

range, I was never able to see this hyena again, nor saw his eyes, until he began to re-appear returning to the kill; so I could not tell exactly where he had been, for the eyes of both panthers remained stationary during each of these scoutings except the last one, when the eyes of the first panther moved lower to the ground and then disappeared.

Finally, both hyenas were closely about the kill, moving to and fro with nervous uncertainty under the brilliant shaft of light but obviously preparing to get busy with it, and in the background were the steady gleams from the eyes of both panthers. Standing up I expended all my stones and scared off the smaller hyena (? female). In desperation I hissed and 'shoo-ed' at the other; but only when I resorted to slapping my hand upon the wall loudly did he go away. Almost immediately after, and while the light was still on, the first panther began to approach. It came into the glare of the torch at a fast walk, to one side of the kill till abreast of it; then it turned towards it—giving a couple of glances directly into the light, with screwed up and blinking eyelids—and, when about 4 yards from the kill, was confronted by the larger hyena. The latter seemed to have materialised there suddenly, about the same short distance away—the two animals face to face. The panther hesitated, stopped, and turning away (towards the light) began retracing its steps at a slower pace. I retain no visual impression of any change in its demeanour or carriage at that moment, except perhaps that the high-held, alert head was slightly lowered—until it paused to look into the light again. It did not look back at the hyena.

About 1-30 a.m. the eyes of the other panther appeared, but now nearer. Unfortunately the heavy recoil of the rifle had disarranged the seating of the torch as well as the delicate contact mechanism, so that I had to reach forward with my right hand and hold the contact 'off'. When switched on again this panther had gone—for good. I feel that the behaviour of the hyenas and panthers in this affair was unusual—as extraordinary as that of the 'gun' was too.

IONA VILLA,

K. BOSWELL,

KHANDALA.

Captain, I.A.M.C.

12th August 1947.

2.—THE SENSE OF SMELL IN TIGERS

Mr. R. C. Morris's comments on the note by Mr. T. E. H. Smith, in the April 1947 number of the *Journal* are of interest and his theory that the tiger has a hound sense of smell is borne out by the following incident.

In January 1936, I was camping in the foot-hills near here, and had three young buffaloes tied up as bait for tiger. One morning news was brought to camp that one of the buffaloes had been killed and was lying where it had been tied up at a junction of two forest rides.

I went out to the place, only to find that the tiger had in the meantime returned, broken the rope and dragged the carcass into

the jungle. I had not brought a gun, as my intention had been merely to build a machan then, and to go back to camp for my gun at lunch-time. I started to follow up the drag, but the jungle soon became very dense, and as it seemed rather a risky procedure, I decided to return to camp for my rifle. By the time I had got it, and eventually located the remains of the kill, it was getting quite late.

The carcase of the buffalo, minus one hind leg, was lying in a rocky nullah in a most unsatisfactory situation. The only possible place for sitting up was in a little clump of bamboos some ten yards away. I hastily built a small machan in this, about six feet from the ground, and sent my men away, talking loudly as they went.

I started sitting up at 2 p.m., as it gets dark fairly early there during the winter, and the spot was a long way from any habitation. The shikaris had only been gone about 15 minutes, when a barking-deer gave a bleat of alarm from further up the ravine.

At 3-15 I happened to take a look out of the peep-hole in the front of the machan, and saw the tiger already there. He was about ten yards beyond the kill and was slowly approaching it down the nullah, and appeared to be sniffing the ground or examining it with his head down in a very short-sighted manner.

Unfortunately, this being the first tiger I had ever seen in a wild state, I was keener on bagging him than on observing his habits, and I did not watch him for long. But one would hardly expect a tiger to be myopic, and I am convinced he was in fact smelling the ground after the fashion of a dog. He was a young male of 8' 9", in excellent condition, and there was nothing apparently wrong with his eye-sight.

It would seem that he had probably heard my men leaving the neighbourhood of his kill an hour before, and that he was trying to verify by sense of smell what he had previously heard.

Whether my shikaris had put any clothes or blankets on the ground while building the machan, I cannot now remember, but it is unlikely, as this was during the cold weather and they would probably not have discarded any of their clothing. The spot where the tiger appeared to be smelling the ground was on the far side of the kill from the machan and I do not think any of my men had been there.

The tiger did not seem to have winded me in the machan at all, though I was only twenty yards or so away and not very high up.

SINGELL, T. E.,

C. J. T. WRENICKE

KURSEONG, N. BENGAL.

14th September 1947.

3.—'DEATH CRY' OF TIGER

The 'death cry' of a tiger, mentioned by Lieut.-Col. Burton, in the Journal of April 1947, must be of great interest to all who have hunted this animal and will doubtless surprise many; for I wonder how many have heard it, or even read about it in the better known



Wrenicke, C. J. T. 1947. "The Sense of Smell in Tigers." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 47, 367–368.

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