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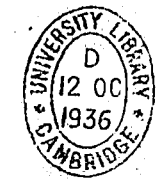
A J A RITCHIE

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COLONY AND PROTECTORATE OF KENYA

**GAME DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT  
1935**



Price 1/-

1936  
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I regret to record that we lost, through death, during 1935 three Honorary Trout Wardens:—

Captain R. Y. Phillips, Nanyuki.

Major C. R. T. Thorp, Kitale.

W. T. Mathias, Esq., Naro Moru.

Captain Phillips was the first person to be appointed an Honorary Trout Warden in Kenya.

It is a melancholy coincidence that the Senior Honorary Game Warden and the Senior Honorary Trout Warden both died during 1935.

#### E.—NATIVE SCOUTS.

The place of the late Diwan bin Ahmed as head scout of the Coast, was filled by Abass Loo, who had previously done good work for us as an independent agent.

We lost three of our oldest and most valued servants during the year: Kinyanjui of Ngong, well known to many Nairobi dwellers; Sergeant Makxi, who had watched over the Ziwani-Tsavo country for many years; and Ibrahim Godana, a stalwart of the Tana River area. Such men are not easily replaced.

More fish scouts were engaged than previously, the increase in poaching on streams in the Central Province making such action necessary.

#### 2.—REVENUE.

##### A.—LICENCES.

The sum obtained from the sale of licences was £6,816, made up as follows:—

Game, £5,537; Game Bird, £386; Trout, £893.

The following comparative table, giving the numbers of the several game licences over the last eight years, is of interest:—

LICENCES	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
Visitor's Full ..	27	36	43	34	9	22	15	18
Visitor's 14-day..	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	18
Visitor's Private Land .. ..	29	20	11	11	25	15	4	6
Serving Officer's Full .. ..	—	5	5	2	4	5	3	3
Serving Officer's 14-day.. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	8
Serving Officer's Private Land..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4
Resident's Full..	301	315	331	258	170	142	177	145
Resident's 14-day	139	135	138	160	148	105	91	96
Resident's Private Land .. ..	647	519	393	327	256	209	179	153
Assistant's ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	13
Native Employee's	14	13	6	10	4	8	12	9
Bird .. ..	1,050	1,134	1,112	1,191	1,062	946	866	771
Elephant, 1st ..	24	37	23	27	36	34	29	30
Elephant, 2nd ..	1	4	1	2	6	9	5	6
Rhino, 1st ..	65	63	46	47	21	31	23	28
Rhino, 2nd ..	15	17	9	7	4	4	1	2
Giraffe .. ..	1	6	3	—	2	1	3	4
Ostrich .. ..	18	17	12	19	8	8	12	3
Trophy Dealer's..	106	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Game Dealer's ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Governor's Permit (including Meru and Kwale Elephants) ..	9	27	78	28	29	59	21	37
Total Revenue .. £	10,073	13,285	11,754	11,604	7,163	8,647	6,703	5,923

The following analysis table of licences issued may also be of interest :—

LICENCES	European	Indian	Goan	Arab and Somali	Native	Total
Visitor's Full £75	15	3	—	—	—	18
Visitor's Private Land £10	6	—	—	—	—	6
Visitor's 14-day £15	18	—	—	—	—	18
Serving Officer's Full £20	3	—	—	—	—	3
Serving Officer's 14-day .. £4	8	—	—	—	—	8
Serving Officer's Private Land .. £4	4	—	—	—	—	4
Resident's Full £7-£10	139	3	2	1	—	145
Resident's 14-day £2	92	2	2	—	—	96
Resident's Private Land .. £2	147	3	1	2	—	153
Assistant's .. Sh. 10	13	—	—	—	—	13
Native Employee's £2	9	—	—	—	—	9
Bird .. .. Sh. 10	480	78	72	41	100	771
Elephant, 1st (under Resident's Full) £25	19	—	—	—	—	19
Elephant, 1st (under Visitor's Full) £25	8	3	—	—	—	11
Elephant, 2nd (under Resident's Full) £50	2	—	—	—	—	2
Elephant, 2nd (under Visitor's Full) £50	2	2	—	—	—	4
Rhino, 1st (under Resident's Full) £10	12	—	—	—	—	12
Rhino, 1st (under Visitor's Full) £10	14	2	—	—	—	16
Rhino, 2nd (under Resident's Full) £10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rhino, 2nd (under Visitor's Full) £10	1	1	—	—	—	2
Giraffe (under Resident's Full) £15	1	—	—	—	—	1
Giraffe (under Visitor's Full) .. £15	2	1	—	—	—	3
Ostrich (under Resident's Full) £1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Ostrich (under Visitor's Full) .. £1	2	—	—	—	—	2
Governor's Permit ..	26	3	—	—	—	29
Governor's Permits for Elephant in Meru District—						
Bull .. ..	20	—	—	—	—	20
Cow .. ..	16	—	—	—	—	16
Kwale District ..	1	—	—	—	—	1
Trout—						
Yearly .. Sh. 25	523	2	10	—	2	537
Fortnightly Sh. 10	240	—	2	—	—	242
24-hourly .. Sh. 3	630	5	33	—	1	669

The trout licence figures for the last eight years are as follows :—

LICENCES	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
Yearly ..	94	334	390	551	643	612	606	537
Fortnightly	83	134	147	207	199	195	218	241
24-hourly ..	73	257	379	651	666	818	683	669
Total Revenue £	370	570	632	910	1,010	985	973	893

#### B.—IVORY AND CONFISCATED TROPHIES.

The sum obtained from the sale of ivory and confiscated trophies was £7,144.

The weight of Government ivory sold in 1935 was 21,163 lb. and 1,353 lb. of rhino horn.

The value of ivory remained low: rhino horn, I am sorry to say, fetched higher prices than in recent years, an average for best quality being Sh. 15/50 per lb. at the November sale, as compared with Sh. 12/50 a year previously.

#### C.—SALE OF TROUT FRY.

No hatching was undertaken during the year, and there was in consequence no revenue from the sale of fry.

#### D.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY.

Revenue from Licences .. .. .	£	6,816
Revenue from Ivory and Confiscated Trophies ..		7,038
TOTAL REVENUE .. .. .		13,960
TOTAL EXPENDITURE .. .. .		8,468
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure .. .. .		5,492

#### 3.—CONVICTIONS.

I have details of the following convictions under the Game, Game Bird, and Trout Ordinances :—

European, 21; Asiatic, 5; native, 564; making a total of 590.

The totals for 1932, 1933, and 1934, were 492, 504, and 751, respectively.

In all, in the Meru District, some 290 elephants were killed carrying tusks averaging 15 lb. each. Approximately 55 per cent were males. These figures include 31 elephants shot by Major Elliott and Mr. Carr Hartley in response to an S.O.S. from the District Commissioner, in and about native shambas in Embu country.

I described at some length in my last report the problem of the Kisii herd and the various attempts that had been made to solve it. Early in the year I went over the area involved hoping to find some reasonable solution—by reasonable I mean within the capacity of our finances, which form the limiting factor to most of our activities. The more I learn of it, the more it appears that no peripheral control scheme can hope for great success with this herd unless its numbers are first considerably reduced, for there is perpetual pressure pushing them outwards. The objection to setting about this heavy reduction forthwith is that it would have the immediate effect of dispersing a host of angry beasts from their legitimate grounds into areas where they can and will cause a reign of terror. It is thus somewhat of a vicious circle. The only obvious alternative is heavy and consistent shooting in the South Kavirondo Native Reserve but this is not easily secured. While on this topic I must mention the excellent work done in the Lambwe Valley and neighbourhood by Commander D. E. Blunt, Honorary Game Warden, in dealing with marauding animals.

Others who helped us during the year by killing elephants on our behalf, were Mr. A. J. Klein, Mr. Collinson, Major Kingdon and Mr. H. C. Nighingale, the two latter gentlemen being Honorary Game Wardens: we are much indebted to all of them for their assistance.

#### 6.—RHINO.

The settlers of Nyeri and Ngobit decided, early in the year, that rhino had greatly increased on and in the vicinity of farms and that their numbers must be drastically reduced. The matter was brought into tragic prominence by the death of Mr. H. Carpenter who, while out riding, was caught and killed by a rhino.

I invoked the assistance of Mr. J. A. Hunter, who had dealt so successfully with rhino in dense Nyeri forests on a former occasion. Mr. Hunter started in, but unhappily after

shooting several, he developed a badly poisoned arm, resulting from a thorn, and was unable to carry on. Fortunately in Mr. Teddy Cunningham, Honorary Game Warden, a very adequate substitute was found. He carried out the work brilliantly, killing 20 rhino at Ngobit and 27 round Nyeri. Major Kingdon, Honorary Game Warden, took part in the campaign on his side of the district and shot 14.

This wholesale killing of rhino will be regretted by game lovers, but one should hesitate before condemning it as unjustifiable. The dwellers in the Nyeri area are just as keen on game and game preservation as any other community, perhaps more so; but they have found, many of them by unpleasant experience, that to treat rhino as foolish and deny them vindictiveness, is to make a generalization which is unduly optimistic and certainly not borne out by facts. From my own experience of rhino, I am satisfied that the majority, under normal conditions, are blusterers and bluffers. I am equally certain that any one of them, given reasonable provocation, will charge and charge with intent "to make a job of it". In that word "reasonable" lies the difficulty of predicting what any individual beast will do, for a rhino's interpretation of the word is very arbitrary. One thing I think is clear: if on account of forest fires, climatic conditions or other causes, a rhino moves from his normal haunts to a strange beat, he is certain to be more bellicose than usual. It may in some cases be direct cause and effect: he may have changed his ground as a result of being driven off by another animal, and this may have affected his temper. Be that as it may, I think the mere fact of being on unfamiliar ground is in itself sufficient to make them more prone to attack.

If this belief is correct it will account for much of the trouble in the Nyeri area, since I think that many of the rhino that were shot there last year are animals that have come down from high on the Aberdares, the burning of scrub above the forest zone doubtless having much to do with the migration.

Motoring up the Great North Road—we are back in England at the moment—one is much annoyed by a 20-mile limit as one approaches some small town. One looks on the restriction in a very different light if one lives in the town and one's front door opens on the main street. By the same token, before condemning Nyeri and its rhino, remember that you don't live there!