

A RHINOCEROS AT SIX FEET

And Other Incidents on Safari Near the Simba River

By Colonel ARTHUR FAWCUS

"... Unfortunately the boys misunderstood my orders and followed behind me, and were spotted by the giraffe, which made off as fast as he could go. This alarmed the rhino, and he wasted no time but charged straight for us..."



In the accompanying article, Colonel Fawcus, who is on the right of the picture, points out that in some districts the truculence of the rhino is caused by poisoned arrows which the natives shoot at them, with the result that the rhino show no hesitancy in charging humans

HAVING time to spare and a perpetual wanderlust, I decided to go on *safari* for two or three weeks to photograph big game. A neighbour suggested that I should take with me a friend of his, who was staying with him on leave from his regiment in India, and who wished to do a little big-game shooting at a low cost. The idea suited me well and we soon came to terms. Three or four days sufficed to collect our *safari*—a few porters, a personal servant, cook, gun-bearer, tracker, etc.—and for transport we hired a 30-cwt. truck and took my own box-bodied car, which was fitted out completely for this purpose. Our first objective was the Simba River, which could be reached easily in a day from Nairobi, and is generally to be relied on as a district in which one is certain of finding rhino, buffalo and lion, besides a galaxy of other animals and an occasional elephant.

To me there is always a feeling of excitement when setting forth on a journey, and this becomes a real joy when it is a *safari* into the wilds, when one camps where one pleases and lives those glorious days in the open air and close to nature, and those thrilling nights [Continued on page 312]

NEW PLAYS IN LONDON

(Continued from page 302)

The member of the "Seeing Stars" company at the Gaiety who sees most stars must be Mr. Richard Hearne. Mr. Hearne, apparently an elderly and bibulous colonel, suddenly leaps about the stage, falls heavily, and takes flying jumps through cupboards and trapdoors. I was relieved to learn that he is only twenty-six. He has need to be.

For the rest, here is Gaiety farce of good type, blessed with the presence of Mr. Leslie Henson, an incomparable asset. This great comedian has me in helpless laughter whatever he does, even when he is doing things, such as pretending to be drunk, which, done by 90 per cent. of his fellow comedians, would be, and are, lamentably unfunny. He appears, for unexplained reasons, as a fortune-teller, a uniformed commissioner and a knight in armour, but usually as Mr. Henson.

Then we have Miss Florence Desmond, doing her brilliant imitations and at other times being a foreign crook countess, after some crown jewels. In this capacity she sings a song about the middle ages which will shock certain middle-aged people I know. Mr. Fred Emery as a very English Balham king, Miss Louise Browne as his very American daughter and a comely chorus, banishing thoughts of November by wearing bathing costumes, help "Seeing Stars" along to success.

A RHINO AT SIX FEET

(Continued from page 291)

full of strange noises. The Simba River is actually a small stream in a sandy bed, and can be crossed dry-shod with a little care at most times of the year. The surrounding country varies in its character from vast plains interspersed with open bush to huge patches of thousands of acres each of thick bush and sansevieria fibre.

It is in this bush that the buffalo and rhino are generally to be found, whilst the plains abound in antelope, gazelle, zebra, ostriches, etc. Lion and other carnivora will go wherever there is game unless this happens to be too far away from water.

One evening we went out with our shot guns to try and bag a guinea fowl or two. We had a long walk and no luck until just before dusk, when a flock of guinea fowl flew over our heads from a high bank. We dropped two of these and they fell into the clump of thick bush on the opposite bank of the river.

Little did we know the excitement that the next

ten minutes was to hold for us. We went into the bush, still carrying our shot guns in the hope of shooting another bird or two, and to pick up the two we had put down.

Three or four minutes later, whilst trying to pick up our spoil, there was a loud crash within a few yards and a bull rhino tore past us, but luckily away from us. I shouted to our gun bearers, who were seeking the fallen birds some twenty yards away in the thick bush, but whom we could not see, to bring our heavy rifles. Whilst trying to reach us, another rhino charged away from between them and us.

At last we managed to get to each other and felt much happier with our rifles in our hands in this dangerous corner, but decided that, as it was almost dark and as there might still be more rhino about the place, the quicker we got out of this thicket the better, and proceeded to make our way by the shortest route to the open country which was only 30 or 40 yards away.

Suddenly my tracker, just in front of me, held up his hand. Never in all my experience have I met a boy with such quick hearing as this one, and I knew that he had heard something close by his signs. Almost instantaneously with his warning, a huge rhino charged us from a back tunnel some few yards ahead, and there was no possibility of evading it. I had to shoot and kill it a few yards away.

It was a cow with a well-grown *m'toto* behind it. We thought we might be able to capture this next day, but it was too big for us to do so in this bush.



MISS FISHWICK'S TEAM BEAT OXFORD: Miss Diana Fishwick's team of women golfers, receiving a third, beat Oxford University in a foursomes and singles match at Wentworth last week. Above, the two captains, Miss Fishwick and A. A. Duncan, are seen shaking hands. Miss Enid Wilson is on the extreme right

As there was still a danger of meeting one or other of the first two rhino, we again hurried to get into the open space as we only had some ten or fifteen yards to go, but again—crash!—and this time a bull buffalo charged away through the bush. After this we did not stand upon the order of our going, but went as hard as we could, crashing ourselves through the bush until we reached the river bed below us. Never had open spaces seemed sweeter.

Some days after this adventure we had started out to shoot an oryx, and in order to arrive at the place where I knew a herd to be it was necessary to go through a belt of this bush so infested with rhino and buffalo. We moved with the greatest circumspection and scouted every yard of the way so as not to run into any animals we did not wish to shoot.

(Continued on page 314.)

GOLF SHOES



AT

Lillywhites LTD

OF
Piccadilly Circus

A 100% SPORTS HOUSE

are Shoes designed and made specially for Golf with the result that they possess EVERY DETAIL NEEDED FOR PRACTICAL AND COMFORTABLE GOLF WEAR

- HEEL GRIP
 - TOE ROOM
 - ANKLE SUPPORT
 - LIGHTWEIGHT
 - FLEXIBILITY
- and for
Wet Weather Golf
- WATERPROOF

The Shoe illustrated is THE "WINTER MUIRFIELD" for Men

Of soft Tan Aquatite leather. Uppers LASTED BY HAND and BENCH MADE concealed Ankle strap, and specially padded tongue to protect instep Leather sole . . nailed as desired.

45/-

Med. and Wide Fittings

Illustrated Catalogue of WINTER GOLF SHOES for both Men & Women . . . POST FREE ON REQUEST.

GREAT SCHOOLS IN SPORT

(Continued from page 286)

all beaten, the latter by the phenomenal score of 17 goals and a try to nil.

The goal kicker on this occasion was T. W. Pearson, who became one of the most famous players of his day. He first played at wing three-quarter back for Wales in 1891, and he actually returned to international football in the year the O.M.R.F.C. was restarted, in 1903. Pearson was not only a footballer, and the legend is that he captained Wales at lawn tennis, hockey, golf and rugger in the same year. Whether this is strictly true or not, he did play for his country in all these games.

A. F. Todd, a forward, of Blackheath, won his "cap" in 1900, and clearly at about this time Mill Hill were a real power in the land. F. G. Penman captained a very good team in 1902, and for four years the school was not beaten by any other. In 1907, T. D. Morgan's team was unbeaten, as was I. E. Owen's in 1914. Owen would undoubtedly have added to Mill Hill's roll of honour in the football field if he had survived the war. He is described by one who taught him as a scrummage half-back of exceptional ability, and bracketed with Sobey as the two best in twenty-five years.

But neither the school football nor the standard of the Old Boys' Club was ever, before the war, quite so good as it afterwards became. Over the last ten years great players have emerged from Mill Hill in a steady stream—Spong, Sobey, Hume, Collison, Wiggins, Carris, Howard, Lawther, Auty. All of these have made their mark in the University Match or in the International Championship. It is a list which hardly a school in the country could improve upon, and due acknowledgment should here be paid to Mr. V. A. Elliott, to whose sound teaching they are all indebted.

Collison's team is dispassionately regarded by one who should know best as the strongest of all Mill Hill sides. It contained J. R. Auty, a brilliantly clever stand-off half-back; H. E. Carris, whose frame alone struck terror into the enemy; T. H. B. Lawther, of Scotland; and the captain himself, a classic centre (now coach at Sedbergh), whom some say became the very finest player of them all.

There have been twelve Blues at Mill Hill: J. H. Dewhurst, C. E. (now Sir Cecil) Fitch, A. J. R. Roberts (now master of Mill Hill's Junior School), W. M. Penny, L. H. T. Storey, P. A. Batty, W. H. Sobey, L. H. Collison, H. E. Carris, P. D. Howard, J. W. G. Hume, C. E. M. Wiggins, and the following ten Internationals: J. H. Dewhurst, A. F. Todd, C. S. Williams, W. H. Sobey, P. D. Howard, R. S.

Spong, J. R. Auty (England), J. W. G. Hume and T. H. B. Lawther (Scotland), and T. W. Pearson (Wales).

Until comparatively recently, Mill Hill cricket has laboured under the handicap of the unevenness of the land. In the middle 'seventies a kindly disposed neighbour, by name Johnstone, lent his field, which did service until McClure's arrival. A few years later one reads of eleven matches having been won, including those against U.C.S., The Leys and O.M.S., as against four defeats, A. G. Day (Yorkshire), C. J. Robinson (Somerset), and A. Butcher (Hertfordshire), all were members of that 1880 eleven.

In Weymouth's day there were, in fact, several notably good sides, though they were more indebted than they should have been to help from the staff. The "ten-acre" was levelled and superseded Johnstone's field as the arena for First Eleven matches in McClure's first year, but still conditions were so bad that cocoanut matting was laid down over the pitch. J. S. Auty captained a good side in 1902, and Owen, previously mentioned as a footballer, had a batting average of 112 in his year of captaincy, 1915. H. E. Carris played at Lord's for Cambridge a few years ago, and had some part in the Cambridge victory. He is the only Blue direct from the school, though George Kemp, now Lord Rochdale (Cambridge and Lancashire), was four years at Mill Hill before going to Shrewsbury.

One should mention A. E. Davis, who played for Leicestershire; D. L. Morgan, a phenomenally successful schoolboy player who played for Gloucestershire; and, not least, W. Murray-Wood, captain of an unbeaten team last summer.

There is a splendid game at Mill Hill which, I fancy, is played nowhere else, called single-handed hockey. It takes place on the asphalt playground, and for more than sixty years it has been fully recognised as a school game. It is mildly reminiscent of Scotch shinty, with the vital difference that a fair catch with the hand from an opponent's hit results in a free shy. The ball is small, of solid indiarubber, and the stick is a thin one needing no little skill to manipulate. The matches are needs confined to O.M.'s., Oxford O.M.'s. and Cambridge O.M.'s.

THERE was a little hockey of the orthodox kind in the 'eighties, and the game was started properly in 1901 as the official exercise for the Lent term. Hockey, above all games, demands a light and true surface, and Mill Hill, accordingly, are at a disadvantage. But when the weather is good in February and March they win as many school matches as they lose. There have been two Blues at Cambridge, by name F. C. Meggitt and K. Hardy.

Another new ground has just been cut out of the

hill and a cinder track laid which is going to make things more pleasant for the athletes. It need only be recorded that Mill Hill embraces, with characteristic zeal, the minor, but nevertheless fascinating, pursuits of gymnastics, swimming, fencing, boxing, and physical training.

NEXT WEEK : UPPINGHAM

A RHINO AT SIX FEET

(Continued from page 312)

Having arrived at the other side of the belt, we found a rhino emerging from a parallel track to ourselves some seventy yards away. This gave me an excellent chance of a photograph, and, having taken one or two, I left my boys behind a tree and moved forward in order to get a better picture, in which the rhino and a large bull giraffe would have figured.

Unfortunately my boys misunderstood my orders and followed behind me and were spotted by the giraffe, which made off as fast as he could go. This alarmed the rhino, and he wasted no time but charged straight for us. Thinking he would turn if we shouted, I told my companions not to fire and to make as much noise as possible. We all shouted, but nothing would turn him, and finally he had to be killed coming straight at us, at a distance of no more than six feet.

It was unfortunate and took a lot of explaining away to the game warden at Nairobi, but there was no help for it, and it meant either the rhino or one of us having to die.

After this episode, a day or two later, we were busy stalking an impala, and moved through the long grass to a little anthill in order to get a better shot. Looking over the top of the anthill, we found a rhino between us and our quarry. This time we took no chances, but retired gracefully and quickly to the nearest tree, from which we shouted and shouted until at last he moved away.

It took him some considerable time to make up his mind whether he would come and investigate these strange noises or whether he would put some distance between himself and where they came from. Like us, he considered discretion the better part of valour and retired.

In many districts the rhino are not so troublesome as they are here, and it is believed that their truculence is caused by continual attacks from the local natives, who shoot at them with arrows, generally poisoned, and upset the poor brutes to such a degree that they are prepared to charge any human being whom they can locate in their vicinity.

INDIVIDUALITY



Even the sheep in the Outer Hebrides are individualists. Vegetation

is so sparse that the follow-my-leader method would not work.

Woven by the Crofters to their own designs, Harris Tweed is a cloth of marked individuality. To preserve that individuality the Trade Mark is stamped on the cloth itself. This Trade Mark has been registered by the Board of Trade and can be applied only to Tweeds produced in the islands.

HARRIS TWEED

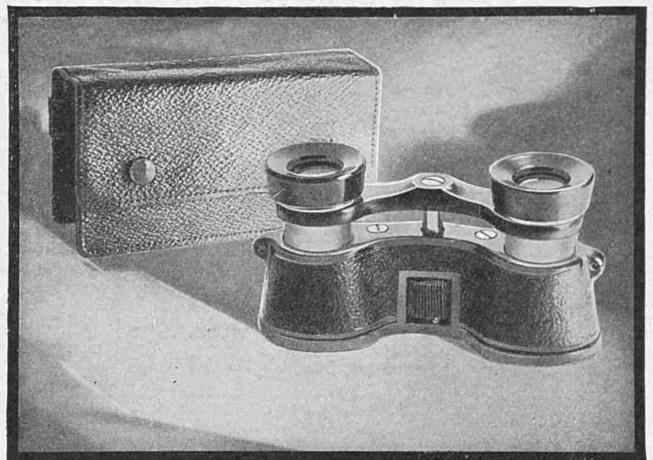
LOOK FOR THE MARK ON THE CLOTH



The Trade Mark is a guarantee that the Tweed is made from pure virgin wool, spun, dyed and finished in the Outer Hebrides, and hand-woven by native craftsmen.

ISSUED BY THE HARRIS TWEED ASSOCIATION LIMITED

KERSHAW'S "BIJOU" THEATRE GLASS



OUTSTANDING FEATURES.

(1) Wide-Angle Field of View. (2) High Optical Efficiency. (3) Will retain its "brand new" appearance indefinitely: all metal parts are chromium plated. (4) Six delightful colours to choose from: Lapis, Onyx, Topaz, Garnet, Jade and Ivory.

BRITISH THROUGHOUT

25/-

OF ALL DEALERS

COMPLETE WITH BLACK MOROCCO OR BLACK MOIRE SILK CASE

SOHO LTD., SOHO SQUARE, LONDON, W.1