

# KENYA DIARY

1902-1906

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a native nurse and two small boys, one in a ramshackle perambulator. She told me she was a Mrs. Anderson, and we sat talking for a long time in the shade of a baobab tree; I liked her, and she told me a lot about the country. She came up here from South Africa in 1900.

[This was Maia Anderson, who later married Meyer during the First World War, when I got to know her well. The child in the perambulator must have been Claude Anderson of the *East African Standard*.]

18 . v . 1902. *Nairobi*

I left Mombasa by rail yesterday for Nairobi, arriving this morning. The headquarters of the East African Rifles have been recently transferred from Mombasa to Nairobi; they are henceforth to be called the 3rd Battalion of the King's African Rifles.

*Leave Mombasa  
for Nairobi*

On waking up in the train this morning I found we were near a station called Simba. The country was fairly open, with a few scattered thorn trees. I could scarcely believe my eyes on seeing 7 cock ostriches feeding quietly within 100 yards of the railway and many herds of zebra and haartebeeste grazing all over the plains. But more wonderful than this was the dome of Kilimanjaro Mountain, the morning sun shining on the perpetual snow-cap. It stood out clear-cut in the crisp morning air and was a wonderful sight.

*Kilimanjaro and  
big game*

Game was plentiful throughout the journey, the train not frightening them in the least. The main game reserve is on the south of the railway, but herds of zebra and antelope were equally plentiful on both sides of the line. Many herds of zebra, one of which must have contained thousands of individuals, were roaming over the open plains, accompanied by a large percentage of foals. Haartebeeste and Grant's and Thomson's gazelle were equally numerous. I saw lots of ostrich, also quite a number of both great and lesser bustard.

I counted the game on the south side of the railway between Athi River Station and Nairobi. It amounted to 5 rhinoceros, 18 giraffe, 760 wildebeeste, 4006 zebra, 845 Coke's haartebeeste, 324 Grant's gazelle, 142 Thomson's

*Game census*

gazelle, 46 impala, 24 ostrich, 7 great bustard and 16 baboon.

*Falcons following  
the train*

While the train was in motion I noticed two falcons flying with it. They kept on stooping at doves and rollers which the train disturbed from the telegraph wires. They followed us for about 4 miles, when they knocked over a dove. I was told by my fellow passenger that this is a not uncommon practice of falcons in East Africa, and that they follow not only trains but also caravans, in the hope of killing flushed birds.

*Arrive Nairobi*

I arrived at Nairobi soon after noon. Capt. J. D. Mackay met me at the station and drove me up to our quarters. He is the adjutant and seems a nice fellow. As there have been cases of plague, all troops are under canvas. We should have six companies here, but most of them are up the line protecting the railway coolies from a tribe called the Nandi.

Nairobi is about 5500 feet above sea-level and is delightfully cool and fresh today.

The only officers here now are Bailey, Swire and Mackay. I am just off to bed and a hyaena is howling outside.

#### 19 . v . 1902. *Nairobi*

*The King's  
African Rifles*

I am posted to No. 8 Company. The personnel is mostly Swahili, but there are a good many Sudanese and Masai in the ranks. The recruiting of the two latter has been stopped for political reasons. We are all living under canvas, but barracks are being built for us on the hill south of the railway station.

At orderly room today there were two men up, one for "severely frightening a British officer." The officer was Bailey. Apparently he was on his pony, and coming round a corner met a soldier who saluted so smartly that the pony shied and off came Bailey. The soldier was punished by being awarded ten on the bare bottom with a strip of rhino hide, which I thought most unjust. The other man's crime was "being found in bed with the sergeant-major's wife." He got 25 lashes.

My company is in a shocking state; the men are dirty and ill-disciplined. When inspecting them this morning I

the eland the birds flew off screaming loudly and went off towards the cattle. In mid-flight a lanner falcon stooped at them; they at once turned and flew back to the eland, screaming loudly, and took refuge under the belly of the bull eland; the lanner hovered above, but he failed to dislodge them.

The game on the Athi Plains is astounding. There are countless herds of zebra, wildebeeste, haartebeeste, and Grant's and Thomson's gazelle, and today I saw no fewer than 8 great bustard. As one moves about these vast herds just walk off, usually within easy shot, all rather suspicious and curious but not frightened. I also saw many ostriches, the cocks running off with flapping wings and zigzag run, looking like a lot of ballet girls with their naked pink legs. I also saw hyaena and jackal, and some small quail were very common in the grass. Warthog, some with large litters, kept jumping up out of the grass and running off with their tails in the air, a most comic sight, and this evening as I sat out after dinner I heard lion roaring. This is certainly a wonderful place and exceeds my wildest dreams of Africa's big game; I fear I am developing a blood lust, but I must improve my rifle shooting if I am going to do any good.

8 . VI . 1902. *Nairobi*

*The Masai form  
of greeting*

I was out on the plains to the south of Nairobi today and shot a bull wildebeeste. On my returning home I saw a Masai shepherd running towards me with a spear. On approaching me he spat in the palm of his hand and displayed it before me with a smile on his face. I thought he wished to shake hands with me but could not bring myself to do it. It appears I also should have spat in his hand. If I had done so he would have esteemed it a great honour, and the harder and more voluminous my spit, the better would he have been pleased.

*Concubines*

Nearly every man in Nairobi is a railway official. Every one of them keeps a native girl, usually a Masai, and there is a regular trade in these girls with the local Masai villages. If a man tires of his girl he goes to the village (*minyatta*) and gets a new one, or in several cases

as many as three girls. And my brother officers are no exception.

I counted the game on the Athi Plains this afternoon in an area of about 10 square miles south of Nairobi. It amounted to 2430 zebra, 967 wildebeeste, 846 Coke's haartebeeste, 932 Grant's gazelle, 546 Thomson's gazelle, 146 impala, 8 steinbock, 2 duiker, 46 eland, 19 giraffe, 1 rhinoceros, 86 ostriches, 1 cheetah, 5 hyaena, and a pack of 7 hunting dogs. As though that were not enough, there were 1467 head of Masai cattle in the area.

*Game census*

9 . VI . 1902. *Nairobi*

Sir John Kirk dined in our mess, having come up here from Mombasa yesterday. He was our consul in Zanzibar and was keenly interested in the suppression of the slave trade. He seemed to me rather bitter about Stanley but was interested when I told him I had met him on more than one occasion. It seemed to me that he claimed to be the hero of the suppression of the slave trade and rather resented both Livingstone's and Stanley's activities in that direction. Kirk was not an inspiring personality, small, with a little beard, poor physique, dour and without personality. Doubtless he was a first-class consul, but it struck me he was jealous of Stanley.

*Sir John Kirk*

11 . VI . 1902. *Nairobi—Fort Hall Road*

To go on "safari" is to travel with a caravan of porters. Today I started off on safari, as I have been ordered to take charge of our detachment at Fort Hall, or Mberri, which is not far from Kenya Mountain. I am accompanied by an escort of 3 N.C.O.s and 9 men, and 23 porters. Each porter carries a load of about 50 pounds, besides his food for 4 days.

*I start off on "safari"*

I had not gone more than 3 miles out of Nairobi when I spied two small gazelle slightly larger than "tommies." Their horns were slender, and in one the tips were inclined to curl back. Both had an indistinct flank stripe. I do not know what they are. [These were female Grant's gazelle.]

*Two strange gazelle*

*Nairobi River* I saw lots of ostrich, haartebeeste and warthog. After having travelled 11 miles I halted and camped on the Nairobi River, a pleasant stream with pools, on which were lots of spur-winged geese.

*I see my first lion* At dusk, as I was sitting outside my tent ruminating over the pleasure it gave me to be once again away from civilisation, my escort yelled out "simba!", which means a lion. I just caught sight of him trotting along a low rise some 500 yards off. He stopped and had a look at us, then moved on at a trot and disappeared over the brow. If it had not been so dark I should have gone after him.

#### 12 . VI . 1902. *Ruiru River*

*Game on the march* We continued our march at daybreak in a northerly direction over the vast rolling plains, seeing plenty of ostrich and other game on the way. After 16 miles we halted near the Ruiru River. In the afternoon I took a walk round camp and found fresh spoor of rhinoceros. At one time I must have been close to an ostrich nest, as an old hen was most restive and anxious. I made a good search for the eggs but could not find them. We waded across a large papyrus swamp today, getting wet up to our middles. In the middle of the swamp I saw buffalo tracks.

#### 13 . VI . 1902. *Thika River*

*Camp on the River Thika* An uneventful march of 14 miles to the River Thika, which is here a slow muddy stream about 150 feet wide. We camped on the right bank, where I saw plenty of hippopotamus spoor. Just before we reached camp I shot a small bustard with a grey throat and ferruginous on the back of the neck. In the evening I saw a herd of about 12 waterbuck which contained two fair-sized heads, but as they were on the left bank of the river I was unable to follow them up.

I am badly handicapped by having no book on the birds of East Africa. The result is that I have no idea of the names of the many birds I see, or of which are interesting and which are common.

Made a long march today of about 23 miles over rough country. I saw a small party of impala soon after dawn, and soon afterwards I saw a herd of 14 giraffe at close quarters. I first spied them about half a mile off, when I saw 4 feeding off some thorn trees on the skyline. As I walked towards them I was concealed by a dip in the ground, and when I again came into view the whole 14 were only 100 yards from me. Advancing with my camera I easily got within 70 yards, but even from that distance they looked minute in the finder of my camera. I took several exposures of them before they quietly walked off. The bull of the herd, a very dark beast, stood out from all the rest by his size. Giraffe have an ungainly stride and seem to be lame in all four legs, besides having their shoulders dislocated. When they moved off they did so in a single line like a string of camels, the old bull bringing up the rear. They all, even the youngest cows, had horns. I observed some of them feeding off low bushes, when they looked absurd, having to splay out their forelegs to enable their heads to reach so low.

*Giraffe*

I camped at a spot where I found good water. I am told it is called Punde Milia, or Zebra Camp. I saw large herds of zebra in the neighbourhood. In the evening an old Kikuyu chief paid me a visit, bringing me a fowl as a present, which proved most acceptable. He also explained to me that in a recent fight he had had all the fingers of his right hand chopped off, which he insisted on proving by producing the fingers from a small tobacco tin. This did not improve my appetite for my dinner off his chicken.

*Punde Milia  
Camp*

[The old gentleman paid me a second visit a few days later, when he presented me with a fine serval skin, for which I made him a present of 5 rupees.]

Game seen today over 23 miles on both sides of the road were 14 giraffe, 3 rhinoceros, 18 warthog, 276 zebra, 18 wildebeeste, 186 Coke's haartebeeste, 18 impala, 138 Grant's gazelle, 168 Thomson's gazelle, 3 steinbock, 18 waterbuck and 48 ostriches.

*Game census*

to spot one maned lion among them when they got into the reeds. At the spot where they entered the reeds I saw several heads looking at me, so I walked slowly in their direction and at 150 yards took a shot at one of their heads but missed. There were several snarls and roars, but they all disappeared. I was now at a loss to know what to do. The reed bed was some 5 acres in extent and dense. It was bounded on one side by the Tana River and on the other by about 300 yards of short grass. I only had two nervous niggers with me, so I sent one up to Fort Hall for Hemsted, while I and the other watched the reed bed to see that the lion did not break out. At 2.39 p.m. Hemsted arrived and we proceeded to walk through the reeds. Of course we never saw one, but we frequently heard them as they dashed through the reeds. One of our niggers saw one close to him and fled. So at dark we had to abandon the attempt.

[I did not realise at the time how foolhardy we were. To try to walk up 8 lion in dense reeds is asking for trouble; we should have left them alone and waited outside at dusk, when no doubt we should have got a shot as they started off on their evening hunt.]

When I saw the lion first in the open, they appeared more like fat, sleek sheep and not a bit like the King of Beasts. But the sight of 8 lion all in a bunch made my mouth water a bit. I noticed that lion spoor is much smaller than that of the tiger.

I left the waterbuck's carcass out tonight and shall visit it tomorrow at dawn in the hope of finding some lion eating it.

24 . VI . 1902. *Meragua River*

I was out before dawn to watch the waterbuck carcass but saw nothing; the lion must have polished him off in the middle of the night, for the carcass was picked dry and numerous fresh lion tracks were in the neighbourhood. I saw some impala about 400 yards away and was just going to stalk them when a couple of rhinoceros trotted out of the bush within 30 yards of me, heading for the reed bed. I quickly slipped a solid bullet into my

*Rhinoceros*

Mannlicher and fired at the largest beast at 75 yards. Both animals turned and ran back across me towards some scrub. The smaller of the two held its tail erect while the larger one did not, so I presumed my bullet had had effect. I followed them and found them standing together among some thorn scrub in which they were almost invisible. Creeping to within 40 yards I put a second bullet into the beast's shoulder, at which she headed again for the reed patch. I knew she was badly hit by the way she ran, so I gave her another two shots, both of which hit her in the ribs. I rushed after them, and just before entering the reeds the large beast turned and faced me in the open. I sat down and fired at her chest, whereat she turned towards the reeds, and walked slowly into them, so that I lost sight of her. As I did not fancy walking up wounded rhinoceroses with a Mannlicher, I sent to camp for my 8 bore cannon. When this arrived I followed the spoor cautiously into the reeds and soon caught sight of the smaller beast standing watching me. As this beast was only three-quarters grown I did not wish to kill him, so tried to frighten him away. I threw stones and cartridges and shouted but he merely snorted at me, though he stood but 20 yards from me. Eventually I fired off the 8 bore, at which he crashed into the reeds and I saw him no more. The larger beast, an old female, was lying dead a few yards further on. I photographed her and then commenced to cut her up. Her dorsal skin was nearly two inches thick. I was sorry to find her in an advanced state of pregnancy, for I cut from her a perfect young rhino, just ready to be born. It had hair round the eyes and on the face, back and rump. In adult rhino there is only hair on the eyelashes, tail and ears. I skinned the young one complete and shall have it set up.

The horns of the cow are poor and much worn, which denotes an old beast. We had some difficulty in removing them, but by working under them with a knife for nearly two hours we eventually removed them from the skull. The horns of a rhino are not attached to the skull but grow on the skin, being really congealed hair. The whole camp having come to the scene, and a hunting party of Wakikuyu having also turned up, all the meat was taken

away. The beast was so heavy that it took 10 of us to turn her over.

In the afternoon I killed a buck oribi at 40 yards with my Mannlicher. Oribi

[I described these oribi as a new race in the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society* some years later, naming them *kenyae*. They are closely allied to Haggard's oribi.]

25 . VI . 1902. *Fort Hall*

Tomorrow being Coronation Day, Tate asked me to shoot some haartebeeste for meat for the natives at the festivities at Fort Hall. He sent down 20 porters to carry meat and I shot 2 haartebeeste for them. Coronation Day

I walked back to Fort Hall in the evening, having shot 3 waterbuck, 2 impala, 3 haartebeeste, a rhino, a red lynx and an oribi, and having seen 8 lion. I killed everything with my Mannlicher, with which I am well pleased. I used nothing but hollow-pointed bullets, except for the solids I used on the rhino. Return to Fort Hall

Tate has returned from his tour, and he, Hemsted and I all feed together. I like both Tate and Hemsted.

My pay in India was exactly £108 a year, and now I find myself with £400 a year under cheaper conditions, for outside luxuries such as cartridges, alcohol, etc., living is absurdly cheap. Eggs three a penny, sheep 3 rupees, a chicken half a rupee, and we grow our own vegetables. My daily expenditure on food is only about the equivalent of 2s. a day. So, with the small allowance Father gives me, I am rapidly becoming a capitalist. Untold wealth

[On joining the K.A.R. my capital value was £0. On leaving the K.A.R. after nearly 5 years I found myself possessed of over £3000.]

26 . VI . 1902. *Fort Hall*

Today being the Coronation Day of King Edward, we decided to have a general holiday and a military review, and give the local savages a treat. All the local chiefs were invited to come in, and the haartebeeste meat, supplemented by an ox and a goat, was distributed among them. We had a little ceremonial drill in the *boma*, which Coronation festivities

*Leave Nairobi  
for Fort Hall*

Tate and I left Nairobi on our return journey to Fort Hall. It rained incessantly all day. We camped on the Nairobi River.

17. VII. 1902. *Fort Hall*

*Arrive at Fort  
Hall*

We marched into Fort Hall this afternoon, having completed the 68 miles in 4 days. On the 15th Tate shot a good rhinoceros on the Mekindu River. On the 16th we passed through my old camp on the Thika, which is now occupied by Swire and a detachment of the King's African Rifles. He has seen nothing of either lion or Wakikuyu. I saw a giraffe near the Thika River.

*Native arrogance  
at Fort Hall*

During our absence Kenuthia and two other smaller chiefs have been giving trouble. They got very drunk one evening and told Hemsted that now that there were so few soldiers in Fort Hall they intended to attack the station. Hemsted merely laughed at them but fined them 5 goats each, which they paid today. But it was most impertinent of Kenuthia and is significant. What a man says when he is drunk he thinks when he is sober. Dear old Tate takes a most serious view of the occurrence and talks about sending for more troops, etc. I told him I would, in the event of a Kikuyu attack on Fort Hall, guarantee not only to defend the station but to burn every village within 5 miles in 24 hours, but that on the first shot being fired I should shut him up in the guardroom, as his sad face would be likely to discourage my men. Tate is beginning to see jokes and to appreciate the humour of the situation. Here are we, three white men in the heart of Africa, with 20 nigger soldiers and 50 nigger police, 68 miles from doctors or reinforcements, administering and policing a district inhabited by half a million well-armed savages who have only quite recently come into touch with the white man, and we are responsible for the security in an area the size of Yorkshire. The position is most humorous to my mind, but we seem to be handling it quite well. A small chief gets drunk, threatens to stamp out our authority, and is fined

water. And I have often noted that they will cut a dead animal's throat when I am not looking.

*Fish*

Some of my porters caught several large fish which had been attracted by the blood in the water, also some fine eels. They were pulling them out as fast as they could throw the bait in and landed over 200 pounds of fish and eels in an hour. I return to Fort Hall tomorrow, and shall have completed the bridge.

16 . VIII . 1902. *Tana River*

*Shoot on the  
Tana River,  
combined with  
survey work*

I am down surveying the country on the right bank of the Tana River and am not neglecting my opportunities for a shoot. I arrived in camp in the afternoon, having surveyed all the morning. I killed an oribi and a water-buck near camp, the former giving me a good stalk. During the day I saw a great deal of fresh lion and rhinoceros spoor.

17 . VIII . 1902. *Tana River*

*Tana River*

I surveyed all the morning, travelling some 6 miles down the Tana River. It is a grand river and quite beautiful with the tropical vegetation and huge forest trees which border its banks. It runs in a deep ravine where the Meragua joins it, and just before the latter river makes its junction it tumbles over some falls whose height I have been unable to estimate, but they must approach some 300 feet sheer drop.

In the evening I killed a waterbuck and an oribi as meat for the men. I had been frequently told that the Kikuyu would not eat wild game meat. This is wrong; they love it and eat masses of it if they can get it. When I return from a shooting holiday I always found men, old women, boys and girls, sometimes as many as 50 people, awaiting me, when I would distribute my meat. This often resulted in a scramble, but when they learned that shouting and greed meant no meat, they soon learned to control and behave themselves. They particularly like the flesh of the hippopotamus, but will not touch water-buck; neither do I.

The local chief Kenuthia, on hearing I would be leaving Fort Hall soon, gave a large dance on my parade ground this afternoon. The people erected a huge shelter of wild banana leaves in which I sat like a king. McClean and Hemsted were not invited and there was no room for them in my banana throne, so they had to sit outside. Hemsted was amused; McClean, much on his dignity, was annoyed. The dances were excellent, young men and girls going through all sorts of sexual antics. The final dance was done by 7 young ladies—a direct assault on my morals. I gave them each a bunch of beads, and I gave Kenuthia a magnificent sheep which cost me 4 rupees.

*I am feted by  
Kenuthia*

29 . VIII . 1902. *Fort Hall*

Barlow arrived here today with the relieving detachment which returns on Sunday next. I am remaining on for a few weeks to finish the survey work I have commenced and to try to map the route over the Aberdare Mountains.

*My detachment  
is relieved*

31 . VIII . 1902. *Fort Hall*

Hemsted, Barlow and I visited the Tana. Hemsted bagged 2 rhinoceros, 2 waterbuck, a reedbuck and an oribi in less than 2 hours. The rhino charged him together or he would not have killed them. They both lay dead touching each other. We wanted the other game for the station.

*Shooting*

We had a great dance this evening in honour of the arrival of Barlow and to bid me farewell. The men dancers all arrived on this occasion painted with white earth and bedecked with bustard feathers in their heads. Women did not take part in the dancing.

1 . IX . 1902. *Near Fort Hall*

McClean and I left Fort Hall this morning for the Aberdare Mountains, which lie between Fort Hall and Lake Naivasha. Our idea is to pass over Kinangop Peak or as near to it as we can get, to locate the headwaters of the Thika and Chania Rivers, and then follow down the Chania to see if it enters the Thika River or not. We are now camped about 10 miles west of Fort Hall.

*We start off for  
the Aberdare  
Mountains*

*Game in  
Nairobi*

But to show how much in the wilds we are, an elephant walked through the Sub-commissioner's garden in Nairobi last month and tore up several newly planted croton bushes. The last race meeting we held was broken up by an angry rhinoceros, who held the course for over an hour. And only last August a zebra dropped a foal on our parade ground, and the following night a lion actually killed a zebra within 100 yards of the mess building. Buffalo occur in a swamp only two miles from Nairobi, and leopard are frequently seen within the cantonments.

6 . XI . 1902. *Nairobi*

*John Boyes*

Met a man called John Boyes, a cheerful rogue who some years ago impersonated the Government at Karurie's in Kikuyu. The Government foolishly brought all sorts of charges against him, but Boyes was acquitted. But I believe he got away with a lot of Karurie's ivory, which he sold at the coast, and never refunded Karurie. I sold Boyes a rifle, but he has never paid me for it; he says he cannot do so, as he is broke—a slippery customer.

8 . XI . 1902. *Nairobi*

*Eastwood's  
accident with a  
rhino*

About a fortnight ago news came into Nairobi that Eastwood, a Uganda Railway official, had been charged and smashed up by a rhino near Baringo. We have just had the details. Eastwood had shot a rhino, and as he was skinning it another rhino approached. He went after it, wounded it with a .577 cordite rifle and followed it into long grass. He eventually came upon him lying down. The rhino rose to its feet, and Eastwood, firing again, again knocked him down. But the rhino rose a second time and charged. Eastwood hit him twice in the chest but failed to stop him. The beast came on, and Eastwood had no time to load again, so he turned and ran. The rhinoceros followed him like a terrier, caught him up and knocked him down. The rhino then knelt on Eastwood's left arm, breaking it in two places, and proceeded to gore him with his horns. Eastwood's chest is crushed and bruised, many ribs are broken, and he has a nasty gash on the hip. Luckily the rhino soon left him, and Eastwood,

where two paths branch. Some of these heaps are of considerable size. I asked both my men and the Masai why it was done, but all they could say was that it is an old custom.

30 . XI . 1902. *Aberdare Mountains*

Today we crossed the rolling downs known as Laikipia, and we are now camped on the lower slopes of the western edge of the Aberdare Mountains. It was a gorgeous day, and we had a good view of the whole range from Nandarua (Kinangop) to Sattima and the Markham Downs further north. We are now at the edge of the bamboo forest, and there are masses of elephant tracks in the neighbourhood.

*We cross  
Laikipia*

I am hoping that our entry into the Tetu country will come as a complete surprise. None of my party know what we are going there for, or even what is our destination. My only fear is that the guides have been told by Hinde and that they have given us away during their journey here.

1 . XII . 1902. *Aberdare Mountains*

We broke up camp at dawn and at once entered the bamboo forest, taking all precautions against an ambush. The track was narrow and tortuous and the ascent was steep, so we went slow. We reached the summit and open country about noon after a 6 hours' march. We continued down a gentle slope for another 4 miles and camped on the eastern edge of the range, still in open country, but in a slight hollow and out of sight from the surrounding country. We are now midway between Sattima and Nandarua. I developed another dose of malaria this morning and tried to walk it off today, without much success. But with the help of 50 grains of quinine I should be all right tomorrow.

*We ascend the  
Aberdare  
Mountains*

There were two rhino near camp this evening, feeding in the open. I would not let anyone disturb them. They must have been at about 9000 feet, which is a high altitude for pachyderms.

What is the plural of rhinoceros? If one uses "rhino" it suffices for both singular and plural. One cannot say rhinoceroses or rhinocerotes or rhinoceri!

2 . XII . 1902. *Tetu. Kikuyu Country*

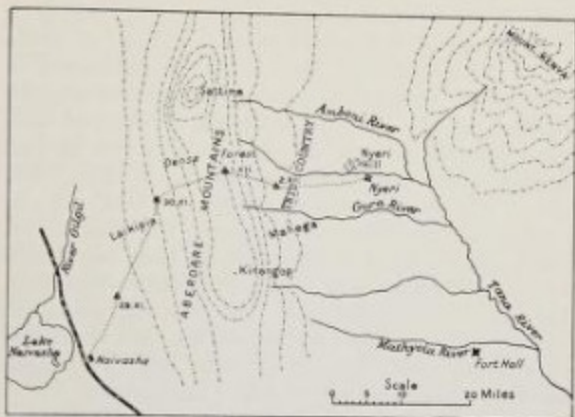
*We enter Tetu  
and commence  
operations*

We descended into the Tetu country early this morning, passing through dense forest and bamboos. Our coming must have been known to the natives, for we found the path blocked at several places by trees, and numerous pitfalls, with sharp stakes therein, were dug on the path and cunningly covered over with loose earth. Only one man fell in, and he got badly spiked in the sides and hips. After that we went very carefully, which delayed our advance. I had timed myself to reach cultivation about 8 a.m. but actually never debouched from the forest till noon.

These pitfalls are a most effective method of defence, for they are easily dug and well concealed; even the smallest track may have many. If the Kikuyu had suspected an invading force through the Aberdare forest we should have had much more trouble with these pits. As it was I had two men marching in front of the column with probing sticks, which made progress slow. One stretch of path was very heavily "pitted," as many as 14 being dug over a distance of a hundred yards. If we had been suspected there would have been a poisoned arrow ambush at each group of pits. The Masai are very afraid of them and walked with great apprehension.

Just before we left the forest I formed the column up in a glade, dividing them up into raiding parties of 25 Masai spearmen and 15 rifles. We were not altogether unsuccessful in surprising the enemy, and burst on the cultivated area, meeting with little organised resistance. I remained with a central reserve and rapidly built a camp and *zariba*, clearing the ground for 100 yards round camp. One of our parties got into difficulties at a village, so I went to their assistance, rushed the enemy's defence, which was arrows and spears, killed some 20 of them and returned to camp. It was a busy day. By evening all our parties got safely into camp, having suffered only 2 killed

did not like it but had to give in. Moreover, he told me he had decided to call the place Fort Hinde after his wife.



*Rough sketch showing the country in which we operated against the people of Tetu, and which culminated in the establishment of a Government station near Nyeri Hill*

I told him that the spot to which I intended to move would be called Nyeri after the prominent feature close by.

6. XII. 1902. *Nyeri*

Moved camp to the position I chose, Hinde grumbling not only because his wife and Routledge are returning to Fort Hall but because I refuse to call the place Fort Hinde.

Spent the day turning all hands on to make the place impregnable—a large ditch, thorn *zariba* and barbed wire.

7. XII. 1902. *Nyeri*

Rhinoceros are in great abundance round here. This evening we counted 16 from the camp. I sent Collyer out to get some meat for the porters, and we watched him stalk a rhino about half a mile off. But he had not noticed that between him and the rhino which he was

*Rhinoceros*

after stood another rhino. Collyer was too far off for us to apprise him of this fact. There was a slight rise; on one side was Collyer walking up it, and on the other side, walking towards Collyer, was the intervening rhino, both unsuspecting of each other's presence. They met at the top of the rise. Collyer fired and the rhino charged; so did Collyer. Now Collyer is no mean exponent of rugby football, weighs some 15 stone and is endowed with great physical strength. He told me later that his first instinct when charged by the rhino was anger. We clearly saw the impact from where we stood, and saw Collyer sent sprawling in the grass. The rhino fortunately did not touch Collyer with his horn, but merely hit him with his shoulder. Collyer is considerably shaken but not otherwise damaged. The rhino ran some 200 yards and then collapsed to Collyer's first shot, which had entered the chest. Collyer vows he will never again attempt a rough and tumble with a rhinoceros.

*We capture the  
chief of the Tetu  
Wakikuyu*

Kekeri, the chief of the Tetu section of the Wakikuyu, together with his son, were captured yesterday by some friendlies, hiding in the bamboo forest, and surrendered to me today. Both he and his son have repulsively cruel faces. I shall send him as a political prisoner to Nairobi, to be dealt with by the Commissioner.

*Political action*

Now arises the question as to whether political action cannot end this military expedition. I have approached Hinde, who is in political charge, and he thinks they require still more punishment. To this I am compelled to agree, but I cannot help thinking that he could bring the Tetu people to terms during the next week if he so desired. I suspect that he wants more captured stock to give him sufficient revenue to build his new station here. If that is the case, it is most immoral. So as matters stand the operations are to continue.

10 . XII . 1902. *Nyeri*

*Nyeri*

Things have been peaceful here. The fortified camp is finished and impregnable against savages. It has an ideal field of fire for 600 yards in all directions, a complete barbed wire entanglement, and a ditch and parapet which

would defy the most ardent savage. It could be easily defended by 50 rifles.

I took a stroll round camp this evening after work and coming round a corner met a rhinoceros face to face walking in my direction. There was no cover, so I fired point blank at his chest at but 20 yards. He staggered and nearly fell, but recovering himself made off. I gave him another shot as he ran but failed to stop him. He bolted towards the camp, when all my men and about 100 Masai spearmen gave chase. I yelled to them to let him be, but it had no effect and the hunt continued. The rhino could neither go fast nor far with his wounds, and was soon brought to bay and charged the whole crowd of us. We scattered and he stood. I fired again and the Masai encircled him and tried to spear him, which prevented me firing again for fear of hitting a man. He soon charged again, and singling out a Masai hunted him as a terrier does a rat. Nobody could fire for fear of hitting a man, so we yelled and tried to divert his attention. But he stuck to his victim, caught him up and tossed him some 10 feet into the air. The man fell clear of the rhino, who did not turn but went a short distance and stood. I quickly got the men out of the way and dropped the rhino dead with a shot in the neck. The Masai who had been tossed suffered a bad rip up the right thigh, but no artery or bone has been damaged. Dr. Mann has him in hand and thinks he should be about again in a month or so.

On cutting up the rhino we found 15 Martini bullets in him which had been fired by my men, three Mannlicher bullets of mine and two .303 bullets. These latter rather puzzled me, as none of us had been using such a rifle. There were also 37 Masai spears sticking in his hide when he fell dead. He looked like a Christmas tree.

When we were finishing the cutting up, Collyer, puffing and blowing, arrived on the scene and claimed the rhino. The .303 bullets had been fired by him some little time before I had met the rhino face to face. So, as he could prove first blood, he took the horns, which were quite good, measuring over 24 inches each. Hemsted, Barlow, Hinde and I each took a foot. I shall have mine made into an inkstand.

*Rhinoceros*

*Wounded rhino  
chasing and  
tossing a Masai*

*Shooting rhino* The number of rhino here is incredible. We and our men have in the last few days been compelled to kill 17, and yet the country is teeming with them. Barlow and I yesterday evening found 3 across our path when we were returning home. We shouted at them, but they only got excited and refused to budge. I had an 8 bore rifle with me and at 30 yards bombarded the nearest beast. I missed him, but the roar of the cannon sent him flying for miles with all his companions. We saw 21 different rhino today.

*Arrival of reinforcements from Nairobi* 200 Masai spearmen, and 40 rifles of the King's African Rifles arrived here this evening from Nairobi, having covered the distance of 150 miles in 5 days, each man carrying his own food for that period—not bad going! We shall restart operations on the day after tomorrow.

16 . XII . 1902. *Tetu. Kikuyu Country*

*We restart operations* Leaving Hinde and Collyer in Nyeri, I sent Barlow and Hemsted with 25 rifles, 10 police and 180 Masai to Mahega's country. Mahega is a neighbouring chief and has thrown in his lot with the people of Tetu, harbouring their cattle, etc. Barlow left camp before dawn and made a night march to Mahega's village, which he has destroyed, capturing many head of cattle. He works up to the bamboos tomorrow. I am in heliographic communication with him.

I left camp with Dr. Mann and 40 rifles, 4 police and 200 Masai spearmen. We followed up the Chania River, searching Nyeri Hill on the way, and camped at 4 p.m. about 2 miles from the bamboos, encountering no resistance.

17 . XII . 1902. *Tetu. Kikuyu Country*

*Operations in the bamboo forest* There was a certain amount of aggressive shouting round our camp last night, but no attack materialised. I have decided to stop where I am today and send strong patrols into the bamboos to try to get some more stock which I know is hiding there. I sent out another patrol towards Barlow which reached his camp and returned this evening.

*Race meeting*

Today was a great day for Nairobi, for the local race meeting was held. The rank and fashion of the whole colony assembled. The motley collection of so-called racehorses was equalled only by the class of the owners and jockeys. Barrett rode in the hurdle race and got one of his spurs mixed up with the horse's bridle. I rode in a flat race, coming in third, but as there were only five starters it was not much of a success. The whole entertainment afforded me great amusement, because it required such a deal of imagination to take it seriously.

We drove down to the course in a four-wheeled conveyance hired from the bazaar, drawn by four horses which subsequently ran in the races. None of the horses had previously been introduced to four-in-hand harness, and one of them had actually never before had a vehicle behind him. The driving of this outfit was allotted to me, and it proved most exciting. It was half an hour before we got started, and then we made a good pace, cantering the whole 2 miles. Barrett had a horn which he blew at intervals. Our arrival on the course was magnificent, and fortunately the horses pulled up decently in front of the "grandstand." But we decided to walk home, my brother officers declining a second drive.

*An interfering rhinoceros*

As the second race was finishing a silly rhinoceros was seen trotting towards the galloping horses. We all shouted to the riders to look out, and they returned at a pace which seemed to exceed that of the race; the rhino could not make head or tail of the flags, the horses, and the general noise of shouting and laughter, and with his tail in the air he kept making little charges here and there. Nobody had a gun to scare him away, and we just had to wait for at least half an hour before he took himself off.

*Delamere*

Met Lord Delamere at the race meeting. He has just returned from England. He is an enthusiast about the future of East Africa and remarked: "I am going to prove to you all that this is a white man's country." "But," I humbly said, "it is a black man's country; how are you going to superimpose the white over black?" Delamere

Voi is not much above sea-level and consequently very hot and sultry. The bird life is quite different from what I have seen elsewhere, being much more tropical.

11 . IV . 1903. *Maktau. Serengeti Plains*

After leaving Mwataate we reached the Bura marsh in one and a half hours. Thence I came on to a spot called Nikomeni, where I found water and filled up all my water cans. A kerosene oil tin filled with water weighs 40 pounds and will suffice 8 men per diem. We then passed up a slight incline to the waterless Serengeti Plains and reached Maktau Rock just before dark. Here we camped, having covered about 22 miles during the day. Just north of the road at Maktau is a small rock pool, dependent on rain-water. This was dry, so we used the water we were carrying.

*I march to  
Maktau*

The bush about Maktau is not so thick as it was near Bura. Birds were numerous, including bustard, rollers, small hornbills, flycatchers, doves and francolin. I also saw for the first time the handsome vulturine guinea-fowl, with its gorgeous sky-blue back. Butterflies were abundant and in infinite variety, reminding me of the insect life at the base of the Nilgiri Hills in the hot weather.

*Birds and  
butterflies*

12 . IV . 1903. *Mbuyuni. Serengeti Plains*

Marched about 12 miles to a spot called Mbuyuni, where the waterhole had completely dried up. The bush here is not so thick and I came across numerous clear spaces, mostly in slight depressions. Game was abundant, including ostrich, Grant's and Thomson's gazelle, steinbock, Coke's haartebeeste and zebra. I also saw for the first time the gerenuk or Waller's gazelle, with its long giraffe-like neck.

*To Mbuyuni*

I camped under the huge baobab tree which gives to this spot the name of Mbuyuni, *mbuyu* being Swahili for the baobab tree. In the evening I had a good view to the south of the snows of Kilimanjaro and the peak of Meru Mountain, which lies immediately over Arusha.

Game seen between Maktau and Mbuyuni today includes 17 ostrich, 34 giraffe, 4 rhinoceros, 8 gerenuk, 67

*Game census*

oryx, 94 Grant's gazelle, 59 Thomson's gazelle, 146 eland, 264 Coke's haartebeeste, 426 zebra and 8 steinbock, also 5 great bustard.

13 . IV . 1903. *Taveta*

*To Taveta* I marched 15 miles into Taveta, passing the Njoro water-course (now dry) about 8 miles this side of Taveta. Close to Njoro is the small hill of Salaita, which constitutes an important military position to any force defending Kilimanjaro. I was much struck by the natural strength of the Salaita position.

There are no Europeans in Taveta, so I stopped at the mud house known as the Civil Bungalow. It had been raining hard just before I entered Taveta, and rain was still dripping from the ceiling to the floor in all the rooms of this shanty when I arrived. It is intensely hot here, and mosquitoes are a great nuisance.

15 . IV . 1903. *Mbuyuni. Serengeti Plains*

*Kilimanjaro* I had a splendid view of Kilimanjaro early this morning. The huge snowfields were clearly visible through my glasses. It does seem a shame that this wonderful mountain should have been given to Germany. But I do not doubt we shall eventually get it. We seem to get most of what we want—eventually.

I stopped in Taveta yesterday, enquiring into the troubles of the detachment and installing the new men.

*I leave Taveta* This morning I marched out with the old detachment and camped at Mbuyuni. Saw a small herd of eland and many impala. I killed a female steinbock which appears to differ from others I have shot. The crescentic forehead mark is more clearly defined, and there is a dark stripe running from the nostrils up the face for 3 inches or so. The general colour is not so red as usual.

*Eland* While I was lunching in camp I saw some eland about a mile distant. There were about a hundred altogether. They were in an open space and unapproachable, so I decided to wait until they fed into more stalkable country. About 4 p.m. they had fed into bush country, and by making a long detour to get the wind right I got to

*Accidents on  
manœuvres*

We conducted some manœuvres today within the battalion, using only blank ammunition. The dummy enemy was represented by Maycock's Masai company. Their position was assaulted by Barrett's Sudanese company, who in the excitement of the moment fixed their bayonets and charged. The Masai also lost their heads and fixed their bayonets; a few men produced ball ammunition, which was fired at the Sudanese, wounding two men. The position became most realistic, the Sudanese freely bayoneting the Masai and killing three of them. The Masai eventually fled, with the Sudanese in pursuit. I doubled my company to the scene, and with the help of all the British officers present we separated the excited Masai and Sudanese. Harrison vows he will never have these two companies out again on manœuvres. I do not agree that this is a remedy at all. These two companies require a deal more discipline, especially fire control and fire discipline. I would guarantee to have both companies under complete control in two months after concentrated barrack square drill.

24 . VII . 1903. *Nairobi**Rhino and lion*

On 7 July I bagged a brace of rhinoceros and today I shot a lion under rather peculiar circumstances. I first saw him feeding on a zebra which he had killed. He was then some 800 yards from me. I stalked unseen to within about 350 yards, and as concealment was no longer possible I crawled towards him in the open. He was lying down as he fed. He soon spotted me and stood up. I also rose to my feet, at which the lion, after a momentary stare, bolted, but soon wheeled round and bounded to his kill again with a roar. This was no doubt to impress me, and I was bound to say it did make me think. He stood with his forepaws on the zebra, snarling and growling at me, looking the picture of rage. He was still too far for a certain shot, so I began to walk round him in a circle, edging nearer and nearer as I walked. He moved round so as continually to face me. When I was not more than 150 yards from him I stopped. He at once

lay down by his kill in about 12 inches of grass, looking extremely threatening. As I wished to get still closer before I fired, I again started off and walked straight for him. When 120 yards from him he ceased growling and I got on to a small ant-heap, where I could see the ominous twitching of the tip of his tail. His teeth were bared, and I expected him to charge at any moment. But I was now too far committed to retire, so advanced another 25 yards to another ant-heap, whence I could get a clear view. The moment I halted he stood up, his tail up, his teeth gleaming in the sun. Taking as steady an aim as I could, I fired, and to my intense relief he collapsed in the initial bound of his charge. I had fired not a moment too soon. I do not like lion when I have to face them single-handed in the open. He was a fine old beast, and on cutting him up I found my bullet had raked him from the chest to the stern.

Calling my porters up, we skinned him and returned to Nairobi this evening.

I . VIII . 1903. *Nairobi*

The day before yesterday we had one of the usual race meetings here. The same old horses ran, the same old jockeys rode. Every horse in the colony was entered, and owners rode their own beasts. Brancker won the Machakos Cup with Aladin, and I came in second in the Lilliput Handicap on Natalie.

We held a gymkhana today. I easily won the trotting race on Natalie and a threading-the-needle race. In the latter we worked in partners. I galloped to the lady with needle and thread, she threaded it, and I had to gallop back to the starting point with the threaded needle. My lady was Miss Elliot (Mark II), the daughter of the local forest officer.

I met Mr. Block this morning, recently arrived from South Africa and exploring possibilities of making his fortune in this country. Being a Jew I think it more than likely he will succeed, as he seems to be full of ideas. He asked my advice, and I told him I thought that most money could be made from land speculation; to this he

*Race meetings  
and gymkhanas  
at Nairobi*

*Mr. Block*

horse made a violent swerve within a few feet of the lion and off came de Crespigny, sprawling on the ground within 10 feet of the lion, who was now alternately watching de Crespigny on the ground and me coming up at a gallop with lowered spear. It was really a most ridiculous situation. There was de Crespigny fumbling for a pistol which was caught up in a holster, sitting within spitting distance of an unwounded and angry lion. But as I got almost to spearing distance, the lion, watching me intently and obviously preparing for a spring, I heard de Crespigny's pistol go off and the lion rolled over, my spear entering a dead lion. I must admit I was scared stiff. I went and caught de Crespigny's horse. We then skinned the lion and returned home in silence. I thought it a mad enterprise, but de Crespigny pretends he enjoyed it thoroughly. No more lion-sticking for me. The risk is not justified.

We celebrated with champagne at dinner. I asked de Crespigny if he had experienced any sense of fear. He replied: "Of course I did! I was terrified of being afraid—I was afraid of myself, not the lion." That was the triumph of a family tradition.

Colonel Harrison, who heard of our exploit, has forbidden us ever to ride a lion. He says it is not fair on the horses or on ourselves and that we have not been sent out here to run such stupid risks. But he added, "My God, I should like to have been there!"

6. VIII. 1903. *Ruiru River*

Yesterday I left Nairobi en route for Fort Hall, where I am to relieve the present garrison with my own company. Last night I camped on the Nairobi River and today I came on to the Ruiru. Game was scarce, and I was unable to get meat for my men.

*I leave Nairobi  
for Fort Hall*

7. VIII. 1903. *Thika River*

I came on to the Thika River today, and though my old *zariba* has been burned I pitched camp on the old spot.

Just before reaching camp I suddenly came on 6 giraffe—an old bull, 4 cows and a calf. They were not more than 40 yards from me when I surprised them in a fold in the

*Camp at the  
Thika Crossing*

*Giraffe*

ground. As they made off I was much struck by their awkward ambling gallop. When on the move they hold their head and neck so that the top profile of their upper parts is one straight line from the tip of the tail to the crown of the head. When they canter, the hind legs are placed on the ground far in advance of the forelegs and outside them. The calf which accompanied this party was not much larger than a donkey and its mother was most concerned about it, as it could not keep up with the rest. The old bull also took a fatherly interest in the calf, keeping behind it all the time.

*Rhinoceros*

This evening I took a stroll round camp and shot a fine rhinoceros. I had a fairly easy stalk to about 30 yards, and on peeping over an ant-hill found a large warthog, also feeding close to the rhino. The pig was such a fine specimen that I was in two minds as to which I should fire at. I decided to take the rhino. She fell to my shot, which passed through her neck. It was not till after she fell that another rhino ran out of some long grass. Though not full grown, this second beast was by no means to be disregarded. He stood so close to me that I tried to take a photo of him, and to my dismay I saw through the finder of my camera that he was coming in my direction. I snapped the camera and jumped to one side as he passed me with a snort and lay down near the ant-hill. After snorting for a while he made off. Without her intestines my first rhino weighed 1495 pounds.

On my way back to camp I killed two sandgrouse and a guinea-fowl for the pot.

*Kaninge and  
Tumbes*

I have two excellent Masai boys as servants, Kaninge and Tumbes, aged about 14. They are clean and intelligent; I got them from Lenana, and I pay them 20 rupees a month. Tumbes looks after my clothes and cooks. Kaninge is a good skinner after a fortnight's training, and he carries my camera and shotgun when I am out. I am slowly teaching Tumbes to cook. I am thankful to say both are scrupulously clean and honest.

9 . VIII . 1903. *Punde Milia*

*I stop a day on  
the Thika*

I stopped yesterday on the Thika River in order to skin the head of the rhino I shot. I saw lots of game, including

clear that after heavy rains the marsh extends far beyond its present limits. We are now at the end of the dry season.

I found survey work difficult in this country, where conspicuous features are almost non-existent and those which do exist are difficult to see in the thorn scrub.

In the evening I got close to a herd of oryx and killed a couple of cows. Though I was but 30 yards from the herd I was unable to determine the sexes, so I killed the two largest beasts. Warthog, waterbuck, Grant's and Thomson's gazelle and guinea-fowl were numerous everywhere.

Oryx

Big game seen today include 18 elephant, 34 giraffe, 17 rhinoceros, 198 zebra, 436 oryx, 66 waterbuck, 186 Grant's gazelle, 109 Thomson's gazelle, 5 bushbuck, 3 duiker, 88 impala, 46 eland, 18 warthog and 44 ostrich; also 88 haartebeeste.

Game census

24 . X . 1903. *Pesi River*

I marched up the south bank and slightly away from the Pesi River for about 5 miles. We then entered some dense thorn scrub and followed up a dry watercourse full of huge boulders. In this watercourse I found a lump of fossil ivory. Eventually we found a little water, and being uncertain of our next water we pitched camp. The neighbourhood is a mass of fresh elephant and buffalo spoor, but we saw practically no game all day.

I march west  
from the Pesi  
Swamp

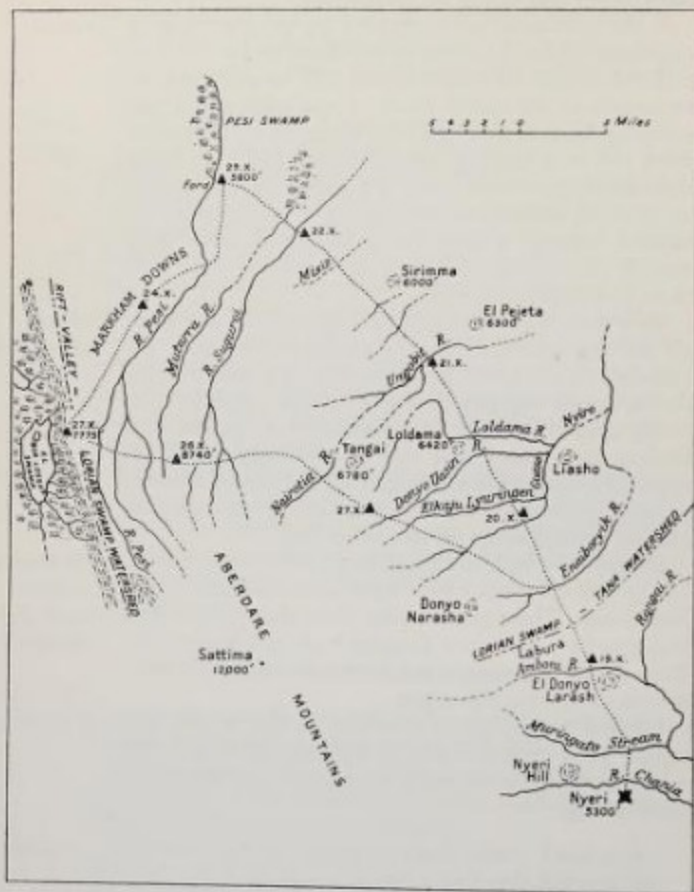
Fossil ivory

My whole caravan found a certain wood in the bush from which native knobkerries (*ringus*) are made. They all turned out in the evening, and each man cut himself a suitable stick.

25 . X . 1903. *Markham Downs*

This morning we ascended to the northern continuation of the Aberdare Mountains, which are usually called the Markham Downs. They comprise rolling grassland intersected by deep wooded ravines, in which there is often a small marsh or trickle of water. There are also large clumps of forest trees, and strips of wood running north from the main forests of Sattima.

Markham Downs



Map of country north of Nyeri

*My company is  
charged by two  
rhino*

I was out this morning with my company carrying out a route march when two rhino became most threatening. After some snorting, I halted the company and made the men lie down. The rhino soon became very excited, raised their heads and tails, and trotted across our front. They suddenly halted some 50 yards from us and at once charged my rear section. I fired at the rump of the leading beast, and turning he halted and began to paw the ground. The other beast also pulled up, and they were both facing us at only a few yards. I could not take any further risks with my men, so fired at the neck of the nearest rhino. He dropped at once, and the other beast charged direct for the centre of the column. Shouting to the men to make a gap for him, I put two bullets into him. He, however, succeeded in passing through my company and collapsed about 150 yards on the other side. It spoke well for the discipline of my men that not a soul left the ranks during the whole proceedings, neither was there any talking.

9 . XI . 1903. *Nyeri*

*King's birthday*

Today being the King's birthday, I fell the company in and presented them with a small bullock and proclaimed a general holiday after three cheers for the King. I thought such an arrangement was better than a ceremonial parade.

*Hyaena and  
bushbuck*

In the afternoon I went along the Mazaras road for a shoot, accompanied by Tate on his grey mule. I had left the road to look into a small ravine when I saw a hyaena stalking a small sing-sing waterbuck. As I was watching the stalk a bushbuck walked out of a clump of reeds only 75 yards from me. I killed him with one shot. He weighed 157 pounds. I think bushbuck are one of the most attractive African antelope.

While we were returning home the dogs gave chase to a hyaena, and Tate on his mule accompanied them. They ran in a circle, and I managed to intercept the brute and kill him with one shot. He proved to be a large dog with very yellow fur and very distinct black spots. The

are usually heavy and with poor heads. The best heads are usually to be shot from large herds. One very rarely sees good heads in herds of buck alone. The single buck of a herd would probably have a good pair of horns with which to eject other bucks from the herd, but a poor body, as he has a large harem to serve, and vice versa with a solitary buck. A herd containing nothing but bucks nearly always consists of young animals and is seldom worth following.

There are a large number of dog-faced apes near camp. One of them tried to chase my dog Baby and I was compelled to shoot him. He weighed 67 pounds.

20 . XI . 1903. *Tana River*

I crossed the Meragua River today in order to reach my favourite spot where it joins the Tana. Saw quantities of game, including many oribi, rhino and waterbuck.

*I move to the  
Meragua River*

21 . XI . 1903. *Tana River*

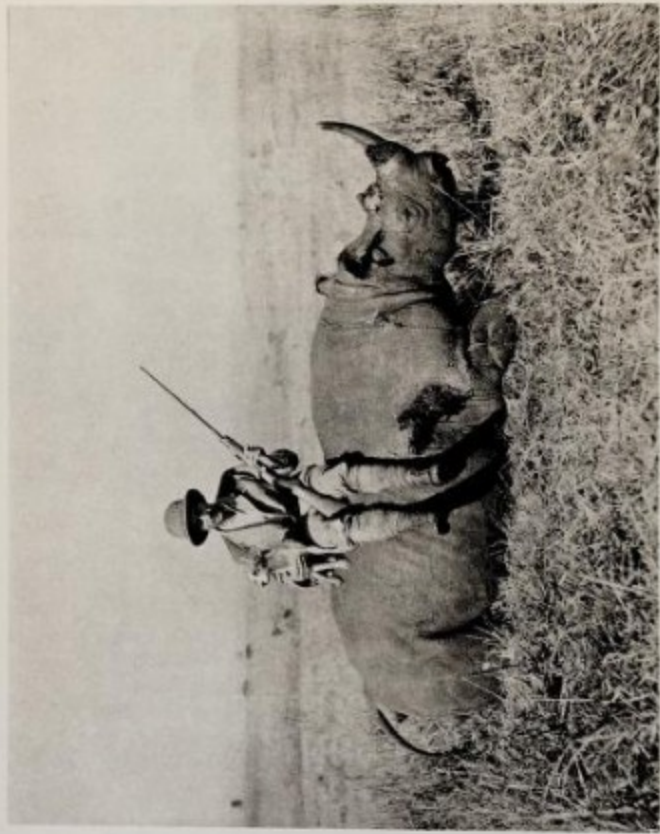
I have never seen oribi so plentiful. The males never seem to be solitary, though females often are. One frequently sees 4 females together. When halted the buck usually lies down, and when alarmed the female is usually the first to jump up, whistle and run off, the male rising after her and following.

*Oribi*

I sat for a long while by the Tana River near a huge pool, watching the heron, kingfishers and hippo. My perch was on the bank, near a small sandpit, and I had not been there long before a large crocodile emerged from the water not 6 feet from me and slowly crawled on to the sand, where he lay on his stomach, shut his eyes and prepared for his siesta. Very slowly I drew a bead on his head and fired. He lay perfectly still, so thinking he was dead I got hold of his tail and began to try to pull him up the bank. But he gave a twist with his tail which sent me sprawling on the sand and the brute leaped back into the stream before I could give him another shot. He must have been about 8 feet long, and his weight when I tried to move him seemed immense. I return to Fort

*Crocodile*

*Return to Fort  
Hall*



*R.M., Baby and Rhinoceros. Nyeri*

21.1.1904. Nyeri

We are still worried by the numbers of rhino in the neighbourhood of the camp, and Tate is always trying to persuade me to kill a particularly bad-tempered beast which haunts the Fort Hall Road. So this evening I attacked him. He had not large horns, but I thought it would be a good opportunity to weigh and measure one. I stalked him to about 100 yards and let drive with my Mannlicher, aiming behind the shoulder. I heard the bullet strike. He made off over a small rise, up which I scrambled, and found him standing but very sick about 200 yards from me. I was just working round for a second shot when he tottered and fell. I then walked straight to him, Baby running in and yapping at him. This induced the monster to get on his legs again. I was now some 70 yards from him, so I gave him another shot behind the shoulder, at which he dropped his hind-quarters, which left him sitting on his rump. He looked every bit like a huge pig. But he soon rolled over on his side and kicked his legs in the air. I then got within 10 yards and put two shots from my 12 bore Paradox into him to see what effect they would have. Both bullets entered the skin but failed to go further. They were both fired at the flank. If I had fired at the neck perhaps they might have gone further in, as the skin on the neck is thinner. As he still had a kick in him I finished him off with a solid in the neck from my Mannlicher, when he expired with a shiver.

*Rhinoceros*

As it was now late and getting dark I left him, meaning to return tomorrow. There is really little risk in leaving a rhino out all night, as hyaenas and vultures cannot tackle his hide, and nothing could damage his horns. A troop of lion might tear him about, but just at present there are no lion round the station. Natives tell me that it is not till the third day after death that decomposition sets in and hyaenas can tear the skin.

22.1.1904. Nyeri

I returned to my rhinoceros early this morning and found him intact. I managed to weigh him all, except for the

*I weigh and measure my rhinoceros*

viscera. These I estimated at about 500 pounds. I weighed him in the following portions:

hind legs .. .. .	330 lb.
forelegs .. .. .	369 lb.
body skin .. .. .	206 lb.
head and neck .. .. .	248 lb.
carcass (in two pieces) .. .. .	720 lb.
liver .. .. .	48 lb.
heart .. .. .	20 lb.
lungs .. .. .	32 lb.
viscera .. .. .	500 lb.
blood, offal, etc. .. .. .	48 lb.
	<hr/>
Total weight .. .. .	2521 lb., or
	1 ton 1 cwt.

*Notes on rhino*

This animal was an old bull and seemed a full-grown beast in good health. I should therefore doubt whether any rhino would exceed a ton and a half. Cows probably weigh slightly less.

I have noted the following facts about rhino. Males are usually solitary but sometimes wander about in couples. I have never seen more than two full-grown rhino together. Cows are accompanied by their offspring until the next calf is born, when the older youngster is driven off by the mother. By this time the older youngster is three-quarters grown. Bulls never consort with cows unless the latter are in season, when the pair keep company for some 8-10 days. At that time one can see the parents and a half-grown youngster. The calf stays with its mother during the whole period of gestation.

31.1.1904. *Nyeri-Naivasha Road*

*In search of  
Jackson's  
francolin*

I am camped in the bamboos at the foot of the Aberdare Mountains in order to try to secure some specimens of Jackson's francolin. I only killed the red-legged francolin and never saw a Jackson's. All the paths round here are spiked and studded with nasty pitfalls, which have been made by the Wakikuyu to keep intruders away. Like Agag, I walked delicately amid such surroundings.

The new bridge which McClure is building over the Gura River is almost complete; in fact I crossed it with my caravan, the first to do so.

I shall probably not see Nyeri again and am sorry to leave Tate, whom I like. He is a conscientious administrator and gets on well with the Kikuyu, who respect him. He is a well-educated man of the right type for an undeveloped country and undeveloped peoples. My only quarrel with him is his secretiveness. He tells me nothing about his work and seldom enlightens me regarding Kikuyu reactions to the administration. This is a pity, for I am more or less responsible for security and a closer liaison with me might have been helpful. But I like him, for he is always cheerful and has a welcome sense of humour.

Hinde and his wife are away on the Tana River to try to secure a roan antelope.

I had a letter from Col. Harrison today telling me that Dickinson is coming here to command Brancker's and my company during the forthcoming expedition against the Irryeni. His letter is in reply to one I wrote him telling him I did not intend to stand interference in military operations from civil officials. They could control the general policy but must not interfere with operations. I am glad to see he agrees with me.

*The coming  
expedition against  
the Irryeni*

#### 14 . II . 1904. *Tana River*

*A shoot on the  
Tana River*

Adams, Lawson and I came down to the Tana River for a shoot at the junction of the Tana and Meragua Rivers. Adams is the first medical officer to reside at Fort Hall. This afternoon I crossed the Meragua River and searched in vain for roan antelope. Indeed, I saw very little game. I came across an old female rhinoceros with a newly born youngster lying beside her. I got to within about 30 yards of her, took a photo and cleared out. She was not in the least suspicious and stood broadside on the whole while, but the light was poor and I fear her picture will not be a success.

I may as well note down what I know of the huge forest pig which I found on 11 March in the Kenya forests. Up till now I have seen but one, a sow, and she after she had been killed. All I have of this beast is a small piece of skin. I asked all my Masai levies whether they knew the animal and they all said they did but that it lived in thick forest and was called *elguia* by them. They make their shields of its tough skin, and I actually purchased a shield which purports to be made from the forest pig. Its owner told me he bought the skin from a Dorobo hunter who had killed it on the Mau escarpment, which shows the animal has a wide range.

Towards the end of the expedition my men found several large pieces of skin in villages. One piece in particular is enormous and could never have been taken off an animal much smaller than a donkey. The hair is long and black, measuring some 10 inches on the crest.

On returning to Fort Hall I enquired from the Waki-kuyu concerning the pig and found they all knew it well, calling it *numirra*. I have offered a cow to the first man who can get me a complete skin with the skull.

I have sent all the skin I have, together with the above information, to Ray Lankester at the British Museum. I think there can be no doubt that the animal is new to science. It is exasperating not to have got a skull, but I live in hopes and shall hunt for him in forest when I get the chance.

I am convinced that the pig I saw in the Aberdares near Karurie's was this forest pig and that the red antelope I saw was a bongo.

7. IV. 1904. Nairobi

On the 6th I killed my eighth lion on the Athi River. Today I spied a rhino feeding among thorn scrub. I stalked to within about 60 yards, when a hen ostrich with some chicks came over a rise not 100 yards from me. I watched them for about half an hour, when the rhino lay down and went to sleep. Taking a steady shot for the shoulder I fired at him. He at once rose, snorted, and making a wild rush for mother ostrich did his best to

toss her, thinking her responsible. The hen ostrich, in defence of her chicks, did a lot of sparring with the rhino, which astonished me. I never knew an ostrich could be so active. She waltzed round the huge pachyderm, constantly striking at him with her feet. His efforts to chase her and to turn his clumsy carcass quickly to prevent his getting a kick on the rump made me scream with laughter. But the rhino was sick unto death and collapsed after about two minutes. I am sure the hen ostrich took all credit for his collapse, but when I suddenly rose to my feet within 40 yards of her she must have changed her mind, for she decamped quickly with her family. Why she did not clear out when I shot I cannot understand. I suspect the rhino's sudden onslaught put everything out of her head except the protection of her chicks.

10 . IV . 1904. *Nairobi*

Our fellows have been doing a good bit of pig-sticking on the plains round Nairobi. I was out today on Natalie and enjoyed a good run. The warthog took me through fairly rough ground at first, when I was unable to gain on him, but eventually I got him into the open, and then soon caught him up. But he turned all over the place, and Natalie was not over-anxious to face him. I never got my lance really home. He finally went to ground, which was a ridiculous performance. I noticed that he was most anxious to head for a certain spot, which was where his earth lay. On arrival at the entrance he stopped dead, turned round and went in backwards. The hole only just fitted him, and at one time I thought he was going to stick. Natalie unfortunately would not go near him.

*Pig-sticking*

14 . IV . 1904. *Donyo Sabuk, near Nairobi*

Yesterday I came out to Donyo Sabuk, a hill near Nairobi, to try for buffalo. My camp was at the base of the hill, and this morning I arrived at the top just before daylight. As dawn approached I spied a solitary bull buffalo, a troop of apes, two bushbuck and a rhino, all within a mile of me. I at once slipped off after the buffalo. I had no difficulty in getting to within some 500 yards of him, but he was

*After buffalo on  
Donyo Sabuk*

*Abel Chapman*

Abel Chapman has come out here for a shoot and I had a long talk with him this evening in the Club. He is a much older man than I suspected and seemed rather dry and bitter about the world in general. He was disinclined to talk about birds, being temporarily obsessed by the fever of larger game.

*Game census*

I took Abel Chapman out the whole day and found him charming, though I fear he was tired out at the end. We saw every variety of game between Nairobi and the Athi River south of Nairobi in an area of about 16 square miles. It amounted to:

3 rhinoceros	1267 wildebeeste
18 giraffe	1654 haartebeeste
42 ostrich	432 Grant's gazelle
31 warthog	234 Thomson's gazelle
42 eland	66 impala
568 zebra	11 wild hog
8 great bustard	1 cheetah
34 baboon	9 lion

We shot nothing.

*How lion hunt*

The highlight of the day was watching a pride of lion hunting, a scene I had always hoped to see. It was about 4.30 p.m. in thin bush, over which we were able to have a good view from a slight eminence. The whole procedure was most deliberate. When we first saw the pride they comprised 2 lion, 4 lionesses and 3 half-grown cubs, and they were all more or less in a bunch and looking in all directions. About 500 yards from them and upwind was a herd of 15 zebra. From the stealthy movement of all the lion it was clear that they were on the hunt and that they had spotted the zebra; the two lion with two lionesses and the three cubs then made a wide detour, using every possible fold in the ground and bushes to keep hidden from the zebra, with the clear intention of getting round them and stampeding them by giving them their wind. The two lionesses left behind separated and took up crouching positions some 100 yards apart, both

Wardle has proved himself a failure and goes home for good, while Hart is off on leave.

19 . III . 1905. *Mombasa*

*"Cocktail  
parade" at  
Bowring's*

Bowring's Sunday morning "cocktail parade" has become an institution in Mombasa. Its object is to mix and drink as many of these poisonous drinks as possible, then have a gigantic lunch and a sleep afterwards. After a well-attended parade today, McClure, Barnes and I stopped to lunch.

I find that my old servant, the Masai boy called Kaninge, has taken on under McClure. I tried to get him to come back to me, but having once tasted the fleshpots of Mombasa and Nairobi he is loath to return to the wilds of Nandi. I am sorry to lose him, as he is such a good skinner of both birds and mammals.

22 . III . 1905. *Kibigori*

*I leave Mombasa*

On the 20th I left Mombasa by the Uganda Railway on my way up to the Nandi country, whither I shall march from Kibigori Station on the Uganda Railway. I travelled from Mombasa to Nairobi with Mrs. Mackay, Mr. W. Touch, Inspector of the National Bank of India, and Mr. F. A. Pape, an American settler who has a fibre concession at Voi.

*Nairobi*

At daylight on the 21st I found myself near Machako's Road, where I saw lion and the usual amount of haartebeeste and gazelle. Owing to the recent heavy rains there had been a "wash-out" on the Kapiti Plains which delayed us. We arrived at Nairobi about 2 p.m.; Mackay, Barlow, Barrett and Sharpe came down to the station to see me and have lunch. I dined last night at Nakuru with R. Church of the Uganda Railway.

*Game census on  
the Athi Plains*

I counted the various big game I saw from my carriage between Stony Athi Station and Nairobi, all on the south side of the railway. It amounted to

2 rhinoceros	11 giraffe
7 eland	876 wildebeeste
543 Coke's haartebeeste	169 Grant's gazelle
174 Thomson's gazelle	98 impala

This morning I struck south towards Alagabiet and camped on the Sergoit River about 8 miles due north of El Dolat Hill. I am now on the Uasin Gishu Plateau, a delightful rolling grass country. From my camp Esoyo Sambo Hill stands out above a sea of mist. Its curious outline is most weird.

*I move south  
towards  
Alagabiet  
  
Uasin Gishu*

I shot an old sing-sing waterbuck soon after leaving camp and a Jackson's haartebeeste in the evening. I saw a rhinoceros, who deliberately went and hid himself in some long grass when he heard our safari, so I went and routed him out, just for the fun of seeing him scamper over the plains. I saw several of that small blue duiker (*aequatorialis*), some zebra, topi and a fine warthog.

11 . XII . 1905. *Kipkarren River, Uasin Gishu*

I followed down the right bank of the Sergoit River to its junction with the Kipkarren, and crossing to the south bank of the latter camped about half-way between Morogusi and El Dolat Hills. I shot a brace of oribi, a young warthog, a green pigeon and 5 francolin. The latter were very numerous in the grass and were constantly being flushed in large coveys. They are about the size of the English partridge, and as soon as they get well on the wing they begin to scream just like a yelling baby, which is most alarming when a large covey makes off. The screaming only becomes worse if one fires at them. I missed a good many of them through laughing at them.

*Sergoit River  
  
  
  
  
  
Screaming  
partridges*

While crossing the Kipkarren River 3 hyaena slunk away from some reeds. It is not often one sees these ungainly creatures in broad daylight.

*Hyaena by day*

During 10 miles on the plateau I counted 2 rhino, 2 hyaena, 1 chectah, 28 oribi, 7 bohor reedbuck, 5 giraffe, 27 warthog, 244 Jackson's haartebeeste, 86 Grant's gazelle and 410 zebra.

*Game census*

12 . XII . 1905. *Chimamull, Uasin Gishu*

Marching south, I arrived at Alagabiet for lunch with Barrett and Butler. In the afternoon I came on and

*To Alagabiet*

him, told him that it could easily be recovered the next day. The Duke was apparently very keen on securing the head, and as he left Nairobi the next day he asked Harrison to wire whether it had been recovered. Harrison, of course, wired to say that it had been found dead and that its head had been brought in. As a matter of fact no trace of the ducal wildebeeste could be found, and Harrison had to kill another, which is being sent to Clarence House as the ducal wildebeeste.

7. IV. 1906. *Uganda Railway*

*I leave Nairobi  
for Voi*

I started today on my trip to Moshi. I take the train to Voi and then walk across the Serengeti Plains. I saw a good deal of game from the train. My fellow passenger, Mr. Shaw Kennedy, saw some giraffe, but I was not so lucky.

*Census of game  
on Athi Plains*

From the train between Stony Athi and Nairobi and on the north side of the railway I saw 2 lion, 27 ostriches, 1644 zebra, 702 Coke's haartebeeste, 186 wildebeeste, 734 Grant's gazelle, 167 Thomson's gazelle, 16 impala, 8 kori bustard and 1 rhinoceros.

8. IV. 1906. *Mwatate, Taita Hills*

*I am mistaken  
for a doctor*

I arrived at Voi at 2 a.m. in pouring rain. I went to the Dak Bungalow but found all three rooms occupied, so slept on the veranda. At dawn I awoke and found the three rooms were occupied by a party who were also on their way to Moshi. They were a mixed lot, comprising a German Count, an Irishman and a young Boer. The German told me that the young Dutchman was ill in bed, so I asked if I could be of any use. They asked me to see the boy, which I did. I found him in bed and obviously recovering from a slight attack of malaria. His pulse and temperature were normal. It amused me to go through all the usual doctor's formulas, such as looking at his tongue, etc. I prescribed some medicine from my box and told him he would be all right by noon. The Irishman burst in with, "So you see, my boy, what the doctor says. Pull yourself together and we'll cancel your

*Partridges and plover* I left camp at dawn and am now camped on the path opposite Maktau Hill. Mongooses and butterflies gave place today to partridges and plover. Of the former there are two species, a large and a small. If I had had the appetite I might have killed 50 brace, but I contented myself with one bird. There are always two or three plover running ahead of me on the sandy path, but I did not molest them.

*Game* I saw a small herd of zebra and haartebeeste and two female Peter's gazelle (a race of Grant's gazelle). I killed one of the latter for my men. I also saw some vulturine guinea-fowl, which I was unable to come up with.

*Maktau Hill* I paid a visit to the Maktau water-hole on Maktau Hill. It lies some  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the road in an N.N.E. direction. The water-holes consist of two large rock pools, the larger of which is about 21 feet long and 5 feet broad, and shelves back to 4 feet deep. In this water I was surprised to find numbers of what I at first took to be small fish but which are no doubt the larvae of some mosquito. They were about an inch and a half long, with huge protruding eyes and a vermilion tail. Several antelope bones round the water showed that lion are in the habit of visiting it.

*I kill a bull giraffe* I left Maktau before dawn and camped at Mbuyuni. About half-way between the two places I saw 3 giraffe standing close to the road ahead of me. The party consisted of a bull, a cow and a three-parts grown youngster. I stalked them to within 50 yards and fired at the bull. I was using my Mannlicher with solid bullets. The beast ran about 100 yards and fell over dead. I found that he was hit behind the shoulder and that the bullet had passed right through him, coming out as solid as it had gone in. Though richly marked he is not a very large specimen, measuring 8 feet at the withers and weighing about half a ton. His skull is a most interesting study. He belongs to the three-horned variety—if a large bump on the forehead can be strictly termed a horn. My men

were delighted at the prospect of so much meat, and I am looking forward to a good meal this evening off giraffe marrow bones and roast partridge. I am salting his prehensile tongue for some future occasion.

There must be a good many giraffe about here, as the soft ground is a mass of their spoor. I also saw a good deal of fresh lion spoor.

As I write lion are roaring from two directions, which means there is much game about. I saw the following from the road between Maktau and Mbuyuni: 18 *Oryx collotis*, 14 gerenuk, 2 lesser kudu, 37 zebra and 123 Grant's gazelle, 3 rhino and 25 ostrich.

*Game census*

No sooner had I pitched my tent than two German soldiers from Moshi arrived from Taveta. I was rather astonished to see them with arms and ammunition, so I asked to see their papers. They had been instructed by their commandant to take letters into Voi. I told them that they had no business in British territory with their arms and that they would have to leave them with me. They were at first a bit reluctant to part, but I told them quite frankly that if they showed any resistance their arms and equipment would be taken by force. They thereupon surrendered and I gave them a note to their commandant explaining why I had disarmed them. They then proceeded on their way with their letters. Apparently it is a regular custom for the Germans to send their mails to Voi. But I suspect it is also a means of getting their men accustomed to the Serengeti Plains and acquainted with the shortest route by which British East Africa can be invaded. It is a custom I must stop. Meanwhile I have a good opportunity of closely scrutinising German rifles and ammunition.

*Two German soldiers*

#### 13 . IV . 1906. *Taveta, Serengeti Plains*

I left Mbuyuni at dawn and came through to Taveta. It was raining when I left camp and never stopped till I reached Taveta. The road was soft and muddy, closely resembling a ploughed field with a clay soil. Several species of francolin were abundant on the roadside, but the only four-legged animal I saw was an *Oryx collotis*. I tried a half-hearted stalk, but he was wide awake and

*Taveta*

*Game*

would assist. As I did not wish to be dragged into expressing myself on this subject, I said I did not understand, so he expressed himself on the same lines, elaborating his wish, but in different language. Again I said I did not understand, and then I think he appreciated my point of view. If I had given him any favourable opening he would have jumped at it. He is credited with having great influence with his people, and should the occasion arise I shall not forget what he said.

21 . IV . 1906. *Taveta*

I was glad when daylight came and silenced the hosts of devouring mosquitoes. It also gave us all a chance to get dry.

*Mosquitoes*

Lake Chala is a crater lake of great charm. It lies at the bottom of a deep crater, with steep cliffs on all sides. There is only one path down to its waters, and this I descended. From below it was indeed weird. The slightest noise was echoed over its silent black waters. No wonder the natives have all sorts of legends about it. A fish eagle (*vocifer*) was circling over the waters, screeching hard. The lake is said to be full of crocodiles, but I saw no sign of them. On gaining the top again I found some haartebeeste near camp, so I killed one for the men. I had previously seen a rhino some distance off but had no intention of molesting him. On my firing at the haartebeeste he trotted off to a patch of bush lying directly across my path, in which he concealed himself. As I did not wish my porters to make a detour, I told them to follow the path into Taveta, and said that I should watch to see the rhino did not molest them. I hurried on and posted myself near the patch of bush into which the rhino had gone. No sooner had I sat down than there was a snort and out he came with tail erect. He was looking at my caravan and standing some 100 yards from me. In order to divert his attention and perhaps make him move away I put two shots just under his tail, but this made him frantic with excitement and he began to stamp the ground, showing an inclination to move towards my caravan, so I put a bullet in his neck

*Lake Chala*

*I am compelled to  
kill an excited  
rhinoceros*

and toppled him over. I was sorry to have to do it, but I could not risk having my party charged.

*A curious  
corncrake*

After cutting up the rhino I searched for some partridge which had been calling in the grass. I flushed a curious-looking corncrake with barred underparts. I have never heard of such a bird before, and I shall most certainly keep his skin. The corncrake was actually flushed in German East Africa but fell in British East Africa. Which colony claims him?

I reached Taveta at 1 p.m. and lunched with my friend Collyer.

22 . IV . 1906. *Mbuyuni, Serengeti Plains*

*Game*

Today I commenced my return journey to Voi. I saw a fine bull giraffe near the road at Salaita Hill and another small herd of the same animals at Lanjoro watercourse. They were absurdly tame and kept on the path till I was within 80 yards of them. Even then they merely walked off. There was a good deal of game about, including two lots of Waller's gazelle, lesser kudu and *Oryx collotis*.

*Lion kills  
giraffe*

I was fortunate today in seeing a single lion kill a half-grown giraffe. What astonished me was the ease with which he did it and the stupidity of the giraffe. I first saw the lion standing up in full view, his tail slowly twitching; he was intently watching a herd of three adults and one half-grown youngster. He was about 300 yards from the giraffe and they were looking in his direction. The ground was quite flat, without bushes or cover of any sort. Then the lion began to walk towards the giraffe. At 200 yards from them he broke into a trot, the giraffe remaining stationary and watching him. There was no effort to conceal his attack. It seemed to me that the giraffe never appreciated the danger until it was too late. When about 100 yards from the giraffe the lion broke into a canter and the giraffe then lumbered off, the last in the procession being the unfortunate calf. The lion's canter became a rush and he soon overtook the calf and sprang on it, the two tumbling in a heap with the lion firmly fixed on the throat of the calf. He remained thus for about two minutes, then stood up, regaining

eland in a clearing together with a solitary buck Peter's gazelle. The eland gradually fed away from me, leaving the gazelle unapproachable, but he soon solved the problem by lying down. I was then able to creep up to within 100 yards of him and killed him with a bullet behind the shoulder. I then made my way back to camp and out of a thicket bounded a fine lesser kudu, at which I fired when some 60 yards distant. I heard the bullet strike, but he kept on and was soon lost to sight. There was a slight blood trail, which I followed for some distance but soon had to abandon it. This is most annoying, as he was a really fine buck and I thought I was shooting straight.

*Lesser kudu*

Haartebeeste had been giving me a great deal of trouble today in their efforts to spoil my sport and generally disturb the whole countryside. They persistently alarmed game when I was trying to approach unseen, and I was considerably annoyed with haartebeeste in general. A pair of these ungainly and abominable beasts had even so much forgotten themselves as deliberately to dog my footsteps for over an hour. But eventually I managed to throw them off and then stalk them from an unexpected quarter. Coming to within 100 yards of them I dropped them both with a bullet each before they knew what was happening.

*A brace of Coke's  
haartebeeste*

Quite close to camp I found two nests of some small bustard and a nest of some stone plover (*Oedicnemus*). I took all the eggs and enjoyed them for supper this evening, along with ostrich liver and the tongue of the Waller's gazelle.

*Bustard's eggs*

I counted the game I saw from the road between Mbuyuni and Maktau. It amounted to 18 giraffe, 7 rhinoceros, 34 ostrich, 7 gerenuk, 3 lesser kudu, 46 *Oryx collotis*, 18 eland, 68 Coke's haartebeeste, 36 Grant's gazelle, 17 impala, 8 warthog, 9 wild dog and 1 cheetah.

*Game census*

I was most interested to see the tactics of a small herd of oryx when attacked by a pack of 9 wild dog. I first saw the dogs galloping towards the oryx; as they approached they separated and went into the attack from three sides. The oryx closed ranks, faced outwards and kept their heads down. The dogs kept on charging up

*Wild dog and  
oryx*

in bed, very surly and disinclined to accept an apology, so I left a note to each giving them a little advice about keeping fit. After all, I was their guest and they had no right to set upon me.

27 . v . 1906. *Mombasa*

Leaving Nairobi for the last time on the 25th I arrived at Mombasa yesterday, and am stopping with Bowring.

*Leave Nairobi  
and arrive  
Mombasa*

I had a most touching send-off from Nairobi and was quite choked with unspoken thanks. All the K.A.R. officers came to the station, except Unwin and Young-husband, many railway officers and my friend Ainsworth; also Frederick Jackson, who whispered to me, "I shall get into trouble for this." And as the train drew out of the station the K.A.R. band did their best with Auld Lang Syne, under their Goanese bandmaster. This all gave me a terrible lump in the throat, and tears came to my eyes as I left behind me so many good friends.

Having nothing to do today I hired ten stalwart natives and systematically beat out several patches of bush on the island. There was a good deal of stuff there, but the bush was so thick I could never get a shot at it. I saw altogether 3 bush pig and 2 small antelope. I secured one of the small antelope, which proves to be the Grave Island gazelle, originally described from Zanzibar. The pig is the bush pig.

*I organise a  
game drive*

This will be my last shoot in East Africa.

I counted game on the south side of the railway between Nairobi and Stony Athi: 14 eland, 5 giraffe, 2 rhino, 486 zebra, 745 Coke's haartebeeste, 456 wildebeeste, 87 impala, 224 Grant's gazelle, 88 Thomson's gazelle, 7 warthog, 36 ostrich, 7 great bustard.

*Game census*

28 . v . 1906. *At sea off Mombasa*

I embarked today on the Messageries Maritimes ship *Natal* bound for Marseilles. We are full to overflowing with women and children from Madagascar.

*I embark for  
England*

That finished my second tour in East Africa. I fear it is marked by continuous violence and the slaughter of my fellow men and wild animals. Well, that was our life in those early days. It was

## APPENDIX I

### *Some Weights and Measurements of Large Mammals*

Accurate weights of larger mammals have for some time been a matter of discussion and speculation. Menagerie animals are scarcely a fair test, and those sportsmen who weigh only their larger beasts give us an entirely false estimate of the average weight. In the following tables it will be seen that weights and measurements fall below those usually given, the reason being that though all my beasts were believed to be fully adult, they were not selected for size and were just weighed and measured as they came. They represent a fair average animal of each species.

All weights were taken in the field, always within a few minutes of death. The machine used was a steelyard specially made for me by Avery and took a single weight of 800 lb. The yard was rigged with block and tackle on to a portable tripod the apex of which was  $8\frac{1}{2}$  ft. from the ground. The whole apparatus weighed 58 lb., a complete carrier's load.

A few animals weighed over 800 lb. In that case they were cut into portions and weighed piecemeal, blood and offal being collected in a groundsheet and weighed separately.

Weights taken several hours after death in the tropics or after the viscera have been removed are not reliable. Neither can weights taken with a spring balance be relied on. They have a large and often daily range of error. Rust, heat and cold, previous strain, and rough usage all contribute towards inaccurate results.

Measurements were taken in a straight line between pegs. For length a peg was placed at the nose and another at the tip of the tail, the beast was removed and the distance between pegs taken with a steel tape. The shoulder measurement was taken similarly between pegs placed at the withers and the heel of the foreleg.

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Cheetah: *Acinonyx jubatus*

Sex	Locality	Length ft. in.	Shoulder height in.	Weight pounds
♀	Kenya	7 9	33	139
♂	Kenya	7 4	30	136
♂	Kenya	6 7	29	127
♂	Kenya	7 0	32	143
♂	Kenya	6 11	31	129

Serval Cat: *Leptailurus serval*

		in.	in.	pounds
♂	Kenya	41	19	22
♀	Kenya	40	19	24
♀	Kenya	39	19	23
♂	Kenya	43	20	26
♂	Kenya	44	21	—
♀	Kenya	43	20	27

Rhinoceros: *Diceros bicornis*

		ft. in.	in.	pounds
♀	Kenya	11 2	61	2812
♂	Kenya	11 4	63½	2896
♀	Kenya	11 0	62	2274
♂	Kenya	11 6	61	2606
♂	Kenya	11 8½	63	2461
♀	Kenya	10 10	58½	2274
♀	Kenya	10 8	60	2199
♂	Kenya	11 2	62½	2364
♂	Kenya	11 7	59	2617
♂	Kenya	11 1	60	2471
♂	Kenya	11 6	63	2382
♂	Kenya	11 8	65	2512
♀	Kenya	11 8	59	2341
♂	Kenya	11 1	62	2672
♂	Kenya	10 11	61	2691
♂	Kenya	11 1	64	2571

Hippopotamus: *Hippopotamus amphibius*

		ft. in.	in.	pounds
♂	Kenya	13 4	64	5641
♂	Kenya	12 3	61	5461
♂	Kenya	14 6	—	5267
♀	Kenya	12 10	—	4901
♀	Kenya	13 1	58	5174
♂	Kenya	15 4	65½	5872
♀	Kenya	10 11	56	3994

## APPENDIX II

### *Speed of some African Animals*

<i>Species</i>	<i>Locality</i>	<i>Ground speed m.p.h.</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
African elephant	.. Africa	24	Stop-watch over distance of 120 yards. (Lane, 1940. Field, 16 March.)
African rhinoceros	.. Kenya	28.35	By car speedometer (two counts).
	Kenya	32-35	Speedometer. Charging a car.
	Kenya	27.2	Trotting after a man.
Cheetah	.. .. London	44	Chasing an electric hare (three counts).
	Kenya	51	Pressed by car on road over 200 yards.
African wild dog	.. Uganda	38	Chased by car on road.
Giraffe	.. .. Kenya	24-26 18-21	Pressed by car. Cantering at ease.
Coke's haartebeeste	.. Kenya	37-38	Speedometer. Pressed by car.
Blue wildebeeste	.. Kenya	34	Speedometer. Pressed by car.
Black mamba	.. Kenya	7	Going full out.