



From 'Hunting and Haggard, M.D. 1911'

A TIGER CROSSING A STREAM IN THE CENTRE OF A RING OF ELEPHANTS.

From 'Haggard'

MY SPORTING MEMORIES

FORTY YEARS WITH
NOTE-BOOK & GUN. BY
MAJOR-GENERAL NIGEL
WOODYATT, C.B., C.I.E.
WITH 24 ILLUSTRATIONS



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proved a most embarrassing addition to Rose's baggage.

It was now very necessary to get back to Milam as quickly as possible. A start was to have been made next morning, but snow came on, and continued for two days. When they arrived eventually at the foot of the Uttara Dhura pass, it was found blocked with snow, and quite impassable. Rose next tried the Dharma pass, which was in a similar condition.

The only alternative to a winter's sojourn in Thibet, and a trial by court martial for absence without leave, was to go as hard as he could, six marches, for a pass to the east (Beans, about 15,000 feet high, and pronounced Bee-Aunts), as the only one likely to be still open.

En route to this pass Rose acquired a pony and a reliable Thibetan shikari, a man of many parts. Close to the foot of the pass they had to go through a Thibetan village. The inhabitants gazed very curiously at the strange figure on horseback. They seemed satisfied, however, with the shikari's explanation that it was a very holy man, unfortunately deaf, dumb, and blind, who was returning from a pilgrimage to the Mansorawur Lake.

The Beans pass fortunately was found to be open, and a very fit, though somewhat emaciated, Rose turned up at Almora the very day his leave expired, to find he had already been reported in *The Pioneer* as "missing." About thirty miles short of our station he sent on an express runner for a solah topee, a file of newspapers, tea, baccy, and some toothpicks!

RHINOCEROSSES :—

There are three species of rhinoceros in India, namely :—
 (a) The great one-horned rhinoceros (Nepal, Eastern Bengal, Assam, etc.) ; (b) The smaller one-horned rhinoceros (the Sunderbuns, Eastern Bengal, Assam, etc.) ; (c) the two-horned rhinoceros (said to be in Assam and from there



NEPALESE SHIKARIS SKINNING A DEAD RHINOCEROS AND SEPARATING THE HEAD WITH AN AXE.
 Photo. Benson and Higgins, M.B. 35, C.I.
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to Siam ; common in the Malay Peninsula, Borneo and Sumatra).

The African rhinoceros is bigger even than (*a*) and has two horns, the front one being of great length. I saw the record horn with a major of the Indian Medical Service in Dalhousie in 1920. It was over five feet. He used it as holder for a lamp. In the two-horned rhinoceros (*c*), the front horn seldom exceeds two and a half feet. This is the smallest of all rhinoceroses, the average height not being much over twelve hands. It is a curious fact that whereas (*a*) and (*b*) have incisors, the African specimen has no front teeth.

The great one-horned Indian rhinoceros is a big fellow averaging over seventeen hands high, with a girth of about ten feet. The late Maharajah of Cooch Behar shot one nineteen and a half hands high. The average horn measurement common to both sexes is about fourteen inches, but I believe one was shot in Assam with a horn measuring over twenty-four inches. Lord Curzon shot a very fine one with a horn over twenty-one and a half inches, which for a long time I thought was the record, as he did himself. He told me all about it.

He was shooting in the Nepal Terai with a very small party, and bagged the limit of tiger with some days to spare. Writing to the Nepal Government, he said he would like to shoot a rhinoceros. They sent an envoy at once, and the latter explained that, if the Viceroy could manage to take only a very small camp, and did not mind a long and rough journey, it might be arranged. I rather think only Baker-Carr (A.D.C.) and the military secretary accompanied Lord Curzon. The piece of jungle to be beaten was in the dry bed of a river, and only about two hundred yards broad by six hundred yards long. Hardly had the line started, when Lord Curzon heard a noise like a railway train, and a huge rhino charged towards him, which he dropped dead with a bullet

in the neck, from a .577 rifle belonging to Baker-Carr.

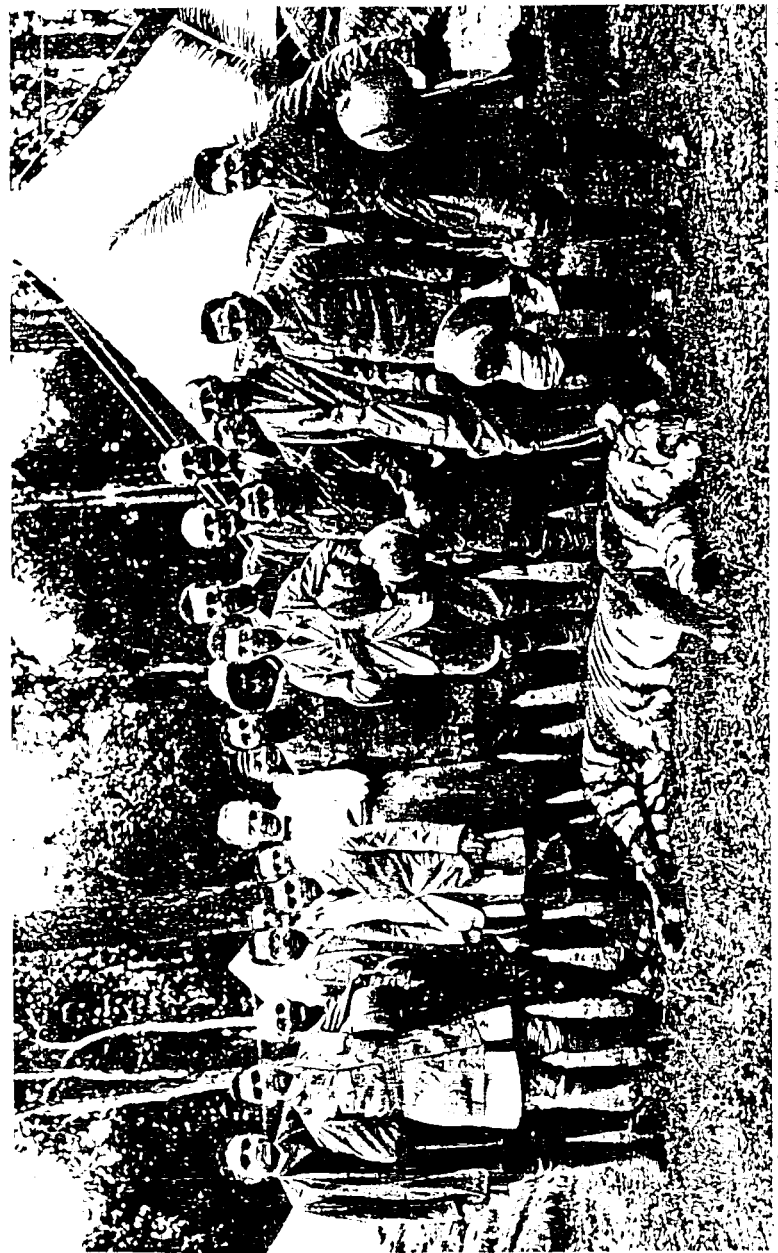
Then all got down from the elephants, and the Nepalese brought every conceivable vessel in which to catch the precious blood pouring from the animal's neck wound. In the middle of this there were loud cries of *Genra! Genra!* (Rhino! Rhino!). The Nepalese scattered, mahouts flew up their elephant's trunks, and the Viceroy and party were pushed into their howdahs without any ceremony. It was the mate of the other one coming for them, and Lord Curzon just managed to down it in time. Beating out this piece of jungle, a good tiger bolted near the end of it and was bagged by Baker-Carr.

These Nepal shoots are the cream of Indian shikar, but the Nepal Government, except to most exalted personages, gives very few permits for rhino. In 1911 King George and party bagged eighteen rhinoceroses, and last December the Prince of Wales saw nine killed during his visit to Nepal.

I reproduce a picture of our popular Prince and his first tiger. On his right is my friend Sir Baber, whom I have referred to on page 9 as having placed me so much in his debt by the wonderful photographs he has sent me. In the Prince of Wales' recent shoot the total bag was 17 tiger, 9 rhino, 2 bear and 2 panther.

I can remember the bitter disappointment of King George when he visited India as Prince of Wales in the year 1905, and his Nepal shoot had to be cancelled owing to a very severe outbreak of cholera. A disappointment to His Highness the Prime Minister too, whose preparations for such an event are of the most minute and arduous nature. He is quite untiring in his personal supervision of all arrangements.

These arrangements require much forethought. For instance, for the Prince of Wales' shoot last December a very large and luxuriously furnished camp, lit by electric light, was pitched in the forest. Anyone who knows



THE PRINCE OF WALES'S FIRST TIGER, DECEMBER, 1921, IN NEPAL. SHOT A FEW HOURS AFTER H.R.H.'S ARRIVAL IN NEPALESE TERRITORY.

anything about camps can well imagine the work entailed in clearing a site in absolute jungle for such a tented town.

The monsoon, and the necessary information to be obtained about game, would delay the commencement of operations until November. A little over a month is not much time in which to level the site, plant grass, instal electric light, provide a water supply, make dozens of approach roads, and transport the enormous quantity of tents and furniture required. A very large matter, when you consider the accommodation required for H.R.H. and staff, British Envoy and staff, numerous guests, and press representatives, etc.

The Pioneer tells us, when commenting on the excellent arrangements made, that roads had to be opened up in every direction as far distant as thirty miles from camp. Telephones were installed north, south, east and west, so that instant *khobar* could be received regarding game. More than five hundred elephants were collected at various points ready to concentrate, as required, within thirty-five miles of the main camp, for the "ringing" of a tiger, or the pursuit of a rhinoceros.

No tiger could kill, nor a rhino take his mid-day siesta (a rhinoceros sleeps all day, and only feeds morning and evening, mainly on grass) without *khobar* being received at once regarding the exact locality. With such a wonderful system of intelligence it is not surprising that there was no blank day, or that the Prince of Wales shot his first tiger a few hours after his arrival, and his first rhino two days later.

All this could not be done without a very excellent *bandobast*. That is to say, very active supervision, guidance and control by the Prime Minister, and untiring assistance by the members of His Highness' family.