

Trip No. 6

Party: H Overbeck and J E Waller

1874

Saturday 19th December

Got on board the Yah Chu at Trifancha at 5pm. Wind south weather hot and muggy.

Sunday 20th December

Strong wind from the NW we are making a poor show so far.

Monday 21st December

Awful slow.

Tuesday 22nd December

Reached Wong ling at 8:45am. Wind fair, the first time we have had a chance to hoist sail this trip, and a disastrous sail it was, coming up the canal with the wind aft the man in charge forgot to haul in the sheets when passing an old lake wood boat lying at anchor, consequently they caught the end of the mast that was laying on the top of the boat and upset the whole caboosal. After a deal of expletives and the usual row the damages were laid at \$2 which were paid; but the old cuss belonging to the wreck wanted to have our chopper which was not allowed by his mates, who turned him over and took the stolen property from him, returning it to us with many apologies. Entered the Sinza creek at 1pm. Went on shore about 3 saw a few birds. Passed Chang Zu at 7pm where they were having theatricals in the open air, not knowing the language could not make out what particular play was on the boards so we laughed and went on.

Wednesday 23rd December

At Kintang shot on the right bank with the idea of making a bag of deer, saw but few and only got six.

Thursday 24th December

Blowing and raining hard weather generally bad. Shot in The See Lee Jia creek on the left facing N. Snow two inches deep in the morning.

Friday 25th December

Xmas Day. Fine, calm, and nothing but the snow to make things agreeable, found the birds all round the village copses and sides of creeks, in some instances as many as 20 to 30 getting up at one time, shot as usual very badly. Walking through the grass covered with snow was very tiring we came back to the boat wet through up to our hips.

Saturday 26th December

In the morning we were about the same spot as on the 30th November and had very good sport. Overbeck was much taken by a female who was the beau ideal of health and beauty fresh coloured blooming cheeks (no paint) with a row of ivories fit for a princess. We moved on about 6 miles and came to the same spot that we struck last trip. A long creek with high banks on either side and a most secure retreat for the birds as there is no getting at them for creeks. We have named this place the "Pheasants Safeguard". Shot two remarkably fine deer, one that Overbeck shot weighed 54lbs and mine 60lbs!!! both of them bucks.

Sunday 27th December

We moved on last night and got within two or three miles of the hills, I shot over the right bank having rare good sport, quite nice gentlemanly shooting, small patches of bamboo every 20 to 30 yards out of which one or two cocks get. Nothing could be more delightful than the weather, bar the wind which was very high in the morning, and made the shooting somewhat difficult, towards noon it moderated then the sport was at its full.

Monday 28th December

At Mao san village at the end of the See lee jou creek. In the morning the creek was completely frozen over but during the day the sun came out nice and warm no wind, the air splendidly clear and everything conducive to good sport. I was lucky and enjoyed myself to my heart's content nothing went wrong this whole day. Overbeck however was pestered with villagers who would not leave him alone so he returned disgusted, he also very nearly lost "Monarch" while endeavouring to retrieve a bird across the ice.

Tuesday 29th December

Went after Pig at Mou san today but did not meet with any success, the beaters we had were idiots and did not understand their work at all; they made us waste the whole morning, and we getting annoyed made for the top of the hill to have a look at the scenery; arriving at 1 o'clock we contrived to have lunch, and after finishing our meal we had some rifle practice across the valley. I had just fired my fourth or fifth shot when I spotted six pig below us at about 500 yards. We had several shots at them but without effect, this firing disturbed a lot more, Overbeck counted no less than 21, we could not get a fair shot at any of them, they were all too far off. Deposited the Rabbits here poor little beasts they will find it awfully cold. Overbeck took the height of the peak next the monastery and his barometer made it exactly 1000 ft.

Wednesday 30th December

Moved back to the same place we shot over on Saturday and found the birds as numerous as before. I unfortunately shot poor "Neb" by accident I was shooting at a deer in the side of a copse and the dog was in the cover at the time but I did not see him.

In the afternoon again moved further back a few miles and found we had made a mistake as the country here "Loo quo chong" is surrounded by creeks which are continually bringing you up short.

Thursday 31st December

Shot over the same ground as on the 30th November it is very good at times, you must take a pathway a little on the Shanghai side of a sluice gate and work back beyond a large village and then bear to the left, if you take the right side there is no way out for creeks and there are no bridges. We have named this the "Sluice gate Ground"

1875

Friday 1st January

Went back to the sportsman's paradise same ground we were over on 27th December. This time it was paradise lost as the birds seem to have deserted the place altogether "sic transit gloria plesante". Made an off afternoon of it and the best of our way back to Kintang, the weather indicating that we should be stopped altogether if we remain in this creek any longer, we could not move this morning for the ice.

Saturday 2nd January

Moved back to Ta Tou and woke up in the morning to find a clear calm sunny day. Shot on the SE bank and found the country everything that could be desired. The birds however were not numerous but those that were found laid pretty close and both of us shooting well we made a fair bag.

Sunday 3rd January

Still moving towards home shot on the left bank in the morning and had but poor sport. My coolie amused himself by losing my cartridge bag with about 30 rounds in it. Entered the canal at 6pm on our way home.

Total Game Bagged

	Pheasants	Deer	Hare	Duck	Teal	Snipe	Total
Overbeck	179	12	2	3	3	1	200
Waller	154	15	2	1	0	0	172
Total	333	27	4	4	3	1	372

Monday 4th January

At Woosie at 11 fine bright weather but no wind.

Came to a place called Sou see que about 7pm and were informed that the small sampan was missing containing all our deer. Five coolies and the Lowdah have gone on shore to find the missing craft we are anxiously waiting their return having some doubts of ever regaining our lost and hard earned treasure. I am nearly sure that the Lowdah is at the bottom of the whole thing. They return with 10 deer missing could not ascertain from the Lowdah how much he got a head for them.

Tuesday 5th January

First bridge at Quinsan at 9:30am fair wind. Fell in with Low, Groom, Tobin, & Turnbull last night consequently heads this morning.

Through Wong du bridge at 3pm. Had Tiffin with Groom and Low. We have had a strong wind aft all the way from Quinsan and quite an exciting race home, the Yah Chu proving the best of the three (Taiping boat and Grooms). Thanks to this little bit of competition our coolies woke up to a sense of their duties and so far have done well. The mast of the "Yah Chu" is a beauty, and will bend almost double without breaking.