

THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS OF  
BIG GAME SHOOTING.

Spencer, Indiana

THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS OF  
**BIG GAME SHOOTING**

IN

COOCH BEHAR, THE DUARS, AND ASSAM.

A ROUGH DIARY

BY

THE MAHARAJAH OF COOCH BEHAR.



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## INTRODUCTORY.

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Having set down the records of my big-game shooting, it has occurred to me that readers may like to know something of the country in which the sport was found and the methods generally adopted to circumvent the game. I therefore add a few remarks on these points so that a clearer impression may be gained as to shooting conditions prevailing in Cooch Behar than I fear can be gathered from the narrative. The area of the State is about 1,300 square miles which forms a plain of almost triangular shape, covered with a network of rivers, streams and marshes. There are no hills and no large sheets of water. The country is a level plain, only rising occasionally, as at Garadhat for instance, into gradual undulations. Natural forests there are none worth speaking of though here and there clusters of *Sal* trees are to be found and patches of brushwood are common enough everywhere. Heavy grass and reed jungle are to be seen fairly frequently especially in the north and north-east portion of the State which borders on

## INTRODUCTORY.

Assam and the Bhutan Duars. I have often had occasion in my records to refer to the difficulties we experienced from the *Fasni* or swampy patches. These marshes are due, I believe, to the nature of the soil and the numerous small streams intersecting that are a feature of the country. Throughout Cooch Behar, the top layer of the soil is a light kind of loam and beneath this comes sand, neither of which offers any resistance to a pressure of water. The consequence is that year by year the rivers change their courses and leave behind marshes locally known as *churs*, which, valuable as they are from the cultivator's point of view, are an insufferable nuisance to sportsmen. With so much water about—and rainfall averaging about 130 inches to keep the supply going—it is not surprising that new arrivals find the climate unpleasantly damp and somewhat enervating. Exercise, however, is an admirable antidote to *ennui* of this sort, and though malaria is not uncommon, we seldom suffered much from it when out shooting. Winter, as a rule, sets in fairly early in November and summer commences in April, the months of March and October marking the fag-ends of the two seasons. In the cold weather, the thermometer falls as low as 49 degrees and rises to 98, or thereabouts, in June or July. I have generally

## INTRODUCTORY.

started for the annual shoot in February, but there was no hard and fast rule about this and in fact, except in the middle of the rains, I have shot at most times of the year. As regards the people, there is one important difference between Cooch Behar and other parts of India, in that the village system does not exist. This is due to the laws of land tenure, for the whole State is divided into small farms, and here the farmer has his home, with his nearest relations and occasionally a tenant or two. All the buildings are encircled by groves of plantain, bamboo and other quick-growing trees, and these homesteads form one of the principal features of the country.

This brings the dry statement of facts to a close, and I will now turn to the shooting, which I hope may prove more interesting.

The country I have generally shot over extends from the foot of the Himalayas southwards, seldom or never more than 36 miles from the base of the hills. The jungles in Cooch Behar, Duars and Assam are all very similar, and, as I have said, consist of heavy grass of different kinds, intersected by rivers and numerous *nullas*, dotted with trees outside the Forest Reserves, where I have done most of my



## INTRODUCTORY.

shikar. During the shooting season the country is generally burnt in patches, and here one follows the method adopted in covert shooting in England. Two or more guns are sent in with the line, while the rest are posted forward as "stops," and the patches beaten up to them. This sounds in itself easy enough, if it were not that one so often has to contend against difficulties in the shape of *fusny nullas* and bad boggy ground. This form of line shooting with "stops" is usually practicable in all countries I have shot over. The "stops" generally get the shooting in the case of Tiger, Bear and Leopard. With Buffalo, Rhino, and Bison, very often the guns in the line get the best sport, as Rhinos are exceedingly difficult animals to drive into the open. In forest shooting, one generally makes a big line with most of the guns in it, as it is seldom that suitable places can be found ahead to put the "stops" at. The best way of shooting in the forest is undoubtedly tracking, one disturbs the country less, and, personally, I prefer this mode as I consider it more sportsmanlike and very interesting in every sense of the word. But this has not been very often possible, as I have generally had more guests than one. Tracking, of course, is only applicable to Rhino, Buff and Bison.

### INTRODUCTORY.

For Tiger, Bear or Leopard one must have a line of hunting elephants and "stops" ahead. One has to rise very early in the morning, so as to be on the ground before sunrise to take up the fresh tracks. I might mention here that Tiger shooting—in fact any game shooting on foot—is absolutely impossible in any of the districts I have shot over, though, of course, sitting over kills on *machans* is quite feasible, but I have never adopted this method, as it is, as a rule, very dull work. I have, on several occasions, stood on a forest line just before dusk, waiting for the animal to come out to feed on the succulent grass that has sprung up in the burnt country outside the Reserves. I recall one particular evening when we actually saw 20 head of big game—18 Bison, 1 Tiger and 1 Bear, also a Sambhur Stag. As a matter of fact, we had gone out after a certain bull Bison which used to come out at dusk to feed on the line. We were, of course, all on our flat feet, and instead of the bull Bison, all this lot came out. It was very interesting to see the mighty beasts emerge from the jungle. On another occasion we sat up at night for a bull Buff which used to come out every evening and join a particular herd of tame Buffs but we were not successful, as he never turned up.

## INTRODUCTORY.

The ideal number for a shoot in these jungles is 6 guns—2 for line and 4 “stops.” Only two people, if possible, should go out tracking, and pads are better than *howdahs*, as it enables one to get through the tree jungle more easily. It is quite possible for two guns only to have very good fun, but one always requires a line of at least 40 Elephants to do any good in the jungles I have shot over.

The country close to the foot of the hills is more or less undulating, and the jungles are chiefly composed of heavy *null*, *pundi* or wild cardamum and various kinds of heavy grass. Shooting on the *churs* of Brahmaputra is a rather irksome and laborious process. One has to keep boats and cross from *chur* to *chur*, as Elephants with their kit cannot cross the arms of the Brahmaputra. The *howdahs* and pads are transported on boats, while the Elephants swim, and this causes considerable delay.

# SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

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## CHAPTER I.

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1871—1880.

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For the reader's information—My first shoot—Some missing records—A grand fighter—Fishing on the Godadhur Rapids—A red-letter day with Tiger—An unpleasant surprise—Result of lighting a jungle fire.



**M**Y game-book, from which the details are taken, is unfortunately not complete.

The records of some few years have been lost, and where this is the case, I have, as far as possible, given what I believe to be the approximate figures. Glancing at the game-book I find that for some time after I commenced shooting, I contented myself with setting down the actual results of the sport, adding only a very occasional remark. Later on,

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

realizing how interesting it was to myself to look back on former days' sport, I noted many more incidents. For this reason, and the fact that the missing records are of my earlier years' shooting, the first decade, at any rate, will be very briefly alluded to. At the close of each chapter will be found a summary of results, and at the end of the book a table showing the results of sport in Cooch Behar during the thirty odd years referred to. With this short explanation I will turn to my first year's big game shooting.

1871. Messrs. W. O. A. Beckett and R. H. Renny took my brother and myself out for my first shoot during this year, and between us we accounted for five Tiger, two Leopard, two Rhino, five Buffalo, ten Barasingh, thirty Hog Deer and seven Antelope.

1872. There is no record for this year, and I find it impossible to remember with any accuracy what actually occurred. It must, therefore, remain a blank.

## BRIEF RECORDS.

Messrs. Smith, Kneller and my brother Jotindra <sup>1873.</sup> accompanied me, and the year's shooting produced the following results :—Five Tiger, four Rhino, nine Buffalo, twelve Barasingh and two Antelope.



Crossing a Stream.

The shooting accounts for these three years <sup>1874</sup> have disappeared, but from this point onwards no <sup>1875.</sup> further omissions—so far as actual results go—<sup>1876.</sup> will be found. I have been at some pains to

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

ascertain the total bag during this period, and have arrived, I believe, at what is probably a correct conclusion. I place it at twenty Tiger, eight Leopard, five Rhino and twenty-four Buffalo. The smaller game it is impossible to compute.

1877. We started the shoot early in the year, our party consisting of Dr. (now Sir Benjamin) Simpson, Messrs. Southby, Wilson, E. Hewett, Kneller, Dalton and myself. Commencing on January 22nd, by February 8th we had brought to book seven Tiger, six Leopard and one Rhinoceros, besides Deer, Antelope and small game. The second largest Tiger bagged during the shoot (he measured 9'-10" as he lay) proved a splendid fighter. Charging among the Elephants, he mauled several badly before he met his death. While the scrimmage was going on, a mahout, Kala Bisad by name, had a wonderfully lucky escape. Losing his seat somehow or other, he fell flat on top of the Tiger, who in his present temper

### SOME FAIR BAGS.

was anything but a pleasant neighbour. As it turned out, however, the Tiger was as much astonished as the mahout, and without further ado made a bolt of it, but we got him a little later.

Another party, consisting of Lord Brook, Sir Robert Abercrombie, Dr. Simpson, Dr. Roberts, Mr. Dalton and Dr. Cummins, commenced shooting again in the Takuamari and Falimari jungles on the 20th February, leaving off on the 3rd March, the total bag being five Tiger (one 10'-2½"), ten Rhino, thirteen Buffalo, and a big bag of Hog Deer, Antelope and some Pig. During this trip there were two days' fishing on the Godadhur Rapids, bringing several hundred pounds weight of fish to land. The heaviest scaled 60lbs., and three or four others were not far off this weight. I was not with this party as I had to rejoin college.

Between this and December, there were no more shooting expeditions, but before the close of the



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

year, General Kinloch, the great *shikari*, Col. Mant, Kneller, Dalton and myself had a small camp on the Raidak River, our bag being four Tiger, four Rhino, three Buffalo, and smaller game.

1878. This year we had only two shoots, in one of which Duke Maliano (now Duke Grazioli), Don Julio, and his brother Marquis Pizzardi, and Messrs. Sage, Dalton, Southby, Simpson, and Hewett took part. This was in March, and the bag included three Tiger, four Leopard, five Rhino, eleven Buffa-

lo, and three Bear. In April, Messrs. Smith, Kinloch and Dalton got one Tiger, eleven Rhino and ten Buffalo. Nothing shot was particularly



The Jungle.

## SOME FAIR BAGS.

large and neither expedition calls for especial remark.

Before going out into camp this year, Messrs. <sup>1879</sup> Simpson, Baillie, Hewett, Kneller and myself between us got seven Panther, two of which were good sized animals, the one measuring 7'-3" and the other 7'-2". Later on in March the same party shot around Garud Haut. The first Tiger we encountered was a very sporting beast which did not even wait for the Elephants to be put into the cover, but charged us at sight for all he was worth. Hewett knocked him over. We commenced shooting on the 4th March and finished on the 28th, and during the twelve days we had been out we secured two Tiger, nine Leopard, eleven Rhino and twenty Buffalo, together with a certain amount of lesser game.

In 1880, we had three shoots, commencing on <sup>1880.</sup> 22nd of January. The first shoot only lasted for five days, and Dalton, Kneller and myself suc-

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

ceeded in bagging five very fine Tiger and one Tigress, the biggest Tiger being 10'-1½".

On the 22nd January Dalton secured the fine Tiger and the next day Kneller and I



A padded Tiger.

joined him, but that day we only managed to get a Leopard. We got a Tiger, however, both on the 26th and 27th, while the 30th proved a red-letter day, the three Tiger we bagged all turning out tremendous fighters. Kneller had an

## A NARROW ESCAPE.

extraordinarily narrow escape. We had surrounded the Tiger who was on the point of charging when the Elephant which Kneller was riding was knocked over by another named Mowla Bux. Luckily Kneller was not much hurt by the fall and of course tried to get back to his Elephant, which by this time had risen. But probably mistaking him for the Tiger, neither his own nor any other Elephant would allow him to approach. At last I managed to get mine to stand sufficiently to allow of Kneller climbing up, though not before he had had, I fancy, as bad a time as a man can well imagine. The second Tiger gave us another surprise. He had been hard hit and seemed to be lying with his head in the water, and we naturally concluded he was dead. This, however, was very far from the case, as Pelkoo, a *shikari*, soon found, for on getting down to measure him, he sprang up as if he had never been touched and charged, and, but for a lucky shot of Dalton's through the spine, would certainly have got home.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The third Tiger also showed a lot of fight. The largest of the three measured 9'-11" and had a 15-inch skull.\*

This day's sport completed the shoot for the time being, and in February Messrs. Trafford, Rome,



Elephants swimming a river.

Cammell, Gordon, Pattison, Kneller and I returned to the same place, whence, after getting another Tiger, we moved camp to Borabisha and bagged two more. At this latter place we had

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\* This Tiger is alluded to in Sterndale's Book, pages 165, 166.

### A RISKY EXPERIMENT.

rather an unpleasant experience with a Buffalo. We managed to get into a herd of about twenty, and in spite of bad shooting knocked over three, the others making of course for deep cover. Intending to make them break, we lighted a fire, which unfortunately took our direction instead of that of the Buffalo, with the result that we had as much as we could do to save ourselves from being burned.

On March 1st, Messrs. Dawnay, Lawley, Cammell, Kneller and I started for Pargaon, whence, after getting two Buffalo, we moved on to Khagrabari. Here Cammell got a pair of Tigers almost with a right and left, but the luck was balanced by our losing on other days two rhino and a Tiger, all badly wounded. Besides Cammell's two Tiger we got in all six Rhino and ten Buffalo.

Towards the end of the same month Kinloch, Dalton and I had a small shoot, killing three Tiger, one Bear, one Buffalo and four Hog Deer.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

There was no more big game shooting until December, when Sir Richard Garth, Messrs. E. Hewett, G. Hewett, Southby and Dalton had a small camp, the bag being one Tiger, one Leopard and six Buffalo.

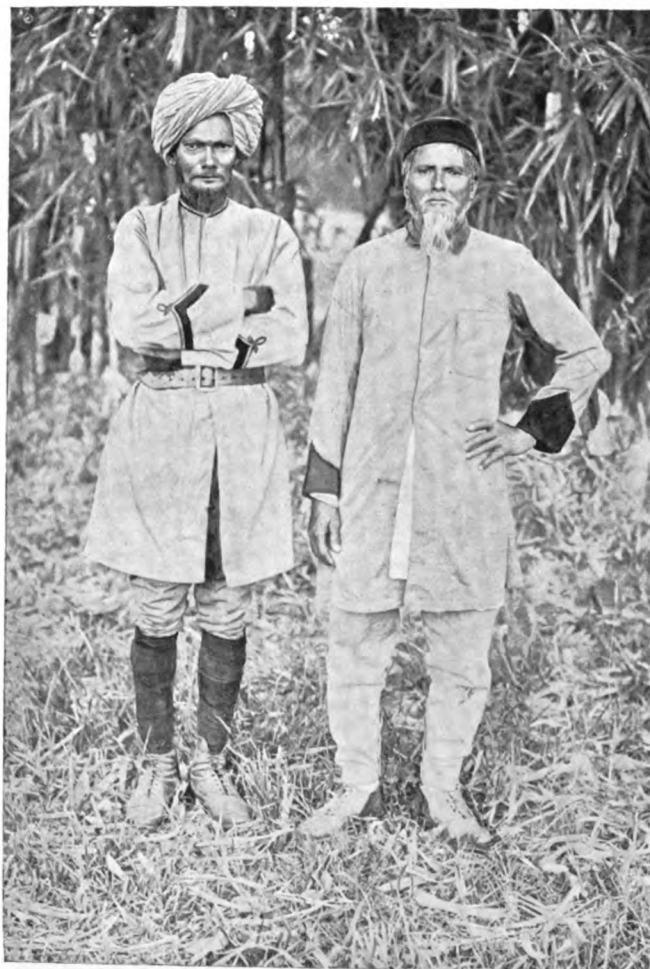
Animal.	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1875	1877	1878	1879	1880	Total for the ten years.
Tiger ...	5		5		28		16	4	2	15	75
Leopard ...	2		...		8		6	4	9	2	31
Rhino ...	2		4		5		15	11	11	7	55
Buffalo ...	5		9		24		34	10	20	21	123
Bear ...	...		...		...		...	...	...	1	1
Hog Deer ...	30	No record.	23		...		49	7	...	9	118
Sambur ...	...		...		...		32	1	4	10	47
Antelope ...	7		2		...		1	..	...	1	11
Barasing h...	10		12		...		13	5	...	...	40
Pig ..	...		...		...		18	6	...	...	24

\* Actual results for these years being lost, the *approximate* bag of big game is given. Deer, Antelope and Pig cannot be estimated.



Horns of a record bull Buft shot in 1881. Measurements around outside of horns 9'-11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " , around base of horns 23 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".





**Bholi.**

**Hatashu.**

**Shikaris.**

## CHAPTER II.

1881—1883.

Good Buffalo Horns—No. 5 shot as a stimulant—Mahaseer fishing at Haldibari—Seven Elephants mauled by one Tiger—A big day with Buffalo—Some stout fighters.

**E**ARLY in February, Messrs. Ashton, <sup>1881.</sup> Fraser (now Lord Saltoun), Thomas, Turner, A. Apcar, Alexander, Kneller, Major Jarrett and I made a start for Camp Khagrabari, and a few days later Wilson and Dalton joined us. *En route* we picked up a Sambur, and soon after arrival in camp got a good day's sport which included one Rhino, three Sambur and five Buffalo. One bull Buffalo, shot on this day, had an exceptionally fine pair of horns; they measured 10'-1½" point to point round outside crown, and the base of each horn measured 24". One other Rhino got away badly wounded.

The following day, the 16th February, we got three more Buffalo, a Hog Deer and a Sambur.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

One old cow gave any amount of fun, charging home and scattering the line with great vigour. Fraser was sent flying across country on Bir Bahadoor, and several others suffered the same ignominious fate. I was at the other end of the jungle trying to get the best of a Sambur Stag when I was sent for to finish this troublesome cow Buffalo off with the "Infant"—a double-barrelled four bore rifle—which I succeeded in doing. She certainly was one of the finest fighting Buffalo I have ever come across.

On the 17th we brought home a Tiger, a Hog Deer and a couple of Pig, a Rhino, three Sambur and three Pig on the next two days, and then, as the district showed signs of being shot out, we moved on to Pargaon. Here our party ran into a tremendous fighter in the shape of a Tiger, for which at the time we were absolutely unprepared. All were quietly looking about for Pea-fowl, when, without the slightest warning, up jumped a

## A TREMENDOUS FIGHTER.

Tiger. Kneller, who had only No. 5 shot in his barrels, let fly at him, and Thomas who next came on him found him savage enough. The beast lost no time in charging, and very nearly made it good. As it was, he got on to the Ele-



One of our Shooting Camps.

phant and made a big hole in his ear before he got his quietus.

Besides small game we only got one Rhino on the 21st, but the 22nd was a good day, the bag

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

consisting of one Rhino, five Buffalo (the two largest cow Buffaloes had horns measuring 10'-6" and 10'-4½") and two Sambhur. In addition to the above, on this and the next day, we landed 26 fish, varying in weight from 2½ to 14lbs.

For the next few days the sport was comparatively uninteresting. We bagged half-a-dozen Buffalo, a few Sambur and Hog Deer, but there was nothing either in their measurements or fighting qualities that calls for remark. We stopped shooting on February 26th. The shooting during March, with which, by the way of big game shikar, so far as I was concerned, ended for the year, is soon told. On the 3rd, Dalton, Kneller, Briscoe and myself took part in bringing a Leopard to book, *apropos* of which I may mention that although I have not recorded the details, the Leopard bagged during the year totalled fifteen. On the 26th, Fraser, Kinloch, Dalton, Kneller and myself had a three-days' shoot near

## AROUND SUKANDIGHEE AND HALDIBARI.

Parokata and accounted for four Rhino, two Buffalo and a Hog Deer. With luck the bag might have been better, as a Tiger charged right through the line and wasn't seen again ; a Rhino got away badly wounded, and we saw a Bear in the distance but could not get up to him.

As usual, February saw us again afoot, and on <sup>1882.</sup> the 6th and 7th my party, including General Hughes, Major Cook, Dr. Simpson, Capt. Gordon and Mrs. Evans Gordon, secured near Sukandighee a couple of Tiger, a Hog Deer and a Bear in addition, of course, to small game. A few days later Dr. Simpson and Charley Briscoe bagged a Buffalo at Haldibari ; they also pulled four Mahaseer out of one pool in a couple of hours, the biggest scaling 35lbs. and the smallest 15lbs.

Towards the end of the month a large party came with me into camp, amongst whom were Sir Ashley and Sir William Eden, Lawler,

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Schalch, M. Eden, Lord Ilchester, Lord Durham, Simpson, Henry, Gordon and Mrs. Gordon, and Charles Moore. We shot around Garud Haut, Malakata, Mahakulgooree, Parokata and Berbera. By the time the main party left us, which they did on the 4th March after a week's shooting, the bag included three Tiger cub, three Rhino, eleven Buffalo, five Hog Deer, seventeen Sambhur and four Pig. At Parokata we shot one of the biggest Buffalo I have ever seen, measuring 18 hands 1" at the shoulder.

Although, as I have already mentioned, the greater number of our party left on the 4th March, a few remained on until the 10th and added some Sambur, Hog Deer and Pig, together with a couple of Leopard and a Buffalo to what had already been shot.

We made another little expedition to Parokata in the same month, Southby, Gladstone, Browne and Count Seeback accompanying me. We were

### ANOTHER GAME FIGHTER.

out about a week and got a couple of Rhino, five Buffalo (the largest had horns measuring 10'-6"), eleven Sambhur, six Hog Deer and a few Pig. Two other Rhino went away badly wounded, and we saw two Tiger but did not get a shot.

Between the 4th and 15th April, Garth, Mansel, Spragge, Gordon and I bagged four Rhino, thirteen Buffalo (two had horns over 10'), nine Sambhur, three Hog Deer and some Pig, and with this shoot sport ended for the year. The number of Leopard shot during 1882 is eight, but of these I find I have again omitted to record the details of several.

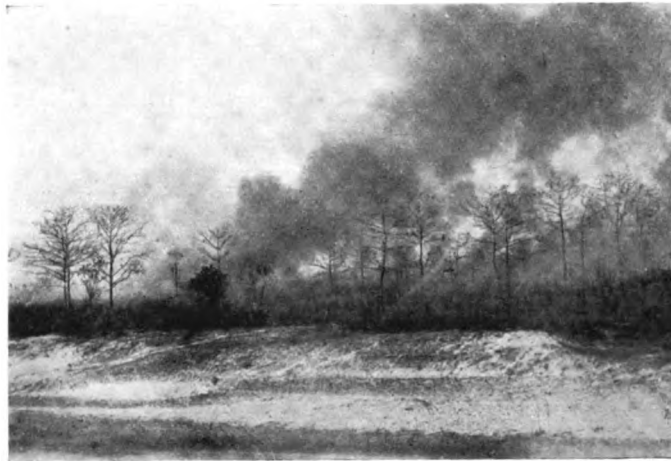
We began well in February by my two cousins <sup>1883</sup> and myself accounting for five Leopard, and a day or two afterwards Dalton and I got two Tiger, and a Buffalo. One of the Tiger showed tremendous sport. The first day he got away altogether; however, we got on to him again on the second and bagged him, but not before he had



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

badly mauled seven of the Elephants. He was a fine animal, measuring 10'-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and died as game as a pebble.

On the 18th of February we had our annual shoot,



A Jungle Fire.

our first Camp being at Garud Haut, in which Cammell, Dawnay, Davies Fitzgerald, Lucas, Peck, Thornhill, Kneller and Dalton joined. Some of the party returned on the 15th March, but I and others remained on until the 23rd. The

## A BAD DAY FOR THE ELEPHANTS.

total bagged included four Tiger, six Rhino, twenty-two Buffalo and one Bison, one Bear, fourteen Barasingh, four Sambhur, ten Hog Deer and some fifty fish, the largest of which scaled  $18\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. The Bison was not only the first I have ever seen at Deogong, but also, I believe, the first that has ever been shot so low down as this. One day, the 26th, deserves notice, inasmuch as we got into a herd of Buffalo numbering fifteen and managed to bag eight in spite of a good deal of confused charging. The 2nd of March too produced some good fighters, a Rhino cutting two Elephants badly and a third slightly, while yet a fourth Elephant was gored under the foreleg by a Buffalo. The last Tiger shot proved a big one, measuring 10'-1" and was the largest I had shot up to date.

On April 3rd, I got a Bear and on the 5th and 6th Munro, Dalton, Scott and I bagged a Rhino and two Buffalo. We had a certain

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

amount of bad luck in not getting more, as four Rhino and a Buffalo got away badly wounded ; a couple of Leopard in November completed the total bag for the year.

### RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1881.

Animals.	February 14th-26th.	March 3rd.	March 26th-28th.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	2	..	2	4
Leopard ... ..	...	1	14*	15
Rhino ... ..	4	...	4	8
Buffalo ... ..	19	...	2	21
Bear .. ...	...	...	4*	4
Barasingh ... ..	...	...	...	...
Sambur ... ..	15	...	...	15
Hog Deer ... ..	8	...	1	9
Antelope ... ..	...	...	...	...
Pig ... ..	...	...	...	...

\* Shot in addition during the year, but dates unrecorded.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1882.

Animal.	February 6th-7th.	March 10th.	Feb. 25th, Mar. 5th.	March 10th.	March 12th.	April 4th-15th.	Total
Tiger ... ..	2	...	3*	...	...	...	5
Leopard ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	6†	8
Rhino ... ..	...	...	2	...	2	4	8
Buffalo ... ..	...	1	12	...	5	13	31
Bear ... ..	3	...	...	...	...	...	3
Barasingh ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sambur ... ..	...	...	19	...	11	9	39
Hog Deer ... ..	1	..	8	...	6	3	18
Antelope ... ..	...	...	3	...	...	...	3
Pig ... ..	...	...	9	...	3	7	19

\* Cubs.

† Shot in addition during year.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

### RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1883.

Animal.	February 8th-9th.	February 12th-15th.	Feb. 18th, Mar. 23rd.	April 3rd-6th.	November.	Shot in addition.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	...	2	4	...	...	...	6
Leopard ... ..	5	5	...	...	2	2	14
Rhino ... ..	...	...	6	1	...	...	7
Buffalo .. ...	...	1	23*	2	...	...	26
Bear ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Barasingh ... ..	...	...	14	...	...	...	14
Sambur ... ..	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
Hog Deer ... ..	...	...	10	...	...	...	10
Antelope ... ..	...	..	2	...	...	...	2
Pig ... ..	...	...	6	3	...	...	9

\* Includes one Bison shot.

## CHAPTER III.

1884—1885.

Absence of big game—A very mixed bag—Good sport at last—  
A Fighting Rhino—Buffalo driven by Buffalo—A ten-foot Tiger—  
Shooting at Dal Dalia—A bad time for "Gulzar Piari."

**B**IGNELL and I commenced the year by bag- 1884.  
ging a couple of Leopard and shortly  
afterwards, accompanied by Shillingford,  
started on an elephant catching expedition and  
shooting combined. Kheddah operations and  
shooting do not go together, as you are not expected  
to fire off a gun if there are herds of elephants  
about. For some time luck was dead against us,  
and for ten days we brought to book neither Tiger,  
Leopard, Rhino nor Buffalo. Indeed I don't  
think I have ever seen so large a tract of shoot-  
ing country so destitute of big game. We got  
one Bear, a fair number of Hog Deer, a few  
Sambhur and some Pig. On the 17th February,

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Colonel Keith Fraser joined us, and the 19th gave us a curious bag, consisting of one Pig, one Pea-fowl, one Partridge, one Porcupine and a Python that measured 15'-5."

We moved camp on the 21st from Ramshahai



Vultures after a Kill.

Haut to Lower Tondoo and brought down our first Rhino on the 24th. The following day Colonel Money and Moore joined us and the Earl of Mayo and Neville Chamberlain on the 27th.

### SOME BLANK DAYS.

Bad luck still pursued us, and though we moved camp first to Dhoobjhora and subsequently to Upper Tondoo and Ambari, it was not until the 6th March that we shot anything better than Deer and Antelope. On this date, however, we got a Rhino, and two more on the next. Five others got away, a couple being badly wounded. The 8th and 9th were blank days, and on the 10th we moved on to Nagrakata, but sport did not improve, a Bear and a Rhino being our only reward in the way of big game, though we viewed afar off two other Rhino and a wild Elephant. On the 16th and three following days we moved camp first to Haldibari Haut and then to Falakata, arriving at Theamari Ghat on the Raidak river. The last named place found us at last on our own good ground, sport began speedily to look up, and during the next week we got two Tiger (one measuring 9'-6"), ten Rhino and two Buffalo. One Rhino, the biggest seen for a long time, got away, I am sorry to say, badly wounded; among



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

those we bagged were some great fighters. One charged Bignell four times before we got him and another charged me, but I knocked him over with a lucky shot. Mayo too killed one in the act of charging home. The last five Rhino and the two Buffalo were shot from Parokata, where we had moved on the 23rd. On the 25th we stopped shooting, but Bignell, Charley Briscoe and I began again on the last day of the month, and between that and the 9th April the party got five Leopard. On the 18th General Wilkinson, Major Cook, Gordon, Charley Briscoe, Khitindro and Jackson came out with me for a five-days' shoot near Madhoobhasha, of which one Tiger, one Leopard, two Rhino and two Buffalo were the main results. One of the Buffalo was a tremendous big chap, standing 6'-3" at the shoulder and measuring 14' 3" from nose to end of tail. He took a lot of killing, carrying thirty shots before he dropped.

## A WOUNDED BUFFALO'S RETURN.

In May, Bignell, Briscoe and Khitindro joined me in a three-days' shoot round Falimari and Deogong, the result was not much—one Rhino and a Buffalo together with three Barasingh and a couple of Pig. The Buffalo gave rise to a very curious incident. After being badly wounded, he rushed away and we followed up his tracks at once, but we had hardly travelled a mile before we saw him coming back to us for all he was worth, though he looked thoroughly done and likely to fall at any moment. We soon found out what was the trouble. Another Buffalo was driving him back to us. The fresh Buffalo, however, caught sight of us, turned and bolted, while the wounded one came straight on and charged as he got near. I just managed to finish him before he got home. We then went after the other beast and wounded him badly, but he saved his pelt and got away.

A Tiger shot by Charley Briscoe and Khitindro concluded the shooting for the year.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

1885. Towards the end of February, General Sir Frederick (now Earl) Roberts, General Stewart, General Godfrey Clark, Dr. (afterwards Sir Benjamin) Simpson, Colonel (now General) Pole Carew, Neville Chamberlain, Hume, Gordon, Major Garth, G. Garth, Bignell and myself set out. We shot round about Chota Bhalka, Deogong, Dal Dalia, Falimari, Bara Bhalka, Barbara, Parokata, Rasik Bhil and Mahakal-gooree, the shoot lasting just three weeks. The main items of the bag were ten Tiger, two Leopard, seven Rhino, sixteen Buffalo and three Bear. We also got some goodish fishing (Mahaseer) besides a fair amount of Deer and Antelope. Some changes took place in our party before we returned. Generals Roberts, Clark and Stewart only stayed a few days, while Viscount Parker, Col. St. Quinton, General Paget, Knyvett and Jamieson joined us. The first Rhino was knocked over by Viscount Parker at 150 yards with a .500 express, a bull Buffalo on the same day



The first Tiger shot in 1885.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

(March 1st) showed a lot of fight, goring two Elephants. We had of course our share of bad luck. On the 8th, for instance, we lost two Buffalo and a Rhino, although they all three went away very sick. The next day again we came across some twenty Buffalo, and hit several very hard but bagged none at the time, though we picked up three afterwards. The 10th, however, proved a good day, one of the two Tiger we got at Falimari showing splendid sport, and as it turned out, we were only just in time for him. Arriving at the ground towards evening, we caught sight of the Tiger walking across from a fringe of scrub to a big deep patch into which he got before anyone could get a shot. We had a lot of trouble getting him out, and only succeeded at last with a couple of barrels of No. 3 shot. He showed himself for a moment, but met with such a warm reception that he bolted back and mauled a pad Elephant. He then broke back through the line, but the "in" howdah Elephants caught him and

### A RECORD LEOPARD.

finished him. A very fine Tiger in all respect. He measured 10' over all. 6'-10" from the tip of his nose to the root of his tail, head 17½", girth 51", round the head 34", biceps 29", forearm 18¾".

Near Deogong, on the 16th March, a great big bull Buffalo gave us plenty of fun. We were looking for a wounded Rhino when we put him up, and he proved game from start to finish. Parker's and Garth's Elephants had each to stand a charge, and the former got gored. He had some twenty shots in him before he dropped, two of which were from a 4-bore and four or five from an 8-bore.

On the 17th March at Dal Dalia I knocked over a Leopard, which still, I think, holds the record at 8'-4". We also bagged a couple of good Tiger and a fairly good bull Buffalo. The following day brought us a Rhino and Buffalo, both very fine specimens, the total length of the former measuring 13'-2", and girth 110", the biggest

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

mentioned in Rowland Ward's Book being 12'-10" and 105" respectively. The Buffalo's measurements were as follows :—Total length 14', length



**The Rogue Buffalo.**

from tip of nose to root of tail 10'-9", girth 109", round the neck where it joins the head 5', round the neck in front of the shoulder 8'-4", height at shoulder 18 hands 2"; we also got two Bear.

## A GAME TIGRESS.

On the 21st we stopped shooting for the time, commencing again on the 30th March. On this occasion I was accompanied by C. H. Moore, C. R. Hills, A. Evans-Gordon and Charley Briscoe. We got two Tiger, a male and female, and two Buffalo the first day. The Tiger, which we found and killed some way off from the kill, fell to Moore's rifle. The Tigress was put up quite casually. She got away at once, but we followed her up into the same patch of jungle in which the fine Tiger was shot on the 10th March. We got her out without much difficulty, but on being pursued by three howdahs she stopped and charged C. Hills, mauling the Elephant, "Gulzar Piari," rather badly on the off-hind and near-fore. The Elephant, in trying to get rid of the Tigress, very nearly threw Hills out. However, she was finished soon after this. A good day's sport as we were in camp before 3 p.m.

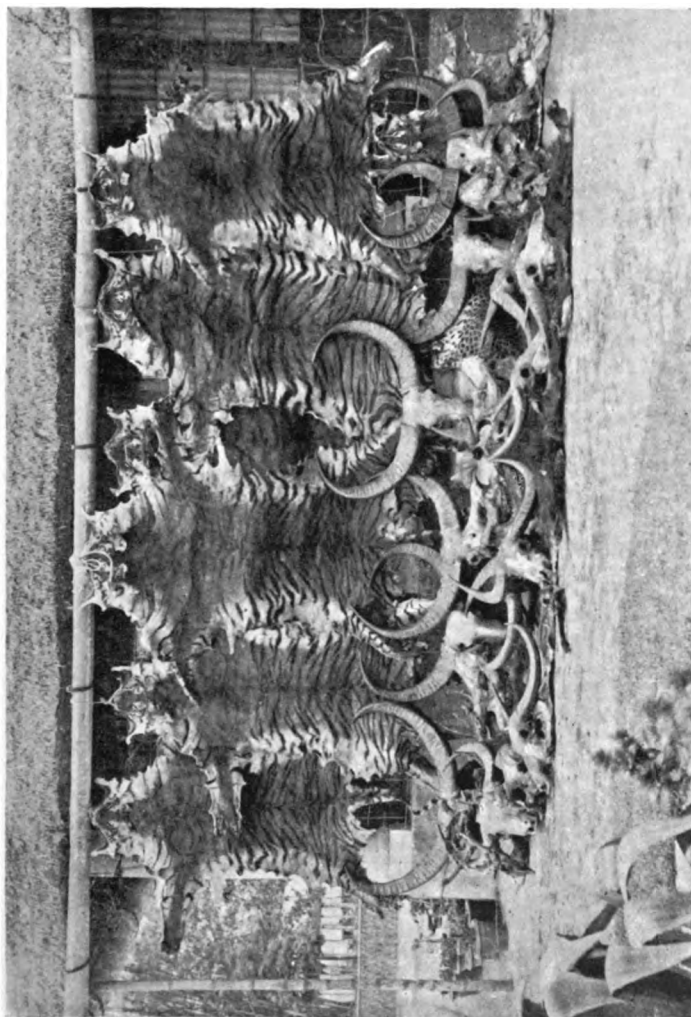
On the 31st we moved to Rossik Bheel where we got a few Deer and Antelope, and then on to



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Guigaon where we found three Bear in the grass close to camp, of which we bagged two. The jungles here were quite empty of Rhino or Buffalo. On the 3rd April near Jaldoa and Rossik Bheel, we killed a Rhino and two Buffalo. A very fine Cow with Calf was wounded, but a threatening thunder shower drove us home.

On the 4th April luck was a bit against us. We bagged two Rhino, but a third got away badly wounded, as did also a magnificent bull Buffalo in spite of a long, stern chase. We also started a Tiger, but he cleared out before the howdahs could head him. One more Rhino on the 6th concluded the year's shooting.



The Bag, 1885 Shoot.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

### RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1884.

Animals.	January.	Feb. 14th, Mar. 25th.	March 31st.	April 3rd, 8th, 9th.	April 18th- 22nd.	May 19th-21st.	June.	Total.
Tiger ...	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	4
Leopard ...	2	...	2	3	1	...	...	8
Rhino ...	...	16	...	...	2	1	...	19
Buffalo ...	...	2	...	...	2	1	...	5
Bear ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Barasingh ...	...	9	...	...	...	3	...	12
Sambur ...	...	9	...	...	1	...	...	10
Hog Deer ...	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	16
Antelope ...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2
Pig ...	...	15	...	...	5	2	...	22

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1885.

Animals.	Feb. 28th, Mar. 31st.	Mar. 30th, April 6th.	Total.
Tiger .. ... ..	10	2	12
Leopard ... ..	1	1	2
Rhino ... ..	7	3	10
Buffalo ... ..	16	4	20
Bear ... ..	3	2	5
Barasingh ... ..	5	...	5
Sambur ... ..	5	...	5
Hog Deer ... ..	12	...	12
Antelope... ..	...	...	...
Pig ... ..	...	1	1

## CHAPTER IV.

1886—1888.

**A good beginning with Buffalo--Five Rhino before lunch--  
Great day at Chengtimari--Phenomenal luck--Another red-letter  
day in the Sal Forest--An enormous Tiger.**

1886.

**O**UR first camp this year was pitched at Garad Haut, and shooting began on the 12th February, by which time a largish party had assembled. Captains Harbord and Bignell, Prince Esterhazy, Major Gordon, Bignell, Charley Briscoe and Gojendro ( Junior ) were all present at the start, Colonel Upperton, accompanied by the two Russian Officers, Colonel Timler and Prince Maslof, Major Mansel, and Moore joined us later on. We were out just a month, and of the bigger game brought back nine Tiger, five Bear, nineteen Rhino, twenty-eight Buffalo and one Bison. On the 14th we got two Buffalo, both fine

### A RECORD COW BUFFALO.

beasts, and one of which had the longest pair of horns I really think I have ever seen. They measured  $11'6\frac{1}{2}"$ .



Horns of Record Cow Buffalo, measuring  $11'6\frac{1}{2}"$ . Shot February 14th, 1886.

A blank day on the 15th was followed by a magnificent day's sport with Rhino near Rossik Bheel and Chengtimari or rather half a day's, for

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

we bagged five Rhino before luncheon. I do not think this record has been beaten. Some of them showed great sport, charging through the line, and one of the new Elephants got cut. The largest was 17 hds. and  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch at the shoulder, 12'-6" in length and had a girth of 112". On the 17th again we had another good day's sport and padded one of the heaviest Tiger I have come across. He measured 9'-9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " over all, and from tip of nose to root of tail 6'-7 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Height at shoulder 39", girth 54", upper arm 26", fore-arm 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", head 36". He fought very gamely. We must also have seen at least a dozen Buffalo, of which we bagged two, but others, I fear, went away wounded. We got a Bear this day as well. The Tiger and Bear were shot in the Berbera jungle and the Buffalo at Falimari. After this day's sport we gave the Elephants a rest on the 18th, and were rewarded on the 19th by another great day at Chengtimari, the bag consisting of four

### PHENOMENAL LUCK.

Rhino and four Buffalo, two Barasingh and a Hog Deer, all got before lunch.

Such luck as this could not be expected to continue, and, as a matter of fact, for some days on it fell off very considerably. We got a Tiger at Dorko on the 20th and two on the 22nd and two more on the 23rd, adding to this good bag three Rhino on the 24th. Our luck was phenomenal; we accounted for a Tiger on the 25th, Buffalo on the 27th, and a good Tiger on the 28th in the Horseshoe jungle. The Tiger killed in the Horseshoe jungle played old Harry with the line, though he never actually got home. He charged about sufficiently, however, to put the mahouts in a tremendous funk, and it ended in Bignell ( Junior ) and I having to bring up the line. We had to fire a lot of shot cartridges before the beast was turned out. To give the Elephants a rest, we had a day's fishing on the 1st March on the Sunkos. Mrs. Gordon, who had



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

joined the party some days before, landed a 14lb. Mahaseer, while Gordon, Mansel, and myself only caught one small fish each.



**The Rhino shot by Mansel.**

The 5th was principally occupied in beating for Tiger, but we drew blank, which was the more unfortunate, as eight bullocks had been killed

## GOOD RHINO SHOOTING.

two days before by a Tiger or Tigers, and we might reasonably have counted on putting "Stripes" out. We were, however, fortunate in getting one Rhino and a Buffalo.

We bagged a Tigress and two cubs on the 8th, one of the latter giving great fun, but the 9th in the Sal Forest Reserve was a real red-letter day, bringing us five Rhino, all got after lunch, and two Buffalo. One of the Rhino was the best I had shot up till then, and exceeded the big one shot on the 19th February by several inches. His measurements were :—Total length 13'-10", body 11'-8", girth 136", height at shoulder 18 hds. and  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch.

The next day was also good. We got into a herd of seven Buffalo and killed four, one being a very fine bull. Two of them charged but did not do any damage.

The 12th, our last day out, made a grand finish

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

for the shoot. We bagged seven Buffalo at Tara Bagh and put up a Tiger on the way back to camp. But he got through the line of beaters and we lost him. Charley Briscoe caught seven fish on the Sunkos, a few hundred yards from camp, and Mansel, who had been shooting with us, fished on the way back and landed a good fish.

Later on in the year, assisted by Charley Briscoe, Mansel, Simpson and Garth, I got another Tiger, a Bison and seven Leopard.

1887. Bignell, Gojendro (Junior) and I had a bit of luck in the beginning of February and bagged two Leopard within a mile of the Palace. The big shoot did not commence till the 18th. The Earl of Annesley, Marquise de Breteuil, A. Norman, Sir B. Simpson, L. Daniell, Percy Simpson and Bignell were with me from the start, while Ridgway, Gordon, the Count de Breteuil joined us on the 20th and Cameron on the 3rd March, but the latter only stayed three

#### A ROUGH CUSTOMER.

days. We stopped shooting on the 9th March, by which time the bag included eight Tiger, four Rhino and six Buffalo, not quite up to the average of previous years, but we had some good sport nevertheless.

On the first day, from our camp at Garud Haut, we got a Tigress, a heavy one and savage enough. Before we came across her we picked up a dead Leopard which she had probably killed, as there were two tooth-marks on the head. On being turned out, she showed a lot of fight, charging me twice and Percy Simpson once.

On the 21st February we had a good day's sport, getting a Tigress at Chuckchuka and a Rhino and three Hog Deer at Guigaon. The Rhino (we saw others, besides the one we bagged) gave a lot of trouble, as we couldn't get them to break cover. Bignell was charged by the bull Rhino and another was knocked over by Percy Simpson, but he got away and we lost him. A

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



Our first Rhino, 1887 Shoot

#### COUNT DE BRETEUIL'S ELEPHANT MAULED.

Buffalo also escaped, badly wounded, so our luck was by no means of the best. At Chota Bhalka, on February 22nd, we came on a Tiger quite unexpectedly, and were lucky enough to bag him. He measured 9'-9" in length. We got three Rhino at Deogong on the 24th, one of them measuring 18 hands at the shoulder. For the next few days we had no luck at all, and on the 27th, just as we were changing camp to Haldibari, *khubber* of Tiger came in as it usually does, I notice, when one is especially unprepared.

However, we managed to get a few Elephants together and killed a Tigress. This did not seem to change the luck, as the next two days were blank, but on the 2nd March things looked up a little, and we got three Buffalo. The 3rd gave us a Tigress, a very game one. She charged and got home on the Count's Elephant, biting him badly over the left eye.

On the 4th, close to camp, we killed two Tiger,

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

a cub and two Bear. One of the Tiger was a magnificent beast, and though not actually the longest I have shot, is the biggest I have ever



Skinning the 9'-9" Tiger shot on sand Feb. 1885.

seen. His total length was 10'-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "', body 7'-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "', upper arm 29"', fore-arm 21"', girth 54"' and head 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". He stood 44 $\frac{3}{4}$ "' at the shoulder. He must

## ONE OF MY RECORD BEASTS.

have weighed close on 600 lbs., but in those days we did not weigh our Tigers. These last two measurements—his head and his height—constitute, I think, a record. At any rate “The Records of Big Game,” which gives an illustration of the skin of this animal and quotes the measurements, has no head so big on a Tiger which stands  $44\frac{3}{4}$ " at the shoulder. He was an enormous animal, heavily built with a short tail.

This big Tiger however finished our luck for the year, and though we stayed out a few days longer, we got nothing more in the way of big game. One way and another, this was about the worst year I had yet had. We saw lots of game, but they—especially Rhino and Buffalo—were very wild, and the country probably wanted a thorough rest. During 1887 Jotindro shot thirteen Leopard to his own rifle and twenty others were bagged.

Bearing in mind the necessity for giving the 1888.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Rhino and Buffalo a rest, during this year, we did not shoot any of the former at all and only four of the latter. These were shot at Majerdabri on 25th February, in company with Sir Alec and Lady Wilson, Knyvett, Gordon and Mrs. Gordon. On the same day we saw three Tiger, of which we padded two, both fine beasts, but the biggest—a grand animal—got away unscathed. For the reason I have already given, we had no large shoot this year, but many small ones, in which, besides those already mentioned, Bignell, Godley, Briscoe, Sant, Jackson, Gojendro, Hendley and others took part.

The bag under these circumstances was, of course, smaller than usual, and consisted principally of six Tiger, fifteen Leopard and, as I have already mentioned, four Buffalo. A Python measuring 15'-4" is also perhaps deserving of mention.

Very few out of the way incidents occurred. At Falimari, on the 23rd April, I shot a very fine

### A SHORT YEAR.

Tigress, measuring 8'-7", but the tail was only 2'-7" long, and had either been bitten or burnt off. A scar running right along the back perhaps rather points to the latter. Had she not been mutilated, she must have measured nearly 9'.

The only other extract from my game book that seems of interest was the case of a Leopard at Dava Gooree on the 18th July. I got a snapshot at him just as he jumped into the river. He sank immediately in deep water, but was found floating next day and brought in.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

### RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1886.

Animal.	Feb. 12th- Mar. 31st.
Tiger ... ..	13
Leopard ... ..	7*
Rhino ... ..	18
Buffalo... ..	17
Bear ... ..	5
Barasingh ... ..	18
Sambur ... ..	6
Hog Deer ... ..	9
Antelope ... ..	...
Pig ... ..	3

\* Shot during year also one Bison and 2 Barking Deer.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1887.

Animal	Feb. 8th.	Feb. 18th- Mar. 9th	Total.
Tiger ... ..	...	10	10
Leopard ... ..	2	35*	37
Rhino... ..	...	4	4
Buffalo ... ..	...	6	6
Bear ... ..	...	2	2
Barasingh ... ..	...	5	5
Sambur ... ..	...	13	13
Hog Deer ... ..	...	11	11
Antelope .. ...	...	1	1
Pig .. ...	...	3	3

\* Shot during year also 5 Kakur.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1888.

Animal.	Feb. 25th- Mar. 10th.	April 15th	April 19th- 30th.	June.	July.	Sept.	Total.
Tiger ...	2	1	2	1	...	...	6
Leopard ...	...	...	1	2	3	2	8
Rhino ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Buffalo ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bear ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Barasingh ...	1	...	3	...	...	...	4
Sambur ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hog Deer ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Antelope ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pig ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1

Also 76lbs. of fish (Mahaseer).

## CHAPTER V.

1889—1890.

Crocodiles—Shooting on the Sunkos—"Kate" and "Kennedy" mauled—Jogin's narrow shave—A game Tigress—Two records up-to-date—Bear at Haldibari—Mrs. Gordon kills a charging Tigress.

**T**HIS year, starting on 12th February, the <sup>1889.</sup> Earl of Scarborough, Lord Galway, Crawley, Dudley Leigh, Sir Benjamin Simpson, Lennard, Currie, Bignell, Gordon, Hendley, Colonel Luard and myself made up the party. Colonel Boileau joined us the following day, while Count Hoyos, Lord Ancram, Eyre-Coote, Count Szechenyi, J. P. Hewett and George Irwin increased our gathering a week later; on the other hand, Scarborough, Galway, Crawley and Dudley Leigh left us on the 17th February. The rest of us, however, shot on until the 18th March, the pick of the bag by that time being :— Nine Tiger, eight Bear, two Leopard, five Rhino, nine Buffalo and a bull Bison.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

We commenced shooting at Takuamari and got a Tiger and a Bear the first day, both good animals, the former measuring 9'-10" and the latter 6'-7". The next day spent in trying after Buffalo in the Horseshoe jungle, proved a blank. A



**An Elephant and his Fodder.**

Tigress, killed at Falimari on the 14th, gave a lot of trouble before we padded her, though she didn't succeed in doing any damage.

The 15th, 16th and 17th brought us no luck, and all we bagged was a couple of Crocodile, one

## BEAR AND CUBS.

measuring 16'-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". A very fair bull Rhino was knocked over on the 18th, but two got away badly wounded. We had a good day's sport on the 19th, killing a Tiger and a Bear. The Tiger was 9'-8" in length, and was a very heavy beast. He fought well before we brought him down, and got home on Crawley's Elephant. We did not do much for the next few days, and on the 24th moved on to Haldibari. Here we got a couple of Buffalo along the banks of the Sunkos, and four more on the 25th at the same place. At Bara Hamua on the 27th, Hoyos shot a good Tiger with one shot, and I got a Tigress the same day, but neither showed much fight. The following day we killed a Bear and found two very young cubs holding on to her with teeth and claws. Blank days again till the 3rd March, when we got a bull Bison standing 17 hands 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " at the shoulder. We might also have got Rhino as we wounded two and saw others, but luck was not of the best, nor did it really change

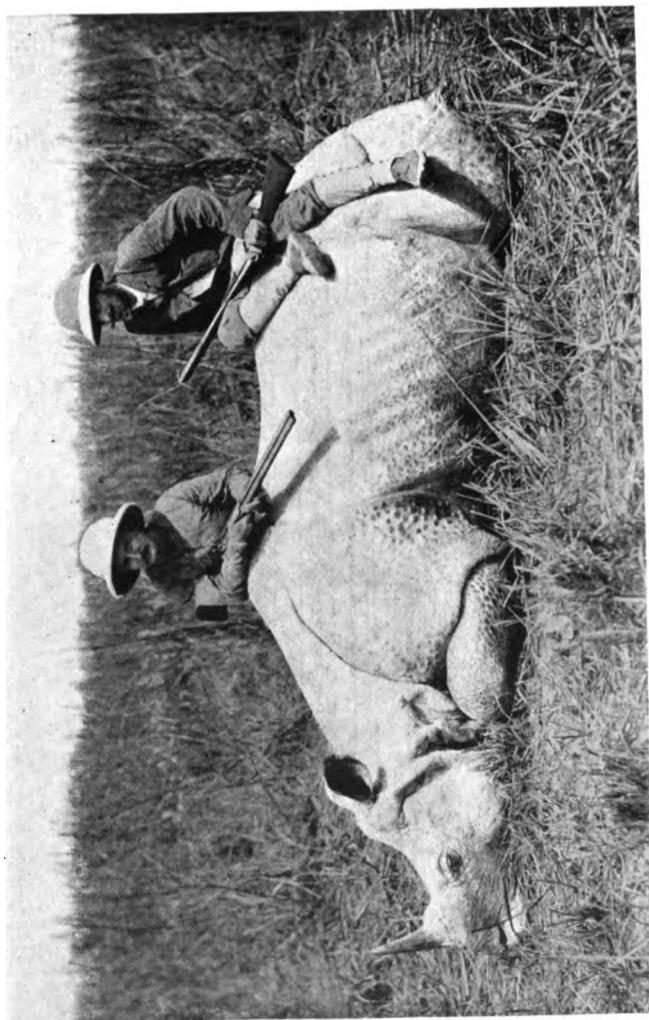


## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

for the better for some time. In the Forest Reserve we got two Buffalo and another day just missed finding a big herd. At Bamoner Shali, I shot a Tiger—not a large one—and a couple of Bear. A fine bull Rhino fell to us at Moshamari, as did also a Bear which came out of the same patch. Except a Leopard and a Bara Singh shot at Deogong, we got nothing more till the 15th March at Berbera. Here we got an extraordinarily light coloured Tiger, measuring 9'-7". I hit him through the spine first shot. The death of this Tiger pleased the villagers greatly, as he had quite recently killed seven cows. We bagged a Bear the same day on the other side of the Sunkos.

We had a first class day's sport on the 16th, at Khagrabari, padding two fine Tiger, the one 9'-11" and the other 9'-9".

At first things did not look at all promising. The jungle was so small that I really expected nothing out of it at all. No sooner, however, did



Big bull Rhino. 1889 Shoot.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

the beat begin, than a shot told me we had found. Almost immediately after a second Tiger got up right beneath my Elephant, but I was so intent looking out for the first one that I did not notice the second, and this one led us a rare dance before we had done with him. Bignell hit him but too low and far back to stop him ; this made him very savage. He crossed over the *nullah* into a very thick patch, and then the ball began ! He first mauled “ Kate ” and then “ Kennedy ” twice, very nearly getting right on to the top of the pad. As it was he bit a piece of the *gadlah* off. Jogin, who was on “ Kennedy ”, thought it was about all up with him and told me he could have touched the Tiger with his foot. However, all's well that ends well, and we got him all right. The curious thing about the whole affair was the two big Tiger getting up practically together. They were evidently brothers. I have only once before heard of this happening.



The effects of a heavy Lunch.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Another good day followed, and this time it was Rhino and Buffalo. We got three of the former and one of the latter, all in the direction of Rossik Bheel. We also saw an old Rhino lying in the water, and Bignell and I tried a stalk. But before we could get within shot, he got up with a grunt and went. I fancy our Elephant disturbed him. A Tigress on the 18th brought the shoot to a finish. *Khubber* of a kill had been brought in in the morning, but on arrival at the place the kill looked older than two days. Moreover, the villager, whose property it was supposed to be, declared it was not his bullock, so the only thing left was to beat the most likely looking patches. Out of the very last of these the Tigress came out full of fight, and immediately distinguished herself by mauling "Rung Bahadur." But she paid for it very soon after. Coming across her was, I expect, a piece of pure good luck, as she was very thin, and did not look as if she had had a meal for a long time



Luncheon group, 1890 Shoot.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Nine Leopard were shot later on in the year, but none were out of the ordinary.

1890. Gordon opened the year by bagging a Leopard close to the Cutcherry at Panga in Rangpore, and on the 5th February, Wood, Bignell, Montriou, Hendley, Gojendra and myself killed two Tiger, both within ten miles of Cooch Behar. One of these was very savage and charged the line before he was wounded. Later on he managed to scratch "Rung Bahadur" and also got home on my Elephant, when, for some reason or other, my gun refused to go off.

The big shoot commenced on the 14th February, and the following came into camp with me at Majerdabri:—Lord and Lady Claud Hamilton, Hughes, Pole-Carew, Brasier-Creagh, Pakenham, Gordon and Mrs. Gordon, Capt. and Lady Florence Streatfield, Bignell and Mrs. Bignell, Mrs. (Lady) Prinsep and Sant. Two days later, Sir Ben. Simpson, Hills, Turner, Grove and

## OUR PARTIES.

Garth joined us. As a party we did not remain complete long. Lord and Lady Claud Hamilton left on the 18th, Lady Florence Streatfield, Mrs. Prinsep, Mrs. Bignell and Brasier-Creagh on the 20th, Turner and Pakenham on the 22nd, Charley Gordon, Mrs. Gordon, Pole-Carew and Streatfield on the 6th March, the two former, however, returned for a few days. To make good our losses, Sweet and Nirmal arrived on the 17th February, while General Auchinlech, G. Apar, Hendley, Gojendro, Chevalier Scheibler, General Hills and Charley Hills joined us at intervals. Shooting ceased on the 19th March, but some of us remained on for a few days' fishing in the Sunkos, and the sport well repaid us. The bag included nineteen Tiger, seven Bear, six Rhino, seventeen Buffalo and one Bison.

We began well by padding two grand Tiger, one on the 14th—our first day—at Takuamari measuring 10' and weighing 520lbs. and the



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

other on the Sunkos River two days afterwards, which measured 10'-2½" and weighed 500lbs.

As regards the first the weight was probably under-estimated, as we found by chance that a



**The 10-foot Tiger.**

Sambur, which had been weighed at the same time, really scaled 717lbs. instead of 622lbs., the weight first given. If a similar mistake was made with the Tiger, he might proportionately



**Pakenham's 10'-24" Tiger.**

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

have pulled down 540lbs. The second Tiger was the longest I had shot up to date. Rowland Ward mentions both these Tigers in his "Records of Big Game". The day intervening between the two Tiger was by no means destitute of sport. A bull Buffalo gave us a long chase, but we got him after lunch, and we also saw a couple of Rhino, one of which was wounded by Gordon, but he got away at the time, though he was brought in some days afterwards. We had a lucky find of a Tigress and two cubs at Falimari on the 18th, while in line across country, all three of which were accounted for and on the following day at Deotakata, I got the best Tigress I had shot so far. Total length 9'-3", body 6'-3", girth 41", biceps 22", forearm 16", head 32 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", height 34". Mr. Inverarity shot one in the Terai a couple of inches longer, but I know of no other as large.

We bagged six Buffalo on the 21st at Turkani, and a Tiger at Chota Bhalka on the 24th. The

## LUCK WITH BUFFALOES.

latter measured 9'-8" and was very heavily built. He didn't, or rather couldn't, show fight, as I was lucky enough to finish him with one shot.

At the same place two days later a Tiger very



The 9'-3" Tigress

nearly bested us by lying low. Twice we beat the jungle without any one seeing a trace of him. But as the *khubber* was good, we put the line

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

through a third time and our perseverance was rewarded.

On the 1st of March at the north end of Baradogla we bagged a bull and two cow Buffalo. The bull was a good 'un, standing 17 hands 2" at the shoulder and measuring 13'-10½" from tip of nose to end of tail.

At Dal Dalia we had a bit of bad luck in a Tiger slipping away into the Reserves before we could cut him off, but there was a set-off in our bagging the best stag I have seen about here. He weighed 717lbs.

The next day, luck was in our favour. When in line near Baradogla, a Tigress got up and I banged at her. She went away as if nothing had happened, but afterwards, on taking up the line again, I came across her stone dead. She had been shot clean through the lung.

Luck did not desert us on the 5th March either, for we got two Rhino. On the way back

### MRS. GORDON'S PROMPTITUDE.

to camp we killed a Bear. She had two small cubs with her, both of which we captured. We shifted camp to Haldibari the day after this, and on the 7th came across three Bear, all of which were bagged.

The 10th gave us a Buffalo and the 11th a couple of Tiger. This latter was a real good day. The first Tiger was shot about two miles from camp and the second—a Tigress—at Dal Dalia. The Tigress very nearly got home on "Moti Pershad," but Mrs. Gordon, with an excellent shot, knocked her over in the nick of time. General Hill was luckier than usual and landed a Mahaseer of 16½ lbs.

On the 12th in the Sunkos Reserves we got a Rhino and a Bison. The latter was quite unexpected, as he was the first I have ever seen in these reserves.

The 14th was a capital day. We left camp at 11 o'clock and by 12-30 had shot a magnificent

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Bear and a fine Tiger. The Bear, which Rowland Ward mentions, measured 6'-10" over all, body 6'-2", girth 54½", biceps 26", forearm 18½", head 35½", height 3', and weighed 423lbs. The Tiger measured 9'-6" and weighed 481lbs. Two Tiger on the 15th, but the result was disappointing nevertheless, as we ought to have got four. One, near our camp, got away into the Reserves before we had formed line, and another, a Tigress, did us also, but this time by hiding herself in a small nullah covered with long grass, and so escaped altogether.

A couple of days later we had a little compensation for this bad luck. As we were starting off a Nepaulese boy ran in to say that he had just seen a Tiger close by. We hurriedly put a line in, but could not make the beast break. Eventually he charged back through the line, very nearly getting on to Bignell's Elephant *en route*. Gordon, however, made short work of

### GORDON'S TIGER.

him. He was a fine beast, measuring 9'-10" in length.

Two Bear on the 18th and a big Tigress, 9'-1½", with two cubs, on the 19th at Adlaguri, brought the shoot to a good finish.

In April, May and June, nine Leopard were shot, nearly all by Gordon, Bignell, Sant and myself. The first one I shot on April 2nd came very near the record, being 8'-2½" in length and another killed on the 10th June measured 7'-10½". Both were very heavy beasts.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1889.

Animal.	February 12th- Mar. 18th.	April.	June.	July.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	9	...	...	...	9
Leopard .. ...	2	4	2	3	11
Rhino .. ...	5	...	...	...	5
Buffalo ... ..	9	...	...	...	9
Bear ... ..	8	...	...	...	8
Bara Singh ... ..	6	...	...	...	6
Sambur ... ..	3	...	...	...	3
Hog Deer ... ..	2	...	...	...	2
Antelope ... ..	2	...	...	...	2
Pig ... ..	1	...	...	...	1

Also one Bull Bison and one Barking Deer.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1890.

Animal.	January 7th-23rd.	February 5th.	Feb. 14th-Mar. 19th	April.	May.	June.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	...	2	19	...	...	...	21
Leopard ... ..	1	...	...	3	4	3	11
Rhino ... ..	...	...	6	...	...	...	6
Buffalo ... ..	...	...	17*	...	..	..	17
Bear ... ..	...	...	7	...	...	...	7
Bara Singh ... ..	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
Sambur ... ..	..	...	7	...	...	...	7
Hog Deer ... ..	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
Antelope ... ..	..	...	1	...	...	...	1
Pig ... ..	...	...	9	...	...	...	9

\* Also one Bison.

## CHAPTER VI.

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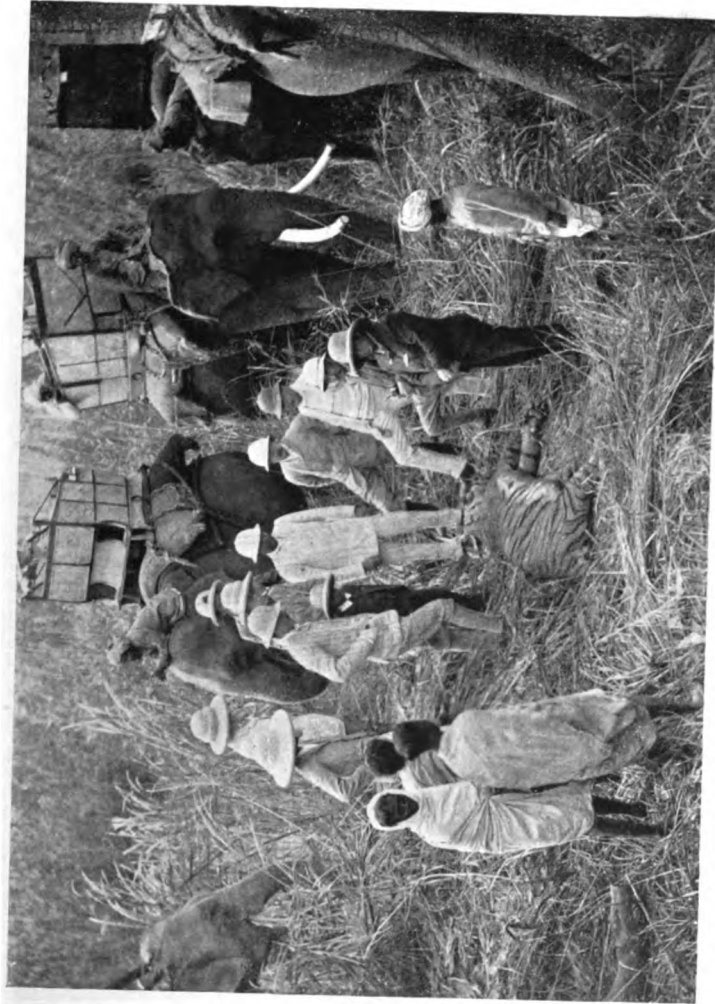
1891.

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The shoot starts well—Curious Tiger at Deotakata—Wild bull Buff in a tame herd—A remarkable war dance—Fine bull Bison—Python with a Barking Deer inside him.

1891.

**O**N the 14th February, the same date as last year, a large party set out for the Chukchuka jungles. At first it was composed of Harry Hungerford, Brasier-Creagh, Lord Fred. Hamilton, L. Daniell, Streatfield, Gordon, the Maharani (my wife), Bignell, and myself. Lady Florence Streatfield, Mrs. Toomey, Mrs. Gordon and Mrs. Bignell also accompanied us. A good many changes, of course, occurred before shooting ceased. Some left and others joined, the latter including Mr. (Sir Edward) and Mrs. Sassoon, who stayed with us about a week, Lord Ailsa, Charley Harbord, Vere, Cumberlege, the Maharaja of Mourbhanj, Kiddell and Ehlers.



The 10'3" Tiger, shot on the first day of 1891 Shoot

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

This was the longest shoot we had yet had, and we did not break up until well on in April. The big game bagged was as follows :—Twelve Tiger, three Leopard, five Rhino, three Bear, fifteen Buffalo and a bull Bison.

We began very much as we did last year with two big Tiger, the one shot on our first day out measuring 10'-2", and the other, got on the next day, at Bara Bhalka, being 10'- $\frac{1}{2}$ " in length.

Both the 16th and 17th gave a Buffalo, the second a fine old bull that charged Mrs. Gordon with great resolution. She stopped him, however, very effectively. The day after this, spent in the Horseshoe jungles, was a thoroughly disappointing one, and that, in spite of *khubber*, both of Tiger and Buffalo. We worked for both, but the Tiger wasn't at home, and the Buffalo, a bull, got away wounded. This was all before lunch, after which we went after the Buffalo again, but no good came of it. A Rhino also got away wounded

## FOLLOWING UP.

later on in the day, and darkness prevented our following him up.

The 19th was hardly a better day, for though we bagged two Buffalo, we lost two others wounded, as well as a Rhino which I knocked over but didn't, I suppose, hit in the right place. We had a long day on the 20th trying to get on to the wounded animals, but saw nothing of them. However, we bagged a Tiger at Chota Dal Dalia, not by any means a big one. On the 22nd we got another at Kookoor Chubi, this time a goodish one—9'-6" in length and weighing 450lbs. He meant mischief, but was not given a chance. The next few days, although we had a moderate amount of sport, were singularly devoid of incident, so I will get on to the 5th March, by which date we had moved camp to Garad Haut. We got a Tiger and Tigress this day, the one at Bara Dal Dalia and the other at Guigaon. The Tiger showed fight and mauled one of the Elephants

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



A line in the rgr Shoot.

### AN OLD OFFENDER.

but not badly. He was a very lucky find, as we put him up while beating for Rhino.

This was not the first time we had been after either of these animals; the Tiger, indeed, had done us twice before, so I was precious glad to get them at last.

But for one Barasingh, the 6th was a blank day, and the 7th entirely so. On the 8th we had our first beat at the south end of Pachkoldoba without result. Going on to Rossik Bheel, two Rhino turned up and one came in my direction but a long way off. Kala, the *shikari*, persuaded me to fire, though I did not myself think it good enough. My second shot hit him, and he answered to it immediately by swinging round and breaking through the line. On beating for him again, he twice broke through, and when we got him eventually, he must have had, I should think, twenty-five bullets in him. Altogether we were lucky to bag him. During one of the beats we put up a Tiger but he got away.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The second day after this at Bara Hamua we bagged a medium-sized Tiger, remarkable for nothing but clawing an Elephant.

We shot a curious Tiger at Deotakata on the 14th. He had very heavy pads and a long tail, but quite small otherwise; one tooth was knocked out by a bullet. Total length 8'-5½", body 5'-4", length of tail 3'-1½" He didn't break until the very last moment, and then started off like a Leopard with hardly anything more than a grunt.

On the 16th we bagged a bull Rhino, and nothing more in the shape of big game, though we worked hard enough for it—until the 22nd.

We changed camp, by the way, on the 17th to Haldibari.

The 22nd gave us rather a curious experience. We had gone out to the Forest Reserves on rather indifferent *khubber*, only to find,

## A TIGER'S CURIOUS DANCE.

after beating, that it was worth nothing. On our way home we came across a herd of tame Buffalo with a wild young bull among them.

At Bara Hamua on the 24th we padded a 9'-8" Tiger. He charged down on Mrs. Gordon, but she stopped him, and Gordon then fired, after which the Tiger performed a ridiculous kind of war dance, first on his head and then on his feet before we finished him.

On the 26th I was lucky enough to get a splendid bull Bison with one shot in the neck. Rowland Ward gives this beast as the second record, but as only the height at the shoulder is mentioned in the book, sportsmen may perhaps be interested in noting the other dimensions.

Length.	Body.	Girth behind Shoulder.	Girth at top of Ridge.	Largest Girth.	Neck where it joins body.	Neck behind the ears.
ft. in.	ft. in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.
12 2½	9 5	116	120	132	108	60
Horns from Tip to Tip round outside.		Base of Horns.	Across from Tip to Tip.		Height at Shoulder.	
72 in.		20½ in.	20½ in.		18 hands 3¼ in.	

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Between the 2nd and 14th April two Rhino and two cow Buffalo were bagged at Gordongunj, where we had moved camp. Of the latter, one a very fine beast, nearly got home on me, but I



**Mrs. Gordon's 9'-8" Tiger.**

fancy she didn't like the look of "Indrajit's" tusks ! Her measurements, which were very large for a cow, are worth setting down. Length 12'-6", body 9'-8", girth 94", greatest girth 112",

### ANOTHER RECORD BEAST.

height 17 hands 3". Her hoofs were enormous and measured  $7\frac{3}{4}$ " across. The bull got away wounded unfortunately. In addition to the Rhino and Buffalo, we killed, during the same period, four Sambur, three Hog Deer, two Barking Deer, a Pig and a Python, the last 15'-5" in length and with a full grown Barking Deer inside him. In this connection it would be interesting to know what a 30' Python could do. Whether the grass was too dry or the supply of water too scarce, for some time past there seemed to have been but little game in the country. For several weeks previously we had only shot every other day. The ravines and gullies were worked, but in these a line is useless, and one must either shoot on foot or with a single Elephant. The country round about was lonely, so we determined to make the 14th April our last day in camp.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1891.

Animals.	• February 14th to April 14th.	Up to 26th July.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	12	...	12
Leopard ... ..	3	5	8
Rhino ... ..	5	...	5
Buffalo ... ..	15 One Bison as well.	...	15 and 1 Bison
Bear ... ..	3	...	...
Barasingh ... ..	27	...	27
Sambur ... ..	28	...	28
Hog Deer... ..	6	...	6
Antelope ... ..	4	...	4
Pig ... ..	20	...	20

\* Two Barking Deer and two Pigmy Hog were also shot.

## CHAPTER VII.

1892.

Heavy jungle but good sport—The Do-Mohana bag—A big bull Buffalo—Another ten-foot Tiger—"Kennedy" in trouble again—"Ram Pershad" bolts at a critical moment—Sambur or Barasingh.

**F**EBRUARY, as usual, saw our shooting <sup>1892</sup> party out in camp. This year we had with us to commence with :—His Excellency Lord Lansdowne, H.R.H. Prince Christian Victor, Lord de Vesci, Harbord, Valletort, Scheibler, Sir Benjamin Simpson, Bignell, Mrs. Bignell and Miss Lewis. The first day's shoot—the 22nd—at Bara Dogla was blank, though a Rhino which got away wounded was picked up all right on the 24th; on returning to camp we found that Lewis and the Grenfells had arrived.

The next day at Sapkata was a good one. In the first beat we put up a Tigress and killed her

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



Our Camp, Garad Haut, 1893. Shoot.

## AT SAPKATA.

without much trouble. A Rhino also broke and he was badly hit, but managed to get away at the time before the stop was able to get round. We picked him up afterwards, however, so there was not much to complain of. A second Tiger got up soon afterwards, but he saved his pads. No one was to blame for this, the jungle being so heavy that it was very difficult to get any Tiger out of it at all. The Tigress measured 8'-6" and weighed 261lbs. Besides the Tigress and Rhino, three Barasingh, a Hog Deer, and a couple of Antelope were also accounted for.

We had a still better day at Do-Mohana on the 24th, bagging two Rhinos—a bull and a cow, six Barasingh and a Hog Deer. Both Rhino were killed before lunch. The bull was a real big one, measuring 12'-3" in length, body 10'-6", girth 124", largest girth 144", round neck, where it joins head, 72", height at shoulder 17 hands 3½". Lady Lansdowne and Lord William Beresford joined us in camp on this date.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Valletort had a Tiger all to himself on the 25th, a young one but of a fair size—9'-1" in length and standing 38½".

The 26th was rather a disappointing day. We got *khubber* of one Tiger early in the morning, and of another later on. The second one, which we started after first, turned out to be a Leopard and we got him. The other Tiger wasn't at home or at any rate we saw nothing of him.

The following day we had a long jaunt in the direction of Pachkoldoba after Buffalo, but though we got one cow and saw plenty of fresh tracks, we never came up with the herd. During the day we killed, besides the cow, a Leopard, Bear and Pig. The 28th was a day of rest for the Elephants, and several visitors made a move. The Viceroy, Lady Lansdowne, de Vesci, Beresford, Grenfells and Valletort left, while General Viscount Frankfort and Powney joined us. We had no *khubber* of Tiger on the 29th, though

## ADDITIONS TO OUR PARTY.

we got a couple of Leopard, so I moved camp to Bara Bhalka on the 1st March.

Beating round Turkani on the 2nd, we bagged a Rhino when we had almost given up all hopes of getting one. Harrison, Lord Borthwick and Brown now joined our camp. Shooting in the same direc-



Wounded bull Buffalo before being finished off, 1892 Shoot.

tion on the 3rd, we killed a nice young bull Buffalo with fair horns, and the next day, on the other side of the Sunkos, north-east of our camp, we bagged a still better one. The head of the latter, cut off quite close to the horns, weighed 196lbs. A Sambur and two Barasingh were

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

also shot. March 5th gave us two Buffalo, a bull and a cow, together with a Barasingh. These were shot in the south-east jungles. The day after this Prince Christian and Harbord left, and we gave the Elephants a day off. Shooting in the north-east jungles again on the 7th and 8th, we bagged two cow Buffalo the first day, but had rather bad luck in not getting another Buffalo and a Bear, both going away hard hit. The next day we killed a bull Buffalo and two Barasingh, and learned on our return home that on the very day we last changed camp a Tiger had killed a cow in the jungle !

A long dismal day was the 9th, spent after imaginary Buffalo and Rhino. We never saw either the one or the other the whole day, though there were plenty of fresh tracks of both.

Harrison, General Frankfort, Powney and Borthwick left us on the 10th, and the same day

## MY LARGEST BULL BUFF.

we got two cow Buffalo in the Forest Reserves, north of camp.

For several days the sport had not been of the best, but the 11th brought me a great stroke of luck. We were shooting near Jamba Mech's village when I came across and shot a magni-



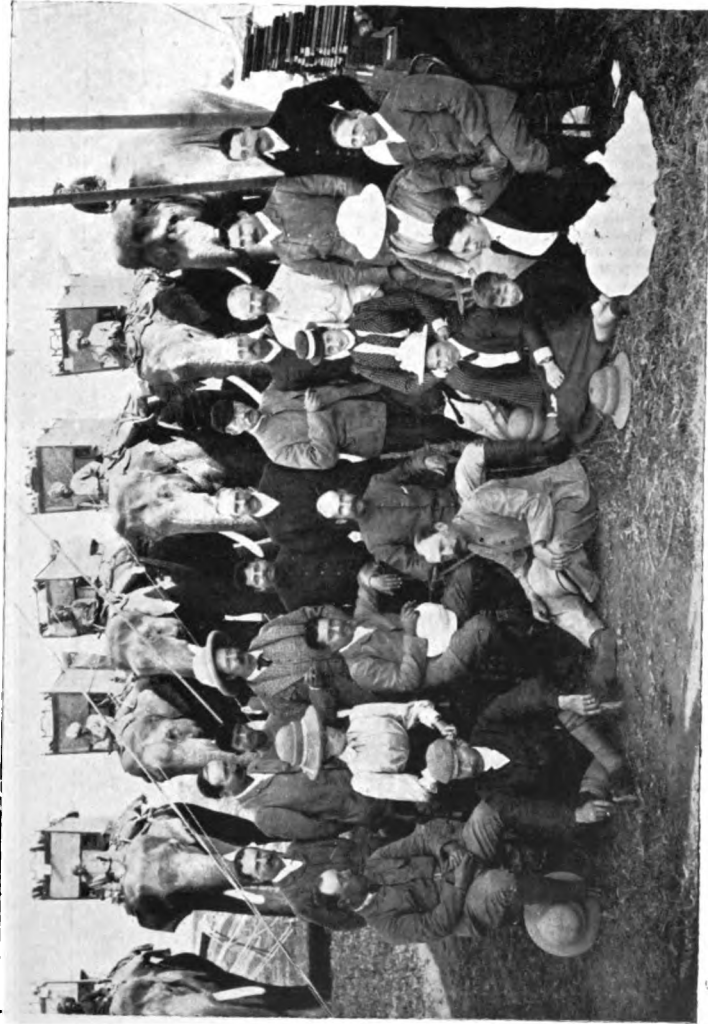
Washing Day.

ficent bull Buffalo. The full measurements together with an illustration of the head are given in the "Records of Big Game," but as many may not have a chance of referring to that book, I give them here. His full length was 13'-5", body

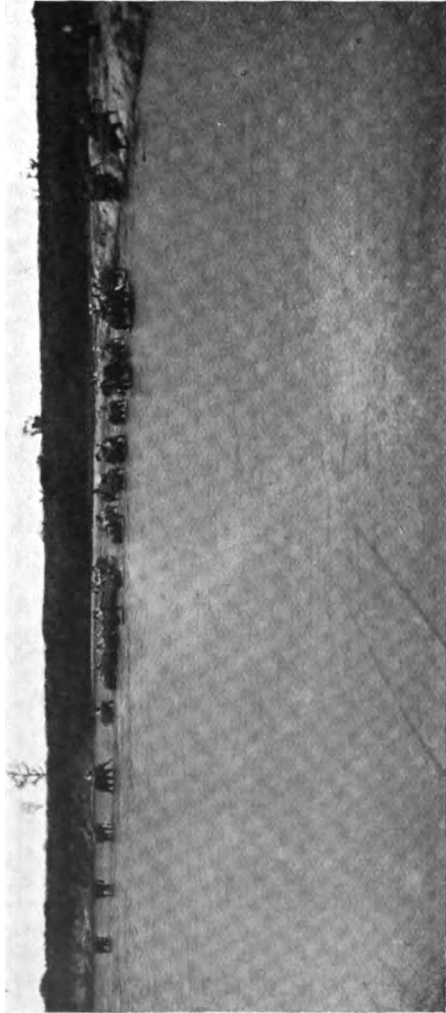
## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

10'-3", girth behind shoulder 104", largest girth 128", round neck, where it joins head, 63", round neck, where it joins body, 92". The horns, with meat, skin, etc., cut off from near the shoulder, weighed 25 stone. Horns between tips measured 53" and their widest sweep 56". Height at shoulder 18 hands. Weight of one of the forefeet, cut off at the knee joint, 16½ lbs. This bull was one of the largest, if not the largest ever shot in this district. Scheibler and Simpson photographed him when standing at bay. The day following the end of the big bull brought the shoot to a close, but as has often happened before, we had a good wind-up in the shape of a ten-foot Tiger, bagged in Dal Dalia. He had killed seven cows, and gave a lot of trouble till we killed him, charging home on "Kennedy" as per usual!

We had another nine days' shoot, commencing on the 25th April. McLaughlin, Gojendro, Jotindro, Sant, Sujey, Suresh and Baxi, all accompanied me.



The Party, 1892.



**Elephants crossing the Sunkos.**

## CHANGE OF CAMP.

The first day was occupied in a wild goose chase after Buffalo, but we saw none. The next day we saw five Rhino in all. I got one and badly wounded another, which I ought also to have bagged, but just as I was about to finish him off, my Elephant, "Ram Pershad," made a bolt of it. This was in the Forest Reserves, where we got four Barasingh the same day.

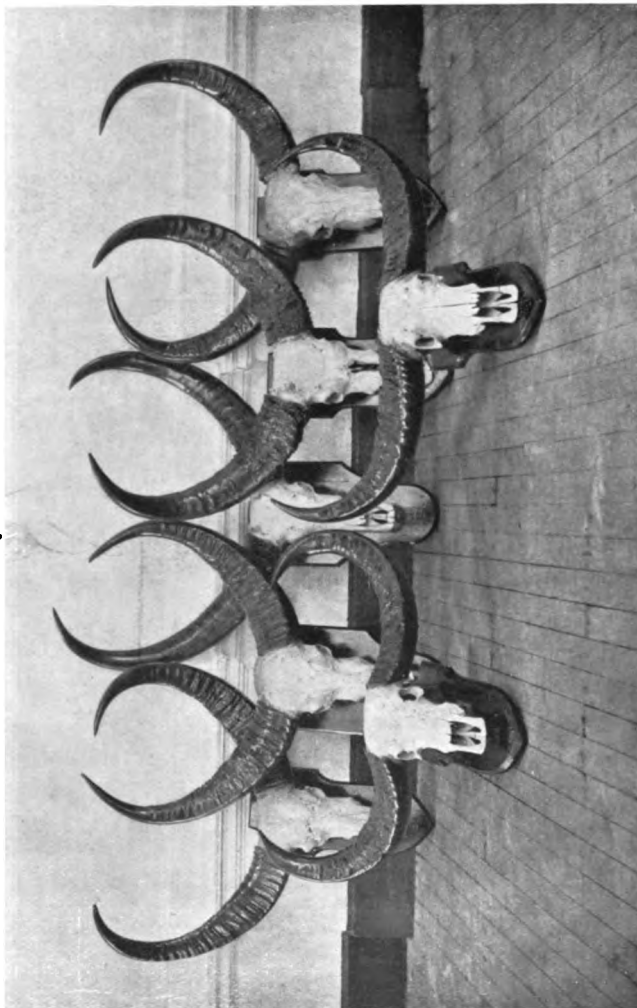
We had another long day after Rhino in the Reserves again on the 27th, but saw none, though we came across a certain number of fresh tracks. We got three Barasingh, however, and a couple of Pig. The 28th was a worse day, our reward only being one Barasingh and three Pig.

The day following, *khubber* was brought in at half past five in the evening that a Leopard had tried to bone a calf, but had been driven off by the villagers. We went out and got him. He was a good beast, measuring 7'-6" in length, body 4'-9", and weighed 10 stone, though he had



SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Some fine Bull Buff Heads



10'-1" 9'-6" 10' 10'-5" 9'-11" 9'-8 1/2" 10'-3"

## END OF THE '92 CAMP.

no food inside him. This is quoted in R. Ward's book.

We changed camp on the 30th to Chelapata and killed two Barasingh and three Pig *en route*.

The 1st and 2nd of May were both unlucky, disappointing days. We put up three Rhino on the 1st, all of which got away, and I didn't get a shot myself. While on the 2nd both a Rhino and Tiger got safely off; darkness was really the cause of Stripes being able to escape.

It has almost become a rule for the last day of a shoot to be a good one, and the 3rd May was no exception. We began by putting up a Tiger in the first beat in the Reserves, but he escaped us. Then a Bear was turned out and shot. After lunch we left the Reserves and came across a Tigress in the very first patch we beat. McLaughlin bagged her all to his own cheek. We broke up camp on the 4th May.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

We, that is, Harrison, Warneford, Brown, Bignell, Jotindro, Sant, Rivers Worgan, Gojendro, Percy Briscoe and myself went out in November for a week's shoot, bagging a Tiger, one bull and three cow Buffalo and a curious beast, Sambur-like in body, but with the horns of a



**Striking Camp.**

Barasingh. The measurements of the Tiger were : length 9'-7", body 6'-7", girth 50½", height 40¾", head 39", upper arm 28", forearm 18", and weighed 492lbs. A very massive, heavy Tiger. The bull Buffalo was also a fine young beast.

We found the jungles too large to beat properly with a line of thirty Elephants.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1892.

Animals.	Feb. 22nd -Mar. 12th.	April 25th-May 3rd.	Up to 24th August.	November 2nd-28th.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	3	1	..	1	5
Leopard ... ..	4	1	6	1	12
Rhino ... ..	5	1	.	..	6
Buffalo ... ..	11	..	..	4	15
Bear ... ..	1	1	..	..	2
Barasingh ... ..	16	13	..	1	30
Sambur ... ..	1	..	..	..	1
Hog Deer ... ..	3	1	..	..	4
Antelope... ..	2	..	..	..	2
Pig ... ..	7	11	..	..	18

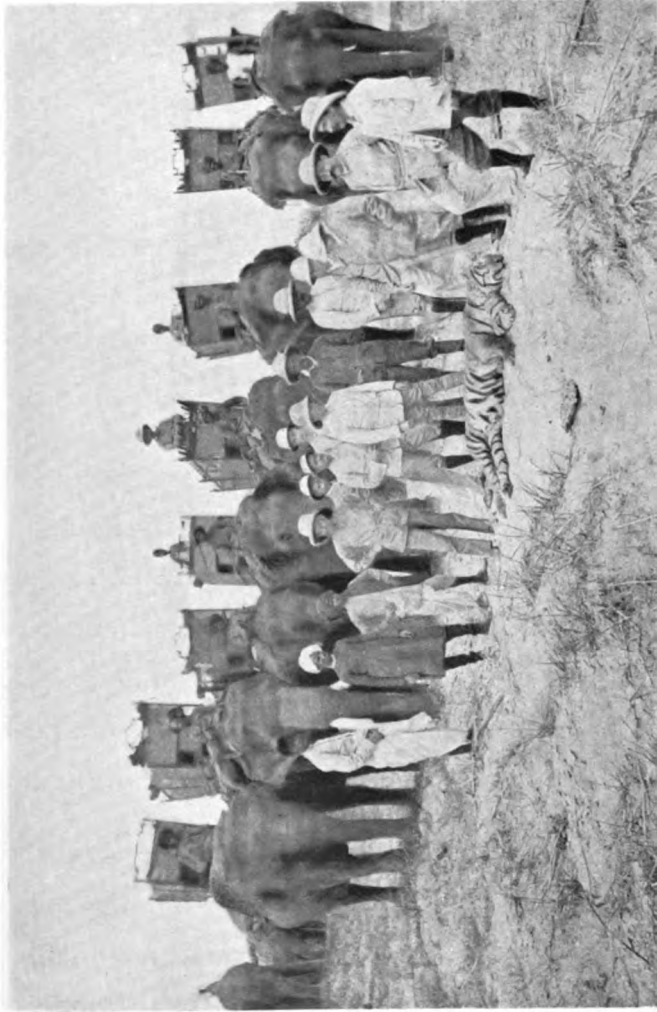
## CHAPTER VIII.

1893.

Shooting from Mahakalguri—Rhino on the Raidak—A record Tigress—The Hamua Veteran—Good day's sport near Deogaon—Some disappointing days—Luck with a Bison—An afternoon with Tiger.

1893. **W**E began business this year with a good long shoot, lasting from the 11th February till the 20th March. The Astleys, Harrisons, Warneford, Lewis, and Miss Lewis, Bignells, Miss Sen, Col. Tillotson, Daniell, Brown, Valletort, Lambton, Shields, and the Maharani either started with us or came out to camp very soon after. Jotindro, Galeffi and Sujey joined us in March, and most of those mentioned remained to the end.

The camp was pitched at Mahakalguri, and the first day we put up a couple of Buffs, but didn't succeed in coming to terms with them. We also



**Tiger shot on the Banks of the Raidak.**

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

saw fresh tracks of Rhino and bagged a Barasingh. The day after this, close to our camp, we padded a very fine Tiger that showed a certain amount of fight, and considering we had no *khubber* whatever, we were very lucky in getting him. He measured 9'-10", body 6'-7½", biceps 26", forearm 19½", head 36", height 39", girth 52", and he weighed 512lbs.—a massive beast and full of beef.

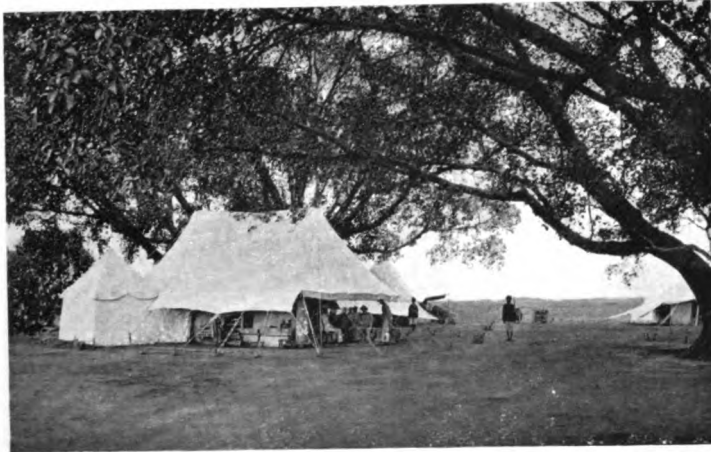
It poured with rain all the 13th and we did not go out. The 14th gave us two bull Buffalo, and two cow Buffs, and on the 15th we had a long day after Rhino, but saw none. We came across some wild Elephants and I had a long shot at one, but he was too far off to do any good. The presence of these Elephants by the way quite accounts for our seeing no Rhino. This day a Sambur and three Barasingh were shot.

On the 16th we had a long jaunt after a Tiger, but did not even see his foot-marks. A Leopard

## FRUITLESS BEAT AFTER RHINO.

was put up and got away, and by the end of the day we had only one Barasingh to our credit.

Just at the edge of the Reserves and north of our camp we had a long beat after Rhino on



**Camp Garad Haut.**

the 17th, but though we saw fresh tracks, we never got up to them. In the last beat we got a Tiger, 8'-8" in length.

We had another long beat after Tiger the next day, and we had nearly given him up, when he was



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

turned out of a small patch quite outside of the original jungle. A (Sambur) stag was also shot which stood 13 hands 1" at the shoulder, and scaled 682lbs. They were both killed close to camp.

In the Forest Reserves, on the Raidak, we got a very fine bull Rhino on the 19th. He stood 18 hands and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " at the shoulder, body 10'-5", length with tail 11'-9", girth behind shoulder 114", biggest girth 141", round neck near shoulder 10", neck close to head 68. Four other Rhino broke back through the line, so it was really a bit of bad luck not getting more than one.

However, the 20th was a real good day, and we brought home a very fine Tigress and a bull and cow Rhino. The Tigress beat the previous record in length by half an inch, measuring 9'-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Her other measurements were : body 6'-2 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", girth 41", head 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", forearm 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", upperarm 23", height 33 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", weight 343lbs. We put her up at the



Lunch in the bed of the Jorai

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

end of the second beat ; several shots were fired at her but only one hit her. During the first beat two Rhino broke back, but after lunch we came on them again, and I got both of them with a right and left. The cow Rhino, however, very nearly got home on me.

The next day we were unlucky in two Buffs getting off. I had a long shot at one, but don't fancy I did much damage. We had some consolation though in killing a Sambur (stag) that weighed 743lbs.—the record up to date—and measured 41" round the neck.

All this time we had been shooting in different parts of the Forest Reserves, and on the 22nd, north of the Haldibari road, we bagged a Rhino, four Barasingh and a Hog Deer. The Rhino was got in the line. After lunch it came on to rain and we started for home. On the way back we saw plenty of fresh tracks of Buffs and

### A GOOD LEOPARD.

Rhino, but not the animals, barring the one shot. There were a lot of Deer about.

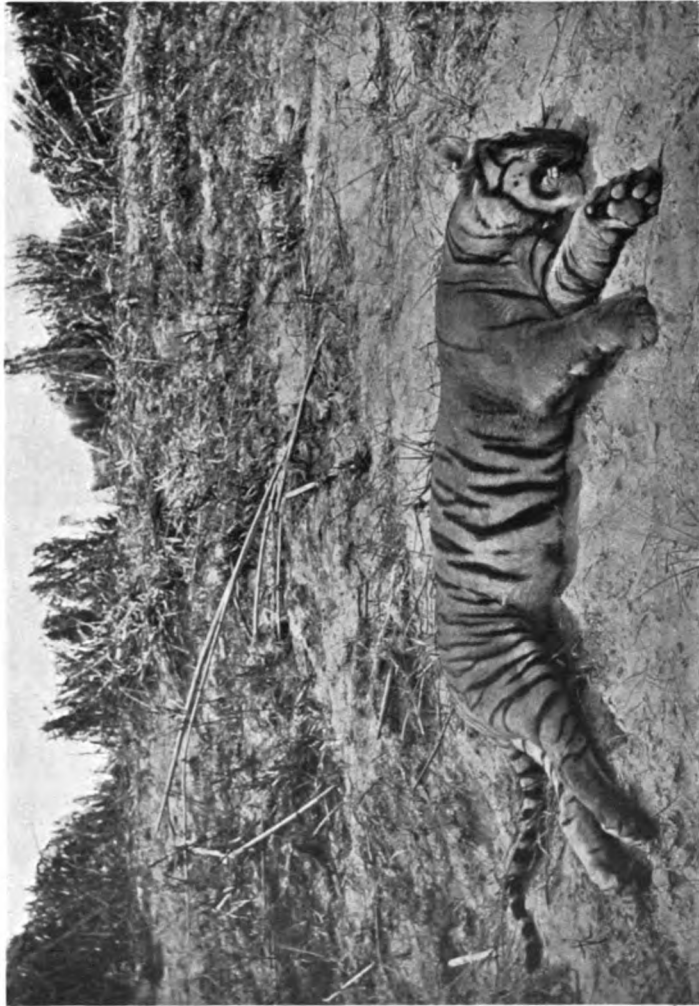
The morning of the 23rd we had a rest for man and beast, but went out after lunch and got a Leopard.

We moved camp to Haldibari on the 24th, and the moment we reached camp had *khubber* of a Tiger. He turned out to be a Leopard, but a fine beast at that, measuring 7'-8½" in all and with a body of 4'-10".

The 25th we drew blank, and on the 26th we gave the Elephants a rest which they stood a bit in need of.

A disappointing day the 27th, while the 28th and 1st March were hardly less so. On the former we had a fruitless chase after what I believe were quite imaginary Rhino and Buffalo. We shot a couple of fairish Barasingh on the 28th, but a bull Buffalo got away badly wounded,

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



The Raidak Tiger.

## BUFFALO AND RHINO.

and on the 1st March we got absolutely nothing, though we saw several Buffalo on this last date. West, Burgess, G. Burgess and Carnegie joined us in camp.

A very old Tiger was bagged at Hamua on the 2nd. He was blind of one eye, and all his teeth were worn down to nothing. He measured  $9\frac{1}{2}$ ".

The Astleys, Daniell and Colonel Tillotson left us on the 3rd. We killed three Buffalo and another went away very badly hit. I believe there were eight of sorts put up altogether. We also saw two Rhino and wounded one, but they both got away. The jungles were really too large to take in one line, or we must have got more than we did.

A little bit of luck came to us on the 5th in the shape of a Rhino which turned up in a small patch where no one expected him.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The 6th was occupied in hunting a Tiger, which proved to be a Leopard after all, and he got away. But for a Barasingh, the day would have been absolutely blank.

We had a shot at a Bear the next day without result, and as by this time I had come to the conclusion that it was no good shooting in the forests any longer, we moved camp to Garad Haut on the 8th. The change was an improvement.

The day after our arrival, *khubber* of a Tiger from the Deogaon direction came in. We went after him, but he wasn't at home. However, before evening we had bagged a Rhino, three Buffalo—all bulls—and a very lengthy Leopard, measuring 8'. The Rhino and the Buff were all killed after lunch. One of the Buffalo was a very fair specimen, standing 17 hands 2" at the shoulder. Besides what was shot, a cow Buffalo made off badly wounded, and a Rhino escaped by charging back through the line.

## BETTER LUCK.

We saw lots of other game of sorts and had in fact a really good day.

The 10th was a blank, though we got *khubber* of a Tiger which we didn't see, and had a shot at a Leopard.

I got a Tigress at Bhalka Balasee on the 11th, but a lot of beating had to be done before she was brought to book. We saw no signs of her in either the first or second beat, and I began to fear it was a case of *Chala gaya*. To improve matters it then came on to rain. After lunch we beat another heavy patch for her; she wasn't in it, but clean outside, where she had been watching some cows. Burgess put her up, and she broke at once back into the patch. There we got her. She measured 8'-7¼", body 5'-10½", and weighed 301lbs.

The 12th was a rest day for everybody. *Khubber* of Tiger came in the evening, so we started next morning and killed a fair Tiger 9'-3" long,



SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



Lunch in the Forest.

#### BAD WEATHER.

body 6'-4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "', and weighing 392lbs. He was knocked over and practically done for, first shot.

On the 14th we tried the Bhalka Reserves, but the day was disappointing from start to finish. As soon as we got on the ground it began raining hard, so we had to sit tight for a bit. Later on we saw fresh tracks of Rhino, Buff and Tiger, but came up with nothing. After lunch we had another try, but no result, though some Buffalo tracks were very fresh. We stopped shooting early, as we were a long way off camp and the weather was very threatening.

No big game was killed on the 16th, though, on our way home from Guigaon towards the end of the day, a Rhino broke back through the end of the line. Three Sambur and four Barasingh were bagged. We had a general shoot near camp on the 16th and got a Leopard. At Bara Dogla, the following day we had a great piece of luck in getting a Bison, as they seldom come down so low as this.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

There were two others with him. A Rhino was put up in the first beat and fired at. He got away, but I believe he was badly hit, and probably lying dead somewhere.

We tried Bara Dogla again on the 18th, securing a Rhino and a Barasingh. The Stag weighed 40 stone 3lbs. On getting back to camp we heard that a Tiger had been seen by villagers to the north of us. We went out after him the next morning, but didn't come across his tracks even.

On the 20th we crossed the Sunkos to Majerdabri. We didn't start till late in the day, and then went after a bull Buffalo, but never saw a sign of him, though the afternoon made up for all. We didn't lunch till 4 o'clock, and between that and dark killed three Tiger—a big slice of luck and a splendid finish for the last day's shoot. Our next camp was at Chelapata and the party consisted of Sir Charles Elliott, Nolan, Currie, General

## OUR NEW PARTY.

Lance, Boileau, Elliott, Dyne, Lister, Lewis, Forbes, Bignell, McLaughlin, Baxi and myself.

The first day, the 20th, we saw any amount of game, but only managed to bag one Buffalo, one Bear with two cub and a Barasingh. Another young Bear was caught. The she-Bear weighed 287lbs. It was bad luck not doing better, as we actually saw ten Buffalo and five Rhino.

The 21st was another unlucky day. There were lots of fresh Rhino tracks about, but we could not get up to them, and we also saw two Bison, but never got a shot. All we did get was a fair-sized male Bear, scaling 386lbs., and a Sambur.

Sir Charles Elliott, Nolan and Boileau left on the 22nd, on which date only a Sambur was shot. The day after this we got a couple of Leopard. We might perhaps have had a Tiger if the villagers had not snatched away a cow from him ; so, of course, he wouldn't stay. No luck again on the 24th, though five Rhino were put

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

up and tracks of Buffalo and also of a large Tiger were seen.

The remainder of the shoot, which finished on the 27th and ended up in rain, is soon told. We had a goodish day on the 25th, killing a Bear weighing 367lbs., five Barasingh and a Hog Deer. A Rhino fell to us on the 26th, and another went away badly wounded. We also got some Deer, both on this day and on the 27th.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1893.

Animals.	Feb. 11th- Mar. 20th.	April 10th- 27th.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	11	...	11
• Leopard ... ..	4	2	6*
Rhino ... ..	7	...	7
Buffalo ... ..	10	1	11
Bear ... ..	...	4	4
Sambur ... ..	9	4	13
Barasingh ... ..	25	10	35
Hog Deer ... ..	9	6	15
Antelope ... ..	...	...	...
Pig... ..	9	9	18

And one Bison shot on 17th March.

\* A great many more Leopard were shot in this and the next year. The actual dates have not been preserved, but the total number and the names of those who shot them have. They will be alluded to in the yearly summary of 1894.

## CHAPTER IX.

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1894.

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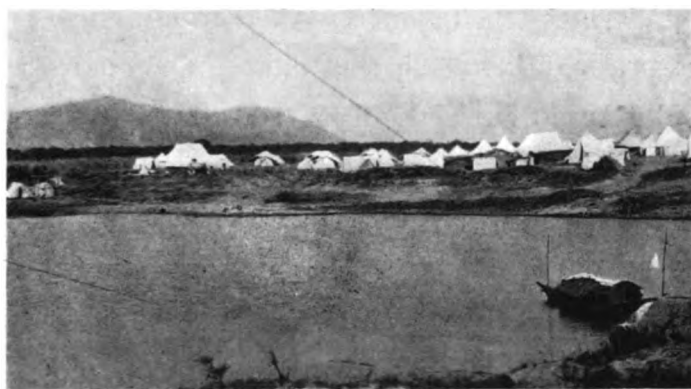
The Samerdanga Jungles—A large (and high) cow Rhino—*Tame* ending to a hunt after Buffalo—A beat for Tiger proves prolific—Breakdown of the launch—A Samerdanga Tiger makes a record—Buffalo at Tikri Kila.

**S**HOOTING in Assam in February 1894, our first party was made up as follows :— Lord William Beresford, Lewis, Lord Wolverton, Sir Benjamin Simpson, Lord Dalrymple, Gordon, Count Scheibler, Mackinnon, Bignell and myself. Hewett, Scott, Count D'Harnoncour and Herbert joined us a day or two later.

We saw lots of beasts the first day, the 27th ; among them two Rhino and ten Buffalo. We bagged a Rhino and two Buff, but had a bit of bad luck in losing another Rhino and Buffalo, both of which went away wounded. A couple of

### SOME POOR DAYS.

poor days' sport followed, on the first of which we only saw one bull Buffalo and he escaped us, while the second was mainly spent hunting unsuccessfully after Rhino, but we only saw one cow Buffalo and that we got.



Our Camp at Dudnath Pahar on the Brahmaputra.

The 2nd of March was a real good day. In the very first beat, at Samerdanga, we put up two Rhino, but, for the time being, both got away, though one was hard hit. As a matter of fact, arrangements were a good deal upset quite unnecessarily, and it was a long while before we could



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

get things straightened out. However, in the next beat both Rhino were put up again, and this time one was bagged and the other knocked bang on to his knees ; though he got away that day in spite of it all, he was picked up some days later. Just before lunch *khubber* was brought in of a Tiger, or rather a Tigress, as it turned out to be, and we went out and got her without any difficulty. She measured 8'-8" from tip of nose to end of tail. The Rhino jungles at Samerdanga were quite the most unbeatable I had ever seen. thick *khagra* interlaced with wild rose bushes.

We went after a Tiger on the 3rd, that was said to be quite close to our camp, but we didn't come across him, though Bignell thought he caught sight of him in the first beat. The line was certainly broken towards the centre, and it is possible he may have slipped back. I sent out Singbir *shikari* to have a look round, and while we were at lunch he came back to say that he



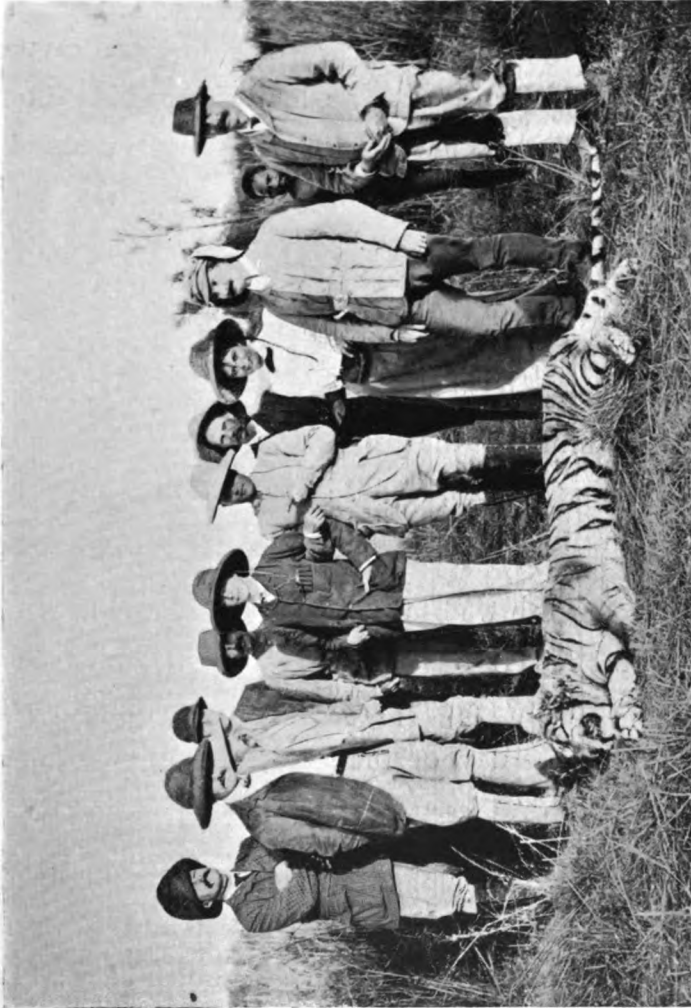
View of the Brahmaputra from the Hill behind our Camp.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

had just seen a bull Buffalo in a small patch hard by. We weren't long getting out after him and bagging him. He was a fair beast and stood 16 hands 3" at the shoulder. On the way home we got a cow Buffalo.

Shooting near the same place on the 4th we got a Buffalo in the first beat, and soon after came across the Rhino lying dead, that Bill (Lord William Beresford) and I had hit in the Samerdanga jungles. She was a little too high for me to go up to, but Bholi measured her—17 hands  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " at the shoulder—an exceptionally large cow.

The next day we crossed over to the Kaziakata Chur—the one nearest our camp—where tracks of three different Tiger had been seen. The first beat resulted in nothing, and in the second Hewett saw a Tiger and got a snapshot, but though we beat for him again, we couldn't put him up. After lunch we had another try in the same patch,



9-10½," Tiger shot March 5th.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

and, just at the end of the beat, he jumped up quite close to me, and we had him padded soon after. He was a fine Tiger, measuring in length 9'-10 $\frac{3}{4}$ "', body 6'-9"', girth 49"', upper arm 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ "', forearm 19"', head 35"', height at shoulder 36"'. He looked as if he hadn't eaten anything for a long time and only weighed 399lbs.—very little for a Tiger of his size. We were very lucky to get him, as the jungle was heavy with *jhorw* and thick grass, and almost unbeatable in consequence.

On the 6th we beat about in the jungle next to the Assam High Road for a Tiger which had killed two cows a couple of days before, but didn't see him that day or the next, though we came across fresh tracks.

We gave the Elephants a rest on the 8th, and soon after lunch *khubber* was brought in of a Tiger having killed two of our milch-cows. It turned out, however, to be a Leopard which we



The two Tigers bagged on March roth.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

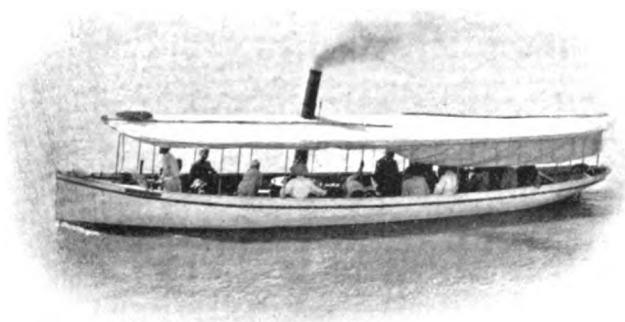
bagged. He was rather a fine beast, the total length being 7'-6½" and body 4'-9".

The 9th was not only a blank but a real rotten day at that. We commenced by starting after a family of four Tiger we had heard of, but we never got to the ground, as on our way there a "Khubberia" came up to say that he had seen a bull Buffalo which we might shoot *en route*. We spent the greater part of the day looking after the beast, and when we found him he turned out to be a tame one with a rope round his fetlock joint. My feelings may be imagined !

On the 10th most of the party started off early in the morning for a shoot in one of the adjacent churs, only Lowis and myself remaining in camp in hopes of hearing something more of the Tiger we had been after the day before, and we were right, for *khubber* came in and we went out after lunch. There were only five Elephants with us, but a Tiger got up in the very first beat. He

#### FOUR TIGERS IN A BEAT.

slipped past Lewis and lay up in a patch close by. On beating it, to my astonishment and joy, out came four Tiger, two of which we bagged. One—a Tigress—was a fine beast, and measured



**Our Launch on the Brahmaputra.**

8'-9" in length, with a body 5'-9". It was very bad luck the others not being with us; with a couple more guns we should probably have got the lot.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The day following this, while shooting along the foot of Dudnath, three Tiger were put up in the first beat, but we only bagged one. He, however, gave some fun, charging about and very nearly getting home on Bignell's and Mackinnon's elephants.

Our launch broke down on the 12th on our way to Haribhanga, and we had to wait till the big steamer got up steam, which took the best part of two hours. In the first beat, five Buffalo were put up, out of which we got two—a bull and a cow.

The 13th brought us a fine bull Buffalo standing 16 hands 2" at the shoulder, but we saw nothing else the whole day; but on the next, *khubber* came in of a Tiger that had been heard roaring in the Samerdanga jungles, just about the place where we had beaten the two Rhino out on the 2nd. The *shikari* very nearly put me off going, by declaring that it was impossible to get a Tiger out of that patch. Fortunately I did not

### A LENGTHY TIGER.

listen to him, as we managed to bag the longest—though not the heaviest—Tiger I had shot up to then. In the first beat he charged through the stops, but, luckily for us, went into a small patch, where we killed him. His measurements are given



One of my largest Tigers—10'-3".

in the "Records of Big Game," but, for reasons already given, it may be convenient to set them down here. Length 10'-3", body 7'-1½", girth 52", upper arm 29", forearm 19½", head 36½", height 3'-4½", weighed 487lbs. He was an

### SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

oldish Tiger, and all the stripes on his body were more or less double. Bignell found a fresh killed Buffalo, partially eaten. Considering how difficult it was to beat the jungle, it was certainly a great piece of luck our getting him. The night before we shot this Tiger, Bill (Beresford) and Hewett had left the camp. A great pity, as things turned out, for they would both have enjoyed being in at the death of so fine a beast. The following evening young Gouripur joined our party.

The next day or two was occupied in changing camp from Dudnath Pahar to Khalsamari, which we reached on the 17th. This place is at the foot of the Garrow Hills on the other side of the Brahmaputra.

We commenced shooting at Kae Mari the day after our arrival, and brought back to camp a Tiger and a Rhino ; a second Rhino was also shot, but he was not picked up till later, though there is no doubt that he was killed at the time and

“STRIPES” AT HOME.

passed over by the line. It was on the way home that we came across the Tiger in a fine piece of grass. There were evidently three there, a Tigress and cubs, but somehow or other the Tigress got away, and it was too late in the day then to continue beating.



Fixing "Hyder Ali's" Howdah.

The 19th was a blank, though we got *khubber* of Tiger at two different places—Khalsamari and Haribhanga. We looked for them, of course, but neither was at home. We got *khubber* of a bull Buffalo on the 20th, but could not find him where

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

he was said to be. Eventually, however, we put one up—possibly the same one—and this we bagged. There were plenty of fresh Tiger tracks, and we actually came on a fresh killed Deer, but we never got a sight of the Tiger, though he could not have left the kill more than a quarter of an hour before we came across it.

Again on the 21st we got news of Tiger in two different places—Soniter Par and Haribhanga. The first one beat us altogether. Indeed, judging from the burnt up state of the country, there was precious little cover to hold anything. The *khubber* regarding the second Tiger sounded very indifferent, nevertheless we got on terms with him all right and bagged him. He was 8'-11½" in length. The first Tiger, judging by his tracks, must have been a fine beast. He had killed a good sized Buffalo and dragged it some distance.

## LAST DAY OF THE SHOOT.

The next day at Tikri Kila we put up fifteen Buffalo and bagged a bull and three cows. A Bear was also shot in the same beat.

We went on to Kae Mari on the 23rd, and here several Buffalo were put up, of which we got two. Two Bear were also seen, but both these disappeared mysteriously. A third Bear came out close to a gallant sportsman and managed to make good his escape.

The 24th was our last day's shoot. It was a general one all round the camp. Three Barasingh and a couple of Pig were bagged, and more perhaps might have been got, but for the wind which made it impossible for us to mark beasts moving in the grass ahead.



A good Boar.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1894.

Animals.	Feb. 27th- Mar. 24th.
Tiger ... ..	8
Leopard ... ..	1*
Rhino ... ..	5
Buffalo ... ..	16
Bear ... ..	1
Sambur ... ..	4
Barasingh ... ..	8
Hog Deer ... ..	5
Antelope ... ..	...
Pig ... ..	11

\* During 1893-94 besides those shown in the summaries, one Tiger and 24 Leopard were shot by the following sportsmen:—Lewis, Mackinnon, Briscoe, De la Fosse and Ashton.

## CHAPTER X.

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1895.

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Assam again—Heavy Tiger padded—"Rampershad" mauled—A miss at ten yards—Bad luck with a Bison—Buffalo and Rhino at Bhuiapara—Successful fire tactics—Rhino cow's record horn—A game Buffalo—The big bull Rhino.

**O**UR first shoot this year was again in Assam, and, as usual, in February we started for our camp, which had been pitched at Simlaguri. Captains Harbord and Firman, St. Clair, Lord Elphinstone, Sydney-Parker, O'Donnell, Seton-Karr, Hugh Fraser, Lewis, N. Sen, Colonel Allan Gardner and McCabe accompanied me.

We began on the 20th with an absolutely blank day, seeing nothing but tracks, though next day we came across twelve Buffalo and three Rhino. Of these we only bagged two Buffalo, while two others and a Rhino got away



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

wounded. A Sambur was also accounted for. The 22nd gave us two Bear and three Sambur, all shot close to camp.

A fine heavy Tiger was padded on the 23rd. He had no chance of showing fight, though he got



Breakingup Camp at Simlaguri.

up and tried to charge when we all thought he was done for. He measured from tip of nose to end of tail 10'-1", body 6'-11", girth 51½", upper arm 26½", forearm 20", head 37", height at shoulder 36¼", round root of tail 13½", weight 496lbs.

## TIGER IN HEAVY JUNGLES.

We had a long day after Rhino and Buffalo on the 24th, and bagged one of the latter, but the jungles were simply impossible. Next day, shooting in another direction, they were very little better; however, we succeeded in killing a fine Tigress and a Leopard. The Tigress was wounded in the first beat, but got away into another patch, where we found her. She was very game and got home on "Rampershad" before we had done with her. She measured 8'-10" in length and weighed 296lbs. Considering how heavy the jungle was, it was a bit of luck getting her. The Leopard measured 7'-6".

Another good Tigress, measuring 8'-7" and weighing 302lbs., was bagged the following day, though I really think the jungles were worse than before. Heavy *null*, full of *fasan* (quicksand) and intersected by nullahs, they looked impossible, and how we managed to get her to show herself is a riddle to me even now.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The 27th was another long and almost fruitless day spent after Buffalo and Rhino. One cow Buff was the only result besides a Sambur. No doubt we had some bad luck, but the *shikaris*



Assam Jungle.

were all at sea and seemed to know nothing about shooting with a big line.

Two more disappointing days had to be put up with before we got a stroke of luck. The 28th was a regular blank. *Khubber* was brought in of a

“ MISSED ” AT TEN YARDS.

Tiger having killed two cows the day before, but though it sounded good enough, we neither found him at home nor even saw any fresh foot-prints along the nullah. We had intended devoting the 1st March to a good rest for man and beast, but this arrangement was upset by a man bringing in *khubber* of Tiger. We went out at 3 p.m. and found her all right, but the beast bested us completely. She galloped back past me, not ten yards off, and got away !! It certainly was not an easy shot, in spite of her being so close, but I ought to have bagged her all the same.

Early in the morning of the 2nd *khubber* of a kill close to camp was brought in, and we went out, found and knocked a Tigress over in the first beat. She was 8'-10" long and weighed 307½ lbs.

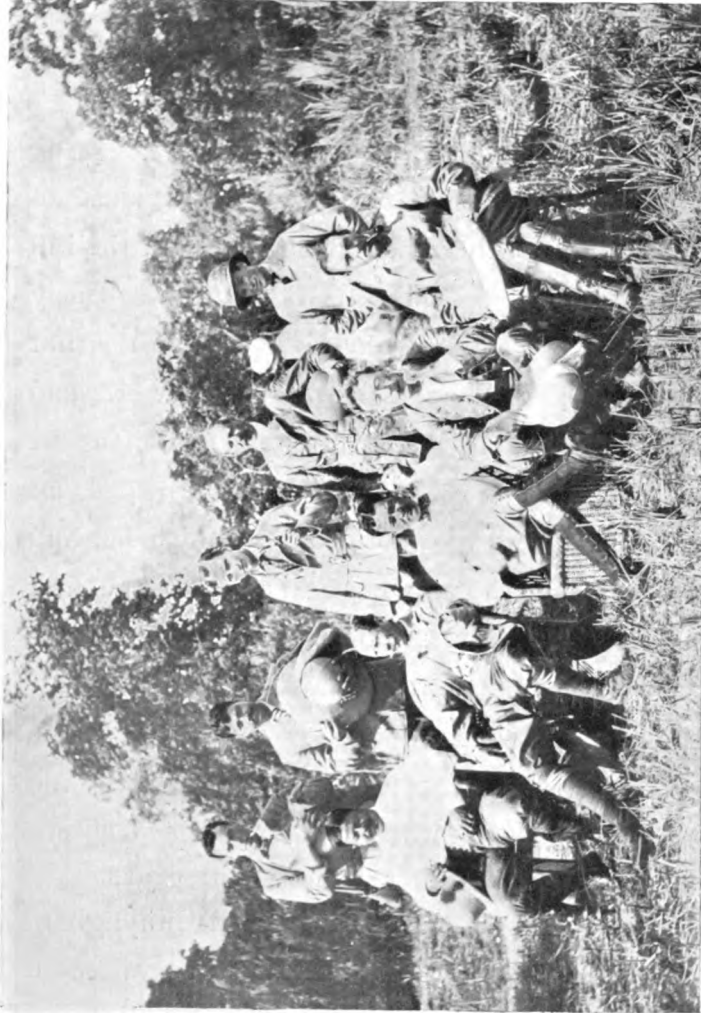
We then had a try for Bear and got two—a male and a female. The larger Bear's measurements were :—Total length 6'-7", body 6', girth 49",

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

head  $36\frac{1}{2}$ ", upper arm 22", forearm 18". All three big beasts were shot before one o'clock.

The next was another good day, a Tiger and two Buff—a bull and a cow—being bagged. *Khubber* came in early and the Tiger—which Parker knocked over—was at home all right. A good beast, 9'-8" in length and 444lbs. in weight. Both Buffalo were got after lunch. The bull was a fair size, standing 16 hands 3" at the shoulder. Horns 9'-7" and 19" at base.

Some quite uneventful days succeeded, during which camp was shifted to Bansbari. On the 7th, Dick-Cunyngham (the late Colonel) joined us. Before he arrived we had already finished two beats in which nothing had been put up and were moving off to the Rhino ground, when suddenly, from behind us, up jumped a magnificent Bison, but he was out of range before we could get a shot. He must have been lying asleep in a small patch on the left of the line, and at one time the



Assam Shoot, 1895

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Elephants were probably within ten yards of him, so it was a bit of real bad luck not getting a chance at him.

On return to camp we heard of a kill close to camp, though further enquiry showed that the kill had not been dragged into the jungle. Early next morning Ashton woke me up to tell me that Boli *shikari*, who had gone out to see the kill, had come across the Tigress in a small patch about twice the size of my tent. We got on pads at once, there being no time to put on howdahs, and went out. Beating through the patch the first time we found nothing, though one of the mahouts fancied he saw something moving in the grass. We then beat back and this time she broke forward all right. Several shots were fired and she was certainly hit, but she still kept going until we lost sight of her in the burnt grass. As we were looking about, suddenly Dick-Cunyngham came right on top of her, and before you could say "knife," she was on the Elephant's head,

### RHINO BREAKS THE LINE.

striking at the mahout. Fortunately the Elephant managed to chuck her off, and McCabe finished her on the ground. She was a good sized Tigress, measuring 8'-8" in total length.

We changed camp to Bhuiapara on the 9th, and on the 10th had a nice day with Buffalo and Rhino. The Buffalo were put up in the third beat, and two cow—one with fine horns—were knocked over, but the bull, though fired at, got away. There were, I believe, some eight Buff in all. As we were trying to get on terms with the bull, a Rhino was put up, and he also got through the line, so after lunch we made a big line to try for him again. The line had hardly begun to move when the Rhino charged back through it, straight past Seton-Karr, who put four bullets in him as he passed. He then broke out into the open, where he was received with a general fusillade and knocked over. He stood 18 hands 1".

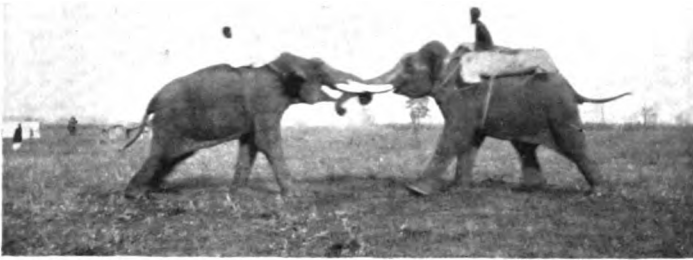


## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

I was lucky next day in getting a fine bull Buffalo in a small patch, who stood 17 hands 1" at the shoulder. Several Rhino and Buffalo were put up, but the jungle was too thick for shooting purposes, and we got nothing else that day but the bull.

Thanks to a suggestion made by Boli *shikari* to set fire to the jungle, the 12th, which might have been a blank day, turned out a real good one. We were beating an enormous jungle that really required a couple of hundred Elephants, when up jumped a Rhino and got away. Boli then set fire to that part of the jungle in which he had gone, and we hurried on and surrounded it with howdahs. These tactics proved most successful. Three Rhino and two Bear came out ; two Rhino were bagged at the time, and the third, which was hard hit, was picked up some days later. A Bear was also wounded but got away. In addition to the Rhino, a cow Buffalo was shot the same day.

**SPORT IN CAMP.**



**A Tussle.**



**Vanquished!**

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

On the 13th we didn't get away from camp till half-past-ten, and in the first beat two, or possibly three, Rhino were put up, but all got away. After lunch, however, the luck changed, and one Rhino and a bull Bison were bagged in the first beat. Two Rhino came out to me and one I knocked over. But though the other was hard hit, he got back to the jungle, and thinking that the line would bring him out again, I took no further trouble about him. What he actually did was to charge the line, and though he was fired at, he got through all right, more's the pity. The Rhino that was bagged had the largest horn for a cow that I have seen or shot,  $16\frac{1}{4}$ " frontal measurement. I believe this is still a record.

During the next three days only a cow Buffalo was bagged, and about this time a good many of our party, including Fraser, Sydney-Parker, Hendley, and Dick-Cunyngham, left camp.

## A FINE DAY'S SPORT.

We had first class sport on the 17th. Our beat was productive of a pair of bull Buffalo and a Tiger. The latter came out to Seton-Karr, who knocked



Record Cow Rhino's Skull. Horn 16½ inch.

him over with a long shot. Both bull Buffaloes went away wounded, and we followed up their blood marks for a bit. After lunch we set fire to

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

the jungle into which they had been tracked and again they broke through the guns. On putting them up a third time, one--the smaller-- was knocked over by Karr and Peter. The second one got away, first past me and then past Savage, who



A right and left

followed him up into a small patch and found the beast lying in the grass. Savage naturally thought he was dead, when all of a sudden the bull jumped up and charged, driving Savage's Elephant slick out of the jungle. The bull then crossed a

## A RECORD BULL RHINO.

small stream and lay up in another small patch, where I came on him lying down. However, he was anything but dead, and charged the moment he caught sight of me. I turned him with a couple of shot, and he then went for Ashton's Elephant, which he managed to get home on and gore badly, but I closed on him quickly and finished him. I have seldom seen a Buffalo die so game, he had fifteen shots in him, all from either 8 or 10-bore rifles, before he succumbed. He stood 18 hands  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ", an exceptionally fine bull though he had a poor head.

As we found the jungle unbeatable on the 18th, we again set fire to it, and three Rhino came out, but they all cleared off without giving a shot. A bull Buffalo came out to me and I got him, but he took a lot of killing. He was a long, low massive Buffalo, and stood 17 hands. On the way back to camp two Bison were put up in a tree jungle, but as luck would have it, these, too, got away without being fired

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

at. I was also told that a Tiger had passed in front of the leading Elephants, but any way it was too dark then to have done any good even had we seen him.

On the 19th March I killed a very big bull Rhino, the largest indeed that I have ever shot. Girth 119", biggest girth 144", neck where it joins body 90", neck near head 74", height at shoulder 19 hands and  $\frac{1}{4}$ ", horn nearly 13". So far as I know, this holds the record. The one quoted by Rowland Ward,\* and which was also shot by me, was a good bit smaller.

The 20th was the last day of our shoot, and although there was a high wind and much rain, we were able to bag one Rhino out of three that were in the beat, not bad considering we could only take one beat after lunch. Camp was broken up next day.

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\*Rowland Ward's book was written about this time and published in 1896. Measurements of other big beasts which I have since killed are not therefore quoted in it.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1895.

Animals.	Feb. 20th- Mar. 20th.
Tiger ... .. .	7
Leopard ... .. .	1
Rhino ... .. .	7
Buffalo ... .. .	14
Bear ... .. .	5
Sambur ... .. .	6
Barasingh ... .. .	10
Hog Deer ... .. .	7
Antelope ... .. .	...
Pig ... .. .	4

One bull Bison was also shot.



## CHAPTER XI.

1895—*contd.*

**An April Shoot—Eight Buffalo and a Tiger—Sport on the Banks of the Jorai—"Stripes" and Family accounted for—Right and left at Buffalo—A good, heavy Tiger.**

**A**LL things being favourable, I made up my mind to have another shoot in April of the same year. Firman, Baron Mas-sow, Apcar, Perree, Lehmann, Seton-Karr, P. Sen, E. Ezra, Hawkins, and A. Ezra, all came out with me.

We started on the 14th for Bhalka Balashi, and our first day's sport was an excellent one. Out of a herd of twelve Buff, we shot eight, besides a good big Tiger. One of the cows shot was a very fine beast and stood 16 hands 3" at the

EPISODES IN A DAY'S SPORT.



WAITING.



ON THE WAY TO COVER.



ARRANGING A BEAT.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

shoulder. When I first saw her, I thought she was a bull. Peter got a bull all to his own cheek.

The Tiger we got after lunch in a small patch on the banks of the Sunkos. He charged out as soon as the line was put in, but was quickly finished. A good long Tiger, but very light for his size. Full length 9'-11", body 6'-8½", girth 51", biceps 24", forearm 18", head 36½", height 36½", weight 422lbs. He had eaten nothing for days and this accounts for his weight.

The next day we made for the Forest Reserves, where we had a long day after Rhino. One was seen, but only for a second. Rather bad luck not getting anything, as we came across fresh tracks of several Rhino and Buffalo.

We had a fairly good day on the 16th. An early start was made after a bull Buffalo, but we didn't find. After breakfast we had a try for a Tiger, though as the *khubber* was five days' old

## SHOOTING ON THE JORAI.

our hopes weren't very strong. Two patches were beaten, and in the second a Leopard was put up and shot. He measured 7'-5". On the way home we got *khubber* of a second Tiger, quite close to our camp, and this one was knocked over directly after the beat began. He was a very light Tiger, scaling only 404lbs. Length 9'-5", body 6'-5", biceps 22½", forearm 18", girth 47", head 35" and height 37½".

Luck deserted us on the 17th. We were shooting the jungles near Jamba Mèchè's house and put up two Buffalo in the first beat, but they both got away wounded. After lunch they were put up a second time and again gave us the slip.

On the 18th, we shot along the banks of the Jorai and bagged two Tiger—a male and a female—and also two Bear. We lost a third Bear.

A Leopard and a bull Buffalo fell to us on the 19th. The Leopard was killed on the banks of the

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Jorai, and the bull Buffalo on the banks of the Sunkos, both near Barbera.

The day following this, we tried the jungles on the south of the camp, but did no good. A beat for a Tiger resulted in nothing.

On the 21st a Tiger was bagged. We went after a Tigress on the 22nd, but she wasn't at home, and the total bag was only two Bear cubs.

Things looked up a bit on the next day, and a Tiger and two cubs were padded. Singbir had seen the Tiger early in the morning, and we got him after lunch on the other side of the Sunkos. He measured 9'-6½" in length, body 5'-6", biceps 27½", forearm 17¾", girth 51", head 35", height 36½" and weighed 440lbs. Two cubs were also bagged after lunch at the edge of the Forest Reserves, but the mother—bad luck to her!—gave us the slip. Boli had spotted their tracks early this morning.

“SOLD.”

The next day there was rest for man and beast. On the morning of the 24th, Poku brought in hot *khubber* of three Buffalo, one a bull and another a good cow. We hurried out, and when



Fishing for Sprats.

we reached the place, found them all to be tame ones. May his soul rest in peace! The day after this little episode, a Tigress—the mother of the cub shot on the 22nd—was heard calling.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

We first tried a patch outside the Reserves, but she wasn't there. We then made for the patch where she had been on the first day, and here her pugs were fresh. Boli, following them up along the banks of the river, saw the Tigress jump out of the water on the bank above and the rest was easy.

With good *khubber* of Tiger and a bull Buffalo we all (including De la Fosse who had joined us) started on the 26th, full of hope, for the Horseshoe Jungle and returned in abject despair. Never a glimpse of either a Tiger or a Buffalo.

On the 27th we didn't make a start till after lunch on account of the rain, and then we went to beat some heavy grass at the edge of the Reserves for Rhino and Buff. No signs of Rhino, but I got two Buffalo with a right and left.

For the last day of the shoot—the 28th—we tried the banks of the Jorai. We had had good

## A GOOD FINISH.

*khubber* of Tiger and we found him in quite a small patch and bagged him without any difficulty. He was a good heavy beast, weighing 508lbs. The measurements were 9'-10½" from tip of nose to end of tail, body 6'-11", girth 54", biceps 29", fore-arm 19", head 39½", height 40". There were lots of tracks of Rhino about, but we didn't actually see any.

A Buffalo shot on the Jorai River made a very good ending to the shoot.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1895—*contd.*

Animals.	April 14th- 28th.
Tiger ... .. .	10
Leopard ... .. .	2
Rhino ... .. .	...
Buffalo... .. .	12
Bear ... .. .	4
Sambur ... .. .	3
Barasingh ... .. .	5
Hog Deer ... .. .	...
Antelope ... .. .	...
Pig ... .. .	...

## CHAPTER XII.

1895—*concl'd.*

**Mahakulguri in December—Chequered luck—The General's Rhino—  
Long day on the Raidak—Two Bear but no Tiger, the only beasts  
shot at—Six hits with a '303.**

I COULD not resist a cold weather shoot, making our third expedition during 1895, so started with a big party for Mahakulguri on the first day of December.

The sportsmen in camp included General Yeatman-Biggs, H. Elliott, Lister, Bertram, Nolan, Lewis, Georges, Lane-Anderson, Plowden, Lewis (Junior) and Wintour. The Maharani, Mrs. Bertram and Mrs. Lane-Anderson were also with us.

We began badly with the Rhino. The day after our arrival a Rhino in the Forest Reserves got away badly wounded, and the next day, the 3rd, two Rhino were put up (in the same place) and

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

fired at, but both managed to escape us. Thanks to the mahouts and a few others, I very nearly bagged one of my own Elephants! As soon as lunch was over, we put up the two Rhino a second time in the same patch, but they again bested us—worse luck! There was a bit of compensation, though, in this beat. No one had the slightest idea there was Tiger about, when suddenly one sprung up, and Bertram killed him with a shot through the neck. It was certainly a rare piece of good luck bagging him like that. On the other hand four Buffalo got clean away through the line. A Sambur stag was shot this day, which weighed 39 stone 6lbs. and another on the 4th weighing 31 stone 8lbs.

General Yeatman-Biggs knocked over a cow Buffalo on the 5th, but the whole day was very disappointing.

The 6th brought a change of luck with it, and we had an excellent day's sport, bagging two



**Bertram's Rhino.**

### SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Rhino, a bull and a cow. The bull was a big one, and evidently one that the General (Yeatman-Biggs) had fired at in the first beat. I wasn't myself near any of the beasts when they were shot at, but from all I can gather, Lister must have plugged him again and eventually Bertram finished him off. He took a good bit of getting, and had to be tracked a long way by his blood. Peter Sen knocked the cow over, and I was told a third Rhino was seen, but about this I am not at all sure.

I hadn't seen the bull myself, but sent Hatashu with the photographer to measure the length and height at shoulder. He brought back the following information:—Total length 12'-10", height at shoulder 19 hands 3"!!! This last measurement takes a good bit of swallowing, even now.

We had another good day on the 7th, getting two bull Buffalo. All the luck fell to Elliott, for he had the first bull all to himself and flanked two



**Elliott's bull Buffalo.**

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

bullets into the second one. Sujey had two shots at a Rhino and Wintour also got one in, but, in spite of it all, the beast escaped. Nolan, too, got a shot at a Rhino, while as for me I hadn't up to that time seen a big beast alive during the shoot. The Rhino really seemed to be imps of Satan by the way they were always besting us.

We had a long day on the Raidak River on the 8th after Buff, but they either wouldn't break out at all, or else kept breaking through the line. This happened time after time. There must have been eight or nine altogether, and a few shots were fired, but only at moving grass and nothing resulted. I had intended giving the Elephants an off-day, and I was precious sorry I hadn't stuck to my intention.

On returning to camp I heard that *khubber* of Tiger had been brought in late in the afternoon, though why on earth it couldn't have reached us earlier I can't make out. However, we went

### SOME BAD DAYS.

after him next day and failed to turn him out. I dare say this was due in part to the line being faulty, as I know a patch of the jungle was left unbeaten. Two Bear came out during the beat. Georges had first shot at the bigger one, and the General had the other all to himself. I expect it was when the Bear were being banged at that the Tiger slipped away.

We had some bad days to get through after this. The 10th was spent trying unsuccessfully, as it turned out, to get on terms with Rhino in the Reserves and substituting Tiger for Rhino; the 11th was passed in the same way. Shooting at Alak Jhar five Buff were turned out in the third beat, but though fired at, they gave us the slip. Towards the end of the first beat after lunch, Hatashu saw a couple of Tiger on the Theamari Ghat Road, but some of the Elephants unfortunately got bogged, and it must have been somewhere about when this happened that they managed to break through.



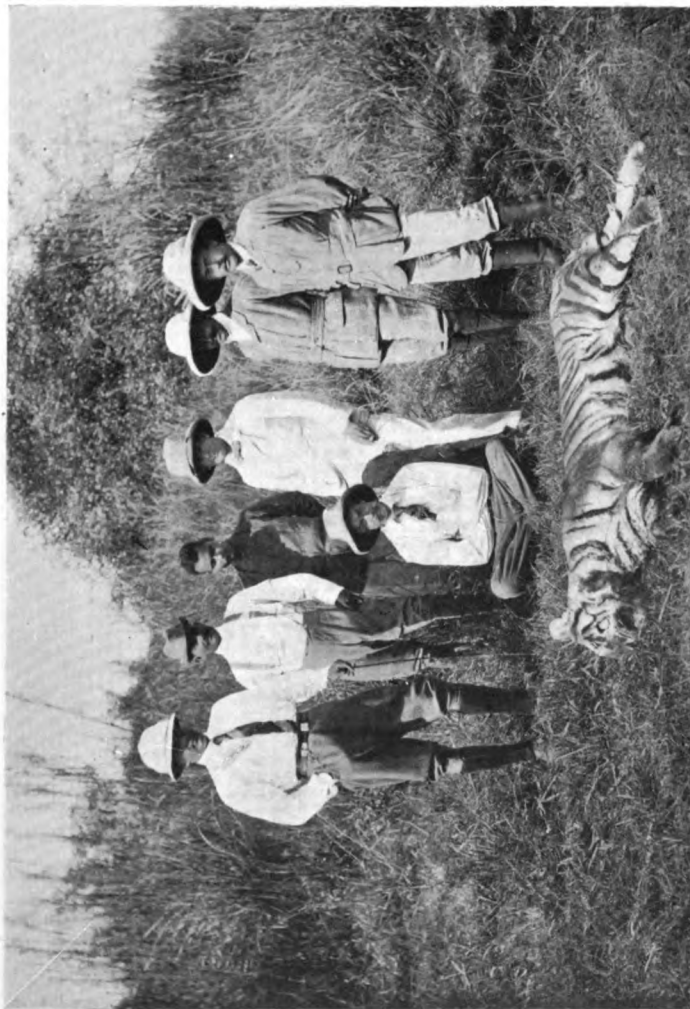
## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

We did at last bag a Buffalo on the 13th, but bad luck was still dogging our steps, and at the end of the day there was the same old story. Three Buffalo got away and a Tiger that was practically surrounded managed to slip through the line. We picked up the head of one of the Buff that had been fired at, but the horns were missing at the time, though they were brought in afterwards.

By now our party had shrunk a good deal, Lewis, Elliott, Lister, Nolan, Georges, the Andersons, Mrs. Bertram and the Maharani having all left camp.

On the 14th we got a Tigress in the second beat and saw many very fresh tracks of Rhino and Buffalo, though we didn't catch sight of the beasts themselves.

I had meant to break up camp and move into Cooch Behar on the 15th, but as *khubber* was



The only beast I fired at during the whole shoot.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

brought in the night before of a Tiger having killed a bullock near Samukbhanga, and this was not very much out of our road, it seemed worth while to have a try for him. The Tiger, a fine young male, came out to me and gave quite an easy shot. I fired at the neck, knocked him over, and believed he was done for, so I ordered the mahout to move up to the spot where he lay, when out he came with a roar.

I was so utterly taken aback that I missed my first shot at him, but the second hit him, as I discovered afterwards, in the chest, the third just in front of the withers, the fourth in the mouth, and as he was moving away I put a fifth into his quarters which rolled him over. Even then I had to finish him with a shot through the centre of his neck. Of course, I could not tell at the time exactly where the bullets had struck, but on examining him we found three shots in the neck, one on the chest, one in the mouth and one on the quarters.

## TIGER AND .303'S.

What price me, had I been on foot? I was using only .303's the whole time—before Dum Dum bullets were invented. No more .303's for tigers for me! He was a short, heavy Tiger, 8'-9" in length, the body being 5'-10½" and the tail only 2'-10½".

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1895—*concl'd.*

Animals.	Dec. and- 15th.
Tiger ... .. .	3
Leopard ... .. .	...
Rhino ... .. .	2
Buffalo... .. .	4
Bear ... .. .	2
Sambur ... .. .	6
Barasingh ... .. .	1
Hog Deer ... .. .	...
Antelope ... .. .	...
Pig ... .. .	...

## CHAPTER XIII.

1896.

A good beginning—Great sport at Guigaon—Leopard up a tree—Buffs and Rhino in the Reserves—"Kennedy" in a quicksand—A fine bull Bison—Escape of "Secunder"—Bison, Leopard and Pig in one patch.

**T**HIS year my camp was first pitched at Mahakulguri, to which came the Prince and Princess Hans Henry of Pless, the Maharani, P. Burgess, Lewis, Pollen, N. Sen, Plowden, Count Hochberg, P. Sen, J. Ezra and A. Ezra. We began shooting on the 20th February and bagged a Tiger and two cow Buffalo; the bull got away badly wounded; one of the cow had a very fine pair of horns, 10'-6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " round the curves, base of horns 15", between tips 34 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", and widest span 57".

As we were sitting down to lunch *khubber* came in of a pair of Tiger. Only one was turned

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

out, and he was banded by both Burgess and Pollen. He then made for a small patch, going very slowly and evidently badly hit. Four or five pads were put in to drive him out, but he turned the tables on them and drove them out, scratch-



Posting Guns.

ing "Gulzar" slightly on the hind leg. The howdahs, however, went in and finished him. He was a fair Tiger, 9'-6" in length.

We shot Guigaon the next day, and during the first beat a Rhino broke. A couple of shots were

## A REAL GOOD DAY.

fired at him at 80 yards, but didn't seem to do him much harm, for he got clean away across the open into the Reserves. In the second beat, a Tigress and a couple of Bear were turned out. Lewis knocked the Tigress over and Burgess got one of the Bear, the other one breaking back. In the meanwhile the luncheon Elephant had come up and brought in *khubber* of a Tiger having killed a Buffalo near camp. There were small patches only along the banks of the nullah, so I sent the guns forward and beat up towards them. I had just about given up all hopes of turning the beast out, when Ashton whistled to me, pointing at something moving in the grass. It was a Tiger, though—as we discovered a few minutes later—not the one that had killed the Buff. As he charged through the grass, the Prince and I had shots at him, and hit him hard, but he managed to get through into the open where the guns on the further side of the nullah finished him.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

We then beat again for the Tiger that had killed the Buff, and in a few minutes had the satisfaction of seeing our third Tiger padded. While we were finishing off the second Tiger, Nirmal went after a Bear and wounded him badly, but he got off. A real good day's sport, and with luck we might have bagged two more Bears and a Rhino. The largest of the three Tiger measured 9'-5" and weighed 493 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

One couldn't expect luck of this sort to continue, and it didn't. Beyond picking up two Rhino that Burgess and Pollen had previously wounded, and bagging a Sambur, we got nothing whatever until the 27th. On this day, at Simlabari, a Tiger was put up in the first beat and we got him without trouble. He was a very fine animal, measuring 9'-9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in total length, and scaling 496lbs. As a matter of fact he was really a 500-lb. Tiger, as he had lost fully 4lbs. of blood from a wound in the throat. It was a finishing



Crossing the  
Raidak River.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

shot that gave him this, and the moment the bullet hit him, torrents of blood gushed out.

We began badly on the 28th at Baman Kote in the Reserves. The first beat was absolutely blank, and the second a muddle ; after lunch things improved. A Rhino broke in front of Aaron (Ezra), who fired a couple of shots ; then the beast came down to Peter Sen and Sir Ben Simpson (who had joined us), and finally I finished him off. Pollen had a snapshot at a Bear, but didn't get him. I was told by the mahouts that a Tiger had been seen. If so, he must have slipped through the line. The jungle at this place was tremendously heavy.



"Kennedy" with his dinner.

On the Bakla River south of our camp we padded a fine Tiger on the 29th. He measured  $9'-8\frac{3}{4}"$  and weighed

#### A "TREED" LEOPARD.

489lbs. Before we had done with him, he got well home on "Sunker Das." After lunch we came across two perfectly fresh kills, and just as we were debating how to turn the beast out of such a large and heavy bit of jungle, we actually heard him calling. The call was repeated several times while I was arranging the line, and I imagined it was a Tigress calling for her cub. This idea was very soon upset by Boli, or rather Pollen, discovering the animal from which the cries emanated perched up in a Simul tree, some 30 feet off the ground. It proved to be a Leopard, and though we didn't turn a Tiger out of the patch, which I never expected to do in so difficult a piece of jungle, I still believe that the cows were killed by a Tiger, and that the Leopard was not the actual marauder. Why it sat up in that tree and spoke, still, so far as I am concerned, remains a mystery, unless he was "treed" by the Tiger.

On the 1st March we went again to the Bakla Nullah, where a Tiger had been heard roaring and

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

shot her, for she turned out to be a Tigress. Within the half-hour Hatashu told me that he had seen vultures soaring over a patch of *null* but not settling, so I determined to beat it, and it was lucky we did, for we had hardly started the line before a Tiger jumped out. He was knocked over almost immediately. His length was 9'-6", but he only weighed 395lbs., though he certainly looked heavier. Both these Tigers were got without regular *khubber*, and the place seemed to be simply reeking with them.

The 2nd March we took as a day of rest, and on the 3rd put up two Rhino at Guigaon, but they did not give a shot. The 4th was a general shoot round about camp, and resulted in a Leopard, a Barasingh and a couple of Pig being bagged. One of the latter was a great, long, heavy beast, scaling 266lbs



A Nepalese Village.

## ELEPHANT IN A "FASAN."

We went to the Reserves on the 5th, and in the first beat put up eleven Buffalo, but somehow they all got away practically without being seen. Five Rhino—four big ones and a small one—were turned out in the second beat, and though two of the big ones were fired at, we only managed to bring down one big one. I thought at the time we ought to have done better.

The next two days were spent unprofitably in beating for Tiger and Rhino, and though we saw tracks, we didn't get a view of the animals themselves. One Bear was bagged on the 6th.

On the 8th, at Bara Dogla, we got a Bison and a Bear. The Bison was driven out in the first beat, being only the fourth one in 25 years that I have seen so far away from the hills. A second Bear was wounded but got away. Poor "Kennedy" got into a *fasan* crossing a rotten little ditch. He couldn't or wouldn't make a struggle to get out, and I had to leave him

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

there. This was at about 2-30 p.m., and it was not till 8-30 p.m. that "Kamalini" and "Nur Jehan" managed to pull him out.

We had little or no sport for the next two or three days, so shifted camp to Raymana.



"Kennedy" in the 'fasan' from which it took 6 hours to extricate him.

Elphinstone bagged a fine bull Bison in the Reserves on the 12th. He stood 18 hands 3" and a single shot in the neck did for him; another was wounded but got away.

### A DISAPPOINTING DAY.

The next day three Rhino were put up, but none were bagged, and we got a Buffalo in the last beat. The jungle was simply enormous. The 14th was an even more disappointing day. A bull Bison was put up close to camp in the very first beat, but the stops were quite wrongly placed and he got away. We then had a try for a bull Buff near Jamba Meche's house. This time the line went wrong and the bull Buff just stepped into the Sunkos without being seen. A real bad piece of luck; two fine beasts getting away without giving a chance of a shot. In the afternoon the Prince and Princess of Pless left, and the next morning we moved camp to Haldibari.

The 17th might have been a good day, for good Tiger *khubber* had come in, but we were forced to remain in camp as all the Elephants were out after the Elephant "Secunder" that had got loose and levanted during the night.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

At Bara Hamua on the 18th we tried for a Tiger, of which we had had *khubber*, but nothing turned out in the first beat. In the next we bagged a Leopard, and after lunch put up the Tiger,



Padding Tiger shot by Prince Henry of Pless on "Sunker Das."

and also a Bear, but both broke through the line, the cause being too few Elephants out in line.

On the 19th, near Bhalka, on the Jorai Nullah, we put up a fine Tiger in the third beat. He

## A LONG, THIN TIGER.

commenced operations by charging home on "Bissen Singh" and then came out to me. I had a snapshot, which sent him back into the *null*, and as the line came up, he charged out again on "Dalton," but only scratched him. A more resolute effort from the line brought him out to me again, and I finished him with a bullet through the brain. His full length was 10'-1 $\frac{3}{4}$ "\* and weight only 462 lbs.—light for his size—but he was old and wanted a meal badly, which, as he had killed a bullock, sounds a bit curious. But then he was disturbed at his meal. A good feed would have made a difference of from 30 to 35 lbs. in his weight.

We shot the Theamari Reserves on the 20th and the Assam Reserves, opposite the camp, on the 21st. From the former we got a Bear and two Buffalo, and from the latter two Buffalo. A

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\* Full details of the measurement of this and other specially large Tigers will be found at the end of the book.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

big bull was fired at on the second day, but we didn't get him—more's the pity—as he was reported to be a fine beast with enormous horns. I saw his tracks myself, and they were very large.



The Meet at the Deogaon Kalabari.

The 21st was a great day in the Hamua jungles. We first went to Theamari after a Tiger, but didn't find him at home. Then Hatashu *shikari* came in to say he had seen tracks of two Tiger in the Hamua jungles, and so after

## A LUCKY PATCH.

lunch we made for the place. The first beat was blank, though I noticed one or two Elephants in the line jib a bit. We were all disgusted and were making our way to another patch when the leading Elephant, "Sagaria," suddenly stopped and trumpeted, and I was certain she had come on the Tiger. The line was soon formed, and I put two extra guns in it, and it was lucky I did so, or the Tigress we bagged would certainly have broken back. Hatashu then suggested my trying another patch near the road, which I did. Just as I was beginning to feel a bit bored at nothing occurring, the stop next me (Burgess) beckoned and pointed out some animal moving in the grass. This must have been the Leopard that was shot afterwards. Suddenly a cry was raised of "Goru" (Bison), and some one opened fire to the great discomfort, if not danger, of the stop howdahs. The next moment the Bison came tearing through the grass, and either Ezra or I bowled him over. The mahouts were jubilant, and were just about to

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

jump off their Elephants to '*halal karo*' the Bison—in fact Gedra had already done so—when someone shouted "*bagh.*" I never saw such a stampede of men and Elephants; the mahouts lost their heads completely, and there was a general rush for the spot where "Spots" was last seen. The battle of Tel-el-Kebir was nothing to what followed! Volleys were fired till at last somebody called out "*murgaya,*" and the beast turned out to be a Leopard. A great big Pig was also put up, but we were too busy to find time to deal with him, so that out of one small patch a Bison, a Leopard, and a huge Boar were put up. If I remember rightly it was on this very spot, years ago, that I won a 100—1 bet about getting a Tiger.

The rest of the shoot is soon told. We changed camp to Garad Haut, but as for big game only two Bear were bagged, and though we had several tries after Tiger, Rhino and Buffalo, we came

### LAST NEWS OF "SECUNDER."

across nothing better than tracks. On the 27th, our last day, Burgess brought down a Black Buck at 340 yards with a Lee-Metford, and so the shoot ended. We might perhaps have done better had I gone again to Mahakulguri on the way back ; but Boli's *khubber* of Tiger at Garad Haut tempted me. Regarding "Secunder," the Elephant that escaped, the last news of him was that he was somewhere in the Kachugaon jungles, and not likely to be caught. A thousand pities, for he was turning out about the best Howdah-Elephant I have ever ridden.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

### RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1896.

Animal.	Feb 20th to Mar 27th	April.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	10	1*	11
Leopard ... ..	3	...	3
Rhino ... ..	5	2*	7
Buffalo ... ..	7	...	7
Bison ... ..	4	...	4
Bear ... ..	6	2*	8
Sambur ... ..	2	...	2
Barasingh ... ..	5	...	5
Hog Deer... ..	3	...	3
Antelope ... ..	2	...	2
Pig ... ..	6	...	6

\* Shot by Michel, Burgess, Ezra and Buxi.

## CHAPTER XIV.

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1897.

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**Chequered Luck—Tiger at last—Lost Opportunities—A Disappointing Week—Fighting Tigress—Shooting on the Jorai—"Timur Shah" mauled—A big Rhino.**

**I**T was not until the 11th March that my party, consisting of General Yeatman-Biggs, Aylmer, Allen, A. Ezra and Plowden set out for the annual shoot. The first day, alas, was a blank, and on the second an old and rather small bull Buffalo was bagged near Bagjhora in the forest.

At Raidak Balashi we got two cow Buffalo on the 13th. There were nine or ten in the herd, and the bull was fired at, at close quarters, but got away. The next day was devoted to looking up "Stripes," quite uselessly as it happened, as all we saw, besides Deer, was a couple of Bear, one of which was bagged. The 15th was another poor



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

day spent after Rhino. Only in the very last beat did we see two, but at that time we were doing general shooting and could not change our 'expresses' for 8 or 10-bores before both animals were out of sight.



A Drink by the Way.

*Khubber* of a Tiger having killed four cows came in. It turned out to be a Leopard, and that we did not manage to bag. It was seen three or four times and fired at twice, but I had only 20 Elephants out, and the patch really required three times that number to beat it properly.

## TIGER AT LAST.

On the 17th a Tiger was at last shot in the old Gurh jungles. Hatashu brought in the *khubber*, and the first and second beats proved futile, though the 'kill' and lots of tracks had been seen. I then took up the freshest looking tracks and followed them up into a great impossible looking jungle, where we eventually found and shot the beast. He was 9'-1½" in length and weighed 398lbs. The General, Aylmer and Plowden left us on this date.

Apparently good *khubber* of both Tiger and Leopard came in on the morning of the 18th. On getting to the place where the Tiger was said to be, we found the 'kill' still outside. It wasn't very hopeful, but we beat two patches for him, and he was in neither. We then went after the Leopards, found and killed a pair. The male was 7'-10" in full length, body 4'-10" and weight 139lbs. The female was 7'-1", body 4'-4" and weighed 115lbs.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Burgess, Smyth and Good joined us on the 19th, and we all went to the Reserves, but bad luck attended us the whole day. The game actually seen included four Tiger and six Buff, and yet, from one cause or another, we bagged nothing. Only one cow Buffalo was fired at, and in the last beat I just missed seeing by a few seconds and having a shot at the old bull Buff.

But for two Barasingh doe, the 20th was equally unproductive, though I am certain in my own mind that there was a Tiger afoot in the last beat. The place was simply covered with fresh Tiger tracks.

We bagged a fine Tiger at Chota Dal Dalia on the 20th. He got home on "Runjit Singh" and nearly boned the mahout. As a matter of fact he just cleared the mahout's toes. His full length was  $9'-5\frac{3}{4}"$  and he weighed 477lbs.—full of beef and in dealer's condition.



**The Bear padded.**

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Baman Kote yielded us a good Bear, 6'-6" in length, weight 350lbs., and on the 23rd we had a long and disappointing day in the Reserves. With ordinary luck we might have got a Buff or two. One was wounded, but though we followed him up for miles, first on Elephants and then on foot, we never saw him again.

We turned out a small herd of five Buff on the 25th at Bara Dogla. They first went to Ezra, who opened fire, but they galloped off as if nothing had happened. However, after a bit one of them slowed down. I had a shot, but the distance was too great—nearly two hundred yards—to do much damage. Ezra, Ashton and Sujey, who by the way had joined us some days back, having faster mounts than I had, managed to come up with the wounded beast and began a regular fusillade, which eventually did for the Buff. The rest of the herd, after crossing the Raidak, got into another patch and twice gave

## FLOORED WITH ONE SHOT.

chances to the howdahs, but they were not taken. We really ought to have bagged the lot.

We tried Baman Kote on the 26th, where a fine bull Bison might have been killed, but wasn't. At the same place, the next day, three Bear were bagged and a Leopard wounded, which got off owing to the darkness.

Though we moved camp twice, first to Haldi-bari on the Sunkos and then to Bara Bhalka, the next week was too full of disappointment and void of incident to possess much interest, so I shall pass on to our next Tiger which was killed at Parakota on the 5th April. He was a fine beast, 9'-7" in length and weighing 458lbs.; a very old one too, all his front teeth being worn down and one fang broken. There was no chance of his showing fight, as he was floored with one shot.

The day following this was utilized as a rest day for the Elephants, and I went out to have a

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

look for the missing Elephant, "Sikunder" which was lost last year. We saw no signs of him, but came across some wild ones.

A Bear was killed close to camp on the 7th, and, like the last Tiger, he too was very old with nearly all his tushes blunt or gone. His total length was 6'-9", body 6'-2", girth 50", height  $35\frac{3}{4}$ " and weighed 392lbs.

On the 8th a good bull Buffalo was shot at the edge of the Reserves, standing 17 hands 1" at the shoulders.

We found a real good fighting Tigress close to camp on the 9th. The day before, we had seen a dead cow and we started operations by inspecting the place. I saw pug marks and fancied they belonged to a Tiger and not to a Leopard as some thought. The first two beats were blank, and we then tried a small patch on the other side of the nullah, out of which a Tigress came out to Ezra. He fired, and on receiving the

## A FIGHTING TIGRESS.

shot she charged at once, Ezra's elephant swinging round and making off. The Tigress then swam the nullah and Burgess and Ashton got shots at her as she was crossing. Believing the



**A Good Bulky Tiger.**

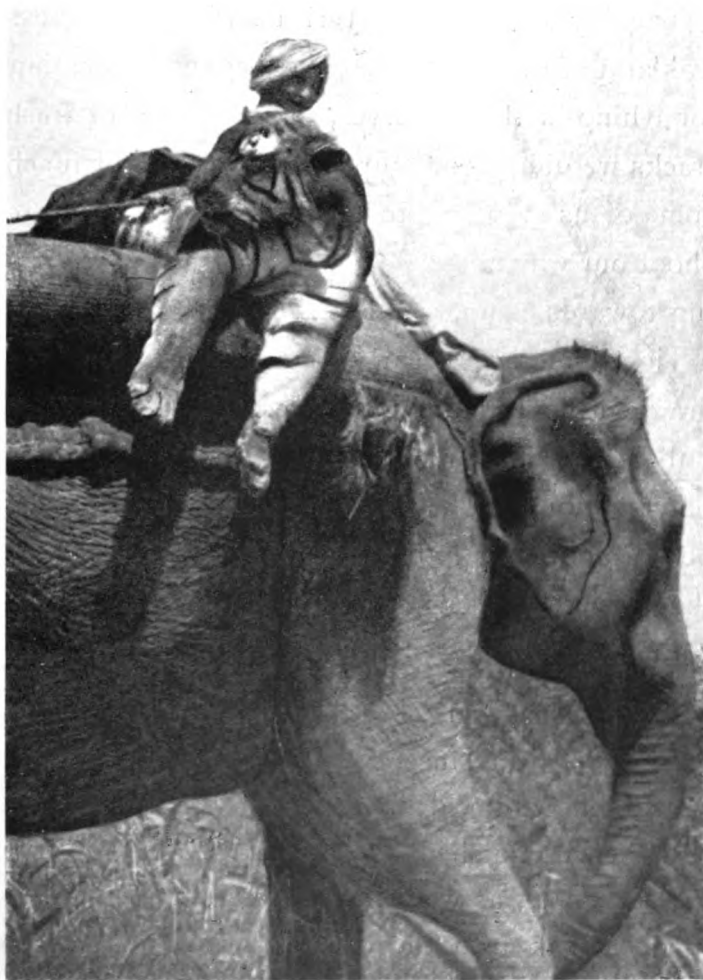
beast was wounded and meant mischief, I only sent on four guns as stops, joining the line myself with Smyth, Perrè and Ashton. We hadn't gone very far when I heard a roar, and the next moment



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Elephants were flying round in all directions. Unfortunately she had singled out a pad elephant on which to wreak her vengeance and she got well home on him, giving him a nasty bite over the eye. The Elephant carried her on his head for a few seconds and then chucked her off. She next began charging the Elephants indiscriminately and presently came in my direction.

I had her carefully covered with my .450, and was just on the point of firing when my Elephant suddenly turned tail and went for dear life, I holding on all I knew. After a bit the mahout managed to get my beast back, and as I did not want any more Elephants mauled, I called in all the howdahs, and forming line moved towards the place she was last seen. I was beginning to wonder if she had managed to sneak off, when, with another roar, she went for Perree and actually scratched old "Sagaria" on the trunk before Perree dropped her; for her size, 8'-4½", she certainly took a lot of beating as a fighter.



The fighting Tigress padded.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The day following our turn up with the Tigress was an unfortunate one. We began by beating for Rhino in the Reserves, but in spite of fresh tracks we didn't come up with any. After lunch some of us went on to Sabibpara, intending to shoot our way home. As we were quietly wandering towards camp, a villager came to tell us that a Tiger had killed early that morning and had dragged the kill into the forest on the Kulkuli nullah. On getting there, the Tiger was beaten out, and one of the stops had a shot at 25 yards but without effect, and the beast disappeared into the Reserves.

Shooting on the Jorai, a bull Buffalo and Leopard were bagged on the 11th. The bull Buff was found in a small patch and one of the line guns fired at him, driving him on to Burgess and Smyth, who finished him. The Leopard gave a lot of trouble, as we couldn't, for a long time, get him to break into the open. There were seven beats before he was bagged.

### STOPS BADLY PLACED.

We spent most of the 12th hunting for three Bear which we never saw. A Boar was shot standing  $31\frac{3}{4}$ " at the shoulder and weighing 261lbs.

The 13th was another bad day, partly through ill-luck and partly through mismanagement. We were in the Reserves, and Burgess, who had got two bull Buff in front of him, had just time to fire a shot when his Elephant bolted and the Buffalo weren't seen again. After lunch a Rhino was put up, and though at one time he was quite close to me, for the life of me I couldn't see him. All the stops—thanks to the *shikari*—were badly placed. It would have been perfectly simple, as I saw afterwards, to put two of the guns in the "Bathani" just outside the *sal* trees, and then with any luck we should have bagged him.

The 14th brought with it no change of luck, and yet the place was one of good omen, for it was the identical place where a couple of years ago

## SHOOTING IN COUCH BEHAR.

we had bagged eight Buffalo and a Tiger in one day. On this occasion, however, nothing of the sort occurred. A bull Buff came out quite close to me, though I couldn't actually see him, so stood on the seat of the howdah in hopes of getting a shot. Meanwhile he slipped behind, and I saw Ashton, who was tearing across to the right, suddenly stop and fire. I dashed after him, but was only in time to see a fine bull Buffalo galloping away some 200 yards distant. I did open fire with the Lee-Metford and .450 on the off chance of stopping him, but he didn't seem to mind it much.

On our way to Garad Haut on the 15th we came across a regular fighting Tiger. This was on the Jorai, close to Chota Bhalka. He commenced operations by charging one of the Elephants, "Smith," in the grass before he was even fired at. We drove him out again, and he broke between Burgess and Smyth, both of whom fired. I also let fly at about 60 yards, but as he was galloping for



**Group of Typical Villagers**

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

all he was worth, none of us had an easy shot. He laid up in a patch, where I expected to find him dead, but not a bit of it ; he was full of life, and the moment the Elephants approached him, out he came with a roar, getting home on "Timur Shah" and giving him a baddish bite on the trunk. Ashton, who was on "Timur," dislodged him with a shot, and Smyth finished him. We found an old decomposed wound on his back, which probably accounts for his show of temper. His full length was 9'-3".

On the 16th we went after a bull Buffalo that had been seen near the old Horse-shoe jungle and bagged him. We had had a longish hunt after him, and had almost given up hopes of turning him out, when he suddenly emerged from an unbeaten patch. Nearly all the luck came my way, though Burgess had three shots at him. Two Pig were also bagged, one—the Boar—standing 30" at the shoulder.

## RHINO ON THE JOB.

The next day we tried the Horse-shoe jungle again, and came on fresh Rhino tracks in the first patch we were beating, but as the tracks led out of it I stopped the beat and had lunch, while the



In the 'Elephant' Grass.

Jemadar went on to try and locate the beast. Lunch over, I took up a likely patch, and the Rhino broke, but charged back through the line, grunting and snorting like a steam engine. I then



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

got the guns together and sent them to the other end of the patch in hopes the beast would break that way, which he did, but never came right out into the open. Smyth had the first turn at him, and the third shot bowled him over. The Rhino, however, picked himself up and got back through the end of the line, Ashton and Burgess getting shots at him *en route*. The patch was then beaten again, but this time there were no signs of the Rhino. It was getting on to 5 o'clock; we were eight miles from home and things began to look bad. Ashton came across blood tracks, but lost them almost at once. As the jungle was burnt all round, I sent off a mahout to see if the tracks led out of the jungle, and on his reporting that they did not, I sent in all the guns to beat up the heavy part of the grass, and the Rhino was soon turned out and bagged after a fusillade that gave the poor beast no show.

Total length, measured between pegs, was 12'-3", body 10'-3", girth 108", biggest girth 132",

A RHINO'S MEASUREMENTS.

neck, where it joins body, 82", neck, near head, 66", and height 17 hands 2". There was evidently a Tiger about also, but it was too late to think of trying for him. As it was, indeed, we didn't reach camp till 9 P.M.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1897.

Animals.	Mar. 11th to April 17th.
Tiger ... ..	5
Leopard ... ..	3
Rhino ... ..	1
Buffalo ... ..	7
Bear ... ..	6
Sambur ... ..	10
Barasingh ... ..	11
Hog Deer ... ..	1
Antelope ... ..	...
Pig ... ..	6

A wild dog and a civet cat were also shot.

## CHAPTER XV.

1898.

Leopard shooting—The real Start—On Terms with "Stripes"—The Dum-Dum Bullet—A brace of Cattle-lifters—Fortune in the Forest—Run of bad Luck—Bison and Rhino—Great sport at last.

**A**T the end of January, Jotindro, Gojendro, Rajey, Jit and myself had some Leopard shooting. We commenced on the 30th, and that day got a couple—male and female—a mile and a half from Nilkotee. Both were bagged in the same patch, and the second one tried to charge but he didn't get a chance.

The next day we tried at Kalighat on the banks of the Torsa, but the *khubber* was a day old and we only got a Pig.

On February 1st, Jit had his first shot at big game, and hit a Leopard, a nice one, measuring 7'-4".

## CAMP ON THE RAIDAK.

Rajey got his first Leopard on the 2nd, and the 5th Leopard, measuring 7'-4½", was bagged on the 8th at Gopalpur.

The big shoot commenced on February 14th and lasted till March 23rd. Frewen, Jaucourt, A. Ezra, Rajey, Adam, Neufville, Jotindro, Peter, Plowden and Sujey were out with me for sport, while the Maharani, Jit, Sukriti and Kebla made up the non-shooting members of the party.

Our first camp was on the Raidak, a mile or so below the Forest Reserves. The first two beats were for Buffs, but none were then seen. After lunch we crossed over and made a big line along the banks of the Raidak. Ezra and Rajey knocked over a small Buffalo of doubtful parentage, and on the way home, four Sambur Stags were bagged.

The 15th was a long day, mostly spent in the old 'guruh', after three Bear which we never got a

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

sight of. Two Boar were killed—one, a fairly big one, weighed 19 stone 3lbs. and stood 30 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

The next day we got a fine, heavy Tiger in a patch of jungle off the Cheepla River, only about three-quarters of a mile from camp. He pretended to make a charge, but at the last moment his heart failed him. His measurements were : length 9'-5", body 6'-6", and weight 479lbs.

Another Tiger was bagged on the 17th in the Raidak Sapkata jungles. Hatashu brought in the *khubber* of a kill which he came across while on his way to Bara Dogla. We proceeded to the place and only managed to get on terms with him in the fourth beat. He charged about a good deal at first, but wouldn't face the stops and very nearly broke through the line, where he was killed. He was a youngish Tiger, 9'-2" in length and weighed 318lbs. Between pegs his full length was 8'-2".

The bag on the 18th included a big Leopard and a Sambur Stag, the latter worth noting, as

## EFFECT OF A DUM-DUM BULLET.

it had been shot with a Dum-Dum bullet. The Leopard was killed at Pentaguri, and according to the old way of measuring was 7'-7½" in total length with a body 4'-8". Between pegs these figures came



The Sambur Stag.

out at 7'-2" and 4'-3" respectively. We examined the Stag to see the effect of the Dum-Dum bullet. At the entry the wound was small but increased to four inches in diameter at the place just inside the skin where the bullet, or rather the remnants of it,

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had stopped. The left shoulder had been pierced, and the bullet was in bits inside, only two pieces being found. The Stag was hit at about 90 yards distance.

We commenced proceedings on the 19th by beating for a Tiger at Sapkata. He hadn't killed and we did not find him. We then went for the 'Gurh' Bears, but they weren't at home either. Two Barasingh Stags were killed during the day, and on the way home we bagged a Leopard.

The following day we beat for Tiger at Bara Dogla. The Tiger was there all right, but the jungles were impossible and required a couple of hundred Elephants to do any good. Such of the patches as were burnable we set fire to.

Again on the 21st we tried Bara Dogla with very unsatisfactory results, principally owing to the *shikaris* not having done their work properly. We got a Tiger cub in the first beat, and

## TIGER AND LEOPARD.

the Tigress was certainly afoot in two others, but she slipped through somehow.

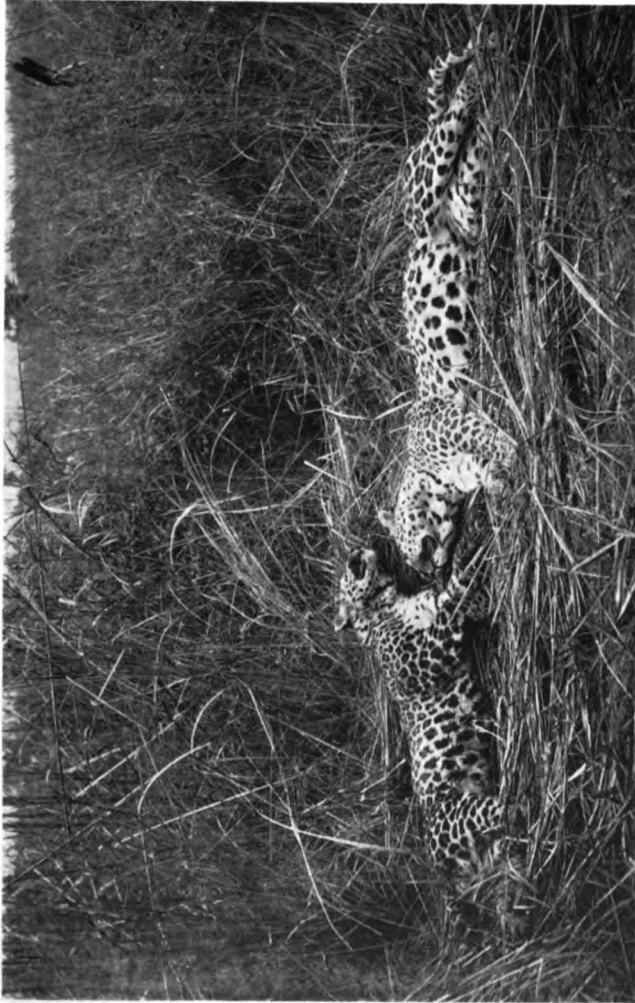
The 22nd was a blank day, though *khubber* of Tiger was brought in and sounded good enough. However, on getting to the ground, it was evident that the *khubber* was not good, for although we found a bullock killed and partially eaten, it hadn't been dragged inside the jungle. We beat several patches without result. The Elephants had a rest on the 23rd, and we killed a Leopard—of which *khubber* had been brought—three miles from camp. The old method of measuring made him 7'-6" and the new 7'-1½". The 24th was productive of a Tiger. We began with a couple of beats at Guigaon, and though nothing came out to the stops, Plowden saw something uncommonly like a small Tiger get through the right flank of the line. While at lunch, the Elephants I had left in camp brought out a man with news of a kill at Narathali, which he said had been perpetrated by a large Leopard.



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On arrival at the spot the jungle—just a small strip of *null*, burnt all round—unquestionably looked a bit too small to hold a Tiger, and on putting in the line, something was seen to slip through it. Luckily for us, Sujey, who had stayed behind, said he thought he had seen a Tiger. This statement was soon verified, for, on re-making the line, a Tiger jumped out. He made one charge and succeeded in scratching “Mohun Lal,” but we soon had him padded. It just shows how easily one can be mistaken, for I would have laid any odds that a Tiger wasn't responsible for the kill. According to the two ways of measuring, the length of the Tiger was  $9'-3\frac{3}{4}"$  and  $8'-10\frac{1}{4}"$ .

Lawson joined us on the 25th, on which date we went to Hamua to look for a Tiger or Tigers that were said to have killed eleven bullocks and cows. Two were turned out, and both bagged without much trouble. Rajey distinguished himself by knocking one over with a single shot. They measured 9' and 8'-9" respectively.



A fine pair.