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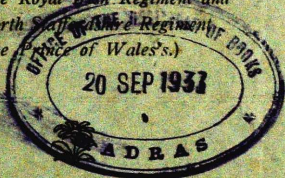
ON

SNIPE SHOOTING IN INDIA AND CEYLON

NEW AND ENLARGED EDITION REPRINTED
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BY

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NOTES ON SNIPE SHOOTING

IN INDIA AND CEYLON

Very little is given in any books that I have read on Snipe Shooting which is a real and practical help to the novice or indifferent shot.

Most of them go on to say, get a good gun, load it properly, walk with the wind in your back, shoot as the snipe rises—this is all very well, the beginner and poor shot would like more help in detail. Let anyone that likes try the above on a cold winter's day with a bad light on an Irish Bog, or a cold weather day in the Punjab, with the snipe getting up 50 yards away and then look at the snipe stick in the evening.

There are four kinds of snipe that the sportsman will meet with in jheels and paddy fields (*i.e.*),

The Common or Fan Tail Snipe weight about 3.3 oz.

The Pintail Snipe weight about 4.02 oz.

The Jack Snipe weight about 2 oz.

The Painted Snipe weight about 4.4 oz. The Common Snipe has from fourteen to sixteen feathers in its tail while the bill is somewhat longer than that of the Pintail—they arrive in this country about three weeks later than the Pintail and leave earlier. As a rule it flies faster and twists more than the Pintail and is on the whole wilder.

The Pintail Snipe has ten feathers in its tail shaping towards a point; and is slightly darker in colour than the Fantail, especially on the outer web of the first primaries which are brownish white, whereas in the Fantail they are white or nearly so.

The Jack Snipe arrives and departs about the same time as the Common Snipe. As a rule they are solitary but often three or four may be flushed from the same place—they lie very close and allow the shooter to nearly walk on them before rising; if missed they don't go far before alighting, don't fire at a Jack too quickly, let it settle in its flight before doing so. The Painted Snipe—a handsome bird prefers moist, ground, with heavy, bulrushes or grass interspersed with bushes, when flushed they fly like an owl and if

missed are particularly hard to flush a second time. They are not good eating.

It is 40 years ago since I shot my first snipe and that was in Ireland. The bird fell to a pin fire gun by Trulock and Harris of Dublin and a black powder cartridge. The above firm is long since defunct. Since that great event I have shot thousands of snipe all over the world, Canada, India, Ceylon, Ireland, Africa at times in first class, good, and indifferent company. It was never my luck to get any place where huge bags were made, 35½ couple of a morning was my best effort.

My object in writing this pamphlet is, if possible, to help good sportsmen but indifferent snipe shots, who go out with a bag of cartridges, which they blaze away for a very poor return.

On the other hand these men make at times a good showing on other game; so if these notes assist in anyway this class of snipe shooter, I will be amply rewarded.

The Gun.—First let us take the gun—the ordinary hammerless 12 bore, fully choked in both barrels most likely, bought, reach me down from some gun dealer—

the buyer takes it off the counter, puts it once or twice to his shoulder, it appears alright, he takes it out next day to a snipe jheel up, gets a snipe at easy range, and bang go both barrels in rapid succession and away goes the snipe, none the worse barring fright, the same thing happens later on and so it goes on, miss after miss a bird here and there going off with a leg down. Result: The man loses confidence in himself and his weapon, his day is thoroughly spoiled, his shikari is disgusted and all are depressed.

Let us take the above in detail.

It is 100 to 1, that his gun does not fit him, it is either too long or too short in the stock, too much bent, too straight or too much cast off, and it is full choke which is a great handicap for a poor shot. Cylinder bored barrels are best for snipe in the hands of a beginner or indifferent performer, but in the hands of a good shot I recommend the choke every time, right barrel modified, left full, and it should fit the owner like a glove.

If a gun is too long in the stock, it makes a man slow in getting on to his bird; in bringing the gun up, the stock

catches in his coat. Result: There is a hurried alignment with, may be the barrels tilted to one side, a hurried shot and a miss.

If a stock is too short there is again difficulty in getting on to the bird and liability to shoot low or under. A long stock can be made to feel short by bringing back the left hand on the fore-end.

A short stock can be lengthened by pushing forward the left hand.

A too bent stock makes one shoot low or under the bird.

A too straight one, makes one shoot high which is a good fault for birds going away and rising.

Cast off, means that the barrels and stock are not in the same straight line. You can test it for yourself. Take the gun by the muzzle holding it at arms length and resting the stock on the ground trigger guard uppermost, you will then see if there is any cast off. If there is too much cast off to the right you will be missing your birds by the right and if cast on to the left, you will miss by the left.

Now having missed your snipe, and had a thoroughly disheartening day, we will go back to the gun-maker from whom you bought the gun.

You will now under the direction of an expert fix your eyes on a mark say 10 yards away, and without taking your eyes off the mark throw up the gun quickly. Now if the gun fits you the little bead on the muzzle should be dead on the mark without the slightest alteration of aim, if the bead is not on the mark it will be either (1) above, (2) below, (3) right, (4) left of the mark aimed at.

Let us see what all this means.

Take (1). Stock too straight. No. (2) stock not straight enough. (3) Too much cast off to the right. (4) Too much cast on to the left.

Further, your eye-sight may want seeing to by an oculist. Again there is what is known in shooting—"A Master Eye"—which means that one eye is stronger than the other, so you must find out if you possess "A Master Eye".—With both eyes open, point your walking Stick (or Gun) at arms length at a mark say 10 yards away. Without moving the

stick close the left eye, if your right eye is the more powerful, your stick will still be pointing at the mark. If not the left eye is doing the work and pulling your aim over to the left or right, this may mean a cross-eyed stock or shooting from the left shoulder, unless one eye is stronger than the others both eyes should be kept open when shooting with the shot gun, if one (say the left eye) is stronger than the right, and the shooter shoots from the right shoulder a patch should be put over the left eye to keep it from drawing the aim over to the left.

Any Gun-expert fitter with a Try Gun and Clay Pigeons at any shooting school, can rectify these errors, and you will be surprised at the improvement in your shooting—

The light 12 bore is best for the average man, the less choke the better for snipe in the hands of a beginner or indifferent performer and an ejector is an advantage, and those who suffer from gun headache damascus in preference to steel barrels. A small piece of rubber held between the teeth, stops vibration and jar and prevents headache. A bottle of beer at tiffin time will wash away the taste of the Rubber.

It has been said that a rubber recoil pad will to some extent prevent gun headache, in the first place I don't think it would do much good, and what's more the stock so fitted is more likely to stick against the shooters clothing when coming quickly into the aim position than it would if fitted with a vulcanite or wood heelplate. It is not altogether the recoil that gives the headache, it's the continual displacement of the air by the charge of shot together with the explosion of the powder charge; for this reason men working big guns in the turret of a battleship wear ear protectors. For those who suffer a cutting down of the charge of shot to 1 oz. has helpful results.

Let the "pull off" be crisp and snappy and not too heavy. Right barrel $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 lbs., left barrel 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$, the trigger pull that you can feel coming back soft like the first pressure of a 303, or Mannlicker Rifle, (often found in cheap guns) before the striker falls, is deadly slow, and will increase your tendency to shoot behind your birds.

You go to your Tailor and take no end of trouble over the fit of your tail coat, but you will not take the trouble to spend

a guinea at a shooting school and get properly fitted to your gun, and get pleasure out of it, instead of feeling like chucking it down the nearest well.

Foot Work.

Now let us talk about footwork in shooting.

The position of the feet have a lot to do with whether a shot is successful or not. With your right foot, two feet down in thick mud, and your left somewhere on solid ground, it is not a comfortable position in which to cut down a snipe going away to the left; and if you do happen to do so, you will most likely sit down in the mud after you have done it—because you are off your balance. A bird crossing from left to right—with your right foot back and left advanced, you will not have your swing to the right checked by the position of your body—reverse the position for a bird going from right to left.

You will say and rightly so, how can one adjust one's feet in a paddy field or the rough and boggy edge of a jheel when shooting snipe, it's not possible, I quite agree, but you can walk slowly and by so

doing, keep a steadier and better balance, than if tearing along—if there is any solid ground where you are shooting like the bunds around paddy fields, walk on them while the coolies walk through the heavy stuff, you will shoot much better with dry and firm ground under your feet than you would if ploughing about up to your knees in a glue pot.

Plant your feet as firmly as possible without looking down and fix your eyes on the ground about 40 yards ahead.

Different kinds of shots.

Let us now discuss the different kinds of shots that may be met with—

1. The bird that rises close to you (say 15 yds.) goes straight away low and rising.
2. The bird that rises 30 yards off, and goes straight away low and rising.
3. The bird that rises straight in front (25 yards off) and goes off at an angle of say 45'.
4. A bird that rises right or left of you and flies across your front.
5. A bird coming straight at you at about the level of your head.

6. A bird coming straight at you high up. (Driven Snipe).
7. A bird that has passed over you high and going away.
8. A bird crossing at 40 yards high up, and well out.

Now take:

No. 1 Bird.—A bird going away is usually rising so shoot over, in this case as the bird rises close, you have more time to get the bead well over its back, so don't blaze away two barrels at once, it will be easier to kill at 25 yards as you charge of shot will have spread by that time—whereas at 15 yards there is a very small killing circle. (I once shot a 13 ft. crocodile, stone dead at 2 yards range with a charge of No. 8 shot between the eyes as the coolies, with a rope pulled his head out of the water)—this was in Ceylon.

No. 2 Bird.—As this bird rises a good way out, you will want to shoot quickly and well over its back. (Note:—The act of rising or lowering your head on the stock gives elevation or depression at the muzzle of the gun).

No. 3.—As this bird is crossing, you obliquely it will be longer in range than the straightaway one, swing well ahead.

No. 4.—This is a purely crossing shot and is well within range for some time. Don't try and blow it to pieces at 10 yards, let it get away a bit, swing well forward and pull as you swing.

No. 5.—This is not a common shot at snipe and one seldom gets it. A great favourite with the Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*). Shoot straight at the bird and a shade high.

No. 6.—Get on to your bird when well in front, swing forward and as the barrels blot the bird out of view, pull the trigger.

No. 7.—Shoot well under the bird.

No. 8.—Get on to the bird swing forward a gun's length and pull the trigger as you swing.

Now we come to the most important things in shooting: (A) **Holding Forward**; (B) **Swinging Forward**.

(A) Some good shots fire at an imaginary point in the sky where they think the charge of shot and the bird will intersect, how far ahead of the bird depends on—

(1) Bird's speed.

(2) Whether travelling with or against the wind.

(3) Distance away.

(B) Swinging Forward.

You get on to your crossing bird and swing the barrels forward at the same time pulling the trigger *without checking the swing*. This latter is most important. If the barrels are stopped or checked before the trigger is pulled the shot charge passes behind the bird; remember that the bird is always moving forward and so must your gun barrels. The barrels must be travelling faster than the bird.

Remember the Golden Rule.—"Swing with the Bird and Pull," and you will have the satisfaction of seeing them. "Shut up" like oysters, the farther out the bird is, the longer must be the swing. The majority of birds are missed low and behind. He who checks his swing is lost.

I have seen a first class performer continue the swing after killing his bird finishing up with the gun barrels pointing upwards nearly as high as his shoulder a "Port Arms" with the barrels lower down. There was no check here, which

there would have been if the barrels were carried on in the same line as the killed bird, owing to the body of firer not being able to pivot round enough.

Practising the Swing.—Put a pair of Snap Caps into your gun, put two marks about 6 feet apart on a wall 30 yards away, practise bringing up the gun on to one of the marks, swinging through the other pulling the trigger as you do so. A Large Mirror is even better, stick two pieces of paper on it some feet apart and stand sufficiently near to enable you to see the movement of the barrels as you swing through the marks. *You must on no account stop or check the swing as you pull the trigger.*

You can get good practice at Clay Pigeons thrown across you.

Slowness and Aiming.—The good shot pulls the trigger as the stock settles into his shoulder, he who aims at snipe and follows them round half a circle will never be a first rate performer. (Never dwell on your aim). Kill your snipe as quickly as you can at sporting distances. If you miss with the first barrel give more swing for the second shot; if you find yourself

shooting too quickly and nervy, carry your gun over the left shoulder, trigger guard uppermost. Then when the bird rises, you simply pull the gun down to a perpendicular position with the left hand, at the same time seizing it at the small of the butt with the right hand, the barrels dropping forward into the palm of the left hand. This will prevent you shooting too quickly at near and easy birds which a nervy man is very liable to do, and does.

Wind.—There are the up, down, and across the wind methods, Snipe as a rule (they do at home) like to rise into the wind, so if you walk them up, with the wind behind you, they on rising will, when getting back into the wind, give you easy crossing shots.

The only objection about walking down wind is, if birds are wild they hear you coming and rise out of shot. If snipe are wild and there is a wind blowing "walk across the wind," by this method a number of birds will cross your front as they fly up wind.

If the birds are rising 50 to 70 yards and more away, one gun should walk about 100

or more yards ahead of the line to one side, by this means birds flushed by the second gun and coolies will present a moderately easy diagonal or crossing shot to the advanced flank gun.

Light.—A good light is an important factor when shooting snipe. Snipe on brown grass on a cloudy day are very difficult to see. One should endeavour to keep the sun in one's back as much as possible.

Best Months.—I consider any time from Xmas on very good, and would put January and February as the best of all months for snipe shooting. March in parts of Ceylon and North India I found good and have shot birds well into April, but with the first hot winds, snipe commence to betake themselves to cooler climes. When snipe are found in big wisps towards the end of the season, it is a sign that they are preparing to migrate. Snipe generally arrive in the country about the end of September or beginning of October.

Places to Look for Snipe.—Some men have a poor idea where to look for snipe. I have seen them tramping through water

meadows with the water over their boot tops; as a snipe is not a duck and does not wish to get drowned, it stands to reason that they will not be in such a place.

Snipe like the edges of tanks with nice juicy places covered with short grass, out of which they can use their wings to rise easily. Thick matted heavy grassy stuff has no attraction for them, but big weedy tufts of grass scattered about with open spaces between are good, the birds like to sit in the shade of the tufts especially when the sun is hot. Both the Pintail and Common or Fantail snipe like cover and damp ground when they exist, but there is this difference between them; if the Pintail cannot get both, they will be found in dry grassy places scrub jungle etc., entirely devoid of moisture, whereas the Common snipe will stick to moist ground even if there is little cover.

When the country is flooded, all grassy islands and dry spots should be tried. Old abandoned paddyfields covered with brown coarse grass over which buffaloes have been, are good places. But the walking is generally awful. I have seen fifty birds flushed in such a place, 50 yards long by 20 yards wide.

At times they will be found in the Green Paddy especially after being driven off their other grounds.

Snipe may also be found resting on thin floating layers of weeds in several feet of water a quarter of a mile or more from dry land, a boat is necessary to get near and flush them.

In the heat of the day snipe go into the edges of the jungle (this is very prevalent in Ceylon), and when beaten out give splendid sport. They will also go into sugarcane and other cover from the hot sun. Sometimes snipes are hard to find; they are all together in some favourite spot. Remember this after walking for hours looking for them without success; you flush a single bird, don't shoot, let it go, but watch carefully where it goes too, it may lead you to the place where all the birds are.

On the Nilgiri and Palni Hills in S. India, the pintail snipe will be found at the bottom of the sholas (or woods) and even in the sholas themselves, when they can be beaten out like woodcock. In these places an occasional Woodsnipe (a bird about the size of a small Woodcock) will be met with.

My advice to the beginner is not to overlook any likely looking places—I remember one evening some eleven years ago about one mile behind the Polo ground at Delhi over the railway line near Wazirapur, there was a leak in the bank of the Jumna Canal, the escaping water flooding to the depth of a few inches about 300 yards of low wheat stubble and grass land, the following afternoon after tea I got here 12 couple of snipe and seven brace of teal and about a week later 9 couple of snipe and three duck. The great thing to remember is to keep one's eyes open for likely places and a horse is a valuable aid to a shikar reconnaissance. The first thing to do on going to a new station is to get a good map and study it carefully. You will get an immense amount of information from it.

Flighting.—In certain places snipe flight in the evening at about 6 p.m. to some favourite jheel or feeding ground, and if one is lucky enough to find such a place it is very pretty sport; the birds generally come in high up and when over the feeding ground drop down like a Koklass Pheasant over a Khud i.e. (like a 'stone) the best time to take the bird is when it

has flattened out preparatory to alighting, or if the light is bad when high against the sky, sit facing the setting sun, the birds showing well against the western horizon as they pass.

General Hints.—When snipe shooting (or any shooting) keep your mouth and that of your Shikari's shut, nothing frightens game more than shouting and talking. When you have shot a bird, don't let the coolie rush in to retrieve it, he will certainly flush other birds before you are ready.

After firing a shot load at once; it is a mistake to commence snipe shooting too early in the morning; let the sun warm their backs a bit, they will then sit better.

It is a mistake to go on shooting when you are tired; a tired man never shoots well.

Don't walk through Green Paddy. If snipe are in it get two coolies and 50 yards of thin rope; this can be drawn across the field and no damage be done and no snipe will sit under it. A gun walks each end of the rope.

Don't wear seven league boots, light canvas ones are best. Shoes are an abomination, I personally never wear stockings, boots only and bare legs, but I recommend putties in case of snakes.

Use Nos. 8 or 9 shot for snipe and stick to the same make of Cartridge and Powder. I have shot for years with Eleys Grand Prix Smokeless Diamond and found them excellent.

When shooting near a village be careful; if you look behind you, you will generally find a lot of little boys well within shot; they are after your empty cartridge cases. These boys should be sent away, otherwise you will certainly pepper some of them when a snipe breaks back. This will lead to a lot of trouble, the charge for peppering a man runs from one Anna to Rupee one per pellet and as there are 580 pellets to the oz. in a charge of No. 9 shot you can easily work out the cost for yourself.

If your companion is a wild and dangerous shot, the best thing you can do is to send him one side of the wheel or tank while you take the other. And the next time leave him at home, which is much the best place for him.

If you have several coolies beating for you, make them keep up in line (which is not easy) one or two will probably fall right back out of line and get peppered as a bird breaks back.

A steady spaniel dog is very useful for finding birds that are down in thick rushes etc. but he soon gets tired.

When shooting badly, a rest and a smoke sometimes work wonders and the throwing up of an empty gun at rising birds.

Another good tip is to carry a few Eley Rocket cartridges in one's pocket, use them on the next bird that rises and you will at once see where the error is; *i.e.* shooting behind, under or over etc., or again if the opportunity occurs fire at birds flying low over water—the place where the shot charge strikes will be at once seen.

Work all ground carefully and do not run over it, you will at times find snipe where you least expect them.

Never give your Shikari or coolie a loaded gun to carry; if you do he is bound to carry it over his shoulder with the

barrels pointing straight into your back, or if not, they will point the other way into the faces and chests of the coolies following in rear. He is bound to bag something one day, it is only a matter of time, and a charge of shot at six feet range, remember (the mugger), (crocodile) makes a deadly wound.

On first arrival at a new station and as soon as it gets known that you are keen on sport and just out from home for the first time, half the so-called Shikaries from the Bazaar will turn up with bundles of chits testifying what magnificent fellows they are—and are only too willing to take you out and show you splendid sport, and if you are foolish enough to go, you will walk miles and miles for nothing. If you engage a Shikari make it clear to him that he will be paid by results and results only—so long as he shows you the stuff he has done his share, and if you don't fill the bag, that's not his fault; he should be paid. When stationed at Delhi some years ago three of us with the aid of a tonga and a map, without any Shikari killed during the cold weather of 1920-21 over 1000 head of game shooting two days a week. We

gave all main motor roads a wide berth, near them every place was shot out.

When resting under the shade of some tree whilst you have your tiffin, don't leave your gun resting against the trunk; it will probably get knocked down and get the barrels dented; put it in the fork of some bush or failing this, flat on the ground, where it can be seen, and make sure it is unloaded.

If you happen to fall down when shooting in a paddy field or tank (as you are bound to sooner or later), before going on open your gun and look through the barrels and see that there is no obstruction such as a lump of mud &c., if you happen to fire off your gun with a chunk of mud in the muzzle, you will require a new pair of barrels, and may be repairs to your left hand.

A khud stick or long pole about 6 feet long is very useful, when moving from one snipe ground to another, and when walking along the tops of narrow slippery bunds, and crossing deep irrigation channels, or to stick into the ground with a handkerchief tied on the top to mark the position of a dead or wounded bird.

Rubber Soled Boots are dangerous on wet and slippery ground.

To kill winged and wounded birds. Don't knock their heads off on the heel of your boot or gun stock; crush the skull between the finger and thumb just behind the eyes, this damages the brain and death follows immediately—a winged snipe is capable of running a considerable distance when dropped on dry land.

Clothing—

Khaki cotton drill shirts when soaked with sweat are clammy and cold and liable to give the wearer a chill—thin flannel ones are the best.

A coat made without sleeves with plenty of room under the arms and across the shoulders—with big side pockets capable of taking 25 or more cartridges is preferable to one with long sleeves. There is nothing better than loose Khaki Shorts with rope soled boots and putties, with a Pig Sticker Topee on top of the lot. Putties no matter how well put on, have a habit of slipping down the wearer's leg when soaked with water and caked in mud; to prevent this, if an old long stocking is pulled over the puttie and secured by

a strap under the knee it will hold the puttie up and prevent slipping. When hot and thirsty don't drink from village wells, or sparkling streams of water flowing down from the hills, there is possibly a village near their source and so they are bound to be contaminated. The less liquid one drinks while actually shooting the better. Later when you are resting under the grateful shade of the Tamarind or Banyan tree you can make up for lost time.

Learn the language of the country as soon as possible, it is a tremendous help to shikar.

Keep your Tiffin Coolie near you, and don't send him off to meet you at some ambiguous place on the far horizon. You may not see him again during that day.

See that all your birds are dead before they are put on the snipe stick and make sure that the coolie in charge of it puts the "stop" down each time he puts a bird on otherwise you will lose half of them.

For the young soldier or civilian who is fond of sport will find that India even yet is hard to beat in this line, and

what's more, it can be obtained at moderate cost.

In conclusion, I trust these notes may be of some use to the man, though a poor performer is fond of the most fascinating of all sports with the gun (*i.e.*) snipe shooting, and if he benefits even in a small degree, I will have had my reward.

In order that any reader who may be good enough to read these notes, I give a few extracts from my Game Book, so that he will not altogether imagine that I am talking about a subject I know nothing about.

As I have already mentioned, I have been shooting snipe on for 40 years, I never until the 1927-28 season counted my Cartridges—I did that season out of curiosity and found that I killed 847 snipe with 1,623 Cartridges. My best break was 16 birds, then a wretched jack got up and beat me both barrels.

In Ireland as a youth I killed during the 1894, 1895 seasons 537 snipe but never succeeded in killing more than six birds running without a miss, whereas several professional snipe shots with whom I used

to shoot would kill twelve or more birds without a miss, then for some reason or another miss several easy ones.

In latter years shooting in India I see by my Game Book that I did as follows, shooting from about 9 A.M., to 12 noon.

5th December 1927—11 birds to 12 Cartridges.

18th March 1928—60 birds to 112 Cartridges.

1st April 1928 (in Ceylon) 51 birds to 88 Cartridges.

2nd October 1931—50 birds to 82 Cartridges.

15th February 1932—73 birds to 140 Cartridges partly in jungle, partly out.

9th March 1932—18 birds to 26 Cartridges mostly in jungle.

I kept a most careful record, and did not pick my shots, took the birds as they came.

Then again another day birds were sitting like stones do what I could, I could

not hit them. Truth of the matter, I was aiming and slow, timing was wrong, the brain, eye, and hand did not act together.

One of the best snipe shots I ever knew shot with an old hammer gun that he picked up for a few pounds, but then there are some men who could shoot and shoot well with a length of gas pipe.

**NOTES ON SNIPE SHOOTING
IN INDIA AND CEYLON
SECOND & ENLARGED EDITION**

BY

LIEUT. COLONEL F. O. BOWEN, D.S.O.

SOME PRESS OPINIONS—(*July 31 Edition.*)

Game & Gun & Anglers Monthly:—

This is really a most excellent little pamphlet which gives an extraordinary amount of sound and practical advice. The author covers a surprising amount of ground and deals with almost every conceivable aspect of snipe shooting in India and Ceylon.

The Field:—

This is a useful little pamphlet which may be recommended to subaltern officers and others wishing for advice of an experienced shot.

Country Life:—

The author counsels No. 8 and No. 9 shot. This is possibly the best recipes for the ingenuous Eastern snipe. There is wisdom, too, in his advice to let a single snipe indicate where the bulk of the birds are lying when the country seems bare.....

The Englishman:—

Colonel Bowen has had forty years' experience of snipe shooting in Ireland and the East and his remarkable little pamphlet will therefore be of real and practical help.

The Madras Mail:—

A book on snipe shooting which will be a real and practical help.

Times of Ceylon:—

Much of the advice is very good.

The Hindu:—

The indifferent shot and the novice are given valuable tips in this book.

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PRICE LIST ON APPLICATION.

WALKING ACROSS the WIND in order to get crossing shots at wild snipe as they fly across the shooter into the wind.

1
45 yds. B →
Bird turning to face wind

2
40 yds. B →

3
35 yds. B →

4
30 yds. B →

B → The Birds rising and turning to fly into the wind

⊙
A
SHOOTER
↑ Direction of Advance

Direction of wind

Direction of wind

Direction of wind

Note.—If walking against the wind, any of these 4 birds would present a difficult shot if going straight away. Nos. 1 & 2 would be out of range—but across the wind, as the bird turns to face it and flies across the shooter, they are often within range.

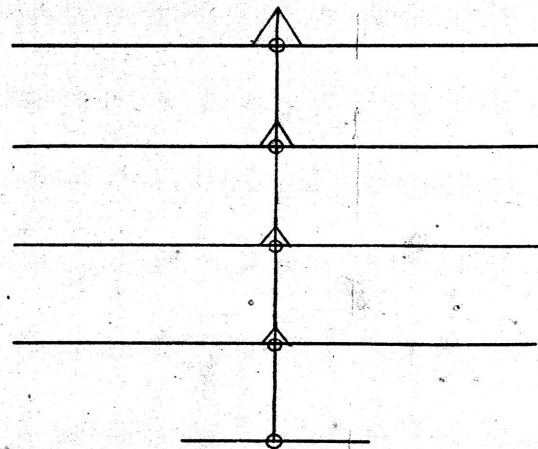
DIRECTION OF
WIND
↓

SHOOTING UP WIND (i.e.)
WIND IN SHOOTER'S FACE

Not to Scale

DIRECTION OF
WIND
↓

SHOOT HERE →



A
SHOOTER

A SHOOTER

⊙ BIRD

SHOOT at the apex



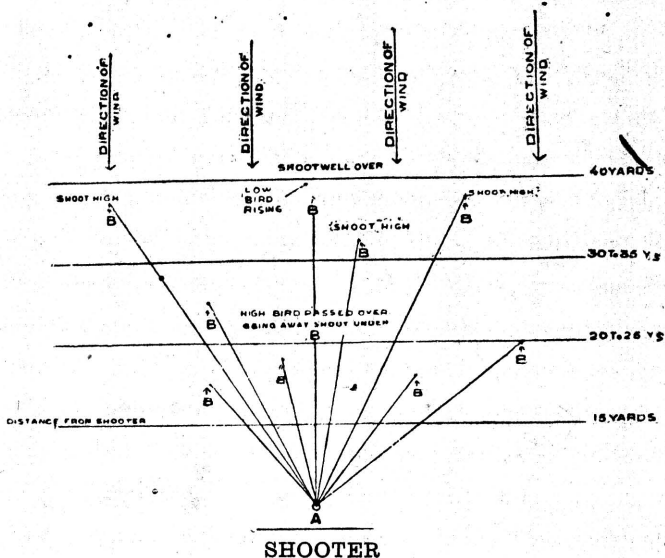
40 YARDS

30 YARDS

20 YARDS

15 YARDS

STRAIGHT AWAY AND RISING SHOTS



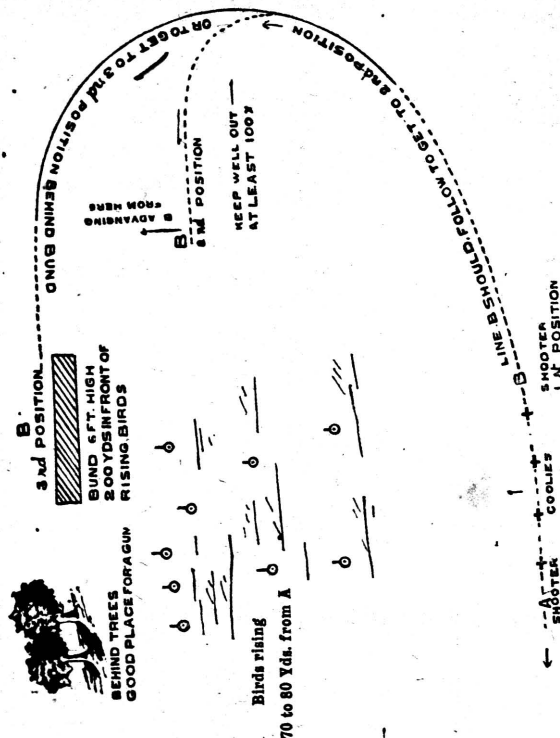
A. THE SHOOTER

↑
B

PLACE WHERE BIRD IS FLUSHED — DIRECTION OF

+ WHERE MUZZLE OF GUN SHOULD BE FLIGHT

AS TRIGGER IS PULLED



IF only one gun shooting alone. Hunters should be stopped while gun gets into position behind Trees or Bund—then coolies drive the birds over.

A. B. THE SHOOTERS.

○ BIRDS RISING.

+ COOLIES, ADVANCING.

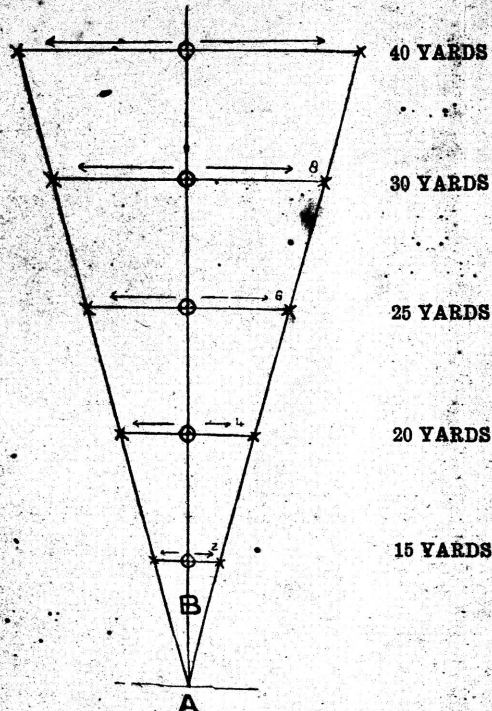
TWO GUNS SHOOTING WILD SNIPE

NOTE

WHEN BIRDS ARE GETTING UP 70 and 80 Yards away. A should halt, while B moves out well clear of the flank (as per dotted line) to 2nd Position—then all should go forward—B keeping his distance in front. IN some cases B may have to go forward and hide behind a BUND or Tree and let A drive the birds over B in 3rd Position. Position can be reversed. A going out. Remember, Move out on the side with most cover from view of birds. If COOLIES are sufficiently trained A could move out to his left & get behind trees while B gets behind BUND. THEN whistle COOLIES to advance. No shouting. BIRDS are then driven over.

When waiting for driven Birds behind cover never show yourself until the Bird is within range otherwise they will swerve and pass out of range.

About 10 Ft. C About 10 Ft.



FROM SHOOTER

NOT TO SCALE

A. Shooter

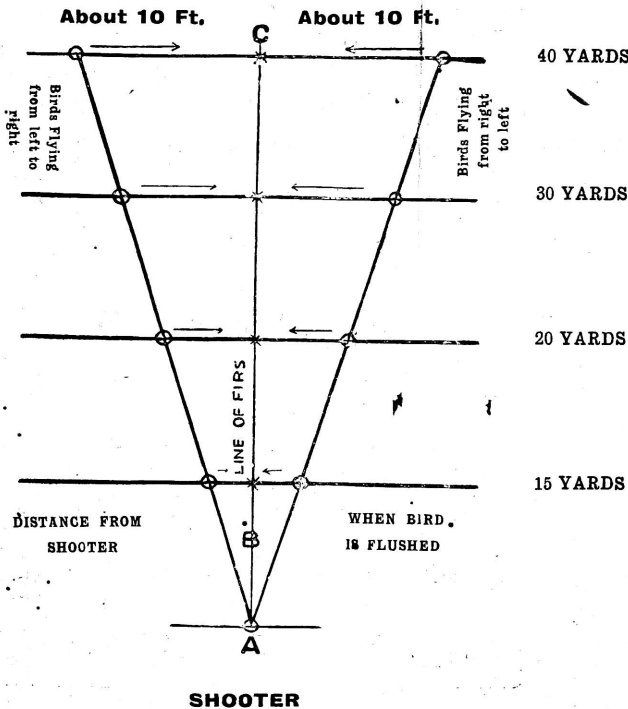
B-C. Line on which birds rise.

+ Place where muzzle of gun should be as trigger is pulled.

→ Direction of birds' flight.

○ Place where bird rises.

Demonstrating Forward ALLOWANCE for birds that rise on the line B-C and fly right or left of Shooter—(note) further out the bird, greater must be the forward allowance—say 10 feet at 40 yards, as a rough rule.



NOTES

A. Shooter.

B. C. Line of Fire

→ Place where bird is flushed direction of flight

+ Place where muzzle of gun should be as trigger is pulled

**CROSSING SHOTS—SHOWING FORWARD ALLOWANCE
BIRDS RISING TO RIGHT OR LEFT OF SHOOTER
AND FLYING INWARDS**

APPROXIMATE GUIDE ALLOW 10 feet IN FRONT AT 40 YARDS

NOT TO SCALE