

POSTAL HISTORY OF INDIAN CAMPAIGNS

SIKKIM TIBET

1903—1908

D.S. Virk



Postal History of Indian Campaigns, Sikkim, Tibet

By the same author

**INDIAN ARMY POST OFFICES: LOCATIONS AND
MOVEMENTS, 1939-1947**

ARMY POST OFFICES AND PHILATELY

**INDIAN ARMY POST OFFICES IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR
POSTAL CENSORSHIP IN INDIA, 1939-1945**

**POSTAL HISTORY
OF
INDIAN MILITARY CAMPAIGNS**

**SIKKIM—TIBET
1903-1908**

Brig. D.S. Virk, A.V.S.M.

**NEW DELHI
PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA
ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION**

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Wolfgang Hellrigl (for Part 2)

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For fellow members of

**THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF INDIA
THE ARMY POSTAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION
THE FORCES POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY (U.K.)**

Foreword

The modern Indian Army and the Indian Post Office are over two hundred years old and have grown and worked side by side. Now wholly Indian, they were up to 1947, both British and Indian, and therefore form part of the heritage of both the countries.

It was thus natural that when we in the Philatelic Congress of India thought of producing a series of handbooks on Indian military campaigns, we approached the top experts in the field, Mr. Gerald Sattin of Great Britain and Brig. D.S. Virk of India, to edit the series.

As Philately knows no national barriers, advice has been sought from acknowledged experts in many countries throughout the world. In some instances, the Editors have entrusted them with the task of actually writing the books on different campaigns. While other books are under preparation, Brig. Virk has completed this interesting work on Sikkim-Tibet.

I have great pleasure in commending this work of logical presentation, analytical research and deep knowledge to all lovers of Indian military and postal history.

Calcutta,
20th December, 1988.

D.N. Jatia
R.D.P.
Vice President, F.I.P.
Board of Directors

Introduction and Acknowledgements

THE 1903 Expedition to Tibet was not very large, in fact only a brigade group was deployed with a large 'tail' and a long line of communication. It lasted no more than a year. Yet the interest that the invasion of the forbidden land evoked in British Indian circles was intense. Four foreign correspondents accompanied the Force and several books on Tibet were published in the next few years. The postal history of this Expedition is most interesting, covering, as it does, a period of 5 years beginning with preliminary political manoeuvres and ending with the evacuation of the Chumbi Valley. Moreover, it offers an unusual example of the mingling of civil and army post offices.

I first studied the postal side of the Tibet venture in 1977 when I took part in a discussion on India Used Abroad which, of course, included the work of Indian post offices in Tibet. To my postally-trained mind the story, as related by Mr. Robson Lowe (in his *Encyclopedia*) and by Mr. A.C. Waterfall (in his *Postal History of Tibet*), left many gaps and some contradictions. Working on old records, I was able to resolve some of my doubts but the picture remained incomplete till I found in the Post Office records the weekly diaries of the Chief Postal Officer of the Tibet Mission Force. The present narrative makes full use of the information contained in the Diary which is reproduced in full as Part 3 of the book as a rare day-to-day chronicle of postal work and problems on Field Service.

A few words about the sources consulted or used. On the philatelic side I have consulted and used Robson Lowe's *Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps Vol. III*, pp 273-77, and Waterfall's *Postal History of Tibet*, chapters 1 and 2. The two Indian works on India Used Abroad by Jal Cooper and V.S. Dastur also deal with the Tibet campaign among other things, but most of their information is derived from the first-named books. As may be expected, I have consulted and used, as necessary, all the published Post Office Manuals, Guides, Lists and Circulars applicable in or pertaining to the period 1903-1908. I have also seen the *Index of Postal Proceedings* for this period. Under orders from Lord Kitchener, no official military history of the Tibet Campaign was written but full information on the Campaign is available in the regimental histories of the major units involved, supplemented by the Army Lists of the period. Two years ago while working on World War II censorship in the Historical Section of the Ministry of Defence, I came across a large number of uncatalogued old files including one on Sikkim-Tibet 1903-1904 of the Mobilisation Branch of the Army HQ. I took notes from this file but it was not available when I went to check the references this summer. The Political Department Proceedings on the Tibet Mission of 1903-1904 and Tibet matters of later years are all available in the National Archives of India, New Delhi. As this is a general narrative and not a research paper I have not indicated my sources by numbers or foot-notes in or below the text. The customary Bibliography is given at the end of Part I.

Postmarks are the heart of philatelic Postal History. As a non-collecting philatelist, I had little first-hand knowledge of the Sikkim—Tibet marks and only a partial one of the recorded ones. Here Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl, well known collector of Tibet and writer, has come to my rescue. He has prepared an up-to-date table of recorded marks with fine illustrations. These form Part 2 of this book. I am very grateful to Dr. Hellrigl for permitting me to use his copyright material.

While preparing this book I have been in constant touch with my fellow editor of this series, Mr. Gerald Sattin, F.R.P.S.L. I am most thankful to him for his advice and assistance but I absolve him from responsibility for any unphilatelic thoughts that may have survived in my narrative.

The idea for a series of books on the postal history of Indian Military Campaigns emanated from two of the moving spirits of the Philatelic Congress of India, Shri D.N. Jatia, R.D.P. and Shri S.P. Chatterjea, F.R.P.S.L. I acknowledge with affection the encouragement and help that they have afforded me in completing the present work.

I am grateful to the Postal Services Board and the Ministry of Defence for permitting me to consult their old records. Shri T.D. Guliani, the Librarian of the Central P & T Library and his staff were extremely helpful to me.

As in all my previous writings, the Indian Army Postal Service have sponsored my research and provided secretarial and material assistance. I am very thankful to Maj. Gen. S.K. Anand, A.V.S.M., Additional Director General, Army Postal Services, for continuing to extend these facilities to me. I am grateful to Lt. D. Jeyaraj for preparing the sketch maps. These sketch maps are all based on the large contemporary map contained in Col. Brander's regimental history of 32nd Pioneers. Details have been scaled up or down, omitted or added as required for the illustration of the postal story. I also wish to thank Warrant Officers Mohinder Singh and Thiruvengadam for typing my numerous drafts.

D.S. Virk

Part I

Before, During and After the Campaign

The Expedition to Tibet-Military Preparations, Operations and Occupation

Curzon's Design

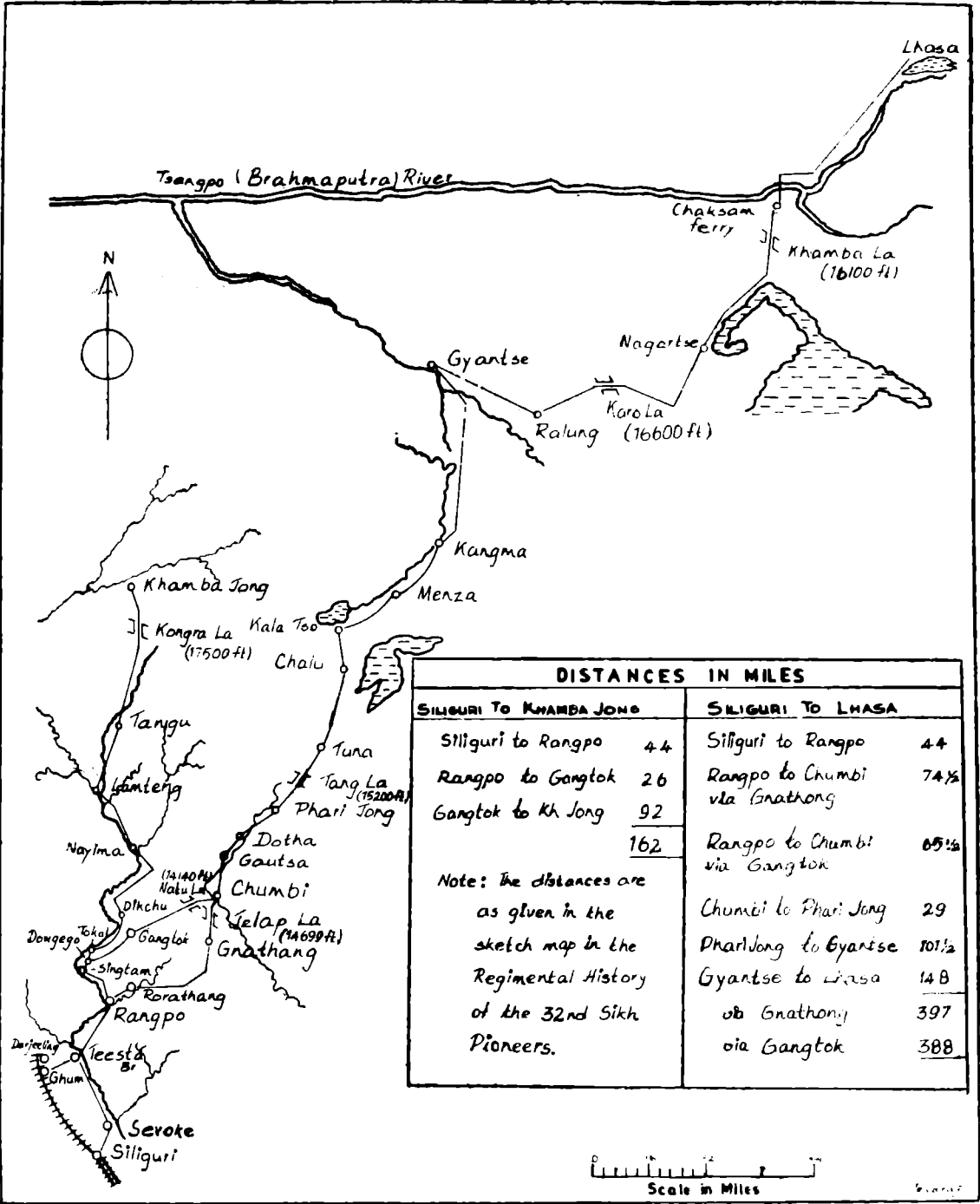
SOON after Lord Curzon was appointed the new Viceroy of India in 1898, he began advocating the opening up of Tibet to Indian trade and influence. He was motivated partly by the fear of a Russian presence in Tibet and partly by the British Government's desire for tight security on all the Indian border lands. With trading terms agreed with the Chinese, Curzon claimed the right of direct access to Tibet to ensure that the terms were carried out and to prevent border violations. Initially the British expected the Tibetans to meet for discussions at Khamba Jong in Tibet but they failed to appear. In consequence, Curzon determined to exercise the Government's trading rights, ordered a Military Expedition into Tibetan territory to enforce the rights by military persuasion if these could not be obtained by diplomacy.

Curzon's plan was executed in four stages, (a) military road-building in Sikkim from March 1903 to October 1903; (b) despatch of the Tibet Frontier Commission to Khamba Jong in Tibet, with an infantry escort, between June and December 1903; (c) concentration of a military force in Sikkim and the expedition to Tibet from the end of 1903 to November 1904; and (d) subsequent occupation of the Chumbi Valley and the establishment of Indian Trade Agencies at Yatung, Gyantse and Gartok. For a popular account of the political and military history of this period in Indo-Tibetan relations, the readers are advised to read Peter Fleming's *'Bayonets to Lhasa'* published in London in 1961.

The Road to Khamba Jong

In 1888, an Indian Expedition had pushed back a Tibetan force to the northern side of Jelap La and for a time established a garrison at Gnathong. Subsequently a British Agency and a military escort were stationed permanently at Gangtok. To maintain these forces, a military track was built from Siliguri along the Teesta River to Teesta Bridge and from there to Kalimpong, Padong, Rhenock Ridge, Rongli, Sedongchen, Zuluk and Gnathong. An existing track connected Rhenock Ridge to Gangtok via Pakyong. However, no track fit for military traffic existed between Teesta Bridge and Rangpo, Gangtok and Dikchu on the North Sikkim route to

North Bengal, Sikkim and Tibet



Khamba Jong in Tibet, where it was proposed to send the Tibet Frontier Commission.

In March 1903, two military units were directed to build the most difficult part of this link road. The 32nd Sikh Pioneers reached Rangpo on 24th March and immediately began work on the Rangpo-Sankakhola-Singtam sector of a cart road to Gangtok. Within days, the headquarters of the Pioneers moved from Rangpo to Singtam which remained their permanent camp till the end of September 1903. In the middle of June 1903, headquarters and five companies of the 32nd Pioneers were assigned as Escort and Support of the Tibet Commission but three companies remained in their standing camp. The companies in this camp moved on 22nd September to a camp two miles below Gangtok and to Gangtok proper in December 1903.

No. 4 (renamed No. 12 in December 1903) Company of Madras Sappers and Miners reached Rangpo on 30th March 1903 and Singtam on 3rd April. On 29th April this unit moved to Tokul to build a track from Dowgego on the Rangpo-Gangtok road down to the Teesta River and along its gorge to Dikchu. The Company stayed at Tokul till 25th October 1903, when it moved to Rorathang to repair the bridge there. On 17th November one half of the Company went up to Gangtok to work on the new road to the Chumbi Valley over the Natu La while the other half moved down to Rangpo to join the Tibet Mission Force.

The Tibet Frontier Commission

The Commission, later known as the Tibet Mission, was headed by Col. F.E. Younghusband, with Mr. J.C. White (the British Agent in Sikkim) as member, Capt. W.F.O'Connor (later the British Agent at Gyantse) as Interpreter-cum-Intelligence Officer and a couple of other officers. The Mission left Gangtok on 19th June and reached Tangu on the 26th accompanied by an escort of 200 men of the 32nd Pioneers under Capt. H. Bethune and Lt. F.M. Bailey. The Support consisting of HQ and 300 men of the same Regiment reached Tangu on 30th June and stayed there under the command of Lt. Col. H. Brander. The Mission and Escort left Tangu on 4th July and reached Khamba Jong on the 7th. Col. Younghusband stayed back at Tangu and did not reach Khamba Jong till 18th July. As the Tibetans did not send a delegation to meet the Mission, Col Younghusband left Khamba Jong for Simla on 11th October to report on the situation to Lord Curzon. The approval of the British Government to send a military expedition to Tibet having been received early in November, the Mission left Khamba Jong on 11th December and the line of communication (L of C) was evacuated except for rear parties of two companies of 32nd Pioneers at Lamteng, Nayima and Lachung which rejoined their Regiment at the end of January 1904.

The Road to Jelap La

Even before Younghusband left Khamba Jong, planning had begun for sending a military force into Tibet by the direct road to Lhasa over the Jelap La. Preparations were therefore begun to repair and realign the Jelap La road. From the Teesta Bridge the cart road would be used up to Rangpo, from where a new track would be

built along the Rangpo Chu to upper Rangpo Bridge at Rorathang, which would connect with the track to Rongli on the Jelap La road. On 15th October 1903, Col J.R.L. Macdonald arrived at Darjeeling to assume charge of road-making operations and to take command of the troops employed on this task. The troops under his command were the newly-arrived 23rd Pioneers and the units already in Central Sikkim, viz., No. 4 Company Madras Sappers and Miners, three companies of the 32nd Pioneers and two companies of the 10th Jats. The 23rd Pioneers who arrived early in October, worked from Rangpo towards Rorathang and the Sappers downwards from Rorathang to Rangpo. The 23rd Pioneers sent two companies to Gnathong on 22nd October to improve the existing track to Jelap La. During this period a hospital site was cleared at Pakyong which was to be a concentration point for the Force.

Sikkim Mission, Tibet Mission and Escort, Tibet Mission Force

Early in November the Force for Tibet (known as above at different times) was mobilised. The new units which joined the Force in the Rangpo-Pakyong area were No. 7 Mountain Battery, No. 3 Field Coy Sappers and Miners, the 8th Gurkha Rifles, Machine Gun Detachment, 7 Pounder Gun Detachment, 71 Indian Field Hospital, D Section 21 British Field Hospital. Other ancillary units such as Engineer Field Park, Field Park Stores and the F.P.O.s joined later. Supply dumps were ordered to be formed at Rangpo, Rorathang, Rhenock, Lingtam and Gnathong. Posts and Camps were established at Siliguri, Sevoke, Riang, Tarkhola, Rangpo, Rorathang, Lingtam, Zuluk and Gnathong. A full list of units employed in Sikkim-Tibet during 1903-1908 is given in Appendix A along with the names of their officers. (These details may assist collectors in researching their covers.)

The main Force assembled at Rangpo early in December and marched by the new track to Rorathang and from there to Rhenock, Rongli, Lingtam and Gnathong. The Force crossed the Jelap La on 12th December and set up its Advanced Base at Chumbi three days later. Phari Jong was occupied on 19th December. In January 1904, the Tibet Mission was escorted to Tuna, 17 miles beyond Phari, where it stayed during the winter with a small garrison of all arms. In the Chumbi Valley and its approaches, camps were opened at Langram, Rinchongong, Chumbi, Lingmothang, Gautsa and Dotha. The advance from Tuna began with the defeat and dispersal of the ill-armed Tibetans at Guru and Gyantse was reached on 11th April. The Mission and a garrison were left there and the main Force returned to the Chumbi Camp on 27th April. The Gyantse Camp remained under partial siege from 4th May though its line of communication was not seriously threatened. Some reinforcements arrived on 24th May and the main body of the Force reached the scene on 26th June.

The first lot of reinforcement arrived from India in the middle of May in the shape of HQ and four companies of the Royal Fusiliers, the 40th Pathans, the remaining guns of No. 7 Mountain Battery and the major part of No. 30 Native Mountain Battery along with 22 British Field Hospital, 57 Native Field Hospital and a new General Hospital. In the meanwhile the shorter Gangtok—Natu La—Chumbi route, on which the Engineers had been working from March, became ready for traffic in April and became the regular L of C in June when the Rorathang—Rongli—Lingtam

—Jelap La route was given up. That entailed the opening of staging posts at Karponang, Changu, Champethang and Phema. Forward of Chumbi, there were similar Camps at Lingmothang, Gautsa, Dotha, Phari Jong, Tuna, Dochen, Kala Tso, Menza, Kangma and Saotang. In the absence of the main force at Gyantse and Lhasa, the defence of the Chumbi Valley and the Northern approaches via Tangu and Lamteng were undertaken by the 19th Punjabis and No. 27 Native Mountain Battery, which arrived from India early in July.

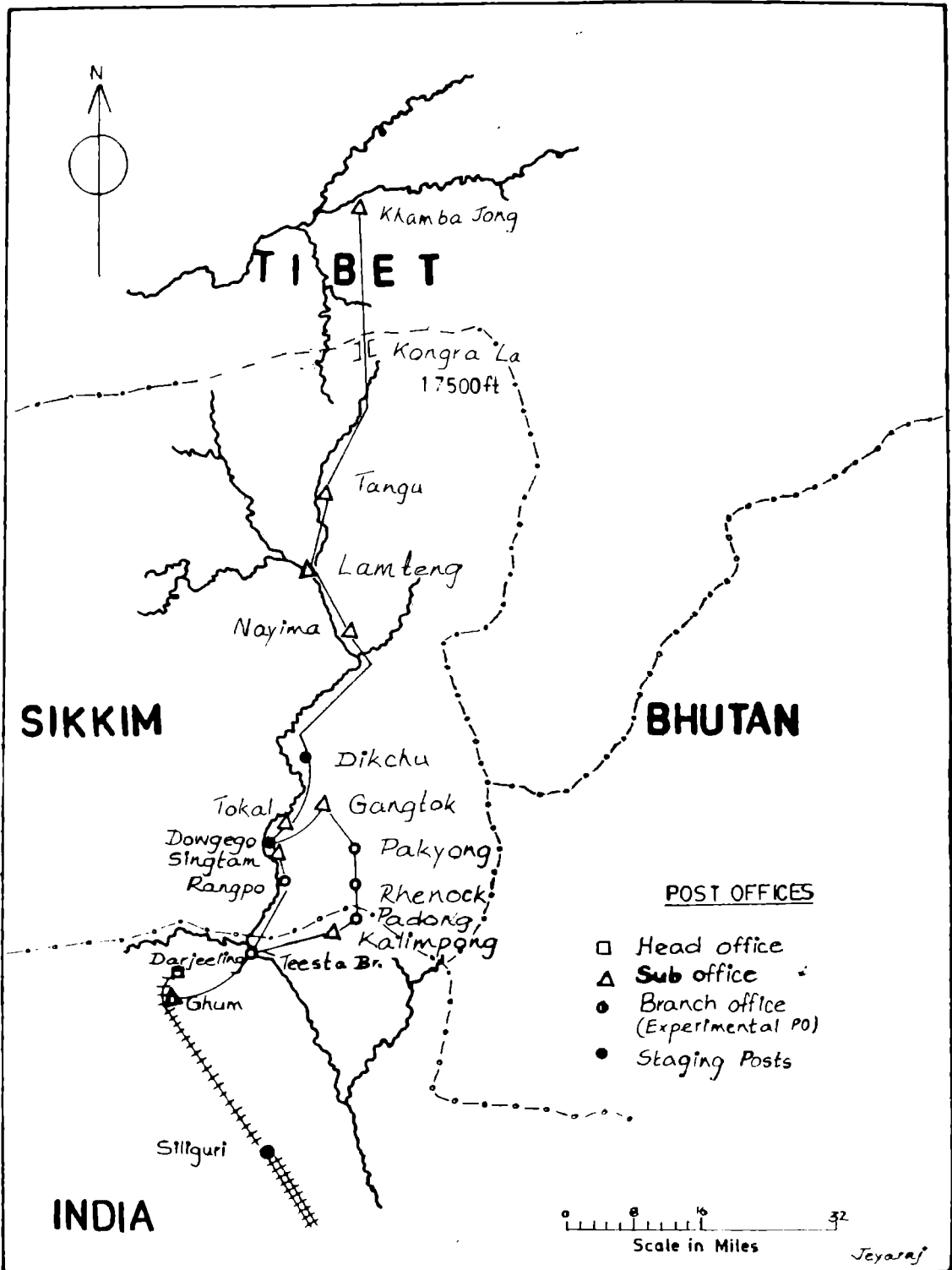
The Tibetans were defeated and ejected from Gyantse on 6th July and the British decided that the terms of treaty should be dictated at Lhasa itself. A strong column left Gyantse on 14th July and reached Lhasa on 3rd August after dispersing spasmodic opposition on the way. The Convention dictated by the Mission was signed at the Potala Palace on 7th September and the Force left Lhasa on the morning of the 23rd. Under the terms of the Convention, Trade Marts open to Indian trade were to be established at Gyantse and Gartok (Western Tibet) and Trade Agents were to be stationed there. The Chumbi Valley was to remain under Indian Army occupation till the settled indemnity was paid. Except for a wing (half-battalion) of the 40th Pathans and some ancillary units which were to form part of the occupation contingent, the Tibet Mission Force evacuated Tibet and Sikkim by the end of November 1904 and the Force HQ and L of C Staff were disbanded.

Occupation and After

The Left Wing of the 40th Pathans remained behind in Tibet and Sikkim and was deployed as follows : Wing Headquarters and G and H Companies at Chumbi, F Company at Phari Jong, 50 men of the Mounted Infantry at Gyantse and E Company at Gangtok. The ancillary military services were provided to the Wing by details from various Services and Departments—Medical (B-76 Native Field Hospital), Supply, Field Telegraph Offices at Gyantse, Phari Jong, and Chumbi and Field Post Offices at Phari Jong and Chumbi. A Temporary Post Office was opened at Gyantse in April 1905.

The Pathans were relieved by a wing of the 3rd Brahmins in late autumn of 1905 and a wing of the 62nd Punjabis took over from them in 1907. The military occupation of Chumbi Valley ended in January 1908, after which the Indian Trade Agent at Yatung had to rely on his own guards and Tibetan goodwill for security, as had been the case all along at Gartok in Western Tibet. An infantry detachment was provided at Gyantse to safeguard the large Indian establishment and to enhance the prestige of the Indian Agent. The detachment was rotated periodically and this arrangement lasted till the closure of the Agency in 1954.

Siliguri to Khambajong



Postal Services for the Sikkim Road and the Tibet Frontier Commission

IT will help non-postal readers to understand better the postal history of the Sikkim Road, the Tibet Frontier Commission and the Tibet Mission Force if I begin with a few words on different types of Indian post offices, the basic handstamps used by them and the existing lay-out of post offices in Sikkim and the adjoining area.

Different Types of Post Offices

In 1903, Indian Post Offices were classified as follows in the order of their importance—Head Post Offices, Sub Post Offices, Branch Post Offices and Experimental Post Offices. Temporary Post Offices, opened on the requisitions of other Government Departments for specific missions, were classed as Sub Offices. Army Post Offices were established with the Forces when they proceeded on Field Service on the frontier or overseas. Field Post Offices were treated as Sub Offices (with restricted functions) and Base Post Offices as Head Offices (with restricted functions).

The Basic Handstamps

A complete list of stamps and seals used by the post offices with some related comments is given at Appendix E. Here it is sufficient to explain the correct purpose and use of two basic handstamps—the Obliterator and the Date Stamp. The Obliterator was used to deface adhesive (but not embossed) postage stamps and the Date Stamp to deface embossed postage stamps, to indicate the date and office of posting (if the Obliterator did not show them) and the date and office of delivery. The Date Stamp was usually impressed on the back of a letter but always on the face of a postcard. These were the stamping regulations but semi-literate and negligent stampers did not always follow them.

The Existing Layout

The following Post Offices which had been opened in 1888 in connection with the

Sikkim Expedition were functioning in North Bengal and Sikkim on 1st January 1903 under Darjeeling Head Office:—

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| (a) Teesta Bridge Branch Office | | —in account with Ghum Sub Office. |
| (b) Padong Branch Office | } | —in account with Kalimpong Sub Office, which had been opened before 1888. |
| (c) Rhenock Branch Office
(Telegraph facility available) | | |
| (d) Pakyong Branch Office | | |
| (e) Gangtok Sub Office
(Telegraph facility available) | | |

The mail route for these post offices was by rail from Siliguri to Ghum (near Darjeeling) and from there by runners lines to Teesta Bridge, Kalimpong, Padong and Rhenock on the Jelap La route to Tibet and from Rhenock to Pakyong and Gangtok.

Postal Rates

Postal rates charged at Indian Post Offices in Sikkim during the period under review were the same as those applicable in India. These are shown in Appendix D.

Postal Cover for the Road-builders

The road-building phase commenced at the end of March 1903 and continued on a unit basis till the beginning of October, when it was placed under the command of the newly-formed Sikkim Force. The military units involved in the work were the 32nd Sikh Pioneers from 24th March 1903, No. 4 Company Madras Sappers and Miners from 30th March and two companies of the 10th Jats, who were already doing garrison duty at Gangtok. The post offices which served these units were located at Gangtok, Singtam (32nd Pioneers Camp), Rangpo, Tokul (No. 4 Company's Camp) and from October 1903 at Pakyong.

Apparently the first thing the Pioneers did on reaching Siliguri was to ask Postmaster General (P.M.G.) Bengal to give them a Temporary Post Office. Not knowing that the Pioneers had already moved in the matter, the Political Agent Gangtok telegraphed the Foreign Department Calcutta as follows as on 25th March 1903:

“Can you arrange with Postal authorities to run Gangtok dak via Teesta Bridge, Rangpo and Dowgego to Gangtok and not via Kalimpong Rhenock? Pioneers would thus be served.”

The Director General of Post Offices, who was addressed, sent the following answer on 20th April 1903:

“A post office and mail line to serve the Pioneers was opened on March 25th and the Postmaster General of Bengal has been authorised to meet the Political Agent's wishes regarding the Gangtok mail.”

The Pioneers moved from Rangpo to Singtam further up towards Gangtok on 3rd April and presumably carried their post office with them. This post office was later mentioned in the Post Office publications as “Thirty Second Pioneers Camp Post Office”.

The decision to switch the Gangtok mail to the Teesta Bridge–Rangpo route was probably put into effect early in May. The postal authorities implemented the change by abolishing the Rhenock—Pakyong—Gangtok mail line, closing the Pakyong Branch Office and opening an Experimental Branch Post Office at Rangpo. The closure of Pakyong and the opening of Rangpo offices was duly notified in the next *Quarterly List of Post Offices* issued on 1st July 1903.

The Sapper Company worked alongside the Pioneers at Singtam before it marched off to Tokul at the end of April 1903 to carry out its new task. Normally that would have required a separate Temporary Post Office and it is assumed one was provided in May 1903 soon after the Tokul Camp was set up. Unaccountably, the temporary office at Singtam (which we know was definitely functioning from 25th March) and the one at Tokul remained unreported in the *Postal List and Guide* of July and were only shown in them on 1st October 1903.

A few words about the role of Temporary and Experimental Post Offices may clarify the discussion in the succeeding paragraphs. Temporary Post Offices were opened for specific missions, usually on the requisition and guarantee of another Government Department, whereas Experimental Post Offices were opened as a business proposition to cater for existing or potential postal traffic at new locations. The Experimental Post Offices were opened initially for a period of six months as Branch Offices after which they were either made permanent or closed. An Experimental Post Office was issued a barred-circle Obliterator inscribed in the centre with the Circle Letter (C for Bengal) for defacing adhesive postage stamps, a single-circle Date Stamp inscribed with the Circle Letter followed by a serial number and a similarly-inscribed Seal. A Temporary Post office was issued the standard set of stamps and seals of a Sub Office inscribed with a coded designation. One assumes that in exceptional circumstances a place-name designation would be adopted from the very beginning.

Both Robson Lowe (*Encyclopedia of Empire Postage Stamps Volume II* P. 273) and Waterfall (*Postal History of Tibet*, Chapter 1) record the use of the small barred-circle obliterator with Circle Letter C and the single-circle date stamp with the inscription “Experimental Post Office/C-46/date” during the period 8th August 1903 to 28th September 1903. They both place them at Khamba Jong. This cannot be correct as Khamba Jong Post Office was at that time using its place-name stamps as recorded by the same writers. It could not possibly have used in the same period sets of stamps with different names. It is therefore conceivable that the Experimental Post Office (C-46), date stamp and its matching barred-circle ‘C obliterator were used by the newly-opened Rangpo Experimental Branch Post Office till it received its place-name stamps of a permanent Sub Office in October 1903.

There remains the problem of identifying the handstamps originally used by the Temporary Post Offices at Singtam and Tokul. The postal publications offer no solution as in them they are simply listed as “32nd Pioneers Camp” and “Tokul”. Robson Lowe and Waterfall record the date stamp of “Temporary Post Office D”

as having been used on covers from 26th April 1903 to 28th September 1903. Robson Lowe gives no location for the post office but allots it to the Frontier Commission. Waterfall places it at Gangtok and allots it to the Commission HQ which he locates at Gangtok. They do not have any record of the matching obliterator on the outgoing correspondence. It seems apparent that this stamp was originally used at the 32nd Pioneers Post Office at Rangpo/Singtam before place-name stamps were issued to it. On this analogy the Tokul Post Office should also have initially used a Temporary Post Office lettered set of stamps. As none has been recorded, it is assumed that the Tokul Post Office used a place-name set from the beginning.

The handstamps used by the post offices serving the road-builders may therefore be listed as follows:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) “Gangtok” | —Opened before 1903. Served the Gangtok Garrison (10 Jats) throughout this period. |
| (b) “Temporary P.O—D” | —Served 32nd Pioneers from 25th March to September 1903 at Thirty Second Pioneers Camp. |
| (c) “Temporary P.O—(?)”
or
“Tokul” | —Served No 4 Company from May 1903 to October 1903 at Tokul Camp. |
| (d) “Experimental P.O C-46”
and
“Rangpo” | —Opened as an Experimental P.O in May 1903 and converted into a Sub Office by 1st October 1903. |
| (e) “Pakyong” | —Closed in May 1903 and re-opened about 1st October 1903. |

The mail for the road-builders was sent from Ghum railway station (Darjeeling) by the existing runners line to Teesta Bridge from where it was handed over to other runners following the cart road to Rangpo and the new Singtam—Dowgego route to Tokul/Gangtok. The total distance of less than 80 hill miles, would have been covered by the runners in two or three days.

Postal Cover for the Commission

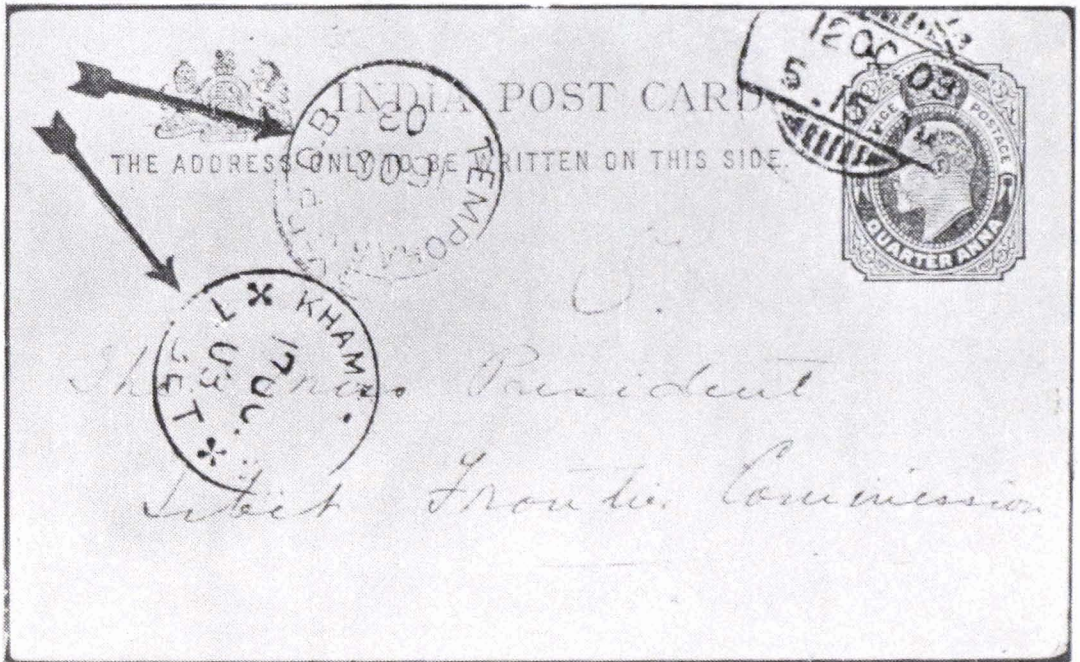
Though the Tibet Commission, its Escort and Support, numbered less than a thousand men, the whole organisation was treated as a self-contained expedition. It had its own Postal Officer (Mr. C.E. White) who was treated as on field service with the Commission from 23rd June 1903. A Post Office file of October 1903 states that three temporary post offices had already been opened at “Chamba Jong [Khamba Jong], Tongu[Tangu] and Nayima in connection with the Tibet Commission and Field Service Regulations regarding rations, field and kit allowances had been made applicable to the postal staff deputed for this purpose. This is confirmed in the *Quarterly List of Post Offices* of 1st October 1903 which contains the names of these post offices. The exact dates of opening and closing are not available from the postal or political records but presumably these were opened between the end of June and the middle of September 1903. Their closing dates can safely be assumed to be

SIKKIM



TEMPORARY P.O. D 7 JU 03
(Singtam)

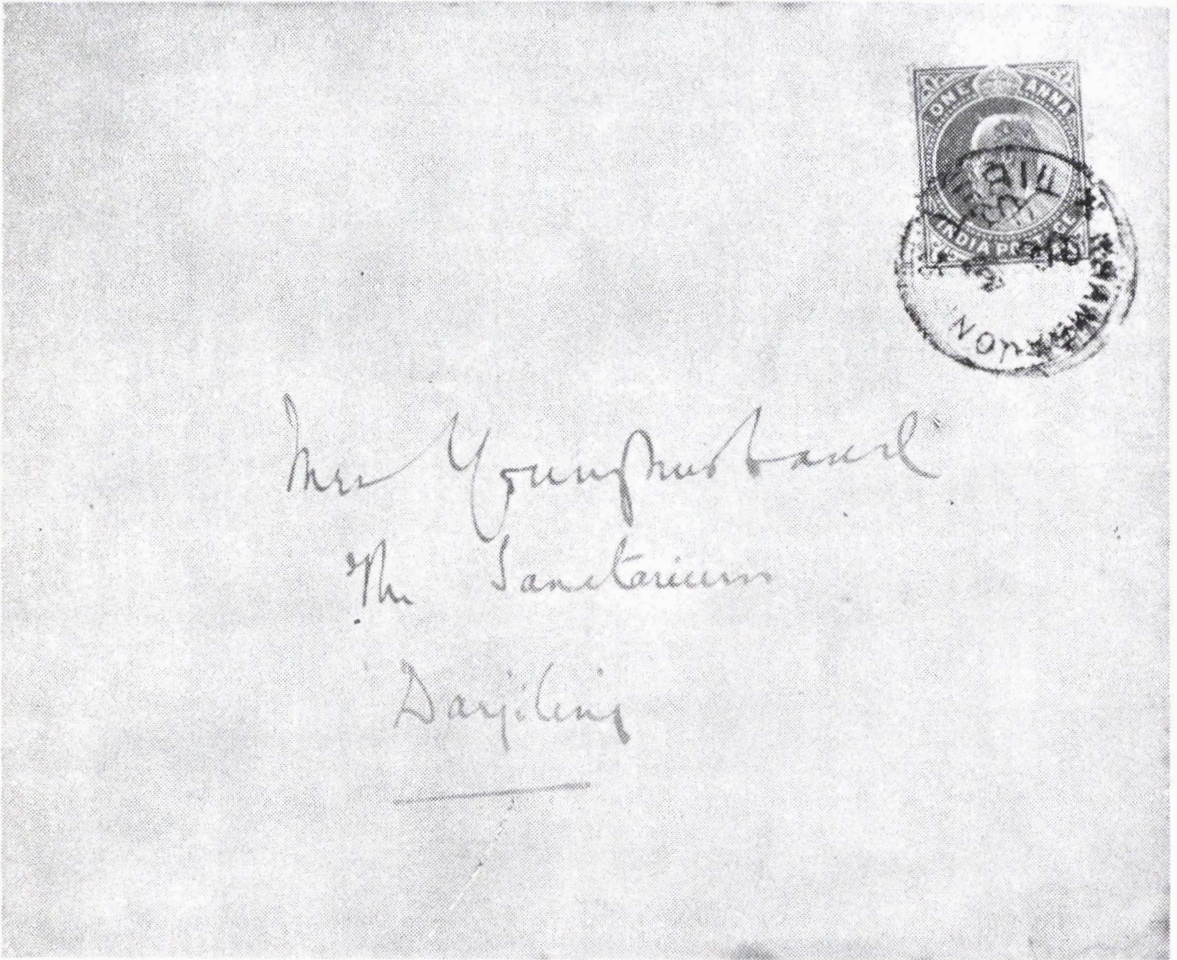
(Courtesy Mr. Gerald Sattin)



TEMPORARY P.O. B 16 OC 03
(Tangu)

(Courtesy Mr. Gerald Sattin)

TIBET



KHAMBAJONG—TIBET 3 OC 03

(Courtesy Mr. D.N. Jatia)

the dates on which the Commission and its troops evacuated the three stations, Khamba Jong on 11th December 1903, Tangu on 22nd December 1903 and Nayima about 31st January 1904.

The moot question is—what names and other designations were inscribed on the handstamps used by the three Commission post offices and for what periods were those handstamps used? In the absence of relevant postal or other records, eminent philatelists such as Russell, Haverbeck, Lowe and Waterfall have pieced together the postal history of the Commission on the basis of postal or other markings on recorded covers and other information gathered by them. The up-dated information contained in Waterfall's book can be tabulated as follows:

Post Office at	Inscription or handstamp	Dates of recorded use	
		Obliterator	Date Stamp
Khamba Jong	1. "Temporary P.O. B"	7.8.1903 to 25.8.1903	9.7.1903 to 4.9.1903
	2. "Khamba Jong— Tibet"	25.9.1903 to 4.12.1903	19.8.1903 to 4.12.1903
	3. "C"	1.9.1903 to 11.9.1903	—
	4. "Experimental P.O. C-46"	—	8.8.1903 to 29.8.1903
	5. "Temporary P.O. K"	3.12.1903 —	—
(The corresponding "Temporary P.O. K" Date Stamp was used by a Tibet Mission Force Post Office, perhaps at Rhenock, 2.12.1903 to 2.1.1904)			
Tangu	"Temporary P.O. B"		7.9.1903 to 6.12.1903

Before the allocation of individual handstamps to each post office is examined, it is necessary to state two facts of established postal rules and practice. Firstly, a

post office is supplied a set of stamps and seals and these are used simultaneously as appropriate. Secondly, at any given time, each stamp and seal in the set bears the same name or designation. It is known from recorded covers that a handstamp inscribed "Khambajong—Tibet" was in use on 19.8.1903. Using the criteria given above, no handstamp with any other inscription could have been used at Khamba Jong Post Office on or after that date. Hence the allocation to that post office of handstamps inscribed "Temporary P.O. B", "C", "Experimental P.O. C-46" and "Temporary P.O. K" does not seem to be correct.

As explained earlier, there are positive grounds for placing the date stamp of "Experimental P.O. C-46" and the corresponding obliterator "C" at Rangpo from May 1903. This is apart from the incongruity of their use when place-name stamps were already in use at that post office. (It is possible that this allocation to Khamba Jong was made because the word "Tibet" was typed on the stamps on a cover cancelled with the obliterator "C" of an Experimental Post Office of the Bengal Circle. That, in my opinion, does not establish the location of a post office as the overwriting could have been done anywhere outside Tibet.)

The allocations on the same date of the obliterator marked "Temporary P.O. K" to Khambajong post office and its corresponding date stamp to a post office of the Tibet Mission Force in Sikkim show that one or the other allocation is based on a misunderstanding.

The Commission, its Escort and Support, had concentrated at Tangu by 30th June 1903. The Postal Officer was with the Commission. If he had two sets of post office handstamps, the obvious thing for him to do would have been to open one post office at Tangu on 30th June and another at Khamba Jong when the Advance Party reached there on 7th July. On the evidence of recorded covers it appears that initially the Postal Officer had at his disposal only one set of post office stamps, that of "Temporary P.O. B". In normal course the Post Office using them would have been retained at Tangu, where the Base was and where the Head of the Mission was staying for the time being. The personnel at Khamba Jong would have received and despatched their mail through the Tangu Post Office by the hands of a courier. Anyway, it is unlikely that the Commanding Officer of the Mission Support (who had left a post office for the smaller portion of his unit staying back at Singtam) would have agreed to being left without a post office for two whole months. Moreover, the following considerations support the assumption that the handstamps inscribed "Temporary P.O. B" were not used at Khamba Jong:—

- (a) The "Temporary P.O. B" date stamp is said to have been used at Khamba Jong on 9.7.1903. As this stamp was intended mainly for use as a delivery stamp, its use at Khamba Jong on 9.7.1903 is most unlikely as no mail would have reached Khamba Jong for delivery within 48 hours of the arrival of the Advance Party.
- (b) The place-name date stamp "Khamba Jong, Tibet" was already in use there at least from 19.8.1903.

Philatelic writers may have placed "Temporary P.O. B" at Khamba Jong on certain dates on the grounds that the letters contained in the marked covers were written at Khamba Jong. They could well have been written at Khamba Jong and

sent by courier to Tangu. The only sure way of pinpointing the location of an originating post office on the basis of a recorded cover is to see that the date of writing of the letter enclosed in the cover and the date of the post office mark on it are about the same. I doubt if the collectors and philatelic writers have applied the test in this case.

As stated above, the opening of a Temporary Post Office at Nayima by 1st October 1903 is established by Post Office records and *Postal Guide*. How the military and postal authorities came to adopt "Nayima" as the name of the post office at Chung Thang is explained as follows in the BRIEF ACCOUNT of COL. BAILEY'S CONTACTS WITH TIBET appearing in Robson Lowe's Sale Catalogue of Bailey's Tibet:

"...On the 24th June, the Mission camped at Chung Tong (later called erroneously NYIMA on the Post Office datestamp for they asked the first native the name of the place and, misunderstanding the question, he gave his own name....."

It is reasonable to assume that the Combined Post and Telegraph Office was opened in August-September to serve the Telegraph Station located there. Probably the work became brisk when one company of the 32nd Pioneers was sent to Nayima in December and the Post Office was closed at the end of January 1904 on the departure of these troops.

The *Telegraph Guide* and military records mention that, consequent on the move of a company of the 32nd Pioneers to Lachung and Lamteng, a Field Telegraph Office was opened at Lamteng on 16th December 1903. It was converted into a Combined Post and Telegraph Office on 1st January and was closed on 29th January 1904. Having been opened for so short a period in between the *Postal Guide* issues of 1st January 1904 and 1st April 1904, it is mentioned in neither. The philatelists have recorded no cover from this post office. It is not, therefore, possible to say whether the post office used handstamps with a place name or a lettered designation.

My allocation of the handstamps of the Commission post offices may be summed up as follows:..

(a) Tangu	"Temporary P.O. B"	From about 30th June 1903 to 22nd December 1903
(b) Khamba Jong	"Khamba Jong/Tibet"	From middle August 1903 to 10th December 1903.
(c) Nayima (Chung Thang)	"Nayima"	From August-September 1903 to 31st January 1904.
(d) Lamteng	"Temporary P.O.—?"	From 1st January 1904 to 29th January 1904

Both Robson Lowe and Waterfall mention that several covers from the Commission have been recorded with a typewritten overprint "Tibet" on the postage stamps. Both treat these as of exceptional value. Waterfall calls them "Typewritten Provisionals" and rates them as most interesting even though they were unofficial. As a matter of fact under postal regulations (clause 9 of the *Indian Postal Guide* 1903) any private defacement of stamps rendered them unacceptable as payment of postal charges. However, signing or pen-cancelling of stamps by the public was widespread in India and was tacitly permitted until 1st October 1905 when a rigid ban was imposed on them. The type-written "Tibet" overprints passed unchallenged in the post under the permissive practice mentioned above. While collectors are welcome to acquire unusual and unofficial markings and assign them whatever value is warranted by their scarcity, it must be stated for their information that these type-written overprints had no official status and no postal purpose and they do not confirm a location in Tibet.

Philatelists have recorded the "Too Late" mark on several covers originating from Khamba Jong. The "Too Late" handstamp was impressed on letters to indicate that they were "posted too late to be despatched on the same day". The handstamp was part of the standard set issued to a Sub or Head Post Office. By 1903, its usefulness had diminished as all important offices had been issued with stamps indicating the hour of use and it was finally abolished in November 1903. Considering that the small post office at Khamba Jong was located in a compact camp housing no more than 300 men, where the arrival and despatch of a mail was an important event, there would have been no occasion for missing a mail which would give rise to a genuine use of the stamp. It seems that the stamp was impressed on some letters by favour.

Mail Arrangements and Transit Times

The mail line had already been established up to Tokul. The distance from Tokul to Khamba Jong was about 90 miles, the first 60 miles along steep cliffs overlooking the Teesta and its tributaries and the last 30 involving the crossing of a 17,500 foot high pass. On paper the mail runners did this journey in four days but in practice it was all too uncertain due to the difficulties of terrain, inclement weather, unavailability of mail runners and insufficient supervision. Therefore 7 days from Darjeeling to Khamba Jong would be the quickest possible time. I have seen a cover sent by Younghusband from Khamba Jong on 3rd October 1903 which was delivered to his wife at Darjeeling on 10th October.

Speaking of communication difficulties which affected the Telegraphs equally, here is an amusing anecdote concerning the Telegraphs and Lord Curzon. On 14th September 1903 Younghusband reported to the Foreign Department from Khamba Jong:

"Telegraph reached here last evening. Mr. MacMahon has thus carried line over highest pass ever crossed by telegraph and established highest Telegraph Station in the world. Great credit is due to him. ..."

When this was put up to Curzon, he noted characteristically:

“I doubt the pass being highest ever crossed or the Station highest ever reached by telegraph. There is a telegraph line in Peru at an elevation of 15,700 feet above the sea.”

For once Curzon did not have the last word. The Telegraph Chief replied that “the pass crossed was 17,500 feet and Khamba Jong is 15,722.”

Postal Facilities

Notwithstanding the long haul to an unknown country, the Post Office did not at first impose any restriction on services at the Commission post offices. The first Postal Notice of 31st August 1903 only laid down an F.P.O. type postal address for the Commission. However, experience on the ground dictated a little caution and a second Notice issued on 16th October restricted the Insurance facility. The two Notices are reproduced below. Collectors have recorded no registered letter or parcel from the Commission post offices but one may yet turn up as the facility was certainly available and must have been used.

Annexure to Chapter 2

POSTAL NOTICE

Correspondence for the members of the Tibet Frontier Commission, and escort, should be addressed as follows:—

To

A. B.,

Unit, Appointment, or Department,
Thibet Frontier Commission.

No post-town should be added to the address.

SIMLA;
The 31st August 1903

H.M. KISCH
Offg. Director-General of the
Post Office of India.

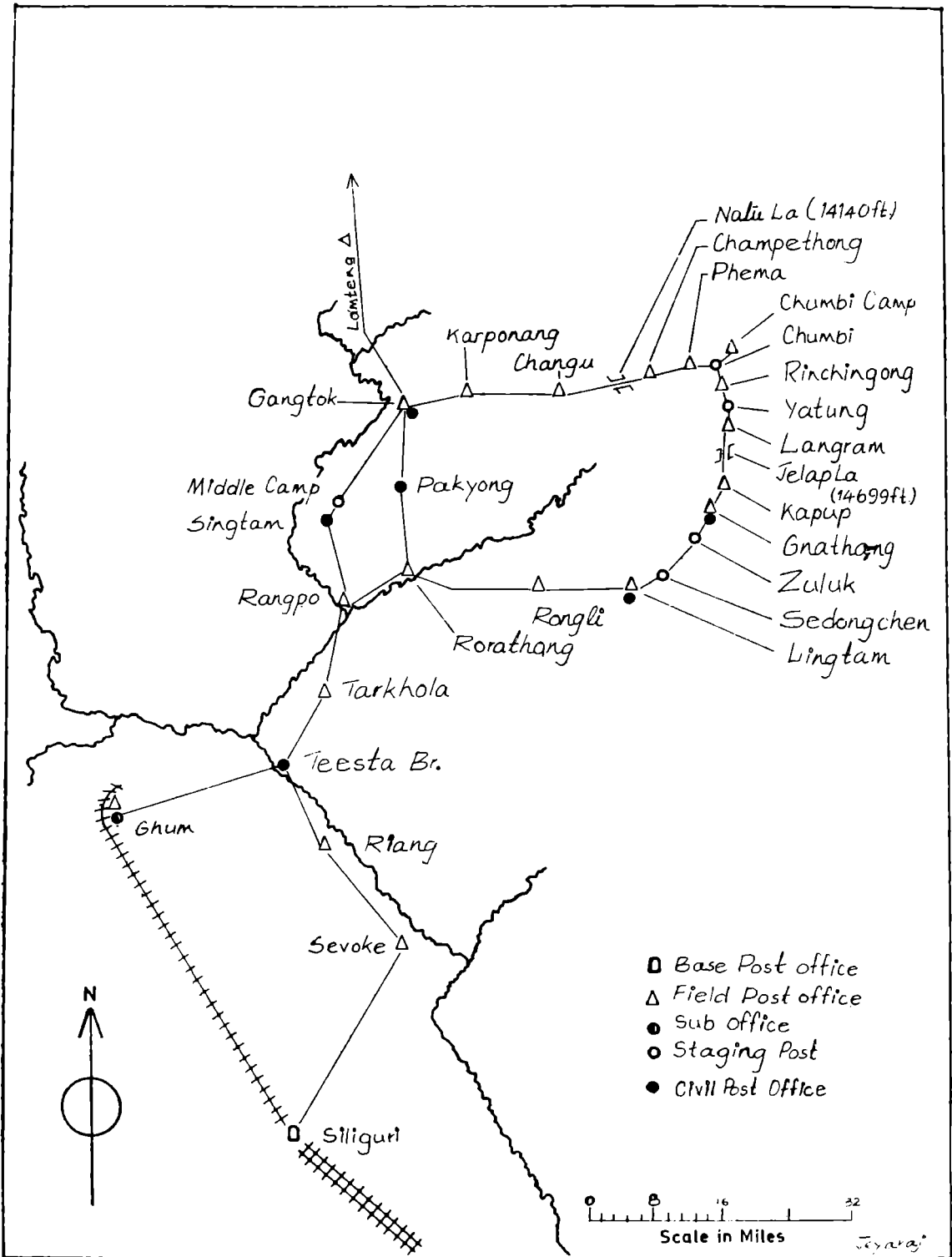
POSTAL NOTICE

It is hereby notified that letters and parcels addressed to the members of the Thibet Frontier Commission and escort cannot be insured for more than Rs. 500.

CALCUTTA;
The 16th October 1903.

C. STEWART-WILSON,
Offg. Director-General of the
Post Office of India.

Siliguri to Chumbi Camp



F.P.O.s of The Expeditionary Force

Postal Preparation for the Advance

THE last phase of the preparatory road-building was done in October and November 1903 and was devoted to the repairing and building of tracks and bridges between Rangpo, Rorathang, Rongli, Lingtam, Zuluk and Gnathong. The postal publications and records do not clearly show when and what post offices were opened on this line but military records say that a Combined Post and Telegraph office was opened at Gnathong on 19th November 1903 and the *Postal Guide* of 1st January 1904 shows that a Sub Post Office was functioning there on that date. While passing through Lingtam late in December 1903, the Superintendent of Field Post Offices recorded that a post office was functioning at Sedongchen 3½ miles ahead of Lamting [Lingtam]. Waterfall records the use of "Temporary P.O. 1" ("1" seems to be a misreading of I as Temporary P.O.s were designated by letters not numbers at that date) from 10.12.03 to 21.1.04 and allocates it to some place on Younghusband's advance to Tibet. Waterfall records the use of Temporary P.O. K from 2.12.03 to 2.1.04 and says that it was probably used at Rhenock. As Rhenock already had a permanent civil post office and as only two civil post offices are definitely known to have been opened on the route of the advance to Tibet, it is apparent that these were at Lingtam and Gnathong, Temporary P.O. I at the former and Temporary P.O. K at the latter.

The F.P.O.s Move In

After the British Government had approved the proposal to divert the Frontier Mission to Gyantse with the backing of a strong escort, the Postmaster General Bengal was asked to arrange for the equipment and personnel of a Brigade F.P.O. and two L of C F.P.O.s to be at Siliguri on 21st November 1903. Mr. Gillespie arrived at Gnathong with the F.P.O. establishment on 10th December and the Brigade F.P.O. was opened there on the same day. On the previous day, the Director General of the Post Office of India had issued a Notification (reproduced in the Annexure) giving the authorised postal address of the Mission and the conditions under which correspondence and parcels could be sent between India and the Mission.

The P.M.G. Bengal had also sent an officer on temporary duty to Teesta Bridge where the Base Post Office was being opened. Mr. H. Tulloch was appointed as

Superintendent of Field Post Offices and he arrived at the Base on 13th December via Siliguri and Darjeeling. After considering the merits of Teesta Bridge, Rangpo, Darjeeling and Siliguri as a location of the Base Post Office, he recommended its transfer to Siliguri. Mr. H. Tulloch reported to HQ Camp at Chumbi in Tibet on 29th December. From 6th January 1904, the postal work of the Sikkim-Tibet Mission Force was divided between two postal divisions—the Base Division extending from Siliguri to Jelap La/Natu La and the Advance Division covering the forces in Tibet. Mr. Arthur Bean assumed charge of the Base Division on 6th January. He died of heart-failure near Gnathong on 3rd March and was succeeded by Mr. C.J. Dease, whose charge was extended to the Chumbi Valley area in March 1904, when Mr. Tulloch moved out for Gyantse. In June 1904, major reinforcement arrived from India for the final march to Lhasa and in the resulting reorganisation, Mr. Tulloch was promoted Chief Superintendent on 1st July with three Postal Superintendents under him, Mr. Angelo of the Advance Division with headquarters at Gyantse, Mr. White (the erstwhile Inspector of the Frontier Commission) of the Base Division with headquarters at Siliguri and Mr. Quilter Superintendent of the Central Division with headquarters at Chumbi. I mention all these details because I have found the weekly diary of Mr. Tulloch which covers the period from 12th December 1903 to 28th November, 1904, and gives a detailed account of postal activities under his immediate control and a fair picture of what was happening in the other Divisions but without the required detail. This is the reason why in a few cases my F.P.O. allocations or the dates of their functioning remain a bit conjectural as indicated in the text.

Official Locations and Dates

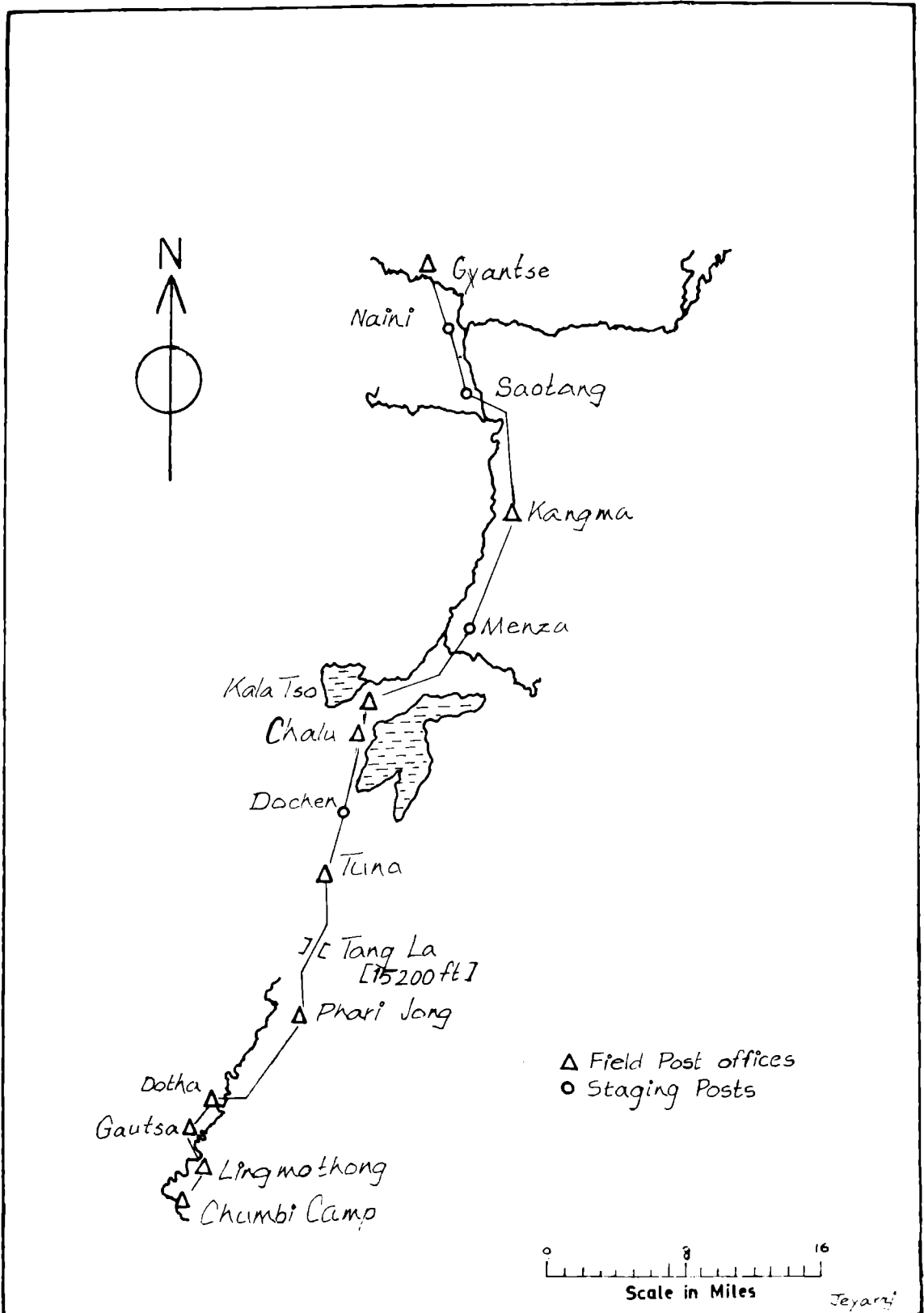
From the entries in the Diaries, it is seen that F.P.O.s Nos. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, and 88 worked in Bengal, Sikkim, and Tibet in connection with the Tibet operations. I see from military records that the Chief Superintendent Tibet Mission Force was authorised on 10th and 12th November 1904 to write off some unserviceable or missing articles of equipment of a number of F.P.O.s including those of Nos 29, 89, and 90. Hence their presence in the area is also established. I give below seriatum the locations and the dates of opening/closing of the F.P.O.s as shown in the Diaries, giving in brackets inferential locations, dates and other comments. For a tabulated list, please see Appendix B.

F.P.O. No. 24 Was allotted to Mission HQ on 1st January and moved with it from Chumbi on 4th January. Reached Tuna on 8th January and presumably opened soon afterwards. The F.P.O. did not accompany the Mission when it left for Gyantse on 4th April. It was closed at Tuna on 27th April on replacement by F.P.O. No. 31, and left for Kala Tso on the 28th, its destination being Gyantse. Arrived at Gyantse on 16th May and opened the same day in the fortified post of the Mission. Closed there on 10th October 1904. (Both Waterfall and Proud (in his recently published book) show the F.P.O. as closed at Tuna on 5.4.1904 and open at Gyantse on 11.4.1904.

Proud shows it as open till 14.9.1906. The correct locations and dates of opening/closing are as given above).

- F.P.O. No. 25 Military records show that the Brigade F.P.O. reported at Gnathong on 10th December 1903 and opened there the same day. Presumably it marched with the Brigade HQ the next day and reached the Chumbi Camp on 14th December. It was working as Brigade F.P.O. when the Superintendent F.P.O.s reached Chumbi on 29th December. It was closed at Chumbi on 15th January and opened at Gautsa, the proposed site of the new headquarters of the Brigade Commander, on 19th January. As the General did not move to Gautsa, the F.P.O. moved about 1st March to the Pioneers Camp at Dotha. It was closed at Dotha on 16th March and opened at Gautsa on the 17th. It was closed there on 25th March to accompany the Brigade Headquarters on operations. As no transport could be found for it beyond Phari Jong, it moved to Chalu on 9th April and opened there on the 11th. Closed on 28th April and opened at Kala Tso on the 29th. The F.P.O. was closed finally on 14th October 1904. (Waterfall shows it at Gyantse though it was never there. Proud shows its stay at Gautsa but not its previous locations at Gnathong and Chumbi and the subsequent ones at Chalu and Kala Tso.)
- F.P.O. No. 26 Opened at Chumbi 15th February, 1904 and stayed on with the occupation contingent beyond November 1904 when the main force returned to India. This first class F.P.O. was called up from the Base on 11th January 1904 to replace the 2nd class F.P.O. No. 81 at Phari Jong. This change-over did not take place. Exact date of its opening at Chumbi in place of F.P.O. No. 82 is not mentioned in the Diary but the despatch of F.P.O. No. 82, which was functioning at Chumbi from 16.1.1904, to Lingmothang on 15th February 1904 is given and the working of F.P.O. No. 26 at Chumbi on 16th February is confirmed. (Waterfall and Proud record the earliest date stamp use at Chumbi on 21.1.1904. Hellrigl illustrates obliterator mark of F.P.O. No. 82 dated 31.1.1904 which shows that it was working at Chumbi on that date and had not till then been replaced by F.P.O. No. 26. As Waterfall and Proud do not illustrate the earlier date stamp marking, it is a fair inference that F.P.O. No. 26 was opened at Chumbi between 1st and 15th February 1904.)
- F.P.O. No. 27 Opened at Rangpo on 11th January 1904, and closed there on 14th November 1904. (The locations given by Waterfall and Proud are not correct.)
- F.P.O. No. 28 It is suggested that it opened at Sevoke, (the first camp out of

Chumbi Camp to Gyantse



Siliguri) in January 1904. It was closed there in the middle of June as the Teesta Bridge-Siliguri road was closed due to an outbreak of cholera. It reopened there on 30th July 1904 and was closed finally on 21st November 1904. (Military records show that permission was given to Superintendent F.P.O.s Base Division to hire a room at Ghum (Darjeeling) for a temporary post office from 1st to 24th July 1904. It may well be that this was done when the line of communication was moved temporarily due to a cholera epidemic. F.P.O. No. 28 may have functioned at Ghum during this period.)

- F.P.O. No. 29 According to Waterfall, "Only known copy on reverse of cover, Lingmo has been suggested as the place of origin." He mentions no date and it is not clear whether by "Lingmo" he means "Lingmothang" or "Lingtam". Proud places it in Tibet and gives one recorded date of 29.4.1904. According to the Diaries, this F.P.O. did not function at Lingmothang or at any other place in Tibet. It could possibly have functioned at Lingtam/Sedongchen area in Sikkim from January to April 1904. It is probable that this F.P.O. was one of the four (Nos. 29, 88, 89 and 90) that were sent up from Siliguri to Gyantse for the Lhasa Column on 5th May 1904 but of which only F.P.O. No. 88 was opened.
- F.P.O. No. 30 It was working on 25th February 1904 at Kupup where it had been lately opened. (It closed at Kupup when the Jelap La route was abandoned in May 1904, and was moved to Phema.) It was working at Phema when the Chief Superintendent visited it on 13th August. It was closed at Phema on 15th October 1904.
- F.P.O. No. 31 Opened at Tuna on 27th April 1904 and closed there on 16th October 1904. (Waterfall's allocation of the obliterator to "south of Phari — probably Langram" is not correct.)
- F.P.O. No. 32 According to the Diaries, the F.P.O. was expected to arrive in the forward area towards the end of April and the Superintendent was planning to place it at Kangma. The Superintendent halted at Kangma from 6th to 14th May 1904 but he does not mention this F.P.O. as working there up to that date. The F.P.O. had, however, started functioning there before 19th May. (Robson Lowe and Waterfall record the earliest use on 14th May 1904. Proud records it a day earlier. Allocations earlier than 15th May 1904 are either mis-readings or philatelic or perhaps the Superintendent in a rare lapse, forgot to mention the F.P.O. in his Diary. My inference is that the F.P.O. opened at Kangma about 15th May 1904.) The F.P.O. closed at Kangma on 7th July and opened at the Brigade Camp at Gyantse on 9th July. (Waterfall locates this F.P.O.

at Gyantse from 14.5.1904 though in fact it only reached there on 9.7.1904 after working for nearly two months at Kangma. Proud places it at Kangma two months before it was captured and then takes it back to Chumbi on 12.6.1904 before returning it to Gyantse on 27.6.1904. The correct locations are as shown above.) While the main F.P.O. stayed back at Gyantse, and functioned alongside F.P.O. No. 24, a detachment of F.P.O. No. 32 consisting of the postmaster, Munshi Ghulam Mohamed, and a clerk, Babu Fanindra Nath Malik, accompanied the Lhasa Column when it marched from Gyantse on 14th July. (According to Waterfall, the Detachment used F.P.O. No. 32 Date Stamp on the way to Lhasa and Date Stamps inscribed "Lahassa" and "Lhasa" while at Lhasa.) The Detachment rejoined the main F.P.O. at Gyantse on 6th October and the F.P.O. was closed on 10th October 1904.

- F.P.O. No. 33 (Date of opening at Changu, presumably, in May-June 1904, when the Jelap La route was abandoned and the Natu La route adopted for all traffic.) It was working at Changu when the Chief Superintendent visited it on 14th August. Closed on 27th October 1904. (Proud wrongly locates it in Tibet.)
- F.P.O. No. 34 (Date of opening at Champethang presumably in May-June 1904, when the Jelap La route was abandoned and the Natu La route adopted for all traffic.) It was working at Champethang when the Chief Superintendent visited it on 13th August. Closed on 26th October 1904.
- F.P.O. No. 81 Opened at Phari Jong on 3rd January 1904. Closed on 19th October. After the F.P.O. had reached Chumbi, it was decided that a military post was to be retained at Phari as a part of the Chumbi Valley occupation. The F.P.O. was sent back and reopened at Phari Jong on 26th October. The F.P.O. thus stayed at Phari Jong while the main Force left for India at the end of October.
- F.P.O. No. 82 Opened at Chumbi Camp on 16th January 1904 to replace the Brigade F.P.O. which was going to Gautsa. It was relieved in its turn by F.P.O. No. 26 before 15th February and moved six and a half miles up the Valley to Lingmothang to serve the Mounted Infantry and the Supply Depot. Opened there on 16th February. It was closed there on 15th March and opened at Gautsa the next day. It was finally closed on 20th October 1904.
- F.P.O. No. 83 Opened at Langram on 19th January 1904 to serve the Pioneers and moved with them to Rinchingong by 2nd February. Some time in the summer, perhaps in April, the F.P.O. moved from Rinchingong to Lingmothang. It was closed on 20th October 1904.

- F.P.O. No. 84** (Considering that F.P.O. No. 87 was working at Gnathong in February 1904, it is reasonable to assume that F.P.O.s bearing preceding numbers, Nos. 84, 85 and 86 were also functioning somewhere on the line of communication early in 1903. No F.P.O. allocations have been traced for the staging camps on the line—Riang, Tarkhola, Rorathang and Rongli. My inference is that before the Rangpo—Gangtok—Natu La route was adopted in June 1904, the three above-mentioned F.P.O.s functioned at these camps and F.P.O. No. 84 reopened at Karponang in June 1904.) F.P.O. No. 84 was functioning at Karponang when the Chief Superintendent visited it on 15th August. It was closed on 28th October 1904.
- F.P.O. No. 85** (See remarks against F.P.O. No. 84.) F.P.O. No. 85 was reopened at the Pioneer Camp at Dotha, between Gautsa and Phari, some time in the summer of 1904, possibly in June. The F.P.O. was closed at Dotha about 21st September 1904.
- F.P.O. No. 86** (See remarks against F.P.O. No. 84.) F.P.O. No. 86 was opened at Lamteng in North Sikkim in the summer of 1904, possibly in June. The F.P.O. was closed at Lamteng about 21st September 1904.
- F.P.O. No. 87** The F.P.O. was opened at Gnathong in January/February 1904, presumably after the creation of the Base Division on 6th January. It was functioning at Gnathong when the Superintendent Advance Division visited it on 26th February. On the abandonment of the Jelap La route in May 1904, the F.P.O. was closed at Gnathong and moved to Gangtok. It was functioning at Gangtok when the Chief Superintendent visited it on 16th August. It was closed on 14th November 1904.
- F.P.O. No. 88** This F.P.O. was one of the four F.P.Os that arrived at Kangma from Siliguri on 16th July 1904, having been on the road from 5th May. It was opened at Kangma on 21st July and closed on 12th October 1904. (The names of the other three F.P.Os are not mentioned in the Diaries but I presume they were F.P.O.s Nos. 29, 89 and 90.)
- F.P.O. No. 89** See remarks against F.P.O. No. 88. (Reserve. Not used.)
- F.P.O. No. 90** See remarks against F.P.O. No. 88. (Reserve. Not used.)
- Base Post Office** Opened at Teesta Bridge between 6th and 13th December 1903. Closed at Teesta Bridge on 29th December 1903 and reopened at Siliguri on 1st January 1904. It remained there after the Tibet

Mission Force was disbanded at the end of November 1904. (In his List of Offices Proud names this office as "Base Office A (Without Letter)." In the Diary it is referred to as "Base Post Office" without any number or letter.)

Some Unconfirmed Allocations

Waterfall and Proud mention recorded covers from F.P.O. No. 21. Waterfall records an obliterator mark of F.P.O. No. 21 dated 6.1.1904 only "three days from Gangtok" and "Probably at the head of Chumbi Valley." This seems to be a mis-reading for F.P.O. No. 81 as it is known from Tulloch's Diaries that F.P.O. No. 21 did not work in Tibet. Proud extends the dates of its recorded use to 3.11.1903—6.1.1904 with location at Gnathong, Sikkim. The sketch provided by him bears the date 10.12.1903. It is known from military records that no F.P.O. functioned in Sikkim before 10th December 1903. We also know from Tulloch's Diary that F.P.O. No. 87 was functioning at Gnathong at least from February 1904. So Proud's allocation may also be based on a mis-reading.

Both Waterfall and Proud allocate F.P.O. No. 23 to the Tibet Force. Waterfall and Proud record date stamp marks of April-May 1904 with the F.P.O. at Ralung forward of Gyantse. At that time there was no F.P.O. at Gyantse, let alone at Ralung. Moreover Tulloch's Diary does not show this F.P.O. in Tibet at any time. Proud records an obliterator mark of 6.1.1904 at an unknown place in Sikkim called Kuphu. In my opinion both the recordings are mis-readings for F.P.O. No. 25, which was functioning at Chumbi on 6.1.1904 and at Kala Tso in April-May 1904.

It is quite clear from Tulloch's Diary that F.P.O.s Nos. 35, 36 and 37 were not employed in Sikkim-Tibet. They form part of a new series beginning with F.P.O. No. 31. F.P.O. No. 31 was opened at Tuna on 27th April, F.P.O. No. 32 at Kangma about 15th May, F.P.O. No. 33 at Changu in May-June and F.P.O. No. 34 at Champethang in May-June 1904. After that date no F.P.O.s were inducted as all military stations were fully covered. Waterfall mentions F.P.O. No. 35 but says "doubtful if Tibet—only known 1902". Neither Waterfall nor Proud mention F.P.O. No. 36. Proud makes a tentative allocation of F.P.O. No. 37 to Tibet ? on the basis of an obliterator mark of 20.1.1904, nearly three months before the new series (No. 31 upwards) was inducted into the Force. It can therefore be said confidently that F.P.O.s Nos. 35 and 37 were not used in Sikkim-Tibet.

In the absence of official records (and sometimes as a corrective to them), the tables of recorded use prepared by philatelists from used covers and other materials are the only authentic information about the particulars of post offices, their locations, the dates of their openings and closings and the comparative scarcity of related philatelic material. An up-to-date Table prepared by Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl with drawings of postmarks is given in Part 2 of this book .

NOTIFICATION

The following Notification is issued as to the conditions under which correspondence and parcels may be sent between India and the Sikkim Mission.

FROM INDIA TO THE MISSION

Mode of addressing correspondence

Correspondence posted in India for delivery to the Mission should be addressed as follows:—

A.B.

Regiment, Battery, Staff appointment or Department, Sikkim Mission.

No post-town should be added to the address, and care should be taken to specify clearly in each case the Regiment, Battery, Staff appointment or Department of the person addressed.

What may be sent

Unregistered letters, postcards, newspapers, book packets, and parcels (private and service) may be posted in India for delivery to the Mission.

Prepayment of postage compulsory

Full prepayment of postage on all articles is compulsory.

N.B. — Officers Commanding Corps proceeding with the Mission should warn the troops, followers, etc., to inform their correspondents of the necessity for fully prepaying the postage on all articles.

Delivery

Articles of the letter mail will be delivered through orderlies. Parcels will also be delivered through orderlies in the absence of written instructions to the contrary from the addressees. The receipt of the person to whom a parcel is delivered will be taken on a list against the entry of the parcel.

B.B. — Any person who does not wish his parcels delivered through an orderly, must give notice in writing to the field post office by which he is served.

No Registration, Insurance, Value-Payable Post, or Money Orders

Letters cannot be registered, nor can letters or parcels be insured, for despatch from India to the Mission. No article can be accepted for despatch to the Mission by value-payable post. Money orders will not be issued in favour of payees with the Mission.

FROM THE MISSION TO INDIA

What may be sent

Unregistered letters, postcards, and book packets may be posted to addressees

in India or places abroad. Prepayment of postage is optional but if postage is not fully prepaid, the articles will be charged on delivery with double the deficiency under the usual rules. No registered or insured letters, no parcels, and no value-payable articles, can be posted.

Money Orders

Money orders will be issued on India at inland rates of commission. Remittances by telegraphic money orders can also be sent on the ordinary conditions.

Saving Bank Deposits

Savings Bank deposits will be received from all British and Native soldiers with the Mission at field post offices for credit, free of charge, to Post Office Savings Bank accounts in India. Soldiers who already have accounts with the Post Office Savings Bank will be required to produce their pass-books when making deposits at field post offices. Savings Bank deposits tendered at field post offices will be subject to the ordinary rules for depositors in Post Office Savings Banks.

FROM ONE FIELD POST OFFICE TO ANOTHER

What may be sent

Only unregistered letters, postcards, newspapers, and book packets may be posted at one field post office for delivery from another field post office. Full prepayment of postage is compulsory.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Letters, postcards, packets, and parcels can be sent from India to the Mission at official rates of postage. The full postage must be prepaid in all cases.

Service parcels cannot be sent from the Mission to India, but other official articles can be sent without prepayment of postage. The charge on delivery in India will be made at the prepaid rates.

Service parcels cannot be sent between field offices. Other official articles can be sent between field offices free of all postage, if properly superscribed and franked.

POSTAGE STAMPS

Postage stamps (including postcards and embossed envelopes), both ordinary and service, can be purchased at any field post office.

Officers Commanding British Regiments and Batteries are recommended to provide themselves with a sufficient stock of one anna soldiers' envelopes which are not sold at post offices, and to replenish the stock from time to time through the Treasure Chest Officer.

CALCUTTA

The 9th December 1903

H.M. KISCH

*Offg. Director-General of the Post Office
of India*

SIKKIM

No stamps available
Tibet. Field Service



Col Rybol

JERSEY

England

I.S.
E.



TEMPORARY P.O. K 28 DE 03
(Gnathong)
Written in Tibet, posted in Sikkim

(Courtesy Dr. Soli Contractor)

TIBET



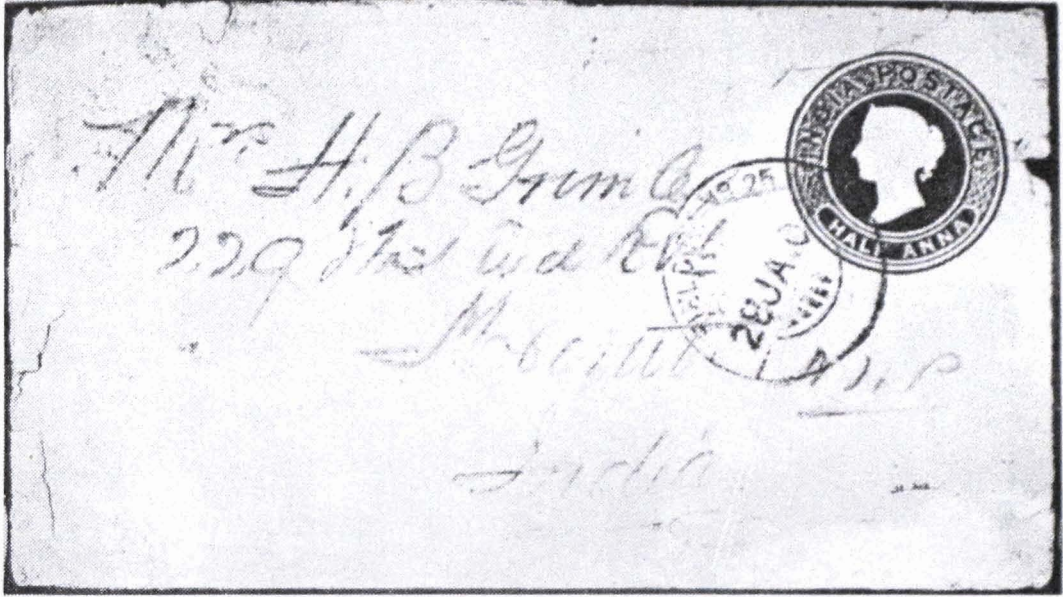
Mr Youngusband
c/o O. V. Bosanquet Esq
Indore Residency
Indore
C-5



FIELD P.O. No. 24 7 MA 04
(Tuna)

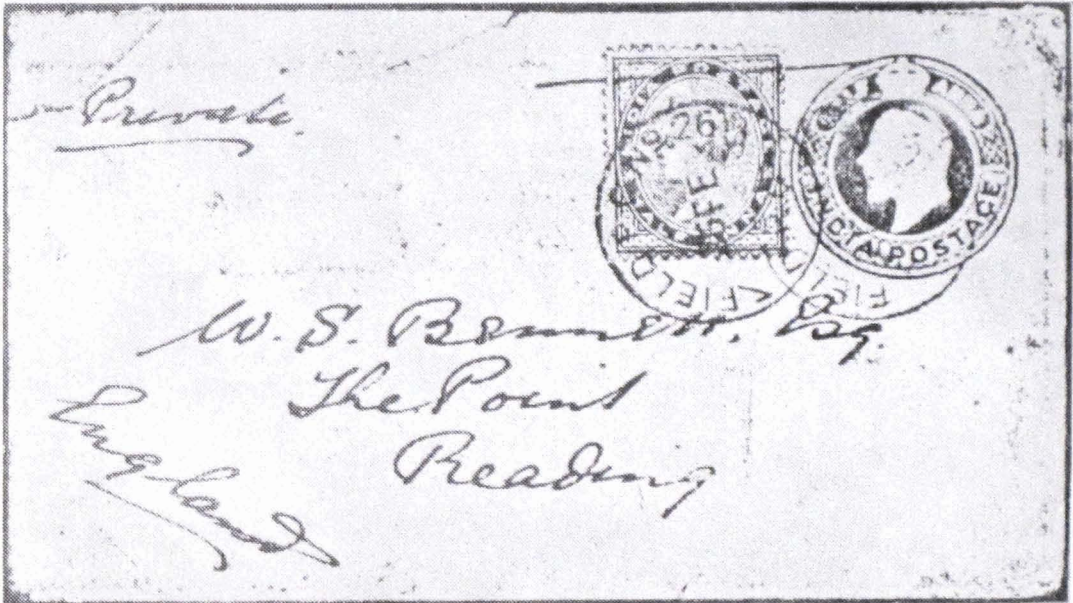
(Courtesy Mr. Gerald Sattin)

TIBET



FIELD P.O. No. 25 28 JA 04
(Gautsa)

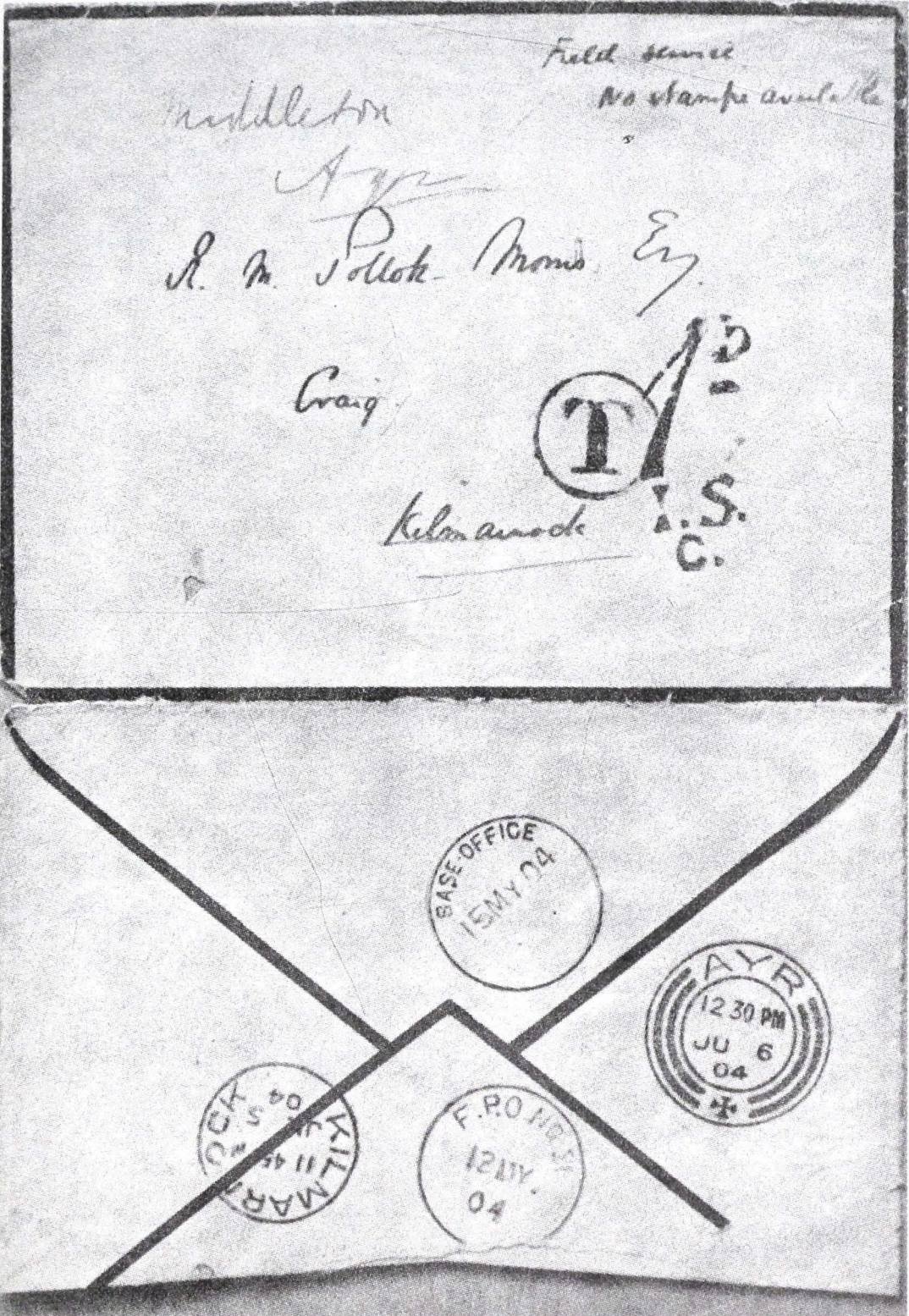
(Courtesy Mr. Gerald Sattin)



FIELD P.O. No. 26 26 FE 04
(Chumbi)

(Courtesy Mr. Gerald Sattin)

TIBET

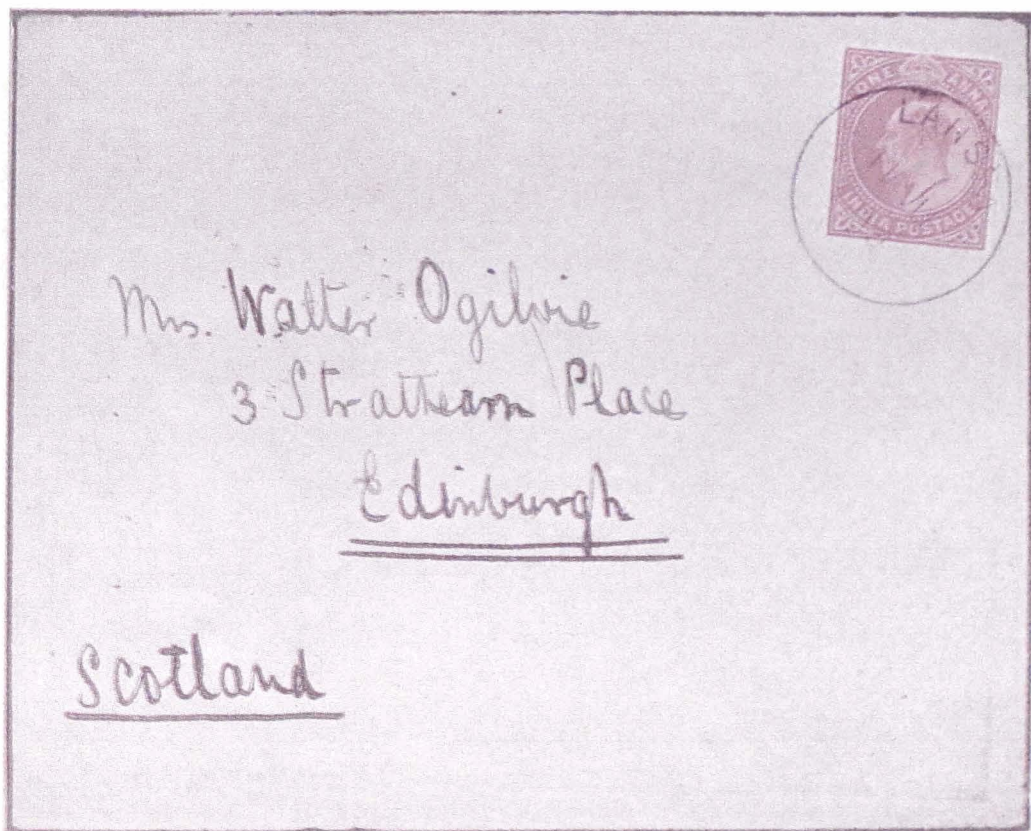


TIBET



F. P.O. No. 32 4 AU 04
(Lhasa)

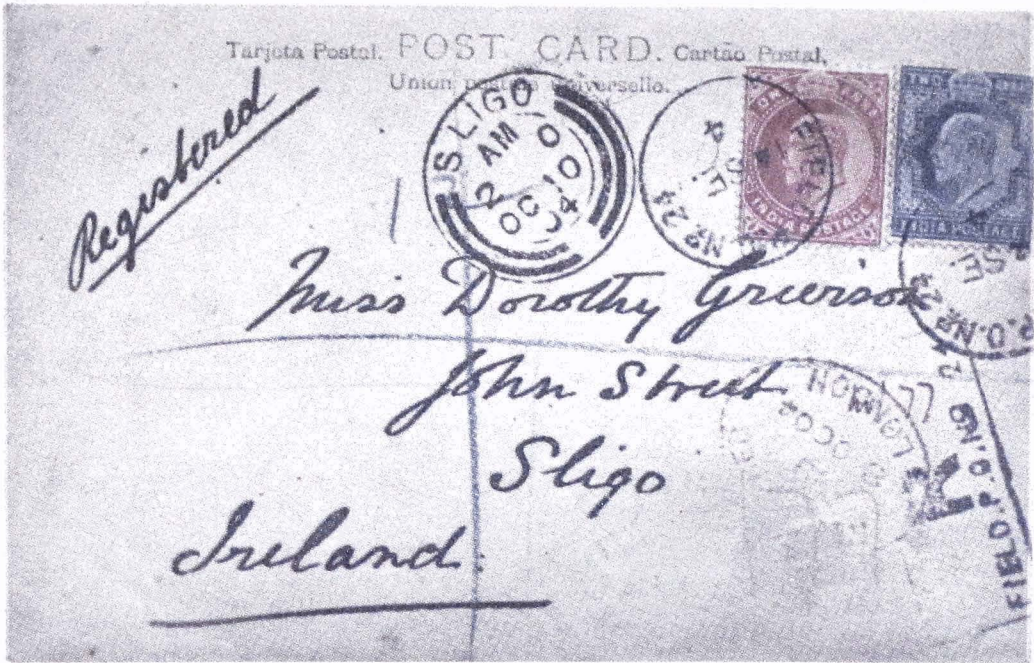
(Courtesy Mr. Henry Heath)



LHASA 11 AU 04
(Lhasa)

(Courtesy Mr. Henry Heath)

TIBET



FIELD P.O. No. 24 14 SE 04 (Courtesy Mr. Henry Heath)
(Gyantse)

SIKKIM



FIELD P.O. No. 84 2 OC 04 (Courtesy Mr. Henry Heath)
(Karponang)

Organisation, Mail Arrangements and Postal Facilities

Chain of Command

THE F.P.O. chain of command followed two channels, the technical and the administrative. The Base Post Master was in control of Accounts, Sorting and Stores of all the F.P.O.s in the Force. The Divisional Superintendent and his subordinate Inspectors ordered and supervised mail arrangements; checked the development and day-to-day working of their F.P.O.s; carried out periodic inspections; administered the postal personnel; and advised the Military Staff on all postal matters. The Chief Superintendent was in over-all charge of the entire postal establishment, mail and other arrangements. While the Base Office remained anchored at Siliguri in Bengal, there were a number of changes in the administrative arrangements and the deployment of F.P.O.s which I have described in Chapter 3. The Roll of Postal Officers at Appendix C further clarifies the supervisory organisation.

Mail Route and Transit Times

Siliguri, the Base of the Expedition, was a railway station connected to Calcutta (an overnight run) by the main line and to Darjeeling by a slow narrow gauge railway. The military transport train adopted the direct cart road along the Teesta River via Sevoke, Riang, Teesta Bridge, Tarkhola to Rangpo and from there by a new track to Rorathang which joined the existing track to Rhenock Ridge, Rongli, Lingtam/Sedongchen, Gnathong, Jelap La, Langram and Rinchiong at the head of the Chumbi Valley. The original postal plan was to carry the mail from Siliguri by the narrow gauge train to Ghum (Darjeeling) and connect it with the existing runners mail line to Teesta Bridge, where the Base Post Office was proposed to be located. The military advice was to locate the Base Post Office at Rangpo as some of the units were located in North Sikkim and in the Gangtok area. As mentioned earlier, the Superintendent of Field Post Offices recommended Siliguri for the Base Post Office and a new runners mail line along the military route. As per normal postal practice runners worked in pairs or larger groups and did a stage of about 10 miles and then handed over the mail to another group of waiting runners. As the runners had to wait to carry the mail in the opposite direction, shelter huts were built at each

stage. Mail Overseers and Inspectors supervised the regularity and punctuality of the mail runs according to the prescribed time-table. The Superintendent noted in his Diary on 29th February that "mails are reaching Chumbi (from Gnathong) in between 7 and 8 hours and are delivered there on the evening of the day following their despatch from Siliguri." On days when there was snow on the pass, the runners crossing the Jelap La were authorised a rum ration of half a dram.

Forward of Chumbi, mail to Lingmothang, Gautsa, Dotha and Phari Jong was carried daily by postal runners recruited from Sikkim. From January to March, mails between Phari Jong and Tuna were sent three times a week through Mounted Infantry couriers, with the parcels going by transport convoys.

After the advance began from Tuna in April 1904, the Postal Department was allotted ekkas (pony-driven light carts) to run a daily parcel service from Phari Jong to Kala Tso. This proved unsatisfactory as replacements were not given for animal casualties and the Superintendent had to depend on runners even on this route. From 24th June the conveyance of these mails from Tuna upwards was made a Transport Department responsibility.

When the advance began from Tuna, the Superintendent received the following order from the Chief Staff Officer :—

"Please arrange to despatch mail by mounted infantry daily from Tuna to Guru. The mounted infantry will take them on the following day to Kala Tso. The weight of mails to be reduced so as to be carried by two mounted infantry. Eliminate parcels, papers, circulars and if this is not sufficient give the following order of preference: Mission, Brigade headquarters, Official letters for Corps and Officers, private letters for Officers. After 8th or 9th instant two extra ekkas will be placed at the disposal of post office for mail service to Kala Tso."

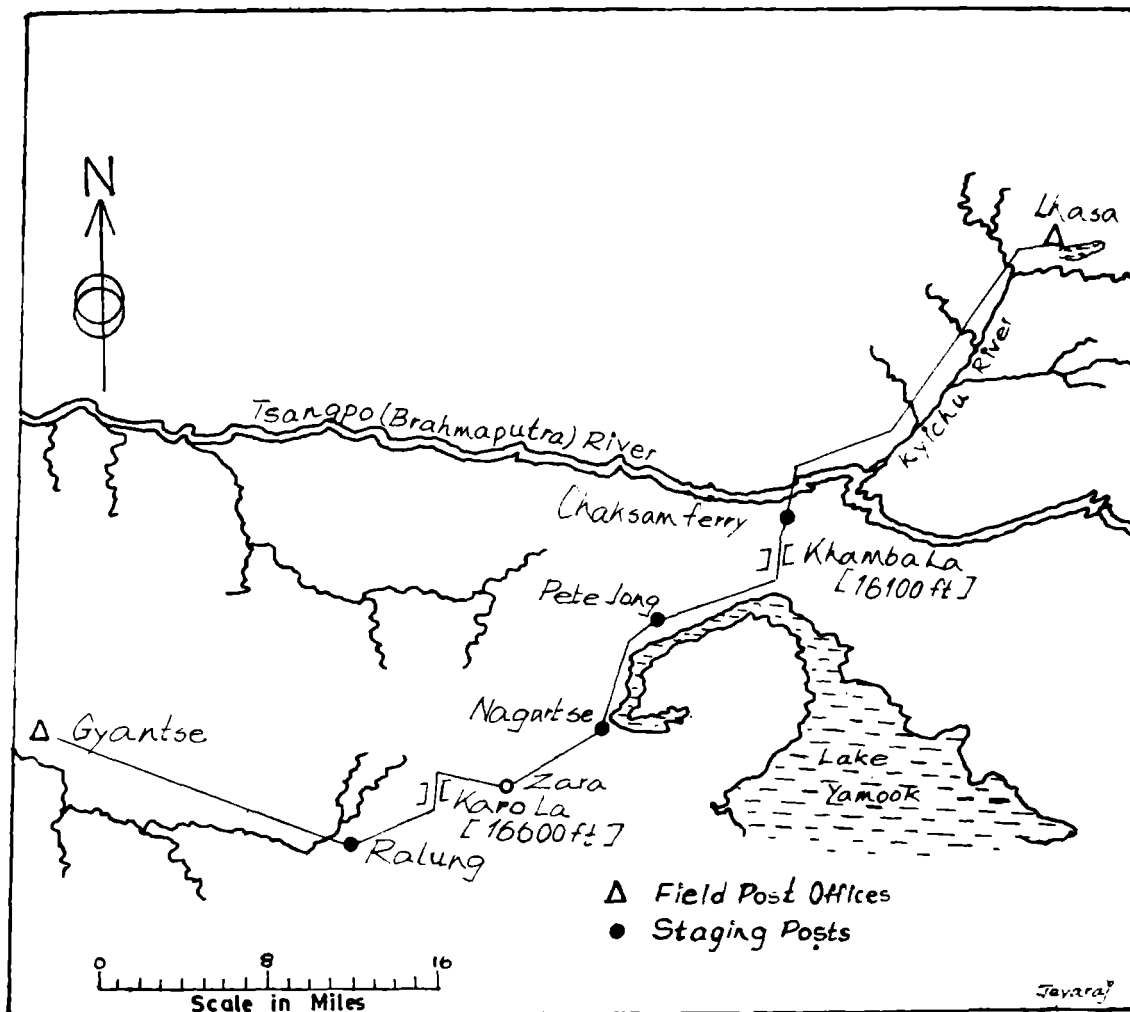
The service was restricted to alternate days from 15th April but was made daily again after a few days. It remained so even during the earlier days of the siege of Gyantse though "the mounted infantry carrying mail was fired upon from Naini Village, 5 miles this side of Gyantse."

The Battle of the Mail Bags

On 19th May eight mounted infantry soldiers carrying inward mails from Kangma were ambushed by a large raiding party of Khampa warriors. In what was called the battle of the mail bags, one (out of five) mail bags was lost, one soldier was killed and two wounded and eight ponies were destroyed. For some days the mail was disrupted. For a couple of days even the mail run between Tuna and Kala Tso was stopped due to a Tibetan scare. However, by 31st May the road between Kangma and Gyantse was pronounced quiet, and the daily mail run was resumed. There were interruptions again in June but things returned to normal early in July after the defeat of the Tibetans at Gyantse. On 18th July, the Superintendent noted in his Dairy that "letters posted at Calcutta before 3 p.m. on Monday are delivered at Gyantse on the following Sunday afternoon."

As mentioned before, forward of Kala Tso, parcels were sent to Gyantse by

transport convoys. After the return of the main Force to Chumbi that became very infrequent indeed. These delays caused a major row between Col. Younghusband, the Head of the Mission, and Maj. Gen. Macdonald, the Force Commander. This is described in some detail in Chapter 6. With the arrival of transport reinforcements for the big push to Lhasa, the parcel mails also moved quickly and regularly. If all the connections worked correctly, the parcel mails reached Gyantse from Siliguri in 8 days.



Gyantse to Lhasa

The following Force Order was issued on 13th July concerning postal arrangements for the Force advancing to Lhasa:—

“The small F.P.O. which will accompany the Force will attend to the delivery and despatch of mails including registered letters but no parcels, money orders or Savings Bank work will be transacted. The O.C. Gyantse will make the following arrangement for forwarding mail for the Force advancing on Lhasa

which are to be strictly adhered to and mails should not be despatched except on proper dates. On the 14th instant mails from India will be despatched at once on arrival by 6 M.I. to Katang, the M.I. [Mounted Infantry] returning to Gyantse the next day. On 16th mails will be despatched at 6 a.m. straight through to Ralung by 10 M.I. M.I. will return with mail the next day. After 16th mails will be despatched through to Ralung at 6 a.m. by 10 M.I. every third day...Immediate Government Orders must be sent by special despatch riders under separate arrangements.”

The whole journey to Lhasa was completed by relays of mounted infantry in three days. The historian of Mounted Infantry describes these mail-carrying trips from Lhasa as follows :—

“The 1st and 2nd Mounted Infantry had now for their only excitement the carrying of the mails and the line-clear telegrams between Lhasa and Chaksam Ferry on the Brahmaputra, a distance of 47 miles. Ten men would start from Lhasa, carrying 30 lbs. of mail bags and a blanket each. They stayed the night at the Ferry and came back the next day, bringing the same weight of mail in their saddles. This was done three times in a week for seven weeks without suffering a hitch of any kind...”

The Natu La Route

Right from the beginning in December 1903, the Sappers and Pioneers had been repairing and improving the difficult Gangtok—Natu La track, which offered a cart road connection from the Base and a shorter route to Chumbi. A mule track was ready by February but the supply line was not switched on to this route till May, when presumably the mail line also adopted this route. There were interruptions now and then due to road blocks and other natural impediments but the mail runners found a way round them even when all other traffic was halted. Early in August 1904, the Superintendent Base Division opened another military mail line, that between Darjeeling and Teesta Bridge to provide a direct and quicker service between the summer headquarters of the Presidency Division at Darjeeling and the field area.

Tribute to Mail Arrangements

I can do no better than to quote the following tribute to the mail arrangements from Lt. Col. Waddel's book “Lhasa and its Mysteries” :—

Chumbi Camp

“In the evening we would trudge over with lanterns across the slushy snow to the Field Post Office tent, to enquire whether the post had arrived. For it was one of the few luxuries we enjoyed, that, owing to the admirable arrangements of the Post Office under Mr. Tulloch, we received letters daily every evening in Chumbi (and the following morning at Phari) in two and a half

days from Calcutta and weekly in eighteen days from London, notwithstanding the enormous physical difficulties of the track along which the postal runners ran night and day covering the hundred miles from Siliguri up the mountains and over the Jelap La Pass often over snowdrifts and along precipices in the dark. Yet, so much was all this taken as matter of course, and not a few used to complain if the mail arrived ten minutes late.”

Lhasa

“Back in camp in Lhasa, we hurried with the news of our visit to catch the outgoing post, which now brought Lhasa into close touch with the outer world, for relays of mounted infantry galloped with His Majesty’s Mails from the sacred city to the telegraph terminus at Gyantse in three days whilst special messages were flashed to London within fifty hours from Lhasa, but curiously the postal authorities made the odd mistake of spelling the name of Lahassa in the stamp which imprinted our first missives from the holy city. A new stamp was ordered but that too did not get the spelling quite right as the extra ‘s’ was retained.”

Postal Rates

Postal rates charged at the F.P.O. in Sikkim and Tibet were the same as those current in India. Details of postage rates applied at the F.P.O.s and postage stamps and stationary sold by them are given in Appendix D.

Postal Facilities

Indian Field Post Offices, rough and ready versions of their civil counterparts, were designed to provide all the basic facilities but none of the frills which require special accounting and security arrangements such as Registration, Value Payable Post, Insurance and Money Order Payment. As the troops and their correspondents need reminding about the authorised address and the applicable postal restrictions, a notification is issued each time that F.P.O.s accompany a military expedition. The notification issued for the Sikkim Mission (as the Tibet Mission Force was then called) on 9th December 1903, is at the Annexure to Chapter 3. The moment Col. Youghusband saw it, he sent a signal to the Foreign Secretary complaining that field service restrictions had been imposed by the Military without consulting him and the Mission could no longer send or receive registered letters. As a compromise, the Field Post Office method of working was retained but registration service was introduced both ways and value payable articles were allowed to be sent to the F.P.O.s. The Postal Notice issued on 23rd December is reproduced in the Annexure to this Chapter.

Before 1895, postal parcels to the field areas were forwarded to the Base Post Office which handed them over to the Transport Department for delivery. In the Chitral Relief Force of 1895, delivery of parcels was permitted through the F.P.O.s and that became the rule thereafter. No parcel service was available from F.P.O.s as it was assumed that there would be nothing to send home from a field service

area. As the troops could send a lot of curiosities and other acquisitions from China, parcel service was introduced from the F.P.O.s of the China Expeditionary Force in 1900, as a special case. Though the Diaries do not mention it, the same dispensation was also given in Tibet some time in the summer of 1904.

Parcels from India were a virtual necessity for the officers posted in Tibet as, in the absence of any canteens, individual officers and Officers Messes were wholly dependent on them for augmenting their rations and other daily necessities. During the first 12 days of July over 1500 parcels were received for delivery at Gyantse. On 14th July the General was persuaded to recommend the stoppage of the Value Payable System and to limit the weight of a parcel to 11 lbs. as against the normal limit of 52 lbs. A copy of the Postal Notice is in the Annexure. No parcels at all were permitted to be carried between Gyantse and Lhasa with the result that a vast accumulation awaited the return of the Lhasa Column to Gyantse and over 1200 parcels were delivered to it between the 5th and 10th of October.

It was a curious thing that though the journalists accompanying the Expedition and the regimental historians mention the barren and unproductive wastes of Tibet and the primitiveness of its people, there was a steady stream of parcels being sent out of Tibet. The Diary for 3rd July states that the parcels were being booked at Gyantse at the rate of 40 per day. The regimental history of the 40th Pathans mentions tactfully that what was sent out was either bought legitimately or was the share of confiscated enemy property distributed to the Messes.

Despatch (but not receipt) of money orders from the F.P.O.s is the postal facility most appreciated by Indian troops. Though the Diaries do not mention it beyond saying that tabulated returns were duly prepared, it can be taken for granted that the usual facility was fully used. Military records mention that in March 1904, monthly money orders to families were permitted to be sent without any postal charges.

Private telegrams to the troops were received at the Base Post Office by wire and sent from there to the F.P.O.s by post. From the field, telegrams were sent not through the F.P.O.s but through the Field Telegraph Offices, after counter-signatures by military officers. The facility of sending inland telegrams for posting at Indian ports was also available at the Telegraph Offices. It is stated in the Diary on 28th May, "English mail by steamer leaving on 4th June, was, of course, missed by everyone at Gyantse, but I circulated a notice drawing attention to the fact that telegrams might be despatched to Bombay and posted there in time to catch the mail steamer and I believe this plan of communicating with friends at Home had been generally adopted this week."

Annexure to Chapter 4**POSTAL NOTICE**

It is hereby notified that, with effect from 1st January 1904, postal articles for and from the Sikkim Mission will be accepted for registration.

From the same date, postal articles may also be sent under the value-payable system from post offices in India to the post offices of the Mission.

CALCUTTA,
The 23rd December 1903

H.M. KISCH
Offg. Director-General of the
Post Office of India

POSTAL NOTICE

It is hereby notified that no parcels exceeding 11 lbs. in weight will be accepted for transmission by post to or from the Tibet Mission Force and that no postal articles will be transmitted under the value-payable system from post offices in India to the offices with that Force.

CALCUTTA,
The 20th July 1904.

A.U. FANSHAWE,
Director-General of the
Post Office of India.

Occupation and 'Political' Duties

The Chumbi Valley F.P.O.s

THE first plan for the occupation of the Chumbi Valley envisaged the concentration of the troops in the Camp at Chumbi with F.P.O. No. 26 looking after their postal needs. All other F.P.O.s, including those at Gyantse and Phari Jong were closed by 20th October 1904 and the whole lot arrived at Chumbi on the evening of the 21st. Late in the evening of the 23rd the General Officer Commanding gave orders to the Chief Superintendent of F.P.O.s "to reopen a post office at Phari Jong and connect it with Chumbi by mail line." This was obviously done to serve a company of infantry which was going to be located at Phari. So F.P.O. No. 81 trudged back to Phari and reopened there on the evening of 26th October. These two post offices continued to serve in Tibet during the next 50 years under one name or the other.

Postal Cover for Gyantse

The British Commissioner for Tibet Frontier Matters did not at first ask for the retention of any F.P.O. at Gyantse. He proposed to the Foreign Secretary on 30th September 1904 "that the existing telegraph line be maintained and that dak service by Tibetan runners every five days be established.... For dak purposes fourteen ponies and 4 drivers may be maintained. Existing posts at Kangma, Kala Tso and Tuna might be kept for dak purposes and chowkidars maintained at each."

Capt. F.O'Connor, the newly-appointed Trade Agent at Gyantse, soon felt the lack of a post office at his station. In November 1904 he asked the P.M.G. Bengal to let Gyantse have a Branch Post Office which would be run by one of the Agency clerks. As the correspondence dragged on, O'Connor reinforced his request by writing to the Secretary Foreign Department. The Director General of Post Offices was approached and orders were issued in February 1905 to open a Temporary P.O. The date of the opening is not recorded but it could not have been till the end of March as the office is not listed in the Quarterly List of 1st April 1905. It was included in the List of July 1905 under the Sikkim—Tibet Division along with Siliguri Base Head Post Office and F.P.O.s. Nos. 26 and 81. (Waterfall says that the first Gyantse obliterator and date stamp bearing that place-name are recorded to have been used in February 1906. However he also records the use there of an earlier registration label of "Temporary P.O. Y" which obviously was the first name of the Gyantse Sub Office.)

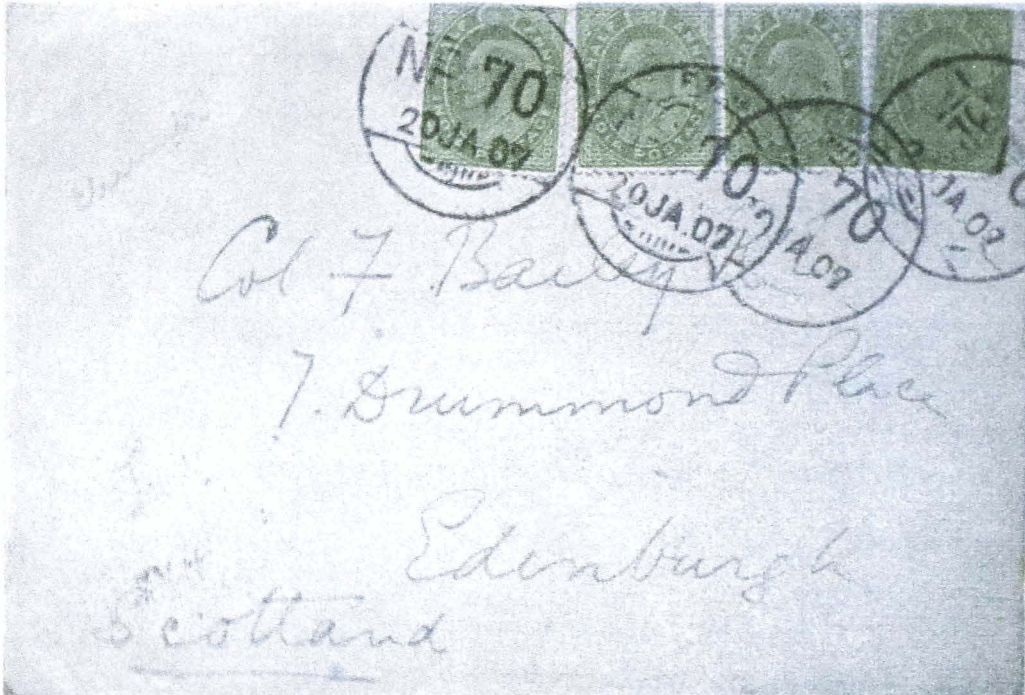
TIBET



FIELD P.O. No. 26
(Chumbi)

31 DE 06

(Courtesy Mr. Henry Heath)

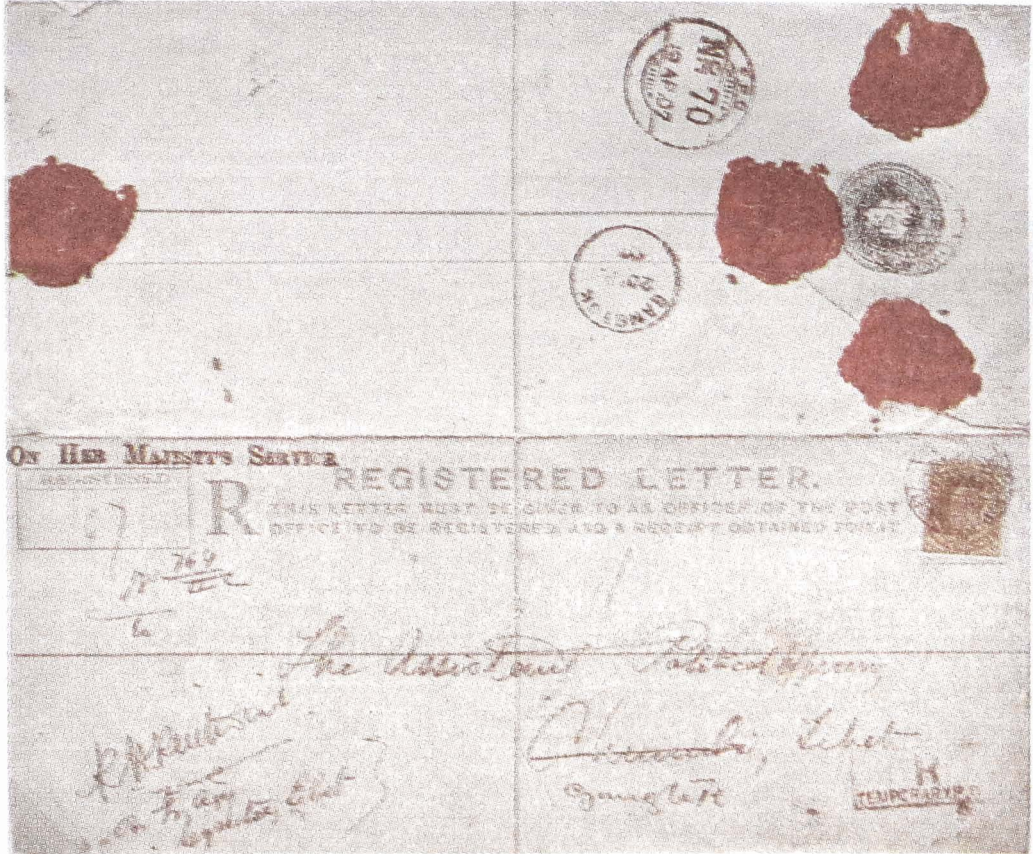


FIELD P.O. No. 70
(Yatung)

20 JA 07

(Courtesy Mr. Henry Heath)

TIBET



GYANTSE—TIBET 14 AP 07
SILIGURI BASE

(Courtesy Mr. Henry Heath)

Two Name Changes

In the *Quarterly List of Indian Post Offices* for 1st July 1905, F.P.O. No. 26 is named as such. In the List for 1st October, it is entered as "F.P.O. No. 26 (Chumbi)" In the List for October 1907, it is renamed "Yatung, Tibet (F.P.O. No. 70)." The F.P.O. connection was dropped in April 1915 and the post office was given the place-name "Yatung, Tibet." F.P.O. No. 81 passed through similar name-changes except that it did not exchange one number for another. (Robson Lowe and Waterfall have suggested that F.P.O. No. 68 was used at Phari Jong in 1908. This is an obvious mistake as No. 68 was at that time working in the Peshawar area with the Mohmand Expedition.) In the List of April 1915 the Phari Jong post office is entered with that name.

The End of the F.P.O. Connection

The military occupation of the Chumbi Valley ended in January 1908. The Base Post Office at Siliguri and the two F.P.O.s should normally have been closed at the same time. However, the Political Department wanted the post offices to remain and the Postal Department found it convenient to retain the field service organisation in a civilian role. There was, therefore, no hurry in changing the designations of the post offices or the inscriptions on their stamps, seals and labels. The outbreak of the Great War in 1914 resulted in the closure of the Base Office at Siliguri and the Sikkim—Tibet Division. Some of the old handstamps and labels remained in use in the Twenties and the Postage Due Stamp with the inscription "Phari Jong F.P.O. No. 81" is recorded to have been in use till the closure of that post office in 1954.

Postal Arrangements

During the period under review there was no change in the mail arrangements. The main job of the Assistant Superintendent of the Sikkim—Tibet Division was to supervise and expedite the movement of mail during the long haul from Siliguri to Chumbi. He was at first stationed at the receiving end, at Chumbi, but later he changed his HQ to the other end, at Siliguri.

The return of peace conditions necessitated certain alterations in the range of postal facilities offered at the F.P.O.s. Value Payable articles were allowed to be sent to the F.P.O.s in January 1905. Money Order payment was permitted from October 1905. Insurance facility was introduced from 1st April 1906. The three Postal Notices published on these subjects are reproduced in the Annexure. Indian post offices remaining in Tibet continued to be treated as a part of the Indian postal network. They charged the postage rates applicable in India and articles addressed to them were charged in India at inland postage rates. For changes in postal rates during 1905—1908, see Appendix D.

A Puzzling Postal Mark

Postal marks are dealt with in Appendix 'E' and Part 2 of this book. Here I would

only like to mention a fancy, unframed, non-standard "Sikkim—Tibet" mark which has been perplexing philatelists. Robson Lowe found an example in the Bailey correspondence on a registered letter with the oblong Field P.O. No. 26 Name Stamp. Waterfall records its use in violet ink at F.P.O.s Nos. 26 and 70 from 11.7.1906 to 3.12.1906. In my opinion, it is a rubber stamp intended to amplify the name stamp in keeping with the Indian post office practice of including the name of the District/Region in the handstamps of little-known post offices.

Annexure to Chapter 5

POSTAL NOTICE

V.P. Articles for Tibet Field Post Offices

It is hereby notified that postal articles may now be sent under the value-payable system from post offices in India to the field post offices in Tibet, provided that no parcel exceeding 11 lbs. in weight will be accepted for transmission under that system.

CALCUTTA,
The 23rd January 1905.

A.U. FANSHAWE
Director-General of the
Post Office of India.

POSTAL NOTICE

MONEY ORDERS FOR TIBET FIELD POST OFFICES

It is hereby notified that, with effect from the 1st October, 1905, money orders may be issued from post offices in India to any of the post offices mentioned on the margin.

*Gyantse post office.
Chumbi F.P.O. No. 26.
Phari F.P.O. No. 81.

CALCUTTA,
The 30th September 1905.

A.U. FANSHAWE
Director-General of the
Post Office of India.

POSTAL NOTICE

INSURED ARTICLES FOR TIBET FIELD POST OFFICES

It is hereby notified that, with effect from the 1st April 1906, insured articles will be accepted for transmission by the post to and from the Field Post Offices in Tibet noted on the margin,* providing that no parcel exceeding 11 lbs. in weight is received for transmission under that system.

*No. 26 (Chumbi),
No. 81 (Pharijong).

CALCUTTA,
The 30th March 1906.

A.U. FANSHAWE
Director-General of the
Post Office of India

Serving Two Masters: The Commissioner and the General

THE two Chief Officers of the Tibet Expedition were figures in contrast. Col. F.E. Younghusband, the Commissioner, was a famous explorer with a remarkable career in the Political Department. He was chosen with great care by Lord Curzon as the instrument of his Tibetan policy. Younghusband was well-versed in Indian, Chinese and Tibetan affairs. He was fully used to working harmoniously with other government departments such as the Post Office Colonel (promoted Brigadier General) J.R.L. Macdonald, the Commander of the Escort, was a controversial and undistinguished Royal Engineer without any operational experience. In the 1890s he had quarrelled in Uganda with that great Political Officer, Captain (later Lord) Lugard. More recently in China he had been involved in a controversy with the Postal Superintendent of the China Expeditionary Force (C.E.F.) over his sponsorship of a purely philatelic British Railway Administration (B.R.A.) stamps. Macdonald happened to be working in Sikkim in command of a road-building task force and was chosen at random to command in Tibet by a fellow Sapper, Lord Kitchener, as a check on the more ebullient nominee of Curzon. (There were so many Engineer and Pioneer Officers and Units in the Force that the Tibet Expedition was dubbed An Engineers War.)

As Head of the Frontier Commission, Younghusband was used to having a Postal Inspector attached to his staff and the ready ear of P.M.G. Bengal, who even called on him at Khamba Jong. His three Commission post offices dispensed all postal facilities including Registration, Parcels, Value Payable Post, Insurance and Money Orders. When the Commission was directed to the Chumbi Valley with a full military Brigade as escort, Younghusband thought that he was still the head of the show and certainly so in respect of the Post and Telegraph services. He came in for a rude shock when he saw the Postal Notification issued by the Director-General of the Post Office announcing the setting up of a Field Post Office Organisation and the curtailment of certain postal facilities.

On 14th December 1903. Younghusband sent the following telegram from Rinchingong to the Foreign Secretary at Calcutta:

“Both Postal and Telegraph Department are issuing orders on assumption that this is field service and the whole control is under Military. By these regulations, registered letters can not be sent to Mission nor private telegrams be despatched

from Mission. I suggest that P and T Departments be informed that this is not field service and that departmental subordinates be directed to refer to me as the chief authority who should be consulted beyond the frontier. No arrangements have been made for post office at my HQ which will in a few days be separate from Military HQ."

The reply dated 18th December from Calcutta put Younghusband wise:

"Director-General Telegraphs has authorised telegraph master to forward all telegrams vouched by you and members of the Mission without requiring formal signatures of Military officers. Suggest explaining to Macdonald and settling with him where post and telegraph offices are required. Necessary to treat service as field service. Orders to departmental officers better issue through Macdonald."

From Gnahtratong Younghusband telegraphed another complaint on 19th December :

"No registered letter received from you evidently owing to Post Office not forwarding them under Notification issued by the Postal Department."

The P.M.G. Bengal told the Foreign Department representative on 24th December that arrangements had been made (1) for delivery of registered letters to the Mission staff and (2) for the location of a post office at Col. Younghusband's HQ. Other arrangements such as Money Orders and V.P. Parcels were under consideration.

On 13th January 1904 the Superintendent of F.P.O.s asked the General at Phari Jong to let him go to the Mission HQ at Tuna, but the General said "No". He therefore wrote to Col. Younghusband about mail arrangements. (The mail runners that he had brought from Sikkim were not permitted to carry mail to Tuna which must be sent either by mounted infantry or with a convoy.) Before leaving for Tuna, the General had announced that on return to the Chumbi Valley, his HQ would be at Gautsa. So the Superintendent had pulled out the Brigade F.P.O. from Chumbi and opened it at Gautsa on 19th January. On 20th January he noted with dismay, "The General told me today that he had changed his mind about making Gautsa his headquarters, and that he intends to stay where he is. He is moving into a Tibetan farm house about half a mile up the Valley, so evidently expects not to be disturbed for some time". After two months the Superintendent informed the Staff that he was going to Tuna but he was stopped again. When plans for the push to Gyantse were being made the General told the Superintendent that not a single F.P.O. would be allowed to go beyond Tuna. He noted in his Diary on 23rd March "Col. Younghusband and the Mission Staff will not be pleased with this arrangement but the matter is in the General's hands, not mine".

The Head of the Mission had already sent the following lengthy letter to the Foreign Department on 16th March:—

"In continuation of my telegram of 11 March 1904 I have the honour to address you in regard to the unsatisfactory way in which the Mission is being served by both the Telegraph and Postal Departments owing principally to their looking to the orders of the Military authority and making no reference to me. The impression seems to me that in anything connected with the telegraph and postal arrange-

ments the decision of General Macdonald is to be final irrespective of the necessities of the Mission. Thus when I wrote to the Superintendent Telegraphs on the 17th February 1904 asking him to extend the line to Tuna as soon as possible, he replied that under the orders of General Macdonald it was not to be extended beyond Phari 'till next month'. Again when a daily postal service had been established between Tuna and Phari, it was stopped by orders of the Chief Staff Officer without any reference to me. While letters take two days to reach the Military HQ at Chumbi from Calcutta, they take three days to reach me from Chumbi, only 45 miles distant.

"Suggest that definite instructions be given by the Military authorities to Gen Macdonald to consult me before he gives any orders as to whether a Postal or Telegraph service should or should not be extended to the Mission....."

The Military Member of the Viceroy's Council noted on a minute to the Foreign Department:

"Col. Younghusband is in my opinion much too ready to sit down and complain to the Foreign Department instead of settling matters with General Macdonald ...the Superintendent cannot take orders from two masters... It is evident that he has never intimated his wants to the GOC...

Elles
Military Member
24/3 "

Official orders were issued to the GOC by the QMG but only a demi-official letter was sent to Col. Younghusband asking him to seek direct cooperation from General Macdonald. "Should any hitch occur in the future, I am quite sure you could have it set right by referring to Macdonald himself, as the subordinate officers in charge of the Post and Telegraph arrangements are and must be under his orders."

No wonder when the Superintendent met Col. Younghusband at Tuna and asked him to "interest himself in postal matters for the advance", the Colonel gave a non-committal answer. The Superintendent would not take 'no' for an answer and had a long conversation a few days later with Capt. O'Connor, Secretary to the Mission. At his suggestion, the Superintendent wrote to the Commissioner pointing out the difficulties he was put to as regards transport of mails and the field post offices beyond Tuna. The fact of the matter was that the Postal Service chafed under the unsympathetic regime of General Macdonald who prevented it from providing a really quick and regular service.

While the Superintendent was toiling hard at Tuna to improvise a daily mail service to Chalu, he received a report on 16th April that "under orders of the General Officer Commanding no mails have been sent to the Mission and Force since 11th instant" while the General was planning to start an alternate day courier service from Gyantse to Chalu from the 15th April. By 23rd April the General had relented and permitted a daily service for letter mail and a weekly convoy for parcels. The Mission received its first parcel despatch on 26th April, two weeks after reaching Gyantse. To expedite the next delivery they sent hired pack mules from Gyantse to collect the parcels from F.P.O. No. 25. The Postal staff at Kala Tso, including the

Superintendent who was there, raised no objections to this infraction of the General's orders and handed over 37 parcel bags to the muleteers without any military escort on 3rd May. The Mission never got the parcel bags as hostilities broke out at Gyantse and the Tibetans decamped with the parcels. The following official communication about this mishap and its aftermath bring out the tensions which beset the relations between the Commissioner and the General on postal matters during the whole duration of the Expedition.

Telegram dated 19th May from General Macdonald, Chumbi (Tibet) to Army Headquarters:

"It is reported by the postal authorities that convoy of parcels captured by the enemy (.) This is not accurate (.) I gave orders that all postal parcels must wait for the regular government convoy (.) Mission against my advice apparently made private arrangements with Gyantse donkey men who took over the articles at Kala Tso and have not been heard of since (.)"

The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. B. Duff, gave the following orders to his office:

"Send to the Postmaster-General and say that the C-in-C considers it very undesirable that private arrangements of this sort should be permitted which can only result, as in this case, in parcels and letters falling into the hands of the Tibetans. H.E. considers that all postal arrangements should remain in the hands of the recognised authorities. Brig. Gen. Macdonald will be so informed."

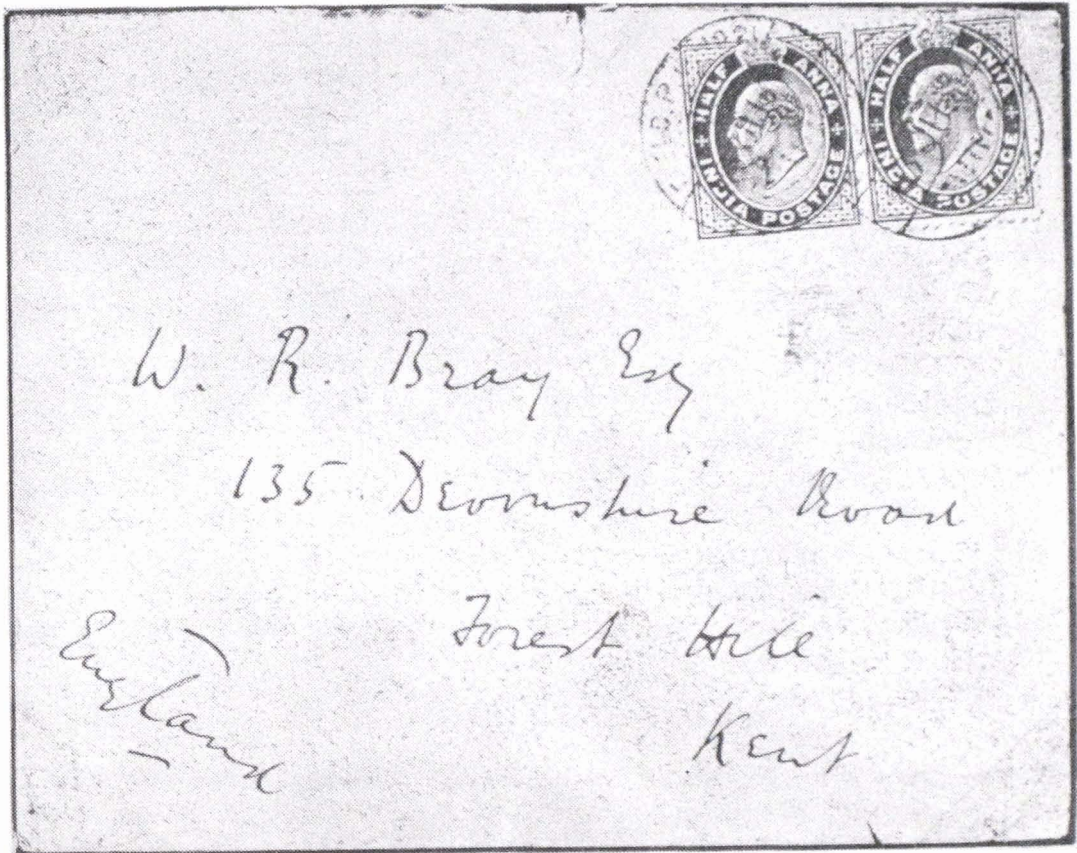
The Director-General of Posts replied to the Adjutant-General on 27th May as follows in characteristic officialese:

"I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No 1421-M dated 24th May giving cover to a telegram No 487 T dated 19th May from Brig. Gen. Macdonald, Commanding the Sikkim Tibet Mission Escort, regarding the loss of certain parcel mails between Kala Tso and Gyantse. The mails in question consisted of 37 parcel bags containing more than 200 parcels for the Mission and Escort. They were despatched from Kala Tso on the 3rd May in accordance with the instruction of the Head of Mission by ponies especially sent with drivers from Gyantse for the purpose of carrying these mails. I was informed on the 18th current that it was believed that the mails had fallen into the hands of the Tibetans and the P.M.G. Bengal, who was himself in Chumbi, on being informed by Gen. Macdonald that the sending of those parcel mails was against his general orders, immediately issued strict instructions to the Postal Superintendents on duty with the Mission that in all matters relating to the conveyance of posts they should act solely on the orders of the General Officer Commanding the Escort. This was communicated to me on the 20th current and it will be seen therefore that action has already been taken in accordance with what I understand to be His Excellency the C-in-C's wishes."

The General was not quite convinced that the Postal authorities were not a party to the Mission's misadventure. So the elaborate postal arrangements made by the Chief Superintendent of F.P.O.s for the advance to Lhasa were laid aside and only

a two-men section of F.P.O. No. 32 was allowed to accompany the Force. Hence no visits by the Chief Superintendent or any of his subordinate Officers to the Forbidden City. (The Chief Superintendent's Diary is discreetly silent on this point). This was perhaps to be expected as there was little doubt that, at heart, the Postal team was on the side of the Commissioner. When the Commissioner arrived at Chumbi on 5th October 1904 on his way to India much ahead of the Force, the Chief Superintendent went to see him and the next day "rode with Col. Young-hustard as far as Pheema where I bid him good-bye."

TIBET



FIELD P.O. No. 81 16 JU 04
(Phari Jong)

(Courtesy Mr. Gerald Sattin)

Appendix A

Sikkim-Tibet Operations 1903-1908

LIST OF UNITS AND ROLL OF OFFICERS

<i>Formation/Unit</i>	<i>Duration</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>From</i>
HEADQUARTERS			
Tibet Frontier Commission (Tibet Mission 12/03)	6/03 to 10/04	Darjeeling Gangtok Tangu	6/03 6/03 6/03
Col. F.E. Younghusband, C.I.E. Commissioner		Khamba Jong Gangtok	7/03 12/03
Mr. J.C. White Dy. Commissioner		Chumbi Camp Tuna	12/03 1/04
Mr. E. Wilton, Dy. Commissioner		Gyantse Lhasa Column	4/04 7/04
Capt. F. O'Connor Secretary		Lhasa	8/04
Capt. H.J. Walton Medical Officer			
Mr. Vernon Magniac P.S. to the Commissioner			
Mr. Walsh Asstt. Commissioner and Press Censor			
Sikkim Force	10/03 to 11/03	Gangtok	10/03
Col. J.R.L. Macdonald, C.B.			
Sikkim-Tibet Mission Escort (Tibet Mission Force 6/04)	12/03 to 11/04	Gangtok Gnathong Chumbi Camp	12/03 12/03 12/03
Brig. J.R.L. Macdonald, C.B. Force Commander		(Force HQ to Tuna and back 1/04 and Gyantse and back 4/04)	
Maj. M.A. Iggulden Chief Staff Officer			

Maj. W.G.K. Benyon, D.S.O. D.A. Q. M.G.		Gyantse	6/04
Maj. R.E. Macrae Intelligence Officer		Lhasa Column	7/04
Lt. Col. L.A. Waddel, C.I.E. Principal Medical Officer		Lhasa	8/04
Maj. G.H. Bretherton, D.S.O. Chief Supply and Transport (S & T) Officer			
Capt. C.A. Elliot Field Engineer			
Capt. J.O'B. Minogue Staff Officer			
Lt. B.H. Bignell Orderly Officer			
Lines of Communication	1/04	Gnathong	1/04
	to	Chumbi Camp	5/04
Lt. Col. H. Read Commander	11/04	Gyantse	6/04
Maj. J.M. Stewart Brigade Major		Chumbi Camp	7/04
Capt. H.H. Roddy Chief S & T Officer		Gangtok	10/04
Capt. R. St. J. Gillespie Field Engineer			
Lt. P.E. Hodgson Asst. Field Engineer			
Base Commandant	12/03	Siliguri	12/03
	to		
Maj. A. Mullaly	11/04		
<u>ARTILLERY</u>			
No. 7 Mountain Battrry, R.G.A.	11/03	Rangpo	11/03
(Section arrived 11/03,	to	Gnathong	12/03
HQ and other Sections 6/04)	10/04	Chumbi Camp	12/03
Maj. R.W. Fuller Commanding Officer		(With the Force to Tuna and back and Gyantse and back 4/04)	1/04
Capt. F.A. Easton		Gyantse	5/04
Lt. G.A. Yates		(Section only)	
Lt. W.P. Bennett		Gyantse	6/04
Lt. F.E. Spenser		(The remaining unit)	

Lt. G.E. Edmundson		Lhasa Column	7/04
Lt. R.J. Fitzgerald Ingham		Lhasa	8/04
27th Mountain Battery	7/04	Chumbi	7/04
(Section)	to		
	10/04		
Lt. K.D. Field			
Lt. M.M. Fitz Turner			
30th Mountain Battery	6/04	Chumbi	6/04
(Section)	to	Gyantse	6/04
	11/04	Lhasa Column	7/04
Lt. C.C. Marindin		Lhasa	8/04
Lt. H.G. Boone			
Section 7 Pounder Guns	11/03	Rangpo	11/03
(8th Gurkha Rifles)	to	Chumbi	12/03
	7/04	Tuna	1/04
Capt. T.M. Luke		Gyantse	4/04
Ammunition Column	11/03	Chumbi	12/04
	to	(With Force to Tuna	
	11/04	and back 1/04,	
		Gyantse and back	
		4/04)	
		Gyantse	6/04
		Lhasa Column	7/04
		Lhasa	8/04
ENGINEERS			
No. 3 Company Bengal S & M	11/03	Gangtok	11/03
	to	Changu	2/04
Capt. S.H. Sheppard, D.S.O.	11/04	Champethang	4/04
Lt. E.F.J. Hill		Gyantse	5/04
Lt. A.D. Walker		(Half Company)	
Lt. C.H. Haswell		Lhasa Column	7/04
Lt. G.F.B. Gough		Lhasa	8/04
Lt. B.W. Mainprise			
No. 4(12) Company Madras S & M	3/03	Rangpo	3/03
	to	Singtam	4/03
Maj. C.H. Heycock	10/04	Tokul	4/03
Lt. J.A. Garstin		Rorathang	10/03
Lt. E.K. Molesworth		Pakyong	11/03
		Gangtok	11/03
		(Half Company)	

Lt. H. Lewis
Lt. C.F. Bernys

Natu La Rd. 2/04
Rangpo 11/03
(Half Company)
Gnathong 11/03
Langram 12/03
Chumbi 1/04
Tuna 1/04
Gyantse 4/04

Engineer Field Park 11/03
11/04

Chumbi 12/03

INFANTRY — MAXIM GUNS

Maxim Guns Section 11/03
(Norfolk Regiment) to
11/04

Lt. L.A. Hadow

Rangpo 11/03
Gnathong 12/03
Chumbi 12/03
Tuna 1/04
Gyantse 4/04
Lhasa Column 7/04
Lhasa 8/04

Maxim Guns Section 6/04
(Royal Irish Rifles) to
11/04

Lt. J.C. Bowen Colthurst

Gynatse 6/04
Lhasa Column 7/04
Lhasa 8/04

Maxim Guns Section 7/04
(9th Gurkha Rifles) to
10/04

Lt. H.F. Collingridge

Chumbi 7/04

MOUNTED INFANTRY

No. 1 Company M.I. 12/03
to
Capt. W.J. Ottley 10/04
Lt. F.M. Bailey

Lingmothang 12/03
Chumbi-Tuna
L of C 1/04
Gyantse 4/04
Lhasa Column 7/04
Lhasa 8/04

No. 2 Company M.I. 2/04
to
Capt. C.H. Peterson 10/04
Capt. H.M. W. Souter

Siliguri 2/04
Lingmothang 3/04
Tuna-Gyantse L of C 4/04
Gyantse-Lhasa L of C 7/04

No. 3 Company M.I.	3/04	Lingmothang	3/04
	to	Tuna-Gyantse L of C	6/04
Capt. A.T. Rowlandson	10/04		
Lt. F. Skipwirth			
Depot	3/04	Lingmothang	3/04
	to		
Capt. R. Ducat	10/04		

INFANTRY

Royal Fusiliers	6/04	Chumbi	6/04
	to	Gyantse	6/04
Lt. Col. E.J. Cooper, D.S.O.	10/04	Lhasa Column	7/04
Commanding Officer		Lhasa	8/04
Maj. S. Menzies			
Capt. S.F. Legge			
Capt. R.V. Johnson			
Capt. C.A.H. Palairet			
Capt. J.L. Fisher			
Lt. A.C.S. Chichester			
Lt. W.A.B. Daniell			
Lt. T. deB. Carey			
Lt. W.A.C. Bowden-Smith			
2/Lt. M.I. Wywill			
Hony. Lt. W. Carter			
Capt. E.P. Connolly			
Medical Officer			
3rd Brahmins	11/05	Chumbi	11/05
(Wing)	to	(Detachments at	
	10/06	Gangtok, Phari Jong	
		and Gyantse)	
Maj. P.B. Warren			
Lt. K.E. Kirkpatrick			
Lt. W.L. Hogg			
Lt. C.R.S. Bradley			
Lt. J.W. Pickthal			
Capt. H.R. Dutton			
Medical Officer			
8th Gurkha Rifles	12/03	Gangtok	12/03
	to	Gnathong	12/03
Lt. Col. M.A. Kerr	10/04	Chumbi	12/03
Commanding Officer		Phari Jong	1/04

Maj. G.R. Row		(One Double Company	
Maj. F. Murray		at each of these	
Capt. L.H. Baldwin		stations. Gangtok and	
Capt. G.L.S. Ward		Gnathong Companies	
Capt. D.W.H. Humphreys		to Chumbi)	3/04
Capt. C. Bliss			
Lt. J.D. Grant		Gyantse	4/04
Lt. L.G. Hart		(One Double Company	
Lt. L.A. Bethell		remained there and	
Lt. J.F.S.D. Coleridge		and the other returned	
Lt. E.H. Lynch		to Chumbi but came	
Lt. D. H.R. Giffard		back with the Force	
Lt. G.D. Franklin		in 6/04)	
Medical Officer		Lhasa Column	7/04
		Lhasa	8/04
10th Jats	Before	Gangtok	Before
(Two Companies)	3/03		3/03
	to		
Maj. E.G. Wright	12/03		
Lt. I.C.C. Clarke			
19th Punjabis	7/04	Chumbi (Detachements	7/04
	to	at posts on Chumbi-	
Lt. Col. A.H. Wilmer	10/04	Tuna-Gyantse L of C)	
Commanding Officer			
Maj. L.N. Herbert			
Capt. G.R.D. Churchill			
Lt. F.T. Duhan			
Lt. H.C.D. Jarret			
Lt. E.C. Barnes			
Lt. G.N. Thompson			
Lt. D.B. Ross			
Lt. A.F. Pilkington			
Medical Officer			
<i>Attached</i>			
Capt. S.H. Climo, D.S.O.			
Capt. E. Kirkpatrick			
Capt. S.K.B. Rice			
Lt. R.F. Finalay			
Lt. W.F.B. Edwards			
23rd Sikh Pioneers	10/03	Rangpo	10/03
	to	Gnathong	11/03
Lt. Col. A.F. Hogge	9/04	Langram	12/03
Commanding Officer			

Maj. R.C. Lye	Rinchingong	1/04
Maj. A. Wallace-Dunlop	Dotha	1/04
Capt. H.F. Pearson	Phari Jong	1/04
Capt. G.H.F. Kelly	Tuna	1/04
Capt. W.J. Ottley	Kala Tso	4/04
Lt. G.H. Sawyer	Kangma	4/04
Lt. R. Nicolas	(Always remained	
Lt. B.C.H. Drew	dispersed at	
Lt. A.G.C. Hutchinson	several stations)	
2/Lt. B. Turnbull		
Lt. E.L. Croslegh		
Capt. R.F. Baird		
Medical Officer		

Attachcd

Lt. N.V.L. Rybot
 Lt. C.E. Hunt
 2/Lt. A.F. Maclean

32nd Sikh Pioneers	3/03	Rangpo	3/03
	to	Singtam	4/03
	11/04	Tangu	6/03
Lt. Col. H.R. Brander		Khamba Jong	7/03
Commanding Officer		Gangtok	9/03
Maj. F.H. Peterson		Lamteng	12/03
Capt. J.B. Bell		Lachung	12/03
Capt. H. Bethune		Nayima	12/03
Capt. H.F. Cooke		Chumbi	1/04
Capt. E.H.S. Cullen		Phari Jong	1/04
Lt. G.C. Hodgson		Gautsa	1/04
Lt. G.P. Gurdon		Jelap La Road	2/04
Lt. F.M. Bailey		Dotha	3/04
Lt. H.S. Mitchell		Natu La Road	3/04
Lt. D.C. Home		Champethang	4/04
Maj. S.B. Smith		Gyantse	4/04
Medical Officer		Lhasa Column	7/04
Capt. W.H. Leonard		Lhasa	8/04
Medical Officer		(Always remained	
Lt. F.H. Murray		dispersed at several	
Medical Officer		locations)	
Lt. F.P. Mackie			
Medical Officer			

Attached

Lt. E. Marsden
 Lt. St. G.H. Harvey Kelly
 Lt. L. G. Hart
 Lt. A.E.S. Fennel

40th Pathans	6/04	Chumbi	6/04
	to	Gyantse	6/04
Lt. Col. F. Campbell, D.S.O.	11/05	Lhasa Column	7/04
Officer Commanding		(Three Companies	
Lt. Col. N.A.K. Burne		stayed back at	
Capt. T.R. Maclachlan		Gyantse)	
Capt. A.G. Stuart		Lhasa	8/04
Lt. W.G.T. Currie		(One Wing remained	
Lt. F.H. Moody		behind at Chumbi,	
Lt. C.L. Dunn		Gangtok, Phari Jong	
Medical Officer		and Gyantse when	
Capt. W.H. Ogilvie		HQ left for India in	
Medical Officer		10/04)	

Attached

Lt. J.F.C. Dalmahoy
Lt. D.W. Macpherson

62nd Punjabis	10/06	Chumbi	10/06
(Wing)	to	(Detachments at	
	1/08	Gangtok, Phari Jong	
		and Gyantse)	
Maj. J.W. Drever			
Lt. W. Walker			
Lt. M.H.L. Morgen			
<i>Lt. C..J.E. Auchinleck</i>			
(Field Marshall of World War II)			
Lt. R.B. Langrishe			
Lt. F.H. Stewart			
Medical Officer			
Lt. E.J.C. McDonald			
Medical Officer			

MEDICAL

Medical Officers with Staff and Regiments are listed above

D Section—21 British Field Hospital

	11/03	Pakyong	11/03
	to	Gnathong	11/03
Capt. C.W. Mainprise	10/04	Chumbi	12/03
		(With the Force	
		to Tuna and back	
		1/04 and Gyantse	
		and back 4/04)	
		Gyantse	6/04
		Lhasa Column	7/04
		Lhasa	8/04

A Section—22 British Field Hospital

Capt. T.H. Stevenson	6/04	Chumbi	6/04
	to	Gyantse	6/04
	10/04	Lhasa Column	7/04
		Lhasa	8/04

D Section—42 Native Field Hospital

Capt. W.B. Turnbull	7/04	Rangpo	7/04
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C Section—56 Native Field Hospital

Lt. R.D. Saigol	12/03	Siliguri	12/03
	to	Rangpo	
	11/04	Phari Jong	3/04

D Section—57 Native Field Hospital

	6/04	Siliguri	6/04
	to		
	11/04		

A, B, C and D Sections—71 Native Field Hospital

Maj. C.N.C. Wimberley
 Capt. T.B. Kelly
 Lt. J. O'Leary
 Lt. R.E. Lloyd

11/03	A-71	
to	Pakyong	11/03
11/04	Chumbi	12/03
	Gyantse	4/04
	Lhasa Column	7/04
	Lhasa	8/04

	B-71	
	Pakyong	11/03
	Chumbi	12/03
	Phari Jong	1/04
	Gyantse	6/04
	Lhasa Column	7/04
	Lhasa	8/04

	C-71	
	Pakyong	11/03
	Gnathong	12/03
	Chumbi	5/04
	Gyantse	6/04

	D-71	
	Pakyong	11/03
	Gangtok	11/03

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B, C, and D Sections—76 Native Field Hospital	2/04 to 11/04	B-76 Gnathong Chumbi	3/04 5/04
Maj. A.R. Aldridge	(B-76	C-76	
Capt. H.R. Dutton	remained at	Chumbi	3/04
Capt. H.W. Illius	Chumbi till 1/08)	Gyantse	6/04
		Lhasa Column	7/04
		Lhasa	8/04
		D-76	
		Siliguri	2/04
		Changu	6/04
Base Hospital			
(D-76 replaced by D-57)	3/04	Siliguri	6/04
	to		
Lt. J.B. Nesfield	7/04		
No 1 Native General Hospital	6/04	Gangtok	6/04
	to		
Maj. A.W. Dawson	11/04		
To 2 Native General Hospital	7/04	Siliguri	7/04
	to		
Capt. C.F. Weinman	11/04		
Field Medical Stores	3/04	Siliguri	3/04
	to		
	11/04		

The following Medical Officers are shown in the Army Lists to be with "Sikkim-Tibet Mission" but their unit affiliations are not stated:—

Capt. J.M. Davidson
 Capt. A.W. Cook-Young
 Lt. G.I. Davys
 Lt. R. Steen

VETERINARY

No 2 Field Veterinary Hospital	12/03	Siliguri	12/03
	to	(Sections at various	
Capt. R.C. Moore	11/04	stations on the	
Capt. A.J. Williams		L of C)	
Lt. A. Gamble			
Lt. J.J. Atkins			
Lt. W.A. Jelbart			

SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT

SUPPLY

Base Supply Depot	12/03 to 11/04	Siliguri	12/03
Advance Supply Depot	12/03 to 11/04	Rangpo	12/03
Advance Supply Depot	12/03 to 11/04	Gangtok	12/03
Advance Supply Depot	12/03 to 5/04	Lingtam	12/03
Advance Supply Depot	12/03 to 1/08	Lingmothang (Chumbi 11/04)	12/03
Advance Supply Depot	1/04 to 10/04	Phari Jong	1/04
Advance Supply Depot	4/04 to 10/04	Gyantse	4/04
Supply Detachment	7/04 to 9/04	Lhasa Column Lhasa	7/04 8/04
Capt. E.E. Preston Capt. C.A.E. O'Meara Capt. N.F.E. Wardell Capt. M. Syngé Capt. J.A.P. Manson Capt. H.E. Price Lt. A.W.B. Dunlop Lt. Vickers Lt. A.R.B. Shuttleworth			

TRANSPORT

No 6 Mule Corps	2/04 to 11/04	L of C Sikkim-Tibet Lhasa Column Lhasa	2/04 7/04 8/04
Capt. O. St. J. Skeen			

No 7 Mule Corps	12/03	L of C	
	to	Sikkim-Tibet	12/03
Lt. W.L.S. Meiklejohn	11/04	Lhasa Column	7/04
		Lhasa	8/04
No 9 Mule Corps	12/03	L of C	
	to	Sikkim-Tibet	12/03
Capt. A. P. D.C. Stuart	11/04	Lhasa Column	7/04
		Lhasa	8/04
No 10 Mule Corps	1/04	L of C	
	to	Sikkim-Tibet	1/04
Capt. F.T.T. Moore	11/04	Lhasa Column	7/04
		Lhasa	8/04
No 11 Mule Corps	1/04	L of C Sikkim	1/04
	to		
Capt. A.R. Saunders	11/04		
No 12 Mule Corps	12/03	L of C	
	to	Sikkim-Tibet	12/03
Capt. C.H.G. Moore	11/04	Lhasa Column	7/04
		Lhasa	8/04
No 13 Mule Corps	7/04	L of C	
	to	Natu La Road	7/04
Lt. A.S. Noake	11/04		
No 15 Mule Corps	7/04	L of C	
	to	Natu La Road	7/04
Capt. N.D. Cox	11/04		
No 24 Mule Corps	1/04	L of C	
	to	Sikkim	1/04
	4/04		
Composite Mule Corps	About	L of C Tibet	4/04
	4/04	Lhasa Column	7/04
	to		
	11/04		
Donkey Corps	About	L of C Tibet	4/04
	4/04	Lhasa Column	7/04
Capt. Pollock Morris	to		
	11/04		

Kashmir Pony Corps	6/03 to 11/04	Rangpo Khamba Jong L of C Sikkim-Tibet L of C Lhasa Column	6/03 12/03 7/04
Tibet Pony Corps	4/04 to 11/04	Tibet L of C Lhasa Column	4/04 7/04
No. 1 Yak Corps }	4/04	L of C	4/04
No. 2 Yak Corps }	to 10/04	Kala Tso to Gyantse Lhasa Column	
No. 3 Yak Corps }		Lhasa	7/04 8/04
No. 4 Yak Corps }			
<p>Capt. A.B. Tillard Lt. K. Wigram Lt. W.L.O. Twiss</p>			
No. 1 Pack Bullock Corps }	5/04	L of C	5/04
No. 2 Pack Bullock Corps }	to 11/04	Gangtok to Chumbi	
No. 3 Pack Bullock Corps }			
No. 4 Pack Bullock Corps }			
No. 5 Pack Bullock Corps }			
No. 1 Ekka Corps }	3/04	L of C	3/04
No. 2 Ekka Corps }	to 10/04	Phari Jong to Kala Tso	
No. 3 Ekka Corps }			
No. 4 Ekka Corps }			
No. 1 Bullock Cart Train }	1/04	L of C	1/04
No. 2 Bullock Cart Train }	to 11/04	Siliguri to Gangtok	
No. 3 Bullock Cart Train }			

Bharatpur (Imperial Service)	9/04	Bengal-Sikkim	9/04
Transport Train	to	L of C	
	11/04		
No. 1 Coolie Corps	12/03	Sikkim-Tibet	12/03
	to	L of C	
Lt. A.F.S. Hill	11/04		
No. 2 Coolie Corps	12/03	Sikkim-Tibet	12/03
	to	L of C	
Lt. L.N. Malan	11/04	Lhasa Column	7/04
		Lhasa	8/04

The following Officers who are shown in the Army Lists with the "Sikkim-Tibet Mission" but whose units in Sikkim-Tibet are not mentioned, probably served with Transport:

Capt. J. Muscroft
 Capt. E.P.P. Boileau
 Capt. F.G.C. Ross
 Capt. D.R. Lawson
 Capt. H.L. Anderson
 Capt. D.N. Drake Brockman
 Lt. R.T. Arundell

ORDNANCE

Base Ordnance Depot	12/03 to 11/04	Siliguri	12/03
Advance Ordnance Depot	6/04 to 10/04	Chumbi	6/04

SURVEY DEPARTMENT

Survey Detachment	6/03	With the Tibet	
	to	Frontier Commission	
Capt. C.H.D. Ryder	11/04	(Tibet Mission)	
Capt. H. Wood			
Lt. H. McCowie			
Capt. C.G. Rawling			

TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT

Tibet Frontier Commission	6/03	Teesta Bridge	6/03
Detachment	to	to	
	12/03	Khamba Jong	
Mr. MacMahon			

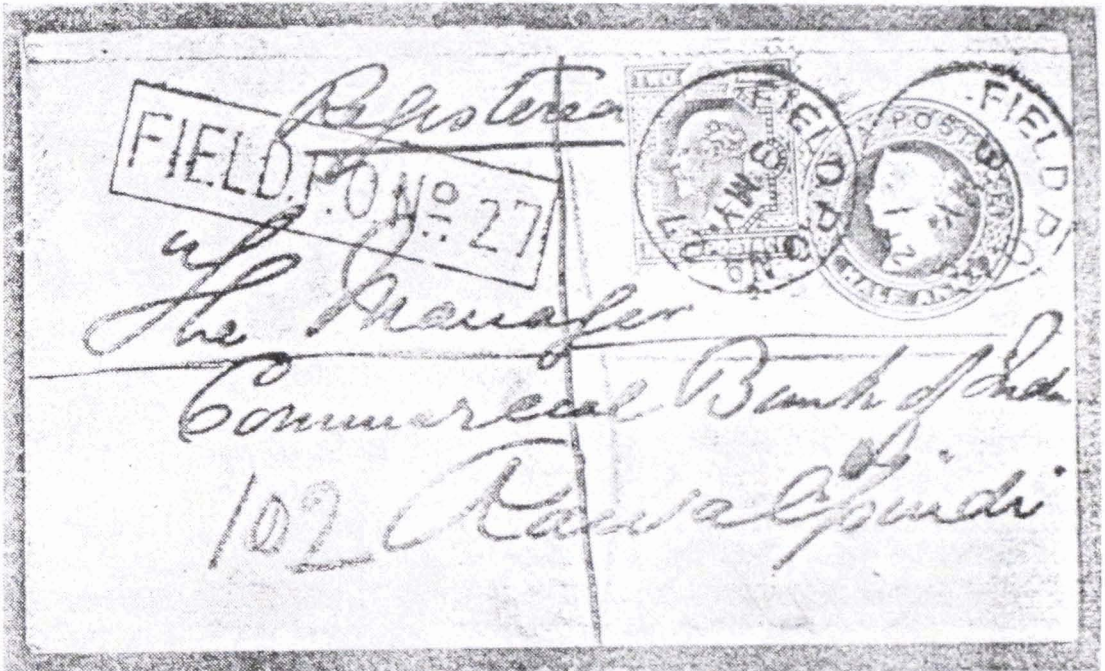
Sikkim Tibet Mission Field Division	12/03 to 11/04	Siliguri to Gyantse	12/03
Mr. M.L. Trunigar			
Mr. St. G. Rigby			
Mr. M.N. Crawford			
Mr. J.P. O'Brien			
Telegraph Offices	<i>At</i>	<i>Open</i>	<i>Closed</i>
Field Telegraph Office	Sevok	2.12.03	31.5.04
Combined P & T Office	Riang	1.12.03	11.1.04
Field Telegraph Office	Riang	12.1.04	19.11.04
Combined P & T Office	Teesta Bridge	11.6.03	11.1.04
Field Telegraph Office	Teesta Bridge	12.1.04	23.11.04
Combined P & T Office	Rangpo	21.6.03	30.11.03
Field Telegraph Office	Rangpo	1.12.03	Open in 1904
Field Telegraph Office	Sankakhola	7.03	About 9/03
Combined P & T Office	Gangtok	Before 3/03	24.2.04
Field Telegraph Office	Gangtok	25.2.04	Open in 1905
Combined P&T Office	Nayima	8.03	31.1.04
Field Telegraph Office	Nayima	1.2.04	15.6.04
Combined P & T Office	Tangu	9.03	22.12.03
Field Telegraph Office	Khamba Jong	13.9.03	11.12.03
Field Telegraph Office	Lamteng	19.12.03	31.12.03
Combined P & T Office	Lamteng	1.1.04	27.1.04
Field Telegraph Office	Lamteng	13.6.04	24.9.04
Combined P & T Office	Gnatong	18.11.03	30.11.03
Field Telegraph Office	Gnatong	1.12.03	25.10.04
Field Telegraph Office	Lingtam	4.12.03	27.10.04
Combined P & T Office	Pakyong	15.11.03	16.1.04
Field Telegraph Office	Langram	18.12.03	4.7.04
Field Telegraph Office	Rinchingong	14.12.03	15.12.03
		10.1.04	22.1.04
Field Telegraph Office	Chumbi/Yatung	17.12.03	Open in 1908
Field Telegraph Office	Gautsa	18.1.04	23.10.04
Field Telegraph Office	Phari Jong	27.1.04	Open in 1908
Field Telegraph Office	Roranang [Karponang]	16.3.04	13.11.04
Field Telegraph Office	Changu	4.3.04	Open in 1905
Field Telegraph Office	Champethang	4.3.04	13.11.04
Field Telegraph Office	Tuna	27.3.04	16.10.04
Field Telegraph Office	Guru	3.4.04	3.4.04
Field Telegraph Office	Chalu	5.4.04	28.4.04
Field Telegraph Office	Kala Tso	29.4.04	14.10.04

Field Telegraph Office	Kangma	10.5.04	12.10.04
Field Telegraph Office	Gyantse	27.6.04	Open in 1908
Field Telegraph Office	Phema	4.7.04	13.11.04
Field Telegraph Office	Saotang	13.8.04	11.10.04

POST OFFICE

See Appendices B and C

SIKKIM



FIELD P.O. No. 27 3 MY 04
(Rangpo)

(Courtesy Dr. Soli Contractor)

Appendix B

Sikkim-Tibet Operations 1903-1908

LIST OF POST OFFICES

<i>No.</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Dates</i>		<i>Location</i>
		<i>Opened</i>	<i>Closed</i>	
CIVIL POST OFFICES				
1.	Gangtok Sub Office	Before 1903	Open	Gangtok
2.	Rhenock Branch Office	Before 1903	Open	Rhenock
3.	Teesta Bridge Branch Office (Sub Office by 1.10.03)	Before 1903	Open	Teesta Bridge
4.	Temporary P.O. D Sub Office	25.3.03	About .1.04	32nd Pioneers Camp (Rangpo 25.3.03 Singtam 3.4.03)
5.	Experimental P.O. C-46 Branch Office	2.5.03	About 30.9.03	Rangpo
6.	Tokul Sub Office	About .5.03	About .1.04	No. 4 Field Company Camp (Tokul)
7.	Temporary P.O. B Sub Office	About 30.6.03	22.12.03	Tangu
8.	Khamba Jong, Tibet Sub Office	About .8.03	11.12.03	Khamba Jong
9.	Nayima Sub Office	About .8.03	31.1.04	Nayima
10.	Rangpo Sub Office	About 1.10.03	Open	Rangpo
11.	Pakyong Branch Office	Before 1903	About 1.5.03	Pakyong
		About 1.10.03	Open	Pakyong
12.	Temporary P.O. I Sub Office	.11.03	1.04	Lingtam
13.	Temporary P.O. K Sub Office (Adopted place-name designation .2.04)	19.11.03	Open	Gnathong
14.	Riang Sub Office	1.12.03	11.1.04	Riang
15.	Temporary P.O. (?) or Lamteng Sub Office	1.1.04	29.1.04	Lamteng

16. Temporary P.O. Y Sub Office	About 1.4.05	About .2.06	Gyantse
17. Gyantse, Tibet Sub Office	About .2.06	Open	Gyantse

FIELD POST OFFICES

1. F.P.O. No. 24	4.1.04 8.1.04 16.5.04	7.1.04 26.4.04 10.10.04	Chumbi to Tuna Tuna Gyantse
2. F.P.O. No. 25	10.12.03 16.12.03 19.1.04 1.3.04 17.3.04 11.4.04 29.4.04	11.12.03 15.1.04 .2.04 16.3.04 25.3.04 28.4.04 14.10.04	Gnathong Chumbi Gautsa Dotha Gautsa Chalu Kala Tso
3. F.P.O. No. 26	Between 31.1.04 and 15.2.04 (Renamed F.P.O No 26 (Chumbi) about July 1905 and replaced by F.P.O No 70 in January 1907)	.1.07	Chumbi
4. F.P.O. No. 27	11.1.04	11.11.04	Rangpo
5. F.P.O. No. 28	About .1.04 30.7.04 (May have functioned at July 1904)	About .6.04 21.11.04	Sevoke Sevoke Ghum during
6. F.P.O. No. 29	About .1.04 (Presumably equipment received at Kala Tso on 16th July 1904. No record of further use.)	About .5.04	Lingtam/ Sedongchon
7. F.P.O. No. 30	About .2.04 .6.04	About .5.04 25.10.04	Kapup Phema
8. F.P.O. No. 31	27.4.04	16.10.04	Tuna

9. F.P.O. No. 32 About
 15.5.04 7.7.04 Kangma
 9.7.04 10.10.04 Gyantse
 (Detachment left with Lhasa Column on 17.7.04 and functioned en route and at Lhasa from 3.8.04 to 22.9.04. At Lhasa it used two Date Stamps, one inscribed "LAHASSA" and the other inscribed "LHASSA" During transit the Detachment used the F.P.O No 32 Date Stamp.)
10. F.P.O. No. 33 About
 .5.04 27.10.04 Changu
11. F.P.O. No. 34 About
 .5.04 26.10.04 Champethang
12. F.P.O. No. 70 (Chumbi) About
 .1.07 Open Chumbi
 (Yatung)
 (Became a civil post office in January 1908)
13. F.P.O. No. 81 3.1.04 19.10.04 Phari Jong
 26.10.04 Open Phari Jong
 (Renamed F.P.O No 81 (Phari Jong) about July 1905 and became a civil post office in January 1908)
14. F.P.O. No. 82 16.1.04 14.2.04 Chumbi
 18.2.04 25.3.04 Lingmothong
 26.3.04 20.10.04 Gautsa
15. F.P.O. No. 83 About
 19.1.04 1.2.04 Langram
 About About
 1.2.04 .4.04 Rinchingong
 About
 .4.04 21.10.04 Lingmothong
16. F.P.O. No. 84 About
 .1.04 .5.04 L of C Camp
 below
 Lingtam
 (Riang,
 Tarkhola,
 Rorathang or
 Rongli)
 About
 .6.04 28.10.04 Karponang

17. F.P.O. No. 85	About .1.04	.5.04	L of C Camp below Lingtam (Riang, Tarkhola, Rorathang or Rongli) Dotha
	About .5.04	21.9.04	
18. F.P.O. No. 86	About .1.04	.5.04	L of C Camp below Lingtam (Riang, Tarkhola, Rorathang or Rongli)
	About .6.04	21.9.04	Lamteng
19. F.P.O. No. 87	About .1.04 .5.04	.5.04 14.11.04	Gnathong Gangtok
20. F.P.O. No. 88	21.7.04	12.10.04	Kangma
21. F.P.O. No. 89	}	Their equipment received at Kala Tso on 16th July 1904 for use in the Advance Division. Kept in reserve. No record of use.	
22. F.P.O. No. 90			
23. Base Office	About 10.12.03 1.1.04	29.12.03 Open	Teesta Bridge Siliguri
	(Became a civil post office in January 1908)		

Appendix C

Sikkim-Tibet Operations 1903-1908

ROLL OF POSTAL OFFICERS

Tibet Frontier Commission 1903	C.E. White	Inspector	23.6.03— 5.12.03
Tibet Mission and Escort 1903—1904 (Tibet Mission Force from June 1904)	H. Tulloch	Superintendent	14.12.03— 5.1.04
		Superintendent Advance Division	6.1.04— 30.6.04
		Offg. Supdt. Base Division Chief	4.3.04— 24.3.04
	A. Bean	Superintendent	1.7.04—29.11.04
		Superintendent Base Division	6.1.04— 3.3.04
	C.J. Dease	Superintendent Base Division	25.3.04— 30.4.04
		Superintendent Base Division	1.5.04—24.11.04
	C.J.H. Quilter	Supdt. Central Division	17.7.04— 9.11.04
		Supdt. Advance Division	1.7.04— 9.11.04
	H.E.C.C. Wintle	Asst. Supdt. Base Division	27.7.04—29.11.04
		Inspector	6.12.03— 30.4.04
	A. Angelo	Inspector	20.12.03— 30.6.04
	J.C.O'Loughlen	Inspector	.12.03— 12.8.04
	W.G. Reuther	Inspector	15.2.04— 16.7.04
	W.G. O'Sullivan Gillespie	Inspector	1.5.04— 4.11.04
Inspector		1.7.4— 14.11.04	
Sikkim-Tibet Division 1904-1908	H.E.C.C. Wintle	Asst. Supdt.	30.11.04—28.12.07
	W.G. O'Sullivan	Asst. Supdt.	29.12.07— 22.1.08

Appendix D

Indian Postage Rates, Postage Stamps and Stationery

1. Postage Rates and Fees—June 1903

INLAND POST.—POSTAGE RATES AND FEES.

(1) WHEN THE POSTAGE IS PREPAID.

POSTCARDS.		LETTERS.				BOOK AND PATTERN PACKETS.	REGISTERED NEWSPAPERS.		PARCELS. (PREPAYMENT COMPULSORY). N.B.—Parcels exceeding 440 tolas must be registered.					
									Not exceeding 440 tolas			Exceeding 440 tolas.		
Single.	Reply.	Not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ tola.	Exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ tola, but not exceeding $1\frac{1}{4}$ tolas.	Every additional $1\frac{1}{4}$ tolas or fraction thereof.	Every 10 tolas or fraction thereof.	Not exceeding 4 tolas.	Exceeding 4 tolas, but not exceeding 20 tolas.	Every additional 20 tolas or fraction thereof.	Not exceeding 20 tolas.	Exceeding 20 tolas, but not exceeding 40 tolas.	Every additional 40 tolas or fraction thereof.	Exceeding 440 tolas, but not exceeding 480 tolas.	Every additional 40 tolas or fraction thereof upto 2,000 tolas.	
anna. $\frac{1}{4}$	anna. $\frac{1}{2}$	anna. $\frac{1}{2}$	anna. 1	anna. 1	anna. $\frac{1}{2}$	anna. $\frac{1}{4}$	anna. $\frac{1}{2}$	anna. $\frac{1}{2}$	annas. 2	annas. 4	annas. 2	rupees. 3	annas. 4	

(2) WHEN THE POSTAGE IS NOT PREPAID, OR IS INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID. (CHARGEABLE ON DELIVERY.)

On an unpaid letter, postcard of private manufacture, or packet	double the prepaid rate.
.. insufficiently paid letter or packet	.. deficiency.
.. .. reply postcard of private manufacture	.. prepaid rate on the half for which the postage is not prepaid.

REGISTRATION FEE.

For each letter, postcard, book or pattern packet, or parcel to be registered 2 annas.

ORDINARY MONEY ORDER FEES.

On any sum not exceeding R5	1 anna.
.. exceeding R5, but not exceeding R10	2 annas.
.. .. R10, R15	3 ..
.. .. R15, R25	4 ..
.. .. R25 up to R600	4 annas for each complete sum of R25 and 4 annas for the remainder, provided that, if the remainder does not exceed R5, the charge for it shall be only 1 anna; if it does not exceed R10, the charge for it shall be only 2 annas; and if it does not exceed R15, the charge for it shall be only 3 annas.

TELEGRAPHIC MONEY ORDER FEES (INCLUDING COST OF TELEGRAM)

On any sum not exceeding R25	1 4 0
On every additional R25 (or fraction thereof) up to R150	0 4 0
" " R50 (or fraction thereof) above R150 and up to R600	0 8 0

INSURANCE FEES.

When the value insured is not more than R50	2 annas.
" " " " R100	4 "
For every additional R100	4 "

VALUE-PAYABLE FEES.

On any sum specified for recovery not exceeding R5	1 anna.
" " " " exceeding R5, but not exceeding R10	2 annas.
" " " " " R10 " " R15	3 "
" " " " " R15, " " R25	4 "
" " " " " R25 " "	4 annas for each complete sum of R25 and 4 annas for the remainder, provided that, if the remainder does not exceed R5, the charge for it shall be only 1 anna; if it does not exceed R10, the charge for it shall be only 2 annas; and if it does not exceed R15, the charge for it shall be only 3 annas.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT FEE.

For each article registered	1 anna.
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FOREIGN POST.—POSTAGE RATES AND FEES.

COUNTRIES AND PLACES.

[For the few countries and places to which postcards cannot be sent or registration is not available, or prepayment of postage is compulsory, see the Schedule of Foreign Postage Rates in Section III of the *Indian Postal Guide*.

	POSTCARDS.		LETTERS.		PRINTED PAPERS, INCLUDING BUSINESS PAPERS.		SAMPLES		PARCELS
	Single.	Reply.	Per ½ oz.	Per 2 oz.	Not exceeding 10 oz.	Per 2 oz. additional	Not exceeding 4 oz.	Per 2 oz. additional.	
The United Kingdom and all the British possession participating in the scheme of Imperial penny postage (see Schedule of Foreign Postage Rates in Section III of the <i>Indian Postal Guide</i>).	anna.	annas.	anna.	anna.	annas.	anna.	anna.	anna.	Postal parcels may be sent to the United Kingdom and most British possessions and also to most foreign countries and their possessions at the rates of postage and under the conditions shown in Section IV of the <i>Indian Postal Guide</i> .
	1	2	1	½	2½	½	1	½	
Any other part of the world served by the Foreign post, except Ceylon and Portuguese India.	1	2	2½	½	2½	½	1	½	

Ceylon and Portuguese India **Indian inland rates.**

REGISTRATION FEE...Two annas (in stamps) for each letter, postcard, or packet registered,

ACKNOWLEDGMENT FEE—One anna (in stamps) in the case of Ceylon and 2 annas (in stamps) in all other cases in addition to the registration fee, for each letter, postcard or packet registered.

MONEY ORDERS expressed in sterling may be drawn on the United Kingdom and most British possessions, and also on most Foreign Countries and their possessions at the following rates of commission:—

				R	a.					R	a.
On sums not exceeding £2				0	6	On sums exceeding £10 but not exceeding £12				1	14
.. exceeding £2 but not exceeding £5				0	12 £12 £15				2	4
.. .. £5 £7				1	2 £15 £17				2	10
.. .. £7 £10				1	8 £17 £20				3	0

The value of a single money order drawn on the United Kingdom may not exceed £10.

Money orders expressed in Indian currency may be drawn—at inland rates and under inland rules on the Indian Native States, the British possessions and the Foreign Countries and possessions named in the *Indian Postal Guide*.

TELEGRAPHIC MONEY ORDERS expressed in Indian currency may also be drawn on Ceylon. Limit of value is R150. The rates of commission are 4 annas higher in each case than the rates applicable to inland telegraphic money orders, except as regards sums not exceeding R10 on which the commission is R1-6 annas.

BRITISH POSTAL ORDERS of the following denominations are sold at post offices for their denominated value (at R15 to the £) plus a small commission as shown below:—

	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.										
Value of order.	1	0	1	6	2	0	2	6	3	0	3	6	4	0	4	6	5	0	7	6	10	0	10	6	15	0	20	0
Commission		1a.		1a.		2a.		2a.		2a.		2a.		2a.		2a.		2a.		2a.		2a.		2a.		3a.		3a.

These orders are payable in the United Kingdom and at the British post offices at Constantinople, Salonica, and Smyrna, and at the British Post Office Agency at Panama.

INSURANCE is available for both parcels and registered letters addressed to the United Kingdom and a number of other countries and colonies at the following rates:—

- (1) In the United Kingdom and all other countries and places to which Insurance is available, with the exception of those named below: 6 annas for every £5 or fraction thereof of insured value.
- (2) For Ceylon 4 R100
- (3) (For parcels only) To British East Africa, Mauritius, British Post office, Zanzibar. 8 R100

2. Countries participating in the scheme of Imperial Penny Postage in 1903

United Kingdom	Malta
Ascension	Mauritius
Barbados	Natal
Bahamas	Newfoundland
Bermuda	New Zeland including its Pacific Ocean islands
British Central Africa Protectorate	Nigeria (Northern)
British East Africa Protectorate	Nigeria (Southern)
British Guiana	Orange River Colony
British Honduras	Protected Malay States of Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak and Selangor
British North Borneo	
Canada	Sarawak
Cape Colony	St. Helena
Cayman Islands	Seychelles
Cyprus	Sierra Leone
Falkland Islands	Straits Settlements
Fiji	Tobago
Gambia	Transvaal
Gibraltar	Trinidad
Gold Coast Colony	Turk's Islands
Hong Kong (with Agencies in China)	Uganda
Jamaica	Windward Islands Grenada, the Grenadines, St. Lucia and St. Vincent
Johore	
Labuan	Zanzibar
Lagos	
Leeward Islands Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts and Virgin Islands	Note : British Somaliland Protectorate and Australia joined the scheme by 1905

3. Changes in Postal Rates 1903-1908

(a) Letters

1905 — Initial unit of weight increased from 1/2 tola to 3/4 tola.

1907 — Initial unit of weight increased to 1 tola. Exceeding 1 tola but not exceeding 10 tolas — 1 anna. Every additional 10 tolas — 1 anna.
(1 tola = .4114 ounce)

(b) Registered Newspapers

1903 — Initial weight increased from 4 tolas to 6 tolas.

(c) *Parcels*

1907 — Every 40 tolas (upto 440 tolas)	—	2 annas
441 tolas to 480 tolas	—	3 rupees
Every additional 40 tolas or fraction	—	4 annas

(d) *Insurance Fee*

1905 — For every Rs 50/- of insured value	—	1 anna
---	---	--------

4. The following postage stamps, envelopes, postcards and wrappers for newspapers and packets were sold at post offices:

(a) *Postage Stamps*

Postage stamps of 3 pies, 1/2 anna, 1 anna, 2 annas, 2 1/2 annas, 3 annas, 4 annas, 6 annas, 8 annas, 12 annas, 1 rupee, 2 rupees, 3 rupees and 5 rupees values. 1 anna Revenue or Receipt stamp. From 1906 1/2 anna and 1 anna Indian Postage and Revenue stamps. Though only King Edward VII stamps were normally sold, all values of Queen Victoria stamps remained valid.

(b) *Embossed Envelopes*

1/2 anna oblong	(4 3/4 x 2 3/4 inches)
1/2 anna square	(4 3/4 x 3 3/4 inches)
1 anna oblong	(5 3/4 x 3 1/4 inches)
1 anna square	(4 3/4 x 3 3/4 inches)
2 1/2 annas oblong	(5 3/4 x 3 1/4 inches)
2 annas Registration small	(5 1/4 x 3 1/4 inches)
2 annas Registration large	(10 x 4 1/4 inches)

Note: 9 pies surcharged to 1 anna soldiers' and seamen's envelopes were not sold at post offices but by military authorities.

(c) *Postcards*

Inland

1/4 anna, single	(4 3/4 x 3 inches)
2 x 1/4 anna, reply	

International

1 anna, single	(4 3/4 x 3 1/2 inches)
2 x 1 anna, reply	

(d) *Wrappers for newspapers and packets*

1/2 anna and 1 anna stamps

Appendix E

Stamps and Seals

1. List and Official Illustrations of Stamps and Seals Commonly used by Indian Post Offices—1903

(i) *Head and Sub Offices*

No. 1	Name Stamp	Impressed on postal documents, usually in the place provided for that purpose. No. 1 was supplied to all Head/Sub Offices except those which had No. 2. No. 2 was provided to little-known or similarly-named offices to facilitate identification and sorting.
No. 2	Name Stamp with name of District	
No. 3	Combined Date Stamp and Obliterator	Impressed to deface adhesive postage stamps. No. 3 was supplied to all Head and Sub Offices except those which had No. 4. No. 4 was provided when ordered by the Postmaster-General.
No. 4	Combined Date Stamp and Obliterator with hour type	
No. 5	Date Stamp	Impressed on the face of postcards and the back of covers to indicate—
No. 6	Date Stamp with hour type	(a) Office and date of posting of postcards and unpaid covers
No. 7	Date Stamp with name of District	(b) Office and date of delivery (c) Dates of receipt/redirection No. 5 issued as a general rule. No. 7 to little-known offices and No. 6 when ordered by the P.M.G.
No. 8	Delivery Stamp with hour type for a Head Office	Impressed on the back of covers (and the face of postcards) to indicate office, date and time of delivery. Issued to Head Offices which had two or more deliveries daily and to Sub Offices when ordered by the P.M.G.
No. 9	Delivery Stamp for a Sub-Office	
No. 10	Registration Stamp	Impressed on the face of all registered articles. Supplied to all Head and Sub Offices.
No. 11	Parcel Name Stamp	Rubber Stamp impressed in magenta ink on Parcel and Value Payable Number Slips. Issued to all Head and Sub Offices.

No. 12	Postage Due Stamp One Anna	Impressed on the face of unpaid or insufficiently paid postal articles. No 13 used if the amount to be recovered was more or less than one anna. Issued to all Head and Sub Offices.
No. 13	Postage Due Stamp with blank space	
No. 14	Postmaster's Unpaid Stamp	Impressed in green ink by the Postmaster of the office of delivery on the back of unpaid or insufficiently paid postal articles. Issued to all Head and Sub Offices.
No. 15	TOO LATE Stamp	Impressed on covers posted after the mail for the day has been despatched. Supplied to Head and Sub Offices not issued with hand-stamps with hour types.
No. 16	Money Order Name Stamp for Head Office	Rubber stamps impressed in magenta ink on money orders. Issued to all Head and Sub Offices as appropriate.
No. 17	Money Order Name Stamp for Sub Office	
No. 18	Money Order (Date) Stamp for Head Office	
No. 19	Money Order (Date) Stamp for Sub Office	
No. 20	Date Seal for Head Office	Impressed on wax for sealing of postal bags, packets and envelopes. Issued to all Head and Sub Offices as appropriate.
No. 21	Date Seal for Sub Office	

(ii) *Branch Post Offices*

- No. 22 Obliterator
- No. 23 Name Stamp
- No. 24 Date Stamp
- No. 25 Seal

(iii) *Experimental Post Offices*

- No. 26 Obliterator
- No. 27 Date Stamp
- No. 28 Seal

(iv) Official specimens of the postmarks of stamps and seals No. 1 to 28

RADHAPURAM

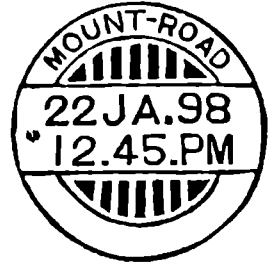
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**SIKANDRA
ALLAHABAD DISTRICT**

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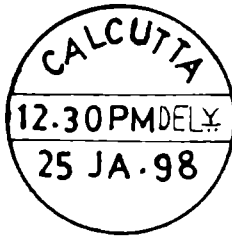
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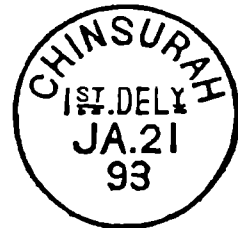
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TOO LATE

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22 & 26



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28

2. Stamps and Seals used by Temporary Post Offices

The same stamps and seals as were issued to a Sub Office. For some specimens of postmarks recorded in Sikkim-Tibet in 1903-1908, see Part 2 of this book.

3. Stamps and Seals used by Army Post Offices

- (a) *Base Post Offices*: The same stamps and seals as were issued to Head Offices except those relating to functions, such as money order payments, which were not performed at Base Post Offices. An additional "Postage Cancelled" stamp was supplied. Normally the following were issued: (i) Name Stamp, (ii) Parcel Name Stamp (rubber), (iii) Combined Stamp, (iv) Date Stamp, (v) Delivery Date Stamp, (vi) Registration Stamp, (vii) Dated Registration Stamp, (viii) Dated Parcel Stamp (rubber), (ix) Insurance Stamp, (x) Money Order Date Stamp (rubber), (xi) Money Order Name Stamp (rubber) (xii) Paid Month Stamp, (xiii) Cash Paid Stamp, (xiv) Deposit Stamp, (xv) Postage Due Stamp, (xvi) Date Seal, (xvii) Registration Seal, (xviii) Parcel Seal, (xix) Insurance Seal, (xx) Sub Account Seal, (xxi) Circle Stamp, (xxii) Cash Seal, (xxiii) Postage Cancelled Stamp. For some specimens of postmarks recorded in the Sikkim-Tibet operations of 1903-1908, see Part 2 of this book.
- (b) *Field Post Offices*: Field Post Offices were issued (i) Name Stamp, (ii) Date Stamp, (iii) Combined Date Stamp and Obliterator, (iv) Money Order (Date) Stamp and (v) Date Seal. For some specimens of postmarks recorded in the Sikkim-Tibet operations of 1903-1908, see Part II of this book.

4. Notes on Recorded Covers

- (i) *Registration Stamp*: The registration process required the impressing of Registration Stamp on the face of a registered article at the office of posting. In the recorded covers, there are very few examples of the use of Registration Stamp during the period of the Tibet operations. In most examples, the Name Stamp was used in lieu of the Registration Stamp. F.P.O. No. 26 was using the Name Stamp on registered letters as late as December 1906. My inference is that during the operations the Registration Stamp was only supplied to a few important F.P.O.s.
- (ii) *Use of Violet Ink*: With a few exceptions, the handstamps were made of steel and were used with black ink. The exceptions were the Parcel Name Stamp, Money Order Name and Date Stamps and Postage Cancelled Stamp, which were made of Indian rubber. These and other rubber stamps were used with magenta (violet) ink. Hence the use of violet ink with Postage Cancelled Stamp (Waterfall's No. 49) was legitimate postal use. The use of violet ink (the phials

of which were supplied as normal post office stores) with the obliterator of F.P.O. No. 24 (Waterfall's No. 17) and with date stamp of Base Office (Waterfall's No. 10, and Lahassa (Waterfall's No. 37) was postally irregular and purely philatelic.

- (iii) *Transposition of Date, Month and Year Types:* Waterfall mentions a number of recorded postmarks in which date, month and year types were transposed or in which the date type was used in place of the year type. The explanation is simple—human error. The work of inserting separate slugs (for date, month and year) in the slit provided in the handstamp was done by the lowly office peon and he sometimes inserted the slugs in the wrong order and the postmaster failed to check. The new year types were only supplied towards the end of the preceding year. Apparently the year type for the year 1904 (04) for the date stamp was lost in F.P.O. No. 24, and the date type of 4 was used instead.

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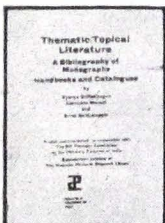
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-do-	—	<i>Annual Reports of the Post Office Department</i>	—	1903 to 1908
-do-	—	<i>Circulars of the Director-General of the Post Office</i>	—	1903 to 1908
Superintendent Postal Workshop Aligarh,	—	<i>Catalogue and Price List of Articles Manufactured in the Postal Workshop, Aligarh</i>	—	1902 & 1923
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Part 2

The Tibet Mission 1903-1904

Table of Recorded Periods of the use of Postal
Markings and their Illustrations

by

Dr. Wolfgang Hellrigl

Table of Recorded Postmarks

TABLE OF RECORDED PERIODS OF USE OF POSTMARKS

No.	Postal Marking	Tibet Mission, 1903-1904		Use in Tibet after 1904
		India/Sikkim	Tibet	
1.	Rampoo 29/3 (Pen Cancellation)	29.3.03		
2.	TEMPORARY P.O. B	7.8.03 to 25.8.03		
3.	TEMPORARY P.O. B	9.7.03 to 6.12.03		
4.	TEMPORARY P.O. D	26.4.03 to 28.9.03		
5.	TEMPORARY P.O. I	10.12.03 to 21.1.04		
6.	TEMPORARY P.O. K	3.12.03		
7.	TEMPORARY P.O. K	2.12.03 to 2.1.04		
8.	EXPERIMENTAL P.O. C-46	8.8.03 to 28.9.03		
9.	C	1.9.03 to 11.9.03		
10.	KHAMBA JONG-TIBET		8.9.03 to 4.12.03	

11.	KHAMBA JONG-TIBET		19.8.03 to 4.12.03	
12.	TOO LATE		31.10.03 to 28.11.03	
13.	GANGTOK	21.6.03 to 8.7.03		
14.	GANGTOK	21.6.03 to 8.7.03		
15.	BASE OFFICE	2.4.04 to 25.7.04		
16.	BASE OFFICE	19.1.04 to 1.10.04		21.12.11 (In India)
17.	BASE OFFICE	25.7.04		
18.	BASE OFFICE	7.2.04		2.5.07 to 6.7.10 (In India)
**				
19.	FIELD P.O. No. 24		23.1.04 to 5.10.04	
20.	FIELD P.O. No. 24		4.2.04 to 15.10.04	
21.	FIELD P.O. No. 24		8.4.04 to 1.5.04	
22.	FIELD P.O. No. 24		14.9.04	
23.	FIELD P.O. No. 25		15.1.04 to 21.6.04	
24.	FIELD P.O. No. 25			18.2.05?
25.	FIELD P.O. No. 26		22.2.04 to 29.10.04	
26.	FIELD P.O. No.26		21.1.04 to 27.10.04	15.1.05 to 1.7.06

27.	FIELD P.O. No. 26			1.7.06 to 31.12.06
28.	FIELD P.O. No. 26			1.7.06 to 19.5.07
29.	FIELD P.O. No. 27	8.3.04		
30.	FIELD P.O. No. 29	29.4.04		
31.	F.P.O. No. 31		2.6.04 to 18.6.04	
32.	F.P.O. No. 31		8.5.04 to 2.6.04	
33.	F.P.O. No. 31		8.5.04	
34.	F.P.O. No. 32		14.5.04 to 5.10.04	
35.	F.P.O. No. 32		10.5.04 to 5.10.04	
36.	F.P.O. No. 32		28.6.04	
37.	F.P.O. No. 34		8.10.04	
38.	F.P.O. No. 34		5.8.04	
39.	F.P.O. No. 70			17.1.07 to 1911
40.	F.P.O. No. 70			19.5.07
41.	CHUMBI F.P.O. No. 70			17.5.07 to 11.12.07
42.	YATUNG F.P.O. No. 70 via SILIGURI			23.9.08
43.	YATUNG-TIBET F.P.O. No. 70			2.9.11 to 1915
44.	FIELD P.O. No. 81		16.1.04 to 18.6.04	3.2.08 to 23.3.09

45.	FIELD P.O. No. 81		16.1.04* to 2.12.04	28.6.07 to 8.1.10
46.	FIELD P.O. No. 81			1912
47.	PHARIJONG F.P.O. No. 81			29.5.11 to 1920
48.	PHARIJONG F.P.O. No. 81			31.1.12 to 5.1.13
49.	PHARIJONG F.P.O. No. 81			1912 to 1915
50.	PHARIJONG F.P.O. No. 81			27.5.27 to 1954
51.	FIELD P.O. No. 82		31.1.04*	
52.	FIELD P.O. No. 83		26.4.04 to 20.7.04	
53.	FIELD P.O. No. 83		20.5.04	
54.	FIELD P.O. No. 84	11.6.04 to 2.10.04		
55.	FIELD P.O. No. 84	2.10.04		
56.	FIELD P.O. No. 85		2.11.04?	
57.	FIELD P.O. No. 86	13.1.04 to 21.1.04		
58.	FIELD P.O. No. 87	31.10.04?		
59.	FIELD P.O. No. 87	18.3.04		
60.	FIELD P.O. No. 88		3.9.04	
61.	LAHASSA		3.8.04 to 22.9.04	
62.	LHASSA		31.8.04 to 20.9.04	

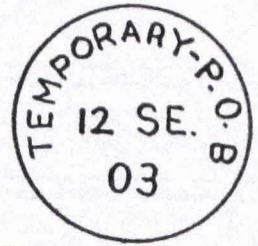
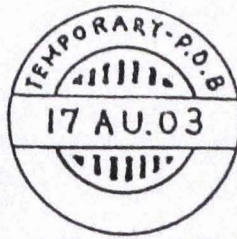
63.	TEMPORARY P.O. Y			30.3.06 to 1912
64.	TEMPORARY P.O. Y			30.9.08 to 4.9.17
65.	TEMPORARY P.O. Y			21.9.18

* Year in datestamp erroneously set as "03" instead of "04"

** F.P.O.s No.s 21, 23 and 68 listed by Waterfall are believed to be misreadings for other F.P.O.s.

Illustrations of Recorded Postmarks

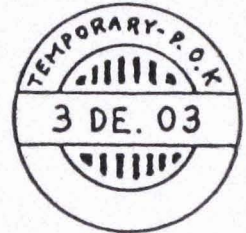
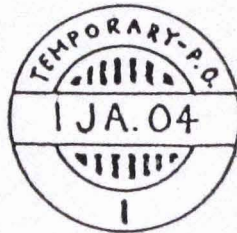
Rampoo
29/3



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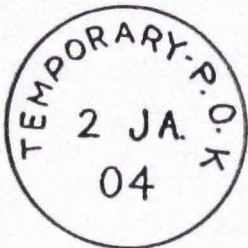
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TOO LATE

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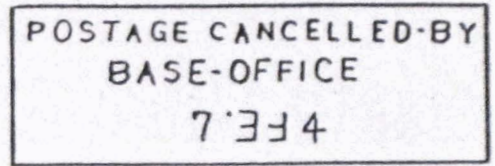
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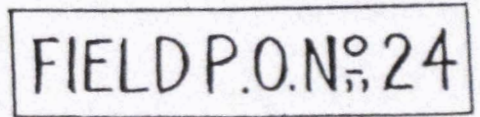
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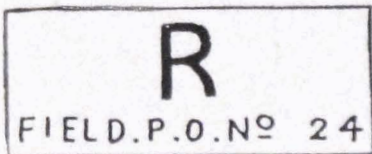
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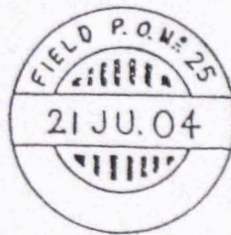
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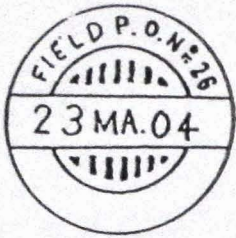
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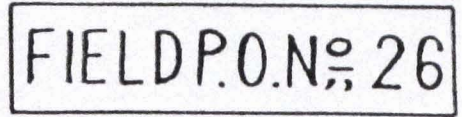
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SIKKIM-TIBET

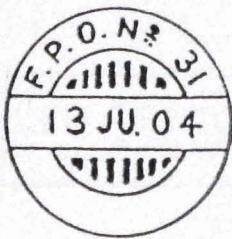
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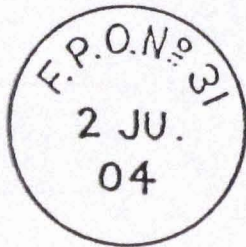
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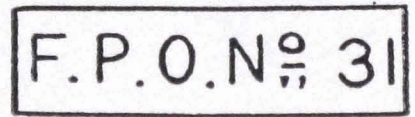
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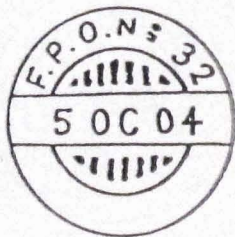
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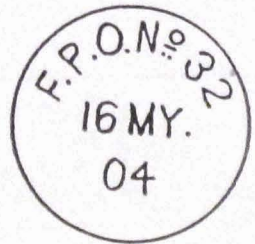
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34



35

F.P.O. N^o 32

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F.P.O. N^o 34
8 OC. 04

37

F.P.O. N^o 34
5 AU.
04

38

F. P. O.
N^o 70
17 JA. 07

39

F.P.O. N^o 70

40

R
CHUMBI. F. P. O. N^o 70

41

YATUNG. F. P. O. N^o 70
23 SE.
08
VIA SILIGURI

42

YATUNG-TIBET
F.P.O. NO. 70

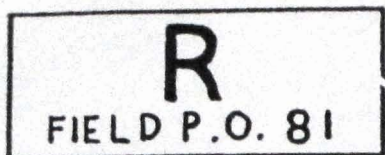
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FIELD. P. O. N^o 81
18 JU. 04

44

FIELD. P. O. N^o 81
28 JU
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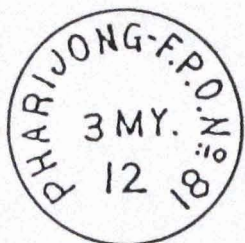
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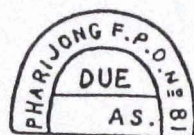
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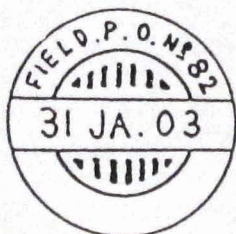
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PHARIJONG
F.P.O. NO. 81

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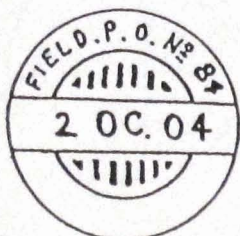
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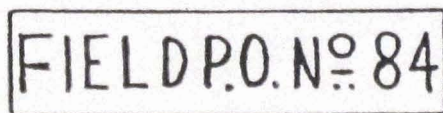
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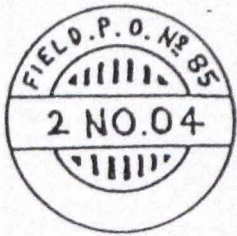
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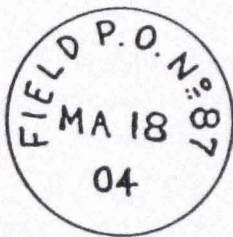
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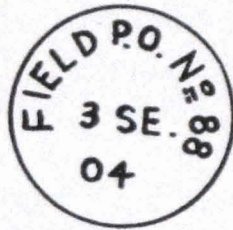
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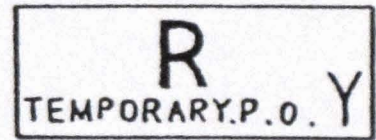
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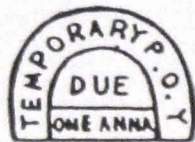
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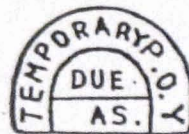
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Part 3

A Field Post Office Diary

The Weekly Diaries of Mr. H. Tulloch, Superintendent,
(later Chief Superintendent) of Field Post Offices,
Tibet Mission and Force, 1903-1904

It is a standing rule in the Indian Post Office that a Supervising Officer sends a weekly diary to his immediate superior containing a day-to-day record of his work, problems and travel.

Mr. H. Tulloch, Superintendent/Chief Superintendent of Field Post Offices, Tibet Mission and Force (he retired from the Department in 1910 as Postmaster General Bombay) sent his diaries to the Postmaster General Bengal at Calcutta. In view of their topical interest, the P.M.G. passed them on to the Director General who had 15 copies printed for departmental circulation and record.

D.S.V.

Diary of Mr. M. Tulloch, Superintendent Field Post Offices, Tibet Mission and Force

December 1903

I left Calcutta on Friday, the 11th December, for Darjeeling, on my way to take charge of postal arrangements in connection with the Sikkim Mission. Mr. Bean, Personal Assistant to the Director-General, had preceded me, as the situation in the Field was such as to require somebody in authority to be at the Base. My instructions were to relieve Mr. Bean as soon as possible. As I could not have reached Teesta Bridge on the 12th, I purposely missed the first train to Darjeeling and spent a profitable three hours in Siliguri making enquiries, and I gained a good deal of information about what was going on in front from Mr. Dunlop, the Base Supply Officer. Amongst other things he told me of the difficulty in getting cooly labour along the Siliguri-Teesta road. I also noticed how few dwelling-houses there were in Siliguri, and I made mental notes of these facts for future consideration when the proper location of the Base should come up. The train was late, and it was after dark when I reached Ghum station, where Mr. O'Loughlen, one of my inspectors, reported himself to me. I went on and stayed the night at Darjeeling. Next morning, Sunday, the 13th, I went to see Mr. McPherson, the postmaster, Darjeeling, to find out what I could as to why a number of permanent old established post offices had been put on Field Service scale. I anticipated a good deal of trouble from this arrangement, and the result proved the correctness of my surmise. After my interview with Mr. McPherson I started for Teesta Bridge, where on my arrival Mr. Bean, doubtless for impersonal reasons, expressed his pleasure at seeing me. We discussed postal arrangements in connection with the Mission and the respective merits of Teesta Bridge, Rangpo, Darjeeling, and Siliguri as a Base and the desirability of creating a Field Sorting Office at Rangpo.

Next morning Mr. Bean left for Calcutta. My first duties were to take up the question of the location of the Base office, to remove from my jurisdiction such offices as were not within the field of operations, to decide what establishment charges were or were not properly debitable to the Mission, to draw up an estimate of Field Service requirements and get it sent up for sanction, and to arrange the working of the Base Post Office. These matters kept me tolerably busy during my enforced stay at Teesta Bridge waiting for the equipment I had selected at Lahore on the 7th. I had

left Mr. O'Loughlen at Ghum to forward the things on without delay, but they did not reach there until the 19th. The delay was in transshipment at Siliguri. Experience now shows that Siliguri and not Ghum is the proper place to which to book goods for the Mission, not only because delay in transshipment to the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway is avoided, but because the transport service starts from Siliguri, and it is easier to get conveyance there than at Teesta Bridge where only loaded vehicles pass. I recommend Siliguri as the starting place for persons proceeding on service with the Mission for much the same reason. I was a good deal troubled at Teesta Bridge by receiving reports of not only parcels but of bags of parcels going astray. Within a short while there were six cases of the former and two of the latter, so when I heard that it had been decided that the field post office was to undertake v.p. and registration work, I felt that my responsibilities were indeed about to increase. Mr. Angelo joined me on the 19th primarily to enquire into the loss of two parcel bags containing fifteen parcels that have been made away with by runners in the remote regions beyond Tongu in Sikkim, but now he has been permanently added to my staff.

On the 20th December I sent off Inspector O'Loughlen with part of the equipment on hired transport; no other being available I followed with the rest next day. At Rangpo there was the usual difficulty about transport and also about getting warm kit with which every one who had to go beyond Jaluk (9,000 feet) is supplied. The Supply Officer at first refused to issue warm clothing without orders from his Chief who was away at Chumbi with the General. Subsequently on reaching Chumbi myself, I got Major Bretherton, Chief Supply Officer, to issue orders that my indents were to be attended to without his sanction being asked for. The difficulties with regard to transport and kit having been overcome Inspector O'Loughlen and I started on our way to Chumbi. The journey was without incident. I noticed where stage huts were wanted and have written about them to Mr. Green, the Executive Engineer, who promised me at Rangpo to get them put up. At Lamting [Lingtam] where I expected to find a post office, there was none. The local transport officer had it moved up to Sedonchan $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles further on! When I met him I remonstrated and he said he would not do it again. On the 24th we rose 2,700 feet, on 25th 4,500 feet and 26th 3,400. Gnatong is 12,000 odd feet and somewhat cold. At Jaluk the minimum thermometer registered 18 degrees of frost at 9,000 feet, at Gnatong it fell to 5 degrees below zero. We halted on Sunday at Gnatong as I had an accumulation of correspondence to attend to. On 28th we crossed the Jelapla 14,400 feet. No snow had fallen, but there was much ice about. Our camp was at Langram down the gorge and quite the most persistently windy place I was ever in. On 29th we got out of the gorge at Yatung where there is a wall built across its mouth and where also is the Chinese Customs Post. A little further on is Rinchingong, a thoroughly Chinese looking town, and four miles on is Chumbi which is only a camp on a fairly level piece of ground on the banks of the Amocho. The road from the Jelapla to Yatung is a goat track which the 23rd Pioneers are doing their best to improve. On arrival I reported to General Macdonald, and next day, to Colonel Younghusband, who was kind enough to give me certain information as to the movements of the Mission on which I am acting. In pursuance of this I shall be moving on to Pharijong (29 miles and 14,600 feet high) next week. Chumbi is 9,000, and it freezes hard for all but six hours in the day when the sun penetrates the valley. The wind blows with steady regularity from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

and covers everything in camp, including office papers, deep in dust.

On 31st December I sent off Inspector O'Loughlen with five shouldaries to be put down as shelters between Chumbi and Pharijong, one having already been left at Kupup stage. Also Messrs. Castellari and Lewis with Field Post Office No. 81 to open at Pharijong.

January 1904

- 1st. — In pursuance of notification in General Orders, gave instructions to F.P.O. No. 24, with Mr. Gillespie, to move forward with the Mission on 4th instant, Mr. Kirwen being left in charge of F.P.O. No. 25 at Chumbi.
- 2nd. — The following appears in General Orders:—
Postal—Mr. H. Tulloch, Superintendent, F.P.O. reported his arrival at headquarters camp on 29th December 1903.
- 3rd. — The Base Post Office was closed at Teesta Bridge on 29th December 1903 and reopened at Siliguri on 1st January 1904. F.P.O. No. 81 will open at Pharijong on 3rd instant. F.P.O. No. 24 (with postmaster only) will accompany the Mission and Brigade headquarters on 4th January. None of the officers up here have brought swords, being armed only with the revolver or carbine on active service. Had I known of this before I might have been saved the Rs. 50 or so my sword cost me. Officers of the Postal Department joining the expedition may kindly be advised about this and a note sent to the Director-General for insertion in the Regulations.
- 4th. — Colonel Younghusband and General Macdonald with staffs and escort left this morning. Colonel Younghusband told me before starting that owing to want of transport the advance of the Mission beyond Tuna was likely to be delayed. Only two companies of Gurkhas are left here. Four companies of 32nd Pioneers under Lt. Col. Brander are expected in a few days. The General on his return from Tuna (about 13th or 14th) makes his headquarters at Gautsa, 14 miles from here on the Phari road. I am preparing to move F.P.O. No. 25 (known as Brigade P.O.) on 9th to Gautsa leaving 2nd class F.P.O. No. 82 here in its stead.
- 6th. — The machine-guns of the 32nd Pioneers under Lt. Gurdon arrived from Gangtok today. He came over the Sibola which is at present the only route practicable for mules. He took five days and says it was very bad. I was sorry to hear today that two of my camp bags for Teesta had been over-carried to Siliguri causing unfortunate delay in issue of important orders. Some of my correspondence from camp to office, posted in covers, also seems to have gone astray which is unlucky. The up and down mails are not keeping time. Have ordered Inspector White to make enquiries. Today issued orders to start the field sorting office at Rangpo. It ought to be ready to open on 11th. Last night I wrote a long demi-official report on postal matters to the Postmaster-General which, I hope, he duly received.

- 7th. — Overseer Kulman arrived from Gnatong side with 15 runners recruited for the advance line beyond Pharijong. As soon as they have received their winter kits, I will take them along with me. One company of 32nd Pioneers with their Colonel reached camp this afternoon from Gangtok over the Yakla which is said to be difficult on account of the ice. Only cooly transport can get over the Yakla and the Nathula. The latter seems to be the better route though 2 miles longer than the other.
- Mr. Bean announced his arrival at Siliguri by wire. I propose that his Division should be known as the Base Division and my own as the Advance Division.
- I halted the whole week at Chumbi. On 9th I start to overtake the Mission. The telegraph has not got beyond Chumbi, so telegrams for me will have to be forwarded by post.
- To save delay I have copied my diary myself. The one for December has not yet come back from my office. It is very necessary that I should employ a camp clerk. I will get one up as soon as there is a man to spare.
- 8th. — This morning I received a summons for Mr. White to attend court at Cooch Behar. As he can ill be spared I wired X.T. to Postmaster-General to send Mr. Byrne instead. I went out today to select a site for the first stage towards Gautsa. Heard that the General would return to Chumbi before settling at Gautsa. Cancelled orders for transfer of F.P.O. No. 25 from Chumbi to Gautsa.
- 9th. — This morning the mail from Gnatong was very late. It came in at 10.30 instead of during the night. Learnt that the Jelap pass runners had absconded with their winter kits. At once sent Overseer Kulman back to capture the runaways or, failing, to put on other men. I am now left in charge of the 15 recruits for the line. I started with them at 11 a.m. It took 8 of the 15 to carry their rations and kit. The loaded men lagged behind and did not get into camp that night, so I began to fear I had lost them.
- Not having a reply to my X.T. about White, I was compelled to forward the summons for his attendance at Cooch-Bihar on 18th. I expected the fair copy of my diary for December today, but got no dak. Wired to my office about this and in reply was told it had been duly sent.
- 10th. — Much to my relief the men missing yesterday came into camp at 10 a.m. Made a late start in consequence and got behind the convey of 400 mules. About 5½ miles from Lingmatong-Go found the road blocked. Every night the river freezes, but during the day it melts and comes down in a spate covering the road and making it impassable. Thus we all halted and had to come back ½ a mile to Gautsa, the future Brigade headquarters. This spot has been chosen as it is the nearest to Pharijong (or rather the Mission) at which wood is obtainable. Beyond, yak's dung is the only fuel to be had.
- 11th. — A very difficult march of 15 miles. Out of rations and obliged to push on. Besides no fuel to be had. By making an early start managed to head most

of the on convoy, but the first mile took about two hours to accomplish. On arrival at Phari reported to the General who had arrived in the morning from Tuna. Found Inspector O'Loughlen and Sub-postmaster Castellari both suffering from the climate. The latter has too much to do, so decided to close F.P.O. No. 81 (2nd class) at Phari and open 1st class F.P.O. No. 26 in its stead. Telegraphed for men and equipment. The nearest telegraph office is Chumbi, 29 miles off. Owing to the disturbed state of the country no one is allowed to go towards Tuna without an escort. Consequently the Mission Camp mails for two days have not been sent on. Saw the General who promised to forward them by convoy on 13th. The mails cannot be sent by runners so the 15 men I brought up for the line will be distributed between Gnatong and Pharijong which line badly needs strengthening.

- 12th. — Everybody here is quartered in the fort which was clearly built for heathen and not Christian men. My room of rough stone has a window but no glass or shutters. It might have been originally glazed with oil paper, but there is none left. It has neither fire-place nor chimney, so a fire is an impossibility. A piercing wind searches the fort all day. Fortunately it drops at night. The thermometer shows several degrees of frost out of the sun and at night ranges from 10 degrees to 17 degrees below zero. A drop of water spilt on the table is frozen in 5 minutes.
- There was no mail from below, so am three days without a dak. A mail came in from Tuna by mounted infantry.
- 13th. — Two days mail from below, with it my belated diary for December. Sent it off registered. Got four days' dak despatched to the Mission at Tuna by convoy. I asked the General to let me go on too, but he said that there was no necessity and that I could communicate with Colonel Younghusband by letter. Under present circumstances this amounts to a refusal. Wrote about mail arrangements to the British Commissioner. Sent Inspector O'Loughlen down to Chumbi to recoup and to look after the line. I have given the runners shouldaries, but they don't seem to care about them and prefer to shelter under rocks.
- 14th. — Another dak from Tuna came in today by mounted infantry. The General offers an escort for mails three times a week. Have written to Colonel Younghusband about it.
- 15th. — Sent off a mail to Tuna (20 miles off) by mounted infantry who came yesterday. The General is said to be going down on 17th. Am arranging for F.P.O. No. 25 (Brigade head-quarters) to move up from Chumbi to Gautsa. F.P.O. No. 82 will be left at Chumbi. Anything in the shape of office work is a sore trial here. Ink congeals in the bottle; the only way to prevent this is to stand it in hot water which has to be changed frequently. I am in excellent health notwithstanding the cold and discomfort. I wish I could say the same of the sub-postmaster who seems to curl up with the frost, but I hope to get him assistance soon. Meanwhile, I help him all I can.

Am unable to stand the wind any longer, so have blocked the windows of my room and the post office (next door) and now we work by lamp light.

Confidential.—**Extract from General Orders**

Postal—The post will be despatched from Phari at 10 A.M.

Intelligence—Information has been received that there are about 2,500 Tibetans collected in the neighbourhood of Tuna and surrounding hills including 600 cavalry, and that they intend attacking us whilst on the march or at night.

News has been received that a party of 3,000 of the enemy are concentrated on some hills north or north-west of Tangla (5 miles from Pharijong), whilst another 500 are in advance of Tuna armed with European rifles and 4 guns, and that their intention is to attack tonight or attack us on the march.

The Depon and some Lama officials at Phari yesterday rode off with a rifle of ours after stoning an officer who tried to prevent their going away.

- 16th. — F.P.O. No. 82 opened at Chumbi today to enable F.P.O. No. 25 to close and proceed to Gautsa. A dak came from Tuna by mounted infantry. No mail came in today from down.
- 17th. — The General has changed his mind and does not march until tomorrow. The mail due yesterday came in today. It was very heavy, which was the excuse given by the runners for the delay. Am afraid Overseer Bullal is not much good. Must change him.
- 18th. — Sent off mails to Tuna by mule in charge of mounted infantry, the load being restricted by order to one maund. Travelled from Phari to Gautsa. Found F.P.O. No. 25 just arrived and a tent being put up. The road much improved since I was last over it.
- 19th. — Opened F.P.O. No. 25 (Messrs. Kirwen and Ferris). The General is moving on to Chumbi. Travelled from Gautsa to Chumbi. Decided to open an F.P.O. at Lingmatong, when equipment available, for Mounted Infantry Camp and Supply Depot. While travelling from Phari to Chumbi rearranged all the stages, making them more equal.
- 20th. — The General told me today that he had changed his mind about making Gautsa his head-quarters, and that he intends to stay where he is. He is moving into a Tibetan farm house about half a mile up the valley, so evidently expects not to be disturbed for some time.
- 21st. — Sent Babu F.N. Marik off to Pharijong to assist Mr. Castellari, the post-master. The opening of F.P.O. No. 83 midway between Gnatong and Chumbi on 19th reported. Started off to see it and also to look up the mail line, which might be working better.
- 22nd. — Returned to Chumbi after spending the night at Yatung with Captain Parr, the Joint Chinese Commissioner, from whom I got a good deal of

valuable information regarding the ins and outs of this Tibetan business. I rearranged the staging of the mail line, converting it into four instead of five stages, with seven instead of five runners per stage. By this means I hope to get parcel mails along a bit faster than hitherto.

N.B.—The parcel post is much relied on by the expedition for getting up stores.

23rd. — Busy with my tabular statement and estimates.

Extract from Brigade Orders

Postal—Commanding officers and others are requested to forward at once to the superintending officers field post offices, any alterations in the addresses of officers under their command, so that letters may be delivered with as little delay as possible.

Mails are coming in excellent time. Now a letter posted in Calcutta on Monday before departure of Darjeeling Mail is delivered in Chumbi first thing on Thursday morning, Gautsa Thursday afternoon, and Pharijong on Friday morning.

24th. — The sub-postmaster, Chumbi, reported to me this morning that he was in course of disposing 2,000 vernacular letters which had been left in deposit by F.P.O. No. 25 (Mr Gillespie, postmaster, to 4th January and Mr. Kirwen from 5th to 16th January). I cannot blame either of these officers as they had no vernacular clerks attached to their office until Babu Jainarain Pradhan joined. He was the first native available that I could send up. The letters were all disposed off by 31st January.

25th. — Sent off Inspector O'Loughlen to look up the Gnatong line and see that there was no trouble over the rearrangement of the stages referred to in the diary of 22nd.

As some serious complaints of missending against Pharijong (F.P.O. No. 81, Mr Castellari) were received from the General and staff, I decided that a visit to that place was necessary.

26th. — Travelled from Chumbi to Gautsa. Had a look at Gautsa post office (F.P.O. No. 25).

27th. — Reached Pharijong. Looked up the runners on the way from Chumbi to Pharijong. My "looking up" has had the result of bringing the mails into Gautsa early in the afternoon instead of the evening and to Phari in the course of the night. The garrison at Phari are much pleased at having their letters delivered first thing in the morning instead of at 2 or 3 P.M. The runners were refractory at first, refusing to run at night and threatening to leave if they were fined. I therefore had to resort to measures of personal persuasion with eminently satisfactory results.

28th } —I spent a good deal of time both days in the Pharijong post office.

29th } I am afraid Mr. Castellari's shortcomings are the result of incapacity. He

is lacking in initiative and method. He, like Messers. Kirwen, Ferris and Lewis, had no experience of post office work before he came on field service, and metaphorically speaking I have had to lick the four into shape. Mr. Castellari's mistakes have been numerous and serious, but taking into consideration his lack of experience and the hard time he has had at Phari, I shall content myself with superseding him in charge of the office and warning him that he will be sent down if he does not improve. Had to pull up Mr. Gillespie, postmaster, F.P.O. No. 24, for not preparing his mail lists properly.

30th. — Travelled from Phari to Gautsa. Cold and wind exceptional. Snow fell for the first time and lay thick at Gautsa. Visited F.P.O. No. 25.

31st. — Visited F.P.O. No. 25. Travelled from Gautsa to Chumbi. Slight snow in the afternoon.

I have prepared a form which I think ought to be a check on any failure on part of postmaster to submit correct field reports, on which so much depends for the correct sorting of letters. A copy is attached. The instructions on it will explain its use. While on the subject of sorting, I regret to say that since the Base Office has been transferred from my control, the postmaster not only does not carry out my instructions regarding sorting for my division, but ignores them entirely. I would suggest that I may be given authority to direct him as regards sorting for my division. Attached is a copy of the rules drawn up by the General for sending mails to Tuna where the Mission is quartered. It has resulted in occasional delay to parcels, but this it is impossible for me to prevent.

I understand that the General requires 17,000 maunds of supplies to be collected at Pharijong before he can advance. As the maximum carrying capacity of the transport is 400 maunds a day, it is easy to calculate that no advance is possible before the second week of March.

February 1904

1st. — Halted at Chumbi. The ground was white with snow this morning which fortunately did not lie. Attended to correspondence which had fallen rather into arrear.

2nd. — No mail received from Phari side today. Paid a visit to F.P.O. No. 83 at Rinchingong. Amongst the deposit articles which I inspected I came across a letter to Gangtok and another for Rangpo which had been missent by Gnatong. There were also articles for Capt. Parr and Mr. Henderson which should have been sent in Capt. Parr's bag and delivered at Yatung. All this shows that the sorting at Gnatong is far from accurate. Dhani Ram, the sub-postmaster of No. 83, seems to be a good man and has his office in good order. Inspector O'Loughlen returned to Chumbi from Gnatong.

3rd. — Today two days' mail from Phari side. In a letter dated 2nd, the postmaster

of Phari (Mr. Castellari) informed me that there was 2½ feet of snow on parts of the road and the runners had refused to carry the mails on 1st in consequence. By the same dak, I received a notice from the five runners, Phari stage, that they intend to resign and wish to be relieved. I sent both letters on to Major Rowe, Commandant at Phari, and I have no doubt he will give the runners good advice.

- 4th. — Mr. O'Loughlen reported himself ill and unable to work. This is of frequent occurrence. This gentleman has done no work worthy of the name since he crossed the Jelap and for all the help he is to me I might almost as well be without an inspector. Saw General Macdonald this evening. He has promised me one of the tum-tums (miscalled ekkas) for the mails from Phari to Tuna as soon as the road is made good enough for wheeled traffic.
- 5th. — Inspector O'Loughlen left again for Gnatong to identify some kit which he had had stolen when lately there and to prosecute the thief. I want him badly up at Phari, but could hardly refuse him leave for the purpose mentioned. Saw the Chief Staff Officer who told me that the General and staff were going to Phari for a few days, but would be back on 14th.
- 6th. — Received a message from the postmaster, Phari, to say that mails are arriving there very irregularly again. The overseer is up the line, but does not seem able to cope with the runners though he is supposed to be a picked man. I expect I shall have to go and look them up myself again. During the week I have prepared an alphabetical sorting list of persons and troops in the field for distribution, and due mail and sorting lists of my field post offices. I have also issued instructions regarding the maintenance of the form referred to in diary of 30th January, by means of which I hope to secure prompt intimation of all changes of address being conveyed to the Base. Have also issued instructions to the Base Post Office and to Gnatong which I hope will result in parcels being forwarded with greater promptitude from Siliguri, where I fear, for want of a little management, they are sometimes delayed unnecessarily long.
- 7th. — The General left this morning for Phari (in three marches). Have issued orders regarding the disposal of his mails and that of his staff and escort. Colonel Younghusband is to come in from Tuna on 11th and meet the General and Mr. Walsh at Pharijong.
- 8th. — As the mails are coming in from Gnatong ever earlier, I have arranged to despatch the Pharijong mail from Chumbi at midnight instead of 9 a.m. in the hope that it may reach Phari the same evening and so avoid night travelling in that inhospitable region. Visited Yatung to settle a quarrel between Miss Annie Taylor and Capt. Parr as to who should have the right to look first into the open bag sent out to Yatung from Rinchiongong. I arranged the matter by stopping the open bag and substituting a closed one for each.
- 9th. — A rather large consignment of parcel mails came in today by transport which

I saw opened and disposed of. Arranged for transport for forward parcel mails to be sent on tomorrow. Noticing that the pressure of the rope slings by which the bags are tied on the mules were damaging contents, I got the Chief Supply and Transport Officer to issue orders that mails sent by transport were to be carried in net bags and not in slings.

- 10th. — At the request of Mr. Bean went to see the Chief Supply Officer on the subject of getting indents for warm kit complied with at Rangpo. Although the Chief Supply Officer has ordered that my indents are to be attended to, the local Supply Officer at Rangpo does not comply with Mr. Beans's postal indents. I understand from Major Bretherton that he has wired to Rangpo that Mr. Bean's last indent is to be met as far as possible. The weather getting milder, the issue of such articles as woollen drawers, Gilgit boots and postins is about to be discontinued. I examined the mail bags from Chumbi to Base and Gnatong when ready to be closed, and found no articles missorted.
- 11th. — Today I was to have gone to Gautsa, but no transport was available. I have already mentioned how difficult it is to obtain transport nowadays. However, two mules have been promised for tomorrow. I was sorry to hear from Dr. Kelly this morning that Mr. Lewis, clerk, Tuna F.P.O. No. 24, who had been reported sick and whom I ordered to be sent down to Siliguri, is unable to be moved at present as he has developed gangerene in the feet. Owing to Mr. Lewis's debilitated condition the doctor thinks his life is endangered.
- 12th. — After disposing of my dak travelled from Chumbi to Gautsa. Visited F.P.O. No. 25. Received a telegram from Phari to say the General, staff and escort would be back tomorrow.
- 13th. — Visited F.P.O. No. 25. The cash balance was in excess, the sub-office account all wrong, and the instructions given by the Base Head Office to adjust discrepancies were not attended to. The books were badly kept and full of corrections. Work papers all over the place instead of being filed, and some of them are now not forthcoming. Such things as sorting lists, instead of being kept handy, stowed away in correspondence bundles, these latter not being kept in any kind of order. The enumeration not commenced and the Postmaster-General's circular on the subject put away with correspondence bundles, and had never even been read. A report on the state of the office has been submitted to the Postmaster-General. Mr. Kirwen is not fit to have charge of an office. The General arrived this afternoon. The Chief Staff Officer told me that arrangements had been made for a daily, instead of a triweekly, service to Tuna where the Mission is. I am very pleased to hear this.
- 14th. — The General and staff returned to Chumbi today, and I came back with them. Attended to correspondence. Wrote a report on F.P.O. No. 25.
- 15th. — Sent F.P.O. equipment No. 82 out to Lingmathang where the mounted

infantry camp is, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles from here on the Phari road. Ordered Mr. Castellari down from Phari to take charge of it. The office will open on 18th. Due intimation given to Base. Saw Staff Officer. I have come to know that the ekka corps cannot work beyond Chalu, 21 miles from Tuna. The Base for the flying column has therefore been established there instead of at Kalatso which is 6 miles further on. I shall consequently have my F.P.O. No. 25 at Chalu instead of at Kalatso.

- 16th. — Looking through the list of contents of mule trunk B (page 30, Field Service Regulations—Postal) I see that “labels for bags addressed to field post offices” are supposed to be supplied. No labels have been found in any of the trunks sent to my field post offices. It is a pity that field mule trunks do not contain a small supply of blank mounted labels. My offices are being put to much trouble and inconvenience by having to open bags from which the flimsy manuscript paper labels now in vogue have become detached. There was a slight fall of snow this evening.
- 17th. — The General was to have started for Gangtok today via the Nathula, but has postponed his departure. There was a fall of snow this afternoon about 3 inches, and more is coming. Snow may now be expected off and on until May. Mr. O’Loughlen, inspector, of whom I have not heard since 8th instant, is reported to be ill of fever at Rinchingong, 5 miles from here.
- 18th. — Today Field Post office No. 82 has been opened at Lingmathang, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles from here on the Phari road. As no mail came in last night, I feared trouble through the snow in the pass, so I went out to see. At Rinchingong found Mr. O’Loughlen up and somewhat better. He has been laid up there with fever ever since the 12th, but might, I think, have found occasion to send me work from where he was. Found mail despatched at 2 p.m. from Chumbi hung up here. Got a mule from the transport and took them on with me. There was more snow the higher I got, and as it got trodden down and frozen became like a glacier. The convoy mules had a bad time and constantly fell. My mule with the mails fell once. On reaching Langram found the mail had just come in. The runners stayed the night at Kupup and came on slowly in the morning. Both mails sent off in either direction at once. Snow began to fall heavily again just as I turned. Road downhill very slippery. The mail got to Chumbi at 8 p.m. The runners are inclined to make the most of the snow, so I think I shall have to go and sit at Langram for a few days if this sort of weather continues.
- The General notwithstanding the snow started for the Nathula at 11 a.m. I got the Chief Staff Officer to sanction a ration of half a dram of rum for runners working over to Jelap while there is snow on the pass.
- 19th. — My visit to Langram had a good effect. The mail due last night came in at 6 p.m. this evening and the mail due this evening came in about midnight. Mr. O’Loughlen, Inspector, came in from Rinchingong this morning.
- 20th. — Mr. O’Loughlen informed me today that the doctor advises him not to go

to Pharijong but to get into a warmer climate. I have therefore asked Mr. Bean to exchange Mr. Reuther for him. Engaged with office work. Prepared an accelerated time-table to take effect from 1st March.

21st. — After attending to the day's dak travelled from Chumbi to Rinchingong.

22nd. — Travelled from Rinchingong to Langram.

23rd. — Finding the arrangements to serve Langram, where there is no F.P.O., were not satisfactory, I made others which will ensure a regular delivery here without the risk of articles being sent to and from Langram by runners in an open bag. Travelled from Langram to Rinchingong and back.

My tours this week have been undertaken primarily with the object of improving the rate at which the mail travels. I am going down to Kupup and Gnatong next week.

The new Chinese Amban Ju-Tai has reported his arrival at Lhasa and says he is coming on in the Chinese second month which begins somewhere in the middle of March. The Lamas about Chumbi declare that the Tibetans will attack Tuna on 1st March.

24th. — Halted at Langram. During the day I walked upto the Jelap pass and back to see the condition of the road. It is not bad, though I can understand that it is very slippery when the sun is not on it and it freezes. I am endeavouring to get some kind of foot gear for the runners which will minimise their chances of slipping on the ice.

25th. — Travelled from Langram to Kupup over the Jelapla. There is a good deal of snow on the pass, about 2 feet, where it has not been trodden down. Unfortunately, it does not melt much, and every fall of snow causes an accumulation. Found F.P.O. No. 30 opened lately in Mr. Bean's division. Gave the sub-postmaster some instructions about sorting. The stage hut, built under my instructions by the P.W.D. has been wrongly placed some $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile on the Gnatong side of Kupup. Am having it moved up to Kupup.

26th. — Paid a visit to Gnatong to give the postmaster (F.P.O. No. 87) some needful instructions about sorting and despatch of mails. Two runners have just fallen sick on the Kupup and Langram stages, and I have been obliged to send the overseer to get others. From what I have seen, I have decided to increase the number of runners so as to avoid having to make extra despatches from Gnatong by transport.

27th. — Inspector Angelo reported his arrival at Chumbi today. He must have come from Gangtok over the Nathula.

28th. — The General is expected at Gnatong today on his way back to Chumbi. I was sorry to hear from Tuna today that poor young Lewis (to whom I referred in my diary of 11th instant) has had his right foot amputated and a part of his left. I fear his condition is very critical as he is not strong. I understand from the postmaster, Gnatong, that Mr. Bean is expected at

Gnatong on the 1st March. I shall wait for him, otherwise I had thought of leaving for Chumbi on the 1st.

29th. — Last night or rather this morning at 1.30 a.m. I was called by my servant to say that the mail from Chumbi had been in for an hour and a half and that the Babu would not get up. I went across to the post office (F.P.O. No. 30) and found that the runners had been kept shivering in the cold since midnight and the sub-postmaster Babu Nagendra Nath Dutt quite incapable. I passed the mail and am reporting the matter to the Superintendent, F.P.O. Base Division.

I hear Mr. Bean reached Gnatong today, so I am going into Gnatong tomorrow to see him.

I am glad to be able to say that my visit has produced a marked effect on the line. Mails are reaching Chumbi in between 7 and 8 hours and are delivered there on the evening of the day following their despatch from Siliguri.

March 1904

- 1st. — After attending to my dak I paid a visit to Gnatong where I met Mr. Bean and had a long talk with him about postal matters. He told me that he was coming on to Chumbi to see me, and that he would go back via the Nathula and Gangtok. Amongst other things he mentioned having had despatched to me two 80-lb. tents from Rangpo on 2nd February by transport. This was the first I heard of them and they certainly have not reached me.
- 2nd. — After opening my dak, started on my return journey to Chumbi. There was about the same amount of snow on the passes, and I could see from the higher ranges towards Pharijong that there must have been heavy falls as the hills were covered with snow. In the Chumbi valley there was not a sign of snow and the weather is remarkably mild and spring-like. Spent the night at the Chinese Custom-house.
- 3rd. — It is somewhat of a nuisance, but when one has to depend on the transport service for conveyance one is obliged to travel by very short stages. My things could only get from Langram to Rinchingong today. I therefore put up at the Chinese Custom-house at Yatung, but rode over to Rinchingong (about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles) to arrange transport for the morrow. I brought a consignment of parcel mails with me from Gnatong which I made over to the sub-postmaster, F.P.O. No. 83 (Rinchingong). Late at night news was brought to me of the sudden death this afternoon of Mr. Bean while being conveyed in a dooly from Kupup to Gnatong. His death is attributed to heart failure, and it would seem that the exertion of coming up to Gnatong and then over the Tukola to Kupup must have been more than a probably weak organ could stand. It was a great shock to me, as I had seen him only 48 hours previously in apparently excellent health. He had been so glad to

come on field service, where his financial position was better than when he was in the Director-General's office, for the sake of his daughters at home. He is to be buried tomorrow noon at Gnatong. Intimation has been sent by wire to Mr. van Someren, his brother-in-law. I do not know where his brother Mr. L. Bean (N.W. Railway) is at present.

4th. — Today I gave Mr. Angelo instructions to proceed to Gnatong to take charge of the late Mr. Bean's kit, and wired to Mr. White to come up to Gnatong to take them over and carry them to Siliguri.

The General sent for me this afternoon as he is arranging details and transport for the advance on Gyantse. Fifteen mules are allotted for the post office, and it is decided that two first class post offices are to accompany the two columns to Gyantse and there is to be one second class post office on line of communication between Tuna and Gyantse. For these there will be 13 mules, and I am to have 2 mules for myself and followers, of whom I may only take two. I fancy I shall be reduced to carrying a shouldari by way of a tent.

Received telegraphic instructions from the Postmaster-General to take charge of the late Mr. Bean's division in addition to my own. It happens to be a rather unlucky time to have to take on additional duties, as I should like to pay a visit to Tuna as soon as possible, and I am also busy organising for the advance on Gyantse which may be ordered at any time after the 15th.

5th. — There was rain yesterday afternoon followed by snow.

6th. — Halted at Chumbi. Attended to correspondence.

7th. — Paid a visit to Lingmatong post office No. 82. Mr. Castellari, the sub-postmaster, tells me that the Commandant swears at him and expects him to receive parcels for the post at all hours of the night, whereas the Commandant vows he will "break Mr. Castellari if the latter stops in Lingmatong". There is evidently no love lost between the two, so I am transferring Castellari to Rinchingong F.P.O. No. 83. Attended to correspondence. There was rather heavy rain this evening. This indicates the unusual mildness of the season. It is usual to have snow upto May. The mail came in at 4.30 p.m., the best on record so far. As complaints of missending are rife, I have taken to opening bags passing in transit in order to detect mis-sorting. Today I opened the bags from Tuna, Phari, Gautsa and Lingmatong for Base Post Office. The sorting on the whole was good.

8th. — Inspector O'Loughlen has not sent in any diaries since 23rd February. I have ordered in this division that inspectors are to submit their diaries daily instead of weekly, but Mr. O'Loughlen does not even send them in weekly, much less daily. I have twice before cautioned him, and this morning was obliged to tell him that I would suspend him if he gave me any more trouble. My opinion of him is that he takes not the slightest interest in his work and is incorrigibly lazy. I have ordered an exchange of appointments between him and Mr. Reuther (Gangtok sub-div.).

- 9th. --- Halted at Chumbi. Sent Inspector O'Loughlen out on the Phari line with instructions to visit Tuna and look up the work of that office. From today the postmaster, Phari, has instructions to despatch his mail at 7 p.m. instead of 10.30 a.m. thus giving the garrison $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours more for posting.
- 10th. --- This morning at 3 o'clock, Mr. Lewis, clerk, F.P.O. No. 24, to whom I have referred more than once in these diaries, died at Tuna. He apparently never got over the amputation of his feet.
Today there was from 8 to 9 inches of snow, the heaviest fall so far.
- 11th. --- Mail services suffered by the snow, but mail from Siliguri got in during the night and was delivered this morning without much delay. Last night was the coldest this winter at Chumbi. 31° of frost. The Phari mail got in at 9.45 p.m. having been $33\frac{1}{2}$ hours on the way, 29 miles.
- 12th. --- Snow fell again this afternoon.
- 13th. --- The Jelap was blocked for transport today, but the mails got through all right, though rather late in arriving at Chumbi. I have sent the overseer to Langram to get the mails along.
- 14th. --- This morning I met Major Iggulden, the Chief Staff Officer, and told him I proposed to start for Tuna tomorrow. He advised me to wait two or three days to see what is going to happen. I fancy there is going to be a move soon. Anyhow, I shall go up the line a bit towards Phari. I hear there is a great deal of snow in that direction.
- 15th. --- After opening and disposing of dak left for Lingmatong. Visited F.P.O. No 82. No mail arrived from Phari today.
- 16th. --- Up mail very late. I waited at Lingmatong until it came in and then rode behind the runners as far as F.P.O. No. 25 to get them along so as to make up for lost time. F.P.O. No. 25 is at present at the 23rd Poineers camp, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles above Gautsa. I am moving it back to Gautsa tomorrow.
- 17th. --- The runners awoke me at 5 a.m. to pass the up mail. It is in very good time. Received Brigade order announcing a general advance and concentration at Phari between 17 and 24th March. Sent off a number of telegrams and returned to Chumbi to make my preparations. On arrival in Chumbi was handed another Brigade order cancelling the movement.
- 18th } --- I stayed at Chumbi, engaged in correspondence of which I have a good deal
to } now that I am in charge of both divisions. Besides my three days trip up
19th } the line (15 to 17th) has thrown it into arrears. I am glad to say that my
Inspector Mr. Angelo, who has been in charge of the late Mr. Bean's things
at Gnatong for the last ten days, has at last been relieved of them by
Mr. Reuther. Mr. White, whom I ordered up, made various excuses for not
coming. I have reported him to the Postmaster General. On 19th received
a report that Babu Raju Roy, a post office clerk, who was coming on field
service from Gangtok, died at Chumpithong, a stage on the Nathula route,

apparently of cold and the high altitude. Mr. O'Callaghan, postmaster, F.P.O. No. 87 (Gnatong), has been invalided back to India. I am getting very short of men. Mr. Kirwen, postmaster F.P.O. No. 25 (Gautsa), who has been sent back to Bihar as incompetent, was relieved of his duties on 11th instant and passed through Chumbi on his way down on the 17th and 18th. There are others I have to get rid of yet as useless for field service purposes as soon as I get men to replace them. I am sorry to have had to come back in such a hurry on the 17th. Had I known the advance was postponed, I would have gone on to Phari and Tuna.

23rd. — Last night the English mail came in, but the bags for F.P.O. Nos. 26, 25, 81 were not received. Last week on English mail night (16th) the same thing happened, with the difference that the bags for F.P.O. Nos. 26 and 25 did not turn up. The bag for F.P.O. No. 26 (Chumbi) contains mail for the General Officer Commanding and staff, so this is twice their English mail has been delivered 24 hours late. The bag for F.P.O. No. 81 contains mail for British Commissioner and staff. A more unfortunate selection of bags to be kept back could not have been made, and the detention of the head-quarter staff's English letters for two mails running has given rise to much disappointment and to comments not all at flattering to the field postal service. It appears that owing to the weight of the letter mail, the postmaster, Base, told off two parcel runners to assist the letter mail runners with the result that these bags got mixed up with the slower parcel mail. At any rate these bags came up from Rangpo to Gnatong invoiced as parcel bags, and it was apparently nobody's business at F.P.O. No. 27 (Rangpo) to read the labels or to see if the bags were mail or parcel bags. Today I have wired to Inspector White to put on two additional letter mail runners per stage, as this kind of thing must at any cost be prevented from happening again.

Today Brigade orders are out for the advance. The Force concentrates at Phari on 25th and 26th instant. The General leaves tomorrow and I accompany him. Owing to the lack of transport I can only take one field post office along with us and that only as far as Phari, or with luck to Tuna. Beyond Tuna, General Macdonald says no postal establishment can go at present, and all I could do was to get a half promise out of him to let me send out small bags of letters by mounted infantry addressed to Commanders of Units. Colonel Younghusband and the Mission Staff will not be pleased with this arrangement but the matter is in the General's and not my hands. There will be a rare accumulation of registered and parcel mails at Tuna before long.

24th. — After getting through the day's dak, which I was not able to finish until 3 p.m., I left for Lingmathong. The transport camped a mile and a half beyond the post office, but I camped at the post office.

25th. — I had intended picking up F.P.O. No. 82 and taking it on to Gautsa to replace F.P.O. No. 25, but the transport officer would not allow the mules

to come back $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles for it, so I had to leave it behind. At Gautsa however I got the loan of 4 mules, and Mr. Angelo, who is with me, is to go back tomorrow and bring it along. I closed up F.P.O. No. 25 and conveyed it to Daolatang.

- 26th. — Travelled from Daolatang to Phari. The force is camped on the plain outside the fort. I had rather a setback this afternoon. The Chief Supply Officer told me that they were so short of transport that none could be provided for the Post Office from Phari to Tuna. With some difficulty, and after telling Major Iggulden that the postal service for the whole Force, and Mission would undoubtedly break down if I was not on the spot to look after it, I got a promise for 3 animals only. I cannot possibly take F.P.O. No. 25 on as I had intended. All I can do with the small amount of transport I have got is to take on a clerk to reinforce F.P.O. No. 24 already at Tuna. Additional transport for the daily mail has been refused, so I must send out what I can from Phari every day by the one mule that has hitherto been provided to carry out the dak of the Mission post office. As the transport has turned out to be a broken reed, I will see if I cannot get local labour to take the parcel mail on to Tuna. There will be a certain amount of risk which I must face. I wish the ekkas I have applied for were here.
- 27th. — The weather is of exceptional loveliness and warmth. Today I wired to the Postmaster-General to relieve me if possible of routine work, so that I may be able to devote all my energies to providing the Mission and the Force with passable postal arrangements.
- 28th. — I left Inspector O'Loughlen at Phari with instructions to see to the careful sorting of mails by F.P.O. No. 81 and to generally look after the forwarding of mails for the Mission and the Force. Had a short march of 7 miles to Chaggaya in fine weather. Got the day's mail out from Phari in the evening and delivered in camp though there is no field post office with us. Also got a mail sent into Phari, for despatch next morning, by mounted infantry.
- 29th. — Weather fine, but a very cold wind. Called upon Colonel Younghusband on arriving at Tuna and got him to promise to interest himself in postal matters for the advance. He admits that when a move is made from Tuna, the Mission will have to put up with very scratch postal arrangements to begin with.
- 30th. — This morning Major Iggulden, Chief Staff Officer, came to me and told me that the General had decided to place 4 ekkas at the disposal of the post office for conveyance of mails between Phari and Tuna. This settles the difficulty as regards conveyance of mails over this Section. What I want now is transport to get F.P.O. equipment up to Tuna.
- 31st. — Today I started the new mail cart service between Phari and Tuna. The troops were out all day dislodging the Tibetans from their Sangars 5 miles away from the village of Guru further on. In these two fights and in the subsequent pursuit by mounted infantry, it is estimated that the enemy

lost between 600 and 700. Our losses were 8 to 10 wounded. A small garrison of two companies of 32nd Pioneers and a company of mounted infantry, has been left at Guru.

Tuna is a dreadful place. It is the end of a wide plain surrounded by snow-clad mountains. There is not a vestige of vegetation apparent, a veritable "joy of wild asses", for there are numerous herds of kyang about, though it is a marvel what they find to eat. A bitter wind blows over the snows night and day bringing with it clouds of dust. Dust lies thick on everything in one's tent, and one looks as grimy as a sweep before the day is over. Washing is a luxury because of the scarcity of water which has to be brought from a distance of mile and a half.

April 1904

- 1st. — I sent out mails by convoy to Guru this morning in charge of clerk Fanindra Nath Marick, following myself afterwards, and had to pass the scene of yesterday's fight. It was a gruesome sight. Today I made over charge of field post offices No. 83, 26 and 82, with the mail line from Gnatong to Phari, to Mr. Dease, Superintendent, F.P.O. Base Division.
- 2nd. — This morning I enquired of Major Iggulden, Chief Staff Officer, and was told that the Mission and Force move forward on 4th (Monday). I have secured one mule, and I am going to send Babu Fanindra Nath Marick, a runner's shouldari and a letter-box with the Force. He will at least be able to deliver paid and registered letters forwarded by mounted infantry and to collect and despatch letters for the post.
- 3rd. — Halted at Tuna. I saw the Chief Staff Officer and got him to promise to leave mounted infantry at Tuna and at each post onwards to carry bags containing letter mails for the Force.
- 4th. — This morning I had a long conversation with Capt. O'Connor, Secretary of the Mission, in which he was good enough to give me his opinion as regards my status in connection with the British Commissioner and the General Officer Commanding, respectively. At his suggestion I have written to the British Commissioner pointing out difficulties I am put to as regards transport of mails and field post office equipment beyond Tuna. Today the Mission, General Staff and Force left Camp on their way to Gyantse. I sent out the whole of the dak including parcels the same evening for delivery at Guru.
- 5th. — I rode out to Guru to see what sort of a post there was there and to collect information. I found my mounted infantry escort had been left there all right and the place is garrisoned by 17 men of the 23rd Pioneers. The Force had left this morning for Chalu, 12 miles further on. The telegraph had been taken 5 miles beyond Guru. Letters for the post had been sent in to Tuna this morning, before the Force moved. I sent today's dak (letters only) out

from Tuna by the returning escort. Another lot of men will take the bags on tomorrow from Guru to Chalu and Kalapangi, where the Force arrives on 6th.

6th. — Yesterday and today there was no telegraphic communication between Tuna and the rest of the world, as both military signallers were on the sick list.

7th. — Today I received the following communication from the Chief Staff Officer: "Please arrange to despatch mail by mounted infantry daily from Tuna to Guru. The mounted infantry at Guru will take them on following day to Kalatso. The weight of mails to be reduced so as to be carried by two mounted infantry. Eliminate parcels, papers, circulars, and if this is not sufficient, give the following order of preference:— Mission, Brigade headquarters, official letters for corps and officers, private letters for officers. After 8th or 9th instant two extra ekkas will be placed at disposal of post office at Tuna and Guru for mail service to Kalatso".

This is fairly satisfactory, and the first use I shall make of the ekkas will be to send F.P.O. No. 25 out to Kalatso as no other transport is available. Then I shall send the staff and then the parcel mail which has accumulated here (at Tuna). As a matter of fact, I have up to date got all the letter mail for the Force off daily. I have seen to this personally and have been present at the opening of the mail every day (except 5th) since I have been at Tuna. From a demi-official letter received today by Col. Hogge from the Chief Staff Officer I have come to know that the ekka corps cannot work beyond Chalu, 21 miles from here. The Base for the flying column has therefore been established there instead of at Kalatso which is 6 miles further on. I shall consequently have my F.P.O. No. 25 at Chalu instead of at Kalatso.

8th } — Spent the week at Tuna. There was nothing to take me back to Phari and no
to } transport available to take me forward. On 9th I sent F.P.O. No. 25 to
15th } Chalu, 21 miles from here on the Gyantse road in charge of Mr. Gillespie
and one clerk Babu Ram Lal. It arrived there on the 10th and was opened
on 11th. On the 11th 4 ekkas were handed over to me for the postal
service between Tuna and Chalu. On the 12th I sent 2 of them out, to work
from Chalu to Guru, and I am keeping 2 here to work from Tuna to Guru.
I took the opportunity of sending 6½ maunds of parcel mail out to Chalu
on 12th by the empty ekkas.

The route of the Mission and Expedition has been as follows:

4th	—	Tuna to Guru, 9 miles
5th	—	Guru to Chalu, 12 miles
6th	—	Chalu to Kalapangi, 6 miles
7th	—	Kalapangi to Salu, 11 miles
8th	—	Salu to Camp (3 miles south of Kangma), 10 miles
9th	—	Camp to Lamda?
10th	—	Lamda to Changna, 11 miles

A post is established here of 23rd Pioneers for the purpose of making a

road fit for ekka traffic.

The Force should have reached Gyantse on 11th or 12th. I hear the General Officer Commanding intends to leave the Mission there with an escort of 600 men and the machine guns and return to Tuna with the rest of the Force as quickly as possible as supplies are running very short. I wrote to Maj. Iggulden, Chief Staff Officer, on 13th, asking for information, and also to enquire how soon I might be allowed to send a field post office on to Gyantse and what arrangements were to be made for postal communication with the Mission and Escort.

On 15th I started the ekka mail service between Tuna and Chalu Field Post Office No. 25.

Saw Chief Supply and Transport Officer and arranged for transport for Punjabi packers coming up to join my division. The Chief Staff Officer informed me that the General was leaving for Gangtok on 17th. Got his tour programme and wired to Base and to Superintendent, Base Division. I also interviewed the Chief Staff Officer about the conveyance of mails beyond Phari when we advance. I told him I could not arrange for runners beyond Phari and he promised a mail cart from Tuna, if I could provide drivers and to arrange for the conveyance of mails by Transport under escort beyond Tuna.

- 16th. — From a report received from the Officer Commanding at Chalu, have come to know that under orders of the General Officer Commanding no mails have been sent on to the Mission and Force since 11th instant. By a Brigade Order, dated Gyantse, 13th, it was notified, that a post will be despatched to India on the early morning of 15th, 17th, 19th and 21st. Only letters and telegrams can be received. The returning escorts will no doubt be utilised to take out letter mails for the Mission and Force from Chalu. Travelled from Tuna to Phari. Snow on the ground from Tuna to Phari. Mail service somewhat dislocated in consequence, the ekkas not being able to keep time through the snow.
- 17th. — Halted at Phari. Watched the working of the post office and got a rough sorting case fixed up out of empty ghi boxes. Ascertained the possibility of opening a mail service between Phari and Tuna by means of local labour. One of the ekka ponies supplied for the stage between Chalu and Guru died today, its very first trip! Needless to say I have not got the pick of the ekka corps for the mail service.
- 18th. — Returned to Tuna.
- 19th. — Halted at Tuna.
- 20th. — Today I was to have gone to Chalu, but the convoy with which my things were to have gone was suddenly countermanded.
- 21st. — I have had 5 more ekkas and ponies placed at my disposal making 12 vehicles and animals for the mail service between Phari and Chalu. The

General Officer Commanding is reported to be returning to Chalu on 23rd, so I shall ride out there to meet him.

- 22nd. — Travelled from Tuna to Chalu on the shores of the Bhamtso.
- 23rd. — I met the General and Staff this morning. The General told me he was going back to Chumbi for 3 weeks and would return to Gyantse. Should it be necessary to continue the advance to Lhasa, he expects to be ready to start in about 6 weeks from now. I am consequently applying for post offices and establishment. As regards mail arrangements beyond Chalu (F.P.O. No. 25) there is to be a daily service of letter mails only (limited to 60 lb. weight) between Chalu and Gyantse by mounted infantry. Parcel mails are to be forwarded by convoy which will go up to Gyantse once a week. A post has been opened at Kangma, and the post at Chalu is to be shifted at once to Kalatso, 5 miles higher up. The distances are (about) Tuna to Kalatso 26 miles, Kalatso to Kangma 28 miles, Kangma to Gyantse 29 miles. I have ordered the removal of F.P.O. No. 25 from Chalu to Kalatso and intend to open F.P.O. No. 32 at Kangma as soon as the whole equipment is received from Base Division. It has already been 6 weeks on the road from Siliguri. This is the windiest place I have struck yet, and the post office tents are getting terribly strained.
- 24th. — There was a blizzard last night, and when I started, there was snow on the ground and an icy wind blowing. The General Staff and Escort moved to Tuna today. Had their mails delivered on arrival. Next week I hope to travel up to Gyantse with a field post office for the Mission and Escort.
- 25th. — The General Officer Commanding and troops left this morning for Phari and expect to reach Chumbi on 27th instant. Halted at Tuna.
- 26th. — Two of my ekka ponies having gone on the sick list, I got 2 more (Punjabi) ponies from the 3rd Ekka Train. These are much better animals than I got from 2nd Ekka Train which consists of Bengali ponies.
- 27th. — Today I closed F.P.O. No. 24 at Tuna and opened 2nd class F.P.O. No. 31 in its stead.
- 28th. — Halted at Tuna, waiting for a chance to go on. Received intimation that another of my ekka ponies has died at Chalu. Hearing from Mr. Dease that Phari is working very badly, I ordered Inspector Angelo to return there tomorrow and look into things. Phari is an unfortunate office and nobody seems to work well there. I put it partly down to the locality which is about the coldest and most uncomfortable on the whole line of communications. Today I sent on F.P.O. No. 24 to Kalatso, its destination being Gyantse.
- 29th. — Mr. Angelo left for Phari and I for Kalatso, where F.P.O. No. 25 is moving from Chalu today. Kalatso is about 5 miles further on the Gyantse road. I have consequently to re-arrange the staging of the ekkas and for that purpose halted at Dochen, the half-way post.

30th — Arrived at Kalatso and found F.P.O. No. 25 fixed up, and the equipage of F.P.O. No. 24 and establishment safely landed here. Saw the Officer Commanding of the Yak Corps and bespoke 25 pack animals. The convoy however, will not be ready to start for Gyantse for at least 4 days. The tents of F.P.O. No. 25 have been blown to bits by the rough handling the wind gave them at Chalu. Today at Kalatso it is absolutely calm and pleasantly warm.

I am sorry to say Mr. Gillespie, the postmaster, has not used a wise discretion and has kept back much postal matter which he might have sent on. Although the load to be carried by mounted infantry is not to exceed 60 lbs., there have been occasions when less than this has been forwarded. I have got the daily newspapers of the Escort, all of which he detained, sent on. Of course the Mission newspapers have gone in their special bags. This evening I wrote for 4 more ekkas ponies to replace casualties.

May 1904

1st. — The weather having flattered us for a couple of days, the wind got up at midday and with it clouds of dust. The only chance of saving the tents is to have a wall built round them, and I have asked the Officer Commanding the post to get this done for us. He says he will start the work tomorrow, but that it will have to be paid for.

I wired today to the Chief Staff Officer to increase the number of mounted infantry to meet the requirements of the post office. The Officer Commanding 3rd Ekka Train has given me 2 more ponies and has promised 2 others when available. This is in compliance with my request of yesterday.

2nd. — The morning opened with a slight snow-storm, and it is still blowing half a gale of wind. Today 12 pack-ponies arrived from Gyantse to take the accumulated parcel mails for the Mission and Escort. They have only been 3 days coming which is very quick.

I received a telegram from Chief Staff Officer to say that no additional mounted infantry will be sanctioned to carry the mails.

Snow fell most of the day and by evening was thick on the ground. As the mail ekka had not arrived by 6 p.m. I went out with Mr. Gillespie and all the men I could muster to look for it. Found it 3 miles from Kalatso having been delayed by the snow. Got it in by 8 p.m.

3rd. — This morning I despatched the accumulated parcel mail for Mission and Escort by 12 hired ponies which the Mission had sent from Gyantse for the purpose. There were 37 bags altogether. Got the wall commenced which is to go round the post office to shield it from the wind. Tomorrow the yak convoy starts. Made preparations to leave with F.P.O. No. 24 and establishment.

4th. — The yaks travels very short stages. Reached Menza.

- 5th. — Reached Salu. Passed the mails both up and down carried by mounted infantry. We are in a fairly populous valley now, and there is a good deal of cultivation, though the people are only ploughing at present. They seem most friendly. Passed a few fruit trees, the first of any kind seen since leaving the neighbourhood of Gautsa more than a month ago.
- 6th. — Arrived at Kangma fortified post commanded by Capt. Pearson 23rd Sikh Pioneers. The Garrison consists of 75 men of the same regiment and 11 mounted infantry men. The yak transport returns to Kalatso from here, and we must wait until hired transport is available and a strong escort comes from Gyantse to take the convoy on. There has been fighting round there and a large number of Tibetans have re-occupied the Jong. Col. Brander and a strong detachment have gone to the Karo-la taking the guns with them, so the small garrison left behind in Gyantse have not the means at present of turning the enemy out.
- 7th. — Report says that there are 4,000 Tibetans in the Jong at Gyantse, and that Col. Brander's force cannot get back till 9th. We are not likely therefore to get on for some days. Wrote to Col. Younghusband to ask him to do what he could to help us along.
- 8th. — It is rumoured there has been severe fighting at the Karo-la, 35 miles from Gyantse on the Lhasa road, and that Capt. Bethune, 32nd Pioneers, and Sgt. Packman, Native Field Hospital, have been killed. The mails are coming and going between this post and Gyantse still, but I do not know whether they will do so much longer.
- 9th. — Information from the headman of a friendly village close by, who has spies out, came to the Officer Commanding this morning to say that a body of Tibetans from Lhasa is on its way to Kangma and is now 2 days march away. We expect therefore to be attacked any time after tomorrow evening. As it is just possible that mails may not be able to get through for a bit after tomorrow, I have brought this diary upto date.
- Note: The impending attack did not come off. The Tibetans hearing of the dispersion of their force at the Karo-la vacated their position and retired.
- 10th. — Halted at Kangma. Attended to correspondence.
- 11th. — Today my office closed at Chumbi and started for Kalatso where I intend to keep it for the present.
- 12th. — Major Murray, 8th Gurkhas, with 50 rifles, arrived from Gyantse to form the escort to the convoy going up there. The first convoy reached Gyantse on 26th April and this is the next one. The situation seems somewhat difficult there. The Tibetans in increasing numbers occupy Gyantse Jong from which we cannot turn them out, and they command the entire valley. Fortunately our line of communications has not yet been interfered with though the mounted infantry carrying mails has been fired on from Naini

village, 5 miles this side of Gyantse. Maj. Murray tells me that the convoy of parcel mails despatched on 3rd May from Kalatso has not reached our post near Gyantse. I at once sent for the headman of Kangma and interrogated him. He reports that the people of his village say that the convoy of mails certainly reached Naini, and that from there the Tibetans in charge of the ponies took them straight to the Jong. I am afraid that these people whom the Mission trusted have proved faithless, and that the parcel mails are now in possession of the enemy. I have told the headman to send a messenger to Naini on horseback to make enquiries.

13th. — Waited at Kangma for the yak convoy from Kalatso.

14th. — The yak convoy from Kalatso came in this morning having been 4 days doing 26 miles.

15th. — Left Kangma with F.P.O. No. 24 and establishment, due military precautions being taken by the escort. On arrival in camp were met by 50 more rifles, 8th Gurkhas, sent out from Gyantse to bring us in. The camp was put into such defensive a state as was possible before nightfall.

16th. — There was no attack last night though our position was a weak one. The Tibetans show but little enterprise. The march today was along a beautiful valley, well wooded and cultivated and carpeted with wild flowers, chiefly iris. Weather perfect. At Naini we had up the headman and a Lama and made enquiries about the missing mails. They recollected the ponies and men having passed through on their way down to Kalatso, but vowed they had not come back. This may or may not be true, probably not. Anyway, we took the 2 men prisoners and brought them along with us to Gyantse. On arrival I telegraphed to the Officer Commanding Line of Communications Kalatso, to endeavour to trace the convoy stage by stage from the time it started from Kalatso on 3rd.

As we approached Gyantse the convoy was observed by the enemy who opened a tremendous fusillade on us as soon as we got within range. The shot was whizzing above and around us, but no one was hit.

I opened F.P.O. No. 24 at Gyantse this afternoon, much to the satisfaction of the Mission and Escort who had been without a post office since 4th April. The Mission are aware of the loss of the parcel mails. They themselves supplied the transport and attendants, as I have already mentioned, and take the matter philosophically as the fortune of war. This sudden recrudescence of hostilities after all had been so quiet and apparently safe, could not have been foreseen by any one on our side. They do not blame the Post Office in any way. Indeed they could hardly do so.

17th } — Halted at Gyantse. Attended to correspondence. The camp is bombarded
to } continually from the Jong and there have been a few casualties. No one
19th } is allowed to leave the perimeter. The post office is in a safe place. On the
18th the Tibetans crept up to a house within 600 yards of the post and

began firing from there. They were turned out the next morning by direct assault and lost 50 out of 60. Our loss was 3 men wounded.

20th. — What I anticipated would sooner or later happen, occurred last evening. The mail escort of 8 mounted infantry was attacked and lost 1 killed and 2 wounded. 4 bags were afterwards brought in intact but the men say there were 5, so one is apparently missing. I cannot tell yet for certain as the mail list has been lost. A copy has been asked today. The enemy has now occupied several villages in this valley on both sides of our line of communications.

The mail was sent out as usual this morning, but the whole of the mounted infantry went with it to escort it through the dangerous zone. A considerable force has also gone out to try and eject the Tibetans from the positions they have occupied on the line of communications. The escort brought the return mail as usual.

21st. — The Officer Commanding the post has decided that no mail is to be despatched today as no troops can be spared to escort it. No mail will come in either, as there is no one to fetch it from Doti.

22nd. — A convoy with a strong escort started at 3 o'clock this morning for Kangma, and by it mails were sent. It is to go through in one day to Kangma, 30 miles. The Officer Commanding would not let me travel by it, the reason he gave being that the convoy was to travel light with all the escort mounted, so as to get through as rapidly as possible. No mails can come here until it returns (on 24th) and no mails can be sent from here until 25th earliest, all the mounted infantry having gone on escort duty.

This afternoon, during the usual bombardment from the Jong, my pony which was in what seemed a perfectly safe place, was struck by a bullet which glanced off a tree and had his leg broken. The animal had to be destroyed so I am now without a mount.

No mail came in today.

23rd. — No mails received or despatched today.

24th. — No mail despatched today. The convoy returned from Kangma this evening bringing in letter mails due here on 21st, 22nd, and 23rd. To the disappointment of every one no parcel mails were brought. I understand that the yak convoy which left Kalatso on 21st was full up having to bring up reinforcements, so could not carry either commissariat stores or mails. I hear that 200 yaks fell out between Kalatso and Kangma, the marches being forced. With reference to my diary of 20th, I find from a copy of the Kangma mail list of 19th received from F.P.O. No. 32 this evening that one bag was captured by the enemy on 19th. It was a small parcel bag from Base to the British Commissioner. I have informed the British Commissioner of the loss and have asked Base for particulars of the parcels sent in it.

Reinforcements arrived with the convoy today, viz., Section two guns 7th Mountain Battery, R.G.A., 80 men Sappers and Miners, 53 men 32nd

Pioneers. They were fired upon from Naini village 5 miles from here and the guns had to be brought into play.

25th } —No mails received or despatched for 3 days. A convoy leaves on 28th
to } and a mail will be despatched by it to India. I return to Kalatso by the
27th } convoy.

Extract From force Order No. 755

“No officers, troops or regimental followers are allowed to move up or down the line without orders from the Chief Staff Officer or S.O. Communications.

“Movements from Phari towards the front should in all cases except sudden emergency be first communicated to and sanctioned by Head-Quarters or Officer Commanding Communications.”

- 28th. — Left Gyantse this morning by convoy taking down mails of 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, instant. The English mail by steamer leaving Bombay 4th June, was of course missed by every one in Gyantse, but I circulated a notice drawing attention to the fact that telegrams might be despatched to Bombay and posted there in time to catch the mail service steamer, and I believe this plan of communicating with friends at Home had been generally adopted this week. A very early start was made so as to avoid the fire from the Jong. A battery came with us as far as Naini to destroy it. The village was implicated in the disappearance of the parcel mail on 5th instant. It was found deserted.
- 29th. — The convoy expected from Kalatso has not reached Kangma yet. On arrival at Kangma received a telegram to say that the mail service between Tuna and Kalatso had been stopped by order owing to a Tibetan scare. Here I picked up 6 bags of dak which could not be sent on to Gyantse. Attended to arrears of correspondence.
- 20th. — Halted at Kangma. The convoy came in from Kalatso bringing with it 31 bags of parcels and packets for Gyantse. Attended to arrears of correspondence.
- 31st. — The road between Kangma and Gyantse being pronounced quiet, the daily mail service between the 2 places by mounted infantry has been resumed. This morning I despatched 39 bags of parcels and mails by the convoy returning to Gyantse. An hour later I left with the convoy returning to Kalatso taking the daks I had brought down from Gyantse.
Reached Menza. I expect to be in Kalatso tomorrow morning. Received a helio to say that the road between Kalatso and Tuna was reopened and that the mails would run as usual.

June 1904

- 1st — Travelled from Menza to Kalatso. Made over mails I brought down by the convoy to postmaster, F.P.O. No. 25. Mr. Angelo, Inspector, F.P.O.s

is here. Found that during my absence three of my mail ekka ponies had died and many were on the sick list. Out of the 14 originally supplied, I have at present only 4 fit for work. It is a fortunate thing that I established a cooly line between Phari and Tuna last month or the mail service would have collapsed, as the General Officer Commanding will not give me any more ponies. I have asked to make similar arrangements between Tuna and Kalatso, but an escort will have to accompany the mail as the local Tibetans are not to be trusted at present. Attended to correspondence which is in arrear. Due mail from Gyantse (30th) not received.

2nd. — Halted at Kalatso. Attended to correspondence. Due mails from Gyantse (30th and 31st) not received.

3rd. — Sent away consignment of parcel mails (accumulation 28th to 2nd, 6 days) by convoy to Gyantse. Attended to correspondence. Due mails from Gyantse (30th, 31st, and 1st) not received.

4th. — Sent Inspector Angelo to Dochen and Tuna to look up the mail line. Attended to correspondence. Due letter mails from Gyantse (30th to 2nd, 4 days) came in this afternoon.

5th. — Cleared off all arrears of office work. Correspondence up to date.

6th. — After disposing of correspondence left for Tuna to look up my mail ekka line to see what other arrangements I can make for carrying the mail. Travelled to Dochen.

7th. — Travelled from Dochen to Tuna. The weather is much milder than when I left Tuna a month ago. The wind is less persistent, the plains are partially covered with grass and wild flowers. Mummified corpses and skeletons are still lying about the wall at Hot Springs in numbers, though the fight took place ten weeks ago. On arrival at Tuna heard that Col. Younghusband had reached Kangma yesterday and was expected at Tuna tomorrow. I had no intimation of his intended journey, and his departure from Gyantse may have been purposely kept secret. He came in for a fight at Kangma, however, for the Tibetans attacked that post this morning at 5.30, but were driven off with loss. Our casualties were one man killed and 5 wounded. I halt here tomorrow and go on to Phari on 9th to inspect the line and office.

The mails to and from Gyantse are still far from regular, though I was told that the daily service between Kangma and Gyantse would be resumed from 31st May. No mails have come in from Gyantse since 4th instant.

8th. — Halted at Tuna. Attended to correspondence. Instructed Inspector Angelo to go to Dochen and engage coolies to carry mails between Dochen and Kalatso, the ekkas that are left to be employed between Tuna and Dochen. Col. Younghusband arrived. He goes to Phari tomorrow, reaches Chumbi on 10th and returns to Gyantse with General Macdonald and the reinforce-

ments. Issued necessary instructions to have his daks delivered to him en route.

9th. — Travelled from Tuna to Phari. The Bhutan Penlop is here with a considerable following. In the evening attended the British Commissioner's reception of him in Durbar.

11th } —Halted at Phari. Engaged in correspondence. Weather wet, cold and windy.
to }
13th }

14th. — The 7th Royal Fusiliers, 7th M.B., R.G.A. and British Field Hospital arrived. Had a list made of all new arrivals.

15th. — Headquarters staff, Col. Younghusband, 30th Native Mountain Battery, 8th Gurkhas and details 32nd Pioneers arrived. Had a list made of all new arrivals.

I saw the Chief Staff Officer today and got permission to go to Gyantse. I mean to let the Force go on and to follow up behind so as to see that mails go forward all right.

The Force will clear Gyantse of the enemy before proceeding to Lhasa, and I do not suppose it will move much before the 1st. It will take 43 days' rations with it, but whether it will be back to Gyantse by the 12th August or whether it will remain at Lhasa is absolutely un-decided and will depend entirely upon circumstances when it gets there.

16th. — Halted at Phari. The 40th Pathans arrived today. Had a list made of new arrivals. Supervised arrival and distribution of mails. Mails are coming from Chumbi many hours later than formerly. This is because there is cholera on 2 sections of the line of communications, between Siliguri and Teesta Bridge and between Rangpo and Gangtok. The General Officer Commanding has in consequence ordered mails to be sent from Siliguri to Ghum by rail and thence to Teesta Bridge, and from Rangpo via Pakyong instead of by the direct route. This morning Gen. Macdonald had a display of rifle, maxim, 7-pounder and 10-pounder firing for the benefit of the Bhutanese Penlop.

17th. — The first column with headquarters staff and Col. Younghusband left for Gyantse. On arrival of mail from Chumbi, sent correspondence for the Column by special arrangement to the camp at Tangla.

18th. — The second column left for Gyantse. Engaged 6 more Tibetan coolies for the mail service between Phari and Tuna. This was necessary as nearly all troops are now in the Advance Division. Kangma (F.P.O. No. 32) wires no mail from Gyantse today.

19th. — Having completed my arrangements for getting mails (which are now very heavy) for the whole Force without delay, left for Tuna where I overtook the second column which marched from Phari yesterday. Kangma (F.P.O.

No. 32) wires no mails from Gyantse again today. It is rumoured that the mail escort has been fired on again.

- 20th. — Reached Dochen. There is no post office, but I have stationed a packer here to act as mail agent to supervise the exchange of mails from one ekka to another. Some such arrangement is called for as last month the ekka drivers between them lost 2 mail bags. The mail agent also sells stamps, delivers letters at the post, and receives letters for despatch. Three days' mail reached Kangma from Gyantse today.
- 21st. — Reached Kalatso half an hour after the first column had marched. Inspector Angelo, however, under my instructions, interviewed the Chief Staff Officer who has arranged for three M.I. to carry letter mails every day on the Gyantse line and for an ekka for the parcel mails. This is better than I had hoped, and if only the enemy keeps off the line of communications, the Gyantse mail service ought to work very well. It is said now that perhaps the Force will go to Shegatse, and not to Lhasa at all this year. I do not think either the British Commissioner or the General Officer Commanding themselves quite know what is going to be done until they reach Gyantse. The second column arrived from Dochen. Kangma (F.P.O. No. 32) wires no mail from Gyantse.
- 22nd.— The second column marched this morning and reaches Kangma tomorrow, where both columns concentrate. The Force halts at Kangma until 25th in order to send out reconnoitring parties before proceeding to Gyantse. Kangma (F.P.O. No. 32) wires no mails received from Gyantse.
- 23rd. — Halted at Kalatso. Attended to correspondence. Arranged for transport tomorrow to send on 35 maunds of parcel mails to Gyantse which has accumulated here. Kangma (F.P.O. No. 32) wires no mails received from Gyantse.
- 24th. — Got the parcel mails for Gyantse sent off on 7 ekkas under receipt from Transport Officer. They should reach Kangma tomorrow and Gyantse on 27th. I sent Inspector Angelo to Dochen and Tuna to discuss with the Officer Commanding the Ekka Train the new arrangements that have been ordered for mails between Tuna and Kalatso. All ekkas and ponies formerly in my charge have been returned to the Officer Commanding Ekka Train, and the conveyance of mails from Tuna upwards is now entirely in the hands of the Transport Department.
4 days' mails from Gyantse reached Kangma today.
- 25th. — Halted at Kalatso. Attended to office work. Kangma (F.P.O. No. 32) reports no mails arrived from Gyantse today.
- 26th. — I was horrified this morning to hear from the Officer Commanding this post that the parcel mails I sent out on 24th, in fact the whole convoy, are stranded at Menza (10 miles on) for want of forward transport. This is very serious as the mails, instead of arriving at Gyantse today, will now have

to wait (when they reach Kangma) for next week's convoy. The matter has been reported by wire to the Chief Supply and Transport Officer. It is very bad arrangement on his part. The headquarters staff and reinforcements reached Gyantse today.

Kangma (F.P.O. No. 32) wires no mails received from Gyantse.

- 27th. — Sent out another batch of parcel mails which I suppose will get no further than Menza. I had to let them go, as transport from here to Menza has been reserved for them and I may not be able to get it later on. Kangma (F.P.O. No. 32) wires no mails received from Gyantse. The wire has been carried through to Gyantse today and telegraphic communication with that post established. The latest news from the front is that negotiations with the Tibetan authorities in the near future are not improbable.
- 28th. — Halted at Kalatso. Attended to correspondence. Received intimation that a convoy would leave Kangma for Gyantse on 1st, so arranged to go up with it and to take the parcels accumulated at Menza along with me to ensure their going on this time.
- 29th. — Travelled from Kalatso to Menza. Arranged for transport to take on the parcel mails. There were 76 bags. Fortunately there has been no rain. Kangma (F.P.O. No. 32) wires no mails received from Gyantse.
- 30th. — Travelled to Kangma with parcel mail convoy of ekkas and yaks with small escort of details, of which I was supposed to be in command. On arrival at Kangma, I made over mails to the Officer Commanding the escort from Gyantse who put a guard over them. Received telegraphic intimation of my appointment as Chief Superintendent, Field Post Offices. Wired my thanks to Postmaster-General.

July 1904

- 1st. — Halted at Kangma. The convoy was delayed a day to allow the 3rd Company Mounted Infantry to come up. Secured 32 mules for the parcel mails. Was rather busy one way and another, the first day of my promotion.
- 2nd. — Travelled from Kangma to Saotang with convoy and parcel mails.
- 3rd. — Travelled from Saotang to Gyantse. I find that the General Officer Commanding and reinforcements are camped at a place $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the post. This will only be until the 6th. Meanwhile F.P.O. No. 24 works on alternate days at the Mission and Brigade Headquarters respectively. I have ordered another F.P.O. up here and expect it to arrive on 9th instant. Parcels are being booked at Gyantse at the rate of 40 per day. The postal staff here is being very hard worked at present. An advance from Gyantse is still doubtful. The Tibetan Shape has come in from Lhasa accompanied by the Dalai Lama's secretary. He has had an interview with Col. Young-husband and is to have another tomorrow at noon.

4th. --- As F.P.O. No. 24 is very crowded up in its tents, I have secured roomy quarters for it in one of the buildings and am having counters and shelves made for it out of ghi boxes by the Sappers' carpenters. Rode out to the headquarters camp and visited the temporary post office there. Five ekka loads of parcels had been booked there and I got them carted into the post in the evening.

The heads of the Mission and Expedition assembled in open Durbar at noon, but the Shape did not arrive in time. When he did come he was made to wait until 4 p.m. when the Durbar reopened. He was told that as a preliminary to the discussion of terms the Jong must be vacated by midday of 5th. He has promised to give an answer tomorrow morning. Mails to and from Gyantse are travelling regularly now every day.

5th. --- A down convoy has been arranged for 7th. It will return on 9th. The opening and sorting of the 76 bags of parcels which I brought up on 3rd was only completed this morning.

The Shape not having given an answer and the Jong being still held by the enemy, hostilities recommenced at 12.30. Only a few shots from the battery were fired, four of which I saw go clean over it and hit the hill behind. A general assault is to take place tomorrow at 4 a.m., the troops will be on the move at 1 a.m. Orders have been issued providing for two days' attack, by which time it is expected that the Jong will be in our hands.

6th. --- The Jong was captured today after fighting which lasted from 4 a.m. to 5 p.m. Our men garrisoned it at night.

Owing to all or nearly all the troops being out, F.P.O. No. 24 had more or less a day off for which I was very thankful as it enabled the staff to pull up arrears a bit. This office is very hard worked with the Mission, Brigade headquarters and about 1,800 troops (to say nothing of public and private followers) to serve. However, I expect more men and a field post office up on the 9th with the convoy.

7th. --- The headquarters camp has been moved nearer to the fortified post and is now 3/4 mile from the post office. Under orders of the General Officer Commanding, I closed F.P.O. No. 32 at Kangma today. It is wanted up here, but another field post office will be opened at Kangma as soon as more equipment comes up.

The Mounted Infantry escort, made a mistake in exchanging mails at Saotang and brought back the F.P.O. No. 24 bag for Base. This is awkward as the bag contained letters for the English mail. I understand that the Mission and Escort will start for Lhasa about the 12th current. A 2nd class F.P.O. with only 2 men is to accompany it.

8th. --- Today a flying column went out to a place called Dongtsi about 11 miles from Gyantse along the Shegatsi road. for the purpose of scouting and foraging. As all the Mounted Infantry went too, there were none available for carrying mails. so none were despatched or received today.

- 9th. — I went to the camp this morning and arranged with the Chief Staff Officer for a site for the field post office. Sent one of the tents of F.P.O. No. 24 which happens to be spare and a shouldari. All transport being out with the convoy and the flying column, I had these taken down on my own pony. Got the tents put up in readiness for the consignments of parcel mails expected this afternoon. The convoy arrived at 1 p.m. with F.P.O. No. 32, Mr. Williams, postmaster, Babu Ram Lal, clerk, a packer and khalasi. Also 49 bags of parcel mails for Gyantse. Although the men had just come off a hard march, I had to set them to work on the parcel mails immediately as being the only possible way of getting them delivered before the Force moves on to Lhasa. F.P.O. No. 32 opened at Brigade headquarters today and started work an hour after arrival.
- 10th } — Spent most of my time between the two post offices, the camp office being
11th } busy delivering parcels and the other receiving parcels for despatch.
- 12th — I am afraid Mr. Williams, postmaster, F.P.O. No. 32, is slow and wanting in method. He only got the last of the 49 parcel bags received on 9th opened this morning. Another convoy came in today bringing 21 parcel bags. Mr. Angelo, Munshi Ghulam Mahomed and clerk Ferris also came with it. As the Force moves on 14th and it is absolutely necessary to get everything delivered today and tomorrow, I personally supervised the disposal of these parcel mails and by evening had every bag opened and a good many parcels delivered.
- 13th. — By this evening all but 18 parcels out of the 70 bags received on 9th and 12th have been delivered. These 18 parcels were without numbers and addresses and it is quite impossible to tell who they are for.
- 14th. — The Mission headquarters and Escort left en route for Lhasa at 9 a.m. I sent a section of F.P.O. No. 32 and Munshi Ghulam Mahomed and Babu F.N. Marick along with it, the other section in charge of postmaster Williams being left behind in Gyantse. The F.P.O. with the Force is to deal only with letter mails, both ordinary and registered. This is the General's order, transport not being available for parcel mails. Letter mails will go forward once every 3 days by mounted infantry, 10 men being told off for the purpose on each occasion. Parcel mails are to be kept at Gyantse. I calculate that they will accumulate at the rate of 3,000 a month. It is a great responsibility, and I would have wished that v.p. system had never been extended to the field. The General Officer Commanding has now vetoed it and directed that no parcel of any kind is to exceed 11 lbs. in weight. This is on account of transport difficulties.
- The Brigade Headquarters camp has been broken up and the section of F.P.O. No. 32 which has not gone forward has been moved into the fortified post and will work alongside and in conjunction with F.P.O. No. 24. It rained all yesterday and today. The fortified post is a quagmire, the tents and everything in them is damp, moist and unpleasant. A dak was received from the advance camp at 11 a.m.

I think the Directorate and the Postmaster-General ought to know that during the first 12 days of July 1,510 parcels were received at Gyantse alone for delivery to the Force, and 704 were booked for despatch.

- 16th. — Halted at Gyantse. The dak was sent out to the advance camp 36 miles from here this morning. In future it will go every third day by mounted infantry. The next one will go out on the 19th. I received a telegram today from Rangpo to say that there has been a landslip on the Rangpo-Gangtok road, 1/4 mile from Rangpo, and that 4 parcel mail runners had been slightly injured and had been temporarily taken off duty. A part of the parcel mail had not come in.
4 field post office equipments which left Siliguri on 5th May reached Kalatso, a distance of 160 miles, today. Two tent poles are missing and one is broken. The transport arrangements are very unsatisfactory.
- 17th. — A dak came in today from the advance camp on the Lhasa road. The next one is due on 20th.
A convoy arrived today from Kangma, but although there are 45 bags of parcels lying there, they were not brought on. When I remonstrated, the Officer Commanding Lines of Communication, while expressing regret that there was no room for the mails, said that precedence had to be given to food. It is quite true that Force up here and in advance is very badly in need of food supplies. A convoy goes down on 20th and I propose to go with it. I will take care that the parcel mail is sent up on 23rd when the convoy returns to Gyantse.
The delayed parcel mails referred to in yesterday's diary reached Rangpo this morning all safe.
- 18th. — Halted at Gyantse. I had a talk about mail arrangements with Col. Read, Commanding Lines of Communication, this morning. He proposes to establish a post at Saotang, half-way between this and Kangma, and to have transport working in stages. If this is done, parcel mails will come up daily instead of in unwieldly batches. They will arrive in Gyantse from Siliguri in 8 days. Letters posted in Calcutta before 3 p.m. on Mondays are delivered in Gyantse on the following Sunday afternoon.
- 19th. — Halted at Gyantse. Disposed of correspondence.
- 20th. — Travelled from Gyantse to Kalatso in company with Col. Read, Commanding Lines of Communication, and Maj. Stewart. his Brigade Major.
- 21st } — Mr. Angelo, Superintendent, F.P.O.s Advance Division, came as far as
to } Kangma. The convoy brought down 34 mule loads of parcel mail from
23rd } Gyantse for Base. There is twice that quantity left behind at Gyantse awaiting transport. At Kangma there were 81 bags of parcel mail for the convoy to take up to Gyantse.
On 21st F.P.O. No. 88 was opened at Kangma in charge of postmaster Williams, F.P.O. No. 32, previously at Kangma, having been closed on 7th instant and moved up for the Lhasa Column.

Kalatso is very bleak and cold after the Gyantse Valley. Was glad to find F.P.O. No. 25 comfortably housed in the building I purchased from 23rd Pioneer's Mess at the beginning of the month. Snow has fallen in the higher hills by which the Kalatso plain is surrounded.

24th. — Col. Read, Commanding Line of C, and staff went on this morning. He is returning to Chumbi. My office is here for the present, and I am halting a few days to attend to necessary office work. But I shall pack up very shortly and take the office down to Chumbi.

25th } — Halted at Kalatso. Attended to correspondence.
26th }

27th. — Today convoy leaves Kangma for Gyantse, and Mr. Angelo, Supdt. F.P.O.s, Advance Div., who is at Kangma, returns with it. I have made over all stock and equipment belonging to the Advance Div. to his clerk, and am closing office and striking tents preparatory to moving to Chumbi.

28th. — Travelled from Kalatso to Dochen. At Dochen there is a mail agent who is responsible for the correct exchange of mails from one set of ekkas to the other, but there is no field post office.

29th — Travelled from Dochen to Tuna. Visited F.P.O. No. 31 (2nd Class). The up mail due here last night arrived at midday today. The explanation given by the Superintendent, to whom I telegraphed, is that being overland mail day the mail was unusually heavy. Unfortunately it is impossible under existing circumstances to put on extra men on these occasions as the labour supply is very limited. The regular runners are all imported from below Lingtam in Sikkim.

30th. — Halted at Tuna to clear off office work, but sent my clerk with office. The regular convoy takes two days between Tuna and Phari, but I can get through in one by special arrangement with the transport officials.

31st. — Travelled from Tuna to Phari. Visited F.P.O. No. 81 (1st class). Six Tibetan mail coolies working between Phari and Tuna, whom I appointed from 20th June, complained that they have not been paid for last month. I had them paid at once. There are now 24 Tibetans carrying the mail between Phari and Tuna and they do the distance ($18\frac{3}{4}$ miles) in 8 hours. They are paid Rs. 15 per month. As the weight of the mails has increased I shall have to raise the number to 30.

I leave for Chumbi tomorrow, where I expect to arrive on 2nd August.

August 1904

1st. — Travelled from Phari to Gautsa. Visited the runners' stage at Gelmig 5 miles from Phari. All runners present. The road from Dothera to Gautsa is very bad, and I can quite see that it is impossible for the mail runners to keep

up a proper rate of speed. Four companies of the 23rd Sikh Pioneers are being put on to it. Heavy rain after leaving Dotha.

2nd. — It rained all the night, but was fair when I left Gautsa. The rainfall between Lingmathang and Dotha, a distance of 11 miles, is very much in excess of the fall in the districts immediately above and below. The reason for this is not yet apparent. The runners at Gautsa, Lingmathang and Chumbi are most comfortably huddled in log cabins put up for the Department by the Sappers and Miners. The post office at Chumbi (F.P.O. No. 26) and the telegraph office also have excellent quarters in boarded houses. Mr. Walsh, the Political Officer, has a pucca-built three-roomed cottage and other houses and a bazar have sprung up. Chumbi is a very different place from what it was when I left it in March. I gather that we shall annex the valley and the country upto Tangla, which was the old boundary between Sikkim and Tibet.

I found Mr. Quilter, Superintendent, F.P.O.s, of the new Central Division here on my arrival. There is a surprising number of F.P.O. tents standing here. I counted six—two belong of course to F.P.O. No. 26 and the rest are all spare.

3rd } — Halted at Chumbi. Engaged with office work. Mr. White, Superintendent,
to } Base Division, arrived on 5th and Mr. O'Sullivan, Inspector, joined the
7th } Central Division the same day. The news that Lhasa was entered by the
Mission and Escort on the 3rd, reached Chumbi on the morning of the 7th
—very quick work, considering that the telegraph does not go beyond
Gyantse. I shall be going to Gangtok next week.

8th. — The Superintendent, F.P.O.s, Base Division reports that now the Siliguri -Rangpo road has been declared free from cholera, that route has been resumed for transport purposes and mails. The Ghum-Teesta Bridge line has therefore been abandoned for F.P.O. mails. F.P.O. No. 28 was reopened at Sevoke on 30th July. Mr. Quilter, Superintendent, F.P.O.s. Central Division left for Kalatso this morning.

9th } — Halted at Chumbi. Engaged with office work. Mr. White, Superintendent,
to } F.P.O.s, Base Division, left for down on 9th and Mr. O'Sullivan, Inspector,
12th } F.P.O.s, Central Division, left for Lingmathang and Gautsa on 10th.
I have just heard that a consignment of 34 parcel bags for Base sent by con-
voy from Kangma on 6th July has not yet reached Siliguri. I have traced
them to Chumbi so they must be hung upon on the road somewhere between
Chumbi and Siliguri. I have wired the Superintendent to trace them down
from post to post, and I shall also make enquiries myself on the way down.
I leave for Gangtok tomorrow. The transport service is very unreliable.
Halted at Chumbi. Attended to correspondence.

13th } — Travelled from Chumbi to Karponang visiting Field Post Offices Nos. 30
to } (Pheema), 34 (Champethang), 33 (Changu), and 84 (Karponang) en route.
15th } While at Champethang, I made enquiries regarding the theft of Rs. 460-11-2

in cash and stamps from F.P.O. No. 34 on the night of 4th. I have very little doubt that the burglars came from the Sappers and Miners camp which is just above the post office. Mr. Clarence White took a different view and unfortunately did not bring the matter to the notice of Lieutenant Hill, Commanding the detachment at the time. They have now left the neighbourhood. A report on the matter is under preparation. The road from Pheema to Changu is very bad. For the greater part of the way it is impossible to ride. It is now the route for all traffic between Siliguri and Chumbi and is to be made into an 8 feet wide, one-in-fifteen ekka road. There are 3,000 labourers now at work on it under R.E. Officers. I am due in Gangtok tomorrow.

- 16th. — Travelled from Karponang to Gangtok, found Mr. White, Supdt. F.P.O.s Base Div., at Gangtok. He tells me he has to go on to Teesta Bridge to open a field service mail line between Darjeeling and Teesta. This is the first I have heard that there is any intention of opening such a line. I find a very good little house in course of construction for F.P.O. No. 87. Attended to correspondence.
- 17th. — The Supdt., F.P.O.s, Base Div. started for Teesta this morning in pouring rain. I have arranged for quarters for my office and opened it today. Office work is in arrear after 4 days travelling. Busy with correspondence all day.
- 18th } — Halted at Gangtok. Engaged with office work. The last consignment of
to } parcels posted at Gyantse before the Lhasa column left (14th July) was only
23rd } got off from here on the 6th instant. It consisted of 90 bags. The transport
service has been most dilatory about forwarding these mails. One consignment
22nd. } was a month getting from Chumbi to Gangtok, a distance of 45 miles. I have handed the matter up to the Chief Transport Officer. The delay and careless treatment to which the parcels have been subjected while in the hands of the transport people have resulted in many of them reaching Siliguri in a damaged condition.
The Supdt. F.P.O.s Advance Div. is moving his office from Kalatso to Gyantse. He left the former place on 21st and should be in Gyantse on 24th or 25th.
There is no news of any postal interest from the front.
Next week I go to Darjeeling to pay the Postmaster-General a visit.
- 24th. — Halted at Gangtok. Engaged with office work.
- 25th } — Travelled from Gangtok to Darjeeling. On 26th I visited F.P.O. No. 27
to } at Rangpo, the only field post office between Gangtok and Darjeeling.
28th } New field mail line has recently been opened between that station and the Force in Sikkim and Tibet. On arrival at Darjeeling called upon the Postmaster-General.
- 29th } — Halted at Darjeeling. On 30th I had an interview with the Postmaster-
to } General to discuss matters connected with the field postal service. Attended
31st } to correspondence.

I have heard indirectly that the Lhasa Column will be leaving that place on its way back to Gyantse on 15th September. Personally I think a later date for its return is more probable.

September 1904

1st } — Halted at Darjeeling. Engaged with correspondence. During the week,
to } there has been a fresh outbreak of cholera on the line of communication
7th } between Siliguri and Teesta Bridge. We have lost 3 runners from it. A part
of the road near Reang was washed away by floods which necessitated the
closure for some days of all transport work. The field mail service, however,
was not allowed to suffer by these accidents, but went on and kept time as
usual. As I have said before, the General Officer Commanding will not allow
parcel mails to go forward from Gyantse. At the end of last month there
were 224 bags of parcels mail plus 117 parcels in deposit at Gyantse for the
Lhasa Column. The Supdt. F.P.O.s Advance Div. is now having all these
parcel mails sorted into bags for the different regiments, details and units,
so that they can be handed over directly the troops get back to Gyantse.
He has put on two reserve men specially to deal with them. I am still
having a great deal of trouble about the parcel mail sent down from Gyantse
by convoys. About 350 parcel bags were made over to the transport service
in July and August for conveyance to Siliguri, and besides the delay in
transmission to which I have already referred, the bags appear to have been
subjected to a good deal of rough usage, as I hear of parcels, parcel lists
and parcel receipts having been picked up on the road. I have also had
reports from the Base of bags arriving at Siliguri minus a part of their
contents. The mule slings must have worn through the bags or else
holes must deliberately have been made in them by the mule drivers and
carriers in order to facilitate abstraction. I have brought the matter to the
notice of O.C. Line of C. and have now ordered all mails reaching Phari
by transport to be intercepted and sent on by our own men by instalments.
They can hardly be longer on the road than they are now and are much
more likely to reach their destinations safely than at present.
I leave Darjeeling for Siliguri tomorrow.

8th. — After disposing of my dak left Darjeeling by train for Siliguri. On arrival at Siliguri was met by Mr. White, Supdt. F.P.O.s Base Div.

9th } — Halted at Siliguri. Both were very busy days, as I had much to see at the
10th } Base Office and to talk over with the divisional superintendent and the post-
master, Base. Mr. White left for Teesta Bridge via Darjeeling on the 9th.
The road at Reang is still blocked by the landslip for transport, though
the mails get through all right.

11th. — I travelled up by train to Ghum and then rode down to Peshok.

12th. — Travelled from Peshok to Teesta Bridge. Attended to correspondence.

There are close on 200 parcel bags lying here which have been detained owing to stoppage of transport through the landslip near Reang. However, more than half were sent on to Reang today, the road being open.

13th. — Travelled from Teesta Bridge to Tarkola. Last night there was a landslip close to Rangpo. The mails were passing at the time and one of our runners was hit by a stone on the arm and had to be sent to hospital. The road from Rangpo to Gangtok was closed for transport all day, but mails got over as usual.

Today the rest of the mails accumulated at Teesta Bridge were forwarded to Reang. I have sent the Supdt. to Reang to get these belated bags pushed on to Siliguri as quick as possible.

At starting from Teesta Mr. Wintle, Asst. Supdt., rode up. He had been out all night hurrying mails along. Mr. Wintle is a very energetic young officer and does not spare himself, but I told him not to move about at night any more. He will either be getting fever or falling down the khud.

14th. — Travelled from Tarkola to Dowgago.

Passing through Rangpo, I visited F.P.O. No. 27 and sent off some telegrams. The latest news I heard at Rangpo is that no troops will be kept at Gyantse, and that we shall withdraw entirely from the country above Chumbi. The road to Gangtok was cleared of the landslip this morning.

15th. — Got back to Gangtok little after midday. Attended to correspondence. The Supt. F.P.O.s Advance Div. notes in his diary that on 7th September there were in deposit at Gyantse for the Lhasa Column 844 parcels. On 18th I leave for Gyantse to meet Col. Younghusband and General Macdonald on their return from Lhasa.

16th } — Halted at Gangtok. Engaged in clearing off arrears of office work.
17th }

18th. — Travelled from Gangtok to Changu, a double march, having sent off my kit yesterday. Mr. Wintle, Asst. Supdt. F.P.O.s Base Div. accompanied me as far as Karponang, the first stage.

19th. — Travelled from Changu to Champethang. They are getting on with the new road connecting Gangtok with the Chumbi Valley, and Field Engineer told me that the section from Yukanthan to the Nathula would be fit to ride over in a week's time. Meanwhile, what with blasting and landslips, even the cooly track is almost impassable and of course riding is out of the question. It is a marvel how the mails manage to get along this section at night, but they do and keep time too. There have been snow and frost at Champethang already.

20th. — Travelled from Champethang to Chumbi. The line of communication presents an animated appearance. I met a company of the 32nd Pioneers and No. 12 Company 2nd Sappers and Miners on their way back to India,

looking very pleased with themselves. Found Mr. Quilter and Inspector O'Sullivan at Chumbi.

21st. — Halted at Chumbi. This morning I called upon Col. Read, Commanding L. of C, and Maj. Stewart, his Bde. Major, and also upon Capt. Roddy, Chief Transport Officer L. of C. It is still a moot point whether Gyantse or Chumbi or both will be held this winter. The General Officer Commanding, I happen to know, wants a garrison kept at Gyantse, and has referred the matter to the Govt. of India whose decision is awaited. Meanwhile troops are crowding down from Gyantse along the line of communication and because of difficulty in providing transport I have been asked not to go up to Gyantse unless my presence is absolutely necessary. This morning two companies 23rd Pioneers left Chumbi for India. I have ordered F.P.O. No. 85 (Dotha) and F.P.O. No. 86 (Lamteng) to be closed, all troops having been withdrawn from those places. Mr. Wintle, Asst. Supdt. F.P.O.s Base Div., arrived this afternoon.

22nd. — Halted at Chumbi. A second company 23rd Pioneers left for India this morning. The following appears in L. of C. Orders:—

[No.] 447-POSTAL

It is notified for information that no parcels will be received at post offices north of Chumbi for downward despatch after 1st Oct. 1904".

I have repeated the order to field post offices.

23rd. — Halted at Chumbi. Disposed of correspondence. No further news received up to date, except that 3 survey parties are to be left behind in Tibet, one to explore the Sampho Valley up, one down, and one to strike northwards. The following is an extract from the diary of the Supdt. F.P.O.s, Advance Division, dated Gyantse, 11th September:—

“Major Ray, Intelligence Branch, has come in here from Lhasa. He tells me that the mails for Lhasa have been arriving with the greatest regularity, and that the field post office at Lhasa has been working admirably.”

The Supdt. F.P.O.s Advance Div. notes in the diary that on the 15th September there were in deposit at Gyantse, awaiting the return of the Lhasa Column, 959 parcels.

24th. — Halted at Chumbi. Engaged with correspondence. Inspector O'Sullivan left on tour.

25th. — Halted at Chumbi. Engaged with correspondence. Received instructions from headquarters to have my report on the field postal service ready by the 7th October. Mr. Quilter, Supdt. Central Div., and Mr. Wintle, Asst. Supdt., Base Div. both left on tour today.

26th. — Halted at Chumbi. Engaged with correspondence. Began my report.

- 27th. — Halted at Chumbi. Engaged with correspondence. Had a letter from Capt. O'Connor, Secretary to the Mission, intimating that Col. Younghusband had left the escort and was coming down from Lhasa by double marches and expected to reach Gyantse on 30th September. Issued necessary instructions about his daks.
- 28th. — Halted at Chumbi. Engaged with correspondence. Wrote a good deal of my report today. Inspector O'Sullivan reported his return from tour.
- 29th. — Halted at Chumbi. Engaged with correspondence and in writing my report.
- 30th. — Halted at Chumbi. Engaged with correspondence. Finished my report which I am sending to the Postmaster-General's office to be typed. Col. Younghusband wired his movements. He leaves Gyantse on 1st, reaches Chumbi on 5th, Gangtok on 7th, Darjeeling on 9th, Siliguri on 11th, Calcutta on 12th, and Simla on 14th October. I leave on 1st October for Lingmathang.

October 1904

- 1st. — After disposing of my office-work, I travelled from Chumbi to Lingmathang. Visited F.P.O. No. 83. The office has no chair. The sub-postmaster tells me Mr. Dease took it and that it has never been returned. I will make enquiries about this (Subsequently found at Chumbi with the superintendent).
- 2nd } — Halted at Lingmathang. Attended to correspondence. Visited F.P.O. No. 83
3rd } each day.
- 4th. — After disposing of my dak returned to Chumbi.
- 5th. — Halted at Chumbi and attended to correspondence. Col. Younghusband arrived this afternoon I went and to see him. He seemed to think that Gyantse would be held in some strength, and that field post offices would be needed at Gyantse, Phari, and Chumbi. The first part of the Lhasa Column reached Gyantse today.
- 6th. — I rode with Col. Younghusband as far as Pheema where I bid him good-bye. At Pheema visited F.P.O. No. 30 to make enquiries about an unregistered parcel for Mr. Henderson which he had not received, but which the postmaster said had been delivered. Found he had made a mistake in the identity of the article. Then went on to see Mr. Henderson at Yatung returning to Chumbi in the evening.
- 7th. — Halted at Chumbi. Attended to correspondence. It has been decided to have a trade agent (Capt. O'Connor) at Gyantse with a guard, which will at present consist of 3 companies of the 40th Pathans. There will be no post office there, Capt. O'Connor arranging to send into Chumbi once a week for mails for himself and garrison. The troops begin their march from Gyantse today and the headquarters

staff with the last column leave there on the 11th. All field post offices between Gyantse and Chumbi will be withdrawn and will join the last column on its march downwards. The Superintendent and Inspector will come down with it too. The General and staff expect to reach Chumbi about the 19th.

The Superintendent, F.P.O.s Advance Div. informs me that on the last day of September there were 1,155 parcels in deposit at Gyantse awaiting the return of the Lhasa Column.

8th } — Halted at Chumbi. I have been busy during the week in arranging for delivery
to } of mails for troops on the march down. Columns have been leaving Gyantse
14th } daily, the first on the 7th and the last on the 11th, and field post offices
Nos 23[32] and 24 are accompanying them down to Chumbi. All intermediate post offices are being closed as the last column passes and equipments and staff join it on the march. On the 20th instant there will be no field post offices or postal details north of Chumbi.

Thanks to the excellent arrangements made by Mr. Angelo, Superintendent, F.P.O.s Advance Div., all accumulations of parcel mail for the Lhasa Column were delivered at Gyantse on 5th to 7th instant without crowding or loss. On the 14th I had a long discussion with the Chief Supply and Transport Officer (Capt. Roddy) on the subject of the ill-treatment, delay and loss of parcel mails sent down by transport from Gyantse. We are both at work to trace how and where these losses occurred, and he has promised condign punishment to all offenders detected.

I took the opportunity of arranging with Capt. Roddy for a special postal convoy to take all postal equipments and details from Chumbi to Siliguri, picking up intermediate offices and details as it goes along. The postal convoy will start about 27th or 28th instant after the regular troops have taken their departure and should reach the base on 6th November. I hope thus to avoid loss of and delay to equipment, and there will be no stragglers among the staff. Nearly all the field postal staff should have left Siliguri for India by the 10th November.

15th. — Travelled from Chumbi to Champethang. The new road from Gangtok to Chumbi is almost finished and all the Engineers and coolies are to be taken off it after the 31st October. The distance between the two places is increased from 44 to 55 miles, but the gradient is easy the whole way!

16th. — Halted at Champethang. Visited F.P.O. No. 34 and saw the parcel mails transited. I noticed several bags with defective fastenings, seals and labels. F.P.O. Nos. 88 and 81 were the principal offenders. Defects like these make abstractions possible. Due notice will be taken.

17th. — Halted at Champethang. A double company of the 32nd Pioneers arrived this afternoon on its way down to Siliguri. Mails for it duly reached F.P.O. No. 34 today as arranged. The last column from Gyantse marching from Tuna to Phari was caught in a blizzard on the Tangla. A havildar

of the 8th Gurkhas perished on the road and 72 men fell out and had to be carried to Pharijong, where two of them died.

18th. — I awoke this morning to find 2 feet of snow on the ground and the tent of F.P.O. No. 34 collapsed. All movements of troops and traffic are put a stop to. I had my things carried to Chumbi by return runners and reached there with some difficulty. On arrival I found everyone's tent had come down with the weight of snow and the camp had spent a most unhappy night in consequence. All Post Office tents, including my own and Mr. Quilter's, were lying on the ground. I dug my property out and made shift to get a tent up to sleep in tonight. Nearly every tent pole is smashed. Troops marching down are hung up where they are, unable to move. The wires between Karponang and Chumbi and Gyantse are all down and telegraphic communication with India stopped.

19th. — It did not snow last night and with a hot sun what was on the ground is melting off. I got all Post Office tents raised and put out to dry, and with the help of Inspector O'Sullivan am trying to get sufficient poles repaired to last during the march down. It has been decided that postal details will leave Chumbi on 26th picking up others on the way down to Siliguri. I am having 150 mules placed at my disposal.

The column was able to resume its march from Phari and reached Gautsa today. Gen. Macdonald having been delayed by the weather, his trip to Simla is off for the present.

Communication having been restored between Siliguri and Changu, telegrams are being posted to and from Changu upwards.

20th } — Halted at Chumbi. Attended to correspondence. Called upon Gen.
21st } Macdonald. F.P.O. details of the Advance and Central Divisions with Messers. Quilter, Angelo and Gillespie arrived this evening. The orders for rolling up post offices between Chumbi and Siliguri have been countermanded.

22nd. — Halted at Chumbi. Today I had all field post offices equipment set up. I am to hold a board on it with a view to unserviceable stock being condemned. Got fresh orders today to close field post offices between Chumbi and Gangtek only. Issued necessary instructions on the subject.

23rd. — Halted at Chumbi. Busy with preparations to get all off on 26th. Attended to correspondence. Late in the evening Gen. Macdonald gave me orders to reopen a post office at Phari and to connect it with Chumbi by mail line. This is a bit awkward, as I have already closed everything and paid off the runners. However, I will try my best to carry out his wishes. I said good-bye to the General and staff who leave Chumbi tomorrow. The garrison at Gyantse is to be reduced at once from 3 companies to 50 men which is considered a sufficient guard for the trade agent, Capt. O'Connor. The telegraph line between Phari and Gyantse (100 miles) has broken down, and since the postal service has been closed, there is at present no communi-

tion with Gyantse. I am afraid that post will very frequently be isolated. Telegraphic communication between Chumbi and India has been fully restored today.

- 24th } -- Halted at Chumbi. On 25th sent off F.P.O. No. 81 back to Phari where the
25th } General Officer Commanding had ordered it to be reopened, under a post-master and two clerks. Examined F.P.O. equipments and got everything packed in readiness for a start on the 26th.
- 26th. — The mail line Chumbi to Phari was reopened and mails despatched by it. F.P.O. No. 81 opened at Phari on arrival there in the evening. Got the convoy off early and, following, brought up the rear with Messers. Quilter and Angelo. A laden mule went over the khud, but was recovered with a little difficulty. Passing Pheema picked up F.P.O. No. 30, which had been closed on the 25th.
- 27th. — Travelled from Champethang to Changu. This day's march was over the Nathula. There was a good deal of snow on the pass. Picked up F.P.O. No. 34 (Champethang) which had been closed the day before. F.P.O. No. 33 (Changu) closed today.
- 28th. — Did a double march from Changu to Gangtok, as I wanted a day in office before moving it down. The rest of the convoy halted at Karponang. Picked up F.P.O. No. 33 (Changu). Closed F.P.O. No. 84 (Karponang).
- 29th. — Halted at Gangtok. Attended to correspondence and then packed up my office. The convoy came in today having picked up F.P.O. No. 84 (Karponang).
- 30th. — Travelled from Gangtok to Rangpo.

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- 1st } -- En route with postal details to Siliguri. The march down was accomplished
to } without hitch. The weather was fine and there were no casualties. The men
4th } were so keen to get back that they used to strike camp at 1 a.m.
- 5th } -- Halted at Base. I have been very busy getting men and equipments returned
to } to India and having outstanding cases settled up. There are only left here
7th } now Mr. Quilter and Mr. Angelo with F.P.O. Nos. 25, 32 and 24, and they will leave on the 9th instant.

The following establishment is still in the field:—

F.P.O. No. 81 at Phari; F.P.O. No. 26 at Chumbi; F.P.O. No. 87 at Gangtok; F.P.O. No. 27 at Rangpo; F.P.O. No. 28 at Sevoke, the Base head office at Siliguri and Mr. Superintendent White and Mr. Asst. Superintendent Wintle. I have left Mr. Wintle up at Chumbi to look after things between Gangtok and Chumbi. I expect to be able to withdraw F.P.O. Nos. 87, 27 and 28 after the 13th instant.

- 8th. — Halted at Siliguri. Engaged with correspondence and in getting men and equipments sent back to India.
- 9th. — Engaged with office work. Messers. Quilter and Angelo returned to India making over charge to me.
I left for Calcutta under instructions from the Postmaster-General.
- 10th. — Arrived in Calcutta and called upon the Postmaster-General.
- 11th. — Halted at Calcutta. Saw the Postmaster-General. As it has been arranged that I am to join the Postmaster-General's office as Personal Assistant, I took the opportunity of being in Calcutta to secure quarters for myself.
- 12th. — Called at the Postmaster-General's office. Left Calcutta by Darjeeling mail train.
- 13th. — Reached Siliguri. Attended to correspondence.
- 14th } — Halted at Siliguri. Engaged in getting pending cases closed up. I sent off
15th } the clerks of the Advance and Central Divisions on the 14th. Mr. White, Superintendent, Base Div. leaves on morning of 16th instant.
Col. Read, Commanding Lines of Communication with his staff, is at Gangtok and will be at Siliguri on 19th. All transport, commissariat and other details not staying up in Sikkim and Tibet, will be down by the 22nd. The Base, I expect, will clear by the end of this month.
There has been heavy snow on the passes the last three days, and the Chumbi mails have been somewhat delayed in consequence, but not seriously.
- 16th } — Halted at Siliguri. Engaged with correspondence. There is a good deal com-
to } ing in yet. I have my office in the Base Post Office so as to be accessible to
19th } inquirers of whom a good number come to me. F.P.O. Nos. 87 (Gangtok) and 27 (Rangpo) were closed on the 14th instant, are coming down with Mr. Wintle, Asst. Supdt. F.P.O. No. 26 (Chumbi) wires on 16th that a heavy fall of snow on the passes had been delaying the mails. They have however been keeping good time since.
- 20th } — On the 20th I went to Darjeeling to settle one or two outstanding matters
to } with the postmaster, Darjeeling. Coming down, I broke journey at Kurseong,
23rd } as I wished to see Mr. Byrne, Supdt. Post Offices, Jalpaiguri Div. about the possibility of his being able to take charge of the Military postal arrangements between Siliguri and Phari. I hear he left Kurseong by the train I arrived by, but I missed him through getting down at the hotel siding. Gen. Macdonald was at Siliguri when I returned and I called upon him. He tells me he severs his connection with the Mission Force from 1st December. He, Maj. Iggulden, Chief Staff Officer, Col. Read, Commanding Line of C., and Maj. Stewart, Brigade-Major, left Siliguri by the mail train this night (23rd).
F.P.O. No. 28 (Sevoke) closed on the 21st. Mr. Wintle, Asst. Supdt. Field P.O.s reached Siliguri on the 22nd with equipment and details of F.P.O. Nos. 87, 27 and 28. There are now left in the field only the Base head office,

F.P.O. No. 26 (Chumbi) and F.P.O. No. 81 (Phari) with the field service mail line between Siliguri and Phari.

I expect to be able to relinquish charge to Mr. Wintle next week.

24th } — Halted at Siliguri. Engaged in clearing up everything preparatory to making
to } over charge.
28th } On the afternoon of 28th November, 1904, I handed over charge of the
field postal service to Mr. Wintle, Assistant Superintendent, who will be
in charge hereafter.

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