



International Boundary Study

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Burma – India Boundary

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INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY STUDY

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BURMA - INDIA BOUNDARY

I. THE BACKGROUND

The Burma - India Boundary has been delimited in great detail by a bilateral treaty signed on March 10, 1967, and ratified shortly thereafter. Demarcation will be the subject of a separate agreement to be negotiated in the near future. The 1967 boundary follows the "traditional" line between the two states while rendering with precision two formerly indefinite areas.

Almost 60 percent of the 872-mile long boundary follows water divides, both major and minor, while nearly one-third coincides with median lines of frontier streams and rivers. The remainder of the border comprises straight line between previously established boundary pillars.

The frontier area topography varies from low mountains in the south to high ridges and peaks in the north, adjacent to the Himalaya. As a result, the region is one of low population density and of reduced economic development.

II. ALIGNMENT

The 1967 Boundary Agreement delimited the Burma - India boundary as follows:

The southern extremity of the India - Burma boundary is about 1/2 mile south of the triangulation station Reng Tlang. From this point the boundary runs in general northeasterly direction along the divide separating the waters of the Tuichong from those of the Kola Chaung or Sekul Lui to a point just west of the source of a nameless feeder of the Varang Lui; thence in an easterly direction down the midstream of this nameless feeder to its junction with the Varang Lui; thence down the midstream of the Varang Lui to its junction with the Kola Chaung or Sekul Lui; thence up the midstream of the Kola Chaung or Sekul Lui to its junction with the Zocha Lui; thence up the midstream of the Zocha Lui to its source on the Samang Range; thence across the range to the source of the Samak or Kwiman Lui; thence down the midstream of the Samak or Kwiman Lui to the Kaladan River; thence across the Kaladan river to the mouth of the Khangza Lui and up the midstream of the Khangza Lui to its source in the Kaisi Tlang range; thence southwards along the range of the Kaisi Tlang to the source of the Rale (Shweleik) Lui; thence down the midstream of the Rale (Shweleik) Lui to its junction with the Sala Lui; thence up the midstream of the Sala Lui to its junction with the Khenkhong (Kaikheu) Lui; thence up the midstream of the Khenkhong (Kaikheu) Lui to a point on the Pathian Klang range approximately 700 yards north of height 4146; thence generally northwards along this range to the source of the Para Lui and down the midstream of the Para Lui to its junction with the Tisi Va or Mi Chaung; thence up the midstream of this river to its junction with the Kimung Va or Kheimu Lui; thence up the midstream of

the Kimung Va or Kheimu Lui to its source in the Kashia Klang; thence generally southwards along the crest of the Kashia Klang to the source of the Raphu Va; thence down the midstream of the Raphu Va to its junction with the Boinu or Tuipui river; thence down the midstream of the Boinu or Tuipui river to its junction with the Tyao or Tio Va River; thence up the midstream of the Tyao or Tio Va river to its source on a saddle marked by Boundary Pillar No. 3 L/CH;¹ thence across that saddle to the source of the Bapi Va and down the midstream of the Bapi Va to its junction with the Timang Va or Tuimang river; thence down the midstream of the Timang Va or Tuimang river to its junction with the Tuisa river; thence down the midstream of the Tuisa river to its junction with the Tuivai river; thence up the midstream of the Tuivai river to its junction with the Tuikui stream; thence up the midstream of the Tuikui stream to its source below Boundary Pillar No. 8 situated on a saddle about 4-1/2 miles east of Lunglen Hill. From Boundary Pillar No. 8 the boundary runs down the midstream of a nameless feeder of the Tuimong Lui to its junction with the Tuimong Lui; thence down midstream of the Tuimong Lui to its junction with the Tuivel river; thence up the midstream of the Tuivel river to its junction with the Tuinuam Lui; thence up the midstream of the Tuinuam Lui to a saddle where Boundary Pillar No. 7 is located; thence down the midstream of Paiphum Lui; thence up a ridge; thence eastwards down the ridge to the midstream of a nameless stream to its junction with the Tuival Lui and thence down the midstream of the Tuival Lui to its junction with the Sumtui Lui; thence up the midstream of the Sumtui Lui to its source on Leng Tang range where Boundary Pillar No. 6 is located; thence in an easterly direction down to a nameless feeder of the (Tuita) Tuitha or (Kuga) Khuga river; thence down the midstream of this feeder to its junction with the (Tuita) Tuitha or (Kuga) Khuga river; thence up the midstream to the (Tuita) Tuitha or (Kuga) Khuga river to its junction with the Chalao Lam or Chika stream; thence along the midstream of this stream up a ravine to Boundary Pillar No. 5; thence down the midstream of the Yangkai Lok to its junction with the Manipur river; thence northwards up the left bank of the Manipur river to its junction with the Yangdung Lui; thence up the midstream of this stream to its source marked by Boundary Pillar No. 3; thence generally northeastwards to height 7582; thence generally eastwards along the watershed between the tributaries of the Manipur River on the one hand and the tributaries of the Chindwin River on the other hand to the source of the Khengyoi Dung and marked by Boundary Pillars 2 and 1; thence down the midstream of the Khengyoi Dung and the Tuisa Dung to Boundary Pillar No. 39 on the left bank of the Tuisa Dung; thence generally eastwards for approximately 400 yards along the left bank of the Tuisa Dung; thence northwards up the midstream of a nameless feeder to Boundary Pillar No. 38² on Nat Taung Hill; thence generally northwards down the slope of the hill to a ravine; thence generally eastwards along the bed of the stream to where Boundary Pillar No. 37 is located; thence in a general northerly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 36 and thence in the same direction to Boundary Pillar No. 35 located on the right bank of the

¹ See Survey of India Quarter-Inch sheet 84E.

² See Survey of India - one-inch Sheet 84 I/1 and Quarter-inch Sheets 83C and 83L.

Auktaung Chaung; thence down the midstream of the Auktaung Chaung to Boundary Pillar No. 34 on the left bank of the Auktaung Chaung; thence in a northerly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 33 located on the left bank of the Tiwan Lam or Tuiwang Dung thence in a north-northeasterly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 32 located on the right bank of the Tiddim Dung or Naneka Chaung; thence in a north-northeasterly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 31; thence in a north northwesterly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 30; thence in a northeasterly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 29 located on the left bank of the Rangkep Lok thence down the midstream of the same stream for a distance of approximately 1 mile to Boundary Pillar No. 28 also located on the left bank of the Rangkep Lok; thence in a north-easterly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 27; thence in a northerly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 26 located about 500 yards from the right bank of the Pantha Chaung; thence in a northerly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 25 located on the left bank of the Nanpalaung Chaung; thence in a northeasterly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 24 located about 400 yards from the left bank of the Chaungngyinaung Chaung; thence in a northerly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 23 located on the right bank of the Lokchao River or Chaunggyi Chaung; thence down the midstream of this river for about a mile to Boundary Pillar No. 22; thence in a north-northeasterly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 21; thence in the same direction to Boundary Pillar No. 20 located on the right bank of a tributary of the Chaunggyi Chaung; thence in the same direction to Boundary Pillar No. 19 located approximately 1 mile southeast of Laiching peak trigonometrical station; thence in a northerly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 18 located on the right bank of the Namjet Lok; thence in an easterly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 17; thence in a northeasterly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 16 located about 700 yards from the south bank of the Waksu Lok or Wetyu Chaung; thence in a northwesterly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 15 on the left bank of the Waksu Lok or Wetyu Chaung; thence in a northeasterly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 14; thence in a northerly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 13 located about half a mile south of the Tuiyang or Natisin Chaung; thence in a northwesterly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 12 located on the left bank of Tuiyang or Natisin Chaung; thence in a northeasterly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 11; thence in a northerly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 10; located on the right bank of the Taret River or Nantalet Chaung; thence due east to Boundary Pillar No. 9; thence in a north-northeasterly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 8 located on the right bank of the Yu river; thence across the Yu river to Boundary Pillar No. 7 which is located on the left bank of the Yu river opposite Boundary Pillar No. 8; thence in a northeasterly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 6; thence in the same direction to Boundary Pillar No. 5 which is located almost north of height 1192; thence in a north-northeasterly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 4 located on height 1226; thence in a northerly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 3; thence in a north-northwesterly direction to Boundary Pillar No. 2 located on the right bank of a tributary of the Saga Chaung; thence in the same direction to Boundary Pillar No. 1 located on the left bank of the Saga Chaung. Thence in a northeasterly direction for a distance of approximately 2500 yards; thence in a southeasterly direction for approximately 1100 yards; thence in a northeasterly direction for approximately 700 yards; thence

in a northerly direction for approximately 1000 yards; thence in a northeasterly direction for approximately 1200 yards to a point on the right bank of a tributary of the Nam A-ya; thence down the midstream of this stream for about one mile; thence in a southeasterly direction for approximately 1000 yards; thence in a northeasterly direction for approximately 700 yards; thence in an easterly direction for approximately 1000 yards to a point on the right bank of the Tinaing Chaung; thence up the midstream of the Tinaing Chaung to its source; thence across the ridge, where it crosses a track going from Manipur to Burma, thence to the source of the Pangero or Hpinngge Chaung starting from the north face of the ridge, thence down the midstream of this chaung to its junction with the Khunou Khong; thence down the midstream of this stream to its junction with the Sana Lok and thence along the midstream of the Nam Panga to the point where the main spur of the Kassom range (Lahinpi Taung) meets this river.

From the above point where the main spur of the Kassom range (Lahinpi Taung) meets the Nam Panga, the boundary proceeds along this spur generally in a north-northeasterly direction till it meets the trigonometrical station Mawlashin Taung; thence generally northwestwards, then northeastwards and then northwards along the watershed between the Sana Lok in the West and the Nam Panga, Nam Tagin, Nam Mawngkhkam and Nam Hka streams in the east, passing through trigonometrical station Thyoliching (Kan pal Mol) and peak Hting Hting Bum (Kassom) to trigonometrical station Hkacha Bum; thence in a general northwesterly direction along the same watershed to trigonometrical station Hyakam Bum; thence in a general northwesterly direction along the watershed between the Tuikang stream and the Tizu river in the west and the Nam Hka and the Nam We or Shwezalon Chaung in the east to height 7870; thence in a general north-northeasterly direction along the same watershed to a point approximately 1000 yards southeast of height 8256; thence in a general northeasterly direction to Peak Mol Len (Kasulum Bum); thence generally southeastwards, then eastwards and then northeastwards along the same watershed to peak Dazipfu (Shiloi Mol); thence down the midstream of the Petamtsi Ti to its junction with the Ti-Ho or Nantaleik or Tizu river; thence up the midstream of this river for about two miles to its junction with a nameless tributary of the Ti-Ho or Nantaleik or Tizu river flowing from the northeast; thence up the midstream of this nameless tributary to its source near peak Chaku Mol; thence in a northeasterly direction along the watershed between the Ti-Ho or Nantaleik or Tizu river and the Zungki river in the west and the Chilachi Chaung, a tributary of the Latnyu He or Nantaleik or Sawmalin Chaung, the Kundwin He-mu or Mya Chaung, and the Nam Salein or Charing Hka in the east to peak Saramati (Nwemauktaung or Kaiwanyu Kyein); thence in a general northerly direction along the same watershed to height 10003; thence in a general northeasterly direction along the same watershed passing through peak Mataungse Kyein to height 11029 thence in a general northwesterly direction along the watershed between the Chokla Lu, the Langnyu river and the tributaries of the Brahmaputra River in the west and the tributaries of the Chindwin River in the east to height 8790; thence in a general northerly direction along the same watershed to

height 8650; thence in a general northeasterly direction along the same watershed to height 9840; thence generally northwestwards and then northwards and then northeastwards along the same watershed which is known as Patkai Range, passing through trigonometrical station 7912 and 5268 to trigonometrical station 8511; thence generally northeastwards, then northwards, then northeastwards, and then southeastwards along the same watershed to height 8203; thence in a general northeasterly direction following the watershed between the Brahmaputra and the Chindwin river systems along the Patkai Bum, passing through height 8029 and peak Pungkang to height 7489; thence generally southeastwards along the same watershed to peak Longsip; thence generally northeastwards along the same watershed passing through heights 7578, 7041, and 7340 to peak Ranglung Kan; thence generally eastwards along the same watershed to peak Okhutohap; thence generally northeastwards along the same watershed passing through heights 6257 and 5959 to trigonometrical station Maium (Patkai Bum); thence generally northeastwards, then eastwards and then southeastwards following the watershed between Brahmaputra and the Chindwin river systems along the Patkai Bum to peak Shawngshan Bum; thence along the watershed between the Irrawaddy and the Brahmaputra river systems to its northern extremity, the exact location of which northern extremity will remain provisional pending its final determination.

III. TREATIES AND OTHER ACTS

The 1967 Boundary Agreement is the first act to delimit the entire Burma - India boundary. However, numerous earlier treaties and acts have affected the alignment of portions of the boundary and form much of the basis of the new act.

Following hundreds of years of division, a reunited and expansive Burma was established at the end of the 18th century. After repelling Chinese invaders and overrunning Siam, the Burmese moved to reestablish their historical suzerainty over certain hill tribes to the west of the Irrawaddy lowlands, quickly subduing the Shan, Chins and Kachins. Moving further to the west, the Burmese overran Manipur in 1769 and Arakan in 1784 - 5.

During the same period, the British put down a rebellion in neighboring Assam. However, following the departure of British forces, chaos returned to this region and, in 1819, the Burmese intervened. Burma and Britain came face to face in the Brahmaputra valley, which runs through the middle of Assam.

At the same time, Arakan revolted against Burma and troubles developed across the Naaf River, which was then - as now - the boundary between Arakan (Burma) and Chittagong (Pakistan). Eventually, in 1824, these frictions brought on war between Burma and the East India Company. The conflict lasted for two years, ending with a Treaty of Peace in 1826.

A. Treaty of Peace...signed at Yandaboo, February 24, 1826 (Aitcheson, C.U., A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads..., vol. XII, Calcutta, 1931)

The Treaty of Peace negated Burmese influence in Assam, Cachar, Jaintia and Manipur. Moreover, it provided that: "...to prevent all future disputes respecting the boundary line between the two great nations, the British Government will retain the conquered provinces of Arakan.... The Arakan Mountains...will henceforth form the boundary between the two great nations on that side. Any doubts regarding the said line of demarcation will be settled by Commissioners...."

Burma also ceded the province of Tenasserim, thereby restricting Burmese access to the sea to the Irrawaddy delta area. Difficulties over the boundary of Manipur, however, did not end with the signing of the treaty.

B. Agreement regarding the Kubo Valley, negotiated at Sunnyachil Ghat January 9, 1834. (ibid., p. 236)

In 1831 the British agreed to return the Kubo (Kabaw) valley to Burma. Commissioners sent in 1833 negotiated an agreement delimiting the boundary along the foothills of the ranges to the west of the Kubo. With later refinements, this boundary line has become a part of the present border. The boundary is referred to as Pemberton Line, named for the junior British commissioner.

In 1837, the Paktai Range was accepted as the boundary between Assam and Burma, being delimited without benefit of a treaty after British annexation of Assam, Cachar, and Jaintia.

Continued friction in Arakan led to the Second Burmese War, in 1852. Although a formal peace treaty was never signed, Pegu passed to British control, effectively separating Burma from the sea. Britain then drew a boundary line in the south from the Sittang River to the fort at Myede.

In 1881, Col. Johnstone resurveyed the Pemberton Line, making it more precise. Burma did not cooperate with the British in this venture, but ultimately came to accept the revised line, thereby ending three-quarters of a century of dispute. The larger questions remained unsettled, however, until 1885. In that year, the Third War led to the final annexation of Burma into the Indian realm. There followed a series of internal British acts concerning the boundary.

In 1894, the Manipur - Chin Hills boundary was demarcated, and in 1896 Col. Maxwell redemarcated the Pemberton - Johnstone area, placing thirty-eight pillars on the ground. These are referred to by number in the 1967 agreement. The Lushai Hills - Chin Hills boundary was demarcated in 1901 with minor alterations in 1921 and 1922.

C. Government of India Act, 1935 (25 and 26 GEO. 5. Chap. 42)

The Government of India Act separated Burma from India by defining the former as "...all territories which were immediately before the commencement of Part II of this Act comprised in India, being territories lying to the east of Bengal, the State of Manipur, Assam, and tribal areas connected with Assam...." "Burma shall cease to be a part of India...."

After World War II, both Burma and India (as well as Pakistan) gained their independence from the United Kingdom. No Burma - India boundary was specified in the independence acts; resolution of the border was left to the newly independent governments.

D. Boundary Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Union of Burma, signed at Rangoon on March 10, 1967.

The full text of the delimitation has been quoted in Section 2 above. The treaty ties together the many acts and international agreements affected in the 19th and 20th centuries. While the final boundary demarcation is still to be accomplished, no problems appear to remain unresolved between Burma and India. Chinese claims to Indian territory in the Northeast Frontier Agency, however, have cast a shadow on the location of the northern terminus of the Burma - India boundary. This status is reflected in the imprecision of the last sentence of the delimitation. Nevertheless, the U.S. acceptance of the McMahon Line obviates the necessity of acknowledging the dispute on official cartography.

IV. SUMMARY

The alignment of U.S. maps should follow the traditional boundary which has been reaffirmed by the new treaty and the large-scale (1:126,720) strip maps annexed to it. These confirm that the old Survey of India one-inch and quarter-inch sheets may be used as boundary compilation sources for medium-scale maps. Modern one- and four-sheet maps of India published by the Survey since independence may serve for smaller-scale production.

Should the final demarcation change the alignment of the boundary, which is not anticipated, this study will be revised and reissued as soon as the necessary data are available.

This International Boundary Study is one of a series of specific boundary papers prepared by the Geographer, Office of Strategic and Functional Research, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State, in accordance with provisions of Bureau of the Budget Circular No. A-16.

Government agencies may obtain additional information and copies of the study by calling the Geographer, Room 8744, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520 (Telephone Code 182, Extension 4508).