

SNIPE SHOOTING AT MANDALAY.

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WHILE stationed at Mandalay in 1905 I had the opportunity of getting some very fair snipe shooting, and a few notes may be of interest to my brother officers, and of some assistance to those who may be stationed there in future, as the local sportsmen keep their pet places very dark, and one has to find the places for one's self.

Snipe begin to appear round Mandalay about the end of September, but they are not really properly in till the middle of November. From this time till about the end of February fair bags of from twenty to fifty couple can be made within half an hours' drive of barracks.

I have found the following the best shooting kit (with, of course, a great coat and a rug for the drive there and back): A large and thick pith-topee, which can be bought at Port Said for a few shillings; Norfolk jacket made of "shikar" cloth, which can be obtained locally, and the pockets should be lined with waterproof cloth, as the dew on the long grass will wet the cartridges in the early morning; thin flannel shirt or vest, short sleeves preferred; loose cotton trousers reaching to the bulge of the calf and hanging over the tops of the gaiters (can be got locally for about 1 rupee 8 annas), fastened with a belt; light shooting boots with nails, and ordinary leather gaiters put on the bare legs.

For shooting through the heat of the day a spine-pad should be worn. I have found the best is a piece of cork matting, 24 inches by 8 inches (made of chopped cork); tie a bootlace to the upper corners, bring down in front and, after tying together, loop over belt buckle; the lower end should not be fastened to the waist, as it is far cooler so, and a great improvement on the spine-pads of cotton sewn or fastened on to the coat. The coat, of course, can be left off during the heat of the day, but this means that a small pouch to hold twenty to thirty cartridges must be worn. The "boys" should each have 100 to 150 in a bag, and the pouch or pocket can be constantly replenished. As regards cartridges, I prefer No. 9 shot, 1 ounce, with either Schultz E.C., or Diamond smokeless powder. They can be obtained (carriage paid on 1,000 and upwards) from Orr and Sons, of Rangoon, at 9 rupees 8 annas per 100, and, of course, cheaper from home. I would recommend any one coming out to bring at least 3,000, which he can easily dispose of if he cannot use them himself; they will keep, with care, for eighteen months.

One can shoot for the whole or for half a day, and I much prefer the latter, starting at, say, 10.30, and shooting from 11 to 3.30, and then back to a bath, afternoon tea and tennis, or a row on the moat before dinner. An ordinary shot will be generally able to pick up from twenty to thirty couple in this time, with a few quail or golden plover, and perhaps a duck or teal. This I call a pleasant day; but the "whole day shoot" requires a lot of hard labour, and tells heavily on those of us who have attained "exalted rank" and perhaps a wee bit of a "corporation." As regards drink, cold tea without milk and sugar suits me best. Each gun should have two beaters, one on either side, who carry 100 cartridges or so to begin with, and a snipe stick which should hold at least twenty couple. The beaters expect 8 annas each, and I generally used to pay more for bags over fifty couple, as it is an inducement to them to mark the birds carefully when they fall. The best bag for two guns I had was 123 couple, but I shot disgracefully that day, my partner killing seventy-four couple to my forty-nine. I shall be very glad to send a list of the half and whole day shoots round Mandalay to any of my brother officers stationed there.

Echoes from the Past.

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"Captain in the Queen's Royal Regiment of Foot, 1768."

[Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Aldridge, R.A.M.C., sends the following extracts from an old book with the above title in his possession. It will be noticed that in places the orthography and punctuation are quaint, but these, Colonel Aldridge informs us, are in the original, and are not mistakes in copying.—Ed.]

*Regulations and Orders, very proper to be given by the Colonel of a
Regiment of Foot, to be strictly observed by Officers, Non-com-
missioned Officers, and private Men, as Standing Orders.*

A CAPTAIN of a company to have a watchful eye over the behaviour of his private men; that when a knot falls he may be able to recommend the deserving for it.