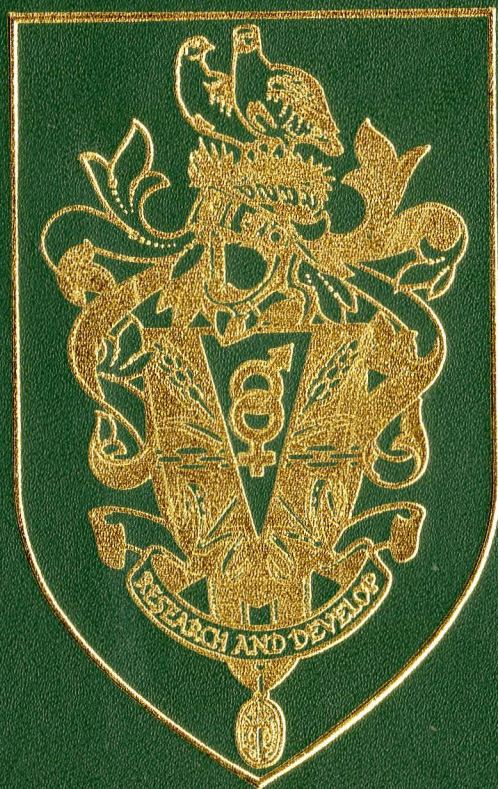


SHOOTING 1985 - 86



SHOOTING BOOK

1985 - 1986

for July 10th 1986

MOOR REPORTSSTEANJ. FREEMAN13 February

Bitter east wind, chilling the heather. Had small amount of snow which has drifted into the hollows. Plenty of food about. Grouse look fit. Still in pairs. Looks like a good stock. Got a fox yesterday - has had three since Christmas.

22 February

Weather a lot better - spring like with a nip in the air. Grouse seem to be thriving. Cocks are chasing one another. In reply to JN's enquiry he reckons a fox will eat one grouse per day.

5 March

Good weather - today best so far. Had tried some burning but not ready yet. Had been round traps and seen grouse all way round, particularly on Meugher Edge. Birds all paired up. Thinks has cleared up foxes. Has been putting grit out.

13 March

Ground too soft for burning today but has had five good days. 100 yards x 30 yards approximately been largest area of fire.

29 March

Freeman says sleeting and very cold. North westerly winds.

2 April

Freeman out on moor but wife said had very wet weekend. Today is better but thinks probably too wet for any burning. She said that Freeman had hurt his back (cause unknown) and had seen doctor at weekend. He was feeling a bit better today.

10 April

The last time Freeman did any burning at Stean was 14th March and since then it has either rained or snowed every day and the moor has never dried up. Will try to burn again before 15th April but doubtful. Begin lambing today.

STEAN26 April

Heather looking awful - very brown. Bitterly cold east wind. Seems to be quite a lot of grouse about. Freeman out foxing last night but didn't find anything. Saw one nest with 10 eggs. Lambing going well - 20 ewes left to lamb.

8 May

The heather looks worse than ever - very brown. Freeman has seen some foil while putting out poisoned eggs but no fresh sign of grouse. He has seen quite a few cock birds moving about but hasn't picked up any dead birds.

Unable to contact either Davison or Fawcett but John Grave telephoned this morning with the following comments:

The shepherds on the Holwick side say they have seen quite a lot of dead grouse although the Keepers say they haven't picked any up. Grave did add however that they weren't likely to find many in their gardens! Someone Grave had been talking to had seen a couple of nests each with 7 eggs.

Grave thought you might also be interested to know that the Raby Estate Keepers have been worming grouse on Harwood - they did 160 birds of which 30% were very weak and unlikely to live. 30% were not too bad and the rest were quite fit.

15 May

Freeman is beginning to be a bit worried because there are still quite a few hen grouse flying around as if they haven't a nest, and the cocks are still fighting. On the other hand the nest which Freeman knew had 10 eggs in it has already hatched cleanly. Torrential thunder storms on Wednesday. Heather still in poor condition. Not picking up any dead birds. Having problems with new Land Rover which is blowing fuses. WHJ has been advised and asked to contact Duckworths at Market Rasen.

30 May

Freeman has seen a few small broods - best is 7 chicks. Have had three severe thunderstorms which have washed small areas of road out but not seen any damage to birds so far.

7 June

Freeman is not as happy now as earlier. Things don't look as good as he had hoped - appears to be quite a lot of pairs without chicks, and a long way between broods. Far too early to make any estimate of season and would prefer to leave this until after the next gathering on 5th July.

STEAN25 June

Freeman has seen very few birds recently although he has seen one or two old birds in very poor condition. Pairs with older chicks only seem to have one or two but the younger broods seem to have 4 or 5 chicks so he thinks a lot of the earlier hatch may have perished. Best brood he has seen is 8. At first Freeman thought there was a chance for a reasonable season but now feels that prospects are poor.

16 July

Freeman seen a couple of nice lots but not much else. Other keepers have seen seven to eight broods but not a lot. Butts almost finished. Three top to put on new road. Hopes to start fencing end of week.

REETH15 March

Alderson advises burned a further 20 acres yesterday afternoon - now done approximately 180 acres. Snow not yet reached them but is forecast.

2 April

MK spoken to Alderson who says it is still too wet for burning. Very windy today.

10 April

MK spoken to Alderson. Much too wet to do any burning and more rain is forecast.

19 July

Mark Alderson reported this morning that the weather was very cold, windy and just like winter. Not much rain, however.

He has seen very few birds but saw one yesterday with 11 young.

Roads finished. Busy with butts.

In answer to JN's question about the number of birds in excess of 1,000 brace that he thinks they might shoot. Alderson felt that it was unlikely there would even be 1,000 brace. Difficult to judge at this stage and the broods are small in size this year.

STUBLICKT. DAVISON13 February

Not much snow. Cold east wind. Grouse look fit and healthy. Appears to be a good stock but does not think any have come in since winter started. Heather looking alright at present. Few foxes about.

22 February

Had some frost every night but not hoar frost. East wind has gone and having some sunshine. Heather still looks good. Grouse looking fit. Still a few foxes about.

5 March

There is movement amongst stock but does not think any have left moor. Some have moved up from lower to higher ground. Having good weather. Heather looking well for time of year. Frost not done much damage. Davison got three foxes in January but thinks there are another three or four.

13 March

Burning not going too well at the moment. Heavy rain on Sunday still not dried out. More rain and possible snow forecast. Snow on high ground at the moment. Will keep informed of progress.

15 March

Davison advises he tried some on Wednesday but was not fit. Did some on east side yesterday - had a good session down at the Allotment but not quite completed. Had about three quarters of an inch of snow overnight. More forecast for today and weekend.

29 March

Sopping wet, sleeting and snow on higher ground.

2 April

A lot of rain at the weekend. Today milder but not much wind. Much too wet for burning.

10 April

It is 3 weeks since Davison did any burning on Stublick - everything is absolutely soaked and he is "bogged out" of many places which normally remain passable. Weather forecast for remainder of this week is for more rain so does not think he will be able to do any more burning. Mother ill in bed - had severe dose of 'flu but now recovering slowly.

1985

26 April

STUBLICK

Surface water has now drained off and ground beginning to dry up. Davison has seen very few grouse and doesn't think there is anything like the stock on the ground now which was left last October. Very cold.

15 May

Davison says everything is quiet on the moor and there is more sign of hen grouse sitting. He is much more optimistic about the coming season and expects hatching to start this weekend. Not seen any diseased birds and not picked up any dead ones. Thunderstorm late Wednesday night but doesn't think it will have done any damage.

30 May

Davison has seen three broods of 6 chicks. Lot of birds still not hatched - seeing cocks but no hens. Not picked up any dead or diseased birds at all. Heather starting to green up now that wind has moved out of east.

7 June

Davison on holiday.

25 June

Davison is seeing quite a few birds but generally the broods are very small with between 1/4 chicks although he has seen a few with 9/10, not enough however to make up for the small broods. Some are well forward and about half grown but others are less than two weeks old. In his opinion, the highest beat (first drive on the South End) seems to be the best.

8th July

Davison reports that some of the birds are strong and well forward, but quantity not there. Big gap between early birds and later ones from point of view of size. Lastweek's sun has helped the heather a good deal.

16 July

Seeing a few birds. Mainly small clutches of two's, three's and fours, but also some nine to tens. Some very late. Heather picked up - young shoots growing well now. Weather has not been too bad. Not as warm as usual for time of year but not too wet.

WEMMERGILL13 February

Very cold east wind. Not much snow - little had has drifted. Birds looking alright. Not very many in evidence but those seen are in pairs or groups. Least vermin they have ever had.

22 February

Had some sun. Snow mostly gone. East wind also gone. Birds all paired up. Peregrine falcons have killed some birds - thinks they are on the increase. Losing more to them than any vermin. Not seen any bad grouse. Grouse well spread over moor - a fair distance between each pair. Thinks small stock, but to be expected as shot hard last season.

5 March

Had half day's burning last week and half day today. Probably do some more if no rain. Grouse all paired up. Peregrine falcons still proving a nuisance. Grit has arrived and intends to get out between now and end of month.

13 March

Burning going very well at the moment and as long as the good weather continues there should be no problem. However, rain is forecast.

26 April

Very cold with frosty nights. Ground beginning to dry out. Odd nest about but generally very little to report.

2 May

John Grave telephoned. Farmers reported seeing quite a few dead birds when gathering for lambing, particularly on Mickle Fell. Keith Sayer who was burning on the South Side said there were quite a lot of birds on the bottom but nothing on the top. Keepers only seen two nests - one with 9 eggs and the other had been sucked by a crow. Estate have completed deals selling Step Ends and Cronkley farms and local gossip is that more farms are due to be sold if tenants are prepared to buy.

15 May

Fawcett has been ill in bed since Sunday with 'flu. He is disturbed that there are still quite a few hen grouse flying about as if they haven't yet nested but otherwise very little to report.

SHOOTING AT NILO

February 1985





PINEBLOOM, U.S.A.15 February

At Harberts, a beautiful morning at Pinebloom - frost on the ground, quite cool. You really want a polo neck here at the beginning of the day and ideally you want a neck warmer. I've got my long-johns on and I need them. You need some clothes, you need a lot of layers.

Moved off at 9.00 from the house sharp - he blew the whistle. We arrived back at the Governor's House where we started the shoot and within ten minutes there were 3 Quail rose wide but didn't get a shot. Had a long walk down the avenue of pines without a shot and then we got into a lovely covey that was very staunch - Buccaneer's Notion and a German dog. (Buccaneer's Notion is a dog and there is a German dog - German Pointer Dog down). He was very staunch and a lovely covey rose and neither of us got a bird - they went out to the right. Jennie was so surprised with the big jump they made that she didn't steady herself and I had a single bird going to the left that I ought to have had between the trees but didn't get it. Then we got down to a single bird and I got him second barrel. It is now 9.45 a.m. and I have shot at 4 single quail and have missed 3 and killed one - there's a reason for it all of course but these trees are the chief trouble.

10.15 a.m. and I have fired 7 shots at 4 different birds and killed one quail. Jennie has had one quail and Harbert's had one quail - so a quail each at 10.15. We got down for another covey and they got up in front of John and he had two barrels and killed one and I let fly and knocked one down - a long way across it was - it wasn't my bird, it was right across in front of him. It wasn't dead, we haven't found it.

It is now 10.40 a.m. and we have got 4 quail. Harbert got down with Jennie and I got down as well. I didn't get a shot but they both blasted off two barrels each - nothing. David Lee is the name of the new Manager and he is in charge of the whole of the Plantation - the whole shooting match. Larry Moon is the name of the man in charge of the dogs. We have had Fritz, a German Pointer down and Buccaneer's Notion - we have had these two dogs down. Now it is 11.00 a.m. and we are changing over. Derby is a little bitch - English setter and the other one is Speedy, a Pointer.

I got down and I killed 2 quail - another right and left - didn't really have a chance for right and left but picked up 2 quail. I have now picked up four and one of mine did a runner that is lost. A good shot - I told these locals they were unlucky quail. Good shot, very good shot and I told them it was an unlucky quail and I made them laugh.

Now we are going to run Kate - Kate is going to the Field Trial on Monday and is a sister of Buccaneer's Notion.

It is the afternoon and John Harbert and Eugenie and I are hunting together - we are on the wagon and he is on his same horse. We have a different dog man for the afternoon, we changed teams. I am wearing a shooting vest and a silk vest on top of that and then a new American green thermal long-sleeved low neck, and then my Purdey's lambswool jersey and then my very lightweight goose down, very, very light, it's no more than a thin waistcoat, and on top of that my Safari jacket. I am wearing gloves and I am wearing my long johns made in America (thickest possible material), one pair of socks and my chamois French leather and rubber boots lined up to the knees, and my American trousers with briar-proof fronts of leather. I have got on my American cold weather hat from Eddie Bauer.

This afternoon we are hunting near the runway, it is a big runway, you could land a 747 on it. Wind is cool, still sunny and it is really a beautiful day. We had lunch in the skeet house where we were joined by Mr. & Mrs. McKinnley - he is the President of Texaco. We had shrimps and rice for lunch and some kind of jam turnover.

Well, we had actually 20 minutes sleep and he came and blew the whistle and said he would give us 10 minutes to get ready and we were off about 3.03 from the Swamp House, and at 3.20 we had a point and they both got up right under my feet and went away to the left, lifting rapidly - they really rocketed up and the bird I was shooting at just moved a yard to one side before I could get the gun off and I clean missed it and missed with the second barrel. That was a really good chance, that was the first fair potted miss I've had. I had one shot at another bird at 3.45, there were a pair of birds got up and I just got one cartridge off wide - Harbert had a beautiful covey on top of him at the side of the runway, clear ground. Wounded one which dropped dead 200 yards away and that was picked. That is all we have got up to now.

I have just been down to a big covey - I could have had a right and left but I got the second bird. They sure do twist these quail when they jump up. 4.20 p.m. and we have picked 2 quail up this afternoon. I've killed one bird and Harbert's killed one.

5.00 p.m. and I've fired 4 shots up to now - two pairs. I've now had 6 shots at 5.05 - three doubles. We've got 2 quail.

16 February

Well, this is big Jennie's birthday and here we are on the Saturday morning. Had two breakfasts, good fried eggs they were - they really know how to fry eggs these people here and good toast - they know how to do the toast as well. A few - they call them sausages, a kind of pork rissole really. I ignored the pancakes and honey or syrup - maple syrup and pancakes - I ignored those. Had a good breakfast. The Butler was drunk - seems to be the same all over the world!

Wita Harbert fetched us about 9.10. John went off with the Chairman of Texaco and Lord Chief Justice of Alabama, and here I am with three ladies - my wife, Mrs. Harbert and Mrs. 'Justice'. Have Rob Roy which is Wita's dog on the wagon, a black labrador. 10.15 - we have just changed dogs and we have got down now a black Pointer called Flash (Black Jack I called him), and a bitch called Joy. Put them down at 10.15. No one has had a shot and I've only seen one quail and a covey that rose wide but nobody has had a shot. It is a most beautiful morning, blue skies with no clouds at all. A very bad scenting morning. Bright sun and there is not much cover here where we are hunting - ground cover is very thin - they can't squat in that - they will run forward away from the dogs. Some of it is thick cover but generally speaking it is just thin bottom cover.

10.40 - still no shot for anybody. Good covey just rose before anybody could get there. 11.05 - we haven't had a shot. The other wagon has got 6 birds we have heard on the wireless.

Here we are - we've had a good lunch of spare ribs. Not had a shot all morning and we are setting off again blowing whistles and shouting and screaming at 3.10 and everybody is waiting. I am sitting on the wagon in front of everybody else. 3.50 in the afternoon - a beautiful day with bright sunshine, warming up. We haven't had a shot in our team - nobody! The first day I killed 8 quail in the morning, 2 quail in the afternoon, and then the second day I didn't fire a shot in the morning and killed 2 quail in the afternoon.

Additional Notes following JN's trip to Georgia 14th-19th February 1985

I met a man who rears 25,000 quail and sells 1,000 gun days and keeps 300 gun days for himself. The guns shoot 12 birds a day which I understand is the limit and the day costs 300 dollars plus 15% gratuity plus 4% tax which is 357 dollars a day per gun.

Murchison failed - he is dying of Leukaemia, poor fellow.

McKinley is a very nice fellow but not really a go-getter for business.

Katie and Bill Spencer and Boon Pickens did not come to Pinebloom.

Ben Hardaway and the Americans who shoot Lord Allendale's moor are coming 25th August to 5th September. He is putting them a week back but he says the pound and dollar will make it OK for him. He is not really a rich fellow like the rest of them.

O'Neal's mother and daughter were there, tall and thin, I had met them before at the Olin's a few years ago.

Young is a thin, quiet man with a wife who has a tightly drawn face. He and Hardaway are partners in a plantation.

Jack and Diana Dorrance are in partnership with Fred Hamilton in Horseshoe.

Rankin Smith's is where the Field Trials were held. His second wife was wearing a snake-skin top and he had a daughter by a previous marriage there as well. He looks Italian. He was the host and did it very well - some lovely timber, etc. Seminole Plantation it is called.

Also met someone called Ewing - large chap with a blonde wife.

Donald C. O'Brien works for Rockefeller and is on the Board of Booker McConnell and knows Alex Alexander. Shoots in England and is trying to get a 10 year lease on a week at Bolton Abbey with 6 or 7 friends. He is by no means an idiot.

Also met some people called Cousins - tall, young looking dark man and silver haired wife who was not as old as her hair showed. Harbert said he had been bust two or three times in the property business but he had got himself straightened out. Shoots in England and has a Plantation near Albany.

NILO27 FebruaryCourse No. 2

I woke up at 7.45 and jumped up straight away. We had half a grapefruit and fresh orange juice pressed that we had brought with us in the plane from Florida, scrambled eggs and very thin American bacon, but the scrambled eggs really were very very good. There is always a shortage of toast so you want to grab plenty and there is never enough tea so I now get him to put the tea thing on the table, it's not really a teapot but a metal jug. Great difficulty in getting enough to eat and drink at breakfast but I did have some bran which I took. Jennie got through to the house at Palm Beach - it is always a great thing to have a card with the number on how you ring in from where you are with all your numbers on - have that in your pocket, a daily card like I do in England.

We are all mounted and off by just after 9.15. Now 9.25 and Mr. & Mrs. von Contard are down - Mamie. He has just shown me his Winchester chokes to screw in the end of the 20's. It is 40 degrees and a chance of rain on and off the whole day - light rain. At the moment it is dull but not quite raining. Walter Cushman and the two relations are on a horse each, the three of them, and Eugenie and I are on the wagon.

Well, we are on the wagon with two mules with Isaac. Evelyn says she has got to buy a mule before long, one of them has pulled it's share now. Three minutes later the dogs are pointing again. Husband and wife are still down. Solo the best wagon dog, he is the best wagon dog in the States. Mamie has just let off a couple of shots. Solo is the dog that I gave them from England, his son's is on their shot, about 3 years old. *from H.M. S. S. S.*

The Williams' family have control, I think it is through an investment trust of a 240,000 acre ranch in one place and 30,000 acres in Kansas, and another place in Wyoming. This fellow who is married to Mamie, she was a Williams, that's Eugenie Williams. They are very humble and very nice people. Mamie is the sister of Eugenie and we might ask all 4 of them over to shoot together.

My wife and I have just been down to a point. I got a few feathers with the first bird and the second bird I got a pine tree and didn't half make it sway, it was only about three inches across and took all the charge. They've been down and he reached right across and killed one bird.

Started to rain and we have got this huge umbrella which we brought with us and Eugenie and I have been under this umbrella on the wagon much to the amusement of all the party, but we have kept dry. We had our proper shooting clothes as well. I would call it a very slow morning need, myself, very slow. I perhaps wonder what we are doing here to slowly drive about in the woods, actual shooting is difficult. It is the highest test of marksmanship but the number of shots you get if there are 5 guns on the wagon is not much. Only 40% as much as when two people - Charles and I - but now there is a big difference. You get 20% of the shooting when there are 5 of you, when there are two of you you get 60% of the shooting. I have knocked a good bird down with the second barrel on my number 7 gun, just through his beak it was, flapping his wings in the open - good shot, long way off.

One big covey jumped up on front of Cushman and Adie (he is called Adelberd after the Adjutant to Kaiser William). His uncle was the Adjutant and he is called after him. A big covey jumped up and they got nothing out of it. Willie is a good pointer, Willie and Sally, they run together and did last year. Willie has improved from last year. Duke was down before. Duke has a big heart and he has like a big brown heart on the outside - he's a big hearted dog and he has a big heart on him outside.

11.45 and we only have 5 birds on the wagon. The husband and wife, Adie and Mamie, got down to this covey and they got up beautifully for them. They shot into them three times.

11.48 - he wants me to go to Philadelphia to his pigeon club. You want a full choke barrel - 7/10, 7/18 or 7/20 full choke, no ladies allowed and if any of the guests shoot well the first time they go they are never likely to be a member of the Club.

He's still fox hunting. He's got a feeding stuffs business in Greenwich but he has cattle and he doesn't do any business. He was in the Hanover Trust - Hanover Bank Trust - they have a branch in London next to the Connaught Hotel but he doesn't do anything. Helps on the ranch a bit and helps his boys and one of his sons is in oil and gas in Texas. 17 polo ponies and he knows Hubert Pantz. Hubert was married a few times before to this Aitkins daughter. He knows Julio Noyez - he is a member of this Club and they shoot together in New York. They are part of the New York gang those two - Charles met them and I didn't care much for them. The poor are more prolific than the rich, hence the budget deficit. I like that remark (and shall not forget it) from Mr. Adelberd. This fellow Helmsley, I want to remember about him, a newspaper magnate - Harold Helmsley, and I want to remember about him. And I want to remember about if you sell 5 lots of 4 acres, one lot is kept for conservation by the local planning officer but you get it allowed off your top level tax, and I want to remember a few of those things he has told me.

Jim thinks he has got about 210-214 coveys of quail on 6,500 acres and ten years ago he reckoned there were 450-460 coveys.

A couple called Shepherd came in for drinks last night and he is the head of TRW - space rocket for landing on the moon.

I have been down twice this afternoon at 4.15. Down once at one chance and killed a bird. Next time had the chance of getting a right and left out of a covey but didn't. Three birds at 4.15 - Jennie shot one, I shot one and Adie shot one. 9 coveys this morning and this afternoon before 5.20 - 8 coveys. Killed 8 birds and saw 10 coveys. I got down three times and I shot three times and killed only once - same as yesterday afternoon. Kate and Ada, the same two mules, have been here a long time, 15 years it must be now and Isaac has been here 15 years too.

Had doves in a pie and have had quail in a sauce and cold shrimp salad with artichoke on the side, and a fillet of beef - those are the four meals we have had in the Nilo Plantation, and we have had caviare both nights before dinner. One tin was brought back from the American Embassy in Russia last Christmas where the Adelberd's stayed.

28 February

It is an absolutely beautiful morning, bright sunshine, just a tiny breeze, fresh, beautiful day, a beautiful sky, no wind really but just a touch of breeze. In fact the lake in front of the house was like an enormous mirror, like an absolutely huge mirror. Peacocks were on the lawn between the lake and the house and all kinds of wildfowl - Canada Geese honking and flying about. Jolly good breakfast.

We are out on Course 1 and Eugenie and I are riding in the wagon - 9.20 a.m. we are off. Only out ten minutes and down we get, Jennie and I, two single birds turn back towards the wagon and I just let fly safely and got feathers off both of them. Jennie killed her bird dead in front of everyone and I was ever so pleased. We shot into three lots by 9.55. 10.05 had a very good chance - single bird going out, got up beautifully and I just swung out - I swung with him and I wanted to kill him and I was determined to get him but I just touched him in the back end. Yesterday afternoon I fired at three quail and killed one. This morning I fired at birds going back to the wagon and a good chance and I just touched them in the bottom. They just missed again, this Adie missed and Cushman missed again. The quail season starts here on 20th November.

I have never seen the farming look so well here, the wheat particularly - got the nitrogen on before that rain and it has come warm and it looks beautiful, very different from Harberts, much further on, and I told him when I was there he ought to have the nitrogen on.

I could write to Eugene Williams and thank him for the shoot, as well as writing to Evelyn Olin. I will write to Eugene Williams myself.

They've been running about 15 birds for half a day but you see it seems to me they always have four people shooting so that is 30 birds a day at $7\frac{1}{2}$ birds each if you shoot equal birds. Well, without boasting, if my standard is one third better, I would get 10 perhaps, and the other 3 would get 20 between them, that only means that I can shoot 10 quail in a whole day if I am lucky, and I think that is just a bit too low.

11.00 o'clock - we have just been down to another covey and I gained one out of it. Adie killed another one and we have 10 birds now on the wagon. 10 birds for the Thursday morning on the wagon, and yesterday we had 5 in the morning and 5 in the afternoon. The morning before, Cushman had 11 on his own - he shot on his own. Not a very good shot so he must have been among a lot of quail and the first afternoon we had 7 between us.

Additional Notes following JN's Visit to Nilo February/March 1985

Met a Mr. & Mrs. Curt Hall. Went there for dinner on Thursday, 28th February. She is Mamie and a little forward - wants me to take her out in London! He farms 150,000 acres of land for other people and markets Pecans. In partnership with his son who is married to a charming girl and has another partner who is lame. They do not do anything at Nilo and do not work for Harbert, but they do a lot of work in the district.

She will be ringing up and wants me to get her shooting lessons in London around the end of April. They live in Albany - Telephone: (912) 883 2200.

SIR JOSEPH'S PERSONAL BAG - 1985 / 1986 SEASON

15 February Pinebloom Plantation, USA
 16 February Pinebloom Plantation
 27 February Nilo Plantation
 28 February Nilo Plantation

A total of 39 Quail in 4 days shooting in the USA.

22 June	Pigeon Flight, 55 Acre Rothwell	Pigeon 44 Rook 2 Hare 1	Head: 47 110 shots
29 June	Pigeon Flight, 55 Acre Rothwell	Pigeon 52 Rook 2	Head: 54
6 July	Pigeon Flight, 55 Acre Rothwell	Pigeon 7	Head: 7
4 August	Pigeon Flight, Rothwell	Pigeon 3	Head: 3
9 August	Pigeon Flight, Rothwell	Pigeon 16	Head: 16
12 August	Holwick East End 6 drives	85 grouse with 158 shots	
Slits	4 birds, 15 shots		
Slits	18 birds, 26 shots		
Slits	4 birds, 9 shots		
Sykes	14 birds, 27 shots		
Gully	22 birds, 28 shots		
Swinkets	23 birds, 53 shots		

Strong south west wind. Heavy showers. Cool. Bright spells later in the day.

13 August	Wemmergill South Side 6 drives	81 grouse with 142 shots
Sledge Butts	6 birds, 11 shots	
Top Row	15 birds, 28 shots	
Top Row	8 birds, 15 shots	
Shipka	6 birds, 10 shots	
Shipka	15 birds, 35 shots	
Shipka	31 birds, 43 shots	

Moderate south to south west wind. Heavy showers. Bright.

14 August	Holwick West End Guest of Tom Cowie	6 drives	70 grouse with 116 shots
Black Arc Up	21 birds with 39 shots		
Crookus Gill Up	5 birds, 7 shots		
Silver Band	14 birds, 17 shots		
Nickle Hopple	13 birds, 20 shots		
Nickle Hopple	4 birds, 9 shots		
Black Arc Down	13 birds, 24 shots		

Well, here I am, Wednesday evening - lying in a wonderful hot bath after an exhausting day on Holwick. There was a tremendous amount of rain, there is no doubt about that. I changed my Cording's green coat. I wore three of them during the day and I ended up with a Gortex, and on top of that I had a Cording's rubberised coat. It was very wet. We set off to Holwick. We got down and the Duke of Bavaria had gone with the Hon. Alby Bowes-Lyon down to Winter's shop in Middleton-in-Teesdale to buy a Barbour coat and some rubber boots, so we had to wait for them to come back - typical! However, it was not without its lighter side because Fergy said he had gone to get the Barbour, and I thought he was probably going to get his hair cut! Anyway, he has got a tremendous pair of beautiful curled up whiskers. He is supposed to be the son on the Kaiser who, during the War, worked as a Game Keeper in Hungary and I was talking to him today - he is a splendid man. He is a good shot at 82, alert, can see and is very safe. A clean shot, a good shot, knows what he has got down, and so did I, and I helped him with my dogs and we got our right numbers. He shot next to me the whole day and we got our numbers every drive. Splendid fellow! I can only talk to him in French, and of course that did not give me a lot of opportunity. I also sat next to him at lunch and I thought what a splendid chap he is. Very thin, and it gave one the idea that if you could live ten years more and get as fit as that, it might be a good idea to lose some weight, but then we are always thinking that. That was that. Then the other guns were Bourker, who has picked himself up a title - del Arco from his cousin, Paco Landaluce, from the pair who shoot at the partridge establishment in Spain which is very well run. Apparently they shoot 90,000 partridges a year and they charge 40,000 pesetas a bird approximately now. Albert Fabre was also there. He shot the other side of me and he rode in my Range Rover. He disliked the late Count Francis de Ricour very much indeed. He offered three times the rent that Fabre was paying for a shoot in Spain and took the shoot from him a few years ago, and then he let it to some of the central European Barons married to the Miami widows, he called them. He referred of course to Pantz and people like that. The Guerlain we talked about, I said, well that is a different thing, a different cup of tea and he said yes, an entirely different class.

We talked about Claude Foussier. He said he was the Chairman of his Sporting Club, which of course I knew, and that he was a bit mixed up, but what a splendid chap. So all that was interesting. He goes fishing for tunny. He goes to Senegal to get the big sail fish and the Wahoo, and he goes to a place west of Marseilles to get big tunny fish and great sport - the best kind of fishing you can have in France is off the French Coast. He wants to get to Jamaica Bay next year for one of his friends who wants to rent it. They have had "Olnico", Gerard Bauche's boat, but the engines have not been very good and it was not a very great affair and they will not take that again, I think. He shoots Almarocks three times over most years - that is three beats, three times, nine days, but last year he only shot twice over - six days. Then he has got a Cincinetti, a new place about 15,000 acres and the other shoot that he has got there. They shoot that three times. So they have got quite a lot of shooting. He told me that Pupa, while she was not poor, has got a phobia that she might become poor because she was not making any money and that every year he was spending it. They stay at La Ronca which they find very agreeable. He told me to pick a good vintage year and when the wine gets in the cask, to buy a cask or two or three hundred bottles each and pay for them, and then they are going to bottle it again from the casks. He sells two thirds of it to pay for the hundred bottles which he keeps. He said he bought the 1982 Lafite at 200 Francs a bottle, when it was put into the cask at that rate, and now he is selling it at 650 Francs a bottle.

*He does NOT
drive forward of course
if it can be avoided
ever and ever*

He has got thousands of acres in the Argentine. He has got 2,000 Aberdeen Angus which he lets go in a 4,000 acre enclosure of all grass and they get up to quite a lot of kilos and they do well. Then he has got thousands of acres of Eucalyptus and Pine trees and forestry, and in the rides and the fire breaks he keeps the mother cows to provide himself with the fattening cattle. Not very good land. He did not want good land because it would need too much looking after so far away from home. How often do you go there, I said? He said when I am courageous I go there once a year, and when I am not I do not. He sold out his business in 1980.

The Archduke of Bavaria was working near the shores of Lake Ballaton and he was disguised as a Game Keeper and he did a Game Keeper's duty in Hungary all the War. He got out of Germany when Hitler arrived and when it looked like being bad. Then of course there was Fergy Alby Bowes-Lyon. He said Coutts are opening a branch in Geneva which he will have to go to. That will make him a more interesting job. He said if it were money on deposit it is a good idea to have it in IBM bonds. You get about 2% or 3% more money than you will interest and it is a pretty well cast iron safe. That was worth knowing. I am sending a copy of that information to Mike Kerrigan.

Then of course Tom Cowie who was my host for the day, he was there. The first drive was from the Lair from the south to the north over Black Arc butts. I had 21 there. You could not see them coming, it was quite misty and as the drive got towards the end it became more and more misty, and at the end of the drive you could not really see anything. It did clear up afterwards from the point of view of fog and we had 50.5 brace I think, at that first drive - 8 guns. Then we moved on to Crookers Gill from the east. I was number six at number seven peg which is far too close to number eight peg and number six peg proper. Really it was not necessary there. I hardly got a shot because I let them fly on. That drive was a mess. Then we went up and had Silver Band and I was the top butt there. The young flanker with earrings must have obviously seen that I was there. He did a superb job, in fact he did not do anything really. There was no need for him to, but if he had he would have stopped me getting a shot at all. As it was, I fired 17 cartridges and killed and picked up 14 grouse. We had lunch up at the bothy right at the top over Holwick, just us, the eight guns. I think it is the first time in a very long time. There were no ladies and no spectators. There were just the eight guns and there was plenty of room in there for lunch.

The old boy looked after us again for lunch. Olive is his wife. She is not too well but her fruit cake was just as good as I have had for what seems like a hundred years! It is very good. And the usual cold ham and cold beef, and the usual sort of lunch there. Albert Fabre, I think, drank more than was good for anybody at a shooting lunch and he was in very good spirits when I drove him back up there. I was wearing my shorts and of course it was teeming with rain, but I got my waterproof trousers out and I changed my coat pretty well after every drive, but I did keep dry. I came home quite dry. I had shoes and spats on and I was quite dry when I came back really.

I shot 60 grouse today, that makes 226 for the first three days and that is averaging 75. I had a much better average of kills to cartridges but the grouse were a lot easier to hit. Some of them were coming forward and sidling into the wind and settling in front of the guns, and they were wet and were not difficult targets at all. It was not much of a challenge although the last drive we had Mickle Hopple up. I was number two in number three butt and I got a dozen there, picked up. Then we turned round and I did not get many there, four or five. That was in the worst of the rain and then we went and stood in Black Arc, I was number six, one above the stone butt, the same butt I was in this morning and they brought it from the north. I think I got about a dozen there as well. We had 106 brace at lunch and the bag tonight must have been over 200 brace, but I do not know what it was. I was a guest of Tom Cowie. David French was loading for me. His loading has improved with the lessons he has had and he is quite a good loader now. With a couple more seasons he will be as good as you want.

15 August

Wemmergill Allotments
Guest of Tom Cowie

6 drives

61 grouse with 107 shots

Green Fell Butts	8 birds, 12 shots
Rake Ghyll	11 birds, 20 shots
Rake Ghyll	18 birds, 35 shots
Green Fell Butts	9 birds, 16 shots
Rake Ghyll	14 birds, 20 shots
Rake Ghyll	1 bird, 5 shots

It's Thursday morning - it's still wet, but not so wet. A very fresh south wind but I don't think there's much west in it. Going up to the Allotments. I was waiting for them there, they arrived at 9.30. I'm driving my brand new Range Rover, just done the delivery mileage on it, taking it very gently up to the Allotments and David French is with me. I've got the young bitch, Sweep, that's the only dog I'm taking today.

I managed a pair of kippers for breakfast and a couple of poached eggs and I feel in good order. The market is good in my favour this morning and one or two interesting things in this morning's post quite pleased me. Today I am wearing knicker-bockers, I am not wearing my shorts, the first three days I wore my shorts and I am not wearing shoes and spats, I am wearing my size 10 French rubber boots. How I'm dressed for future years, God willing. I've got an Airtex vest on with short sleeves, and I've got a flat neck wool long sleeved, it comes round the neck about half way up as a polo neck, you call them flat necks. On top of that I have got a Cashmere jersey cut off above the elbows by one of the staff for me, and on top of that a very thin zip fastener American down, stuffed with down, the finest down, but very, very thin, very, very lightweight, the lightest possible coat that we all used to wear, and on top of that a rubberised Cordings, very thin waterproof with hood. I can move because the secret is I've got one, two, three, four, five, six layers where the air gets in between to keep warm, and I can move. There is not such a thing made as a shooting coat that will keep you dry and enable you to shoot with the maximum perfection that you are able to without wearing it, if you know what I mean.

So the compromise is a green, old Cordings coat. The water went straight through these almost when they were new, you might have got one season out of them but they are not at all waterproof, and then put your rubberised thing on the top, and then at lunchtime, or when you get a chance, take it off and put another green coat on and another Cordings coat because you sweat underneath them of course. I have tried this latest Vortex, I had two of them, and they are not as soft to shoot in as the kit I have just told you about. In point of fact they are absolutely not waterproof. You either perspire in them or the water goes through them - I don't think it matters very much which, but they are nothing like the advertisements - if they were they would be wonderful.

I am driving up to the Allotments as I am dictating this - he's just touched a bit of the long heather with fire near the butts at last - he's been a long time getting that done. I know it's wet there but it could have been done before, but he's put a fire in the face of the hill in front of what we have the third drive, the bottom line of butts facing the west. He probably touched that up a bit too near the butts, but never mind. We used to get a few late birds out of that.

Half tyres in Nombela for the partridges. Cut a lot of tyres in half. Get the Guard of Seville this Christmas, toys for their children, wine presents, and get about 12 of these Spanish policemen round in the shoots to stop the poachers. Bourker is organising some shooting in El Morocs. He's an executive not a manager. Tell him what to do and he'll do it and he'll give you a few ideas. Then you have to go off and see the Mayor and do the jobs yourself at Christmas with the Spanish people. He's formed this Foundation - it's already worth fifty million dollars. He sold an insurance company, he's got it but he hasn't got it. He's got I think he said 20,000 sheep in the Argentine which are worth nothing. His daughter was being chased by the head of the Cowdray family 10 years ago. His son is a very bright French businessman, speaks perfect English. He's been in America and in France, and England. If anybody wants an executive he is available. He is a most interesting man, Mr. Ayer. He subscribes to the idea of what you inherit from your father and what you don't, and what you pass on to the next generation, and what you spend.

I mean he has
burned the
"selling ground"
I found 7
Butts

Well, I drew number 6 and they manned the wall for the big drive, so I was in not a bad butt there. I fired 12 shots I think, anyway I killed 8 grouse, they were very fast, they were close shots and I killed 8 birds. Then we went below the hill and I fired 20 shots and killed 11 grouse, turned round and I was in number 8 butt on the second drive and I was in number 2 butt on the third drive - 35 shots for 18. I'll repeat that - 12 for 8, 20 for 11, 35 for 18. This last drive was very difficult, going down the wind like the clappers. I don't think I put my gun up without killing at least one grouse. And on the up wind drive, below the lunch hut, where I was the end butt, the top butt nearest to the lunch hut, there was a very big spread out covey came, I had 5 shots and David French changed guns very well quickly, and I killed 5 grouse out of that pack, then I killed one out of the next lot, and two out of the next lot, and three out of the next lot. I didn't get two with one shot, I mean they are all single birds, one bird to each cartridge.

Then we had lunch and had a most interesting talk. I sat next to Alby for lunch, and had an interesting talk. Tom Cowie said they had bought four new players for Sunderland and that football club of theirs is not in debt. They are trying to designate the Wemmergail and Holwick area as an outstanding area of natural beauty and Fergie is resisting this.

I confirmed with Landerluce and with Booker, but it's absolutely essential to feed the partridges in the mountain areas. They both said, however, that it was cheaper to cultivate a bit of ground and to sow the wheat and not harvest it, let the partridges harvest it. They thought it was better and cheaper, but I don't think it's either myself. I can only teach these Spaniards how to feed the partridges properly by hand. I would think it would work better if it was in little plots grown naturally, only because the Spaniards won't put it down properly by hand.

Mr. Fabre has bought that yellow dog Barney from Peter Fawcett and he is going to Almorox or Laronca, I don't know which yet, and he doesn't know. He paid Mnn for it.

When we get the Heather Charitable Foundation formed and going I want John Thompson to write to Captain Alistair Turnbull and we will pay for a bit of fencing on the south side, a fence on the north side of Shipka Pass to get some heather back there.

Well, I shot 9 grouse with 16 shots the first drive after lunch. I was in number 5 butt, it's the one just over the bridge above the Allotment hut there, at the bridge it is, it's number 5 butt. I was number 4 gun in number 5 butt at the bridge. The whole moor has deteriorated since my tenancy ended. There were handrails on this little bridge, my wire I put on it, very strong wire, it will last for years, it's still there, it's like Summerfield tracking nearly, it's very heavy, strong, non-slip stuff, it will last for ever. The handrails have gone, the steps up to the butt have gone and there's just a quagmire and this is typical of how the moor is deteriorating. There's nobody to put any "polish" on anything. I was in a butt at Holwick yesterday and I was wearing shoes and I had to manoeuvre myself by keeping my weight and swinging in through the opening of the butt, just for the want of a spade to drain it, that is number 8 butt, it's got 8 written on it at the Silver Band. Anyway, these were fast down wind grouse and I enjoyed them and we picked them up. I shot perhaps one of the best right and lefts I have ever shot, but it was a bit naughty because the second one was rather near my neighbour, but by the time I killed it he said it was one of the best.

This week there's a fellow called Gomez Afabel. He's a corporate lawyer, interesting in shooting, he is delighted for me to shoot. Also a man who has made a fortune out of olive oil, called Arubiel. He's another Spaniard, he and his brother, very rich Spaniard and one of them has got an English wife. They speak English too, I understood. They are coming next week.

We had 14 birds in number 6 butt just below the lunch hut, and then we were number 8. We went right down to the bottom and we had a chance to kill 3 but we only killed one there, knocked the wing end out of one, which apparently Bob picked one up up there, but we don't know. The second time after lunch I always keep my gun loaded until the beaters are right in, that's been my policy all my life. Anyway a pair of grouse jumped just off the top of the bank right at the last minute and I popped them down, a nice right and left, the first one dropped dead very close, the second one went on 70 yards, but they are both in the bag.

I told David French he has loaded for me well today again. I told him that I hoped to get 60 grouse today, that was this morning, and we got 61, that was when I knew what my draw was. I should think the bag is, say, 120 brace probably, I don't know.

I think in grouse shooting you must remember always that they are not all flying the same speed, that's a perfectly obvious statement and might sound stupid, but I think that even when they are going down the wind sometimes they are very fast, they haven't the wind I admit but you can over lead them, particularly over Shipka Pass I think, there are a lot of grouse missed shooting in front in Shipka Pass, birds on the side of you, and of course when they are coming heading the wind like they did two drives today. You've really got to be absolutely straight at them and remember to be straight at them or you are going to miss them.

I did enjoy shooting that five, we got some good changes and you want to know what you are doing by checking the speed, identifying which ones to shoot at at an early stage in the proceedings. Once having chosen the bird, even if one looks a bit easier and comes a bit nearer, don't take any notice, keep on the bird you've chosen. So identifying the target is frightfully important. Pulling the gun the minute it comes up to the shoulder, providing your gun fits you, and if it doesn't you should have it made to fit. If your gun fits you your first aim will be better than any other aim you can have, so up with the gun, pull the trigger in one movement and I cannot recommend that any more highly. It is absolutely the way to shoot. Of course, for long crossing out of range birds, that is not the same technique - there you have to line them up and either do the interceptions or the swing. I am talking about the normal stuff that you shoot at. Very long, out of range, no I don't mean out of range as you shouldn't shoot out of range, but extreme range, right angle bird - you can't put your gun up and shoot at them, or at least I can't. And the great thing to remember is, when you are turning round a lot like you do in grouse shooting, face your front all the time that you possibly can, but you must turn left and right and that's important to remember. I think one does it instinctively, but to keep the shoulder up, give the bird your shoulder all the time, the shoulder that's nearest to him, get it up.

16 August	Holwick East End	6 drives	84 grouse with 134 shots
Slits Down	15 birds, 18 shots		
Slits Up	19 birds, 29 shots		
Sykes Down	15 birds, 32 shots		
Gully Down	6 birds, 13 shots		
Swinkets Down	9 birds, 14 shots		
Swinkets Up	20 birds, 28 shots		

Strong south west wind. Odd showers. Bright intervals. Cold.

17 August	Wemmergill Close House	6 drives	108 grouse with 184 shots 1 Rabbit
Close House Butts	15 birds, 23 shots		
Close House Butts	17 birds, 32 shots		
Close House Butts	30 birds, 41 shots		
The Moss	27 birds, 40 shots		
Long Grain	7 birds, 11 shots		
Row of JN Butts	12 birds, 17 shots		

Light north wind in morning. South west turning east after lunch. All very light winds.





Saturday, 17th August. It was the first fine morning of the week, the sixth day shooting as we set out on this week, the other five have been windy and quite a lot of wet.

We went up to Close House, we had the up drive and the down drive. The up drive we had 133½ brace at lunch. Rocco was number 1, Neal Thompson number 2, JN number 3, I was on the road, Jennie 4, Charles 5, John Fenston 6, and David my nephew 7.

It was a good show of birds. John Grave was loading for me and I had Teal and Bess. David French was loading for Lady Nickerson.

I claimed 108 grouse, my son Charles 110, and nephew David 115 - 333 grouse, 166½ brace for 3 guns, an average of 111 per gun. The other 4 guns averaged 42 birds each. So if we had had a real strong, good old team, we could have killed 380 brace without any problem, might have killed 400. I think the bag depends half on the plan and half on the guns that you've got there.

19 August	Holwick East End Guest of Tom Cowie	6 drives	79 birds, 118 shots
Silver Band	6 birds, 11 shots		
Black Arc Down	9 birds, 18 shots		
Nickle Hopple Up	13 birds, 20 shots		
Nickle Hopple Down	18 birds, 25 shots		
Black Arc Up	13 birds, 18 shots		
Black Arc Down	20 birds, 26 shots		

Here we are, the start of the second week of the grouse season 1985. David French loading for me, and a bitch called Sweep, she's 2½ years old now. At Black Arc I had a dozen shots there and killed 7 grouse down wind. Could have killed a few more if the bottom of the butt had been better. It rained quite hard during the drive, but now it's cleared up, we've got a fresh wind and there's a bit of sun and blue sky and cloud. I am now in the Black Arc butt facing north. On my left is Alby and on my right is a Spaniard that I met with Magnifico. This is the second day of my diet. Yesterday morning, I am ashamed to say, I weighed 104½ kilos and that's enough I said, that's enough!

In the Black Arc drive, where we still are, from the north, a pack of birds, I guess there were about 70 of them, got together - that's the first pack as big as that that I've seen. Went out over the Gully butt where young Fergie, that's the son of Simon Bowes-Lyon, he's been two years at Eton, he's in there with Captain Turnbull giving him a lesson. He shot his first grouse this morning on Silver Band.

Now we are in the Mickle Hopple up, straight up wind as well. We are in No. 5 butt - 12.25, but I should have a 2 o'clock lunch and have the return in the same butts and a late lunch, then we will go to the Black Arc when we return in that line of butts. That's what wastes so much time at Holwick, there is no planning and thinking and organisation. The Holwick days, for years and years, have always finished much later than we did at Wemmergill.

There's a Mr. Rubio. There's an awfully nice Spaniard next to me, a very small man, he's a really charming fellow. He went to Havard and then to the London School of Economics - absolutely charming. He's in all kinds of businesses including development. There's another fellow here called Rubio and he deals with ten per cent of the total crop of all Spanish olive oil, ten per cent. He's not too tall either. Then there's a very big fellow here, a big Spaniard, a very tall, big, rough Spaniard. This one who's so nice and who has been to Havard, he's a friend of Aldo and he met me shooting there, he said. All these Spaniards and people with foreign names, they are all the same to me to remember any of them I'm afraid, which is very wrong of me, but my wife is very good at it.

20 August	Wemmergill South Side	6 drives	50 grouse with 98 shots
	Guest of Tom Cowie		1 Grey Hen

Sledge Butts	0 birds, 1 shot
Sledge Butts	6 birds, 7 shots
Top Row	16 birds, 35 shots
Shipka Pass	8 birds, 13 shots
Shipka Pass	6 birds, 12 shots
Shipka Pass	14 birds, 30 shots

Well, thank God, this is the eighth day consecutively I am setting off to shoot, driven by David French in the new Range Rover. Old Teal is with us, that's the only dog we are taking. Teeming with rain it has been this morning and the weather forecast is awful until lunch, but we are on the way down to the South Side. It seems to be blowing up, clearing up. There's a strong wind, a stronger wind today. If only it will go round to the north, any of the north in it, then I shall shoot for my two days tomorrow and Thursday - I shall shoot the North Side and Close House. The north side has not been shot and I shall have that first time over. Close House I reckon is the best beat, so we shall have two cracking days, but with very few guns.

I went up to Wemmergill and stayed on the road overlooking the reservoir, reading the papers and getting kitted up, waiting for their party to come along, which they did at 9.20. Rosie and her Mother come back to England today so Louise is going to see them tonight. I rang Louise up early this morning to ask her to come and shoot here, but she is going to be with her sister and Mother. She has been out shepherding this morning, she was out very early, she had been to Claxby, to shepherd Claxby Cliff - she said there were two out which she had to put back in and she was working until half past eight last night on the farm. She reminded me that they hadn't got the new weighing machine yet that she asked me to buy. It will cost about £300 to put in the race for the lambs near where the dip pen is to weigh the sheep. I should have thought that would have been top priority, she said. It's interesting really with what people are interested in themselves at that time, is always the most important thing in the world for them. However, I have dealt with that this morning. Then Mr. Sellar rang up with the market and the DM position is still favourable for me, no better than yesterday's but it's alright, still very good. We'll have a good do out of that if we clear out now. IBM is down to 125 and seven eighths which is a bore, but generally speaking we are having a good year.

The Moor is deteriorating every year, there's no finesse. The bridge over the Lune, going up to the south side, has got a tailgate of a motor vehicle there over a hole which is very dangerous. There's virtually been no work done on the roads, almost zero. There's no polish put in by the Agent or the absentee landlord, and the place is deteriorating as you would expect it would.

I think the bag yesterday was 183 brace, the top end of Holwick shot and the second time over, but it was a good driving day.

It's still Tuesday, the 20th August, and I am in Shipka Pass. We've just had to drive from the south. I told Fawcett that's how I think it ought to be done - I said I want it doing like that next day it's my day. Anyway today he did it the first time. It seemed to work well. There's a gale of wind down the valley and we were number 7 from the ride, that's the one below the Kaiser's Pass. Anyway the handrail was rotten so I didn't try and get across that bridge, the river was too deep to walk, so I came down on the south side of the river. I killed eight of the most miraculous grouse I've ever shot, I had a total of 13 shots, they were so high and such swingers and gliders at the same time, they were coming sideways some of them, some straight down the wind, only one was going into the wind, and I had two barrels at that and broke his wing, but he's been picked. Eight of the best birds I have ever shot in my life.

There's a lot of water going down the river. You know, I always used to have a man at the bottom there with a net to get the grouse out and sometimes two or three of them between the butts - they don't do that and they should. Most of the shooting is above the Shipka Pass, it's not much good as a rule - below the Kaiser's Pass is not any good as a rule. There are six guns to shoot the South Side adequately and better than any other day here really - six guns are quite adequate for this shoot.

We had 61½ brace at lunch. When he is fixing up the days and he wants to keep shooting, with only six days off in September, he wants to keep shooting six days a week apart from that. Well, we shall see, I told him how much my standing charge was and I wanted to have another good season if possible, and not to knock them down. There's no doubt he's got a very high opinion of Peter. "Peter's been proved right this year by knocking the stock down." I think that's absolutely my foot - I think it has been one of the best seasons that there's ever been for grouse hatching and you can whip the sap from the population of the old and young, a good proportion of old and young in a lot of places.

It's still hazing now, hazing with a drop of rain. It's a gale now, a real gale blowing really. Looking forward to shooting the north side and Close House tomorrow and the day after. Of course they haven't been shot yet and it's much better with a bit of north in the wind.

It looks as if I shall need Reeth. If I shoot Reeth say three days myself before the end of September. It looks as if I am going to need Reeth for ten days before the end of September. September 1st we shall be here at Wemmergill and that looks like leaving another nine days in October between Stean and Reeth and Wemmergill, and then I shan't go to Stublick at all myself, so we can get that let again, we want to let that three or four days a week and stock up from Allendales.

85 cartridges in this butt that I'm in. It's the third row from the right now and I am facing south, number 3. There's 85 cartridges in. Some advertised in the Glamis Estate with 23 grouse on the butt.

21 August	Wemmergill North Side	6 drives	87 grouse with 176 shots
Standards	5 birds, 19 shots		
Corbus	18 birds, 35 shots		
Green Grain	15 birds, 31 shots		
Wemmergill Head	12 birds, 23 shots		
Wemmergill Head	18 birds, 36 shots		
Wemmergill Head	19 birds, 32 shots		

West wind, strong. Some showers. Colder.

22 August	Wemmergill Close House	6 drives	56 grouse with 115 shots
Close House Butts	8 birds, 23 shots		
Close House Butts	19 birds, 39 shots		
Close House Butts	9 birds, 16 shots		
The Moss	15 birds, 31 shots		
Long Grain	3 birds, 13 shots		
JN Butts	2 birds, 3 shots		

South west wind. Cold. Odd shower.

*Rabbit
from S+K*

23 August

Stean

4 drives

27 grouse with 47 shots

Moss Drive	3 birds, 5 shots
Blayshaw	13 birds, 27 shots
Meugher New Line	9 birds, 11 shots
Meugher Butts	2 birds, 4 shots

Fair. Strong south east wind. Wet in afternoon.

The eleventh day of the season was spent at Stean, that's Friday, and it was a lovely day really until the last drive up on Meugher. At a quarter past three it started to rain so I didn't do any more. 3.56 we set off from the garages in the Rolls with Pepe Mora next to me and Marshall driving in the RUB Rolls. It took us exactly an hour and a half to get here. We left punctually at eight and we got here at 9.30. It's a strong wind.

We brought the Moss down straight down wind and we left the first three butts empty, there were just 4 guns, Pepe, Fernando and Alfredo, and they came down the wind very well. I went to the left hand punter but they came through the gates there, three or four big lots to start with, and I thought that's wonderful. Then there were a few singles, and so on. We got about 14 brace there. Then we left the beaters where they were and they walked it straight through to the bottom butts there, the Peat Moor butts. We had Mark Alderson from Reeth because none of those people at Stean, since we've had the place, have been able to flank.

We are on the Peat Moor, I took the first butt nearest the lunch hut and had Alderson out there. It wasn't too difficult for him, the wind was more helpful than it had been. Still he did a good job and I killed 12 or 13 birds there, 4 of them I wouldn't have got if he hadn't been there. Then we had lunch in the hut with some of the Stean water from the estate, it's beautiful water that is, and Ronnie Palmer looked after us, he was pouring his heart out about what Neal Thompson had done to him. He's retiring and giving up Whitbeck Farm and we are taking it over. We are letting him have the cottage next to Mrs. Marchington's there. I am selling him that outright, it's really a great favour to the old boy and I told him I'd let him have it quite cheap, which we have done. And then of course he starts arguing about milk quotas and funny things as if it were Thompson. The only thing I promised him was to let him have a house in the village where he has always lived and that it was worth his money, and this is what we have done. Anyway he's an old grumbler. He said he won't be able to look after my sheep this year because he is not well enough. The doctor has told him not to be up the hill on his own, and I think he's right.

It seems there's a family called Verity who are our tenants with the sheep on the hill and these are a moderate lot, I thought that before, so I think Neal Thompson we've got to nobble them. They have got to be more helpful to me so that I can get more grouse, that's the object of the exercise. The object of the exercise is not farming there, they can do that somewhere else. So the Verity's are grumbling to Ronnie that with making them do the tipping they tried to save time, and they dipped and clipped at the same time and didn't get the lambs mothered back on to their ewes and they certainly mis-mothered. They haven't said anything to me about it, and I don't suppose they have to Neal. They rent a lot of land from us on that bottom there. I also understand, Kerrigan, that they've bought a hundred acres of land this year so if we are going to let the Whitbeck fields for a reasonable price, and the Verity's are going to have any of them, I would rather get more control on the moor itself. This bottom corner below the low lunch hut where we take lunch is a place where the tick is, it's very bad at that bottom corner next to Ramsgill, that's a mess, there's bracken in places. I think we must remove every inch of bracken to get rid of the tick.

We sold the cottage a bargain very cheaply

I am very pleased with Freeman. Of course the farmyard there is filthy, it's untidy and some of the doors are short of paint. It wants a good square up, but in Freeman's eyes he'll never know what's tidy and what's untidy - he's a first class chap and he wants help in that particular connection. He's got swarms of pigeons and his duck population is increasing. He's obviously twisting Neal Thompson by having too many animals and birds. If you look up the file I made a deal with him how many of each specie he is allowed to have and he's obviously taking advantage of us, and he'll have to be firmly corrected down to what the deal is. He's a very good worker and I want him to have a very good deal, and I don't want to be taken advantage of and I don't want him to put the wool round my agent, which he is doing at the moment.

I told him that one particular butt that I was in on the new Meugher drive wants lifting up two feet. It's a beautiful drive that is and the butts are lovely, they are square butts, you can move round in them, the loader, you can really operate.

Most of these grouse moor keepers of course have never employed a loader. I am not being funny, but the keepers don't have loaders when they have their keepers shoot, therefore they have no idea how big a butt should be to accommodate a loader. Very few of the agents have done that either. The owners are all usually absent when new lines are being built, if any at all, and so you get a pokey little butt that you can't change guns in, you are too near the wall for the loader to grab your gun - you push your gun and the loader will get hold of it between the butt and the wall, there's no room in half these butts. Holwick is a classic example, although they are better there. *NON Some of them*

Also, all butts should have a square front, you must ^{not} have a round butt, unless the grouse are frightfully high. It's an enormous added hazard which we could do without, the guns don't know which is their front if they are in a round butt, there isn't any front to it, so that square front so that the guns know where the line is and they know where the loaders are. Sometimes of course there is a lady required in the butt or a spectator, that makes it worse. I need first class butts that would win a prize and I am wanting to write and tell Freeman how pleased I am with the work that he is doing on the site. I believe he's got a good boy, that young Fawcett. I know to know his background, what's he paid and how long a contract he's got with him and where he comes from, what his home area is.

On the Peat Moor butts on Saturday we had quite a lot of rain. *We kept the boy on*

On the 22nd August on Close House on Wemmergill JN saw a young male Peregrin kill an old hen grouse. The young male Falcon, known as a Tiercil, missed the head of the bird and got it down the side. After attacking it and letting it drop, the Falcon goes up high before he goes down to eat it. He saw all the flankers and did not come down after it. JN sent Fawcett and dogs after it and it was not quite dead when they arrived. In conversation JN made reference to an occasion some years ago when he saw a Falcon kill a goose on Corbus 1953?

JN made the following comments when talking to Senor Alfredo Gomez Torres. The older the grouse the more worms it will have. The food is critical in February. In September, October, November and December there is enough food for the grouse and its worms. If it does not get enough food in February and March, then there is not enough for the worms and the grouse itself, so the grouse dies.

The worm egg comes out of the grouse in 14 days in its droppings. It comes out on the heather. The worm can only move on a wet surface. It climbs up the heather until it gets to the top then the grouse eats the top of the heather and takes the worm back again. This is why on the shoot one should always kill the old birds because they have more worms. When the hen is sitting she will become exhausted by the breeding process and the worms will kill her.

It is better to have feeding places for the grouse well separated. The birds should also be separated so that there is not a concentration of worms. In the next two or three weeks, i.e. from the end of August through to mid September, if it continues to rain every day there will be no heather for the birds in the winter and it will be necessary to shoot more. It is important to leave enough birds for the food you have but not more. It is better to avoid having a record year. If you do one year, probably you will have "nothing" for about seven years.

much

24 August	Reeth	4 drives	73 grouse with 157 shots 1 Rabbit
Lady Mary	6 birds, 17 shots		
Slade Head	7 birds, 19 shots		
Ashpot	21 birds, 40 shots		
Barras End	31 birds, 67 shots		
Low Moor	8 birds, 14 shots		

Strong wind. Rather a cross wind. Odd showers.

Saturday morning, the twelfth day of the season. Thank God I am still fit. Nobody called us this morning, didn't wake up until a quarter past eight, so what happened to Marshall I have no idea.

Anyway we have got rid of all the Spanish party by 9.15, 9.30 the Spanish party and ten minutes later Angus Ogilvy and JN, JN driving in the new Range Rover, set off from Middleton House to go to Reeth. In front was John Grave, David French and Harry Hope in the twelve seater and my little bitch who is doing very well. We arrived down at Surrender Bridge at 10.30 sharp.

I had told Mark Alderson, depending on the morning, to blank drive the Lady Mary top off to see what there was on it because I am anxious to know what there is here at Reeth and I am relying on it a great deal to keep me going for a lot of small days hopefully this season. That is why we are going to last out as we have got it arranged to about the 20th September, but I shall need Reeth quite a lot.

Well, the sun's shining but there's a lot of cloud and there's a blue sky, half cloud and half bright blue sky, a bit of sun, a gale from the south west, can't call it anything else. We're up at Merryfield and the butts among all that grit and we told the numbers, four guns, John Denton, John Thompson, Angus Ogilvy and I. I'm on the right as I'm number one and Ogilvy is two, Thompson three, John Denton four. I have placed them in that order. It is now just 11 o'clock and John Thompson has had the first shot of the day, knocked out one grouse.

I didn't know that Martin Charteris was fired when Cobham came in, reorganised the whole household. Charlie Tryon said "well if he goes, I shall go as well" and they had to reinstate him. Prince Charles has been trying to get a Personal Assistant, Private Secretary, to help him, has been offering £60,000 a year. He's employed "head hunters" to find him and he has not been successful in twelve months, so, also he is a man of many fads apparently. Christopher Soames said some very indiscreet things and these got back to the ears of "you know who" and that's why he was fired. He shares my views about Martin Charteris, we both agree on Fergy and we both agree on Christopher. They went on their honeymoon in 1963 to see Gonzalez Diez's father in Jerez. His son was 21 last month, conceived in Spain. Angus's grandfather on his mother's side had 17 children, they then selected a young girl, a pretty young girl of 18 for one of his sons who didn't want to marry her and the old man married her himself and proceeded to have a lot more children. That's the crazy crowd in Norfolk, that Eddie Cook and all that lot, they're all related from his mother's side.

16 coveys on the first drive. Well there's a hell of a gale at Merryfield. He took his own decision and he didn't blank the top of Lady Mary off, I'm glad he didn't, a nice lot of birds went sideways despite all the noise from the flankers. From what I saw there was a nice show there. How many times we shall be able to shoot I don't know but we are going to have some fun at Reeth this year from what I have seen up to now.

Well, now I'm down on Low Moor and really it's been a gale. Down here there is still a strong wind but where we've been on the top of Reeth there it's been an absolute and utter gale and in a way the birds have been a bit of a joke. The drive we've just had, what they call the wooden butts, I don't know why they call them that. Hubert Montreau has butts, he's number eight on the roadside there, you walk out there, it's quite a long pull up. He always used to stay out on the road that's why they call it his butts.





Anyway we got there and I was in number four butt, numbered from the left there and had a hell of a shoot, I shot a good running rabbit through the head and I shot some grouse creeping up the scar of the hill in front of me and just over the brow, almost flying at nought miles an hour. The majority of the grouse I shot were flat out coming over the ridge down the wind, they were doing a hundred and some of the others just came and just hung in the wind a bit and then accelerated. Some of the others came fast and then dived down when they got over the edge of the scar, and altogether it was a mixture of every possible angle and speed that you would ever have in one drive, one of the best drives I have ever had in my life. I fired in total 70 shots, 2 were fired by French, I think at a runner and one at a rabbit. So 67 cartridges for 31 grouse claimed. 200 grouse flew away and we didn't have too good a pick up, but that's what I shot.

26 August	Wemmergill North Side	6 drives	123 grouse with 209 shots
Standards	15 birds, 33 shots		
Corbus	15 birds, 22 shots		
Green Grain	21 birds, 41 shots		
Wemmergill Head	14 birds, 23 shots		
Wemmergill Head	42 birds, 64 shots		
Wemmergill Head	16 birds, 26 shots		

Light north west wind. Dry and sunny spells.

Here we are at the beginning of the third week up on the Standards, perfect wind from the north west, not strong, I think 10 to 15 knots, cold, obviously with a bit of north in it and there are nine Nickersons in the line. The top one was Mary Ann and then her father, then his son, my grandson Edward, there were three of them together. Then there was Ben, then young Jennie the second, Charles, Rosie, JN, and brother Sam in the bottom butt.

There were some good birds, very good birds, the bag was 19 brace of young and 8 brace of old. I know exactly because I had them laid out and some of these birds were younger, they're the first young grouse still having the yellow feathers on that I have seen. Normally in August almost the whole of the young grouse look like about four or five brace were shot today. I have never known grouse so heavy, so far forward and so strong on the 12th August in my life. And I've never known so few keepers. It wasn't until today I shot a right and left which I was rather pleased about when I thought I was slow - got them both in the head - I had a look and they were that bit younger birds so that led me to ask for all the grouse to be laid out.

Mary Ann has 12 shots, she's got George Graham with her, the first time she's been out with the grouse and she didn't connect, hardly surprising. The young spaniel of Rosie's retrieved her first grouse.

Also in the party are Connie, that's Sam's wife, sister Ruth, sister Rachel, and Audrey, brother Ben's wife. Louise is not shooting today, she's working out her spaniel Patrick behind the line.

There is a visitor girl here called Julie de Vilmorin - an interesting party.

We've just had the Corbus drive, just a fair show. Picked up 15 brace. Brother Sam stayed on the bank the other side near the butt that I built for him a few years ago - he can't even get to that now poor old boy. Anyway he's on the road and he got a bird, so I'm very pleased. Cliff Teanbry has picked up 42 brace.

We went up to Green Grain and the birds had packed. At the beginning of the drive there were huge packs sweeping about, going out. They went over the top of grandson Edward. He said it's like Christmas, he said, at the beginning of the drive! He claimed 4, his father 19, I claimed 21 and brother Ben claimed 9. It was 53 grouse. Then there was brother Sam - he didn't get anything so far as I know, so I said to Joe Robson and all the keepers, pick us up there, carry on down to the fifth butt where brother Sam was, and we are not leaving here until we find these 54 grouse because the family are honest claimers and when we shoot together we always pick up what we claim. So it turned out to be - we had to wait a little time but we picked up a bird and that was 27 brace, that was without the long birds, so the pickers up would have three brace I think of long birds. Louise got a brace and behind was Patrick. Rosie got a brace, she was at the bottom end, didn't get too much shooting and I was very pleased how I was shooting. I think this idea of shooting into the front of the bird is well worthwhile when they are fast, particularly when they have gone behind. I think you should get some space in front of his beak and at the same time keep swinging. When they are say half way between the next butt or even nearer the next butt and gone past the line, you want to see quite a bit of daylight in front of the bird and keep the gun moving at the same time. It's Rosie's first day out, she's got 17 grouse. Brother Ben got 26 grouse, young Jennie 11 birds, Edward 12 birds all day, and brother Sam one bird.

27 August Holwick 6 drives 62 grouse with 113 shots

Silver Band	16 birds, 27 shots
Black Arc	13 birds, 25 shots
Black Arc	8 birds, 22 shots
Gully	9 birds, 23 shots
Swinkets	8 birds, 21 shots
Swinkets	8 birds, 15 shots

Strong south to south west wind. Fog in the morning and drizzle. Fog cleared after lunch with heavy rain in the afternoon.

28 August Wemmergill South Side 6 drives 50 grouse with 98 shots
Guest of Tom Cowie

Top Row	6 birds, 12 shots
Top Row	8 birds, 12 shots
Shipka Pass	3 birds, 7 shots
Shipka Pass	10 birds, 19 shots
Shipka Pass	12 birds, 34 shots
Shipka Pass	11 birds, 14 shots

29 August Reeth 5 drives 96 grouse with 177 shots

Low Moor Top	5 birds, 10 shots
Low Moor Top	14 birds, 22 shots
Low Moor Top	20 birds, 36 shots
Healaugh Brow	21 birds, 42 shots
Healaugh Brow	36 birds, 67 shots

East wind. A little rain, sunny spells.

30 August	Holwick East End	6 drives	44 grouse with 97 shots
Slits	8 birds, 17 shots		
Slits Up	8 birds, 17 shots		
Sykes	11 birds, 21 shots		
Nickle Hopple	4 birds, 14 shots		
Lair	9 birds, 21 shots		
Gully	4 birds, 7 shots		

Fog at start of day. South west wind, moderate. Some rain.

31 August	Wemmergill South Side	6 drives	53 grouse with 107 shots
Dow Syke	9 birds, 25 shots		
Dow Syke	14 birds, 25 shots		
Dow Syke	18 birds, 32 shots		
Shipka Pass	1 bird, 4 shots		
Shipka Pass	5 birds, 12 shots		
Shipka Pass	6 birds, 9 shots		

Strong south west wind. Some heavy rain, showers in afternoon.

3 September	Reeth	5 drives	48 grouse with 83 shots 1 Teal
Surrender Mills	2 birds, 5 shots		
Mill Bottom	3 birds, 5 shots		
Barras End	7 birds, 12 shots		
Blades	15 birds, 32 shots		
Blades	21 birds, 29 shots		

Showers. North west wind.

4 September	Reeth	5 drives	92 grouse with 185 shots
Murrayfield	16 birds, 24 shots		
Lady Mary	24 birds, 43 shots		
Lady Mary	22 birds, 55 shots		
Watercrag	18 birds, 42 shots		
Watercrag	12 birds, 21 shots		

South east wind. Cool. Fog for the last two drives.

5 September Reeth 5 drives 129 grouse with 209 shots

Slade Head 21 birds, 29 shots
 Brownsey 27 birds, 42 shots
 Corbus Gill 11 birds, 14 shots
 Reeth High Moor 35 birds, 63 shots
 Barras End 35 birds, 61 shots

Fine. Strong west wind. A few light showers.

6 September Wemmergill 6 drives 60 grouse with 109 shots
 Close House and North Side

Close House Up 8 birds, 13 shots
 Close House Down 7 birds, 14 shots
 Standards 9 birds, 17 shots
 Corbus 9 birds, 19 shots
 Green Grain 15 birds, 30 shots
 Wemmergill Head 12 birds, 16 shots

Medium north west wind. Cold. Sunny and good visibility.

7 September Holwick 6 drives 72 grouse with 182 shots

Nickle Hopple Down 10 birds, 22 shots
 Myer Hole 15 birds, 41 shots
 Black Arc Down 20 birds, 38 shots
 Sykes 11 birds, 31 shots
 Gully 3 birds, 18 shots
 Gully 13 birds, 32 shots

South west wind. Some fog in morning. Rain most of the day.

9 September Leadhills Moor 6 drives 45 grouse with 100 shots
 Guest of Senator Flowers

Clowgill 1 bird, 6 shots
 Lettershaws 4 birds, 13 shots
 Glencaple Down 10 birds, 26 shots
 Glencaple Back 7 birds, 15 shots
 Cleuch 4 birds, 6 shots
 Clowgill Return 19 birds, 34 shots

Strong south west wind. Occasional drizzle. Hill fog on high ground.

10 September	Leadhills Moor	7 drives	27 grouse with 54 shots
Standard Rigg	4 birds, 6 shots		
Thamish Cleuch	2 birds, 3 shots		
Glenkip	2 birds, 4 shots		
Snar Rigg	5 birds, 8 shots		
The Groups	1 bird, 5 shots		
Corbie Ha	5 birds, 16 shots		
The Dodd	8 birds, 12 shots		

South west wind. Hill fog. Drizzle early, clearing.

11 September	Leadhills Moor	7 drives	17 grouse with 36 shots
The Moss	3 birds, 5 shots		
The Big Drive	1 bird, 1 shot		
The Return Drive	5 birds, 9 shots		
Glenae	2 birds, 9 shots		
The Rigg	3 birds, 4 shots		
The Stone Wall	1 bird, 2 shots		
The Rigg	2 birds, 6 shots		

Hill fog. Drizzle. Strong south east wind.

12 September	Leadhills Moor	7 drives	49 grouse with 75 shots
Lowthers Down Drive	3 birds, 7 shots		
Lowthers Moss	4 birds, 7 shots		
Minehill	11 birds, 14 shots		
Shiel-Gare-Rigg	4 birds, 9 shots		
Goldscars	13 birds, 16 shots		
Hole Down Drive	4 birds, 10 shots		
Hole Flow	10 birds, 12 shots		

Sunshine early, becoming cloudy. Rain from second last drive. South east wind.

5.15 on the Thursday, the second Thursday in September. We are just coming down the road from the bottom drive at Leadhills, we are on the Council road with David French driving and my wife and I. We have got Teal and Sweep in the dog compartment underneath the luggage. George Graham is following with another Range Rover with the rest of the luggage. He's been driving the Argocat - it's the first time we've had one on a grouse moor for my personal use. Major Maude used to use one many, many years ago and I had one at Rothwell about ten years ago to experiment with. There's no doubt it's a great boon for going up those very steep hills at Leadhills. There's a tremendous difference and one is not anything like so tired. It will go almost anywhere, unbelievable really, unbelievable. I've been in some funny places in my life, but that machine will really go almost anywhere. The danger is of course if the engine stops, then you've no brakes, you can do practically nothing, you go forward like a sledge, not terribly fast, but of course if it was very steep, the pressure bit in front of you, the only thing you could do would be to jump off. Getting into it is hellishly difficult, and then I rather imagine I was getting on a horse, and I stand facing his tail, put my left foot on a little mounting block that they got for me and swing into the saddle like that. It's been a great help.

We shot four days with my 20 bores as usual, thirteen sixteenths of an ounce of shot, very normal cheap cartridge and killed 138 grouse in the four days. Had virtually no rain until the last two drives on the fourth day, and we had a bit of fog yesterday.

We have started to head southwards now on the A74, a terrific lot of motor vehicles. It's 54 miles from the turn-off into Leadhills side road to Carlisle, 54 miles on the main dual carriageway to Carlisle from Leadhills turn-off.

Well, they were all Americans in the party apart from my wife and I, and I think with modesty taught them how to shoot a bit. Fred Hamilton could knock a few birds down, Pete Love shooting better than last year, Joe Hudson gets a bird or two but he has no idea, none of them have the slightest idea, Hudson particularly and Hamilton. They just shoot at everything anywhere near them even if they are going straight towards me, they just blast it off, luckily not too accurate but it makes a bird jump.

I shot some long crossers but I must say, to absolutely tell the truth, I was a bit surprised myself how far out I had got them crossing with these ordinary 50-50 barrels. I think the trick is to be into the air in front of the bird and keep your swing going quite some distance in front, but they are really at right angles to you, it's amazing how you can knock them down if you get into the sky far enough ahead and keep the gun swinging. There was a covey came at me this morning, I was on the third drive and I was number 8, end gun. We came up wind to start with, this covey, down the line but coming up wind and I took a right and left at the first gun fairly well out, changed guns, got a good change then got two more as they passed me, and then turned and I got a fifth shot off a dickens of a long way away, then luckily knocked him down, a monumental shot, that's five with five shots and there were only these five birds flying.

We met the Factor, Mr. Menzies and his wife. They have been married five years, he's had the job 29 years and they live at Hopetoun near Edinburgh, it's just north of the Firth of Forth. A very straightforward chap I think without too much up top, a very straightforward fellow. He's got a very high regard for Kenny Wilson the Keeper, whatever he says he thinks this one must be right. As far as what I think about the way the Moor is looked after, that's an entirely different story. We've just been up there, I had a pair of shoes on and luckily I managed to find the right terrain, didn't get my feet wet but it was an absolute bog and badly needs draining, but I don't know whether they can get the money from the estate, but it's awful the amount of draining that wants doing on the top of that last drive on the fourth day. The condition of the butts are disgusting, there's no other word for it. They are very slippery and extraordinarily dangerous. They have boarded floors, they should have rabbit wire fastened down on them to stop you slipping about, but there's no depth to them. They are alright for using one gun in but nobody could change guns in them correctly. The whole of the butts on the Moor, where they have got any back in at all, are quite disgusting. I would think that nine out of ten of the butts that we were in, we were in 24 butts altogether, I don't think we were in more than three, that I would pass as being in any way suitable.

Well, the Hopetoun Arms has got a very large sitting room with a bar at one end, except there aren't any chairs for sitting in really, I think you could say that, there are one or two straight backed chairs in there, card tables for people to sit at to talk to each other, what they call visits with each other, but there are no comfortable armchairs or anything like that where you can relax in, and next door there is the dining room which opens out on to the kitchen. The table was set for 13, we sat 13 every night, we sat 13 for lunch 4 days and 13 for dinner 4 days. I can't say that I liked it at all, I didn't like it. And the table is so wide you can't talk across it with anyone in front and of course you are so far away from the people either side of you. What people were doing they were just moving their chairs hitching up to the people next door, so you had lots of pairs round the table. The same cook was there who, considering the facilities that she's got to work in, did rather well. I have a feeling that Senator Flowers is rather mean from the point of view of money and I think that is still the case.

I didn't have a bath there, I just had a sluice down at the hand basin for the four days. I am looking forward to tonight at Middleton House where we are now going. The cocktail hour is the abomination, I never got down before 8.25, we were supposed to go into the dining room at 8.30 but we never did, it was more or less five to nine or something like that.

Dangerous
Butts

I just drank ginger ale, I had never drank anything at all before dinner or after, except a couple of glasses of Port last night. The wine was good, we had Margaux 71, we had Montrachet 75, we had Meuralt 75, very good white burgundies with the salmon, that was good.

Poor David French was put in a very horrible room, couldn't stand up in it, but there we are, it was very good of him to put up with it. George Graham was more lucky, he had a good room, but the staff were well fed, they fed the staff well, and they fed us well. The breakfasts were absolutely excellent, very commonsense, really good breakfasts, but the plates were cold. There was never enough tea, either at teatime or at breakfast, but I was first in to breakfast each morning so I was alright, and not enough hot water.

You have got to be quite inventive, the bottom drawer of the wardrobe, I got into the habit of throwing all my dirty clothes and everything I wasn't likely to need after a day or two, every day I threw it into this huge bottom drawer in the wardrobe and that sort of thinned the room out a bit, and then I threw other things on top of the wardrobe that weren't in proper use. I wore pretty well the same clothes, the same knickerbockers, shooting shirts and things and socks almost every day, I just kept them out on one chair so that I knew where everything was.

The noise of the motor cycles and the village boys, all the Land Rovers and Range Rovers and everything outside the window, I've never known such an awful row on coming back from shooting, and I suggested the police should be fetched in to quieten them down, but it didn't seem to make any difference. Anyway I was so jolly tired that I was able to sleep two nights before dinner.

I would say that Kenny Wilson is very satisfied with himself, I would say that the Factor is very satisfied with himself. The Marquis is of course living in Marbell with his American wife, and with absentee management you get what you expect.

I don't think we want to go to Leadhills next year and Mrs. Gething and Dummer you must remind me of that, that I don't wish to go there next year, although we have been invited. I think the reasons why I don't want to go should go in my diary, all this can be typed out and put into the shooting diary and the black book, and some excerpts of it can be put in a book.

I think really the reasons why I don't want to go are as follows: There are 8 guns, which are too many in relation to the total number of grouse, 8 guns are too many. Secondly, most of the people shoot at the birds coming straight at you which is very off-putting and I think really putting up with American women for four days is not easy for me. The wine was good, the food was good and I didn't get indigestion, in fact much better than in most places that I go to from the point of view of not giving me indigestion, the fact that everything they use is very hygienic, no bother with having indigestion at all, either with the lunch or the dinner.

I really think that there's not enough grouse is the explanation, not enough grouse, a lot to be shot by 8 guns. We've got the first day 108½, next day 60, next day 52, that's 220 brace in the first three days. Well today we've got maybe 100 brace - 320 brace, that's an average of 80 brace a day for 8 guns - 10 brace per gun. I suppose it's not too bad but not in a season like this when we've got a lot of grouse of our own to kill.

93 miles to Brough. Remind me to write to John Grave will you and send him a cheque please if I haven't don so, for the four days he was with me at the beginning of the season.

14 September	Reeth	5 drives	34 grouse with 69 shots
Low Moor	4 birds, 8 shots		
Low Moor	12 birds, 27 shots		
Healaugh Brow	5 birds, 9 shots		
Healaugh Brow	10 birds, 18 shots		
Watson House	3 birds, 7 shots		

Strong west wind. Sunny with odd shower.

16 September	Holwick Allotments	6 drives	26 grouse with 62 shots 1 Rabbit 2 Teal
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Holwick Morning

Blair to Black Arc	7 birds, 14 shots
Black Arc Return	3 birds, 3 shots
Junipers Down	- birds, 2 shots

Allotments After Lunch

Green Fell	7 birds, 20 shots
Rake Gill	4 birds, 14 shots
Rake Gill	5 birds, 9 shots

Thick fog all day. Heavy rain in morning. A little brighter after lunch. Strong south west wind.

17 September	Wemmergill South Side	6 drives	31 grouse with 87 shots
Top Row	2 birds, 9 shots		
Top Row	13 birds, 23 shots		
Shipka Pass	7 birds, 24 shots		
Shipka Pass	3 birds, 12 shots		
Shipka Pass	- birds, 6 shots		
Shipka Pass	6 birds, 13 shots		

Bright, sunny and dry. Strong wind slightly north west of west.

18 September	Holwick East End	5 drives	21 grouse with 38 shots 2 Snipe
Swinkets Up	2 birds, 5 shots		
Blaebeck Up	8 birds, 16 shots		
Blaebeck Down	6 birds, 7 shots		
Slits Up	4 birds, 8 shots		
Junipers Down	1 bird, 2 shots		

19 September Reeth 5 drives 73 grouse with 194 shots

Slade Head to Kearton Pasture	21 birds, 58 shots
Reeth High Moor to Barras End	15 birds, 39 shots
Watercrag to Lady Mary	12 birds, 37 shots
Lady Mary to Murrayfield	14 birds, 37 shots
Wintering Back to Murrayfield	11 birds, 23 shots

West wind. Fog in the morning. Dry and sunny in afternoon.

Claude Foussier made the following comments to JN at Reeth on Thursday, 19th September 1985 :
He said that the quantity and quality of birds was superb. He thought the Moor was beautiful and that the lunch hut at Lady Mary was in a lovely situation. He said the environment was beautiful. The cushions were very comfortable coming back in the car and he said that it was the best day's shooting he had ever had.

20 September Wemmergill North Side 6 drives 53 grouse with 121 shots

Standards	11 birds, 28 shots
Green Grain	8 birds, 25 shots
Cock Lake	9 birds, 15 shots
Wemmergill Head	19 birds, 41 shots
Cock Lake	5 birds, 9 shots
Wemmergill Head	1 bird, 3 shots

Light south west wind. Cold. Bright and clear with odd shower.

23 September Reeth 5 drives 32 grouse with 74 shots

Surrender Top	4 birds, 10 shots
Back up to same butts	4 birds, 6 shots
Down to Barras End	16 birds, 28 shots
Gill down to Low Moor Top	4 birds, 13 shots
Back up to same butts	4 birds, 17 shots

Strong south west wind. Some drizzle and sunny spells.

24 September Reeth 5 drives 47 grouse with 89 shots

Winterings	12 birds, 24 shots
Murrayfield	10 birds, 15 shots
Watercrag	16 birds, 32 shots
Lady Mary	4 birds, 7 shots
Lady Mary	5 birds, 11 shots

Light south west wind. No rain. Sunny.

1985

27 September Reeth 5 drives 86 grouse with 187 shots
2 Snipe

Winterings down to Slade Head 21 birds, 52 shots
Brownsey up to Ashpot 21 birds, 51 shots
Doctor Gill down to Ashpot 22 birds, 32 shots
Slade Head down to Kearton
Pasture 11 birds, 23 shots
Surrender Top down to Barras End 11 birds, 29 shots

Calm, dull with no wind at start. Sunny spells developing later in the day. No rain.

27 September Reads Island
Evening flight

Teal 5
Mallard 1

Head: 6

28 September Reads Island

Teal 25
Mallard

Head: 25

Friday, 27th September

We came back from Reeth via Northallerton and York because there was an accident or something on the road just south of Leeming Bar. We managed to get through on the other carriageway and turn north and made a big circuit round and then to Northallerton, then eventually to York through Fasingwold - a very slow performance. Marshall was driving the RUB Rolls to get to Reads Island. If you cannot get down the A1 it takes a lot longer. From Reeth to South Ferriby landing stage for the Island is a three hour job if you cannot go by the A1. It takes half an hour to get from Reeth through Tunstall to the A1 at Catterick.

It was quite ironical, since the 12th August we have had nothing but rough weather. We have not had a single calm day since the 12th August as far as I know, and I have shot every day pretty well. Tonight as we are just approaching the Humber Bridge it has been flat calm. It has been the calmest day you could ever imagine and that is the day we are going to shoot the ducks. But that is the life and we had an awful lot of fun one way or another so we must not grumble.


It is now 7.08 and we are arriving at South Ferriby. 2 hours and 51 minutes from Reeth via York so wish I had 2 hours and 20 minutes and we should have been here just in time for the flight.

Had a talk with the Colyers. I said it has not been our year really. We have had a bad recent past with him hurting his knee, an operation, getting the tide into the East End, losing my East End flight pond, the tide into the Magazine and losing the West End flight pond. Nobody knows what is going to happen to them, and if anybody had prophesised it, after we had had such a wonderful shoot two years ago, it would have been impossible. They seem to be pleased with the deer culls in that they seem to think that they know their job. As far as the next cull is concerned, that ought to be finished a

for disputes

fortnight before I come on the Island, that is at the end of November. So that culling should all be finished by 15th November and Mr. Shillington had better get busy with that.

I think that one of the most extraordinary satisfactory things is that the plants that Mrs. Colyer has put in have grown so well, very fertile soil on this Island, or else a good gardener or a combination of both. I think that the wild creeper will have to be drastically attacked. The corner spout on the bungalow, south east corner, has dropped down. I do not know whether Colyer could put that up himself. If not we will have to get someone to put that right because the broken woodwork needs splicing, a good big strong piece of wood putting on there.

 Lady Nickerson has spoken to Mrs. Colyer about some curtains and covers for the easy chairs. When I am looking around my personal equipment and things, Mr. Dummer, you might bear in mind that we should send a few more things to the Island to brighten up the Lodge.

I have recommended that as soon as he possibly can, to get his dragline on that Magazine field and get some banks up there, some little banks to let the water run off slowly. It really wants a settle on there and then drain away very slowly. Every tide leaves a sediment. You get the thickness of a penny and you would soon have a wonderful green marsh there that the widgeon absolutely love. It could be a fantastic place that could for widgeon to rest in England. Apparently an eight foot tide comes into the Magazine. It seems to me from my timetable that there are about 10 days a month when it will be flooding the Magazine. I think that is our number two priority. The number one priority is to get a morning flight pond at the east end.

We talked about us making a move into the salt water pond near the creek and we are going to keep the fresh water pond, so we shall need some more three quarter inch alkathene piping so that we can make these fresh water ponds. He is going to put a flapper on the cross bank to keep the level on the west end of the pond constant. I think in order of priorities he should try to get some more fresh water into the new south pond and keep feeding that very hard and then he should get the warping up done on that if we can try it.

On Saturday, October 12th, we shall have to leave Reeth at 3 o'clock and come down the north road - we should be there at the jetty by 5.30 or 5.45, shoot the south pond on the Saturday and then shoot on the Sunday and do the flight that night. Early on the Monday morning I would like to shoot at Reeth again if I have enough grouse left. I might not want to. I might want to have that day off.

Had a very nice day at Reeth. Got over 70 brace of grouse, three guns - Lady Nickerson and I and one guest. I killed two snipe that came past the drive, I was very pleased.

We just had time to drop off at the south pond. There was nothing on it when I arrived at 7.30 p.m. Three Teal came and I got a right and left at them. A single Teal came and I got him and another single came and I got him. A mallard came and I got him. After that the light had gone and I missed two more chances. We picked three Teal up, we could not find the fourth. David French was with me and Skip and Teal, and he went this morning before I was up and found one of the Teal. I had a bottle of Beychevelle 1975. I was pretty tired after being on the Moor all day. Had a marvellous sleep. Mrs. Colyer's famous lamb chops at dinner, simple and excellent, and plain boiled potato - nothing fussed about. Anyway I slept until 1.30 the next day. Then we had roast chicken for lunch and out again soon after 4 o'clock. Wrote up the book and had a meeting with the Colyers. Stopped on the centre cross bank and surveyed the scene. The tide had broken in at JN corner and the Magazine had been flooded a month ago. The JN hide has gone and John's pond is still there but the tide could not get to it. It is the most desolate scene, very depressing.

Anyway, we live in a time of change and as everyone knows it is my maxim to change before change takes place and this is never better illustrated. The entire new bank that I put from the west end right up to the cross bank has saved the whole of the south magazine field and of course we have saved the house. If that had not been done the house would have been in danger. So I would have thought quite a lot of years the tide has done the worst to us now. Keep our fingers crossed. It is up to us, now that we have defended ourselves, to attack and close more land.

The deer look very well after the recent cull, and then there are the new hides that Colyer has built, about 200 yards south of John's pond, the bottom end of that wide dyke there. We have been feeding it and I killed the first eleven teal the eleven times I shot. I was very pleased with that. One flew away and then I missed one. I just shot a white teal, four barrels, which went down to the river and collapsed, Jennie said it had dropped in the boat. There is a huge boat going past. The flight has been when the tide has moved the birds off. It is now 6.40 and during the last half hour, high tide at 7.30, it has been the most remarkable flight of Curlew. I have never seen so many birds. I would think to make it sensible you would say already 400 have come from west to east just crossing over John's pond, and between where I am and the pond, like they always do. A feature of the west end is a tremendous change.

The most extraordinary bird, like a very young curlew feeding on the west bank, then twenty yards I had my glasses on him, the most extraordinary thing, it looked like a most adult bird. I don't know if it was a young curlew or what on earth it could have been. It must have been I think. I have not shot at a widgeon or a mallard but there was a single shoveller that came, very wide. If I had not identified him as a shoveller sideways on I would not have fired. I did not hurt him I hoped, I do not think I did. My wife who is reading a book and watching from the next hide at the same time for me, said that the teal I wounded dropped towards the river, she said it had fallen on a boat, a huge boat going past at the same time. They are so close those big boats going to JN's corner. Colyer has come back, he has had an accident and pulled the corner out of the sledge and he has got one wheel off the back of the sledge.

Had not seen a mallard until 6.50, just seen the first one, possibly 200 yards away. Keep getting the odd teal. We have 12 in the bag at the moment, actually in the sack, and we have 4 outside of it to pick. I think I just shot the highest teal I have ever shot, a beautiful bird. I had to bend right over backwards, nearly twisted my trousers off. I had to pull my stomach in and bend right back. I had no braces on and my knickerbockers slipped down. Lady Nickerson does not praise me much. She said that was a fantastic good shot. I must say I am quietly pleased by it and Colyer has picked it.

7 o'clock a huge flight of Godwits with a tremendously rapid wing beat. Lovely to think that this Island and the other round it serves as a sanctuary for these beautiful birds. Fantastic wing beat and great to see the formation they fly in, open but yet definite. An open formation with a definite formation - lovely, so different from anything else really. Not a breath of wind. Midges around for the first time summer/autumn. We have not had any summer until today. The end of September until we have had a summer day.

As I was saying, the west end over the cross bank where I have not been for some years, I had a look at that from a distance today. It is very noticeable that the herbage has changed considerably, in fact it is unmistakably different. It just must have reached the stage where the tide goes over it so infrequently the the whole nature of the herbage has changed. You can see a different sheen on it, a different colour altogether and much more valuable to us. It is silted up there and it is above the level, except for the very highest tides. It would be amusing to have it surveyed, that outside land, to see how high it is. There is enough land there to reclaim, as much as we have lost, without a lot of trouble and I am sure the east end, as we have just lost on the west end, if we could silt it up like that, it would lift up and we could have an island for perhaps several hundred years here. We should be modest but my goodness I have shot well, although I say it. A very rare miss. I think I have missed a shoveller and one other teal I think. And I have shot at everything irrespective, anything that I thought was in killable range, which is a long way for a teal. I saw a few little grebes tonight. We will have to get Colyer to repair that corner seat in the hide I was in, it's too loose, and he will also have to put some papers in the dyke on the south marsh, 150 yards from where I am and 250 yards, and also a paper in John's pond, in the old pond. He wants to dry that dyke if he can on the southern bank. That wants flapping off to keep that dry to stop the teal dropping in. The whole idea was to minimise the amount of alternative places for the teal to go into, minimise it just to the spot near the hide. We want a couple of rubber lined pegs putting in there so that you can stand your gun down in between shots.

It is 7.15 and I have not had a shot for 15 minutes. We have seen nothing either. I have not seen any mallard flight. I have only seen I think 3 mallard, a pair and a single. I thought I saw two widgeon but I could not identify them, they were a long way away, maybe half a mile away nearly.

Quarter past seven, the first shot on the mainland. Twenty five past seven 3 teal came over at nought feet, they swung round on the grass, I shot at one, bad background, really low he was, he skied up, I must have touched him in the brain or the eye, poor devil, he skied high and I knocked him down with the second gun. It's now half past seven, and it's been a very slow affair since seven o'clock, practically nothing to shoot at.

30 September Wemmergill South Side 6 drives 39 grouse with 78 shots

Top Row	2 birds, 7 shots
Top Row	12 birds, 22 shots
Shipka Pass	9 birds, 17 shots
Shipka Pass	7 birds, 16 shots
Shipka Pass	5 birds, 8 shots
Shipka Pass	4 birds, 8 shots

Moderate to light south west to west wind. Fine and dry and warm. Hazy.

1 October Reeth 5 drives 47 grouse with 96 shots

Winterings to Murrayfield	13 birds, 28 shots
Murrayfield to Lady Mary	5 birds, 10 shots
Watercrag to Lady Mary	9 birds, 23 shots
Winterings to Murrayfield	7 birds, 13 shots
Lady Mary to Murrayfield	13 birds, 22 shots

South wind. Fine, sunny and warm.

3 October Reeth 5 drives 30 grouse with 83 shots

Barras Flat to Stone Butts	3 birds, 8 shots
Kierton Pasture to Old Gang Gill	7 birds, 21 shots
Brownsey to Ashpot	11 birds, 25 shots
Doctor Gill down to Ashpot	5 birds, 8 shots
Brownsey down to Kierton Pasture	4 birds, 21 shots



1985

4 October Reeth 5 drives 30 grouse with 68 shots

Krinley Bottom to Healaugh Brow 5 birds, 10 shots
Riddings Ridge up to Low Moor Top 9 birds, 16 shots
Gill down to Low Moor Top 3 birds, 10 shots
Surrender Top down to Barras End 4 birds, 14 shots
Mill Bottom to Krinley Wall 9 birds, 18 shots

South gale force wind and heavy showers.

5 October North Ormsby 8 drives 67 Partridges with 141 shots
2 Mallard
2 Hares

Sunny and windy.

5 October Nettleton Pond Evening flight 17 Mallard
6 Teal

7 October North Ormsby 8 drives 49 Partridges with 131 shots
1 Hare

Fine dull day. South west wind, fresh.

7 October Ram Pond Evening flight 17 Mallard

6.45 it is now and I am in my favourite butt to the west of the Ram Pond after having driven off the mallard, and they kept coming. They kept coming off, they did not all come at once - it was wonderful.
6.45 on a very still night. I have got David French with me loading for me.

9 October Reeth 5 drives 44 grouse with 111 shots

Winterings to Murrayfield 6 birds, 16 shots
Doctor Gill to Ashpot 3 birds, 6 shots
Brownsey Down to Kearton Pasture 16 birds, 46 shots
Surrender Top to Barras End 13 birds, 30 shots
Mill Bottom Across to Krinley Wall 6 birds, 13 shots

Strong west wind. Odd showers.

10 October	Steane	4 drives	11 grouse with 23 shots
Blayshaw	3 birds, 9 shots		
Peat Moor	5 birds, 8 shots		
Moss	- birds, 3 shots		
Meagher	3 birds, 3 shots		

South west wind. Rain most of the day and fairly foggy.

11 October	Reeth	5 drives	43 grouse with 95 shots 3 Partridges
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Krinley Down to Healaugh Brow	8 birds, 19 shots
Riddings Ridge to Healaugh Brow	13 birds, 37 shots
Krinley down to Healaugh Brow	5 birds, 10 shots
Experimental Drive	14 birds, 20 shots
Experimental Drive	3 birds, 9 shots

Strong wind in morning, dying down in afternoon. Dry and sunny.

12 October	Reeth	5 drives	33 grouse with 63 shots
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Watercrag to Lady Mary	16 birds, 22 shots
Murrayfield to Lady Mary	2 birds, 5 shots
Winterings to Hall Edge Butts	4 birds, 13 shots
Barras End to Surrender Top	7 birds, 16 shots
Mill Bottom to Krinley Wall	4 birds, 7 shots

No wind. Dry and sunny.

14 October	Reeth	6 drives	50 grouse with 107 shots
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Krinley to Healaugh Brow	16 birds, 27 shots
Riddings Ridge to Healaugh Brow	- birds, 4 shots
Experimental Drive	3 birds, 8 shots
Bottom of Kearton Pasture to Road	10 birds, 24 shots
Kearton Pasture to Lowry Gate	14 birds, 27 shots
Brownsey Front to Stoney Gill	7 birds, 17 shots

Fine day. Very little breeze.

STEAN : October 1985

Heather plots and new butts
built by Joe Freeman





October 18th. George Graham is driving me back from the north, it's 7 o'clock and we are just going through Eggleston, 18th October 1985. The tenth week of the grouse shooting season will end tomorrow, Saturday. I shall be on Lincoln Heath, God willing, with Patrick Dean shooting his partridges.

During those nine weeks and six days I have been out 50 days. One day we had to come back before we started, otherwise we have put in the whole of the 50 days planned. We have had bad weather but we have never stopped. We've had the full number of drives each day, except yesterday at Reeth, it was the end of the season and I shortened it by a drive just to show my good wishes and thanks to the staff whilst I went to look at the new Winterings farm that we've bought, on our way home. We went home through Gunnerside and Keld and Tamm Hill and Brough, what a lovely journey, but it was thick fog for the last part of the journey, dangerous as we didn't enjoy that.

Anyway here we are going home, it's a dry night and George is driving RUB Rolls. David French is following in the Range Rover with Teal, Bess and Beck, three black labradors. So five days a week grouse shooting for ten weeks. We've killed 2,689 grouse to my own gun plus several snipe and a few rabbits. I think I've enjoyed it more than any grouse shooting season in my life. I've only killed more grouse in a season once, that was in 1982 when I killed 3,018 and in 1972, that was ten years earlier, I killed 2,406 - these are the only three occasions in my life when I've killed more than 2,000 grouse, although I have been very often in the 1,700 and 1,800's. I am still using my three Purdey 20 bore over and unders, had a bit of trouble with them, rain got in them a bit and had a few misfires, had a weak top lever spring, but the ejectors have worked well the whole time. I have been using the cheap cartridges from Benjie Jacob that he loads up for me in plain yellow cases, number 7 shot for the first three weeks and number 6 shot since then. They've got thirteen sixteenths of an ounce of shot in and 17 or 18 grains of powder, normal load.

To keep humble and when you think you are shooting well the grouse can just make you feel very unimportant. I know of nothing which is a greater humbler than a grouse and that's why I've got the notice at Middleton House in Latin above the door as you go out about to be humbled, and on the return journey you come in and over your head it says - having been humbled and the grouse was a great leveller. Every bird is different from the one before. Of course the October grouse are the cream. Anyone that hasn't shot them wouldn't understand what I am talking about. You fire the first barrel and you kill one or you don't. The second one, or the bird that you've fired at, whatever the case may be, isn't where you will expect it to be - it's jumped, rocketed, gone sideways or dive bombed, it isn't flying in the same line at all, and as soon as they see you they swerve from you in the butt. I think that it's essential in grouse shooting, and I'm talking about the whole season now, to be deliberate and pick out individual birds, don't be put off and think you know they are flying so close together and you are hesitating which one to shoot at, or you try to shoot as they cross or you are not deliberate, you must have target identification and you must be selective and just pick out that bird and concentrate on him and wallop him one, and not worry where he is in relation to any of the others. The only exception to that is, when a covey is going sideways on and a fair way out, then you must select either the first bird or preferably the last bird so that you don't brown the covey.

I think that more and more as I get older, that how is it that no one seems to pull the trigger quickly enough after mounting the gun to the shoulder. If you haven't seen a bird and somebody shouts, you spin round put the gun up and pull the trigger all in one movement, almost always that bird is dead. If only you will have the confidence of your first aim, if your gun fits you you should kill every bird if you pull the trigger quickly enough as the gun comes to your shoulder. However, one is hesitant, one just wants to line them up, and that's fatal and you miss - pull the trigger! And I think for crossing birds you really have to swing and you have to keep swinging for a crossing bird more than most people do, particularly one going from the left to the right. I think you want to get a hell of a swing on for that. All this talk about shooting these grouse a long way in front. Of course you want to be able to shoot far enough in front with the first barrel so you can fire the second barrel in front, and you get two shots off in front as often as possible.

I notice that those birds are knocked down a very long distance in front, they are often runners, they run away from the line and are seldom picked.

Make sure I get a copy of this on the 10th August next year.

I have been shooting in shoes and spats this month, but I am afraid that August and September were so consistently wet that it was rubber boots pretty well every day.

19 October	Mere Hall	9 drives	40 Partridge 1 Pheasant 71 shots
21 October	North Ormsby	8 drives	60 Partridge 3 Pheasant 132 shots
21 October	Hair's Pond	Evening flight	12 Mallard 3 Teal
22 October	Ram Pond	Evening flight	15 Mallard 3 Teal
23 October	Rothwell	Rookery	31 Mallard 1 Pigeon
	Shot for 3 hours only	South Hills Kale	15 Pheasant
		Stackgarth Kale	5 Pheasant 1 Old English Partridge
Dull, dry, no wind.			
23 October	Black Springs	Evening flight	16 Mallard
24 October	Cadeby	6 drives	44 Partridge 2 Pheasant 78 shots
24 October	Tealby Lake	Evening flight	7 Mallard 1 Tufted

27 October	Nombela	5 drives	Partridge 64	182 shots
			Magpie 2	
	Area: Berocal			
Lady Nickerson	Carcelero			
Rosemarie Nickerson	Cerro Pelado			
Sir Joseph Nickerson	Huerlo Bernal			
	Los Olivos			
	San Juan			
				Some sun, lot of cloud.
				Strong wind.

Sunday, October 27th. Have left the Castilla Hotel in Torrijos at 8.15 a.m. We were more comfortable there than we were at Maqueda, and they are trying very hard the people. It takes a quarter of an hour longer. We are going up on the new mountains at Berocal, a new place. There's quite a wind blowing and I'm delighted. It's been so hot here, there's been no rain, there is quite a cloud bank building up over the mountains to which we are heading.

It's probably interesting to put how one is dressed for the first day. My Spanish shoes and knee-length heavier socks than one wears for the office. American twill trousers and belt, Airtex short-sleeved vest and an American kind of plain, pure cotton by Mr. Bean, a cross between a shirt and a Safari jacket, quite light. I've got a silk handkerchief round my neck and on the way to the shoot I'm wearing a very good green, finely knitted Spanish jacket which was given to me by my wife and very useful it is too. I'm wearing that on the way.

Will Jacob is driving and in the back of the car is Rosie and big Jennie, they are the only two guns with me and we are going to this new shoot. We've got another second Range Rover behind with David French and the Amores, and behind that Dummer in a rented Peugeot 505 car, and behind that Manolo in a twelve-seater Land Rover with two dogs aboard. It's rather ridiculous the manner of transport but there are various reasons for it. Dummer has to come back during the day and Manolo, while we haven't finished with him, I don't want to disappoint him.

Well, we've had the first drive on Berocal. I counted 20 partridges and I killed a bird, one bird, and Rosie killed a bird, that was a brace off the first drive. Next drive there were just a few more, not many, about the same number, I think about another 20 but they favoured us more. I killed 3 and Lady Nickerson killed one, and Rosie killed one. So the bag after the second drive is 3½ brace. They've got a staff of well over 40 people. It's a beautiful day. It's like salmon fishing or tiger shooting, very exciting. Just because you don't get many it doesn't mean to say you don't enjoy it.

On the third drive they were higher than ever. Rosie had 11 shots but she killed two partridges. I shot at one covey, extraordinarily high, and killed the first bird, first barrel, it was the only shot I had. So I think we got five brace and we cut open the partridges we shot to see if they had got any wheat in. We found one just before lunch that had got wheat in.

It's wonderful territory, marvellously difficult birds. I am so happy to have had my number seven gun and number eight with the 75's on, thirteen sixteenths of No. 6 shot.

Dummer must get in touch with Gullick and say that I have seen the extent that the feeding has taken place on the new shoot. It consists of three 40-gallon drums of water and a bit of wheat scattered around. This is not really feeding partridges at all, it's not adequate. You must be able to make it so that they can get the water there.

We've just had the Los Olivos drive, absolutely fantastic. Lady Nickerson went to her place, 57 cartridges and killed 24. I went in my place. Young Rosie with her 28 bore with one gun, went on the left and she fired 75 cartridges. I went to the centre and fired with two guns, 78 cartridges at partridges and I had 32 down and two magpies. There were some of the highest down wind partridges I've ever seen, let alone killed, in fact some of the Secretarios were just laughing, laugh, laugh, laugh they were because the birds were so high. However, for the total drive 65 were picked up. One of the most super drives you could ever have.

The sun has gone in, it's clouded over, much cooler you see, in fact it has been cool all day for the birds, they have flown beautifully.

28 October	Nombela	5 drives	115 Partridges	214 shots
			3 Magpies	
			1 Jay	
M. Guerlain	Gaspar		Sunny, some cloud	
Mme. Guerlain	Majaroso			
Lady Nickerson	Parilla			
Rosemarie Nickerson	Valdeprado			
Sir Joseph Nickerson	Jardinillios			
29 October	Nombela	5 drives	132 Partridges	221 shots
			3 Jays	
M. Guerlain	Area: Raña		Sunny, some cloud, some wind.	
Mme. Guerlain	Don Pedro		The birds really flew	
Lady Nickerson	El Pleito		in the second drive	
Rosemarie Nickerson	Navarro			
Sir Joseph Nickerson	Valdecarrascoso			
	Viana			
During this trip, up to now, we have seen a hen sparrowhawk and two goshawks. Yesterday we had a golden eagle within 35 yards of us. Have seen a lot of wagtails on the road. Also saw two hoopoes, a lot of grey woodpeckers and various sizes of brown woodpeckers.				
31 October	Nombela	5 drives	141 Partridges	240 shots
			1 Magpie	
M. Guerlain	Area: La Nava		Sunny morning. Cloudy in afternoon.	
Mme. Guerlain	Tomato			
Lady Nickerson	Regeros			
Rosemarie Nickerson	Montanos			
Sir Joseph Nickerson	Cabana			
	Losete			
1 November	Nombela	5 drives	121 Partridges	254 shots
			1 Magpie	
M. Guerlain	Area: Heredad		Sunny, warm	
Mme. Guerlain	Baños			
Lady Nickerson	Moreras			
Rosemarie Nickerson	Pillilla			
Sir Joseph Nickerson	Casas			
	Cero el Guarda			

I was particularly slow today. I had a bad night and an upset stomach. It's absolutely amazing, if you only keep the gun up and keep it swinging it falls into the centre of the path. If you are a bit ponderous, still looking down the barrel, you will get quite a lot but not as many, and not as many dead ones either. You have really got to get hold of the gun as if you are very strong, really poke it at them, it's no good being namby-pamby. The triggers have been hard pulling and need a tremendous





amount of pressure to get off. The variation in the trigger pull is most distressing. Mr. Salter must be told.

3 November	Nombela	5 drives	113 Partridges 229 shots 13 Magpies
Lady Nickerson Sir Henry Plumb Sir Joseph Nickerson	Area: Ladera Olivos Cerro Pendon Pino Caleros		Cloudy, some rain
4 November	Nombela	4 drives	54 Partridges 107 shots 1 Magpie
Lady Nickerson Sir Joseph Nickerson	Trochas Regueros Risco Risco return Santos Finca		Cloudy, very wet later. Fifth drive called off

The first Monday in November we are up on the mountains. We haven't had a drive on the way up there at all, we have gone straight there and the drive over the road. I went to the Holden wall, there was a bad butt just to the left of it. There were a lot of partridges, many more there than I've seen for a year or two. We only shot it once last year, just two guns, didn't hurt it. There wasn't a single magpie and I think that's remarkable. When you look across you can see the Peno, the lone beautiful pine tree when we finished up last night in the valley near the bridge.

I went and showed Santos where I wanted my butt putting and several trees knocking down and make sure that that's done Dummer before we come back to shoot here, please.

He only has three corn tins on the whole of these four mountain drives, and this after all the discussions I have had with him. I heard him say in Spanish to Amores that he couldn't get the coaches there. Anyway he must have another five, that's a total of two per drive for the four drives. One can be quite close to the main road that we go on between drive one and drive two, we are quite close there, just behind a tree or two and they could carry a bag of corn, they could carry a bag of corn thirty yards from the main road, that won't hurt them.

And there again on the way down to the Ram Rock you could get two more sites. We want to keep the birds spread out, you want to get disease in partridges and you want to get them feeding as closely as possible together, that's a sure way of getting disease in partridges, so there must be more feeding places and I want two per heo and I want them very quickly indeed. I don't want to have any arguments or discussions on the subject. 17 down there, two must have been runners because we couldn't find them, we picked 15 in my butt.

The third day after the rain I could see some little grass green shoots coming from some cocksfoot type plants as we walked across, absolutely extraordinary, there are very few of them. I enjoyed the first drive, I really did, it was raining but I really did enjoy it. There was a fair wind and it wasn't in favour of the drive too much. The birds flew extremely fast and I thoroughly enjoyed myself and I was modestly pleased with my performance. 36 shots for 17 of those very strong wild, extremely fast mountain partridges, and we shot at everything.

Well, we had 4 drives in the mountains. We are in the Range Rover, it's just five to two. We killed 67 partridges, that's 33½ brace, just Lady Nickerson and I. I said we will cut all the crops open, all of them had a whole acorn in and the majority have got a lot of wheat in, and I'm sure if Santos would really learn how to sow this wheat and feed it about we should get more partridges, not only in the mountains but everywhere else. I have told him pretty straight. I think he's slipping, the fact that they hadn't picked up the cartridges from last year, and the Ram Rock drive at my butt, the fact that they hadn't built up the butt near the hole and wall on the first drive, there was no post built up, and there was no post built up at the Mountain return drive. I think he should be round the ground. In my opinion he hasn't been up there since we shot last season, not past those posts, that's my personal opinion, and I think Gullick will have to be told that he must manage Santos better or if he can't do it, then Gullick must let me know that he can't do it.

I love coming here but if I'm not going to get my wishes carried out it will come to an end. Of course it's been a wet day and we have had these four drives and I told him to send the beaters home and we won't do any more. There's just Lady Nickerson here, she doesn't like shooting in the rain, that I know.

We've got 33½ brace and I thoroughly enjoyed my day, but I should have enjoyed it more if there had been a few more partridges, which there ought to have been. I would like to know what we killed on the Mountain day last year, but deducting the first drive which was not on the mountain, just on the four mountain drives.

Santos says that if we sow the corn in the rough grass which is there, very, very long, on the banks where they couldn't make hay of it, there's a lot of very rough grass there eighteen inches long and two foot long, and he said he thought the ants would eat the corn if we sowed it about in there. He's always got some reason or some excuse, but he may well be right. It depends how quickly it was put down, if it was put down regularly the foragers would eat it before the ants could get it, they would probably eat the ants as well!

We saw a little owl, we saw a cock sparrowhawk and we saw an eagle owl, very brown, very brown huge owl, the biggest owl I've ever seen.

6 November

Los Quintos

4 drives

104 Partridges 187 shots

2 Magpies

1 Jay

1 Rabbit

1 Hare

Well, here we are at Los Quintos, another year. It was a bit dull this morning, there was a lot of wind. We were called at 8 o'clock, breakfast was supposed to be absolutely sharp at 9, and there's usually not much to eat either.

So, we'd ordered some tea and he brought me a lot of tea, so I had my Kelloggs All Bran and milk from the tea tray in my bedroom. I had some Bath Olivers and some honey from the pot that I always have in my bedroom, and three big cups of tea in the bedroom, so I was well away. After that all went very well indeed. I finally went into breakfast and I had some cold veal. Last night we had some fillet of veal with a sauce, hot, and today we had the rest of the fillet of veal for breakfast, cold, with the same sauce but cold. Anyway the panatera, or whatever it's called, bread, it was toasted and it was damn good, I ate mine and Jennie's. I'd asked my men beforehand what they had had to eat and they had just had toast, so I walloped up from the breakfast a couple of cakes for them and from our store of fruit and chocolates and biscuits and Kit Kat, Bath Olivers, etc. and a tongue sandwich from yesterday, so that was that and they were a bit better off then.

Well we went to the first line, you've never seen anything like it in your life of course, there was just the son-in-law of Alfredo, he was on the top punter and I was next to him, and Jennie was in the bottom, and the old man was on the right punter, just four guns.

We went to an area of the shoot where I hadn't been before, a long way from anywhere. Saw lots of eagles and I told Pepe and Carmen that I felt that as we were driving up to the house there were two majestic eagles soaring over. We stopped the car to watch these marvellous eagles, and I've seen some more this morning.

I had 51 shots and killed 29 partridges the first drive and we've got two very good secretarios and the ground is very bad behind, and one tyre 200 yards behind, the boy marked it and he's just brought it back, so actually we picked up 29 at the butt and now my man is coming with another one. Lady Nickerson was in the valley on my right, she had the best place and the most birds over her. The fellow on my left is Alfonso, he killed 7 I think, 7 birds, all runners, nearly one after the other, he got three shots at them running and knocking them down second barrel, terrible. And I have noticed that if you shoot this stuff too far in front they always run and you seldom get them.

Cross-bred golden retrievers, golden labradors, cross-breeds, we've got a Cairn here, we've got some very ancient spaniels, you've never seen such a terrible collection of dogs in your life. The Keeper's been found out to be dishonest because of redundancy or some law, it's going to cost him six or seven thousand pounds to fire him and they haven't done so but they've removed a lot of his responsibility.

I'm afraid I shot everything I could whether it was coming straight to me or not. The old man didn't quite get it schemed out right, how long they drove it to him, but Jennie had the best place I'm sure, I was so pleased, she shot jolly well, she killed 46 but at the moment it is about 20 short with the pick up and the old man always has to have them. The secretarios have white caps if you're not careful, to frighten the partridges away.

We've got two Range Rovers here and I had old Pepe who's over 80 driving me in a Nissan imitation Range Rover at the side of some of these steep hills, I haven't liked it much. Anyway I don't think his wife did either because she's asked him and Jennie has driven us from the first to the second drive rather well.

We are approaching the second drive as I am dictating this, quite a long walk, up a kind of dry river bed. There are drops of water about and there are little pools here and there. It looks as though they've bulldozed it out where they can, just places about five yards across.

Well we have now arrived at the second drive, South Africa here, they've cleared out a lot of jungle on the bank side and he asked me where I wanted to go. I said I didn't care I would go where he put me, so I took the nearest butt to save walking up the hill. Anyway there was a bit of a side wind so I don't think it's very good, and these stupid people, these secretarios, have all got stuck in another vehicle. So Will has had to carry three guns, two bags of cartridges, two pan tyres, so he's been fairly well laden down. David French the same thing.

Anyway here we are, twenty five to one, we are starting the second drive so you can tell what speed we move at here. The wind is just a little bit chilly and there's usually an eagle in the sky somewhere if you look round. We picked up 158 that drive of which I claimed 29 and Lady Nickerson 46 - 75, and no doubt they would knock a lot of stuff down with the dogs that hadn't been shot behind, there was a lot of thick cover there. So that's that. So we shot half or a little bit more than half of them the two of us, which is very good and I'm pleased because they don't like that very much.

I had 63 on the second drive, I was at the end of the line, Pepe let me pick which butt I liked - I picked what turned out to be that I'd never seen the ground before and never seen it shot before and never been there before - I had got the best butt anyway. Killed a magpie and a jay and 63 partridges with 101 shots. Damn good birds they were, real skiers and we picked them up too.

7 November

Los Quintos

Morning duck flight

102 Mallard 221 shots

First duck at 7.15, second duck at 7.16, the last quarter of the moon, a bit of cloud. 7.30 I've had two rights and lefts, a total of 10 mallard down. 7.35 14 ducks down, we are still in the open, we've moved out of the hide. 7.45 killed 17. Exactly 8 o'clock, 29 ducks. It's now 8.17, an hour after the first bird, and we knocked down 37 mallard and these should all be picked without any argument these 37. They've come up to now this year as if they want to commit suicide. We've had some beautiful shots, just at about 5 birds over my left shoulder going up over the river.

Just a second after dictating this a snipe flew over, quite an easy shot, by the time I'd dropped the dictaphone and turned round it made me do a very difficult one and I missed it. We are changing the barrels now, we've had 50-50 on both and now we are putting 65-65 on one of them. The last four shots we've had 4 drakes, one right and left and two singles first barrel, oh no, second barrel, good 'uns, the last 4 drakes, got them all, one with two barrels and one right and left. Fired at 5 drakes in the last quarter of an hour and killed them all.

It's 8.30 and I've got 42 ducks down. A very big lull now. Killed another 2 drakes without missing, so that's the last 7 we've killed. The first clean miss in half an hour, quarter to nine. We've got 46 birds. There's a black vulture overhead, absolutely majestic over the top of the cliff. David French is about 100 yards up the river and when there's a lull, if anything settled between us he's going to whistle and he puts them up. It's working quite well. He just put two drakes up now, I got one with the first gun and one with the second and that was good, it makes us 50 up at five minutes to nine.

It's now 9.15, we've seen three lots of red-legged partridges fly over and a few rock doves.

9.17, total duck killed 57, Heinz varieties, so that's 20 in the second hour and during that hour I've only failed to score either with one gun or the other once, I've only let fly and made a noise once where we haven't had at least one duck in that hour, so that's 20, thirteen sixteenths of an ounce, No. 6 shot.

9.30, 64 ducks. We've only missed once chance since 8.15, one chance with both guns that is at 8.15, and we've added 27 to our 37 in an hour and a quarter. I got 67, that's two more from what David French has put up. I needed both guns to get them. We got two drakes from David French coming up the river, he put up. We are now 67 at 9.45, so that's an hour and a half and we've only missed once chance of getting a bird in an hour and a half with one gun or the other.

That's a great leveller, there was a mallard duck came just now and I had six shots at her and she was in range for all six shots too, she came round and I don't think I touched her, and Will said I hit her! 81 down, I just got 4, two guns, I was ever so happy, all drakes, two of them were David's effort and one was a hell of a shot although I say it, didn't half allow for a shot a mile under it, it was going away from me there and connected with his head, so we've now got 81 and it's 10 o'clock. The third miss since 8.15. Some feathers just floating past. 4 barrels at a female mallard, struck her, very bad miss, three misses in an hour and three quarters. Quarter past ten, that's three hours we've been shooting and in the last two hours we've missed three chances and we haven't had one down. We've got 83 mallard.

10.20, the sun is over the cliff from standing in the hide. Incidentally, before it was daylight I moved 40 or 50 yards from the hide so I had a lower skyline for catching them coming in when it was dark, still in the open. I killed quite a few there before I got back in the hide. This was blinded, I had a shot, that makes a fourth miss since 8.15. We are still on the same number, 84. 10.25, 89, just got a pair of females, 89, one more than last year claimed and it's now twenty minutes to eleven. The sun is so bright. I've got my darkest black green lens spectacles, a very, very dark green you can imagine, and that's too bright even for that, so Will has pulled off the doorway of the hide in a way, a great big tree virtually, we've stuck it into the side of the hide, it must be 4 feet higher than the side of the hide. We've just got my head in the shadow, I've got to shoot either side of it when they are diving in, that's the excitement. We want 7 more, we haven't missed again completely.

We want the last 7 to make the 100, 193, there was a single drake came in and an easy shot, it settled and then he flew off again, I covered him beautifully. The gun pulled hard, didn't go off. I didn't pull the second time, I was furious. Our 100 is getting further away, however he must have settled between us and David, and David put him up when all the others that were miles away had gone. He blew his whistle, drew him up towards me and bummm, we got 94 at five past eleven. We've missed 4 with both guns since 8.15. Jolly good right and left at fourteen minutes past eleven, that's made us 99.

Now two golden eagles have appeared and a vulture at the same time. You can clearly identify the two circles of yellow feathers on the underside of the wing of one of the golden eagles.

It's been a really remarkable four hours we've had up to now and we've achieved our objective of getting 100 mallard. I always shot at mallard apart from two barrels at a snipe mentioned earlier.

Well, we've got them! It's 11.33, a drake and a duck came round, I shot the duck very very low indeed, and the drake made a circle, I clobbered him a beautiful shot. There we are. That's it. A wonderful morning. Something Will Jacob and I will remember for a long time I'm sure.

Well, we've picked 75 up, David French and Will, they worked hard, before we left at 12.30. There were no dogs arrived but we had 75 lined up on their backs on a nice tableaux. There's 4 on the water that we can't get, and we haven't been in the bushes of course. We are now on the way back to the house. I'm not all that best pleased with how they've treated me here. They've got 170 claimed, I suppose that's a bit of imagination, but even so 170 claimed when I'm the guest and started the duck shooting here. Will left 154 empty cartridges in the butt, but I think this is a pretty poor show and I am going to register it very mildly. Will and David and I going back in our own jeep to the house where we will start our packing and we will leave very early tomorrow at the crack of dawn.

They sold 22,000 lambs from Los Quintos last year, they are an ordinary breed, gives 1.6 to 1.7 per annum but they lamb three times in two years. With the hybrid they are getting 2.3 lambs per ewe per year sold. They have been killing out at 52% of the liveweight and the dead weight. They've been getting 12,000 pesetas for a lamb, £50 a lamb, and he's been doing well. They borrowed the money here, I don't know at what rate, but I think at a lower rate than the current. You can borrow ten year money here for farming. Improvements and investments at 10% against the going rate of 17%. You've got an inflation of 10%, so really they've got the whole of this property developed at no cost to them, in pesetas of course, at no cost in pesetas. Well, I said to him, of course you're Spanish, you live in Spain and you spend pesetas, and you do your books in pesetas and it's interesting.

That Garlitos shoot has turned out very well but I am glad that I refused to be a partner in it, although all the projections have turned out even more favourably and they were very good. It's a very cheap shoot and it's a marvellous shoot. Now they are keeping the best five days for themselves. They took the Chilean partners instead of me.

I have just seen two crested larks to the other side of the road as we are driving away. We left Los Quintos at 8.30 driven by Will Jacob, driving through the estate to get to the road and Will Jacob saw an eagle, and I've just seen a hen kestrel. There are a few partridges down the roadside.

They also have the pigeons. There's a big pigeon cote on the farm for feral pigeon and they sell them, a pair of pigeons to liberate for the competition shooting. They get 700 pesetas, that's the current rate of a little more than £3 for a pair of pigeons, and then they are selling all these rabbits, but they are not growing any more corn here. He's decided, quite rightly too, that it's not worth the effort of growing the corn and having the stubble fields for partridges, and so he gives them this 100 tons of wheat a year instead of growing the corn for them. He has two men feeding the tracks and they work eight hours each a day at 16 hours a day with one 12-seater Land Rover with 300 kilos of barley inside.

I'm sorry there's so much disturbance. Lady Nickerson is interrupting every sentence and I've made a mistake. It was barley. By the way it was very heavy barley, I took a very good look at it. Yes, he got a tremendous shock - when I worked it out how much a year he was using just scattering this about, he was using 90 tons a year and he hadn't the slightest idea what he was using, he didn't know whether it was 9 tons or 90 tons, he had no idea at all how much he was using.

Anyway, the next day I asked him. Well, what reason do you put it out, and then I got the answer of course. It's quite obvious that he's growing no corn here. He's using the land for sheep, his huge ranch for sheep, selling 22,000 lambs a year, that's a million pounds a year sales. He's got exactly the right habitat he wants for the partridges, no cattle, no spraying, plenty of weed seeds, an ideal situation for partridges to live in provided that you add the food and feed it artificially, which he is doing. So he's come to, in my opinion, an extremely accurate way of maximising production from the estate and maximising the shoot.

Each shift of 8 hours, the long wheel based Land Rover, that makes 110 kilometres. I have some detailed notes for this on a postcard and I will probably come to that.

I think it's absolutely disgusting the way these Spaniards behave really compared with English standards. Therefore it's quite wrong to compare one nationality with another. They are Spaniards, they have a different code of behaviour, a different code of sportsmanship or the lack of it, and they have a different code of everything, and their ethics are entirely different, I mean to the point of view of what they consider honest or dishonest. The whole thing is a different thing altogether. I have been absolutely disgusted by their complete lack of regard for protected birds. They expect the law to uphold their rights in various things in other directions, and then they go and break the law deliberately in front of people. They can't help lying, they don't think it's lying, they exaggerate how many birds they've shot. They tell such lies about which are the best places. They are going to put you in the best place and then they take it themselves! it's absolutely marvellous. There's no hot water in the house of course, one bath if you are lucky, and the way they treat their staff was of course the reason for the Spanish Revolution I suppose, and any other Revolutions that have taken place where the rich people have not treated their staff, their personal servants, properly.

Our two men, David and Will, they haven't grumbled. They are in a room with two other men about as big as the valet room at Rothwell, with two bunks either side and just room to stand up inside, and when we went out duck shooting early in the morning they were given absolutely nothing to eat whatever. Lady Nickerson had asked for some sandwiches for me and for them, and we were given six triangles, equilateral, of three inches to a side, not exaggerating, white bread with a slice of cheese in, and that's what they gave for us for three of us for breakfast. We didn't get lunch until 3 o'clock we didn't. Will got theirs a bit earlier. However, we got some of Peter Reynolds Rank Hovis McDougall chocolate digestive biscuits with us that we had taken out from England and these are absolutely marvellous things as iron rations, and we got some Bath Olivers and we were well away.

Remember, they talk a lot and make a lot of hard promises - Oh! I will lead you on to the road to Burlanger, I will show you the way, I'm going over there to see one of our other farms, and the next morning he said, well perhaps it will be better if I don't! Anyway, we are on that road now. I said, thank you very much because I said I've got a head on me, I've got a map on my knee, I can find the way. I asked him what tips to give for the house. We were there three nights. 10,000 pesetas he said, which I gave to Alfredo, and 12,000 pesetas for the Secretarios, and 15,000 for the Keeper. They found the Keeper to be dishonest. I must say he looks awful, I never liked the look of him ever since I first met him a good many years ago. Anyway they found him out. I don't know whether they faced him up and told him or not, but they told Eugenie in Spanish that they couldn't sack him because it was going to cost them so much. I worked it out at about £6 or £7,000 redundancy. He had been with them all his life and apparently would still have to pay him that. And they don't want to do it, they still want to pay the money to keep him on but they have reduced his responsibilities a great deal. They just take him out when they want to do the driving and the shooting, otherwise they have other people doing the job. What a strange state of affairs isn't it?

Pepe's got this Nissan imitation Land Rover which costs 2.5 million pesetas instead of 4.5 for a 4-door Range Rover in Spain. It's a sort of a bastard kind of Range Rover, I didn't find it very agreeable and he's never driven it before and he was positively dangerous. Once when he was trying to get round a very sharp bend with a drop below, I didn't take any notice what he thought about it, I grabbed the handbrake as we were sliding back. He got Lady Nickerson driving it after that, and then Alfredo.

You can usually weigh up people by how well they treat their staff. It's a pretty good guide. Of course the plumbing in the house is quite disgusting, it's hygienic but if you flush a toilet the noise can be heard all over the house for a very long time, it's absolutely ridiculous. The bedroom door won't lock and there's not enough hot water, you just grab enough for one bath if you are lucky.

I noticed at breakfast that Alfredo's trigger finger was red raw, he had no skin on the inside of it. There was about an inch by an inch of red meat showing on his trigger finger and I must say that I was very pleased. He had been punished for stealing my best duck place. The real reason that I went there was to go to my special place. I started that duck shooting there, I taught them how to go there and what to do. I had everything organised and I know exactly how to let them in and let them out, and of course I was so daft I told him that and he was boasting how he had done it! It never bothered us this duck shooting there until I went. They were lying there and just blazed away at the stuff flying round instead of letting them come in. Now he is giving me a lecture of how he was doing it and he had forgotten I was the one who told him!

Anyway I am absolutely livid about the whole thing because it was not fair, it was a trick. I mean I wanted the duck shooting. They shortened our stay by a day's partridge shooting because we wanted to fit Thursday in. You are only allowed to shoot ducks on Thursdays and Sundays, so they fitted in with our schedule to get a Thursday at the ducks which meant missing a day's partridge shooting because old Pepe was busy. So we got one day's partridge shooting and then we lost the best place for the ducks. In addition, on the partridge shoot we shot two boundary drives in the morning and a very poor drive in the afternoon. They obviously only brought half a drive because Lady Nickerson timed it. She is getting quite wide awake about these things. Not only did they put old Pepe and Alfredo as a down wind when it was a side wind drive, they pushed a man in front of Lady Nickerson to turn the stuff down the line to them, and in addition to that they had three butts between the two of them. They had an empty butt between Alfredo and Pepe so they could have moved. That was the down wind end, and I thought that was quite disgusting. I shot at 12 partridges there and shot quite well, but I killed 12 and Lady Nickerson shot 8, she was on the punter there, up wind. So we had 400 partridges for 4 guns, and as far as the ducks were concerned I shot better than any of them and I'm not boasting. It's on the dictaphone a lot of it.

The departmental store man who had married into the family, he came up from Madrid and arrived after dinner, very late, after I'd gone to bed, about 11 o'clock I think he arrived. Chauffeur driven with a Mercedes. The only time I saw him was at breakfast. He lit a cigarette up in the dining room as well, so he's a badly mannered fellow. He was the one who shot the beautiful bird and they didn't give the cooler grass either, it was lying there. Apparently Lady Nickerson went there and it wasn't dead, awful, absolutely awful.

Well I think Spain is a most marvellous country for climate, scenery, shooting and sport, a marvellous country. The only thing is you ought to do it without any Spaniards! Beautiful little town, all the houses on mosaic tiles outside and clean, well laid out.

427 partridges for 4 guns at Los Quintos. 305 ducks of which 302 were mallard, one was a widgeon and two were teal. Well, we killed 102 mallard and we were pretty accurate in our counting with three or four good dogs. They should have picked up what I claimed within a bird or two. I think the proof of that is that we picked up 75 and we could see 5 on the water, so that was 80, that only left 22 to go and we didn't make a very big circle round our butt for the runners on foot because there was so much covey and it was no good doing it, so we counted for 80 out of 102. He claimed 181 to his father-in-law on the 'phone. This must have been a lie I would have thought because the other man picked up 47, so they couldn't have picked many more of mine, I don't know what it was. Oh, they picked up another 11 of mine apparently, that was all.

We were at the place with a big cliff just for the memory.

They are only allowed to kill the ducks on Thursdays and Sundays and they have to give written notice of where they are going to shoot partridges. It's a way of conservation which will probably spread into other countries.

The name of this El Corte Ingles departmental store man is Ramon Areces. He's been shooting two years. He wants watching because he's walking about with a loaded gun when Lady Nickerson was there and all the ladies.

The name of this beautiful little town is Azuaga.

Well, we left Los Quintos as I say at 8.30 on Friday morning, Charles birthday the 8th November, and we cut across to Berlangar or some name like that. We missed Llerena, we made the short cut and it saved us quite a lot.

Well we are on this road which I think is from Badajoz to Cordoba, the road is Nationale 432 and there's not much Nationale about it, it's a very poor old road. In the first two hours we haven't been hurrying, we have been deliberately enjoying the journey, but on the other hand we haven't been loafing about and we've covered 67 miles in the first two hours. We have not stopped. This main road goes through the most interesting little towns and villages. The one we've just gone through is such that we've had a tractor in front of us, it's so narrow that two things could hardly pass at all and in some cases they can't pass. It's really a bottleneck which I think would describe it very well. A lot of bottlenecks in these places. They look as if they've laid out a by-pass, they've got a bit of bulldozing going on outside the town where a by-pass might start. There are laid branches for I think nearly a mile on either side of the road, branches of trees have been laid there and a few stones at the bottom to hold them in, probably the odd stone every few yards, and that is to keep the animals in. They are too far to carry they said. It's quite a dangerous road. I would not recommend this journey in a fog and I don't think I would recommend it on a dark night either. For a main road it's a poor road, a very poor road indeed, but with some beautiful views.

The sheep, the hybrids that they use here are French and the Merino, they've got the Merino sheep and they are using a hybrid, a French hybrid and a Finnish hybrid to get the prolificacy. They are virtually running to eat in the field. They must be carting them, they are nibbling about there but they've got a few little reservoirs for them to eat at Los Quintos, for them to drink from and they fatten quite a lot of the lambs inside and they have contracts for other people to fatten some of the lambs for them.

After 76 miles another road joined the 432, which we are still on, and this is quite a lot faster road, an entirely different road, wide enough to get past, a good road with a little hard shoulder each side about a meter wide and one or two big tracks each side. It's 11 o'clock now and we have covered 80 miles in two and a half hours. Two hours from the edge of the city of Cordoba, up the N4 all the way to Almuradiel, two hours. We stopped for petrol. 212 miles since we started this morning.

9 November	Guedea	4 drives	118 Partridges 3 Rabbits	231 shots
10 November	Guedea	4 drives	229 Partridges 2 Pigeons 2 Magpies	328 shots



Claude Foussier, Nathalie Danet,
JN and Eugenie Nickerson



G U E D E A

NOMBELA



J.P. Guerlain and Mme. Guerlain



Sir Joseph and M. Guerlain

10 o'clock Monday the 11th November - Armistice Day. We have just left Guedea bang on time. Driven by Will Jacob, Jennie and I. David French at the rear in the second Range Rover. We are heading for Madrid. We left Torrijos last Tuesday and we've been via Los Quintos and up the N4 up to Alameda and we are making a huge circle. I've seen a lot of beautiful scenery in Spain.

Well this Blanc is a Lawyer and I'm sure he's a very clever Lawyer. He seems to have got things worked out alright and he's got this Foundation and there's no doubt he's getting a lot of expenses of his own shooting through this Foundation, although of course he didn't shoot these last few days because it's been let to Claude Foussier.

For the record Claude has asked me if I would like to go next year and he would like to fix two days of when I can go and I said about the same time. I wouldn't want to be any earlier and if it was much later we might not get the virgin partridges.

Lady Nickerson and I have shot 520 partridges between us in the two days. I said to him you are the only person that can really give me some good shooting, you have given me some really good shooting and I really appreciate it. He was really touched, it touched into his heart that did, and he said I like to put Eugenie next to you so that you can see each other and it's nice to be together. So we've shot 520 partridges in the two days and the bag has been in total about 1340 partridges.

I think that despite what I've put on these tapes before that the house is so comfortable at the Blancs and it's a lot of fun the whole party, it's good for Lady Nickerson to see outside people and I think it's a great lot of fun to go there. God willing and we get invited and we are well, we can go next year for two days.

Yesterday afternoon we went 10 miles to some very remote sort of farm near an old castle that Blanc wants to buy and restore, this old castle. Anyway we had one drive, they put me at the end, the downwind end of a very long line. There were only five guns and they were a long way apart, and the birds came so far down towards the line and those that were strong that didn't go through the line of five guns, turned towards me downwind and I had a beautiful shoot and killed 38, well, knocked 38 partridges down. These were counted by the four spectator secretarios we had and I thought we had 37, they thought we had 38. We only just picked up 30 or 31 I think. There's no doubt at long range stuff like that we must have had some runners, but I don't think many. It was very thick cover indeed and we didn't really have a dog. Well, that was a long way to go just for that one drive but it was a good shoot as far as I was concerned.

As far as the house is concerned, there are one or two things that are interesting. I have been recommended to drink some Dubonnet, 85% Dubonnet and 15% Vodka in a tall glass with a lot of ice. I haven't yet tried it. They drink the Reserver 904 Rio Alta which is one of my favourite red wines in Spain, and they were drinking also Cosica 1964 Imperial, not a very good red wine. They had the Monipol white wine. The eggs are laid on the farm, they are very fresh and although they were cooked in oil, which is a pity, for breakfast, they were very fresh. I should have asked for them to be cooked in butter. Then you've got this rolled up ham, it's a sort of tinned ham and very thinly sliced and made into a roll. It's very digestible and good food. I must say that my stomach since I left Torrijos six days ago has been absolutely perfect. I've had no indigestion and no wind, no trouble at all, so there's something in that Rosario, or I don't know what happens over there, but I've been perfect in every possible way as soon as I left there. Obviously the hygiene in two private houses we've been staying in is much better than in a hotel or restaurant.

In a modest way I don't think I've ever shot better in my life than I shot yesterday and I shot 229 partridges and I used less than 1½ cartridges per bird and this didn't include any long stuff that went away. We didn't count any of those, we only counted what came down.

The trigger pressures on all my three guns seem to get heavier during the hotter weather. I don't know whether there's any connection between the guns getting hot and the trigger pressures needed more power to pull them off. We must ask Purdey's this and I want you to write and tell Mr. Salter at Purdey's that we are having trouble with these pressures, thirteen sixteenths of an ounce of shot is all we are using and he must get after them.

We paid 2,000 pesetas a day to each of the two secretarios we had with us, 16,000, and we gave Paco who is a Butler and has been working in France, he got 10,000 pesetas, so that was the tipping we did at Guedea, and the Keepers tips were taken care of in the shoot renting that Foussier had. That's a young fellow and I told Claude Foussier about it but told him to keep me out of it and he's going to get Blanc to report to him about his old secretarios and he will do it that way.

Since I told Claude that at breakfast before we left I've heard from Lady Nickerson that Dassau refused to have his pan tyres put up, although the secretarios were asking him to do it, Lady Nickerson's secretarios, he refused to do it.

13 November	Nombela	5 drives	90 Partridges 2 Magpie	189 shots
14 November	Nombela	5 drives	119 Partridges 3 Magpies	233 shots
16 November	Nombela	5 drives	131 Partridges 1 Magpie	240 shots

After shooting on the way home, Sir Joseph, Lady Nickerson and Robert had drinks with Senora Biaggi at La Ronca.

17 November	Nombela	5 drives	124 Partridges	216 shots
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On Sunday, 17th November, Brian Dummer found a snake basking in the sun on the wall of an old stone building. It was about 3 feet long and silver in colour. Santos soon killed it!

Lunch was held at the Casa Blanca. Lord Glamis asked Robert about the house and Robert described it as his father's lunch hut. This caused some amusement and Lord Glamis told his father they could do with a few lunch huts like that on Wemmergill and Holwick.

Note dictated by JN 18th November. The bag on a good partridge shoot is one partridge per hectare. The birds should pay for the beaters. .8 of a bird per hectare would be good. Do not think we include the Berrocal area. The price is between 2500 and 3000 pesetas per bird shot, not including the hotel of course, but including all the shoot.

19 November	Nombela	5 drives	120 Partridges 6 Magpies	235 shots
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19th November 1985. Shooting at Nombela, Lady Nickerson and I. Four drives in the morning, just approaching the Casa Blanca at five minutes to two for lunch.

First drive was Olivos, 15 brace. Then the Mountain drive near the road, the real Mountain drive - 13 brace, that's 28 brace. Then we had 46 brace plus Pino and return. 74 brace, 4 drives. Bright blue sky everywhere, not a cloud in sight, sun, and a very strong wind. These birds in the territory that we were shooting in are very different from a lot of other territories. They only went up on their tails and used every trick to escape. It was the most sporting morning that I've known since we've been coming out here, twenty years for this partridge shooting. It was really lovely.



Sir Joseph and Lady Nickerson with the six keepers, Domingo, and other shoot helpers





Lord and Lady Forte, JN and Lady
Nickerson, Robert Nickerson and
Rocco Forte



Sir Joseph with
Head Keeper Santos





Jesus, Jose, Tino, Domingo, JN, Santos, Paco and Pablo
NOMBELA : November 1985



OPEN

We were invited to the Vittorias for lunch in their own house, then we had one drive in the Casablanca after lunch. We were four birds short on the double drive at La Pino. I think we got the other birds the first two drives. The return drive in La Pino there was an eagle that frightened the partridges, it made them squat a lot, so I was told. Old Domingo said, don't worry there's plenty left to nest. We killed about 2000 brace up to now and there are several more days planned.

20 November	-	Nombela	5 drives	124 Partridges 1 Snipe	233 shots
21 November	-	Nombela	5 drives	143 Partridges	258 shots
23 November	-	Nombela	5 drives	157 Partridges 5 Magpies 1 Jay 1 Pigeon	319 shots

November 23rd left Torrijos as usual. It is a beautiful morning. Very sharp frost, dry clear air, bright sun and blue sky. We have had many days like this. Lady Nickerson and I, another day for us, 2 guns. We shot 3 days last week, just the two of us. We killed 87 brace. Exactly 100 brace and 113.5 brace in those 3 days.

This is the cream of shooting because you can drive these wild partridges where they are going to provide difficult targets and you can put your two guns, not necessarily in range of each other, but where they are going to get some sporting shooting.

The King is shooting at La Ronca today and we saw the police all lined up to beat us out for the first drive from our boundary.

There are vast areas of the shoot where they do not grow any cereals at all. Here I am convinced that the partridges have to be fed. I think it is just as simple as that. If you have got cereals I still think they want feeding but it is not so important and I do not think over such a long a period.

As far as Gullick is concerned, he does not agree with me. I do not mind that, he is perfectly entitled to his own opinion, but if I want something doing and I am paying him to get it done I must have him or anyone else putting their whole effort into seeing that my wishes are carried out. Whether my wishes are right or wrong in their opinion, has nothing to do with the case. Therefore I intend to make a change with Gullick but not until I get the lease renewed, the price agreed at least for the last three years of the lease. We must remember we have the lease, we just have to agree the price for the last 3 years.

A very good word in Spanish I think is "regular". When you do not want to give an opinion of whether you have got a lot of birds or not very many, it is a good idea to say "regular".

We have to negotiate a price for the last 3 years of the current lease at Nombela and the Mayor of course plays a prominent part in these negotiations. He is also the local village postman. However, if he does not like anyone he does not deliver the letters to him. So some of our people that we know here asked to have their letters in Madrid or someone else because the Mayor, if he does not like them, will not deliver their mail.

It seems that Gullick has been here every month to deal with the accounts with Santos and sometimes he has come in between as well, so that perhaps what I put earlier on this tape we might rethink. If he is making a monthly call that is as cheap as I can get the place managed I think.

Anyway we have invited the Mayor to have lunch with us at the Casa Blanca but we shall see whether he will turn up. He has not had much notice. He has only had four hours notice and tomorrow we are going to have four drives in the morning and then lunch. Then we have invited all the farmers who would like to come for a drink at 3 p.m.

I think we ought to make out a list of instructions for Santos. One of them is to get this water in and poison the rats pretty thoroughly. The second thing is perhaps to have more of this plastic sticking on the wires to stop the partridges flying into them when they are frightened or when it is misty, especially on the skylines. Then there is the matter of burning and cutting out more of the rubbish behind where we stand. There is the whole question of the feeding of the birds and this is a big lesson which is necessary. There is the question of how many people can drive the Land Rover. They will have to have some driving lessons from Mr. Vittoria.

On a cold and frosty morning like this we are driving up into position for the first drive. The beaters are all lined out and several of them have got little fires that they have made of brushwood to keep themselves warm by. It has always amused me in Spain in the twenty odd years that I have been there.

So wherever the crop there is a lot of wheat just coming through or freshly sown, that is where the partridges go to. If it happens that these fields are near the mouth of the drive you get a good shoot, but if you have got to drive the birds across a lot of open ground off the wheat field where they are, or the barley field, you will not get such a good shoot.

I think there is one thing I would not like to consider at all at the moment anyway and I cannot think the next three years is all I shall want to shoot for, I do not expect the family will want it afterwards. You never know, but that would be that we should retain the services of Santos. He is related to everyone in the village and politically he is quite a good chap. If he is steered in the right direction he is quite a good chap. So that is one of the possibilities that is not open to us in my opinion.

Paco is a good keeper and Paco's son is exceptionally good. Carlos, who is the son-in-law of Santos, is very good. He is a safe loader. This Pablo does not seem to be much good and his son, I am afraid, is very poor indeed, so I do not know what Gullick intends to do about that. Whether we could give any of them early retirement and get some more workers in. It is obvious to me that we are going to leave a lot of partridges this year. I only have today and two more days of two guns, and we have now reduced one of those days to four drives, so in my opinion, and I have learned a bit about it already, that we are going to have without any doubt a very big stock of partridges left. This coming season there will be a big shoot here. May ask a few more guns to come.

Jacob has had a good idea. He said why not get him between now and next year to get a tree or two cut down so that we can get the Range Rovers down to every butt. I think we should tell Santos to have the partridges flying into the sun and with the wind blowing into our faces so we get them down wind and we do not have the sun in our eyes, unless it is a bad season, and then we will have the sun in our eyes to make them last longer.

What a splendid day. 122 brace for two guns and we picked up nearly everything we shot. We had a long time in between drives picking up because all the five drives there was a lot of rubbish behind us and we had to allow plenty of time. The great thing is to give them another barrel if they are wounded as they are coming down and to plonk them if they start to run. We did not have much of that today but it is so necessary. We had a jolly good pick up. 244 birds with two guns and we did not shoot any tired birds all day, in fact there were not tired birds all day. There were some low birds that we did not shoot at that would not have given us some satisfaction some drives and we did not shoot at those. But there were not any tired birds, at least I did not see any and we did not have any return birds.

The day was bright but it was cold. We have also had the Mayor for lunch and one of his advisers. There is a Committee of six. Tony the farmer that has the 200 dry river drive, another little farmer that has 200 hectares, he has got cows. He is doing well. I asked him about his yield and how much nitrogen he put on, and so on. He gets more profit from his cows than he does from his corn. He does not grow barley, he seems to grow oats and wheat. That is interesting. There is probably some disease that attacks the barley, but I do not know. But there are six of them on this Committee. We are meeting at the Town Hall tomorrow at 5 p.m. I have told them that there are less partridges and therefore I want to pay less rent. They of course want three years inflation. Finally I told the Mayor that if he would recommend it I would be prepared to pay the same rent for the next three years. He said, well, what about a different deal for four years perhaps. We shall see tomorrow because we are having four drives before lunch if we feel well. Then we are having lunch and drinks with the Keepers and then the farmers are coming to the Casa Blanca. After that we get to the Town Hall at 5 p.m. Quite a day!

24 November	Nombela	4 drives	103 Partridges 4 Magpies 5 Azure Winged Magpies	208 shots
25 November	Nombela	5 drives	158 Partridges 2 Magpies	323 shots

I think it's interesting to note that there are several ways of shooting, several styles and several techniques, and despite what anybody says, although there are certain things that are common throughout to achieve accuracy, I think after 63 years of shooting now I want to just put down on this tape the alternative ways.

Generally speaking, and this I think is the most important rule, that if your gun fits you, it's easy enough to make it fit you, you should get it up and get the trigger pulled much more quickly than most people would ever dream of doing.

I think that for a bird that's got behind you and angling, I think you want to be into the daylight and not at the bird and I have only just recently learned to do that. These birds have gone past at an angle. I killed them well yesterday and I killed them well this season. You've got to get it off quickly but you've got to get it off into the air to the side of them. When they've gone straight over your head you've got to be very low under them.

For a crossing bird I think you want to exaggerate the swing and for a right-handed shot a bird going to the right across your front, I think he needs even more swing than going to the left. Of course it depends how strong you are and the weight of the guns. If you are reasonably strong and you've 20 bores, you've got to kill more birds well out in front, not too far in front, as I've put on my notes of my life. You get too many runners if you shoot them too far in front. Alfredo shot seven birds a longish way in front at Los Quintos and consecutively they were all runners, strong runners, but I think to angle off is something I learned at an old age, angle off, let them fly into it. As for birds that have gone past, or birds coming back, to angle off, let them fly into it. On these shooting trips there's no doubt that if you want to shoot well you want to get some sleep, you want two hours sleep before dinner, you don't want to drink too much, hardly at all, and then you can shoot. The more sleep you get the less you drink and the better you will shoot. I have always noticed in my life that you shoot better on a Monday morning after having Sunday not shooting. I'm sure that's true.

When I meet Aubrey Buxton or Prince Philip or anyone else in the World Wildlife, Peter Scott and party, I want to tell them that in Spain they seem to have the idea of draining some of the wetlands and making one large area of wetland as a National Park where everyone can go to see the birds. Well this is perfectly alright but what they don't realise perhaps is that one of the main migratory routes of the waders goes right across the centre of Spain and not round by the coast. It's ever so essential for these waders to be able to refuel, as it were, en route and the disperement of sites is terribly important, north and south. The pathway is not too many miles wide and it would be retrograde to have a huge area of wetland and to drain the disperse sites.

30 November Rothwell 4 drives 56 Pheasant

30 November Ram Pond Evening flight
20 Mallard
2 Teal
1 Pigeon
Picked up 16 Mallard
2 Teal
1 Pigeon

2 December Pickenham 5 drives 111 Pheasant

Something very funny happened at the Eleven Acre drive at Pickenham. A young dog of Mrs. Froyne, the late Willie, his widow, picked up a woodcock. I said, well I didn't see a woodcock up to here, it must have been shot on a neighbouring shoot. Well, she said, it's freshly been here. Probably the dog has just picked him up. Anyway I had a word with Mr. Wigan who was on my left. I said, did you see a woodcock come through by any chance? Oh yes, he said, I left it for you! I didn't shoot at it, it came through between you and I when there were a lot of pheasants flying past. Oh, I said, I must have shot the thing, I must have shot at a pheasant and some of the pellets hit the woodcock. I told Will Jacob that that is what must have happened.

Well we had our backs to Jim Cook's wood this morning, the other side of his wood facing north. I drew number 6. Mr. Guy was permanent 7 all day, and on my right was his son-in-law who can't shoot at all. And Rene told me he was very sensitive about his shooting. Anyway he shot well at the Eleven Acre after lunch. I let a nice lot of stuff fly on to him and he killed a few, it was very easy stuff. I said to him you had better have your lunch before you come out shooting next time. The other guns were Edward Stafford who is much fatter than I am. His wife came to lunch. I can't weigh her up and I don't want to be bothered to find out. I don't like him much, but she adores going to shooting parties. There was David Keith, I met him this morning. I think he recognised me which is more than I could do for him. I thought, I know that chap but who is he? He's had a hip operation and he can't put his foot down properly, and Parkinson's disease. Of course he never was a good shot but he wasn't a bad shot at all, and now the poor fellow can't shoot.

Then there was Wigan, who I mentioned earlier. He shoots with a pair of Beasley's, 16 bores, and he shoots with one hand, extremely accurately, at these sort of Norfolk pheasants flying straight with no wind, no twisting and at that height. He shot very well. He was in the Air Force, Coastal Command, in Ceylon, Sri Lanka they call it now, and he contracted polio, he was very lucky, it just got his left arm, it left him some feeling in the fingers of his left hand but there is no strength in his left arm and so his left arm would just be a dead weight on the gun. A very nice chap indeed. His left arm, if he does lift it, drops down like a dead body.





Then there was Duckworth Chad there in the first drive. I pointed him out to Will Jacob and I said, well there's somebody here who can shoot, that's the first time I've pointed anybody out who I said was a good shot.

I had the first pheasant that came in and missed it first barrel and hit it in the bottom with the second barrel. We watched him quite a bit during the day and hardly ever saw him hit anything in the head. In fact the whole of this Norfolk team shot a tremendous lot of stuff in the body, the pheasants. Jennie was watching in the car, in the Range Rover all day, and she said they dropped and they ran like mad, which was true.

In the first drive I must say I stung a lot of birds up. I took off my green coat and extra jerseys and just had my long waterproof Cordings, paper thickness. I got aggressive then, I killed 20 the first drive but not a lot of them in the head. Second drive I killed almost everything in the head and missed nothing until the end of the drive. There were two or three low ones on the left, very low swingers. I didn't stand at my peg, I stood about fifty yards behind my peg and the first two were monumental pheasants, they were so high and swinging. The wind got up and I got down the wind there on my own fifty yards away from my peg behind. Had a lovely shoot, 23 pheasants and they were all picked up.

Then we went back to Cressingham Wood, a plantation he made on top of the hill where he always used to have the kale. Not many there, killed 8, didn't miss anything there. Then at the Eleven Acre in the afternoon I killed 16 and I only missed one pheasant, and I was getting them in the head there.

Lovely to go to Norfolk to see the Oaks and the big fields of turnips and the cattle running out on the beet tops, they are a cross between Friesian and Hereford. They sell the males and females. She said she could get them away at fourteen months old. Rene seems to have quite a bit to do with this. They have always been her cattle, she started off with 7 or 14 Hereford heifers that the man couldn't afford to pay for the rent in the field about 40 years ago. They kept the heifers that were there, that's how she started her herd.

In addition there was Mrs. Froyne. I told you she had two two-year old dogs, a yellow and a black, working away dressed up like a man in knickerbockers and she looked quite smart, and a game bag there. She's the widow of Willie whose an Austrian. He was a Director of Kenneth Keith's business, Philip Hill. He died 20 years ago. Then there was Judy Roberts, Lady Roberts, she is Sir Samuel Robert's widow. His father was created a Baronet, I think, for work he had done as a Member of Parliament. They were both Members of Parliament, and the son is also called Samuel. That's a third Samuel and he's 37. He sacked all the staff, told his mother he couldn't afford them and kicked her out of the house. She's going to live in the gate house on the estate.

5 December	North Ormsby	5 drives	62 Pheasant 6 Partridge 1 Woodcock
Very wet. Shot half day only.			
6 December	Tealby	6 drives	131 Pheasant 2 Woodcock 1 Rabbit 1 Jay 1 Collared Dove

7 December	Rothwell	4 drives	319 Pheasant	536 shots
9 December	Otby	7 drives	Single gun	44 Pheasant 1 Hare 1 Rabbit
10 December	Rothwell	5 drives	220 Pheasant 4 Mallard 1 Hare	
	2 guns	Sir Joseph CJN		
14 December	Gatcombe Park	7 drives Single gun	6 Pheasant 1 Jay	12 shots

We stayed with Her Royal Highness Princess Anne and her husband Captain Mark Phillips at Gatcombe Park. I sat on Her Royal Highness's right hand side at dinner and Lady Nickerson sat on Captain Mark Phillip's right hand side. Rocco Forte was there. The other people were chiefly members of the committee and very keen show-jumping event people. At dinner the Princess and I had a very long talk about food production, hunger in Africa, Djibouti, Mozambique, South Africa, Sudan and how Portugal had left there but nothing set up at all - Mozambique I'm talking about now - and the Sudan was supposed to be the breadbasket of the Arab world, and all that which we know. We had an interesting conversation along those lines.

I told her about Manton when we were involved with the Sudanese and he was an agricultural commissioner for the products and how well organised the British had it. We had generally speaking a good dinner. We had salmon tart, a kind of a salmon pie, crust top and bottom, and we had a duck, it was a bit red, huge pieces of breast of duck, leeks, and I think perhaps the best swedes I've ever had, nice swedes. She's great fun, Princess Anne, and I think very sexy too. Her hair now is tremendously long and I like the way she has it done. Last night she wore a huge batwing dress of green and patterned material, she looked lovely. When we arrived she was making the Christmas tree herself in the hall, helped by her daughter Zara, and then Captain Phillips brought their son Peter, who is 8 now, home from school. A very domestic, very happy family set up, there's no doubt.

The bedroom we had had no bathroom adjoining it and no lavatory, but it did have a handbasin, and this is a big shortcoming. We've stayed I think in three bedrooms there now. This is the fourth year we've been and I don't think any of them had a bathroom, oh! one room had a bathroom, I think it was the first year we went. Of the staff, the cook has got great big trousers on and the housemaid huge trousers on. They're not in livery or in uniform at all. The butler had just come down from London. He'd gone back to London when I went to find him to tip, another stupidity. But the cook was damned good. I think some of the best shortbread toffee and biscuit, absolutely superb. The mince, kind of eccles tart, was fantastic at teatime. The crumpets were beautifully toasted, nice and crisp and superb. The breakfast was good, salmon kedgeriee and in addition little tiny awful sausages. The bacon was beautifully cooked and I'm glad that the eggs were poached, beautifully poached eggs with no fat on, they were lovely. And there was enough brown toast, big pieces of brown toast to get at. The morning tea came in a big pot and there was enough of it and there was enough tea at breakfast time. They had porridge and cornflakes and all the things on the side table, a huge jug of orange juice, etc, etc. The whole thing was well done. At lunchtime we had it in the Orangery, standing up or you could sit if you wanted to, and we had a few pastries filled with shrimps and some very miniature sausage rolls and very hot, thick tomato soup. Whether they'd put the swedes in it

I don't know, but it was very thick and very good. If we are asked again we must take some chocolates for the children again, it was a great success. Lady Nickerson did so again this year and it was appreciated.

Two hours from leaving their house we were on the M1 just near the Leicester turn on the M1. We've just come across the Warwick bypass and it's taken us just two hours to get here. The other alternative is to go under the motorway and now that Will knows the way there it might not be a daft idea. Tilney is driving us in the Bentley. The police stopped us within 20 minutes of leaving the house because we were driving slowly on a dual carriageway and we kept apparently braking and he was keeping in touch with the Range Rover behind, and that's what drew the police's attention to us. They took Tilney's name and address. They said we were just resting and they went and had a word with Will and he apparently told them where we had been. All that's by the way. They were two nice policemen and they were on the look out for anybody drunk driving slowly on the dual carriageway. Tilney's remarks were wonderful when he put the window down. The chap said, what are you doing driving so slowly? I've got Sir Joseph in the back, he said. I had a job with Tilney really to get him ready in London. I had to get the hotel barber to come up and cut his hair, it was too long, and then he never appeared at Gatcombe anyway. I kept him out of the way up in the garage in the village. But he got his hair cut and I got him to eat my chicken soup which I didn't need so I got his lunch there while he was packing. Goodness knows how he'd have managed. But he'll probably come on, I don't know and I like him very much. I liked the poor old boy when we had dinner with the Prime Minister and I sat at her table. That was another thing.

Rocco Forte had been to lunch with her on the Friday at Downing Street, a small party of businessmen. I told Rocco, your father and mother's party was really the House of Lords and the Forte family. It was interesting to be there but we were the only ones in a way.

Well today we met this Earl of Cottenham, a nice chap. He's a book publisher and publishes books all over the world. We were eight guns altogether, seven numbering and we killed 32 pheasants, a rabbit and I killed a jay. We were supposed to be shooting cocks only, some of them couldn't tell the difference. I shot 5 cocks and a jay. I think another time if we go we'll come home on the motorway. Just give me the mileage via the motorway all the way and the cross-country to Coventry and then motorway to Rothwell. What's the difference between the Coventry 69 motorway going on that or coming right the way round from Stroud and getting on it.

16 December	Rothwell	4 drives	219 Pheasants
19 December	Rothwell	5 drives	220 Pheasants
20 December	Rothwell	4 drives	263 Pheasants
22 December	Reads Island		51 Teal 2 Mallard

We left Rothwell at 12.52, David French, Will Jacob and I in the Range Rover with Skip, Beck and Teal.

2.04 a single Teal came into the decoys. I got him. He is lying on the bank in front of us, second barrel though. Although there is a big width on that Magazine, from north to south, it occurs to me that we shall probably want to strengthen up the old Magazine bank, make that thicker, wider and higher.

Three Teal came. I had two shots. I got a right and left there nicely. Second pair of Teal came - bang, bang, right and left, this is five Teal - all five we shot at.

2.10 - five Teal. Two more single Teal each of them with a single barrel. That is seven Teal, all we have shot at. That is seven Teal. The first seven we have shot at with two barrels of the first one

and also hitting first barrel. So I have got a good record there kills for cartridges.

It is now 2.20. It has been quiet for ten minutes. Another right and left at Teal. Four came. I shot one, nicely coming to me like a Grouse. Second barrel straight overhead when he rocketed. Two more, three rights and lefts and three single birds.

A single Teal came now, 2.25. That is the first one we missed. He was very wide but I thought he was going to pass us.

Thirteen down at 2.35. Just seen 17 Snipe. Missed a wide Teal, both barrels. Shot at another single Teal, was on its way off, I got him down on the grass. There is a little drop of water in the grass. A long way off, hardly touched him, he was a long way. 20 bores, number 6 shot, 13/16ths of an ounce only.

I missed another single bird I ought to have had, there was no excuse. That was one there was no excuse for. The others had been wide. But that was coming in, he must have seen us, sky rocketed up.

It is now 2.48 and no more score, still at thirteen.

3.30, we killed 20. We picked 15. 5 to pick. That is not counting anything gone how many miles away.

3.30 now and we have 25 birds down now.

It is now 3.50. The light is still quite good. Three quarters of the moon well up over the house where I am, about a third of the way up. A lovely sunset.

Fifteen in the bag already and 20 to pick. 20 birds still to pick but with 25 in the sack at the hide. That is 35. Wonderful flight! It is 4.00, 39 Teal down in two hours. Wonderful afternoon. December 22nd - Sunday.

There is a bit of wind now. The last packet that came from the south came like bombers. Just shot 40. Exactly 40 in the two hours. Just got the extra one, just got him. Pretty well taking all in all. They are not easy. We shot pretty well.

55 ducks, nearly all Teal, only 4 Mallard. Wonderful evening. Crossed without incident. Good boat with radio. It is not what it used to be in the old days with the old rowing boat.

Picked up 32 Teal drakes, 14 Teal ducks, two Mallard drakes and five birds not picked. Total shot - 51 Teal, 2 Mallard.

23 December	Ram Pond	Evening flight	1 Mallard
26 December	Rothwell	5 drives	87 Pheasant 2 Woodcock 1 Moorhen
28 December	Helmsley Beckdale	6 drives	69 Pheasant 141 shots
30 December	Helmsley Ricaldale	6 drives	128 Pheasant 215 shots





Anne-Aymone and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing,
Celia Whitelaw, Nathalie and Claude Foussier,
Eugenie Nickerson, Willie Whitelaw,
Lady Nickerson, Joseph Nickerson



5 MORPETH MANSIONS
MORPETH TERRACE
S W 1
01-834 4434

Rafly N
& see.

Thursday 28th November 1985.

Dear Sir Joseph,

glamor

I cannot thank you enough for the most wonderful day's partridge shooting at Nembela.

It really was the most perfect day in every way - the weather could not have been kinder and the partridges flew exceptionally. I thoroughly enjoyed

the whole day, however the last drive I will not forget for a long time to come.

Please thank Lady Nickerson for a most delicious lunch in a very "standards-up" lunch-hut!!

Again many, many thanks for a memorable day - it was all the greatest fun. Let's hope for a good grouse season next year. Yours ever, Michael.

Copy to Lady Nickerson
" " MSE ✓

C
O
P
Y

Letter from David Donne

The Bishop's House,
Rectory Lane,
Woodstock,
Oxon. OX7 1UQ
Woodstock (0993) 812639

25.XII.85

Dear Joe,

Ever since I first heard about 3rd October 1952 'Rothwell' was a name for me that was to be conjured with. It was something different. It was on the 20th December 1985 that I was to discover just how different.

I cannot recall when I last saw such high birds that swing quite as quickly, and certainly never have I seen them in the glorious quantities we were shown. Letters from your guests must be full of wide superlatives, but no guest could be more appreciative than I to have been invited to such a day.

Thank you and Lady Nickerson for the added pleasure of staying in the house - I am only sorry that Clare could not be with me to share in such a memorable visit.

I will be sending you some information about Dalgety - we are 'in-between' videos on the company but if I can lay hands on a copy of the last one I will certainly do so.

I look forward to seeing you on July 8th, but hope we shall meet before then.

Thank you for a wonderful day.

May 1986 be a vintage year for you.

Ever yours,

David.

86 Park Lane
London

W1A 3AA

01-493 1090

Dec 19th

EX 100 1982

Dear Joe,

I hope this letter finds you
feeling better than when we were with
you and that you are fully recovered.

I could not have enjoyed myself
more and this was only marred by your
not being with us on the last drive
of the day which incidentally went
very well indeed except that the
three of us were hand put to work

CONTD.....

with the vast quantity of birds that
came over. They were also quite Spectacular
and very difficult - my ratio of cartridges
to kills was very poor and I was not shooting
badly!

The whole day was quite exceptional
with the quality of the birds quite beyond
compare. It is difficult in writing to
thank you about a days shooting as
one runs out of superlatives - this was
without doubt the best days pheasant
shooting I have ever had.

Looking forward to seeing you both
at Helmsley after Christmas

Yours ever.

Ross.

M

GATCOMBE PARK,
MINCHINHAMPTON,
STROUD, GLOS.

20th December 1985

30 DEC 1985

Dear Jo,

I'm afraid this is rather a
belated thank you for having me up
to shoot at Rothwell. As we they
were two fantastic days and I could
not have enjoyed myself more. It's so
nice to see everything done so very
well and I will long remember the
drive when we stood in front of
the ponds and you were by the

CONTD.....

hunting... quite... As ever it was
a great privilege to be with you
and very kind of you to have me.

We both much enjoyed having
you at Catecombe again. It's sorry
it had to be such a "bad" wild year
because numbers had been building up
quite nicely. Anyway it was very
good of you both to take the trouble
to come and join us.

Again many many thanks for two
very enjoyable days. I did enjoy seeing
you both again. Wishing you every success
for Christmas and the New Year. *Rash*

1 January	Tealby	5 drives	144 Pheasant 1 Woodcock
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3 January	Rothwell	4 drives	277 Pheasant 4 Pigeon
-----------	----------	----------	--------------------------

Billy Jacob's drive on Friday the 3rd January was quite phenomenal. The kill there was 400 pheasants, 447 pheasants I think there, and we were five guns plus young Jenny, who killed 25. Five guns killed over 400 pheasants and we could have killed 800. Put into my game book and my shooting diary ready for my book if ever I write it. I honestly thought we'd shot enough, we'd had 470 or 480 at lunch and ended up with just over 900 for the day. It was a fantastic drive and the whole house top had been blanked into it and we'd done Boarding House the drive before. There were quite a lot of birds up Boarding House and the house top and they had been pushed across to Billy Jacob's drive. Anyway, you couldn't believe it unless you saw it, you couldn't believe it! When I said to Billy I think we've shot enough, he drove it through. Drive it through, I said. There must have been damn nearly a thousand pheasants - that sounds a lot - in the air at once. Just the whole sky was blacked out, it was an enormous spectacle. I discussed the sighting of that drive with Dick Dennis many many years ago. Billy has made it work. I was going to have kale at the bottom there before we planted that wood. It's a great credit to Billy how they drive it. The wood is so thick that the pheasants can't fly out of it. They can't see the sky and they can't get out, so they have to run forward on to the wide headland where they are between the big thorn hedge and the wood and they jump there like rockets being launched. There's also another launching place out of the kale between the kale and the wood and this wants drawing as a diagram. I'm sure if we shot all the heights, all in, and we had a full team of guns, we would really have been determined to do it and that 400 pheasants could have been pretty close to 1000 that one drive. More pheasants appeared after we'd stopped the drive than there had been on the drive.

4 January	Rothwell	5 drives	112 Pheasant 2 Woodcock 2 Pigeon 8 Collared Dove 3 Rabbit 1 Moorhen
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5 January	Ram Pond	Evening flight	18 Mallard 16 Teal
-----------	----------	----------------	-----------------------

When Will Jacob and I were waiting for the flight on Sunday afternoon at the Ram, 5th January, a pair of Snipe came and settled within a yard of our hide. I've never done it on the mainland but four Teal came in from Great Walk against the evening light and I killed two in front and changed two guns, changed guns and killed the other two going away to the east. Killed all four with four shots. That pleased me a lot - that was with the 20 bores.

6 January	Rothwell	6 drives	206 Pheasant 1 Moorhen 1 Teal
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I think in my shooting diary we ought to put the way that Bogle Hill was driven on Monday the 6th January. It was quite phenomenal. There virtually was not a flush, the pheasants just kept coming. We killed here over 200 cocks and I don't know, 30 hens probably. Only four guns. I stood behind and I never shot one hen. Killed 114 or 120 cocks at this one stand - 28 bore. Phenomenal continuity of pheasants.

7 January

Reads Island

Evening flight

61 Teal
13 Mallard
17 Widgeon

Picked 52 Teal
11 Mallard
13 Widgeon

2.15 into position, four miles the first teal. Dragged him down but right in the Channel, no use. Almost straight away, four miles, there was another lot. Killed one with each gun. Right and left widgeon, 27 minutes past 2. And another teal I killed just before. The teal have just not been easy. I shot at three others, two rights and left at teal, and a right and left at widgeon up to now, and a single teal, that's the target and it's not 2.30 yet. 13 absolutely dead in the first twenty minutes, widgeon and teal. 20 definitely including one mallard only by quarter to three, half an hour, 20 duck down. Another right and left at widgeon, fairly high ones, great fun it is. Three teal came and with both guns got all three of them. Downwind teal were absolutely perfect and the upwind teal dodging about, just as difficult in a different way. It's the greatest possible fun!

Two long ducks that we may not take, but 48 dead in exactly one hour. In other words, now 3.15. Some of these teal are coming from the east straight downwind, just as fast as driven grouse. Just my cup of tea those are. I've just had a beautiful right and left at full speed, that suits me very well. Half past three we sent David French for some more cartridges, although I don't think there's much danger of us running out, and at the same time everything has dried up, everything has gone quiet. I've often noticed that before, before the flight proper. The dusk flight, before that happens, everything goes quiet. It's now a quarter to four, 65 close in, 5 long. It's quietened down very considerably. Will has been out picking up, a continuous procession of shellduck wanting to get in. They're flying around all the time, the shellduck. I don't know what they are trying to do. Five to four, we've shot another teal. There's a French boat, it's flying a French flag anyway, really above the bank, the new bank, extraordinary.

It's just high tide now, bang on high tide. Will has just gone to fetch the dogs from the next hide and we've got 66 down and five long. 25 past 4 and the light is going. Two mallard flying about and a few widgeon. No teal now, but very few. Just killed a mallard at 25 past 4. We've got 70 near the butt and 5 long now. 8 teal and 5 long on the clock now, 20 to 5. The light nearly gone.

The weather forecast for North Humberside - 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesday, 7th January. Cold and sunny with light south east winds. Cloud increasing during the day. Winds 15-20 knots. Snow will be spreading from the south west but this area likely to remain dry. Ice will affect all untreated roads by evening. Winds will increase by late afternoon, fresh to strong, south to south east, 25 knots.

10 January	Dulverton	6 drives	62 Pheasant 4 Partridge 2 Woodcock	138 shots
11 January	Dulverton	6 drives	73 Pheasant 7 Partridge	139 shots
15 January	Tealby and Rothwell	6 drives	144 Pheasant	230 shots
17 January	Rothwell	5 drives	251 Pheasant Killed 181 at Bills Wood to own gun.	360 shots
18 January	Rothwell	5 drives	258 Pheasant 3 Pigeon	433 shots

Giscard d'Estaing shot 1050 cartridges in the two days he was at Rothwell. Willie said he shot 650 in the two days. Giscard shoots at everything out of range and going to everybody else.

20 January	Rothwell	6 drives	128 Pheasant 1 Pigeon 1 Moorhen	196 shots
21 January	Rothwell	4 drives	162 Pheasant	273 shots
24 January	Rothwell	6 drives	125 Pheasant 2 Mallard 1 Pigeon 1 Rabbit	
25 January	Rothwell	7 drives	136 Pheasant 1 Pigeon	
27 January	Rothwell	5 drives	149 Pheasant	
28 January	Tealby Single gun	6 drives	83 Pheasant 3 Collared Doves 1 Moorhen	

29 January	Rothwell	4 drives	104 Pheasant
	Shot half day only		
29 January	Ram Pond	Evening Flight	22 Mallard 9 Teal
30 January	Rothwell	7 drives	267 Pheasant 11 Mallard 1 Snipe 3 Moorhen 1 Rabbit

One of the most memorable days of my life. A gale of wind from the north east and frightfully cold, but dry all day, although very very cloudy.

I went out at 10.15 with the Keepers and about 20 beaters, and had Will Jacob loading for me - my 28 bores - number 6 shot, American. Teal. We drove the Rookery off and I killed a few drakes, and had a very good snipe and a moorhen and a few pheasants. Then we went down to Charles Plantation and I had the most fantastic shoot, although I say it. I really was in heaven. Brought Diana Wood back, into the side wind, and they were dancing about there. Very, very difficult.

Then we did our house over the garden and I stood near the Rothwell sign and I had an absolutely lovely shoot there. Went in for lunch at 12.25 because Eugenie was going to see the Works of Art in Lincoln. I had some leek tart which was superb, and some of the Philippino rice pudding - excellent.

I went to bed for 40 minutes, had a sound sleep while the beaters drove everything all round into Plover Walk to bring Bills drive, but cut off at Rookery Top. I think this was one of the most exciting drives of my whole life. I claimed 71 there, and they picked 77. The birds were falling so far behind, unless anyone had seen that with those 28 bores nobody could have believed the difficult birds.

Then we popped down to the House and we took everything over the House Top and I stood at the Rothwell sign again. I killed 40 odd there. Beautiful birds.

Then we went down and brought Lincoln Hill down and that was terrific, jolly good. Then we went to the Ram and every time I put my gun up I had a duck. Only got one right and left with the gale, second barrel, it was very difficult to be accurate particularly as they did not come until it was quite dark. I killed a Teal there and 9 mallard. I got something like 292 head to my own gun. 267 pheasants, 3 moorhen, 20 mallard, 1 snipe and 1 teal. 292 head. Absolutely thrilling. I do not think anyone else in Britain or anyone else in the world has done that today.

I think when you are shooting you've got to get into the sky in front of them when there's a wind like there was today. Imagine the pheasant is a lot further in front and where it is, and just give a good lead into the sky in front of where you think the imaginary pheasant is, that's well ahead of the other one, well, ahead of the real one. You imagine the pheasant in front of the one that you can see. You don't shoot at the one you can see or in front of it, you shoot in front of the imaginary pheasant flying in front of it. Don't forget that.

1986

30 January

Ram Pond

Evening Flight

9 Mallard
1 Teal

1 February

Tealby and Rothwell

5 drives

102 Pheasant
1 Jay



DULVERTON, SOMERSET

JANUARY 1986



LINCOLNSHIRE VERMIN KILL - 1985

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL FOR 1985
Crow	3	3	1	1	4	8	1	-	3	-	-	-	24
Hedgehog	-	-	-	2	9	4	8	6	13	8	1	-	51
Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Mole	3	1	-	-	1	3	4	3	2	15	1	5	38
Magpie	-	3	1	2	3	-	-	1	2	2	-	1	15
Rat	20	16	42	33	23	17	10	28	40	78	72	51	430
Rook	7	5	-	11	2	63	8	-	-	-	2	1	99
Stoat	1	8	5	10	5	4	8	8	5	5	7	3	69
Squirrell	1	1	4	-	-	-	1	4	14	11	5	1	42
Tab	1	1	-	2	4	1	1	1	2	1	2	3	19
Toby	4	2	3	4	5	2	-	3	5	-	1	-	29
Weasel	-	1	2	7	4	1	1	4	11	4	9	4	48
Moorhen	10	120	10	8	14	3	5	7	2	3	-	9	191
Feral Pigeon	-	48	3	5	1	9	10	-	2	-	-	-	78
Starling	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
Coot	-	-	19	5	5	3	7	-	-	4	-	-	43
Brock	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Jackdaw	-	-	-	7	7	11	4	-	1	-	-	-	30
BB Gull	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	1	4	2	14
	92	209	90	98	89	129	68	65	109	132	104	81	1266

1985

LINCOLNSHIRE VERMIN KILL - 1985

KEEPERS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Frankish	8	17	68	33	30	24	22	14	23	40	29	27	335
Hewson	6	9	22	41	15	12	10	7	21	23	11	7	184
Hassall	15	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64
Garfoot	12	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37
Wolsey	51	109	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	184
Clay	-	-	-	-	30	23	18	16	31	35	30	21	204
Martin	-	-	-	-	14	70	18	28	34	34	34	26	258
	92	209	90	98	89	129	68	65	109	132	104	81	1266

TOTAL HEAD FOR 1985 - 1266

1985

NOMBELA VERMIN KILL - 1985

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL FOR 1985
FOX	-	1	1	4	12	7	1	1	3	2	4	12	48
CAT	2	3	1	-	3	11	4	2	4	5	7	6	48
WILD CAT	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2	3	1	11
BADGER	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
WEASEL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
HEDGEHOG	2	8	12	25	19	7	5	3	5	3	4	-	93
MAGPIE	16	93	30	42	21	93	191	158	114	234	127	188	1307
CROW	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	5
LIZARD	-	3	18	87	100	135	73	16	11	8	-	-	451
RAT	24	508	830	743	328	184	50	23	37	29	55	35	2846
SNAKE	9	20	42	81	79	140	84	41	24	30	19	-	569
TOTALS	54	639	935	984	562	577	408	246	200	314	219	245	5383

SUMMARY OF SIR JOSEPH'S PERSONAL BAG AT NOMBELA, LOS QUINTOS AND GUEDEA
AND GRAND TOTAL FOR SPAIN 1985

Date	Part	Cum Total	Pgn	Jay	Magpie	Mall	Rabbit	Snipe	Other	Total	Cum Total	Shots	Cum Total
27 Oct	64	64			2					66	66	182	182
28 Oct	115	179		1	3					119	185	214	396
29 Oct	132	311		3						135	320	221	617
31 Oct	141	452			1					142	462	240	857
1 Nov	121	573			1					122	584	254	1111
3 Nov	113	686			13					126	710	229	1340
4 Nov	54	740			1					55	765	107	1447
6 Nov	104 Los Quintos	844		1	2		1		1	109	874	187	1634
7 Nov	Los Quintos					102				102	976	221	1855
9 Nov	118 Guedea	962					3			121	1097	231	2086
10 Nov	229 Guedea	1191	2		2					233	1330	328	2414
13 Nov	90	1281			2					92	1422	189	2603
14 Nov	119	1400			3					122	1544	233	2836
16 Nov	131	1531			1					132	1676	240	3076
17 Nov	124	1655								124	1800	216	3292
19 Nov	120	1775			6					126	1926	235	3527
20 Nov	124	1899						1		125	2051	233	3760
21 Nov	143	2042								143	2194	258	4018
23 Nov	157	2199	1	1	5					164	2358	319	4337
24 Nov	103	2302			4				5	112	2470	208	4545
25 Nov	158	2460			2					160	2630	323	4868
TOTALS 21 days	2460		3	6	48	102	4	1	6	2630		4868	
GRAND TOTAL	2460		3	6	48	102	4	1	6	2630			

SUMMARY OF SIR JOSEPH'S SHOOTING IN SPAIN -- 1985 SEASON

17 days at Nombela	Partridge	2009	3901 shots
	Pigeon	1	
	Jay	5	
	Magpie	44	
	Snipe	1	
	Azure Winged Magpie	5	

		2065	

2 days at Los Quintos	Partridge	104	408 shots
	Jay	1	
	Rabbit	1	
	Hare	1	
	Magpie	2	
	Mallard	102	

		211	

2 days at Guedea	Partridge	347	559 shots
	Pigeon	2	
	Magpie	2	
	Rabbit	3	

		354	

GROUSE BAG - SPLIT BETWEEN THE MOORS

Wemmergill	893
Stublick	20
Stean	38
Holwick	543
Reeth	1045
Leadhills	138

Partridges UK

Rothwell	1
North Ormsby	182
Reeth	3
As Guest	95

Pheasants UK

Rothwell/Tealby	4183
North Ormsby	65
As Guest	498

Partridges Spain

Nombela	2009
Los Quintos	104
Guedea	347

SIR JOSEPH'S PERSONAL BAG - 15th FEBRUARY 1985 TO 1st FEBRUARY 1986

UNITED KINGDOM

Grouse	2677
Black Game	1
Partridge	281
Pheasant	4746
Woodcock	10
Snipe	8
Mallard	220
Teal	186
Tufted Duck	1
Widgeon	17
Pigeon	136
Collared Dove	12
Rook	4
Jay	3
Moorhen	8
Hare	6
Rabbit	10

TOTAL BAG 8326

- Seems low

AMERICA

Quail	39
<u>TOTAL BAG</u>	39

SPAIN

Partridge	2460
Pigeon	3
Jay	6
Magpie	48
Mallard	102
Rabbit	4
Snipe	1
Azure Winged Magpie	5
Hare	1

TOTAL BAG 2630

GRAND TOTAL BAG: 10995

over 11,000

1/11

1985/86

SIR JOSEPH'S PERSONAL BAG - 1985/86 SEASON

ROTHWELL PIGEON SHOOTS

Pigeon	122
Rook	4
Hare	1

TOTAL BAG 127

READS ISLAND

Mallard	16
Teal	142
Widgeon	17

TOTAL BAG 175

HAIR'S POND

Mallard	29
Teal	9

TOTAL BAG 38

RAM POND

Mallard	102
Teal	31
Pigeon	1

TOTAL BAG 134

BLACK SPRINGS

Mallard	16
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TOTAL BAG 16

TEALBY LAKE

Mallard	7
Tufted Duck	1

TOTAL BAG 8



Heather Project
on the Moors
1985/1986





