

1/17/75

The Crowning of a God-King
Kakumadee - Feb 25th - 1975
and Events

Leading up to + following -
Feb. 14th onwards

Feb 14/45

As always it seems, I left London in a flump. Just as departing for Christmas in Washington there had been a party - 24 - the night before at Smith Square and I had no time to pack! So Wake Up Service at 5:00 AM and a ~~of~~ sleepy Grevin + 11 flump clothes - work books, cameras - cosmetics - medicines into various bags (Thank God I had made lists of what was to go) racing against TAXI arrival at 17:30 of a dark grey London morning to take me to Heathrow and (one topped) PANAM #2 Round the World unit, minus me a free ticket passenger as far as New Delhi. Thank God no time for emotion - faintest farewells - Our miraculous bus in which we had in Washington, ~~London~~ Mexico + London discovered each other + forged an unbreakable bond of love, trust, and laughter - was over in a flump & just as well - when you have gotten to the hearts are words don't matter -

Still shaky from Aman the afternoon

but heartened by Dr. HANNAH's determination that I should not miss this chance of a life-time - A TICKET ROUND THE WORLD - GENTIS + WIRTH's stay as guest of Jim Edwards (European Crown Prince of Nepal - Doyen of TIGER OPS + soldier since the 1st war in 1965). Well ~~led~~ by Grace + by Golley made it - and recovering by leaps + bounds.

Feb. 15th - ASTHORA HOTEL - ROOM 429 dump entire stay - Room Service + sleep - I'll see Delhi on return - R+R for RR most important at moment.

Feb 16th - Calla w. early (you can say that again!) breakfast at 5:30 A.M. to make 8:00 Rapid Nepal. On flight to Kathmandu - Made it! Memories flood back at sight of airport - but astonished at modernization since 1973! Why does progress always bring standardization! Pity. Call Tiger Tops office - no one to meet me as impossible to get through from town due to Corbett's release blocking all major traffic arteries outward bound. But taxi available into center so present self to welcome sight of Edward McCarthey (Brenda Hayes' son) whose warmth + efficiency in

sorting out my passport to Jim + Fiola Edwards - coupled w. brief meeting with wife, Sue - reassured weary travellers.

Fiola ice-maiden lovely as ever + impressive of lacking charm house next to hospital where the Milton used to reside - SAMI-BOWEN - greeted me + IMPEDIMENTA (now night Romans were to dub her as thus!) Also invitation to pool side party chez BARBARA ~~AND~~ ADAMS (3rd SYZTRAVEL + 3rd ANICE BROWN ex-girl, still colleague). SAGGERS CONQUERED FATIGUE + PARTY PROVED delightful! Imagine BRONIS in mid-Feb. + all sorts of Croatian correspondents found at Jim charming A.I. Dgent - don - Luis MARRON NATE Gov. Mr. writer covering coronation + got address SHANKAR HOTEL - Met pilot for imp's helicopter (must look up possible stay here) + scores of potentially helpful people - also great fun - BRONIS LISONARCH son MISHKA + wife (D. bad for her med.) - Back from party late afternoon w. delightful swiss pilot. HARRY FRASER who lives just down the road (about 3 houses!) Jim Edwards - and into his really charming

house (wonderful paintings - some by extremely talented
brother) done by Nepalese painters _____ who has
deteriorated o. success - Good music eminently
CIVILIZED atmosphere. Home to celanans
Dinner - RATNA - good - You so of better both Nepalese
equivalent P.G. Workhouse staff - French chef +
KATMANUJ Jesses without J's lantern - but same
wonderful quality of not simply ENTERING ROOM but
materializing - Brief encounter CHRISTIAN-BATHING
EDWARDS (KIDDY) double cuplet of 3 looks - spoiled
small friend is disposition + Anna - Tara - 6 mo
old plump black poppet - and so - after pleasant
chat to FIOLA - to bed. The SAMIR (Jul) appears
w/ a lulla until Friday.

Monday, Feb 17th - Pocher in health - after showers
Sunday - but into town w. Fiola for couple of
hours errands. Nice fool didn't take camera
(or perhaps just too exhausted) Whole town in uproar
with rehearsal - what is supposedly last one - of
coronation procession - all major roads blocked
off for ordinary traffic - creating snarl along the

minor dirt lanes leading into center that has
to be seen to be believed. Trains, taxis, motor bikes
bicycles and pedestrians headed both in and
out of town are squashed, bumped, back + fill
jockeying for passage, with accompanying disa-
ply of horn blasts, whistles, and cultural noises
that grate sharply on Western ears - but all this
done with what seems like good humor, an driver
grins broadly as he surveys the unedible
confusion and there are answering grins + giggles
from others involved, the Nepali actually seem to
ENJOY the whole thing. A situation New York
traffic jam (and it is equal in scope to any cross-
town pile up Manhattan could produce) with lane
the air blue with cusses and red with swamped
faces, but here it is taken rather like a colossal
joke or music hall pandemonium and enjoyed
with the same relish. The only grim faces are
those of the military spaced out all along the way
Cockades of multi colored feathers sprouting at
a jauntily couple from their black berets and
giving again a Churchill type to the otherwise
quibly ~~beret~~ (kakti) uniform - stained +

often rather rapped, in which the lines of
little brown men - high cheek boned faces set
in stern impassivity rising above the dem-
colored rough wool pullovers are topped out -

We have to leave taxi at intersection several blocks
from New Road + moved on foot
through people thick as
a bun
on various
to



DRESS REVERSAL - CORONATION
PARADE

NEW ROAD, KATMANDU

SUNDAY
MONDAY

FEB 18th 1975

Shopping points & make a project to visit in
about 1 1/2 hrs back at same spot to find
a cab home and Frodo heads off in one direction
in search of jacket lining & various household items
while I fight - and I do mean fight my way
through the huts lining the street - know a thing or two
to come to me - several battling up & down
making their way. Shoulders & elbows working as
levers towards the upper reaches of the crowd
beyond and the New Road Gate - finally
poked and with its gods picked out in bright
shiny colors of brilliant hue. My destination
is the Ben Palace - acknowledged Cashia
of Katmandu where my object is to select
the street worthy for a ~~small~~ star ruby
ring set in gold for the little finger. Got one
when I was here in 1973 but lost it - albeit
very chic-ly - at Dohy Bhus villa in Caruar
this fall during John + my 10 days of Scott-
Fitzgerald splendor w. the rich (if not great)

Consider one always tends to think that if
one leaves a place - it vanishes with one - at
least I feel this way. Not be length of expatriation
In any case the Ben Palace is still there - the
same pussy-cat faced Indian fish who I bought
as much loot as my purse could bear (and who
changed money at very favorable rates with a
satisfying 2. Phillips Copenhagen cart to the whole
transaction) still presided over the dusty cases
filled with a concentration of wares priced and
dish-wash and unfolded the little white squares
of paper containing clusters of unset gems
every sort of jewel stone - and I found my star
ruby - a pale but perfect cabochon with star ~~plainly~~
defined - explained the setting and placated
my conscience which turned a somewhat
when it learned the price - \$100 - a real
bunch from my father's bean purse - and
resolutely turning my greedy eyes away
from other temptations displayed to test my
will power - stepped over the same form

of a young sai-clad Indian woman whose
 recumbent form took up a great deal of the
 United floor space (she'd been there - surrounded
 by Indian ladies + 2 cringing men who were half
 jokingly fanning her forehead - when I came in)
 and who, the ship owner said, had been overcome
 by the heat + crowds



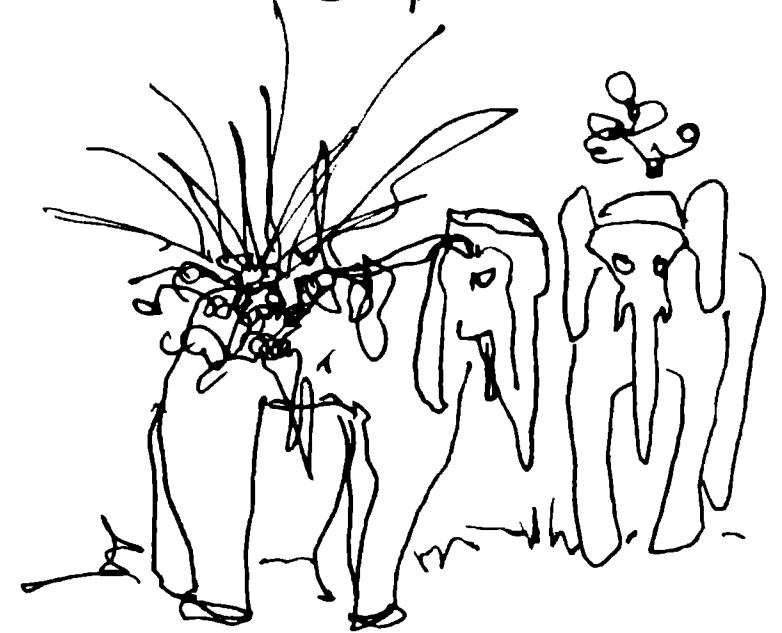
Not surprising, really, because behind
 the bare expanse of New Road, so palatially
 protected by guards that not even a coach road
 could have sullied its

Friday, Feb 21st
 1975

1/2 hr and
 1/2 hr



KATMANDU
 →



LONG ROVE THE KING

CHINESE CHARACTERS



NEW ROAD
DAY BEFORE
CORONATION

SUNDAY,

1975



ELEPHANTS
SURYAMBUNATH

SUNDAY FEB 22



PAINTING A TUSKER



PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS
SNAPPING
PAINTED ELEPHANT
● SINGHA DUBBA



DEUNTOUN KATMAVU
CORONATION EVZ, FEB 23^d, 1978



Pooja Shrinis
for
King + Queen





TUNDICAL -
CORONATION DAY, FEB 24th 1975
KATHMANDU

1:00 P.M.



BEGINNING CORONATION PARADE
1:30 FEB 24th 1975
TUNDICAL -
KATMANDU

OFFICIALS
DIPLOMATIC ENCLOSURE



2:20 P.M

DIPLOMATIL CORPS 21/2

TUNDICAR



DIPLOMATS ON GARDENS
3:00 P.M.



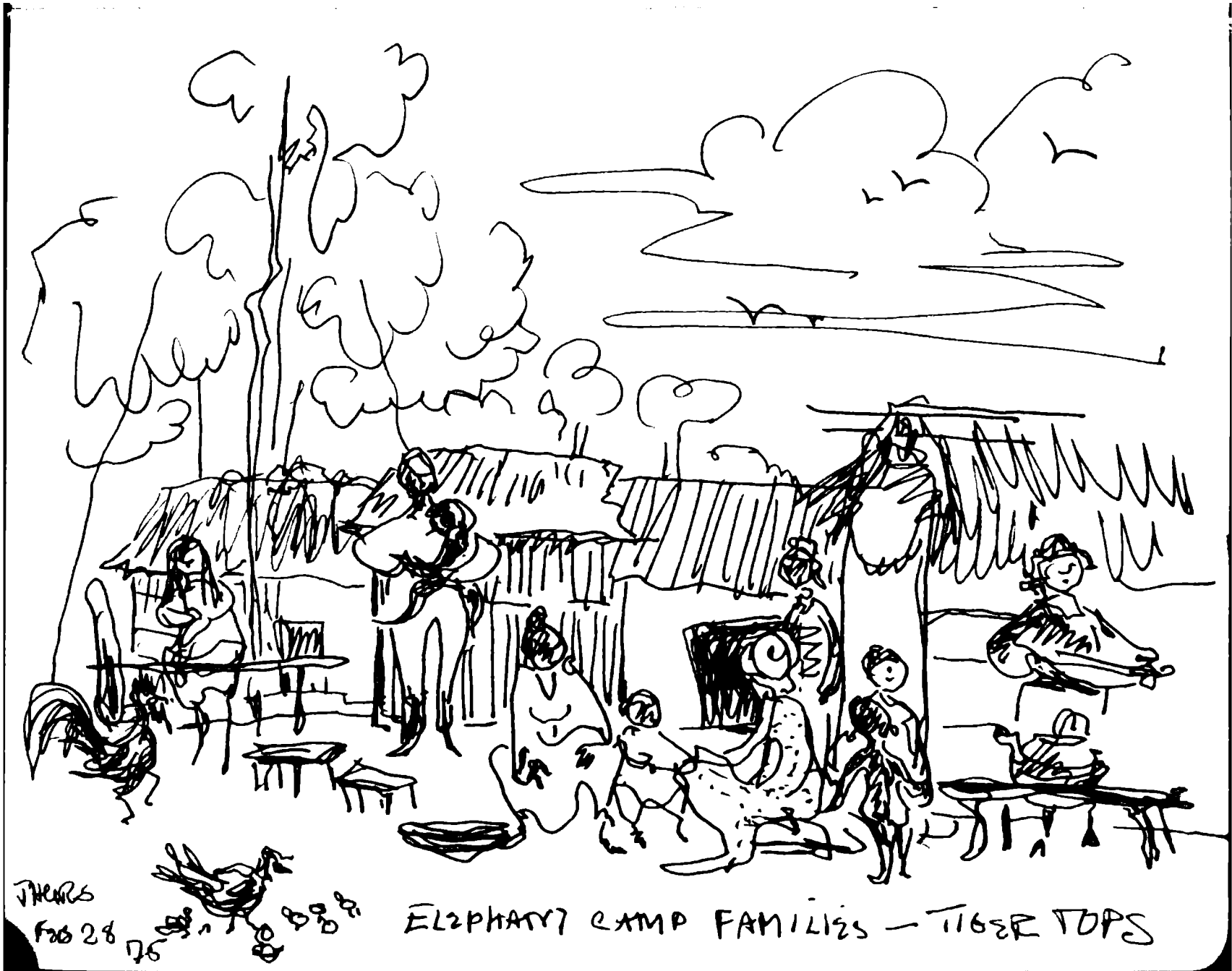
KINGS CORONATION PARADE - 26th AVENUE - 3:45 PM.



TIGER TOPS - PONDEVZA - 2:30^{PM} - WEDNESDAY - FEB 27, 1975
TERAI



ELEPHANT CAMP
TIGER TOPS



JHEARS

FEB 28

76

ELZPHANT CAMP FAMILIES - TIGER TOPS



TIGER
JOP S

WE FIND THE ONE-HORNED
RHINO! 8:30 A.M THUR. FEB 27



2/2 PHANT MOUNTING
PLATFORM —
1 FLIGHT UP!



THE TENTED CAMP - TIGER TOPS - THURS FEB. 27 - 1971
3:30 PM.



THE TENTED CAMP LOOKING TO MTS —
4:00 P.M.



TIGER TOPS

DINNER ROUND THE
CAMP FIRE

THE TENTED AT 9.00

TENTED CAMP

THE ARTIST HAS HER
EARLY MORNING "CUPPA"
IN BED!



6:30 A.M.
FRIDAY - FEB 28TH 1945



AMBARUEVA
CAMPO
NEPAL - 1981



