

Big-Game Shooting in Equatorial Africa

On these pages is contained a pictorial record of the fruits of three successive big-game shoots in different parts of the wilds of Africa—in the very centre of Africa—near the Stanley Falls—the Abyssinian Hinterland and the forests of the Zambesi respectively, undertaken by Colonel Harrison, who links with Mr. Selous, Major Powell-Colton, and Lord Delamere, as a big-game shikari of intrepidity and resource. Colonel Harrison is noted, among other things, as the introducer, last year, of the Forest Pygmies to London. The photographs and descriptions here given indicate in a remarkable manner the magnitude of his captures, and the great risks undertaken in their quest. Africa, though more than any other territory of the world the huntsman's Elysium, is also his inferno—for coupled with the glories of his trophies are dangers of the fight with gigantic beasts, the malignant climate, the inhospitalities of the desert, and the treachery of the still savage tribes of the wild regions explored

Forest Pygmies
(from the Ituri)
clad in European
garb



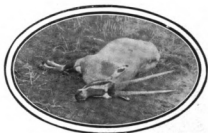
Photo

SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATION DEPARTMENT

The Pygmies were first introduced to England last year by Colonel Harrison, the big-game hunter, whose photographs are now being reproduced

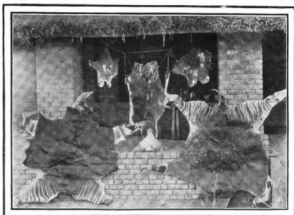


Forest Water-Pig: A new discovery on the Congo



An Oryx: A scarce species shot near Lake Stephens

This photo shows a few skins put out to dry on the journey back from the forest. The two okapi skins were, of course, killed by the pygmies, and, owing to the dense jungle and their extraordinary sensitiveness to danger, this rare animal has never yet been killed by a white man. In this it resembles the bongu of E. Africa, which, from descriptions of the little people, the writer is sure is to be found in the Ituri. The pygmies hunt in long



Skins of the rare Okapi killed by pygmies

lines, driving a mile of forest. When they start an animal, the man just behind blows a horn as a signal for men on each side of him to rush forward and try to encircle the animal before getting out of reach. They then spear it as it rushes past. For a larger animal, like the elephant, they use poisoned spears, pricking them just above the hind foot. A few hours of this deadly poison is enough to bring the beast down

THE PERILS AND THE PRIZES OF A NINE MONTHS'
TRIP FROM ABYSSINIA TO LAKE RUDOLPH.

BIG-GAME
EQUATORI



Somalis skinning a "Hippo"

On this page are reproduced photographs of some of the big game captured by Colonel Harrison's party during a nine months' trip from Abyssinia to Lake Rudolph. Thirty-five varieties of game were secured between Somaliland and the Uganda Railway, the trip having taken place during one of the worst periods of drought ever known, in which lakes and rivers were absolutely dry, and natives almost exterminated by thirst. The animals were, for hundreds of miles, the only living creatures encountered. As, however, the bed of one of the evaporated rivers was found to be covered with luxuriant green grass—an impromptu oasis—some consolation was found by the explorers and their transport caravels.



A coloured Giraffe

These handsome coloured giraffes are very striking when seen standing in the sun. Of a rich, bright chestnut colour, with pure white rings, they stand out splendidly as compared with the dull grey colouring of the more Southern giraffe. The above was that on Lake Rudolph.



The Perils of Big-Game Shooting

This elephant, though a cow, had a mis-
lough as elephant hunting, and liken it to
well-timbered districts, with plenty, but
but tackle them in impenetrable jungle,
likely to be found in greater numbers, as
coastal head, the chances are about equal
but getting furious, she charged round an
sawed one gun-boy so ft. out of her
other things belonging to one of the par-
(who is seen sitting by

SHOOTING

IN AFRICA

PHOTOGRAPHS AND PERSONAL DESCRIPTIONS BY
COL. HARRISON, A WELL-KNOWN BIG-GAME SHIKARI



Capture of a wild Elephant

would pair of tusks. Some travellers
ing with. This may apply to certain
no such shelter for the sportsmen;
high, where cow elephants are most
h the best weapons in the world and
above animal never waited a second,
at, scattering everyone in all directions,
smashed up the glasses, hat, and
sides nearly getting Colonel Harrison
three times over



An Ant-eater: A rare capture

One of the most interesting animals obtained was the ant-eater. Though
not exactly rare, yet it is very seldom captured. Many sportsmen
have tried to dig them out, but, seemingly, they can burrow faster than
one can dig



A rare white Topi

This unique specimen, a white topi, was shot by Mr. Archibald Butler on the shore of Lake Rudolph. It
was, at the time, feeding among two or three thousand of the common topi, so was considered a great
piece of good luck to obtain it. A white baby topi was also seen among this band

"Glorious by My Gun"



Starting for the Shoot: Mr. Vaughan Kirby at the head

TROPHIES OF A SIX MONTHS' SHOOT IN ZAMBESIA

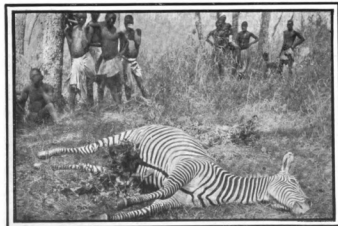
THE following animals were killed during a hunting expedition which Colonel Harrison, accompanied by Mr. Vaughan Kirby, undertook in a part of the Portuguese East Africa country, then little known. The party landed at Chimoio, at the mouth of the Zambesi river, where one of the river steamers took them some distance up the Shire river, at which point they disembarked, and, after procuring two porters, some of whom are shown in this photograph (Mr. Kirby is in the white turt hat), struck inland N.E. The mosquitos on the Shire river are described as the largest and most pestiferous of their type in Africa.

ELAND

Eland is fairly distributed over all this country—much more so than is usual; generally they are very local, and once find a herd, the same will frequently be found within a very short distance of the same spot. The carriers were chiefly Vows, a tribe who were at the time in a very unsettled state, and more than once the travellers had to assume very stern threats and more. One of the chief drawbacks to this country was the dense, high grass, which was very little burnt by the natives; we used to fire the whole country behind us on the march, and then hunt back on the burnt ground for a few days. All game love to feed on newly burnt ground, on which a few days soon sees fresh green blades springing up.



A Fine Eland: Col. Harrison in the centre



An East African Zebra

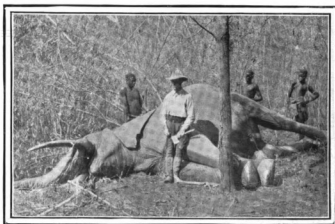
ZEHRA

The zebra is fairly common in this district. This animal and the impala are two that hunters often such dislike. Owing to their large numbers and keen sense of danger, they surround other game and make it almost impossible to stalk. The water-suck is much the same all through South and Central Africa; he seems to be the most generally and evenly distributed least in the country.

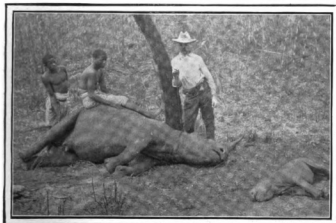
Specimens of Zambesian Big Game

ELEPHANT

This was Colonel Harrison's first African elephant and turned out to be a recent one, so far as height went. Describing the capture, he writes: "Having fired and wounded this fine animal, on opening the rifle to reload, I found the barrels in one hand and stock in the other—my gun-boy in full flight with my top-hat. The position was critical for a few moments, for we stood facing each other, only a few feet apart and a thin sapling between. Luckily, he did not show fight, and, keeping perfectly quiet, he turned and trotted away, never to get up again.



A fine Elephant, captured at perilous risk



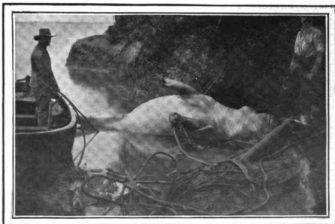
Rhinoceros (with calf), which took eight hours to track and kill

"RHINO"

Here is the writer's first rhinoceros. The fact of its being a cow did not save it—in fact the hunter became the hunted. All animals become dangerous when they have a young one along. We spent eight hours hard tracking this rhinoceros. On the burnt ground, of course, you can run along the spoor, but when one gets on to a mile of hard, rocky foothills, which it loves, the work is very tedious. As the sun gets up you will find, instead of the twisting and turning spoor made while feeding, the animal suddenly makes a straight line, possibly to visit water first and then to lay up in some dense grass jungle. Unless you come up with him before getting into this, the odds are very much against getting a shot.

A COW "HIPPO"

After being shot, a hippopotamus always sinks, and does not rise to the surface for about four hours, when it drifts on to the nearest sandbank. We got through the Shupanga Forest safely, though my companion had a terribly near squeak with a wounded elephant. Jumping aside as he charged, his first caught in the undergrowth, and falling within reach, the enraged beast caught his shirt in his trunk as he dived by, and my friend found himself in the air. Luckily, being an old shirt, much torn and buttonless, it gave, and he dropped out to watch his shirt carried away in triumph. However, he recovered both very shortly after. This trip, from and back to the coast, occupied about six months.



Loading a Hippopotamus four hours after a kill