

TANZANIA

I have a friend in Jackson Hole named Ridge Taylor whom I knew in the old days of seismic exploration in the Rockies. He is now a Professional Hunter in Africa and one day I met him downtown where he asked me what I was doing. I said that I'd just returned from Yemen and was looking for another contract. He said that he had partnered with a Tanzanian safari operator and needed someone to upgrade the hunting camps for American clients. Two weeks later I was in the capitol city of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam, a port city on the Indian Ocean.



Dar es Salaam harbor



What a change from the deserts of the Middle East!



Dar es Salaam is a Third World smugglers port typified mostly by coastal lighters called *dhows*



Camp cook and boys ready to roll west to a hunting concession not too far from Lake Tanganyika



Waiting for the police after the big truck hit and killed a cow on our way to a hunting camp in western Tanzania, between the market town of Mpanda and the village of Nyonga



When we reached our old camp from the year before we scared off poachers who were smoking meat and catfish



L to R: Head cook, black camp manager Crispin
one game ranger and one game warden



One of five smoking racks



Fire I set to burn off the old elephant grass and start new growth that attracts grazing animals like Cape buffalo and various antelope



More Third World cement action



How to start a grass shack



Raise frame, pour cement floor, set the toilet



Gather elephant grass then strip the seed heads and most of the leaves after it's dried



Tie the cleaned grass to the frame with small vines that pass for rope



Finished product



Celebrating the death of a man-eating lion



He had lost a paw, probably to a hyena bite and sepsis



Saipi, maasai guide, with cleaned eland head.
Cape buffalo and Black sable skulls boiling



Me and baby elephant poop — it's about a family joke



maasai Daniel and Nyamera I shot (*piga mzuri*)



Preparing it for camp meat



maasai guide Mganga and me hanging leopard bait



Honey hunters camp



Bundles of honey comb wrapped in leaves



Hunter with 10-liter container of honey



Hunters, one with homemade protective mask made of canvas and window screen



Honey trap standing on one end. It is made by stripping a six-foot length of bark from a birch-like tree then sewing it back together

into a cylinder. End caps (top) are attached then the trap is hung from a branch about fifty feet above the ground. Bees enter holes cut in the end caps and build combs of honey that weigh as much as one hundred pounds, or more. There are several types of woodlands in Africa and the myombo woodlands are typified by several species of flowering trees that droop blossoms and yield enormous harvests of honey



This man is pouring refined honey (dead bees and all) into a two-liter jug that we bought for about one dollar. The camp is alive with African bees harvesting spilled honey and residue left on processing equipment like buckets. Luckily, they were lulled by the several fires in the camp used to distill the sweet product. It was delicious, once you picked the dead bees out



Taking a break in Dar es Salaam before heading south for the famous Selou Game Park



Fishermen preparing their catch for sale



Outrigger canoe used to fish as many as twenty miles offshore



Breakfast at Tindu, near the east gate to the Selous



My crew including Jason Alexiou, best friend of Jane Goodall's son "Grub"



Famous reserve on Mozambique border
named for English spy killed by the Germans in WWI



Sunrise over the Great Ruaha River
home of millions of crocs and hippos



maasai guides Mganga and Saipi wrapped in their blankets
(East Africa nights get cold)



Symbols of the Great Ruaha



maasai skinner Joseph. me and my trusty 10 ga shotgun with alternating 0-buck and rifled slugs



Jason Alexiou and camp boy rigging for Tiger fish



Hippos fighting day and night



Enormous 55" Kudu bull



Preparing to hang leopard bait from tree



Hanging rear quarter of Eland bull for leopard bait



More third world cement work — pad for hunter's tent



Scene from camp life



Building a stone and clay brick stove, my design



Using the stove



Evening on the Indian Ocean — Dar es Salaam yacht club



Dar es Salaam in Arabic means Peaceful Harbor