADUR NORBHU DHONDUP,
No.2493-94-G.S., DATED THE 28TH MAY 1938.

DEMI-OFFICIAL TO CAPTAIN G. S. LIGHTFOOT, POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT,
No.2498-G.S., DATED THE 28TH MAY 1938.

Inspector-General of Police, unofficially,

Perusal. You last saw on the 20th May 1938. We may find ourselves heavily committed.

30th May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

Governor's Secretary,

Seen and returned with thanks. Even if we are committed to more or less continuous occupation of this district, I do not like the idea of a post as far out as Towang.

The lines of communication are not too well secured from either human or natural interruption (the last two or three marches down to the plains are bound to be troublesome once the rains set in) and the ration problem will ever be uppermost.

1st June 1938.

R. C. R. CUMMING.

His Excellency,

Inspector-General of Police's note, dated the 1st June 1938 may be seen. If a post has to be left out the problem of where it should be will require careful consideration.

1st June 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

After looking at India's wire of 16th May, No.818 again, I think it would be as well to write further to Captain Lightfoot and emphasise that the orders to him in our No.2498 of 28th May are purely precautionary and that, until modified, India's orders that no action is to be taken which would commit them to permanent occupation and further expenditure and that future policy can only be decided after the expedition has returned still hold the field. We have to be careful about this.

1st June 1938.

R. N. R[ED].

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, No.2506-G.S., DATED THE 30TH MAY 1938.

MEMORANDUM TO THE POLITICAL OFFICER IN SIKKIM AND RAI BAHADUR NORBHU DHONDUP,
No.2507-8-G.S., DATED THE 30TH MAY 1938.

DEMI-OFFICIAL TO MR. GOULD, POLITICAL OFFICER IN SIKKIM, No.2525-G.S., DATED THE 31ST MAY 1938.

MEMORANDUM TO RAI BAHADUR NORBHU DHONDUP, No.2526-G.S., DATED THE 31ST MAY 1938.

DEMI-OFFICIAL TO CAPTAIN G. S. LIGHTFOOT, POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT,
No.2549-G.S., DATED THE 3RD JUNE 1938.

TELEGRAM FROM RAI BAHADUR NORBHU DHONDUP, No.402, DATED THE 30TH MAY 1938.

Secretary,

For information.

Satish—31st May 1938.

31st May 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

COPY OF TELEGRAM FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, TO RAI BAHADUR NORBHU DHONDUP, No.875, DATED THE 28TH MAY 1938.

TELEGRAM FROM B. J. GOULD, POLITICAL OFFICER IN SIKKIM, No.5044, DATED THE 1ST JUNE 1938.

Secretary,

Captain Lightfoot's revised tour programme has been sent to Norbhu, Political Officer in Sikkim and to Government of India.

Satish—3rd June 1938.

His Excellency,

Political Officer's demi-official of 23rd May 1938 may be seen. On our warning that he might have to stay longer he had to act at once or he would have run out of rations. Nor can he easily return surplus rations if ordered to return to Charduar before the date given in his revised programme.

Perhaps he may be told that his revised programme still holds good (since it commits us to nothing), but that India have made it clear that they will come to no decision at all till he has returned and submitted a detailed report, and that he must scrupulously refrain from committing them in any way or attempting to anticipate their policy.

3rd June 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

This is all we can do—we were quite justified in making arrangements for a longer stay.

3rd June 1938.

R. N. R[ED].

Draft below to Political Officer. Copies to Norbhu for information and to Political Officer in Sikkim with reference to his telegram No.5044.

4th June 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

DEMI-OFFICIAL TO THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.2617-G.S., DATED THE 4TH JUNE 1938.

To RAI BAHADUR NORBHU DHANDUP,
No.2618-19-G.S., DATED THE 4TH JUNE 1938.
THE POLITICAL OFFICER IN SIKKIM,

FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.236/TWG., DATED THE 3RD JUNE 1938.

Secretary,

For information.

Satish—7th June 1938.

J. N. Dutt—7th June 1938.

His Excellency,

Perusal.

8th June 1938.

8th June 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

R. N. R[ED].

TELEGRAM TO RAI BAHADUR NORBHU DHANDUP, No.405-C.B., DATED THE 7TH JUNE 1938.

DEMI-OFFICIAL FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.238/TWG., DATED THE 7TH JUNE 1938.

Secretary,

For information. As regards Political Officer's revised tour programme, Political Officer has already been informed that it has been approved by His Excellency.

Satish—10th June 1938.

J. N. Dutt—10th June 1938.

His Excellency,

Perusal.

10th June 1938.

10th June 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

R. N. R[ED].

FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.240/TWG., DATED THE 13TH JUNE 1938.

TELEGRAM FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.240/TWG., DATED THE 16TH JUNE 1938.

Secretary,

Political Officer, Balipara's letter, dated the 13th June 1938:—For information.

Telegram sent. No.426-C.B., 1938:—Rai Bahadur Norbhu may be informed.
of 16th June 1938. Political Officer, Balipara's telegram, dated the 16th June

A draft telegram for approval.

Satish—15th June 1938.

J. N. Dutt—16th June 1938.

His Excellency,
For information.
16th June 1938.
16th June 1938.

J. P. MILLS.
R. N. R[ED].

Inspector-General of Police, unofficially,
You last saw on the 1st June 1938. Subsequent correspondence is for information.
17th June 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

Governor's Secretary, unofficially,
Seen.
22nd June 1938.

R. C. R. CUMMING.

DEMI-OFFICIAL FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.242/TWG., DATED THE 16TH JUNE 1938.

MEMORANDUM FROM THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE, ASSAM, No.F.-8886, DATED THE 13TH JUNE 1938.

DEMI-OFFICIAL FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.244/TWG., DATED THE 20TH JUNE 1938.

FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.245/TWG., DATED THE 22ND JUNE 1938.

Secretary,

Inspector-General of Police's memorandum No.F.-8886, dated the 13th June 1938. Copy of the previous report of Major Brown was sent to Political Officer in Sikkim and Rai Bahadur Norbhu. A copy of the present report of Major Brown may also perhaps be sent to them. A draft for approval.

Satish—30th June 1938.

J. N. Dutt—30th June 1938.

His Excellency,

Submitted for perusal. I will send the requisite copies to India, Political Officer, Sikkim and Norbhu.

1st July 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

2nd July 1938.

G. P. H[OGG].

Send copies to India and to Political Officer, Sikkim and Norbhu.

4th July 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

DEMI-OFFICIAL FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.246/TWG., DATED THE 30TH JUNE 1938.

Secretary,

Issue.—J. P. M.—4-7-1938. Orders above. Drafts for approval. Political Officer, Balipara's demi-official No.246/Twg., dated the 30th June 1938 :—

For orders.

Satish—4th July 1938.

J. N. Dutt—4th July 1938.

His Excellency,

For favour of perusal. I will send a copy to India and ask for instructions when necessary and will also send Political Officer, Sikkim warning by telegram regarding the action Tibet propose to take *vis-a-vis* Bautan.

4th July 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

As proposed.

The situation seems to become more implored and perplexing.

4th July 1938.

G. P. H[OGG].

I have altered draft to India and am sending more reports. Have Political Officer, Sikkim and Norbhu got copies of all important reports up to date ?

I have sent a wire to India and C. B. to be encoded. Get these letters off and I will then send copy of demi-official of 19th instant covering letter to India.

5th July 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

TELEGRAM TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, No.466-C.B., DATED THE 5TH JULY 1938.

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, No.2967-G.S., DATED THE 5TH JULY 1938.

MEMORANDUM TO THE POLITICAL OFFICER, IN SIKKIM AND RAI BAHADUR NORBHU DHONDUP, No.2968-69-G.S., DATED THE 5TH JULY 1938.

Secretary,

Orders above. Resubmitted.

Copies of reports Nos.1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9 have been sent to Political Officer, Sikkim and Rai Bahadur Norbhu. Copies of reports Nos.6, 7 and 8 have not been sent to them. These do not seem to be very important. Government of India have been supplied with copies of report Nos.4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

Satish—6th July 1938.

J. N. Dutt—6th July 1938.

Draft to India below. Clean copy for file please.

Copies of reports 6, 7 and 8 should go to Political Officer, Sikkim and Norbhu for information.

6th July 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, No.2993-G.S., DATED THE 7TH JULY 1938.

FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.247/TWG., DATED THE 6TH JULY 1938.

TELEGRAM FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, No.1107, DATED THE 7TH JULY 1938.

Secretary,

Orders above. A draft for approval.

Captain Lightfoot and Major Brown may perhaps be allowed to purchase the articles presented by the Monastery and credit the price, Rs.89, into the Treasury.

The grant of licenses to the Monastery officials for rifles and revolvers may perhaps wait till Government of India pass orders as to the policy to be adopted in regard to Towang.

Satish—8th July 1938.

J. N. Dutt—8th July 1938.

His Excellency,

The presents may be bought in as proposed.

Government of India's telegram No.1107, dated the 7th July 1938. This indicates a welcome stiffening in the attitude of Government of India.

8th July 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

8th July 1938.

G. P. H[ogg].

Issue draft put up, and a draft on Political Officer's letter of the 6th July 1938.

9th July 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

MEMORANDUM FROM THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE, ASSAM, No.F.-10017, DATED THE 2ND JULY 1938.

FROM CAPTAIN LIGHTFOOT, DEMI-OFFICIAL No.248/TWG., DATED THE 7TH JULY 1938.

TELEGRAM FROM MR. GOULD, No.1316, DATED THE 11TH JULY 1938.

FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA, No.249/TWG., DATED THE 9TH JULY 1938.

Secretary,

Orders dated the 9th July 1938. A draft for approval.

Copy of Inspector-General of Police's memorandum No.F.-10017, dated the 2nd July 1938 and its enclosure may be forwarded to Political Officer, Sikkim and Rai Bahadur Norbhu. Previous reports from Major Brown were also sent to them. A draft for approval.

Political Officer's demi-official No.248/TWG., dated the 7th July 1938 and telegram, dated the 11th July 1938. For information.

Political Officer's letter No.249/TWG., dated the 9th July 1938:

In this connection correspondence at pages 20, 23-31, 35 and 36-37 of correspondence in Tribal, B, June 1938, Nos.35-50 may be seen.

Satish—11th July 1938.

J. N. Dutt—11th July 1938.

His Excellency,

Orders are solicited on Political Officer's letter of the 9th July 1938. As the Akas are reported to be contemplating immediate action, I do not think we can avoid giving the *ad interim* orders asked for by Political Officer. The Monbas are identical with the Shercludpas and Sherdulapan. The area is a long way south of the Tibetan Frontier and Tibet does not come into the picture. If His Excellency agrees I will wire Political Officer that his proposals are approved.

12th July 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

As proposed. But there should be no definite understaking that there will be an expedition next year.

12th July 1938.

G. P. H[ogg].

Draft below.

12th July 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

MEMORANDUM TO THE POLITICAL OFFICER IN SIKKIM AND RAI BAHADUR NORBHU DHONDHUP, No.3059-60-G.S., DATED THE 11TH JULY 1938.

TELEGRAM TO THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.3068-G.S., DATED THE 12TH JULY 1938.

TO THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.3088 G.S., DATED THE 15TH JULY 1938.

MEMORANDUM TO THE COMPTROLLER, ASSAM, No.3089-G.S., DATED THE 15TH JULY 1938.

MEMORANDUM TO THE POLITICAL OFFICER IN SIKKIM AND RAI BAHADUR NORBHU DHONDUP, No.3090-91-G.S., DATED THE 15TH JULY 1938.

TELEGRAM FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.2626, DATED THE 18TH JULY 1938.

TELEGRAM FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA, FRONTIER TRACT, No.2636, DATED THE 18TH JULY 1938.

Secretary,

For information.

Satish—18th July 1938.

His Excellency,

For information.

18th July 1938.

18th July 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

G. P. H[ogg].

TELEGRAM FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.2658, DATED THE 19TH JULY 1938.

TELEGRAM TO THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.3233-G.S., DATED THE 19TH JULY 1938.

FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.2721/IV-5, DATED THE 21ST JULY 1938.

FROM THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.2736/XI-13, DATED THE 23RD JULY 1938.

Secretary,

Two drafts for approval. These may issue with concurrence of Finance Secretary.

Satish—27th July 1938.

J. N. Dutt—27th July 1938.

Secretary, Finance,

Will you please concur. Awful weather up at that height made it quite impossible for any one to move.

28th July 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

Chief Secretary,

Finance concur.

29th July 1938.

A. G. PATTON.

Issue. Has not Political Officer made a similar application for his own halts.

29th July 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

Secretary,

Secretary's enquiry above. Political Officer's application has been put up in his tour diary file which has been sent to Finance to-day for concurrence.

Satish—30th July 1938.

J. N. Dutt—30th July 1938.

5th August 1938.

J. P. MILLS.

TO THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.3372-G.S., DATED THE 30TH JULY 1938.

MEMORANDUM TO THE COMPTROLLER, ASSAM, No.3373-G.S., DATED THE 30TH JULY 1938.

TO THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, No.3374-G.S., DATED THE 30TH JULY 1938.

MEMORANDUM TO THE COMPTROLLER, ASSAM, No.3375-G.S., DATED THE 30TH JULY 1938.

17

GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT PROCEEDINGS

TRIBAL—A JUNE 1940

Indo-Tibetan frontier Expedition to Towang

No.535.

No.224/Twg., dated Camp Shergaon, the 20th April 1938.

From—G. S. LIGHTFOOT ESQ, I. P., Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract,

To—The Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Assam.

I have the honour to report that the Towang colum left Gabru camp on 12th April 1938 and after an uneventful march reached Shergaon on 16th April 1938.

The first two days' march were very hot and told rather severely on some labourers of the P. L. Corps. As a result there were rather too many cases of sickness.

In Shergaon I was able to weed out 27 labourers who were unfit to carry, and I was able to replace them with Akas who have been working for us for some time carrying and dumping rations. This action should solve the sickness problem.

I received a visit from Wangiya, the chief of Shergaon. These villagers have just returned here from their winter camp at Doimara in the foot-hills where they go every year.

At present I have nothing of any interest to report except that all is well with the column and that a report has been received that all ration dumping is complete. In this respect I would like to point out that my Tibetan Interpreter, Mr. A. T. La has carried out a work of no little magnitude and I propose to bring his name before Government at the conclusion of the column.

His Excellency's message of good wishes was read out to all ranks of the column before the start from Gabru.

No.536.

Report No.2

No.225/Twg., dated Camp Dirang Dzong the 22nd and 26th April 1938.

From—G. S. LIGHTFOOT, Esq., I. P., Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract,

To—The Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Assam.

I have the honour to submit a further report on the progress of the Towang column.

We have now reached Dirang Dzong (Sheet 83A, sq. V 7,0.) where we have been halted for two days to give the carriers a rest.

The journey up to date has been quite uneventful, and the marches excepting that from Phutang to Dirang, have been both short and easy. There has been rather a lot of sickness among the labourers and a further 12 men are being returned to Charduar to-morrow. I am employing about 15 Monbas from here to Towang and no difficulty will be experienced for any shortage of labour.

The camp here is a good one but a continual gale has been blowing since we arrived and as a result the dust has been troublesome. Flies are also bad here.

Shortly after our arrival here yesterday, I received calls from all the local notables. The first to arrive was the Chanzu from Lih (sq V 4, 1). He is appointed by the monastery at Towang his chief duties are to collect grain for the monastery and to pay for it at a rate much under the current market rate. He was originally one of the Dzongpons who came to the plains to take Posa from us and is well known to me. He had nothing of any interest to say.

The next to arrive were the two Dzongpons of Dirang and the two of Kalak-tang (sq. G. 7, 7.) who happen to be staying here.

They also gave no information of any value.

In the afternoon I spent some hours paying out local villagers their dues for carrying our rations.

To-day I spent some time in discussing matters with the hedmen of Dirang and Sangti (sq. V7, 4.) They complained bitterly of the depredations of their neighbours, the Miji Akas. I was able to get details of the amounts paid by them and was actually surprised at the smallness of the amount. They also pay taxes to many other persons and have to supply free labour to any official who comes into the neighbourhood.

In the forenoon I and Maj. Brown paid a visit to the Dzong in Dirang where we were regaled on liquor of dubious origin and Thibetan tea made with butter and salt.

Information has been received that practically all our rations have reached Sengedzong (square U 7, 9.) and as matter of fact must have reached Jang by now.

The column marches off to-morrow morning and the next report will be submitted from Towang.

No.537.

No.2136-G.S., dated Shillong, the 29th April 1938.

From—J. P. MILLS ESQ., I.C.S., Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Assam,

To—The Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract.

I am directed to refer to your Report No.2, dated 22nd April 1938, and to say that it is not quite clear to what officials, Dirang and Sangti have to supply free labours.

No.538.

Report No.3

No.226/Twg., dated Camp Senge Dzong, the 26th April and 2nd May, 1938.

From—G. S. LIGHTFOOT ESQ., I.P., Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract,

To—The Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Assam, Shillong.

I have the honour to report that the column reached Senge Dzong on 24th April 1938, and halted here for two days, due to difficulty in sending forward our rations.

The delay was due to the representative of the Tsona Dzongpons being in Nyukmadong (sq. U 8,6.) where they were engaged in collecting taxes to be forwarded to the Thibetan Government. Their being there had stopped the local villagers from supplying us with coolies as the Dzongpons representative needed them all himself. I had to send down my Thibetan interpreter to the village and tell the representative that the needs of Government came first and that the village was to supply coolies to us. This was quite sufficient and coolies have arrived to-day. I am hoping that the column will not be delayed any more and that we shall be able to start off again to-morrow, when we shall have the worst march of the tour, as we have to cross the Se La at 14,200 feet.

I would like to point out that the purpose of our visit is largely being nullified by the presence of Thibetan officials collecting taxes actually in our presence. It seems to me, that, whatever is the result of this tour, the Thibetan Government will have to be moved to recall their tax collectiong officials eventually, and I am strongly of opinion that action should be taken at once.

I have been informed that all local officials, both Thibetan and Towang monasterial, have been annoyed at our employing so many coolies for our work and so interfering with their tax collecting, and the local villagers are all very frightened that these officials will take their revenge on them after our departure.

I can easily prevent Monastery officials from behaving in this way as we pay them Posa of 5,000 rupees and they can be dealt with by withholding part or all of this sum, and I am sure that they will not risk such action being taken. As regards the Thibetan officials, we have no hold on them whatever and it is quite

likely that they will fine the unfortunate villagers who have worked so well for us. I shall of course point out to them in Towang, that they should not take any such action, as the villagers were working under compulsion and so were not in any way to blame. In the event of villagers suffering from our visit, our prestige will suffer.

As far as is known, there are only two Thibetan officials in Towang, and they are known as the Tsona Dzungpons. One of these is a Thibetan official and the other, his assistant, is elected appointed for a period of 3 years only.

All available information on the Tsona Dzungpons is given in my Confidential letter No.23, dated 28th April 1936, addressed to the Chief Secretary to Government.

I am unable to give the names of the officials as yet.

So far as the column is concerned, all is well barring colds, we are having little sickness at present. Senge is very cold as it lies at a height of 10,000 feet and the weather has been bad.

Reports say that there is very little snow on the Se La at present.

No.539.

Telegram No.899, dated Yatung, the 4th May 1938.

From—Political Officer, Sikkim,

To—Secretary to Governor, Assam.

Tibetan Government called on me yesterday afternoon and said that they received joint report from Tsonaa Jongponn and Tawang monasteries that Lightfoot with about 200 troops and 600 coolies arrived Tawang. Tibetan Government enquired why expedition had come without notifying them and said they would issue order to stop expedition coming to Tawang. I replied that as Assam Government usually send their officers to tour round their frontier and as Tawang was ceded to the Government of India by virtue of 1914 Treaty Assam Government are sure to send officers to inspect country and that it is not advisable to stop expedition at this stage. Tibetan Government asked me to wire you to withdraw expedition. I told them that expedition will return only after touring round Tawang and it is no use to force expedition to go back. I however promised to wire you as they desired. At the same time I told them that I was glad that they raised question with me and that I would discuss it in two or three days time as I have treaty map with me.

I will now tackle question and do my best. Please arrange to maintain urgent communication with me while touring Bhutan and also please telegraph whether I should repeat all telegrams to Government of India.

No.540.

Telegram No.898, dated Yatung, the 6th May 1938.

From—Political Officer, Sikkim,

To—Secretary to Governor of Assam.

Addressed to Foreign repeated to Assam and Norbhu. My immediately following telegram is copy of telegram No.247, dated May 3rd from Norbhu.

2. Attitude of Tibetan Government even in face of overt action on our part indicates that it would have been useless to press them to concede in advance (of) acquiescence in our assumption of our treaty rights in Tawang area. Fact that Lightfoot has arrived in Tawang prior to protest is all to the good.

3. I presume Lightfoot's programme is capable of modification in accordance with requirements of actual situation. It will possibly prove to be desirable that his garrison should be maintained at Tawang until Tibetan Government adopt compliant attitude.

4. Norbhu should repeat all telegrams to the Government of India and also to Assam.

5. As at present arranged I am due to leave Yatung May 11th for Bhutan. Up to May 20th telegram will reach me within 36 hours and within about ten days during most of tour. If it is desired I will postpone tour but actually there seems little for Norbhu to do beyond insisting that we are acting within our rights and have no intention of abandoning them.

No. 541.

No.2256-G.S., dated Shillong, the 6th May 1938.

From—J. P. MILLS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Governor of Assam,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the External Affairs Department, Simla.

SUBJECT :—INDO-TIBETAN FRONTIER.

In continuation of the correspondence resting with my telegram No.1401-G.S., dated the 26th March 1938 I am directed to forward for the information and orders of the Government of India a copy of a report dated Camp Senge Dzong 26th April 1938 from the Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract, together with, for ready reference, a copy of the relevant passage of his confidential letter No.23 of April 28th, 1936, to which reference is made.

2. His Excellency is of the opinion, subject to the views of the Government of India, that the situation is one which will not respond to any but the firmest treatment, and fears that, unless Tibetan officials cease finally to collect taxes on the Indian side of the International boundary and unless the local inhabitants can be confidently assured that they will suffer no retaliation for having assisted the Political Officer, the necessity of maintaining a permanent outpost at Towang must be envisaged. His Excellency therefore begs to suggest that not only should the Tibetan Government be asked by the Government of India to withdraw their officials to their side of the International Boundary without delay, but that the Political Officer should be authorised himself to inform those officials forthwith that they must leave India, and to inform the local inhabitants that they should in future refuse to pay any taxes to the Tibetan Government and to assure them they need fear no retaliation.

3. His Excellency would be glad if he could receive by wire the orders of the Government of India as to the attitude the Political Officer is to adopt towards the Tibetan officials on the one hand and the local inhabitants on the other that he may receive guidance in a difficult position at the earliest possible date. The incidents described in Captain Lightfoot's letters relate to his first contacts with Tibetan officials he has still a considerable distance to traverse and a considerable time will elapse before his mission is accomplished, and therefore the Governor feels that it is very necessary that Captain Lightfoot should be in possession of clear instructions as to the lines on which he should proceed.

4. The necessity of the instructions referred to in the preceding paragraphs is confirmed by the facts disclosed in Mr. Gould's telegrams Nos.898 and 899 of the 4th May addressed to Foreign Department, copies of which have just been received.

No.542.

D. O. No.2261-G.S., dated Shillong, the 6th May 1938.

From—J. P. MILLS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Governor of Assam,

To—B. J. GOULD, Esq., C.M.G., C.I.E., Political Officer, Sikkim.

SUBJECT.—POLITICAL OFFICER YATUNG, SIKKIM.

Your telegrams Nos.898 and 899 of May 4th. I am asked to send your copies of Lightfoot's reports 1, 2, and 3, of which the last is particularly important. In order to keep you completely *an faith* with the course of events I am also to send you a copy of our letter No.2256-G-S., dated the 6th May 1938, to India, in which we asked for definite instruction. I am letting Lightfoot know the contents of your telegrams.

I am glad Lightfoot has firmly established himself up in Towang before things came to a head. The problem of protecting the local people after he has gone still remains.

No.543.

D. O. No.2262-G.S., dated Shillong, the 6th May 1938.

From—J. P. MILLS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Governor of Assam,

To—Captain G. S. LIGHTFOOT, Esq., I.P., Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract.

I am directed to refer to your report No.3 of the 26th April 1938 and to say that a copy is being forwarded at once to the Government of India with a request for definite instructions regarding your course of action.

Almost simultaneously with your report telegraphic information was received that the Tibetan Government expressed resentment to Norbhu at your expedition (which seems to have taken them completely by surprise) and threatened to issue orders to their local officials to stop you. Norbhu pointed out that Towang was ceded in 1914 and said that we had a perfect right to send officers to inspect our territory. There will be further conversations in Lhasa and Norbhu will continue to insist that we are acting within our rights.

I am to ask you to bear in mind the possibility of having to stay in Towang or leave a party there for a longer period than was originally contemplated.

No.544.

Telegram No.306-C.B., dated Shillong, the 6th May 1938.

From—Secretary to Governor of Assam,

To—Secretary to Government of India, Foreign Department.

Political Officer Sikkim's telegrams Nos.898 and 899 of 4th May.

Political Officer Balipara reports on 26th that Tibetan Government officials are collecting taxes at Nyukmadong (Square M 8, 6). They resent his presence and local inhabitants fear reprisals for assistance given to column.

Letter follows giving all details available and asking for definite instructions.

No. 545.

No. Apptt.-964/3297-99-H., dated Shillong, the 4th May 1938.

Memo. by—The Under-Secretary to the Government of Assam, Home Department.

* Consulted unofficially.

Copy to the

* Secretary to the Governor of Assam.
Commissioner, Assam Valley Division.
Comptroller, Assam.

No. 546.

No. Apptt.-964/3296-H., dated Shillong, the 4th May 1938.

From—MR. DINESH CH. DAS, Esq., Under-Secretary to the Government of Assam, Home Department,

To—The Deputy Commissioner, Darrang.

I am directed to say that Captain G. S. Lightfoot, Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract, is at present out from Charduar with the Tawang Column for three months from April to the end of June 1938, and to request that you will be so good as to depute an Extra Assistant Commissioner from Tezpur to make weekly visits to Charduar for payment of Posa to the hill tribes during this period.

No.547.

No.22 74-G.S., dated Shillong, the 9th May 1938.

Memo. by—The Secretary to the Governor of Assam.

Copy of Home Department's memorandum No.Apptt.964/3297-99H., dated the 4th May 1938 and enclosure, is forwarded to the Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract, for information, with reference to his letter No.XI-2—1544/Twg., dated the 7th April 1938.

No.548.

Telegram No.988, dated Yatung, the 10th May 1938.

From—Political Officer, Sikkim,

To—Secretary to the Governor of Assam.

Have you posted copy of your No.2261-G.S., to Norbhu. Obligated if you will do so in future.

No.549.

D. O. No.2318-G.S., dated Shillong, the 11th May 1938.

From—J. P. MILLS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Governor of Assam,

To—B. J. GOULD, Esq., C.M.G., C.I.E., Political Officer, Sikkim, Yatung.

Your telegram No.988, dated the 10th May. I deliberately did not send Norbhu a copy of our very important letter to India as I was not sure if letters going to Lhasa were free from all risk of being opened. In view of your wire I presume the post is quite safe and am sending him a copy at once.

No.550.

Telegram No.2319-G.S., dated Shillong, the 11th May 1938.

From—Secretary to Governor of Assam,

To—Political Officer, Sikkim, Yatung.

Reference your telegram No.988 of 10th instant. Copy has now been sent. Presume post is quite safe.

No.551.

No.2322-G.S., dated Shillong, the 11th May 1938.

Memo. by—The Secretary to the Governor of Assam.

Copy of demi-official letter No.2261-G.S., dated the 6th May 1938 to Mr. Gould with its enclosure are forwarded to Rai Bahadur Norbhu Dhondup, for information.

No.552.

REPORT No. 4.

No.229/Twg., dated Camp Towang, the 3rd—10th May 1938.

From—G. S. LIGHTFOOT, Esq., I.P., Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract,

To—The Secretary to His Excellency Governor of Assam, Shillong.

I have the honour to submit my fourth report on the Towang column. My last report was submitted from Senge Dzong (sheet 83A, sq. U, 7, 9.) where we had halted to arrange for our rations to be carried forward. On the 27th April, all arrangements having been satisfactorily made we left Senge for our hardest march, that being the one on which we had to cross the Se La, which lies at a height of 14,000 feet.

The march was a hard one and I think that numbers of all ranks were effected by the height. There was not much snow on the summit and we were lucky in having a fine day. We camped in the jungle at a height of 12,000 feet, and had one of the most unpleasant evenings I have ever spent. In the afternoon the weather broke and we had rain and hail that continued all night, the temperature dropping below freezing point. After this we reached Towang without any more difficulty on 30th April 1938. It is very noticeable that the villages on the North side of the Se La range are more numerous and far more prosperous than the Monba villages on the South side. The hills round Towang are not so steep, and we saw extensive fields of barley and wheat, some villages had wet rice cultivations. We also saw large numbers of sheep and yaks. On the way from Jang to Towang, we were met on the road by the two Tsona Dzongpons, both of whom are Thibetan Government Officials. (Towang and Jang lie in sheet 78 M.sq T.)

The Dzongpons were very friendly but said nothing about the purpose of our visit and asked no questions.

We reached Towang at about 13:00 hours and settled in to a very pleasant camp about a mile from the monastery, which was in full view. The monastery officials had been very helpful in preparing large quantities of bamboo matting which we found very useful in camp making.

On the next day, we received visits from the monastery officials and from the Tsona Dzongpons. (Tsona lies in sheet 78 M, sq. F, 7, 9.) Nothing of any importance came to light. On the same morning, the Sema Nagas were sent back to Charduar to be discharged from the Labour Corps. Their work has never been really satisfactory and they seemed to be quite unable to stand up to the work. Out of the original 70 which started on the tour, only 26 were fit for work on arrival at Towang. They were obviously unhappy and I considered that it was no use keeping them here. They will be sent back to Kohima as soon as they have been paid off. Our own Gurkha labourers are in very good condition indeed.

In the afternoon Major Brown chose a new site for the Assam Rifles post as I considered that this site was too far away from the main road monastery. A suitable site about a quarter of a mile from the monastery and beside the main road was selected. On the next day, the 2nd Major Brown and I returned the calls of the various officials whom we had seen yesterday. We visited the monastery where we were received with great cordiality. We presented the gifts that we had brought from Charduar, the number and value of which caused something of a sensation. Although I had seen the Tsona Dzongpons enter the monastery before our arrival, I saw no signs of them at the reception. I do not know if this was a gesture of diffidence on their part due to the present political situation. Their non-appearance was strange as they are looked upon by the monastery officials as the rulers of the district and so of very great importance. After the reception we were conducted round the monastery, taken into the Gompa (temple) where we presented a silk scarf to the Abbot.

In the evening I interviewed village headmen and arranged a ten days tour in the area, south west of Towang.

A representative of the Bhutanese Government met us on our arrival and informed us that a surveyor was being sent to meet us and to accompany us on our next local tour. We should be able to clear up the boundary question.

I will submit my next report after my return from the next local tour after ten days.

No.553.

Telegram No.1007, dated Yatung, the 16th May 1938.

From—Political Officer, Sikkim,
To—Secretary to Governor of Assam.

Your telegram No.2319-G.S., letter for Norbhu should be addressed Gyantse. They are forwarded thence to Lhasa in special bags.

No.554.

Telegram No.818, dated Simla, the 16th May 1938.

From—Secretary to Governor of India, Foreign Department,
To—Secretary to Governor of Assam.

First of two parts—

Addressed to Assam Government repeated to Norbhu and Political Officer, Sikkim your letter No.2256-G.S. of May 6th Tawang.

2. The object of the present expedition is purely exploratory, *vide* paragraph 2 of letter No.F.433-X/35 of July 1st 1937 and Government of India cannot agree to any action which would commit them to permanent occupation and further expenditure. Future policy in Tawang can only be decided after expedition has returned and information gathered by Lightfoot has been examined.

3. Lightfoot should inform all concerned that Tawang is by treaty Indian and not Tibetan territory and should impress this on Tibetan officials if he meets them.

Second and last part—

He should not however demand their withdrawal and should give no assurances to local inhabitants but should simply inform them that he has been sent to make enquiries into local conditions and that Government will decide after he returns whether to take any further interest in them or not. This attitude may create difficulties for Lightfoot but is only possible line until future policy has been decided.

4. Norbhu is discussing whole question with Tibetan Government in Lhasa and we are instructing him to request them to withdraw their officials to their side of border. Discussions will however take time and no settlement with Tibetan Government can be expected until after expedition has withdrawn.

No.555.

No.2383-G.S., dated Shillong, the 17th May 1938.

From—J. P. MILLS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Governor of Assam,

To—The Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, Simla.

SUBJECT :—TAWANG EXPEDITION.

I am directed to submit for the information of His Excellency the Viceroy a copy of a report from the Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract, on his arrival at Tawang.

No. 556.

No.2384-85-G.S., dated Shillong, the 17th May 1938.

Memo. by—The Secretary to the Governor of Assam.

* Political Officer, Gangtok.
† Political Officer, Gyantse (Tibet).

Copy of Report No.4, from the Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract, on Tawang, is forwarded to the Political Officer* in Sikkim Rai Bahadur † Norbhu Dhondup, for information.

No.557.

Telegram No.2389-G.S., dated Shillong, the 18th May 1938.

From—Secretary to Governor of Assam,

To—Political Officer, Lokra.

My demi-official 2262-G.S. of 6th May. India remind that object of present expedition purely exploratory. You should inform all concerned that Tawang is by treaty Indian. You should impress this on any Tibetan Officials you meet but should not demand their withdrawal. Give no assurances to local inhabitants and say that at present you are only enquiring into local conditions. Letter follows. Your office will send this on by runner.

No. 558.

Demi-official No.2401-G.S., dated Shillong, the 19th May 1938.

From—J. P. MILLS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Governor of Assam,

To—Captain G. S. LIGHTFOOT, I.P., Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract.

In continuation of my telegram No.2389-G.S., dated the 18th May 1938, I am desired to say that the Government of India are opposed to any action which would commit them to the permanent occupation of Tawang. Future policy regarding Tawang will be determined by the Government of India after the expedition has returned and the information gathered by you has been examined. Meanwhile you should inform all concerned that Tawang is by treaty Indian and not Tibetan territory and impress this upon any Tibetan officials that you may meet. You should not however demand the withdrawal of Tibetan officials and should give no assurances to the local inhabitants. You should simply inform them that you have been sent to make enquiries into local conditions. If they enquire whether Government intends to take any interest in them in future they should be told that that will be decided after your return.

2. Norbhu is discussing the whole question with the Tibetan Government in Lhasa, and the Government of India are instructing him to request them to withdraw their officials to their side of the international boundary. Discussions will however take time and no settlement with the Tibetan Government can be expected until after the return of the expedition.

No. 559.

No.2404-5-G.S., dated Shillong, the 20th May 1938.

Memo. by—The Secretary to the Governor of Assam.

* Political Officer, Gangtok.
† Political Officer, Gyantse (Tibet).

Copy forwarded to Mr. B. J. Gould* C.M.G., C.I.E., Political Officer Rai Bahadur Norbhu Dhondup,† in Sikkim, for information.

No. 560.

No.230/Twj., dated Camp Gyipu, the 10th May 1938.

From—Captain G. S LIGHTFOOT, I.P., Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract,
To—The Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Assam.

With reference to your letter No.2136-G.S., dated the 29th April 1938, regarding the supply of free labour by the villagers of Dirang Dzong and Sangti.

The officials referred to are—

- (1) The two Tsona Dzongpons.
- (2) Two Assistants to the Tsona Dzongpons.
- (3) Two Dirang Dzongpons, who are appointed by the Towang monastery council.
- (4) The Nyertsang of Towang monastery.
- (5) The Chhanzu of Towang monastery.

Nos.1, 2, 3 and 4 are all collectors of taxes. As their taxes are all collected in kind, such as rice, chillies, dyes, etc., their loads are very numerous.

The Nyertsang is the monastery accountant and the Chhanzu, who is appointed direct from Drepung monastery, Lhasa, is responsible for the well-being of all the Lamas of Towang monastery.

No. 561.

Telegram No.382, dated Lhasa, the 21st May 1938.

From—Rai Bahadur, NORBHU DHONDUP,
To—Secretary to Governor of Assam.

Addressed to Political Officer, Sikkim, repeated to Foreign and Assam, Shillong. On May 6th I saw Bhondong Shape privately and with aid of map we discussed Assam border in so far as it affects Tawang and Tibet. It was necessary to point out very clearly that Tawang was definitely ceded in India under Treaty Agreement, 1914 and that Tawang is now included with Assam territory south of Macmohon's red line.

I took particular care to point out that under normal procedure Provincial Government must carry out tours of inspection at definite intervals and that present expedition into Tawang and territorial was no exception to general procedure.

He was interested to know why Tibet ceded Tawang under 1914 agreement and to avoid at this juncture any revival of Tibetan eastern border question, I professed ignorance and suggested he should investigate matter by consulting Tibetan Government records and those officials who went to Simla.

Following up this interview which can be considered most important I called upon Kalonlamma and Tendong Shape who after studying map did not feel inclined to commit themselves to any definite statement.

Yesterday I attended the meeting of the Tibetan Cabinet and repeated concisely facts I gave Bhondong. After due consideration they decided to refer matter to Regent and Prime Minister and said they would call for elucidation of any further details they may require.

Further developments will be reported to all concerned in due course.

No.562.

No.F.7689-V.R./3-38, dated Shillong, the 19th May 1938.

From—R. C. R. CUMMING, Esq., I.P., Inspector-General of Police, Assam,
To—The Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam.

SUBJECT :—REPORT OF MAJOR W. F. BROWN, I.A., ASSISTANT COMMANDANT,
2ND BATTALION, ASSAM RIFLES, ON THE TAWANG COLUMN.

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of the first report, received from Major Brown on the Tawang Column, for perusal.

Both Captain Lightfoot and Major Brown were specially asked to examine the possibility of Shergaon as a permanent post, especially from the point of view of "dam-dims".

No. 563.

Dated Camp Dirangdzong, the 20th April 1938.

From—Major W. F. BROWN, Assistant Commandant, 2nd Battalion, Assam Rifles,

To—The Commandant, 2nd Battalion, Assam Rifles, Sadiya, N. E. Assam.

REPORT NO. 1.

I send herewith my report on the Towang Column up to the date of the Column's arrival in Dirangdzong on its way to Towang, and enclose a graph shewing—

- (1) Camps and their heights.
- (2) Passes and their heights and names.
- (3) Temperatures.
- (4) Dates of arrival and departure at various camps.

It is impossible to give definite distances in country such as this unless properly measured so I have calculated in terms of 1 hour's march. Heights have been taken by barometer and temperatures by thermometer.

1. The L. of C. Platoon, located 1 section at Shergaon, 1 section at Domkho and 2 sections with platoon Headquarter and Sub-Assistant Surgeon under Jemadar Jatiya Mikir were established by the end of March leaving Lokra on 1st March. This Platoon, No. 18 was completed to the strength of 50 rifles by No. 9 Platoon.

2. This Platoon's main job was to see that rations and stores were properly dumped at various stages up to Dirangdzong for both themselves and the column. This needed great care when it is realised that approximately 700 loads had to be shifted. They played their part well and it is due to them that there have been no muddles so far. They were helped by a Forwarding Guard of No. 16 Platoon at Doimara under Havildar Lal Bahadur who ran a very good show in a responsible position.

3. The main Column of No. 7 Platoon reinforced by No. 9 Platoon and 2 Sections No. 9 Platoon under Jemadar Raghubir and Havildar Makarman respectively left Lokra for Belsiri Camp at 0400 hours on 12th April. They were equipped with the experimental equipment—Rucksacks carried on leather braces with four pouches on the belt and a report on the success or otherwise and any modifications required will be submitted on Column's return to Lokra. This march was a very hot one once they reached the Gobharu—13 miles and from which the Belsiri Camp is a further 5 miles. The last of the Column stores arrived just before the Column left, Belsiri Camp was hot. This march was on the level and water was plentiful,

The next march to Doimara was also a hot one and the road rose 700 feet in approximately eleven miles, There were dam dims at Doimara. Water there was also plentiful,

Morengmo the next camp is another 2,100 feet up but is not a difficult march. This is the worst dam dim infected camp that I have seen: Captain Lightfoot also states he has never found a worst infected place. Water is also plentiful here.

The road to Pankimla is not difficult for most of the way and most of the 5,000 feet is done in the last three hours march and is consequently very steep. There is a very limited water supply and it can only be improved by digging out a hole for the water from a small spring to fill. A very few dam dims here.

The next march to Shergaon is a very easy one. It rises sharply 300 feet to the Pankim La pass and from there drops fairly sharply for about 1 hour's march and then a gradual slope down a very pleasant valley to the Camp. Shergaon, in the event of a forward policy on this part of the North-East Frontier would make a very good location for a Post but new road alignment will be necessary up to the Pankim La from Doimara as this at present closely follows a river bed which would be impossible in the rains.

The water supply is abundant and very good and there is ample room for buildings, parade ground and playing fields.

There were a few dam dims here also.

The Column halted at Shergaon on the 17th April, Easter Sunday, and we checked up stores, etc. We also received a visit from the Shergaon Chief.

The Column left Shergaon at 5 A. M. on 18th. There is a steep climb up to the Nyiring La and Tampala which are connected by a long ridge. The road then drops sharply for a short way down to a valley over a ridge about 100 feet high down into Domkho Camp. This is not a difficult march. The Political Officer here paid out local coolies who had been carrying loads some of whom had come from as far a field as almost Ametallah near Bhairabkunda. We had to start proceedings by a practical demonstration of the relative values of the various Indian pieces and the Tibetan Tanka which was the only value they understood.

On 19th April the Column left Domkho at 5 A. M. The first hour's march was down the Domkho Chu in an easterly direction after which the road turns in a northerly direction and climbs fairly steeply over a pass that is unnamed on the map. It then drops on a very gentle gradient to the Phutang Chu which is crossed by a wooden bridge of substantial structure. The camp should have been on the left bank near the bridge but one had already been constructed about 200 feet up a steep hill which is the beginning of the Mande La. The water supply at the present camp is bad. On the 20th April the Column left Phutang at 0515 hours, and arrived at Dirangdzong at 1345 hours. The Mande La consists of a four-hour steep climb on the southern side followed by a steep and longer descent on the northern. The camp was at the junction of the Sangti Chu and the Digien Chu on the right bank of the former and the left bank of the latter. The camp here for the Column had already been constructed by the L. of C. Post otherwise some considerable time would have elapsed before it could have been got ready owing to the difficulties of finding suitable wood. There is ample wood for fuel but this is not always suitable for *basha* buildings. There is an excellent water supply.

The Column is halting on the 21st and 22nd to enable loads, etc., to be rechecked and the various dzong pongs to be met.

4. The weather has been perfect. The only rain we have had was a thunderstorm, which lasted half an hour only the morning we left Pankim La and another the afternoon we arrived at Phutang. At Dirangdzong the sky was cloudy but no rain.

5. There has been no sickness since the Column left except for one or two cases, very slight, of fever which has probably been due to chills.

6. The road from Pankim La to Dirangdzong could be improved with but little work into a first class pack animal tract, all the year round up to the Pankim La, as previously noted, will have to be realigned.

7. Arrangements so far have gone very well.

REPORT I.

MAP REFERENCE—
SHEET 83A 1" = 4 miles.
MAP DATED 1917.

GRAPH OF ROAD FROM LOKRA TO DIRANGZONG.

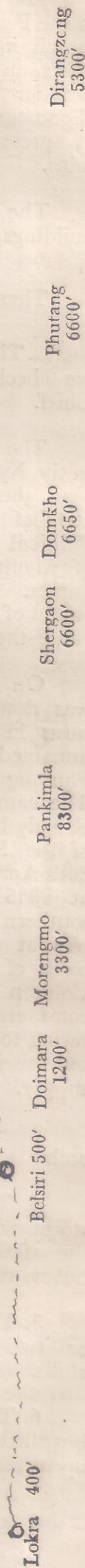
SCALES VERTICAL 1" = 250'

Horizontal $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1 hour's march.

April 12th	...	A. 12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	18th	19th	20th	23rd	Min. Temp. shewn on Report II.	Temp. taken between 0400 hrs. & 0500 hrs.	Temp. taken between 1430 & 1530 hrs.	70 Max. Temp.
		D. 13th	14th	15th	16th	18th	19th	20th	23rd		50°	50°(5)	49°	50°
Temperature	Min. 74°	...	74°	69°	57°	48°	44°	44°	50°	50°				
	Max. 92°	...	92°	82°	76°	70°	68°	68°	49°	50°				

PASSES FROM LEFT TO RIGHT.

1. Pankim La.
2. Nyiring La.
3. Tampa La.
4. Not named on Map.
5. Mande La.



No.564.

Confidential D. O.No.231/C/Twg., dated Camp Towangdzong, the 15th—23rd May 1938.

From—G. S. Lightfoot, Esq., I.P., Political Officer, Balipura Frontier Tract,

To—J. P. Mills, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Governor of Assam.

With reference to your demi-official No.2262-G.S., dated the 6th May 1938, regarding the present situation in Towang.

Your letter reached me while I was out on a side trip to Shakti yesterday, and I only reached Towang this morning. I will send you another report tomorrow and will only deal with the letter in question to-day.

In the last paragraph of your demi-official you state I must bear in mind the possibility of making a longer stay here than was originally intended. As it takes about ten days for a letter to reach Charduar, the possibility of getting up more rations before we ran short was out of the question. I also have no coolies at headquarters to carry them. For the same reason, it was impossible to await orders, and as talks in Lhasa might reasonably be expected to be of a protracted nature, I have taken the following action, and hope that the Government will approve.

On 18th May 1938, I am sending $\frac{1}{2}$ a platoon of the Assam Rifles back to Lokra. With them will go 77 men of the Political Labour Corps to carry their kits. The labourers will collect fresh rations for themselves and will wait at Shergaon until they are required to return to Sengedzong to help carry the columns kits back at the end of the tour. The above $\frac{1}{2}$ platoon is from Towang. In addition, another $\frac{1}{2}$ platoon from the Lines of communications in Dirangdzong will return to Lokra. This will leave the force distributed as given herewith. In Towang, 1 Platoon of Assam Rifles and 55 Political Labourers. In Dirangdzong, 1 section of Assam Rifles under a Gurkha Officer, and another section in Shergaon under the command of a Havildar. This reduction of strength will allow us to remain in Towang itself until 30th June 1938, which is an additional month above the original timetable. I attach a revised tour programme for your information and approval. It will be noticed that I have cut out all side trips from Dirangdzong. I do not think that this will matter as they can be done any cold weather without any difficulty. The revised programme gets us back to Charduar in the middle of July.

The shortage of labourers is unfortunate as it rather restricts our local touring but fortunately I was able to visit the furthest part of the district and no other long tour is necessary. The reduced strength of the Assam Rifles is quite sufficient to meet any contingency, and I think that the local populace have been sufficiently impressed with our strength.

I am of opinion that I and Major Brown should stay here personally, and that a post alone, as suggested in your letter, should not be left. If a subordinate is left here alone with the situation in its present critical condition, it is possible that some unfortunate situation might arise, which would be difficult of rectification later.

I would request that we be not ordered to return before the date given in my revised programme as the question of returning surplus rations would be almost insuperable and certainly be very expensive, as local labour would have to be engaged.

I would also bring to your notice that the present arrangements will cost little, if anything.

If we are required to stop longer I would request very early orders, as in such a contingency, extra rations would be required, and considerable time necessary for their transport.

No.565.

OFFICE OF THE POLITICAL OFFICER, BALIPARA FRONTIER TRACT, CHARDUAR

Revised Tour Programme of the Towang Column

May 18th to	June 29th—Halt at Towang.		
	June 30th	...	...
	July 1st	...	...
	" 2nd	...	...
	" 3rd	...	...
	" 4th	...	...
	" 5th	...	...
	" 6th	...	...
	" 7th	...	...
	" 8th	...	...
	" 9th	...	...
	" 10th	...	...
	" 11th	...	...
	" 12th	...	...
	" 13th	...	...
	" 14th	...	...
	" 15th	...	...
	" 16th	...	...
	" 17th	...	...
	" 18th	...	...
		...	Jang.
		...	Jungle Camp.
		...	Sengedzong.
		...	Lih.
		...	Dirangdzong.
		...	Halt.
		...	Phutang.
		...	Domkho.
		...	Shergaon.
		...	Halt.
		...	Siggon.
		...	Rupa.
		...	Halt.
		...	Tongre Wo.
		...	Bompu La.
		...	Pestiferous.
		...	Doimara.
		...	BEISIRI (TIGER FLAT).
		...	Charduar.

Dated Towang, }
15th May 1938. }

G. S. LIGHTFOOT,

Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract.

True Copy

D. DAS,

Dated the 23rd May 1938.

Personal Assistant to the Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract.

No.566.

D. O. No.2467-G.S., dated Shillong, the 26th May 1938.

From—J. P. MILLS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Governor of Assam,

To—Captain G. S. LIGHTFOOT, I.P., Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract.

Please refer to paragraph 2 of my demi-official No.2401-G.S., dated the 19th May 1938. Norbhu saw Bhondong Shape privately on the 6th instant and with the aid of the map discussed the Assam border in so far as it affects Towang and Tibet. He pointed out very clearly that Towang had been definitely ceded to India under the treaty agreement of 1914 and that Towang is now included in Assam territory south of MacMohan's red line.

Norbhu took particular care to point out that under normal procedure officers of the Provincial Government must carry out tours of inspection at definite intervals and that the present expedition was no exception to the general procedure.

Bhondong Shape was interested to know why Tibet had ceded Towang under the agreement of 1914. To avoid at this juncture any revival of the Tibetan eastern border question Norbhu professed ignorance and suggested that Bhondong Shape should investigate the matter by consulting Tibetan Government records and those officials who had been to Simla.

Following up this interview Norbhu called upon Kalonlamma and Tendong Shape who after studying the map did not feel inclined to commit themselves to any definite statement. He also attended the meeting of the Tibetan Cabinet on the 18th instant and repeated concisely the facts he had mentioned to Bhondong. After due consideration the Cabinet decided to refer the matter to the Regent and Prime Minister, and said that they would call for the elucidation of any further details they might require.

No. 567.

No. 233/Twg., dated Camp Towang, the 16th—27th May 1938.

5TH REPORT.

May 1938.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Towang column. Since my last report, I have been out on a 12 day tour with Major Brown, and 1 section of Assam Rifles.

We left Towang on the 4th May and returned on the 15th.

The first day's march was to Pamkerr, which lies in sheet 78 M at square T, 5, 4.5, about 2 miles from Tongleng, which is marked on the map.

Here I was visited by the headmen of Pamkerr and Shaktu. Shaktu is near Pamkerr. They would not give me any information whatever, as they had been ordered by the Tsona Dzongpons not to answer any questions. They appeared to be very frightened and it was only with difficulty, that they were persuaded to come to the camp at all. I may add that I found this difficulty almost everywhere. In most cases, villagers hid in their houses when we appeared and only the very bold had the temerity to appear. At Lumla, which we reached on the next day we met the Representatives of the Bhutanese Government, who had been sent by the Durbar, to help to settle the boundary question. Lumla lies approximately at Sq. S, 4.5, 2. and not where it is shown in the map.

From here the Bhutanese accompanied us to Sanglung, Sq. S, 1, 1. We actually camped on the river bank near the bridge shown on the map. The bridge was interesting as it was a suspension bridge made of split bamboos plaited together and was capable of bearing the weight of ponies and mules. On this march, near Lumla we were able to see practically the whole of the Bhutan boundary from point Sq. K, 9.5, 2.5. to Sq. Z, 10, 8.

The only parts that were invisible were the two western bits near Beting (Sq. Y, 1, 10.) and Manam Sq. Y, 1, 9.

A number of local Headmen called on us here.

On the following day we proceeded to Changpu, Sq. Y, 5, 9. Actually we camped about two miles to the East, as Changpu lies just inside the Bhutanese border. Here we were able to see and agree as to the parts of the Bhutan border that we had been unable to see previously. There was no difficulty in fixing the boundaries and no part was in dispute. I have submitted a separate report to-day.

We halted in Changpu for a day, and spent the morning in visiting the village, when we got a magnificent view over Bhutan. We filled in many villages that were unmarked in the map.

From Changpu camp we proceeded up the Nyamjang Chu river to Shakti Sq. S, 5.5, 7. This took two days easy marching up the river bed. There is a fairly good road which is used by pack trains. This is the winter route from Towang to Tsona, as the Milakatong La (Sq. M) is too deep in snow.

We halted one day in Shakti in order to give the coolies a rest.

The Shakti villagers were not so reticent as the previous people we had interviewed, as the Tsona Dzongpons, not knowing we were visiting Shakti, had not warned them. They told us what their taxes were and also informed us that they had been so oppressed that half the villagers had run away to Bhutan about 5 years previously. The villagers in this corner are half Bhutanese as there has been much inter-marrying.

From Shakti, we returned by a different route across the hills, *via* Gyipu (just south of Shakti) to Lumla.

When we reached Lumla we found that the villagers were more willing to give us information, and some interesting facts became known.

We reached Towang on the 15th.

It is difficult to give any exact information about the present system of taxation in this area, as there appears to be no method whatever, and it appears to be carried out most unfairly. Taxes are paid almost entirely in kind, the chief articles being grain of different kinds, paper, planks and in some cases, sheep.

The greater part of the taxes go to the Tsona Dzongpons and the remainder to the Nyertsang of Towang monastery. A very small portion goes to two small monasteries called Gompase, and Jora, both of which lie near Tsona.

There are also two Shengos, who are local small rajahas, and who have been authorised by the Tibetan Government to collect a small amount of taxes from certain villages for services rendered in the past.

The main injustices are that the rates of taxation for villages are all different, and two villages of the same size, will be found to be paying quite different amounts.

The taxes to be paid were settled very many years ago ; so long in fact, that nobody has any recollection as to who made the assessment or how the assessment was made. Also no alteration has ever been made and villages that have dwindled still pay the same amount as they did in the past.

The main complaint that was made was that all local officials made villagers carry their loads free of charge, and that all the ragtag and bobtail of their followers had to be fed free of charge.

As an example of load carrying, the villagers of Shakti declared that on the average they carried about 1,000 loads annually to Pangchen (Sq. L, 6.5, 1.) for the Tsona Dzongpons alone. This figure is probably incorrect, but the loads carried must be very many as Shakti lies on the main route to Tsona for most of the year and all the tax collections made by the Dzongpons go by this route, except in the months of June, July, August, and part of September.

Lumla village claims to carry 1,500 loads for the Tsona Dzongpons annually.

In conclusion, I will try and give a short impression of the Monbas in this area. They are the most subservient people I have ever seen in the hills, and appear to have been crushed for years. They are terrified of any official who appears, and especially of the Tsona Dzongpons.

Their present reaction to our visit is one of fear that the Tsona Dzongpons will punish them for any help that they give to us. Actually they have been very good indeed in supplying labour, and in doing what they have been told but the feeling of their being in fear is always very noticeable. Most of these people have never seen a European, yet when we arrive in a village, the majority of the populace hide in their houses. It is very dissappointing that so few of them come for medical treatment.

Although the Sub-Assistant Surgeon has been visiting villages, still very few of them are willing to be treated.

Venereal diseases are common among these people, and yet few have come for treatment.

In conclusion, I would state that the removal of the Tsona Dzongpons would be the biggest boon these people have ever had.

G. S. LIGHTFOOT,

Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract.

No.568.

Report No.6

Confidential No.234-Twg., dated Camp Towangdzong, the 18th—24th May 1938.

From—Captain G. S. LIGHTFOOT, I.P., Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract,

To—The Secretary to the Governor of Assam.

In continuation of my report No.3 in which I suggested that the removal of the Tsona Dzongpons would be advantageous.

It has come to my notice now that the Nyertsang and the Chhanzu of the Lamasery here are both appointed by the Tibetan Government, and that in the event of the Tsona Dzongpons being removed, they should also be withdrawn.

I regret that this information was not given previously, but the fact has only just come to my notice.

The Nyertsang is the monastery accountant and collects revenue for the maintenance of the monastery.

The Chhanzu duties are not quite clear to me yet, but he is the Tibetan Government's representative in the monastery councils. A further report will be submitted shortly.

They are both Tibetans, and in the event of their removal, Monbas should be appointed.

No.569.

Telegram No.1132, dated Yatung, the 26th May 1938.

From—B. J. GOULD, Esq., Political Officer, Sikkim,

To—Secretary to Governor of Assam.

My postal and telegraphic address is Yatung.

No.570.

Telegram No.398, dated Lhasa, 26th May 1938.

From—Rai Bahadur NORBU DHONDUP, Political Officer, Gyantse (Tibet),

To—Secretary to Governor of Assam.

Addressed to Gould, Yatung, repeated to Foreign, Simla, and Assam, Shillong, owing line interruption Foreign's telegrams Nos.8018 received on May 20th and 8023 on May 21st. I interviewed the Tibet Cabinet of three Ministers yesterday. Senior Shape owing sickness was unable to attend. I stated I have received instructions to protest against illegal collection of taxes and embarrassment of the expedition by Tibet officials within without delay and requested them to withdraw these officials.

2. Their reply in effect was that Tawang is Tibet territory and collection of taxes normal. Further they could not understand why Government of India's ^{outry} ~~outcome~~ raised Tawang question during lateness of the Dalai Lama.

3. My reply in effect was to refer them to treaty, upon validity of which they have so far made no comments.

4. They say what action they propose to take will be discussed with me after they have conferred with senior Shape.

5. Throughout negotiations, so far I have adopted what could in no way be considered a high-handed or overbearing attitude and have gone some extent to explain to them good conduct between Governments in respect of treaty obligations and mutual relations.

6. Are you prepared I would suggest Lightfoot be instructed proclaim in widest possible degree that taxes imposed by Tibet Government in Tawang are illegal and that true domiciled inhabitants of Tawang, who are now British subjects, must refuse to make any in future.

It is of paramount importance that Tawang subjects be convinced they are no longer subject to control of Tibet Government and if local administration of Tawang is seriously considered by Government of Assam, means should be provided to give Tawang subjects full protection from forcible coercion by Tibet officials.

7. In the meantime the annual *posa* of Rs.5,000 granted to Tawang should be discontinued.

I consider these steps, if taken, to be first automatic adjustment of whole question.

No.571.

D. O. No.2492-G.S., dated Shillong, the 28th May 1938.

From—J. P. MILLS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Governor of Assam,

To—Captain G. S. LIGHTFOOT, I.P., Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract.

Please refer to your demi-official No.231/C/Twg., dated the 23rd May 1938. His Excellency the Governor approves of the revised programme of your Tawang tour and of the arrangements you have made regarding the Assam Rifles column and the labour force. The question of keeping an officer at Tawang will be examined, and I will let you know the decision as soon as possible.

No.572.

*Registered.

No.2493-94-G.S.,* dated Shillong, the 28th May 1938.

Memo. by—The Secretary to the Governor of Assam.

Copy with a copy of the papers noted in the margin forwarded to

1. Copy of demi-official No.231/C/Twg., dated the 23rd May 1938, from Captain G. S. Lightfoot, with its enclosures.

2. Copy of letter No.F.7689, dated the 19th May 1938, from the Inspector-General of Police, Assam, with its enclosures.

*P. O., Yatung.

†P. O., Gyantse (Tibet).

the Political Officer in Sikkim*
Rai Bahadur Norbhu Dhondup†, for information.

No.573.

D. O. No.2498-G.S., dated Shillong, the 28th May 1938.

From—J. P. MILLS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Governor of Assam,

To—Captain G. S. LIGHTFOOT, I.P., Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract.

I am directed to send you a copy of a cipher wire dated May 25th, from Norbhu at Lhasa. The text is corrupt in places, but the meaning is quite clear.

We shall, of course, have to await India's orders. But in case they agree to a permanent post at Tawang I am to ask you to advise now on the composition of the post, and to begin working out an estimate of its cost. We do not want orders held up late it is too late to get rations through.

If you consider your Tibetan interpreter should be kept up at Towang with the post on increased pay you should include that item in your estimate.

It would be exceedingly helpful if we could give India even a rough estimate of the amount of taxes or tribute we could divert from Tibet to ourselves without imposing an oppressive burden on the people. Presumably they can find coin in which to pay and Tibetan taxes are not in kind because they cannot be in any other form.

No.574.

No.2506-G.S., dated Shillong, the 30th May 1938.

From—J. P. MILLS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Governor of Assam,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the External Affairs Department, Simla.

SUBJECT :—INDO-TIBETAN FRONTIER

I am directed to refer to the correspondence resting with your telegram No.818 of the 16th instant and to submit a tour programme of the Tawang expedition as further revised by the Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract, and approved by His Excellency the Governor. Copies of reports Nos.4 and 5 by the Political Officer on the expedition are also sent herewith for the information of the Government of India.

No.575.

No.2507-8-C.S., dated Shillong, the 30th May 1938.

Memo. by—The Secretary to the Governor of Assam.

Copy of report No.5 from the Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract, on

*Yatung P. O.

†Gyantse P. O. (Tibet).

Tawang, is forwarded to

the Political Officer in Sikkim*
Rai Bahadur Norbhu Dhondup† for information.

No.576.

D. O. No.2525-G.S., dated Shillong, the 31st May 1938.
From—J. P. MILLS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Governor of Assam,
To—B. J. GOULD, Esq., C.M.G., C.I.E., Political Officer in Sikkim, P. O. Yatung.

Would you please note that my telegraphic address is Secga. Your telegrams on Tawang matters are sometimes sent to the Government of Assam and Norbhu's to the Chief Secretary. This only means delay.

I am sending a copy of this demi-official to Norbhu for information.

No.577.

No.2526-G.S., dated Shillong, the 31st May 1938.
Memo. by—The Secretary to the Governor of Assam.

*Gyantse P. O. (Tibet).

Copy to Rai Bahadur Norbhu Dhondup.*

No.578.

D. O. No.2549-G.S., dated Shillong, the 3rd June 1938.
From—J. P. MILLS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Governor of Assam,
To—Captain G. S. LIGHTFOOT, I.P., Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract.

His Excellency would be glad if you would come to Shillong on your return from Towang in order to discuss the information you will have gathered on your expedition.

No.579.

Telegram No.402, dated Lhasa, the 31st May 1938.
From—Rai Bahadur NORBHU DHONDUP, Political Officer, Gyntse (Tibet),
To—Secretary to Governor of Assam.

Addressed to Gould repeated to Foreign, Simla, Assam, Shillong. My telegram No.398, May 25th *re*. Towang.

2. Senior Shape rejoined Cabinet yesterday and I am informed relevant.

Have not so far been reviewed but they promise to call on me again as early as possible in this connection.

No.580.

Telegram XX-No.875, dated Simla, the 28th May 1938.
From—Foreign Secretary to Government of India, Simla,
To—Rai Bahadur NORBHU DHONDUP, Lhasa.

[Copy by post (1) Political Officer, Sikkim.
(2) Secretary to the Governor of Assam.]

Your telegram 398, May 25th.

It is not possible to consider proposals contained in paragraphs 6 and 7 of your telegram until expedition has returned and Lightfoot's detailed report has been received, cf. our telegram 818, May 16th to Assam.

No.581.

Telegram No.5044, dated Yatung, the 2nd June 1938.
From—B. J. GOULD, Esq., Political Officer, Sikkim,
To—Secretary to the Governor of Assam.

Addressed to Foreign Simla, Lhasa and Assam. Lhasa telegram May 25th 1938. *Parcel* ? based on assumption that it would be possible to communicate with Lightfoot before he leaves Tawang. I am however under impression that paragraph 3 of my telegram 898 of May 4th has been negated by your telegram of May 16th. It is desirable that Norbhu should be informed as soon as possible whether Lightfoot's tour programme has been modified and what date he is likely to leave Tawang.

2. Subject-matter of most of Norbhu's paragraph 6 and paragraph 7 will apparently have to stand over until after Lightfoot's return.

No.582.

Demi-official No.2617-G.S., dated Shillong, the 4th June 1938.

From—J. P. MILLS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to the Governor of Assam,

To—Captain G. S. LIGHTFOOT, I.P., Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract.

I am directed to refer to my demi-official No.2492-G.S. of May 28th and to say that His Excellency's approval of your revised programme stands, but that the Government of India have made it abundantly clear that they will come to no decision of any kind until you have returned and have submitted a detailed report. It is therefore of the utmost importance that you should be careful not to commit the Government of India to any course of action at this stage either by word or deed or to seem to anticipate their policy in any way. It seems evident that your expedition will have to withdraw completely when you leave on June 30th and that should it eventually be decided to establish a post at Tawang another separate expedition will have to go up.

No.583.

No.2618-19-G.S., dated Shillong the 4th June 1938.

Memo. by—The Secretary to the Governor of Assam.

Copy forwarded to Rai Bahadur Norbhu Dhondup for information with reference to his tele-
the Political Officer in Sikkim

gram No.5044, dated the 1st June 1938.

No.584.

(Report No.7)

Confidential No.236/Twg., dated Camp Towangdzong, the 26th May—3rd June 1938.

From—Captain G. S. LIGHTFOOT, I.P., Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract,

To—The Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Assam.

I have the honour to submit a further report on the Tawang column. Since my last report, the column halted in Tawang for three days, and then did a short tour of four days in the Tawang Chu valley, where several villages were visited.

On the 17th, while Major Brown and I were in the Monastery, we were informed that the two Tsona Dzongpons wished to call on us for the purpose of making enquiries about the reason for our visit. I agreed to see them on the following day.

On the next day, instead of coming themselves, they sent their two assistants. As I was representing the Indian Government and the matter was one of importance, I considered that the non-appearance of the Dzongpons was a discourtesy and refused to see or hear what the Assistants had to say. They were informed of my decision by the Tibetan interpreter, who later informed me that the Dzongpons wished to submit a report to Lhasa and so had sent their assistants to make what enquiries they could. Since this date I have seen nothing of the Dzongpons.

On the 21st, we visited the female lamasery at Jamnang, which lies about 2 miles from the main monastery. The lamasery is a small affair and appeared to contain about 30 women. It is a branch of the main institution and is fed and maintained by the Nyertsang. There is another a few miles up the road, which is said to be bigger.

On the 22nd, a small column left Tawang and proceeded to Shurbi (78M, Sq. T, 3.5, 3.). We halted here for the night and interviewed local headmen. There is a hot spring here which is much visited by the Monbas and local Tibetans. Bathing in it is considered very good for rheumatism and kindred diseases.

From here we went up the river to Mibra, (Sq. T, 8, 3.5.) where we also saw village headmen.

Our next camp was at Thimu, which lies in Sq. T, 6.5, 4.

From Thimu we returned to Towang.

There is little of interest to report. The health of the whole column is excellent and the only sick at the moment are two men of the Assam Rifles who are suffering from slight fever.

I have tried, without success, to find out the total income of the monastery, but the Nyertsang who is the official accountant, blandly informed me that no accounts are kept. This I know is a lie, but he is a Tibetan official and I can get no information until all such persons are removed.

The weather has been fairly good. The days are almost invariably fine and the nights wet.

In my last report, I reported that the Nyertsang and Chhanzu are both Tibetan officials, and that I would report further.

The Nyertsang is a Tibetan Official and is appointed by Government. He is the accountant of the Lamasery, and in this capacity is the head of the administrative side of the monastery. He is responsible for the collection of revenue on behalf of the monastery.

The Chhanzu, is appointed by Drepung monastery in Lhasa and may be called semi-official. He is a layman himself, and with the help of the head Lama, is in charge of the monks. He is head of the monastery council and is responsible for all appointments of monks to duties both in and out of the monastery. He gets a part of the Posa paid by us to Tawang, as part of his salary.

No.585.

Telegram No.405-C B., dated Shillong, the 7th June 1938.

From—The Secretary to the Governor of Assam,

To—Rai Bahadur NORBHU DHONDUP, Lhasa.

Lightfoot now intends leaving Tawang on June 15th.

No.586.

Demi-official No.238 Twg., dated Camp Tawang, the 1st—7th June 1938.

From—Captain G. S. LIGHTFOOT, I.P., Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract,

To—J. P. MILLS, Esq., I.C.S., Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Assam.

I have received your letter No.2401-G.S., dated the 19th May, and fully understand the position.

In view of the facts in the letter under reference there is obviously no need for us to stay here until the end of June. I have therefore made arrangements to leave here on the 15th June. It will mean carrying some of our rations, but that cannot be helped.

This new arrangement will get us back to Charduar in the first week of July. Incidentally it will get us back in time for Brown to catch his boat, that is presuming that his leave is granted.

I have not yet got any reply to my letter in which I proposed staying until the end of June.

No.587.

(Report No.8)

Confidential No.240/Twg., dated Camp Towangdzong, the 13th June 1938.

From—Captain G. S. LIGHTFOOT, I.P., Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract,

To—The Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Assam.

I have the honour to submit another report on the Towang column. Since my last report dated the 26th May 1938, the column has been confined to Towang due to bad weather.

From 27th May 1938 to 31st May 1938, the rain has been almost incessant and as a result it has been very cold. I did not think that it was worth touring in such weather as it would certainly have caused sickness in the rank and file.

On 1st June 1938, we started off on a short tour as the weather showed signs of improvement. The first day we went to Shiro, which is in Sheet 78M, Sq. T, 7, 4.2. Immediately after our arrival the weather again broke and heavy rain fell. Here we interviewed local headmen. The following day we proceeded in pouring rain to a camp near Rho (Sq. T, 9.5, 6) where we stayed for one night. We saw the headmen of Rho and Changta (just south-west of Rho.) These villagers are in rather a peculiar position as they pay no taxes of any kind. Instead of being taxed, they are forced to do coolie carrying work for a Tibetan village called Shou. The exact position of Shou is not known but it lies somewhere a few miles north of the Milakatong La (Sq. M, 4, 3.)

The Rho and Changta villagers say that they spend almost the whole time from October to May away from their villages carrying loads to Tawang. The column returned to Tawang on the 4th.

There is little of interest to report. I have reported to Government that I am proposing to return to the plains in the first week of July, if I can make the necessary arrangements in time. There is no point in staying as I have learned that the Tsona Dzongpons, as is their custom, are returning to Tsona for the summer, and the villagers are not visiting us in any numbers as they are busy with their cultivations.

The health of the column is excellent.

We are holding sports for the column to-day.

No. 588.

Telegram No.240/Twg., dated Lokra, the 16th June 1938.

From—Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract,

To—Secretary to Governor of Assam.

Your 2498-G.S., of 28th May. Received column remaining Towang until 30th June as originally proposed under revised scheme proposals re post Towang follows.

No. 589.

Telegram No.426-C.B., dated Shillong, the 16th June 1938.

From—Secretary to Governor of Assam,

To—Rai Bahadur NORBU DZONDUP, Lhasa.

Reference my telegram 405-CB., of 7th instant. Lightfoot will remain at Towang till 30th June.

No. 590.

No.F.8885-V.-R./3-38, dated Shillong, the 13th June 1938.

Memo. by—The Inspector-General of Police, Assam.

Copy of the second Report of Major W. F. Brown, I.A., Assistant Commandant, 2nd Battalion, Assam Rifles on the Towang Column, is forwarded to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, for information, in continuation of this office letter No. F.4639, dated the 19th May 1938.

No. 591.

Dated Camp Towang, the 3rd May 1938.

From—Major W. F. BROWN, I. A., Officer Commanding, Column, Towang,

To—The Commandant, 2nd Battalion, Assam Rifles, Sadiya.

REPORT No. 2. TOWANG COLUMN

I enclose herewith a second graph as an appendix to my report No. 2 which is in continuation of my report No. 1 submitted from Dirangdzong on 21st April. I have included in the report the period of rest at Towang.

On the 21st and 22nd of April we halted in Dirangdzong in order to pay coolies and receive and return calls by the local Dzongpons and Chanzii of Lih. The latter is a tax collector. The weather here was fine although a gale blew most of the time. We managed to get meat for the troops which was the first occasion they had a meat ration since we left Lokra.

On the 23rd April we proceeded to a camp at the confluence of the Chakar Pu, between Lih and Nyukmadong (which means "the day after to-morrow" and is very apt as regards ideas of time here), and the Pobrang Chu (83AV14). This was change of programme occasioned by the march into Dirangdzong being lengthened owing to the lack of camping grounds suitable to accommodating the column on the way there.

The map here is not quite accurate as the confluences of the Chakar Pu and the Milankang with the Pobrang Chu are coincident. Dirangdzong was left at 0545 and camp was reached at 1030 hrs. Water is very good and wood for fuel and *basha* plentiful. Our Naga coolies caught a large amount of snow trout here and this was greatly appreciated by all including the troops. How they did it was a mystery as they did not use nets.

The 24th April saw another change in programme as we cut out the halt at Nyukmadong as being unnecessary. We accordingly went on to Sengedzong where we arrived at 1145 in a drizzle having left at 0500 hrs. The road on leaving the Chakar Pu camp rose sharply for about 500 feet whence it levelled out over the next three hours marching. The march finished up with a sharp climb into camp. The view of the snows on the Se La Range which we had hoped to obtain was completely blotted out by cloud. We had a bit of a shock here as we still found 500 loads of rations to be moved forward when only 150 or 200 were expected. Tibetan Dzongpongs, were I understand, responsible for the delay.

We halted on 25th April to make arrangements for getting these loads forward but discovered that this could not be done till 26th April. The villages would not move till I sent down a section with the Tibetan Interpreter to Nyukmadong, at Captain Lightfoot's request. The villagers held the Dzongpongs in greater awe than us until it was pointed out to them that they are now British subjects administered by the Political Officer and not by Tibet.

Both the 25th and 26th were uncomfortable damp days. There was a sufficiency of water and plentiful wood for all purposes. Our being able to cut out the Lih halt originally allowed for had its advantage here as it meant a day's rations saved which were consumed at the extra halt at Sengedzong. The second day's halt there was catered for by one of the two days' reserve rations which we have carried on the man.

On 27th we left Sengedzong at 0545 and arrived at Jungle Camp at 1400 hrs. (83A N3023). This has been the hardest of the tour so far and will be at the end. From camp it was a steep $4\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. climb to the top of Se La. We started in a drizzle which soon ceases but it was very cold and many men were effected by the height. The pass itself was slightly snowy but the hills above and on the north face were thickly covered. From the top to the camp at Jungle camp was a very gradual fall. We had just got camp completed when a heavy thunder and hail storm commenced which lasted from about 3 P.M. till 8:30. It was very cold and hail was still lying the next morning. Water and wood for all purposes was plentiful.

We saw yellow rhododendrons for the first time. On 28th April we left Jungle camp at 0645 and arrived at Jang at 1100. This is an easy march. For the first hour the road runs down a gentle slope, a pretty valley enclosed by snow clad hills through which runs the Jang river. After the first halt the road drops very steeply to Jang village (7700) and down to the Manas, known locally as the Mago Chu or Towang Chu. From a Mandang (memorial of stone) at the third halt we had a wonderful first view of Towang across the valley. The main Himalayan Range covered in snow was also seen for the first time. Jang Camp was on the right bank of the Manas near the west of the bridge 78MD2.

Rations for the Nyuri (83A.H32) tour were sorted out and dumped.

A day's halt here was also imperative to enable rations to be closed up on Jang. More rain again on this day 28th April which did not matter as we were safely encamped and it was not too cold.

On 30th April we left Jang Camp at 0550 and arrived at Towang Camp at 1245. The first hour's march was a fairly steep climb, followed by two hours gradual climbing. The road then dropped steeply to the Gyukang Rong (78M.D.2-East of Towang) and then climbs steeply up to the camp which is situated about 500 feet below and about 1 mile E. S. E. of Monastery. In order to impress upon the local inhabitants the Assam Rifles Camp has been placed near the main Shurbi-Towang road about 600 E. S. E. of the Monastery where it occupies a prominent position. It rained again here but not till after the camp was ready.

On 1st May we received visits from the Monastery officials and the Tsona Dzongpong. Another thunderstorm occurred in the evening. Rations and stores are now arriving from Jang.

On 2nd May we paid our official visit to Monastery taking with us Government presents value Rs.1,000. We were very cordially received and were shown round the Monastery buildings, Gompa (Temple) and their Library. It was a very interesting morning. The Tsona Dzongpongs though in the Monastery did not appear at the reception. It rained again this evening and most of the night.

3rd May.—Halted again in order to make arrangements for local touring.

Temporally the following two tours have been decided on :—

I				II			
4th May	...	...	...	Tonglen.	date not fixed	...	Tonglen.
5th "	...	...	...	Lomla.			Lomla.
6th "	...	...	...	Sanglung.			Gyipu.
7th "	...	...	...	Manam.			Shakti.
8th "	...	...	...	Halt.			Halt.
9th "	...	...	...	Dukti.			Pangchen.
10th "	...	...	...	Dongshima.			Halt.
11th "	...	...	...	Bomja.			Shakti.
12th "	...	...	...	Halt.			Gyipa.
							Lomla.
13th "	...	...	...	Ke.			Tonglen.
14th "	...	...	...	Towang.			Towang.

We have also fixed the position of 15 villages that are not shewn on this map 78M. There are doubtless many more which we shall find during the next month.

There is a marked difference between the economic state of the Momba villages north and south of the Se La, those on the north obviously being much better off than those on the south. Wheat, barley are wet rice crops are very strong, and there are large herds of yaks and sheep.

The health of the troops has left nothing to be desired. One man developed dysentery the day he arrived here but he appears to be subject to this disease as he had it in Sadiya. He is being treated and is already well on the way to recovery.

More meat has been obtained here for the mess. We expended our second reserve ration carried by the man at Jang owing to an unforeseen halt there. We still have one day's reserve here with the column which should see us through. I have had to order up two extra days' rations for the L. of C. owing to the serious delay at Sengedzong.