

BAREILLY

11.11.03

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of Oct. 22nd. I was much interested in your account of the wedding; and I am very glad that you were able to go.

We had a great wedding here on Monday. Major Shortt of my Regiment and a Miss Beadon. The service was at the Church at 3pm and the church was very nicely decorated. There were two small boys as pages and one little girl as bridesmaid. After the service there was a reception to which everyone in the station went. We were all photographed in a group afterwards and I will send you a copy when I get it.

Yesterday we received orders to mobilise our own maxim gun detachment for service in Sikkim.

You may have seen in the paper that there is some dispute between the Thibetans and ourselves and some troops have been moved up into Sikkim. Sikkim is the small state between Darjeeling and Thibet right up in the Himalayas many thousands of feet high.

An officer is to go with our two maxim guns so I at once asked the Colonel to send me – and he consented. Of course, I have to give up the Acting Adjutancy, but thought it an opportunity not to be lost. A permanent Adjutant will not be appointed until Lascelles resigns and he won't do that until he gets a permanent billet, and I don't think he will get that for some months. The Colonel has promised me the Adjutancy if I am back in time, he will let me know if possible so that if I can manage it I could return. However, if this Sikkim show is likely to be a good one I shall stick to it.

My little party consists of 2 maxim guns, 2 N.C.Os and 15 men and 12 mules to carry the guns. There are only a few troops at present in the country and I believe we shall form part of the escort of the Commissioner.

I do not know yet on what date we start, but possibly on the 18th. We train from here to Sibguri which is the station at the foot of the hills below Darjeeling, and we strike off into the hills from there.

There has not been much in the newspapers about this Thibetan business, so I don't know much about it at present, but I believe we shall march right over the Himalayas into Thibet and possibly to Lhasa, the city of Thibet in which no white man is allowed to set foot so it will be a very interesting expedition.

We have all been specially medically examined for high altitudes as we shall have to ascend to about 18,000 to 20,000 feet, which is pretty considerable! The cold will be very great as I suppose in places we shall be over the snow line.

I am much looking forward to the whole thing and would not miss it for anything.

The Colonel was going to send an officer junior to me as I was Act. Adj. But I 'wifed' (sic) my prior claims, as I having only this year been through a maxim gun course and having got a Transport Certificate as well as having passed the language exam so the colonel had to give way.

I have sold my second pony as I found he was not up to my weight and I am very glad I did so now that I am going away. I got more than I gave for him so did not do so badly. I shall take my other one which went to Waziristan with me.

I am sending to Calcutta to the Stores for some warm clothing as I expect the cold will be intense. I will write whenever I can but I don't know whether communications will be kept

open throughout, so that the post will probably be irregular and we shall be a long way in the interior.

It will be a most interesting country to see and a part of the world few people have seen and I am very fortunate to get it.

I (am) must stop now as I have such a heap (sic) to do.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. Affect. Son

Arthur L. Hadow

BAREILLY

15.11.03

My dear Father

You will have heard from my last letter to Mother that I am off to Sikkim with our Maxim guns. I am very fortunate to be sent as at present there are only a very few troops up there. It is not called an expedition at present but a "Mission" as I expect the Government does not want to attract too much attention to the move. I know very little about the proceeding so cannot tell you much at present but I shall be able to tell you more when I get there. We leave Bareilly on the 18th and get to Sibguri on the 21st and from there we have to march.

I have wired to a man in Darjeeling and bought a Bhutian pony as I came to the conclusion that my pony would not stand the extreme cold so I thought it better to have a pony of the country.

I have no idea how long the "Mission" will take or when I am likely to get back but I think it will be a most interesting experience.

I have been lent a hand camera so I hope to be able to take some photos. I expect the posts will be a bit uncertain after we leave the railway but I will write whenever I can; but I expect you will get the news sooner from telegraphic reports in the paper than from my letters.

As I don't know when my next letter may reach you I enclose a cheque for £4.10.0 which I want you to present on Xmas day as follows as my Xmas present. Connie, Ethel, Nellie and Dorothy 1£ each and 10/- for Oph. Please give it to them with my love and tell them to spend it as they like. I wonder where I shall spend Xmas Day!

I expect the cold will be very great. I see that already there is 20° of frost at one place on the road. I have been awfully busy getting the men and mules ready as there is a good deal to do and I have had to do it all.

With much love to you all.

Ever your affect. Son

Arthur L. Hadow

BAREILLY

16.11.03

My dear Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of Oct 29th. I leave this with my Maxim gun detachment on the 18th so am writing this today to make sure of catching this mail.

It is a long railway journey as we do not reach Sibguri until the morning of the 21st so it is about 63 hours continuous travelling. I do not know whether we shall be kept any time at Sibguri or march at once. I am afraid my letters may be somewhat uncertain but please do not be a bit anxious if you do not get one each week, but of course I will write whenever I can.

From what I have heard I believe the Special Commissioner approached the Thibetan border a short time ago and met with rather a rebuff, so that now he is going with a strong escort so as to force the way if necessary so that I hope we may get some fightin. They do not call it an expedition but the "Sikkim Thibet Mission" so I suppose I am a missionary of a sort! The first one in the family after all!! Though my means of persuasion consists of 2 maxim guns and 12,000 rounds of ammunition!

I am quite delighted with the whole thing and am much looking forward to it, except the cold which I am afraid will be intense.

Of course I lose the Adjutant's pay by this as I go on ordinary regimental pay, but one must sacrifice everything to go on Active Service. I have been very busy the last few days getting everything ready; and this afternoon I have been firing the guns on the range. I don't know whether you have seen a maxim gun. It works automatically and is capable of firing about 450 shots a minute. The gun is mounted on a tripod and is so fitted that it can be taken to pieces and carried on a mule. I have 12 mules altogether for the two guns.

I have been lent a camera which I am taking with me so hope to take some photographs. The photographs of Darjeeling in my book will give you some idea of the country I am going into. Looking at the picture of Kitchanginja I am going to the right and beyond it.

With much love to you all

Ever your affect. Son

Arthur L. Hadow

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With much love to you all

Ever yr. Affect. Son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP SIBOKE

27.11.03

My dear Mother

I am commencing this letter today though I don't know when it will be finished. We left Sibguri and civilisation today, we marched out about 6.30am. We started early to avoid the heat as, of course, in the plains it is still pretty warm in the middle of the day. It is not pleasant having to turn out in the early morning in the dark, strike tents, pack up and load everything on mules and march off; still it has to be done.

The march was about 12 miles, the first part through open country and the last part through thick jungle which lies at the foot of the hills. The road was pretty good but very dusty. We got into camp about 10.30. On arrival in camp at the end of a march there is lots to do – tents to be pitched, mules watered and picketed then fed and groomed, etc., rifles and gear cleaned, so you see the work is pretty hard.

This is a pretty spot just at the foot of the hill and close to the river Teesta which emerges from the mountains here. Tomorrow we march to a place called Riang 13 1/2 miles along the bank or rather above the Teesta. The road is very narrow and everything will have to go in single file.

The transport is cut down to a minimum. I have a tent weighing about 80 lbs complete, camp table, chair, etc. and a change of clothing and little else so we shall have a fairly rough time. Of course the cold will be the worst and we have got some stiff marches before us. I believe one entails a climb of 6,000 ft in 9 miles.

This letter should reach you a little before Xmas so I must wish you all a very happy one. I shall think of you all and I wonder where I shall be. I shall be able to picture you all however in Sutton Valence. I suppose you will all be together as no doubt Frank and Ethel will be with you.

Please remember me to all the Sutton people I know. Tell Dr Tuke that I met his cousin Major Mardall the other day in Bareilly. We have got some small plum puddings in tins which we are taking with us which we intend eating on Xmas Day! The plum puddings and the cold will be the only things to remind us that it is Xmas.

I don't expect you will see much in the newspapers about this show as I don't suppose there are any correspondents allowed.

Sunday 29th

Yesterday we marched to a place called Riang about 12 miles. On starting we entered the valley of the Teests and the road, or rather path, is cut into the side of the hill above the river. The river runs through a deep gorge and the mountains rise precipitally and are covered with trees and thick jungle so it is very pretty. We camped beside the river under trees.

Today we marched to Tarkola, 16 miles. It was a long march. We crossed the river at one place by a suspension bridge. We started at 5.30am just as it was getting light so the packing and loading had to be done in the dark. We are now right down in the valley below Darjeeling.

Tomorrow we march to Rangpo only 5 miles so it is a short march. The General meets us there and I expect we shall get some information as to our further movements. It was a long march today and I was pretty tired when we got in. One has a good deal of kit to carry in the shape of haversack, water bottle, field glasses, revolver, ammunition, etc.

My servant absconded today so I am in rather a hole. I had engaged a native of this part of the country as I thought he would do best. I don't know why he cleared off. I suppose he

did not like the prospect. There is a (?) bungalow here so I am sleeping under a roof for a change but I expect it will be the last occasion for a very long time.

1.12.03

Yesterday we marched to this place Rangpo only about 5 miles. I believe we leave this on the 3rd and march further into Sikkim. It is quite cool here and I expect it will be very cold further up. We have all given up shaving and started to grown beards so I expect you would hardly know me! Of course it would be impossible to shave in the intense cold. We have all our meals out of doors as we have only got our tents for sleeping in and of course everything is very rough. All plates etc. are enamelled iron or aluminium, we get no butter and only a little tinned milk.

I must finish this today as the post has to be carried by runners to Sibguri some 40 odd miles; they get through in about 24 hours which is pretty quick. I don't know what sort of post there will be after we leave this.

I hope you will all spend a very happy Xmas. I am afraid I shall not have time to write to all the others but hope they will understand. I have received no letters yet by the mail which reached Bombay on 21st Nov so I cant think what has become of them.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. Affect. Sone

Arthur L.Hadow

SIKKIM

06.12.03

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of Nov 5th and also of Nov 13th both of which I have now received. It is a little difficult for letters to find one when one is on the march.

I sent my last letter to you on Dec 1st from a place called (?) Dungpo. We left that on the 3rd and marched to Roratang 7 1/2 miles along a mountain path above the river. I had a good deal of trouble with my pack transport which consisted mainly of very small ponies which were quite unable to carry their loads.

The next day the 4th we marched to Lingtam about 10 miles. We started at 6.30 am the last 4 miles was a very stiff climb up the mountain side. The Camp was about 5,000 feet. The path is very steep and roughly paved with large stones to prevent it being washed away in the rains & is very trying to man and beast. Everything has to be carried on pack transport or on coolies. It was here that your two letters reached me as there was a field post office.

The next day the 5th we had a very severe march. It was only some six miles but we had to climb about 4,000 feet. The name of the camp was Jeybik and about 9,000 ft. It was most trying for both man & beast and a hard climb the whole way. We started at 6.15 am and got into camp about 10.45 am but the whole of the ? did not finish coming in until about 2pm. Two animals fell down precipitous places and were killed and many others fell down short distances but were recovered. In the afternoon after arrival at camp we had a shower of snow so you may imagine how cold it was.

One has heaps to do after arrival in camp as the animals have to be watered & groomed and grass and grain obtained, tents pitched, etc., rations for men drawn & cooked so you see there is a lot to do before one can sit down and get one's own meal, and one only gets a very 'scratch' sort of breakfast before starting.

Today we marched to this place Guatong about 8 miles. The first 3 miles was a hard climb as we had to ascend 3,000 ft but the remainder of the march was easy. We are now 12,000 ft up and bitterly cold. As I write this at 6.30 pm in my tent there is 4 degrees of frost as shown by my thermometer! We were right in the clouds all day so could get no view which should have been magnificent.

After the Sikkim expedition in 1888 a small garrison was kept here for some years and the huts are still standing. The General arrives tomorrow and I expect we shall then get some orders for our further advance. I believe we are to occupy the Chumbi valley in Thibet and to get there we have to cross a pass called the Talep La 14,000 ft. I believe the cold up at the pass is intense as a bitter cold wind blows which nothing will keep out.

Snow was lying the whole way of the march today. I believe there are some Chinese troops in the Chumbi valley so we may have some opposition. The 23 Pioneers of a native regiment are here. I met them in Waziristan so know their Colonel. I have also met another friend of mine up here.

At these altitudes the air is very rarified so that the slightest exertion makes one pant and when climbing one has to halt about every hundred yards. Animals feel it the same way and fall down from sheer exhaustion. Another mule fell down a precipice today and was killed. In many places the path zig zags up the hill and in very steep places there is the danger of an animal falling down and carrying everything away on the path below it.

I expect we shall stay here a few days but if we advance before the next mail goes it will be doubtful if I shall be able to write by it. However you need not be in the least anxious because if anything important happens you will see it in the papers long before a letter could reach you.

When once we are across the Jalep La pass we may be cut off from communication for some time by the snow closing the pass. The Officers of the Pioneers gave us a very nice breakfast this morning after we arrived which I much enjoyed. It is very trying having to go hungry when one is doing hard work especially in the cold. Our cooking has to be done in the open air and with several degrees of frost it is rather difficult to get anything hot.

Government has issued all sorts of warm clothing to the men but the officers have to buy everything. I have got my posteen and also a woolly balaclava cap which I had in Waziristan and which is an excellent thing to keep one's head warm. I have also got a pair of long boots made of padded felt which reach up to the knee.

7.12.03

Last night was bitterly cold. I put on all my warm clothing including warm boots, posteen, gloves, etc. I even then could not sleep. There were ten degrees of frost in my tent when I got up this morning. At the present moment the sun is shining brightly so I am thawing slowly.

I shall have to stop this now as the post goes this morning.

With much love to you all and every good wish for the New Year.

Ever your affect. Son

Arthur N. Hadow

CAMP RENCHENGONG, CHUMBI VALLEY, TIBET

13.12.03

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of Nov 19th which reached me yesterday through the Field Post Office. I hope you got my last letter which I sent from Guatang on the 7th.

We spent some very cold days and nights at Guatang and at that height one very easily got a headache with any exertion. When one is not enveloped in clouds the atmosphere is most wonderfully clear.

We left Guatang on the 11th about 9.30 am. We had to go downhill some way and then up to 13,000 ft over the Tok La pass the other side of which we got a splendid view of the snows for a short time. The clouds in the lower valleys in the evenings are a wonderful sight. At 12,000 ft one is right above them and they look like a very rough sea. We marched to a place called Kupup which lay in a hollow at the foot of the Jalep La pass. We got there about 12 noon and the baggage a good deal later.

It was very cold there but I found my thermometer broken in the evening though I don't know why so I don't know how many degrees of frost there were but it was a bitterly cold night with a wind which kept blowing at intervals. It is impossible to keep warm with an icy cold wind blowing and many degrees of frost.

On the 14th we started at 9 am and ascended the Jalep La pass. The summit is 14,390 ft and forms the boundary between Sikkim and Tibet. It was a pretty stiff climb and one was very short of breath at that altitude. At the top there was a very cold wind blowing. The mountains here are very precipitous, rocky and practically no vegetation at any rate no trees. The streams are mostly all ice.

Having arrived at the top we then had to descend. The track for it could hardly be called a path was most precipitous it was not easy for a man much less so for a laden mule, it was strewn with rocks and stones and in places covered with ice. We climbed down some way and eventually camped in a pine forest at a place called Lang ram. The baggage animals have a very bad time of it as marching all day it is difficult to get them properly looked after on arriving late at camp.

A deputation of some Chinese and Tibetan officials riding on mules met us here and requested that we should return and that in 3 or 4 months time perhaps some agreement could be arrived at. However they were informed that we intended going on and they departed.

Everything gets frozen in this cold even the bread that one eats in the morning is frozen. Under the circumstances one does a minimum amount of washing and one sleeps in most of one's clothes. Today, the 13th, we continued our descent the path or track was still very bad. After about 4 miles descent we arrived at Yatong which is a sort of frontier post of Tibet with a big wall built right across the valley or gorge. However we met with no opposition and passed through, the path then became somewhat better and we proceeded to this place RENCHENGONG, a Tibetan village some 3 miles from Chumbi to which we march tomorrow. We are encamped in some fields beside the river. The transport did not get in until late in the afternoon. It was very cold here at first owing to the wind but it has dropped now and one feels a little warmer.

The post is going to be despatched tomorrow morning and I hope this will catch the English mail so as to reach you about Jan 5th but it has a long way to travel by runners before it reaches the railway.

I expect we shall stay at Chumbi for some time until supplies are got up and then I expect we shall advance to a place called Gyantse about 100 miles from here and about 150 miles from

Lhasa. This advance will probably bring home to the Tibetans that their country is not impregnable as they think and will bring them to their senses. If not, I expect we shall eventually go on the Lhasa. Serious opposition is not expected immediately but I expect they will show some when we advance much further.

It is a curious position, this tiny force advancing through mountains in winter into a hostile and almost unknown country! No one, I suppose, but Englishmen would do it and I don't think there are more than 100 English men in the force, the remainder being native.

I expect there will be lots of pictures in the illustrated papers from photos and sketches of the country so you should try and see them. My men are keeping very fit and seem to enjoy it. Many of them have been through the S.African War.

For meals I am living with 3 gunner officers and a sapper. The food, of course, is very plain and one has to eat when one gets the chance. Our cook was ill today and had to ride one of the officer's chargers. To make matters worse, the cook, pony and man leading it, all fell down a steep place off the path. Fortunately none of them were killed!

Xmas is getting very near thought it is hard to realise it. One day is much like another as regards work.

I am very sorry to hear Ethel has been seedy again. I don't think she can stand this continuous study and I doubt if she will be able to keep it up.

I am sorry that you were not able to get to Northbrook as I think you would have enjoyed it.

I must stop now and go to bed.

With much love to you all.

Your affect. Son

Arthur N Hadow

CAMP CHUMBI Y, TIBET

16.12.03

My dearest Mother

I am starting to write this today as I shall not otherwise have a chance of posting it by the next mail.

We arrived at Chumbi on the 14th and today moved camp 1 1/2 miles further up the valley at the junction of the two streams. Chumbi itself consists of the ruined palace of the Raja of Sikkim, but he has not inhabited it for some 12 years or so, so it is rather a dilapidated state.

There is a very pretty valley with precipitous rocky hills on either side with scattered fir trees. The hills are so high and steep that after about 3.15pm the sun does not reach us.

We leave this on the 18th with a flying column to proceed to a place called Phari, 3 marches from here, where the Tibetans are expected to oppose us, so we expect to oppose us, so we expect to have a fight there. However, if we do, you read it in the paper before you get this.

Having captured Phari and established a post there we shall return here and reach this on the 25th if all goes well.

We are proceeding as light as possible so as to have the minimum amount of transport as we have to carry our supplies with us, so we are leaving a lot of our kit behind.

No force has been beyond this hitherto so we are going over quite new ground which is rather interesting. We have had some very cold nights with 20° of frost but tonight does not seem quite so cold. I suppose we are more sheltered here. I feel very fit up here and one can do a great deal more than in the best of the plains.

The Tibetans are curious looking people, they are rather like a cross between a Chinaman and an Esquiman! (sic) I expect after returning here we shall ? for some time until sufficient supplies are got up for a further advance but I do not know anything definite.

It is very nice being the Commanding Officer of a Unit as I am here, as one is fairly independent, I am very fortunate in having ? a command.

With much love to you all.

Ever your affect. Son

Arthur N Hadow

CAMP NEW CHUMBI, TIBET

23.12.03

My dearest Mother

I hope you got my last letter which I posted here about the 17th inst.

We left this with the Flying column on the 18th and marched to a place called Lingmatang Sho. We started at 9.30 and reached Camp about 2. The path lay along the river up the valley nor gorge. The hills rise precipitously on either side, it was very pretty, but the exertion of climbing does not give one much of a chance of appreciating the scenery. We camped at a spot where the bottom of the valley opened out and formed a grassy plain surrounded by hills.

We heard here, much to our disappointment, that fighting at Pahari was improbable, as the Tibetans were not going to oppose us there. The next day, the 19th, we continued our advance. We started at 8am and did not reach camp until 2pm. This was a very severe march. The ascent up the valley was pretty steep and the path one mass of rocks and stones so that one had to pick every step. By this time we had reached the height at which trees cease to grow, so we had some difficulty in obtaining fuel. The stream was very pretty, masses of ice and near our camp was a frozen waterfall of considerable height.

On the 20th we marched to Phari Tong starting at 9.30 and arriving about 3.30. The first three miles or so of the path was cut along the side of a precipitous hill some height above the river, the last 9 miles or so the valley opened out considerably and was fairly level, but it was a great exertion marching owing to the height.

Phari Tong is a Tibetan fort well built of stone and some 4 or 5 storeys high. It stands on an open plain of considerable extent bounded by high bare hills and a few miles from it rises a rocky snow mountain, the Chhumolork, 24,000 ft.

If the fort had been properly defended we should have had considerable difficulty in capturing it. As it was we took it without a shot being fired. We had a wonderful view up here. A cloudless blue sky, an undulating plain rising to high bare hills and snow mountains. The atmosphere is very clear and one could see for many miles. Phari Tong is nearly 15,000 ft and the cold at night intense. The first night we had 41 1/2° of frost which is 9 1/2° below zero.

There being no trees at this height the only fuel available is yak dung. I spent a very unpleasant night in my tent as I could not keep warm or sleep.

The next day the 21st we remained in camp at Phari Tong. Everything froze solid during the night. The bread that we had was frozen like a rock. Our diet is pretty plain, porridge, mutton stew, biscuits (similar to dog biscuits), jam and a limited amount of butter and chappaties.

The latter are made of flour and water and look something like a mustard plaster. However when one is hungry one is not too particular.

The fort at Phari was an interesting place and I inspected it in the afternoon. A small garrison of 150 gurkhas and one 7 pr. Gun were left as a garrison and the remainder of the force started on the 22nd on the return journey. We did this in two marches instead of 3. The first day we started at 9.30 am and did not reach camp until about 5. I found this a very tiring march, I had a very sore throat from the cold and a back headache from the altitude and I was pretty done when I reached camp.

It is very tiring marching for hours along a path where one has to step from one rock to another. It is wonderful how the mules get along.

Today, the 23rd, we continued our march up here. We started at 9 and got into Camp about 2.30 pm and I was very glad to get back as we had had a hard time of it with the marching and the intense cold.

I believe we shall halt here until sufficient supplies are collected for us to advance again via Phari Tong, over the Tangha Pass (15,700 ft) to Gyantse in Tibet some 10 or 12 marches.

The day after tomorrow is Xmas day, though it hardly seems like it. I shall think of you all and I hope you will all spend a very happy one. It will be rather different to the one I spend here!

Very many thanks for your letter of 27th which was forwarded on to me and I received on the march the other day. I hope the sale of work was a success, I expect I shall hear about it in your next letter.

I was very sorry to hear that Ethel has been suffering so much from headaches. I fear she will have to give up her work, at any rate for a time, and I hope she will be advised to do it in time as any sort of mental collapse is a serious thing if not taken in time. The only thing is I don't know what she will do, as I don't think she is happy at home without any definite work. I hope you will let me know how she gets on.

I had a long letter from Mrs Lascelles yesterday. She is in Calcutta where her husband has an appointment. She has been suffering from her heart and the doctors say it is 'angina pectoris' which I am afraid is serious and they advise her going home this year. I am very sorry about it as she is a most kind hearted woman and they have been very good to me.

Xmas Day

I find I need not post this until tomorrow so I shall finish it today.

It is rather difficult to realise it is Xmas today and I often think of you all keeping it in the proper way.

We received a congratulatory message from the Viceroy today congratulating us on our success and wishing us a Merry Xmas. I am hoping to get my English mail tomorrow.

I managed to have a bath yesterday which I much enjoyed as I almost forget when I had the last one!

Unless the Tibetans take the offensive I think we shall probably be here about a fortnight or so before we advance again, but it will also depend on the weather, as a heavy fall of snow would be a considerable obstacle. It is pretty cold here at nights. About 20° of frost.

With much love to you all.

Ever your affect. Son

Arthur N Hadow

CAMP NEW CHUMBI, TIBET

31.12.03

My dearest Mother

Thank you so much for all your good wishes for Xmas and especially for the photo. I think it is a very good one of you and I am very glad to have it, especially up here. It came as quite a surprise. Please thank all the others for their letters and good wishes for Xmas. I will answer them all in due course. I got all your letters the day after Xmas but that did not affect all the good wishes.

I spent a quiet day in Camp on Xmas Day and I often thought of you during the day and I hope you all spent a happy day.

For our Xmas day dinner which we had in the evening we had some tinned plum pudding which was very good. The turkey was absent but we managed to get a couple of chickens and I had bought some tinned sausages so we did not do so badly.

Many thanks also for the little calendar which I shall find useful and which I keep in my pocket book.

I am so glad the sale of work was such a success as it must be most encouraging to you. You must be glad however that it is all over.

I am so sorry to hear about Ethel as it must be a great disappointment to her to have to give up the Olives (?) even temporarily. I hope to hear more of what the doctor says and what her plans are. I don't think she will be happy at home with no definite work to do and with all the others at home I expect there is hardly enough work or scope for her in the village. I hope you will be able to induce her to pay visits will give her a rest and a change of scene and people.

We leave this on the 4th and march to a place called Thuna, some 5 marches. We proceed via Phari Tong and then over the Tang La pass, some 15,700 ft. The ascent to the latter I believe is easy but the marches will be long and tiring.

The mission is to be established at Thuna for the present with a small escort, of which I believe we are to form part. The remainder of the force will return part of the way here in order to be nearer supplies.

I should be very glad if you could get and send me some fur lined gloves. I have seen some 'Motor' gauntlets which are rather nice. I think you can get them at the stores. I think my size is 8-2. The warmer they are the better as the cold will be intense. I wear gloves day and night as my hands become so rough and sore in this cold and the atmosphere is so dry.

I had another bath today which I much enjoyed. One has a minimum amount of washing in this cold. I also did a little sewing in the shape of sewing on buttons!

There is a rather sameness about the diet. Stewed and curried mutton for breakfast, lunch and dinner and I should rather like a change.

There is a Capt Luke here, a gunner; his people used to come from Penzanze. I wonder if the Granny ever met them.

The colonel has kindly sent me his ? sleeping bag so I hope to be a little warmer at nights now.

I wonder if you have been able to see any of the illustrated papers as I believe there have been some pictures of this part of the country. I expect you would hardly know me now with my beard and whiskers as I have not shaved since I left Siliguri!

I hope you have been getting my letters regularly as I have written by every mail so far but the Field Post Office is somewhat uncertain at times.

2.1.034

I had a long days shooting yesterday. I went with an officer of the 8th Gurkhas. We started soon after 8 o'clock and took 3 Gurkhas with us to carry our guns. We had a tremendous climb up a hill. Through thick forest at first then through thick rhododendron scrub where we had to cut our way in places and then, as we had got above the tree limit, up the bare hill side. We ascended to about 14,000 ft. It was a very stiff climb and we did not reach the top until about 1/4 to 2. The last part of the climb I had to stop every few steps for breath.

We saw no game on the way up though we found a few trocks (sic). After we had some food at the top we began to look about with our glasses and I spotted a burrel which is a kind of wild sheep with five spines on a spur some distance off. It was getting late but we proceeded to stalk him but by the time we got to the place where he was he had absolutely disappeared and we never saw another sign of him.

It was bad luck as we deserved a shot after all our trouble. By this time the sun was beginning to set so we had to hurry. The last half of the descent down an unknown and very steep mountain path we had to do in the dark.

Fortunately the moon rose a little later. We got into Camp about 7.30 having had a long day but it shows that one must be pretty fit to be able to do it.

Very many thanks for your letter of Dec 11th which I received today. Please excuse the scrappy paper but I have run short of large notepaper.

With much love to you all.

Ever your affect. Son

Arthur N Hadow

CAMP THUNA, TIBET

17.01.04

My dearest Mother

I am starting to write this today as the postal arrangements are somewhat uncertain. I hope you have got my letters regularly up to date. The only letters and parcels which seem to come through are those for the Mission authorities. All of ours seem to be blocked somewhere on the line and no one seems to trouble very much about it.

My last letter to you was dated the 13th I think. I told you of our move into the village. Since then many of us have moved out into tents again as we found it almost impossible to exist inside. The rooms are very small, dark and dirty. The only ventilation being a small hole in the roof of each room. the rooms lead one into another; down below native soldiers and followers, etc. light fires and the smoke percolates into all the rooms so that one was nearly suffocated.

It was certainly warmer at night inside but one could not sleep and, when one did, one very soon woke up with a sense of suffocation owing to the smoke and the altitude. I have now had my tent pitched outside. The cold at night is great. About 4° below zero even in one's tent. All the day time a gale of wind blows laden with dust so that everything inside one's tent is smothered so that altogether this is one of the most uncomfortable spots I have ever been in!

It is very pleasant in the sun when the wind is not blowing but those occasions are rare.

The other day I took my men with the guns and mules and climbed up the bare hill just behind this village. It was very steep and about 1,000 ft above this making a total of 16,000 ft. It was a fearful exertion and one had to stop every few yards and gasp for breath. However, we reached the top eventually and got a splendid view. We have fortified ourselves here by building a wall of loose stones and sods right round the ground we are occupying and in front of the wall there is a wire stretched to trip up anyone charging in the dark.

The enemy are not many miles off and any night they might decide to attack us. We should easily repulse them if we get sufficient warning; the only danger lies in the fact that it takes a little time for sleeping men to turn out of tents and houses on a cold night!

Living in this discomfort one often longs for a nice warm room and a good meal! But one ought to be very proud of the fact of being here in an unexplored country and at a height where British and native troops have hitherto never been. I believe the fact of our being able to exist up here is causing much excitement in Russia and other countries who did not believe it was possible.

I saw in the paper the other day that two correspondents were to be allowed up here so I expect you will soon see a little more news in the daily papers.

18.1.04

The wind did not go down last night as it usually does and it is blowing hard still so we are having another day of it. I have had my tent made a shade more dust-proof by a layer of stones round the edge. But everything inside is smothered. It is useless to try and work.

Very many thanks for your letter of 18th Dec. which I got on the 13th. It should have arrived the same time as Father's but there is no accounting for the post.

I hope Ethel will soon improve with the rest she is getting.

Most of us have got colds and coughs which is chiefly due to staying in the Camp here so I shall be glad when we move on.

A post came in this afternoon but I did not get any English letters though I think they ought to have arrived.

I think this wind is bringing up the snow, the clouds are very heavy behind us towards Sikkim. Snow on the passes will increase the difficulties tremendously of sending in supplies.

I am afraid this is not a particularly cheery letter! But I hope you will excuse it under the circumstances.

With much love to you all.

Ever your affect. Son

Arthur N Hadow

CAMP THUNA, TIBET

19.01.04

My dear Father

Very many thanks for your letter of Dec 18th and all your good wishes.

I am indeed fortunate to be with this expedition, or Mission, as it is called. It is causing much attention in Europe for many reasons. I am particularly fortunate in being one of the very few with the most advanced party and we are likely to continue so, as being the only British Infantry and being very mobile we are likely to remain always near the Special Commissioner Col. Younghusband.

We are likely to here for some weeks yet until supplies are collected and then we shall advance to Gyantse about 75 miles from here and the second most important town in Tibet. Whether we shall advance from there to Lhasa is uncertain at present and will depend on how things turn out, which at present it is impossible to foresee.

The enemy at present are encamped in considerable numbers some few miles from here.

At present they hesitate to attack us though they have stated that they will do so when we advance further.

We yesterday heard the news of the big fight in Somaliland. A.E. Andrews of the Hampshire was wounded, I was at school with at Weymouth College. About 25 mounted Infantry and an Officer of my Regiment named Scobell are out there and I believe took part in the fight.

I was also at School at Weymouth with Masterman who has lately unsuccessfully contested the seat for Dulwich and I believe I was at Oxford with Cleland another unsuccessful Liberal.

If you want to read another book about Tibet get one written by Surat Chandra Doss. I have not read it myself and I forget the London publisher but it is well illustrated and will give you a fair idea of the country. He is a native of India and visited Lhasa.

Do you remember you gave me your cigar case and some cigars when I left England? On board ship I found the remaining two were too wet to smoke so I kept them till I got to India to dry them and then I brought them up here and smoked them on Xmas Day!

I was sorry to hear you had to incur the expense of repairing the pigsty as I feel I was responsible as I got the pigs. However, I hope they have been sold by this time and paid the expenses. When I was at home I promised Nellie a hive of bees in the spring. As I have not brought my English chequebook up here, would you mind paying her 30/- (which I believe is the amount) on her birthday and deduct it from my next quarterly allowance.

I am hoping to get some shooting up here. There are two kinds of wild sheep, the burrell and the ovis ammon, both with very fine horns. There are also some Tibetan gazelle and there are large herds of kyang, a kind of wild ass, on this plain. At present this wind prevents one going out, as it is very trying.

20.1.04 I had some practice with my Maxims this morning and made some very good shooting. They are not easy guns to shoot well and very easy to get out of order. They require quite different management up here to what they do in the plains. They are capable of firing about 450 rounds a minute. One has to thoroughly understand all their intricate mechanism so as to be able to repair them at a moments notice in case they go wrong in action. I have to take the locks to bed with me to prevent them getting frozen.

With much love to you all.

Ever your affect. Son

Arthur N Hadow

CAMP THUNA, TIBET

26.01.04

My dearest Mother

I hope you're well. Excuse this being written in pencil but the ink freezes and it has even frozen in my fountain pen and crocked it.

Very many thanks for your letter of New Year's Eve. I had been wondering why I had not heard by the previous mail but I thought it was the fault of the post office.

In fact I had just written to the Post Office people to complain about it when I got your letter. Yesterday (the 25th) I received 3 parcels which had been sent off from Calcutta on the 4th. I was glad to hear that you all spent a very happy Xmas and that there were lots of presents.

We are still in camp here and nothing very exciting has happened. Since my last letter we have not had so much wind so that it has been very much pleasanter here though yesterday and today it has been blowing again.

I had one day's shooting the other day. I went out with some others and we rode rights across the plain some 5 miles to the foot of the mountains. I and a man named Wilton, an interpreter in Chinese, went off after gazelle and I managed to shoot one. They are very pretty little animals with horns about 12 inches long and they are very good eating. I am keeping the horns and hope to see them hanging up in the hall some day! Afterwards we rode up some 2,000 ft up a hill at the foot of the snow mountains in search of wild sheep but we were not fortunate in seeing any. We had a magnificent view however. We were some 2,000 feet above the plain and a total of about 17,000 feet. We were quite close to the snows and I had a very fine view of them and a big glacier which ended in a frozen lake. We had started about 10 and did not get back until about 4.30pm.

The Tibetans sent in a message the other day to say that unless we retire 'there will be trouble' so perhaps they mean to attack us.

We have all been suffering from heavy colds, coughs and sore throats but I suppose it is only natural. We have been having cloudless blue sky though occasionally there are clouds on the horizon. The temperature at night is usually below zero even in one's tent. A little snow has fallen on some of the hills but I am glad to say that we have not had any yet.

I don't know how much longer we shall be here but it is now work getting supplies. We are about 170 miles from the base and most of the way everything has to be carried on pack animals.

With much love

Ever your affect. Son

Arthur N Hadow

CAMP THUNA, TIBET

3.2.04

My dearest Mother

We are still in camp here and nothing very much has been happening except that we have had some snow – or rather a blizzard. The wind blew hard while it snowed and even after it ceased to snow the wind blew the snow in clouds.

On Monday it had cleared up somewhat so I went out with a friend of mine to shoot. However, the blizzard soon started and he turned back. I went on up into the hills and in spite of the storm discovered a herd of burrell. It was very trying crossing very steep, bare hillsides with the blinding snow. The stalk took me about an hour and somehow I managed to miss my shot. I was using a borrowed rifle which I had not fired before. I got back in safety and felt better for having had some exercise.

The next day it really had cleared up so I went out by myself. I had to climb over the hills. I saw a good many burrell but they were very wild and I could not get near them. I had a long tramp over the hills and was out about 8 hours. It was a lovely day and not much wind. It is a tremendous exertion climbing over these hills at this altitude and one has to go very slowly.

I am sending you some photos which I took with the camera which was lent me. They are not very good as I think the films were old or else the camera lets in the light. I have written the explanation of each on the back. I have also sent you a copy of the wedding group of Major Shortt at Bareilly. Would you mind having them all put in my photo book.

Very many thanks for your letter of Jan. 7th. You seem to have plenty going on in Sutton Valence and The people seem very sociable. I am very glad I was able to come home this last year as I can always picture you at home now and I like to hear about the Sutton people. I was glad to get to know them all.

As regards the bill at the London Sporting park I expect it is correct, though it is more than I expected and I should be glad if you would send me the bill. I particularly asked them to send one the bill before I left England but they did not do so. Would you mind asking Father to post it and deduct it from my quarterly allowance as I have not got my English cheque book up here.

The cold still continues though I suppose we are getting more accustomed to it. It is almost always several degrees below zero at night even in one's tent. The native regiment has lost 3 men since we have been here. They feel the cold a great deal.

Please excuse pencil but the ink is frozen solid. We are beginning to run short of fuel such as it is.

With much love to all

Ever your affect. Son

Arthur N Hadow

CAMP THUNA, TIBET

9.2.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your long and interesting letter of Jan. 14th.

We are still here in camp and likely to remain for some time. The Thibetans (sic) who are encamped about 8 miles away sent in a message today which practically amounted to an ultimatum which was to the effect that as we had not gone back as they had told us to do, it was a matter of war and that they would send us back. Which message somewhat amused us and we are awaiting their attack.

If they do attack us I am afraid they will meet with rather a shock to their confidence. The worst of it is, I am afraid, they will attack at night which would not be pleasant especially as there is no moon now. I have had my tent pitched close to one of my guns so as to be on the spot and I have been busy all today strengthening my portion of the defences. The chief difficulty I have had to contend with is the cold which makes the oil thicken and prevents the gun working.

We heard yesterday that war had been declared between Russia and Japan so we are naturally anxious to hear particulars and news of fighting.

You will have seen in the paper the news of the failure of Messrs William Watson and Co. They have been my Agents since I came to India but fortunately since my return from leave I have banked my few rupees at the Bank of Upper India at Bareilly which I found more convenient so I am not a loser I am glad to say. In fact I have just had a couple of bills from them! I have heard no particulars of their failure but it will affect an enormous number of officers out here.

Yesterday while out for a route march on the plain with my men and guns we came across some gazelle one of which I stalked with one of the men's rifles. I wounded it and had to follow it a long way before I finally got it. Unfortunately it had not a very good head but the men were very glad of the meat. Last Thursday I went out shooting on the plain and got a gazelle with a fairly good head. That makes three I have got up to date. Last Saturday I had a long day with a friend after burrell but was unsuccessful. It is a frightful exertion climbing at this elevation and the hills are very steep.

I heard from Mr Lascelles the other day that Major Lascelles has again broken down and was to be invalided home. I don't quite know how this will affect me at present as of course he will have to resign the adjutancy and I have no idea at present how long I shall be up here. I don't want to be relieved as I want to see the show out and if we go to Lhasa it may take a year.

The last few days have been delightful as there has not been so much wind which has been a great relief.

Another sepoy died yesterday of pneumonia. The Sikhs cremate their dead like all Hindus and it rather uses up our precious stock of firewood.

I hope the photos reached you safely which I sent you by the last mail.

With much love to you all

Ever your affect. Son

Arthur N Hadow

CAMP THUNA, TIBET

17.2.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your long and interesting letter of Jan. 21st. I dare say you have seen in the paper the programme of Reliefs for 1904-5 and that my Regiment is down for S.Africa. We had hoped that we should be at Bareilly for 3 years but apparently it is not to be. The Regiment came out to India about '88 so it is time we were on the way home. I shall be very sorry to leave India but it will not be for a year and all sorts of things may happen before then. There is no knowing when we shall get back from the expedition.

I had a very kind letter from the Colenel the other day. His time is up in March and he then goes home. He told me he had given me a very good confidential report and had recommended me for accelerated promotion. He did not say anything about the Adjutancy so I am rather curious to know what is going to happen about that.

Things go on much the same as usual here. In spite of the hostile Tibetans I have spent the last two days out shooting. On Monday I had riding saddles put on two of my mules and I took one of my men with me. I started at about 8.30 am and got back about 4.30 pm so had a good day. We went up into the hills which are close by.

While riding along the side of a mullah we suddenly saw a snow leopard. They are very rare and very seldom seen or shot. Unfortunately he was some distance from me and I did not like to risk a long shot and, on trying to get nearer to him, he disappeared. However, it was something to have seen one.

After going some way up the hills I discovered a herd of 12 burell near the bottom. I left my man with the mules and I had a long stalk after them. I eventually got a shot. I wounded one but he got away on 3 legs. I followed him up a long way and eventually finished him off. Unfortunately he has a very poor head and was not worth shooting. I then had to climb up the hill to fetch the mules which was an awful exertion. In the meanwhile the vultures began to collect round my burrell but a long shot scared them off. We loaded him on one of the mules and then proceeded back to camp. We saw two very fine wolves during the day but could not get close to them.

Yesterday I went out in another direction, right across the plain, about 5 or so miles. As the Tibetans had been occupying a village in that direction I had to take 2 of my men with their rifles and I took my revolver. We rode 3 of my mules. The ground is much cut up owing to a kind of tailless rat which burrows and while trotting along my mule put his foot into a hole and we came down in a heap. Fortunately I did not damage my rifle which I was carrying slung on my back and we were soon continuing our journey.

We saw three very fine wolves but I could only get a very long shot at them. On getting to the foot of the hills on the other side of the plain we found a number of gazelle. I managed to shoot 2 of these and I wounded another which I followed for a long way and then lost him. We then buried the 2 gazelles under a heap of stones to keep them from the vultures and we rode up a hill at the foot of the snow mountains. I had been up it once before. We must have gone up quite 2,000 ft making about 17,000. We had a splendid view but saw no game whatsoever beyond a stray hare so I was rather disappointed.

We met a Tibetan man and woman on the hill and the man taking off his hat came to meet me. We neither understood each other but we pretended to and he went away quite pleased.

On getting down the hill again I sot another gazelle which made three altogether. We fastened them behind out saddles and the started for camp. We had to cross a stream which we crossed in the morning on the ice. But it seemed to have thawed a good deal and my mule, which was leading, went through and also the man and his mule who was coming

behind. However, they got out alright though rather wet and the water froze on his mule once more. We got back to camp about 5 having had a long day.

The clouds were blowing up all yesterday and there was some snow on the hills during the night and there has been a very cold wind blowing all day.

A sepoy died yesterday and another one today – both of pneumonia.

My men continue to keep fit I am glad to say though we all get coughs, colds and sore throats, etc.

With much love to you all

Ever your affect. Son

Arthur N Hadow

CAMP THUNA, TIBET

23.2.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your long and interesting letter of Jan. 28th.

Thank you so much for sending me the gloves. They have not arrived yet but I dare say they came via Gibraltar in which case they would take a week longer than the letters and in any case parcels take some time getting up here but no doubt they will arrive soon and I shall be very glad to have them.

Things jog along here without very much variety.

A representative of Bhutan native state, which is the neighbouring one to Sikkim, arrived here the other day to see Col. Younghusband.

I showed him one of my Maxim guns and fired it which much impressed him as I don't think he had ever seen one before. I also let him have a few rounds which much pleased him.

I must finish this in pencil as the ink keeps freezing on my pen. I had a great day shooting the day before yesterday. I started out at 8.30 am with one of my men and a friend on mules. We rode along the plain for some way and then went up into the hills. We went up some way and then left the mules in a sheltered spot with my man.

After going some way I spotted a herd of about 30 burrell which I proceeded to stalk. On getting close to them one of them spotted me and gave the alarm but I managed to shoot him though he was not the best in the herd. Although shot through the heart he ran some way and then fell down the hillside which was very steep. I was very pleased to get him though his horns are not very big. We followed the herd for some distance but did not see them again. We first of all buried the burrell under some stones to keep the vultures off. He was a big beast and we had considerable difficulty in loading him on to one of the mules. We did not get back to camp until about 6.15 when it was getting dark and I was pretty tired as we had had a long day – I enjoy a day's shooting in the hills very much as it is a pleasant change from staying in camp. I hope to go out again in a day or two.

The cold still continues and there have been 11 deaths amongst the natives up to date. There are also a good many cases of scurvey amongst the natives. My men keep very fit I am glad to say.

I enclose a cutting out of the 'Pioneer' which may interest you as giving some account of this country. There are three press correspondents with the force but they have not been allowed to come up as far as Thuma yet so I don't know what they would say of this place.

I saw in the paper the other day that Harold White was married in Lucknow to a Miss Churchill whom he knew at Allahabad when I first came out here.

24.02.04

Another Sepoy died last night from pneumonia and the Assistant Post Master is having most of his feet taken off today because of frost bite! So you see it is a cheery country!

With much love to you all

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP THUNA, TIBET

27.2.04

Dear Uncle George

A parcel arrived for me by the last English mail containing three Shetland wool jerseys which my Mother tells me you very kindly sent me. Please accept my best thanks for them; they were most acceptable and I put one on at once and have been much warmer since.

At times it is almost impossible to keep warm no matter how many clothes one wears. The greatest cold we have experienced was about 20° below zero and up till lately it has always been below zero at night. The last few days have been a little warmer that is to say there have not been quite so many degrees of frost and my ink is not frozen solid today for a wonder.

This is the furthest point yet reached by the Mission and we have been here since about Jan 10th while supplies are being collected for our further advance which will take place about the middle of March.

The force here consists of Col. Younghusband of the Mission Hd. Div. with an escort of about 300 of the 23rd Sikh Pioneers, 1 7pr gun of the 8th Gurkhas and my Maxim Gun Section so we are quite a small force.

A large force of Tibetans are encamped about 8 miles away and periodically send in truculent messages but, to date, they have hesitated to attack us in spite of our small numbers.

We have received rumours that they intend to attack us next Wednesday night but I'm afraid it is doubtful. However there will be a good moon so we shall be able to give a good account of ourselves. It is pretty certain that they will oppose our advance eventually which we are all looking forward to.

About 13 natives have died here up to date chiefly from pneumonia and there are a good many cases of frost bite but, so far, my men have kept pretty fit I am glad to say.

My command consists of 17 men of my Regiment, 2 Maxim guns, 12 mules on which the guns and ammunition are carried and 3 natives. It is very difficult to keep the guns in working order as the intense cold freezes everything. However, I hope they won't fail one when the time comes.

We are encamped about a small village which we have fortified. The village is situated on a (post) bare plain on one side of it below a ridge of hills. On the opposite side of the plain about 6 miles away there rises a splendid range of snow mountains, the highest of which is Chumolarki about 24,000 ft. We are about 15,000 ft. The highest I have been up as yet is between 17 and 18 thousand feet. The whole country is absolutely bare as we are a long way above the tree limit. The only fuel available is yak's dung which we have almost exhausted and we are dependent on such charcoal and wood that can be brought up by convoy on pack mules.

A tent at night is only a few degrees warmer than the outside. The most trying feature, however, is the bitter cold wind which blows nearly every day and is usually laden with dust. In spite of the hostility of the Tibetan I have managed to have some good days shooting here. Up to date I have got 7 Tibetan gazelle and 3 burrell. The latter are a kind of wild sheep with fine horns which live in the mountains. I was out the whole of yesterday and the day before in the hills. I managed to get a burrell with a fair head. I wounded another but have not managed to get him yet.

It is a frightful exertion climbing at this elevation and the hills are very steep. There are quantities of (kiang) on the plain. They are a kind of wild donkey.

My Regiment is under orders for South Africa during the next trooping season which will be almost a year hence but there is no knowing when we shall get back from this expedition.

If the Tibetans oppose us, which we hope they will, I think we shall go to Lhasa unless the Home Government prevent it and that will take a long time.

The Sikh cremates his dead which, with the present death rate is rather a severe strain on our small wood supply.

Our local well is also nearly dry and, as the nearest spring is about 1½ miles away and the Tibetan is rather fond of poisoning the water supply, they could make it very unpleasant for us if they had the courage.

The Tibetans have declined to sell us any more sheep so a party went out today and raided some which may possibly precipitate matters. At least, we hope so.

Please give my love to Aunt Lily and all the family and with many thanks to yourself for your kind present.

Ever you affect. Nephew

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP THUNA, TIBET

29.2.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your long and interesting letter of Feb. 4th.

I received by the same mail the parcel from Uncle George containing three Shetland wool jerseys which were most acceptable. They are very nice ones and I put one on at once and have been much warmer since. It was very good of him to send them and I have written and thanked him for them.

The gloves have not turned up yet but I expect they will soon and I shall be very glad to get them..

I had a good day's shooting last Wednesday and Friday. The first day I started out about 8.15 am with a friend and one of my men mounted on mules. We rode a long way over the hills but did not see anything or some time. At length I spotted several herds of burrell. After two unsuccessful stalks I managed to hit one but he got away. We followed him for some way but lost him and had to give it up as it was getting late. We did not get back until about 6.15pm having been out 10 hours. We were walking and riding almost all the time so we had a long day.

The next day I started out again at 8am to try and find the wounded burrell. I took two of my men with me. On the way I found another herd and I had a successful stalk this time and shot one that had a very good head and I was very pleased. We loaded him up on one of the mules and sent him back to camp. I then proceeded to search for the wounded one but without success until I got to the bottom of a long ridge when I suddenly caught sight of him. I followed him up again but lost him. However, I still have hopes that I may get him.

We have heard persistent rumours that we are to be attacked next Wednesday night/ There will be a very good moon so I think we shall be able to give a very good account of ourselves if it comes off. If there is an attack you will read of it in the papers long before you get this.

I had a false alarm last night. I heard a noise and I was out of bed and out of my tent in a very short space of time but I was disappointed. The cold has not been quite so severe the last few days but the wind still continues.

March 1st.

It has been very cloudy all day and it looks as if we are to have some more snow.

We are very much afraid that the Tibetans are thinking better of making an attack tomorrow night at which we are all much disappointed.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. Son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP THUNA, TIBET

8.3.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your long and interesting letter of Feb. 11th.

The gloves arrived quite safely yesterday. They are quite splendid and my hand ought never to be cold again. Very many thanks indeed for them. It was very good of you to send me such a splendid pair. The helmet too was very acceptable and I slept in it last night. I am writing to Ethel to thank her for it.

The gloves arrived just in time as I have worn out both pairs I brought up with me.

The attack last Wednesday did not come off I am sorry to say. The Tibetans apparently were afraid to attack us in spite of our small numbers.

We had a fairly heavy fall of snow on the night of the 4th but fortunately it does not lie very long as it quickly evaporates.

The days are somewhat monotonous as there is very little to do here and the cold wind, which blows nearly every day, makes it very unpleasant to go out. I am afraid there is no prospect of our advance for some time owing to the lack of supplies. We had a lovely morning today as the wind did not get up till about midday which was a pleasant change. I had a bath this afternoon and changed my clothes which was rather a notable event. As one sleeps in one's clothes one does not often take them off but in this cold climate it does not matter.

I was very glad to hear that you had at last heard of a suitable pony and I hope, by now, that you have also got a trap so that you can get about.

I had a letter from Alice Savill by the last mail. A long-promised one telling me about the wedding. Florrie and her husband are stationed at Thansi

Any further pages are missing

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. Son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP THUNA, TIBET

8.3.04

My dearest Father

Very many thanks for your long and interesting letter of Jan. 28th and thank you so much for sending me splendid pair of gloves. They arrived quite safely yesterday and I was so glad to get them as I had worn out both the pairs which I had brought out with me. I wore them last night when I went to bed!

We were all much disappointed at the attack not coming off last Wednesday night which was expected. We have surrounded the camp with barbed wire and I have placed another barbed wire entanglement in front of each of my guns so that, if the Tibetans attempt to rush the place at night, they will have a most unpleasant time. I went to bed fully dressed that night ready to turn out at the first alarm but, alas! It did not come off. However, even if they don't attack us here I think they are certain to oppose our advance and I think we are pretty certain to go to Lhasa eventually though, in this case, I don't think we shall get back to India for a year. I don't think we are likely to advance now until April as the collecting of supplies is slow work as almost everything has to be brought in from Siliguri, the base in India, on pack animals. We have practically exhausted the supply of fodder and fuel here so even that has to be brought up.

Yesterday there was a report that some 200 Tibetans had established themselves in an old camp in the hills some 7 miles from here somewhat threatening our rear. As the mounted infantry was not available I was sent out with a patrol of my men, mounted on our mules, to reconnoitre. I located a small party of Tibetans encamped in a mullah but there was no sign of the 200. We were out about 4½ hours and there was a bitter cold wind blowing on the hills which was very trying. I am taking my men and mules out tomorrow in the same direction to collect yak dung for fuel as we are reduced to 1lb of wood per diem for fuel which is not sufficient.

I have managed to get some shooting up here which I much enjoy and it is a pleasant change from sitting in camp. So far I have got 7 Tibetan gazelle and three burrell though one of the heads of the latter is small and not worth keeping. I hope to see them hanging up in the hall of the Vicarage some day!

There have been 15 deaths amongst the natives since we have been here; principally from pneumonia. Our present strength is only about 250 rifles.

I wonder if you have seen the 'Tibetan Blue Book' which was laid before Parliament the other day? I have not read it myself yet but I think you find it most interesting reading. It would be published by the Government printers but you could get it through any bookseller, I expect.

I was glad to hear that you had heard of a suitable pony at last and I hope, by now, you are driving about!

According to the programme of Reliefs for next year we are going to South Africa which I am not much looking forward to as I would sooner stay in India and I believe S. Africa is very expensive. However, I expect that we shall hardly return from Lhasa in time to go with the Regiment! By which time I should be rather glad of a little English climate, food and comfort.

The ink keeps freezing on my pen which makes writing rather difficult!

With much love to you all and many thanks for the gloves

Ever yr. affect. Son

Arthur L. Hadow

Please remember me to John Corlett when you see him

CAMP THUNA, TIBET

14.03.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of Feb 18th and for the flowers you enclosed. It was quite a treat to see them in this barren spot.

I was sorry to hear that Father had had a chill but I hope he is alright by now.

I was very glad to hear that you had got the pony. I hope it will turn out a success.

We have had some more snow and bitter cold winds which are very trying.

The Assistant Post Master here died the other day, the result of frost bite. As he was a volunteer we gave him a military funeral.

I went out shooting yesterday and rode across the plain with one of my men. We had some difficulty in crossing the river over there as it was full of broken ice but we managed to get over eventually. I found some gazelles but they were very wild however, I managed to get one and we are glad of the change of diet as one gets very tired of mutton every day. It was a very nice day yesterday and one enjoys getting out.

A convoy came in the day before yesterday. They had some 17 cases of frost bite coming through the snow the other side of the pass. I find the gloves a great blessing as they keep my hands so warm.

Colonel Becker sails for England tomorrow having completed his period of command of the Regiment. Major Hamilton D.S.O. now becomes C.O.

We have had no Indian mail today. I believe there has been a heavy fall of snow lower down which would account for it. I am posting this today so that it may be in good time. It is very cloudy here now and looks as if we were going to have some snow tonight.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP THUNA, TIBET

23.03.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of Feb 25th.

I get your letters quite regularly now I am glad to say and I hope you now get mine in the same way.

I was so glad to hear that you had got the cart and harness so that you can now really ride about in your own cart. The orders regarding the advance, which was to have taken place in a day or two have been cancelled, but I hope not for very long. We are all tired of stopping here.

The day after I sent my last letter I went out with one of my men on mules to explore some fresh ground in the hills and to look for game. It was rather a bad day to have chosen as it turned out, as when we got out some distance we found a terrific hurricane blowing and most of the ground covered with snow. However, we pushed on for some distance but as I saw no game we returned. We fell into several snow drifts out of which the mules had to struggle as best they could!

A small party, including two officers, went out yesterday to camp near a pass in the hills some 10 or 12 miles from here and I intended to ride out to them today to see the pass. I started off at 6am with one of my men on mules.

As the Tibetans were known to be in that direction we went well armed. About half way we had to cross a small river. There was a quantity of ice floating down the stream and the mules absolutely refused to face it. I beat my mule until I was tired but without avail and I had to turn round and come home defeated. A mule is an obstinate beast when he makes up his mind. They are very shy of ice; I suppose it is because they are not used to it but if one walks in front they will usually follow.

The party which went out signalled in today to say that they had met a part of about 100 Tibetans who insisted on their returning so they have got to come back. This looks as if they really mean to oppose our advance.

I enclose some more photos which I have taken. I have written the description on the back. I should be very glad if you would have them pasted in my book with the others. I had taken 3 or 4 more of this place but they turned out failures so I will take them again.

The cold has not been quite so severe lately and there have been no more deaths amongst the sepoys here. I hope that we shall soon be getting more spring-like weather.

With much love

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP THUNA, TIBET

29.03.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of March 3rd.

Today the General and Hd. (Irs) and a force consisting of 2 guns Brit. Mountain Batt., 17 pr. Gun 8th Gurkhas, 2 Coys 32nd Sikh Pioneers, 3½ Coys 8th Gurkhas and various details arrived. Also a large amount of transport of various descriptions.

We shall commence the advance to Gyantse in about 4 or 5 days probably. It is about 70 miles from here to Gyantse.

30.3.04

Orders have been issued today for an advance to be made tomorrow on the Tibetan position at Guan which is some 8 miles from here. If the Tibetans show any resistance we shall have a fight. The Tibetans have been seen building walls or sagars on the hills forming their position and we are going to advance straight on their position. 3 Coys of the 23rd Pioneers will be on the right, my guns in the centre and 2 Coys of the 8th Gurkhas on the left so if there is any fighting I ought to get my share/ The Mountain Battery guns and the 32nd Pioneers will be in the rear.

We start at 8am tomorrow and expect to have a long tiring day as we shall have to cover 16 to 20 miles. I think, myself, that it is rather doubtful whether there really will be a fight but, of course, one can never tell.

The press correspondents have come up here now. Landon of 'The Times', Candler of the 'Daily Mail' and Newman of the 'Pioneer', the latter being an Indian paper. Candler is an Old Reptonian and was in Hipkins house. He was there with Frank and also for a short time with me.

When we arrive at Gyantse the Mission will establish itself there with an escort and most of the remainder of the force will return same distance. My guns will remain and form part of the escort to the Mission.

I hear from Repton that Ted has given up his farm and is giving up his house at the end of the summer term. He is going to live at Abingdon. Ford, the Hd. Master, is marrying the daughter of the Bishop of Rochester.

Next Sunday I see is Easter Day but I am afraid I shall have no church to go to! and I expect we shall be on our way to Gyantse.

I must stop now and go to bed as we shall have a hard day tomorrow.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP THUNA, TIBET

3.4.04

My dear Father

I thought you would probably like to hear some account of the fight in which we took part on March 31st. It forms rather a horrible story so you need not repeat more than you think fit.

The Tibetans had occupied a village named Garn some 10 miles from here in some force and they had lately also occupied a spur some 3 miles nearer on which they had built a succession of sangars. On the 30th orders were issued that we were to proceed the following day to turn them out. The force consisted of:

2 guns No 7 Brit M.B.

2 7 prs of the 8th Ghurkhas, also 1 and 2 Coys M.I.

3 Coys 23rd Pioneers

4 Coys 32nd Pioneers

2 Coys 8th Ghurkhas

My Machine Gun Section

We advanced across the plain in line, my guns and the 23rd Pioneers being on the right, the Ghurkhas on the left. The remainder of the force in rear, except the M.I., which were on the flanks.

On arriving about 1,000 yds from the enemy's first position their chief men rode out to meet Col. Younghusband. They told us to go back to Yatung. Col. Younghusband told them they must clear out or else we should turn them out. This they declined to do. The advance then continued as before, orders being issued that not a shot was to be fired until the Tibetans opened fire. I was given a free hand as to the position I was to take up so I decided to get round the enemy's left flank and catch them when they bolted.

For this purpose I accompanied a Coy of the 23rd Pioneers on the extreme right of our line. I moved round the right of our line. I moved round by the plain and got on the flank and in rear of the enemy's position.

I had received orders to get to close range so I gradually pushed on until I was within about 200 yards of a sangar in which was a large number of Tibetans at the foot of the spur.

In the meanwhile the sepoy's are gradually surrounded the Tibetans and drove them down into this enclosure but still no shot had been fired.

When they were completely surrounded they were ordered to lay down their arms but they declined to do so. Orders were then issued to take their arms from them. They resisted this and began throwing stones, using their swords and firing. As soon as the first shot went off the melee began. Officers using their revolvers and the sepoy's firing at short distances. A Coy of Pioneers fell back straight on my guns thereby preventing my opening fire, but as soon as any front was clear I opened fire with both my guns, one of which I fired myself. The Tibetans broke out of the enclosure and moved at a fast walk along the foot of the hills straight across my front.

As soon as my guns got to work the slaughter became terrible as the Tibetans fell in heaps where the Maxims struck them. I got so sick of the slaughter that I ceased fire though the General's order was to make as big a bag as possible. We then advanced to Guru where I came into action at about 1,000 yards and upwards at the enemy retreating up the hill behind the village. On the way back we marched through the place where the majority had fallen and we saw the fearful havoc wrought by my guns – the dead lying in heaps.

Our casualties were Major Wallace Dunlop of the 23rd Pioneers who have lost two fingers of the left hand and poor Candler who was fearfully cut about with swords. He was looking on when the melée started and they fell upon him and hacked him about fearfully. He has had his left hand amputated and may lose his other hand as well. However, he is doing as well as possible. He is an old

Reptonian and let about the time I went there or soon after. He is the correspondent of the Daily Mail. We also had 12 sepoys wounded. It was a wonder we didn't have more casualties. I saw one shot hit the ground close to my No 2 gun but I had not time to look for more! The Tibetans lost about 600 killed and wounded but this is probably well within the mark.

Our own doctors looked after the wounded Tibetans and have brought in a large number. The Tibetans lost all their killed who were present. The Tibetans were armed with swords and matchlock of various sizes and a few Russian guns were picked up afterwards. I picked up a few arms as trophies which I hope to see in the Vicarage at Sutton some day.

We start tomorrow on our march to Gyantse and will very likely have another fight on the way and it will probably be a good deal different to the last one. I hope I shall never have to shoot down men walking away again. One would have thought that they would flee panic stricken but they did not.

They have put great faith in their charms to protect them from bullets and apparently they have no conception of the power of modern firearms.

I must stop now.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP THUNA, TIBET

3.4.04

My dear Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of March 11th and please thank Dorothy for hers. I was glad to hear the pony was turning out so well and I hope he will continue to be a success.

I was somewhat surprised to hear about Willie Savill though as a matter of fact I had heard of the engagement when I was at home last summer.

You will have seen the account in the paper of our fight on Thursday last the 31st March (I must write in pencil as the ink keeps freezing in my pen). I have written an account of it to Father. It was rather a horrible affair as the slaughter was terrible but one cannot help this in war and the Tibetans brought it on themselves. However, I hope that they have learnt such a lesson that it may avoid future bloodshed. It was a very tiring day we covered about 20 miles by the time we got back to camp and the march back of 10 miles was against a strong head wind and I was absolutely done, I had to give in the last mile and ride on one of my spare mules. We had to wade through several streams during the day which did not add to our comfort!

I am writing this today as the force leaves this tomorrow for the advance to Gyantse. We shall probably do it in about 7 marches but the orders have not been issued yet. I expect the post will be somewhat uncertain until we get to Gyantse so please don't be anxious if you don't get a letter by the next mail.

Some 4,000 Tibetans are reported to be going to oppose us on the way so perhaps we shall have another fight but it is unlikely to be a harder business than the last one. They are also said to have 500 horsemen clad in armour! I mean the horses.

We shall be very glad to be on the move once more as we are very tired of Thuma.

There is a big fort at Gyantse so that if they hold it we may have some trouble. However, we shall be there long before you get this letter.

Yesterday was a most unpleasant day a strong wind and dust blowing all day. Today there is very little wind which is a great relief.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP KALAPANGE, TIBET

6.4.04

My dear Mother

I find that this is probably my last chance of writing for some time and I think this will catch the next mail to my last letter which I wrote about April 3rd.

The Force left Thuma on the 4th and the first march was to Gwu, the scene of the fight. It was rather a horrible sight as we went over the ground again as many bodies were still unburied, it being so difficult to do so in the frozen ground. Many had also been stripped by the camp followers.

The following day, the 5th, we marched to a place called Chalu about 12½ miles. Most of the way was along the side of a huge lake on which there were large flocks of geese. We pitched camp in a shower of snow which was not pleasant. I went out and tried to get a shot at some geese but was not successful.

This morning when we got up there was a very strong wind blowing which was also most unpleasant and there had been some snow in the night. We had a short march only about 5½ miles. It was through a kind of gorge in the hills. We are now on another plain near another huge lake. The latter is covered with hundreds of duck and geese. I went out after them but they were very difficult to get near. However, I managed to get a wild goose with my rifle and a large duck with my shotgun. I had to wade in icy water up to my knees with ice floating about. They are a welcome addition to our mess.

The Mounted Infantry met with opposition today at a village some distance ahead, 3 officers being fired upon at very close range by a number of Tibetans. They had a very narrow escape.

WE have heard that there are now about 1,000 Tibetans near this village so it looks as if they really mean to oppose us and we expect, and hope, to have a fight tomorrow. I expect it will be very different from the last one!

We expect to reach Gyantse in about 4 more marches but the country is absolutely unknown and it will depend on the amount of opposition we meet with. I don't expect we shall get another post for some time so I don't know when I shall be able to write to you. However, please don't be anxious if you don't get a letter but I will write whenever I can.

With much love to all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP GYANTSE, TIBET

18.4.04

My dearest Mother

I have just posted a letter to you which I hope will reach you in course of time but we are now some 250 miles from the railway and all that way the mail has to go by hand. The distance from Thuma to Gyantse is 84 miles and we covered this in eight marches. I was very tired by the time we reached this having marched the whole way and I was very stiff for several days.

The country we passed through was very wild and bare though the bottom of the valley showed signs of cultivation. After being so long in Thuma it was very nice gradually coming in sight of trees and birds of various kinds.

I was most disappointed at not taking an active part in the fight though of course we were present. The enemy held an extraordinary strong position where the valley became very narrow and formed a rocky gorge. They held on to their positions in most cases until our troops were almost up to them and the one sepoy who was severely wounded was hit by a Tibetan after the first line had passed him.

The fort here is situated on a rocky hill standing out on the plain and the town of Gyantse close by. The fort is almost entirely in ruins. Part of it was inhabited however and here were found quantities of stores and munitions of war. One room was found which apparently was the place where they manufactured and stored a lot of images and other things connected with their religious ritual. Everything which appeared worth having was taken and after some things had been set aside for the British Museum the remainder was divided amongst the officers. Three small images fell to my share of no particular value beyond being curiosities. After all this loot had been divided anyone was allowed to go into the fort and take what they liked (there being practically nothing left).

However, I happened to hear of a certain room which was rather hard to find and which I fancied might have been overlooked. So the next morning I and another officer set off about 7am to pay this room a visit. We found it without much difficulty and practically untouched. There were several small rooms and they were rather like an old curiosity shop with all sorts of rubbish and the dust and soot of ages over everything. There was some ancient armour, an old tiger skin, clothes and all sorts of things. We did not find much worth having at first but, presently, in a dark corner, I discovered what appeared to be a cupboard with two doors and sealed up. I was not long in getting this open! It was pitch dark inside but the first thing I touched rattled it being hung from the ceiling and I recognised it as being a Lamas apron made of human bones and beautifully carved. Knowing this to be of some value I seized on it at once. Like everything else it was black with dirt and it is rather a gruesome object but the carving on the larger pieces of bone is quite splendid.

Having cut down this work of art I discovered behind it an enormous image of some deity almost hidden by silk handkerchiefs and scarves which covered it and which are given as offerings. Everything was very dirty and the dust which we stirred up was choking and I now have a very sore throat, I think as a result of it!

There were two somewhat smaller images on either side of the big one but I was disappointed to find no precious stones set in any of them which is often their custom! While groping about in the dark I put my hand on something which I pulled out and discovered to be a model of a 'chorten'. A chorten is a kind of religious monument which is very common in Tibet and often contains the remains of an important lama. The model was black and grimed with dirt. On cleaning off some of the dirt yesterday afternoon I discovered it to be made of copper and it appears to be plated with gold. It is set with small turquoises and coral. It is a very handsome thing and when properly clean will look very fine indeed.

We picked up various other odds and ends but nothing of particular value beyond being curiosities. I found a trumpet made out of a human thigh bone and there were several skulls with offerings in them in front of the images.

By the time we had finished rummaging the place was in chaotic confusion in which state we left it!

The news that we had found some fresh loot soon spread and a number of officers visited the place but they found that we had not overlooked much!

The regular temples of the Tibetans contain some magnificent things but we are not allowed to loot them of course.

I was much afraid that if the authorities heard of what I had got, some of the things would be appropriated for the "British Museum" so I have packed up the best of them and they are leaving tomorrow. There is a colonel in the Indian Medical Service who is "Antiquarian" to the Force and whenever he sees anything nice he appropriates it, as he says, for the British Museum but we are very doubtful as to how much will eventually reach the said museum!

23.4.04

This place is a delightful change from Tuna though we are still about 13,000 ft up. It scarcely freezes at night and the sun is quite hot in the day time. There are a good many trees near us and all sorts of birds, larks sing in the early mornings which almost makes one think one is in England.

The only disadvantages to the climate is that a strong wind laden with dust blows nearly every afternoon but the mornings are beautifully fine.

We have occupied a group of houses here and formed a strong defensive post. The garrison consists, in addition to my section, 4 coys of 32nd Sikh Pioneers, 2 coys 8th Gurkhas, ½ coy Mounted Infantry, 2 7pdr guns of 8th Gurkhas, hospital and transport etc. The General and the remainder of the force have returned down the line.

It is very uncertain at the moment how long we shall be here but we all hope to go on to Lhasa which we shall probably do unless the Home Government put a stop to it. Probably we shall be here 2 or 3 months but it is uncertain. Lhasa is about 140 miles from here.

I enclose a batch of photos which I took at Tuna and which I hope will reach you safely. The description of them is written on the backs.

Very many thanks for your letter of March 23rd which I received a few days ago. I was very sorry to hear about Jim Burness as from your account his condition seems very serious. I am anxious to get your next letter to hear how he is. I should be afraid that he has not led a particularly careful life and I expect this is telling against him.

I heard the other day that one of our Officers, Major Carroll, had a very bad fall out pig sticking and had been unconscious for several days so I am very anxious to hear how he is. He has a wife and child a few months old. I had a kind note the other day from Col. Becker who was on his way to England. He said I am to get the Adjutancy if possible but if we are to go out to Lhasa I would like to see this expedition to an end first so I am rather wondering how things will turn out.

I received a circular letter yesterday about a presentation to Ted Estridge so I suppose I must send my guinea.

The Tibetans here appear quite friendly and anxious to trade. It is the monk faction at Lhasa which is the curse of the country. Several wounded Tibetans have come in to have their wounds dressed and they appear most grateful for their treatment.

With much love to all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

I am living now with the Mission Head Quarter Mess. Col. Younghusband is an exceedingly nice man.

Please excuse the envelope! I was a afraid an ordinary one would burst

CAMP GYANTSE, TIBET

18.4.04

My dearest Mother

My last letter was dated 6th April which I hope you will have got by the last mail.

On the 7th we marched to a place called Salu about 11 miles and camped at the entrance to a valley. The next day we marched some 12 miles down the valley – high precipitous and rocky hills on both sides and a stream running down the centre of the valley.

On arriving at our campo we learnt that the enemy were in force some 4 miles further down. The next day the 9th we moved out to attack them. They had built a very fine wall almost across the valley but they had abandoned the whole position during the night and moved off. We marched about 8½ miles down the valley and on arriving at camp found that the enemy were once again in position some 4 miles further down.

On the 10th we did have a fight. You will have seen an account of it in the paper no doubt. I am sorry to say that beyond being fired at by the enemy we took no part in it as the General kept us in reserve at which I was most disappointed. We covered about 12 miles that day and it was a very long, tiring one. The next day, the 11th, we marched to Gyantse – 13½ miles. The last five miles the valley opened out to a plain surrounded by hills. Gyantse is situated on the plain. The fort was surrendered without a shot being fired on the following day.

We have been in camp here since we arrived and tomorrow the General and Staff, with some of the troops and most of the transport, return some way. We remain here as part of the escort to the Mission and tomorrow we occupy a defensive post consisting of a group of houses which have been put in a state of defence. I shall continue to have my tent as I prefer it to these houses.

This place is a delightful change from Thuma. The sun is quite hot in the mornings though usually in the afternoons an unpleasant wind blows laden with dust. It is very nice also to see some trees again and larks sing in the early morning. We are about 2,000 ft lower than Thuma which would make this about 13,000 ft. We shall probably be here for about 2 or 3 months and then I expect we shall continue our advance to Lhasa.

A certain amount of looting was done here and I have got one or two nice things but I will tell you about them in my next letter as I must stop now to catch the post.

Very many thanks for your letter of March 18th which I got a few days ago. The post is somewhat uncertain at present. Please excuse a short letter tonight. I will write a longer one by the next mail.

With much love to all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP GYANTSE, TIBET

30.4.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of March 31st which you must have been writing while we were fighting in Guru. I see the account was in the Times the following day which is a wonderful triumph for the Telegraph.

I hope Ethel is better for her visit to Harrogate. I shall be interested to hear. I was very sorry to hear such a poor account of Jim Burness. It looks very serious indeed.

Sutton must be looking very pretty just now with all the Spring flowers and the trees coming out. I wish I could see it as it would be a pleasant sight after this bare and barren country.

This is a delightful change from Tuna. There are a few trees and they showing signs of budding and the grass is beginning to come up – in about a months time the place ought to be quite green, that is to say the ground near the river from which the fields are irrigated.

I had a nice day shooting last week. I went out with a friend and we took a small escort with us. I managed to get two gazelles and on the way back as it was getting dark I managed to get wa wild goose and a duck.

The Tibetans have been taking advantage of the medical aid which has been given them here. Not only wounded men come in but all sorts of other patients. The other day I watched one of the doctors performing the operation for removing a cataract from the eye of an old Tibetan woman. It was most interesting.

That evening I went out to the place where I had got the goose on the previous day and managed to get another. They are a very welcome addition to the larder as they are excellent eating.

The next day I went out with an officer who is surveying the country. We climbed up a hill, or rather a mountain, which is the highest near here. The top is about 3,800 ft above our camp. It was very steep but we managed to ride up most of it. I had borrowed a pony for the occasion. We had a splendid view from the top of the surrounding country which is one mass of hills with, here and there, a snow peak. I helped him in the survey work for a bit and then I went off to look for game. I found some burkel and had a successful stalk and shot one though his horns are not as big as I should like. We loaded him on a pony but had some difficulty in getting him down as the hill was very steep.

The ordinary Tibetan wears a pigtail like a Chinaman but the monks as a rule have their hair cut short. There are several monastries round about here.

I hope you have been getting my letters regularly as the postal arrangements up here still leave much to be desired.

I think I told you in my last letter that I am living with Col. Younghusband and the Mission Staff. The Colenel is an exceedingly nice man.

With much love to all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP GYANTSE, TIBET

2.5.04

My dearest Mother

I don't know if this letter will catch the same mail as my last one, or the next mail, but I am writing tonight as we start tomorrow to fight the Tibetans and shall be away about 7 days so I don't know when I shall be able to write again.

A party went out a few days ago to reconnoitre the Karola Pass which is on the road to Lhasa and some 43 miles from here. They found the Tibetans in force about 3 miles beyond the pass where they had built a wall across the valley and from which they opened a heavy fire on our party who had a very narrow escape. They got back here today and tomorrow a force consisting of about 350 sepoys, 2 7 pdr guns and ourselves go out to defeat them. The marching will be pretty stiff as tomorrow we have to cover about 17½ miles and the next day 13. The fight will probably take place on the 4th day but you will see an account in the papers long before you get this. I expect it will be quite a good fight as the Tibetans think they defeated our small reconnoitring party the other day and they will probably be reinforced before we meet them.

Yesterday I borrowed a pony and took two of my men as escort and, starting about 7am, and climbed up a hill some distance from here. I saw a few burkel but nothing really worth shooting. The mountain was very steep in places and we had hard work getting up. On the way back we got caught in a small snow storm. We got back about 5pm so had a good day.

The English mail arrived today. Col. Younghusband gets cuttings from all the papers which have any news about Tibet and they cause us much amusement.

Very many thanks for your letter of April 7th and also for Father's.

I was sorry to hear of Gen Aylmer's death thought at that age one must expect it. Jim Burness' death was very sad and I feel sorry for his family who will feel it very much. I wonder if you have heard any particulars of his illness.

With much love to all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP GYANTSE, TIBET

21.5.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of April 21st.

My last letter to you was dated the 13th which I hope reached you safely. On the 14th an intermittent bombardment went on all day. The Tibetans fired a new gun which is the biggest they have produced as yet. It fires a solid lead ball weighing 3½ lbs. We have christened him 'William' in distinction from the other big guns. Which we have christened 'Old Billy', 'Little billy', 'new billy', and 'silly billy'. The next day was much the same. On the 16th a convoy came in and the Tibetans opened a heavy bombardment.

On the 18th the Tibetans were found to have occupied a house about 500 yards from us and their fire was rather amazing so the next morning at 3.30am 4 Coy went out and surrounded the house at daybreak. After the door had been blown open with gun cotton the house was captured and nearly all the occupants were killed, about 40.

In the evening when the 8 mounted Infantry were bringing in the post firing was heard and a party sent out to help them. It was found that the Tibetans had attacked the men carrying the post and killed one and wounded 2 others. One of the mail bags was also lost in the fight.

Yesterday part of the force went out and destroyed 3 villages. One of them was held by the enemy and we had 2 men killed, 2 wounded and 1 officer wounded.

The Tibetans have been very quiet today so perhaps they are planning an attack. An empty convoy is being sent out tomorrow with a strong escort which will also carry the mail.

A convoy with reinforcements is expected on the 24th and we shall be very glad of them, as we are getting rather weak owing to the number of casualties which are mounting up. I spend nearly the whole day sitting on the roof beside my gun keeping a look out for any movements of the enemy.

I don't expect the main reinforcements can reach us for some time so we shall have to hold out until then. We are now practically besieged here though we are safe from any attack the Tibetans can make as long as our ammunition holds out. We have had only a few casualties from their bombardment but many people have had very narrow escapes.

It is rather trying having to sit still in this position but no doubt our turn will come and then the Tibetans will have to look out for himself.

I think I told you I am living with the Mission Mess. The members consist of Col. Younghusband, Capt. O'Connor who is the secretary to the Mission and also acts as interpreter. Mr Witton who is a member of the Chinese consular services and who is Assistant Commissioner. Lt Col. Wadell who is the Principal Medical Officer and also antiquary to the Mission. Capt. Walton I.M.S. who is the Medical Officer of the Mission Staff and is also making a collection of Tibetan birds. Capt. Ryder and Capt. Cowie R.E. who are surveying the country. Mr Hayden of the Indian Geological Department. Mr London the special correspondent of the Times. Capt. Parr of the Chinese Customs service and myself. They are a most interesting collection of men as they have all travelled in various parts of the world.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP GYANTSE, TIBET

30.5.04

My dearest Mother

My last letter was dated the 21st inst. On the 24th some small reinforcements arrived including 2 Mountain guns of which we were very glad as our small garrison was gradually getting reduced owing to the number of casualties.

On the 26th most of the force went out to capture a village about 1,000 yards from here. I took only one of my guns. We paraded at 2.30am as we wanted the whole thing to be a surprise. However, as soon as the assaulting columns got near to the village the latter opened fire. The plan was for a party first of all to blow a breach in two of the houses with gun cotton and the assaulting columns were to rush in. This the latter failed to do and the explosive party were left in the lurch and two officers were wounded and one killed.

We were on a small hill about 500 yards from the village with the other guns and some Gurkhas guarding that flank in case reinforcements tried to come out from the Jong. As soon as it was light the Jong opened fire on us and for many hours we had to remain under the fire with bullets falling all round us. Fortunately no one was hit though there were many narrow escapes. One gunner had a bullet through his helmet.

The enemy stuck to the village in the most determined manner and it was not until much gun cotton had been used and several shells had been fired into it that it was captured. We eventually got orders to retire which we did reaching the post about 3.30pm but at once received orders to return to our former position. I took out the men which had remained in the Post all day with the other gun and went back to our former position. We eventually got back about 7.45pm. I had thus been on duty for some 17 hours and most of it under fire so I was pretty tired. Our casualties were 1 officer killed, 2 officers wounded, 3 sepoy killed and 6 wounded. Altogether it was a very trying day. As usual I fired the Maxim myself and made some pretty good shooting.

After the village was captured part of it was occupied by a small party of sepoy and the remainder burnt and blown up. The enemy lost pretty severely, very few escaping, nearly all had to come under the fire of my gun and very few got away.

I went over to the village both yesterday and the day before to have a good look at the place though now of course it is in ruins. We had to cross the open to get there but we accomplished this in safety though, while we were there, a spent bullet hit the ground just at my feet.

This morning we were woken up at about 1.30am by the sound of firing near the Post and it appeared that the Tibetans were making an attack on the Post. Fortunately there was a full moon so we were able to see well. The attack appeared to be a very halfhearted one and was not pushed home.

31/5/04

The climate is now quite pleasant the sun being quite hot. I sleep on the roof out in the open beside my gun.

The enemy have been rather vigorous this morning in bombarding us but we are getting quite accustomed to it.

A convoy is expected today and it is also bringing the post so I expect we shall have another heavy bombardment. The trees are all coming out and it is rather a relief to see something green. The Mission have planted a lot of vegetable seeds in the Mission Compound and they are just coming up. We shall be very glad of them.

Poor Gaistin who was killed in the fight the other day we buried the following evening after dark to avoid a bombardment from the Jong. Colonel Younghusband read the service and I held a candle for him to read by. He was buried close to Bethune just outside the post near the river.

2.6.04

The convoy arrived yesterday safely bring the post including a large parcel post which we were very glad to get.

Very many thanks for your letter of May 5th. I was glad to hear that you had been able to get to London for a few days. I received a telescope yesterday by the post which I had ordered from London. I was very glad to get it as it is invaluable here for watching the Tibetans in the Jong.

The mail is to be despatched tomorrow but I fear it will not catch the English mail so I'm afraid you will not get a letter from me by the mail following my last one. Our line of communications is somewhat insecure now and so the mails are uncertain.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP GYANTSE, TIBET

14.6.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for you letter of May 19th. I was amused to hear that Walter Burness had got a son. They are such a curious couple. I am glad to hear that the garden is doing so well this year.

The country must be looking very pretty just now.

Many thanks for all the messages from Sutton people which it is always a pleasure to get – rather a contrast to Weymouth! Please remember me in return to all Sutton friends.

Do you remember the Hensleys? Some people I met in London when I was working for the Army and who used to come down to Weymouth some times. I see that he has just died in Weymouth.

Nothing very special has happened here since my last letter. The state of siege still continues with an intermittent bombardment. We are often woken up in the night by firing and we have to stand to arms in case of an attack but the Tibetan is rather chary of coming out in the open now. We have no news as to when the General will arrive with the reinforcements but we suppose towards the end of this month.

We often have small showers of rain now and the sun is quite hot.

We expect that the Tibetans will make some sort of a determined attack on us before the reinforcements arrive but we are quite ready for them.

I wonder if you ever see 'The Times' as the accounts in it of our doings which are written by Landon, the Special Correspondent are much better than those of Reuter.

I have kept wonderfully fit since I have been up here and hope that I shall continue to do so.

Since writing the above I have been doing a lot of shooting. The enemy occupied a wall about 1,000 yds from here and placed 3 cannons there and I have been making some good practise with my maxim. I stopped very now and then to shoot pigeons with my shot gun which kept settling on the ground below me and I got 10 altogether; this was rather amusing as it was during the fight/

We expect that they will make some sort of attack on us tonight. I must stop now.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP GYANTSE, TIBET

19.6.04

My dearest Mother

The post is going out tomorrow but will probably not go out again for some days so I must write to you today.

My last letter was dated the 14th. That afternoon the enemy lined a wall which they had built about 1,000 yds from here and fired 3 cannons and rifle from it. I replied with one of my Maxims and made good practise but they stuck to their guns well.

On the 15th a party went out to burn and destroy 3 houses on our flank and I took my gun over to one of our outposts which is much nearer the gong. The enemy sent out some of their mounted men and infantry and I had some good shooting at the latter.

On the 16th about midday the enemy again manned their wall so I at once took one of my guns down to the house which is held by a party of Ghurkhas and which is only about 600 yds from this wall.

We then had a tremendous duel. We were on the roof of quite a small house and both the wall and the gong poured their fire into us. We had a very warm time of it. Fortunately no one was hit but I had two balls in the corner of the loophole from which I was firing my Maxim. I made splendid practise at the wall behind which the Tibetans were and I poured bullets into the loophole from which they were firing their cannons but they stuck to their guns splendidly and only retired in the evening when I had knocked down most of one of their loopholes. It was quite the hottest fire that I have had yet though of course we kept well under cover.

Since then things have been pretty quiet and the Tibetans have not done much. We are wondering what they are up to and whether they are trying to dig a mine from the gong to us which is quite possible.

We expect the General with reinforcements about the end of next week and then expect we shall invest the gong and probably have a good deal more fighting.

As soon as we have disposed of the gong I expect we shall march straight to Lhasa.

We have been having delightful weather here though showery and I am very glad to be out the Indian lot weather.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP GYANTSE, TIBET

27.6.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of June 3rd which I got yesterday.

I was interested to hear about the Aylmers knowing Gastin as I saw that his second name was Aylmer and I wondered where he got it from. Capt O'Connor has recovered from his wound I am glad to say but Mitchell's wound is slow.

My last letter was dated 19th and a post is going out tomorrow. Many thanks also for your letter of May 26th which I got on the 21st inst.

On the 24th the Tibetans manned their wall which is only some 600 yds from the Ghurkha post and they fired 3 cannons from it. I took one of my Maxims down to the Ghurkha post and soon silenced them.

Yesterday the General with the reinforcements arrived. As we knew a monastery on their road was held by the enemy a small force including one of my Maxims went out from here to help take it. We moved out at 5am and had a tremendous climb of some 3,000 ft up to a ridge overlooking the monastery where we waited until the General with his force arrived below, when he attacked and took the monastery, and we fired from above. The casualties were 3 sepoy killed and 7 wounded and one officer severely wounded.

We did not get back until 5.30pm so had a long day. I was very tired as of course one has had so little exercise for so long and one felt the climb at this altitude.

We have got a good force here now and I believe operations begin tomorrow preparatory to taking the gong but I do not know what the plans are.

I expect we shall have some stiff fighting before we have done with Gyantse and then we hope to march straight on Lhasa. We have had a quiet day today and were very glad of it after yesterday. It is raining this evening and looks as if it is going to be a wet night.

I hear that a presentation was to be made to Ted on speech day and was probably to be an electric launch which he wanted as he is to live at Abingdon on the Thames. They hope to have collected nearly £90.

I expect I shall have lots to tell you in my next letter about our fighting here but I must stop now.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP GYANTSE, TIBET

4.7.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of June 9th which I got yesterday. My last letter was dated June 27th which I hope reached you alright.

On the 28th the General took his force out and captured a monastery on a hill/ I am sorry to day we did not take any part in the proceedings as we were left in the Post here and the General used his new troops. They had a good fight and we lost 1 officer killed and 6 sepoy wounded.

I was able to see something of the fight from a distance. The general is encamped about 2 miles from here on the other side of the river.

The next day an armistice was declared which lasted for a couple of days so I took the opportunity to ride over to the monastery to do a little looting! I know by this time the best places to search so we had brought some lanterns with us and I at once made for the cellars where we found some things hidden away. We only had time to visit a few of the buildings so did not get very much and we then had to divide the things between the three of us. I got rather a nice gong which no doubt you will find useful when I am able to get it home.

Some high Tibetan Officials have arrived and have had two interviews with Col. Younghusband. I furnished a guard of honour on both occasions with my men.

It was very interesting seeing the interview. There were two chief men who, wore yellow robes, one an old man and the other a good deal younger.

The Tibetan shows very little emotion and they evidently have very little idea of our power. It is possible now that the negotiations may take place here after all and in that case we probably shall not go to Lhasa which would be a great disappointment but at present everything is very uncertain. One of the conditions is that the Tibetans are to evacuate the Yong by noon tomorrow and at present we don't know if they intend to do this.

My own opinion is that they won't do so and in that case we shall have to attack it. We are having very pleasant weather here, though showery. The sun is very hot in the day time.

Yesterday all the officers of the force which has defended Gyantse for so long were photographed together and I had one of my Maxims in the photo.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

CAMP GYANTSE, TIBET

11.7.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of June 16th which I got yesterday. My letter may take 2 or 3 days longer than they ought to do but I always post in good time to ensure them catching the mail as the post sometimes is uncertain.

We captured the Jong on July 6th and no doubt you have seen the accounts of the fight in the papers. I had one of my guns at the Post here and the other at the Gurkha Outpost. I was with the latter gun and I fired it. I took the gun over there at 3.30 am and did not get back until about 6pm so had a long day. The actual assault took place about 4pm and was magnificently carried out by the 8th Gurkhas. The guns had made a breach on one of the walls and the Gurkhas had a very steep climb up the rock to the breach amid a shower of rocks and stones which the Tibetans hurled down. I had a very good view of it from my post and it was magnificently done. The only officer we lost was Lt Gurdon of the 32nd Pioneers who was killed early in the day and we buried him the following day. It was a great triumph capturing the Yong after sitting here and being bombarded by it for 2 months.

The following day I went over with Colonel Younghusband to have a look at the place which was most interesting. There were lots of dead Tibetans lying about mostly killed by the shells which in many cases inflict fearful wounds. I saw one man with both legs blown clean off! After I had inspected the Yong I went down to do a little looting in the big monastery at the back of the Jong. I had some of my own men and 2 lamas with me. It was great fun! All the doors were locked but we found a sledge hammer and then not a single door withstood me. I went through the 3 big buildings but the Tibetans had taken away or hidden most of their things.

On coming out of the last building we found that the General of the force had arrived on the scene and had prohibited looting so I had to hurriedly leave without my loot I am sorry to say as I had got some rather nice things and am rather afraid that I shall not see them again thought we arranged for the lama to hide them and bring them in when the coast was clear.

On the 9th I obtained permission to go out shooting up the valley near here. I borrowed a pony and took 4 of my men mounted on mules. I managed to get 6 gazelles and I also captured a prisoner. While following some gazelle up a side valley I discovered some cattle and while rounding these up two Tibetans bolted out of a mullah one got away and the other I shot in the leg. I tied his wound up and he was afterwards brought into our camp to be looked after by the doctor. We also found some donkeys which we also brought back.

Lately we have hardly been expecting to go on to Lhasa but orders have now been received that we are to go on and we expect to start from here in two or three days time. I don't know what the postal arrangements will be so please don't be anxious if you don't get my letters regularly. I expect it will take us about three weeks to get there as it is about 140 miles and we have a big river to get across somehow and there is no bridge available. It is uncertain whether the Tibetans are likely to seriously oppose our advance.

13.7.04

Yesterday I moved out to the General's Camp preparatory to our departure. We start for Lhasa tomorrow. How long it will take it is impossible to say but the distance is about 140 miles.

It is very nice to get out into camp once more after being shut up in the Post for so long and I am looking forward to being on the move once more. The weather is rather showery which won't be pleasant for marching.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

TIBET

18.7.04

My dearest Mother

My last letter was sent on July 13th and the following day we started for Lhasa. A small force was left of course at Gyantse. The first day we marched about 12½ miles, We had a shower on the way and during the night it poured. The next day we marched about 14½ miles. It was fine while we were marching and then it poured with rain. It is hard to imagine the absolute discomfort of camping in the rain!

The next day (16th) we had a short march of about 7 miles. IN the afternoon I had to take my mules on about 2 miles and cut crops for fodder. The mules have been living on the crops which must be a considerable loss to the Tibetans. The next day we marched to the Karo La about 10 miles. This was the place we came to and I had a fight on March 6th only then we did it in three marches instead of four.

The last part of the ascent was very tiring owing to the altitude which is about 16,000 ft and I got a bad headache. The enemy were found to be holding the same position as before but had strengthened it a lot and we thought we were in for a stiff fight.

We set out this morning to attack the position and found that they had evacuated it during the night. We had a little shooting and 1 Gurkha was killed and 2 wounded. We are now encamped about 5 miles beyond the pass.

The country here is very fine, some of the best that I have seen in Tibet. Great rocky cliff and snows and glaciers. Owing to the rain there is a good deal of green about and there are lots of all sorts of very pretty flowers. Of course one hardly has time to appreciate it all but it is very fine all the same. We are camped in the narrow gorge with high rocky cliffs on both sides. The post is being sent back tomorrow so I am sending this though I don't know whether it will catch the next mail to my last one.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Pete Yong, Tibet

22.7.04

My dearest Mother

My last letter was dated the 18th. We received the post of the 20th but I did not get any English letters although they ought to have come by it. However perhaps they will come by the next post.

On the 19th we marched to Yangartse about 12 miles. Here the hills opened out on to a plain with a vast lake on it. Some of the Tibetan Peace Delegates came to see Colonel Younghusband here but no good came of the interview as they are still very obstinate. We halted during the next day at Yangartse and were not sorry for a little rest. A Company of Pathans were left to form a post at Yangartse Yong and on the 23rd (yesterday) we continued our march. We marched about 11 miles and the road lay along the lake. On reaching camp a steady rain started to fall and continued until about 9pm much to our discomfort. Today we had a short march of about 5 miles to this place still along the edge of the lake. This is a delightful country (when it is fine) and the scenery is very pretty. The lake extends for many miles and is surrounded by hills. Owing to the rain there is lots of grass and quantities of wild flowers. When we get rain the tops of the hills are covered with snow.

There are lots of fish like trout in the streams and lake and today after reaching camp I borrows a rod and went out and caught some. I have not been out fishing since the early days at Weymouth! and much enjoyed it. We continue our march tomorrow and reach the river in about 3 more marches. I should think that the Tibetans will probably oppose our crossing.

All the country about here is very sparsely inhabited and it seems a pity that such a splendid country should be so wasted.

I should be awfully glad if you could get and send me some knitted socks as I find that the ordinary merino socks last no time when one is marching but wear into holes in 2 or 3 days. They should be closely knitted and not too thick. I should be awfully glad if you could send me some.

We are rather cut off from news now as the nearest telegraph office is at Gyantse and the post only comes through occasionally.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Camp nr the Bramaputra, Tibet

26.7.04

My dearest Mother

My last letter was dated the 22nd inst. And I am writing this as a post goes out tomorrow.

Very many thanks for your letter of June 23rd which reached me on the 24th. On July 23rd we marched about 11 miles along the lake and again camped beside it. The country is very fine. After reaching camp I went out fishing and caught two fish, a kind of trout.

On the 24th we marched about 8 miles to the Bramaputra. We left the lake and had a climb of about 1,000 ft up the hills over a pass called the Kamba La. We then had a drop of about 3,000 ft down to the Bramaputra. This is a lovely valley with high mountains on either side. On the 25th (yesterday) we had a short march of about 6 miles to the ferry and operations were at once commenced for crossing. We had brought 4 Berlton collapsible boats with us and two large barges were captured at the ferry. It is slow work getting across as there is a tremendous current. In the afternoon a very sad accident happened. Two of the berlthon boats which were joined together by a kind of raft were carrying 8 sepoys an officer and Major Bretherton D.S.O. our Chief Supply & Transport Officer. On reaching the worst part of the current something happened and all of the occupants were precipitated into the river. They all managed to cling to the craft except Major Bretherton and 2 sepoys and they were drowned before the eyes of all the people on the bank who were powerless to assist them. None of the bodies have been recovered. Major Bretherton is a great loss to the Force. I had been watching the ferrying operations in the morning but was not present when the accident took place.

I should think it will take at least 2 more days before we all get over and then we have about 3 marches to Lhasa.

The weather has been very showery but this is a splendid country and the scenery is very fine. This morning I have been fishing in the river and caught 3 fish. Lhasa is about 400 miles from Sibguri the nearest railway so we have come a good way and have got a long way to march back. It is impossible to say how long the negotiations at Lhasa will take but I expect at least two months.

I have kept wonderfully fit I am glad to say and so have my men and mules.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

The Bramaputra, Tibet

29.7.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of June 30th which reached me yesterday. I was glad to hear that you had now got away to Finches for a few days as the change and rest must have done you good.

I was indeed surprised to hear about Howard's domestic affairs, how truly awful! I would think it would effectually put a stop to any matrimonial intentions on the part of the rest of his family!

I was interested to hear about Austens wedding. He was more or less engaged before I left England and he was never tired of telling me of the virtues of his intended. I hope the girl he is marrying is the same one! I think she is his cousin. He used to write to me regularly but I have not heard from him now for a long time.

We are still in camp here by the Bramaputra while the rest of the force are getting over. I believe we start for Lhasa the day after tomorrow and reach it in four marches.

A post is being sent back tomorrow so that is why I am writing today.

The weather here is quite charming like an English summer and the scenery lovely. I am quite unable to describe it. Mountains everywhere thought no snow peaks nearby.

My last letter to you was dated 26th and the following day I and my guns crossed the river. We crossed in a sort of Tibetan barge. The current in the river is tremendous. I have been out fishing in the river several times which I much enjoyed.

I enclosed a cutting of an Indian newspaper which may amuse you. The author is Reuters special correspondent and like the rest of his writing is pure drivel! However, it may amuse you. I don't know if it has appeared in any of the English papers.

We get lots of vegetables here which is much appreciated after being without them for so long. There are good crops in the valley here which are now ripening so the mules get lots of fodder.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Lhasa, Tibet

5.8.04

My dearest Mother

My last letter to you was dated the 29th of July. On the 31st we started again for Lhasa the force having at last all got across the river.

The road lay up a valley in which is a fair sized river which runs into the San Po. We camped beside the river and I went out fishing and caught 10. The largest was 3lbs. The next day (Aug 1st) we marched another 10 miles. It was pretty warm marching and very trying as we were alternately marching through sand and climbing over rocks. We camped again beside the river and my tent was right on the bank and I had some good fishing from it there and caught 5.

The next day we marched 14½ miles a long and trying march similar to the day before and I was pretty tired by the time we reached camp. My camp was again on the edge of the river which ran into the other one and I again got some excellent fishing the largest being about 3¼ lbs. We here got our first glimpses of Lhasa as we could see some of the building in the distance.

The next day (the 3rd) we marched about 6 miles and reached our present camp which is about 2 miles from Lhasa. It is a great relief to feel that at last we had reached the limit of our long journey. We are nearly 400 miles from Sibguri, the railway base. One cannot see much of Lhasa from here as there are two small hills in the way and no one is allowed to leave the precincts of Camp but I hope we shall be able to have a march through the city so that we shall be able to see all that there is to see.

On the afternoon of our arrival here the Amban who is the Chinese resident at Lhasa paid a visit to Colonel Younghusband. The show reminded me of an exhibition at Earls Court! Yesterday I spent the day fishing and caught about 20 the largest being about 4lbs and I much enjoyed it.

The country is very pretty round here. We are in a valley surrounded by hills. I do not know how long we shall be here as at present the Tibetans seem to have no idea of coming to terms and I expect considerable pressure will have to be brought to bear. It is even possible that they may make an attempt to attack us but we have made our camp pretty secure so there is not much fear on that score.

I expect there will be some interesting articles in the Times on the situation here which you will find worth reading.

With much love

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Lhasa, Tibet

10.8.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of July 7th. My last letter was dated the 5th and the next post out from here closes tomorrow night.

On the 7th (Sunday) we had a parade service at 9 at which the Chief Staff Officer read the service. At 10.15 we formed part of the escort which went with the General to visit the Amban the Chinese Resident in Lhasa. This was my first opportunity of actually going into Lhasa and I was very glad to see it. After the visit we made a circular march round the city so got a good idea of the place.

The only building of any consequence is the place called the Pota La which is the palace of the Grand Lama and stands on a hill. It is a very fine building. The streets were very dirty and the more so on account of the amount of rain which we have had.

The Tibetans have been told to bring in supplies which we would pay for but as they failed to do so a large force, of which we formed part, moved out on the 8th to requisition supplies from one of the big monasteries near here. The officer (Capt O'Connor) who took a letter to the monastery to say that if they did not bring out supplies we should take them by force was stoned by the Tibetans and so we all expected a fight. This, however, did not come off and after much delay the Tibetans produced some supplies. I have been feeling a little weedy the last few days. I think I have had a touch of fever but expect I shall be alright in a day or two.

I have just got back my fountain pen which I had to send to England from Tuma to be mended and I am glad to have it back. I enclose you some photos which I have taken and which I think will interest you. I have only just got them back as everything takes a very long time by post. The explanation of each is written on the back.

I hear that it is in Indian newspapers that my Regiment sails for South Africa on Oct 1st but I have heard nothing from the Regiment. If this is so I wonder what will happen to us because even if we started tomorrow we could hardly get back to India in time and there is no chance of our doing that. It is possible that they may send us straight home by a transport for 6 months or so in which case I should be able to get some leave but it is impossible to say what they will do, I think myself that we are not likely to see India much before Christmas though I expect the General will try and get back as soon as possible in order to avoid the winter up here which is a very serious matter as we experience last winter.

We have had a lot of rain here and the river is very flooded and a lot of country is under water. Tomorrow we are to move camp to a position nearer Lhasa and I expect we shall have a good deal of work putting it into a state of defence for we must always be ready for an attack on the part of the Tibetans.

This time last year I was enjoying myself at home, rather different to the present situation. I am still living with the Mission Mess but we have to live pretty plainly now as being so far away from everything we have run out of jam and butter and such luxuries. However, we shall enjoy them all the more when we get back to them again.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

11.8.04

It poured with rain all last night so our move has been postponed until tomorrow.

Lhasa, Tibet

14.08.04

My dearest Mother

My last letter was dated the 11th but a post goes out tomorrow so I may as well write. Very many thanks for your long letter of July 14th and please thank Father also for his. I received them last night so you can see that the post from England takes just a month to reach us.

On the 12th we moved camp about three miles to our present site which is a much better one, The ground is sandy and so much drier. Our last camp was becoming like a mud swamp after so much rain so we are glad of the change.

The Mission are located in a good house about a mile from here. Their escort consists of 2 Coys of Pathans. I tried to have my guns put there too but they wanted them in Camp. I go over there however for my meals though it is rather a long way. The worst part of coming back at night after dinner as the ground is very swampy and there are quantities of huge Tibetan dogs which always go for one and I daren't shoot at night for fear of alarming the Camp.

The weather has been finer the last few days which has been rather a relief after so much rain. I hope that soon the rains will be over. I find that the second half of my Regiment will sail for S.Africa about Dec: 1st and I think we shall be back just in time for that so that I suppose I shall go straight to S.Africa from here. I have heard nothing more about the Adjutancy so I don't know what is going to be done about that.

There is no news.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Lhasa, Tibet

20.08.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your last letter of July 22nd which reached me last night.

My last letter was dated the 14th. I have given up messing with the Mission for the present as I found it was too far and it was not much fun being attacked by dogs every night on one's way back. I am messing now with the officers of the Gurkha Regt.

Last Wednesday we went out with part of the force for a route march. Owing to the amount of rain which we have had there was a lot of water about and we frequently had to wade through it. We have been out for another route march today but we went a much drier road. It has been much finer lately and I think most of the rains are over,

Last Thursday morning two of our Medical Officers were suddenly attacked by a lama with a sword quite close to camp. One officer got a bad cut over the head and the other got a cut on the hand. The Tibetan was soon secured and he was publicly hung yesterday which I hope will be a lesson to the Tibetans. The man was wearing chain armour underneath his clothes. The Tibetans have been fined 5,000 rupees for the outrage.

I think I told you that the Headquarters of my Regiment sail for S. Africa on Oct. 1st and the second half battalion sail about Dec. 1st. I expect we shall get back just in time to sail with the second party. The second party sails from Calcutta and the ship goes first to Rangoon to pick up the Border Regt. and then to S. Africa landing at Durban. Our station is believed to be Blomfontein or Ponchestroom. It will be a long voyage. I shall be glad to get a little rest when all this is over.

I may perhaps be able to get some leave from S. Africa next year and the passage home from there is cheaper than from India and it takes about the same time. I shall have seen a good deal of country by the time I get back to England again.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Lhasa, Tibet

26.08.04

My dearest Mother

I answered your last letter on the 20th and the next English mail will not arrive until the day after tomorrow.

There is not much news as things are going on very quietly now. I believe the negotiations are proceeding fairly satisfactorily and I think we are pretty certain to leave this by Sept. 15th in order to get back before the severe cold sets in.

We are having a race meeting and the first day's racing came off yesterday and was rather fun. The ponies seem to feel the exertion of galloping at this height almost as much as we do when running. The next days races are tomorrow. We are also going to hold a rifle meeting.

We still have a good deal of rain at night but I fancy the rains must be nearly over and we ought to have beautiful weather on the march back.

Yesterday morning money was distributed by the Mission to the poor of Lhasa and for this purpose some 12,000 men, women and children collected. They were a curious sight. They none of them go in much for washing!

You had better continue to address my letters the same as you have been doing and I will let you know as soon as I know anything definite about our return.

There is really no news so please excuse a short letter today.

With much love

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Lhasa, Tibet

1.9.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of July 28th. I was very glad to hear that you were at Keswick as no doubt the little change did you good. My last letter was dated Aug. 26th. I wonder how you have been getting my letters. I expect sometimes you get two by the same post but it is a long way for them to go as they have to be carried by the Mounted Infantry and by postal runners for nearly 400 miles and that entails crossing 4 passes.

On the 27th we had the second day of the races and yesterday was the third day. On Sunday after parade service all the officers were photos in a group. It will be rather an interesting photo to have.

We still continue to have a good deal of rain at nights though there are signs that the monsoon is coming to a close. The date of our departure from here is still uncertain but if it is to be the 15th our time is coming to a close. I see in the paper that Colonel Hamilton who commands my Regiment has been appointed A.A.G. in a Bengal District. If that is correct it will mean of course his leaving the Regiment and not accompanying it to S. Africa. I am very sorry if this is the case as he will be a great loss to the Regiment and I should not at all like going with a new C.O. and a new Second in Command.

I would sooner if possible get a billet out in India but I don't know at present if this would be possible. Of course at present my own movements are somewhat uncertain.

Our rifle meeting started today and I did fairly well in the chief competition but we have to shoot on two more days before it is finished.

The negotiations continue slowly so there is not much news.

With much love

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Lhasa, Tibet

5.9.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of Aug. 5th. I am glad you enjoyed your little visit to Keswick so much but I hope that you and father will manage to get a proper holiday before the winter sets in.

I hear that the Tibetans have at last agreed to our terms and the treaty will probably be formally signed in State in the course of a few days.

We hope to start back about the 20th of this month. At present the Bramaputra is in heavy flood so that unless it goes down we shall have considerable difficulty in getting across.

We have had no parcel post since we left Gyantse so we have very little in the way of luxuries. Fortunately we can get butter eggs and vegetables locally here which makes a lot of difference. At Tuna we could get none of these things.

Today some of us visited Lhasa and we went right into the interior of the town. There is not very much to see. The houses for the most part are well built of stone but there was very little worth buying in the shops/ One came across all sorts of rubbish of European manufacture which somehow or other has managed to reach here. We were not allowed inside the Grand Cathedral where they have golden vessels and other articles of considerable value.

The people are very dirty and apparently seldom wash. Yesterday afternoon we had an exhibition for the Chinese Ambam, 2 guns of the British Mountain Battery were fired and also my maxims and he seemed much impressed.

7.9.04

The treaty has actually been signed today. A small guard was left in Camp and the remainder of the troops lined the route to the Potola where the ceremony took place. A certain number of officers and men, amongst whom I was, were allowed to witness the ceremony. The Potola, as I think I have told you, is the huge palace of the Grand lama and stands on a hill. The ceremony took place in a large sort of room and the collection of people there were a wonderful sight. The Chinese Ambam was there with his retinue the Nepalese representative and the Bhutan reprehensive while of the Tibets who were there was the Regent who is a monk and 3 Sharpes who have to do with the temporal affairs of Tibet. These latter wore yellow silk robes.

The actual signing was done by the Tibetans affixing their seals and as there were several copies of the treaty this took a considerable time. After the seals were affixed Col. Younghusband made an impressive speech which was translated into Tibetan but you will have seen telegraphic accounts of all this in the papers long before you get this letter.

We have now accomplished the whole object of this expedition and nothing remains but to return. We shall probably start about the 20th so we have not got much longer but it will be very weary work marching all the way back.

After you get this I think you had better address my letters to Bareilly and I will let you know as soon as I know anything certain about my departure for S. Africa.

With much love

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Lhasa, Tibet

13.9.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of Aug. 11th.

I wonder if you have seen the Graphic of Aug. 13th which contained a picture of me and my maxim at Gyantse. I expect it will amuse you. There was also a very good picture of the assault of the Jong in the same paper both pictures were drawn by Lt Rybolt, a friend of mine.

My last letter was dated Sep. 7th the day the treaty was signed. The following night I dined with Col. Younghusband and we had some champagne for dinner to celebrate the occasion.

Yesterday was a beautiful fine day with scarcely a cloud and today is the same so it really looks as if the rains were over at last. It is distinctly colder and the night before last there were about 2 degrees of frost.

I think we shall start back about the 20th and we are all longing to do so as we are very tired of sitting in Camp here.

This afternoon I have been fishing on some water near the Camp. I and another officer made a raft out of empty rum casks which is quite a success and will just hold two people. I caught about 19 small fish today with a fly.

Please excuse a short letter but there is no news.

With much love

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Tibet Frontier Commission

25.9.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of Aug. 26th. and thank you so much for sending me the socks which no doubt I shall get when we reach Gyantse as we have had no parcel post since we left that place as the General would not allow them to come on.

Please thank Aunt Emma for the £1 which you say she gave you for me and please take it to pay for the socks so you can tell her what you bought.

I was sorry to hear that Father has been seedy but hope that he is alright again now. You ought really to try and get a bit of a holiday as soon as the hopping is over.

My last letter to you was dated the 19th. I went out fishing on the afternoon of the 20th and caught 18 small ones with the fly. I went out again the following day and got 100 with the fly but they were quite small and, not understanding what an artificial fly was were very easy to catch.

On the 23rd the force left Lhasa for the return to India. We started at 8am and I did not reach camp until about 3pm. The distance was about 14 miles, rather a long, tiring march. On the 24th (yesterday) we did 12 miles. After reaching Camp I went out shooting with one of my men and climbed a up a high steep hill near the camp. We had a tremendous climb but unfortunately did not see any game. Today we covered another 12 miles and I again went shooting this time near the river but I did not get a shot.

Colonel Younghusband and some of his staff left us this morning as they were proceeding by double marches back to India. I was very sorry to say goodbye to him as he is a splendid man and I knew him pretty well. I hope however that I will see him in Calcutta before I leave India for S.Africa. We hope to have a "Lhasa" dinner in London next summer though I doubt whether I shall be able to get home.

Tomorrow we have a short march of 9 miles to reach the river where we crossed last time but this time we are going to cross it a march further up. From the river we are to march in two columns to Gyantse and I shall be with the 2nd column. The weather today looks more unsettled and we have had some showers this afternoon which was snow on the hill tops.

It is nice being on the move once more as it was very trying sitting in Camp so long at Lhasa with nothing to do.

With much love

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Tibet Frontier Commission
Camp Nangartse Jong
Tibet

1.10.04

Dear Uncle George

Thank you so much for so kindly sending me three more woollen vests which reached me safely yesterday evening. It was indeed kind of you to think of me and they arrived at the most opportune moment as you will see from this letter.

We left Lhasa in one column on Sept 23rd and marched 14 miles. The next day (24th) we covered 12 miles. On the 25th we again covered 12 miles. On the 26th we had a short march of 9 miles to Chaksam Ferry on the Bramaputra. On the 27th we marched 10 miles up the river to Parte Ferry and ferrying operations commenced. We crossed over the following day and on the 29th the first column started for Gyantse. The 2nd column, of which my guns form part, started on Sept 30th and marched to a place called Pede Jong on the banks of the big lake, 15 miles. We started at 7.30 am and the first part of the march was a tremendous climb of some 4,000 feet to the top of the Dok La which is over 16,000 ft.

We reached the top about 12 noon and camp about 4pm. We found it quite cold by the lake and it was here that your parcel turned up and was most welcome. Fortunately you sent it by letter post otherwise I should not have got it until we reach Gyantse. As the Regiment with whom I am living just now was on rear guard I did not get a meal until 8 pm by which time I had had about enough!

Today we marched 16 miles along the shore of the lake, rather trying march, although on the level, after yesterday's climb. We reached camp about 3pm and then I had to take my men out about 2 miles to cut fodder for the mules and did not get back until 6.30 pm so had a pretty long day.

Tomorrow we have another long march to the foot of the Karo La about 15 miles. The following day we have to get over the pass 16,600 ft. It is getting much colder with sharp frosts at night but of course it is nothing yet to the cold we experienced last winter.

The views during the last few days in the neighbourhood of the Bramaputra valley and the big lake have been very fine but one hardly appreciates them when on the march.

I hope to reach India about the first week in November so we still have a long way to go. Lhasa is nearly 400 miles from our railway base in the course of which four passes have to be crossed, three of which are over 16,000 ft.

I shall be back just in time to sail with the rest of my Regiment for S.Africa where we are to be stationed at Blomfontein. I believe we sail from Calcutta on Dec 20th.

I hope I may get home leave sometime next summer but I don't know as yet.

Please give my love to Aunt Lilly and all the family.

Yr. affect. nephew

Arthur L. Hadow

Tibet Frontier Commission
Camp Nangartse Jong
Tibet

1.10.04

My dearest Mother

I have only just time for a line as I have just heard that a post is shortly going out.

We crossed over the river in safety I am glad to say, and started yesterday again. We had a march of 15 miles with a tremendous climb of about 4,000 feet over the Doh ha. We started at 7.30 am and did not reach camp until 4 pm and then I did not get a meal until 8pm so had a trying day.

Today we continued our march and covered about 16 miles along the shore of the big lake. It was a long march and after reaching camp had to go out and cut fodder for the mules and did not get back to camp again until 6.30 pm.

Tomorrow we have got another 15 miles march to the foot of the Karo la which will be another severe and trying march.

Please excuse such a short letter but I will write longer next time.

With much love

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Tibet Frontier Commission

Gyantse

8.10.04

My dearest Mother

I am afraid my last letter to you was rather a hurried one.

Very many thanks for your letter of Sept 1st and 2nd and also of Sept 9th. Very many thanks also for the little photo of yourself which is excellent and which I am very glad to have.

Very many thanks for your letter of Sep 16th which I have just this moment received. I am glad that you have been able to find a donkey at last and hope he will turn out well. I should think a small cart in which you can fetch luggage from the station would be useful for him.

I enclose some more photos which I should be glad if you would put in my book with the others. The large one was taken by a friend of mine.

We have had some hard marches between the river and this place. The first march was a tremendous climb of some 4,000 ft to the top of the pass which was over 16,000 ft. We covered 15 miles that day. The next day we covered 16 miles but this was a level road along the banks of the huge lake a deep blue. After reaching camp I had to take my men out nearly 2 miles to cut fodder and did not get back until 6.30 so had a long and tiring day. That night we had about 10° of frost. The next day marched about 15 miles to the foot of the Karo La Pass and it was pretty cold there at night. The following day we crossed the pass, 16,000 ft, and did 15 miles, a long trying march and had about 17° of frost that night.

The following day we had a short march of about 9 miles down the valley and after reaching camp I took one of my men and climbed up a steep shill near the camp to try and find some game. We had a hard climb and it took us 2 hours to get to the top. It was rather difficult climbing in places and very precipitous. I found a nice herd of burble but they were right down in the valley on the further side but it was getting late and I was afraid I could not get back before dark as it would have been dangerous trying to negotiate the hill in the dark so was unable to go after them I am sorry to say. As it was I did not get back any too soon.

The next day we marched 14 miles and the day after (6th) reached Gyantse with a short march of about 9 miles. We had splendid weather for marching but we had had about enough by the time we reached this. We have had two days halt here of which we were very glad and start again tomorrow on the march for Chumbi. We have got some long marches before us and are due at Chumbi on the 17th. From there it is some 10 marches to the railway at Sibguri which I shall be very glad to reach.

I believe the rest of my Regiment sail on Dec 20th so we shall be in plenty of time.

I don't know yet what I shall do. I may possibly apply for leave as soon as I get back but I shall wait to see how things turn out but I should like a little rest after all this hard work. Also the journey home from S. Africa is cheaper I believe than from India.

Yesterday there was a parade of the whole force here and the General made a speech and said goodbye to the force.

The socks have not turned up yet but no doubt they will on the way down.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Please thank Father for his letter

Chumbi

Tibet

19.10.04

My dearest Mother

I am afraid I have missed one, if not more, mails but it has been rather hard to hit off the right days when on the march, especially as one has been getting gradually nearer India. My last letter to you was dated 8th and I sent you some photos with it.

Very many thanks for your letter of Sep 22nd and all good wishes for my birthday. I get your letters a little earlier every week as I get nearer India. Very many thanks indeed for the socks which reached me at Gyantse just after I had sent off your letter. I was very glad to get them and have worn them ever since.

I was very glad to hear that you and Father had been able to arrange a little holiday and I hope by now that you are enjoying yourselves abroad.

We left Gyantse with the first column on the 9th and marched 15 miles. The next day (10th) we had another long march of about 15 miles to a place called Kangmar. On the 11th we marched 12 miles and the following day another 12 miles to a place called Kalatso where there is a huge lake. After reaching camp I had some excellent duck shooting as there were any quantity of birds on the lake. I had to go some distance for them and altogether covered about 8 miles in addition to the 12 of the march. However, I got 9 duck and one wild goose but I could have got a lot more if I had had more cartridges but I used up every one I had. That night we had 20° of frost.

On the 13th we marched about 12 miles to a place called Dochen on the bank of another lake. After reaching camp I borrowed a couple of ponies and set out with one of my men to look for a kind of wild sheep called ovis ammon which I knew had been found in the neighbourhood. We started about 2pm and rode up a valley to a pass at the top of it. I found a herd of ammon up there but the country was very open and the animals very shy and I could not get a shot. I then climbed up a high hill and found another small herd but there was not time to go after them. As it was we had to come back down a valley strewn with rocks and stones in the dark and I did not reach camp until 7.15 pm. That night we also had about 20° of frost.

On the 16th we marched to Tuna about 13 miles. We had to pass through Guru which was the scene of our first action. Any number of corpses were still lying about though, by this time, they were mere skeletons with the skin stretched like parchment over them.

The view of the snows on the further side of the plain were magnificent and I doubt if there is another such view on the world.

That night was pretty cold, about 27° of frost. On the 15th we marched 15 miles to Phari over the Tung La (about 15,500 ft). It was a long march though the road was easy. We started at 7am and reached Phari at 2pm in 6 hours which was a good performance. On the 16th we marched about 18 miles to a place called Gantza in the Chumbi valley. The first 9 miles lay over the plain and then we entered the gorge. It was very nice getting down to the wood line once more and the scenery in the gorge was very fine, the trees are just losing their leaves and the autumn tints were very pretty. That night was quite warm, only 5° of frost.

On the 17th we reached this place, about 12 miles, and thus accomplished the second big stage of the journey from Lhasa to India. That night we had heavy rain which turned to heavy snow. I woke up early in the morning to find about 3 inches of snow on the ground and the ridge pole of my tent gave way with the weight of the snow though fortunately without bringing the whole tent down on top of me as happened in the case of many others with their occupants inside.

My tent, however, was on a slope and as I was sleeping on the ground the water got in under my bedding and I found myself lying in a puddle!. I took refuge in a bungalow which has been built

here for the new resident civilian here who kindly took me in. It was a great treat to get into a proper bungalow once more it being nearly a year since I was in one and one much appreciated a good dinner again.

The column with the General who was two days behind us got caught in a blizzard coming over the Tung La and had rather a bad time and one man died. However, we often used to get those blizzards when we were at Tung La last winter but of course it was a new experience for him and his column.

Yesterday the snow and rain continued which made it most unpleasant and it was impossible to get anything dried. All my bedding was wet so I slept on the floor of the bungalow in two large posteens.

Today has been a beautiful bright sunny day and everyone has been drying their things. We leave this on the 22nd for Sinlegwi and march with the mountain battery. We have got a stiff climb of over 4,000 ft over the Japel La and several smaller climbs beyond as part of the road we came over before has been destroyed by the rains.

We are due at Sinlegwi on the 30th so I hope to reach Bareilly about the 2nd or 3rd of November and I shall be very glad to get there.

With much love

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Chumbi

Tibet

21.10.04

My dearest Mother

You will get this letter the same day as the one I wrote the day before yesterday but I find that I must write by this mail to wish you very many happy returns of the your birthday on the 8th and I trust that you may be spared to see many more.

Very many thanks for your letter of the 30th Sept. which reached me yesterday morning.

I hope you are now enjoying your holiday on the continent and are having fine weather for it.

We leave this tomorrow with the mountain battery and march to Siligwi in nine consecutive marches arriving there on the 30th. We cross the Jelep La Pass on the second day and will have a stiff climb, however, our labours will soon be over now I am glad to say.

We have been having lovely weather here since the snow and I only hope that it will continue. The General with his column reached this yesterday. The sun is quite hot in the day time so the snow quickly melts.

With much love

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Bareilly

8.11.04

My dearest Mother

I have only just time for a line to tell you that I am just off for 10 days leave in Jaini Tal tonight by the midnight train. I particularly wanted to see Colonel Hamilton who is up there and I had a letter from him this morning asking me to come up as soon as possible.

I have just this minute however received a wire saying that he is suddenly ordered to Agra tomorrow but I am going on the chance of seeing him as I have made all the arrangements though it is rather unfortunate but I shall be very glad of a little rest.

Please excuse such a short letter this time but I was afraid that I should not catch the mail from Naini.

With much love

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Bareilly

30.11.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of November 10th. I am afraid I have not got much news for you.

Colonel Hamilton arrived early on Monday morning and is staying with me at my bungalow though I take him over to the Cavalry Mess for meals. I am teaching him the Maxim gun as he wanted to learn it and this afternoon we have been shotting on the range which I always enjoy. He has to leave agin on Friday night and I don't know when I am likely to meet him again. He is an exceedingly nice man and a splendid soldier.

I hear that plague is very bad in the city here but I believe there is none in Cantonments at present.

The accounts received from the Headquarters of the Regiment in Blomfontein are not at all encouraging so I am not at all looking forward to spend some time there. From all accounts it appears to be an awful spot.

Our time here is coming to an end as we have only got a little over a fortnight left.

Please excuse this short letter tonight but there is no news.

With much love to all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Bareilly

6.12.04

My dearest Mother

This letter I hope will reach you on Xmas Day so I send you and all the family my very best wishes for a very Happy Xmas and New Year. I am only sorry that I cannot be at home to spend it with you.

I shall probably be at sea unless we happen to be in Rangoon harbour as I believe we go first to Burma to pick up the Border Regiment who are also going to South Africa.

It is a long time since I even spent Xmas in a proper house. Last year of course I spent it at camp at Chumbi, the year before in camp at Delhi, the year before that at Waziristan and the year before that out in camp near Bombay though I did have a proper Xmas dinner in Bombay.

So you see I am rather a wanderer. However, Xmas is observed in much the same way all the world over wherever and English man happens to be.

Please remember me to all old friends at Sutton, Marshams, Corletts, etc.

Very many thanks for your long letter of Nov. 17th.

I shall probably be leaving Bareilly on 16th a day before the rest of the Wing as I have to take all the married families and children together with one company and most of the baggage and get them all aboard at Calcutta before the remainder arrive. I expect I shall have some fun before I have finished. The railway journey will take about 2 days.

With much love

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

Bareilly, India

15.12.04

My dearest Mother

Very many thanks for your letter of Nov 25th and all your good wishes for Xmas.

The two officers whose promotion you saw in the paper both belong to the Regiment. Lt Col Wintons is the new Colonel of my Battalion; he had been second in command of the other battalion. I just met him when I went to Colchester when I was at home but I do not know him.

I was glad to hear that the interview with Ethel's new doctor seemed satisfactory and I do hope that the new treatment will have some effect.

We heard last Saturday that the date of our departure had been changed – I suppose on account of some alteration of the date on which the ship arrives. I now leave with the advance party on Dec. 24th and the remainder on Xmas Day so we shall have the pleasure of spending Xmas day in the Train! Rather a novel way of spending it.

We sail from Calcutta on the 27th in the "Avoca".

Last Saturday I went to an "At Home" here and we played badminton. In the evening I dined with the officers of the 48th Pioneers.

The 60th Rifles have been in camp here. I met one of their officers – young Grenfell. I fancy he is a son of Lord Grenfell and so I suppose a connection of Arthur Aylmer's wife. He is going to take on my servant when I leave.

We had a little rain here yesterday but that is usual at this time of year.

This letter should reach you about New Year's Day so I send you all good wishes for the coming year.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited. S.S. "Avoca"

In the Hoogly

27.12.04

My dearest Mother

My last letter to you was posted on Dec 22nd. On Friday 25th I was very busy loading all the heavy baggage and also in getting my own kit packed. In the evening I went to say good bye to some friends in Bareilly. On Saturday I started (Dec 24th). I was most awfully annoyed to find when I was putting on my belts, etc. that my Zeiss glasses were missing from their case, apparently having been stolen. Of course, as I was just starting I was able to do very little though I got some other officers to make some enquiries and put the matter in the hands of the police. I am particularly sorry about it because, apart from the pecuniary value of the glasses (they cost about £8) I especially valued them on account of their old associations as they have been with me on two expeditions and on various shooting trips, etc. I have offered up to Rs:100 = nearly £7 if I can get them back. If I had caught a native doing it I rather doubt if he would have survived our acquaintance!

I got my party entrained by 101m on Xmas eve. The party consisted of 93 men, 6 women, 20 children, 2 horses, 3 baggage wagons, various dogs and one other officer (the latter required almost as most looking after as all the rest put together!)

We travelled all day and had a halt in the evening at Lucknow for about an hour for the men to get some hot tea. They all carried their rations in the train.

That night I was woken up about midnight by the guard who said one of the springs of one of the baggage wagons had broken. I got out and found that they had already detached the wagon preparatory apparently to leaving it behind. However, I informed them that I had no intention of leaving any baggage behind. I then had all the men woken up and turned out preparatory to moving all the baggage in that truck into another one. By this time the native station master had quite lost his head and was perfectly useless so I had to arrange myself for shunting the train and wagon to a platform. In the meanwhile, however, some men from a repairing shop at that station turned up with a new spring which they fitted instead of the broken one and we then proceeded.

On Xmas Day we continued in the train having one halt in the morning and another in the evening for about one hour each for the men to get some hot tea. I had been given a Xmas cake by some friends before leaving Bareilly but that was the only Xmas fare I had!

We reached Calcutta docks about 7am on the 26th after nearly 48 hours travelling. I spent the morning up till about 12 getting everything including the heavy baggage on board. In the afternoon I went into Calcutta to see a friend of mine whom I had known in Tibet but, unfortunately, he was not at home. That night I dined on board in the docks.

The remainder of the wing arrived this morning and we moved out of the docks about 8am and we are now steaming through the Hoogly.

We are due at Rangoon (in Burmah) in about 3 days time where we pick up the Border Regt. and we then call at Columbo and then go straight to Durban and from there I believe it is about 2 days journey from rail.

I did not get any letters by the last post so I suppose you sent them direct to S.Africa.

With much love to you all

Ever yr. affect. son

Arthur L. Hadow

The Avoca seems a very good ship