

In connection with the five profiles described above it would have been very interesting to add a sixth one farther south just in the region where the Tibetan and Pamir ranges meet. This region is one of the most rugged, wild and difficult in the interior of Asia. Only a few travellers have been there. The last visitor was Captain L. V. S. BLACKER who travelled, October 1918, from the uppermost Taghdumbash Pamir to Kōk-yar, crossing an endless series of difficult passes. It was a plucky and courageous undertaking, and the warlike conditions under which it was carried out, are sufficient excuse for the meagerness of his description and his map—from a geographical point of view.<sup>1</sup>

Still, Blacker's little sketch-map may give us some idea of the extremely accentuated character of this part of the mountains between Pamir and Tibet, especially if we add to it some dates from previous travellers. When Blacker says of the valley of Chup that it is »blank on the map», he has forgotten that GROMBTCHEVSKIY has travelled along a part of it<sup>2</sup>, and when he says that »a hamlet called Bulun», is »not on the map», he overlooks the fact that this village is entered on BOGDANOVITCH's map *Маршрутная съемка отъ урочища Тахта-хонъ до рѣки Яркендъ-дарьи и обратно*, published in PIEVTSOFF's work quoted above.<sup>3</sup> So even if the country is not »untrodden», BLACKER is quite right in saying it is nearly »unknown», for, as a rule, the results brought back from this region by his predecessors are very poor, especially so far as the maps are concerned.

GROMBTCHEVSKIY's map of these parts of the world is called *Карта путешествий подполковника Громбчевскаго въ Дарвазъ, на Памиръ, въ Джиты-жааръ, въ Канджуть, въ Раскемъ и въ ств. зап. Тибетъ, въ 1885, 1888, 1889 и 1890 годахъ*; 1:840000, published 1895. It is not a reliable map, and especially his altitudes are impossible, being sometimes 500 or 600 meters too high. But on the other hand I cannot tell how far Blacker's altitudes are, approximately, more reliable. In some cases his passes are much higher than the heights given by Grombtchevskiy. The pass of Sakrigu is 3575 m., according to Grombtchevskiy, and 4878<sup>4</sup> according to Blacker, and the Ak-korum is 3390 m. on Grombtchevskiy's map, and 4268 on that of Blacker.

The pass of Kara-tash of Blacker is also to be found on the Russian traveller's map, though he crossed another pass, called Chup, situated a few versts south of it in the same ridge. The two passes whose names Blacker could not find out as he

<sup>1</sup> Geographical Journal, Vol. LVIII, 1921, p. 178 et seq. Younghusband said before the paper: »He (Blacker) had the disadvantage of having to travel so rapidly that he had little opportunity for making and recording observations of geographical interest».

<sup>2</sup> I only heard the name in 1895; cf. Vol. IX, p. 74.

<sup>3</sup> There are neither latitudes and longitudes, nor altitudes on this map; only an arrow indicating the north.

<sup>4</sup> His altitudes are only approximate and in feet. I have changed his figures into meters.