



VITAL SHOTS ON THE ELEPHANT

Plate 1

THE DANGER SIGNAL, EARS PRICKED, TRUNK ALERT.  
THE TWO FRONTAL SHOTS HAVE BEEN ROUGHLY SHOWN BY RINGS DRAWN ON THE  
PHOTOGRAPH.

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VOLUME XIV

## BIG GAME SHOOTING IN AFRICA

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With one hundred & fifty  
ILLUSTRATIONS



pp. 1-445

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Another hour passed before I had a chance of firing at the coveted beast. As the rifle rang out without warning a tuskless bull plunged violently forward and then ran amok, ears out and trunk extended. He charged madly to and fro like a beast bewitched, among the boulders, casting up a shower of grass and stones. There was a slight breeze blowing and probably fitful whiffs of man-tainted air which reached him through clefts in the rocks coupled with the sound of the shot had demoralized him, as he tried to locate us, blundering madly this way and that.

The panic spread and for some time frustrated any attempt to get a clear view and aim at my special quarry, but when at length success came, he proved to be a good specimen with tusks of  $97\frac{1}{2}$  and 92 pounds.

In the museum at my home it is my good fortune to be able to show the record tusks shot by a white man, and the tallest Elephant yet brought out of Africa, but any vainglory is soon brought down to earth when I am asked for the story that goes with each, for it is a record, not of good, but of exceedingly bad shooting.

## THICK-SKINNED DANGEROUS GAME (Continued)

### CHAPTER SEVEN

pp. 113-118

#### RHINOCEROS

By A. C. KNOLLYS AND D. D. LYELL

**T**HERE are two distinct species of this animal, the "White" (*Rhinoceros simus*), and the "Black" (*Rhinoceros bicornis*), but this nomenclature is misleading, as actually there is very little difference in the colour. The chief difference lies in that the White is slightly the larger beast, subsists mainly upon grass and has a wide square mouth. The White species is reputed to be far less pugnacious than his half-brother and the range of his habitat is much more local. The White Rhino is now a great rarity and is strictly preserved wherever he exists.

*Black Rhinoceros.*—Among the big game of Africa the Black Rhino is still one of the most widely distributed races. From Abyssinia and the Sudan in the north to south-east of the Zambezi in the south, it stretches across westward wherever the country is suitable, from Northern Nigeria and the Cameroons down to Angola. At the present time it is probably most numerous in Kenya Colony in the neighbourhood of Voi and Tsavo and in parts of Tanganyika.

In Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia it has always been a rather shy animal, keeping away from the haunts of man; consequently in those countries it can usually be obtained only by following its spoor.

The Black Rhino feeds mostly on thorns, and like all game, especially in the hot dry season, he drinks nightly, so it is not difficult to pick up his spoor and follow him to his resting place which, in Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia, is usually in the hills. Unlike the Elephant, which generally sleeps standing, the Rhino lies down, although I have seen one asleep when on his legs.

As he makes for his daytime haunts he feeds as he goes along, and it is wonderful how he manages to get nutriment out of the hard and dry thorns he consumes, for although I am sure I have seen grass in his droppings he is certainly not a grazing animal by habit. The natives are certainly as much afraid of him as they are of the Elephant, although in the opinion of most hunters he is classed as the least dangerous of all the larger game. He is easy to kill with a small bore, with, of course, solid bullets; and the best place to hit him is low through the shoulder. A shot in the centre of his short neck is quite effectual, or if he is standing half turned away, low behind the ear will brain him. As a rule he dies quickly; but when incorrectly hit he will take quite a number of bullets to finish him, which applies to all game of any species.

A point to be remembered with all game which has to be spooed up,

is, that a very early start is essential, so the hunter should be away as the sun tips the horizon. This is even of importance when one goes out chance hunting, for early in the morning Antelopes, and game such as Buffaloes will be found in the open dambos (valleys).

The sun begins to get stronger as time goes on, and about 3 p.m. is the hottest time. Then all game will be in cover for the shade, except purely game of the plains, which will often go to clumps of trees, ant-hills or high grass to get shelter from the sun.

In the dry season, often called the cold season in South Central Africa, the temperature can be quite nippy at dawn, and for an hour or so afterwards, so an old tweed jacket is quite useful. I always had the heel of my rifles finished in wood and no iron heelplate, which makes one's hands bitterly cold at such an hour and becomes burning hot in the sun.

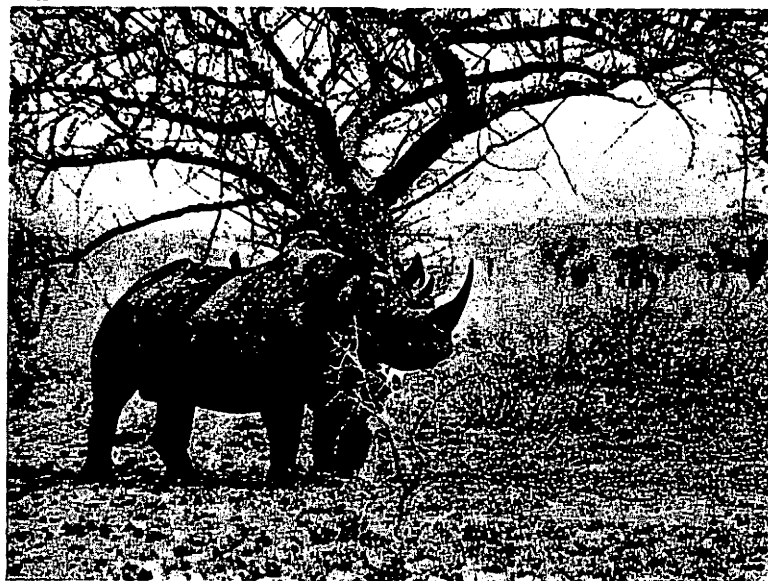
The main point in hunting Rhino is to keep the wind right, for he is a keen-scented animal. His eyesight and hearing are bad, and he is an excitable beast, which accounts for his strange behaviour in East Africa where he sometimes charges through a line of porters. He does this to get above the wind for he dislikes the smell of human beings, and his behaviour on such occasions is not due to ferocity, but to fear, and his dislike of the taint of mankind. Of all the larger game he keeps furthest away from the habitations of man. In East Africa instead of being a plains-loving animal as formerly, constant persecution is, I believe, making him more of a bush-dweller. In this way he may succeed in his struggle for survival. A good average horn will be about 20 inches on the front curve in South Central Africa, and one of 28 inches would, nowadays, be quite good in Kenya.

The probable reasons for the very different opinions as to the risks of shooting Rhino is that the nature of the beast itself differs according to locality. In the Baringo district, for example, I found them particularly pugnacious, while in French Equatorial Africa they would try to beat a retreat even when startled by sudden approach. When wounded the beast will often revolve in a circle before dashing madly away or dropping dead. Should it bear down on the sportsman it is wiser to try and turn it by a shot, for if it catches sight of a flying figure it will often take up the chase like a terrier after a rat.

A full-grown male stands upwards of five feet at the shoulder and weighs over a ton. It is almost incredible how an animal of that size can manage to get any nutriment from the dry hard thorns which comprise its food, and which account for its prevalence in the dense thorn bush of Kenya.

It is local in its habits and does not wander very far from one place. While water is apparently not a daily necessity it will drink every day—or rather by night—if possible, and will be therefore found usually in the vicinity of a river or water hole.

The Black Rhino is piglike both mentally and physically and little or no provocation is required to make it take the offensive. On at least one occasion in the earlier days of the Kenya-Uganda railway it charged an approaching train, meeting it obliquely near the front portion. As might be supposed the train got the better of the encounter and knocked the Rhino over. Nothing daunted, however, the enraged beast got on to his legs and made a second attack, with the same result, when, thoroughly disgruntled, he limped off into the bush.



#### BLACK RHINOCEROS

Plates 16—17

Top. THE BLACK CIRCLES INDICATE THE NECK AND HEART SHOTS.  
Bottom. A BLACK RHINO IN KENYA. NOTE THE TICK BIRDS.

It is the unexpectedness of the attack, invariably made at close quarters, which makes it so deadly. As, however, its range of eyesight, like that of an Elephant, is limited to from thirty to forty yards it is generally fairly easy to avoid these attacks, provided the sportsman keeps his head, and is agile.

The moment a Rhino gets your wind its head and tail go up to the accompaniment of a loud grunting snort. For its bulk it is extraordinarily quick on its feet and covers the ground at a great speed.

A cow with a calf is an exceptionally dangerous animal, and in approaching a Rhino the utmost care should be taken to spot it before it discovers you, a difficult matter in the dense country in which it is usually found.

It is quite a habit for a Rhino when seeking its daytime resting place to turn back parallel and to leeward of its trail before it lies down, and the hunter must always be on the alert for such a contingency when following its spoor.

Black Rhino are as fond as the White species of wallowing in mud or rolling in dust, which gives their hides a variety of shades, from grey to red. Like the White race they resort to one spot to drop their dung and then kick it about, so that the bushes near are sprinkled with it.

When on the move, the precedence of a family party reverses the order accepted by the White Rhino. With the Black variety the bull leads, the cow follows, and the calf brings up the rear.

#### BLACK RHINOCEROS HUNTING

By MAJOR P. H. G. POWELL-COTTON

In the Baringo district Rhino were both numerous and aggressive, and the tale is told that before the days of the railway one of them charged a line of prisoners laden with the baggage of an official. The unfortunate men, who were chained by the neck, were unable to take flight, and several of them met their death.

When I was in that part of the country many years ago it was no unusual thing for the safari to cast down their loads and scatter in all directions as a beast, resentful of the scent of man, bore down on them unawares, snorting its disgust.

This was provoking enough when one still had the right to shoot, but after securing the two Rhino permitted on his licence, a sportsman had no other course but ignominiously to take to his heels with the men who, quite unmoved by any explanation of government prohibition, smiled and marked him down as a faint-hearted hunter.

With my second Rhino we had a lively encounter. In the first glow of dawn we had set out from camp, east of the lake, in pursuit of Giraffe, and soon picked up some fresh tracks that led us over a low hill. From its brow a fine view opened out below us, across a wide plain teeming with herds of game—Zebra, Eland, Oryx, Granti, Ostrich, Rhino and Giraffe, feeding or roaming at will over its fertile stretches of grassland.

On our homeward trail, after a day of disappointment, the men and I, hot and weary, were enjoying visions of the pleasant camp to which we

were returning, when abruptly our dream was dissipated by the sight of two Rhino standing in thin thorn some two hundred yards from our line of march. If we advanced they could not fail to get our wind, and to circle them meant a long detour, so when the glasses revealed that one had a good horn, I decided to try and secure it as the second Rhino of my permit, if possible.

Leaving men and mule behind me, I managed to move forward to within one hundred yards, although it was plain that the beasts were apprehensive, from their uneasy turnings this way and that. Aim was awkward through the thorn trees, and as my shot for the shoulder rang out, both Rhino simultaneously dashed in my direction, one rather wide, the other straight for me, blood and foam oozing from its lips, and spraying from its distended nostrils. The bullet had evidently struck the lungs. Another failed to stop it, and while I was beating a hurried retreat, reloading as I ran, a quiver of the ground and an infuriated snort close to my ear made me leap to one side. Swinging round I poured both barrels at the beast's shoulder at a distance of two or three yards, and swerving past me it transferred its interest to Bedoni, my gun-bearer, who had followed me and was now dodging behind some thorn trees. Deliberately the beast gave chase: the man flew for his life, doubling from side to side, while I sprang forward to try and divert its attention from his speeding figure.

To my consternation I then saw the second gun-bearer, a most erratic shot, raising his rifle, from which I knew Bedoni was quite as likely to get the bullet as the Rhino. My shout of protest was too late; the report rang out, but mercifully the shot went aground, while at the same moment Bedoni lost his footing and fell just in front of the beast which blundered onwards straight over his outstretched form. His teeth were chattering and his wrist was badly bruised by the animal's foot, but otherwise there was no sign of damage, and in a few moments we were steadied enough to look for our quarry lying motionless close by.

Nothing seemed to stir the quiet spirit of my old mule, a lover of the contemplative life, who was obviously far on the road to invulnerability. She was quietly standing close to the scene of the disturbance, just as I had left her, with a tolerant expression for all this human pother and agitation.

#### W H I T E   R H I N O C E R O S

The term "White" first applied to Rhino by the Boers of South Africa, is misleading, for while the texture of the skin of *Rhinoceros simus* differs from that of the Black species, the colour of the hide is only a slightly lighter shade of slaty grey. The animal, however, is fond of bathing in mud or rolling in dust, from which it takes on any shade from a deep red to a light grey, that would appear whitish in a strong light.

When at rest the ponderous bulk of the beast may easily be mistaken for an ant-hill of the prevailing colour.

In South Africa, less than one hundred years ago, a traveller in Magaliesberg (North-west Transvaal), counted over eighty White Rhino in one day's march. Now, unfortunately, the sole survivors are said to be some half dozen specimens, which the Natal Government are endeavouring to protect.

The White Rhino is a grass feeder with a wide square mouth as its most distinctive feature, while the narrow-jawed Black type subsists on thorn twigs gathered with its pointed prehensile upper lip.

The White Rhino is only exceeded in bulk by the Elephant, and a fully adult bull standing 5 feet to 5 feet 6 inches would weigh well over a ton.

#### N O R T H E R N   R H I N O C E R O S

(*Rhinoceros simus cottoni*)

For many years European Museums have possessed isolated examples of a square-based Rhinoceros horn said to have come from the north of the Zambezi, but the first definite proof of the beast's existence was a single skull from Lado, which found its way to America in 1900.

Nothing further was heard of the race until my own expedition of 1904-7, when I had the good fortune to bring home a series of skins and skeletons, from which the Northern White Rhino (*Rhinoceros simus cottoni*), was described as a type apart from the Southern, chiefly on the strength of distinctive differences in skull measurements.

The range of this Northern race extends from near Wadelai, on the left bank of the White Nile, northwards into the Bahr-el-Ghazal, and westwards into the Belgian Congo, and the French Colony of the Ubanghi-Chari.

The beasts are now strictly protected throughout, but, under exceptional circumstances, permission may be granted to shoot a single specimen.

At the time of my expedition in the Enclave, the Rhino were very local, and preferred to frequent the outskirts of marshy swamps, five of which existed between Kero and Wadelai on the White Nile. Here they were in the habit of feeding and drinking during the night, but before dawn broke they set out on a four or five hours' trek to thorn scrub, in which to lie up for the day. This habit was most regular in the vicinity of the Belgian posts, where parties of native hunters were often sent out to secure meat for the garrison.

As with Elephants, the older males often seek solitude or the company of one other male, for the greater part of the year, although at times a family party may be encountered with the calf leading the way, guided by the tip of its mother's horn, and the bull bringing up the rear. A Black Rhino family reverses the order of its going, for the bull takes the lead with the cow behind him, while the calf has to follow mother as best it can.

So low do they carry their heads that the front horn is frequently worn flat by friction on the ground, and this habit makes it extremely difficult to judge of the length of the horn.

The brain is so small and so well protected by the horns that a front shot is almost impossible. It is well to aim low behind the shoulder or in the middle of the neck, but when the beast is facing, and a shot cannot be placed inside the shoulder, an aim to break the upper part of the leg is advisable.

A peculiarity of both the White and Black varieties is the custom of resorting to the same spot day by day to deposit their dung, and these middens are a useful record to the hunter in search of fresh tracks.

The White Rhino of my experience does not charge on scent like the

Black, but it is nevertheless well to be wary, for now and then the beast will turn on the hunter with as much ferocity as its Black relation.

Many years ago I secured a good White Rhino bull at Lemasi, in the Lado Enclave, a country of thorn scrub interspersed with wide stretches of open grass, upon which the beasts cropped during the dark.

One April night the stillness was broken by the hungry grunting of a Lion close to camp, and in the early morning we set out in search of tracks. Suddenly we caught sight of a Rhino, stretched at ease, head from us, with a number of Rhinoceros birds moving about its back. To fire at a prostrate animal is unsatisfactory, but the question was how to bring the beast to its feet without disturbing the birds, which we knew would flit up and down the Rhino head at first sign of us, and screech loudly. Fearing that this alarm from its faithful little followers might put the Rhino to instant flight, I calculated the position of its heart as well as possible, and fired as he lay. Two more bullets failed to stop him, and he blundered away, leaving no trace of a blood trail. The men, however, were so certain the first bullet had gone home, that we kept up a three hours' steady pursuit, all through the burning heat of midday, till at last our quarry came in view, standing on guard under a thorn tree.

Two more shots sent him round the bush at a gallop; then he halted, caught a glimpse of us and made a deliberate charge down wind at me. An empty .400 is a bad card for an introduction, so I took to flight in my turn, slipping in a cartridge as I ran. Then a quick turn to place a solid nickel-clad bullet between nostril and horn made the beast swerve a little to thunder heavily past us out of sight. He had scattered us right and left as he charged in between us, hot and dishevelled as we were already by the chase, and now it took a moment or two to regain breath and self-possession.

An ant-hill rose some two hundred yards away, beside which I fancied the beast had halted for a moment. A very cautious approach revealed his unwieldy body lying inert at the far side, and we found that all the shots had met their mark. The square-based horn was unusually massive, and measured  $28\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length.

It was 5.15 before skin and scalp were removed, and porters had arrived from camp, and as night would soon be falling, there was nothing for it but to leave a band of men to bivouac on the spot, while the rest of us tried with uncertainty to retrace the dim outline of the homeward path among the thorn scrub. It was raining slightly and the skies showed signs of impending storm. Suddenly Abdullah, my boy, who was leading, halted, pointed wildly in the gloom, and with a hurried word of warning, vanished from sight, or as it seemed to my startled senses, was transformed into a Rhino whose great bulk had lumbered out of the long grass close across my vision, and stood snorting indignation less than one hundred yards away.

The .400 was pressed into my hand from behind, but peer as I would it was impossible to clearly detach the animal from the surrounding blackness. Nor was I anxious to deal with a wounded Rhino at night, after the morning's agitations.

Motionless we stood, I finger on trigger, the men behind me, while the Rhino faced us, snorting at intervals. Then I slipped into the bush in the hope of making a detour to evade the beast, but it was too dark to pick

one's way through the long grass and scrub, and I had to turn and regain the track.

The next moment a dim shape once more loomed across it, but this time the beast pursued its way and was blotted out in the darkness.

At 9 p.m., wet through and weary, we were glad to reach the friendly shelter of camp, for the thunderstorm had gathered in intensity and the rain was sluicing along the trenches round the tent. Next day it took forty-four willing porters, each with a load of between fifty and sixty pounds of meat, bones, hide and horns on his head, and high hopes of supper in his heart, to transport the carcass of the shot Rhino to camp. The skin had been removed in three pieces, and circles of men squatting round each had to be constantly kept at the task of thinning, while others built a rough platform over charcoal fires. These were to be kept going day and night to hasten the drying, for it was the height of the rainy season, a trying period for such work. Rain frequently started in the night, and at the first patter of it on the tent one had to rush out in pyjamas and supervise the covering of the hides with waterproof sheets.

Daily the skins were removed from the platform and carefully folded then opened out again and replaced, in order to keep the hinges soft enough for subsequent packing.

This specimen has been set up whole by Messrs. Rowland Ward, and can now be seen at the Powell-Cotton Museum, Birchington.

Often, too, especially if one is watching a water hole, there is the interest of seeing creatures seldom met with by day. Perhaps a Porcupine will come close to your ambush, stamping its feet and rattling its quills if it becomes suspicious; once a party of five animals, which I at first took for striped Hyenas, proved to be the quaint little Aard Wolf (*Proteles*); another time a little Genet Cat entered my hiding place, climbed on to my shoulder, and touched my ear with its little cold nose before making a hasty exit.

LEOPARD (*Felis pardus*), Local Name "NIMR."—Throughout the game districts of the Eastern Sudan, Leopards are common, but no animal is stealthier or more secretive in its ways than this beautiful great cat. Rocky hills and thickets of "kitr" thorn near the rivers are favourite strongholds, but wherever game is to be found, or wherever goats and sheep are to be picked up, Leopards will be near at hand. So wary are they, however, that unless one waits for them by a kill or a tethered goat, one may spend months in country where they abound without ever seeing one. I have had the luck to come across four on four consecutive mornings, all of which I killed, and then not had a shot at another for three years. Whether you see any Leopards on a trip or not, you may be certain that many have seen you, and slipped back silently as a shadow into cover while you were still at a distance. They are far from being exclusively nocturnal in their habits, though their peculiar grunting, sawing roar is seldom heard before dusk, and will return to a kill, or creep up to a bleating goat, in full daylight, morning or afternoon.

Their sight and hearing are very keen, but I think their sense of smell is comparatively dull. I have seen them follow a kill which had been dragged out of a thicket on to more open ground, snuffing slowly along the trail with nose to the ground, but I have had them extraordinarily close to me when I was concealed without their detecting me by scent. On one occasion I made a screen of grass tied against sticks, with a loop-hole in it, facing a goat which had been killed, and lay waiting in this during the afternoon. Suddenly a Leopard came right across the opening, and halted there. I could see every hair on his side, and could have stroked him with my hand, but I could not put the Mauser to my shoulder, as he was *within the length of the barrel*. Very slowly I pushed the stock of the rifle behind me, and was trying to align the muzzle for his heart, when he detected the movement, and sprang out of sight with a growl. He never reappeared.

There is a great fascination in watching a Leopard stalk a bait, or return to a kill. Though you may not have taken your eyes off the ground across which the approach must be made, it frequently happens that the animal will be close to you, before your eye picks up the lithe spotted form gliding slowly forward. Always, when you are waiting for a Leopard, and especially when you are on the ground on a level with it, avoid making even the slightest sudden movement. This will almost certainly be detected. If there is a rustle or the snap of a twig behind you, either remain perfectly motionless with your eyes on the bait, or, if you turn your head, let the motion be almost as slow as the hands of a clock. And, when the time comes, the rifle should creep to the shoulder as slowly and gradually as you can raise it.

Through keeping still enough, I have, two or three times in daylight, killed Leopards only 10 or 15 feet from me, though I was not over well

concealed. The "close up" view of them at these distances, before one ends it with a brain shot, is ample reward for a patient and motionless wait.

CHEETAH (*Acinonyx jubatus*), Local Name "FAHD."—Everywhere a much scarcer beast than the Leopard, and rarer in the Eastern Sudan than it is in Kordofan. Indeed, on this side of the country I only met with it twice, both times on the Setit. On the first occasion the late Colonel Collinson, then Governor of the Kassala Province, shot one when we were travelling together; the second I turned out of a thorn bush, over which a climbing vine with a fleshy, hexagonal, jointed stem had formed a dense canopy. Thinking it looked a likely place for a bird's nest, I gave it a kick as I passed, and a Cheetah bolted out of it. He went across the open at a great pace, his long tail waving in the air, and I missed him twice.

ELEPHANT (*Elephas africanus*), Local Name "FIT."—Elephants are still tolerably plentiful on the Blue Nile and its tributaries, while on the Setit there is generally a big herd in the country near the Atbara junction. Their ivory, however, never approaches the weight of big tusks from the Southern Sudan, though the animals themselves are as large as any in Africa.

Requiring, as it does, cool and correct calculation of the position of the vital organs in the animal's huge bulk, as well as steady shooting, often at the closest quarters, and with the giant beasts all about one, some visible and some concealed, Elephant hunting is an exacting test of nerve and presence of mind. Even an old hand feels, as one of the most experienced Elephant hunters of the present day has put it, a thrill "not unmixed with relief when that awesome brooding mass kneels suddenly to the shot."

The most vital shots, and the respective advantages of large and small bore rifles, are dealt with elsewhere.

BLACK RHINOCEROS (*Rhinoceros bicornis*), Local Name "KHERFIT."—The Rhinoceros is now, I am afraid, practically extinct in this part of the Sudan. It is, fortunately, the only animal which has gone off the local list in recent years. The very few which remained at the time of the reconquest of the country were a remnant too small and scattered to save.

BUFFALO (*Syncerus caffer aquinoctialis*), Local Name "GAMUS."—The forms of Buffalo found in different parts of Africa show an extraordinary amount of variation in size, colour, and shape of horns. The great black Buffalo of the Limpopo region, with the bases of the horns forming massive rounded bosses on the forehead, is obviously not identical with the Buffalo of the Dinder, while neither could possibly be confused with the little red Buffalo of the Congo. If all African Buffaloes were as easily distinguishable their division into different races, or "sub-species," would be a simple matter. The trouble is that between, and connecting, such distinct types as these, there are many others, differing from them and from each other much less markedly, and often tending to intergrade. So far the attempts of zoologists to define the differences between these local races can only be regarded as confused and unsatisfactory. More than twenty "sub-species" have been described and named, for no fewer than fifteen of which two naturalists, Matschie (with ten) and Lydekker (with five) are responsible. In separating these far too much importance has been attached to the exact shape of the horns, and the direction of their tips, in the comparatively few specimens examined. Matschie, for instance, gave the



SUDAN (Continued)

CHAPTER FIVE

THE WHITE NILE *pp. 162-167*

By COLONEL J. L. F. TWEEDIE, D.S.O.  
*Sometime District Commissioner*

"A THOUSAND miles of shooting, good and varied sport on both banks, etc." So might run an advertisement on the prospects and pleasures of sport along the Nile south of Khartoum. For nowhere else in the world would it be possible to steam or sail through the heart of a country for such a distance, and so seldom be out of sight of game.

Save for a short and uninteresting tract between Kodok and the mouth of the Sobat, either one or other of the river banks is adjacent to good game country.

The first two hundred miles after leaving Khartoum is a veritable paradise for the wildfowler. It is impossible to convey adequately any idea of the vast throngs of Wild Geese, Duck, Storks, Pelicans and Waders of every sort, which forgather along the shoals and shallows of this desert stretch. When the railway bridge spanning the river above Kosti is reached, the scenery begins to change. Groves of "Sunt" and acacia fringe the banks. Crocodiles lie agape on the mud banks and the silence of the previous nights is broken by the grunting of Hippos.

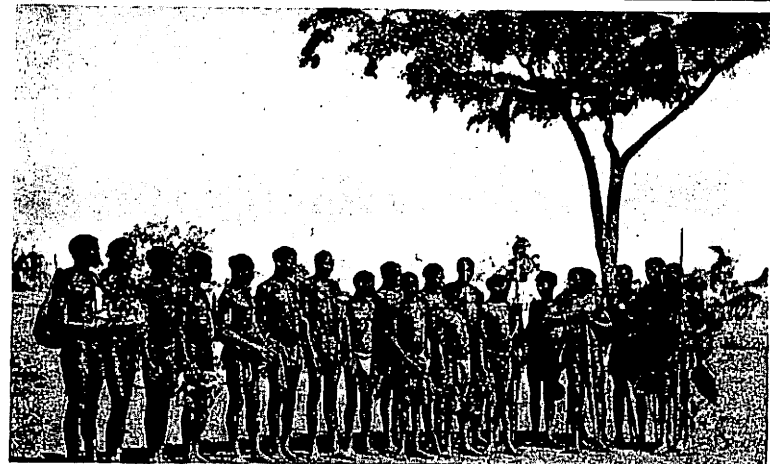
For the next two hundred miles or so the river runs its course through an excellent game country. Passing the Sobat River the Nile takes a westerly bend to Lake No: thence turns south again, traversing the Sudd region as far as Bor, when it again becomes possible to land at one's pleasure, with the prospect of acquiring a pair of first-class tusks, for all this land is famous Elephant country.

By this time the haunts of Buffalo, Roan, Hartebeest (two species), Tiang, Waterbuck, Mrs. Gray's Lechwe, White-eared Kob, Bushbuck, Reedbuck, Red-fronted Gazelle, Oribi, Situtunga, White Rhino have been passed, though, of course, it is extremely improbable that in a single trip warrantable heads of all the above would be added to the bag.

Lion are numerous all along the banks and the nightly concerts are a pleasurable feature of this river journey.

Of all its numerous tributaries the Bahr el Ghazal River is the most important, while the Bahr el Zeraf, though not a tributary, will, owing to the comparatively open nature of the terrain, afford as interesting a stretch as there is in the country.

Along the Bahr el Ghazal Situtunga are fairly numerous but seldom seen and more rarely shot. For one thing it is difficult to pick them up, as their pelts blend so well with the dry grass and tangle of dead papyrus stalks. With the exception of an occasional doe with fawn they feed singly and



WHITE NILE

Plates 31-32

- Top.* GIANT ELAND, T. DERBIANS CONGOLANUS.  
NOTE THE MASSIVENESS OF THE HORNS OF THIS BULL AND THE FOREST COUNTRY HE INHABITS AS AGAINST THE HORNS AND HOME IN THE PLAINS OF THE COMMON ELAND.
- Bottom.* GROUP OF NYAM NYAM NATIVES AT WAU, S. SUDAN.  
FROM SUCH MEN ARE ONE'S PORTERS RECRUITED.





## THE WHITE NILE

Plates 36-37

Top. THE LATE CAPT. F. C. SELOUS HOLDING A GREATER BUSTARD. A PHOTO TAKEN ON HIS TRIP AFTER GIANT ELAND IN THE SUDAN.

Bottom. A GOOD WHITE RHINO. SHOT BY THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND. VERY RARE AND LOCAL, AND STRICTLY PRESERVED. COMPARE THE SQUARE JAW WITH ROUNDER ONE OF THE BLACK SPECIES.

The same thing went on for quite a hundred yards. Every time we got too close he stopped and snarled, and every time he limped along we dogged him. Finally, he reached an old, worn-down ant-hill, and, walking on to the summit, surveyed the horizon. Faced by a burning hot plain and not a scrap of cover, he once more turned towards us with a snarl and his tail began to twitch. "Shoot," said my orderly, "he is going to charge." Now it was neck or nothing. Before he could hope to escape he must shake off his pursuers.

Fortunately for me I found myself standing close to one of those low, evergreen bushes, common to the Sudan, all stalk and thorns, but no leaves. I stepped behind this and took aim. It was no good, I could not keep the sights on his spotted hide, but it was no use hesitating, so I fired. A clean miss. Round he came, a succession of coughing grunts, straight at me. Would he jump the bush or come round? My orderly, stout fellow, held his fire; he quite understood that nothing but dire necessity would justify him in shooting. I was quite cool now. Another miss or failure to shoot dead, meant at the very least a severe mauling. I was determined to wait and blow him off the very muzzle of my rifle. On nearing the bush he turned off slightly to come round it; I leant forward and fired, catching him fair behind the shoulder and he fell dead within a couple of yards of his objective.

Now there is nothing strange in the following up and shooting of a wounded Leopard. The inexplicable part of it lies in the absolutely unprovoked charge with which the proceedings opened.

Thinking it over afterwards, I came to the conclusion that this animal had very possibly lost his fear of man; he may have been cornered and attacked by a native, to find that his innate fear of the species was unwarranted, and that once he got to grips the resistance was nil, and that man was the softest and easiest of victims. Many a man-eater, I am sure, is started on his fell career by a similar experience.

I confess I was annoyed with my orderly for firing his first shot, but the man was perfectly justified in doing so. He could not possibly be expected to wait and see what the Leopard was going to do next after knocking me over. It is only fair that I restate a well-established fact. The Sudanese soldier has his faults, and one is his extreme excitability. He may do the wrong thing, but one thing he will not do—leave his master in the lurch. For sheer staunchness and fidelity they may have been equalled, but they have never been surpassed.

Of White-eared Kob it is unnecessary to speak; they are to be found everywhere. Much has been written on the subject of their coloration. Why should one buck be black and another red, both mature specimens? I can add nothing to explain the mystery.

Both of those famous hunter-naturalists, Abel Chapman and F. C. Selous were puzzled by this variation in colouring.

There is one more species of Kob to be found. Abel Chapman, in his delightful book, *Savage Sudan*, on page 172 mentions the Woodland Kob he found on the south bank of Lake No, "practically all tawny, paler than anything hitherto seen, and devoid of the conspicuously white facial markings." Being uncertain that this Antelope belonged to another species, he refrained from shooting.

H. G. C. Jwayne, Northern Somaliland

pp. 234-235

The wilder Somali tribes south of the Juba River, which is beyond the Webbe Shabeyli, belong to the Northern Frontier of Kenya Colony.

Seasons in North Somaliland are: (1) *Jilal*.—January to April: dry, with great heat on coast. (2) *Gu*.—May, June: the heavier rains, light near the coast. (3) *Haga*.—July, August, September: very hot, with the Kharif wind, or south-west monsoon, blowing furiously; sandstorms in Guban, but cool in the high interior. (4) *Dair*.—October, November, December: the winter light rains, chiefly falling at the coast ranges.

For shooting I recommend May to September inclusive, the high interior being more often green.

Since the "Mad Mullah" was finally disposed of and died in 1919, Aden has mainly come under the Royal Air Force, and officers stationed there, who can now reach most parts of Northern Somaliland in a few hours, they or the officials at Berbera, would probably be the most reliable authorities on the shooting licences, reserved forests, and localities of the game.

Applications should be made to the Secretary to the Government, Berbera.

#### SPECIES OF GAME

**ELEPHANT**, Somali Name "MARODI."—Are practically extinct in British Somaliland, but might now be found at the headwaters of the Webbe Ganana (Juba); or the Webbe Shabeyli; or in the Eastern Ethiopian Hills; and their habitat would be most easily reached by using the Jibuti Railway to Harar, then starting from there with Ethiopian permission. Mounted natives are useful as scouts for locating any herds, but it is noteworthy that Somali Elephants do not generally carry fine tusks.

**BLACK RHINOCEROS** (*Bicornis*), Somali Name "WYIL."—Almost extinct. Formerly penetrated north to Toyo Plains in Ogo. Probably still found in Ogaden.

**GREATER KUDU** (*S. s. chora*), Somali Name "GODIR."—Somali Kudu horns do not generally run longer than 50 inches round the curve. Found in stony hills near bush and water. They are common on Wagar and on Gan Libah in the Golis, and in Libahleh Range, south of Zeyla, but not usually in Haud or Ogaden. Under the rim precipices of Hegebo Plateau, west of Berbera, there were large Kudu, with short horns, which may have been young specimens or perhaps akin to Mountain Nyala.

**LESSER KUDU** (*S. imberbis*), Somali Name "ARREH GODIR."—This beautiful Antelope likes bushy, flat, well-watered valley bottoms. The finest horns, about 28 inches straight, were obtainable near Mandere, under the northern face of Golis Range, but the jungle north of Hargeisa now seems to be better. On the Webbe flats, far inland, Lesser Kudu have smaller horns and long hoofs like these of ordinary Nyala. Yet the record head was shot high up the Webbe, beyond Harar, in Abyssinia.

**HARTEBEEST** (*B. swaynei*), Somali Name "SIG."—Formerly found in open "Ban" Plains of high Ogo in great herds, especially on the Marar Prairie, near the Ethiopian Border.

**ORYX** (*O. beisa*), Somali Name "BEI."—Very wary; found in open bush. Horns about 34 inches for bulls, 2 inches longer for cows. Plentiful in Ogo and Ogaden in small herds. Frequents Bulhar Plain and Jebel

is a herd of five hundred odd on Mount Elgon. There are Elephants on the Aberdares and some on Mount Kenya which, I believe, never descend to the plains. There are a considerable number in the Kerio Valley and Turkana. Some big bulls have been shot, in the past, from all of these herds, and undoubtedly some still remain, but no one wanting heavy ivory would now look for it among them. The bush is the place.

### R H I N O

The distribution of Rhino in Kenya is somewhat similar to that of Elephant: practically identical in the eastern part of the Colony, in fact, but less extensive to the west. Unlike the restless Elephant on his perpetual round of feeding grounds and water holes, Rhino remain year in and year out in their own little patch of bush or forest, and to move a family of them needs considerable and persistent persecution. They have thus suffered more than Elephant by the opening up of the Colony; for they won't move and they won't make friends. They have also suffered more in recent years from native poachers, for they are, of course, easily killed by the bush folk with their deadly poisoned arrows; and the high value and portability of Rhino horn, and the greed of Indian and Arab middlemen have supplied the incentive.

In spite of this, Kenya has still a vast number of these great beasts. They are nowadays found mostly in the thick mountain forests or the equally dense thornbush and sansevieria country; only in the Southern Game Reserve may one commonly expect to find them wandering on the open plains at high noon, as they did of old.

There is a widespread belief among the natives that there are two distinct Rhino in Kenya, a forest and a bush type. It is said that the forest animal has longer legs—to allow him to get over fallen tree trunks which litter the forest paths—that he has a longer horn, and that he is more wary and nervous, and less bellicose. Be that as it may, it is certainly the case that seldom indeed is a long horn seen on a bush animal; while some splendid specimens are found on Mount Kenya and the Aberdares. I know of a 42-inch, a 38-inch, and a 37-inch, all three obtained in those forests not so very long ago, while a 20-inch horn is no bad trophy from a low-country beast.

Anyone wanting to shoot a Rhino can find one in an hour if he chooses his times and seasons, and is content with a moderate trophy. One morning I counted the spoor of over a hundred which had watered during the night along a mile and a quarter of the northern Uaso Nyiro; most of them were away back in their thickets before dawn, but I saw seven still lingering near the banks. But if a fine horn is looked for, you must hunt the forest of West Kenya; and if you get something good, you will have earned it thoroughly.

### B U F F A L O

These animals are found throughout the Colony, quite frequently, even, on farms. In some few places, where they are left undisturbed, they remain in the open for most of the day, caring little, apparently, for the heat of the sun; but for the most part herds retire to dense thickets or forest patches at or soon after dawn, remaining hidden till darkness again falls.

It is no easy matter to say in what part of the Colony the biggest heads

When the Elephant moved we went up the bank, round the bush, and there was our bull, rubbing his tusks in a huge ant-heap within twenty yards of us. It was an easy shot and I put two bullets into his offside shoulder. He went off at high speed downstream, and, having gone about one hundred yards turned to face us, but shortly collapsed and died. Each tusk weighed 47 lbs. And so my last Elephant in Africa.

The story of two Hippo is of interest because they are not always easy to get, nor always good trophies. I was on local leave in that vastly interesting region on the extreme western boundary of the northern province of Tanganyika Territory, where the alkaline lakes are predominant features. We were camped on the banks of a stream flowing to the eastern shore of the largest alkaline lake in the area, Eyassi, quite fifty miles long. It is in desolate, tsetse-fly stricken country, well watered and full of game.

I did not imagine I should get two Hippo so easily. I left camp, still being pitched, and went into the long grass regions near by, but did not expect to shoot anything, as the sun was then well up in the heavens. We got to a Hippo run, and, while standing there, a big bull Hippo came up the run towards us. I waited until he was almost alongside us, when I put a shot into his brain and that Hippo was mine.

I then returned to camp, close by, and, while waiting for lunch and while the carriers were out collecting wood for fires, one porter disturbed two Hippo, which came blundering past our camp on the far side of the stream, which was deep and narrow. I just managed to cross the stream and up the far side bank, when the Hippo appeared in the wide open space at a gallop. We made no mistake and the Hippo went down a little further on.

It was a curious region, very undisturbed, for we saw Rhinoceros in the broad open plain feeding with other game. It is just as well that some places are difficult of access as this part is.

## PART TEN

### NYASALAND

#### CHAPTER ONE

##### GENERAL

By RODNEY C. WOOD

Game Warden

pp 315-320

**N**YASALAND to-day is emphatically a country where quality of trophy, rather than quantity, should be the aim of the hunter. Its animals most worthy of the attention of the true sportsman are most often found in thick bush country or jungle-patches, and their successful hunting will tax all his bushcraft and hunting-lore. Therein lies its charm.

It is poor sport to find animals in hundreds on an open plain, and perhaps after the expenditure of much ammunition at long range, to succeed in bagging a passable trophy of some common Antelope. In Nyasaland, with its dense population, animals really worth hunting can be wary in the extreme; thus the worth of a good trophy when brought to bag, is correspondingly enhanced.

The larger animals are: Elephant, Rhinoceros, Hippopotamus, Buffalo, Nyasaland Gnu, Eland, Kudu, Roan, Sable, Waterbuck, Lichenstein's Hartebeest, Nyala, Impala, Puku, Bushbuck, Reedbuck, Cape Duiker, Nyasa Blue Duiker, Red Duiker, Oribi, Sharpe's Steinbuck, Livingstone's Suni, Klipspringer, Burchell's Zebra, Wart-hog, Bush Pig, Lion, Leopard, Cheetah, Serval, Civet, and other small Cats, Spotted Hyena, Hunting Dog, and Jackal.

Elephant do not run large, very few tuskers now being found over even forty pounds per tusk. During the last few years it has been necessary to institute measures to endeavour to confine all Elephant to certain areas or Game Reserves, so as to give protection to the vast native cultivation of the Protectorate. Results are beginning to show that this may be possible, but there are still many bands of wanderers, mostly cows and calves, sometimes young bulls or even some lone large tusker, that roam over large areas of the country. The visitor is therefore well advised to take out a licence to kill one Elephant (costing only £10), over and above the ordinary game licence, so that he can hunt one of these big tuskers, if met with. The licence fee is refunded if no shot is fired at any Elephant during the time of its validity.

Rhinoceros are very scarce in most districts, though still to be found in several of the more remote parts of the country, such as in the Dowa and Kota-Kota districts. They are protected, but one may be obtained on a

visitor's full licence or on a special licence, the latter costing £10 but issued only on certain conditions.

Hippopotamus are numerous in Lake Nyasa, but usually their hunting is very difficult owing to their predilection for dense reedbeds in which they hide themselves throughout the day. On moonlight nights they may often be seen among the lake-shore rice gardens or other cultivation near by. They are also found sparingly in the larger rivers.

Of the Antelopes and other animals certain species are very local in distribution, but if time is no object to the hunter, he can be certain of obtaining heads of nearly all. A few notes on some of the more interesting may not be amiss.

The Nyasaland Gnu is now very rare indeed, being only found occasionally in one small locality by Lake Chilwa on the borders of Portuguese East Africa, from where they undoubtedly come over. Probably none are actually resident within our borders throughout the year. This animal may now only be shot on a Governor's licence, granted solely for scientific purposes.

Lion and Leopard are very numerous, and even in quite settled and civilised districts are common. The former are great wanderers, ranging in and out of large areas, doing little harm to man or domesticated animals where game is plentiful, but often becoming a terrible scourge where wild game is scarce and they are forced to raid cattle or even turn man-eaters. Hardly a year passes without man-eating breaking out in one district or another, so Lion have to be classed as vermin in a thickly populated country such as this, and may be shot without licence. Leopard generally stay where there are hills and mountains. Although they sometimes do damage to calves not properly tended and to native goats, thus bringing upon themselves the execration of the community, it is probable that in reality they do much more good than harm, as their favourite foods are Baboons, Monkeys, and Bush Pig, all of which are a scourge of cultivation throughout the country. The records of them attacking man are very few, and in such cases it is always subsequently shown that they were molested first in some way. Although they are still classed as vermin, it is the writer's opinion that they are definitely beneficial, and the person who kills and traps them on all occasions (actually in almost all cases for the sake of their skins, although one is generally told that it was done for the sake of the local natives!), is doing a serious harm to the production of crops in that locality.

The Cheetah has so far only been found in the Central Province of Angoniland. Even there it is seldom seen, but may be more numerous than is believed at present, as it is nearly always confused with the Leopard by the natives, and called by the same name. Its true local native name is "kakwio" (Chichewa dialect). This part of the country is characterized by the open rolling plains, with large "dambos" or vleis and scrubby bush, which suit its methods of hunting by sight, whereas in the thick forests it is never found.

Spotted Hyena run very large, the writer having obtained one male near Chiromo weighing 172 pounds. In certain places, such as the south-eastern side of Lake Nyasa among others, they sometimes attack natives who are travelling and sleeping in the open, often inflicting very serious bites, and are in general far less timid than in other parts of Africa. The

writer has known one dash in among over twenty men sleeping round camp fires in close proximity to his tent, actually falling over a tent-rope twice within a few minutes, despite burning brands being thrown at it on the first occasion, and finally creating absolute pandemonium in the camp until shot at and thus frightened off.

Burchell's Zebra are nowhere very numerous though often seen in Angoniland and in the Lower River districts. They are entirely harmless to man and crops and are protected, shooting of a specimen being only permitted for scientific purposes under a Governor's licence.

Eland, Kudu, Bushbuck, and Nyala are the four animals whose horn trophies are unexcelled by any other country. Without quoting actual records of each, it may be stated that bull Eland heads are frequently found over 32 and occasionally over 34 inches. Kudu exist in numbers over 54 and frequently over 56 inches. Of Bushbuck practically all the finest known heads have come from Nyasaland, from 18 to 21 inches, and heads over 16 inches are fairly numerous, while over 14 inches are common.

Nyala stands in a class by itself. In our borders it is only known to exist in two localities, near Chiromo and near Chikwawa. In both places their numbers are very limited and Government has wisely proclaimed their breeding-haunts as Game Reserves. But animals are often found at certain seasons outside the boundaries of these reserves. One bull is allowed to be shot on a visitor's full licence, at any place outside the Game Reserves. There is therefore a reasonable chance of obtaining one provided the hunter has ample time to persevere. It becomes then a matter of sheer good hunting, unless Fate is exceptionally kind in the way of luck. The writer knows of one visitor who obtained a really good head within two or three hours of arriving on the scene of their haunts, whereas in his own case week-ends were spent regularly for two years, before the chance of making an instant kill came along. Parts of thirty-two animals had been seen up to then, but none offered the certainty of the shot that drops the animal where it stands. Then the thirty-third was found where expected, one morning at dawn, but only after experience and observation had taught the hunter the secret of one of their habits that makes the finding of one a certainty. To wound one in the jungles in which they live is to lose it in almost all cases, so the greatest care has to be taken to obtain a dead shot. The chance shot "in hopes" is simply criminal at all times, but in particular perhaps against in the case of this very rare and little-known animal. There is a most marked disparity between the sizes of the sexes, the females being hardly any bigger than a female Bushbuck, whereas the bulls are half-way in size between a Bushbuck and Kudu. With their long fringes of shaggy hair and white spots and stripes, the bulls are truly magnificent animals. The cows are chestnut-red and hornless. A good head runs between 27 and 31 inches and is the "trophy of all trophies" from this country.

(An account of Nyala hunting will be found in the next section.)

Nyasaland can be reached by train from Beira, and during the dry season, from April to November, by motor road from Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, via Tete on the Zambezi River. There is also an all-weather road from Fort Jameson in Northern Rhodesia, which runs through Fort Manning, Lilongwe, Dedze, and Ncheu to Zomba and Blantyre. In the

## NORTHERN RHODESIA (Continued)

### CHAPTER TWO pp. 330-334

#### THE GAME OF NORTHERN RHODESIA

By DENIS D. LYELL.

**E**LEPHANT (*Elephas africanus*).—A tall lanky race often reaching 11 feet at the shoulder. Seldom grow tusks over 70 pounds and a 50-pounder is a good one. The record pair from this territory was shot some years ago by Mr. F. H. Melland, and measured 7 feet 9 inches and 7 feet 7 inches and weighed 119 and 110 pounds. The ivory is usually of "soft" quality. Owing to the killing of the larger bulls the females are in a great majority. Like Elephants in other parts of Africa, the herds are given to raiding the native gardens and do much damage.

**BLACK RHINOCEROS** (*Rhinoceros bicornis*).—Fairly common in wild and hilly country. The best frontal horn I have heard of measured 30½ inches and one much over 20 inches is a good specimen. There are no White Rhinoceros in Northern Rhodesia.

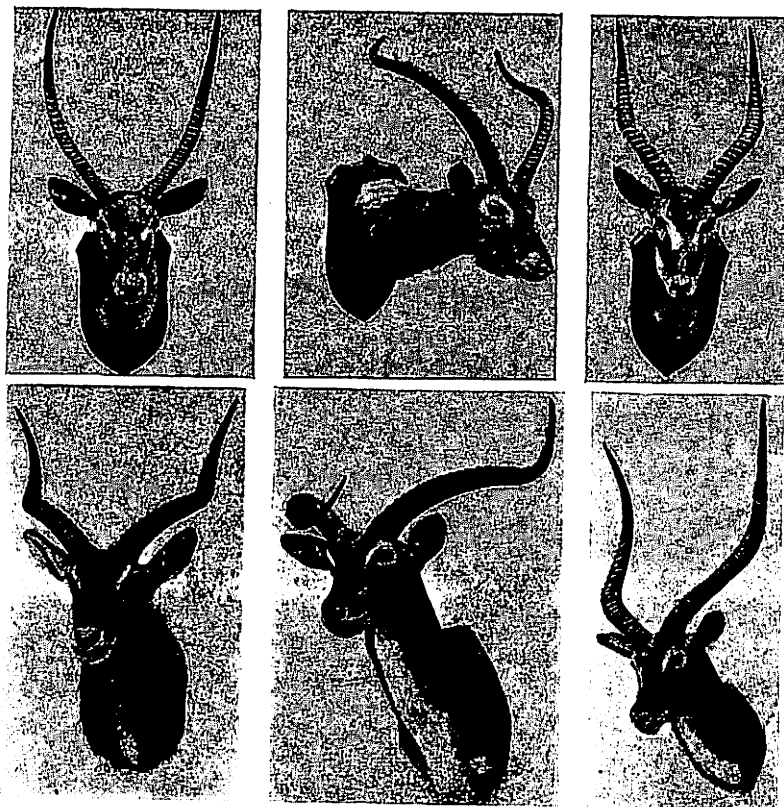
**HIPPOPOTAMUS** (*Hippopotamus amphibius*).—Plentiful in all the large rivers and lakes, and often raid the native fields. A good length along the curves of the canine teeth is 30 inches and for the straight incisors 18 inches. I once saw a skull with three incisors in it.

**BUFFALO** (*Synceros caffer*).—Numerous in really wild localities and are sometimes found in large herds. The oldest bulls sometimes consort together apart from the cows. The best horns I have heard of, were 49 inches outside width. Any head measuring 40 inches with a palm of 10 inches is good. The old bulls wear down the points of their horns greatly.

**ELAND** (*Taurotragus oryx*).—The largest species of Antelope in Africa. Sometimes stands 6 feet at the shoulder. Females often have the longest horns, but they are, of course, thinner. A good male head will be 28 inches on the straight. The best I have heard of was 37 inches.

**ROAN ANTELOPE** (*Hippotragus equinus*).—Extremely plentiful in most parts. The colour is usually a reddish roan, though the older animals often have a blue tinge. The heads here do not seem as good as in other territories, where it exists. Anything near 28 inches on the curve is good. The meat of the Roan is fair eating.

**SABLE ANTELOPE** (*Hippotragus niger*).—Smaller in body than the Roan, but grows a much finer head. Like that species, both sexes bear horns. The record for Northern Rhodesia is 52½ inches, and any head from 40 to 42 is better than the average. As in the Roan, naturalists divide the species into several races and the Angolan variety has horns up to 64 inches on the curve, which is immense. This is due, I believe, to phosphates in the feed.



Plates 92—97

Top Left. WATERBUCK.

Top Right. WHITE EARED KOB.

Top Centre. MRS. GRAY'S LECHWE.

Bottom Left. BLACK LECHWE.

Bottom Centre. RED LECHWE (ABNORMAL SPREAD). Bottom Right. RED LECHWE.

## SOUTH AFRICA (Continued)

## CHAPTER FOUR pp. 352-365

## BIG GAME IN THE EARLY DAYS

By SIR A. P. GORDON CUMMING, BT.

ONE of the earliest white men to bring African big game shooting to the notice of the public was Roualeyn Gordon Cumming. He was born in Scotland in 1820, and joined the 4th Madras Light Cavalry in 1839; but not liking India he transferred to the Cape Mounted Rifles. His inborn passion for hunting, however, was too strong, and he resigned his Commission. From 1844 to 1849 he did five trips into what was then the far interior of South Africa, shooting every variety of game and trading ivory, where no white man had yet penetrated. To quote his own words, "I was the first to penetrate into the interior of the Bama-ngwato. I should have pushed still further, but the great losses I experienced in cattle and horses prevented me from doing so." He was helped on more than one occasion by Dr. Livingstone, who was then in charge of a Mission Station at Bakatla.

He was armed, of course, only with muzzle loaders, and for his first trip his battery consisted of three double-barrelled rifles by Purdey, William Moore & Dickson, of Edinburgh—the latter two-grooved—"The most perfect and useful rifle I ever had the pleasure of using"—and one heavy single-barrelled German rifle, carrying 12 to the lb. Besides these he had three stout double-barrelled guns for rough work when hard riding and quick loading were required, several lead-ladles of various sizes, a whole host of bullet moulds, loading-rods, shot-belts, powder flasks, and shooting belts, 3 cwt. of lead, 50 lbs. of pewter for hardening the balls to be used in destroying the larger game, 10,000 prepared leaden bullets, bags of shot of all sizes, 100 lbs. of fine sporting gunpowder, 300 lbs. of coarse gunpowder, about 50,000 best percussion caps, 2000 gun flints, greased patches, and cloth to be converted into the same. He later acquired a large Elephant gun carrying 4 to the lb., and a Dutch rifle carrying 6 to the lb. Two of these weapons, the two-grooved and the six-bore, subsequently burst, but luckily without harming any one. For Elephants he used specially hardened bullets, using a composition of one of pewter to four of lead.

His transport consisted of Cape wagons. This type of wagon was a large and powerful, yet loosely constructed vehicle, running on four wheels. Its extreme length was about 18 feet; its breadth varying from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 feet; the depth of the sides was about 2 feet 6 inches in front, but higher towards the back of the wagon. All along the sides two rows of iron staples were riveted, in which were fastened the boughs forming the tent, which

arched over the wagon to a height of 5 feet, with a strong canvas sail over all. The wagon was steered by a pole, called the dissel-boom, and was pulled normally by a span or team of twelve oxen, but a full second team was often needed to get the wagons through rivers and difficult places.

In spite of this antiquated material, in five years he killed over one hundred Elephants, besides numbers of every variety of the big and small game of Africa.

He was a crack shot, as it must be remembered that with these old-fashioned weapons he had to make an allowance in elevation for any shot at over 50 to 75 yards range. On one occasion he claims to have made a fine double shot, "Knocking over two old Blesboks right and left, at a hundred and a hundred and fifty yards"; and another day he shoots two Kudus and a Palla, one of the former from the saddle as he bounded past at a hundred yards.

He acquired great skill in loading in the saddle at full gallop, a feat which might test the skill of many with a modern breech-loader, especially as he was often dressed only in a shirt and the kilt. A well-trained horse was, of course, essential, and his best was named "Kirkland," and is described as the best shooting horse in Southern Africa. He understood his work so well that he would suddenly halt in full career when his rider wished to fire, if the latter merely placed his hand on his neck. He writes, "I remember having a discussion with the C.O. of a regiment of Heavy Dragoons on this subject, and we agreed that nothing can surpass a double-barrelled smooth bore. When a two-grooved rifle has been once or twice discharged, the bullet requires considerable power to drive it home, and to a mounted man this is very inconvenient. I consider that no regiment in the service was more effectually armed than my own corps, the Cape Mounted Rifles, who were furnished with short double-barrelled smooth bores, carrying 12 to the lb. and having stout percussion locks. To accelerate loading, the hunter ought to have his balls stitched up in their patches and well greased before taking the field. This was my invariable custom, and after a little practice I could load and fire in the saddle although riding at a gallop."

His courage amounted to recklessness, but it must be remembered that the game he was hunting were generally unaccustomed to guns and men. As he says himself, "The guides pointed out the herd of Elephants standing in a grove of shady trees, the wounded one being some distance behind with another Elephant, who was endeavouring to assist it. These Elephants had probably never before heard the report of a gun, and having neither seen nor smelt me were unconscious of the presence of man."

And again: "The Buffaloes crossed the valley in front of me; but by riding hard I obtained a broad-side shot at the last bull, and fired both barrels into him. He continued his course, but I separated him from the troop. My rifle being a two-grooved, which is hard to load, I was unable to do so on horseback, and followed with it empty in the hope of bringing him to bay. After following at a hard gallop for about two miles I was riding within five yards of his huge broad stern. I expected every minute that he would come to bay, and give me time to load, but this he did not seem disposed to do. At length, finding I had the speed of him, I increased my pace and going ahead I placed myself right before him, thus expecting to force him to stand at bay; upon which he instantly charged me with a



low roar, very similar to the voice of a Lion. My horse Colesberg neatly avoided the charge, and the bull resumed his course." To quote another story: "I presently beheld a bull Black Rhinoceros standing within a hundred yards of me. Dismounting from my horse I secured him to a tree, and then stalked within twenty yards of the huge beast under cover of a large, strong bush. Hearing me advance he came on to see what it was, and suddenly protruded his horny nose within twenty yards of me. Knowing that a front shot would not prove deadly, I sprang to my feet, and ran behind the bush. Upon this the villain charged, blowing loudly, and chased me round the bush. Had his activity been equal to his ugliness, my wanderings would have terminated here; but by my superior agility I had the advantage in the turn. After standing a short time eyeing me through the bush, he got a whiff of my wind, which at once alarmed him. Uttering a blowing noise, and erecting his insignificant yet saucy-looking tail, he wheeled about, leaving me master of the field."

On another occasion with a Rhinoceros he quotes: "Spurring my horse, I dashed ahead and rode right in his path. Upon this the hideous monster instantly charged me in the most resolute manner, blowing loudly through his nostrils. Although I quickly wheeled about to my left, he followed me at such a furious pace for several hundred yards with his horrid horny snout within a few yards of my horse's tail that my little Bushman thought his master's destruction inevitable." And an episode with an Elephant: "We heard her preparing for a second charge when the natives beat a retreat, but I very rashly waited to receive her and just as she cleared the cover I let fly at her forehead. Regardless of my shot she came down upon me, at a tremendous pace, shrilly trumpeting. It was a near thing, for I was burdened with my rifle and Rhinoceros-horn loading-rod, and my shooting-belt containing about forty rounds of ammunition. I escaped her by my speed, and the instant she halted I faced about and gave her the other barrel behind the shoulder." And again with a Lion: "I suddenly beheld two huge yellow Lionesses about a hundred and fifty yards to my left holding a course parallel to my own. I rashly commenced a rapid stalk upon them, and fired at the nearest, having only one shot in my rifle. The ball told loudly, and the Lioness wheeled right round and came on, lashing her tail, showing her teeth, and making horrid murderous deep growls. The instant the Lioness came on I stood up to my full height, holding my rifle and my arms extended high above my head. This checked her in her course, but on looking round and observing Ruyter slowly advancing she made another forward movement, growling terribly. I felt that this was a moment of great danger, and that my only chance of safety was extreme steadiness: so, standing motionless as a rock, with my eyes firmly fixed upon her, I called out in a clear commanding voice, 'Holloa! old girl, what's the hurry? Take it easy; holloa! holloa!' She instantly halted, and seemed perplexed, and I then thought it prudent to beat a retreat, which I did very slowly, talking to the Lioness all the time."

Another adventure with a Hippopotamus: "I took the Sea-cow next me, and with my first ball gave her a mortal wound, knocking loose the great plate on the top of her skull when she commenced plunging round and round. I was in a state of great anxiety about her, for I feared she would get into deep water and be lost. To settle the matter, therefore, I fired a second shot from the bank, which, entering the roof of her skull,



Plates 112-117

A MEMORY OF R. GORDON CUMMING

PHOTOS OF PICTURES TO ILLUSTRATE SOME OF HIS WANDERINGS IN S. AFRICA 70 YEARS AGO. FOR THE YARNS THEMSELVES, WHICH THESE PICTURES REPRESENT, SEE THE TEXT.