

FSV
2794

JOURNEY TO TURKISTAN

BY

SIR ERIC TEICHMAN

K.C.M.G., C.I.E.

OF HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S CONSULAR SERVICE IN CHINA (RETIRED)

Author of "Travels in North-West China"

"Travels in Eastern Tibet"

LONDON

HODDER AND STOUGHTON LIMITED

St. Paul's House, London, E.C.4

First printed 1937

Made and Printed in Great Britain for Hodder and Stoughton Limited,
by Butler & Tanner Ltd., Frome and London

PREFACE

IN submitting to the public this account of my journey by motor truck through Mongolia and Chinese Turkistan I desire to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance and hospitality accorded to me by the following: Mr. George Soderbom of Suiyuan; the *Tupan* and the Chinese and Turki authorities of Sinkiang; Colonel and Mrs. Thomson Glover and the Consular Staff at Kashgar; the Mir of Hunza; Major and Mrs. Kirkbride of Gilgit; and His Excellency the Viceroy and the Foreign and Political Department of the Government of India.

For the benefit of those who may have occasion to make a similar journey I have added in the form of an appendix an itinerary of the motor route from Peking to Kashgar.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	15
Features of Chinese Turkistan—Its peoples and recent history—Mohammedan rebellions—Civil war between Ma Chung-ying and the Chinese—Russian intervention and defeat of Ma Chung-ying—Mission to Urumchi—Relations between Urumchi and Nanking—Relations with the U.S.S.R.—Difficulties in securing permission to enter Sinkiang.	

CHAPTER II

PREPARATION	27
Routes to Sinkiang—Possibilities of motor transport—George Soderbom—Political difficulties—By train to Suiyuan—Preparations for the expedition—Equipment and supplies—Personnel of the expedition—Our motor transport—Cost of the journey—General Fu Tso-yi, Governor of Suiyuan—Arms for self-defence—The Sin-sui motor company—News of Gustav Soderbom's release.	

CHAPTER III

THE SANDS OF THE GOBI : FROM SUIYUAN TO THE ETSIN GOL	41
The start from Suiyuan—Mongolian grasslands—Pai-ling Miao Monastery—Mr. Gonzell—The Autonomous Government of Inner Mongolia—Arrival of Gustav Soderbom—Across the prairies west from Pai-ling Miao—Uni-ussu and the beginning of the Gobi—Life of the camel trails—Shantan Miao Monastery and the Winding Road—The Meringen Gol and the sandhills of Bayen Unter—Rain and trouble with soft ground—Bogged trucks—Hoyer Amatu—Break-down in the desert—Water shortage—Camp in Outer Mongolia—Bandin Tologoi and Borodin's road to Urga—Arrival at the Etsin Gol.	

CONTENTS

CHAPTER IV

INTERLUDE ON THE ETSIN GOL PAGE 60

The Etsin Gol oasis—Wayen Torrai and Karakoto—Journey round the twin lakes—Ulanchonchi on the West Etsin Gol—Life during our stay on the Etsin Gol—Mongolian camel trails to Sinkiang—Conditions in Outer Mongolia—The Torgut Mongols of the Etsin Gol—Arrival of our petrol caravan.

CHAPTER V

THE BLACK GOBI : FROM THE ETSIN GOL TO HAMI 72

The Black Gobi—The Four Dry Stages—Yehma Ching (Wild Horse Well) and the Ma Tsung Shan—Second breakdown—Kungpo Ch'uan—Ruined castle of the lama of the Black Gobi—Mingshui and the Turkistan Frontier—Camel scouts and frozen carburettors—The first oasis in Chinese Turkistan—Junction with the cart road and telegraph line—Underground irrigation system—Arrival in Hami—General Yulbaz—Entertainment and sightseeing in Hami—The paper currency of Sinkiang.

CHAPTER VI

ACROSS THE T' IEN SHAN TO URUMCHI 89

Departure from Hami—A Turki meal—Russian motor trucks in Sinkiang—Turki bread—Into the T'ien Shan—Fort of Ch'i-ku Chingtzu—Ta Shih-t'ou Pass—Kazaks—Plains of Dzungaria—Arrival in Muli Ho—Kuch'eng—Another riding party—Kuch'eng to Urumchi—Devastation of the Moslem rebellion—Arrival in Urumchi.

CHAPTER VII

WORK AND PLAY IN URUMCHI 100

Description of Urumchi—I join forces with Colonel Thomson Glover—The *Tupan* and personalities of Chinese Turkistan—Diplomatic discussions—Banquets—Celebration of the Soviet National Day—The Urumchi Wireless Station and the *T'ien Shan Daily News*—The foreign community and the C.I.M.—Excursions and shooting parties—Preparations for departure.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER VIII

	PAGE
THROUGH EASTERN TURKISTAN : TURFAN, TOKSUN AND KARASHAR	118
Departure from Urumchi—Tapan Ch'eng—Turfan—Archæological research in Sinkiang—The Toksun Gorges—Third breakdown—Truck abandoned at Kumush—Karashar—The Torgut Mongols of Chinese Turkistan—Difficulties in crossing the Karashar river—The Russians break the ice.	

CHAPTER IX

THROUGH EASTERN TURKISTAN : KUCHAR, AKSU AND KASHGAR	137
Through the heart of Eastern Turkistan—The Konche Darya and the Korla oasis—Kuchar—Kizil—Arrival in Aksu—Fast travelling—Crossing the Aksu river—Heavy sand again—Through the dead forests of the Taklamakan—Arrival in Kashgar—Description of Kashgar—Recent events and present circumstances—The British Consulate—The Russian Consulate and the Swedish Mission—Preparations for departure.	

CHAPTER X

WINTER JOURNEY ACROSS THE PAMIRS	155
Routes from Turkistan to India—The Leh and Gilgit roads—Departure from Kashgar—Old Beeko, the man from Hunza—Tashmalik—The Ghez Defile—Pamir lakes—Snow mountains, Kongur and Muztaghata—Tashkurgan, the farthest Chinese town—Paik and Russianized Tajiks—Hardships and cold—Lopgaz—Crossing the Mintaka Pass—Hindustan at last.	

CHAPTER XI

THE ROAD TO INDIA	169
The Hunza road—Murkushi—Misgah—Dangerous cliff paths—The Batura glacier—Gulmit—The men of Hunza— <i>Where Three Empires Meet</i> —Baltit—The Mir of Hunza—Connection with China—Baltit to Gilgit—Stay in Gilgit—Departure of my Mongols and Chinese by road for Chitral— <i>Chikor</i> shooting—Native polo—The Hardt-Citroen expedition—Flight across the Himalaya—Arrival in Delhi.	

C O N T E N T S

CHAPTER XII

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE IN CHINESE TURKISTAN .	PAGE 184
---	-------------

Changes and revolutionary ferment in Chinese Turkistan—Recent improvement in the situation—Factors which have contributed to the restoration of Chinese rule—Russian influence in Sinkiang—Confused outlook—Anti-British propaganda—British interests and policy in Chinese Turkistan—Fascination of the Central Asian highlands.

APPENDIX

ITINERARY OF THE MOTOR ROUTE FROM PEKING (SUIYUAN) TO KASHGAR	195
--	-----

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

*Where the photographs are not facing the page given they
are inside the set of photographs beginning on that page*

	FACING PAGE
STREET SCENE IN EASTERN TURKISTAN	16
STREET SCENE IN EASTERN TURKISTAN	16
ON THE SOUTH ROAD, CHINESE TURKISTAN	17
ON THE SOUTH ROAD, CHINESE TURKISTAN	17
TRYING OUT THE MONGOL TENTS IN SUIYUAN	32
DESERT CAMP	32
LÜ CHEN-LIN, SERAT AND LIU KUO-YI	33
LÜ CHEN-LIN, A TURKI SOLDIER, CHOMCHA AND KUO SHU-MING	33
THE START	36
GROUP OF THE EXPEDITION STAFF AT A GOBI WELL	36
OUR TWO TRUCKS IN THE GOBI	37
CAMEL TRANSPORT	37
MR. GONZELL IN FRONT OF HIS MONGOLIAN HOME AT PAI-LING MIAO	44
GEORGE AND GUSTAV SODERBOM, AT PAI-LING MIAO, SEPTEMBER 20, 1935	44
BREAKING CAMP AT PAI-LING MIAO, EARLY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 20	45
<i>WA SHA-TZU !</i>	45
AT UNI-USSU, ON THE EDGE OF THE GOBI	48
HEAVY GOING IN THE GOBI, NEAR HOYER AMATU, SEP- TEMBER 24	48
MIDDAY HALT, IN THE GOBI, BEYOND BANDIN TOLOGOI CAMP IN THE GOBI, WELL OF KUKU TOLOGOI	48
MEETING WITH THE FIRST TORGUT MONGOL FROM THE ETSIN GOL	48
THE FIRST TORGUT MONGOL FROM THE ETSIN GOL	48
REFUGEE MONGOLS FROM OUTER MONGOLIA ENCAMPED AT WAYEN TORRAI, EAST ETSIN GOL	49
CHINESE WIRELESS STATION AT WAYEN TORRAI, EAST ETSIN GOL, OCTOBER 4	49

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	FACING PAGE
DESOLATION OF THE GOBI, NEAR SOGO NOR	64
CAMP NORTH OF GASHUN NOR, ON THE OUTER MONGOLIAN BORDER, OCTOBER 5	64
THE TAX STATION AT ULANCHONCHI, WEST ETSIN GOL CAMP AT ULANCHONCHI; THE KITCHEN TENT	64
THE <i>TOGRAK</i> OR <i>WU-T'UNG SHU</i> , POPLAR AND WILLOW GROWING OUT OF ONE TRUNK, WEST ETSIN GOL	64
<i>SHA TSAO'RH SHU</i> ("SAND DATE TREE"), OLEASTER OR WILD OLIVE, WEST ETSIN GOL	64
TORGUT MONGOLS AT ULANCHONCHI	65
TORGUT MONGOL AT ULANCHONCHI	65
NEAR THE WELL OF THE WILD HORSE, WESTERN GOBI	80
NEAR THE WELL OF THE WILD HORSE, WESTERN GOBI	80
FORT OF DJA LAMA AT KUNG-PO CH'UAN IN THE BLACK GOBI	80
MING-SHUI, ON THE FRONTIER OF MONGOLIA AND CHINESE TURKISTAN	80
LUNCH HALT	80
SERAT LOADING UP	80
LIU TAOT'AI, GENERAL YULBAZ AND AUTHOR AT HAMI	81
MOSQUE AT THE TOMB OF THE PRINCES OF HAMI	81
OUR HOST AND HOSTESS AT SAN-TAO-LINGTZU	96
TURKI ESCORT PARADING TO RETURN FROM TA SHIH-T'OU FORT OF CH'I-KU CHINGTZU	96
GOOD GOING IN THE TA SHIH-T'OU GORGE	96
KAZAK IN THE T' IEN SHAN	96
CROSSING THE T' IEN SHAN, OCTOBER 26	96
APPROACH OF WINTER	97
ON THE ROAD NEAR URUMCHI	97
GENERAL SHENG SHIH-TSAI, <i>TUPAN</i> OF SINKIANG	104
COLONEL AND MRS. THOMSON GLOVER LUNCHING ON THE ROAD	128
THE LOWER END OF THE TOKSUN GORGE	128
THE ROCK PASSAGE IN THE TOKSUN GORGE: WORKING ON THE ROAD	128
TRUCK EMERGING FROM THE ROCK PASSAGE IN THE TOKSUN GORGE	128

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	FACING PAGE
LADIES OF KUMUSH	128
HEADMAN OF KUMUSH	128
STREET SCENE IN KARASHAR	129
STREET SCENE IN KARASHAR	129
STREET SCENE IN KARASHAR	132
STREET SCENE IN KARASHAR	132
FOOT TRAFFIC CROSSING THE FROZEN KARASHAR RIVER	133
FERRYING THE MOTOR TRUCKS ACROSS THE FROZEN KARASHAR RIVER	133
IN EASTERN TURKISTAN	140
WOMEN OF EASTERN TURKISTAN	140
TREE-LINED HIGHWAY IN EASTERN TURKISTAN	141
ON THE ROAD IN EASTERN TURKISTAN	141
KUCHAR BAZAAR	144
BAI BAZAAR	144
BRIDGE OVER THE AKSU RIVER	144
TOWING A TRUCK ONTO THE AKSU RIVER BRIDGE	144
STREET SCENE IN KASHGAR	144
STREET SCENE IN KASHGAR	144
MARKET SQUARE AND MOSQUE IN KASHGAR	145
BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL, KASHGAR	145
CAMP AT TOKAI	160
CAMP AT BULUN KOL	160
ON THE SHORES OF LITTLE KARAKOL LAKE : SNOWS OF THE KONGUR RANGE IN THE BACKGROUND	160
TELEPHOTO OF THE KONGUR RANGE (25,000 FT.) FROM THE SAME LOCALITY	160
SIDE VIEW OF MUZTAGHATA (24,000 FT.) FROM NEAR THE PASS	160
FORT AT TASHKURGAN : RUSSIAN FRONTIER RANGE IN THE BACKGROUND	160
OLD BEEKO AND THE INDIAN AKSAKAL AT TASHKURGAN	160
KIRGHIZ WOMEN ON THE PAMIRS	160
THE RUSSIAN FRONTIER RANGE, CHINESE PAMIR, NEAR YURGUL	160
CAMP AT PAIK	160

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	FACING PAGE
TAJIK HEADMEN ON THE CHINESE PAMIR	160
GROUP AT MINTAKA KARAU, CHINESE PAMIR, DECEMBER 24	160
LOPGAZ, THE LAST CAMP IN CHINA, 14,000 FT., CHRISTMAS DAY, 1935	160
CROSSING THE MINTAKA PASS, 15,500 FT.	160
ARRIVAL AT GULKA-JAWAIN, THE FIRST CAMP IN INDIA, BOXING DAY, 1935	161
THE HUNZA KARAKORAM : THE FIRST GLIMPSE OF INDIA, FROM THE FOOT OF THE FRONTIER PASS	161
THE HUNZA ROAD	168
THE HUNZA ROAD	168
WEDDING AT GIRCHA	169
WEDDING AT GIRCHA	169
MY MOUNT FOR CROSSING THE BATURA GLACIER	176
MOUNTED ARCHERY SPORTS AT BALITT	176
THE MIR OF HUNZA AND AUTHOR	176
THE MIR OF HUNZA, SONS, GRANDSONS AND RETAINERS	176
FLIGHT ACROSS THE HIMALAYA : THE START FROM GILGIT	176
FLIGHT ACROSS THE HIMALAYA : HARAMOSH, 24,000 FT. OVER THE HIMALAYA	176
THE GORGES OF THE INDUS, FROM THE AIR	177
SKETCH MAP OF ASIA SHOWING LINE OF JOURNEY FROM PEKING TO DELHI	Front Cover
MAP OF THE MOTOR ROUTE FROM PEKING (SUIYUAN) TO KASHGAR	At End