

diverse petitioners pleading for a modicum of the precious adipose, reputed as a panacea for many ills, but as Pharaoh of old to his starving Egyptians, I commended them to Joseph, in this instance Baptista, my head skinner. To him in the course of his labours had fallen a bountiful harvest of the desirable unguent and to the waiting multitude he bestowed his favours, with, I am afraid, a somewhat niggardly hand.

Sunday afternoon was spent in the distribution of gifts and mementos from the Maharaja to his guests. Among these were a number of beautiful silver mounted kukris which were presented to various members of the party, a fitting memento of their days in Nepal. According to time honoured custom H. R. H. was the recipient of a number of live animals and birds. A list of the collection is printed at the end. Among the animals was the famous 'unicorn' sheep of Nepal. These are normally two horned. When quite young the horns are bound closely together so that they grow up in contact with one another giving them the desired "unicorn" effect. The birds included a very fine series of pheasants. Particularly striking were the gorgeous Monauls, the Tragopans with their crimson white-spotted breasts, and the little Blood Pheasants in green splashed over with blood-red markings. After being inspected by the Prince the collections were finally handed over to the writer and at the close of the shikar in Nepal were brought down to Bombay where the animals and birds were temporarily housed in the Victoria Gardens previous to their being shipped to the London Zoo, their final destination.

Monday, December 19th.—On this day His Royal Highness shot a rhino at Sarasoti Kola. Capt. Dudley North describing the shoot writes :

"I went out with H. R. H. after Rhino. We went to where one was reported and soon sighted a Rhino lying down. H. R. H. had not seen one properly before so that at first he did not recognise it as they are so difficult to distinguish in heavy cover. However when the brute rose he saw it. The Rhino moved slowly towards us and I suggested his firing a raking shot into it, but H. R. H. very rightly preferred to wait for a more advantageous position. The Rhino turned to the right and the Prince fired. His first shot hit, though rather high, and the beast swung round and H. R. H. fired again hitting it this time on the neck. We followed the beast into very heavy cover, but the trees were so thick that it was impossible to get a clear shot, the elephants were just getting clear of the trees when the Rhino was dropped by one of the Nepalese officials* who had fired as he was under the impression the beast was going to charge. H. R. H. used my '470 Gibbs Rifle which I lent him."

A separate party consisting of Sir Godfrey Thomas, Capt. the Hon'ble Bruce Ogilvy and Lord Louis Mountbatten spent a fruitless morning after Rhino at Kasra. The day was not without its excitement however, as in the course of operations Lord Louis Mountbatten's elephant suddenly went 'musth' while he was in the howdah. The party was going through what one of them described as "the longest and thickest grass I have ever had the misfortune to encounter" it was several feet above the head of a man standing up in a howdah. Without any appreciable warning Lord Louis' elephant attacked another animal on which a Nepalese Colonel was sitting and disappeared into the bush. Fortunately the mahout managed to stop him by slashing at his head with a kukri. Lord Louis was then rescued and transferred to another elephant. After that the party went through "still worse country"; the noise the elephants made crashing through the tangle of tree and grass was sufficient to scare any game within a radius of miles, so the shoot was abandoned and the party retired to the base and motored back, reaching camp long after dark.

Near Dhoba, one mile to the south of the 22nd milestone, the same morning Mr. Percival Landon, who was with another party, bagged a fine bull rhino with a single shot clean through the brain. I am indebted to Mr. Percival

* General Kaiser Shamsher Jung Bahadur.

Landon for the following graphic description of the day's sport. "The Rhino was shot after the first ring at which Lord Cromer secured a fine leopard as well as the largest tiger that had yet been shot; the party divided as the beaters had reported two finds three or four miles away—some animal, probably another tiger, cornered in a dense bit of jungle, and a rhino in an open plantation. Mr. M. A. Metcalfe, Capt. Poynder and Mr. Percival Landon went after the Rhino on elephants. By this time the sun was getting low. They made their way across more or less open country for about two miles and then entered the plantation. This was irregular in character, large woods of free growing young *sal* alternating with treeless stretches of coarse shoulder-high grass indicating swampy soil, the whole being surrounded by a ring of thick and sometimes impenetrable undergrowth. The light was fading, tending to become yellow, a fact which only enhanced the unusual beauty of the surroundings. The party moved forward in silence broken only by the steady crash of what light undergrowth there was under the *sal* trees, or the tear and the squish of the high marsh grass. Several times, where the mud was exceptionally deep, they came upon signs of recent wallowings, but of rhinoceros they saw nothing though they spent over an hour in carefully quartering the plantation in response to the noise and whistles of the beaters on foot. They were on the point of giving up and returning to the rest of the party when a soft but insistent whistle some distance to the right turned them back for a last chance. Mr. Landon was on the right hand elephant with a Nepalese officer and slightly in advance of Mr. Metcalfe and Capt. Poynder, when he suddenly came in sight of a huge rhino. He was standing sideways motionless among *sal* trees well lighted for a shot. He stood about 6 feet high, and as roughly paced out afterwards, was 9' 10" in length. In the low evening sun he looked as big as a locomotive. Mr. Landon fired twice, the first bullet hitting it nearly opposite the centre of the spine, though whether the bullet did much work through the plate at that angle one cannot say. It did not seem to have any effect. With the second shot he hit it clean through the brain and the rhino sunk down in his track, without a movement, stone dead. The distance was just 90 yards and everybody came up to find the beaters already closed in and celebrating the occasion, with the amazing rites that always accompany the killing of a Rhinoceros in Nepal. Everything that could hold blood was requisitioned and the thick blood flowing from the nostrils was collected with the utmost care. This was not a concession to the spirit of the monster, as in the rite of the dabbling of a tiger's whiskers in his own blood. A Rhinoceros's blood is apparently unrivalled as a viaticum for the dying, ensuring for the soul both a peaceful departure and a happy rebirth on the other side. There are indeed many superstitions about a dead rhinoceros, but it is worth noting that its power for ensuring peace for the departed soul is retained by the mere empty shell—it is hard to call it skin—of the beast for years after its own decease. The scene was a strange one and Capt. Poynder aptly re-called the prehistoric association of 'Tarzan of the Apes' as half a dozen elephants closed in from nowhere and ranged about the inconceivable scene of blood ritual which was carried a step further by the decapitation, amid fountains of blood, of the beast's head. There was no time for witnessing the 'gralloching' of the carcass, another messy and obscene ceremony of great importance. The head was measured from the top of the snout to the fold of the hide over the jaw bone and found to be a shade over 30½ inches straight. The horn was of no great height perhaps 8 inches but of massive construction. The colour was of an unusually light grey and the only mark on the head was that of the .350 bullet three or four inches in front of the root of the ear."

In the afternoon news was brought to the Camp that a tiger had been ringed about six miles out; the following party therefore went out after him:—

H. R. H. The Prince of Wales, Col. O'Connor, Captain Dudley North, the Hon'ble Piers Legh, Captain Ogilvy and Captain Villiers.

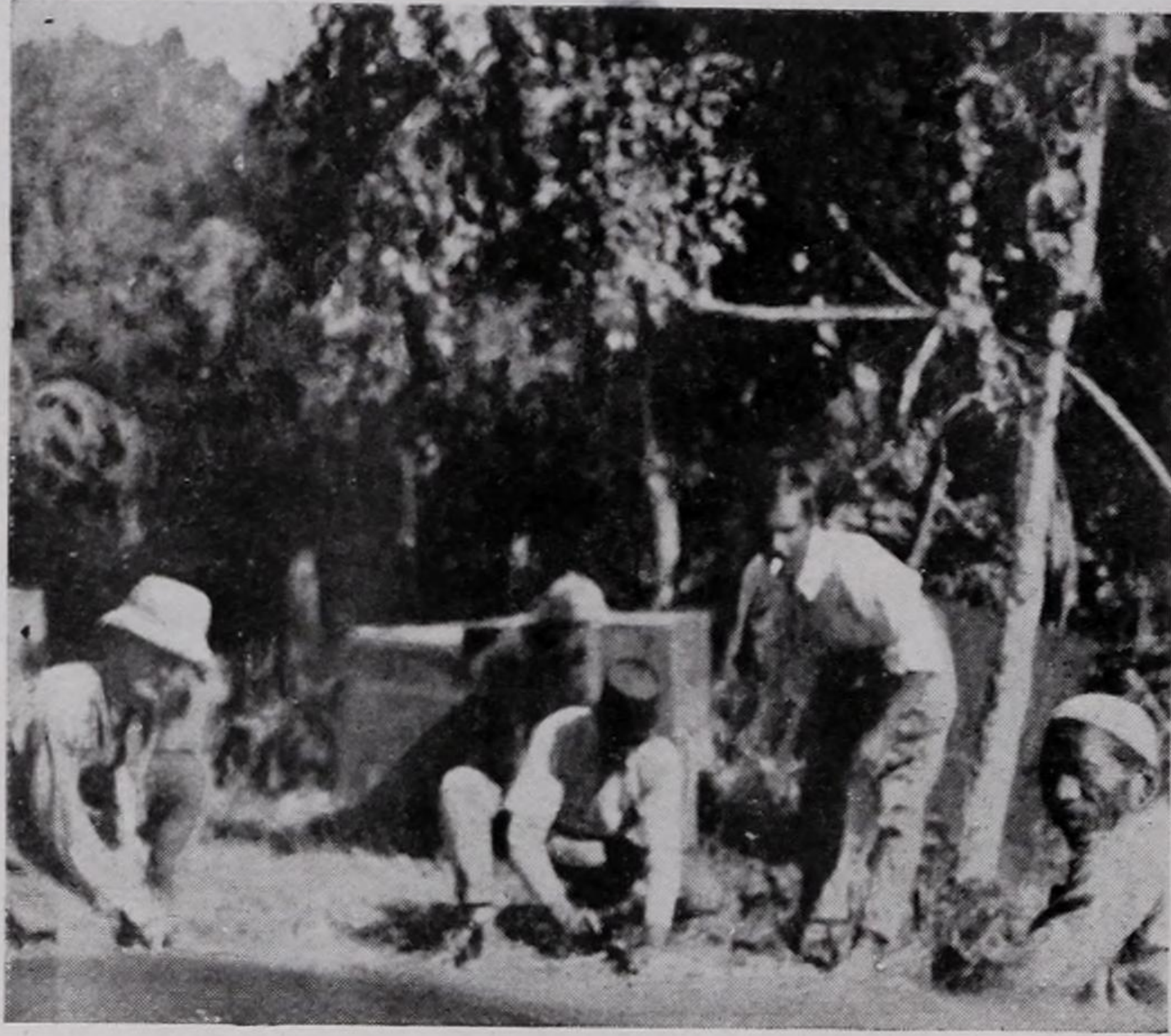


H. R. H. TAKES A HAND WITH HIS KUKRI IN DECAPITATING A RHINO.

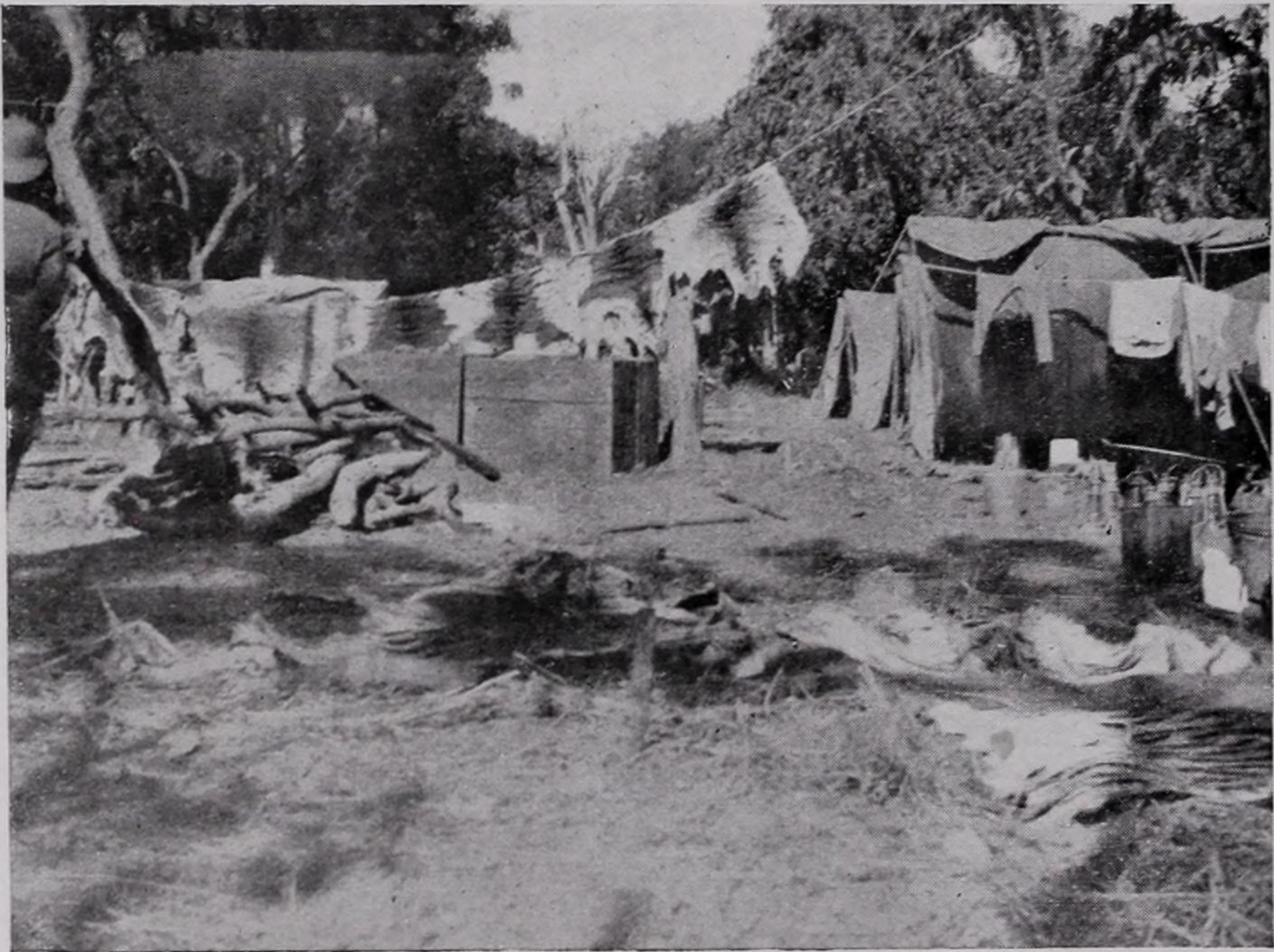


A FURTHER STAGE OF THE RITUAL.

The dismembered head of the Rhino is seen on the right of the photograph. H. R. H. is an interested spectator at the ceremony.



PEGGING OUT A TIGER SKIN.



THE SKINNING CAMP AT THE CLOSE OF A DAY'S WORK.

In about three quarters of an hour the party reached the spot where the tiger was surrounded, the ring being a fairly large one and the jungle in the middle unusually thick. The tiger, or tigress as she turned out to be, gave very good sport and was finally bagged by Captain the Hon'ble Piers Legh, who dropped her with a very fine running shot clean through the heart.

Information was then brought that there was another tiger not far off, which there was a chance of ringing if people liked to hurry out, but as it was getting late and the chances were not very great of reaching the spot in time, His Royal Highness and Col. O'Connor returned to the camp. The remainder, however, went on, on the off chance and after they had plunged into inordinately heavy jungle for the space of a further half hour, came to the spot where the Shikari said the tiger should be, and started trying to ring him. Captain Villiers thus describes what happened :—

“I suddenly saw a tigress cantering quite slowly diagonally across towards my elephant and after waiting till she was within easy range I fired and got her through the shoulder dropping her immediately, but not killing her outright since the shot just missed the heart ; I finally despatched her with a second shot. I was shooting with a .22 bore double-barrelled rifle made by Messrs. Manton & Co., which, I may mention, is without any exception the nicest weapon I have ever handled ; it comes up to the shoulder just like a well fitting 12 bore and it was interesting to see how effectually this extremely small bore, but very high velocity weapon stopped the tigress. She proved to be a tigress measuring 8 ft. and was in excellent condition.”

Judging from the trophies received at the skinning camp, this day, Monday, December 19th, provided the most successful sport.

In addition to the rhino bagged by H. R. H. and the one shot by Mr. Landon a third rhino was accounted for by Commander Newport. The Earl of Cromer shot a fine tiger, the largest obtained in Nepal, during the Prince's shikar tapping 9' 10", and a leopard. All this meant a considerable amount of work for my men, but it is to be recorded that they carried it through with the utmost zeal and fervour.

December 20th.—H. R. H. did not go out in the morning but remained in camp till after lunch when he rode out with Sir Godfrey Thomas and a few others into British Territory where he shot small game.

Lord Louis Mountbatten and Col. Worgan motored to the 22nd milestone at Dhoba where a rhino was shot by the latter. They then joined up with Col. Harvey, Col. O'Kincaly and Capt. the Hon'ble Piers Legh and went to a tiger ring which proved to be blank. Later a ring was made for panther and provided an exciting evening. On the elephants beating the ring a bear was found who caused a great deal of amusement charging round the ring and giving every one a chance of a shot. The shooting appears to have been “promiscuous,” but it is to be recorded that the bear eventually succumbed. After the firing subsided the presence of the panther became a matter of doubt as he had not put in an appearance during the tremendous bombardment of Bruin, but on the ring closing up they flushed him, and he charged straight through the elephants and broke the ring. He was hit by Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency but was not deterred in his charge, and went straight through. The ring reformed rather raggedly, and the panther again broke through springing on an elephant's trunk. He was dislodged but it was too dark to continue that evening and was shot the next day and proved to be a fine animal tapping 7' 6".

Lord Cromer and the Hon'ble Bruce Ogilvy each accounted for a rhino in the course of the day and Capt. Poynder bagged a bear just outside the Royal Camp.

December 21st.—This was the last day of the Nepal shoot. H. R. H. rode out after lunch with Col. O'Connor, the British Envoy, Sir Godfrey Thomas and others.

In the course of the evening, near the village of Persanni, in British Territory, the Prince encountered a Hamadryad or King Cobra which he luckily killed. The party were walking up jungle fowl at the time. H. R. H. first shot at the snake as it was moving away and apparently hit it, for the brute turned and appeared to be about to attack him when he killed it with his second barrel. The snake was brought into camp with the rest of the day's bag. It was first assumed that it was an ordinary Rat Snake or Dhaman when examined in the fading light. Subsequently when the skin was examined at the Society's Museum in Bombay the identity of the reptile was revealed. The Prince's King Cobra taped 10' 3". The Hamadryad, the largest known poisonous snake in the world, grows to about 15' in length. The record specimen now in the Society's Museum measures 15' 5". Much has been written about the ferocity of the King Cobra, and its propensity for making an unprovoked attack. When cornered a King Cobra may show fight, or a female will very probably attack should her nest or eggs be endangered, but experience has shown that these serpents under ordinary circumstances usually seek safety in flight.

On the 21st morning a party consisting of Lord Louis Mountbatten, Sir Godfrey Thomas, Admiral Halsey, Col. Worgan, Commander Newport, Col. Harvey and Mr. A. Metcalfe went down to Dhoba near the 20th milestone where a tiger had been ringed. The following is an extract from Sir Godfrey Thomas's Diary :—

"The ring was in very thick jungle and we spent sometime in getting the elephants to trample down a patch in front of each gun. Nothing happened for sometime till we got a fright when a big pig suddenly dashed out. Shortly afterwards we heard a tiger woofing in the middle but he could not be seen. Suddenly he appeared in the same place as the pig, and was just coming out when Mr. Metcalfe got him with a very good shot in the head. He could not see where he fell but he subsequently proved to be stone dead. Metcalfe was all for getting down to have a look at him but as they shouted out that there was another tiger in the ring we quickly resumed our places. Sure enough a tigress came dashing out again by an extraordinary coincidence right in front of us. Metcalfe missed with his first shot whereupon the beast charged the elephants on our left. There was a regular mix up, elephants trumpeting, squealing and going in every direction. I did not dare fire but Metcalfe took what looked like a pretty dangerous second shot, apparently without result. By then all the elephants had cleared off and seeing a gap the tigress went straight through. I turned round in my howdah and got a broadside shot just as she was disappearing, and thought I hit but couldn't be absolutely certain. However they swung the elephant round and made a big ring round the place she was going to. They beat about in the middle for sometime without anything happening. I thought she had probably slipped right through, as had she been wounded, they would have known it properly. However they suddenly discovered her quite dead having burrowed right under some grass so as to be practically invisible. Metcalfe and I were lucky in getting both beasts from the same elephant. My shot had gone right through about 6" behind the shoulder."

All the shooting was finished by 6 p.m. and the evening was spent in saying good-bye. H. H. The Maharaja and his sons went down to Bikna Thori station to see the Royal Party off and the Royal Train steamed out of Bikna Thori station at 6-30 p.m.

Thus ended H. R. H. the Prince of Wales' shoot in the Nepal Terai which certainly for the colossal scale on which it was carried out is to be ranked among the greatest in the annals of big game shooting in this country.

GAME RECORD OF THE ROYAL SHOOT IN NEPAL.

December 14th to 21st December 1921.

Date.	Place where shot.	Total length.	Girth of body.	Height at shoulder.	Sex.	Shot by	REMARKS.
TIGER.							
14th Dec.	Sarasoti Khola ..	9' 3"	51"	3' 2"	Male ..	H. R. H. The Prince of Wales.	The tiger was hit twice by H. R. H. and Lord Cromer and eventually killed by Col. Worgan.
" "	Gharar	9' 8"	52"	3' 2½"	Do. ..	Capt. E. D. Metcalfe.	
" "	Dhobasher	7' 9"	44"	3' 1"	Female ..	Capt. Poynder.	
" "	Haria (Dhoba) about 20 miles from camp.	8' 4"	45½"	3' 0"	Do. ..	Capt. Dudley North.	
15th "	....	7' 10"	41"	2' 10"	Do. ..	Sir Godfrey Thomas.	
16th "	Baghai	9' 7"	50"	3' 2"	Do. ..	Lord Louis Mountbatten.	This tiger had a wound in the forehead caused by one bullet: one hole near the fore-paw.
" "	Odar	8' 9"	46"	3' 0"	Do. ..	Vice-Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey.	
" "	Two miles from camp.	8' 2"	46"	3' 0"	Female ..	Sir Godfrey Thomas.	Two shots in forearm, one shot in chest passing clean through; one shot above the eyebrow, and one in the back.
17th "	....	5' 4"	23"	2' 2"	Male cub ..	Commander Newport.	One shot on the forearm. The body of the tiger had been buried before I could answer Commander Newport's question as to whether there was a spherical bullet in it.
" "	....	4' 11½"	23"	2' 2"	Cub ..	Col. Worgan ..	One shot on breast.
" "	15th milestone ..	9' 2"	49"	3' 1"	Male ..	Hon. Bruce Ogilvy ..	1 wound on shoulder. 1 " on forearm. 1 " on hind left shoulder blade. 1 " on right buttock. The mark of the tiger's teeth where he had tried to bite a wound could be plainly seen.
19th "	Orar	7' 7"	44"	3' 0"	Female ..	Hon. Piers Legh.	
" "	Tharar	9' 10"	51"	3' 2"	Male ..	Earl of Cromer ..	Largest tiger obtained during the shoots.
" "	Orar	7' 10"	44"	2' 10"	Female ..	Capt. Villiers ..	There was some doubt about this tigress. One impression was that either Captain Legh with his second shot, or Captain Dudley North with his first shot hit it, and Captain Villiers hit it one second afterwards, and it was thought that it was not actually killed with a small bore rifle. It was hit by Villiers with his .220 rifle. The jaw was partly fractured. This was caused by a small bullet.
" "	Do.	4' 3"	22"	2' 0"	Cub ..	Hon'ble Piers Legh.	One bullet wound through the shoulders.
21st "	Two miles beyond Dhoba.	7' 4"	41"	2' 11"	Female ..	Sir Godfrey Thomas.	One bullet half way down body.
" "	Do.	9' 2"	48"	3' 0"	Male ..	H. A. F. Metcalfe, Esq.	One bullet wound; point of entry just below the left eye.

In addition to the 17 tigers shot a cub was taken alive and was included in the collection of live animals presented to H. R. H. by the Maharaja of Nepal.

Date.	Place where shot.	Shot by	Sex.	REMARKS.
RHINOCEROS.				
(No measurements taken in the flesh.)				
16th ..	Kasra	Capt. Dudley North	Female.	
17th ..	Do.	Capt. Poynder	Do. ..	A calf was taken <i>in utero</i> .
19th ..	Sarasoti Khola	H. R. H. Prince of Wales	Male ..	The horn was broken.
" ..	Do.	Commander Newport	Do	
" ..	Dhoba	Percival Landon, Esq.	Do. ..	Single .365 bullet through temple between jaw and the eye.
20th ..	Do.	Lord Louis Mountbatten .. ..	....	One hole through right ear, one hole near left eye and one hole on the left side of the neck.
" ..	15th milestone	Hon'ble Bruce Ogilvy	Female.	
" ..	Do.	Lord Cromer	Do.	

Two rhinos wounded by H. R. H. and Capt. Dudley North respectively were subsequently picked up dead by the Nepalese after the shoots were over. The hides were found to be too decomposed to be of use.

LEOPARDS.				Length.	
19th ..	Ghangar	Lord Cromer .. ..	.. ..	6' 2"	
20th ..	23rd milestone	Sir G. DeMontmorency .. ..	.. ..	6' 7"	
BEARS.					
19th ..	Thangar .. ..	.....	.. ..	5' 0"	There was much controversy about this and in my opinion it was Col. Molesworth's and not Capt. Armstrong's as was at first thought. 21 shots were fired at this Bear. The skin is in possession of Col. Molesworth.
20th ..	Biknathori Royal Camp.	Capt. Poynder .. ..	.. ..	4' 11½"	This was bagged just outside the Camp.
SMALL GAME. On December 17th.					
7 Jungle Fowls, 2 Partridges, 15 Snipe, 1 Peacock were shot.					

Totals.	
Tigers	17
Rhino	9
Leopards.. ..	2
Bears	2
Hamadryad	1

NOTES ON NEPAL SHOOTING.

RHINOCEROS (*R. unicornis*).

Throughout the shoots I never had the opportunity of measuring any of the animals in the flesh* as they were generally shot far away from camp, and were disarticulated on the spot and sent into the skinning camp in sections, this being the easiest method of transporting these big beasts. I am indebted to General Kaiser Shumsher Jung for the following note on the Rhinoceros in Nepal. General Kaiser gives the following measurement of a rhino which appeared to him as 'unusually' big :—

Height at shoulder	..	..	..	6'-4"
Length from nose to root of tail	..	..	..	10'-7" (measured between pegs)
Tail	..	..	..	2'-1"
Neck	..	..	..	7'-6"
Girth behind shoulder	..	..	..	11'-1"
Maximum girth	..	..	..	12'-6"
Horn..	..	..	..	15½"

A female shot by Col. O'Connor during the 'Xmas camp, after the Prince had left Nepal, taped 5'-9" in height at withers, greatest girth 12'. The longest rhino horn obtained in Nepal, was one of an animal shot by Lord Curzon, then Viceroy in 1901, at Morang. The horn measured 21½ inches with a circumference of 24¾ inches at the base. The record horn measures 24" and was got by Mr. Briscoe in Assam.

Hodgson gives the following measurement of a new born rhino length 3'-4" and height 2'. An animal 8 years old taped 9'-3" in length and 4'-10" in height, the maximum girth being 10'-5". A fully developed calf in *utero* taken from an animal shot during the Prince's shikar in Nepal measured as follows :—

Length between pegs	..	..	..	..	4'-1"
Head and body	..	..	..	..	3'-4"
Girth	..	..	..	..	2'-9"
Weight	..	..	..	..	120 lbs.

Commenting on the habits of the animal General Kaiser writes, "Though it prefers swamps and high grass the great Indian Rhinoceros is also found in wooded jungles, up ravines and low hills; along the numerous rivers it has its particular places for the evacuation of excreta. Along the runs to such places it walks backwards and falls an unsuspecting victim to poachers." The period of gestation is given by Hodgson as 17-18 months though General Kaiser says it is believed to be one year, and the cow produces one at birth. According to General Kaiser breeding takes place at all times of the year. Writers have commented on the longevity of the Rhinoceros, a hundred years being given as the age. General Kaiser is of opinion that as regards breeding and longevity the 'rhino' is 'first cousin to the elephant.' "

Rhinoceros are still very numerous in the Nepal Terai, especially so in Chitawan and along the Rapti river. In January 1907, 28 rhinos were bagged, 14 males and 14 females, yet the forests in Chitawan were in 1909 so full of them that no appreciable diminution in the stock had been made.

Many legends and beliefs are attached to the Rhinoceros in Nepal. Mr. Landon's eloquent account of the scene at the death of one of these animals during the shoot in Nepal is sufficiently illustrative of the esteem the animal is held in by the Nepalese in general. Commenting on the above General Kaiser writes :—

"The flesh and blood of the rhino is considered pure and highly acceptable to the *Manes*, to whom the high caste Hindus and most Gurkhas offer libation of its blood after entering its disembowelled body. On ordinary *Sradh* days

* With the exception of the Rhino calf in *utero*.

the libation of water and milk is poured from a cup carved from its horn. The urine is considered antiseptic: it is hung in a vessel at the principal door as a charm against ghosts, evil spirits and diseases." The above beliefs are in no-wise confined to Nepal as the Chinese, Burmese and Siamese preserve practically every part of the rhinoceros. The horn, hoof, blood, urine, hide and even the intestines being dried up and afterwards converted into various medicines.

As regards shooting rhino in Nepal the importance of a vital shot has been already commented upon. Selous in his 'Hunters Wanderings in Africa' in writing about rhino says:—"As with elephants it is very unsatisfactory work following up a wounded rhino as they do not go and lie down but walk on and on till their strength gives way. They die very quickly when shot through both lungs and the upper part of the heart, but if shot from the front, and the bullet only penetrates one lung, they will go on to all eternity though throwing blood out of their mouth and nostrils by the gallon. With a broken shoulder they will run first at a gallop and then at a halting trot for more than a mile, but if the hind leg is broken they do not appear to be able to budge a step."

Conditions in Nepal are entirely different from the country in which Selous shot; owing to the nature of the terrain the tracking of wounded rhino is practically impossible and many a mortally wounded beast has been lost in consequence.

A shot through the brain placed a few inches in front of the root of the ear would seem to be the most effective, or a shot through the forepart of the neck severing the cervical vertebrae. In the Society's journal Mr. G. C. Shortridge records shooting an Asiatic two-horned rhino with a shot gun loaded with lethal bullet dropping him at 7 paces with a lucky shot in the head which smashed through the skull and lodged in the brain.

Writing of the Rhinoceros of Somali Land (*R. bicornis*) Captain P. Z. Cox (Society's Journal, Vol. XIII, p. 93 *et seq.*) describes his experiences and those of Donaldson-Smith, as to the effect of variously placed shots with heavy rifles, the conclusion arrived at being that the "knock out" blow is a broadside shot in the belly, the reason probably being that in this part of the Rhino's anatomy, there is such a number of nerves and blood vessels that a bullet planted therein causes him a violent shock to the system.

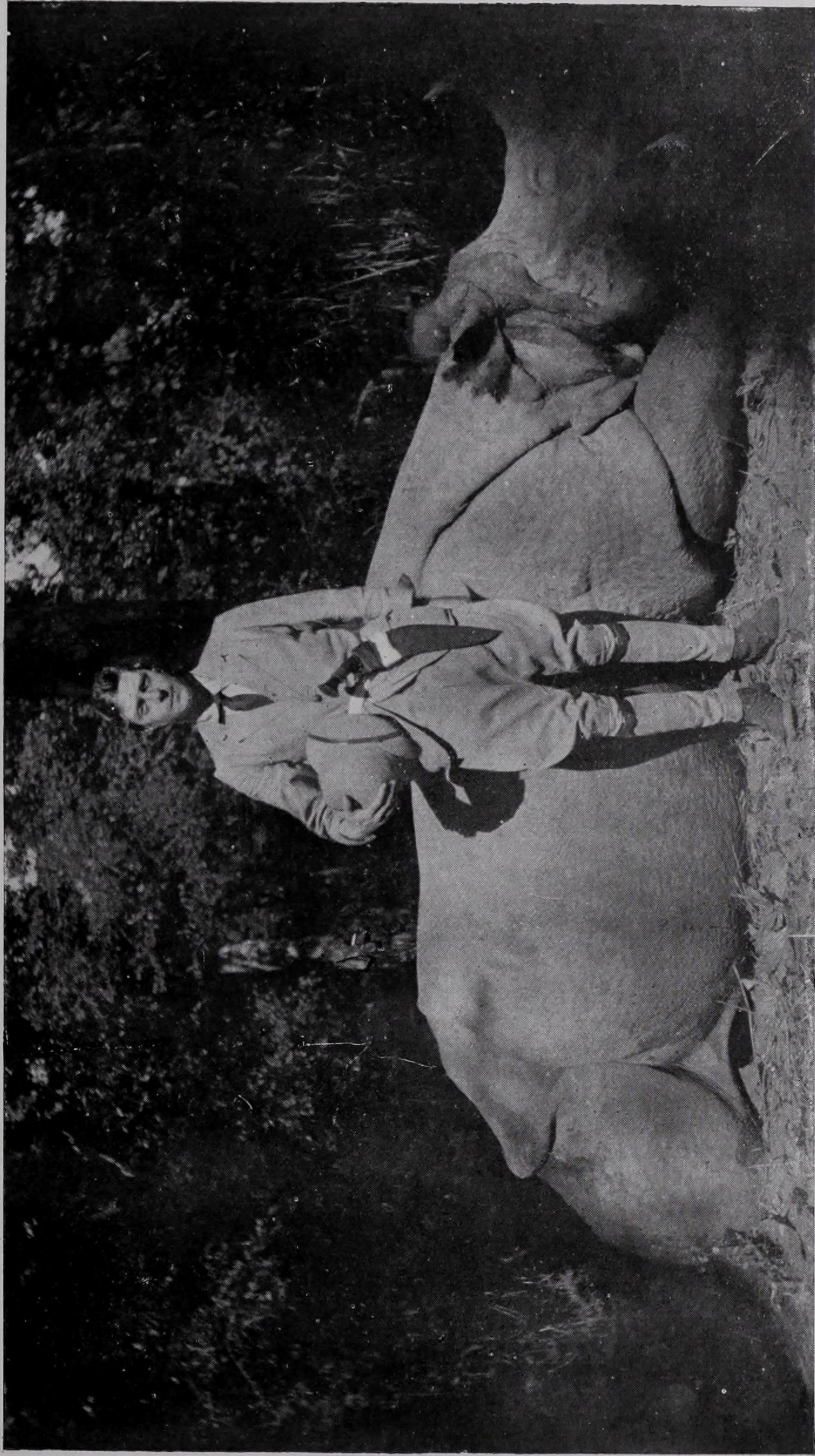
Another writer commenting on the above on page 538 of Vol. XIII takes exception to the belly shot, states he has no faith in head shots, and considers a shot behind the shoulder to be the most fatal.

TIGER (*F. tigris*).

The method of 'ringing' tiger with elephants is I think peculiar to Nepal and certain parts of Assam and is necessitated by the dense jungle, found in the foot hills or Terai. This must be seen to be appreciated. Dense elephant grass up to 20' in height and so thick as to almost obscure the elephant from the view of the howdah occupant in its passage through it. The training of the actual elephants that beat the inside of the ring is astonishing. Time after time they beat through this dense jungle and in more than one instance have been mauled by the tiger. This also speaks volumes for the courage of the mahouts. The method of ringing was very interesting and exceedingly skilful. Two lines in a V advanced through the jungle where the 'kill' was known to have been dragged to, one line beating up towards the other. As soon as the tiger was flushed the open ends of the V closed in an incredibly short time, and in only two cases failed to enclose the game.*

The vitality of one tigress calls for comment; she and two cubs were ringed on, I think, the fourth day and was still alive and dangerous with 2 bullets through the head, one in the neck, one in the chest, two in the shoulders and one in the body.

* For further notes on Tiger Ringing in Nepal, *vide* Field of April 22nd and May 6th, 1922.



H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES WITH HIS RHINOCEROS.

H. R. H. is seen wearing his Nepal Kukri.



A YOUNG GREAT INDIAN RHINOCEROS (*R. unicornis*).
One of a collection of animals and birds presented by H. H. the Maharaja of Nepal to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales. The animal was photographed at the Victoria Gardens, Bombay, where the collection was housed prior to its despatch to England.

ELEPHANTS (*E. maximus*).

The visitor to Nepal is struck with the numbers of elephants met with. The total roll-call of elephants used in connection with the Royal shoots was 423, which were divided into three sections according to the district, *viz.*, those assigned to Thore, those to Haraiya and those to Kasra. What the camel is to the desert the elephant is to Nepal—practically the only means of transport through its pathless jungles. In the wild state they are plentiful in the South of Nepal (the Terai). In some years they are more commonly found than in others. During the rains they visit the cultivated portion of the Terai doing a considerable amount of damage to crops, etc. For the greater part of the time they are buried in the dense jungle roaming in herds of 80 to 90 and, with the exception of an occasional 'rogue', doing a great deal of harm to life and property, these elephants unless molested seldom attack. Numbers are annually caught in Nepal and tamed, a young elephant being completely domesticated by the Nepalese in six months though an old elephant will often take a year to thoroughly tame. The pad elephant is perhaps more comfortable as a means of transport than the howdah-carrying beast. The danger of the animal bolting is a contingency which might at any time arise in hunting from an elephant in a heavy forest country, where an occurrence of this nature is fraught with extreme danger to the occupants of a howdah or indeed of a pad. A friend of mine related an exciting experience which befell him while shooting in the Terai. An infuriated rhino took it into his head to charge, and selecting the elephant on which he was seated made a terrific onrush. The elephant immediately turned and bolted for dear life, hotly pursued by the monster. My friend's mount was frantic with fear and went crashing through the jungle. In a moment half the howdah was swept off by the branch of a tree, the great beast not abating the pace one jot went on and on. My friend thought he would be killed and stood an excellent chance of ending his career. The rhino was close behind and would certainly have 'got home' had she not been turned from her purpose by her calf, who stopped abruptly and the mother seeing she was unaccompanied turned and gave up the chase. The elephant swerved to the left fortunately striking an open bit of country, but she did not give up her headlong flight, till she had put a good 2 miles between herself and the scene of the adventure.

COLLECTION OF ANIMALS, BIRDS AND REPTILES PRESENTED BY H. H. THE MAHARAJA OF NEPAL TO H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH, 1921, AT THE SHOOTING CAMP, BIKNATHORI.

Mammals and Invertebrates.

- 1 Baby Elephant (*E. maximus*).
- 1 Rhino Calf (*R. unicornis*).
- 2 Leopard Cats (*F. bengalensis*).
- 2 Himalayan Black Bears (*U. himalayanus*).
- 1 Black Leopard (*F. pardus*).
- 1 Clouded Leopard (*F. nebulosa*).
- 1 Tiger (*F. tigris*).
- 1 Tibetan Fox (*V. ferrilatus*).
- 1 Mountain Fox (*V. montanus*).
- 2 Sambhars (*C. unicolor*).
- 1 Tahr (*H. jemlaicus*).
- 3 Musk Deer (*M. moschiferus*).
- 1 One-horned Sheep (*Ovis* sp.).
- 1 Four-horned Sheep (").
- 1 One-horned Tibetan Shawl Goat (*Ovis* sp.).

Mammals and Invertebrates—contd.

- 2 Tibetan mastiffs (*C. domesticus*).
 " " pups.
 1 Monitor (*V. bengalensis*).
 1 Python (*P. molurus*).

Birds.

- 4 Nepal Kalij (*G. leucomelanus*).
 1 White Crested Kalij Pheasant (*G. albocristatus*).
 4 Monal Pheasants (*L. refulgens*).
 4 Cheer Pheasants (*C. wallichi*).
 2 Koklass Pheasants (*P. macrolopha*).
 4 Chukore Partridges (*C. chukor*).
 Swamp Partridges (*F. gularis*).
 2 Green Pigeons (*O. phayrei*).
 10 Bronze-winged Doves (*C. indica*).
 3 Great Indian Adjutants (*L. dubius*).
 1 Hawk.
 Pea-fowls (*P. cristatus*).

The animals were brought down from Nepal to Bombay under the charge of the writer of this article and Capt. Shanka Bahadur Shah, a cousin of the Maharaja, and some Nepalese assistants and though there was a certain amount of delay they stood the journey very well and arrived in Bombay on January 10th without any casualties.

BAGS* OF SOME OF THE SMALLER SHOOTS BETWEEN
 NOVEMBER 26TH, 1921, UP TO BUT NOT INCLUDING
 THE MYSORE SHOOT IN FEBRUARY 1922—
 TOGETHER WITH SOME FIELD NOTES.

SMALL GAME SHOOTING AT UDAIPUR.

26th November.

First Party. A party consisting of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, Lord Louis Mountbatten, Col. Harvey, Capt. Dudley North, Commander Newport and Mr. D. Petrie went out to the Pichola Lake and shot 11 Snipe and one Chinkara in two and a half hours. They also shot at Fateh Sagar and got 1 Goose, 15 Snipe and one Chinkara. (The Chinkara were shot by Lord Louis Mountbatten and Capt. Dudley North.)

Second Party consisting of Sir G. de Montmorency, Col. Worgan, and Mr. A. Metcalfe shot at Jaisamand and got 15 Snipe.

A party consisting of Admiral Halsey, Sir G. de Montmorency, Sir Godfrey Thomas, Col. Worgan, Capt. Bruce Ogilvy and Mr. Holland, Agent to the Governor-General in Rajputana, went to Jaisamand. There were two beats for Sambhar and Leopard, but nothing was shot, though some Sambhar were seen.

IMPERIAL SAND GROUSE AND SMALL GAME SHOOTING AT BIKANER.

3rd December.

The whole party motored out from Bikaner to Kodamdesar to shoot demoiselle crane. H. R. H. and staff arrived at Kodamdesar at about 10 o'clock where they found a small artificial tank surrounded by huts with decoy cranes placed around. Having got into their huts, lookout men were

* Most of the Bags were taken from the Royal Game Book now in the possession of the Hon'ble Bruce Ogilvy.

posted at various points who signalled when they saw flights of crane approaching. They were generally flying too high to start with, so people were told to let them fly round two or three times and let them get lower before shooting at them. In the morning at Kodamdesar the bag was 26 crane and 4 duck.

In the afternoon the party shot duck in Gujner Lake. They got 299 ducks.

Total bag of the day 303 ducks and 26 cranes.

5th December.

H. R. H.'s staff at Gujner shot 5 Duck, 1,061 Imperial Sand Grouse and 324 Common Sand Grouse.

Admiral Halsey shot at Gujner 1 Black Buck and 1 Chinkara.

6th December.

H. R. H. and staff at Gujner shot 2 Duck, 885 Imperial Sand Grouse and 29 Common Sand Grouse.

H. R. H. shot 2 Black Buck and 1 Chinkara.

Lord Louis Mountbatten shot 4 Chinkara.

BLACK BUCK AND DUCK SHOOTING IN BHARATPUR.

7th December.

Lord Louis Mountbatten. 1 Black Buck.*

8th December.

H. R. H and Party. { 1 Black Buck.
 { 2,200 Duck. †

In the duck shoot the birds remained more or less low for the first 20 minutes. Some of the butts were nearly 2 miles' walk from the edge of the lake. Consequently although people walked as fast as they could, the bugle for the commencement sounded 10 minutes before they could get to the butts. After this gun cases had to be opened so that some of the best part of the shooting was missed.

ELEPHANT AND SMALL GAME IN BURMA.

4th January.

Commander Newport, Mr. Petrie, Mr. Foster.	}	at Mandalay 28 Snipe.
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4th January.

Admiral Halsey, Mr. Petrie, Commander Newport, Mr. Thompstone.	}	at Mandalay 119 Snipe.
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6th January.

Sir G. deMontmorency. Col. O'Kinealy.	}	25 Snipe.
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7th January.

H. R. H., Col. Harvey, Commander Vibart.	}	Mandalay 85 Snipe.
Lord Cromer, Lord Louis Mountbatten, Mr. Thompstone.	}	Mandalay 46 Snipe.

* One of Lord Louis Mountbatten's Black Buck measured 26½."

† H. R. H. the Prince of Wales accounted for 65 birds.

Admiral Halsey,	}	68 Snipe.
Mr. Petrie,		
Sir G. deMontmorency,		
Col. Pringle.		
Commander Newport,	}	29 Snipe.
Mr. Laidlaw.		

On January 2nd a party consisting of Capt. Dudley North, Capt. Piers Legh, Sir Godfrey Thomas, Capt. Metcalfe, Capt. Poynder and Capt. Ogilvy left Rangoon for Mandalay *en-route* for Upper Burma. They arrived at Mandalay early on the 3rd, and embarked on a steamer to go up the Irrawady. There were three different places at which to shoot and the party was split up as follows:—

Capt. Metcalfe and	Capt. Poynder and
Capt. Ogilvy.	Sir Godfrey Thomas.
Capt. Dudley North and	
Capt. Piers Legh.	

The elephant shooting party returned on the 8th, spending that night in Mandalay and reached Rangoon on the morning of the 10th.

Bag.

Capt. the Hon'ble Piers Legh	..	1	Elephant.
Capt. E. D. Metcalfe at Ingadi	..	1	„
Capt. F. S. Poynder ...	...	1	„
			3 Elephants.*

There were six guns in three parties in the Mogok (Ruby Mines) District. Two guns disembarked at Ingadi and Singu; the remainder at Thabeitkyin, the terminus of the Ruby Mines road. In each case jungle was very thick, teak and bamboo being predominant, with some fine timber and spear grass. Fresh tracks of Tsaine and Bison were found in large quantity, but the density of the undergrowth and the consequent noise prevented close approach. At this time of the year, although there was an immense amount of game in the jungle, it was impossible to get up to it, owing to the leaves on the ground being so dry, and it was impossible to track properly. After a long trek, just as the sun was going down on the 5th of January, Sir Godfrey Thomas flushed a bull Tsaine who gave a bellow and was off. Later, when hot on the bull's track, he saw two herds of Tsaine. Then darkness came on.

Capt. Ogilvy had a shot at a Bison, but again in such dense jungle that a certain sight could not be obtained. Capt. Legh got a fine tusker elephant (solitary) and his trackers flushed two large bull bisons. They were within a 100 yards of him when he was inspecting a kill.

On the 7th of January Capt. Poynder got a medium size Tusker (solitary), and killed him with one shot between the eye and the ear.

Sir Godfrey Thomas who started at 5-30 a.m. had a very hard day. He came across fairly fresh tracks and some quite fresh Sambhar blood. It was a sambhar that had been chased and attacked by wild dogs.

Capt. Metcalfe got a small tusker out of a herd and he took a dozen rounds to finally kill it. Large numbers of barking deer were very common and were often seen. Tracks of many sambhar were also found, and the jungle was full of monkeys—mostly Gibbons.

Writing about these shoots Mr. V. H. T. Fields Clarke says—

“Capt. Ogilvy and I had 4 fairly strenuous days. The first day we went out after bison, but did not come across any sufficiently fresh tracks. The

*Capt. the Hon'ble Piers Legh's Elephant tusks weighed 20 lbs. and 21 lbs. respectively. Their length from root to tip along the curve was 3'-6" and 3'-5" respectively. I did not have the opportunity of examining Capt. Metcalf's or Capt. Poynder's Elephant tusks.

second day we went out after Saing, but could not find the herd. The jungle was very dry and bad for shooting generally. On the third day news of the fresh tracks having been brought in the day before—we followed the tracks of a solitary bison till about 3 p. m. when we came on the animal in dense young flowered bamboo jungle. Capt. Ogilvy got a shot, but where he hit we could never decide—anyhow it was not in a vital spot. The next day we followed up the animal again and although we were close behind it, it knew it was being followed and kept ahead of us. This day we left camp at 5 a. m. and did not get into Singu till 11 p. m. and must have done all told the best part of 30 miles.”

The party covered more than 65 miles in three days ; mostly climbing, too, through very fine jungle. The hills there went up to 3,900 feet.

SNIFE SHOOTING AT MADRAS.

14th January	by a party of members of the staff	..	65 Snipe.
17th January	” ” ” ” ”	..	44 ”
21st January	” ” ” ” ”	..	21 ”
			65 couple.
	Total bag	..	65 couple.

This was very interesting shooting because the snipe were mostly in bushes. There was no water and the shooting was mostly overhead.

BLACK BUCK SHOOTING IN INDORE.

2nd February.

Capt. Dudley North,	}	1 Black Buck.
Capt. the Hon'ble Piers Legh and		
Capt. Ogilvy		

3rd February.

Capt. Dudley North,	}	2 Black Buck.
Capt. Piers Legh,		
Sir Godfrey Thomas and		
Commander Newport		

Total bag .. 3 Black Buck.

The shoot on February 2nd was an ordinary stalk on a flatish plain. There were a great many buck, but at first no one could get near any of them. A pack donkey was conscripted and then Capt. Dudley North shot a buck.

On February 3rd the party motored out from Indore about 8 miles where they found bullock carts. Sir Godfrey Thomas got his buck after going about three quarters of an hour. There were a lot of herds about. Commander Newport also got a buck. The name of the district where shooting took place on both occasions was Bijasani (one of the State preserves).

RIFLES AND GUNS USED BY H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES AND SOME MEMBERS OF H. R. H.'S STAFF DURING THE SHOOTS IN INDIA.

RIFLES—H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., M.C.

1. One .400 bore express double barrel rifle No. 21906 by J. Purdey and Sons, London. Barrels made of Sir Joseph Whitworth's fluid pressed steel, taking 47 grains low pressure Cordite and 230 grains bullet

2. One .400 bore express double barrel rifle by J. Purdey and Sons, London, taking 3" case, 47 grains low pressure Cordite and 230 grains nickel base bullet.
- 3.* One .280 bore single barrel high velocity magazine rifle by Chas. Lancaster, No. 13097, taking 52 grains powder and 160 grains hollow bullet.
4. One .450 bore rifle supplied by H. H. the Maharaja of Udaipur.
5. One .470 bore rifle supplied by H. H. the Maharaja of Udaipur.

SIR GODFREY THOMAS, C.V.O.

1. One .450 bore rifle by George Gibbs.
2. One .280 bore Ross single barrel magazine rifle. Property of Lt.-Col. R. D. Waterhouse, C.B., C.M.G., Buckingham Palace.

CAPT. DUDLEY NORTH, C.M.G., C.V.O., R.N.

1. One .470 bore double barrel rifle by Gibbs. (Shot tiger and rhino in Nepal with this). This rifle was used by H.R.H. when he shot his Rhino.
2. One .286 bore Mauser magazine rifle for Chinkara, etc. (Probably this is a mistake and ought to read .256 bore Mannlicker Schonauer.)

CAPT. F. S. POYNDR, M.V.O., M.C.

1. One .470 bore double barrel high velocity rifle by Chas. Boswell, charge 75 grains Axite and 500 grains bullet.
This was a first class all round weapon which could not be bettered.
2. One .350 bore single barrel automatic rifle by Remington Arms Co. firing 200 grains bullet. Little used on this tour, but an efficient light rifle. Not recommended for normal all round use owing to delicate mechanism being likely to jam under unfavourable conditions of sand, etc.

Capt. Poynder could not speak too highly of No. 1. He shot a tiger and an elephant each with one shot killing them instantly. It is very powerful, not too heavy to be portable and hits like a sledge hammer.

CAPT. E. D. METCALFE, M.C.

1. One .450 bore express rifle.

LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN, M.V.O., R.N.

1. One .450-400 bore double barrel high velocity rifle by Watson Bros. For Tiger and Rhino.
2. One .375 bore rifle by Watson Bros. for Buck and Gazelle.

H. R. H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

GUNS.

1. Two 16 bore double barrel guns by J. Purdey & Sons, London. (Made of Sir Joseph Whitworth's fluid pressed steel).

CAPT. F. S. POYNDR.

1. One 12 bore double barrel hammerless gun by Francis Scott, Birmingham.

* H. M. the King in 1911 used the same type of rifle in Nepal.

I am very much indebted to different members of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales' staff whose names appear in my notes and to all who took part in the shoots for the help and encouragement they have given me in compiling these records, especially to Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency, who most kindly read through the final proofs for me. The authorities in Nepal, in particular General Kaiser Shumsher Jung Bahadur and Col. O'Connor, also helped me very much, and it is through the kindness of Col. Samar Shumsher, a nephew of the Maharaja, that some of the photos are published. But most of all I am grateful to Col. Burton, a big game hunter of great experience with whom readers of the Journal are familiar for his valuable advice and criticism, and my colleague Mr. Prater, who with his ever ready good nature, and his great experience, gave me most valuable assistance both as regards the editing and final arrangement, and the selection of material from a mass of rough field notes. I regret that exigencies of space, and the not-to-be-forgotten question of expense, has prevented me from publishing a large number of illustrations of the Nepal shoot (and other shoots mentioned in the narrative), from the photographic records in my possession.

In a future number of the Journal will appear a report drawn up by Messrs. Hinton and T. B. Fry of the British Museum regarding recent Natural History collecting in Nepal. This collecting work was conducted by Lt.-Col. R. L. Kennion with the assistance of the Society's collector N. A. Baptista, and the report deals with the physical configuration of Nepal, so that in this article I have not dealt further in the matter of describing the country.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,

12th June 1922.
