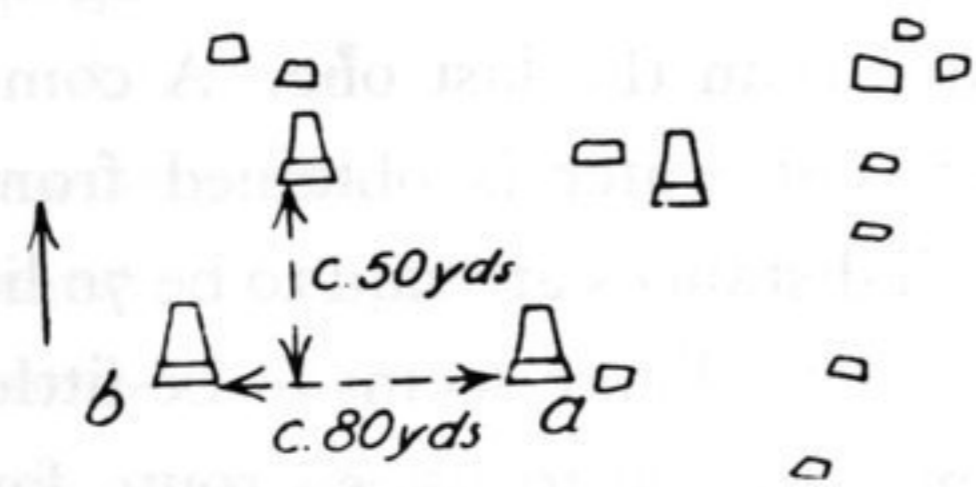


Ruin W of Tun-huang.

(bought at 6—7 tch., sold at 11—12 tchen per tou) to Kanchow, whence it will return with gaolyan tobacco (bought at 6—7 fen, sold at 17—18 per djin).

About a mile W of the Sindianza station a small deserted impanj is seen on the right of the road. On the left rise the ruins of a group of towers or rectangular columns of unbaked bricks, tapering slightly towards the top. They are placed as shown on the plan given below. Four are fairly well preserved, especially *a* and *b*, and approximately of the



same size. The tops had fallen to pieces, but *a* still measured about $4\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms and *b* $5\frac{1}{2}$ in height. On the E side of the columns there is a small aperture at a height of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms. To the N the opening faces a niche, the bottom of which is about 1 fathom from the ground. It is the height of a man and has a lattice-work arched roof formed of 4 walls inclined towards each other. In one of these niches there were the bones of a large animal and the horn of an ox.

The road goes on through the trees which become more densely populated. We saw a couple of «huang jang» (gazelles) and a great many pheasants. Many of the houses were enclosed within massive clay walls with turrets at the corners, a sure sign of the prosperity of their owners. A large number of the fields were under water which made the country look like a large fish farm with its ponds at different levels. The road was also submerged for the greater part, the water having been released from Tun-huang. As it approaches the town, it cuts deep into the ground. — The distance covered to-day is given as 70 li. Owing to numerous halts of indefinite length I was unable to calculate whether this was correct, even approximately.

November 16th. The town, which lies on the flat bank of the Tang-ho, about 100 fathoms wide, consists of two parts built one within the other and enclosed by walls, the eastern part surrounding