

Trip No 1

1870

Wednesday 21st Dec.

Party. Wm Cooper, J J Kelly, R H Gore-Booth and J E Waller started from Shanghai at 11 pm all somewhat the worse for liquor.

Thursday 22nd Dec

Fine weather, amused ourselves stowing away the liquor. Gore-Booth and Cooper have not yet been sighted - Pulled up at 10 am to wait for them, they turned up at 11-20 saying that they could not get through the Stone bridge for some time after us. Met Robinson and Schutze on their way up, also Hearn and Morison. Reached Quinsan at 7-30 pm.

Bag. 1 Snipe 1 Quail

Arrived at Soochow at midnight.

Friday 23rd Dec

See jei quan at 7-30 am. Went ashore about 9-30, gave instructions for the boat to go on and wait at 11 o'clock for Cooper and Gore-Booth who, as usual, were far behind. Saw about a dozen birds all very into a strong Northerly wind blowing, making them go like blazes. When roused however we succeeded in bagging a brace of hens - Fell in with a quantity of rowdies. The Hon Rowelt which we at first took for Mr Barker: Then came across Wheelock, Lucas, Hammond, Thompson and Renshaw - our gay and festive curses put in an appearance about noon having smelt the chow from afar, a strong kind wind wafting the savoury odour towards them - They explained their tardiness in arriving from the difficulty they found getting through Soochow when they had a pitched battle with a Gunboat, which ended in their setting sail and leaving the lot in the lurch - took all the dogs ashore in the afternoon and walked along the towing path towards Woosie - Mr Jack amusing himself by chasing quail and scouring all over the country as usual - 5-30 pm dreadful news, Jack not to be found, William in great state of mind; all the coolies to be dispatched in search of the missing pup.

Our beer cask which Mr Barker sent us began to leak as soon as it was turned in the bilge to put the tap in - now what was to be done? All suggest some thing - Chuseim (?) the head all round. Happy thought No1, no chuseim (?) on board - bore a hole at the end where it does not leak - yes - very good - but where is the thing to make the hole? Happy thought No2 - Try the tin opener - this failed being too small - Gory suggested making a hole with a red hot poker - Must have a poker where there is a fire surely - Boy answers no got. Happy thought No3 - Make the bolt that fastens the foot of the mast red hot and burn a hole through - all right in she goes - This succeeded well, but William and Gory took care to keep out of the way in case the cask would bust - Anyway we engineered this one part and put the cask in running order - 6-30 pm hailed by two unfortunate Portuguese who had lost their boat, and had been walking since the morning; one confiding gentleman had given his gun to his coolie to carry and this furtive native had not turned up - We asked them on board and gave them a feed and lent them \$2. One saís he was employed in Gill & Co and the other in H Wise & Co - after having filled their skins and with the most grateful apologies for having given so much trouble they turned out to seek their lost boat, poor devils I wish them luck. 7-40 pm arrived at Woosie. All right the Goosers' boat had turned up and gone back after them.

Saturday 24th Dec

11 am No sign of the dilatory ones as yet. Kelly complaining of headache. I went on shore to stretch my legs, saw a few birds but did not get any - we halted here (Peh-Ka-jou) to allow the other boat to catch us. Kelly still in bed complains of fever.

Gave the boy 194 Cash to buy eggs for which he procured 25 - Cooper and Gore-Booth appear just after 12 saying that their Loudah anchored for the night as soon as they had fallen asleep, and if it had not been for Gory hearing the cats a'courting they would have remained away much longer. Met Boucouris and Ashley just before reaching Peh-ca-jou - on their return from a blank day with Pig - They walked from 8 in the morning till 4 in the afternoon without getting a shot but saw signs of them everywhere.

The natives informed us that there were many pigs close at hand and although they did not succeed in pointing out any today they felt confident for the morrow. Nous verrons!!!

Made up our minds to stop here and try our luck.

Sunday 25th Dec

Xmas Day. After a great deal of bother we managed to obtain the loan of Cooper's tea pot, and some bacon, toast and tea about 7-30 am - The beaters that Boucouris had came to us at half past nine and we all started at ten to find the porkers. As far as I can calculate we had to walk about two miles before we reached the foot of the hills, when we began our ascent, the beaters remaining below - I went with Kelly - Gore-Booth and Cooper going together a little further from us. I spied a deer just going over the brow of the hill but a long way out of range. After a long trudge we were all stationed at the top of the hill about 600 yards apart, waiting the result of beating the valley - this proved a blank, so we moved on to the next hill, the beaters going round the foot until they came to the ravine place, they again began to beat up - this also seemed likely to prove a blank - Kelly and I moved further on, when we heard a deal of shouting, I remarked that there must be something under way. I had no sooner spoken than we heard a shot fired and again two almost simultaneously, these turned out to be first from Cooper and the second two from Gore-Booth, of course we were on the qui vive - I took my stand a little lower down the hill and Kelly ran over the other side, however he soon returned and had scarce got settled when round came a big boar, Kelly let fly and hit the beast hard, I was about to have a shot when Kelly shouted at me and I saw a pig come straight towards me, I let go, he stopping and doubled back, I shot again at him and thought that he was mine, and in my eagerness to get at my prize I tumbled head over heels, when I recovered myself Kelly called out that the brute had gone down on the other side of the hill. Kelly and I with some of the beaters; one of whom said he saw the pig go into the long grass, went after him and on looking about came across his blood, this we traced for a long way - we again heard shouts from a woodcutter in the opposite hill and on looking up saw a pig coming at a rate of knots towards us, we ran a little further to the left and had a regular battue at him, some of the shots must have told as he went reeling over the hill - alas however after a long search we were disappointed. We now had a consultation and some whiskey, and found that we had expended our ammunition, so resolved to return - it was about time as by Kelly's watch it was 2-30 pm and by mine 11 am. I at once concluded mine had stopped; we both remarked that the time had passed very quickly, in consequence of the excitement no doubt. (I proved right at last Kelly's watch had stopped, not mine). We hailed Gore-Booth and told him we were bound back to the boat, the only reply we got was "Kihno" - On our way home looking after a stray duck or pheasant we came across blood again and a villager told us he had seen a pig go by some time before; this must have been at least 2 miles from where we were, we traced the blood for some distance but of course of no avail. After pottering about Cooper turned up as surly as he could be and made some remarks about

moving on and not remaining in our place, all we know is that, the spot we went to we had the finest sport I had ever seen, and I have been on this pig business before - I suppose he will compose himself after dinner - we made a lot of bullets this afternoon and hope for a good day's sport tomorrow but think that the luck of today was too good to be repeated. Gore-Booth went out in the afternoon and managed to bag a duck.

Expenditure

Shrimps (very good) 190 Cash. Fish 80 Cash, Tea Pot 130 Cash, Game Pot 200 Cash

Flour 1 Catty 34 Cash, Salt 1 Catty 40 Cash

Total 674 Cash

The beaters are to receive \$2 for every 5 men per day

Monday 26th December

We all started at 10 o'clock again for the hills and took the opposite range to those we went over yesterday - beat the whole lot with 20 beaters until 2 pm - only halting at noon to take a sandwich and some whiskey, Gore-Booth had a shot at one pig but without success. We saw several deer but could not get within range of them. I was so tired that I gave up and went back to the boat, the others still trudged on - Kelly and Cooper eventually came across one and both fired at the same time and bagged him much to their delight. They returned to the boat at 5 o'clock very tired but satisfied with their day's sport - having seen several pig. The boats moved on to See-yan-juo at 5-30 pm.

Paid off the beaters at the rate of \$1.50 for 5 men in all \$6 and gave them a cumshaw of \$2 on account of having bagged the pig although they had nothing to do with it as Cooper and Kelly spied him in the ravine higher up a long way before them.

Tuesday 27th December

Arrived at Pin-ta-hu at 8-30 am Cooper and Gore-Booth as usual nowhere near. Went on shore and saw a few birds but they were difficult to get at. They were in hundreds in the reeds on the side of the lake, but there was no getting at them for the water.

Cooper and Gore-Booth turned up at 11 am - Kelly and I returned to the boat having shot very briefly with only 3 brace, went on shore again for one hour and bagged 2 brace returning at noon for Chin chow - Cooper came back in time for tiffin but Gore-Booth was not to be seen so had grub without him. Went again on shore at 2 o'clock but could not get anything - saw quantities of birds but they were so wild that there was no getting near them.

Wednesday 28th December

Half way between Chun-za and Pin-ta-hu. Started out half past eight, saw 5 deer bagged one. The cover about here is very good but there is a great paucity of birds and those we did see were very wild. Moved on about 10 li at noon and found more birds - the shooting however was bad all round.

Bag Kelly 2 Pheasants 1 Mallard 1 Teal

Bag Waller 7 Pheasants 2 Mallards 1 Deer

Thursday 29th December

Found ourselves at Chun-za this morning and all went out with our guns, the sport was far from good, the shooting worse.

Bag 26 Pheasants 13 Ducks 4 teal

Friday 30th December

Arrived at Wong-ling-jou during the night and stopped. Went out shooting in the morning, had very good sport saw 5 deer bagged one - Cooper his gun in some unaccountable way. Fell in with Rothwells boat also the Hon. Powell - This is without exception the best place we have been to yet, any quantity of Duck and the Pheasants in thousands !!!

Saturday 31st December

Moved on about 3 li and shot over much the same ground, saw any quantity of deer, duck in abundance and pheasants by the thousand - Gore-Booth made a very good bag but lost 6 brace of birds for the want of a Retriever - Kelly and I shot very badly.

1871

Sunday 1st January

We are still about the same spot, the shooting is very good and the bag fast increasing - 64 head today all at Ne-Tsung, saw several deer but failed to bag them.

Monday 2nd January

Went back over the same ground and pulled up at Wong-ling-jou. Had good sport in the morning; in the afternoon moved further back, the pheasants becoming few and far between.

Total Bag today 45 Head.

Tuesday 3rd January

Started on our way home, shot over the ground at Lee-tsong-jou and saw a great many birds. The boats continued along the creek - we shooting along the banks - reached Tonsi-jou at 1-20 pm. Still continuing our way home, bagged a few more birds: arrived at Chang-za at 6-30 pm. We are now bound home and shall not shoot any more unless we come across a bird or two as we walk along the banks to stretch our legs.

Wednesday 4th January

Tracking. Strong headwind all the time, made Woosie at noon, reached Wong-ting at 5-30

Thursday 5th January

Passed Soochow about 1/2 past 1 am - Wind dead ahead and raining hard; the rain began about 5 am. Arrived at Quinian at 10-30 am having to track all the way. Met Hughes and Craig on their way up at 3 pm. Went on board and heard the news British Consulate burnt down!!! Lucas shot in the eye by Gavin Thompson.

Friday 6th January

Arrived at Jessfield at 7 am.

Total Game Bagged

	Pheasant	Duck	Teal	Snipe	Quail	Deer	Pig	Total
Gore-Booth	97	21	2	2	0	0	0	122
Waller	91	11	5	0	2	2	0	111
Cooper	51	12	6	0	0	0	1/2	69 1/2
Kelly	33	2	4	0	0	1	1/2	40 1/2
Total	272	46	17	2	2	3	1	343