

SHOOTING 1989-90



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

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S I R J O S E P H ' S P E R S O N A L B A G - 1 9 8 9 / 1 9 9 0

24 April	Rothwell House Garden	1 Pigeon
7 May	"55 Acre" Tree	12 Pigeon
25 May	"55 Acre" Tree	15 Pigeon
2 June	"55 Acre" Tree	14 Pigeon
29 June	"55 Acre" Tree	14 Pigeon
29 July	Rothwell Pigeon Shoot	9 Pigeon
	Bogle Hill	
	Johns Wood	
	Church Platts	
	Kitts Wood	
12 August	Reeth	4 drives
		15 grouse with 22 shots
Water Cragg	2 birds, 3 shots	
Murrayfield	0 birds, 0 shots	
Slades	7 birds, 9 shots	
Ashpot	6 birds, 10 shots	

Dry morning, light scattered showers in the afternoon. Wind moderate to strong, 20 mph and westerly to south westerly. Visibility was good. Temperature in high 50's low 60's.

Alex helped me to dress this morning and I came down to the study at 8 a.m. I was looking forward to the first day of the new season shooting with my family. It is such a pleasure to be with them. The weather forecast was slightly better than predicted yesterday.

I spoke to Mark Alderson to discuss where we were going to shoot and where and when we were going to lunch. We finally decided to have two drives then break for lunch at the Gang Hut. We would then have three drives afterwards. I wanted to go to the Moorcock cottage but it was too far away.

George gathered all my things together for the moor. Alex was upstairs changing into his shooting clothes as I had decided to take him with me. At 8.15 a.m. I went for breakfast.

The family had all arrived the previous evening with the exception of Edward. He was supposed to arrive at midnight but by morning there was still no sign of him. We left instructions for him as to how to reach the moor and then I returned to the study to finish getting ready. I asked Miss Stanley to order a ham for me and have it delivered today. I also asked her to arrange for a plumber to come and unblock my toilet.

Before departing we had our picture taken and finally left for Reeth and our first shot of the season.

I estimated I would bag 15 brace, but as it turned out I only shot half as much. This is the worst grouse season for years.

On the very best ground at Dallowgill they killed 120 brace. At Coverdale, on a little moor called Jervaulx, they killed 32 brace shooting only in the morning. Most of the other shoots at the top of Nidderdale were stopped because of the accident that young Mr. Ackroyd had had - it was the day of his funeral. Stanhope was stopped by the Anti's but they killed 100 brace before they were stopped. At Abbeystead they did not shoot although they are reputed to have a lot of grouse.

They have shot at the top of Holwick with 6 guns including 3 Germans, let by Major Ramsay and Mr. Cowie. The Germans and Mr. Cowie I think had a severe disagreement because they had not been told, I hear, how many they were going to shoot. The 6 guns in 5 drives at the top end of Holwick got 23 brace, mainly single birds. They are going to shoot at Wemmergill on Monday to have a look - Mr. Cowie again. Lord Strathmore has told Peter Fawcett to pack up altogether after they shoot on Monday, and Peter told me that he does not think they will shoot any more after Monday. So that is that!

Eggleston have some birds on one beat in the middle. Old man Fawcett has never known Bollihope itself so bad. However, Kirt Neck and the other moor there, two hard Fells on very, very hard ground, are quite good. They are going to shoot later on in the month. Garrowgill where the keeper from Wemmergill went, got 110 brace even though the guests shot badly. It belongs to a man called Dougie Tate, a haulage man. Lord Peel shot 126½ brace on Gunnerside, 4 drives and 7 single guns, let by Spielman.

They are going to have a look at Close House on Monday. They do not know what is there but they do not think there is much. There are a few birds at Shipka and they are going to try there as well. There are more birds on the south side of Wemmergill. Peter tells me that they have been dying very strongly since the end of April and they have not stopped dying. Strange things have happened, for instance he knows there are several coveys with just a cock and no hens. The hen has succumbed and the cock has been left with the chicks.

After 4 drives we came back to tea and cakes and discovered that Knight the butler had walked out on us that afternoon. Just packed his bags and left! He ran off because of the cooks. Just didn't get on with them. Nothing to do with me! This meant that Alex had to double as valet and butler and wait on the table that evening.

The family all stayed for dinner and Louise and Rosie arrived. Edward was so late he did not come out to the moor but stayed at the house.



1989

THE GLORIOUS TWELTH

On Reeth with the family





14 August

Angram 6 drives

46 grouse with 87 shots

Wooghyll	16 birds, 26 shots
Spinney Wall	6 birds, 10 shots
Battery Up	4 birds, 15 shots
Battery Down	10 birds, 19 shots
Wooghyll	4 birds, 8 shots
Nursery	6 birds, 9 shots

Nice bright morning and afternoon. Occasional showers in the afternoon. Wind in the morning was 10/15 mph but this increased during the afternoon to gale force. Wind was south to south westerly. Cloud cover increased during the afternoon and so did the likelihood of rain. By teatime it became heavy in parts. Temperature 15°C.

An early start this morning. I asked the cook to have the breakfast on the table at 7.15 a.m. as we had to leave at 8 a.m. Alex very kindly dressed me even though it was his day off. At 7.45 a.m. I went into my study to deal with some things before leaving for Angram. The situation was not good at Wemmergill so it was very likely that the 16th and 17th would be cancelled. Yesterday I had spent much time phoning round my guests to tell them the bad news, I had to cancel the shoot. I had not been able to contact Ned Cook and it was essential that the office reach him today. I did not want anyone turning up to shoot on Wednesday. Robert would still come on Wednesday and Charles on Thursday, and we would shoot Stublick together.

Ord had sent a message to John Thompson to say that he was to warn me that my shooting on Wemmergill and Holwick might have to be cancelled. They would know by this evening what the situation was. It was leaving it a little late I thought.

Today I was shooting with the young ones. Louise and Rosie and their friends. We were meeting Joe Freeman at 9.30 a.m. at the garage at Stean. As it was quite a distance away we were to stay at the Yorke Arms at Ramsgill and then shoot Angram again on Tuesday.

I asked Miss Stanley to make sure we would be able to have a good meal at the restaurant and also to ask if they could put some heather in the girls' rooms. Then she was to order some flowers for Lady Nickerson.

Having dealt with business matters I left at 8 a.m. driven by Louise. I was in contact with the office all day to see what was happening.

Bill Flowers faxed a message to me to see if I wanted to take a gun for four days from 10th September, shooting the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th for £4,217 at Leadhills because Joe Lanier could not take them. I instructed the office to send a cheque for the full amount and confirm that I would be very pleased to take them.

We stayed at the Yorke Arms as arranged and ate there in the restaurant.

15 August

Angram 5 drives

20 grouse with 30 shots:

Wooghyll	4 birds, 5 shots
Spinney Wall	7 birds, 13 shots
Battery	4 birds, 6 shots
Spinney Wall	4 birds, 6 shots
Nursery	1 bird, 1 shot

Weather very similar to yesterday. Breezy winds approaching gale force at times, south to south westerly. Blustery showers in the afternoon which passed quickly. Bright periods of sunshine. Visibility good as the cloud did not descend below the hill tops. Temperature 14/15°C.

Telephoned Miss Stanley at Middleton House for the figures and any news at 8.10 a.m. She gave me the weather forecast but the figures were not available as yet. I told her to telephone me again at 8.45 a.m. with the figures and the weather forecast for Stublick tomorrow. She did this and gave me some other news from the office at Rothwell.

Just before leaving the Yorke Arms I tried to phone the house to talk to Lady Nickerson but the phones did not seem to be working. She could not hear me but I could hear her perfectly. On my second attempt I finally managed to speak to her.

Once again I was in constant contact with the office, mainly at Rothwell as I found it easier to get through to them. We had been given a lunch to take with us, pate and smoked salmon but I asked for cheese sandwiches.

Not such a successful day as yesterday. However, it was just as enjoyable. The young ones left for home after shooting and I came back to Middleton House with George and Paul. We did not arrive back until 6.30 p.m. Robert was due to stay overnight arriving in time for dinner.

16 August	Stublick	4 drives	7 grouse with 12 shots 1 Snipe
Davisons	1 bird, 1 shot		
Half Moon	1 bird, 2 shots		
Chairmans	4 birds, 7 shots		
Chairmans	1 bird, 2 shots		

Breezy but the wind was not as strong as yesterday. South to south westerly in direction. Showery and blustery particularly in the afternoon and evening. Excellent visibility. Temperature 19°C.

Spoke to Eddy McAlindon this morning. Told him there would just be two guns on the south side of the moor. Asked him which butts we would be in and would anyone be meeting us.

I also told him that he must be quicker. I thought a lot of him and he could be a good keeper, but he would have to quicken up a bit. We were to leave at 9 a.m. and would be there before 10 a.m. Eddy said that the flankers would come out at 10.05 a.m. and as soon as they were out he would set up a drive.

He thought we might get 20/25 brace. He had picked up some birds yesterday that just could not fly. The situation was much the same as last year there.

At Westburnhope the situation was worse than last year. The birds would not touch the medicated grit. They ate the normal grit but not the medicated grit. This was going off and starting to smell. I would have a chance to talk to Douglas the Allenhead keeper as he would be on the moor today. I said that I knew the medicated grit was no good years ago. The people selling it were doing alright at the moment!

I worked through two mail packages from the office with Bridget. At 8.30 a.m. I walked through to the dining room to have breakfast with Robert. When I returned I signed letters while Alex did my shoes and spats for the moor. George came in and collected my things and we left at 9.15 a.m. - a little later than scheduled. I phoned the office at Rothwell a couple of times from the vehicle.



Middleton House and garden





It was the day before we were to be shooting at Wemmergill and we finally had word from John Thompson who had just heard from Ord that shooting at Wemmergill was cancelled for the rest of the season. What terrible management.

I phoned the office at Rothwell and told them to tell Bridget I would be back at the house for 5 p.m. to have tea with Robert. There were so few grouse on Stublick that I put off Charles until Friday so that we could go to Angram instead.

When we arrived I went into my study and read through my papers. I spoke to Bob Hornby on the phone and then joined Robert in the hall for some tea and cake. Lady Nickerson was not at home. Having seen Robert off, I went upstairs to rest before dinner. I was going to rest tomorrow and catch up on some work.

While I was having my massage a newspaper man telephoned wanting to speak to me. I was polite but I gave nothing away.

18 August	Angram	5 drives	29 grouse with 51 shots
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Wooghyll	14 birds, 19 shots
Battery	5 birds, 13 shots
Spinney Wall	6 birds, 9 shots
Wooghyll	2 birds, 2 shots
Nursery	2 birds, 8 shots

Dry, broken clouds and sunny intervals. Breezy wind of 15/25 mph increasing to 30 mph. South westerly wind. Maximum temperature 19°C.

Breakfasted early this morning as it was quite a long drive to Angram. Having had my eggs, bacon and sausage I made my way to the study at 7.45 a.m. Alex packed my things and put on my shoes while I did some office work.

I asked Bridget which day she would like to work to which she replied 'None'. I told her that we have to work a six day week while we are at the moors, but nevertheless I said she could have Saturday and Sunday off. I was shooting at Angram on Saturday anyway but I like to telephone and find out what is happening.

Charles and I left at 8 a.m. Charles drove me in the Bentley. Alex, George and Paul followed us in the other vehicles. George was driving my Range Rover with Jake in the back. On the way to Angram his tailgate flew up and it was some time before he realised what had happened. When he did realise he stopped to close it. It is a wonder that Jake was still in the back!

I spoke to the office to get the latest market figures and any other news. We had a good day. Charles is a good shot.

At the end of the day Charles drove me back to the Yorke Arms and then he departed for home. Alex got me settled in and gave me a massage, rubbing my cream into my hip. At 6.30 p.m. Bridget phoned with the closing figures and the weather forecast for tomorrow.

I rested and then ate dinner in the restaurant. Two helpings of Scampi Provencale without garlic and then fillet steak and mushrooms which was not very good.

19 August	Angram	5 drives	17 grouse with 40 shots
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Wooghyll	2 birds, 7 shots
Spinney Wall	2 birds, 9 shots
Battery	4 birds, 9 shots
Wooghyll	7 birds, 8 shots
Spinney Wall	2 birds, 7 shots

Dry and bright. Fairly windy with a fresh to strong south westerly wind. 20/30 mph increasing to 40 mph. Maximum temperature 10°C. Cloud base well above the hills so visibility was not a problem.

Alex woke me this morning. He was staying at the Yorke Arms with me in the next room. We had breakfast - cereal, kippers and eggs and bacon, and plenty of tea. When we were all packed up we left to meet Geoff Cooper at the reservoir at 9.15 a.m. The hotel had packed us up a lunch of cheese and ham sandwiches, tomatoes, cake, crisps, Perrier water, beer, tea and coffee.

There were not so many birds today and the bag reflected the fact. However, as always I enjoyed my time on the moor in the heather and fresh air.

I learnt that the guns at Lord Biddulph's had been Pepe Fanjul, not his son this time Abdulrezza, Reynolds and son, Phillips, and a Santa Dominican called Dombardi. There were 8 guns in all and on the first four days they shot 89½, 158, 69½ and 200 birds which is an average of 26 birds per gun. The moor is rented later in the season by some people who have the King Ranch in America and then by an English party.

After shooting we left Geoff Cooper and made our way home to Middleton.

23 August	Angram	5 drives	11 grouse with 28 shots
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Wooghyll	1 bird, 6 shots
Spinney Wall	4 birds, 9 shots
Battery	4 birds, 9 shots
Spinney Wall	0 birds, 0 shots
Somerston Wall	2 birds, 4 shots

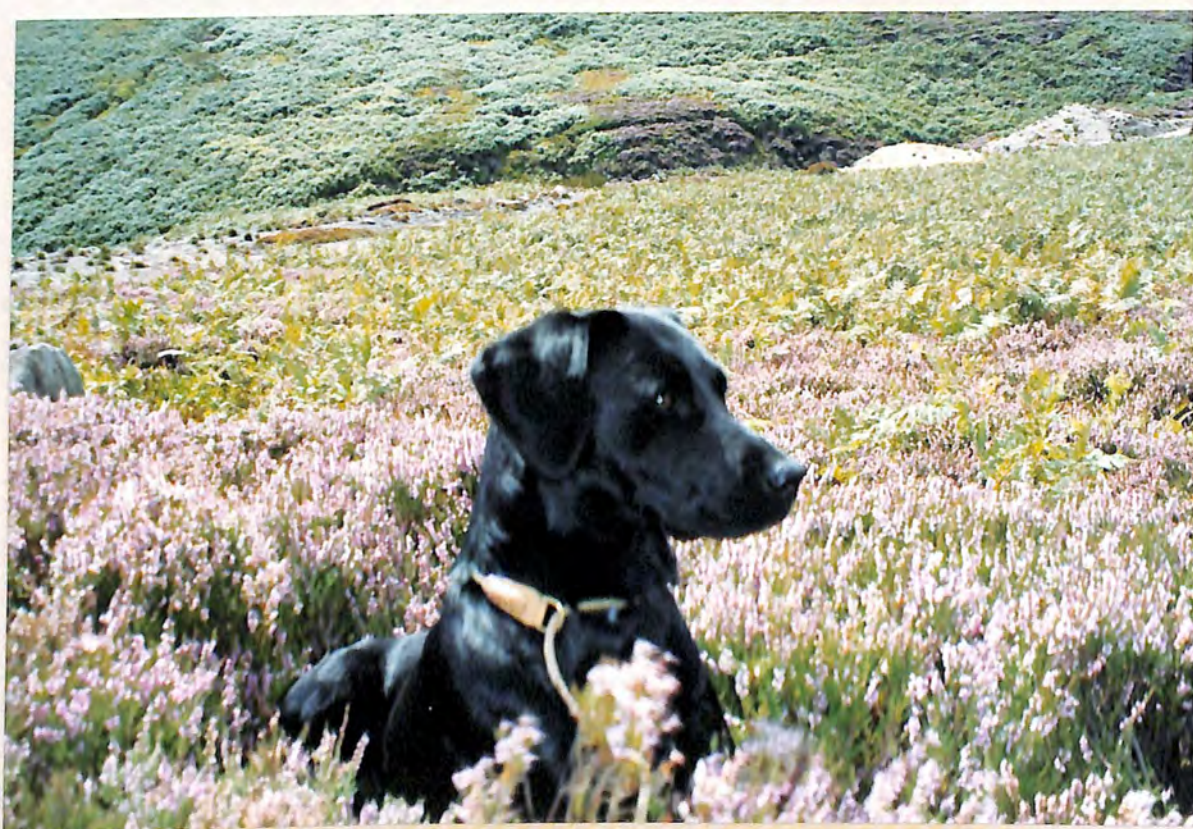
Cloudy in most parts but there were some sunny intervals. Spots of rain and drizzle during the day. Winds strong 30/40 mph and west to south west. Temperature 9°C.

Another early breakfast. Bran, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, tomatoes, and tea and toast. Back in the study at 7.45 a.m. with Alex. I made sure he had my cap, whistle, counter and so on, and then he went off to pack the car.

I phoned Joe Freeman at 7.55 a.m. and we discussed the weather. The wind was no good. Joe said that on Saturday he had not seen any birds, but on Friday there were a lot of grouse. We agreed that we could not shoot Angram two days running. I would leave it for a fortnight after Thursday and then shoot probably on the 6th September. I would then leave it for another fortnight and shoot again.



Geoff Cooper and JN on Angram
19 August 1989



ANGRAM



LEADHILLS





Charles with JN



Joe thought there might be a few birds today. We arranged to meet at the reservoir. I would arrive at about 9.45 a.m. and he would be there at 9.15 a.m. It would take me one and three quarter hours to get there and I would be at the garages by 10 a.m. Joe said that he would wait until we came into the quarry and then there would just be time for them to line out. It took a quarter of an hour to get from the quarry to the butts.

Joe had been at Stean yesterday and he saw one grouse. There were no birds. It was a westerly wind, which was not so good. We would have a look at Stean tomorrow but there were not many birds. We would have three drives and see all the moor and have more drives if there were any birds. We would do the new drive to the new butts, Moss and Blayshaw. There were some good keepers on the surrounding moors. They were looking after the vermin. Joe had shot 5 foxes and I told him that I had not seen any sign of them round the butts.

We left just after 8 a.m. Alex drove me in the Bentley. The Denton's followed us in their car and George and Paul brought up the rear. We shot 9 brace all day. It was blowing a gale. We had to wear our waterproofs most of the day.

At 5.45 p.m. Bridget telephoned the hotel with the weather and the closing figures and the news from the office. I had a massage with Alex and rested. Alex woke me at 7.30 p.m. and I dressed for dinner in the restaurant with the Denton's.

24 August	Stean	3 drives	3 grouse with 7 shots
Mufa	0 birds, 1 shot		
Moss	1 bird, 2 shots		
Blayshaw	2 birds, 4 shots		

Wind west to south westerly and strong - 30/40 mph. It was mostly dry in the morning but by the afternoon and early evening it was showering. The cloud base caused no problems with visibility. Temperature 12°C.

Phoned Middleton House at 8.50 a.m. Bridget was supposed to phone me at the Yorke Arms at 8.45 a.m. but she had been delayed. I took down the figures. Rosie had phoned last night and was to phone tonight at 7 p.m. I had to speak to her urgently regarding the party on the boat. I was concerned about safety following the awful accident on the Thames on Saturday night when a boat holding a party had been hit by a sand dredger and many people had perished. I wanted to persuade the girls to have it on land.

Mr. Waugh had some news from the moors. In the first week at Grinton on two consecutive days, they shot 36 and 63 brace. Lord Pulet at Gunnerside shot 150 brace and the Duke of Westminster at Abbeystead got 1,000 brace in the first week. However, the quantity of birds was now not as large as was first thought. The neighbouring moor shot 2 days in the first week and they bagged 68 and 60 brace which was an average bag. At Dallowgill on the 12th they shot 120 brace and on the 14th they shot 100 brace. The figures did not reflect the stock level properly as the guns shot very well.

John and I had a good day looking at Stean. The heather is coming on well, almost as good as Stublick! There were very few birds, however. I came back to the house at just after 4.30 p.m. Alex brought me some tea and cake and Bridget and I went through the papers on my desk. Lady Nickerson was out. She had gone to Darlington to pick up the two American ladies - Barton Gubelmann and Feets Monell. Their train was arriving from Kings Cross at 5.31 p.m. I went upstairs before they arrived.

25 August	Reeth	5 drives	32 grouse with 69 shots 1 Snipe 2 Rabbit
High Moor Up	4 birds, 10 shots		
High Moor Down	4 birds, 6 shots		
Lowery Gate	5 birds, 7 shots		
Healaugh Up	9 birds, 17 shots		
Healaugh Down	10 birds, 29 shots		

Dry and bright. There was some broken cloud above the hills. The wind was north to north east. Wind speed of 10 mph. Cool - 7/9°C.

I asked Alex to wake me at 7.45 a.m. which he did. I was in the dining room at 8.15 having breakfast on my own. I had my usual bran, scrambled eggs, bacon and tomato, and then toast, Elsenham marmalade and tea.

I summoned Bridget and told her to telephone Paddy to get him working on this party of the girls on the 30th September. Rosie had phoned me the night before and had agreed to change the venue. I also told her to phone Mark Alderson and tell him I was shooting on my own and would be at Surrender Bridge at 10 a.m. and would like his suggestions as to where to shoot, bearing in mind the weather forecast.

Mark thought we would start at Barras Flat then go to the usual butts after that, then lunch at Moorcock cottage and then have a couple of drives at Healaugh Brow.

Bridget came back and told me, but I was not sure where he meant and I sent her off to clarify it. He meant the butts where there is a steep bank in front, next to the Duke. I decided to speak to him myself anyway and told him not to leave until I did so. When I finished my breakfast I telephoned him from the study while Alex tied my shoes.

Mark did not think there would be much at Healaugh Brow and thought we could try Lowery Gate instead. We decided to have two drives next to the Duke, up and down, on the boundary and see what birds there were, then go on to Lowery Gate and Healaugh.

Lady Nickerson was going to bring our two guests for lunch on the moor so I told Mark that we would need to leave a man at Surrender Bridge at midday to meet her and bring the party to the Moorcock cottage, and help her lay out the lunch.

I asked Mark how the other moors were doing. He said that Lord Peel had not done so badly. He thought we would see what there was today but really there were very few birds about.

Lady Nickerson arrived for lunch. The cottage was very nice but naturally still smelt of paint. There were a few additions needed and I made a note to tell Mr. Waugh.

At 4.15 p.m. Jennie arrived from London and the other guests arrived soon afterwards - the Carlboms and the Buckleys. The Gray's were not staying overnight but just arriving in time for dinner. Tom was in Scotland shooting with some friends so Jennie was alone. The guests had tea and cakes in the hall, mince pies, sandwiches, scones, jam tarts, etc.

18 grouse with 44 shots

Drive 1	3 birds, 5 shots
Drive 2	2 birds, 7 shots
Drive 3	2 birds, 9 shots
Drive 4	7 birds, 12 shots
Drive 5	2 birds, 4 shots
Drive 6	2 birds, 5 shots
Drive 7	0 birds, 2 shots

All the guests had left Middleton House yesterday, apart from Jennie who was to stay for another night or two. The Americans left after lunch, 1.35 p.m. We organised a taxi to come and pick them up and take them to Darlington to catch the train to London. They would be met at Kings Cross by someone from the hotel, Claridge's.

Lady Nickerson and I had travelled to Leadhills yesterday early afternoon. George Graham and Paul Simpson were with us. George had driven us in the Bentley. We did not take the Moreover as William Flowers had very kindly said that I could have the use of his Argo Cat whilst I was there. The journey was uneventful, and George drove well as usual.

We arrived at the Hopetoun Arms, settled in and then rested before dining with the shooting party. They were a good lot of people, very nice.

This morning we breakfasted before setting off for the moor. It was not a very good day, the weather was bad and that affected the bag.

There was no one in the office today so the car phone was very much unemployed! The grouse were in very good condition, almost entirely made up of young birds. Although we did not shoot many birds I thoroughly enjoyed myself. The countryside and scenery is so wonderful. It is enough just to be out on the moor in such surroundings in the fresh air. It is an added bonus to shoot any birds.

Stayed overnight with Lady Nickerson at the Hopetoun Arms and dined with the shooting party.

Nick Waugh spoke to John Grave and he said that on the first driven day at Bollihope today they shot over 300 brace. He said that Harry Beadle was loading for a young Arab boy of 11 years of age and he shot 164 brace on his own single 20 bore! At Birkdale moor, adjoining the north corner at the top of Holwick, they shot 150 brace which is a record for that piece of ground.

29 August Leadhills 5 drives 21 grouse with 34 shots

Drive 1	2 birds, 6 shots
Drive 2	3 birds, 7 shots
Drive 3	0 birds, 0 shots
Drive 4	8 birds, 10 shots
Drive 5	8 birds, 11 shots

Weather was like yesterday, not a very nice day, too much wind and wet.

The office was back at work after the Bank Holiday so I asked George Graham to telephone Mike Kerrigan for the figures. I spoke to Brian Dummer and then to Bridget at Middleton House. She still had plenty to do from the weekend.

I had decided not to visit Hagshaw on Wednesday so I was returning to Middleton House this evening. I would have a rest and work day.

We had another enjoyable day. It was a good party. I liked the American called William Sprague, he is President of Savannah Foods and Industries in Georgia. Then there was another man called Alfie who was very thin with a little moustache. He is reputed to be a very good shot and is crazy about shooting and goes all over the world, Argentina and Spain shooting. He will not be going to Spain this year as it will cost him £50 a partridge, that is including the hotel bill and everything except the plane ticket. He is in real estate. Another of the party is in the automobile business and another in the sugar business. He got the company with £180 million and has a turnover of £1,000 million. It is a family business.

At the end of the day we travelled to Middleton House. I phoned the office to say that I would be arriving at 6.45 p.m. Alex was to have my bath ready and the cook, Marion, was to be informed. It was the cook's day off and Marion had cooked us a lovely meal, the mint sauce was lovely, freshly picked.

31 August Reeth 5 drives 40 grouse with 68 shots

Slade	12 birds, 22 shots
Ashpot	21 birds, 34 shots
Dr. Ghyll	2 birds, 2 shots
Low Moor Down	2 birds, 4 shots
Low Moor Up	3 birds, 6 shots

A bright day, most of the sunshine being in the afternoon. Towards the late afternoon a few showers but light and passed quickly. Wind steady to moderate 15/20 mph and west south westerly. Temperature 10°C.

I asked Charles to shoot with me last night and he was going to drive up this morning with a lady friend and join me in time for lunch.

Alex drove me in the Bentley and George followed in my Range Rover and Paul brought up the rear in the Land Rover. He was going to join me on the Island with Ian Plaskitt.

We met Mark Alderson. He had phoned me this morning just as I was about to tuck into my kipper! We were late in leaving so we were a little late in starting the first drive. I had already spoken to Mr. Waugh at the office. They were to tell Charles that we were doing the Parsons Drive just before lunch and if he was in time he could join me for the drive and then we would break for lunch. He did in fact meet up with me and we shot together and then headed for the Gang Hut where we were to have lunch. Marion had packed us a lovely lunch of beef, ham, grouse, lamb, potato salad, tomatoes, cake, apple pie, tea, etc.

We had a very enjoyable afternoon and when we finished I set off for Reads Island driven by Alex in the Bentley. I asked Brian Dummer to meet me with the mail so that on Friday he could be getting on with some work. We were running late and in the end I telephoned Mr. Dummer and dealt with much of the mail on the phone, so said that he did not have to meet me after all.

Ian Plaskitt was there to meet us with the dogs. I took Rosie's dog with me and I assured her that I would make sure it was well looked after.

1 September

Reads Island

21 Teal

4 Golden Plover

2 Snipe

It was a good day, dry with broken cloud and some sunshine. The wind was light, 5/10 mph and westerly.

5.00 o'clock exactly by the new pond which had been straightened out by Burbidge, in the centre of the West End field. The wind had been forecast up to 4 or 5, it has probably been that. I think it had dropped a bit.

We are very comfortable in this hide. I think we are showing a bit. Whether we can fasten these big reeds and this weed stuff, ragwort and all this rubbish and grass. Put a sheep net round them to break the severeness of them, it might be a good idea. We have got our rubber decoy teal out quite close to us. The whole pond is pretty small. It is very cloudy but pleasant. He wants to get a sack to hang like a curtain, the entrance is about a yard wide and I am glad it is. Straight downwind. In the first forty five minutes we shot at three teal and knocked them all down. We have also got a Goldie. That is all the shooting we have had.

It is now a quarter to seven. We have been here 105 minutes and I cannot understand why there is not more activity coming into this pond. These teal must be hungry, you would think. Whether we ought to be feeding something smaller than wheat and barley, whether we ought to feed some millet and try some different food. We want to get the camouflage netting round the hides to take the starkness off them, that is what Ian Plaskitt said and it is a good idea of his. I think we ought to get some of these small seeds for these little teal, some grass seed cleanings from the mill, they would like that. I do not know whether we can buy any from the Seed Company, some of the heavy grass cleanings, that is what you really want. I wonder if there are any old fashioned handbooks, wildfowlers or keepers handbooks, about how to encourage teal to come in. Mr. Petty could search round and see what he can find. Certainly we are not bright. We used to be a lot better. The ponds before which I used to have were not in the middle of the grass field, they were close to the outside bank, both of them, the main ponds - Sam's Pond and Johnnie's pond. They were under the bank.

It is now 7.30 p.m. and I have just shot a cracking good teal. I have been here two and a half hours and I have shot three teal and one goldie and one teal flew on and collapsed in the river. So that is not many per hour that isn't.

Well, we have got eight head in the first three hours down at this little tiny pond. Why should the teal leave the marsh to come to this pond? Why? There is no reason as far as I know it, except for the food.

2 September

Black Springs

16 Mallard

1 Widgeon

Evening Flight

Back to Rothwell. Another lovely day. It was sunny and bright although quite cool. The wind was light again, south westerly.

The tide at 8.36 a.m. was 8.8 metres and we crossed over in the morning.

I did enjoy the day. It was good to be able to shoot something. The bird situation on the moors is so disheartening.

I stayed at Rothwell overnight. I had decided to remain at home and work in the office on Monday, travelling to the Yorke Arms on Monday night ready to shoot on Tuesday morning. Ruth was going to join me.

3 September

Ram Pond

8 Mallard

2 Teal

Evening Flight

5 September

Angram

6 drives

25 grouse with 59 shots

Wooghyll

1 bird, 5 shots

Battery Up

8 birds, 10 shots

Battery Down

10 birds, 31 shots

Nursery

0 birds, 2 shots

Spinney Wall

3 birds, 5 shots

Wooghyll

3 birds, 6 shots

A front over the country brought rain to northern parts but Nidderdale was not affected. Occasional showers on high parts. Broken cloud and wind increasing in strength to become fresh, 20 mph by lunchtime. Wind south westerly, westerly.

We had arrived at the Yorke Arms late last night, after 10 p.m. so consequently I was a little sleepy this morning. Ruth had travelled up with us so I was in good company. We dressed and had breakfast, a good hearty one. As usual, the hotel had packed us a lunch so we picked that up and loaded the vehicles and left to meet the keepers. I had already obtained the opening figures and the weather forecast from Bridget.

Joe Freeman was waiting for us at the reservoir. Mark Alderson was also there with his boy and his dog. I had asked him to come and join us today. We decided on the sequence of the drives and considered the weather and wind direction. Then it was time to start.

During the day I phoned the office for the figures and kept up to date with the mail.

I managed to find some birds and shot a total of 25 birds although 4 more birds were picked up. It was a reasonable day considering the stock of birds. I was glad we had had a good day as Ruth was with me. It was lovely to have her with me. I think she enjoyed the day as much as I did.

We had 6 drives and it is quite a drive from Angram to Middleton, so we were fairly late in returning home. We had some tea and then I went upstairs for a rest before dressing for dinner.

6 September	Reeth	5 drives	27 grouse with 49 shots 1 Rabbit
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Barras Flats	3 birds, 6 shots
Kearton Pasture	5 birds, 18 shots
Kearton Wall	1 bird, 1 shot
Healaugh Brow Down	3 birds, 3 shots
Healaugh Brow Up	15 birds, 21 shots

Dry and bright day. Sunny intervals and broken cloud. Mild - 15/16°C. The wind was fresh to moderate - 20 mph, westerly.

This morning Alex had driven the Bentley to Leeds to Appleyards to see about the brakes which had gone on it. I had Paul to help me dress. We were a little late this morning and it was almost 8.30 a.m. before I came downstairs to have my breakfast. I had a new cereal called Kellogs Oat Bran to try instead of my usual All Bran. I quite enjoyed it and it is supposed to be good for you. Then I ate my bacon, eggs and tomato and toast. Sister Ruth came in and joined me. She was coming out on the moor with me again today.

Bridget came in with the figures and I asked her to phone Mark and give him the weather forecast and ask him where we would shoot today. I wanted to go to Healaugh Brow in the afternoon and lunch at Moorcock cottage. Mark wanted to go to Barras Flats to start with and probably Kearton Pasture to follow. He would be leaving at 8.50 a.m.

I finished my breakfast and went to my study to go over a few things with Bridget. Paul had put my shoes and spats on while I was having breakfast so I just had to put on my jacket and pack my bag. We left at 9.10 a.m. Unfortunately Ruth twisted her ankle just as we were leaving the house and as the day progressed so the pain in her ankle increased. Luckily I had some pain killers with me which helped a little.

We had a reasonable day and I found some birds again. There are one or two places where there are some grouse and others where there are none.

I had hoped that Lady Nickerson would join us for lunch at 1 p.m. but when I phoned the house she had already gone out and she had not taken lunch with her so Ruth and I ate together.

Alex had arrived safely with the car. Unfortunately a G-valve was needed and had to be ordered, so the car would not be ready until Friday. He left the car and hired a vehicle to return to Middleton. He would need to collect it on Friday.

We had a good afternoon but our enjoyment was impaired by the pain that Ruth was suffering from her ankle. My hip was causing me some discomfort also. We were quite a pair!

I phoned Middleton House to tell Bridget to wait for me as I wanted to see her. Alex was to run my bath in time for my arrival at 5.40 p.m. The doctor was to be summoned to look at Ruth's ankle and her things were to be moved to the room at the top of the stairs, where Sam usually stays. When we came back I went to the study and Ruth went straight up to her room. I had some tea and cakes which were all made by the two little chefs and were very good.

Prince Bernhard had been on the telephone so I returned his call. He thought from my letter that I had a disease and not the grouse! The Desprez's had thought the same! He was pleased to find I was in good health and we talked for a few minutes. I have known him for a long time and he is such a good fellow.

I listened to the news on the radio and then took it and my tea upstairs. Doctor Austin arrived to take care of Ruth and I had a bath. Ruth was to stay in bed and rest her foot for 3 days so she ate her dinner in bed.

9 September	Reeth	5 drives	33 grouse with 75 shots
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Lady Mary	3 birds, 10 shots
Water Cragg	1 bird, 1 shot
Slade Up	10 birds, 22 shots
Slade Down	13 birds, 29 shots
Slade Up	6 birds, 13 shots

A dry day with broken cloud and sunny intervals. Wind was moderate to fresh, 20/22 mph north to north easterly. Fairly chilly, 9°C.

Today we were going to have an armoured picnic. I had asked Tom and Jennie to bring a single gun. I came down in time for breakfast at 8.15 a.m. with Tom and Jennie and Lady Nickerson. Ruth was still in bed resting her ankle.

Bridget phoned for the latest weather forecast and then rang Mark Alderson with the news. We were going to do Lady Mary today. When I had finished in the dining room I went to my study and looked at a mail package which had just arrived. Alex tied my shoe laces and put on my spats. When I put my green jacket on it was full of dust in the pockets. The men should have cleaned them out.

We left at 9.10 a.m. Lady Nickerson and Ruth were to join us for lunch. We had packed enough lunch for an army!

It was a good day. We found quite a lot of birds on Reeth and I was very pleased. I may be able to stay at Middleton a little longer than I had thought.

We drove the birds in both directions at Lady Mary. The butts need to be made into one line and built into H's so that they are suitable for driving in both directions. The Slades Head butts were a disgrace. The stones had broken away and they need to be made up. I made a note to instruct Nick Waugh to get Mark working on them.

When we returned to Middleton House we had tea in the hall and then it was time to rest in time for the celebratory dinner - Tom and Jennie's first wedding anniversary.

11 September	Leadhills	7 drives	14 grouse with 28 shots
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Drive 1	3 birds, 7 shots
Drive 2	0 birds, 3 shots
Drive 3	2 birds, 5 shots
Drive 4	1 bird, 1 shot
Drive 5	3 birds, 4 shots
Drive 6	1 bird, 3 shots
Drive 7	4 birds, 5 shots



LEADHILLS



George Graham loading

A cloudy day with light to moderate north easterly wind. Rain and drizzle throughout the day.

Lady Nickerson and I had travelled to Leadhills yesterday after lunch. I was packed and ready to leave and found out that she had just come out of the bath!

When we finally managed to start our journey north George drove us in the Bentley and Paul brought up the rear in my Range Rover. Amongst our luggage was a small set of steps which I had specifically asked Alex to buy me so that I could get in and out of the Argo Cat with ease. Otherwise it was a big step up and I found it impossible with my bad hip.

We made good time and arrived safely at the Hopetoun Arms. Having settled in as much as one can at the Hopetoun Arms, I rested before dinner with the other shooting guests.

This morning we breakfasted and Mike Kerrigan phoned to say that the figures were unobtainable because the computer at the Stock Exchange had broken down. When they were finally available the market was much the same as the close on Friday - 1,993.

Lady Nickerson phoned the house from the Range Rover to find out how Ross, the little chef was as she had been unwell on Sunday. Marion confirmed that she had made a full recovery and as it was her day off she and the other staff had gone out.

During the day I phoned the office. Mr. Dummer was not working today so Mrs. Gething was on her own. Unfortunately as we were often quite a distance from the vehicle, she had trouble contacting me.

The steps which Alex had bought proved invaluable, a truly worthwhile investment.

The weather was not very pleasant which was a pity as the scenery is so beautiful on a good day and one can fully appreciate it. The weather did not prevent us all from having a very enjoyable day despite the lack of birds.

We arrived back at the hotel just after 5.30 p.m. Bridget phoned to ask if she could have Tuesday as a day of her holiday. I told her she was always having time off and it seemed she was never at work. However, I agreed that once she had tidied out the stationery cupboard she could have the time off. She gave me the weather forecast for tomorrow, which was not very promising.

We had dinner again with the shooting party at the Hotel.

12 September	Leadhills	6 drives	23 grouse with 44 shots
Drive 1	5 birds, 8 shots		
Drive 2	3 birds, 3 shots		
Drive 3	2 birds, 3 shots		
Drive 4	3 birds, 11 shots		
Drive 5	3 birds, 8 shots		
Drive 6	7 birds, 11 shots		

A cloudy day with outbreaks of rain. A misty morning but brightened up towards the end of the day. A good deal of cloud cover. Rain and drizzle at times. Wind light and easterly.

Brian Dummer was back in the office today. Mike Kerrigan phoned me with the figures this morning at the hotel. As usual I breakfasted with the other Americans and then we left for the moor. I spoke to the office between drives when I had the chance. It was a pretty miserable day but we saw some birds and it is always good to be out in the fresh air.

Discussed Reads Island with Mrs. Gething and made my plans. I told her that I intended to travel to Reads Island on Friday instead of Saturday, so that I could have a shot that night. I would stay on the island until Sunday when I would return to Rothwell for Sunday lunch and then leave for Middleton with Rosie and her Frenchman. Sandra would have to prepare the lunch for me as Margaret Hilton would not be on duty.

Had a better day on the moor than yesterday and enjoyed every moment. Lady Nickerson was enjoying being with the Americans.

We returned to the Hopetoun Arms between 5.30 p.m. and 6.45 p.m. and had some tea before going to our rooms to rest and change for dinner.

13 September	Leadhills	7 drives	36 grouse with 68 shots
Drive 1	0 birds, 1 shot		
Drive 2	6 birds, 8 shots		
Drive 3	9 birds, 11 shots		
Drive 4	5 birds, 12 shots		
Drive 5	2 birds, 9 shots		
Drive 6	8 birds, 14 shots		
Drive 7	6 birds, 13 shots		

Mist in the morning, showery all day. Wind easterly and moderate in strength.

This morning I breakfasted and then spoke to the office to obtain the figures. The market was slightly down from last night at 1,923. The office were having problems contacting me with the figures during the day. The Range Rover was often parked quite some distance from where we were shooting as we travelled in the Argo Cat to the butts. I told them they would just have to keep trying until they reached me or George.

Bridget was working at Middleton House on my journal and tidying up the office in readiness for our journey home. It would not be long now as there really were very few grouse to be seen now on Reeth and Angram where I have been shooting.

Even here at Leadhills there were not as many birds as usual. Kenny Wilson did a very good job of finding us some sport. He often outwitted the birds to increase our chances.

Never had I seen so many meadow pipits on a grouse moor in my life. I do not know why there were such a crop of these delightful birds but it was lovely to see them as well as seven different ravens, a merlin, a sparrowhawk and three kestrels. I did not see any carcasses which had been eaten by a fox nor did I see any fox droppings anywhere.

The heather at Leadhills always puzzles me a little. It appears to me, having only visited the moor on several occasions, that it grows very slowly. I brought the matter up with Kenny Wilson and hope to be enlightened in the near future.

We returned to the hotel slightly earlier than usual today, about 5 p.m. mainly because of the bad weather. I spoke to the office and was given the closing figure for the market - 2043, quite an improvement in the day. Then I asked Mrs. Gething to instruct Marcus Edmundson to telephone me at the hotel where I talked to him at some length. Rosie had phoned Middleton House to give me her telephone number, it had just been installed.

I was beginning to feel tired after 3 consecutive days on the moor, the wind takes the strength out of you.

14 September

Leadhills

7 drives

40 grouse with 66 shots

Drive 1	0 birds, 1 shot
Drive 2	10 birds, 14 shots
Drive 3	1 bird, 1 shot
Drive 4	4 birds, 7 shots
Drive 5	4 birds, 10 shots
Drive 6	7 birds, 14 shots
Drive 7	14 birds, 19 shots

Dry, bright day. A fresh wind, 15/20 mph, north westerly to south westerly. Cloud base not a problem.

This was the last day at Leadhills. It was a good day to finish as it actually turned out to be a very nice day, bright and dry. I ate a hearty breakfast as usual and departed for the moor.

I phoned Middleton House at 9.10 a.m. to see what Bridget was doing. I told her to get on with the journal and make a good job of it. Then I spoke to Alex who was pressing my shirts. As we were departing tomorrow for Reads Island I asked Bridget to find out what the weather forecast was for the upper Humber. I was going to shoot the evening flight on Friday and then on Saturday also.

At lunchtime I phoned the office to get the figures and to establish the crossing times to the island. I would leave Middleton House after lunch and cross over to the island at 5.30 p.m. Alex was to drive me in the Bentley and Paul Simpson and Ian Plaskitt would be with me. Ian Plaskitt was already on the island counting the birds.

Between drives I phoned the office and spoke to Mr. Dummer about my plans for the next couple of days.

After shooting it was time to return to Middleton House. We were late in leaving and so I told the cooks to have dinner ready for 8.30 p.m. We did not arrive until 7.45 p.m. and I wanted to have a bath before dinner.

15 September

Work day followed by evening flight on Reads Island. By lunchtime there was some heavy rain and freshening south west winds. The wind increased in strength to a speed of 40 mph and it became west to north west in direction. It remained dry.

This morning I dressed myself. I had told Alex that he was to make sure I was in the study ready to work at 11 a.m. but I could not rest and decided to surprise everyone and come down early. I looked in the kitchen and found Alex eating a bacon sandwich, his breakfast. Then when I went to the study I found Bridget was not there. It was 7.45 a.m. and she was supposed to be at work. It appeared that she too was having her breakfast. I was not very pleased and let everyone know. Apparently she could not have her breakfast at the Guest House as she left too early in the morning. She had in fact arrived at Middleton House at 7.30 a.m. in time to have breakfast before starting work, but had chosen to make some phone calls to the keepers in order to catch them before they went out and was therefore running late.

I sat down at my desk and started to work. Mr. Kerrigan phoned with the figures and then I phoned the Burbidges for the latest information. Ian Plaskitt was already on the island. He had been watching the duck flights. This morning he had seen 54 Teal and 5 Widgeon. There had only been a few before 8 a.m. and they had arrived three at a time maximum. There was very little wind. It was very still. Something had come in every two to three minutes.

Last night there had also been a count from 3.45 p.m. It had gone quiet at around 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. and then again after 6.30 p.m. until 8.00 p.m.

I told them that I would be going straight to the pond when I landed. The decoys were to be ready on the tractor. We would be arriving around 5.30 p.m. Ian was to carry out a count this afternoon. I was worried about the crossing as the weather forecast said it would become very windy, but Les Burbidge did not think it would pose a problem. It was decided that Les would come over to collect us as soon as he could. I felt we would be there before 5.30 p.m. and I wanted to get started.

As I had not eaten any breakfast I asked Lady Nickerson to join me in the dining room. When we had finished I returned to the study and worked solidly until just after midday when I instructed Alex to prepare my room for me. I would have a snooze before lunch. At 1 p.m. I came down to lunch. Lady Nickerson ate duck and I ate grouse accompanied by potatoes and green beans. Then we had a lovely apple and sultana pie with custard. Lady Nickerson and I had tea in the hall and then it was time to leave for the island.

I had decided to take Alex with me. I thought it would be nice for him as he had never been on the island. He did not share my view! At 2.10 p.m. Alex drove me in the Bentley to the island. I asked Mr. Dummer to meet me with any post which he did. Paul also came with us. We had telephoned earlier to arrange for a bed to be moved to the room behind mine so that Alex would have somewhere to sleep. Unfortunately the bed had not been made up. Mrs. Burbidge prepared some dinner for us all and then we retired for the evening. It would be an early start in the morning to be ready for the duck flight.

16 September

Reads Island

Morning and Evening Flights

21 Teal
1 Mallard
9 Widgeon
2 Golden Plover
2 Snipe

Very windy, 20/25 mph, south westerly. Cloudy. It rained in the morning but this cleared and the wind eased. One or two showers in the afternoon but these were light. Becoming cooler as the day progressed.

Another day on the island. We shot in the morning and then again in the evening. The total bag for the two days was 35 birds.

Louise joined us today. She decided to go deer stalking in the evening and as it was getting dark I told Alex to go with her to keep her company and to make sure she was safe. As it happened it became dark very quickly and we had finished shooting and were ready to return home, and there was no sign of Louise or Alex. We headed for home without them and apparently they just missed us and saw us leave in the vehicle. I was very relieved they were both safe. Louise was my major concern.

Back to Rothwell tomorrow and then to Middleton House with Rosie and her friend Blaise.

18 September

Reeth

5 drives

10 grouse with 25 shots

Murrayfield	0 birds, 2 shots
Dr. Ghyll	3 birds, 6 shots
Ashpot	7 birds, 14 shots
Hurdles	0 birds, 2 shots
Kearton Pasture Up	0 birds, 1 shot

A breezy wind, south west in direction and very strong on the tops of the hills, 30 mph. Gusts of up to 40 mph. The valley bottom was less blowy. The odd shower during the day but these were light. The temperature was 10°C.

Spoke to Mark Alderson from the study at 8 a.m. He thought there was a south wind which was not very promising, but there was no mist on the hills. We felt it best to have two downwind drives and perhaps Kearton Pasture later in the day. We might try Healaugh Brow tomorrow.

Once that was arranged I looked through my drawers with Bridget and signed a whole signature book of letters! I told her it made a change, there were usually only three or four for signature.

I talked to Nick Waugh about the awful smell of paint in my bedroom at Rothwell. I was not very pleased to find no provisions, no bed made up for me and the whole place smelling of paint. Brian Altoft had been painting the windows and I found it quite unbearable. I told Nick Waugh that he was to do something about it immediately - he was to open every window in the house. Whilst I was speaking to Mr. Waugh Rosie came into the study. She and Blaise had already breakfasted but she would join me while I ate mine. I was running a little behind schedule. It was almost 9.25 a.m. when we finally left the house for Reeth.

It was a fairly disappointing day - only 11 birds all day. However, it was lovely to be out on the moor with Rosie and her Frenchman - he seemed a nice young man.

The wind was blowing very strongly, a gale at times, and it was coming from the south west which did not benefit us.

We arrived back at Middleton House just before 5 p.m. and I dealt with my papers in the study before joining the two young ones in the hall for tea and cakes. Then, as I was tired out, I went to bed to rest.

19 September	Reeth	5 drives	16 grouse with 34 shots
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Healaugh Brow Down	5 birds, 11 shots
Pedleys Quarry	3 birds, 7 shots
North Ghyll	0 birds, 2 shots
Slades	0 birds, 3 shots
Ashpot	8 birds, 11 shots

Bright and sunny. Light wind to start with but it picked up during the morning and afternoon to a strength of 40 mph, south westerly. The cloud base well above the hills. Temperature 12/14°C.

Alex came to wake me at 7.40 a.m. with a cup of tea and helped me to dress. I came downstairs to the study and went through my papers and discussing the packing and travel arrangements with Alex and Bridget for tomorrow. Alex would finish packing tomorrow morning and then drive the Bentley to Rothwell. He would then have time to unpack everything for my return on Friday.

George Graham, I thought, would take me to the station to catch the 10.07 train to London. Rosie and Blaise were travelling with me. Mr. Dummer would join us at Doncaster. Lady Nickerson had decided to take the earlier train. We would have lunch together either at Scotts or the Connaught.

Once the travel arrangements were completed the mail package from Rothwell which had just arrived had to be actioned. It was then time to join Rosie and Blaise in the dining room. I was just tucking into my cooked breakfast when Bridget appeared to tell me Mark Alderson was on the phone. He wanted confirmation as to where I wanted to shoot. We had discussed this the previous evening and had decided to shoot at Healaugh Brow. I did not want to change anything.

Before we left we had our photograph taken in front of the house, then it was time to leave for Reeth. I phoned the office from the Range Rover for any news and, of course, the market. The FROG dropped during the day which was rather disappointing. Finalised arrangements with Brian Dummer for our trip to London.

Slightly better day today. We had five drives and then returned to the house at 5.45 p.m. Bridget was still working in the study. She had managed to pack up a lot of the office things and would finish the rest tomorrow morning before setting off for home. We were going to bring the FAX machine back so that it could be installed in my study at Rothwell. I was looking forward to having my own personal FAX machine.

23 September	Rothwell Pigeon Shoot	6 Pigeons
	Shot Half Day Only	
23 September	Black Springs	Evening flight
		26 Mallard
		4 Teal
		1 Tufted Duck
27 September	Ram Pond	Evening flight
		14 Teal
		14 Mallard
29 September	Tealby Lake	
		12 Mallard
		1 Canada Goose
1 October	Rothwell Pigeon Shot	3 Pigeons
	Diana Wood	
	Kitts Wood	
3 October	Reads Island	
		23 Teal
		6 Widgeon
		1 Golden Plover
		1 Pigeon

Tuesday afternoon, the sun has come out and it is still very, very calm and we have gone up to what we call the Evening Pond. We got into position at 2.40 p.m. and it is now 3.20 p.m. We have been here 40 minutes and fired at two single Teal. The first one had two barrels at it and I killed him with the second barrel. The second one I got first barrel and that is all I have shot at.

It is very, very quiet. Nothing about at all. When these boys go to count the ponds in and how many chances there are, they get well hidden up in another hide some distance away from the pond they are watching, but of course they do not shoot and I think it is such a still day, that they can hear the shooting. There is nothing coming although I am sure they have been in the habit of coming. I believe the watchers when they come! They write them in their books.



Will, Paul and Alex



Reads Island
September 1989



READS ISLAND

December 1989



It is no good going wildfowling unless there is some wind. The reason for that is that on the Humber or anywhere else, the sound of the shot follows so far that it alarms any other birds in the district and they just will not come anywhere near. I have had in places on the island a good big bank, pushed up on one side of a flight pond and there is no doubt that this does lessen the noise, but even my 28 bores boom across the open space of the Estuary and for three miles in every direction they can be heard, for sure. Certainly the ducks can hear them and they avoid the shooting.

It is now 3.30 p.m. and I have shot another two teal. One is dead and one went down on top of the bank and when we went for it it flew away. Just when Ian Plaskitt went for it. Four teal not shot at, four teal knocked down in the first fifty minutes.

Plaskitt saw the marsh harrier yesterday but we have not been lucky enough today to see him. It is strange, there always seems to be one here, a non breeding bird, every year. We have just seen him. It is very difficult to recognise him at such a distance. Just before 4 p.m. we have had a wonderful view of the marsh harrier. They are not a very large bird. When you get close to them you get a better idea. This particular bird is dark, you would describe him as dark - a recognition feature I think you would say - long. The harrier is inclined to glide, three or four strokes, and then glide. He does not fly very high at all, about ten feet off the ground.

We came at 2.40 p.m. and it is now 4.40 p.m. We have got 11 teal dead in the bag. We have only missed one. Two or three we did not see coming, they came in very low, below the radar screen and the bank as a background. It is very difficult in that light. Then there was the one that flew away before the dog got to him.

We had the privilege of seeing a short-eared owl. It came and nearly settled on Ian Plaskitt's head in his butt. Then another one came and they made some signs to each other and they jumped up and touched each other in the air and crawled out. Then one of them came over to us and sat about 40 yards away. One side of the pond, looking at nothing really, on absolutely bare land, and he flew right over our heads not more than 6 feet above us. A beautiful sight! Sat at the other side of the pond where he remained for quite a long time.

We had these new Japanese glasses that needed no adjustment and they are very light and we could see him beautifully. A little bit short of tail, which made me think he was a young one. I feel sure he was.

I have shot 15 teal and a pigeon dropped dead a long way off. Three hours on what we call the Evening Pond and I missed only twice, but three times we did not see a bird coming. It may have been four times. If we had eyes in the backs of our heads we could have had another three or four chances. So that is our performance. Five per hour for three hours, missing nothing virtually.

At 5.45 p.m. we were en route from what we call the Evening Pond back to the east end on the tractor and sledge, bouncing and rattling about. We have 16 teal in the bag. One pigeon and one teal were long birds. 18 head and we had 13 head this morning, so that is 31 head in total.

6.03 p.m. and we are in the hide over the bank at the east end on the north side. I shot a couple of teal at this end. The only two chances I had really. We picked them up. It is pretty dark now. It is 7.15 p.m. and we are packing up. We killed for this round 19 teal and 1 pigeon - that is 20 for the afternoon. This morning we had 6 widgeon, 6 teal, one crow and one Golden Plover.

1989

6 October	Black Springs	37 Mallard 1 Tufted Duck 3 Teal
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I got two birds out of every lot and all the single birds first barrel.

9 October	The Rookery Afternoon Duck Flight	20 Mallard
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9 October	The Ram Evening Flight	2 Mallard 2 Teal
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12 October	Cabourne	1 English Partridge 3 Pheasant 4 Hares 1 Woodpigeon
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14 October	Mere	62 Partridges
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16 October	Reads Island	15 Widgeon 4 Mallard 59 Teal 4 Golden Plover 3 Snipe
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A strong south west wind, the sunrise and sunset brilliant, moonrise magnificent. The dogs worked well, Judy, Sweep, Teal and Jake. Used my 28 bores, No. 5 shot. Very, very happy. Paul Simpson was loading for me and Ian Plaskitt picking up.

3 hours morning flight, 90 metre tide	-	31 head
5 hours afternoon flight		54 head

17 October	Black Springs	Evening flight	9 Mallard 1 Tufted Duck
18 October	North Ormsby		35 Partridges 18 Mallard
19 October	The Rookery	Afternoon flight	33 Mallard 2 Teal
22 October	Nombela	5 drives	74 Partridges with 133 shots
Los Olivos	10 birds, 29 shots		
El Pino	10 birds, 24 shots		
Los Caleros	8 birds, 21 shots		
Arteson	20 birds, 26 shots		
Los Trozos	26 birds, 33 shots		

A lovely, hot day - 28°C. Sir Joseph and Lady Nickerson travelled to the shoot at Nombela together with Rocco and Aliai Forte, Will Jacob driving. Robert, Victoria and Brian Dummer, with Alex Holden driving, travelled in the second Range Rover. Paul Simpson, who was loading for Robert, also accompanied them.

At times there was a breeze during the morning and JN said the birds were flying well because of this.

Lunch was taken in the field after the third drive. It was so hot it was decided to take a half hour siesta and it was also felt it was too hot for the birds to fly.

Rocco Forte used 220 cartridges and Robert used 146 during the day.

It was a most enjoyable day. Santos's organisation went very well. Everyone arrived happy but exhausted at the hotel at about 6 p.m.

Jesus Jimenez, who handles the administration, came out for the last drive. He said that Tom Gullick had had to cancel 16 days shooting this year because of lack of birds. He said that the Mayor sent thanks to JN for his contribution towards the cost of the loading platform in the village.

JN's Range Rover had a puncture after the second drive but this was quickly mended by Will and Alex.

Rosario provided lunch. She is also providing shoot lunches for the brother of the owner of El Corte Ingles stores.

The shooting party met for dinner at 8.30 p.m.

23 October

Nombela

4 drives

85 Partridges with 135 shots

Los Tomates	23 birds, 43 shots
Duke of Calabria	30 birds, 47 shots
King's Bump	18 birds, 26 shots
Posturas (a new drive)	14 birds, 19 shots

JN was up as usual at 7 a.m. and by 7.30 was breakfasting and working with Brian Dummer. JN phoned Marcus Edmundson at 8.20 about capital approval for Cherry Valley extensions.

The shooting party departed from the hotel just after 08.30.

There was a very strong wind and it was definitely cooler. There were a few spots of rain but we decided to have lunch outdoors. There was virtually no sun. JN said he had never seen the partridges fly higher. They are very high, very strong this year. They are both fit and fat, a good body weight. They are able to accelerate, turn and climb.

JN had been very worried about his leg and his ability to perform, but with due modesty he did not think he had ever shot better. Alex Holden described it as "exhibition shooting". When faced with a bird overhead JN does not now always get a shot off. Anything in a strong wind which he has not seen coming he does not get. Today he killed some of the highest partridges he had ever seen. The third drive, the King's Bump, was superb!

On the Tomates drive Rocco Forte could not hit anything on his left. They flew like blazes. Both Rocco and Robert said they were beaten by the birds the whole day - they admitted it!

JN's guns were pulling for no apparent reason. The No. 9 pull was very hard, but not in every drive. JN had a magnificent stand in No. 10 - the Calabria drive - the punta on the right.

JN saw more hares than some years. There were less raptors. He did not see an eagle but saw two sparrow hawks and one goshawk during the day. There were not many magpies on any of the drives.

Aliai Forte wanted to go to Madrid and had ordered a car to fetch her at 2.30 p.m. from Nombela, and only told JN a few minutes before lunch. JN thinks she is spoiled and needs a good thrashing. Rocco had to leave from the Keeper's house at 5 p.m. so it was not possible to have a fifth drive. Rocco did not shoot well all day.

JN has reduced the size of the cartridge that Lady Nickerson is using because she is cutting her thumb and finger. She is now using Netlodge cartridges.

JN and party arrived at the hotel at 5.15 p.m. He worked with BLD, had some massage from Alex and Paul and then a sleep before dinner.

Edward, who had missed his flight, was further delayed by air traffic control action and did not arrive at the hotel until 10.30 p.m.

25 October	Nombela	5 drives	39 Partridges with 74 shots
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Don Pedro	7 birds, 14 shots
El Pleito	12 birds, 25 shots
Valdecarrascoso	2 birds, 4 shots
Navarro	9 birds, 16 shots
La Parilla	9 birds, 15 shots

JN was up promptly and saw BLD at 07.15 about the stock market which was causing him concern. JN had not had a good night, his hip being painful and also having nasal problems. He talked to Mike Kerrigan at 08.20 and left to shoot at 08.30.

After a cloudy start it turned into a sunny, warm day.

It was Edward's first day's shooting and first visit to the shoot in Spain.

JN and party arrived at the Hotel Castilla just after 6 p.m. JN cleared the paperwork with BLD, while Alex and Paul gave him massage. After JN had a sleep before going down to dinner at 8.30 p.m.

Louise, who had flown from the UK to Madrid and collected a hire car, arrived at 9.30 p.m.

26 October	Nombela	5 drives	58 Partridges with 121 shots
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La Luna	23 birds, 44 shots
Huerta el Gacho	13 birds, 28 shots
Prados Los Montones	6 birds, 16 shots
La Cabana	7 birds, 18 shots
Valdeaquila	9 birds, 15 shots

JN started work on the mail packages with BLD, these had arrived with Louise the previous night. He had dealt with these and the market news before going out to shoot at 08.30.

It was very windy all day. The first two drives were very high - a back wind. Dull and cloudy. Louise, who was shooting, was hit by a falling partridge.

The shooting party arrived at the hotel at 5.15 and at 6 p.m. heard the news that the Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, had resigned. BLD was in contact with England most of the evening getting the news and keeping JN informed.

28 October	Nombela	5 drives	58 Partridges with 102 shots
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Cerro Pendon	7 birds, 14 shots
Rentilla	10 birds, 8 shots
Carcaboso	6 birds, 17 shots
Casa Vidal	16 birds, 25 shots
Finca Carlos	19 birds, 38 shots

The forecast had been for rain and a cooler day. This proved to be wrong - it was a warm and sunny day, with occasional cloud and a little light wind in the afternoon.

Rosario provided one of her excellent lunches and everyone had 45 minutes siesta as it was so warm.

The partridges, however, flew well and there were some exciting drives. Brian Dummer came out on the shoot and enjoyed the sunshine and countryside after a busy week working from the hotel.

The party returned to the hotel soon after 6 o'clock, relaxed and happy after an enjoyable day.

29 October	Nombela	5 drives	69 Partridges with 130 shots
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Valdemanares	12 birds, 18 shots
Gaspar	7 birds, 14 shots
Valdeprados	12 birds, 23 shots
La Parilla	12 birds, 30 shots
El Bajaroso	26 birds, 45 shots

As usual the party left the hotel at 08.30 but JN had agreed with Santos the shoot would be finished in time for the men to get to the Polls to vote in the General Election.

Again, it was a glorious day, hot and sunny, and this was matched by the shooting.

There was time for five drives and an hour's siesta after lunch because it was so hot.

The last drive was Brian Dummer's drive - he was out on the shoot, and JN who was shooting very well landed a partridge in his lap!

Edward had departed at 09.00 from the hotel to get his flight back to England.

Chips Keswick, who said he had had the most exciting and enjoyable two days shooting departed on Sunday evening.

31 October	Nombela	4 drives	83 Partridges with 161 shots 5 Magpies
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El Pino	3 birds, 13 shots
Arteson	42 birds, 79 shots
Los Trozos	24 birds, 51 shots
Rentilla	14 birds, 18 shots

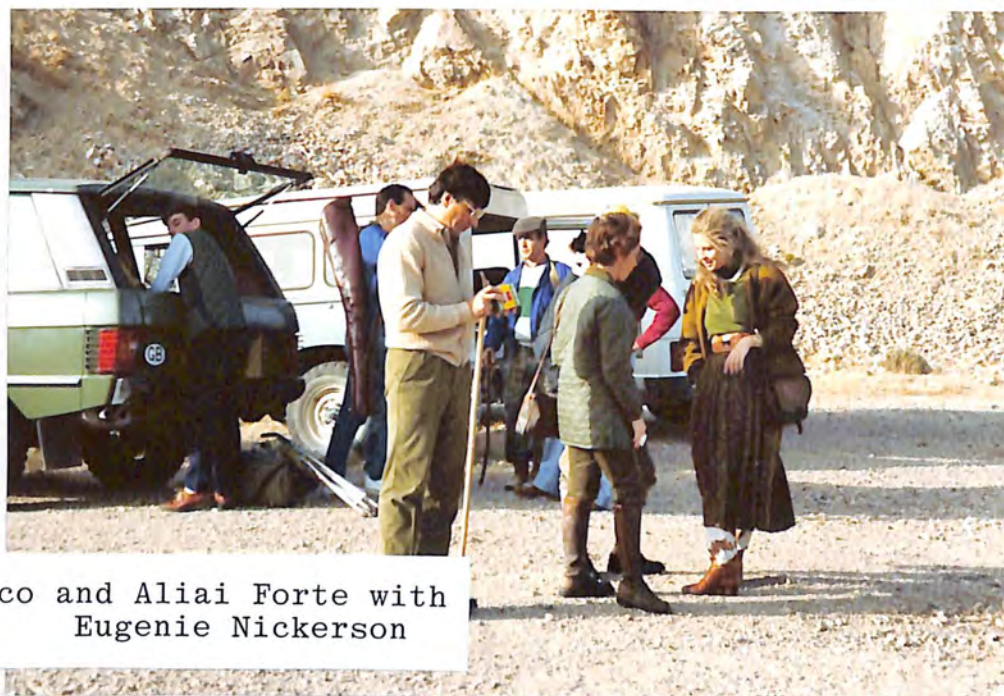
Yet another lovely day, and the shooting party left promptly at 08.30.

It turned out to be the hottest day yet and it was decided to have only four drives. The birds do not always fly well when it is too hot.

The party returned to the hotel at 5 p.m. A mail package had arrived from England so JN was able to deal with this with BLD before resting before dinner.

NOMBELA - Spain

October/November 1989



Rocco and Aliai Forte with
Eugenie Nickerson



Edward and Louise, Robert, Eugenie, Victoria and JN





Chips Keswick Louise Nickerson and JN



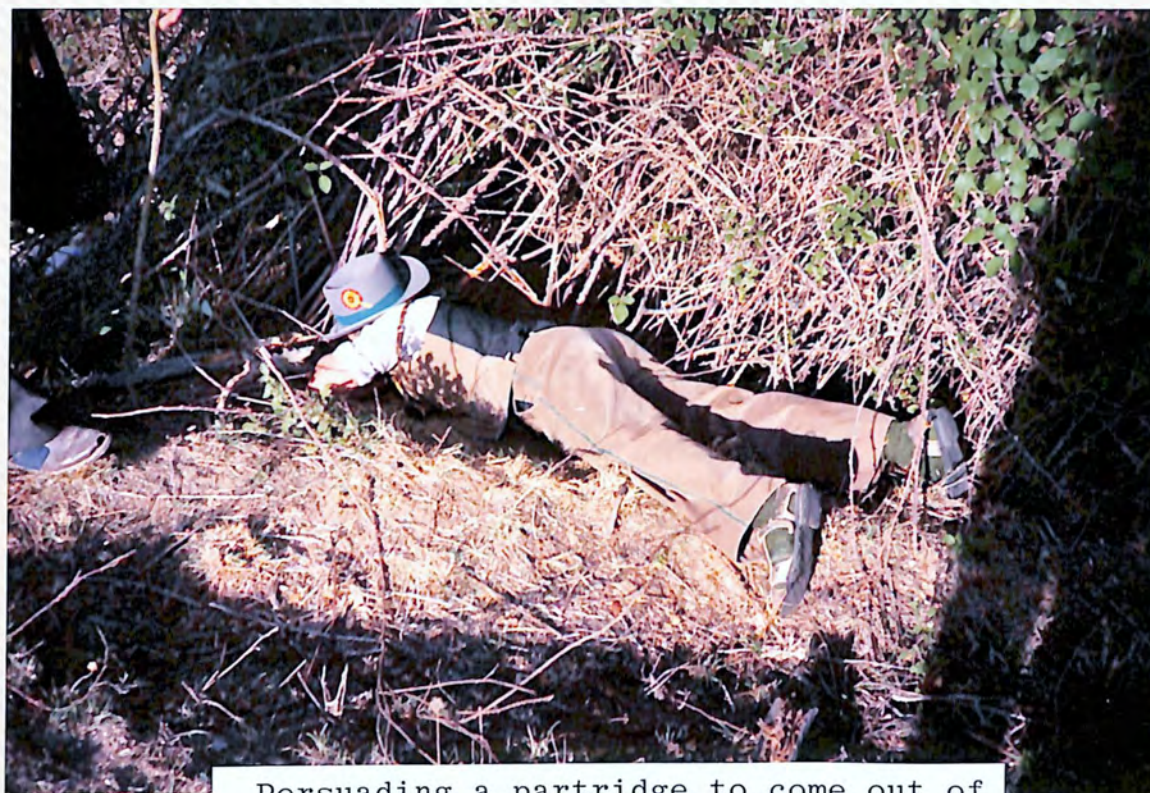
Brian Dummer John Denton JN Eugenie and Chips Keswick





Visit of Fred and Jane Hamilton





Persuading a partridge to come out of
a rabbit hole



Santos with his owl

1 November

Nombela

4 drives

78 Partridges with 140 shots

Gaspar	10 birds, 22 shots
Valdeprados	42 birds, 79 shots
El Pleito	21 birds, 32 shots
Carcaboso	5 birds, 7 shots

The morning started cool but showed signs of being another warm day. This proved to be the case.

Senor and Senora Vittoria joined JN and Lady Nickerson and the Denton's for lunch. The Vittorias own the Casa Blanca which they kindly make available to the shooting party when it rains.

The shooting party returned to the hotel about 4.45 p.m. JN dealt with the paperwork with BLD, had a massage, then a rest before dinner.

3 November

Nombela

5 drives

106 Partridges with 190 shots

Los Banos	30 birds, 50 shots
Las Moreras	26 birds, 54 shots
La Pililla	30 birds, 50 shots
Cerro El Guarda	18 birds. 29 shots
Los Requeros	2 birds, 7 shots

JN was up early and working with BLD before going out to shoot at 8.30 a.m.

A cloudy day had been forecast with the possibility of rain. Once again this proved wrong and a sunny, pleasant day developed although not quite so hot as in recent days.

The party called at Escalona to show the visitors the town within the old city walls, and returned to the hotel at 6.15 p.m. Dinner as usual at 8.30 p.m.

4 November

Nombela

4 drives

76 Partridges with 151 shots

La Cantera	12 birds, 35 shots
Los Tomates	12 birds, 24 shots
Huerta Jarena	21 birds, 32 shots
Fuente Alonsete	31 birds, 60 shots

Sunny but cooler, with a wind which made the birds interesting. Brian Dummer came out on the shoot for the day.

The drives, which were all good, provided some good sport.

On the way back a man on a horse on the road between Maqueda and Torrijos provided amusement - the horse was going very fast, the man had his hands full and it made passing him difficult.

Mr. & Mrs. Hamilton dropped off in the town and walked back to the hotel because they like to walk each day.

6 November	Nombela	5 drives	49 Partridges with 117 shots
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Montana de Jose	19 birds, 35 shots
Los Riscos	6 birds, 24 shots
Los Riscos	8 birds, 23 shots
Los Trachos	10 birds, 21 shots
Prados Requeros	6 birds, 14 shots

JN had not slept very well because of a nasal problem, but he went out to shoot at the usual time. The weather was cloudy, cooler and windy.

This is a day that JN always enjoys - shooting in the mountains with Lady Nickerson.

It was nearly 6 p.m. by the time the shooting party returned to the hotel - a long but most enjoyable day.

7 November	Nombela	3 drives	87 Partridges with 176 shots 1 Magpie
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The Best	16 birds, 30 shots
Finca Santos	39 birds, 73 shots
Casa Blanca	32 birds, 73 shots

Sir Joseph and Lady Nickerson departed from the hotel at 08.40 to travel to Nombela. A lovely morning, warmer than the previous day, and the sun shone for most of the day.

Sir Joseph and Lady Nickerson joined the keepers for lunch and had a discussion about the shoot at Nombela and any problems they had. They thanked them for providing them with such a happy time.

JN and Lady Nickerson returned to the hotel at 3.45 p.m. when JN worked with Brian Dummer, had massage and a sleep before dinner.

8 November Nombela

Will Jacob, Paul Simpson and Brian Dummer left the hotel at 06.45 to drive to Santander. JN, Lady Nickerson and Alex Holden departed at 10.00 to drive to Madrid Airport to get a flight to England.

HELMSLEY
as guests of Lord Forte
13/14 November 1989





ROTHWELL PARK

10 November	Black Springs	Evening Flight	17 Mallard 1 Tufted Duck 1 Other	
			Pick-Up 19	
			Claimed 20 (1 Mallard)	
11 November	Tealby (Half Day)	4 drives	45 Pheasant	94 shots
13 November	Helmsley (Beckdale)	6 drives	97 Pheasant	178 shots
14 November	Helmsley (Riccardale)	6 drives	116 Pheasant 2 Jay	233 shots
18 November	Rothwell	5 drives	177 Pheasant 1 Mallard	317 shots
22 November	Reads Island (West End)	Afternoon Flight	51 Widgeon 33 Teal 3 Mallard	

It is 1.45 and we have killed 11 duck already, within quarter of an hour of getting in the hide. The first shot brought them off that south marsh and they kept coming around there in singles and in pairs and I shot rather well. We did not have a miss. I had rights and lefts. I had one 'three' and I got a 'one' bird.

The sun shines and the wind blows very hard and there has been a very short shower. The wind is from the north east.

We are going off the south marsh and I am letting them come in low. Up until now, I have shot without specs. I have thoroughly enjoyed it. One very high widgeon just got a pellet in its front end. They are high, high birds.

It is now 2.10 and I have claimed 22 birds. At 2.30, we have 30 ducks and I think we only missed 4 shots.

23 November	Reads Island (East End)	Morning Flight	29 Teal 9 Widgeon 6 Mallard 3 Snipe	
	Reads Island (West End)	Evening Flight	12 Widgeon 5 Teal	

I am at the east end and it is very, very cold. The wind has changed altogether but it is still very, very cold. I have killed 10 birds and it is now 7.50. We are a little late with the morning flight

but there are coveys of teal, all in the same line, from south to north, 50 yards to the east of my new pond there. We moved to the corner and I shot quite a few birds there in the open, without being in the hide.

It is a wonderful experience being here. Wild-fowling gets better as far as I am concerned. It is unbelievable. It is now 9.30.

I have had no help from the tide. It is a 3 O'clock tide and it is only 7 metres, so I have had no help from that. It is just a nice fresh wind - a good wind. it makes the birds very interesting and difficult too.

We have been here an hour and 10 minutes. I have shot at 8 chances and I have claimed 7 birds. No rights and lefts. I had some good shots. The sun is very bright and the wind is still fresh. In the last 5 minutes, I have had a lovely right and left at a widgeon and a single bird. That makes 10 birds in an hour and a quarter.

We shot teal and widgeon and a few mallards but only a few of them. When we finished picking up, Les Burbidge fed the pond.

24 November	Rothwell	7 drives	137 Pheasant	298 shots
25 November	Rothwell	5 drives	121 Pheasant	221 shots
27 November	Great Rissington	7 drives	39 Pheasant	66 shots

Such a well laid out shoot in principle. A good idea to send the guns a long way back from the keeping, but a bit too far back and the pheasants will start to dip because they are rather too near the next lot of cover in some cases.

Also, the transport left with the sun shining on it acts as a tremendous flank and pushes the birds out to the side.

It is asking quite a lot to shoot it twice within four or five days. You do not get your birds back and let them settle down. Pheasants really want to have four nights in between if they can ideally. It is alright if they cannot, it does not matter, but if you are disappointed as to how many you have seen, then that could be the reason.

The pegs are a nice distance apart. The birds are well grown. They have good tails and strong tails. Not a lot of vermin about - jackdaws, magpies and crows. Nothing like that. Very good standard of farming.

29 November	Rothwell	6 drives	144 Pheasant	202 shots
2 December	Rothwell	6 drives	86 Pheasants 1 Rabbit	209 shots
2 December	Black Springs	Evening Flight	2 Mallard	
7 December	Rothwell	5 drives	229 Pheasant	592 shots

We had a miraculous day's shooting. Marvellous weather and everything went beautifully. I was really happy. Pity that Lord Forte could not join us but Rocco shot well.

8 December

Reads Island

45 Widgeon
16 Teal
3 Mallard
1 Golden Plover

Back in the hide with the decoys out and it is now 12.40. Forty minutes later, we had killed 14 birds and shot at 15. After an hour, 21 birds had been killed and only 2 misses. Two clean misses. Now, 41 birds down and another beautiful right and left at widgeon.

It is 2.30 and will is just going out to clean up the front. We are 46 down. Close two and three non-pickables. At 2.50 we have been here 2 hours and 10 minutes and we have shot 49 birds.

A total bag of 65. What a stupendous day. Burbidge said it was worth visiting the island and he was right!

9 December

Londesborough

7 drives
(Single gun)

17 Pheasant
1 Hare
35 shots

Londesborough used to be very popular with Edward VII. He used to come here and stay at the shoot. It is beautifully planted for shooting. It was inherited by the present owner from his godfather. He is a doctor. He and his wife enjoy the countryside and they manage the estate. I do not think they have an Agent.

It must be a vast expense. There is a huge house with a building attached to it which was constructed at the time of the King's visits and also a laundry

On the estate are some of the finest specimen trees you could ever see now. En route is the site of an old Roman road, but not much sign of recent maintenance having taken place.

The pheasants drive here very well. In the afternoon, we went to shoot at a place called Kilby. It does not appear on any maps but it is called Kilby Dale. The first drive, the birds were really high - as high as you would want them. I think they flew extraordinarily high today compared with other days, according to what they said, but the birds I saw today were as high as I think I have seen anywhere.

If they had come straight across, they would have been alright, but they went up high. There is some high ground behind where they were flying to and they were extraordinary really. As good as anything I have ever seen in flight.

Probably about 60 birds in the drives. About 6 killed. We did not have one over us. I shot at one I ought not to have done, going over someone a long way off. One after someone else had finished with it and a third one I damaged and was unable to pick off. Those were all the chances we had.

Talking to my loader Will Jacob, I tell you, the only time I do not part with my gun quickly is when I haven't got the safety off and fire one barrel or two for that matter. It does not matter if I have fired one barrel or two. He says he can feel me holding it. He can feel the pressure when I have still got hold of it. I have never heard anyone else say that. I shall never be able to train anyone else. I think it is also interesting to note that this season I have used the same pair of gloves as it has been such a dry season. I have not used alternate gloves. Just one pair the whole season. A beautiful pair of gloves, but on the right thumb, from moving the safety catch, it already has a hole.

16 December	Rothwell (Half Day)	3 drives	38 Pheasant 1 Hare 1 Pigeon	61 shots
20 December	Cuxwold	8 drives	32 Pheasant	55 shots
21 December	Rothwell	6 drives	133 Pheasant	238 shots
22 December	Otby	6 drives (Single Gun)	24 Pheasant 8 Mallard 3 Tufted Duck	47 shots
27 December	Somersby	5 drives (Single Gun)	82 Pheasant	112 shots

Thoroughly enjoyed my day shooting at Somersby. The head keeper, Roy had to be congratulated on the way in which he drove the birds - very quietly. No shouting despite the large number that were in the covers. By and large they did not flush at all. It was beautifully done.

The birds were really sporting. Some of them stood on their tails and went up. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Wonderful sport.

28 December	Tealby	3 drives	51 Pheasant	99 shots
28 December	Roman Holes	2 drives	53 Pheasant 4 Woodcock	101 shots

Rosie shot in the morning only. Edward shot 74 pheasants - the most he has shot in a day.

29 December	Rothwell	6 drives	193 Pheasant 1 Blackbird	320 shots
30 December	Rothwell	6 drives	230 Pheasant 1 Woodcock 1 Collared Dove	363 shots

Shot with Claude Foussier. At Bogle Hill we shot 175 pheasants - 156 for the two of us, plus the pick up. I shot a woodcock and a collared dove and fired only 129 shots.

There were one or two lazy birds. I do not think I will shoot more than 80 with 130 shots now. The pickers-up are still finding birds and there will be a few more yet.

I think the interesting thing is that one was shooting with a 410 and the other with a 28 bore.

2 January	Tealby (Half Day)	4 drives (Single Gun)	30 Pheasant	57 shots
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Today was a day for the girls and their friends. I joined them in the morning and then left them to it after lunch which we had at Rothwell House.

4 January	Rothwell	6 drives	97 Pheasant 2 Rabbit	169 shots
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Today, Colin Reed joined us on the shoot. He was a prospective keeper for Rothwell. I had seen his advertisement in the Shooting Times and had spoken to him at some length on the telephone. Unfortunately, by the end of the day, I felt he was unsuitable for the job.

9 January	Rothwell	6 drives	170 Pheasant	260 shots
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11 January	Rothwell	4 drives	59 Pheasant	118 shots
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Left early in the morning as we were only going to shoot half the day. It was Alan Dame's funeral at 2pm which I attended and then rested as I was visiting the island tomorrow.

12 January	Reads Island	East End	30 Widgeon 28 Teal	Morning Flight
		West End	6 Widgeon 4 Teal	Afternoon Flight

Alex woke me at 6am and I breakfasted at 6.20am. Will and Paul came with me. We took a packed lunch with cheese and tongue sandwiches, cake, biscuits and flasks of tea. At 6.45am we left Rothwell House and at 7am we were at the landing, ready to cross to the island. By the time we were in position at the morning pond on the east end of the island, it was 7.20am.

We had a very good morning and then it was time for a rest before the afternoon flight. I spoke to Louise at midday regarding some sheep in Partridge Valley and also the office who kept in touch with me all day with the figures.

At 5.30pm we crossed over to the mainland and by 6.15pm I was back at Rothwell House.

13 January	Stenigot	6 drives (Single Gun)	76 Pheasant 1 Woodcock	126 shots
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18 January	Rothwell	6 drives	133 Pheasant	207 shots
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20 January	Rothwell	5 drives	122 Pheasant	214 shots
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22 January	Reads Island	West End	25 Widgeon 3 Teal	Evening Flight
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Left Rothwell exactly at 12.15 and boarded the boat at the earliest possible moment. Burbidge just came into the creek as we arrived. It was completely synchronised! By 13.10 we were all loaded up on the tractor sledge - Will Jacob, Paul Simpson and Judy. We headed towards the evening area of the island.

There was a strong wind blowing and the surface of the estuary was really rough. Too rough for the ducks to settle. They were not going to settle on rough water like that, so they were likely to be moving.

23 January	Rothwell	6 drives	92 Pheasant	161 shots
25 January	Rothwell	3 drives	41 Pheasant	99 shots
27 January	Rothwell	5 drives	98 Pheasant	183 shots
29 January	Tealby and Roman Holes	5 drives	82 Pheasant	148 shots
30 January	Rothwell	5 drives	111 Pheasant	209 shots

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SUMMARY OF SIR JOSEPH'S PERSONAL BAG AT NOMBELA

AND GRAND TOTAL BAG FOR SPAIN 1989

Date	Part	Cum Total	Magpie	Total	Cum Total	Shots	Cum Total Shots
22.10.89	74	74		74	74	133	133
23.10.89	85	159		85	159	135	268
25.10.89	39	198		39	198	74	342
26.10.89	58	256		58	256	121	463
28.10.89	58	314		58	314	102	565
29.10.89	69	383		69	383	130	695
31.10.89	83	466	5	88	471	161	856
01.11.89	78	544		78	549	140	996
03.11.89	106	650		106	655	190	1,186
04.11.89	76	726		76	731	151	1,337
06.11.89	49	775		49	780	117	1,454
07.11.89	87	862	1	88	868	176	1,630
TOTALS 12 days	862		6	868		1,630	
GRAND TOTAL	862		6	868		1,630	

SHOOT ACCOUNTS 1989/90 from Jimenez

(These have been received over the telephone. Jimenez will post us his written accounts for the shoots)

PARTRIDGES 1,961 sold @ 660 ptas = 1.294.260 ptas

Money for partridges received as follows:

500.000 ptas
600.000
51.883
150.000
3.960
7.920
7.517 *

1.321.280

- 27.020

1.294.260

(Received from the buyer of the partridges on account and had to be returned to him)

* This amount was received from Santos for partridges and somehow got left out of the statement. It will appear on the Feb statement.

SHOOT EXPENSES

Secretarios	81	@	3.300 ptas/day	267.300 ptas
Ojeadores (beaters/flags)	374	@	3.300 " "	1.234.200 "
Man with donkey	12	@	3.300 " "	39.600 "
Loaders	9	@	5.500 " "	49.500 "
Tractors	18	@	9.500 " "	171.000 "
Wine	12 days	@	1.700 " "	20.400 "
			(17 lt @ 106 ptas)	

TOTAL

1.782.000 ptas

Paid out in cheques 3@ 500.000 ptas
1@ 282.000 "

/PMK
23 February 1990

LINCOLNSHIRE VERMIN KILL - 1989

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS FOR 1989
Crow	3	5	2	9	19	7	2	-	5	3	-	7	62
Hedgehog	-	-	-	7	11	10	-	3	1	-	-	-	32
Mole	28	8	4	-	4	2	2	-	2	4	2	-	56
Rat	41	51	25	20	10	13	14	40	60	47	51	50	422
Rook	5	16	5	13	16	178	112	-	-	-	-	-	345
Stoat	3	6	10	12	7	5	9	1	8	6	1	6	74
Squirrel	1	3	8	1	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	5	22
Weasel	3	11	7	10	6	2	6	-	16	1	5	4	71
Moorhen	34	47	2	9	3	7	3	6	-	5	2	3	121
Feral Pgn	73	7	18	-	5	5	6	-	17	-	-	7	138
Coot	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Jay	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
BB Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jackdaw	1	2	-	13	6	8	84	-	-	-	-	-	114
Magpie	5	5	7	11	5	14	20	4	3	6	1	3	84
Starling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ferret	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Tab	2	2	3	4	4	5	2	-	-	-	1	-	23
Toby	2	2	1	16	6	5	-	8	1	-	-	-	41
Brock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Mouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Rabbit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	19
TOTALS	201	165	93	127	103	261	262	63	135	72	64	85	1,633

LINCOLNSHIRE VERMIN KILL - 1989

KEEPERS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTALS
Frankish	29	42*	27°	47	16	28	14	27	13	29	22	11	305
Hewson	10	17	11	9	23	33	9	19	10	21	16	11	189
Martin	113	23	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	164
Thompson	32	33	23	20	21	9	-	15	24	22	8	35	242
Plaskitt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	12	-	-	8	22
Wolsey	17	50	32	23	43	191	239	-	-	-	-	-	595
Edwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78	-	-	-	78
Simpson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	20	38
TOTALS	201	165	93	127	103	261	262	63	137	72	64	85	1,633

* Frankish & Plaskitt
° Frankish & Martin

TOTAL HEAD FOR 1989 : 1,633

NOMBELA VERMIN KILL - 1990

SPECIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL FOR 1990
FOX	15	4	4	7	14	3	3	4	1	2	2	4	63
WILD CAT	7	5	2	-	2	1	1	3	6	2	1	1	31
BADGER	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
WEASEL	5	15	69	36	21	16	12	5	1	1	-	-	181
HEDGEHOG	2	3	16	25	15	29	15	5	1	2	9	4	126
MAGPIE	422	278	257	191	99	260	185	93	103	100	95	35	2,118
CROW	1	2	6	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	11
LIZARD	-	-	24	47	132	148	46	7	-	-	-	-	404
RAT	72	290	1,080	964	388	118	47	26	51	9	2	-	3,047
SNAKE	3	-	45	61	130	110	44	18	13	7	19	-	450
TOTALS	527	598	1,503	1,332	801	685	353	161	177	123	128	44	6,432

NOMBELA : 1989 VERMIN BONUSES		
FOXES	31,500 ptas	(63 @ 500 ptas)
WILD CATS	9,300 ptas	(31 @ 300 ptas)
BADGERS	100 ptas	(1 @ 100 ptas)
WEASELS	9,050 ptas	(181 @ 50 ptas)
HEDGEHOGS	6,300 ptas	(126 @ 50 ptas)
MAGPIES	105,900 ptas	(2,118 @ 50 ptas)
CROWS	2,200 ptas	(11 @ 200 ptas)
LIZARDS	20,200 ptas	(404 @ 50 ptas)
RATS	152,350 ptas	(3,047 @ 50 ptas)
SNAKES	13,500 ptas	(450 @ 30 ptas)
TOTAL	350,400 ptas	

SIR JOSEPH'S PERSONAL BAG - 1989/90 SEASON

ROTHWELL PIGEON SHOOT/GARDEN

Pigeon 19

Head 19

CABOURNE

English Partridge 1

Hare 4

Pheasant 3

Woodpigeon 1

Head 9

ROOKERY POND

Mallard 53

Teal 2

Head 55

BLACK SPRINGS

Mallard 107

Teal 7

Tufted Duck 4

Wigeon 1

Other 1

Head 120

'55' ACRE TREE

Pigeon 55

Head 55

READS ISLAND

Golden Plover 12

Mallard 17

Pigeon 1

Snipe 10

Teal 242

Wigeon 209

Head 491

TEALBY LAKE

Canada Goose 1

Mallard 12

Head 13

RAM POND

Mallard 24

Teal 18

Head 42

SIR JOSEPH'S PERSONAL BAG : 1989/90

GROUSE BAG : SPLIT BETWEEN THE MOORS

Angram	148
Leadhills	113
Reeth	173
Stean	3
Stublick	7
As Guest	39

PARTRIDGE UK

As Guest	98
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PHEASANT UK

Rothwell/Tealby/Roman Holes	2,675
As Guest	483

PARTRIDGE SPAIN

Nombela	862
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SIR JOSEPH'S PERSONAL BAG

FULL SEASON SUMMARY 2ND FEBRUARY 1989 TO 1ST FEBRUARY 1990

UNITED KINGDOM

GROUSE	483
PARTRIDGE	98
PHEASANT	3,158
MALLARD	241
TEAL	269
WIGEON	209
WOODCOCK	6
SNIPE	12
PIGEON	77
TUFTED DUCK	7
GOLDEN PLOVER	12
HARE	6
RABBIT	6
CANADA GOOSE	1
COLLARED DOVE	1
JAY	2
BLACKBIRD	1
OTHER	1

TOTAL 4,590

GRAND TOTAL BAG 5,458

SPAIN

PARTRIDGE	862
MAGPIE	6

TOTAL 868

TOTAL DAYS SHOT 1989/90 93

MEMORANDUM TO CHAIRMAN

From Barbara Stevenson Copies to

Date 29-6-89 Ref.

SUBJECT GROUSE AND PARTRIDGE SHOOTING	CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS
<u>1986/87 SEASON</u>	
Spanish Partridge 2043 with 3960 shots average 1.93	
English Partridge 275	
Grouse 1382 with 2736 shots average 1.97	
<u>1987/88 SEASON</u>	
Spanish Partridge 2563 with 4558 shots average 1.77	
English Partridge 4	
Grouse 3082 with 5700 shots average 1.84	
<u>1988/89 SEASON</u>	
Spanish Partridge 1457 with 2571 shots average 1.76	
English Partridge 2	
Grouse 3390 with 6008 shots average 1.77	
<u>GRAND TOTALS FOR 3 SEASONS</u>	
PARTRIDGE 6344	
GROUSE 7854	

MEMORANDUM FROM CHAIRMAN

To BS

Copies to

Date 27.6.89 Ref. JN/bes

SUBJECT SHOOTING FIGURES	COMMENTS
How many partridges have I shot in the seasons 86/87, 87/88 and 88/89?	<u>1986/87 SEASON</u>
I know that in the 5 seasons from 81/82 to 85/86 I shot:-	Spanish Partridge 2043 with 3960 shots = 1.93
9,582 grouse with 17,296 shots which averages 1.81.	English Partridge 275
9,605 Spanish partridges with 17,165 shots which averages 1.79.	<u>1987/88 SEASON</u>
I shot with a pair of guns and everything was given a chance.	Spanish Partridge 2563 with 4558 shots = 1.77
In addition I killed 1,002 English partridges in that period.	<i>grouse</i> English Partridge 4
<i>2 NOW grouse please</i>	<u>1988/89 SEASON</u>
<i>Thank</i>	Spanish Partridge 1457 with 2571 shots = 1.76
	English Partridge 2
	<i>grouse</i> <u>TOTAL PARTRIDGES 6344</u>
	<u>BS/28/6/89</u>
	<i>Totals</i> <i>ave. Counts</i>

GROUSE

7854



BOURNE HOUSE,
HURSTBOURNE PRIORS,
WHITCHURCH,
HANTS., RG28 7SB
TEL. WHITCHURCH (0256) 892665

WJ

13 Jun 1990.

Dear Sir Joseph + Lady Nickerson,

Thank you again for another most enjoyable stay in Luccombe. It was very nice to see you both under less "professional" circumstances and also to meet Mark Phillips whose company I enjoyed.

The short run of course was terrific and although my performance has been the room for improvement I was glad that it improved in the

afternoon! It was a most spectacular drive and I am sure my loader was right in saying that it is currently the best place to drive in the country. It was a privilege for me to be there. Thank you for the pleasure which are now in the deep freeze. Our secretaries are at work on your visit to London and we will get organised at this end, in order to get things done as quickly as possible.

With my thanks again.

Yours very sincerely,

P.S. I have urged Sir a trace to go to Fred Hentley whom I shall see next week.

Dear Mr. L.

1990
1 GREETWELL ROAD
LINCOLN
LN2 4AQ
TEL: (0522) 542963

23rd January 1990.

Dear Sir Joseph.

Thank you so much for a really fabulous day's shooting and for all your kindness to me, which I did appreciate.

It was a tremendous thrill to be invited to shoot at Rottwell and I felt extremely privileged to have the opportunity to spend the day with you - You have taught us all so much about the Countryside and shooting in particular.

We were so fortunate to

have such a windy day - the birds were extremely exciting and some of them we just a bit too fast for me! I often reflect on the many hours of dedicated work which it has taken, to put a bird over the guns.

Thank you both for all your most generous hospitality throughout the day, which was really enjoyable.

These are very very special occasions and I do thank you most sincerely for inviting me to share today with you - it was the highlight of my shooting season and a day I shall always remember with a lot of pleasure.

Jane sends all her love to you both
Yours ever. Richard

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER TO SIR JOSEPH FROM EDWARD BARHAM DATED 24TH JANUARY 1990

"HAPPY MEMORIES OF MY DAY SHOOTING WITH YOU AT ROTHWELL ON 20TH WILL REMAIN WITH ME FOR MANY YEARS. THE WHOLE DAY WAS A QUITE EXILERATING EXPERIENCE, ONE THAT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO REPEAT ELSEWHERE AND I FEEL HONOURED TO HAVE BEEN ON SUCH A WELL KNOWN AND DOCUMENTED SHOOT.

OF PARTICULAR NOTE DURING THE DAY WAS BILLY'S DRIVE, THE LIKES OF WHICH I HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE. AS YOU COMMENTED, 'SOME OF US THOUGHT WE COULD SHOOT BEFORE LUNCH' BUT MY LACK OF EXPERIENCE WITH SUCH HIGH BIRDS SHOWED UP AND 90% + OF THE BIRDS I ENGAGED WERE STILL FLYING. I AM INSPIRED TO GET SOME TUITION BEFORE NEXT SEASON TO HIT THOSE HIGH BIRDS."

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER TO SIR JOSEPH FROM CAPTAIN MARK PHILLIPS DATED 27TH JANUARY 1990

"I'M AFRAID THIS IS A VERY BELATED THANK YOU FOR THE MARVELLOUS DAYS SHOOTING WE HAD AT ROTHWELL. AS EVER COMING TO STAY WITH YOU AND SHOOT WITH YOU IS ONE OF THE HIGH SPOTS OF MY WINTER AND THIS YEAR WAS CERTAINLY NO EXCEPTION. ITS ALWAYS AN HONOUR AND A PRIVELEGE TO WATCH 'THE MASTER' AT WORK. I WAS ONLY SORRY THAT YOU WERE GETTING SO MUCH TROUBLE FROM YOUR LEG THIS TIME.

ONCE AGAIN MY VERY GRATEFUL THANKS FOR A MARVELLOUS DAYS SHOOTING - I DID ENJOY IT SO MUCH."

EXTRACTS FROM A LETTER TO SIR JOSEPH FROM PADDY SHILLINGTON DATED 1ST FEBRUARY 1990

"AT THE KEEPERS SHOOT YESTERDAY I WAS ASKED BY THOSE ASSEMBLED TO PASS ON TO YOU OUR APPRECIATION AND THANKS FOR A WONDERFUL DAYS SHOOTING, AND FOR THE GENEROUS HOSPITALITY AT LUNCHTIME.

IT WAS ENJOYED IN IDEAL CONDITIONS, EVEN THE RAIN FELL WHILST WE WERE HAVING LUNCH.

THE ATMOSPHERE AND HIGH STANDARD OF ORGANISATION AND CONDUCT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED AT ROTHWELL, AND IS A GREAT CREDIT TO ALL CONCERNED.

THANK YOU ALSO FOR A MEMORABLE DAY ON THURSDAY. ON THE DRIVE AFTER LUNCH MY BARRELS WERE HOT - ANOTHER SPORTING FIRST FOR ME!"

