

The Road to Exile

The Dalai Lama Arrives in India (1959)



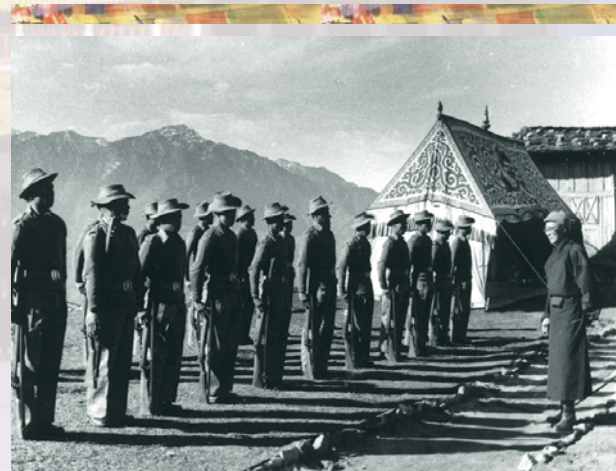
On March 31, 1959, the Dalai Lama crossed the Indian border near Chuthangmu



On the way to Bomdila accompanied by the Assam Rifles

After an uprising of the Tibetan population against the Chinese occupiers in Lhasa on March 10, 1959, the Dalai Lama decided to leave Tibet and take refuge in India.

On March 31, 1959, the Dalai Lama entered India via the Assam Rifle post at Chuthangmu, near Ziminthang, north of Tawang.



A Guard of Honour by the Assam Rifles in Tawang



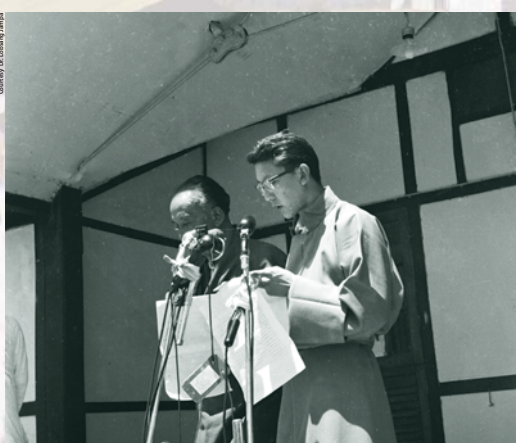
The Dalai Lama received by Har Mander Singh, the Political Officer in Bomdila, and other Indian officials

Two weeks later, the Dalai Lama issued a statement in Tezpur, Assam: "The Dalai Lama is extremely grateful to the people and Government of India for their spontaneous and generous welcome as well as the asylum granted to him and his followers."

He added: "India and Tibet have religious, cultural and trade links extending over a thousand years and for Tibetans it has always been the land of enlightenment, having given birth to Lord Buddha."



The Dalai Lama resting on the road to Bomdila



The Dalai Lama's Tezpur Statement being read out (April 17, 1959)



P.N. Menon, a former Indian Consul General in Lhasa received the Dalai Lama in Bomdila



The Indian Political Officer and his wife with the Dalai Lama in Bomdila