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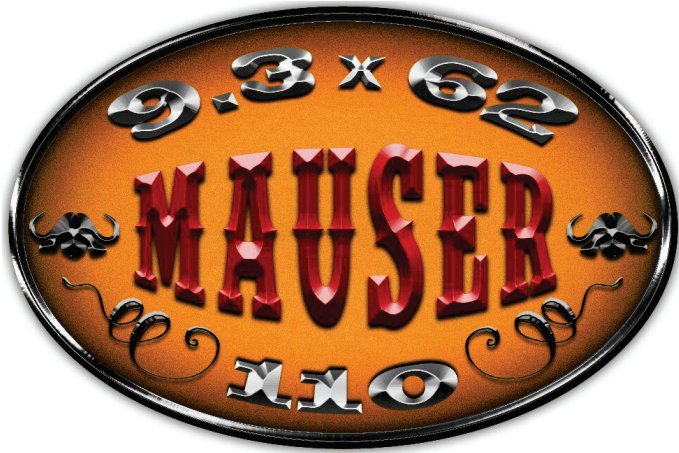
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Front cover: Major Bosman with a 58½” buffalo he hunted in Mozambique during 1938. In the sport hunting world during those years, he was considered by many as a great hunter, only bested by the famous Major P.J. Pretorius of Jungle Man fame. Major Bosman used a 9.3X62 rifle exclusively on all his big game hunting exploits. Read the report of his passing somewhere else in the book

Cover design: Marisca Barnes (mariscabarnes@gmail.com)

Introduction



[Illustration by Marisca Barnes for the 110 Year 9.3X62 Mauser tribute]

This book is a celebration of that grand old workhorse, the 9.3X62, the “light “Big Bore”, developed by Berlin gunsmith Otto Bock and introduced by Mauser in 1905. Otto Bock’s cartridge not only lasted in the hunting field, 16 years into the new millennium but has caught a new lease on life that will take it onwards for some time to come.


I am proud to be counted amongst all the gentlemen who contributed their experiences with the nine-three and their praises or criticisms of this great cartridge to bring this book into existence. A whole book of this scale covering absolutely everything on a single cartridge is definitely a first.

Through this work we want to both introduce a hugely misunderstood cartridge to an uninformed shooting public as well as bring honour to this age-old cartridge and to the many unknown veldsmen who lived and hunted in different timeslots and countries than ours. We also acknowledge the current huntsmen who do understand the 9.3X62 and live to enjoy the veldt in a way that only hunting can present.

Otto Bock – Purveyor To The Royal Court

(By Larry Schuknecht)

The following appeared in the 1907 issue of Shuss Und Waffe



Collath'sche Drillinge,
Doppelflinten,irsch-Büchsen u. Doppelbüchsen, sämtliche dazugehörige
Flinten- und Büchsenmunition, auch mit rauchschwachem Pulver geladen.
Preiskurant franco. (112)
Otto Bock, Berlin, Kronenstr. 7.

An Otto Bock advertisement from an early 1890's issue of the *Deutsches Jäger Zeitung*



Otto Bock,
Berlin W., Kronenstr. 7.
Goldene Medaille Berlin 1886. Goldene Medaille Cassel 1889.

Ausstopfen
von Vögeln, Säugthieren, Thierpfoten in bekannter norwägischer Ausführung. Liebhaber können meine
Kleider jederzeit beschäftigen und sich von der sorgfältigen Arbeit überzeugen.

irschhornwaren-Fabrik.
Anfertigung sämtlicher Detonationsgegenstände aus irschhorn. Gedröhtes Lager sämtlicher Arten
irschgewebe, Rehtonen, Antilopenhörner u. c. (2013)

Aufsehen
von irschgeweben und Rehtonen auf gedrehte oder geschnitzte Schäfte, auch nach eingel. Mustern.

Bildhauerei
für irsch- und Rehhörse. Nachschneiden von irsch- und Rehtonen.
Niederlage der **Gewehrfabrik W. Collath**, Frankfurt a. D.
Collath'sche Drillinge, Doppelflinten u. c. in reicher Auswahl vorräthig. Sämtliche zu diesen
Gewehren gehörige Munition.

Patronen mit rauchlosem Pulver (Holzpulver) mit und ohne Schrotladung empfehle
als bis jetzt anerkannt unübertroffenes Fabrikat für Ventralfeuer- und Lehnwegerwehre.
Patronen mit Schwarzpulver werden in der Fabrik von **W. Gärtler** in Reichenstein
mit Silbermarken geladen und werden mit und ohne Schrotladung abgegeben.
Sämtliche Jago- und Munitions-Artikel stets am Lager.
Preisliste gratis und franco.

Another advertisement from the 1893 issue of the *Deutsches Jäger Zeitung*

Well known amongst hunters, he is celebrating the 25th anniversary of his business which he founded in 1883. His reputation as a gunmaker, taxidermist and antler specialist, made him famous all over the world.

In 1883, he drew attention of the canine club HEKTOR, for exhibiting stuffed animals so realistic that he was honoured by the judges with a medal, which was never bestowed on anybody.

Out Of The Closet

(By Hendrik Van Der Schyff)

I grew up walking behind my father, with him carrying, amongst others, the 'nine-three'. My father was a great hunter; at least in my eyes, so was my grandfather.

My father was born in the mopane bushveld north of the Soutpansberg Mountains in Limpopo Valley, from direct descendants from Voortrekker stock who trekked through wilderness to avoid British oppression. They tried to trade for land first in Natal where they stood their ground against the murderous Zulu chief Dingaan, but they choose to settle much further north.



During the late 1800's my ancestors traded land from the ba-Vhenda chief, Ramapulana, in the Soutpansberg and settled on a prime and peaceful piece of land right on top of the mystical Soutpansberg Mountains where their marked graves still lie to this day as is the remains of their humble abode.

[Author's father with plains zebra hunted with .22 Mauser out of necessity after all other rifles were confiscated by South African government during 1939-1947]

Since 1929 my grandfather was a pioneering farmer not far from the Shashe-Limpopo River confluence, where the borders of Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and the Betchuana Protectorate (Botswana) meet with the South African border, an area which became known as the Dongola.

My father started hunting for a living at the age of nine and farmed independently in what was then wild country in the Limpopo Valley only ten years later. At age nineteen. Some of the tools he used to tame the wilderness with was a 577 BSA Martini rifle. He later used a No. 1 Mk III 303 Lee Enfield which was confiscated during WWII. By law, during

A 1930's Safari With 9.3X62

(By Mrs. Senator Dr Steenkamp)

An extraction from the book: I Conclude – Dr Senator Steenkamp



"There lay the three bulls, side by side, upon the earth."

To reach the hunting ground of Portuguese East Africa, one takes the train to Beira, the great harbour on the east coast of Africa. One then travels for 200 miles on the Nyasaland railway to Caia, whence we travelled by lorry beside the Zambesi, the wide, mighty river, for 43 miles to Marrameu, the great sugar factory of the Senna sugar Plantations on the riverbanks.

Here I could hardly believe my eyes, as I gazed upon no less than seventeen thousand morgens, planted with nothing but sugar cane, which fed the factory that, employed four thousand natives.

The banks of the Zambesi here are low, so that when the river is in flood, it overflows them and then for miles and miles the land is under water. For this reason, the dwellings of both white and black inhabitants are built on piles; those of the white man on pillars of cement, those of the

Portuguese East Africa

(By Harry Flederman)

September 1936

AL 958 785 96-850


Governo do Território da Companhia de Moçambique
COMISSÃO DE CAÇA

Licença especial de Caça n.º 5

1.ª CLASSE 108,00
Taxa ~~24500~~

Emitida na Circunscrição de Luanshya

O portador, Senhor Harry Flederman
de nacionalidade Britânica, profissão engenheiro electricista
possuidor da licença de uso e porte de arma n.º 29 da Circunscrição
de Luanshya, está autorizado a caçar em todo o Território
da Companhia de Moçambique, nos termos do artigo 37.º do Regulamento de Caça
em vigor, aprovado pelo Decreto n.º 26-076 de 21 de Novembro de 1935, durante
o período de 1 de Maio a 31 de Outubro, os animais indicados nas tabelas B, C, D e E
impressas no verso desta licença.

Secretaria da Circunscrição de Luanshya em Luanshya,
a 05 de Setembro de 1936.

O Chefe da Circunscrição, isto

Assinatura do portador,
Harry Flederman



Enviar uma cópia à Comissão de Caça.

Killed By (Unwounded) Buffalo

(By Hendrik Van Der Schyff)



[Maj Bosman with the buffalo on the front cover of this Journal and mentioned in the text. Its horns measured 56 ½" - Photo Jan Joubert]

On a visit to Jan Joubert of Krugersdorp, I discovered a tale of interesting events, of both excitement and of tragedy. Jan showed me a small article he has saved since the late forties. I quote this small article documented by South African, The Star, newspaper sometimes during 1939 [exact date unknown - Ed]:

Tanganyika Trails

The 9.3X62 in East Africa

(Hendrik Van Der Schyff, with Adie de Beer)

Although I now live in South Africa in the south of Pretoria, I was actually born as a direct descendant of the 1899 – 1903 Boer Pioneers who moved further on into Dark Africa after the 1899 – 1902 Anglo-Boer War, German East Africa (Tanzania currently).

We farmed in the Mbulu area near the Oldiani village. The district was then known as Kambi ya Nyoka, about nine miles away from the world-famous Ngorongoro Crater. My father, Gert de Beer, was the brother of the then world-renowned game catcher, Willie de Beer. During the 1950s, Willie was known even in international circles for his game-capturing ventures. Thus, I was involved in game capturing and hunting since my childhood days.

I am very fond of the nine-three and it has a story. Before it became my rifle, it belonged to Gert Pretorius. Gert Pretorius was known for scouting for the Allied Forces along with famous Major P.J. Pretorius [of Jungle Man fame] during the 1914 – 1917 East African Campaign.

Years later, Gert Pretorius was caught poaching ivory in Kenya and subsequently lost his 9.3X62 rifle in the confiscation process during the arrest. My uncle, Attie, was a member of the Tanganyika Police those years and was allowed to buy the rifle on a police auction. But the rifle was light and had the nasty habit of kicking its shooter on the cheek. Because of that peculiarity, Uncle Attie sold the rifle to my father, who gave it to me for my 21st birthday. The nine-three became part of my existing battery consisting of an 8x60 Mauser and a 404 Jefferies. But the nine-three and I became great friends on many hunts since then. As a matter of fact, when we immigrated to South Africa during the early 1960s during the [UHURU uprising – Ed], the nine-three was the only rifle of my battery that I brought along.

Osa Johnson's Oberndorf Mauser 9.3X62

(By Norm Angell)



*[Osa Johnson's Type A Oberndorf Mauser 9.3X62
with 24-inch/60cm barrel]*



Martin and Osa Johnson were the first and most prolific filmmakers in Africa (from 1921 to 1938). Every reader has seen their film clips in countless Hollywood movies from many Tarzans to King Solomon's Mines and Disney productions. They made 21 exploration and nature films as well as writing an equal number of books.

Osa learned to shoot as a girl on the Kansas plains. She was accomplished with rifle and shotgun before she married Martin when she was only 16 years of age. Naturally, of the two, she became the hunter!

Martin manned the hand-cranked motion picture cameras as Osa protected him with her 9.3X62 Mauser. On many occasions Martin evoked dangerous charges and Osa had to shoot the beast at close quarters.

Reminiscing the 9.3X62 Mauser

(By Don Forrester)



[Don Forrester with an elephant bull hunted with his 375 H&H - Don Forrester]

I still remember on one of my first buffalo hunts with the 9.3, I ran after a trophy bull. He stopped about 35 yards in front of me, turning sideways and presenting a perfect shoulder shot. I stopped, aimed and fired, but nothing happened. After reloading another cartridge, the same thing happened again, and when checking the rifle, I realized that I had accidentally pressed the stock safety catch on. Of course, the buffalo wasn't going to give me a third chance. In the early Fifties I sold my old worn-out 6.5 Portuguese Mauser rifle and purchased this new Carl Walther 9.3X62 rifle. My rifle then had the Mauser 98 action and an extra safety catch through the pistol grip of the stock. The first thing I did after that incident with the buffalo was to disconnect that safety catch.



[Original Kynoch ammunition Don Had used then. FMJ left and Soft Nosed right – Ed Photo Collection]

I tried lighter RWS 258gr H-Mantel bullets for longer shots. This worked well, but the fast- expanding bullet was not a success for our type of game. I tried DWM solids, which performed well but were difficult to obtain. Nickel-plated RWS solids were readily available and performed well. I thus ended up shooting most of my game with solids. Once I shot a reedbuck at about 30 yards behind the shoulder with 9.3 solid. The shot had no immediate effect, as the animal just stood and looked at me. After another two shots the reedbuck dropped. When I checked, all three shots had been perfectly placed in the vital area, with small exit holes on the opposite side and very little bleeding. In the late Fifties 9.3 ammunition was becoming difficult to obtain and one had very little choice. One could only obtain factory ammunition in those days, and few knew anything about reloading.

As my main interest was now elephant and buffalo, I changed to the larger calibre 375 H&H Magnum rifle. With this rifle I now had a choice of different types of ammunition and different bullet weights. I could take longer shots at normal game and have better bullet penetration on elephant and buffalo with heavier 300gr solids.



My choice of rifle would be the 375 H&H, but I must admit that other than bullet failure my 9.3 never let me down.

[The RWS Full Metal Jacket Don refers to in the text- Ed Photo Collection]

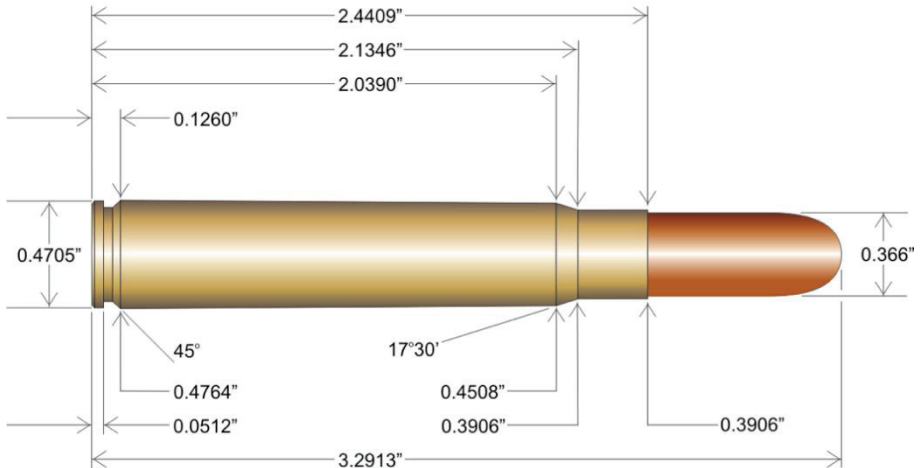
The 9.3 often pleasantly surprised me with the way it performed with its medium velocity bullets on big game. Once I did a hunt with two guys who owned a 375 H&H and a 350 Rigby express. The two guys had an argument as to which rifle had greater

9.3X62 Mauser

(By Pierre van der Walt – copyright)

9,3 x 62mm Mauser

Copyright: Pierre van der Walt



History

Here in Africa where the serious game roams, we have historically drooled over the 9.3X62mm Mauser. It is also held in high regard in Europe. The Americans on the other hand have never had much of a love affair with virtually metric cartridges, but the 9.3mm.366" bore cartridges in particular.

The closest they ever came to it had been the .364" (9,25mm) .35-30 Maynard of 1873 vintage. Around 1880 the Swiss also experimented with a 9,2x56,7mmR Rubin cartridge that fired a .364" diameter bullet. This is a pity because it is an excellent bear and moose cartridge.

9.3X62 Hunderd Jährig

(By Hendrik Van Der Schyff)

21 May 2005 was a historical day burnt into South Africa's hunting history. Amidst the somber background of the unjust internationally imposed and locally supported Firearms Control Act, enthusiasts of this age-old work horse in the African hunting scene gathered at PMP's shooting range in Pretoria West to celebrate this classic's 100th year.



[Two classic 9.3X62 rifles belonging to Faan Zeelie and Pieter Oberholzer- Ed Photo Collection]

Firearm expert and fellow hunting rifle enthusiast, George Hamman from Aliwal-North, had initiated the possibility of the Centenary in late 2004 already and phoned me to test my opinion on the feasibility of such a day.

Is The 9.3x62 Still Relevant?

(By Hendrik Van Der Schyff, with Sampie Dippenaar, George Hamman and Agom Prinsloo)



[Sampie Dippenaar's two fine FN rifles described and used in the test - Ed Photo Collection]

9.3X62 Centenary Continued

After 100 years in the hunting veldt, the 9.3X62 Mauser has reached a grand old age. But is it still relevant?

During the early colonial days in Africa, this modest old classic became legendary and was used by many hunters, some famous, others less known and mostly so with a single bullet weight of 286gr. Modest or not, this cartridge had something that gave it a certain balance that is very sought after by many hunters and because of that it held its own with monotonous success amongst more impressive magnum cartridges with breath-taking ballistics.



[Without shifting the 100m zero point-of-aim, the drop of the old-style 30-06 bullet is significantly more than the modern high BC 250gr 9.3 Nosler Ballistic Tip at almost same launching velocities- Ed photo Collection]

In recent years, there has been an explosion in bullet development both in South Africa and abroad. South African bullet-makers brought out some excellent lighter hunting bullets with good BC values,

mostly in the 230gr class, that would be good alternatives for the otherwise expensive and very scarce 9.3 Nosler and Norma bullets.

- Peregrine Plainsmaster Vrg 4 230gr**
- Frontier Spartan 235gr monolithic HP**
- GS Custom HV 230gr monolithic HP**
- Rhino Solid Shank 235gr**

Any of these bullets can easily be loaded to deliver 2600fps Muzzle Velocity.

Something to think about: Reduced Loads but Same Performance.

Why not use any of the above “light” mono bullets but with 286gr loads? Most conventional (cup-and-lead-core) bullets tend to lose at least 20%

Hunting & Shooting Life Of A Critical Observer With The Perfect, Imperfect 9.3X62mm Mauser

(By Pierre van der Walt)

I like dark-haired women with athletic bodies – by definition they have moderate chest dimensions and somewhat muscular, but well-proportioned arms and legs. My own son is a Baywatch boy. He likes heavy cow udders on his blonde bombs. To me his girls look as ungainly as upside down pyramids totally devoid of any gyroscopic stability.

My point is – taste differs. So, it is with cartridges. Some guys like the 9.3X62mm Mauser. Others prefer the 375H&H Magnum. What irritates me immensely is the fact that neither group of supporters likes to see the sun shine over the other. A South African PH-cum-gun writer was nearly burnt on the stake because he dared utter the alleged blasphemy that the 9.3X62mm was not without shortcomings. Each fan club respectively claims magical powers for its favourite son. That is nonsense. Both are just cartridges, and both are limited by the parameters of simple physics.

In defence of the 9.3X62mm fan club I must place on record that they have not claimed that their darling shoots through seven eland and then some That does say something – does it not?



[The author's beautiful 9.3X62 built on a Brno ZG47 action - Pierre van der Walt]

9.3X62 VS 375 Holland & Holland (H&H)

(By Hendrik Van Der Schyff)

Part One

The 9.3X62 Mauser was invented for Africa as a “light big bore” and was introduced in 1905 for use by struggling farmers in German African colonies.



[Illustration with compliments of Mauser]

Big Ones From The 9mm Corral

(By Dr Lucas Potgieter)

The Deadly 9.3X62 Mauser

On the way between Lusaka [the Zambian capital] and the “Copper Belt” lies the village, Broken Hill. The current name of this little town is Kabwe. Uncle Jan Rossouw used to farm 180km north of Broken Hill on the way to Kitwe. I spent an evening at the Hotel Broken Hill with the Watsons discussing rugby. (Their son, Ken Watson, used to play fly half for the South African Western Province rugby team.).

Next morning, I was on Uncle Jan Rossouw’s farm. We went to an area about 50km east from Mumbwa, close to the Kafue National Park. I was still young, impetuous and inexperienced in the hunting fields and my shooting iron was a 404 Jeffries. Uncle Jan’s rifle was a 9.3X62 Mauser with which he was a crack shot.

The first morning we hunted into a low-lying area. I was a bit uneasy as this was big game country and my experience then was rather thin. We found fresh buffalo tracks a few kilometers from camp. It was a big herd. Not 20m on, we found fresh droppings, indicating that the herd was close, real close.

Uncle Jan drew lazily on his pipe to test the direction of the wind and said, “You can shoot first, I’m sure you want to test your new rifle?” I would be lying if I said I wasn’t a bit scared. My 404 started to feel like a 303.

We turned left [walking parallel to the spoor] and after a 2km hike we turned right again. If the buffalo didn’t graze too hastily, we would now be downwind and could close in on them without being detected. We barely walked 200m when my heart started somersaulting.

Not 50m away I saw a bull quietly grazing. Uncle Jan also saw the bull. However, it must have spotted us too because it now stood facing us. “I

The Best All-Round African Rifle

(By Doctari)



[My Brno 9.3X62mm and a nice Zambezi Valley hippo bull, taken with a single brain shot with a 300-grain Stewart Hi-Performer.]

In the early 1980's I shot my first buffalo with a battered old .303 Lee-Enfield and five military FMJs. At that time, newly independent Zimbabwe had just started to export substantial quantities of its high-quality beef to the lucrative European Economic Union markets. As the local veterinarian and a struggling-to-get-established cattle rancher in north-western Mashonaland, I was heavily involved in this industry – so when this shot-in- amongst-my-own-cattle buffalo tested positive for the dreaded foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), I was justifiably proud of my achievement. This was something I foolishly made known in my monthly veterinary report to the Karoi Farmers Association.

“You’re a bloody idiot, but a lucky one,” was the comment of Jack Waddle, a local tobacco farmer with loads of big game hunting

Favourite Rifles And Terminal Performance

9.3X62 Mauser

(By: Dr Mauritz Coetsee, with Joe Lubbe)



[A fine dagha-boy hunted with Joe Lubbe's 9.3X62]

From an African point of view, certain cartridges seem to occupy a much firmer footing than others.

The 9.3X62 Mauser is a prime example of such a cartridge. Conceptualized as a general- purpose cartridge for farmers and hunters in the then German colonies of Africa, Otto Bock surely had a clear vision of what was needed when he designed the 9.3X62 in 1905. Since 1905, countless farmers and pioneers have used this cartridge through the length and breadth of Africa.

Numerous references can also be found in African hunting literature regarding the performance of the 9.3X62 Mauser cartridge.

compressed charges or loads. Joe uses both CCI 200 and CCI 250 primers with his reloads since primers can have a profound influence on accuracy. The versatility and deadliness of the 9.3X62 cartridge is most probably best illustrated by the early experiences of well-known retired professional hunter, Geoff Broom. He did his elephant apprenticeship with the late Cecil Bisset, an elephant hunter with vast experience and skill. Geoff was only using a 9.3X62 Mauser rifle at that time.

One experience near the Shangani and Nkai Rivers in rather thick bush whilst hunting elephant made a rather lasting experience on Geoff. Regarding the performance of his 9.3 Mauser rifle on this hunting trip Geoff has the following to say: "I had also satisfied myself that a 9.3 mm rifle with decent ammunition was quite capable of doing a good job, provided the shooter knew exactly what he was doing and had nerves of steel" (A life on Safari – p 33).

In the same book one will also find that Geoff's favourite rifle for hunting dangerous game in thick bush is nowadays the .500 Nitro Express.

Even then it would be difficult to find a more versatile all-round cartridge for African hunting than the 9.3X62 cartridge.

Reloading data:

	Case	Bullet	Propellant	Primer	Velocity
Load 1	Lapua	286gr Rhino Solid Shank	<u>S335</u> 54.5gr	CCi 250	2260 fps
Load 2	Lapua	286gr Claw Soft Nosed	<u>S335</u> 54gr	CCi 250	2200 fps
Load 3	Lapua	285gr Sako Hammerhead	<u>S335</u> 53gr	CCi 250	2270 fps
Load 4	Lapua	300gr Rhino Solid Shank	<u>S355</u> 56gr*	CCi 200	2160 fps
Load 5	Lapua	286gr Rhino Mono Solid	<u>S335</u> 52.5gr	CCi 200	2300 fps

CAUTION: Somchem Propellant S335 has a faster burning rate than S355 [- Ed]

This article was published with full acknowledgement to African Outfitter magazine.

9.3X74R

(By Dr Mauritz Coetsee, with Mario Serradino)



[Mario with everyone's dream, a good dagha boy - Mario Serradino]

John Taylor proclaimed rather explicitly, that any double rifle in the .450 -.470 group were just about ideal for stopping a charge from any animal. This

would include the .450 Nitro Express, the .500/.450 Nitro Express, the .450 No 2 Nitro Express and the .470 Nitro Express.

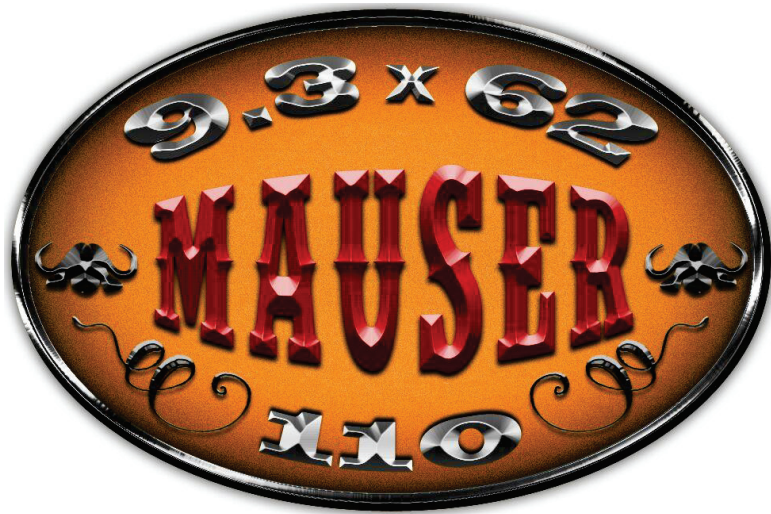
Quite frankly, there is a certain feeling one gets when you open the breech of one of the old English doubles. About five years ago, we did some load development with an original .450 3/4-inch Rigby side-lock double. This rifle had been built in 1914 and came standard with an extra set of .375 H&H Magnum barrels. With a little bit of luck and persistence we managed to regulate this double to perfection at 50 metres / 55 yards. A great deal of satisfaction accompanied every time two 'fresh' cartridges were put in each chamber of this rifle.

Yet, in spite of the potent terminal nature of these big English cartridges, some riflemen and hunters prefer the option of a lighter and sleeker double rifle in a smaller calibre designation. I have seen and handled a few Army & Navy doubles chambered for the .450/.400 Nitro Express (3" and 3 1/4"), which in terms of a performance factor of a 400-grain bullet at approximately 2 150 feet per second, were quite easy to handle recoil wise and also to carry due to the overall weight of the rifle.

9.3x62 Mauser – 110 Years And Beyond

(By Hendrik Van Der Schyff - Revisiting the “Old Farm Horse”)

Part 1



“We have an array of cartridges, both rifle and pistol, that are loaded with old obsolete, outmoded and ancient numbers that ought to be put out to pasture.” – Col. Charles Askins, “Current Cartridges: Progress or Put off?” (Guns & Ammo, November 1977)

At the time Charles Askins wrote this article, it was rather universally accepted that the 9.3X62 cartridge was not yet discovered by the American hunter at large and was as dead as the dodo anywhere else, including its place of birth.

But no, this is not yet an obituary for the “nine-comma- three” and I’m not saying that Col. Askins spoke about the 9.3X62 in particular. This script is rather a song or even an echo of a lingering ballade for the only

Africa Dreaming - With My 9,3x74

(By Luigi Silvestre)



At 80m a good trophy came out of the bush walking away slowly and mingled with the rest of the herd. The PH put the stick in place and told me to shoot the third buffalo that would come out of a thicket, as it had a good horn boss. I was calm when I slipped off the safety and started to follow the bull through the 1.5-4 scope, determined to kill that buffalo with the first shot. As it walked into the open quartering away, I placed the bullet from the right barrel a little behind the right shoulder quartering towards the offset shoulder. At the shot my bull disappeared with the rest of the herd...

“Are you sure you shot the right one...?” standing right next to me and following the action through his binoculars, the PH asked.

I didn't reply as I felt that I had placed the bullet well.

We quietly moved to the spot where the buffalo was when I took the shot, but we couldn't find any blood and the PH was certain that I had missed. We commenced walking on the trail nevertheless and found the buffalo

“Larga Vida Al 9.3X62 Mauser!”

(By Luis A. Ortega Oribe)



At about 60m and almost indistinguishable behind a line of bushes, a big sow was running fast at the top of a rocky slope above me. She crossed a small rocky area and entered the brush. Shooting upwards at an angle, I could follow her through my scope as she ran past from my right to my left. I was vaguely aware of the 9.3's recoil when she vanished deeper behind the brush, so I could not see whether I had killed her or not. Three dogs arrived in hot pursuit, and upon reaching her turned back to the hunt, and I assumed that she was down. The hunt was still on and “hot” with dogs barking, so I had to remain in my position for two long hours to know for sure whether the sow was there or not. It turned out I had shot her dead through the bushes with a shot just behind the shoulders. The 291gr projectile not only smashed through the brush, but also exited the sow at the opposite side of the thorax with authority, keeping a true course.

When I was born in Spain, in the early sixties of the twentieth century, the country was just coming out of a long, hard, post-civil war period,

The Hunting Cartridge

For those less attracted by ballistics and theory, who just go out and hunt and don't seem to need any more "gun", the ubiquitous .30-06 wins hands down. They can find cheap ammo anywhere; most of them don't even care what kind or brand.

Then, there are the magnum-lovers. They appreciate the extra blow given to the quarry, often manifested in wasted meat, do not seem to care about the increase in recoil and have an attitude of "nothing beats their magnum". They can shoot at any animal which dares to trot or run at ranges up to 300m away. These big-bodied cartridges give them perceived extra powers. 7mm Rem Mag, .300 Win Mag, .338 Win Mag and some of the new, fat, short magnums (.270 WSM, 7 WSM and .300 WSM), are among the most common ones.

Even today, European cartridges are, mainly "reserved" for those with ample knowledge of rifles and ballistics. They (we) are a rare breed of tradition-lovers who tend to appreciate the "magic" in those one-hundred-plus-years-old cartridges. The mystique about them attracts us as much as their efficiency. As the proverb says, "There is nothing new under the sun." Those classic cartridges are so well devised and well balanced that it is very difficult to improve them in terms of efficiency. The ratio of power obtained to powder burnt, grain per grain, is hard to beat. They recoil just what they are supposed to, unlike some others, which kick both sides, with a lot of noise and muzzle blast, but do not kill any better.

Since our fauna is not very heavy, and when properly hit not hard to kill either, for rececho (still hunting/walk and stalk), lighter calibres are often chosen. The European 6.5x57R; 7x57 and x57R; 7x64 and x65R; and .30R Blaser are popular. Sometimes the faster cartridges with those beeline trajectories like the 6.5x65R, 6.5x68 and the new 6x62 Freres, to name just a few, coexist with the more common American .270 Win, .30-06 Spr., and of course, the long list of 7mm's and .300 magnums, classics as well as the new, fat, short cartridges. They make a lot of sense for those long shots.

9.3x62 Wanderings

(By Ryan Phelan)



[Author with a huge bushpig. The South African equivalent of the European wild boar.]

Being still fairly young, cocky and relatively inexperienced, I loaded up my 9.3X62 with four 286gr Barnes Super Solids and hopped on my motorbike to find the culprit elephant.

Once I reached the area that the fencing guys were working in, it did not take long to locate the offending bull. I parked the bike, loaded a round, and adjusted my scope power to minimum, this being 4x magnification. I started slowly after the bull, which was walking slowly into the wind in the scrub mopane.

I sensed the bull knew of my presence, but he was not too perturbed. Each time he walked I would run closer, and when he stopped to listen,

Hammer

(By Hendrik Van Der Schyff, with Henk Coetzee)



One of the challenging hunts we had together, my son Jandr  and I, was on a problem crocodile that had turned to dining on farmers' cattle. After a day of hide and seek, we spotted the devious lizard where it had crawled out to sun itself. This first and only opportunity for the whole day was a shot across 140m of dam. When the Barnes-X hammered it smack through the neck, the big reptile gave a spasmodic shudder and died on the spot.

Something interesting happened when we arrived at the carcass after struggling to get around the dangerous waters. Cautiously approaching the lizard from the tail end, I gave it a suspicious kick. Its jaws suddenly snapped open and shut in one last violent spasm, giving us quite a fright to remember.

There are not many things that tradesmen hate more than tools that bite. When I sold my 375 H&H for exactly that reason and had a 30-06 built for me, I felt both relief and excitement and could not wait to use my new custom rifle. Never did I think that I would experience disappointment in two fine rifles in calibres propagated so widely such as these choices I made.

My “Little” Big Game Rifle

(By Hendrik Diederiks)

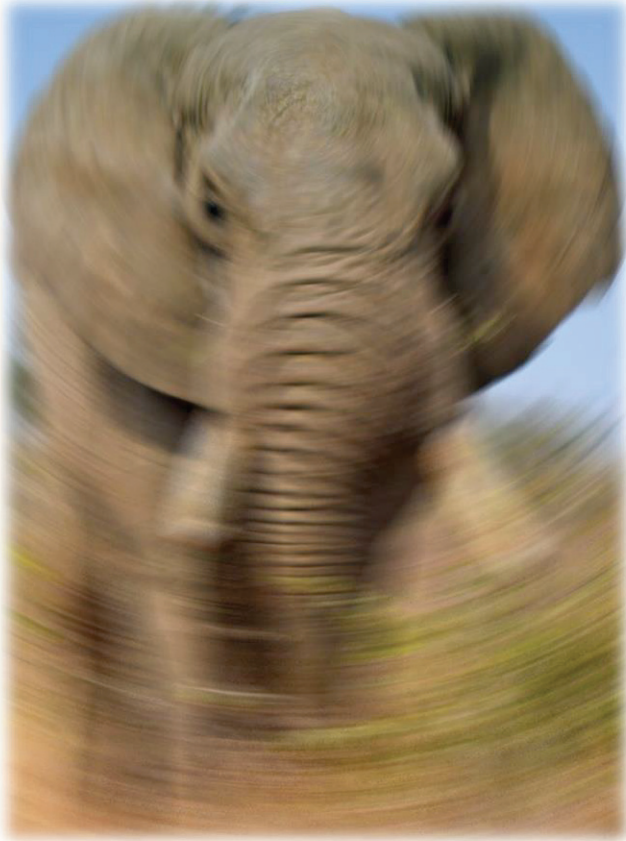


Everyone daydreams about a special rifle calibre. Mine was the 35 Whelen. That was until friends introduced me to the 9.3X62. The “nine-three”, as everyone calls it, is now more than 110 years old. Some hunting friends have asked me why I prefer to hunt with a 9.3X62 and my answer has always been, “If I have to explain, you would not understand.”

After my visit to Nimrod, a gun shop in Middelburg, South Africa in 1996, I did more research on the old nine-three and realized that it would do exactly what I wanted. After acquiring a 1937 Obendorf Mauser action and a pre-finished stock, I began building my nine-three in more ways than one. With a gunstock and action in hand I “hunted” and “stalked” a lot of imaginary antelope there in my apartment in Sunnyside, Pretoria, much to my wife’s frustration and entertainment. She and my friends were sure I had lost my marbles and even today they would make a

The Conflict Nine-Three

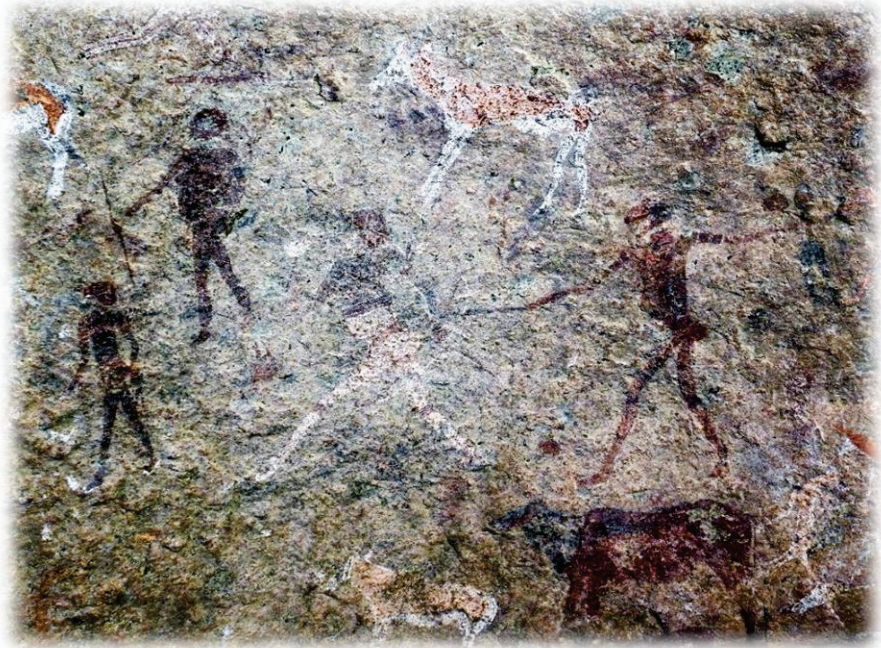
(By Hendrik Van Der Schyff, with Hercules Botha)



Through the ages of cartridge development, some cartridges had built solid reputations of unexpected working performance that do not relate to their obvious humble dimensions and ballistic calculations. To quickly name a few I can think of the .22 Long Rifle, .22 Hornet, 6.5x54 Mannlicher Schönauer, 7x57 Mauser/275 Rigby, 303 British and 416 Rigby. The 9.3X62 Mauser just happens to be such a cartridge as well.

Namibia Nuances - My Brief Experience With The 9.3x62

(By Carl Mitchell)



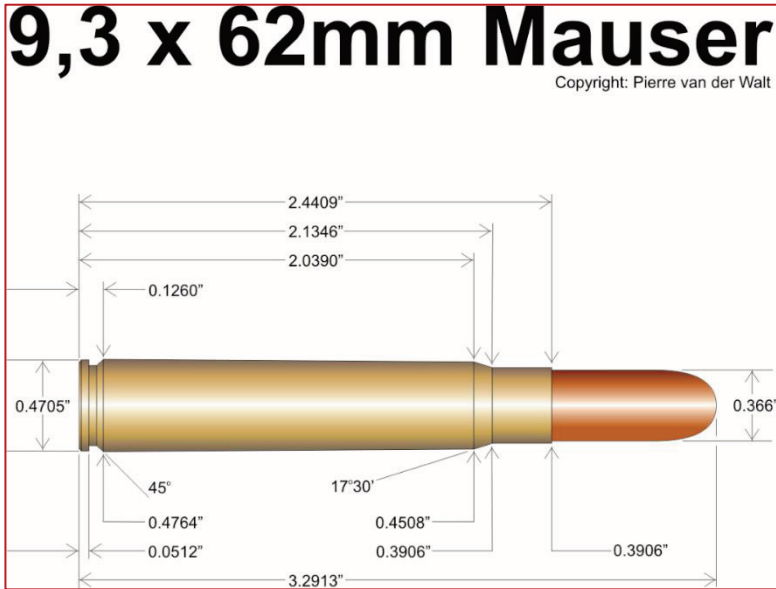
[“White Lady” Bushman Paintings in Damaraland North-East Namibia - Ed Photo Collection]

Finally, an older stallion gave me a clear shot at the top of his "Sergeant's stripes" on the shoulder. I lost sight of the zebra in the recoil; the only time I did so on the trip that I can recall, which suggests that perhaps I wasn't holding the rifle firmly. I pulled the shot low, and consequently missed the Sergeant's stripes and for a moment I believed that I had missed altogether. My shot fortunately hit very near the heart, although I didn't know that at the time was it not for Hagen who confirmed that I had shot low. If I had been sure I had missed completely I would not have worried, but I was concerned that I might have wounded the zebra.

Living With The Nine Three

(By Hendrik Van Der Schyff)

Part One - The Light Big Bore



[Figure illustration by Pierre van der Walt]

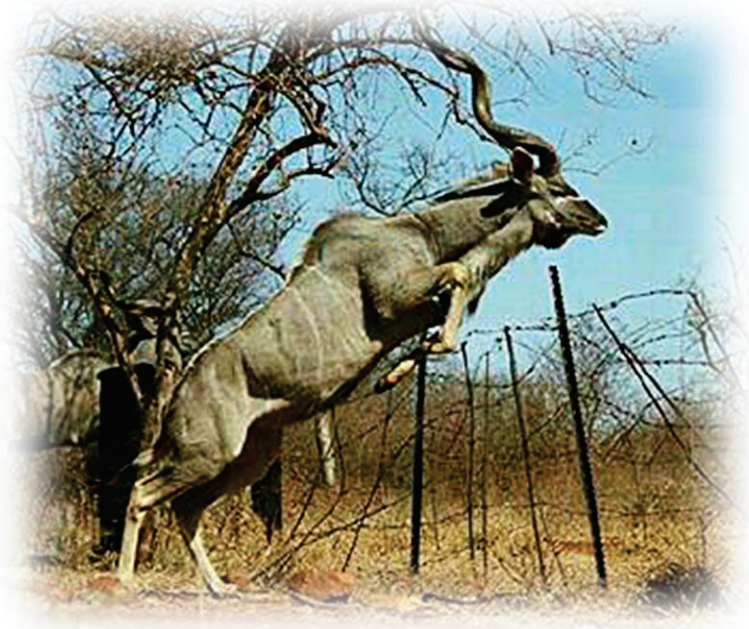
To the ignorant and uninformed Internet forum lecturer and student, the 9.3X62 Mauser is just another cartridge. It is totally misunderstood and underrated by the current “knowledgeable”.

It made its official comeback in the shooting world right at the peak of the latest high velocity craze.

It frustrates the new generation that, in its original form, “old-Legend” shoots a rather heavy bullet in comparison and scale to its rather small case size, consequently; they expected a “beast” of a cartridge with laser-like trajectory that generates 7000ft/lbs of energy, that’s more fitting to its legend.

Part Three - Trajectory Curve And Bullet Drop

With one graceful leap over the cattle fence, the bull disappeared



“The old 9.3X62 is a fine cartridge..., its only limitation being its modest velocity and its resultant trajectory curve.” - : (Craig Boddington, Any Shot You Want. 1996)

I was standing next to my older brother when a magnificent kudu bull stepped into the clearing of the cattle fence-line. It was far. Like a statue it stood, offering a full broadside shot. The plume of dust kicked up beneath the kudu by the 286gr RWS RN Vollmantelgeschoss [FMJ- Ed], confirmed that the shot went low. Way too low. With a graceful leap over the cattle fence, the bull disappeared.



Although the bonding held, the recovered bullet was turned inside-out and was lodged inside the opposite shoulder without breaking it ... Yes there is such a thing as over expansion. Over-expansion hampers penetration.



[Claw bullet deformation at close range]

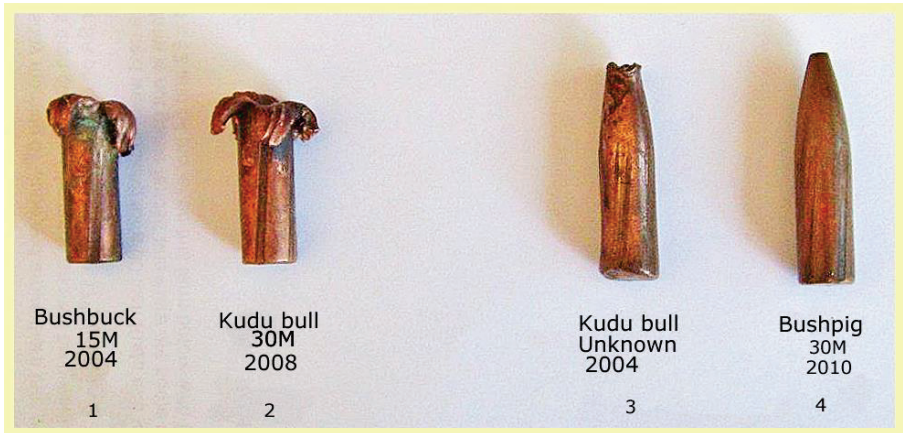
On a hunt during 2003 a friend of mine had almost the same experience with 286 grain (non-premium) Claw bullet shot at only 2200fps on a blue wildebeest cow. She was partly obscured behind brush, and he

broke her spine with his first shot, anchoring her at the spot. At about 60 meters the bullet fully penetrated. He ran closer and finished her off with a brain shot at about 6 meters. The second bullet totally disintegrated inside the brain, not even reaching the neck vertebrae.

Note: None of these situations were out of control and was settled immediately with no lengthy follow ups. In defence of the Claw bullet, I must at this stage mention about an eland heifer I hunted during 2003 using 286gr Claw bonded bullets at same velocity as above. She was at

9.3 Barnes-X On Buffalo - Bullet Failure Continue

(By Mauritz Rood)



[Mauritz Rood]

I am a strong believer in the Barnes X bullets and have used them extensively in my .223,30-06, .416 Rigby and my .458, all recovered bullets showed good expansion.

When Barnes launched their X Bullet in 9.3mm I bought some immediately as there were not good bullets available at the time for the 9.3. I load them with 52g of Somchem S335 for 2270ft per second.

No 1 on the pic, I shot a Bushbuck in the Eastern Cape, distance about 15m, (I was having a leak against a tree and when I looked up the bushbuck was staring at me), the bullet entered just below the neck and was found on the inside of the hind leg.

No 2 on the pic, Kudu bull in Alldays, distance about 30m, the bullet entered on the left shoulder and was found just under the skin on the stomach on the right side.

If you have Sako's Powerhead ammunition loaded with Barnes TSX bullets, you are sorted for serious action - Courtesy SAKO.



[180gr Impala HV- Ed Photo Collection]

Impala Ammunition loads their flat shooting indestructible 180gr Monolithic High Velocity All Rounder bullet which includes those longer shots. Being of monolithic design, this adapted wad cutter bullet is one of the few exceptions on fast and light bullets that can be used over close bush ranges.

Norma has been manufacturing good factory ammunition for the 9.3X62 for ages. A good one today is Norma's 286gr bonded Oryx for tough, heavy animals. Friend George Hamman used the 286 grainers and he speaks highly of it when medium to kudu/elk sized game comes into the equation. So did Journal contributor Hendrik Diederiks and he is very satisfied.

Norma is also offering a 325gr Oryx load that would not disappoint on heavy animals in the 9.3X62. It is designed to deform but never to separate jacket from core material with good weight retention for good penetration.

[RWS Uni Classic Ammunition for the 9.3x64 - Ed photo collection]

RWS is synonymous with ammunition for the 9.3X62 and it seems as if they had a "retake" on their range of ammunition. RWS's range of popular soft nosed bullets,



Part Eight – Bullets For Heavy Game

(By Hendrik Van Der Schyff)



[Somewhere beyond that mountain of bone, lies the brain the size and shape of a football - Ed Photo Collection]

On heavy bushveld animals like kudu, wildebeest, waterbuck, hartebeest where shots are taken over 20 to 150 meters, the 9.3X62 is very forgiving. However, one should also make a careful choice if high impact velocity (as in close range hunting) is in the equation. 286gr is optimum.

At this point, I strongly suggest that you study several illustrated books on Shot Placement, such as *The Perfect Shot*-by Kevin Robertson.

Preferably use only the very best bonded soft nosed or controlled expanding bullets not less than 230gr with good reputation.

Swift A-Frame, Nosler Partition, Sako Hammerhead, Norma Oryx, Rhino Solid shank, Barnes-TSX and Woodleigh PP bullets are all good.



[Highland AX/Prvi Partisan 286gr SP @ 2220fps]

Mass retained (gr):	266gr	149gr	271gr
% retained	93.3%	52.3%	95.1%
Animal hunted	Impala	Bluewildebeest	Impala



[Hornady Interlock 285gr @ 2220 fps]

Mass retained (gr):	201gr	163gr	182gr	153gr
% retained	70.5%	57.2%	63.9%	53.7%
Animal hunted	Bluewildebeest			

Launched at around +2880fps, the 180gr LWHV yields 3315ft/lbs of Muzzle Energy. With a 200yd zero, it flies 2"/5cm high at 100yds.

- At 300 yds, its velocity is down to 1941fps with 1506ft/lbs of energy with 9"/22.8cm of drop.
- At 400 yds, its velocity is down to 1677 fps with 1125ft/lbs of energy with a 27.3"/69.3cm of drop.

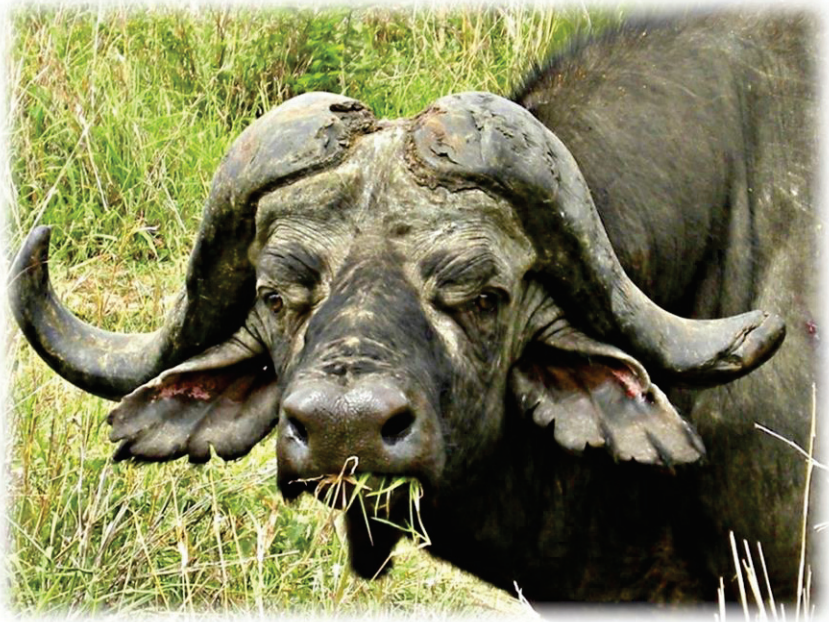


[Note: The Peregrine VRG4 Plainsmaster is discontinued Ed]

Remember that the Impala LWHV bullet is not an expanding bullet that needs velocity to deform, but a “**cutter**”. That means, it won’t bounce off, but it will still cut deep with a high bleed-out, at lower velocities... Journal contributor, Hendrik Diederiks loads 59grains of Somchem S321 with a velocity of 2880fps and groupings of 8mm [0.315"! - Ed]. [Somchem S321 is very similar to AA 2230 and Adi AR 2206– Ed.]

The Happy Medium – Contemplating The All-Round Cartridge

(By: Hendrik Van Der Schyff)



[Out stalking a price warthog tusker, you round a bush and find old grumpy here staring you in the eye. - Ed Photo Collection]

Fair enough, I admit, an all-round cartridge is not for anyone, neither is such a cartridge understood by everyone. Certainly not for someone who affords to run after every fad or big-bore fashion or anyone that feel under-equipped with anything less than the latest “Wildcat” or AR and/or long-range thingy- ma-bob. Also admitting that “meerkat”-shooters and turkey hunters are also not counted in as well...

An all-round cartridge is for the thinking, practical man out there who wears his rifle like he wears his boots. He knows what and how to make

Notes On Penetration

(By Hendrik Van Der Schyff)



[Author's father, Willie Van Der Schyff (left) and Steve van der Walt (right), both were pioneering farmer/hunters in the Limpopo Valley and legends of the Dongola. They are burning powder at the exact spot where author and his brother was shooting from as described in the text. The abandoned village was at the tree line in the right of the picture]

An abandoned native village lie below us at an unknown distance. The ramp-sight on the old No1 Mk3 Enfield rifle was set on 400 yds. Aiming at the mud wall, 12 inches thick, of one of the houses, I just could not miss that wall. I worked through the 2nd stage pull on the trigger and the 174-gr military spitzer bullet kicked up a puff of dust well 80 yards this side of the abandoned village. I worked the bolt again and aimed higher. Boom...! Aiming at the same wall, Rudi, my older brother was shooting his 9.3X62 right next to me and the 286gr RWS Round Nose Solid puffed up dust right on the wall. He must have used the 400-meter adjustment on the Mauser instead, whereas the Enfield was incremented in Yards.

Exploring Projectile Construction

(By Hendrik Van Der Schyff)



[286gr PMP ProAmm bullet dissected - Ed Photo Collection]

Bullet placement counts for more than does the name of the maker. You could argue that shape, speed and manufacturing tolerances affect placement. But bullets and ammunition are so carefully produced now (thanks to a competitive market!) that just about any bullet will center the vitals if your aim is true and the shot well executed. Of course, “terminal ballistics” matter too. A bullet must upset predictably and drive deep after the strike. But hunter expectations and preferences differ. Some want bullets to exit, to increase blood loss on the trail. Others favour bullets that expend all their energy destroying vitals, ideally coming to rest just under offside hide. Neither group is always satisfied, as animals come in all sizes, and shot angles differ. – Wayne van Zwoll – Africa Hunting.com.

Real-World Study In 9.3X62 Projectile Behaviour

(By Dyane Horrigan)



[Scrub Bull hunted with 286 grain Nosler Partition]

Hunting and the bush have been a major part of my life, growing up in the bush there was always a rifle handy and I tried to take advantage of any spare time I had to go hunting and to this day I still do as I'm very lucky to have had a career working on and managing large cattle properties in the remote areas of the Northern Territory, The Gulf of Carpentaria and these days my wife and I manage a property on the Cape York Peninsula which is situated 8hrs from Cairns which is the most northern city on Australia's east coast. Our supplies and mail are dropped off weekly on our airstrip by the mail plane, which is essential during our four-month Wet season as all roads are regularly closed due to flooding. I don't class myself as a trophy hunter nor a provider of meat for the table, just a bloke that loves the hunt and if I happen to take a

The Anatomy Of A Charge

(With Don Heath, Willie Vermaak, John Wilks, Dale W Benson, Dayne Horrigan and Scott Forester.)



[Don Heath facing a charge. His 9.3X62 is loaded with Norma's 275gr Monolithic Solids - Don Heath]

Don Heath- Unexpected Product Test - 4 May 2012

“Had I been in a hunting area, I would have shot him at this point. Being in the national park, I kept shouting and hoped he would change his mind. At about forty paces he shook his head; no, he wasn't interested in stopping. But by the time his head steadied to permit an accurate shot, he was way too close (head was about 20 yards from me and the tips of his tusks were considerably closer). I stepped back as I fired a [275gr] Norma Solid. I lost my footing on the broken ground and went down just as the elephant collapsed in midstride. It was a perfect brain shot and he went down instantly. But 3 1/2-4 tons of elephant moving at close to 25

Going High Velocity With The 9.3X62

(By Hendrik Van Der Schyff)

"Only fools rush in where angels fear to tread...!"



[Kruger Park bull - Ed Photo Collection]

In a report Penetration on Pachyderms, in Magnum Magazine of December 2011, 9.3X62 Journal contributor, Don “Ganyana” Heath reported, about the requirements for rifles, cartridges and bullets that the professional elephant culling teams used during their operations. His vast observations came from real-world experiences over many years which he published widely and internationally. Except for his many years of experience in the Rhodesian and later Zimbabwean Parks board, Don had a master’s degree in Ecology. He was an authority on the hunting and culling of big game and was perhaps the 9.3X62’s greatest objective

Let's Go Ballistic With The 9.3X62

(By Hendrik Van Der Schyff)



[Clockwise-Winchester 286gr Powerhead, Hornady 286gr Interlock, Norma 285gr Oryx Bonded – Ed Photo Collection]

“The 9.3X62 Mauser is not quite as versatile as the .33’s or .35’, since the lightest commonly available bullet, weighs 232 grains, but with heavy bullets it works very well with moderate recoil” - John Barsness Medium Mediums January 2008 Handloader 250.

Abovementioned “revelation” of the 9.3X62’s drawback and shortcomings, by John Barsness, might seem like the whole truth at first glance. The fact is, that a lack of freely available light bullets for the light big-bore is not the fault of the 9.3X62 and neither is it a drawback for the

Can The “Nine-Three” Do That...?

(By: Hendrik Van Der Schyff)

“, what are you using the 9.3X62 for(?).... if its plains game, great. If it's your top gun and want to hunt cape buffalo, you will be a little under gunned....” – advice from a Very...? “! knowledgeable!” ...? Internet forum - “guru” on the 9.3X62 -Oct 2011.

Not that long ago, in October of 2004 a hunting writer Eric Engelbrecht reported in a popular South African hunting magazine about some unpleasant experiences in the hunting field whilst using his 9.3X62 Mauser on a one-rifle hunt in Benin Africa.

Between the lines one could read that while relating his experiences with hunting friends afterwards all his friends were ready with all kinds of remarks and expert advice similar than the quote above, regarding the inadequacy of the 9.3X62 for such an endeavour. He buckled under peer pressure with negative conclusions regarding the 9.3X62.

In the headline illustration photo of that particular article, posed a hunter holding a 500 Jeffery rifle with three cape buffalo bull lying next to each other. The photo's caption said that the hunter used his 500 Jeffery to drop the three buffalo each with one shot.

The writer then commenced and asked an open “check-mate” question (or so he thought) with regards to the 9.3X62 being “nothing but a fly-swat”,

“... can the nine-three do that?”

I am convinced that the writer was a bit pushed or lead by the “magnum-opused” editors of the magazine as well, to ask and publish such an open question.

Comparative Cartridges

(By Hendrik Van Der Schyff)

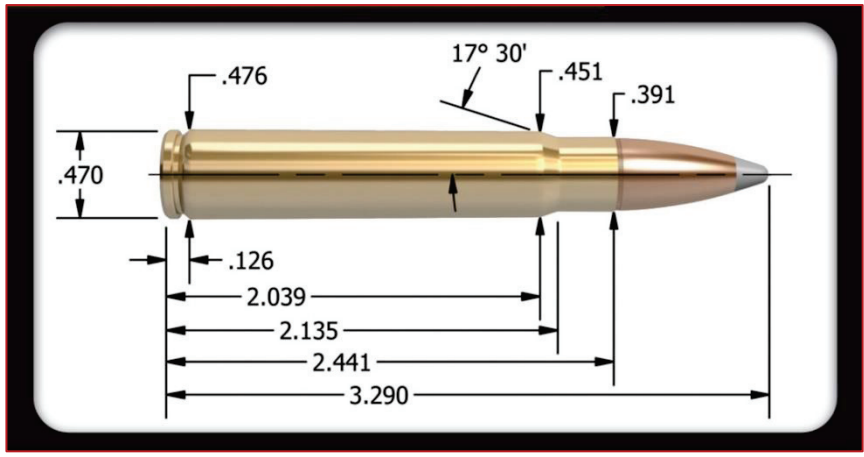


Illustration Courtesy of Nosler

Somewhere else in the book I have done my part of comparing the two greatest surviving classic medium-bore cartridges of their time - the 375H&H Magnum and the 9.3X62 Mauser. Some believe that one cannot compare Magnums with non-Magnums, because it will be comparing apples with oranges. The African hunting fields is the ultimate laboratory, but I have done so on paper, and I must confess that the comparison would be confusing to the cartridge illiterate and downright incomprehensible to the fashion conscious infantile. Most people, shooters and hunters, believe that everything that goes BANG comes from the US of A and it should hold some ballistic superiority status. This is simply not even vaguely close to the truth. There are some classic and other less classic but underrated cartridges out there.

Amongst these cartridges, the 9.3X62 is the Achilles of warriors the David amongst Goliaths and the Poor man's Express rifle amongst Magnums.

9.3 Gallery - Nine-Three Rifles I Have Met

(By Hendrik Van Der Schyff)



[Faan Zeelie's extraordinary rifle- Ed Photo collection]

Once, when meeting with the late Faan Zeelie at a Big Bore Association shoot, he introduced me to a man named Johan Zietsman. I wasn't there to attend the shoot and was minding my own business having a quiet conversation with Faan, who owns one of the most extraordinary 9.3X62 rifles I have ever seen.

This person drifted into our conversation uninvited and Faan thought it polite to introduce me to him. Faan mentioned that I like most calibres but have a special feeling towards 9.3X62 rifles, when the guy got arrogant about his choice of big bore and told me outright that the nine-three is nothing but a "pea- shooter".

I wasn't offended in the least because it really takes some to impress me. I'm just a simple person, but he did not make an impression on me, because I knew it was his lack of knowledge talking. He rambled on about his coloured shooting glasses and the yellow stuff he has to put on his 460's sights, because he can't see the sights of his bruiser when he shoots it.

I quietly smiled, to myself, because I knew his closely guarded secret: he flinches as he braces himself for that big rifle's recoil. By the time he