



Mary Queen of Scots & Peking Golf Club

Wayne Xing
Christoph Meister
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Legendary Mary Queen of Scots

A DIARY

OF THE

SIEGE OF THE LEGATIONS IN PEKING

DURING THE SUMMER OF 1900

BY

NIGEL OLIPHANT

WITH A PREFACE BY ANDREW LANG

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.

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PREFACE

THE author of this Diary of the Siege of the Peking Legations, Mr. Nigel Oliphant, comes of a house accustomed to sieges from of old. The founder of the Oliphants, or rather the first of the Norman family of Olifard, or Olifand, who received lands in Scotland, was David Olifard. He was a godson of David I., King of Scotland, whose life he saved at the Siege of Winchester, in 1141. In 1304, Sir William Oliphant held Stirling Castle against Edward I., displaying the utmost tenacity, courage, and resource, after the rest of Scotland had submitted, and surrendering only when the English artillery, and the great engine called 'The Warwolf,' made resistance impossible. With the fall of Stirling the cause of Scotland died, till it was revived, two years later, by Robert Bruce. Colin, Master

of Oliphant, and his brother Laurence, fell at Flodden. The military qualities of the family, and their steadfast loyalty, were illustrated in the Jacobite risings of 1715 and 1745, in the cases of the Lairds of Gask, Condie, and Rossie, from the last of whom Mr. Nigel Oliphant descends, being the son of Mr. T. T. Oliphant, who, with his brother, took part in the Umbeyla Campaign of 1863, the latter being fatally wounded.

Mr. Nigel Oliphant was born in the old house which Queen Mary used to occupy at St. Andrews, on December 19, 1874. His brother, David, who unfortunately fell under the Chinese fire, was born on July 10, 1876. In 1896 he had passed second in the open competition for student interpreterships in China. Early in 1897 he went to Peking, where, in each of the two subsequent years, he passed first in the examination in Chinese. Sir Claude MacDonald, recognising his ability, kept him in the Chancery Office of the Legation, instead of sending him as an assistant to one of the Consulates.

Nigel, the elder brother, and author of the

following Diary, kept under fire, was less apt in passing examinations, which proved fortunate in an educational sense. He preferred the sword to the pen, and enlisted in the Scots Greys, the famous old regiment that had Claverhouse for colonel. He was thence transferred to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, with whom he served in India, being lance-corporal. He thus acquired the military experience which proved so invaluable in the Siege of the Legations. There being no appearance of war, Mr. Nigel Oliphant, early in 1899, received from Sir Robert Hart, who knew his brother David, a post in the Chinese Postal Service, where he was engaged when the troubles broke out in 1900. Though his experience in the Army must have been useful training, his brother David, who had none, was twice mentioned in Sir Claude MacDonald's despatches for his military capacity. Perhaps we may say *bon chien chasse de race*, and the Oliphants had some eight hundred years of military adventure behind them. The two young Oliphants regarded war with gaiety, and the siege had hardly begun

Sept. 13, 1900

Sept. 7, 1900

There is a meeting to be held to-morrow of the Sports Club, to which the General has given the grounds of the Temple of Heaven as a racecourse, football ground, golf links, or anything they like to make it. I am going to try hard to get a golf course made, and I should like to give a cup in memory of D., for I am sure he would have done all he could to forward golfing interests. I fear it will not be easy to get men to start under the present difficulties, but there are a few keen players, and among the officers there may be more. We shall see to-morrow.

We eventually started at about 7.30, and half an hour's easy riding brought us to the 1st Sikhs' mess, which is in Chang Yen Mo's new house, and is most comfortable. Here we had breakfast, and then, as C., the third member of committee, was away on duty, J. and I rode on alone to the Hole in the Wall, now called the British Gate, and found ourselves at our destination. The place in question is a fine stretch of ground, about one and a half mile long and from seventy to one hundred yards broad, with splendid grass and a few natural hazards, and we decided to make an eighteen-hole course eventually, though we may start with nine or twelve holes.

16th September.—Was out at the golf course early this morning, and breakfasted at the 1st Sikhs' mess. Unfortunately nothing had been done in the way of getting a green-keeper, so we only planned out the links, making an eighteen-hole course, and very fair it ought to be when we get the green made.

17th September.—Up again at 5.30 and down to the golf course, where we got some holes cut and some tee boxes in position. I then went and saw about taking a house in the British quarter of the Imperial City. I am getting a large and good one, far better than my present abode. After tiffin I was out again, and have to-day spent about six hours in the saddle. No news of the Lu-ho-chia's party so far; two Boxers out of seven caught by our men tried to strangle themselves, and made a fearful row about it.

Sept. 30, 1900

SIEGE OF PEKING LEGATIONS 217

I am leaving Peking in a few days, and am glad to say that I have got the golf course fairly started, and it is a very good one—for North China. I only hope it will prosper; if it does I shall have the pleasing recollection of having introduced at least one branch of civilisation into Peking.

Five Golf Courses in Peking

I. British Legation Golf Club 1900

West City Course (Maliandao) 1900

II. Peking Golf Club 1914

Andingmen Course 1910

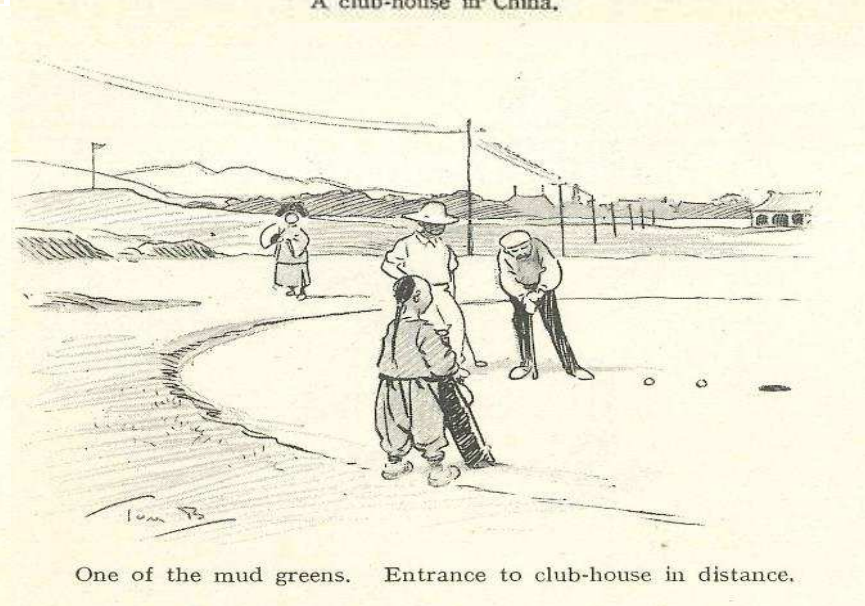
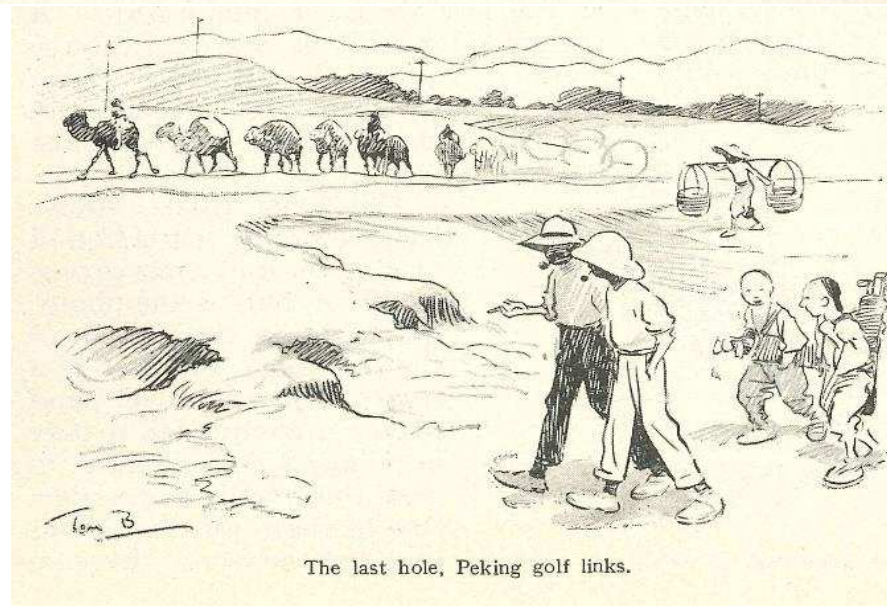
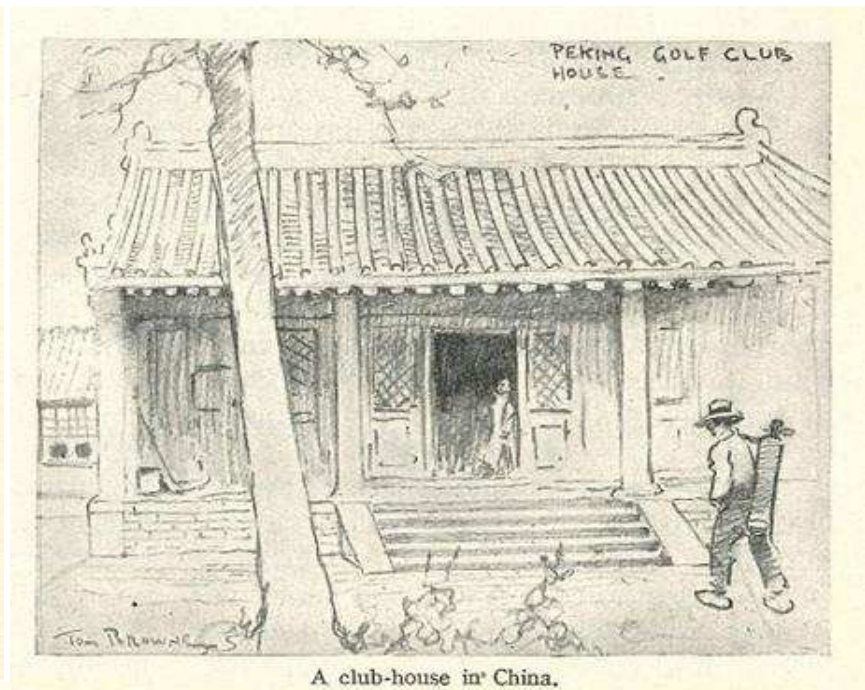
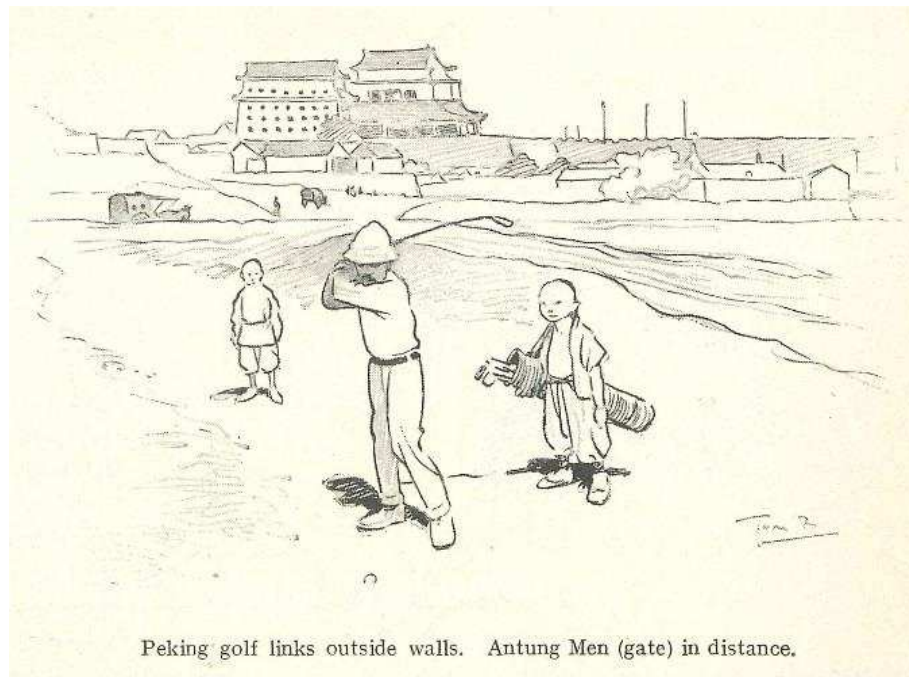
III. Peking Golf and Country Club 1920

Tiancunshan Golf Course 1920

IV. Peiping Golf Club 1924

Paomachang Course & GC 1924

V. Nanyuan Golf Course 1926



**Andingmen Golf Course Bernard Darwin: *Golf in the Far East*,
CB Fry's Magazine, January 1910**

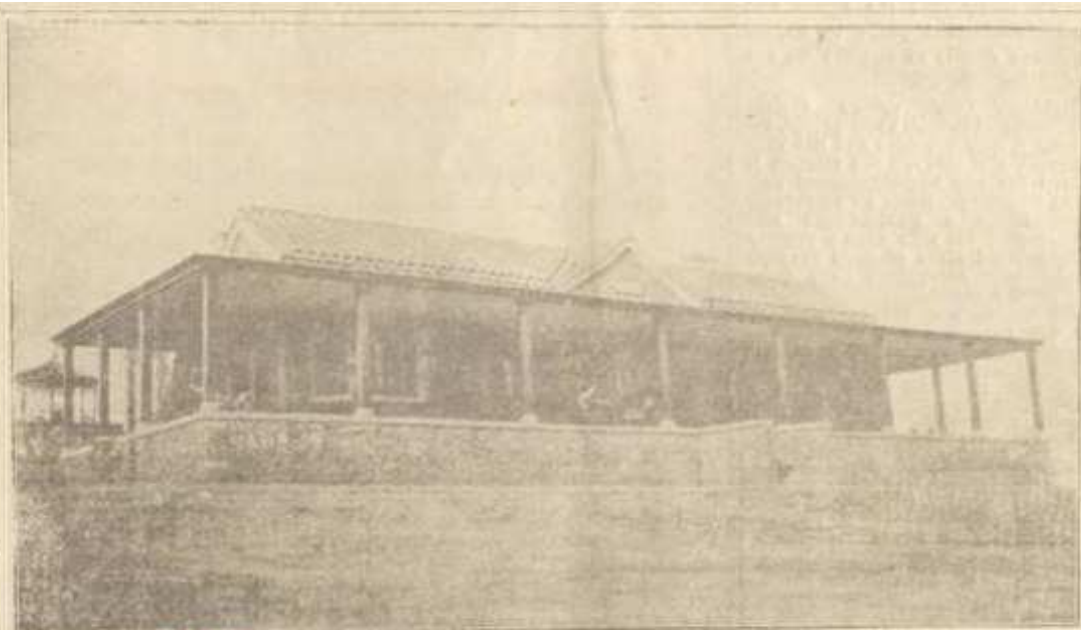


At The Peking Golf Club Opening Last Sunday.



A Scene On The Green

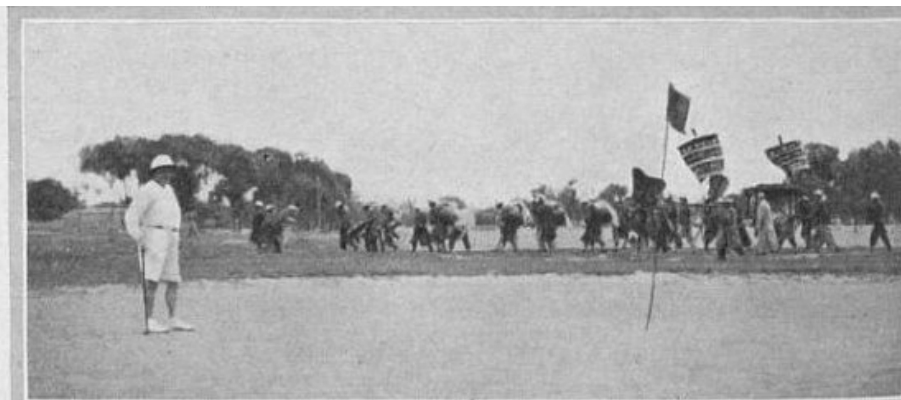
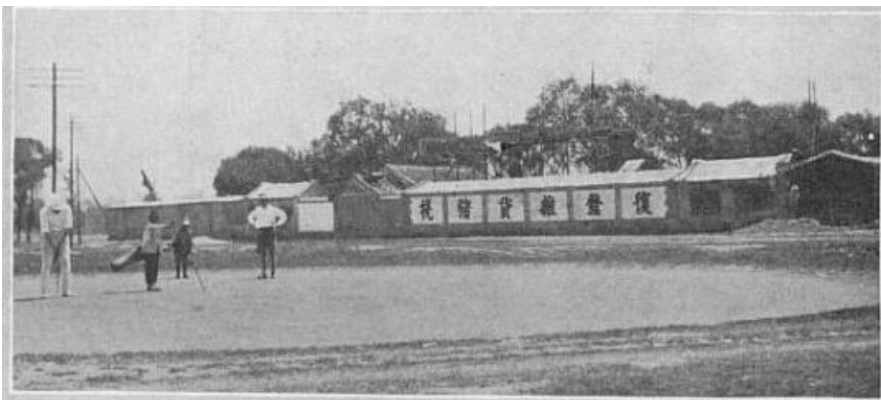
Opening Day, Oct. 17, 1902
North China Standard



The new Golf Club House at Tien Shun Shan, which will be formally opened to-day, when a match is expected with 8 of Tientsin's best golfers.

Tien Shuen Shan Club House
North China Standard

Tiancunshan Golf Course
(Tien Shuen Shan
Tian Village Hill)
Peking Golf and Country Club



GOLF ON THE PAOMACHANG COURSE AT PEKING: THE SECOND GREEN (L.) AND A PAUSE WHILE A WEDDING PROCESSION PASSES THE THIRD.

Our pictures were taken on the nine-hole Paomachang course outside the West Wall of Peking City. The "greens" there are of hard mud rolled flat, with a dressing of finely sifted soil. They are very true and in every way satisfactory until the wind arises or a dust storm blows, but then——! One of our illustrations shows a player pausing while a country wedding procession is passing by, the bride's sedan chair being seen just behind the decorated "umbrellas." In addition to such sights, soldiers at drill, strings of camels, herds of pigs and sheep, rickshas and coolies are daily incidents on the course. In spite of this the Peking golfers, consisting of British, American, Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Danish and other players get their game and enjoy it thoroughly.

Paomachang Golf Course 1924

Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News. July 28, 1928



Frank Dorn
*The Map of
Old Peking
Folklore*
1936

THE Nan Yuan Golf Course in Peking was opened on January 17, making the third links in Peking. The course at present numbers nine holes but arrangements have been already started to enlarge it to 18.

North-China Herald, January 30, 1926

Members of the Peking Golf and Country Club were invited by the committee of the International Recreation and Race Club to attend the opening of the Nan Yuau Golf Course. The advent of this new course, the third in Peking, is indicative of the rising popularity of the game.

London & China Express, April 4, 1926

later that this type of English beer was of the variety known as "Ginger."

China-Then and now

THE story of a different kind of stranger in a foreign land is told in *Peking* by Peter Lum, who, despite her Christian name, is an American woman.

She first went to live in China as a child in 1922. With complete detachment, she writes here mainly about *Peking* as she knew it 30 years ago and as it is to-day under Communism.

Every dog there, she tells us, must carry its licence around its neck. Instead of calling a male servant "boy," as used to be the case, he must now be addressed as "comrade."

When a caddy at the *Peking Golf Club* was accidentally struck by a ball, the secretary was brought before a high official of the police and "educated" for

several hours on the evils of capitalism and class distinction.

Another innovation is "the all-girl train," on which the entire staff, some armed with revolvers, is feminine. Miss Lum thought that the girls were efficient and particularly conscious of hygiene.

No doubt about it being clean: on the three-hour run to Tientsin the girls must have come through the cars eight or nine times and swept them out so thoroughly that you had to lift your feet to avoid having them swept away too.

The only strong objection that could be taken, it seems, to this train was that the loud speakers in the carriages could not be turned off or lowered in volume: passengers, therefore, were constantly hearing the Chinese National Anthem and being told that they must not spit on the floor.

Reminiscences of Beer War

IT seems a long way from

Belfast Telegraph, May 8, 1958

Heiping Golf Club

THANK YOU!

1934