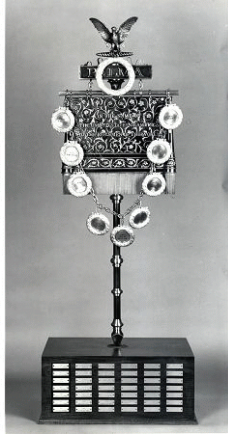


PALMA TEAM TROPHY



Originally named the Grand Centennial Trophy, in honor of the Centennial celebration of the independence of the United States of America, the Palma Trophy was commissioned from Tiffany's at a cost of \$1500, which was raised from popular subscriptions. The trophy was a full-sized replica of a Roman Legion standard, executed in bronze with silver and gold inlay. On the banner of the standard was the legend, "In the name of the United States of America to the Riflemen of the world". Above the banner was an eagle, bearing in its talons a wreath of palm leaves and a plaque on which was the single word, "PALMA", the Latin word for palm tree, which was used by the Romans to signify victory, or the ultimate in excellence. Because the word Palma was so easily seen, the trophy soon became known as the "Palma Trophy", and by 1878 was referred to officially by that name.

The original seven and one-half foot trophy is now lost, having not been seen since at least 1954. Serving in its place is a copy which was commissioned by Dr. Herbert M. Aitken of Eau Claire, WI. The copy was made from the original Tiffany blue prints at a cost of \$32,500. Dr. Aitken has given this copy of the Palma Trophy to the NRA for use in the Palma Match. The trophy is retained by the winning team until the next Palma Match.

The first competition for the Palma Trophy was a challenge match for which the British Commonwealth nations were invited. The match was fired in 1876 at the old Creedmoor Range on Long Island as a part of the Centennial celebration of the United States. Teams representing Scotland, Ireland, Canada, Australia and the United States took part.

Match Conditions:

- 1876 Fired between teams of eight firing members each, firing any rifle not to exceed 10 lbs. in weight with a minimum trigger pull of 3 lbs. The course of fire was 30 shots per firing member at ranges of 800, 900 and 1000 yards on the First Class Target, which is known today as the "C" target. Any firing position could be used, but no rests were allowed. The total possible team score was 3,600 points.
- 1900 The course of fire was changed to 15 shots per firing member, and rifle requirement was changed to require the military rifle of the country which the team represents, with a trigger pull of 4½ lbs., minimum weight.
- 1966 By agreement between the National Rifle Association of America and the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association,

the Palma Team Match was reinstated as a match between the English speaking nations of the world. Teams of 20 firing members, each firing 15 shots at each distance of 800, 900, and 1000 yards with the service rifle of the nation hosting the Match were to be invited to compete.

- 1968 Conditions were changed to allow a rifle selected by the host nation, not necessarily the service rifle, and to require that all teams use rifles supplied by the host nation which had not been fired prior to the match, except for a sighting-in period.
- 1974 Conditions were changed to allow a reduction in the basic team of 20 firing members, by increments of four, to as few as eight members, provided that both NRA and DCRA agree to the reduction.
- 1976 It was mutually agreed among the competing countries that the Palma Match would be fired on a three year interval, instead of each year, as had been practiced since 1966. No change in rules was required, and the match could be set back to any interval which was agreed to without changing match conditions.

Trophy Winners

1876	1. United States of America	3126
	2. Ireland	3104
	3. Scotland	3063
	4. Australia	3062
	5. Canada	2935
1877	1. United States of America	3334
	2. Great Britain	3242
	Challenge made, no foreign teams accepted.	
1901	1. Canada	1522
	2. United States of America	1492
1902	1. Great Britain	1459
	2. Canada	1447
	3. United States of America	1373
1903	1. United States of America	1570
	2. Great Britain	1555
	3. Canada	1518
	4. Australia	1501
	5. Natal	1399
	6. Norway	1241
	7. France	1230

Through a technical violation of the rules, by the use of Pope barrels in their Krag rifles, the NRA decided in 1904 to turn the trophy over to Great Britain, which accepted custody of the Palma Trophy until the next time that the match was fired. The NRA of Great Britain in council on July 12, 1904 "decided that last year's contest for the Palma Trophy should be considered abortive". Investigation indicated that the British, Canadians, and Australians also used privately made barrels, but that the ones that they used were of the same internal specifications, while the Pope barrels used by the U.S. Team were not to U.S. military specifications.

1907	1. United States of America	1712
	2. Canada	1671
	3. Australia	1653
	4. Great Britain	1580
1912	1. United States of America	1720

	2. Canada	1712			
1913	1. United States of America	1714			
	2. Argentina	1684			
	3. Canada	1675			
	4. Sweden	1484			
	5. Peru	1465			
1923-24	Not Official Palma Matches - 1924 was "Palma" match - trophies were given by each Association, and Palma Trophy was <u>not</u> in competition.				
1928 ¹	1. United States of America	1731	1985	1. United States of America	3403
	2. Cuba	1696		2. Great Britain	3377
1966 ²	1. United States of America	4284		3. Australia	3355
	2. Canada	4229		4. Canada	3339
1967	1. Canada	4136		5. Jersey	3318
	2. Great Britain	4130		6. Zimbabwe	3264
	3. United States of America	4125		7. West Indies	3170
1968	1. United States of America	4414		8. Kenya	3137
	2. Canada	4319		9. France	3134
1969	1. United States of America	4058		10. West Germany	3103
	2. Great Britain	4040	1988	1. Australia	3374
	3. Canada	3973		2. Great Britain	3353
1970	1. Great Britain	4241		3. New Zealand	3348
	2. United States of America	4203		4. United States of America	3332
	3. Canada	4188		5. Canada	3328
1971	1. United States of America	4404		6. Channel Islands	3248
	2. Great Britain	4392		7. Kenya	3238
	3. Canada	4344	1992	1. Great Britain	7082
	4. Australia	4249		2. Canada	7023
1972	1. Canada	4248		3. New Zealand	6998
	2. United States of America	4232		4. Australia	6992
1973	1. United States of America	4328		5. United States of America	6969
	2. Canada	4142		6. East & Central Africa Rifle Ass'n	6873
1974	1. South Africa	4300		7. Continental Europe	6646
	2. United States of America	4274	1995	1. Great Britain	13849.517
	3. Rhodesia	4272		2. USA	13750.498
	4. Canada	4208		3. New Zealand	13695.420
1976 ³	1. United States of America	8658		4. Australia	13688.448
	2. South Africa	8497		5. South Africa	13611.398
	3. Great Britain	8465		6. Canada	13401.385
	4. New Zealand	8435		7. Channel Islands	12957.289
	5. Australia	8432		8. Germany	12926.275
	6. Canada	8426	1999	1. South Africa	14081.599
1979	1. Australia	3206		2. Great Britain	14073.598
	2. New Zealand	3168		3. New Zealand	14044.568
	3. United States of America	3165		4. Australia	14019.601
	4. Canada	3084		5. United States of America	13958.557
1982	1. Canada	3225		6. Canada	13746.483
	2. Australia	3199		7. Namibia	13675.375
	3. New Zealand	3181		8. Kenya	13650.395
	4. Great Britain	3176		9. Channel Islands	13567.393
	5. United States of America	3097		10. Germany	13378.320
	6. West Indies	3046		11. Zimbabwe	13352.343
				12. Continental	13004.250
			2003	1. Great Britain	14121.646
				2. United States of America	14056.584
				3. South Africa	14013.563
				4. Canada	13959.550
				5. Australia	13911.531
				6. Channel Islands	13919.457
				7. Germany	13681.387
				8. Kenya	13368.298

² First year scores fired with 20 member teams.

³ First use of U.S. Decimal target (LR). Team scores cannot be compared from one match to another, as the Palma Match has been fired in several different countries on a number of different targets. In the United States, only two different targets have been used: the "C" target and the "LR" target. It is not known how many variations may have occurred in the other countries, and all of the British Commonwealth countries use different targets. Except for the 1976 match, all scores have been fired on targets which have a maximum value of 5, while the 1976 target used had a maximum value of 10.

¹ Preliminary Palma Match.

	9. West Indies	13331.328
	10. Continental Palma Council	13222.267
2007	1. Great Britain	14200.766