

There is another explanation, however, which should be taken with raised eyebrows, I think. Ten years ago the previous Manager of the estate, a man of generous proportions, was reported to have bumped into a tiger whilst riding his cycle. Elephants are said to never forget, but tigers, well . . . ?

KHARIKATA T.E. & P.O.,

ASSAM,

September 12, 1955.

J. H. BURNETT

4. WILD ANIMALS IN THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS

The only wild animals in the Andamans at present are Chital and Pig. Chital were introduced in the Andamans some 25 to 30 years ago with the object of creating a source of meat for those who have to live and work in the forest. They are now, however, classed as pests, as they have increased and multiplied beyond all measure and are destroying the seedlings of valuable commercial trees in our regeneration areas. To counteract them, two female panthers were introduced in the Andamans during the year 1952-53, but their activities cannot so far be judged.

PORT BLAIR,

ANDAMANS.

August 3, 1955.

J. BANERJI, I.F.S.,

Chief Conservator of Forests.

5. GREAT INDIAN ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS (*R. UNICORNIS* LINN.) COW WITH (PRESUMPTIVE) TWIN CALVES

On July 24th 1955 at about 2.30 p.m. I set out from Kaziranga village on the elephant 'Deokali,' accompanied by Choudhuri, the Forest Guard. It was my intention to visit the nearest part of Kaziranga Sanctuary, which is about one mile away at this point. As we approached the Mora Disoo stream, which forms the southern boundary of the Sanctuary, we observed at a distance two or three rhino grazing in the Sanctuary beyond, in a grassy clearing locally known as a 'doloni'.

We eventually arrived at the bank of the stream, and at a distance of only about sixty yards gazed at the rhino. There were three of them: a mother with her calf close to her, and about twelve or fifteen yards away to the left another calf—presumably without its mother. We looked around for the mother of the lone calf, but there was no other rhino in that place.

As we discussed the problem of how this lone calf came to be there, the young creature itself solved it for us. It heard us talking, looked up and then immediately ran to join the mother and the other calf. Then it dawned on me that this must be the first case of an Indian rhino ever being seen with twin calves.

We had ample opportunity of closely observing the cow with her two calves, for they remained in the same spot for some fifteen minutes. The calves were about three years old, and were of identically the same height and shape. They roamed together round the mother as she continued to graze, and we were able to observe them facing us, side view and rear view. As there was no other rhino in the place at that time, there can be little doubt that it was in fact a case of twin calves.

Most unfortunately it had been raining slightly all day, and so I had come out for once without a camera. In order to obtain more witnesses, if that were necessary, we called up several villagers who were fishing and herding their cattle nearby, just outside the Sanctuary. They came along, looked and confirmed without hesitation what we had noted—that here was a cow rhino with twin calves.

Eventually the mother rhino became a little nervous at the sight of so many of us, and walked away into the tall elephant-grass. The two calves followed close at heel and disappeared from view. I advised the Forest Guard to keep a careful look-out for further appearances of this unique family party.

Several cases have been recorded of twins being born to an Indian elephant; but as far as I am aware no case has hitherto been reported of the Indian rhino, or of any rhino of either Asiatic or African origin, having twin calves. The above occurrence, therefore, must be the first ever to be observed and recorded.

OATING P.O.,
ASSAM (INDIA).
July 28, 1955.

E. P. GEE

6. A SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE ON THE STATUS OF RHINOCEROS IN THE UNION OF BURMA—1955

THE SMALLER ONE-HORNED OR JAVAN RHINOCEROS. *Rhinoceros sondaicus.*

Extract from a letter dated 2nd September 1954, from the Deputy Commissioner, Tavoy (U Kyaw Thant):

'On my recent tour to the newly occupied area which was under insurgent domination for some time, I came across a piece of rhino hide and a tip of rhino horn about a couple of inches in length cut from the horn. According to the person who was in possession of these things, a single-horned rhino was seen at Taungnyo range (a local name for the Tenasserim Yoma) in Natkyizin village tract by Mon insurgents. Natkyizin village tract is in the northern part of Tavoy District bordering the Amburst District. This was some time in January 1954, and the animal had to be stalked for about half a day before it was shot. According to this person the horn was about 9 inches in length and about 3 inches in diameter at its base. It is said there was only this one rhino when it was seen.'