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REPORT ON GOR.



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PREFACE.

THIS report by Lieutenant J. A. Douglas, 2nd Bengal Lancers, was received through the British Agent at Gilgit (with his No. 5202, dated 15th November 1893), and is printed in continuation of the reports previously furnished by the same officer.

INTELLIGENCE BRANCH, }
31st January 1894.

A. H. M.
G. H. M.-M.

REPORT ON GOR

Extent of territory.—The territory of Gor lies on both banks of the river Indus. On the right bank it extends from the Jum *pari* opposite Bunji to the western watershed of the Ke Ges Nala, comprising, besides Gor proper, the valleys of Taliche, Damasal, Shingah, Am Ges, and Ke Ges. The grazing ground of Malpat, which lies at the head of the Ke Ges valley, belongs not to Gor, but to Chilas.

On the left bank the Gor people claim from the Lechir Nala on the east as far as the watershed between the Gonar and Lechirwai streams, which is the boundary between Gor and Bunar. This tract includes the small valleys of Lechir, Burdil Rakhiot, Tatowai, Jiliper, Ganalo, and Gonar. None of these valleys contain any cultivation, and are used only for grazing goats in summer. Of the minor valleys on the right bank, Taliche contains the village of that name. Damasal contains the small hamlet of Bargin (4 houses), and grazing for cattle at the head. The Shingah is a deep narrow ravine, but goats graze there. The Am Ges and Ke Ges valleys contain, besides the valleys at their mouths, a small amount of cultivation higher up.

Gor proper.—Gor itself lies in a sort of amphitheatre above the right bank of the Indus under Chahmuri peak. It contains three forts—Lasanot, Dobot, and Kartalot—all situated close together, at an elevation of about 8,000 feet. Of these, Lasanot is the largest, containing 140 houses. The fort is an irregularly built structure, with walls of stones and wood and seven towers. The houses are all piled one on top of the other, the entrance usually being from the roof. Outside the fort are numerous small stone huts and wooden buildings. In the former, live stock are kept, while the latter are used for the storage of grain, &c.

Dobot and Kartalot are similar to Lasanot, but smaller, Kartalot being considerably the smallest of the three.

Gor is watered by numerous small streams which flow down from the surrounding hills.* In early summer, during the melting of the snow, these streams contain a fair amount of water, which gradually diminishes as the snow disappears. In the middle of October none of them contained more than the merest trickle of water, and the people have great difficulty in obtaining sufficient for their fields. In winter the streams dry up altogether, and the inhabitants are entirely dependent for their water-supply on a small spring near each fort.

The slopes of the hills are covered with a belt of pine forest from about 12,000 down to 8,000 feet, consisting chiefly of *chilgoza* and *pinus excelsa*. To the north and west the forest is thick, but thinner on the east.

Below 8,000 feet the ground is very broken, and cut up with deep ravines. There are scattered trees down to about 6,000 feet, chiefly *chilgoza* and *bani*.

All the slopes near the forts are terraced and cultivated. Higher up on the hill-side to the east are patches of cultivation at Martal, Junegr, Buimal, and Gitile, the latter a large space of open ground. To the west there are small patches of cultivation at Ganu, Bemur, and Teremal. There are a few fruit trees and walnuts about the forts and a good many at Gitile, but most of the fruit trees are lower down in the fork between the Lasanot and Dobot streams, where there is a large plantation. They consist chiefly of peaches and apricots with a good many vines. Lower down is the hamlet of Dirkal in a deep ravine. It contains twelve houses, but the people belong to the forts. Darang, situated at the junction of the Gor stream with the Indus, contains six houses.

On the other side of Chahmuri, the village of Taliche also belongs to Gor. It is situated on the stream of the same name at the mouth of a steep ravine, and a mile and a half above the junction of the stream with the Indus opposite Ramghat. It contains six houses, but the people belong to Gor.

* Water is also brought from the head of the Damot Nala, the channel which conveys it crossing the hills at the Luthu pass, an elevation of nearly 12,000 feet.

Population, &c.—The population contained in the forts of Gor is approximately as follows:—

	Number of houses.	Headman.	
Lasanot ...	140	Dari Khan	} Nearly all Shias, but a few Yashkuns and Dunis'
Dobot ...	80	Kurban	
Kartalot ...	34	Dudoka	All Yashkuns.
Total ...	254	families	= about 1,250 souls.

The headman of the whole of Gor is Sangali.

These 254 families may, I think, fairly be taken as representing the whole population. The outlying hamlets close to the forts are either not inhabited at all or inhabited only in summer.

The more distant villages of Taliche, Dirkal, Darang, Bargin, and Ges (2) contain a few inhabitants all the year round; but as a rule only a portion of a family live there, the remainder being in the forts.

The outlying hamlets and villages are as follows:—

	Houses.	
Taliche	...	6
Dirkal	...	12
Darang	...	6
Bargin	...	4
Am Ges	...	12
Ke Ges	...	12
Teremal	...	4
Bemur	...	2
Ganu
Gitile
Buimal
Junegir
Martal

} Inhabited only in summer.

} No houses.

Gor can muster from 300 to 350 fighting men.

Supplies and resources.—Owing to the insufficient water-supply, the people grow barely enough grain for their own use, and little, if any, is at present procurable from the country. They can supply a certain amount of grass, and wood is abundant.

Roads.—The principal roads are those from Darang to Gor, and thence eastwards along a spur from Chahmuri to Damot and Taliche, and northwards over the Luthu pass to Damot. These are all described in detail further on; they are only rough cattle tracks, and all very steep in places.

Besides these, there are three cattle tracks from Gor (1) by the Kani pass to Damot: this is a very steep, rough track, and is used chiefly for taking cattle to graze at the Turan Harai at the head of the Damot Nala. From Turan a path descends to the Damot stream and joins the road from the Luthu pass; (2) a track through Martal to the head of the Damasal Nala; and (3) a track through Junegir, also to the Damasal Nala, but crossing the spur lower down. Both these latter are bad on the Damasal side, the higher one being the best; they are used for taking cattle to graze at the head of the *nala*.

There are also several footpaths—one through Gitile to Bargin, said to be very bad and difficult. Another crosses the hills to the north about two miles west of the Luthu pass, descending into the Hosharai Nala. In summer men and goats can go all over these hills.

The Damasal Nala.—The Damasal stream flows between very steep, rocky hills, and issues through a narrow opening between high perpendicular cliffs. The only inhabited place in the valley is Bargin, a small outlying hamlet of Gor, situated about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the mouth. It contains four houses, and is cultivated by people from Gor.

Bargin is reached from the river by a steep track which ascends the hill-side about a mile above the mouth of the stream. There is also a difficult footpath from Gor through Gitile.

There is no road up the stream. The head is reached by two tracks from Gor, and cattle are taken there to graze in summer.

There is a footpath over a pass at the head of the *nala*; thence into the Gashu or Hosharai Nalas.

There is no pass over these hills by which cattle can cross between the Luthu pass in Gor and Malpat at the head of the Ke Ges valley.

Route No. 1.*

FROM CHILAS TO GOR *via* THE RIGHT BANK OF THE INDUS.

Authority and date—DOUGLAS, NOVEMBER 1893.

No. of stage.	Names of stages.	DISTANCES.		REMARKS.
		Inter-mediate.	Total.	
1.	THALPIN ...	5	5	From Chilas the road descends through cultivation to the ferry, which in summer is usually about a mile below the mouth of the Itogah stream and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from

Chilas fort. Crossing the river, the path goes up the right bank, reaching Thalpin village at about 5 miles. Good ground to camp on the left bank of the Kharagah stream. This stream is not bridged, and is difficult to ford when in high flood; but a place at which fording is possible can usually be found.

The actual place of crossing the Indus varies according to the state of the river, it being sometimes necessary to cross lower down. When the river is high, a large six *masah* raft will not carry more than six men at a time, exclusive of rowers. At each trip the raft is carried from 400 to 600 yards down stream, and has to be towed up again, great delay being thus caused.

In winter there is an easy ferry a mile below Thalpin, and the distance is then reduced to under 3 miles.

2.	KE GES ...	10	15	Leaving the cultivation of Thalpin, the road ascends gradually to the top of a low <i>pari</i> , which is reached at $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and for the next mile goes along the hill-side.
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At $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles it reaches a stony *maidan* above the river, across which it goes to 4 miles, when it enters some low hills, and winds among them out of sight of the river up to $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The next two miles are fairly level, at first over sand and stones; then over heavy loose sand.

At $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles there is a short difficult descent over rock to the river bed, which is the only bad bit in this stage. After going for a few hundred yards across the sand, the road ascends gradually over broken ground.

At $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles the Moshkar Nala is crossed; the descent to and ascent from the bed of the *nala* are somewhat steep.

A little further on the Ke Ges stream is reached, and the path goes up the right bank, crossing at the village (10 miles). There is no regular bridge over the stream, but the inhabitants usually extemporise a crossing of some sort.

Plenty of room to encamp, but very little is procurable in the way of supplies.

The village belongs to Gor, and contains twelve houses.

It is not permanently inhabited. Elevation 3,750'.

There is no water on this stage for the first $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

3.	DAMASAL ...	13	28	From Ke Ges the road for nearly 3 miles goes across the Ges plain, and is good. It then crosses the Am Ges stream, about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile below the village. The stream is between high banks, and the descent and ascent are fairly steep.
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At $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles a very bad *pari* is reached. The path is over hard slippery rock, which descends at a very steep gradient to the river. There are two tracks, the upper being the best; but it is very bad indeed, and entails an ascent of several hundred feet. This *pari* is about a mile long.

* This is the shortest road from Chilas to Gor in summer, when the Indus is in high flood, as there is then no place at which rafts can cross between Chilas and the mouth of the Astor river. The road is very bad. Cattle are sometimes taken by it, but there are several places where an unladen pony could only be led over with great difficulty. The best route, when the river is not too high, is that by the left bank, crossing either at the mouth of the Damasal Nala or at Durang.

Route No. I—*contd.*

No. of stage.	Names of stages.	DISTANCES.		REMARKS.
		Inter-mediate.	Total.	

After crossing this *pāri*, the road for a mile and a half is fairly good, over stony ground about 300 feet above the river. It then goes along a steep hill-side, crossing two deep ravines between the 6th and 7th miles.

At 7 miles a fairly steep rocky descent on to a lower plateau, across which it goes to 8½ miles.

From 8½ to 9½ miles the path is along a steep hill-side very rough and narrow in places.

At 9½ the Shingah Nala, which flows through a deep ravine, is crossed. This is usually a small stream, but difficult to cross when in high flood.

From the Shingah stream the path ascends for half a mile over another *pāri*; then descends again, and crosses another plateau for a mile.

The last mile and a half is over stony broken ground, and at 13 miles Damasaf is reached. This is a small open space at the mouth of the Damasaf stream, which issues from the hills between steep perpendicular banks. Grass abundant in summer and tamarisk trees for fuel. No other supplies. Elevation 3,550'.

There is a ferry here to Jiliper post on the opposite bank, but it cannot be used in summer.

4.	GOR	...	7½	35½	Leaving Damasaf, the road for the first mile is over rock above the river, and very bad. The next mile is over sand and stones in the river bed.
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At 2 miles another bad rocky *pāri* commences.

The road ascends gradually for about a mile over solid, slippery rock, and is almost impassable for animals.

Thence a descent of ¼ mile to the village of Darang (3½ miles). Darang is on level ground at the junction of the Gor stream with the Indus, and about 300 feet above the river level. It belongs to Gor, and contains six houses with a good deal of cultivation and fruit trees.

From Darang the road for half a mile ascends gradually up the right bank of the Gor stream. It then leaves the stream, and ascends a spur between two dry *nalas*. From the 4th to the 6th mile is very steep, up a rocky hill-side; the track is rough, but cattle can be taken by it.

At 6 miles the outlying cultivation of Gor is reached. The road then goes on up the right bank of the Dobot branch of the stream, ascending gradually for a mile.

It then crosses the stream, and ascends to the fort of Dobot, which is reached at 7½ miles. Elevation 8,000'. Lasanot is about 300 yards to the east of Dobot. There is room for a small camp just below the Dobot fort. Supplies procurable.

Route No. 2.*

FROM GOR (LASANOT FORT) TO DAMOT AND TALICHE, *viâ* THE PASS TO THE EAST OF GOR.

Authority and date—DOUGLAS, NOVEMBER 1893.

No. of stage.	Name of stages.	DISTANCES.		REMARKS.
		Inter-mediate.	Total.	
1	TEREMAL ...	4	4	From Lasanot the road goes northwards, ascending gradually through cultivation to the smaller fort of Kartalot, and crossing the Lasanot stream above Kartalot at a little over one mile. Thence it turns eastward, ascending and winding round a low spur through terraced cultivation. At 2½ miles a deep ravine is crossed with a fairly steep descent and ascent. Thence the road winds round another spur through thin forest, and at a little over 3 miles descends into another ravine. There is a small patch of cultivation in the bed of this called Bemur. Thence road as before, reaching at 4 miles another patch of cultivation called Teremal, the last halting place, till Damot is reached.
2	HEAD OF PASS ...	2	6	From Teremal there is a very steep ascent of nearly a mile through pine forest. Thence the path descends slightly and crosses an open level space, whence the top of the pass is reached by a fairly easy ascent of half a mile. Elevation by aneroid 9,400'. This pass is open all the year round.
3	DAMOT ...	13	19	From the top of the pass the road descends steeply down the bed of a ravine; a short way down it divides, one branch keeping high up along the hill-side above the Jum <i>pari</i> to Damot; cattle are taken along this route; the other branch, descending straight down the ravine, reaches Taliche at 5 miles from head of pass. This road is very steep, though cattle can be taken down with difficulty. This latter is the shortest route to Bunji from Gor. At 1½ miles from Taliche, mouth of Taliche stream is reached (there is usually a ferry here in winter), and thence the main road to Bunji, 9 miles.

* This is the best route from Gor to Damot, and that generally used. From the top of the pass to Damot no water is met with, and it is a very hot road in summer. For this reason the road by the Luthu pass is sometimes preferred (Route No. 3).

Route No. 3.^aFROM GOR TO DAMOT *via* THE LUTHU PASS.

Authority and date—DOUGLAS, NOVEMBER 1893.

No. of stage.	Name of stages.	DISTANCES.		REMARKS.
		Inter-mediate.	Total.	
1	DOBAI HARAI ...	8	8	From Lasanot fort the road goes to Karlalot, a gradual ascent of about a mile through cultivation.

Thence it ascends up the right bank of the Lasanot stream. The ascent is fairly gradual up to two miles; thence to the top of the pass the path goes straight up a very steep hill-side. It is very rough and rocky in places through pine forest to within 1,000 feet of the top.

The total distance from Lasanot to the top of the pass is probably not more than 5 miles, but the ascent is severe, nearly 5,000 feet in this distance.

From the top the descent on the north side is easy and gradual for about a mile, when the stream, which here flows in a westerly direction, is crossed.

A little further on the path descends to the bed of the stream, which, turning northwards, flows through a deep rocky ravine. The road going down the left bank is bad. Three miles from the top (8 miles altogether) Dobai Harai is reached. There is only a goat-herd's hut on the hill-side there, and no level ground on which to pitch even a small tent. Wood abundant and water from a side stream. Elevation 11,400.

2	DAMOT ...	12	20	From Dobai the road keeps down the bed of the stream on the left bank, and is very rough and stony.
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At 3 miles the mouth of the Buin Nala is reached. This has a fair-sized stream flowing down it from the west. There is a cattle track up it and a pass at the head of the northerly branch into the Gashu Nala. Up the Hosharai, a branch of the Buin, are footpaths to the Damasal Nala and also into Gor, crossing by a pass about two miles to the west of the Luthu pass.

Good place to encamp in pine forest at the mouth of the Buin stream.

At 5 miles the Kashiro Shing Nala joins from the east, and at 6½ miles the mouth of the Salat Nala is reached.

Road bad all the way to here.

At Salat there is a small patch of cultivation and a footpath up the *nala*.

Below Salat the road is much better, and is a fairly good cattle track.

At a little over 8 miles the Shutiachik Nala joins from the east. There is cattle grazing up it.

At 9½ miles the hamlet of Bargin is reached at the mouth of the Darang Nala on the right bank of the stream. The path crosses just above Bargin; no bridge.

At 11 miles Manot is reached, and at 12 miles Damot, the last mile being through continuous cultivation.

Room to encamp at Damot near the junction of the Damot and Chakarkot streams. Supplies procurable.

^a This is only a summer road, and is used chiefly for taking cattle over to graze. It is sometimes used in preference to the lower road to Damot on account of the heat and want of water on the latter.

[C. C. F.]

