

I. E V E N T S I N U R U M C H I

The first chapter in this second part of the History of the Expedition deals with the events at the headquarters in Urumchi, the capital of Sinkiang, during that part of 1928 when I myself was in Sweden, and with the unexpected and tragic death of Governor-General YANG TSENG-HSIN. The description of my own experiences is resumed in the second chapter.

AT HEADQUARTERS

At the end of April the position of the expedition was as follows: NORIN, BERGMAN and HASLUND were in the field, in the Quruq-tagh. YUAN had set off to the north-east from Urumchi to the northern foot of the Bogdo-ula range; and HUANG, TING, CHAN and KUNG had started southward. Our meteorological stations in Urumchi and in the Bogdo-ula were of course working; and remotest of all were ZIMMERMANN, MA and SÖDERBOM at the meteorological station on the Edsen-gol in the middle of the Gobi Desert.

On May 10th HAUDE, DETTMANN and LI left Urumchi along the main road for Charkhliq in order to establish a meteorological station there. For the same purpose WALZ and LIU set off for Kucha on May 22nd. When they had reached their destinations and got the stations going, we thus had four active stations in Sinkiang and one in the Gobi. Mountain-stations were also to be established at Charkhliq and Kucha.

Professor SIU and Major HEMPEL, who during my stay in Europe acted as my representatives, undertook amongst other things the instruction of some local Chinese students in the art of meteorological observation, in order to fit them for posts as assistants at the stations.

HEMPEL asked permission to send a caravan to the Edsen-gol to fetch from our station there the fifteen camel-loads we had left behind in November on account of our shortage of camels at that time; but YANG declared the project to be against his wishes. This was only another expression of his aversion to every kind of connection with Kansu.