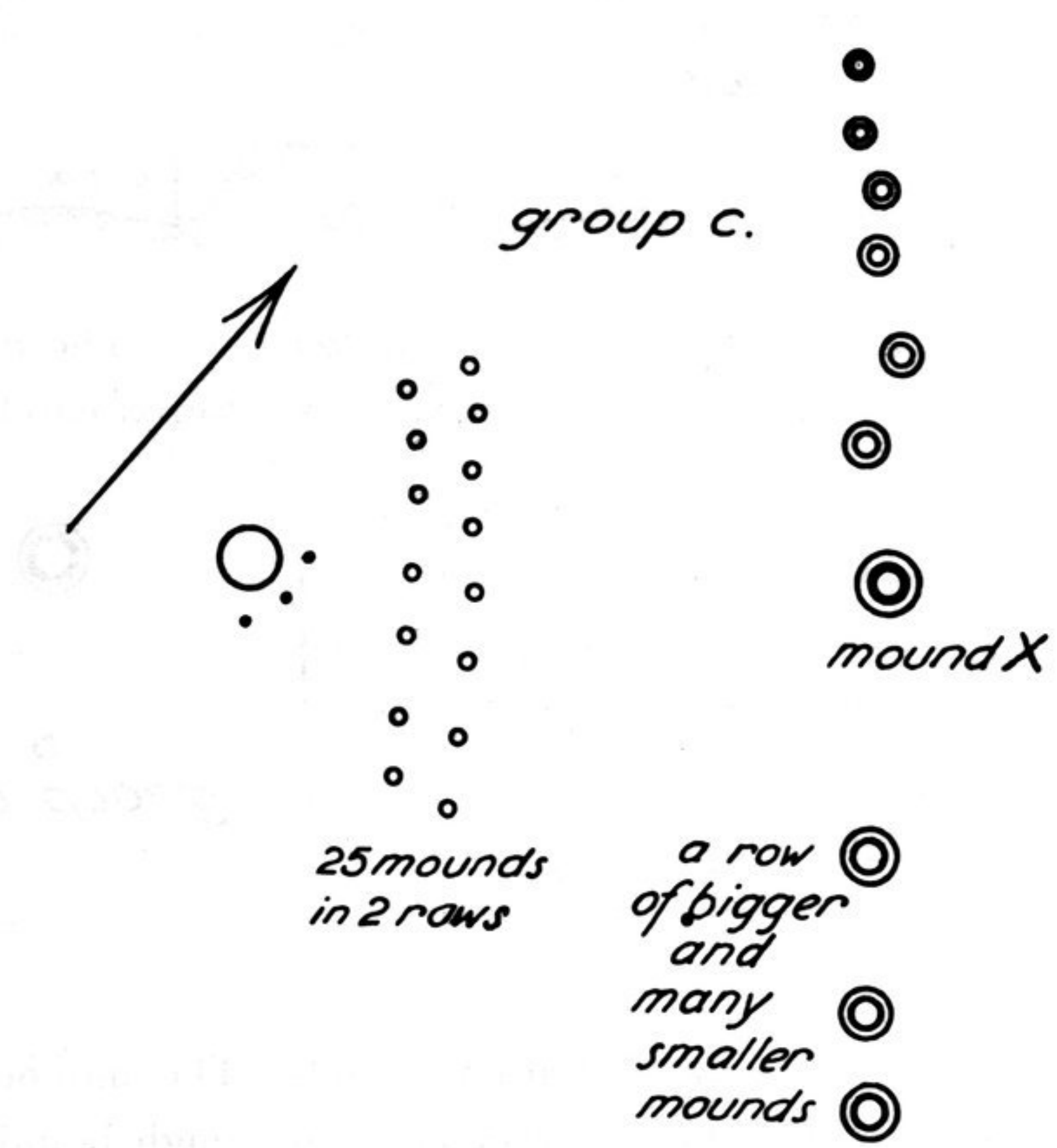


ervation. The largest is 80 yards at the foot and 3—4 m in height. The surrounding ground is level and contains no stones. The latter could, however, easily be collected on the slopes or in the beds of the rivers. *Group c* is the largest and consists of 56 mounds grouped as shown in the sketch.



From the mound flanking the Tekes valley the view over the river and slopes is wonderful. The Kirghiz could give me no explanation whatever. No objects are ever said to have been discovered there. There is a legend that centuries ago the mounds were made by Nukhfaiganber. Who he was and whether they served as the foundations for tents or burial mounds, nobody could tell.

We encamped close to three Kirghiz yurts on the bank of the Little Dshirgalan. I was lodged in the comparatively clean yurt of a bright little Kirghiz woman. Her husband was away, but she regaled me with milk, cleanly served. The other yurts were occupied by the husband's parents, grandmother, sisters and the wife's mother, none but relations.