

of the section of Hsün-ch'êng 循城. The name is not met with elsewhere and looks curious, as it literally means 'along the [Great] Wall'.⁸ In what relation the 'superintendent of Yü-mên barrier' mentioned in some documents of T. XIV stood to the 'tu-wei' of Yü-mên, I am unable to make out.⁹

Military
sub-
divisions
on Limes.

We find yet another *tu-wei* of Tun-huang mentioned in the interesting and fortunately complete document No. 592, T. XII. a. 3, of A.D. 21, which contains the pay account of a certain soldier, and incidentally furnishes us with definite indications as to the successive grades of the military hierarchy on the Limes. Corporal Wang, to whose origin and claim for pay we shall have occasion to refer further on,¹⁰ is described as 'subordinate to the officer commanding a watch-post of the *P'ing-wang* barrier, which depends on *Pu-kuang*, sub-section (*ch'ü* 曲) and residence of the [*tu-wei*], in [the command of] *Tun-tê*', i. e. Tun-huang.¹¹ We have already seen that the local name *P'ing-wang* 平望 was applied to that portion of the Limes which extended from the Jade Gate eastwards to T. XXII. c and perhaps further still.¹² Of *Pu-kuang* 步廣 M. Chavannes shows that it is described in the *Ch'ien Han shu* as a military subdivision (*hou-kuan* 候官) with fortified headquarters in which the *tu-wei* of the central section had his official residence.¹³ It seems, therefore, to follow that the section of the Limes comprising *P'ing-wang* and extending east of the Jade Gate was under the administration of the military commandant, or *tu-wei*, of the 'central section' of Tun-huang.¹⁴ The term *hou-kuan* which has just been mentioned, and the application of which during Han times M. Chavannes has discussed at some length,¹⁵ is also met with in our documents. In the Han Annals the term is applied to administrative subdivisions subject to military authority and having fortified headquarters. The references in the documents are too brief to furnish clear evidence on the point. But it is of interest to find the term coupled with the names of Yü-mên and Ta-chien-tu.¹⁶

Officers
subordinate
to *tu-wei*.

The fact that the great mass of our Limes documents has been recovered at small watch-posts explains why references to officers subordinate to the *tu-wei* are far the more numerous. Among such the *Ch'ien Han shu*, as M. Chavannes points out, specially names 'chiefs of a thousand men', *ch'ien jên* 千人, and *ssü-ma* 司馬,¹⁷ and, no doubt, they represented the higher ranks in the military hierarchy below the *tu-wei*. The *ssü-ma* are met with in about half a dozen documents without their function being made clear to us.¹⁸ The former were evidently graded higher, and may have exercised functions corresponding to those of a battalion commander. It is significant that the three documents in which they are mentioned were found at T. XIV, the Jade Gate headquarters.¹⁹

⁸ The order is addressed to the commander of the *Yen-hu* company, which, as we have seen above, p. 648, probably garrisoned the watch-station T. VI. c, and it was actually found at T. VI. b. Was *Hsün-ch'êng* at any time the designation of the extreme western section of the Limes, or is it possible to assume that what was meant by the 'section along the Wall' was really the Yü-mên barrier section? *Ta-chien-tu* at T. IV was certainly comprised in this according to other documents; see above, pp. 689, 691.

⁹ Cf. *Doc.* Nos. 315-17. The specific title is shown by M. Chavannes, *Documents*, p. 231, to be attested also in the commentary of the *Ch'ien Han shu*.

¹⁰ See below, p. 757.

¹¹ For the name *Tun-tê* 敦德 given to Tun-huang by Wang Mang, cf. Chavannes, *Documents*, p. 130.

¹² Cf. above, pp. 691, 699, 720, and for the companies which furnished pickets for its watch-posts, pp. 717, 719. Though frequently mentioned (see *Documents*, Index), *P'ing-*

wang is not specifically designated as a 'barrier' elsewhere.

¹³ Cf. Chavannes, *Documents*, pp. 130 sqq. *Doc.* No. 623, T. XXVIII. 37, mentions *Pu-kuang* as a place where a halt was made for the night.

¹⁴ M. Chavannes is doubtful about a possible reference to yet another section commanded by a *tu-wei* which may be contained in *Doc.* No. 168, T. VI. b. i. 142.

¹⁵ Cf. *Documents*, pp. 130 sq.

¹⁶ Cf. *Doc.* Nos. 166, 458. In the latter record, referring to Yü-mên, M. Chavannes translates *hou-kuan* by 'forteresse'. The term is found also in *Doc.* Nos. 165, 261, 302, 542. No. 302, about which see p. 748 below, distinctly points to a *hou-kuan* comprising a cultivated area.

About the position and character of *Ta-chien-tu*, cf. above, pp. 636, 691.

¹⁷ Cf. *Documents*, p. 72 in note on *Doc.* No. 305.

¹⁸ See *Doc.* Nos. 55, 60, 275, 438, 461, 605.

¹⁹ In *Doc.* No. 305 a certain *ch'ien-jên*, having the title of