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~~E~~ Diary Vol XXI

7th August 1935.

I had a long talk w. a Burial official from ~~one of the two Hoshuns~~ ^{of the two Hoshuns} hoshuns, near Manchukuo, in the Siningol League. He asked me whether I thought Inner Mongolia was improving. I returned a polite reply.

He says ^{the} Jap. are on the point of taking over Inner Mongolia. ~~He~~ ^{He} does not like them or trust them. It is as when a man has an illness to wh. in course of time he grows accustomed. A new illness comes, drives out the former illness, & takes its place. He wishes the old illness, to wh. he had grown accustomed, were back again. China has troubled us, but we wd rather have China over us than ~~this~~ Japan, ^{this} new infliction.

As regards Manchukuo, the Mongols there had at first great hopes from Japan, & these were reinforced by making the Manchukuo Emperor, Pu Yi, Emperor of Manchukuo. We thought he wd maintain

our old customs for us. But one year has gone by & more, & we find he has not done this, for the Japs are changing constantly ^{enforcing} bringing in ~~new~~ customs enforcing new customs on our people. Among other matters they are turning out many of the monks, & so injuring our religion.

"As regards ~~Manchukuo~~ Outer Mongolia, there was a rebellion there, & since then matters have improved. ~~But~~ It is that ^{rebellion} rather than Japanese power coming near, by the seizure of Manchukuo, that has improved matters.

"We Mongols are too simple-minded people. We are so much divided that we hardly exist now. Those in the Chinese encroachment area have forgotten their Mongol ways & language, & speak & live on Chinese lines. The Buriats & Outer Mongols are being Sovietized, those near Koko Nor are being swallowed up by the people of Am-do; those in Manchukuo by the Japanese. ~~Why~~ The British have the largest Empire in the world. Why do they not tell Japan, Russia, & China to leave us alone?"

I, "But Britain is very far away. ~~It is~~ What could Britain do?"

Buriat official, "Britain need not send soldiers; if she told these three countries, they would obey."

"It is ~~a~~ ^{the} case of a sick man, who is sixty years old. If he is left in peace, ~~but~~ he may live to be 70 or 80. Britain should tell Japan, Russia, & China to let Mongolia die in

peace, & when she dies they can divide her.

"Many British people are coming to Mongolia, but it does not seem that Mongolia is thereby benefited. ~~Will you not advise us. You have met De Wang & our leaders, & understand these matters.~~ Jun Wang [Ta Wang] ~~to~~ Please advise us what we should do."

"I cannot advise you; the Chinese ^{government} ~~will~~ not allow me to come to Mongolia until I promised not to give advice." At this reply the three or four others ^{in the} ~~in the~~ present ~~just~~ picked up their ears, & a smile went round the yurt.

He, "Hear you mind what the Chinese say?"

I, "As I had to give the promise I must keep it. ~~The~~ Chinese ~~are~~ perhaps ~~suspicious~~ dislike my coming to Mongolia, because ^{where} ~~I~~ was the British representative for Tibet, ~~during the~~ ~~to~~ latter gained & kept her freedom."

He, "What is the present political condition of Tibet?"

I, "She enjoys self-government."

He, "Tibet has good fortune; ~~our good fortune~~ we have not. If Japan were in power in India, Tibet ~~will~~ not keep her freedom."

~~I~~ I, "How many trained soldiers ~~have you~~ has Inner Mongolia?"

He, "I do not know; I think about 500. Some are in the Ordos country. More young men are to be trained. The above is in addition to the soldiers in each hoshun; I do not know how many there are of these. ~~I~~ I do not know how many rifles our ~~of~~ ~~foot~~ government has."

8/8/35

Cashed with Wangil I called on the Washintar Hutoktu this afternoon. Wangil says Washintar is an Indian name (Uchida?). His skin, where not exposed to the sun, is as fair as that of the average Englishman. His yurt is ^{much} cleaner than most, & fitted with various conveniences. I notice his toothbrush & soap ~~is~~ lying side by side in a celluloid case. When bowls of spaghetti & mutton are brought in, he hands to Cashie his own white bone chopsticks, after placing the ends for a time in boiling water.

There are ~~twelve~~ more than a dozen yurts & other tents combined in his encampment, which is much larger than that of Delowa Hutoktu. The encampment is about ten miles W.S.W. from Batahalak.

He came here flying from his monastery in Outer Mongolia, which is in the West of Outer Mongolia opposite Ekinfol. He came on camel back, a five day journey, travelling by night, & hiding by day in the hills.

An alert, intelligent ~~young~~ man, with charming manners. Forty years (Mongol) of age. He is a disciple of Delowa Hutoktu, but is said to have more disciples than Delowa has.

~~Two days later~~ He invites us to stay with him, but this invitation we are unable to accept. ~~He~~ I ask him if he

~~Two days~~ ~~9/8/35~~ later can send a man to show us, from a distance, Outer Mongolia. He agrees to send his brother, (same father & mother).

Two days later Wangil revisits him to take the brother back & give a katas a few small presents from us to him.

Wachintar gives the following information.

At Dolon Nor the Jap. exercise full control. The nominal head officer there is a Mongol, but he does whatever the Jap. tell him. He ^(Wachintar) ~~(Delawa)~~ went to Dolon Nor w. Delawa Hutoktu. The Chahar Mongols have gone under the Japanese. ~~In Outer Mongolia~~ there are several ~~(10,000)~~ of soldiers (Wangil thinks he means thirty to forty thousand). Five hundred ~~are~~ are being trained for ~~aeroplane work as an~~ Air Force. Of these, about one hundred are already trained, & one hundred have been killed in flying but their lives in the effort to learn. ^{The remaining} three hundred are still learning.

Conditions in Outer Mongolia had improved during the last two or three years, but he heard from a man who came from there last year, that they were worsening again, the sovietization being made stricter once more.

~~So says Wachintar Hutok~~ The Russian control must be removed, he says. Let ~~it be~~ China or Japan control us, but not Russia.

So says Wachintar Hutoktu.

9/8/35

We go ~~by~~ to within 3 miles of the Ongan Tek Monastery in Derundung koshun, & are thus able to see a piece of Outer Mongolia. ~~So far~~ we climb a small hill, & obtain a good view. To the right of Ongan Tek Monastery & much further away we see the monastery, called Ingra Ingra Suma, ~~on~~ in Outer Mongolia. It stands out white

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in a north easterly direction from us, on the slope of a long, low ridge, ~~one~~ ^{our} ~~work~~ guide, the brother of Wachirtar Hutokte, reckons we are some 13 miles from the Outer Mongol border; Wangil, ~~the~~ ^a who did not come w. us, but discussed the matter next day w. a friend who knew the place, that we were 10 miles from the border. Our guide was very nervous while we were there. He thought he sighted some horsemen, & fearing that they might be Russian soldiers, his apprehensions were still further increased. The place to which we came was forty seven miles from Batahalak. We travelled first slightly north of west, then north-west, & then ~~30-40 degrees~~ about 35-degrees west of north. The tracks over wh. we came were very rough.

Says Wangil to me before we start, "The Outer Mongols cross into Inner Mongolia to shoot wild animals. Keep away from such people ~~for~~ they will fire at you."

"The Wachirtar Hutokte told me," says Wangil, "that the Russians have had 500 Mongols in training for ~~for~~ a Mongol Air Service. Over 400 have been ~~trained~~ ^{trained} trainer, 100 have died, & the remaining 300 are still under training."

Per Gunzel at Batahalak. "Lamaism is weakening ~~and here~~ in Inner Mongolia. Many young Mongols have been educated in China, & these are against it. The temples in Chahar can now hardly support themselves."

Per Gunzel & one or two others. "The young Mongols do not believe in Mongolian Buddhism, & strongly dislike the Pan-chen"

dama for taking such large offerings ~~for~~ from the people."

Per Jungel. "I heard from two persons that the Soviet administration in Outer Mongolia is less strict now."

"The Outer Mongols smuggle horses into Inner Mongolia. Paper money very ~~to~~ heavily depreciated, is current in Outer Mongolia. A good deal has come across into Inner Mongolia, though it is not accepted as legal tender in the latter. A horse smuggler sells one of his horses at (say) fifty dollars in Inner Mongolia, changes these ~~the~~ dollars into Outer Mongolian paper money, receiving several hundred dollars of this, & takes it back to Outer Mongolia, thus gaining a ~~high~~ high price for his ponies."

"The word 'Gobi' means 'arid'. It does not mean 'Desert', for this word implies sand, & a Gobi is not necessarily sandy."

"A census taken recently of the Darkhan hoshun (the one in wh. Batahalak is situated & of wh. Ta Wang is the Chief) shows that there are 6200 monks & nuns out of a total population of 14,000." If this be so, there must be at least 5200 monks out of a total population of 7000 males. Is it possible? Wangil says that the proportion of monks to lay men is higher in Tibet than in Mongolia. But it is certainly not as high as this."

Interview w. Ta Wang (Prince Yun), the Chief of the Darkhan hoshun at his palace. His chief minister in attendance is a Lha Ram pa, who has spent over twenty

years in Drepung, returning from there twelve years ago. Our conversation is carried on through him ~~and me~~ talking to each other in Tib. The Lha Ram pa says to me, among other things, "The Japanese are not altogether our friends (brok-po rang ma re)". ~~He gives~~ Ta Wang gives his own age as 66 (Mongol). Ta Wang sits on a raised dais, we on ~~seats~~ ^{gunzel sars} ~~down one side~~ of the room. We are not ~~treated~~ as especially honoured guests, but, then, we have turned up without notice & without introduction. It is not always easy to arrange these in Mongolia, besides it is more interesting to see how chance ordinary white foreigners fare.

10th August 1935 (Insert from page 10)
114/8/35

Mr. ~~B~~ Bitner, Counsellor of the U.S.S.R. Embassy in Peking, tells me that Outer Mongolia had to be attacked because ^{Baon} ~~because~~ ^{Angere von Sternberg} had made it the base of a counter-revolutionary movement. But the U.S.S.R. ~~have~~ ^{do not} govern Outer Mongolia, which is ^{an} absolutely ~~independent~~ independent State. In the boundary dispute between Outer Mongolia & Manchukuo there were no representatives of the U.S.S.R. ^{on the Mongolian side} but there were representatives of Mongolia. Japan on the Manchukuoan side.

"The U.S.S.R. have helped to develop Outer Mongolia industrially. ~~By~~ we have started textile factories & boot factories.

"The lamas & lay people are allowed to practise their own religion, just as they are in Russia. Many of the young people give up religion, as a result of their school training, but all do not give it up.

15/8/35

Po-i Chan called. He again pressed me to advise the Mongol foot on the political situation, but I reminded him that the Chinese foot had permitted me to come to Tibet ~~only~~ on condition that I did not ~~advise~~ give advice.

Po-i Chan, "But that applies to the time during which you were in Mongolia. Now that you are back in China, cannot you advise us?"

I replied that I will consider that point of view, but for the present ~~that~~ it seemed to me that I was precluded from advising them.

Po-i Chan tells me that "The Chin foot pay the Mongol foot at Batohalak thirty thousand dollars a month. They have given them only four hundred & fifty rifles, ^{three} machine guns & five motor cars. That is all, ^{the Wang, he, has become angry with} no more rifles. ^{that to the Chinese} foot ~~the~~ "After a disagreement that unless they give us rifles, we will procure them from Russia or Japan."

~~I~~ I, "What revenue does the Mongol foot raise?"

Po-i Chan, "After a long dispute the Chinese came to an agreement with us that they will pay us ~~a~~ ~~half~~ half of the opium tax levied in our territory. That half share amounted to a hundred times ten thousand dollars [i.e. a million dollars]. But though they have agreed to this, they have not paid the money. We have told them that, ~~it too~~ ~~as~~ if they do

not pay, we will wage war on them, to make them pay. But please do not mention this last fact; it is confidential."

~~But~~ Po-i Chan has then to leave for his office & promised to call to-morrow at 8 P.M.

10th August 1935. (Insert on page 8).

Information received from Capt Scott, who had it from the Mongol Military Instructor at Batahalak.

The army of the Inner Mongolian Government consists of twelve squadrons of mounted infantry, each squadron containing one hundred & twenty men, & one battery of artillery. Including all, there are about two thousand men in this, the Regular Army. This number does not include the troops of the different hoshuns. The instructors of the regular army are taught in Nanking.

11/8/35

Batahalak to Kweichwa, 105 miles. The first part of the track is excellent, but the last thirty miles or so are down the bed of a stream & very difficult, in fact almost impassable. A great many Chinese were coming up to reap the crops; they will stay two or three months & then return to their own homes, mostly in Suiguan town & in Paotao-fu. In Kweichwa we lodged with the Ober & Mrs Oberg & George Soderbom. The last-named weighs 225 lbs.

12/8/35

Left Kweichwa by train for Peiping. George Soderbom came also. He gave me some information; see page 18.