SHOOTING 1987-88



S H O O T I N G B O O K

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Compiled by Barbara Stevenson

SIR JOSEPH'S PERSONAL BAG - 1987/88 SEASON

4 August	Rothwell Pigeon Shoot JN and CJN		16 pigeon
12 August	Wemmergill South Side	6 drives	62 grouse with 115 shots

Lunch Hut	12 birds, 20 shot
Lunch Hut	10 birds, 18 shots
Shipka Pass	9 birds, 19 shots
Shipka Pass	11 birds, 19 shots
Shipka Pass	12 birds, 24 shots
Shipka Pass	8 birds, 15 shots

There is no doubt that the last few years have accelerated my deterioration physically. With putting on this weight I am nothing like as agile as I was even 3 years ago. I've been very good until 70, nearly like a young man, fit, able to climb over gates and do everything. But now I'm changed, there's no doubt about that and I've got to recognise that. 73 years old in Shipka Pass and I'm 6 butt facing north. We killed 61 brace this morning, normal two drives about the lunch hut. There was fog when we woke up - the weather man wasn't giving us a very good forecast but I had the Keepers out, one on Holwick and one on Wemmergill and they 'phoned up from the grouse lodge to say the south side was clear. I said, "well, give us half an hour if it's clear and in half an hour we'll shoot there". Although the wind was virtually from the south there wasn't any, although it's getting up now and it's getting into the south west just where we want it.

Well, we have had a splendid morning. I drew number two and from the north I killed six brace and then I went in a proper butt again, No. 4 by proper number, and we were 8 guns and I killed 5 brace. One was a bit doubtful. We had 61 brace at lunch. Young Jennie kindly changed over with me this afternoon and we have changed over now. It's just splattering with rain. I've got George Graham loading for me and I've got Sweep this cocker spaniel dog, a good big head, a good sort of spaniel. I've got Sam the labrador with me. Just a sort of gentle rain now, Scotch mist as a lot of people would call it. There's a fair wind down the Gill south west. Two curlews disturbed by the beaters, they've just flown over.

We left Middleton House about 9.25 a.m. We had the first shot at 10.55 a.m. and we got nearly 30 brace there. Then we shot at the same drive just an hour later. Down for lunch and now it's 1.50 p.m. and we are starting the third drive. On my left I have Mr. Donlat (that's a name for his other name), and on my right I have my wife. I left her quite a few birds this morning. I'm glad I did, on both drives she shot very well. I would say I've shot up to my standard, I haven't deteriorated in my shooting. I've got my 20 bore cartridges loaded for me by Ben Jacob. A short, lightweight cartridge, No. 7 shot. Graham suggested I should wear my Barbour coat and take off my green coat. Normally my green coat has been a permanent fixture, now it's far too hot. I usually put a raincoat on top of it but today I took it off and I think it's a good idea of George's. It's nice and slim this tropical Barbour I've got with a hood on to keep the wind out and I can shoot in it, it's nice and safe and is certainly waterproof and windproof. I think it's a good idea and he ought to order me another two so I have some more.

Cederic, one of my old dogs, always followed Lady Nickerson from the lunch hut, particularly on the south side, and we usually walked down, but she used to fill her pockets full of things from the lunch table. The dogs got to know and they followed her until they had eaten what she had to give them. That's the same hut, I built a very good hut there and I'm sure you can hear what's happened. They've had the benefit of that hut for some years and they are really not fit to be landlords. It should be taken away from these kind of people. They should set an example, that's what they should do.

13 August | Holwick | 6 drives | 93 grouse with 169 shots

Slits Down	8 birds, 17 shots
Slits Up	35 birds, 68 shots
Sykes	17 birds, 29 shots
Gulley	9 birds, 16 shots
Swinkets	17 birds, 28 shots
Swinkets	7 birds, 11 shots

Well, we're up on the Slits now and we've brought the top down - I was in No. 4 butt, the fifth butt from the top. The top butt was left empty and I killed 8 grouse and picked up with 17 shots. Ian had 7 or 8 shots. 15 shots and killed a snipe and two grouse. Young Jennie 17 shots and killed two grouse. Lady Nickerson was about the same. Smith-Ryland only took three grouse. Keswick was at the top, he got a brace.

A south west wind, very strong on top.

Slits down about 15 brace, Slits up 50 plus brace. I killed 37-35, 5th butt from top. We came off with 71 brace. Then one Sykes down wind got up to 112½ brace at lunch. Swinkets down and Swinkets up. Bag about 200 brace. After lunch we did Gulley down and got about 30 brace. There was a woodcock in this drive. Both days there are big coveys of grouse up to 14. My guests' shooting was not good after lunch. Jennie killed 15 brace using one gun. Harry Hope loaded for her. Lady Nickerson killed a few more. Lorth Strathmore is arriving tonight at Holwick Lodge.

14 August | Holwick | 6 drives | 35 grouse with 66 shots

Silver Band	3 birds, 6 shots
Black Arc	3 birds, 9 shots
Nichol Hopple Up	12 birds, 16 shots
Nichol Hopple Down	9 birds, 9 shots
Lair to Black Arc	6 birds, 16 shots
Black Arc	2 birds, 10 shots

15 August | Wemmergill | 6 drives | 107 grouse with 180 shots

Used 28 bore gun

Wall Hurdles	25 birds, 41 shots
Rake Gill	13 birds, 25 shots
Rake Gill	19 birds, 31 shots
Wall Hurdles	19 birds, 27 shots
Rake Gill	6 birds, 10 shots
Rake Gill	25 birds, 46 shots

On the Allotments on Saturday 15th August a new line of butts to the north of the wall, outdoor No. 8 a left-hand new butt and I used my 28 bores for the grouse. Had little Sweep the spaniel sat in front beautifully, and never moved. I killed 25 grouse. The spaniel never moved and they were very fast grouse, very, very fast indeed. We were on the edge of it, they were on our right. We killed practically on our left. It's a super shoot, super in every way. We once killed 60 brace or 60½ over that wall, but that was behind where the butts are.





Ted Rigby in Brazil
demonstrating how to
shoot with one eye

10 August 1987



Wemmergill
August 1987



QUAIL SHOOTING IN AMERICA 1988







17 August — Wemmergill North Side — 6 drives — 162 grouse with 239 shots
Used 28 bore

3 drives Wemmergill Head

1st	23 birds, 25 shots
2nd	37 birds, 55 shots
3rd	45 birds, 70 shots
4th	26 birds, 41 shots
5th	23 birds, 37 shots
6th	8 birds, 11 shots

18 August — Wemmergill North Side — 3 drives — 27 grouse with 51 shots

1st	8 birds, 22 shots
2nd	16 birds, 25 shots
3rd	3 birds, 4 shots

After three drives it was confirmed that Lord Strathmore had died whilst out stalking in Scotland. Shooting was therefore cancelled.

20 August — Reeth — 6 drives — 75 grouse with 149 shots

Stone Butts	5 birds, 22 shots
Surrender Bridge	13 birds, 23 shots
Tommy Bridge	16 birds, 28 shots
Mill Bottom	5 birds, 11 shots
Cringley Bottom	1 bird, 4 shots
Riddings Rigg	35 birds, 61 shots

21 August — Reeth — 5 drives — 86 grouse with 144 shots

Lady Mary	11 birds, 22 shots
Merryfield down	11 birds, 22 shots
Watercragg down	37 birds, 57 shots
Merryfield	11 birds, 13 shots
Watercragg	16 birds, 30 shots

22 August — No shooting. Lord Strathmore's funeral

24 August — No shooting.

25 August	Reeth	5 drives	162 grouse with 280 shots
Slades Head	36 birds, 60 shots		
Ashpots up	38 birds, 64 shots		
Ashpots down	24 birds, 54 shots		
Kearton Pasture up	45 birds, 68 shots		
Kearton Pasture down	19 birds, 34 shots		
26 August	Shooting cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.		
27 August	Wemmergill	6 drives	69 grouse with 131 shots
Allotments	13 birds, 25 shots		
Standards	6 birds, 10 shots		
Corbus	8 birds, 16 shots		
Green Grain	16 birds, 31 shots		
5th	12 birds, 24 shots		
6th	14 birds, 25 shots		
28 August	Stean	3 drives	16 grouse with 38 shots
			1 Snipe
1st	0 birds, 0 shots		
2nd	8 birds, 21 shots		
3rd	8 birds, 17 shots		
29 August	Reeth	5 drives	70 grouse with 123 shots
Lady Mary	11 birds, 18 shots		
Merryfield down	19 birds, 29 shots		
Watercragg down	27 birds, 49 shots		
Merryfield	7 birds, 14 shots		
Watercragg	6 birds, 13 shots		
31 August	Holwick	6 drives	96 grouse with 181 shots
Slits up	6 birds, 7 shots		
Blaybeck Gill	14 birds, 27 shots		
Crookers Gill	26 birds, 54 shots		
4th	35 birds, 52 shots		
5th	4 birds, 8 shots		
6th	11 birds, 33 shots		

Note:

JN shot 13 days driven grouse in August. Personally bagged 1060 grouse and fired 1866 shots. First two days used 20 bores, thereafter 28 bores.

1 September — Shooting cancelled due to extensive hill fog.

2 September	Holwick	6 drives	53 grouse with 100 shots 1 Snipe 1 Teal
Myre Hole	3 birds, 5 shots		
Lair to Black Arc	20 birds, 34 shots		
Black Arc	17 birds, 35 shots		
Blaybeck up	7 birds, 10 shots		
Blaybeck down	3 birds, 9 shots		
Gully up	3 birds, 7 shots		
3 September	Wemmergill	6 drives	73 grouse with 119 shots
4 September	Wemmergill	6 drives	69 grouse with 135 shots
Sledge Butts	3 birds, 7 shots		
Sledge Butts return	20 birds, 41 shots		
Shipka Pass	9 birds, 11 shots		
Shipka Pass	7 birds, 14 shots		
Shipka Pass	7 birds, 25 shots		
Shipka Pass	23 birds, 37 shots		
5 September	Wemmergill	3 drives	68 grouse with 99 shots
Down Dow Sykes	11 birds, 18 shots		
Dow Sykes up	33 birds, 54 shots		
Dow Sykes down	24 birds, 27 shots		

Shooting cancelled after three drives as Harry Hope died.

7 September	Leadhills Moor	7 drives	66 grouse with 93 shots

Standard Rigg	15 birds, 19 shots
Thamish Cleuch	11 birds, 16 shots
Glenkip	7 birds, 11 shots
Snar Rigg	0 birds, 0 shots
Groups	6 birds, 13 shots
Corbie Ha.	12 birds, 15 shots
Dodd	15 birds, 19 shots

8 September	Leadhills Moor	6 drives	48 grouse with 72 shots

10 September	Stublick	5 drives	79 grouse with 137 shots

5 drives down wind. A marvellous day's sport.

11 September	Reeth	5 drives	72 grouse with 136 shots

Watercragg down	20 birds, 29 shots
Lady Mary to Merryfield	19 birds, 38 shots
Winterings	16 birds, 34 shots
Merryfield down	9 birds, 22 shots
Dr. Gill down	8 birds, 13 shots

12 September	Reeth	5 drives	53 grouse with 117 shots

Barras End down	7 birds, 12 shots
Wet Shaw down	12 birds, 23 shots
Mill Bottom across Cringly Wall	4 birds, 11 shots
Foregill down	18 birds, 26 shots
Low Moor Top down	12 birds, 45 shots

14 September	Wemmergill	6 drives	104 grouse with 209 shots

Top Row and Shipka Pass	
1st	22 birds, 36 shots
2nd	15 birds, 32 shots
3rd	18 birds, 39 shots
4th	16 birds, 35 shots
5th	18 birds, 38 shots
6th	15 birds, 29 shots

15 September	Wemmergill	6 drives	107 grouse with 184 shots
Standards	21 birds, 42 shots		
Corbus	23 birds, 36 shots		
Green Grain	20 birds, 36 shots		
Wemmergill Head	9 birds, 16 shots		
Wemmergill Head	29 birds, 48 shots		
Wemmergill Head	5 birds, 6 shots		
17 September	Reeth	5 drives	100 grouse with 172 shots
Winterings down	25 birds, 36 shots		
Brownsea Top up	14 birds, 26 shots		
Dr. Gill down	9 birds, 13 shots		
Winterings	11 birds, 13 shots		
Brownsea down	41 birds, 84 shots		
18 September	Stublick	5 drives	40 grouse with 67 shots
1st	12 b irds, 16 shots		
2nd	8 birds, 13 shots		
3rd	6 birds, 9 shots		
4th	4 birds, 14 shots		
5th	10 birds, 15 shots		
19 September	Reeth	5 drives	44 grouse with 97 shots
High Moor to Surrender Top	11 birds, 14 shots		
Wet Shaw up	11 birds, 26 shots		
Reeth High Moor to Surrender Top	4 birds, 16 shots		
Brownsea Top up to Ashpots	8 birds, 20 shots		
Ashpots to Moor House	10 birds, 21 shots		
21 September	Reeth	5 drives	69 grouse with 127 shots 1 Snipe
Kearton Pasture up	13 birds, 20 shots		
Brownsea down	17 birds, 36 shots		
Kearton Pasture down	21 birds, 34 shots		
Kearton Pasture to Tommy Bridge	15 birds, 21 shots		
Mill Bottom to Cringly Wall	3 birds, 16 shots		

22 September	Reeth	5 drives	79 grouse with 161 shots
Surrender Bridge	15 birds, 40 shots		
Lower Kearton over Wall	11 birds, 14 shots		
Surrender Rocks	18 birds, 27 shots		
Low Moor No. 3 Butt	19 birds, 38 shots		
Down to Reeth Town Corner	16 birds, 42 shots		
24 September	Stean	4 drives	19 grouse with 51 shots
Meugher	2 birds, 7 shots		
Moss	7 birds, 17 shots		
Blayshaw	5 birds, 18 shots		
Peat Moor	5 birds, 9 shots		
25 September	Wemmergill	6 drives	69 grouse with 144 shots
Standards	16 birds, 29 shots		
Green Grain	12 birds, 23 shots		
Corbus	15 birds, 33 shots		
Allotments Wall	12 birds, 25 shots		
Allotments	3 birds, 13 shots		
Allotments	11 birds, 21 shots		
26 September	Wemmergill	6 drives	78 grouse with 137 shots
Close House Butts	10 birds, 17 shots		
Close House Butts	16 birds, 36 shots		
Close House Butts	6 birds, 12 shots		
Moss	25 birds, 36 shots		
Long Grain	12 birds, 17 shots		
JN Drive	9 birds, 19 shots		
28 September	Holwick	6 drives	105 grouse with 179 shots
Slits down	15 birds, 19 shots		
Slits up	25 birds, 48 shots		
Wallingles	18 birds, 24 shots		
Lair	20 birds, 36 shots		
Black Arc	19 birds, 38 shots		
Lair	8 birds, 14 shots		

29 September	Wemmergill	6 drives	45 grouse with 77 shots

Top Row	3 birds, 12 shots
Top Row	11 birds, 15 shots
Shipka Pass	9 birds, 17 shots
Shipka Pass	13 birds, 18 shots
Shipka Pass	2 birds, 2 shots
Shipka Pass	7 birds, 13 shots

30 September	Reeth	5 drives	61 grouse with 149 shots 1 Snipe

Kearton Pasture up	10 birds, 23 shots
Brownsea down	12 birds, 31 shots
Bottom half Kearton Pasture up	11 birds, 32 shots
Barras End up	11 birds, 27 shots
Raw Moor up	17 birds, 36 shots

I'm trying some over and under 28 bores today at Reeth, side by side over and unders at Reeth today for the first time, side by side. I haven't used side by sides for some time. I got one out of the first covey that was a bit of a hurry and I used them for the first two drives. There's a bit of wind and it's not easy grouse. It's the 30th September but I'm knocking a few down. There's no doubt that's what I've said hundreds of times in my life - you've got to swing with these grouse or anything else. Crossing birds you've got to swing with and you've got to move the gun all the time and get hold very strongly. When they are coming straight in at you you've got to move too. It's all move!

It seems slightly strange these side by sides, they are not bad. I've killed double figures the first drive and double figures the second. I must have got a dozen each time, I think 10 or 11 or probably a dozen each drive.

It has been warm these last two days really. It was quite warm during the day, very warm, and the grouse have started to pair a bit. The cock will rise before the hen, and the hen will stay tucked in - almost got to get a dog to put her up, so when you're driving the moor you are not getting all the hens up. A cock will get up and leave the hens sitting. Of course, the hens are in packs as well, or have been - they have probably just got out of their packs some of them and are now in pairs, so you can have a few more birds on the ground when you see a lot of cocks. So you end up killing more cocks than hens, which is a good thing for the moor in a way, but it's absolutely awful to see a pair coming towards you, knock one down, the first pair, and the second one thinks its mate has settled and wants to settle with it. That's awfully sickening I think.

1 October	Stublick	5 drives	36 grouse with 59 shots

1st	10 birds, 15 shots
2nd	9 birds, 16 shots
3rd	10 birds, 14 shots
4th	5 birds, 9 shots
5th	2 birds, 5 shots

2 October	Reeth	5 drives	42 grouse with 80 shots

Brownsea up	8 birds, 19 shots
Slade Head up Merryfield	4 birds, 8 shots
Merryfield up Lady Mary	7 birds, 11 shots
Watercraggs down	8 birds, 20 shots
Riddings Rigg	15 birds, 22 shots

3 October	Reeth	5 drives	68 grouse with 123 shots

Barras End to Surrender Butts	14 birds, 20 shots
Surrender Top down	6 birds, 13 shots
Barras End up Old Gang Chimney	14 birds, 22 shots
Brownsea Top up Ashpots	25 birds, 49 shots
Winterings up	9 birds, 19 shots

4 October	Ram Pond	47 Mallard
	Evening duck flight	A RECORD DAY!

7 October	Reeth	6 drives	71 grouse with 143 shots

Brownsea Top to Ashpots	10 birds, 30 shots
Ashpots to Moor House	8 birds, 10 shots
Kearton Pasture Top	9 birds, 25 shots
Kearton Pasture Bottom	12 birds, 15 shots
Foregill down	20 birds, 37 shots
Riddings Rigg up	12 birds, 26 shots

I am very agreeably living at Middleton House. I get up at 7 o'clock, called by Paul, and I must say he is improving all the time. He has my clothes hanging in the lobby outside the bedroom door and when I dress he brings me my tea, and I attend to all my ablutions, etc. By half past seven I am down, he puts on my shoes and spats in the study. When I am later talking to the Keepers, he or I get the weather report - we've always had that the night before of course - then I talk and plan the day. Sometimes the post is there and the papers and my secretary comes at a quarter to eight every morning - Louise Fernside. She's punctual and she tries very hard, so by the time I get through breakfast at 8 o'clock or ten past eight, I've done quite a lot.

Then I've got the faithful George Graham here who's a tower of strength. I eat a jolly good fried breakfast, after my Kellogs All-Bran, and then back into my study, and by this time the main post has arrived. I settle all the affairs of state before off to shooting. And when I'm on my own I go, for example, to Reeth. I went this morning, a typical day. I was off by a quarter to nine and I arrived at Reeth having read The Times from cover to cover and the Business Times on the way.

In the butt up at Brownsea, number 8 butt from the left, I shot my first grouse at five past ten. They were frightfully difficult. I had 10 birds. I went on through the wall then, over the garden where the old lady lives, and there is a paddock where the old lady used to milk the cows, miles away from Reeth, and carry the milk down. I killed 10 grouse there but they were difficult.

Then I killed 8, standing in the open, in these little grass fields in the middle of the moor. The wind was in the south. Coming straight downwind they were. And then we went and stood in the western, these four little butts put up on the roadside above the old dam bottom.

There was another terrific drive. They were in every direction, absolutely marvellous high birds, dropping a long way back. I am stillusing my 28 bores, but this morning we moved up from the 7½ American shot to a 6 American shot, which of course is equal to our 5, English 5 shot. We had a lovely shoot there and picked up all I claimed, another 10 birds, that's 28 birds. Then we went and stood down near the old buildings near Surrender Bridge. They brought the whole of the bottom of Kearton Pasture off to me, killing on my own. I had my spaniel Sweep and labrador Teal - never a lead on them, they just stood there, never moved during the drive, and here I had 11 fantastic grouse, as high as you want them and as fast as you want them. I picked them all up so I had 39 at lunch.

I then went and sat at the top of the hill above Surrender Bridge on my own and had some delicious ham and lemonade and a piece of fruit cake, simple but excellent, and then down to the Low Moor where they drove to me. I was in the third butt from the left and they drove that down from the west. I killed 20 grouse there. They said a lot went back but I had 20. Then I turned round and they brought it back to me and I killed a right and a left out of each covey that came, and there was a pair came and I killed them.

I have shot 71 birds today on Reeth Moor and we picked every one up. Mind you, I had two pickers up, Tom the Keeper from Grinton and young Kim Robinson from Rothwell who's working one of my bitches, a labrador bitch. So we had a hundred per cent pick up of what I claimed, 71 grouse.

Well, back into the Range Rover for George to drive me over to Middleton House. I've got a modern telephone. I spoke to the Rothwell estate office and I spoke to my secretary at Middleton House, and I spoke to Ian Yates. By the time we got to Barnard Castle I had started to sleep, deliberately, and George has been taught how to drive the Range Rover so that I can sleep. I didn't know another thing until I had woken up 25 minutes later outside Middleton House. This was just five minutes to five.

Back into my study and worked with Louise Fernside, talked to Dummer on the telephone and to Mrs. Gething. Organised a few shooting arrangements, checked on the investments with Kerrigan, came upstairs at half past five, and had one hour's tough massage not using the machines, just using their hands, Sebio and Paul. Excellent massage from both of them. I then went to sleep immediately and was woken up. There was a funny noise, I don't know what it was, and therefore I was awake when Paul said Miss Louise was on the telephone. That was wonderful. I had ten minutes chat with her from Leeds where she is getting bedded into the University for the New Year.

Had a very good hot and long bath. Margaret has brought me a gin and tonic, one and a half egg cups of Beefeater gin, and it's twenty to eight. Paul is just drying me off after my bath and I shall put on my black tie and green velvet jacket and descend to meet my wife and young Jennie and Mr. Thompson who is here as a guest in the house. I am looking forward to my dinner. I have already been told that there is a little smoked salmon in the roast grouse and this sounds very appetising. There's a bottle of Bollinger and a bottle of Bordeaux 1970 Blanc Cantanac, which I am looking forward to.

I have had to chase Sebio around for leaving the front door open and cooling the bottom of the house down. I have had to chase Paul round for not getting my shoes and spats removed from the front door where I took them off, and Sebio for not lighting a fire without being told. And I had to tell Margaret to spray the house to remove the oil stink from all over the place.

The wind was very strong today from the south, but it didn't rain although they were forecasting it. It's full moon and I think this time of the year the weather people get mixed up with the full moon - it shows them wrong.

There were four of us for dinner, I told you who they would be - my wife and her daughter, and Mr. John Thompson. The wine was what I told you it would be and the menu was what I told you it would be.

There was a discussion during dinner about the merits and dismerits of the Spanish and other people, and some encouragement given to Jennie to work harder, which I don't know whether she took. Hopefully she did. Mr. Thompson unintentionally but naturally was extraordinarily helpful about how important it is to get a decent mark in any exam you take. That's helped me a great deal. I am very worried that these marks will not be very high, but hopefully I will be quite wrong, I have been wrong before.

Some arguments and some friction during dinner, but not too bad, not too bad.

The grouse were cooked to perfection. The bread sauce and the breadcrumbs are not for foreigners to cook, but for a Philippino to be educated in the highest art of the culinary state from reading cookery books is unbelievable. Helen is superb.

I don't know about the 1970 Bordeaux. I like it very much and I think it is going to get better even. I don't think there is any hurry about it, it's only just opening.

Remind me to dictate a note about Stublick. That silly old man Tom Davison who's been a keeper there for 35 years with his father, used to talk about a barometer and the impossibility of driving these birds, but this old man was not quite so stupid, although almost. He said "that is a flat moor - you get high Pressure on a barometer and you get no wind and you're not going to be able to drive those grouse. There are no hillsides to follow and they can just go in any degre in 360, round in a circle, they are going to go - so it is very difficult to drive grouse on a flat moor with no wind".

8 October	Wemmergill	6 drives	58 grouse with 122 shots
Standards	7 birds, 20 shots		
Corbus	20 birds, 49 shots		
Green Grain	4 birds, 8 shots		
Wemmergill Head	1 bird, 6 shots		
Wemmergill Head	12 birds, 22 shots		
Wemmergill Head	14 birds, 17 shots		

I'm still shooting well. It was a gale today and I shot with 3 guns, my son Charles and I and our Agent Mr. Thompson.

9 October	Reeth	5 drives	30 grouse with 69 shots
Watercragg down	5 birds, 12 shots		
Lady Mary down	10 birds, 23 shots		
Merryfield down	4 birds, 11 shots		
Brownsea Top down	5 birds, 12 shots		
Riddings Rigg up	6 birds, 11 shots		

10 October — Reeth — 5 drives — 45 grouse with 87 shots

Wet Shaw down	10 birds, 32 shots
Brownsea Top down	10 birds, 23 shots
Kearton Pasture up	9 birds, 14 shots
Foregill down	5 birds, 5 shots
Riddings Rigg	11 birds, 13 shots

Reeth Farm Supper this evening. After shooting the party went to the Buck Hotel, Reeth, to change for the supper.

12 October — Wemmergill and Holwick — 6 drives — 49 grouse with 113 shots

Holwick morning
Wemmergill afternoon

1st	7 birds, 15 shots
2nd	6 birds, 18 shots
3rd	6 birds, 17 shots
4th	13 birds, 23 shots
5th	8 birds, 21 shots
6th	9 birds, 19 shots

13 October — Reeth — 5 drives — 54 grouse with 113 shots

Winterings up	8 birds, 13 shots
Lady Mary down	8 birds, 16 shots
Brownsea up	21 birds, 35 shots
Dr. Gill down	6 birds, 19 shots
Kearton Pasture Top	11 birds, 30 shots

14 October — Reeth — 4 drives — 29 grouse with 78 shots

1st	5 birds, 19 shots
2nd	5 birds, 23 shots
3rd	9 birds, 15 shots
4th	10 birds, 21 shots

Got up quite early in good time, supervised all the evacuation of Middleton House and left at five minutes to nine to go over to Reeth and have a little shoot on my own. I arrived bang on time and Mark Alderson had gone against my instructions. I am pleased in a way that he did, it will give me a chance to "square him up" which I haven't done since I've had him. It's done him a lot of good during the day. Silly old man took us up to the top of Reeth High Moor, a tremendous gale. Went into No. 5 wood butt, I'd no chance of getting a shot. I let him know. We shot 5 grouse there, then we went to hurdle butts over the Old Gang and I shot 5 grouse there. I shot 3 of the highest grouse I have ever seen in my life with a 28 bore side by side, full choke bolt barrels that gun, No. 14 gun, 28 bore. Unbelievable!

There was some rain, not a lot. I went up into No. 3 butt from the top on the Low Moor and I shot 9 grouse, two right and left there, there were very few. I had 15 shots - killed 9 grouse. Then we went to the Quarry at the far end next to Reeth village and I killed 10 grouse there and a hare and a rabbit. I killed 2 hares the last time I was there and we didn't stop for lunch.

We were all aboard for 2 o'clock. We went into Reeth and met Kim Robinson with the Bentley and we set off on that back road to Leyburn. We had our lunch there on top of a hill - it was a lovely view. I had a sleep in the car with George Graham driving me.

Had a look round Cabourne through to the Grange and through to Rothwell Top. Turned round Rothwell Top back again through Great Walk. Splendid sight to see so many pheasants. Kim Robinson followed us in the Range Rover and he said it was like "Alice in Wonderland" - I think he described it really well - it was really unbelievable. Had a cup of tea in my study. Dealt with the post with Dummer, walked down the garden with Mr. Dummer for 10 minutes and set off with Billy at five to six for Black Springs.

14 October — Black Springs — 16 Mallard, 2 Tufted Duck

We got into position - he's a very good man, he got me my over and under 20 bore back from Purdeys so I am using a pair of over and under 28 bores tonight. He said the first duck came in last night at 6.15 p.m. and a pair of mallard came in tonight exactly at 6.15 p.m. They were nice birds, well up in the air. I didn't let them come round and I shot one right at the front end first barrel, lovely. The second one skied - I allowed for it but I think I shot over it and I gave him two more as he turned away. Came slightly nearer to us perfectly flanked and I ought to have killed him but they are very tightly bored these little guns. He got away, he made a circuit and flew off.

The Lightning engines on the runway at Binbrook RAF are starting up, you can hear them here. Three came in five minutes later - tried to get them as they jumped, got nothing. Not a very good start. That was a pair and a three and another three and out of that the total that came, I've got two down. It's 6.30 p.m. and I don't know whether I've shot three, four times probably. Yes, I got one each time, apart from one lot.

It's 6.30 p.m. now - got three ducks and I've shot at four lots. Next lot came and I got a right and a left, beautiful - oh, sorry I got one with each gun, beautiful. A real screamer the second bird was.

The aircraft engines revving up is drowning the noise of my 28 bores and these ducks keep coming in - we have had one duck every time except once when we got two ducks and once we got none in a clear miss.

15 October — Rookery Pond — 106 Mallard

Morning duck flight

This morning I have fired 152 cartridges. I was the only gun out - there was nobody out shooting. We picked up 106 mallard. Mind you, I had six dogs with me and the man stayed for quite some time searching. These high mallard - it's quite a knack to get them in the front end, very difficult varying speeds some of them.

Even though the bird seems to be almost stationary, you have really got to get hold of the gun to get some action into your movement, even for these low, slower duck, if you choose to shoot them. I picked the high birds - I didn't murder anything that was lower, I left it alone. It is no doubt a great satisfaction on my fully choked 28 bore fetching these mallard really out of the sky. Had my little spaniel Sweep with me when I fired these 152 shots and he never moved, he never whimpered, he was absolutely perfect. Also had the black labrador, Teal he's called. I've had him a very long time, he's an old dog now but of course he never moved either. They are great friends my dogs.












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15 October — Ram Pond — 20 Mallard

Evening duck flight

I have got back tonight from flighting at The Ram and Helen Alvarado has cooked me just about the most perfect grouse possible. I claimed 20 mallard tonight and Billy brought the tickets in during dinner. They picked up 18.

17 October	Barningham	4 drives	39 grouse with 85 shots
20 October	Rookery and South Hills		Rookery 34 Mallard South Hills 24 Pheasant
23 October	Nombela	4 drives	72 Partridge with 147 shots
24 October	Nombela	4 drives	105 Partridge 2 Magpie 189 shots
26 October	Nombela	5 drives	85 Partridge with 162 shots
27 October	Nombela Half day only	3 drives	38 Partridge with 55 shots
29 October	Nombela (Mountains)	5 drives	64 Partridge 1 Little Owl 4 Magpie 145 shots
30 October	Nombela	5 drives	157 Partridge 1 Rabbit 286 shots
1 November	Mudela	4 drives	53 Partridge 5 Jays 4 Magpie 1 Pigeon 1 Hare 82 shots

The guests that didn't shoot at Mudela on 1st November 1987. Medium height, well-built fellow with a grey beard, short, right round his face. Lives in Geneva. I think he's a relation or might be a relation of the King.

Then there is a fellow called Weller. I sat next to his wife at dinner, she's charming. They live in Switzerland, Geneva, and he makes car washing machinery for these auto-washers. Just coming to England, he's on his own, he's a Frenchman, very tall fellow.

Then there is The Duke of Westminster and his wife, she's not shooting. Then there's the Duchess of Albequerque, her husband is the Count Torres I think, he's an Egyptian, he doesn't shoot. The King of course, and young fellows in the property business in Madrid, and much younger. He's very tall and slim. Ramon Figueroa, the eldest son of Pepe and brother of Fernando. Carlos Marsh, he's supposed to be a rich man in Spain and probably the richest in Europe. A lovely wife, she wore a very tight, extremely short black skirt last night and today she's gone. Her skirt was divided, English kid material. I said, what a contrast, we ought to have a photograph of both, couldn't be more contrasting, got very good legs.

Then there's another girl about her height, I think she's some cousin of the King. She was very smart too. Mrs. Mora-Figueroa she doesn't shoot. The King, of course, JN and Her Serene Highness Princess Maria Gabriella de Savoia - thereby hangs another tale.

The Queen left by helicopter last night, she had breakfast with her son in Madrid. The same General that's always with the King, and the King's doctor, and a few other semi-government and the Royal Household people - they shoot on the ends of the line. I think we were 14 guns overall. We finished at exactly 1 o'clock. I've had two drives, the first drive I killed 20, the second drive I killed 11. The second drive I also killed 4 jays first barrel and two magpies, about 31 partridges I've killed until 1 o'clock. I drink in between these drives and wasting a lot of time deliberately I think because we haven't got any weight of birds here at all, but a mixture of birds this last drive. It was quite obvious there were quite a lot of them. I didn't fire, they went sideways.

And there's someone we've missed out, the American, a sailing man called Kilroy. He's sharing a butt with his wife, one of them shoots one drive and one the next drive. Lives in California and Rome and she's Polish. He's a grey haired American called John Kilroy, a very nice fellow. A man that is developing property in Madrid, he's called Carlos de Bourbon, a cousin of the King. He's married to the other tall girl who's a bit like Mrs. Marsh. The Duke Juan Primera, he's a very decent chap.

Well, here they are after each drive tucking into a chop, that's before they start drinking, and they are getting on with it now. A wonderful atmosphere of happiness and irresponsibility. The King is well behaved really. I spent the next drive next to him and I sat next to him, he behaved very correctly, which is more than I can say for Maria Gabriella, but she's a badly spoilt creature anyway. Anything crossing she shoots accurately, she's a body shooter and a wounder and a knocker-downer, but she's accurate in general terms. The King doesn't shoot well, you can't say he shoots well. He doesn't shoot badly enough to be stupid but he doesn't shoot well and is not in a very high league. However, everyone in Spain wants to cheer him on and keep him shooting, it's very important for the country. He's going down I think to shoot with Pepe Mora-Figueroa at Los Quintos the week after we are there. I saw the dog man from La Ronca who loads for him and Ramon told Jennie or Lady Nickerson.

Well, that's two lots of tackle. Will Jacob went well out in front to pick up an extremely long crossing bird I shot. He found out what they had been feeding the birds, a lot of grain there, wheat, wheat scattered about just on top of the hill as you come to the drive and it's about sixty yards from the butts.



Back row: left to right:

Princess Maria Gabriella de Savoie, Duchess of Westminster, Charlotte Marsh, woman with hand on chest, name not known, woman with waistcoat, name not known.

Front row: left to right:

Mrs. Ramon Mora-Figueroa, Duchess of Albacete, Lady Nickerson







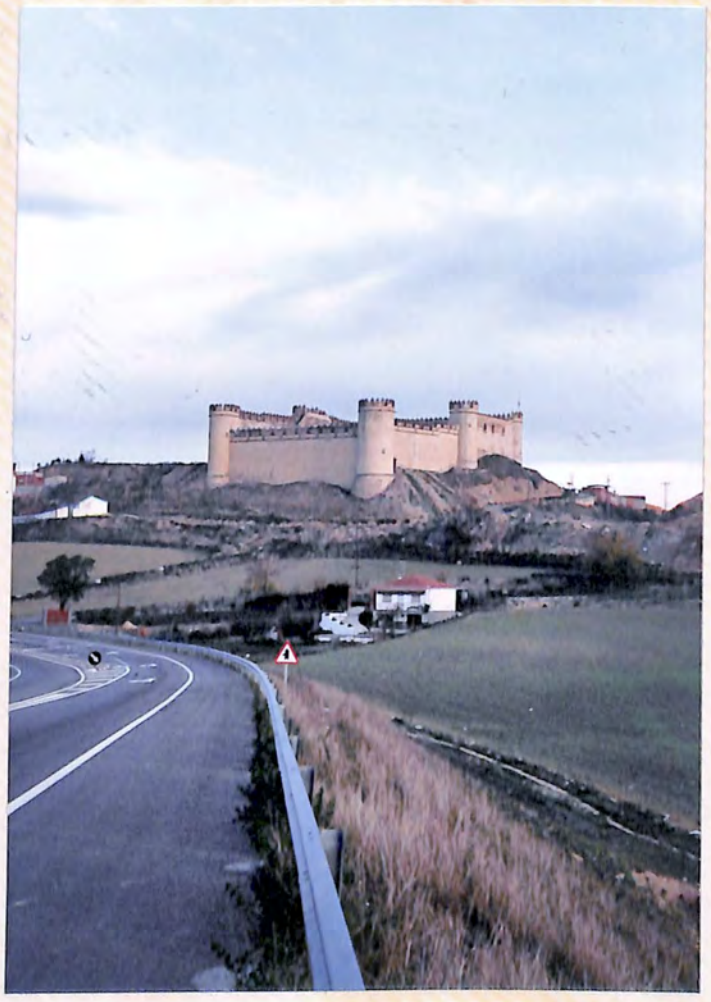

87 11 23







Castle at Escalona
near Mirador Restaurant



Castle at Maqueda

Some of the early birds of both drives have flown well, but the other birds don't leave the hillside, they are obviously hand reared, they are paler in colour slightly but you can tell if you have got a good eye.

Absolutely beautiful countryside for shooting in, it's 9 miles from the Castle. You go through a lot of heavily wooded area and come out the other side. It really is lovely, there's lines and lines of small peaks in the distance, a lot of uncultivated ground with bushes on it.

3 November	Los Quintos (shot half day only)	1 drive	54 Partridge 3 Pigeon	78 shots
4 November	Los Quintos	3 drives	203 Partridge 1 Pigeon 1 Jay 1 Snipe	330 shots

The second day at Los Quintos it had been raining quite a lot before we got up. It's now dry and we are in position at the first drive on the left hand side of the line of butts, number one from the left is Alfredo and that's where the wind is blowing too. Next to him inside left is Pepe Mora, I'm next and then upwind is Lady Nickerson. Just the first few birds have come over, they are different birds altogether. With a wind like this it's marvellous, it's been a good sport.

Well, we've seen yesterday morning 7 vultures at the first drive. This morning we have seen a red kite on the way here, and a buzzard, several ducks on the river swimming. One lot of ducks came with some partridges towards the drive but they turned back before they got to us.

I am just wearing an Airtex shooting vest and one of my turtle necks, ordinary wool with long sleeves and my Cordings old green coat, that's all I've got on, the top end of me. The bottom end I have got my waterproof trousers, French rubber boots and some cheap long trousers with protection from briars, bought in America, green and thin. That's how I am dressed the 3rd or 4th or whatever it is of November, and I've got gloves on too.

I've killed 23 smashing partridges in the first half hour of this drive, it was as good as anybody could wish for. Well, the drive is over and I've killed 69 partridges and a jay, including some beautiful rights and lefts, swingers, high birds, long birds, lovely birds. 69 and a jay. It's just 12 o'clock now.

5 November	Los Quintos Duck Flight	28 Mallard

I set two alarms for a quarter to six. I was then called at six when I was well away. Shaved, dressed slowly, checked all my kit, although Will and I got most of it ready the night before. We left the house at twenty to seven and we are in the same butt we have been in for several years. A full moon, bright as day during the night, and it was very bright as we drove down here. Manolo parked me, my Range Rover, and here we are in this good hide. A new keeper put us some new bags in the bottom of the hide and I've got a circular stool that spins round, all very comfortable.

It's now twenty past seven, we haven't seen a duck although Will heard some quacking a long way away. There's just a nice bit of white cloud if they do come, in one area, and I am watching carefully. Everything is very, very silent, twenty past seven. The hide is well equipped with all our things. We've brought tins of meat and boxes of Ryvita, water, minerals, a flask of tea, and goodness knows what. Chocolate biscuits in case there's enough duck to keep us busy as long as possible, but we are not optimistic in view of all the water there is around. Some years we have come here and it's so dry and we've had fantastic shoots. This year it is very, very wet indeed, there's water all over the place. In addition they've made lots of little reservoirs since we started to come here.

Last year I killed 58 on the morning flight which is the lowest that we've ever had here. I am using my 28 bores, Remington cartridge No. 6 American shot, and No. 7½ American shot to start with. Twenty five past seven, a pair of mallard came in, first shot very close with these three choke guns, ten yards away. I couldn't see him when I shot again, it's a dark hill. He flew round, I emptied both guns and these two mallard I didn't get either of them. Five minutes later two more mallard dived in, I didn't get either of them again, I had 4 shots and didn't get either of them, they beat me. A third pair came, I just had one shot, killed my first bird, second bird he curled round at such a sharp speed that I didn't even get the second barrel off. Twenty five to eight, a single bird came in, I took him well up there, my goodness me what a speed they dive in at. As he dived up the second barrel I got him. Five chances by twenty to eight. We missed the first two, we've had a bird out of the last three, one was a single bird, two were single birds and one was a pair. You can move these 28 bores and 20 bores quicker than you get 12's, and therefore the fast flying birds are easier to hit with them I reckon, but the slow moving bird and slow moving upwind birds are more difficult.

A minute after I had put that on this machine there were 3 came 60 mile an hour, straight into the water, my goodness, I didn't connect very well, wounded it only and it's gone right down the river beyond Manolo, we shan't pick it and I haven't counted it. There were 3 came in and settled to our right. Manolo cooed them up, they were quite near us, I clobbered one as he got up going the other way, away from us, with a shot, the other one turned round and I clobbered him fairly close in. He crashed down between us in the hide, a very heavy drake, just got me across the bottom of the tummy but not, fortunately, too low down, and that was a right and left but it was a very easy one. Ten to eight and I've killed 5 birds. We haven't seen anything larger, only three's, three's we've seen, pairs and singles. It is now eight o'clock, the sun is getting up, it's beautiful the red and pink, a beautiful delicate blue as well, when the run rises over the far hill, you can't see the sun but you can see the beautiful light.

One drake came and settled in the water and a pair came towards him. I thought, ah! I'll have this pair and I'll catch him as he gets off, but I didn't. Twenty five past eight, that's the first hour. I just clobbered a mallard drake but I needed three shots to get him. Before that there was a packet came in and all I did was to wound the same bird, I shot it in four barrels, wounded him and he went down the river so we haven't counted him. We are not seeing many duck at all, very, very few, but it's very exciting. A single drake, got him, three shots though to kill him, then there was a pair, I got a nice right and left, so we got 12 birds now, 12 ducks, twenty five to nine.

A single swooper came in, I was sorry to kill him, he was flying at me very fast, I just got a feather or two, missed him second barrel. I just missed another bird out of a packet, both barrels. Popped an easy right and left down anyway.

Nine o'clock, 19 duck. We finished our sandwich by half past nine, waved up Manolo and we are packing up now all the kit. A beautiful morning, the sun is not on the hide yet but it will soon be over the top of the hill. It's so peaceful and quiet here.

24 by ten o'clock and at ten o'clock the sun was just breaking the mountain top, close to us. He did the Manolo trick again, he gave me a couple of easy birds, a very quick right and left close to me and I got a drake, a swinger with the third shot right across the river there, a beautiful shot. 28 now at two or three minutes past ten.

We have had a wonderful day for our journey, November 5th, on the way back from Los Quintos to Torrijos. We are just actually in Torrijos now, it's 4.45. We had our lunch on that lovely Pass through the mountains, right on the summit, and I sat on the shooting stick and used the back door of the Range Rover as a table and had a thoroughly enjoyable lunch there. I think by the time we had filled up with petrol in Valencia de la Torres it was getting on to half past seven - I can't be accurate. We left Los Quintos at about 11 o'clock, that will be near enough to ten minutes I think.

We had one near miss, one tiny little car trying to overtake us, couldn't quite do it and had to squeak in in front of us. Will made a magnificent piece of evasive action, turned to the right and just let enough room for him to come in, but he must have been within five or six inches of our car on my side, otherwise the sun has been out a lot of the way and it has been bright. I wore sun specs all the way anyway and it has been a lovely journey.

8 November	Nombela	4 drives	163 Partridge 1 Magpie	285 shots

We left the Hotel Castilla at 8.40 and we went directly to the Banos. Robert was on the left punter, then Ian, Lady Nickerson was dead centre, Rosie was inside right, and I was outside right. We picked up 71½ brace for the drive. We are now travelling towards the second drive and it's now 11 o'clock.

The sun came out just before we started shooting and the mist lifted across the mountain after a very wet night. The birds are dry, they have flown beautifully, and it's such a fantastically wonderful day. I've never seen so many birds come out of the right hand side over the punter that I was in, a big show, and there was a heavy weight of partridges on the drive, they were coming in coveys, several of them at a time. I reckon this is one of the best drives on the shoot and I've been saving it because the family couldn't get a shot yesterday. I don't think there were more than 8 magpies in the whole drive so we really have got them reduced. I killed one, Rosie killed one. There were only two picked up and brought down to the game cart but I think there were many more killed. Robert killed 4 magpies, that was absolutely excellent.

The field behind, level with where the vehicles were parked, a stubble field, absolutely full of partridges. That's about as far as they had flown and we went over there in the Range Rovers to see if we could pick any up, they were just flying off there nicely.

It's really hot now for the first time this season in Spain, the sun is out and it's beautiful. I was taking a right and left in front and changing guns and getting one behind. I did that with two coveys running, that's six shots and I had six birds consecutively, very quickly. I couldn't get four in range, they didn't present themselves like the English partridges or grouse do.

10 November	Nombela	5 drives	170 Partridge with 308 shots

11 November	Nombela	5 drives	125 Partridge 5 Pigeons 1 Magpie	206 shots

13 November	Nombela North Side	5 drives	124 Partridge 3 Magpie 1 Pigeon	291 shots

Strong back wind

I've just had a most marvellous drive, the return from El Pino. I fired 105 shots, 5 at magpies and hundreds of partridges. Killed 44, some of the best partridges I have ever seen shot in my life, unbelievable - distance, height, speed and curling.

Finished and all packed up by twenty past four. One of the best days of my life, using my 28 bores. I picked up 61 high, good partridges over the El Pino drives this afternoon and I killed about the first drive on the White Partridge Drive, so high, diving like falcons, stooping really, tremendous speed. Some of the mountain partridges I had 24 there, but I had 8 at the Olivos, really high, almost impossible. And then we went down the valley, No. 37 drive, where the speed of them was such that it was unbelievable. You can tell the kind of birds they were as I usually killed 3 birds with every 5 shots, but today I fired 291 cartridges at partridges and killed 124 birds. It really is unbelievable what these 28 bores will do with a Remington cartridge, absolutely superb and I am sure I am shooting better than I have ever shot in my whole life.

There has been no sun today, it's been colder and you could call it, without doubt, at some times during the day, in fact all day until just after the last drive it dropped, a gale really, an absolute gale, a kind of wind you never see in Spain, absolutely terrific really, and how they got them over just the two guns is quite remarkable. Using Remington express cartridges, 7½ shot American, that's equal to 6. Really fetches them out of the sky in an unbelievable manner if you can hit them, almost like using a rifle. Usually other years there have been dozens of magpies over the two El Pino drives - today practically nothing. I had 5 shots at the drive from the boundary at magpies and that was all, sometimes I have killed a dozen magpies there.

I've killed 1413 partridges on this trip in Spain, we've got 7 days left and I want 1000 brace if I can get them, and the way I am going I think I shall get them now.

14 November	Nombela	5 drives	188 Partridge 3 Magpie	330 shots

16 November	Nombela	5 drives	159 Partridge 1 Magpie	264 shots

The first drive was the Arteson, 5 guns, 2 Harberts, 2 Nickersons and one Denton. Claimed 47, picked 46. Sun shining very brightly. It was quite a nice show. Rather more came through a bit lower than usual and weren't shot at in some cases, so there was just a fair show there. Both guns, when they got hot it seemed to be today, went hard pulling. No. 10, however, front trigger went off and both barrels were fired. It killed the bird but it made a big noise, so I put it away. Purdeys must be told that the No. 10 is subject to double discharge when the first trigger is pulled, only occasionally.



KEEPERS

Left to right:

Pablo, Jesus and Paco

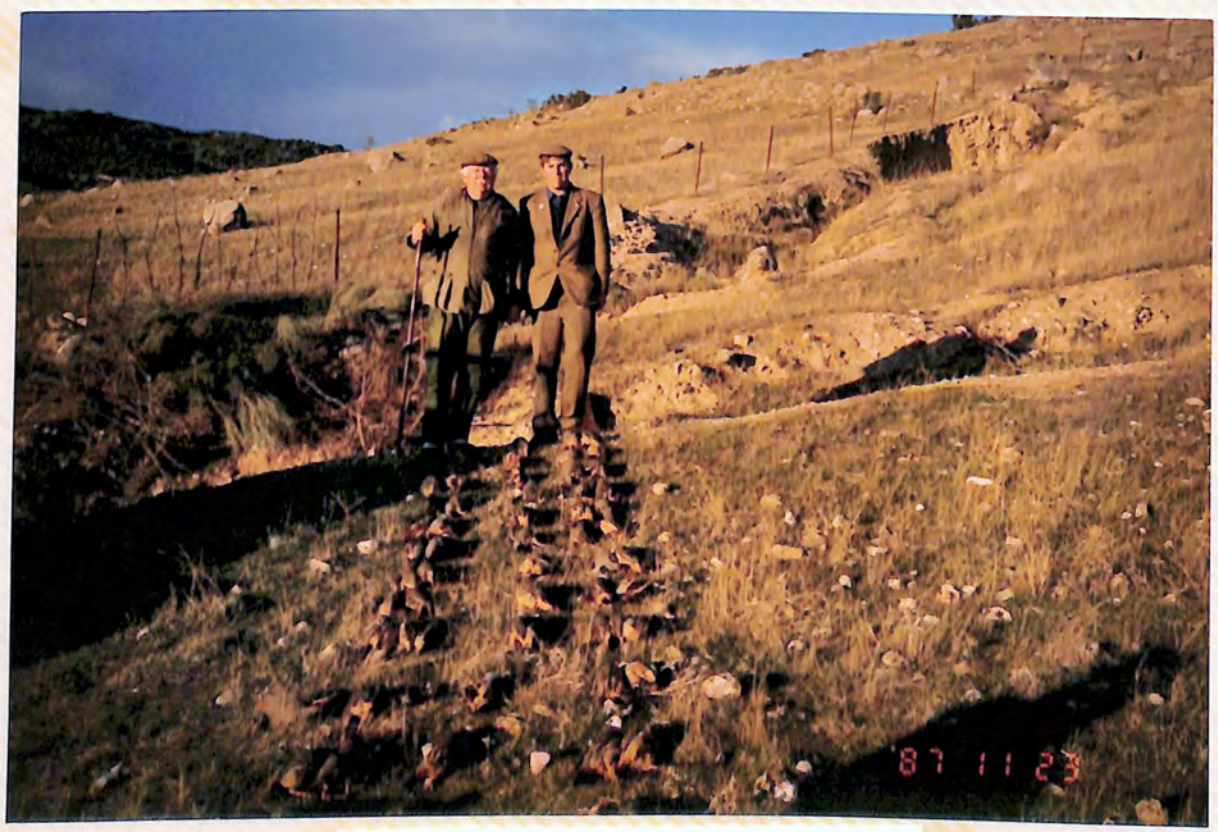




1st November 1987

Mudela, Spain

Guests of H.M. The King of Spain



Nombela, 23rd November 1987

Sir Joseph and Will Jacob

"Best Drive in Spain"

17 November	Nombela	4 drives	145 Partridge 1 Magpie	272 shots
19 November	Nombela	5 drives	131 Partridge 1 Rabbit 2 Magpie 1 Pigeon 2 Azure Winged Magpie	233 shots

My wife and I with John Denton. Just killed over 50 brace of wild partridge in one drive. We didn't shoot any low, tired birds, there were hardly any of them and what there were we let them go. The magpies have been reduced on this shoot, very much indeed, but there were a few in that drive. Some drives we have been having this season we have never seen one single magpie, it's unbelievable, and this shoot is improving all the time. I am so happy, it's like creating Rothwell all over again 40 years later. Lots of good keepers but you want a Jacob out here really, that's what it needs, but they are doing very well.

20 November	Nombela	5 drives	212 Partridge	322 shots
22 November	Nombela	5 drives	98 Partridge 1 Magpie 1 Jay	205 shots
23 November	Nombela	4 drives	217 Partridge 1 Magpie	458 shots

We were shooting five drives and we had previously shot with either four, three or two guns and had got a total of 316 birds. On this occasion the total for two guns and picked up was 313.

Drive 32, Navarro, is in a flat bottom and Lady Nickerson's butt was too far away on the left. 33b, the second drive, JN was on the left, in a wood, with a tremendous high hill in front, at a boundary near the river. Fantastic birds. Very windy by this time. We then went to a little valley where they rose up and we shot underneath. That is 27a, Gaspar.

The last drive, which is the one I christened "The Best" last year, had a beautiful rainbow during this drive. By now a very strong wind, again from the north. Snow was falling and resting on the mountains. One of the best day's shooting I have ever had in my life. People in England would never believe the quality. In the last drive the birds were so fast. They were coming down from the mountain area and they were rising unbelievably. They were coming at all heights.

There are a lot of birds left at Nombela. We have started to weigh them in numbers of thirty. Up in the mountains they weighed 14 kilos, but on the first drive when we weighed them they were 13 kilos. There are a lot of young birds there, which is very interesting.

26 November	Ram Pond	Evening flight	3 Mallard	
30 November	Rothwell Half day only	4 drives	23 Pheasant 34 Mallard	103 shots
2 December	Dulverton	6 drives	117 Pheasant 2 Woodcock	215 shots
3 December	Dulverton	5 drives	76 Pheasant	164 shots
4 December	Castle Hill	6 drives	42 Pheasant	100 shots

With the high birds in Exmoor, JN two days shooting there. The first day we shot 117 birds with 215 shots. The second day 76 birds with 164 shots, that's 193 birds with 379 shots, so we are under two to one, we are better than two to one, so JN has killed 193 and Lady Nickerson has killed 112, so that is 315 birds for the two Nickersons because Jennie and I were shooting at Castle Hill in Devonshire as a guest of Commander Sam Macdonald-Hall and Lady Fortescue, Margaret Fortescue. I used to know her with the Quorn years ago. She smashed herself up, she's now so bow-legged you can't imagine how beautiful she was.

A jolly nice wind and high pheasants, but you've got to climb down ladders to get over the hedges and they are too near together, standing far too near together. When the plan was made we were going to be 5 guns and stand well apart. Well, as it happens we are 8 guns, 2 guns not numbering, 6 guns numbering, and we are standing on top of one another, and although these pheasants are very difficult, I am not using that as an excuse, I fired 20 shots to kill 4 pheasants this last drive, but two of them were dead just as I shot and they were very difficult curling pheasants. I am not making an excuse but I don't enjoy missing or shooting pheasants if I am too near the next gun, I don't enjoy it.

5 December	Castle Hill	5 drives	87 Pheasant	198 shots

Here we are, the second day in Devonshire, Saturday, in the south west of England, at Braley Barton again. I have never seen something which I have just witnessed. All the beaters are sitting on the trailer in a line there, on each side on the straw bales, the pickers up are all sitting inside the Range Rovers, and all the staff are waiting for us and we drove past them and not one of them lined out, I have never seen anything like it.

Well, the first drive this morning was verygood, it's called the Punch Bowl, and Lady Fortescue and Mrs. Rollo watched us shoot it. I was pretty well in the centre of the line there, No. 4, and we fired 52 shots with our 28 bores, killed 23 pheasants. I was very pleased with myself, they were difficult birds.

Rested last night, one glass of 76 Pougnet Roche, one glass of Latour 66, and one glass of very good burgundy 59, one glass of each, that's all I had and nothing before dinner. The dinner was easily digestible too.

In the jeep on the way home after the last drive back to the hotel we have just finished what I think has been the far worst organised shooting days of the season, and Will Jacob very quietly said, "well I hope so, Sir". You can always reckon whether a chap is any good or not by a dead fox within ten yards of his back door, and he's got all this heap of manure.

He knew we were going to have that drive this afternoon right near his house and he ought to have had enough brains to do that. I didn't think he was any good when I first got here. His beaters were sat on the trailer at the very last minute, the same thing at lunch time, nobody got round anywhere, and altogether a mess, but we've got plenty to worry about with our own affairs. His staff of pickers up and loaders, they come from Worcester down the motorway. They get up at 4 o'clock in the morning, come down to help him on the shoots. They worked with him when he used to work up there, so they might all be in it, there might be anything happening here. I don't like the look of it but anyway there we are, anything might be happening.

The ladder we had to go down, that's quite ridiculous for the keepers to do things like that. Carrying two guns over a thing like that and a great big bog going up that mountain side carrying two guns and a bag of cartridges. I know of one or two other places where you could have got some gravel or some stones where we went this morning, it's just ridiculous. And these pheasants are over fed, their crops are absolutely full and they are all hopper fed. I don't know what he does, the place is lousy with crows, rooks, jackdaws, jays. I don't know what he does all day, I have no idea.

Shot 87 pheasants today to my own gun. We shot just over 300 pheasants in the four days down here with just over 600 cartridges. I think 15 cartridges over, two to one.

10 December	Rothwell	5 drives	273 Pheasant	441 shots

This was the first pheasant shoot of the 1987/88 season. It was a dull, misty day with poor visibility and a light north westerly wind.

The guns left the Home Yard at 9.30 a.m. bound for Tugdale. This was the first time Tugdale had been shot since the arrangement with Mr. Hair for additional land. The plan was therefore different from previous years. In the past, two strips of kale had been rented from Mr. Hair in the two fields north of the Tugdale valley. This season the whole of the top field has been rented from Mr. Hair and has been specially sown with game crops.

It was therefore planned that there would be three drives in Tugdale, all from the north with the guns facing the same direction for all three drives. From the left the guns were Eugenie, Rocco Forte, Lord Forte, Baron Hubert Pantz, Peter Stephaich, Rosie Nickerson. JN positioned himself behind the line, roughly in the centre.

There was a fox in the cover field which did not help the drive. The wood to the south of the valley had been blanked into the cover field prior to the drive beginning. The keeper reported very few pheasants in the wood.

Three drives took place at Tugdale and after each drive the guns moved up three to four pegs to the right.

The birds were high and difficult but not as many birds were seen as was expected. This proved to be so when driving back after the drive. We drove through the cover field and there were estimated to be at least as many birds that had flown over the guns still in the cover field, the majority being in the kale.

The next drive was Boarding House and again there was evidence that there was a fox in the kale. The drive started about 11.50 a.m. and finished at 12.35 p.m. A total of 120 pheasants were shot in the drive, most of the birds swinging more towards Rothwell House. Their normal pattern in previous years was to fly over the pond across Twenty Acre and on to House Top.

Lunch was at Rothwell House and there was plenty of time for a leisurely meal.

The drive for the afternoon was Bills Wood. The keepers, beaters, etc. blanked in a large area prior to the guns being in position.

The drive lasted approximately an hour and a half. The total bag was 605 pheasants and it was estimated that 1,453 cartridges were fired.

For Bills Drive the line up from the left was Rosie Nickerson, Peter Stephaich, Lord Forte, Rocco Forte, Baron Hubert Pantz and Eugenie Nickerson. JN again stood behind the line. The guns moved down to the left as the drive progressed.

11 December	Stainton	6 drives	63 Pheasant 1 Woodcock	107 shots
12 December	Reads Island	Morning:	4 Pheasant 4 Teal	
		Evening:	9 Widgeon 7 Teal	

8.35 - stalked the pond and killed three teal, very excited. Now 9 o'clock, John Hewson is on the bank to keep a look out behind us for anything coming up the river. Kim Robinson is in another hide across the house with some more dogs, and Will Jacob and I are using 20 bores. We are in the hide on the pond, what we call the warning pond. We have everything against us, the surface of the estuary is like glass. It's warmer than it has been, obviously there is no wind and the tide is as low as it could be for high tide, about 7 metres. So everything is against me and it's been so good.

14 December	Charlton Abbotts	6 drives	55 Pheasant 1 Partridge 1 Pigeon	96 shots
15 December	Charlton Abbotts	5 drives	50 Pheasant 1 Partridge 1 Jay	89 shots
18 December	Rothwell	6 drives	227 Pheasant	409 shots

19 December	Rothwell	4 drives	362 Pheasant 4 Woodcock	562 shots
21 December	Stenigot Single Gun	6 drives	77 Pheasant	118 shots

First drive Palace Hill, killed 12 pheasant with 18 shots, and wounded 2 more.

22 December	Rothwell	5 drives	213 Pheasant	350 shots

Last drive Bills Wood. Killed 30 pheasant with 62 shots using .410 and 88 pheasant with 117 shots using 286.

23 December	Rothwell	3 drives	186 Pheasant	239 shots
28 December	Helmsley	6 drives	143 Pheasant	277 shots
29 December	Helmsley	6 drives	85 Pheasant	176 shots
31 December	Ram Pond	Evening flight	31 Mallard 2 Teal	
2 January	Tealby	3 drives only - wet	35 Pheasant	68 shots
4 January	Rothwell	5 drives	200 Pheasant 1 Black Backed Gull	352 shots

5 January	Rothwell	4 drives	233 Pheasant	339 shots
7 January	Cadeby Hall	6 drives	51 Pheasant 2 Partridge 5 Woodcock 1 Moorhen	76 shots
8 January	Somersby Single Gun	7 drives	93 Pheasant 4 Woodcock	150 shots
9 January	Rothwell	5 drives	93 Pheasant	162 shots
11 January	Rothwell	4 drives	202 Pheasant 1 Mallard	290 shots
12 January	Tealby	3 drives Tealby 2 drives Roman Holes	110 Pheasant 4 Woodcock	216 shots
14 January	Rothwell	5 drives	164 Pheasant	227 shots
15 January	Rothwell	7 drives	157 Pheasant 1 Pigeon 1 Rabbit	253 shots
18 January	Rothwell	5 drives	185 Pheasant 2 Moorhen	253 shots



Commander R. Macdonald-Hall,
and son Caspar, Ian Yates,
JN and Lady Nickerson



Sir Joseph, Billy Jacob,
John Hewson, Lady Nickerson,
Charles Nickerson





Charles Wyvill and Mrs. Wyvill,
Lady Nickerson, JN, RJN

20 January	Stiffkey	6 drives	39 Pheasant 1 Moorhen	58 shots
22 January	Rothwell	5 drives	100 Pheasant 2 Moorhen	147 shots
23 January	Tealby	3 drives Shot Half Day Only	50 Pheasant	73 shots
25 January	Tealby	3 drives Tealby 2 drives Roman Holes	97 Pheasant 1 Magpie 1 Woodcock	169 shots
26 January	Rothwell	6 drives	166 Pheasant 6 Mallard 1 Moorhen	223 shots
27 January	Rothwell	6 drives	168 Pheasant 1 Woodcock	247 shots
27 January	Ram Pond	Evening flight	21 Mallard	
28 January	Rothwell	4 drives JN only gun	238 Pheasant	417 shots

29 January	Rothwell	5 drives	63 Pheasant 1 Mallard	91 shots
1 February	Tealby	4 drives Tealby 2 drives Roman Holes	83 Pheasant	150 shots

Gale force 12. Shot well.



LINCOLNSHIRE VERMIN KILL - 1987													
SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APL	MAY	JNE	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL FOR 1987
Crow	-	4	10	5	11	7	3	4	4	2	2	3	55
Hedgehog	-	-	-	22	10	21	15	17	7	-	2	3	97
Mole	3	27	8	8	10	3	4	5	9	1	13	24	115
Rat	22	29	38	27	21	12	11	29	46	57	44	105	441
Rook	9	6	-	7	11	28	107	49	41	28	15	11	312
Stoat	3	3	13	14	7	8	13	12	10	12	13	6	114
Squirrell	4	1	1	6	1	-	-	2	1	-	2	-	18
Tab	9	5	1	6	-	2	4	2	2	7	3	3	44
Toby	-	1	1	13	13	1	2	2	3	7	1	1	45
Weasel	-	-	10	10	4	4	7	7	11	13	7	1	74
Moorhen	3	16	7	8	2	4	-	9	3	5	4	21	82
Feral Pgn	10	114	39	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	5	7	180
Coot	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	8
Jay	2	1	1	2	1	6	1	-	3	1	4	3	25
BB Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	2	-	10
Jackdaw	-	-	-	5	5	7	24	14	11	5	-	-	71
Magpie	1	2	6	7	3	6	5	5	5	5	7	6	58
Brock	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	5
TOTALS	66	211	136	141	99	112	197	157	164	153	124	194	1754

LINCOLNSHIRE VERMIN KILL - 1987

KEEPERS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JNE	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Frankish	15	28	22	39	32	24	14	11	16	32	41	105	379
Hewson	10	19	45	13	11	11	8	8	17	9	14	13	178
Martin	-	146	39	35	14	7	-	35	30	40	14	34	394
Clay	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Wolsey	23	18	-	22	24	53	159	91	79	49	31	26	575
Thompson	-	-	30	32	18	17	16	12	22	23	24	16	210
TOTALS	66	211	136	141	99	112	197	157	164	153	124	194	1754

TOTAL HEAD FOR 1987 : 1754

NOMBELA VERMIN KILL - 1987

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APL	MAY	JUNE	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL FOR 1987
FOX	6	1	1	-	2	5	7	4	-	3	12	6	47
WILD CAT	4	2	1	1	1	-	1	2	2	1	5	3	23
BADGER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WEASEL	1	7	22	5	12	4	1	8	6	-	-	-	66
HEDGEHOG	2	3	12	19	16	5	5	8	1	2	1	-	74
MAGPIE	98	186	155	95	46	129	228	244	204	118	87	95	1685
CROW	-	2	2	4	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	11
LIZARD	-	-	36	107	116	130	58	26	2	-	-	-	475
RAT	26	233	585	381	210	73	29	35	22	8	4	7	1613
SNAKE	-	15	54	79	89	75	47	28	22	15	4	8	436
TOTALS	137	449	868	691	492	421	376	358	259	147	113	119	4430

1987

SUMMARY OF SIR JOSEPH'S PERSONAL BAG AT NOMBELA, MUDELA AND LOS QUINTOS AND GRAND TOTAL BAG FOR SPAIN 1987

Date	Part	Cum Total	Pgn	Jay	Magpie	Mallard	Rabbit	Other	Total	Cum Total	Shots	Cum Total Shots
23 Oct	72	72							72	72	147	147
24 Oct	105	177			2				107	179	189	336
26 Oct	85	262							85	264	162	498
27 Oct	38	300							38	302	55	553
29 Oct	64	364			4			1	69	371	145	698
30 Oct	157	521					1		158	529	286	984
1 Nov	53 Mudela	574	1	5	4			1	64	593	82	1066
3 Nov	54 Los Quintos	628	3						57	650	78	1144
4 Nov	203 Los Quintos	831	1	1				1	206	856	330	1474
5 Nov	Los Quintos					28			28	884		
8 Nov	163	994			1				164	1048	285	1759
10 Nov	170	1164							170	1218	218	1977
11 Nov	125	1289	5		1				131	1349	206	2183
13 Nov	124	1413	1		3				128	1477	291	2474
14 Nov	188	1601			3				191	1668	330	2804
16 Nov	159	1760			1				160	1828	264	3068
17 Nov	145	1905			1				146	1974	272	3340
19 Nov	131	2036	1		2		1	2	137	2111	233	3573
20 Nov	212	2248							212	2323	322	3895
22 Nov	98	2346		1	1				100	2423	205	4100
23 Nov	217	2563			1				218	2641	458	4558
TOTALS 21 days	2563		12	7	24	28	2	5	2641		4558	
GRAND TOTAL	2563		12	7	24	28	2	5	2641		4558	

SUMMARY OF SIR JOSEPH'S SHOOTING IN SPAIN - 1987 SEASON

17 days at Nombela	Partridge	2253	4068 shots
	Magpie	20	
	Jay	1	
	Pigeon	7	
	Rabbit	2	
	Little Owl	1	
	Azure Winged Magpie	2	
		2286	
1 day at Mudela	Partridge	53	82 shots
	Pigeon	1	
	Jay	5	
	Magpie	4	
	Hare	1	
		64	
3 days at Los Quintos	Partridge	257	408 shots
	Pigeon	4	
	Jay	1	
	Snipe	1	
	Mallard	28	
		291	

GROUSE BAG - SPLIT BETWEEN THE MOORS

Reeth	1210
Stublick	155
Wemmergill	1147
Holwick	382
Stean	35
As Guest	153

PARTRIDGE UK

As Guest	4

PHEASANT UK

Rothwell/Tealby	3656
As Guest	978

PARTRIDGES SPAIN

Nombela	2253
Mudela	53
Los Quintos	257

SIR JOSEPH'S PERSONAL BAG - SEASON 1987/88

UNITED KINGDOM	
Grouse	3082
Partridge	4
Pheasant	4634
Snipe	4
Woodcock	22
Moorhen	7
Black Backed Gull	1
Mallard	320
Teal	14
Widgeon	9
Tufted Duck	2
Pigeon	18
Jay	1
Magpie	1
Rabbit	1
Total Bag	8120

SPAIN	
Partridge	2563
Mallard	28
Magpie	24
Azure Winged Magpie	2
Pigeon	12
Jay	7
Snipe	1
Little Owl	1
Rabbit	2
Hare	1
Total Bag	2641

GRAND TOTAL BAG : 10761

SIR JOSEPH'S PERSONAL BAG - 1987/88 SEASON

ROTHWELL PIGEON SHOOT

Pigeon	16
Total Bag	16

THE RAM

Mallard	122
Teal	2
Total Bag	124

THE ROOKERY

Mallard	174
Total Bag	174

READS ISLAND

Pheasant	4
Teal	11
Widgeon	9
Total Bag	24

BLACK SPRINGS

Mallard	16
Tufted Duck	2
Total Bag	18

SIR JOSEPH NICKERSON - PERSONAL BAG

SPECIES	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987					TOTAL
RED GROUSE	3,012	1,866	1,437	2,677	1,382	3,082					13,456
PHEASANT	4,621	6,206	5,422	4,744	3,979	4,634					29,606
PARTRIDGE	3,140	2,273	947	2,741	2,318	2,567					13,986
SNIPE	35	20	10	9	4	5					83
WOODCOCK	43	45	31	10	13	22					164
CURLEW	7										7
WATERHEN	17	18	21	8	11	7					82
MALLARD	636	444	348	331	398	348					2,505
TEAL	258	847	221	191	160	14					1,691
MISC. WEBBED FOOT	37	183	45	18	33	11					327
MAGPIE	20	35	6	53	46	27					187
JAY	17	16	4	9	12	8					66
WOODPIGEON	131	66	110	139	27	30					503
GOLDEN PLOVER	3	6	1		3						13
BLACK GAME	1										1
QUAIL (U.S.A.)		5	16	39							60
VARIOUS	8	12	10	17	5	2					54
HARE	29	9	12	7	13	1					71
RABBIT	7	12	15	14	4	3					55
WILD BOAR											0
TURTLE DOVE(MOROCCO)											0
TOTAL	12,022	12,063	8,656	11,007	8,408	10,761	0	0	0	0	62,917

SIR JOSEPH NICKERSON - PERSONAL BAG - SUMMARY

SPECIES	1942/51	1952/61	1962/71	1972/81	1982/87					TOTAL
RED GROUSE	982	4,282	8,625	13,938	13,456					41,283
PHEASANT	5,482	21,455	33,007	35,984	29,606					125,534
PARTRIDGE	7,099	12,505	9,148	16,110	13,986					58,848
SNIPE	86	113	196	104	83					582
WOODCOCK	179	322	312	315	164					1,292
CURLEW	88	118	7	59	7					279
WATERHEN	219	425	308	130	82					1,164
MALLARD	521	1,894	2,945	3,877	2,505					11,742
TEAL	244	808	160	662	1,691					3,565
MISC. WEBBED FOOT	400	522	107	276	327					1,632
MAGPIE	7	0	26	191	187					411
JAY	21	20	75	95	66					277
WOODPIGEON	524	2,900	2,092	1,144	503					7,163
GOLDEN PLOVER	111	86	19	14	13					243
BLACK GAME	3	11	7	20	1					42
QUAIL (U.S.A.)	0	4	8	610	60					682
VARIOUS	1,060	242	176	152	54					1,684
HARE	2,272	3,607	1,026	508	71					7,484
RABBIT	3,150	1,195	399	249	55					5,048
WILD BOAR	0	0	0	35	0					35
TURTLE DOVE(MOROCCO)	0	0	0	530	0					530
TOTAL	22,448	50,509	58,643	75,003	62,917	0	0	0	0	269,520

ICC
4/2/88

SIR EMRYS JONES

Tel : (0507) 602043

18 St. Mary's Park,
Louth,
Lincolnshire
LN11 0EF

Sir Joseph Nickerson

1st February 1988.

My dear Joe, Thank you so much for another wonderful day's Shooting. It was a superb way for me to finish the season. I really do feel privileged to be invited to Shooting of such tremendous quality.

God Bless you and Eugenie from us both.

Love,

Emrys.

Daytime – Binbrook 272
Evenings and week-ends – Louth 606306

"FIFTY FIVE"
HORNCASTLE ROAD
LOUTH
LINCS. LN11 9LH

29-1-88.

Dear Sir Joseph.

Thank you very much indeed for inviting me to shoot with you to-day. It really was a super morning but rather disappointing that the weather was so bad in the afternoon.

My many thanks also for the lovely 'extended' lunch, it was most enjoyable as will be the two brace of pheasants you kindly gave to me, when we get them on the table for a Sunday lunch.

Many thanks once again,

yours sincerely

Robert

7 HIGH STREET
SWAFFHAM PRIOR, CAMBS CB5 0LD

TEL: NEWMARKET 742666

30th January 1988

Dear JN,

It is always a pleasure to be in your company and no more so than on a shooting day when the organisation, discipline and perfection which have been your hallmark in everything you have done, all come together in a most striking way to make an occasion which no one will ever forget.

Certainly last Wednesday was one such occasion, the memory of which will always remain with me. Thank you.

My thanks also to Eugenie for making my stay so comfortable and for such delicious food.

Do give my regards to Christopher Brent when you see him.

Yours ever,

Dom

July 2nd 1988.

15 WINDSOR DRIVE

EASTOR.

Dear Sir Joseph.

I would like to thankyou very much for the very kind presents which you gave me. I appreciate it very much. It has been a great pleasure being with you, and watching you, (when I wasn't loading the gun.) Pulling those Pheasents out of the air with those small guns. I shall remember for a long time that last drive in Spain it was fantastic, and also that left and Right at Roman Hales. once again thankyou and hope for another successful Season next year.

Will Jacob.

20 Westland Crescent
North Kelsey.
2.2.88.

Dear Sir Joseph.

Firstly I would like to thank you for Saturday 30th January for a marvellous days Shooting.

Secondly as you know I have been promoted to Manager of Holton Mill with effect from 1:2:88 and I would like to record my thanks and appreciation for the help and encouragement that you have given to me over the years. I might add that I intend making this a further Step and not a final Step in my Carreer

Yours.

Benjy.

The President
of the European Parliament

To Lady N
& back & fix
Aug 23rd /87.

My dear Joe,

The perfect weather for our day on Reith could only be matched by your overwhelming hospitality.

I really do appreciate your generosity in including me in your shoot & whilst I am very critical of my own performance, a day on Reith for both Marjorie & me is like a month's holiday!

Thank you so much for all your kindness & if at all possible, it would give me the greatest pleasure to repay a little hospitality sometime in Strasbourg. I will send dates of the sessions to your Secretary.

Fondest love to Eugenie.

Yours ever,

Henry.

10 Lowndes Place
London SW1X 8DD
01-235 6565

Monday 14th 87

Dear Joe,

How nice it was to see you, Jenny and the girls again at Rothwell, and being able to spend some time with you. I appreciated the chat and will continue to work on the image.

As for the shooting I have long run out of superlatives to describe the shooting you provide. You said I had a sparse morning, although I had not noticed but much appreciated the "Knips Stand" in the afternoon never the less. I shot well over 150 pheasants on that drive which must be a record for me by a long way and if I had not run out of cartridges I would have had a few more. But more important I missed more than I shot. They were difficult even without a wind to help them.

Many thanks and every best wish for Christmas

Yours ever

Rocco (FORTE)

CLARE LODGE
CAISTOR ROAD
MARKET RASEN
LINCOLNSHIRE
LN8 3HZ

Sir Joseph Nickerson
Middleton House
Middleton in Teesdale
BARNARD CASTLE
County Durham

14th Septmeber 1987

Dear Sir Joe,

The journey home from Reeth gives time for reflection and review of the pleasures of the day.

My experience with grouse is limited and much of it is due to your kindness. I find it difficult to imagine a more enjoyable, more challenging or a more exciting day. It is so kind of you to invite me and to accept my obvious shortcomings so readily. It was for me a most memorable day. It is the first time I have been to Reeth and that in itself was a real experience. The impact of your ownership of the moor was so apparent and what marvellous surroundings in which to spend a day.

May I extend kind regards to Lady Eugenie.

Thank you again.

Yours sincerely,