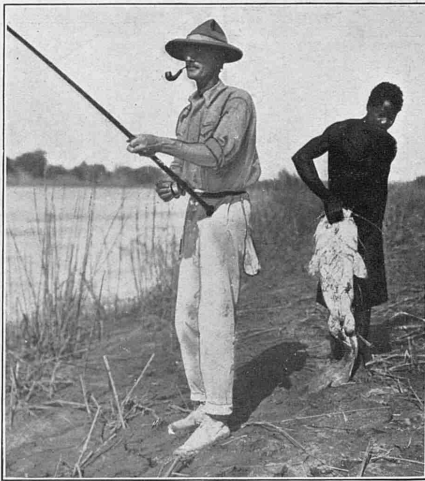
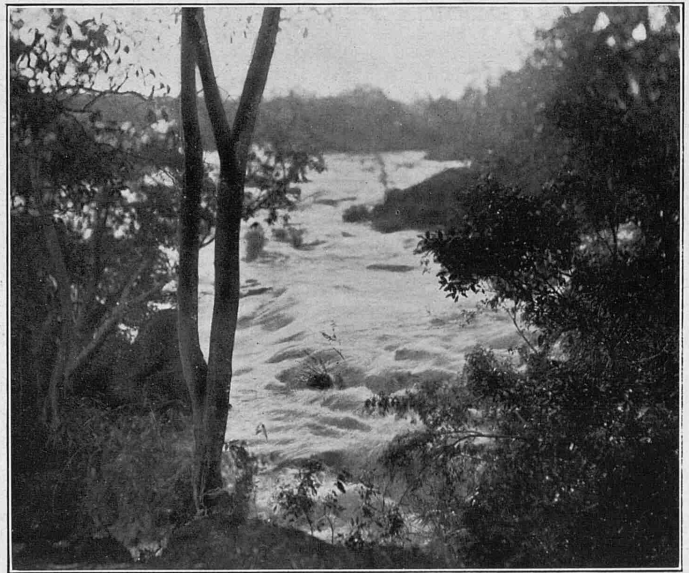


THE WAR IN THE DARK CONTINENT.—WILD LIFE IN GERMAN EAST AFRICA.



SPARE TIME ON THE RIVERS.—A BARBEL (SILURUS) CAUGHT IN AN EAST AFRICAN STREAM.

THE British forces operating in German East Africa, under the command of Lieut.-General Smuts and his predecessors, have not only had to contend with very *ruse*, wily and utterly unscrupulous human foes, but have had to force their way through a savage, mountainous, and tangled country, much of it unexplored, which has offered every kind of impediment to their advance. Fever, dysentery, and other tropical diseases have taken a very heavy toll from the brave men now engaged in finally rounding up the last remnants of the German forces. Wherever they have gone, our men have had, too, to contend with many forces of nature, which in more civilised countries are not to be reckoned with. Wild animals have proved, in this long and most arduous campaign, that they are not to be trifled with, even by men armed with many and various weapons of offence. Lions, leopards, elephants, buffaloes, rhinoceroses, crocodiles, and hippos are very



A TYPICAL EAST AFRICAN RIVER SCENE.—DENSE JUNGLE AND MOIST HEAT.

numerous in German East Africa, and the men of the British forces have had innumerable adventures with them. Even the mild, defenceless, and beautiful giraffe has proved a nuisance, and many complaints were at one time being made that those towering creatures were quite innocently hindering our advance by knocking down the field telegraphs and telephone posts and wires.

Among the more troublesome animals which have helped at times to hinder our men while thrusting their way through the bushy wildernesses and forests of German East Africa, lions are perhaps the most dangerous. In the Dar-Es-Salaam district they were numerous, and organised hunting parties, picked from men of various regiments, were sent out to destroy them occasionally. Two were shot by men of the Motor Transport Service, and during the progress of the campaign a fair number have been slain by various members of our Army, which numbers, it may be remembered, a large number of South Africans—British and Dutch—men of the veldt, skilled with the rifle, and accustomed to big-game shooting.

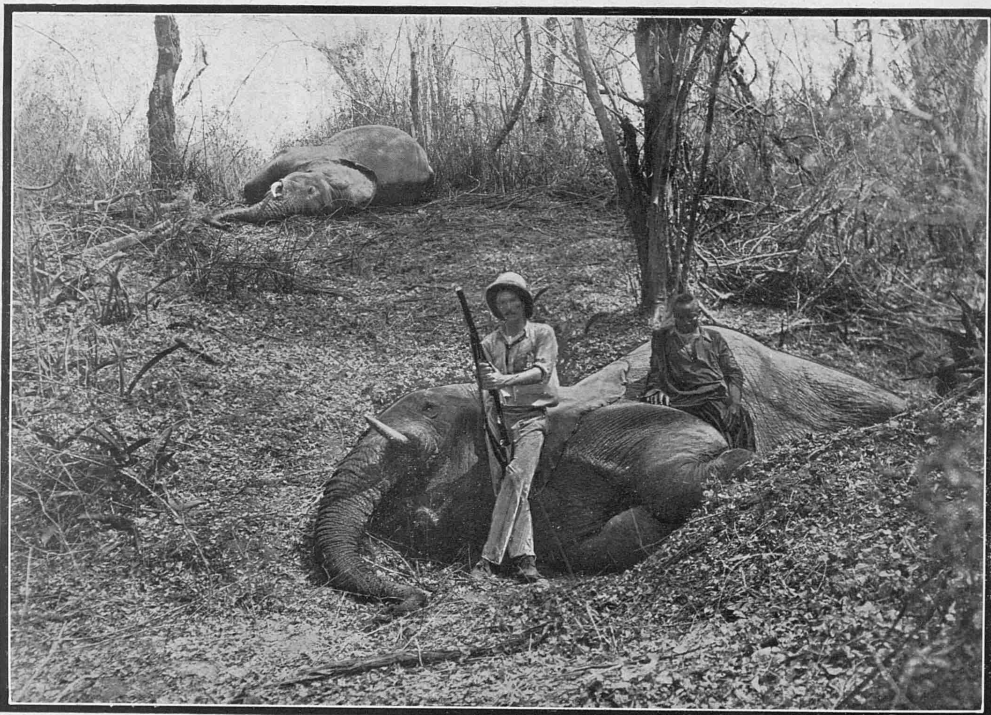
Buffaloes, again, are very awkward customers, especially in the thick bush country so often met with in East Africa; and the records of encounters with these immensely powerful brutes prove that they are fully as dangerous as lions, rhinos, and elephants. Rhinoceroses are, by the way, still very plentiful in parts of German East Africa. The black rhinoceros is a very surly and a very suspicious beast. He has poor eyesight, but a wonderful sense of smell. When he gets the wind of anything

much as 80lb. in weight, and are therefore well able to test the qualities of the stoutest rod. They are remarkable for the long barbels or feelers, which may be noticed in the illustration. They are strange, mud-loving creatures, and during times of drought, when

African rivers often run dry, can maintain existence, deep sunk in mud, until the rains come round again. One of the biggest of these catfish is the Bagara of the Nile; while the Wels (*Silurus glanis*), found in the larger rivers of Eastern Europe, is the only representative of this family on that continent.

The greater part of German East Africa is extraordinarily well stocked with a wonderful variety of big game animals. Most of the splendid antelopes in which Africa is so rich are to be found there, including eland, roan and sable antelope, wildebeest, impala, Grant's gazelle, oryx, reedbuck, waterbuck, koodoo, and other species. One of the illustrations shows a sable antelope at bay in a typical bit of bush. These antelopes charge dangerously and use their horns with great effect. When wounded they usually throw themselves to the ground, and in this posture will kill half a dozen dogs very quickly with lightning-like sweeps of their sharp, scimitar-like horns.

H. A. B.



IN THE PATH OF A HERD OF ELEPHANTS.

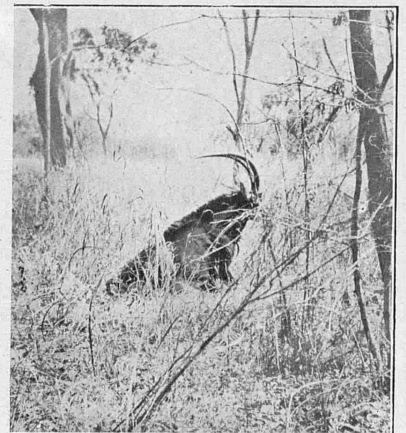
that he thinks is not quite *en règle*, according to his ideas, it is his habit to charge straight in that direction, regardless of consequences. In this way he has often been known to burst headlong through a caravan, to attack a heavy Cape waggon, and even to put to flight soldiers on the line of march. Our troops have had various encounters with these huge pachyderms, and a fair number have been slain by some of the skilled shots and sportsmen. In one of these the rhino trotted along a motor transport road, which he took over to the trees, a time, injuring some natives, and driving the workers to the trees. He was finally bagged after a brisk encounter. One of our illustrations depicts a young rhino captured during this campaign, which has been adopted as a regimental mascot. This he may remain during his early youth, but his steady, if slow, increase of size will surely prevent his being attached in this capacity for any long period. He will probably be drafted off eventually to some zoological collection. Even baby rhinos are by no means easy beasts to manage. Their strength is enormous, and their tendency to charge and use their incipient horns are traits which are usually found impossible to eradicate.

Many elephants are found in various parts of German East Africa, and troops of these great beasts, wandering to and fro on the path of an army, are not always welcome. Another of our illustrations shows a couple of these mighty mammals which were slain during the expedition. Again, where rivers have to be crossed, crocodiles have always to be reckoned with in Africa, and due precautions have, of course, to be taken in getting the troops over.

All these African rivers teem with coarse fish, many of which grow to an immense size and weight. Among them are various barbel-like fish, which are found very abundantly. Chief among these is the huge cat-fish, or Silurus, which grows to an enormous size and weight. One of the pictures shows the capture of a good specimen of these curious fish, which, from its appearance, would probably turn the scale at thirty or forty pounds. These great Silurid fish run up to as



A CAPTURED RHINO CALF "CONSCRIPTED" AS A REGIMENTAL MASCOT.



A WOUNDED SABLE ANTELOPE TAKING REFUGE IN THE UNDERGROWTH.