

springs and flowing amongst thickets of bushes. On its left side the glen was now overhung by steep, towering walls of rock, with immense screes gushing out of every fissure and every watercourse, and their foot abruptly shorn by the summer floods. We forded the river for the last time near Riung-karu-jogma or Tschahr-vagh or Tschahr-bagh, and then encamped at an altitude of 3967 m., at the foot of a gigantic gravel-and-shingle terrace. Above it rise up steep and rugged masses of rock, while narrow, wild-looking side-glens open out towards the west. We had again reached a region in which the scenery is sublime. The vegetation was however scanty, only a few solitary bushes and some kamisch.

April 16th. In order not to weary our animals, and especially the yaks, we made short marches, and generally encamped at the places where the Jarkent caravans are accustomed to stop for the night. During the preceding night violent gusty winds blew in our glen, and every now and again we heard landslips of gravel and stones falling from the terrace at the foot of which we were encamped; in fact our position was far from being safe. Shortly before reaching Tschahr-vagh we came across an inhabitant of Schejok, grazing some yaks and sheep; he was the only human being we met with in the course of the whole of our journey through these mountains.

The volume of the Schejok had now visibly decreased a little. On the whole its glen still preserved the same characteristics as hitherto, and led us north-north-west without windings worthy of mention. At first we advanced for a considerable distance close to the foot of the mountains on the right side of the glen. On this side, as also on the side opposite to it, we now encountered a great number of gigantic screes, the fronts of which often rose fully 100 m. above the glen. Every now and again, in places that are not invaded by the river, we would see köuruk scrub and tamarisks. Upon reaching a minor detached butte, which we passed on our left, we crossed over to the left or east side of the glen by means of a low threshold which reaches across it. The space between the butte and the cliffs on the east is in great part filled with sedimented yellow clay. There a large side-glen, called Galik-tartan, comes down from the east. After twice more fording the river we approached Mandarlik, a peculiar depression scooped out by the stream some time ago at the base of the cliffs on the left side of the glen. There, being well protected, and well watered by a spring, which had formed some small pools, grass, kamisch, and bushes were growing. There were wild-duck. The place, which lies at an absolute altitude of 4145 m., is also called Julghuluk (= Julhunluk) and in Tibetan Bodba.

On the 17th April we again did a very short stage along this remarkable road, which by this was beginning to get monotonous. We were still within the peripheral region and within the confines of the drainage-area of the Indus; as yet there were no indications that we were approaching the vast, relatively flat Tibetan plateau-land. The vertical relief was still the more pronounced; of the horizontal relief we did not see much, for our view was limited on both sides by the lofty walls of rock.

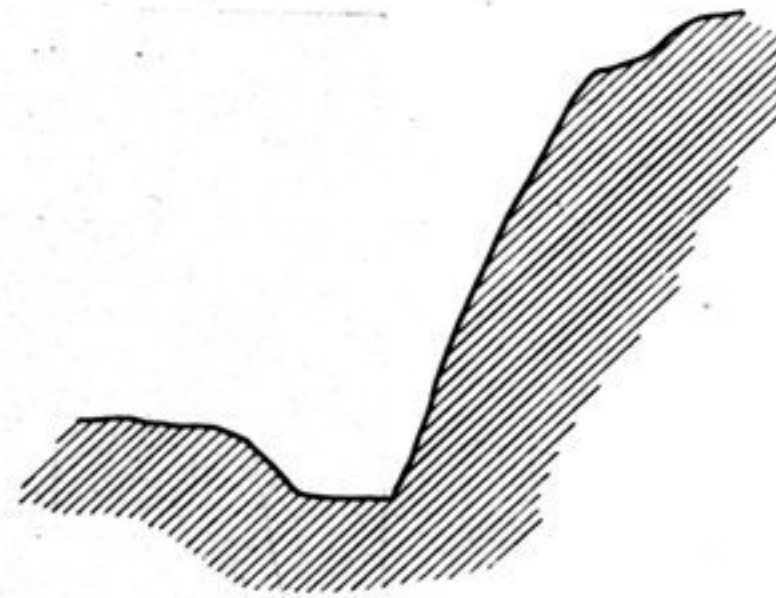


Fig. 328. VERTICAL SECTION OF DEPRESSION AT MANDARLIK.