

# PALMA TEAM TROPHY



Originally named the 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 \$1,500, 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 to 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. In 2008, the Palma Trophy was returned to the NRA, and it was decided that the trophy, once refurbished, will travel to the host nation for the match every four years, then returned to the NRA for safekeeping.

The first competition for the Palma Team 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 part of the Centennial celebration of the United States. Teams representing Scotland, Ireland, Canada, Australia and the United States took part.

The match is currently fired on a four year interval, in Long Range High Power Rifle competitions.

## 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 3,000 points.
- 1900 The course of fire was changed to 15 shots per firing member, and the rifle requirement was changed to require the military rifle of the country which the team represents, with a trigger pull of 4 1/2 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 change match conditions.

## TROPHY WINNERS

1876	1. United States of America	3126	3. Scotland	3063
	2. Ireland	3104	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 use of Pope barrels in their Krag rifles, the NRA decided in 1904 to turn the trophy to Great Britain, which accepted custody of the Palma Trophy until the next time 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 not in competition.

1928	1. United States of America	1731
	2. Cuba	1696
1966	1. United States of America	4284
	2. Canada	4229
1967	1. Canada	4136
	2. Great Britain	4130
	3. United States of America	4125
1968	1. United States of America	4414
	2. Canada	4319
1969	1. United States of America	4058
	2. Great Britain	4040
	3. Canada	3973

1970	1. Great Britain	4241
	2. United States of America	4203
	3. Canada	4188
1971	1. United States of America	4404
	2. Great Britain	4392
	3. Canada	4344
	4. Australia	4249
1972	1. Canada	4248
	2. United States of America	4232
1973	1. United States of America	4328
	2. Canada	4142
1974	1. South Africa	4300
	2. United States of America	4274
	3. Rhodesia	4272
	4. Canada	4208
1976	1. United States of America	8658
	2. South Africa	8497
	3. Great Britain	8465
	4. New Zealand	8435
	5. Australia	8432
	6. Canada	8426
1979	1. Australia	3206
	2. New Zealand	3168
	3. United States of America	3165
	4. Canada	3084
1982	1. Canada	3225
	2. Australia	3199
	3. New Zealand	3181
	4. Great Britain	3176
	5. United States of America	3097
	6. West Indies	3046
1	Preliminary Palma Match	
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 now 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.	
1985	1. United States of America	3403
	2. Great Britain	3377
	3. Australia	3355
	4. Canada	3339
	5. Jersey	3318
	6. Zimbabwe	3264
	7. West Indies	3170
	8. Kenya	3137
	9. France	3134
	10. West Germany	3103
1988	1. Australia	3374
	2. Great Britain	3353
	3. New Zealand	3348

	4.	United States of America	3332
	5.	Canada	3328
	6.	Channel Islands	3248
	7.	Kenya	3238
1992	1.	Great Britain	7082
	2.	Canada	7023
	3.	New Zealand	6998
	4.	Australia	6992
	5.	United States of America	6969
	6.	East & Central Africa Rifle Assn.	6873
	7.	Continental Europe	6646
1995	1.	Great Britain	13489.517
	2.	United States of America	13750.498
	3.	New Zealand	13695.420
	4.	Australia	13688.448
	5.	South Africa	13611.398
	6.	Canada	13401.385
	7.	Channel Islands	12957.289
	8.	Germany	12926.275
1999	1.	South Africa	14081.599
	2.	Great Britain	14073.598
	3.	New Zealand	14044.568
	4.	Australia	14019.601
	5.	United States of America	13958.557
	6.	Canada	13746.483
	7.	Namibia	13675.375
	8.	Kenya	13650.395
	9.	Channel Islands	13567.393
	10.	Germany	13378.320
	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
	9.	West Indies	13331.328
	10.	Continental Palma Council	13222.267
2007	1.	Great Britain	14200.766
	2.	South Africa	14175.709
	3.	Australia	14172.728
	4.	United States of America	14115.724
	5.	Canada	14055.630
	6.	New Zealand	14030.614
	7.	Channel Islands	13835.556
	8.	Germany	13681.417
	9.	Kenya	13591.417
	10.	West Indies	13468.355