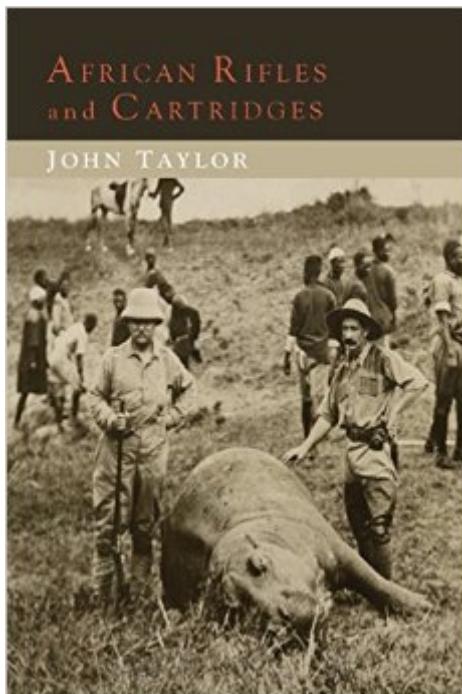


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# African Rifles And Cartridges: The Experiences And Opinions Of A Professional Ivory Hunter



## Synopsis

2014 Reprint of 1948 Edition. Full facsimile of the original edition, not reproduced with Optical Recognition Software. John Howard 'Pondoro' Taylor (1904 - 1969) was a big-game hunter of Irish descent. In Africa he experimented extensively using different types of rifles and calibers, which made him an expert in big game rifles. He is credited with developing the 'Taylor KO Factor' and wrote several now classic books. As a professional ivory hunter with some thirty years of continuous living in the African bush, John Taylor used and tested all the various calibers of British, American and German rifles, and with them killed many species of big game found on the continent of Africa. Taylor's discussion on the practical application of ballistics includes doubles, magazines, and single-shots; the practical value of steel-jacketed bullets versus those covered with cupronickel; the faults of copper-tubed bullets; the actual effects of softpoint bullets with varying degrees of lead exposure; the necessity of modern bullets that will really stand up to the requirements when fired into heavy animals; and many other valuable tips and explanations about cartridges and rifles.

Remains a classic work.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Taylor is one of the most competent gun writers I have ever read. He has tremendous practical experience with almost every large calibre rifle of his time, including the spell bounding numbers like 600, 577s, 500s, 450s, 450/400, 375 etc., with a nostalgic term of Nitro Express..! When discussing a calibre, he talks of taking literally hundreds of elephant, buffalo & other big game with it. So who

can question his authority on African rifles. He has also covered every possible aspect of sporting rifle, which can be questioned, with respect of African hunting, e.g., doubles versus magazines, barrel length, weight, sights, triggers, ejectors/non-ejectors, etc. A must read book for the person who wants to know about large calibres, double rifles and nitro / black powder express. Excellent drawing of each cartridge is also given with details i.e., bullet weight, powder charge and pressure.

John Taylor's masterpiece - the definitive work on African hunting from a technical perspective. And even though his experience is nearly 100 years old now, it's still as fresh as yesterday, because the rifles and cartridges really haven't changed much. Craig Boddington's important work on the same subject is truly current, but you won't miss a beat if you just go by what Old Pondoro says. But that's not the book's real glory - anyone can publish ballistic data and shooting tips. What Taylor does is to back up his opinions with some of the most exciting hunting literature ever jotted down by lantern light. He's a wonderful writer, with an easy flowing style that grabs you and takes you along. He saw and did things that noone else will ever again do or see, and in a sense saw the last of the old Africa pre WW2, and brings it alive. He tells you that the .577 NE is just the perfect thing for elephant, and has a couple of tales to prove it. Or how about the .375 H&H as a long range caliber? Well, did he ever tell you about the time that... It sounds contrived, but it isn't. I can't put this book down, and approach it with caution because I know if I crack it open it'll be like saying "Jumanji" 3 times - the next thing you know hours have passed and there's a lion in your kitchen, licking the butter. Absolutely a desert island book, and one of the first to go in the lifeboat.

If you love hunting- and african hunting in particular- you MUST have this book! It is the classic by which all others should be judged. I read my first copy so often- and referred to it when reading other African hunting books- that it started to fall apart. I bought another to read and loan, plus one bound in leather to keep for good in mint, unread condition. Believe me, you will love this book if you are a hunter!

John Taylor was a great elephant hunter in his day, and I find his book important to my Africa collection. However, Taylor was shown (by Tony Sanchez especially) to fabricate some of his tales. Also, some of his conclusions are ludicrous. Such as ejector double rifles make too much noise. So after firing an elephant rifle the noise of ejectors alerts game? He also raises negative points about bolt-action rifles that make no sense. I recently hunted a killer Cape buffalo and had to take two long shots...my Kimber .416 with scope sight made all the difference. I do not fault Mr. Taylor for his gay

life, as some do. He was a great elephant hunter. This book belongs in all Africa libraries. It's faults included. But there are better books on Africa.

This volume has a reputation as a classic among African safari volumes and deservedly so in my estimation. Taylor was clearly widely experienced with hunting rifles, most especially the big-bores used for Elephant and other dangerous game. I am not particularly interested in the guns but more so in the vintage hunting tales. Taylor was a talented writer and this book is full of great writing, more than just a gun book. Recommended for gun and safari book collections.

I was lent this book many years ago and found it very informative and interesting. After finally purchasing a copy, and reading it for the second time, it is even more so. By the way, the book was published in 1948, not 100 years ago as some reviewers stated.

Bought this for my uncle and he loved it. It was a difficult time for him as his wife had Alzheimer's. You can't erase the pain from something like that but this book provided a great distraction for him as it is well written and fascinating to people interested in rifles and ammunition.

Written nearly a century ago, this book is a great primer to understand the evolution of modern African rifles and cartridges, as well as how Taylor's own "KO Value" came about (which is still used today). It's not a biography (but he tells some great stories about his life), not a safari journal (but has some wonderful stories about hunts and hunters along the way), not up to date ballistically (but some interesting insights on nearly every major hunting caliber) - it is politically incorrect, opinionated, and a rare glimpse into a world that no longer exists. If you are a real devotee of the safari, it should be part of your library.

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