

A
MAN
CALLED
LION

by
Peter Hathaway Capstick

Artwork by
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rately because there are several other rifles throwing bullets of round about 300 grains, which are definitely not powerful enough.)

Of course, the smallest rifle used in the African bush, the .256 (6.5 mm), when loaded with bluff-nosed solids, is capable of killing the largest rhino or elephant, for that matter, in all of Africa, provided the elephant or rhino is sufficiently obliging to expose a vital spot. That, nonetheless, is a very different thing to stopping a charge at a range of only a few feet, when it may be a physical impossibility to place your bullet in the brain. A knock-down blow is essential, absolutely essential, and only a heavy bullet can definitely be relied upon to inflict it. Although there is a slight difference between them all on paper, for all practical purposes of sport there is nothing whatever to choose between the various cartridges in the .450, .465 and .470-bore groups, save only on the question of chamber pressure. On this score, the .450 No. 2, .465 and .470 have the advantage. Ejectors are not necessary for rhino.

Let me assure anybody who has not tried it, that rhino hunting in thick bush is a really fine sport, always provided that you are suitably armed.

PONDORO

"RHINO IN THICK BUSH" To the Editor of *Game & Gun*

Sir,—In your issue for August, 1937, you published an article of mine on "Rhino in Thick Bush," wherein I rather condemned the use of a magazine rifle for this particular sport, owing principally to the design of the safety on all powerful magazine rifles. They cannot be swung into action as rapidly as can a double when a quick and unexpected shot is called for. Some time after I had posted that article, however, I decided to experiment with one of my magazines and see if there was any way in which it could be carried so that a really quick shot would be possible. I

chose my Holland .375 Magnum for the experiments and discovered that it is possible to carry a magazine rifle ready for almost instantaneous use and with perfect safety. Doubtless magazine enthusiasts will have known of it long ago. For the benefit of those who may not, I mention it for what it is worth.

You carry the rifle with the finger piece of the safety in the vertical position instead of over to the right. In this position the rifle cannot be fired, so that there is no fear of blowing your tracker's head off. If a sudden chance is offered or a quick shot required to stop an unexpected charge, your thumb, lying alongside the right-hand side of the safety, just presses sideways and the safety flops over to the firing position on the left. The thumb follows it and gets into the normal position on the grip. With a little practice this operation can be performed quite easily and quickly and enables the shot to be made with the minimum of delay, far more quickly than if the safety is carried in the normal position on the right of the action. If carried as I suggest, the safety can be pressed down into the firing position while the rifle is actually on its way up to the shoulder. It therefore compares favorably with the double, though I should always recommend the double in preference to the magazine for this particular form of somewhat specialized hunting.

J.H. TAYLOR
Portuguese East Africa

