

“To revert to an earlier period it is noteworthy that the route in Marco Polo’s account, by which the Mongol partisan leader Nigūdar, ‘with a great body of horsemen, cruel unscrupulous fellows,’ made his way from Badakhshān ‘through another province called PASHAI-DİR, and then through another called ARIORA-KESHEMUR’ to India, must have led down the Bashgol Valley. The name of *Pashai* clearly refers to the Kāfirs among whom this tribal designation exists to this day, while the mention of DİR indicates the direction which this remarkable inroad had taken. That its further progress must have lain through Swāt is made probable by the name which, in Marco Polo’s account, precedes that of ‘Keshemur’ or Kashmīr; for in the hitherto unexplained *Ariora* can be recognized, I believe, the present Agrōr, the name of the well-known hill-tract on the Hazāra border which faces Bunēr from the left bank of the Indus. It is easy to see from any accurate map of these regions, that for a mobile column of horsemen forcing its way from Badakhshān to Kashmīr, the route leading through the Bashgol Valley, DİR, Talāsh, Swāt, Bunēr, Agrōr, and up the Jhelam Valley, would form at the present day, too, the most direct and practicable line of invasion.”

In a paper on *Marco Polo’s Account of a Mongol inroad into Kashmir* (*Geog. Jour.*, August, 1919), Sir Aurel Stein reverts again to the same subject. “These [Mongol] inroads appear to have commenced from about 1260 A.D., and to have continued right through the reign of Ghiasuddin, Sultan of Delhi (1266-1286), whose identity with Marco’s *Asedin Soldan* is certain. It appears very probable that Marco’s story of Nogodar, the nephew of Chaghatāi, relates to one of the earliest of these incursions which was recent history when the Poli passed through Persia about 1272-73 A.D.”

Stein thinks, with Marsden and Yule, that *Dilivar* (pp. 99, 105) is really a misunderstanding of “*Città di Livar*” for *Lahawar* or Lahore.

*Dir* has been dealt with by Yule and Pauthier, and we know that it is “the mountain tract at the head of the western branch of the Panjkora River, through which leads the most frequented route from Peshawar and the lower Swāt valley to Chītral” (Stein, *l.c.*). Now with regard to the situation of *Pashai* (p. 104):

“It is clear that a safe identification of the territory intended cannot be based upon such characteristics of its people as Marco Polo’s account here notes obviously from hearsay, but must