

NEWS FROM TARTARY:  
*A Journey from Peking to Kashmir*

*By the same author*

**BRAZILIAN ADVENTURE  
ONE'S COMPANY**



NEWS  
FROM TARTARY

*A Journey from Peking to Kashmir*

*by*

PETER FLEMING



JONATHAN CAPE  
THIRTY BEDFORD SQUARE  
LONDON

FIRST PUBLISHED, AUGUST 1936  
SECOND IMPRESSION, AUGUST 1936  
THIRD IMPRESSION, SEPTEMBER 1936  
FOURTH IMPRESSION, SEPTEMBER 1936  
FIFTH IMPRESSION, SEPTEMBER 1936

JONATHAN CAPE LTD. 30 BEDFORD SQUARE, LONDON  
AND 91 WELLINGTON STREET WEST, TORONTO

PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN IN THE CITY OF OXFORD  
AT THE ALDEN PRESS  
PAPER MADE BY JOHN DICKINSON & CO. LTD.  
BOUND BY A. W. BAIN & CO. LTD.

# CONTENTS

FOREWORD	II
----------	----

## PART ONE

### HEADING FOR TROUBLE

I	ZERO HOUR	17
II	HEROINE	20
III	TWO'S COMPANY?	26
IV	THE FORBIDDEN PROVINCE	29
V	EXILES AND ARMAMENTS	34
VI	NIGHTMARE TRAIN	41
VII	RAILHEAD	46
VIII	FITS AND STARTS	50
IX	A LORRY AND THE LIU PAN SHAN	55
X	OPEN ARREST	61

## PART TWO

### THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH

I	THE MOUNTAIN ROAD	71
II	DEFEAT?	76
III	CONFINED TO BARRACKS	80
IV	THE GREAT LAMASERY	86
V	ESCAPE FROM OFFICIALDOM	92
VI	GOOD SAMARITANS	97

## PART THREE

### INTO THE BLUE

I	TRAVELLING LIGHT	107
II	THE PRINCE OF DZUN	111
III	THE DEMON'S LAKE	118
IV	THE CARAVAN MARCHES	123
V	WINDS AND WILD ASSES	130
VI	NIGHT-MARCH TO THE END OF THE WORLD	137

CONTENTS  
PART FOUR

NO MAN'S LAND

I	THE LOST CITY	147
II	PATIENCE	154
III	EMPTY DAYS	159
IV	THE GOOD COMPANIONS	165
V	TRAVELLING BLIND	171
VI	BORODISHIN TAKES CHARGE	175

PART FIVE

NO PICNIC

I	THE GORGES OF THE BORON KOL	185
II	LOST	191
III	THE TURBANED-HEADS	196
IV	BIRTHDAY	201
V	CASUALTIES	205
VI	WE SAY GOOD-BYE TO SLALOM	212
VII	GRASS, MEN, NEWS	219
VIII	THALASSA THALASSA	226
IX	BRAVE NEW WORLD	233
X	RULE BRITANNIA	238

PART SIX

THE DESERT ROAD

I	DIRTY WORK	245
II	THE RED ARMY LENDS A HAND	250
III	RUSSIA RACKETEERS	256
IV	THE NEW IMPERIALISTS	259
V	CHERCHEN	266
VI	THIRST	271
VII	SUCH QUANTITIES OF SAND	277
VIII	A CUCKOO-CLOCK IN KERIYA	283

## CONTENTS

IX	REBELS DON'T CARE	288
X	KHOTAN	294
XI	THE VANISHED LEADER	300
XII	THE LAST OF TUNGAN TERRITORY	307
XIII	HOBOES ON HORSEBACK	313

## PART SEVEN

### THE ROOF OF THE WORLD

I	KASHGAR-LES-BAINS	323
II	WINGS OVER TURKISTAN	329
III	INTO THE PAMIRS	333
IV	THE LAST TOWN IN CHINA	339
V	THE RUSSIAN AGENT	345
VI	THE PASS OF A THOUSAND IBEX	350
VII	NEWS FROM HOME	354
VIII	A THOUSAND WELCOMES	360
IX	SAHIBS	365
X	GILGIT AT LAST	370
XI	LAST LAP	374
XII	TRIUMPHAL ENTRY	379
	INDEX	382



## ILLUSTRATIONS

THE ROOF OF THE WORLD	<i>Frontispiece</i>
TUNGAN SOLDIER	<i>facing p. 30</i>
KINI	30
PEASANT FAMILY	52
DRAGGING HER OUT	52
THE MAN NEXT TO ME	60
OLD MOSLEMS	66
THE PARROT	66
'OF MORE THAN USUALLY FAIRY-LIKE APPEARANCE'	72
SKIN RAFT IN THE SINING HO	72
'THERE WAS NO GUARD ON THE BRIDGE'	74
MONGOL WITH LEICA	78
TSAIDAM MONGOL IN TIBETAN DRESS	78
SHOPPING	88
OUR QUARTERS IN THE MONASTERY	88
YOUNG LAMAS	94
A COURTYARD AT KUMBUM	94
THE PRINCE OF DZUN (DARK ROBE)	114
OUR TENT	114
CAMP BY THE KOKO NOR	120
ON THE MARCH	120
EVENING IN THE HILLS	130
CLIMBING THE PASS	130
'WE MADE A HUGE FIRE': CHINESE MOSLEMS	134
DEATH OF A WILD ASS	134
'A DOMED MAUSOLEUM'	152
CONTRAST IN PIPES	152
THROUGH THE TSAIDAM	160
LI PAYS FOR THE CAMELS	160
PROFESSIONAL	168
AMATEUR	168
THE PRIME MINISTER	188
THE BLACK COLD MOUNTAINS	188
DESOLATION	194

## ILLUSTRATIONS

‘ONE WAS AN OLDISH MAN’	<i>facing p.</i> 202
TURKIS AT ISSIK PAKTE	202
ALL THAT WAS LEFT OF THEM	230
DOCTORING THE PEARL	230
AFTER FOUR MONTHS	234
TAMARISK DUNES	272
‘JUNE AND JULY ARE NOT GOOD MONTHS’	272
WATER-HOLE	280
THE DESERT ROAD	280
STORY-TELLER IN YARKAND	312
KHOTAN: THE MINT	312
LEAVING YANGI HISSAR	334
KASHGAR: THE BAZAAR	334
CAMP IN THE PAMIRS	338
LIU	338
A PASS	340
TASHKURGAN	346
LIU ON A YAK: P.F. ON CLOUD	346
HUNZA COUNTRY	358
‘SOUTH OF MISGAR THE ROAD IMPROVES’	358
THE FORT OF ALTIT	362
MEN OF THE MIR’S BODYGUARD	362
NEAR BALTIT	368
MAP	17

The principal map is reproduced by permission of the  
Royal Geographical Society