

derive some assistance from the old bed of the Tschertschen-darja,\* the real value of which we shall see in a subsequent chapter, and that by digging in it, if it was not entirely sanded up, we might obtain both water and fuel, or even grazing for our animals. All the same I did not dare to count too much upon a statement that rested upon hearsay only. According to my own map (constructed and drawn by Dr. B. Hassenstein, in *Peterm. Mitteil.*, Ergänzhft. No. 131) the distance between Tana-baghladi and Tatan, as the crow flies, is 285 km. In the following table I have entered in kilometers the distance travelled on each of the 18 days that our journey lasted, as well as the components of the compass-bearings. Our real starting-point was our winter-quarters at Jangi-köl, but the distance of the first day's journey to Camp No. I is counted from the Tarim end of the Tana-baghladi canal.

D a t e.		No. of Camp.	Distance in km.	Direction.	Distance from the Tarim in km.
1899.	20 Dec. . . . .	I	3.2	S. 20° W.	3.2
	21 » . . . . .	II	16.6	S. 37°.4 W.	19.8
	22 » . . . . .	III	22.3	S. 35°.1 W.	42.1
	23 » . . . . .	IV	19.9	S. 15° W.	62.0
	24 » . . . . .	V	15.5	S. 13° W.	77.5
	25 » . . . . .	VI	18.2	S. 3° E.	95.7
	26 » . . . . .	VII	21.8	S. 14° W.	117.5
	27 » . . . . .	VIII	7.9	S. 14° W.	125.4
	28 » . . . . .	IX	13.3	S. 12° W.	138.7
	29 » . . . . .	X	14.3	S. 3° W.	153.0
	31 » . . . . .	XI	24.3	S. 16° W.	177.3
1900.	1 Jan. . . . .	XII	14.4	S. 9° W.	191.7
	2 » . . . . .	XIII	21.9	S. 13° W.	213.6
	4 » . . . . .	XIV	18.0	S. 14° E.	231.6
	5 » . . . . .	XV	15.9	S.	247.5
	6 » . . . . .	XVI	10.6	S. 13° W.	258.1
	7 » . . . . .	XVII	9.7	S. 2° E.	267.8
	8 » . . . . .	XVIII	16.7	S. 14° E. + S. 49° W.	284.5

Camp. No. XVIII was situated in the district of Keng-lajka, on the left bank of the Tschertschen-darja, 7 km. below Tatan. Our failure to hit this village exactly was due to the variation of the compass. According to my measurement the total distance amounted to 284.5 km. That this agrees within 500 m. with my map in *Peterm. Mitteil.*, in the compilation of which Dr. Hassenstein made use of all the

\* Roborovskij states, he was told, that there was a road through the desert from the district of Boghuluk to the ruins of a large town which was reported to be buried in the sand two days' journey from Boghuluk, beside the old bed of the Tschertschen-darja, this last being still easy to trace. The road alluded to then continued from the ruins through Boghuluk and Vasch-schahri to the lake of Lop-nor (*Trudij Tibet. Eksp.*, iii. pp. 68 ff.).

In *Ergänzungsheft No. 131 to Petermanns Mitteilungen* (pp. 139 ff.) I relied too much upon this statement, which appeared to agree so well with the migrations of the lake of Lop-nor. Moreover in his map Roborovskij has laid down the lower course of this old river-bed, putting it at 60 versts from the lower Keng-lajka. I confess I was unable to discover a trace of this old river-bed, and doubt altogether whether it exists.