

The Straits Times, 22 March 1957, Page 2

It just strolled along our road and paid no heed as the dogs barked

**It just strolled  
along our  
road and paid  
no heed as the  
dogs barked**

*A YOUNG FRENCH PLANTER, PIERRE GUY BAZIN, ARMED WITH GUN AND CAMERA, WRITES  
HIS OWN STORY OF A TWO-HOUR PURSUIT OF A PHLEGMATIC RHINO*

**ONCE IN THE JUNGLE IT SEEMED TO BE  
MORE AT EASE AND WALKED FASTER**



I WAS in my jeep with three Malay constables making an inspection of the estate when we saw the rhinoceros walking along one of our earth roads.

It was 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, March 14.

A few days previously the estate labourers had seen pug marks which they could not identify

That morning about 50 harvesters saw the animal wallowing in a swamp by a field. They chased it out.

It did not attack them nor did it appear to be frightened. It just ambled out. It walked slowly through the estate. Dogs barked at it but it did not hasten its steps.

**'Alamak,' they cried**

My Alsatian, Chief, leaped out of the jeep and joined in the barking.

The rhino was grey and about eight feet long and four feet high.

The special constables did not say "badak" (the Malay word for rhinoceros). All they said was "alamak."

I turned my vehicle round to rush back to

**ONCE IN**

**MORE**

my bungalow 400 yards away to get my gun and my camera.

I had no fear of not finding the rhino again because the harvesters were still following it.

I decided not to use my gun when I realised that it might be protected game.

**Fine of \$3,000**

(There is a fine of \$3,000 for killing protected game).

We followed slowly 10

my bungalow 400 yards away to get my gun and my camera.

I had no fear of not finding the rhino again because the harvesters were still following it.

I decided not to use my gun when I realised that it might be protected game.

## **Fine of \$3,000**

---

(There is a fine of \$3,000 for killing protected game).

We followed slowly 10

yards behind the rhino for two hours, covering two miles before it turned off the road and went into the jungle.

## **Estate excited**

---

The estate was excited about the rhino. But it is not the first time that big game has been seen on our estate. There have been elephants and tigers.

Chief tried to bite the rhino's hind legs. Three times it showed

its awareness of this irritation behind it. It kicked out at Chief who quickly jumped back and was not hurt.

Suddenly the rhino left the road and headed for a jungle-covered hill.

The special constables remained on the road, having lost interest.

## **No Red worry**

\*\*\*\*\*

I followed it alone, with Chief and my camera. Once it entered jungle, it seemed to be more

at ease. It walked more quickly.

I was not worried about terrorists as the hill is very close to the estate and not far from the labourers' homes.

## **The last I saw...**

Eventually I grew tired of following the rhino. I watched it walk down the other side of the hill towards a river. And that was the last I saw of it.

We have not searched for the rhino since.





**OLD MAN RHINO** just keeps strolling along, ignoring barking dogs and camera-clicking humans. Despite the fact that he hasn't been seen on the road before he knows to keep well to the left.



