

# HUNTING

*The* **ROGUE ELEPHANT**

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# HUNTING A ROGUE ELEPHANT NEAR ARNAKAL ESTATE

**A**s the title clearly discloses, this elephant was a rogue. As per the Government rules and regulations, one cannot just go into a forest and shoot down an elephant. The criterion for an elephant to be proscribed a rogue, was that the elephant in question should have a history of having killed humans without any provocation. At the same time, once an elephant is declared a rogue by the Government, any sportsman with a valid gun license can with permission procured from the Collector, shoot down the animal.

The Arnakal elephant had been declared a rogue by the Government. And now, to get on with my narrative.

In the early fifties, in an area adjoining Arnakal Tea estate, in Vandiperiyar Post, Kerala, S. India, and somewhere between the estate and the Periyar Game Sanctuary in, an elephant had made its home among the thickages of Etta, a genus of bamboo, only a trifle more slender. It came to be known and indeed was, the Arnakal rogue elephant, its history testifying to all the requirements of a rogue. Having killed a few people, the elephant continued to terrorize everyone in the vicinity. The ruling Government hence proscribed the animal as a “rogue” permitted to be shot by any qualified sportsman with a valid gun license.

The announcement lured many an intrepid sportsman not merely because of the adventure and victory involved in the hunt, but also because

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