

## CHAPTER VI

# FROM KERMĀN TO BANDAR ABBĀS

### SECTION I—FROM KERMĀN TO TAL-I-IBLĪS

**M**Y stay in England, extending over four months of the summer of 1932, enabled me to make arrangements at the British Museum for the accommodation and preliminary examination of the collection of antiquities brought back from the preceding season's work on Persian ground. Incidentally it also allowed me to pass through the press a comprehensive account of my three Central-Asian expeditions.<sup>1</sup> Dr. Fábri, after bearing the main share in the practical tasks connected with the first arrangement of our archaeological finds, rejoined in the autumn his post at the Leiden University.

Returning myself to Persia in the course of October via Istanbul and Baghdad, I was able to pay a brief visit to Tehrān and with the kind help of Sir Reginald Hoare, H.B.M.'s Minister, personally to explain the objects of my resumed tour, including the topographical work carried on in connexion with it, to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Public Instruction (including Antiquities) and War, as well as to the Chief of the General Staff. On my subsequent passage through Isfahān I was fortunate enough to meet Monsieur A. Godard, Director of Antiquities in Īrān, and to secure his friendly interest in my tour. He very kindly offered to facilitate it by arranging for a representative of the Ministry of Public Instruction to accompany me.

By the close of October I rejoined my camp at Kermān. There I found Surveyor Muhammad Ayūb safely arrived from the extensive tours of topographical survey he had carried out during the summer and early autumn, often under conditions involving considerable physical hardships, in the hills to the north-west of Kermān as well as in the high valleys to the south and south-east. In accordance with my instructions my indefatigable Pathān assistant had in the course of these tours kept a careful look-out for any old sites and had, wherever such could be recognized, collected such specimens of pottery and similar relics as could be picked up on the surface. At almost all of the numerous old localities thus noted by him the specimens brought back for my inspection indicated occupation down to medieval Muhammadan times. Hence there was no induce-

<sup>1</sup> *On Ancient Central Asian Tracks. A Personal Narrative of Archaeological Explorations in Turkestan and Westernmost China* (Macmillan & Co., 1933).