



HEYM'S FANTASTIC BOLT GUN

BY PHILIP P. MASSARO

M'Butha spread the sticks, cigarette in mouth to check the wind, and nodded toward the bull. Not twenty yards away stood twelve feet of elephant in musth, weeping gland clearly visible, and PH "Cowboy" Tim Schultz smiling slightly and nodding in affirmation. "In his heart" was all he had to whisper. My hands, gripping slightly more than normal around the gentle, sloping pistol grip and forend of the Heym .404, eased that delicate marriage of walnut and steel onto the length of rubber-coated bamboo. I could hear the song of the red-eyed dove in the still of the morning, knowing that stillness was about to be shattered. I saw the gold bead settle into the rear sight, just at the top of that little white line in the middle of the wide, shallow "V," and it seemed to gravitate to the bull's shoulder. I remember concentrating on the hold, while it seemed like some other force squeezed that sweet trigger, knowing that all I had to do was keep that bead where it belonged.

I don't remember the recoil, or even cycling the action, but I do remember the effect of a 400-grain Woodleigh Hydrostatically Stabilized solid: the bull went backward five paces, nearly dropped onto his haunches, yet recovered. The second shot sealed the deal, and he piled up within 15 yards. By that time, the rifle and I had become one unit, an inseparable machine. The congratulatory slaps on the back and multiple handshakes made the moment all the more special.

My old friend Danie Wingard, a fine PH in his own right, was along on this safari in Zimbabwe with me and, as he threw his arm over my shoulder in celebration, told me, "That .404 is magic. Your first shot nearly put him off his feet, do yourself a favor: hang onto that rifle." I couldn't have agreed more.

As a gun writer, I have the opportunity to use many different rifles, and I own several (including by beloved Model 70 in .416 Remington) that might have fit the bill for this safari. I booked the multi-country hunt through deMoulied & Son Outdoor Adventures, and Dave deMoulied set me up with a short plains game hunt with Danie Wingard in South Africa, followed by a non-

continued on page 242



Phillip P. Massaro with his Heym Express .404 and his Zimbabwean elephant.



The Heym fore-end makes a sweet handling rifle.



The integral rear sight has a wide V for 50 yard shots, and a finer groove sight for the 100 yard sight.



Heym's great big bolt.

trophy elephant hunt in the Dete Valley of Zimbabwe. I wanted to keep things simple and bring one rifle suitable for both scenarios, so when Chris Sells of Double Gun Imports offered to lend me a Heym Express in the classic .404 Jeffery, I didn't really hesitate long.

During the research for a book I've written on bullet selection, I had the opportunity to play with Woodleigh's Hydro Solid, a radical looking bullet with a funky little cup on the front, designed to give all the penetrative qualities of a mono-metal solid, while the small cup creates a shockwave that does all sorts of tissue damage. Reports from the field indicate that the bullet gives fantastic performance on plains game of all sizes, as well as any of the dangerous species. The rifle/bullet combination seemed like a logical choice for this adventure.

When the rifle arrived, my eyes widened before I even touched it. A beautiful walnut stock, shaped in the fashion of the classic British bolt guns of the early 20th century, cradled an action that was both simple and elegant at the same time. Barrel-band sling swivel, express sights, classic NECG red recoil pad, and the delicate forend that fits oh-so-nicely in the left hand were all present. And the first time I shouldered it, the balance of the rifle demonstrated itself right away. The shadow line cheek piece brought the sight picture properly into focus without any fidgeting, and that combination of sweeping pistol grip and shorter fore-end makes the rifle come to shoulder like a fine shotgun. When I worked the action, my eyes opened even wider; there is virtually no play whatsoever, and the action feels smoother than puppy fur. In the case was a Swarovski 1-6x24mm scope with a lighted circle-dot reticle set in Talley detachable rings. I mean, seriously, what more could a guy ask for?

I had some Nosler factory ammo hanging around, and since I just couldn't wait to try the rifle, I headed to the backyard range to see what the gun could do. These were the "modern load" for the .404 Jeffery, pushing

400-grain solids at 2,350 fps, making the venerable caliber very nearly the equal of the .416s, and making a serious case for reviving the classic chambering. My Oehler 35P chrony spit out a piece of paper telling me those Noslers were cruising along at 2,380 fps, and the target showed three shots in a one-inch circle at 100 yards. Houston, we've got a winner.

Sitting at the reloading bench, I gathered the 400-grain Woodleigh Hydros, some Federal GM215M primers, Norma cases (elegantly head-stamped ".404 Rimless Nitro-Express") and Alliant's Reloder-15 powder. Looking at the Woodleigh Reloading Manual, I chose a 'middle-of-the-road' charge weight, and set the RCBS dies to seat the bullets just behind the first band. Sometimes in life you get lucky, and this was one of those times; the handload printed three-shot groups just under an inch, and cruised along at 2,280 fps. I also used the 325-grain Cutting Edge Bullets Safari Raptor as a bullet for bush pigs. These ran at 2,550 fps, and printed to the same point of impact as the Woodleigh Hydros, making for a very versatile combination. There were no high pressure-signs whatsoever, so the range work was done. It was now time to move on to practicing in field positions.

As this rifle was going to be asked to perform with both scope and iron sights for his safari, I was glad that the Talley rings worked as advertised, and I could confidently remove the scope for iron sight practice and reinstall it without losing zero. I zeroed this rig to be 1.5 inches high at 100 yards, giving me a dead hold out to 200, which I've found to be perfectly adequate for most shots in Africa. The express sights hit dead on the bullseye at 40 yards, and by practicing with the rifle, I could keep the bullets in a 2.5-inch circle off-hand, even tighter when using sticks. That well-designed Heym stock made the felt recoil more than manageable, and sending 15 rounds downrange per practice session was no problem at all. I loaded 40 rounds for the hunt, and was ready for Africa.

Reliability is a word that hunters like when it comes to gear that travels around the world; we are all familiar with the torturous techniques that the baggage handlers employ. I'm starting to

believe they take a course to learn how to beat up rifle cases. The Swarovski glass in Talley rings is a combination that can withstand the airline's punishment, and the rifle was still in zero after each leg of the journey. PH Cornus du Plooy and I took both a heavy horned blue wildebeest and a rather handsome impala ram in the Waterberg district of South Africa at distances of 150 to 175 yards. Both shots resulted in the same effect from the Woodleigh bullet: caliber-sized entrance and

exit holes, and a wide tunnel of damaged tissue throughout the wound channel. Neither animal required a second shot, nor did they go far at all. So far, we had a winner of a bullet. Perhaps not the greatest choice for a meat hunter, but there was little or no damage to the hides, and the kill was quick and efficient. The 1-6x Swarovski made the shots seem easy, offering great clarity and enough magnification for the work at hand.

continued on page 244



The action of the Heym Express.



PH Cornus duPlooy (left) and author with wildebeest.

In Zimbabwe, I removed the scope from the rifle. There, the quality iron sights that Heym uses worked very well. When the entire safari crew is watching you sight the rifle on the first day, it can be rather nerve-racking, but I did my part and put the bullet at 9 o'clock, one inch out of the bull at 40 yards off sticks. Each and every PH that saw the Heym rifle cocked an eyebrow and asked if they could try it; to the man they were very impressed. They were even more pleased with the performance on elephant.

So, what makes a Heym Express better, or at least different, than other bolt guns? I mean, I've used my Winchester 70 on numerous safaris in the past, with more than satisfactory results. Why look at a high-end bolt gun? There are several reasons.

Heym was founded in Suhl, Germany, 150 years ago, and they know what makes a rifle. The attention to detail that Heym puts into the production model Express rivals that of custom rifle makers. The wood-to-metal fit is impeccable, and the appointments such as the bolt angle, iron sights, fantastic stock design and balance point just in front of the floorplate hinge are all very well thought out. With the scope attached, the rifle is heavy enough to quickly settle down for a longer shot, yet light enough to quickly point at an animal at close quarters with the scope turned down to 1x. Unscoped, it carries and points like an extension of your arm, with a dimension around the action that fits comfortably in my right hand, even though the magazine holds four rounds of .404 Jeff.

Oh, that magazine—that's another feature that Heym designed properly. Each magazine well that Heym uses is caliber-specific, in that the length and width, as well as the magazine follower, is designed to function using the cartridge that the rifle is chambered for, and no other. The .404 Jeffery cartridges slide into the magazine as if they were greased, and are held there snugly with no rattles or other issues. Heym's feed ramp is excellent as well. Many rifles show their flaws when it comes to feeding a flat-nosed solid; some just won't do it well, and that is a serious issue when dangerous game is on the menu. The Woodleigh Hydro Solid is one of those bullets that brings out the worst in a feed ramp, but there was no issue with the Heym rifle. As a matter of interest, the Woodleigh Hydro usually comes with a hemispherical blue cap over the meplat to assist the feeding process, but the .423-inch diameter Jeffery bullets I received didn't have them, making me even more nervous when I first saw them. The Heym Express fed them like a dream.

Heym's proprietary action is probably the biggest key ingredient in the mix. It is a larger action than most others, yet that fact is very important. The size of the action (while it still feels good in the carrying hand) keeps the weight properly balanced in the grand scheme of things. The old British saying "keep the weight between the hands" totally applies here, and shows itself in the way the gun shoulders.

continued on page 280

BOOTHS #1855 & 1857



KAIKOURA - NEW ZEALAND
SPEY CREEK
Trophy Hunting

2014
Professional
Hunter
of the Year
Houston Safari
Club

WORLD'S LARGEST STAGS!



RED STAG TAHR CHAMOIS ELK



GOATS BOAR FALLOW DEER ARAPAWA RAM

Wyatt McBride (559) 303.4289 US John W. McBride (559) 901-9505 US
email: hunt@sctrophyhunting.com

www.sctrophyhunting.com

Heym's Bolt Gun

continued from page 244



The Heym action, like the magazine, is caliber specific, and the geometry of the action is designed to best handle the cartridge you may choose; no cookie-cutter actions here. This also allows for a slimmer barrel profile and sleek stock design, as the bulk of the weight is contained in the receiver.

The bolt diameter of the Express is another great feature. The famous 98 Mauser uses a bolt with a diameter of .700-inch, which works well with most calibers, and the Brevex Magnum action uses a bolt of .750-inch. Heym has designed a bolt of .780-inch diameter, which is fully capable of handling any cartridge you'd conceivably put through a bolt gun.

The Express can be made with a custom length of pull, assuring that your Heym will fit you like a glove. The rifle that I obtained has a length of pull at an even 14.5 inches, which (miraculously) fits me like it was made for me. Good stock fit translates into less felt recoil, which is always a good thing. Even with the modern, high-velocity loads, the recoil of the .404 Jeffery in the Express was the classic "push," rather than the violent slap associated with faster loadings in a rifle that fits less well. The Heym receiver can be made as a single square bridge, blank square bridge or, like my example, with machined 19mm Talley dovetail receiver blanks. Other options are on the menu as well, like traditional German claw mounts and more.

The Heym Express is one serious hunting rifle. This safari was my first experience hunting with the .404 Jeffery, and I've grown to be a fan of the cartridge, as well as the Express rifle. As a matter of fact, when it came time to return the rifle, I sent a check instead. Yup, this one's mine, so you'll have to get your own. 🐾



American Association of International Professional Hunting and Fishing Consultants

The AAIPHFC is the only organization of its type. When you book your hunt through an association member, you take advantage of years of knowledge, experience, species and habitat research.

The price you will pay for your hunt is the same or less. Give yourself the opportunity to take advantage of an exclusive group of the world's leading experts in the field of hunting and fishing knowledge.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

 <p>Ameri-Cana Expeditions Inc. "The most trusted name in world wide hunting!" Nick, Dan & Pat Frederick Tel: 780-469-0579 Fax: 780-465-5040 6007 - 104 St. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6H 2K6 Email: ameri.cana@shaw.ca www.ameri-cana.com SCI Booth 1708</p>	 <p>Canada North Outfitting Shane Black and John Sauro Tel: 250-961-7100 Email: sblack@canadanorthoutfitting.com www.canadanorthoutfitting.com SCI Booth 2219</p>
 <p>The Hunting Consortium Ltd. Robert P. Kern Tel: 540-955-0090 Fax: 540-955-0091 45 Spring House Ln. Berryville, VA 22611 Email: hunt@huntoon.com www.huntingconsortium.com SCI Booth 4167</p>	 <p>Jack Atcheson & Sons, Inc. Specializing in worldwide big game hunting. Jack Jr. & Keith Atcheson Tel: 406-782-2382 Fax: 406-723-3318 3210 Ottawa St. Butte, MT 59701 Email: office@atcheson.com www.atcheson.com SCI Booth 5600</p>
 <p>J/B Adventures & Safaris Worldwide hunting, wingshooting and adventure travel since 1971. Beverly Wunderlich, AAIPHFC Pres. Tel: 303-794-4485 Fax: 303-794-4486 7400 Arapahoe Road, Ste. 303 Centennial, CO 80112 Email: jbsafari@comcast.net www.jbsafari.com SCI Booth 2628</p>	 <p>Jim McCarthy Adventures Complete hunting, fishing and photo trips worldwide. Jim McCarthy Tel: 717-652-4374 Fax: 717-652-5888 4906 Creek Dr. Harrisburg, PA 17112 Email: jimccarthy4@verizon.net www.mccarthyadventures.com</p>
 <p>Sporting International, Inc. Specializing in African hunting and photo safaris. Tommy Morrison Tel: 281-452-6223 Fax: 281-457-5412 15608 S. Brentwood Channelview, TX 77530 Email: sport@sportinginternational.com www.sportinginternational.com SCI Booth 3256</p>	 <p>Wes Hixon's Outdoor Adventures Worldwide hunting, fishing & photo trips. Wesley Hixon Tel: 706-657-3527 / 800-550-5125 Fax: 706-657-8426 P.O. Box 101 Wildwood, GA 30757 Email: weshixon@weshixon.com www.weshixon.com SCI Booth 2511</p>

Experience Does Count!
Increase your chances of success
by booking through an AAIPHFC member.
Call One Now!

Advertiser's Index

777 Ranch, Inc.170	Harloo Safaris278	oilboomUSA083
AAIPHFC280	Hartland Whitetails259	OSP212
Acoma Trophy Hunts201	Havago Hunting, Australia257	Otterskloof Private Game Preserve278
Adam Clements Safari Trackers206	Havalon Knives181	Outback Hunting New Zealand282
Adventure Unlimited270	Heritage Safaris258	Outfitter Satellite263
African Import Company283	Heyn277	P Cross Bar Ranch283
Alcampo Hunting262	Heyn German279	Pine Mt Outfitters268
Algar Safaris102	Heyn Safari275	Piotti255
Allen Creek Ranch260	HHK Safaris165	Plummer's Arctic Lodge272
Americase Inc.187	High Country Safaris Pty Ltd.264	Poronui Hunting Lodge191
Animal Artistry..... Outside Back Cover, 044, 045	Holland's Shooters Supply094	Pro Russian Outfitters257
Arrow Ridge Ranch272	Hornady Mfg., Co.007	Profi Hunt278
Art of Madleine Kay206	HS Precision112	Quagga Safaris151
Artworks Taxidermy256	HuntersNetworks.com283, 284	Ram Head Outfitters283
ARU Game Lodges195	Induna Safaris260	Redstone Trophy Hunts274
Australian Buffalo Hunters267	Intrepid Safaris146	Rigby011
Balla Balla Safaris284	J. Alain Smith / Rugged Expeditions186	River Plate Outfitters /
Barrett053	J.B. Hill Boot Company160	Rod & Gun Resources Inc.116
Bass Pro191	Jack Brittinghams World of Hunting Adventures137	Rock Island Auction Company129
BC Trophy Mountain Outfitters284	James D. Julia039	Ron Brunson Wildlife Sculpture136
Bear Pro Safaris282	Jan Oelofse264	Rungwa Safaris179
Bergara USA121	Jensen Jewelers271	Russ Smith - Hunting Worldwide269
Blaauwknantz Safaris207	Johnny Vivier Safaris123	Russell Moccasin Co.266
Blackstone Outfitters261	Jonas Brother Taxidermy215	Safari Arms254
Blaser USA015	Julian & Sons147	Safari Outfitters169
Bobcat Company033	Julio Art in Bronze261	Safari Tours066
Bonnet Plume Outfitters, Ltd.284	Kaweika Hunting253	Sam Fejes Tsiu River Lodge142
Boyt Harness Company002	Kenetrek Boots085	Sanctuary107
Brush Country Studios134	Kimber Inside Front Cover, 075	Schmidt & Bender, Inc.067
Buffalo Creek Ranch284	Kingham Safaris258	Schnee's Boots and Shote236
Bushnell025	Kiwi Safaris NZ189	SCI - Convention032, 095
Caichue Pure Hunting259	Kodiak Guides284	SCI - Corporate Sponsor080
Cape Town Hunting283	Koskovich261	SCI - Membership Sign Up285
Captain Peacock Yachts & Expedition074	Kriehoff International Inc.082	SCI - World Hunting Awards028
Cardrona Safaris143	KUIU012	Scoop Lake Outfitters283
Carl Zeiss Sport Optic001	Kulu Safaris265	SHIELD Custom Commemorative Firearms081
Carlton Evans Handmade Knives259	Land Leader172	Shot Hunt101
Casa Vieja Lodge153	LARM176	Sierra Madre Hunting Adventures260
Castle Creek Outfitters283	Laurentian Wildlife Estate158	South Nahanni Outfitters, Ltd.284
Caswell Sculptures124	Laurentian Wildlife Estate159	South Pacific Safaris150
Canner & Julian213	Legendary Adventures093	Spectrum CU003
Chuck's Woodbarn195	Legends Ranch177	Spey Creek245
Club Faune104	Leica Camera029	SportEar/ProSounds073
Club Faune105	Les Ateliers du Design262	Steyn Safaris266
Coenraad Vermaak Safaris173	Life-Form Taxidermy180	Swarovski Optic059
Collingwood Brothers260	Linton Outdoors031	Suiff Bullet009
Conklin Foundation246	Lifeless Custom Boots140	Tag Safaris276
Conroe Taxidermy119	Lowveld Hunters213	TAHOA022
Craig Boddington Endorsed Outfitters115	MacKenzie Mountain271	Tam Safaris058
Dakota Outfitters162	MacPhail's Studio283	The Langensfeld Foundation258
Darren K. Moore Custom Jeweler130	Mastenworks Africa125	The Lodge and Ranch at Chama016
Day One Camouflage263	Mauser005	The Lodge and Ranch at Chama018
Destinations Travel274	Mayo Oldiri Camp175	The Lodge at Keyah Grande256
Diamond Blade LLC193	McKellar Sculpture Studio & Gallery167	The Wildlife Gallery110
Double Tap Ammunition092	Mervyn's Yukon Outfitting284	Thormahlen & Cochran197
Doug Turnbull Restoration197	Meyer Ranch Custom Boots174	Timberghost Ranch207
E.A.R., Inc.262	Michel Mantheakis Safaris157	Tomorrow River Ranch257
Eklad Safaris230	Midwestern Trophy Whitetails -193	Tians African Taxidermy283
EMLAC Worldwide141	Milligan Outfitting/Coast Mountain Outfitters201	Trijicon178
Enodah Wilderness Lodge139	Morani River Ranch215	Trophy Room Books274
Europtic Ltd.138	Mount Medix, LLC.265	Trophy Transport155
Faro Lobeke048	Murray Leather270	Tropic Star Lodge of Panama145
Faro Lobeke049	Nalpak/Tijffpak Inc.268	Vancouver Island Guide Outfitters214
Fauna & Flora267	Namibia Safari Corporation269	Verney Carron274
Federal Premium027	New England Custom Guns181	Villa Hermosa131
Fraser River Outfitters Ltd.254	New Zealand Safaris263	Wade Lemon Hunting284
Frontier Safaris113	New Zealand Trophy Hunting109	Wes Hixon's Outdoor Adventures133
Game Frontiers of Tanzania144	Nichols Guiding Service273	White Elk Ranch264
Game Trackers Africa-Ondjamba Safaris200	Nightforce USA183	Wild Hunting in Turkey132
Gary Herbert N.Z. Hunting..... Inside Back Cover	Norma Precision AB087	Wilderness Quest New Zealand273
Gaston J Glock Style102	North American Sportsmans Adventures186	Wilson Combat187
Global Health & Education086	North Haven Resort154	Wing and Barrel Ranch149
Global Rescue LLC118	North Island Guide Outfitters212	Wollaston Lake Lodge189
Great Grey Outfitters219	Northern Giants200	Woodbury Taxidermy247
GSM, LLC225	O.F. Mossberg & Sons251	Yamaha Motor Corp008
Gunwerks, LLC127	Oak Creek Ranch219	Yukon Big Game Outfitters Ltd.283
Hampton & Hampton Guide Service254	Oak Ridge Whitetail Adventures183	