

THE
JOURNAL
OF THE
BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

5.06(54.7)
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EDITED BY

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VOL. XXVIII.

Parts 3 and 4.

Containing 2 Coloured Plates, 41 Lithographed Plates,
1 Diagram, 3 Maps and 89 Text figures.

Dates of Publication.

Part III (Pages 571 to 822) 30th June 1922.
„ IV („ 823 to 1,150) 20th December 1922.

LONDON AGENTS:

DULAU & Co., Ltd., 34-36, Margaret Street, Cavendish Square, W.

PRINTED AT THE TIMES PRESS, BOMBAY.

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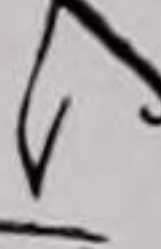
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Edward  1922.

H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, PATRON AND LIFE MEMBER OF THE BOMBAY
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES' SHOOTS IN INDIA
IN 1921 AND 1922.—PART I.

BY

BERNARD C. ELLISON, C.M.Z.S.—(*Naturalist to the Shoots.*)

(*With 9 plates and a map.*)

NEPAL.

To the average Englishman in India, but little is known of Nepal or its people. Brian Hodgson, to whom we are indebted for most of what we know of the Natural History of the country, gives an account of the physical characters of Nepal dividing it into 3 distinct regions according to the elevation of the several districts. The lower region consists of the Terai, or Marshes; the Bhawar or forest and the lower hills, with a climate approximating that of the plains of Hindustan, with a certain increase of heat and a great excess of moisture. Next comes the Central region composed of a "clusterous succession of mountains" varying in elevation from 3,000—13,000 feet, with a temperature of 10° to 20° lower than the plains; and, lastly, the juxta-Himalayan region consisting entirely of high mountains whose summits are buried in snow for the most part of the year and whose climate has nothing tropical about it except perhaps the succession of seasons. Before describing the arrival of H. R. H. and staff in Nepal on the 14th December and the sport subsequently enjoyed by the party, it is necessary to explain shortly the arrangements made by H. H. the Maharaja of Nepal to take the utmost advantage of the extraordinary sporting resources of his country. General Kaiser Shumsher Jung Bahadur, President of the Nepalese Committee relating to the Prince's visit and also officer-in-charge of the arrangements of the shoot, in a letter, says:—

"It was only in July (1921) that definite news of the Prince's visit to India being available, the question of H. R. H. having a shoot in Nepal was raised. The Prime Minister of Nepal had pressed the Government of India to arrange the dates of the Royal Shoot to fall in January, or better still in February, so that a better bag of big game might be anticipated, but in view of the extended tour in India and the Far East, the 14th and 21st December were given as the only possible dates. The Prince's stay in Nepal was, therefore, shorter than those of his father and grandfather.

In 1910 previous notice of more than a year had been received enabling the men to work for two seasons, *i. e.*, on either side of the rainy season to erect 2 shooting boxes and camps in the interior of Chitone for the use of H. I. M. the King-Emperor in 1911. The short notice on the present occasion compelled the Prime Minister to abandon the idea of a shoot in Chitone and consequently Pathenghetta off Bairagnia was suggested, but considering the poorness of game that side, a camp at Thon, the gate of Chitone, was finally decided upon."

The venue for the Royal Shoot was the Terai which may be classed amongst the richest and most strictly preserved game tracts in the world. The shooting camp prepared for the Prince was about 2 miles from Bikna Thori Station on the Nepal Border. It was not the same camp which was used on the occasion when H. M. King George visited Nepal. His Majesty's camp was about thirty miles away from the frontier, at a place called Kasra, where a permanent pavilion was built for the use of His Majesty. The present camp had no wooden pavilion, but nevertheless it presented a most delightful spectacle being a mass of creamy white tents shaded by giant forest trees, flanked by and overlooking the river: beyond the river lay a great tract of forest land, and still further in the distance the snow capped peaks of the Himalayas. On all the other sides jungle of the thickest kind and then the Indian frontier.

There were really three different camps. The Royal Camp was on a plateau by itself directly overlooking the river bed. Descending from this one came to the Press Camp, which, though on a lower elevation, still commanded the same view. Opposite this was the servant's camp which housed the huge following which generally accompanys a gathering of this description. About $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile away through the forest lay H. H. the Maharaja's camp. The locality covered by the camp before the middle of November had been rank jungle—the haunt of wild animals, which had left their tracks even after the grounds had been tramped.

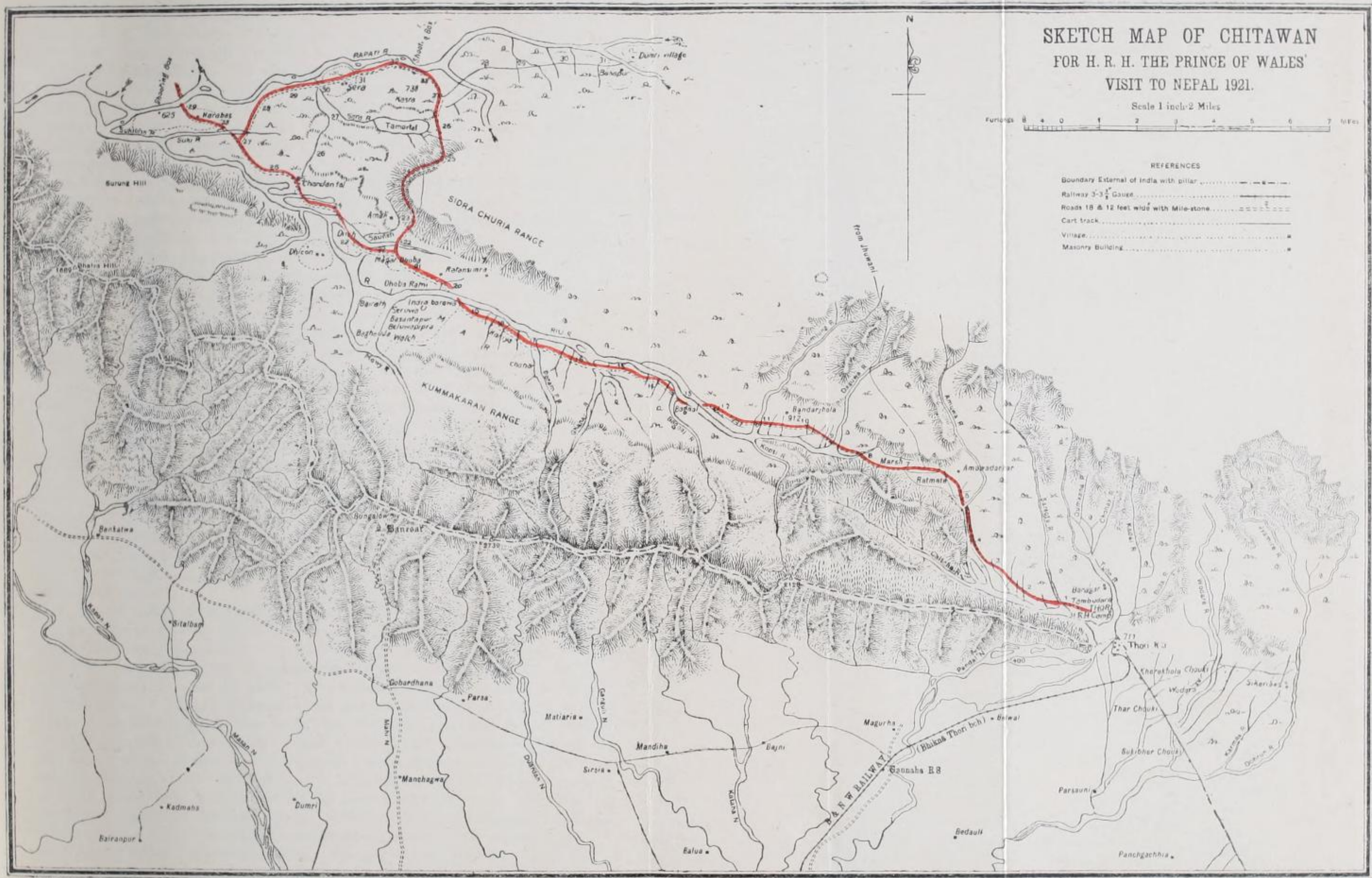
Both camps, that is to say H. R. H.'s and that of the Maharaja of Nepal were surrounded completely by pallisades and guarded by Nepalese troops. Great fires were lit at night to keep away a possible marauding elephant or wandering rhino or tiger. Such unwelcome visitors were always a possibility in a spot where wild animals abounded. A further provision against incidents of this description was a machan, termed very aptly a "Funk Machan," designed as a haven of refuge in the event of a stampede of elephants or the visit of a wandering rogue. The greatest attention to detail was displayed in the lay out of the camp and every provision was made for the comfort and convenience of the guests. The roomy tents which were beautifully furnished and fronted by garden terraces flanked an open lawn scattered with chairs and tables where people might sit in the evenings. Here also a huge bonfire flared all night and a giant yule log blazed—quite the biggest I have ever seen. The whole camp, both inside and outside, was lit with electricity from the great arc lamps which hung picturesquely from the trees, under which all the trophies shot during the day's sport used to be shown before being handed over to the ministrations of my men in the skinning camp, down to the little reading lamp by one's bedside which one could switch off before turning in.

The Royal suite of apartments were simple, yet all that could be desired, and ornamented, as befitted the occasion, with emblems and trophies of the chase. The floor of the mess tent was carpeted with Leopard skins pieced together as a great mat; the effect, as can be gathered, was extremely rich and striking. The very appointments of H. R. H.'s writing table were all mementos of sport in Nepal being made up from Rhino hoofs, horns and hide, and even the waste paper-basket was made from the lower joint of a rhino's leg. One cannot but refer to the beautiful albums on the tables of the mess tent, whose pages held the photographic record of many a famous shoot in the Nepal Terai.

The Camp had a well appointed Post and Telegraph office attached to it.

On the eve of the Prince's arrival it was inspected by H. H. the Maharaja of Nepal who, though in indifferent health, insisted on previously visiting the camp with Col. O'Connor, the British Envoy, to see that everything was as it should be for the reception of the Royal Guest. Of an urbane and generous disposition H. H. the Maharaja impressed one immediately by his character brimming over with good nature and kindness. I was also introduced to the Maharaja's sons, all of them Generals. It is the custom in Nepal, I believe, to have all Royalty created Generals practically simultaneously with their birth. I was much impressed with the youngest boy who, though only eight years of age, had a few days previously single handed accounted for his first tiger.

Very efficient arrangements were made by the Nepal authorities for the disposal of the game after each shoot, and Lieut. Hem Bahadur Rajbhandair, the Nepalese officer attached to the writer, was most helpful. The skinning camp was situated about a mile from the main camp. This was a mistake in my opinion although the reasons for it were very good and sound. The people who placed it there, considered that for sanitary reasons it was advisable to have all the skinning done as far away as possible. On all the other shoots I asked to have the skinning camp within a quarter-of-a-mile of my own tent, and accommodation for my own men provided on the spot. This worked



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HELIOGRAPHED BY THE SURVEY OF INDIA OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

The road from the Royal Shooting Camp at Bikna Thori is marked in red. At different places on this route most of the beats mentioned in this narrative took place. On the extreme left of the map is Kasra, where His Majesty King George V stayed, when he shot in Nepal in 1911.

better, I found, as, after the animals came to the camp and had been viewed by H. R. H. and the people who shot them, they were immediately and without delay sent to the skinning camp and on arrival at once dealt with by our department. In shooting on a large scale celerity in skinning is a great point, particularly in the present instance where I had only two men* with me who could be trusted to attend to the more intricate points of skinning, such as the head and limbs. We obviated difficulties as regards nauseous smell, etc., which otherwise would have made the skinning camp in Nepal a perfect Golgotha by a plentiful scattering of lime and disinfectants. However in spite of this at times, when we had five or six disarticulated rhino together with numerous tigers and an odd bear in different stages of skinning, the stench was almost unbearable.

Before describing the shooting I cannot but comment on the elaborate and extremely efficient methods adopted for giving prompt and exact "khubber" about kills and the movements of game. This was accomplished by a precise system of signalling, on a scale which I think has never been attempted before on a shoot of this description. The whole arrangement was under the direction of Lieut. Leonard, R.E., who had arrived in Nepal some weeks previously to put up a system of telephonic communication between the Royal Camp and certain suitable spots, within the forest for a radius of 30 miles. Lieut. Leonard was assisted by a party of English Sappers who during the period during which they were engaged in putting up the necessary wires and installation spent a very thrilling fortnight alone in the jungles. Considering that these jungles in normal times abound with dangerous game of all description, and that particularly at this period when in preparation for the Royal Shoot there had been a close season for some time, it can be readily understood that Lieut. Leonard and his party had some exciting experiences to recount of the time spent in the Nepal jungles. One of the receiving field stations was fixed to the trunk of a tree near by my tent and every morning on my visit to the skinning camp I would ring up for news and would be promptly informed as to the whereabouts of the last "Kill" or the location of a tiger 10 or 15 miles away. No rhino was untracked or tiger left to itself. The rhino no sooner began to doze off as the sun grew warm, as is his wont, than the tracker climbing up a neighbouring tree made signs to his mate on the ground who ran off to flash the news by the nearest telephone station.

I give the following extract from my diary of the first day's shoot:—

December 14th.—At Biknathori to-day the camp is aglow with excitement from early morning. I was awakened by the trumpeting of elephants and the shouts of an army of Nepalese attendants. I watched the little Gurkhas passing to and fro near my tent. What a noise these stout little fellows with the Kukris make! Talk is of nothing else but the arrival of the Prince and the prospects of the shooting. A very large tiger had been seen and it was hoped that it would fall to the Prince's rifle. Shortly after 9 a.m. a fanfare of bugles announce the arrival of the Prince. The Nepalese Guard present arms and the Royal Car sweeps into the camp followed by the cars of his suite. The Prince steps out, looking remarkably well and boyish in light khaki Jodhpur breeches, shooting coat, and Sambhar leather shoes. A few minutes were spent in introductions. Then off we all go in the cars to the shooting beat. This is quite near the camp, at a place called Sarasvati Khola. We get out of the cars and mount the pad elephants which take us to the line of elephants, with howdahs, in position by the river bed. His Royal Highness mounts into his howdah which, by the

* I brought with me from the Natural History Society two skinners—N. A. Baptista, a Goanese skinner of considerable experience who for many years had been in the employ of the Society, and my servant Rawjee Kaneira, a Hindu, who had a knowledge of skinning. Under my supervision they did all the skinning in the principal shoots in India and Nepal and worked exceedingly well.

way, is the same as was used by his father when he last shot in Nepal. The rest of the party are the Earl of Cromer, Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey, Col. Worgan, Lord Louis Mountbatten, Capt. the Hon'ble Piers Legh and the Hon'ble Bruce Ogilvy and myself. Every-body is expectant though nothing happens for sometime. On the other side of the huge river bed, now reduced to a narrow stream, stretches the jungle for mile on mile. It is very hot, the elephants are impatient and every now and then one of them gives utterance to restless trumpeting. Suddenly there is a movement on the left hand side of the line and General Kaiser, the Master of Ceremonies, who had organised all the Shikar arrangements in connection with the shoots, rides in on a fast trotting pad elephant with news of a tiger and off we start. The elephants move forward with their wierd lumbering gait. H. R. H. leads the procession : followed immediately by the party and then an army of pad elephants, and still more pad elephants to be used in case of accidents. Ponderously the line proceeds through the dense jungle, crossing many a placid stream, and emerging at times from the cool shade of the giant trees into some glade where the sun beat hot and fierce, only to plunge again into the cool depths of the evergreen jungle. One is instinctively impressed with the calm and twilit grandeur of these gigantic forests. Within their depths all is stillness and no movement is discernible. There is nothing to break the monotonous tread of the elephants save an occasional burst of drumming from cicadas whose shrill music subsides as quickly as it rises. Suddenly there is a stir in the line. All the elephants begin to close up, shoulder to shoulder, and the great beasts stand to form the ring. All is expectancy : there is an outburst of shouting from the beaters : out rushes a deer and escapes terrified into the jungle shortly followed by another and another. Then the real thing happens and there is a cry ' Bagh, Bagh ' from the beaters. The tiger at last ! A glimpse of a yellowish form is seen in the long grass for the space of a few seconds and is at once lost to view. Once again it is seen behind a tree trunk. Closer advance the beaters, the tiger charges out, but he is a wary beast and seems to know intuitively where the guns are posted and gives them a wide berth. Again and again he is driven out only to seek cover in the long grass away from the guns. A Shikari climbs a tree and pelts him with stones. The manœuvre succeeds, and once again we get a half length view of ' stripes ' as he makes a spring at his tormentor in the tree top. The ring closes in upon him, but with a roar he dives into the long grass ; another roar and he shows himself quite near the Royal howdah. A moment's suspense and H. R. H. fires and a second afterwards two more shots ring out. The Prince has hit. The tiger though mortally wounded has plenty of go in him and charges to the opposite side and is buried once more in the heavy cover. The ring closes in : a shot rings out : and the tiger rolls over dead. I descend from my howdah and measure him. It was a striking scene this great circle of sportsmen, beaters, mahouts and elephants, waiting in silence while the measuring was done. The tiger taped 9 feet but he was a royal beast and looked splendid when I saw him later stretched out for the Prince's inspection near the great log fire in the Royal Camp. In the evening we had news of three more tigers having been shot by another party who had gone farther afield. There appears to have been much excitement, and no little risk, experienced on the occasion, as several of the party were filled more with zeal than with experience of tiger shooting, guns were pointed in all directions and the poor tigers eventually succumbed to a perfect fusilade of bullets. One of the members of the party contributes the following description of the exciting episode :

" The tigress came out straight towards my elephant, but turned very quickly to its own right, and I fired just as it turned back into the jungle. I hit it on the near quarter, and broke its hind leg with the first barrel. The second barrel I fired as it was disappearing in the jungle and from what we



H. R. H. the Prince of Wales mounting into his Howdah on the first day's shoot in Nepal.



ON THE TRAIL AFTER RHINO.



ELEPHANTS CROSSING A STREAM.

found afterwards apparently hit it on the tip of the tail! There was a great difficulty in stirring the tigress out again from the jungle, so we went in on our elephants when she suddenly came out and charged the elephant P. was on, which turned round so quickly that P. sat down on his topi and squashed it flat. The tigress was finished off, I think, by H. but I am not quite certain."

After dinner I went down to the skinning camp to see what had been done as regards the disposal of the trophies. It was an eerie experience tramping through the heavy jungle after nightfall. Of course in the present instance, with so many people about, there was not much danger though everywhere one saw the pug marks of tiger, and the tracks of elephants. Thanks to the efforts of my men the work of skinning the various trophies had been satisfactorily concluded and so with an easy conscience I went to bed.

December 15th.—To-day was fixed for the first rhino shoot. We did not get off till 10 a.m. as there were several delays. Even after a start had been made there was a stoppage caused through a huge lorry breaking down on the very steep hill leading up to the entrance of the camp. None of the cars could get past the obstacle and there was nothing for it but to get out and push, and H. R. H. was the foremost of all in helping. At last we were all speeding along bumping over the forest road that had been specially constructed for the purpose of the shoots. The first part of the journey was through a dense piece of jungle. One realised how difficult a task a hunter would have in bringing his quarry to bag in a forest of this description. This is one of the main reasons why the 'ringing' method of hunting tigers is practised in Nepal. The dense jungle found in the foot hills of the Terai must be seen to be appreciated. Massive elephant grass up to 20 feet in height, and so thick as to almost obscure the elephant from the view of the Howdah occupants in his passage through it. Often it is not possible even to see the next elephant though it is only a few yards away. Our destination this morning is Thoba, a run of 20 miles by motor. The road led for the most part of the way through the cool depths of the forest till the vicinity of Thoba was reached. Here the country was open with fields of yellow mustard on either hand. The *machans* erected in their midst told of the eternal warfare waged by the ryot against the jungle denizens. At the 22nd milestone we leave the cars to mount the pad elephants. Besides H. R. H. the party includes Lord Cromer, Admiral Halsey, Col. Worgan, Capt. Ogilvy, Lord Louis Mountbatten and myself. H. R. H. looked rather tired, as even after yesterday's long journey and long shoot, he had been playing polo at 6 a.m. Before arriving at the spot where the ring was formed it transpired that the tiger had broken back. Shortly afterwards the elephant in which the Prince was riding got bogged in crossing a stream and H. R. H. transferred to an ordinary pad elephant. The sight of a line of elephants crossing a stream is always impressive. I call to mind as I write, the stately array of elephants crossing the Thute river at sunset, the great grey beasts plunging through the swirling water, the red light of the setting sun, and the dark forest background, all combined to make an impressive and unforgettable picture.

One quickly gets accustomed to elephants as a means of transport. A pad elephant is generally the most comfortable and certainly the best as far as celerity goes, though possibly not the safest, as in the case of a charging tiger the man on the pad takes his chance of being mauled. All honour to the plucky mahouts who guide these great beasts sticking gamely to their posts often in moments of extreme danger. Many have paid with their lives for their coolness and daring. In fact one of the brave fellows was killed on a pad elephant a few days after the Prince's departure. The occupant of a howdah is practically safe from the onslaught of a charging tiger, but there is one risk which is always present in shooting from an elephant in heavy forest and that is the possibility of the

elephant taking fright, and bolting when mahout, howdah and occupants stand a very good chance of being swept away in the headlong rush of the beast through the jungle. To return to what happened. The party arrived at the spot where the shooting was to take place at 1 p.m. and an adjournment for lunch was agreed to with general acclaim. Several rhinos had been seen in the swamp in close proximity and the chances of a good afternoon's sport seemed assured. After lunch we mounted our elephants and it was not long before a rhino was discerned in the thick grass cover. H. R. H., whose position was rather disadvantageous, since he could scarcely see the animal from where he was, fired. Lord Louis Mountbatten fired immediately afterwards and the rhino made off. A prolonged search was made for the beast. The blood-spattered leaves and grass showed clearly that the bullet had found its mark, but it was not till many days later that the beast was picked up dead. It was then too decomposed for preservation, but the skull and horn were recovered. It proved to be the best of all the rhino heads obtained in Nepal during the present shoot. A second rhino wounded on this day by Capt. Dudley North was picked up later under similar circumstances. As we blundered through the dense forest in search of the wounded rhino one could not help thinking of what would have been the effect on our ranks, if a rhino took it into his head to charge, bunched up as we were at the moment. The consequences would have been rather disconcerting as the resultant stampede would not exactly have been a pleasant experience.

Just before the search was abandoned a tiger was seen, a ring was immediately formed and the animal was soon accounted for. H. R. H. fired at the beast but missed. The tiger took cover, but immediately reappeared giving Sir Godfrey Thomas a broadside shot at close range.

Shortly afterwards H. R. H. returned to camp, but certain enthusiasts remained till dark without any results beyond a rather exciting five minutes with a pig. In the fading light an animal was discovered moving in the bushes. Everybody thought it was a panther or a tiger, a ring was formed. Whatever it was, it took a great deal of dislodging, but at last with a protesting squeal out rushed a much harassed and disgruntled porker who promptly dodged through the lines of elephants and vanished into the jungle.

Friday, December 16th.—There were several different parties on this shoot. H. R. H., Col. Worgan, Capt. the Hon'ble Piers Legh, Commander Newport and Lord Louis Mountbatten motored to the 13th milestone to a place called Bagliae. A ring had been formed about a half a mile from the road and after the party arrived H. R. H. himself posted the guns placing them at intervals of about 50 yards. Shortly after the beat commenced, a tiger broke in front of the Prince's howdah. H. R. H. fired and was immediately followed by a right and left from Capt. the Hon'ble Piers Legh. The next 20 minutes were spent in an effort to dislodge the beast from some heavy cover. Very suddenly "Stripes" put in a second appearance, but a shot in the leg from Mountbatten sent him limping back into cover. The ring now closed in upon him and the tiger making his last bid for liberty sprung gamely at Lord Louis' mount and was dropped with a shot through the head. A subsequent examination showed that only the last two shots had taken effect and the trophy accordingly went to Lord Louis Mountbatten. H. R. H. returned to camp after lunch while the remainder of the party went off on a fruitless quest after tiger.

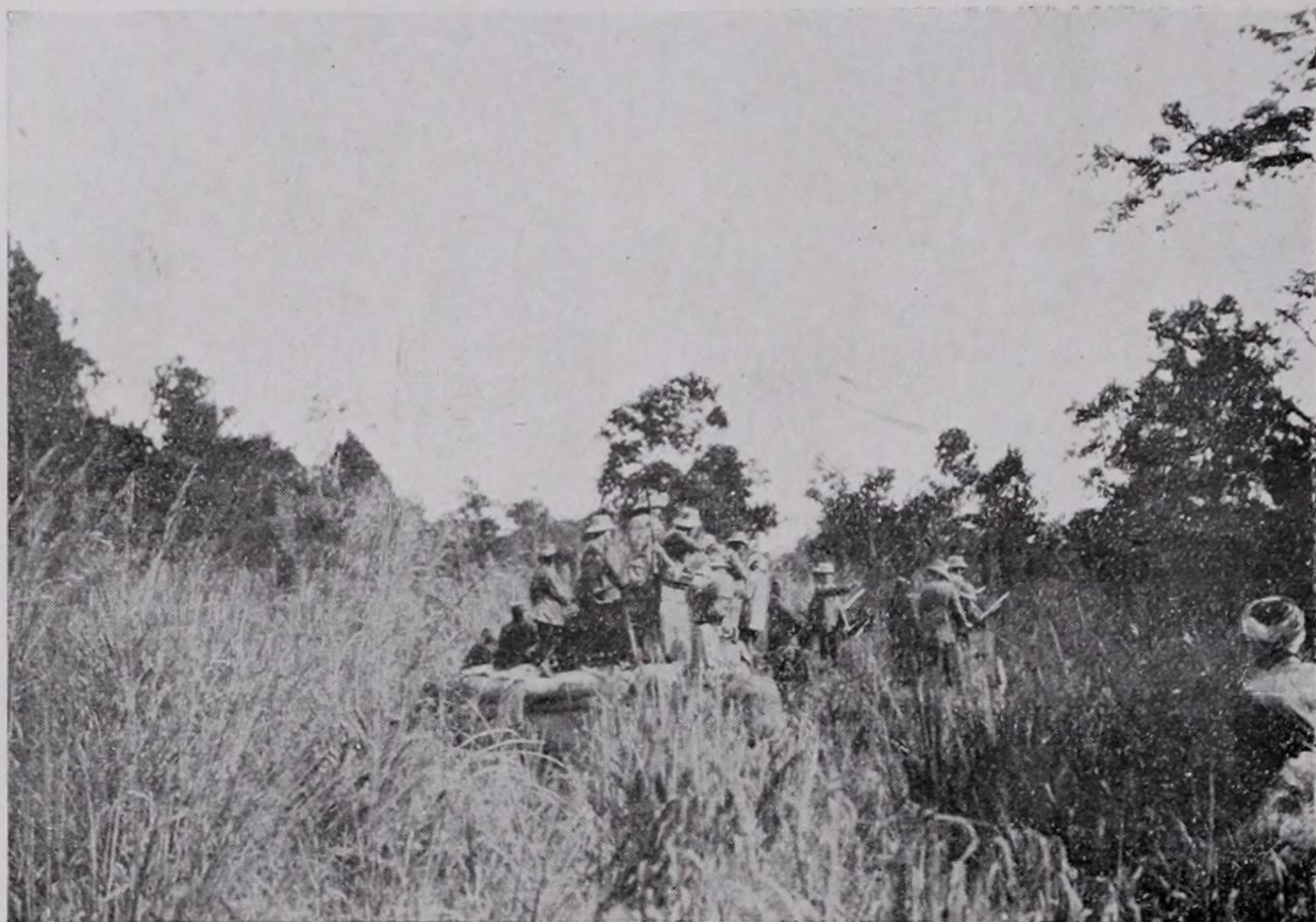
A second party consisting of the Earl of Cromer, Capt. Dudley North and two others spent the morning after rhino at Kasra. One was secured which fell to Capt. Dudley North's rifle. The party went into some very thick jungle bordering a lake where the shikaris had previously located a few rhino. The rhinos were heard moving about as the elephants approached



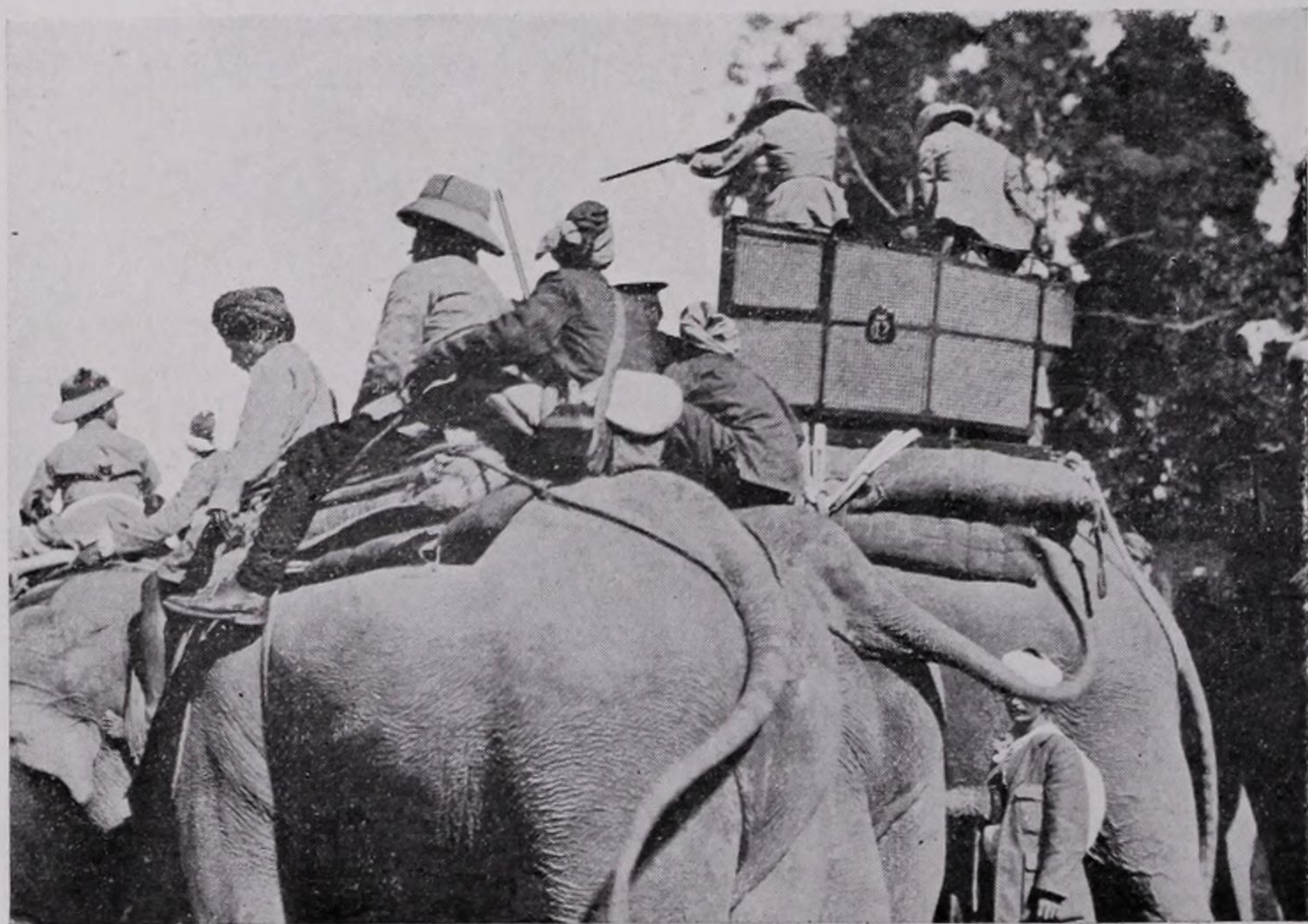
H. R. H. WAITING FOR THE TIGER TO BREAK COVER.



THE LINE OF ELEPHANTS MERGING FROM THE JUNGLE



THE ROYAL ELEPHANT IN A TYPICAL RHINO SWAMP



H. R. H. TAKES A SHOT.

and presently one of them was seen by a young member of the Maharaja's family, in the howdah with Capt. Dudley North, who urged him to fire. Capt. Dudley North had previously won the toss for the first shot and the occupant of the adjoining howdah who had also seen the animal excitedly pointed him out: Capt. Dudley North writing to me said:

"I could see nothing and told my friend so, he however still urged me to shoot. I could not see anything so I aimed at what I presumed was the object he intended and fired. Absolutely nothing happened and the conglomeration of the tree stump and grass which might have been or looked like a rhino remained exactly where it was. Even the real rhinos in our vicinity did not stir. We continued groping about in the big grass and shortly afterwards two rhinos dashed out of the pool away from us and in an impossible position for a decent shot. We tracked them for some distance, and were in a small clearing on the edge of some very high grass when we observed a great commotion going on near by. The top of the high grass was violently agitated as though some great beast was pushing through and there was no doubt that a rhino was coming our way and shortly afterwards he did, with a rush, charging straight at my elephant. The high grass parted and directly I saw the horn on the top of his nose, through the dense cover, I fired. Lord Cromer, on my left, fired two barrels in quick succession and my elephant wheeled round immediately I fired, and was for getting out it, so I did not have much time to see exactly what happened. The impression was that the rhino stumbled and almost fell but recovered and made off through the grass. Lord Cromer was of the same opinion and thought both our shots had taken effect. In the confusion of elephants trying to bolt no one had time to shoot at another rhino which came out on our right but went back into cover very quickly. There were blood traces which we tracked for some time but eventually lost. This rhino was picked up dead some days after the Royal party left Nepal."

After the above incident the party formed into line moving slowly through the jungle. Shortly afterwards a rhino was seen and very fortunately bagged by Capt. Dudley North. The beast was hit through the spine half way down its neck and dropped in his tracks needing only another shot to give it its quietus. Capt. Dudley North was using a double-barrelled .470 Gibbs Rifle with a solid bullet.

Admiral Halsey with a party consisting of Sir Godfrey Thomas, the Hon'ble Bruce Ogilvy and Col. Harvey secured a tiger late in the afternoon of the same day. The morning had been blank and after lunch a second attempt was made. A very long trek through dense jungle where everyone got more or less lost, brought no result. So a man was sent ahead to reconnoitre; it seemed that all arrangements had failed, and a return to camp was decided on at 4 p.m., a few minutes after however 'Khubber' was brought that a tiger had been ringed quite close by. Soon all the guns were in position and a few minutes later Admiral Halsey bagged his tiger with a shot through the neck.

Saturday, December 17th.—H. R. H. spent the morning after small game and with his party accounted for some 25 head. The Admiral, Col. Harvey and Lord Louis Mountbatten motored to Kasra (30 miles) after rhino. They saw none and had a tiger beat which was also blank. The same morning Capt. Poynder and Capt. Dudley North both had a shot at a rhino which fell to the former's rifle. She was a gravid female. When it was being skinned a calf was found *in utero*. The animal gave no trouble and did not charge, but as Capt. Dudley North afterwards said "she took a terrible lot of killing."

The rhino shoots in Nepal showed very clearly the extreme difficulty of bringing these animals to bag without a vital shot. In the dense swamps of the Terai a wounded rhino is practically impossible to track and recover. In the present instance the rhino was spotted in a strip of grass jungle

flanked on three sides by forest and on the fourth by a watercourse. 'Stops' were posted in trees on two sides and Capt. Poynder and Capt. Dudley North walked their elephants through the thick grass to a point from which the animal could be seen. The rhino moved off on their approach, but was turned back by the tumult raised by the stops and blundered back to within 10 yards of the guns. It was extremely difficult to see in the heavy cover but both Capt. North and Capt. Poynder fired, putting 4 high velocity .470 bullets into it. The rhino lurched forward but got away and was again turned by the stops, some 200 or 300 yards off when the brute was finally dropped with a shot through the neck from Poynder's rifle. All five shots had taken effect. Four of them in the region of the shoulder. The shot in the neck had finished it. But for this, and the 'stops' posted in the trees, the animal would have got away in all probability to perish miserably in the trackless swamps. A shot in the vertebrae in the forepart of the neck will drop a rhino in his tracks. This and the brain shot would seem to be the most effective. Mr. Percival Landon shot his large bull rhino at a 100 yards with a single bullet from a .350 rifle, placed three or four inches in front of the root of the ear.

Another party consisting of Col. Worgan, Mr. Petrie, Sir Godfrey Thomas, Commander Newport and Capt. the Hon'ble Piers Legh left camp on elephants late in the morning. They went down to the river bed from Bikna Thori Station about 4 miles and changed from the pads into howdah elephants. The ring was formed and very soon a fine tigress gave Sir Godfrey Thomas a shot. "It was not a difficult one," wrote Sir Godfrey later, "and Rushbrooke Williams who was in my howdah is certain that I hit it. Personally I am not at all sure as my elephant had no guts and turned round and more or less bolted as soon as the tiger appeared. I was on the floor of the howdah and Rushbrooke Williams nearly fell out while the elephant began to make for the woods. Luckily the mahout stopped the brute and we got back near the line to see the tiger down with everyone shooting at it. It took an awful lot of lead to kill it stone dead. An uproar then began down the line and we discovered that there were two cubs outside the ring. The line closed in upon them as we had an idea of taking the beasts alive, but they were too big to catch without nets and a good deal of preparation, and too young to leave, as in all probability they would not have lived without their mother. Col. Worgan got one and Commander Newport the other. All the way home the jungle was beaten but nothing was seen."

A tiger measuring 9 ft. 2 inches was also shot by Capt. Bruce Ogilvy on this day.

Sunday, December 18th.—It being Sunday there was no shooting to-day, and this was rather a relief to my skinning department, which had been working at high pressure the last few days getting rid of the great mass of material that had been sent in. I was up all night with my men, as, with so much already having come in and with great disarticulated limbs of rhino arriving continually I had to work against time to prevent anything being spoilt. Day and night operations thus became the order. We had a generous supply of disinfectants which were scattered with a lavish hand, but even so it was an obscene business and not to be dwelt on more than is necessary. An entry I saw in the diary of a member of the staff succinctly describes the case. "I visited the skinning camp where Ellison is dealing with the stuff; there was an appalling stink there!!!" The skinning camp was guarded day and night by Gurkhas. Tigers' claws, whiskers and fat and kindred articles are of much value to the native who has uses for them not dreamt of in our philosophy and with such a profusion of riches lying about one had to guard against the intrusion of the "snapper-up-of-unconsidered-trifles." One such gentleman we caught red-handed and his subsequent fate at the hands of the Nepalese officials was a sufficient deterrent against attempts of this nature. Anent the tigers fat. To me came