

THE EVEREST EXPEDITION, 1921

DIARY OF G. H. BULLOCK

[Continued from p. 149]

Monday, July 25th. Heavy snow fell during the night, and we decided to abandon our project of crossing to Kharta by the 23000 ft. peaks N of Everest. Left about 10 and walked down to Chöyling in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours, and on to Chöbuk in $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ hours walking with a long halt for lunch in the river channel near the junction of the two streams. Found Bury already at Chöbuk, and Wheeler arrived later. He is now going up the Chöyling and Mary valleys, and expects to be there a month. Unpacked, kit packed, and rearranged luggage to midnight.

Tuesday July 26th. Chöbuk to Rebu. Good pony. Left about 9 and cantered down the valley past a village and then up a small path round the flank of a hillside on the south and over a pass some 1500 ft. above valley. A few hundred yards from pass there was a good view to the south with Everest just showing. From the pass we walked steeply down about 1000 feet to Halung, where we lunched on the grass. Anchusa (blue) grew profusely among the barley and seemed to be the principal fodder of the place. From here a little way down the valley again, which is a branch of the Rongbuk main valley, and then turning sharply back up the next valley to Rebu in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours quick going from Halung. The valleys were very green and full of running water. Barley in ear and mustard in flower. Profusion of flowers near Rebu.

Wednesday July 27th. Rebu to Chung(lun)pa. [Apparently, Chulungphu; *cp. Mt. Everest; the Reconnaissance*, p. 89.] 21 miles. Early start about 7.30. Valley, after proceeding south a little way further, turns to the east up a narrow glen for some distance, out of which it emerges into a large barren amphitheatre with little vegetation. On the right the snow mountains are quite close. The Doya pass itself at about 17000—perhaps 8 miles from Rebu—has a variety of flowers, and the blue poppy is much commoner than anywhere else I have seen, growing all along the wall marking the pass. Makalu was visible through clouds due south. Walking down about 1000 feet, we came to a grassy alp, with a great variety of flowers, and dwarf rhododendron still partly in bloom, also geranium, cowslip, larkspur and cistus etc. As we descended the valley the flowers became larger and more numerous. Rather a stony road and a long ride. Had rhubarb for dinner and juniper wood for fuel.

Thursday, July 28th. Chungpa to Kharta. 11 miles. Walked. Down the valley to the Arun, the bushes increasing in size as we advanced, and luxuriant flowers wherever there were irrigated meadows. The hillsides themselves being rather dry and stony. Passed an enormous poplar and juniper, 20 or 30 feet in circumference. Our camp at Kharta is about 2 miles south of the entrance of the Doya pass valley: but there is apparently no village of that name, but merely a district. The Arun runs yellow swift and smooth, between river beds which join the bottom of the whole valley, and through which the Arun has cut a deep channel. The valley here is wide, but just below the camp the river enters a deep and narrow gorge; along which it is said there is no path. At the entrance to the gorge is the confluence of a large glacier stream running towards Everest.

Friday, July 29th. Did nothing. The camp is pitched in a small walled enclosure and grove of willow trees chiefly, very snug, though the wind blows above. The houses of these valleys are built solidly and squarely of stone, with flat roofs, and juniper piled all round the outer wall. Both stone and juniper have a warm colour. Wrote to A. [Mrs. Bullock].

Saturday, July 30th. Strolled down to the glacier stream, and back along the Arun waters, catching some butterflies. No signs of the bridge or rope across the Arun. Bury was off early this morning towards the Popti La.⁹ Some of the lost supplies are reported to be only one day's march off, which is good news.

Sunday, July 31st. Caught some butterflies. Rode up the glacier valley three miles with Bury to the Jongpen's. There is no jong or fort, on the other hand there are two walls or fortifications on the path to the Popti La. We were received in a pleasant garden and handsome tent. One of the small tables with dragon designs was very handsome. Ate a very good lunch, followed shortly afterwards by a second meal. In the interval Bury photographed the Jongpen and his young wife, who appeared in full dress with the Lhasa headress, a voluminous wig and cross piece of seed pearls, also had a striking pendant of amethyst, turquoises pearls and uncut rubies.¹⁰ The Jongpen is 25 and very pleasant and amiable, he has been here 8 years, and is in his second term of 5 years.

Monday, August 1st. Jongpen paid a return visit. Packed, attended to stores. Cloudy weather. Achu's cooking during this week has really been very good.

Tuesday, August 2nd. Made a very late start as there was much delay in getting the coolies off. This was due to Gyaljen, who was sulking because Bury had taken the buying of rations out of his hands the night

⁹ A pass leading down into Nepal, east of Makalu.

¹⁰ See illustration, *Mt. Everest; the Reconnaissance*, p. 106.

before. On arriving at Kharta Shegar, Chettan Wandī proceeded to purchase flour which took a very long time. The salt and chilies were bought for the coolies, who made a good deal of fuss enquiring what their rations were to be: Gyaljen again was behind this, encouraging them instead of silencing them. It was after 10.30 when we left 32 men in all. The coolies then halted continually, and stopped in each village to bargain for food etc. At the Red Monastery Gyaljen and Dupa were behind, and M. went to look for them just as they arrived by another route. He went back to the last village, and also missed his way, so that although I followed him, I failed to find him. We both overtook the coolies at the last village, where we had lunch, while they went on. On turning the high moraine which blocks the valley here, we found the camp already pitched. After some discussion we let it remain there, on the understanding that tomorrow's march must be a long one. Today's march was only about 8 miles. The camp lies between two moraines, one upon each side of a side valley, up which we proceed tomorrow. It is quite green with willow brush and rhododendron. Clouds and drizzle.

Wednesday, August 3rd. Off at 7. Clouds and drizzle. We remained in the clouds and a faint drizzle practically all day, and had no view at all. All the coolies went excellently today. The Tibetans have an annoying habit of stopping every hundred yards or so. We proceeded up the side valley for 2000 feet and perhaps 3 miles, about south, then sharp to the west up a side branch which rose sharply to a blue lake, then in the same direction over moraine and stones and up again to the col at 17000. From the col we descended west, gradually turning to the south, until we reached the edge of the valley trough, which we followed due south to two stone huts, when we camped. The valley running N and S about down to the camp is filled by the snout of a glacier with large lateral moraines, covered with bushes, which bends steeply down from the west. Just beyond this glacier, there is a large moraine on the far side. We could not see how far the valley extends to the north, owing to clouds. There is a valley opposite running west, up which our route probably goes, the main valley to the south seems to curl eastward. On both sides of the pass today were abundant flowers, due no doubt to the much greater moisture here. Dwarf rhododendron is universal, especially on this side, there is also grass. There is a tremendous lot of moraine, and the glaciers are much lower than in Rongbuk. The one in the valley below us seems about 14000. Camp about 14500.

Thursday, August 4th. Again off at 7 in clouds and drizzle. About 700 ft. down a steep moraine and across small glacier stream. The whole luxuriantly covered with bushes, giant rhododendron occurred at the bottom, and plenty of rhubarb. We went south down the valley

a little way, and then SW up the side valley opposite, here the vegetation rapidly reverted to dwarf rhododendron, but rhubarb continues. After about a mile we reached the snout of a glacier, and proceeded along its true left edge under cliffs, not bad going. On nearing a valley from the west, we proceeded steeply up the bank 2 to 300 feet and emerged on grassy slopes which we followed two or three miles to camp. At the corner we had a glimpse of a very high peak very close to (193°) the south, which must be Makalu unless it is the 25000 ft. peak [Chomo Lonzo] NE of it. The Sherpas recognised it as Chamoyari,¹¹ evidently meaning Makalu. The bottom of our valley is filled with a glacier, which was more or less grass covered at the bottom. We have seen none of the peaks round us. Arrived at 1.45 in rain, after an hours halt at 11.30. Rained all the afternoon and evening.

Friday, August 5th. Coolies sent off for firewood. M. and I started up the valley to reconnoitre. Waited about a long time for Everest and Makalu to clear, but without success, except for views of some of Makalu's cliffs, and partial views of Ev. especially the cliffs of the south peak [i.e. Lhotse], which are terrific. About 12.30 we went up the shoulder of the ridge forming a corner of the valley wall. I went on round to a shelf beyond, and M. went up the shoulder. We had an interesting view of the continuation of the E. ridge and buttress, which are continued in a series of snowy peaks, not very steep, forming a large coombe and ending up behind the shoulder we were on. The North col does not lead into this valley. There is however just a possibility that there is a high glacier valley just behind these peaks, leading to the col. Returned to the point on the shoulder, where we had left Dorgu and the camera, and back to camp very fast in 70 minutes. Highest point 17950.

Saturday, August 6th. Off about 8.30 up the valley to higher camp. Followed the lower route along the edge of the glacier for two hours or more, good going, gradual rise. Then up the side so as to round the shelf reached yesterday and pitched camp 1.30 at 17700. Caught several butterflies. Our object tomorrow is to discover what is behind the wall of this coombe. It is now snowing.

Sunday, August 7th. Perfectly fine cold morning. Off at 4 by my watch, with four coolies. $\frac{3}{4}$ hour by lantern. Followed stony ridge to the N of the camp. Splendid sunrise on both Makalu and Everest. We saw the former properly for the first time. It is the finest mountain I have ever seen. It stands well back from the great steep spur over the base camp, which descends from the main ridge running NE from Makalu. This side is defended by a continuous row of precipices. We also saw for the first time the upper snow slopes of Everest, which

¹¹ Mallory calls it the 'first Chomolungma' (*Mt. Everest; the Reconnaissance*, p. 225); also 'Chomo Uri' (p. 227).



Photo, G. L. Mallory]

AUGUST 7, 1921. PORTERS DESCENDING FROM THE KARPO-RI (HEAD OF KAMA VALLEY).



Photo, G. L. Mallory]

NORTH FACE OF EVEREST FROM THE NORTH COL, SEPTEMBER 1921.

are perhaps just possible: but there is no single way of surmounting the lower cliffs, which are all capped with ice cliffs, and consist mainly of 'hot plates'. The east ridge is possible, but quite steep in places, and enormously long, and there are several gendarmes before the junction with the north buttress. After some photography, we traversed down to the glacier, and found the snow deep and not bearing. With snow shoes it went well. At the foot of the col to the right of the conical snow peak we went up the rocks, fairly steep, the coolies did well, and we soon reached the top; and looked over into a glacier valley, which ends at the next peak but one to the col at the foot of the east ridge. The 23800 ft. peak [Khartaphu] is evidently on the opposite wall of this valley. The 23040 peak past it to the left, and 23400 (23400 is really much nearer 23800; what we took for it is peak NW of advanced base) peak [Kharta Changri] away to the right near the Doya La, with a slightly lower mountain just east of it, which has a snow top when seen from the north. M. thought we could see more from the conical peak, so we followed along the snow ridge, and up a very steep snow shoulder, with an awkward step up a descending ice edge. Luckily the snow was excellent. From here we proceeded easily to the foot of the final slope, where we halted. After about half an hour M. decided to go a bit higher, and went on to the top, which was enveloped in mist most of the time. Height of col 20000 by aneroid, and top perhaps 500 (? 1500) ft. more.¹² M. reported a slope even steeper than we had come up, with very deep snow. We returned by the same route, but avoided the corner, by pounding straight down the flat ridge to rocks, and then down the couloir which took us quickly to the glacier: down which we plodded, sinking in a good deal even with snow shoes; and following the lower edge of the stony ridge, reached camp at 5. M. was not feeling well in the afternoon. Nyima slipped out of the snow steps, but was not frightened, and was more concerned about his pack than himself.

Monday, August 8th. Raised camp about 9, and met the 4 coolies who came up to help move it $\frac{1}{4}$ hour later. M. had had chills during the night, and has been unwell today. There were a great many butterflies on the way down. I started collecting and pressing flowers in my expedition note book, transferring them later to another book. Arriving in camp found Chetton Wangdi there, and that Bury was out not far from our upper camp: we accordingly decided to halt for the day. Two coolies came and complained about the sirdar's distribution of rations, admitting that the trouble at Kharta Shegar was instigated by the sirdar: they were also alarmed as to how much of their pay they would eventually get. Bury decided to supply sampa and rice and to give the coolies the

¹² The col is the Karpo La and the mountain above them Kartse; the difference in height, according to the R.G.S. Everest Map (1960), is 1,400 ft.

remainder in money: and at the same time warned Gyaljen that he would have to go if there was any more trouble, and that in that case he would be given a very bad character with the authorities in Darjeeling. We are accordingly keeping Gyaljen on under probation. M. had chills during last night and has not felt well today sleeping most of the afternoon. He has a sore throat and general feverish pains. Occasional glimpses of Everest, but Makalu remained in cloud. Mist towards evening and a sprinkling of rain.

Tuesday, August 9th. Started about 7 down the valley, with 5 yaks, and 2 extra coolies. The yaks negotiated the steep bank and the rocky crack alongside the glacier excellently. There was unfortunately no view; only an occasional clearance of the great near ridge of Makalu, which we saw and photographed from the moraine shelf on which we camped before. Bury who is returning to Kharta by a pass further east, stopped at our old camp, and will camp a little further along the shelf where there is water and a yak encampment. I added considerably to my pressed flowers. M. lost his waistcoat on the march. We camped by the turquoise lake 1000 ft. below the pass; a comfortable march this way. Finished a roll of vest pocket films with two views of the lake, the others being taken in the Everest valley. We now have Songla with us, who talks a little English.

Wednesday, August 10th. A comfortably late start on a cloudy morning. Nyima went back again to look for M.'s waistcoat and produced it that evening about 6 P.M. Strolled up to the col in 70 minutes, just 1000 ft. My aneroid again registered 17000 ft., so that I think Bury's 18000 must be wrong. A bank of clouds hung over us, but there was sun close by, so we waited 2 hours for the view of Makalu, but in vain, we never saw more than the lower cliffs, and one glimpse of a part of the Everest ridge. Hurrying down we found the coolies halted at the foot of the slope below the lake; and had lunch there. Then descending to the end of the valley, turned west up the main Kharta Shegar valley, and camped at a delightful spot among juniper and willow, at the back of the last group of houses but one. I wore my big boots again, and the soles of my feet became sore from the long descent, but not injured. I shall wear shoes tomorrow. I also had a pain or stitch in my left side. Pena sent off at 6.30 for mails from Kharta, did not return tonight as intended, and has not arrived yet (10 A.M. Aug. 12).

August 11th. Thursday. M. has had a bad night. Woke the camp at 4.30 on a rainy morning. But Gyaljen failed to get up, or anything done. For some reason out of our 7 yaks only two materialised after a long interval, and camp was not raised until 8.25. Even then two coolies still remained to be recruited, and the sirdar with the last batch of coolies did not arrive till the next morning. The valley remained narrow for about four miles, when after over two hours actual walking

along a fairly good though somewhat overgrown and up and down path we reached a green meadow where there were shepherds' tents. Here we halted for lunch and enjoyed some cream, which was rather better than in the Everest valley. Leaving again at 1.20 the path remained fairly level for about a mile, then up a steep bank and along a wide shelf to a considerable glacier stream, which crosses a flat water meadow at the foot of a stony glacier, which must come from the valley into which we looked the other day, and on the north side of which is the 23800 peak. Beyond this we mounted a grassy moraine shelf as far as an unoccupied shepherd's encampment, and then sharply up again following a small stream, to an upper shelf along the main gorge, where we found an excellent camping ground 16100 ft. [They were now in the Kharta valley.] The coolies seemed pretty tired today, but as usual recovered immediately on reaching camp.

Friday August 12th. Day of rest. Rose at 9. Cloudy with sun. This end of the valley seems drier than below or than the Everest valley. Consequently goba is used; there is also rhododendron brushwood. Sent a coolie down for milk and butter, and a messenger to Kharta. M.'s throat still bad.

Saturday August 13th. Off at 7.30 without M. Picked up some lakri (wood) $\frac{1}{2}$ hour above camp, and proceeded leisurely to junction of two valleys. The left leads temptingly straight towards the N. col, but from our previous observations, must end before it gets there, as it is the first valley S of 23800 peak [Khartaphu]. So we followed the other glacier stream to the foot of the glacier, not far, white ice somewhat pinacly reached to the foot. On the N, somewhat stony looking moraines and slopes, with two snow side glaciers, lead very close to the pass. On the left was a saddle back which offered good going, but we could not see its continuation. As the top of the glacier was clearly easy to cross—the pass is on the north—I chose this way, and proceeded rapidly upwards and along the glacier. At 18500 and about midday we reached the end of the rocks and a broad side bay, which looked as if it only had a little recent snow on it. I decided to camp on some rocks beyond it. After lunch it transpired that Ang Pasang was sick, and still far below, and not likely to come on. So I sent back for his load, and gave him a message to M. saying that this valley was not the one we were looking for.

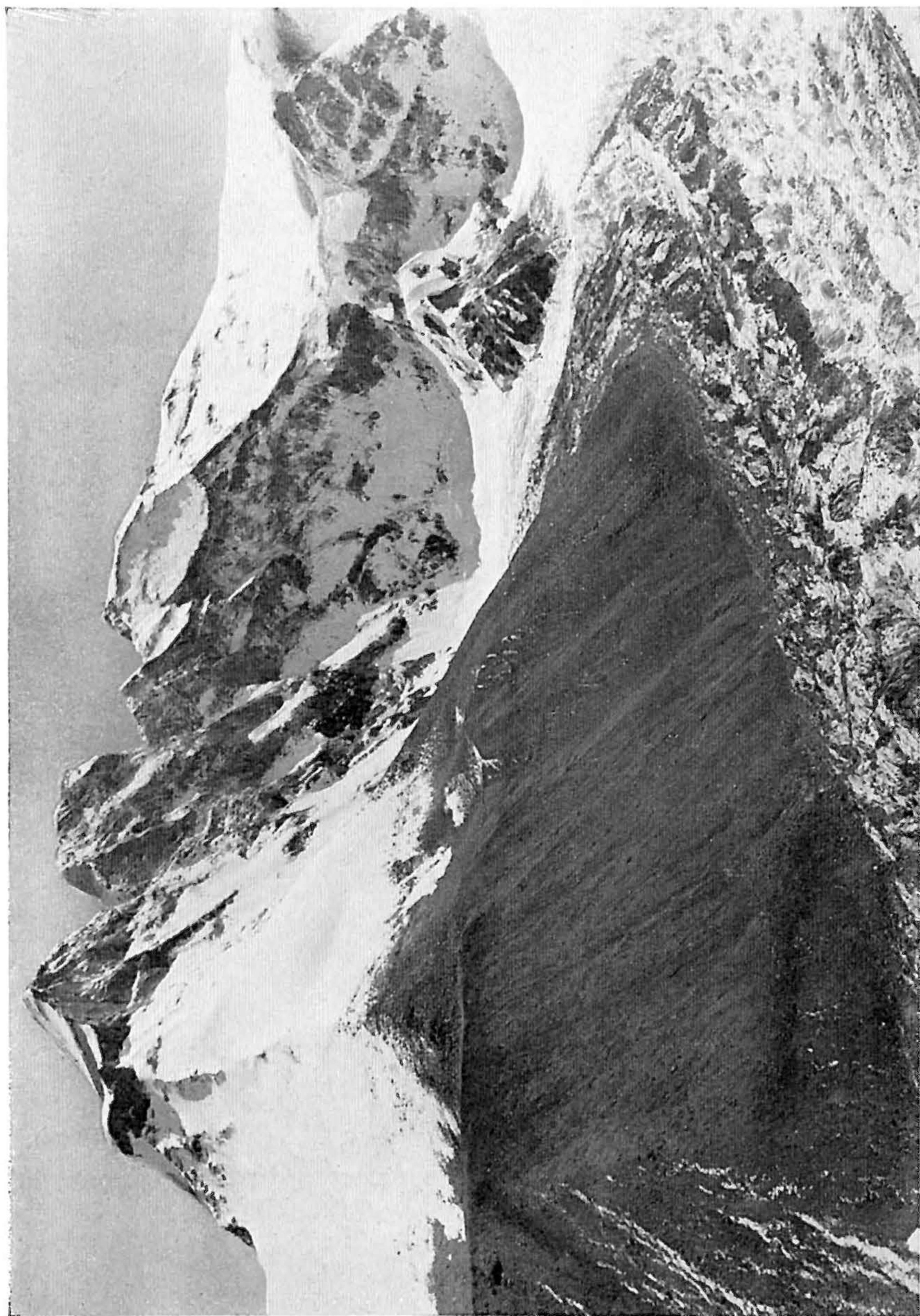
At 2.30 we stepped on to the ice, and at once found the snow very deep. The rope was not used, as I had looked it over carefully and could so to speak see its skeleton under the fresh snow, it was also covered with running water. The loaded coolies found it very heavy going and began to go slower and slower. After waiting for them in the middle, I went on and reached the other side at 5, closely followed by Sanglu. No place to camp was visible, so I hurried 500 ft. up to the top of the rocks, where a possible place existed with water. Returning by the

upper snow edge in some fear of having missed the coolies, I found only Sanglu. It was now about six, and as there was no sign of the coolies, Sanglu chose a place near the foot of the rocks, and made as level a floor as possible by moving rocks about. Lagay arrived at 7, and the remainder at 7.40 in an exhausted condition. For some reason none of them used snowshoes, of which 4 were available. A Mummery [tent] was raised by faint moonlight over my stores, and I supped fairly well off tinned beef and biscuit and jam, chocolate etc. To my surprise I passed quite a good night, thanks to mattress, air cushion and other padding. The experience was quite agreeable. It was a beautiful night, and at 11 the moon was shining brightly. I emptied and refilled the quarter plate camera, after practising with two unused plates. Camp 19000. Top of rocks 19450.

Sunday, August 14th. Started at 6.40—to give the coolies a rest—The morning was lovely and the snow hard. We reached the col at 8.30, 19770 ft. After a short halt and taking two views of Makalu, the top of which and its principal satellite showed, we crossed the col and walked sufficiently far down into the next valley to see that it ended close by against 23400 peak [Kharta Changri]. Downwards the general direction of the valley was 24° W of north, the glacier did not go far. Returning to the col a little before ten, we hurried down to get the benefit of hard snow, we put on snow shoes for the last quarter hour, and reached camp about 11, panting hard from hurrying up the rocks. Covered a good deal of ground in the time. Lunched in camp, after which there was a sharp shower, and a little thunder. Cleared up at 2.30. Started down with Dorji Gompa at 3.20, and reached camp at 6.30, leaving rest to come down in the morning. Meanwhile Morshead had arrived, and a plan had been formed to go up the left hand branch of the valley, up which the others had been some way that day. M. thought it was not the same valley we had looked into from the south, and that the col at the top could be crossed in one day from a camp up the valley.

Monday, August 15th. Started about 8 and proceeded to the fork, where the coolies were intercepted, and after a long wait for two stragglers, went up the valley which was very stony. Rounded the end of the glacier and went a little way up its true left bank, as far as the shelves reached, and camped 18800. My calves felt stiff this day and the next, exactly why I don't know. Cloudy afternoon. Sent down half the coolies.

Tuesday, August 16th. Off at 5.15, decided to take a high level route, but following M. went up and up to 20500 at 6.30 which was much too high. We had fair views of Makalu and Everest, and I found that the peak near my last camp was not 23800 but a very similar one further north. The valley on our left was the same one as we had seen from the south, and on our right was another narrower valley. Descending



CHOMO LONZO FROM 21,500 FT. SOUTH OF KAMA CHÜ.

we crossed the flat glacier covering the ridge, and again rose a good deal, only to find we had to go right down again to the main glacier. The mists closed down and we soon decided to abandon the attempt for the day, and crossed the right branch of the glacier again to the rocks. From here by a low level route we reached camp in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours without hurrying. Tomorrow we propose to move a camp to the end of the rocks and go up to the col the next day, possibly going down the valley beyond if one exists. M. thinks that the east ridge of the north peak joins 23800 peak, and that there is a high plateau leading to the N col. *Wednesday, August 17th.* Moved camp to 19900 ft by my barometer on to the wide shelf at the far end of the pancake glacier, two or three hundred feet above the corner and moraine we passed yesterday. The coolies from below who were to help move camp arrived late, and there was some doubt whether any rations were coming. After a somewhat laborious traverse across the initial slope, we reached the further shelf which continued gradually upwards all the way to the camp. Late in the afternoon the remaining coolies who had made the double journey and some more from the base arrived, and we learnt that there were no rations either here or at the base. Accordingly it was decided to send all the coolies down in the morning leaving up several tents and a few other things, while we would go up to the pass and return to the base in the evening. Gave a tin of Glaxo to the coolies.

Thursday, August 18th. Started at 3.15, on a rather misty morning. Crossed the glacier in a rather roundabout way and arrived at the true left corner of the upper branch of the main glacier, although we had intended to try the right side which is much more open. We were soon forced to take to the rocks of the north wall, which were easy but slow going, especially as we had to ascend a good deal. Above the ice fall we breakfasted on the glacier. It was now very hot, hazy and sunny, and the snow was rather soft, and the going heavy. M. and I led alternately up to the last slope, when M. who was freshest did the plodding. After a considerable struggle we reached the pass [the Lhakpa La] at 12.15. Morshead, who had dropped out about 100 feet below, soon joined us. Nyima, the only coolie with us, went excellently with quite a heavy rucksack, both on rocks and snow. The E ridge of N peak faced us across the valley, but we could not see its higher part or any peaks. We could see the approaches to the North col, and M. was satisfied that it was easy enough.¹³ A narrow glacier valley ran from Everest between us and the north peak, direction must be, I think, east of north as the 23800 peak is NW of Everest and the ridge running to it forms one wall of our valley. On the other hand Wheeler's sketch map makes this a wide glacier running round the north ridge into the Rongbuk glacier. It is difficult to see how he could be entirely

¹³ For illustration, see *Mt. Everest; the Reconnaissance*, p. 246.

mistaken, unless he has taken the E ridge of the N peak as a ridge of Everest itself. At all events, his map which is professedly rough, is very much out in some points. I think it is possible that he has mistaken his 23000, 23400, and 23800 peaks. At about 12.45 we started back, very quickly down at first, but more slowly over the flatter glacier, stopped for meal where we left the rucksack, and took time down the ice fall with a short bit of rocks, and reached the rocks below camp at 5.15. Here we halted for a meal, and then climbed up to the remains of the camp. After some deliberation M. persuaded Morshead not to stay there but to come on down to the base—as there was no food, or blankets and only the fly of a tent could have been used as bed covering—Proceeding we were overtaken by night on the bad traverse. We took the lower route but turned up too soon and found ourselves on the upper traverse, from which we reached the camp and the lower shelf. Morshead was now quite blown, and though he could walk on the level, had to stop at every little bit of rise. Thanks to a moon through the clouds we did not have to light lantern. Under Nyima's guidance we went on slowly with very frequent halts, down the very stony valley and eventually reached the grass slopes near the junction. Once on the plateau we sent Nyima on, and then very nearly got lost, as we were further from the corner of the junction than we supposed. However we found the way again and were met about 20 min. from camp; which we reached about 2 A.M. Morshead had recovered quite a bit during the last hour. Very glad to reach camp, but not really very tired as we had been moving so slowly. To bed after 3 o'clock, having had dinner.

Wednesday, August 19th. Got up and breakfasted about 9. Morshead seemed none the worse. The coolies appeared to have something to eat although there was nothing in the common stock. M. started some coolies down for rations. Rations arrived today.

Thursday, August 20th. M. and I started for Kharta 6.30, leaving Morshead to move up the base about an hour on. M. has quite decided to make the attempt on Everest by this route. We shall have to wait however for good weather (snow) conditions. The drop into N. col valley is very small. My left heel which was rubbed by the snow shoes on Tuesday was rather sore on starting, but thanks to being soaped soon got comfortable, and we reached Kharta without hurrying at 1 o'clock, with less than $\frac{1}{2}$ hour's halts. Found Heron had arrived from Shekar direction. Celebrated his birthday of some days ago by a cake from Darjeeling and whisky punch.

Friday, August 21st. Morshead arrived at 1.30. Our coolies yesterday did not arrive until 11 P.M. Their excuse was that Nyima had strained his thigh and other more transparent reasons.

Saturday, August 22nd. Weather remains pretty bad, though not much



THE HEADMAN OF KHARTA, WITH WIFE AND SON.

rain today. Gave Wollaston a few butterflies, and one or two flowers, and secured a Hindustani grammar.

Sunday, August 23rd. Mail left this morning. Studied Hindustani grammar. Bury and Wollaston left for Popti pass and neighbourhood. Went through stores for attempt on Everest.

Monday, August 24th. In camp and continued with Hindustani.

Tuesday, August 25th. do.

Wednesday, August 26th. Printing $\frac{1}{4}$ plates.

Thursday, August 27th. do. Heron left about 9 to go up the lower Rongbuk and Wheeler arrived about two hours later from upper Rongbuk via Doya La, having had very cloudy weather pretty continuously. He is now quite fit. Weather shows considerable signs of improving.

Friday, August 28th. Prints toned by Abdul Dulit, they are not perhaps very good, being rather hard, and the rocks looking too flat. Possibly a darker screen would give better results.

Saturday, August 29th. Bury and Wollaston return. They found the bridge at the bottom of the Kama valley as low as 7500 feet. The road to the Popti and from Sakding to the bridge is very bad. Remarkable trees in the lower valley and the Arun juniper as forest trees with bare trunks for 25 feet, and much larger firs or pines a little lower down. They had cloudy weather throughout, but had a glimpse of Makalu from the 2nd pass from Kharta. Apparently a glacier from Makalu descends right into the valley among the trees at 12000 feet.

Sunday, August 30th. Sent off my mattress and spare clothes, to reach new base camp in two days, keeping only suit case. Also general supplies. Weather has shown considerable improvement, but the natives expect a heavy snow fall before fine weather sets in.

Monday, August 31st. Got off at about 8 on ponies. 3 coolies carrying our belongings. Reached the last village in two hours, and left ponies there. In another two hours reached swampy flat below grazing camp. Lunched and halted 75 min. There was a camp across the stream. Going on again steadily overtook the coolies beyond the glacier stream and plain, and halted again near the old camp, as M. felt quite unwell. From here one hour to new advanced base, just beyond junction on true right of our stream, and on its bank.

Tuesday, September 1st. Sent coolies down to collect juniper for fire wood to be brought up by yaks.

Wednesday, September 2nd. Coolies only returned this morning with one load each, and yaks are unobtainable.

Thursday, September 3rd. Coolies sent up to 1st advanced camp (20000) with wood.

Friday, September 4th. As coolies had failed to return last night, Sanglu was sent off early this morning, and party returned about 9.

As this is the second time they have shirked a day's work, they were sent off again with heavy loads, which were to be carried as far as possible. They raised some objections to this, but eventually went. I caught a couple of young buntings, and put them first in a basket as a cage, and then let them out on strings. The mother which has a bright crimson throat and breast, comes regularly to feed them. They are learning to take seeds from the hand, and to feed themselves a bit. *Saturday, September 5th.* Coolies sent off again to carry loads remainder of way to 1st camp. Spent a good deal of time watching feeding birds, who seem very well. Weather which has been pretty good for the last 3 days, is much worse today.

Sunday, September 6th. Snowed during night again and the young birds were dead. I wish I had let them go yesterday, but as Wollaston arrives today, I decided to keep them for him. Bury arrived to lunch. Wollaston and Raeburn, who turned up a few days ago, later. They had over 20 Tibetan coolies. Raeburn, who looks very grizzled, seems quite well. He passed our mails and stores at Chushar, but did nothing to bring them on. He crossed the plain from Chushar and came down the left bank of the Arun as far as the bridge, but found this quite impossible to cross, and had to go back again, and cross the Yaru near its exit from the gorge. He then made his way round the north side of the Shiling plain, fording several rivers, and finally over a pass to Chubut. Here he crossed the ford to Tsogo, and so to Kharta.

Monday, September 7th. Weather again bad. Morshead walked up to lunch, but returns to Wheeler in the afternoon at their camp this side of the grazing camp. We decided to wait for one really fine day before going up, and to let him know; as Wheeler requires one fine day for a station where he is now, and one more from here. They will then both join us.

Tuesday, September 8th. Same sort of weather but looks as if it might clear? At any rate M., Bury and I started before 8 for a climb and to take photographs. We went up the ridge forming the true right bank of the glacier immediately above and south of the camp. We reached the top of the ridge by moraine and steep scree. The ridge however soon becomes a narrow rock ridge. The first pitch is quite steep and long. M. went first, myself second, then Bury and the 3 coolies. I found the first corner distinctly difficult. Another steep corner or exit from a chimney followed, then round a true corner which turned the gendarme. From here we followed a jolly rock ridge, fairly easy, to the highest point of the ridge, where we waited for over an hour on the chance of it clearing.—(Bury went well, but found it hard work. Height about 18800 aneroid)—and had lunch. It came on to rain, and we continued on down the ridge, myself last. Only one difficulty, a

small pinnacle. After a short distance, we descended a shale couloir to the glacier, which we crossed, and quickly reached camp by moraine and grass. Snow soft on glacier, but not deep, as it is near the lower limit of snow. Shortly after our return, the rain stopped, but later it began to snow heavily and steadily. We hope this will mean the breaking of the monsoon.

Wednesday, September 9th. The snow stopped early in the night after only two or three inches had fallen. And there was a very fine early morning, but began to cloud over again soon. M. and Bury went up the buttress above the camp again for photographs. A herd of 8 or more burrel were grazing across the main valley, but disappeared before Bury and his rifle returned. A lammergeyer, which has been around the camp was about again, it has a magnificent flight, and looks just like an aeroplane. The long lost mail arrived, escorted by Chitayne. The stores should be at Kharta about now too.

Thursday, September 10th. Weather again very indifferent. But we have decided to move forward tomorrow, in the hope that it is not snowing up high. The summits have often been visible through the mists, and there may have been melting by day, and certainly frost at night. No news of Morshead and Wheeler, it looks as if the latter did not get his work done yesterday morning. Made a final selection of things to take up tomorrow. Coolies busy nailing boots, as two packets of clinkers arrived yesterday.

Friday, September 11th. Moved to 20000 ft. camp. Weather very doubtful, and did not improve as we advanced. Coolies went excellently. Found a few loads on the grass shale about half an hour below camp: also that the coolies had erected elaborate stone pinnacles at end of bad traverse. Began to snow as we pitched camp.

Saturday, September 12th. Sun shining through clouds, snow on the ground, nearer peaks and sometimes Everest visible. Very bright glare. But very leaden sky, weather looked very bad. Decided to descend, especially as there was a great deal of snow on the glacier. Even the séracs at the bottom were now quite white. Sharp snow shower started as we were taking down tents, which continued all the way down. M. got down in 2 hours and 10 minutes. I took $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours. Going too fast at first, I got quite tired. There was at least 6 in. of snow before I got in. Having only brought one coat which was wet, spent the evening in a sweater. Luckily I had two.

Sunday, September 13th. Bright early morning, but soon clouded over and settled down to snow or drizzle. Played bridge in the afternoon. Not sleeping well, perhaps because feet slightly cold.

Monday, September 14th. Heron arrived. Also another mail. Same weather continues.

Tuesday, September 15th. Drizzled all day. But finer evening and night.

Wednesday, September 16th. Fine morning. Wheeler got in a photographic station on the hill opposite the camp. M., Morshead and I started out for the col opposite camp, across main valley, to left of Wheeler's peak. We get separated and the others went up towards snow peaks to the left. I went on to the col, which is only 1000 ft. above camp, where I had beautiful views of Makalu and across the Arun, but the peaks were mostly clouded. Then followed the ridge till I joined others at 1.45. Descending we were caught in a slight snowstorm. But the evening was fine.

Thursday, September 17th. Fine day. M., Morshead and Bury went up a 21000 ft. peak behind camp and had fine views and photographs. Wheeler got in a station. Snow up high was very bad, and M. thought he saw the North col, which looked very unpromising. Expect to move up tomorrow.

Friday, September 18th. Bad morning. Postponed advance.

Saturday, September 19th. Fine day. Moved up to upper camp (No 1) M., Morshead, Wheeler and myself. Wheeler took a station on the hump above camp.

Sunday, September 20th. M. and Morshead with about 15 coolies went up to col. [The Lhakpa La.] They found a good deal of powdery snow and reached col about 11.20. Three coolies failed to get there: Kitar, Nim Dorji, and Angdanel. North col seemed to be about 2 miles off and decidedly difficult: will have to be reconnoitred by a light party first. Wheeler and I crossed to col opposite our camp into Kama valley, and he took a station there, and also one on the snow down on this side. Snow on glacier had a hard crust, but the north slope on the south side was quite powdery, luckily not very deep. Returned to camp at 12: Bury arrived immediately after from below, followed later by Wollaston and Raeburn. I saw a butterfly near camp today.

Monday, September 21st. Not quite so fine. Six of us expect to move up tomorrow to the col; leaving Raeburn in charge of this camp.

*Tuesday, September 22nd.*¹⁴ Started about 4.30 for col on 4 ropes. Tracks were quite good and going easy. Some coolies straggled and unroped. Reached the col in good time. I found myself rather short of breath, but otherwise fairly all right. M. was off colour. Wollaston had a headache in the afternoon. On the col was a good deal of wind and it was cold. We pitched tents in a small hollow on the col and spent rather a miserable afternoon. I slept pretty well and my feet were warm. [They had 34° of frost.]

Wednesday, September 23rd. Next morning Wollaston and Bury had had quite enough and decided to go down and Morshead went with

¹⁴ This was the day when the party sighted a footprint of the Metohkangmi, the 'Abominable Snow Man.'

them. Chiefly I think because the North col looked moderately difficult and coolies were short.¹⁵

The descent was evidently much longer than it had looked on our previous visit and the N col somewhat further off, fairly steep snow in places. We started about 12, traversing to the south and about 4 o'clock camped again on the snow, perhaps 22000 feet not far from North col. We had ten coolies with us, including 3 of Wheeler's. M. and I shared one Meade [tent] and Wheeler had the other, also used as cooking tent. It soon became very cold and windy. I spent a rotten night, my feet were cold and I couldn't sleep much. Fed chiefly off soup and cocoa and dried fruit.

Thursday, September 24th. Started about seven, soon reached foot of a debris fan at a good angle, up which we proceeded. a foot or so of snow in places, later rather more. Ang Pasang and Lagay took turns to make the road, doing excellently. Gorang was the third coolie. Progress was quite easy until the last slope, which was steepish and the snow rather deep. We crossed it to the left however without incident.¹⁶ The ridge itself is a double shelf, the farther side being a bit higher, so that this side was partly protected from the westerly wind. We proceeded to the col shelf where we were exposed to the wind, which also swept the whole North buttress and at once decided that to go on was impracticable. Wheeler had been quite against attempt all along. I was prepared to follow M. if he wished to try and make some height, but was glad when he decided not to. It was lucky he didn't as my strength proved to be nearly at an end. The wind was strong and cold, but did not go through my clothes at once. I was wearing 3 prs. of drawers and 3 shetland sweaters. Coming down we found there had been an avalanche where we crossed the steep bit, cutting along our steps for a few yards at the top, and then sweeping below them. We descended above and then by our steps. Reaching the bottom we halted a few minutes, and I found myself quite weak, and that it was quite an effort to get back to camp. Cold evening again, was able to smoke a pipe with pleasure.

Friday, September 25th. After a miserable night, started back across the glacier on a beautiful morning, the snow was still blowing off all the ridges of Everest. We made for the foot of the rock ridge south of windy col, and after a halt proceeded up this, occasionally meeting with violent gusts. On reaching the snowy part of this ridge, which was more exposed to wind, we roped up and began to go up it. But before long, noticed that Dorji Gompa, whom we had expected to join Wheeler's rope, had remained behind. I accordingly stayed with Garong to wait for him. After half an hour we went back for him, to

¹⁵ See *Mt. Everest: The Reconnaissance*, pp. 143-4.

¹⁶ They reached the Chang La (North col) in four and a half hours.

the foot of snow. Garong found him lower down in a more or less exhausted condition. I made Garong take his load, much to his disgust. And we returned to where Garong's load was, most of which I left behind, giving remainder to Dorgie. We then struggled up to col, [Lhakpa La] the wind now being more or less continuous. Luckily just under the col there was less wind. Crossing the col quickly we descended the first slope, at the bottom of which the coolies halted to eat something, while I went on. The wind still blew to some extent, and all tracks were obliterated, except those of today, which were $\frac{3}{4}$ filled up. I again found myself suddenly very weary, but went on slowly, and gradually going became less heavy. Through the icefall and across the flat glacier at the bottom it was quite good, and with one or two halts, I reached camp about sunset.

We spent a pleasant evening, being the last before the expedition finally broke up.

Saturday September 26th. Bury, Wollaston and Wheeler left for our col into the Kama valley. One or two coolies arrived from below and reported that the Tibetans who were to have come up to move the camp had not arrived at the advanced base the night before. However as a very strong wind began to blow steadily, it became so unpleasant that we decided to move down at once with as much as we could carry. The tents were hardly able to stand the wind, and needed constant repegging with stones. The last coolies arrived from windy gap, having started at 3 A.M. On the way down we met 21 Tibetans, who slept out under a rock, as they were too late to reach 20000 ft. camp that night. I returned by the snout of the glacier, which proved quite a good way. I was however very weak, and had to stop and rest more than once.

Sunday, September 27th. Mallory and Morshead started early and returned to Kharta. As I still felt weak, remained with Raeburn and marched as far as the first house in the valley. Gyaljen Kazi stayed to clear the camp and joined us the next morning, having left at 3.30 P.M. We camped pleasantly in a threshing yard. The barley, practically the only crop here, had just been harvested. Very good night.

Monday, September 28th. Returned to Kharta for lunch. The colouring especially in the upper valley was lovely, chiefly due to the red and yellow of the small bushes. Decide to leave on 30th.

Tuesday, September 29th. Packing and lunched with Jongpen. Excellent macaroni stew. Horses provided. Finished packing late. Bought a pen case, old Kam [Kham?] sword, a silver prayer wheel, and a Buddhist wall scroll from Chettan Wangdi. Next morning I secured the typical brass belt from a local woman.

Wednesday, September 30th. Morshead will not be able to start for two



THE INTERPRETERS: GYALZAN KAZI AND CHITTAN WANGDI.

days probably, as he has to wait for his surveyor who is up near the advanced base. Got coolies off about 8 but waited till 12.45 for our ponies, so had an early lunch before starting. Good ponies, so made off quickly, but soon found going slow along gravel beds of Arun valley. Found the coolies halted at half way village, including the 13 Tibetans. But got them off again quickly, and reached the ford of the Sacka or lower Rongbuk (bridge broken) just before dark. We were then directed to the house of the brother of the Jongpen of Shekar Dzong, where we put up for the night in quite a clean room of the farm house. Had very little means of conversing with our host, who was however very polite. Very pleased at being able to ford the river and reach Lumeh that night.

Thursday, October 1st. Started about 8 and crossed the pass to the rope bridge across the Arun. The basin forming the lower Arun valley turns west at Lumeh, but then forms the Rongbuk. The junction occurs about 2 or 3 miles below in the gravel beds, each river having its gorge in the gravel. The Arun meanwhile turns east through a narrow crack round a hill perhaps 17 to 18000 feet high which rises from a neck (over pass) of about 15000 feet. The river then comes west again round the hill and continues on its upward course through gorges until beyond Koshak where it spreads into sandy mud flats all the way to Shiling plain.

The bridge consists of three plaited leather ropes along which a wooden loop is pulled, and to this human or other freight is strapped and is so hauled across. The current is here very violent, and if the crest of a wave coincides with the pulley at the lowest point of the span, the person or load frequently gets wet. It looked quite alarming at first. But by lying flat one got across dry; several coolies were soaked. The bridge manipulator had his own hook of wood, on which he slid across very quickly and skilfully without assistance. We took two hours getting across, and then loaded up a fresh lot of transport, mainly coolies, and reached the first village of Koshak just before dark. Saw a herd of 8 burrel across the gorge. Put up very comfortably in a small courtyard, covered round the walls.

Friday, October 2nd. Koshak (south) to Rong Kong. The night before there was a very cold wind from the south. Started off on foot as ponies had to be fetched from a neighbouring village. Country now quite flat and rolling. After defeating an attempt to change yaks off the route after two or three miles, proceeded steadily to Koshak (north) reached about midday. There we changed transport. Are now in full view of Shiling plain and mouth of Yaru gorge. From here it is a long step to Rong Kong with no intervening villages. Road direct. Arrived about 4, transport some time later. Camped outside first village.

Saturday, October 3rd. Rong Kong to Chumick. Transport refused to go direct by route north of river, so Sanglu was sent round to change yaks at Gyankar Nangpa. He failed to get yaks there but succeeded in taking on transport to Chushar, where he spent the night. We crossed bridge at 2nd village and proceeding over spur above small cliff at mouth of gorge, followed edge of the hills all the way to Chumick. Attempts to take short cuts across marshes generally were failures. This route is probably very little shorter than one via Gyankar. About 14 miles? Arrived with coolies at 4, at nightfall put up in the upper room of the farm at Chumick. This room was quite clean and well built, roofed with slate. With a fire we were quite cosy. M. unfortunately had no bedding. West of the farm is a temple or monastery?, painted red and blue.

Sunday, October 4th. Chumick to Tinki. Rode over to Chushar where Sanglu had been reported, and found him short of money. The ubiquitous Gompa required $3\frac{1}{2}$ tonkas per animal to Tinki, but agreed to the exorbitant charge of $2\frac{1}{2}$. Returning towards the pass, we found the coolies had hired animals for their loads as far as the top. Saw several running flocks of birds, probably partridge. Lunched on top. A little way further, my pony's bridle came off and it got away, taking about $\frac{3}{4}$ hour to catch by united efforts of coolies, showing infinitely more vitality than it had done hitherto: I consequently made it trot most of the way to Tinki. Camped at west end of jong. M. called on Jongpen. And later two Jongpens called on us. We gave them whisky, which they apparently did not appreciate as they did not drink much, leaving plenty in their glasses. Failed to obtain reduction in prices and will have to pay 5 tonkas to Kampa Dzong. Boring ceremony, as Sanglu is a very inadequate interpreter.

Monday, October 5th. Tinki to Mende. Got yaks off at 7.15 on a very cold morning. Tinki pond full of Brahmini duck, but no geese to be seen. M. very energetic driving yaks, so as to get the long march done in time. After circumventing the large lakes, now filling Tinkie valley SE of jong, struck across plain by quite good track, only very occasionally boggy. Reached Lingga before one with yaks and coolies and lunched there. Passed next village at 2.50: yaks not stopping, but coolies are still there. Clear views of Sikkim Himalayas, and latterly of Kangchenjunga. Also of Gyankar range, but neither Everest nor Makalu have been visible yet. We passed very large herds of fine yaks today. Inhabitants busy treading out the barley, with help of yaks, also gathering goba.

Found distance from last village to Mende shorter than we expected, 70 min., riding, perhaps 5 miles. A good deal more water than before at Yaru ford, but quite shallow, Mende is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from ford. Camped in small grove at 4.30. Natives thrashing.

Tuesday, October 6th. Mende to Giri. Left at 7, decidedly cold. Reached Kampa Dzong at 9: and waited in the old compound while Sanglu arranged transport. Tried to buy a carpet, but none appeared. Went and looked at Kellas' grave, which was just as we left it. Good view of Makalu and Everest. South peak of Ev. quite clear, and north peak of Makalu just showing over Gyankar range. Only one rideable horse produced, so we decided to walk. Sanglu overtook us with a rather better animal, so we rode on, over rolling down like country and then down to Giri, an abandoned square enclosure and buildings nearby, was presumably a frontier post for the Lupo La under the Chinese. Mende to Kampa Dzong, and from there to Giri about 7 miles each.

Wednesday, October 7th. Giri to Tangu. ? 23 miles. Early start. Very flat and gentle rise to the pass about 17000. Patches of snow about, evidently several days old. I shot a gazelle at about 500 yards, after three misses. Proved very good eating. Very cold going slowly behind the yaks down the Sikkim side of the pass with sleet and snow in our faces and quite a wind. Sheltered in a yak tent with a nice family of shepherds at Giagong. Then rode rapidly 9 or 10 miles to Tangu. The last part through perfectly beautiful country of rhododendrons and dark firs and grass, running water and steep banks. Partly perhaps by contrast struck me as the most beautiful bit of valley I had ever seen. Hills in mist.

Thursday, October 8th. Tangu to Lachen. Walked in a little over four hours. Very beautiful, gradually becoming more luxuriant and green. Met A. and Swartlings.

COOLIES' NAMES

Gyaljen	Sheten, Sherpa
Chiten, Sherpa	Kilar, Sherpa
Nyima, Sherpa	Dasana, Sherpa
Kita, Sherpa	Nyima Lama
Ang Pasang, joined after Tingri from Nepal	Rinzie Lama
Angnaim (Tingie)	Lagay, Sherpa (older brother)
Thakpa (sturdy little fellow)	Dorgi Gompa, Tibetan
Pema, Sherpa (younger brother)	Pasang Doyi (? no coat)
Gorang, Sherpa (old chap with green cap)	Thackay, (S) stout cheery fellow
Pemo, Sherpa	Dupa, cook (or d(r)u(k)pa)
	Nyima, S (Z)

Note. We have printed the diary as written, but it will be noted that Bullock got his day wrong on August 19, which was a Friday, not a Wednesday. All the succeeding entries in the diary are also incorrect by two days.—EDITOR.