

Public Works (1896) Department.

G.O., No.

1626W

DATED

29<sup>th</sup> May 1896

[Despatch Abstract.]

Sangla Tibba: End of the Public  
Dept. returning report by Mr. C. J. Rodgers  
M. R. A. S., Hon. Commissioner to the  
Govt. of India, on the — in Punjab,  
recorded.

Returns printed report  
on the Sangla Tibba with  
Endorsement No. 990, Public,  
dated 11<sup>th</sup> May 1896.

Ostacumud  
19<sup>th</sup> May 1896 }

To  
The Public Works Dept.  
\$ 1620  
Ed 29 May 1896  
Recorded  
Copy 235.96.  
24/216

Archaeological Survey, (Madras.)

Bangalore,

15<sup>th</sup> May 1896.

CURRENT No. 1692

No. 93.

From

A. REA, Esquire,

SUPERINTENDENT, ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY,

(MADRAS,)

To

The Chief Secretary  
to the Government of Madras.

Sir,

I have the honour to return  
report with Endorsement No. 990  
Public, dated 11<sup>th</sup> May 1896.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. REA  
Superintendent.

D 1425 W of 5 May 1896

Rephot copy of a - by

Mr. C. J. Rogers M. R. A. S.

on the Sangla Tibba in the

Gujarawala district.

in connection with the

question of quarrying that

hill for the purpose of

supplying ballast for

certain railway received

from the Govt. of the Punjab,

forwarded through the

Public Department to the

Superintendent, Archae-

ological Survey, for

reusal & return,

Order at Madras

Copy of this order is in the  
file.

A. S., Honorary Numismatist to  
on the Sangla Tibba.

Vazirabad, on the Wazirabad and Lyall-  
ngla is being made. It is about half  
between the station and the hill runs  
its west the new colony of Chahur or  
kh Andheri, which is close by a small  
or Rock of Sangla is one of a series of

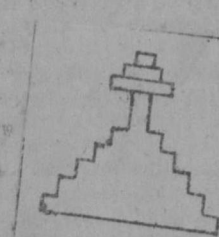
About a mile and a half to the south  
d about a mile and a half to the south-  
Gupha or Cave-rock, because in it is a  
residence of a thief and adam-khor, or  
posed of iron-stone. Those at Arti are  
ulway. Nothing has been done to the

longest of all, rising, as it does, to the  
of this plain, I ought to say, that it is to  
uniform slope towards the south-west.  
a slight depression which, in one place,  
al. The level plain comes nearly up to  
ne north and west sides. Towards the  
high which lies between a spur of the  
m the centre of the main rock. Owing  
re covered all over with broken stones.  
k ends. At the top of the rock there is  
y size could be erected; and in conse-  
building of any kind ever having been  
m any part. On the ridge stretching  
e rock, there are some modern founda-  
uilt on. They are only for buildings  
etrical Survey Station on the highest  
ft. in diameter and 3 ft. high. It is  
the old bricks to be found in the whole  
 $\times 11" \times 2\frac{1}{2}"$ . The next largest bricks I  
all plateau below there are some heaps  
s of brick ends. Here and there are  
ags, rows of stone with the straight sur-  
e any superstructure on these rows. In  
one on the top of the other. Were all  
re would not be a truck load.

s rewarded by finding a broken stone  
d a corner-brick carved on the edge,  
c. The image is not made of Sangla  
lit in two pieces and has lost the left  
a ball. The features are defaced but

the foot of the rock broken pots are  
re is no depth of them anywhere.

o buildings nor traces of their having  
from which water could be obtained, and  
ie north, however,  
rock and close by  
old well made  
here is a curious  
e up of repetitions  
the few big bricks,  
roken pots scattered  
quity in the place.



General Cunningham says that 4,000 bricks were taken to mark, and that probably 4,000 more are in the Survey Station on the hill top. If I were inclined to be extravagant I might say let us suppose that the whole of the brick ends about the place represent 12,000 more, then we should have 20,000 bricks which are not sufficient for a structure of any size and could never have been sufficient to surround a town built round the rock. No place exists near Sangla or in the far off neighbourhood to which bricks could have been removed in any quantity. In the new colony of Jahur all the buildings are of mud.

There were no mud houses in Sangla or its vicinity. No mud walls surrounded the place, for, mud houses and mud walls when thrown down leave unsightly heaps which can never be removed, especially in a country with so small a rainfall as the Bar has. There are no signs of such mounds. Even the small mound at Mundapatura is not one of this kind. It is a small projecting rock, and a heap of rocky debris.

*There is nothing now therefore of any antiquity in Sangla or its neighbourhood except the well.* This has been beautifully restored by the Engineers of the Canal by having its broken masonry courses replaced and a small parapet erected at the top. Its water is 79 ft. from the wall top in spite of the well being actually in the bank of the canal. *One well could have supplied but a small population with water.* The swamp or seasonal lake must have dried up very soon after the rains. It had been long quite dry when I visited it on the last day of October.

From all this it will be seen (1) that Sangla may have been a small village near the hill or rock. (2) It may have had a small temple or a few houses of brick, but they were more probably of reeds. (3) The people used earthen vessels. (4) There were no large buildings or bazaars. (5) There were no fortifications. (6) There were no buildings of stone.

We know that everything strange in Nature in India has been worshipped, and has had, and has now in these days of modern enlightenment, its resident faqirs who have their followers and dependents, and hence small communities exist in these places. The rocks at Sangla are a strange phenomenon. They must have attracted faqirs in olden times. Before the canal was open, however, there was not a house near the rock and the only ones now are those connected with the brick kiln and the Canal Chowki nearly a mile to the north of the hill.

Therefore my decision is that *there is nothing now on the rock or in its neighbourhood of any Historical importance whatever.* There is nothing either in the rock, for, it is not a rock with fissures or caverns. The stone of which it is composed may be used for ballast or for any other purpose for which it may be required.

There is a place called Sangala mentioned as having been besieged by Alexander the Great in his invasion of the Punjab. This is what is said of it in Arrian's Arrabasis, Book V, Chapters XXII to XXIV. Chapter XXI tells us: "He himself, i. e., Alexander, crossed the river Hydraotes" and "he was advancing into the country beyond the Hydraotes." (N. B.—The *Hydraotes* was the RAVEE on crossing which Alexander would be in the Bari Doab.)

## CHAPTER XXII.

"Alexander meanwhile had learned that the Kathaians and other tribes of independent Indians were preparing to meet him in battle if he invaded their country, and were inviting the neighbouring tribes, which were independent like themselves, to co-operate with them. He learned also that the city near which they meant to engage him was STRONGLY FORTIFIED, and was called SANGALA."..... "Alexander, on receiving this intelligence, marched rapidly against the Kathaians, and, on the second day after he had left the river *Hydraotes*, arrived at a city named Piruprana...which surrendered on terms of capitulation. Alexander gave

his troops rest the next day, and, ON THE THIRD DAY, advanced to Sangala where the Kathaians and the neighbouring tribes that had joined them were mustered BEFORE THE CITY and drawn up in battle order on a low hill which was not on all sides precipitous. They lay encamped behind their waggons, which, by encircling the hill in three rows, protected the camp with a triple barricade. Alexander, on perceiving the great number of the barbarians and the nature of the position they occupied, drew up his army in the order which seemed best suited to the circumstances, and at once despatched against them the horse archers just as they were, with orders to ride along and shoot at the Indians from a distance, so as not only to prevent them making a sortie before his own dispositions should be completed, but to wound them in their stronghold even before the battle began.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

\* "Yes, even from these waggons they were forcibly driven by the phalanx of infantry and even at the third row they no longer held ground, but fled with all the haste they could into the city, and shut themselves within its gates. Alexander that same day encamped with his infantry around the city, as far at least as the phalanx enabled him to surround it, for, the wall was of such great extent that his camp could not completely environ it. Opposite the part where the gap was left, and where also was a lake not far from the walls, he posted the cavalry all round the lake, as he knew it not to be deep, and at the same time anticipated, that the Indians, terrified by their previous defeat, would abandon the city during the night. The event showed he had conjectured aright, for, about the second watch, the most of them dropped down from the wall, and came upon the outposts of the cavalry. The foremost of them were cut to pieces by the sentinels, but those in the rear, perceiving that the lake was guarded all round, withdrew into the city. Alexander now encompassed the city with a double stockade, except where the lake shut it in, and around the lake he posted guards to keep still stricter watch. He resolved also to bring up the military engines against the place for battering down the walls. Some deserters, however, came to him from the city and informed him that the Indians intended that very night to escape from the city by way of the lake, where the gap occurred in the stockade. So at that point he stationed Ptolemy, the son of Lagoo, with three divisions of the hypaspists, each 1,000 strong, all the Agriarians and a single line of archers."

## CHAPTER XXIV.

\* \* Such were the directions he gave, and Ptolemy in that place collected as many as he could of the waggons which the enemy had left behind them in their flight, and placed them athwart so that the fugitives might imagine there were many obstacles to their escaping by night. He ordered the stakes which had been cut, but not fixed in the ground, to be formed into stockades at different points between the lake and the wall. \* About the fourth watch, the barbarians, in accordance with the information Alexander had received, OPENED THE GATES which fronted the lake, and rushed towards it at full speed. \* \* \* Ptolemy, with his men, fell upon them and killed them, one after another, as they struck out from the waggons. Upon this the Indians fled back once more to the city for refuge, and as many as 500 of them were slain in the retreat.

"Meanwhile Porus also arrived, bringing with him the remainder of his elephants, and a force of 5,000 Indians, and the military engines which had been constructed by Alexander were now brought up to the wall. But the Macedonians, before any part of it was battered down, took the city by storm, having undermined the wall, WHICH WAS OF BRICK and planted ladders against it all round. In the capture, 17,000 of the Indians were slaughtered, and more than 7,000 were captured together with 300 waggons and 500 horse men. The loss in Alexander's army was somewhat under 100 killed and 1,200 wounded." \* \* \* "He drew back to Sangala and razed the city to the ground." \* \* \* "He himself advanced with his army to the river Hyphasis to conquer the Indians who dwelt beyond it." (N. B.—The Hyphasis was the Bias, so the Sangala of Alexander must have been in the Bari Doab.)

From the above, it is plain—

- (1) That Sangala was a strongly fortified city three days' march from the Ravi in the Bari Doab.
- (2) It was a large city with gates, so large that Alexander's army could not wholly encompass it.
- (3) The walls were so high, they needed to be battered down. They must have been therefore not only high but thick. Eventually they were undermined.
- (4) The walls were of brick. The city was razed to the ground.
- (5) The gap in the stockade was so large, it had to be guarded by more than 3,000 men.

Nothing whatever is said about the rock at Sangla. A small rock or hill is mentioned outside the town.

At Sangla, to-day, there is no sign whatever of extensive ruins such as must be wherever Sangala was. The historian places it in the Bari Doab and after its capture Alexander marched straight on the Bias.

From all this, I infer that Sangla Tibba has nothing whatever to do with the strongly fortified city, surrounded by a high and thick brick wall, besieged by Alexander the Great, taken by him, and razed to the ground, AND WHICH WAS SITUATED IN THE BARI DOAB.

Again, in "Buddhist Records of the Western World" compiled before 713 A.D., we read that New Sakala was  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the north-east of the old town of Sakala. Both Sakalas were then about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles in circuit. The walls of old Sakala were thrown down, but the foundations were still firm and strong. This old Sakala had, some centuries before the visit of the Chinese traveller, been the capital of Mahirakula who had "established his authority in this town and ruled over India."

(Here I venture to observe that this part of the country, Sangla and its vicinity, used to be known as the Sandal Bar and was an impenetrable jungle.)

"In the old town of Sakala is a sangharama with about 100 priests."  
 \* \* \* "By the side of the convent is a stupa (tope) about 200 ft. high."  
 \* \* \* "To the north-east of the sangharama, about a mile, is a stupa about 200 ft. high, built by Asoka Raja." \* \* \* "About  $1\frac{2}{3}$  miles to the north-east of the new capital, we come to a stupa of stone, about 200 ft. high, built by Asoka."

(Beal's Buddhist Records of the Western World, Volume I, page 165-172.)  
 General Cunningham makes Sangla Tibba, the Sangala of the Alexandrian invasion and the Sakala of the Buddhist Records. On this I have to remark:—

- (1) If Sangala and Sakala were the same, then the place had been in existence over 1,000 years when it was visited by the Chinaman. The foundations of its walls had stood thick and firm for 1,000 years. In that 1,000 years, there must have been a vast accumulation of sweepings and ashes and mud. The place was a large mound, so that there must be even now where it stood, a very high mound. There is but the rock at Sangla.
- (2) There were three stupas of stone more than 200 ft. high. After 1,200 years, there must be signs of those stupas. We know that such buildings were sculptured. There is not a sign of any such buildings either in, or on, or near, Sangla, neither is there a trace of the New Sakala mentioned by the traveller.

- (3) Sakala was the capital of *Miharakula*, a man whose coins are very plentiful in some parts of the Punjab. But not a coin is said to have been ever found in Sangla. I hunted several hours in the bazaars of Hafizabad and could find no coins older than the reign of Sikandar Lodi.

- (4) The travels of the Chinaman say nothing about the rocks, the peculiar physical feature of the neighbourhood.

From all this, I infer that the absence of all walls and foundations from Sangla; the absence of all traces of stupas either inside or outside the place and its neighbourhood; the absence of ruins of a neighbouring New Sakala; the absence of coins; the non-mention of chief physical features of the place, seem to point out plainly that Sangla is not the Sakala of the Chinese traveller.

I have before shown that it is not the Sangala of Alexander's expedition.

Sangla is therefore stripped of all historical associations.

(For the discussion identifying Sangla Hill, with Sangala of the Greeks and Sakala of the Chinese traveller, see Archaeological Reports by General Cunningham, Vol. II, page 192-200.)

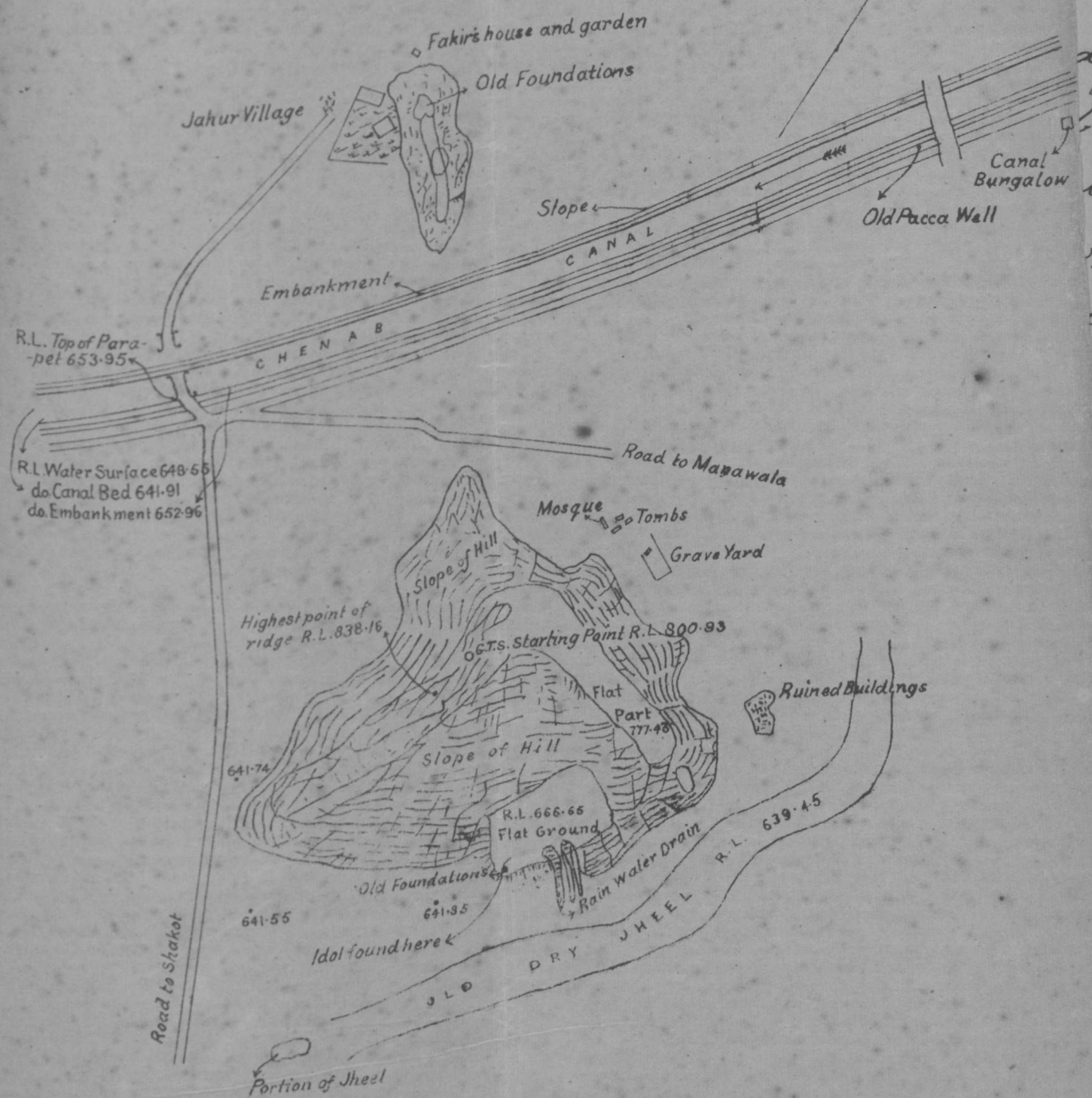
The quotations from Arrian are from McCrindle's "Ancient India, its invasion by Alexander the Great," page 114-120.

The image and brick found by me will be deposited in the Lahore Museum, together with a ball, which may be of cast or native iron. This last was found by Mr. Eldridge, Assistant Engineer, Chenab Canal, in the Arti quarries. I obtained it from Balik Ram, Contractor of Railway ballast.

In conclusion, I have to tender my thanks to Messrs. Preston and Benton, Superintending and Executive Engineers, for all their courtesy and assistance; also to Mr. Bremner of the Wazirabad and Lyallpur Railway. These gentlemen all take an intelligent interest in the history of the district through which their Canal and Railway pass.

Lalla Ram Surup, Sub-Overseer, did the work I set him well. There was not much for him to do, as the absence of antiquities rendered the survey of the place almost unnecessary. He made the accompanying map from his survey. On it are shown the different points to which I have drawn attention.

# SURVEY ROUND SANGLA HILL Scale 400 Ft. = 1 Inch



PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following

Letter from the Secretary to Govern-  
-ment P.W. & Punjab, <sup>circular</sup> Circular No. 2/1911, dated  
25<sup>th</sup> March 1896.

I have the honor to forward for  
information 1 printed copy of a report by  
Mr. C. J. Rodgers, M. R. A. S. Hony. Surveyor-  
-in-Chief to the Government of India, on  
the Sangla Tibba in the Gujranwala  
District, in connection with the question  
of quarrying that hill for the purpose of  
supplying ballast for the Wazirabad-  
-Lyallpur Railway.

Order thereon:- No. 1425 W dt 5<sup>th</sup> May 1896

The report will be forwarded  
through the Public Department to the Superi-  
-intendent Archaeological Survey for perusal  
and return.

(True Extract)

*J. Wilson*  
Under Secretary to Govt.  
P.W. & D.

Public Department  
with 1 enclosure.

0621  
3805/56

1896  
P.W. Dept.  
Incl. No. 1  
1593

No. 5.3  
1593

Exd  
no

2534/96

1896.

1593

Public Works Department.

No.

1425 W

Dated

5<sup>th</sup> May 1896.

Despatched

Received

Encl. 1.



Encl. N<sup>o</sup> 990

Forwarded

(by order)

W. S. S. S.

Ag. Asst. Secy.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding copy of a report  
by the Hon. Municipal  
to the Govt. of India, on the  
Kangla Tibba, in the Gujranwala  
District in connection with  
the question of quarrying that  
hill for the purpose of supply-  
ing ballast for the Wazirabad  
- Lyallpur Railway.

Cio. Cotacammund }  
6.5.96 11<sup>th</sup> May 1896 }

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The Supdt., Archaeological Survey

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Order at Madras