

# **SOUTH AFRICA - Spring 2010**

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Background:

Sverre Meisingseth is a Norwegian police officer who loves handgun hunting. Sverre has hunted more than 100 African animals with handgun over the past 10 years, including a Cape Buffalo in Zim. We started corresponding after we made contact on a hunting and shooting forum (website) and have stayed in contact ever since. Hopefully at some point we will hunt together, but at this stage we get together for a chat and to catch up once a year, when Sverre passes through JHB International Airport on his way to the Eastern Cape.

This is a story that Sverre put together for HHASA.

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**Every spring - I travel to South Africa to hunt / test new bullets. I have visited SA ten times.**

**I have shot 123 animals in Eastern Cape with 357 Mag., .44 Mag., 454 Casull, 30/30 and 375 JDJ.**

**The last six times - my outfitter has been Johan Dreyer ([www.safarishuntafrica.com](http://www.safarishuntafrica.com)) in Grahamstown.**

**Within the years – I have been so lucky that I could arrange hunts for the B8 (The “Big Five” and hippo, croc and giraffe) too – but on those hunts – my clients have hunted with rifles (shame on them!!!!).**

**But I have found space to shoot buffalo with a 454 – within one of the hunts in Zim.**

**Since I do not have a big house - and the walls are "fully booked" with trophies - I choose to shoot smaller (and affordable) animals.**

**It was the cast 255 gr. Keith - that should be “measured” this time.**

**I had the bullet in two different hardnesses:**

**One was “clean” wheel weights, while the other was "dumped" in water.**

**Ruger Super Redhawk in .44 Mag., was this year’s revolver. My Doctersight and a Leupold 2x - were sighted-in with the above bullets. Leupold No. 2 - also a 2x - was also sighted-in - but with Mimek 300 gr.**

**I have hunted with the Mimek bullet several times - and it has been "++++". In this little 4 " S&W - it has served me well. And I had to be sure I had a “safe alternative” - in case the 255 failed.**





**You may think:**

**What about the packageweight on the plane? Ammo is heavy stuff!**

**This thought is certainly important to consider - before your trip!**

**However, I've "built" myself a "small stock" of different ammo in different calibers - which is stored in SA.**

**And why do I choose a "daily" caliber as a .44?**

**I have hunted with a lot of different calibers – but do I need more power than the .44 for plains game?**

**If I should loose/forget my ammo – I can easily buy .44 ammo. Not so easy to buy 375 JDJ in SA (or other countries).**

**255 `s were without GC - and out of my SRH – the load gave me 1220 fps on a cold spring day (+2° C) in Norway.**

**The accuracy is very good!**



**The first shot was about 40 m, and the second shot at 80m.**

**How did those bullets perform?**

**During the first 6 days - I shot 4 blesbok and one impala, and 9 pigs.**

**Three of those – were shot with water-hardened bullets.**

**The rest – with clean wheel-weights.**





**I could not see any difference - as they penetrated right through.**

**The distances were from 30 to 90 m.**

**I found one bullet - and it was in a blesbok which was shot at 88 m.**

**This bullet was water hardened. The blesbok was walking toward me, and stopped at 88 m.**





**The bullet went in front of his shoulder - and was found in the skin on the other side (in the middle of the stomach).**



**Can it be better?**

**What about meat destruction?**

**This was shot at about 60 m.**





**Nothing indicates that this pig was shot with an explosive 300 Win Mag. !!!**

**As I mentioned, I had hunted with optics for the last 10 years, but this year I would hunt with open sights.**

**Age and longsightedness – has not let me hunt with the steel sights.**

**Therefor, I've installed fiber optic front sight on it - and it "lights up like a meteor".**

**When you are at the shootingrange – you have to focus on the front sight. But you can't do that in a hunting situation. You also have to "control" your target.**

**The fibersight – was "excellent" for my eyes. I did not have to spend energy looking for the sight. It "was just there".**

**As I mentioned above - I shot 14 animals the first 6 days. But then it was time-out! On each trip - I used to shoot a "barbiquepig". And why should it be different this year????**

**Open sights and .44 Ruger SRH – got him down at 44 m.**



**It ran 40 m after the shot.**



**And we barbequed !**

**But then there was the thorn - and it is in a double sense... I went into a cactus when I was carrying it to the nearest pick up location. I drew my foot back reflexively - and was completely paralyzed. One of the thorns had penetrated into my knee. Another bad thing - at the same time - was that I was bit by pepperticks! And I`m sure that I don`t have to explain you Africans about that!!!**

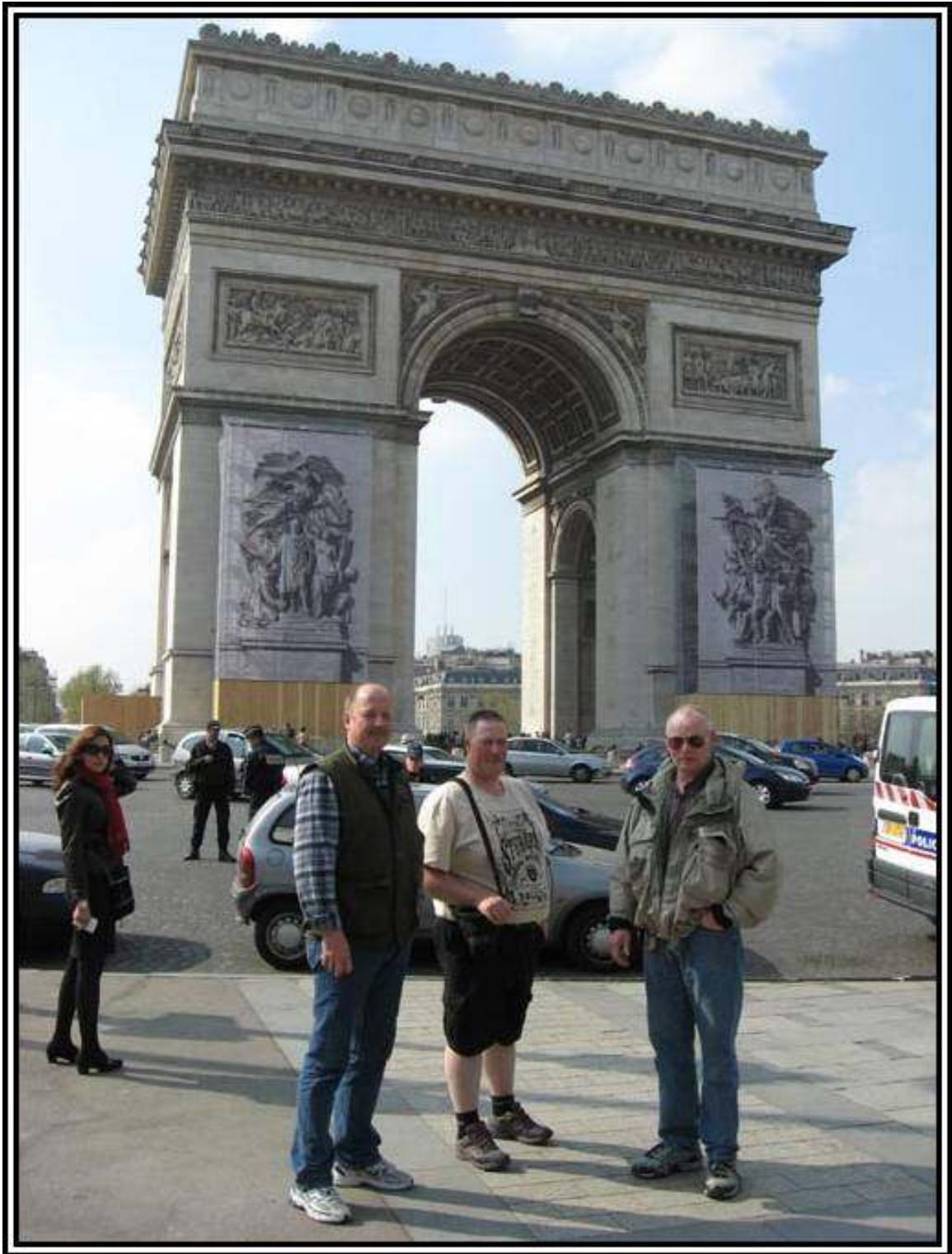
**The hunt was therefore cut short from 10 to 6 days, but the last day I just had to get out, and got another couple of pigs with open sights.**

**The distances were approx. 30 m on both of these.**



**Home journey was also something different - when we were stuck in Paris a few days because of the ash cloud.**









**Rune was really impressed with the city's rolling toilet.**

**After 2 weeks with pain in the knee – the doctor surgery this thing out of my knee.**



**So now I'm ready for new thorns !!!!!**

**Sverre A, Meisingseth**

**[svme@online.no](mailto:svme@online.no)**