

SPORT  
IN THE  
EASTERN SUDAN

FROM SOUAKIN TO THE  
BLUE NILE

BY  
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(INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE)

WITH MAP

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"THE JUNGLE" 167 PICCADILLY, W.  
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alternative shot is the broadside one through the heart. This is the shot that I should prefer in the case of any other animal of which I have actual experience, except the hippopotamus. However, I was told that the elephant has this peculiarity, that shots through the lungs, liver, and other vital organs seem to have very little effect upon it, so that the heart-shot requires as careful aiming as the brain-shot, and that the heart lies one-third up the thickness of the body, exactly where the edge of the ear at rest touches the side.

Elephants are, I believe, always scarce upon the Rahad; but on the Dinder and Blue Nile I was told that they were fairly numerous at certain seasons, that is to say mainly in the early part of the cold weather, when they had not been much harried since the rains. I was also told that in those parts they travelled immense distances after drinking, fully twenty miles in some cases, and that it was essential that the sportsman and his retinue should be mounted. This was the more necessary as the entire herd might charge *en masse* on detecting danger, when the only chance of escape would be to ride one's hardest.

The rhinoceros is, I believe, only found upon the portion of the Dinder above the Galegu junction, which I did not visit, and as it may not be shot at all in the Eastern Sudan, I will say no more on the subject.



The hippopotamus is now very scarce in the Atbara and Settit, and should be more strictly preserved in those rivers if it is not to disappear altogether. It does not occur at all on the Rahad, but there are a few in the Dinder and a considerable number in the Blue Nile. The pursuit of this animal is unattended with danger, and the trophies are too bulky to tempt accumulation. Fortunately, I secured two entire head-trophies, with the hides and feet, and not a particle of the meat was wasted by the Arabs. As the animal invariably passes the day in the water, often within easy reach of the shore, the brain-shot is almost always taken. This lies about four inches below the centre of the line joining the eye with the orifice of the ear. Shot in the brain it sinks at once, to rise some four hours later, when the sportsman may calculate on spending fully three days attending to the trophies and drying the meat.

The buffalo is generally held to be the most dangerous of African game, and I have been accounted fortunate in my experiences, both in India and Africa. The bulls that I have measured in the Eastern Sudan were small among buffaloes, say 13 hands in height, but exceedingly massive, and of a weight of some 1200 lb. Buffalo are to be found in small parties on the Settit, from Hagar ul Zuruk upwards. None exist upon the Atbara. There are a few upon the Rahad above the inhabited tract