

**A SHORT HISTORY  
OF  
THE NATIONAL TROPHY INFANTRY TEAM MATCH**

**By**

**Hap Rocketto**

**September 2011**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Forward.....	i
A Short History of the National Trophy Infantry Team Match... ..	4
Appendix A-The National Trophy Infantry Team Match Winners.....	16
Appendix B-The Leatherneck Trophy.....	17
Appendix C-The Celtic Chieftain Trophy.....	18
Appendix D-The Junior Infantry Team Trophy.....	19
Appendix E-The Infantry Trophy M1 Garand.....	20
Appendix F-Current Rules: National Trophy Infantry Team Match.....	21
Appendix G-Targets.....	24
Bibliography and Reading List.....	25

## Forward

As was written in the forward the *A Short History of the Distinguished Program*, the one immutable truth about historical research is that few things are certain. Even in the most meticulously kept records there is always some “i” left undotted and some “t” left uncrossed, casting a cloud of doubt on the ‘facts’ at hand.

Because match conditions sometimes change between the printings of a program and the actual firing of the match, and those changes are made official by Match Director’s bulletins there are some holes in the historical documents and records that tell the story of the Infantry Trophy Team Match. In light of the nature of an imperfect record the reader must be aware that “facts’ in this work are used with this *caveat* and, as such, are subject to change should more documented information become available.

There are gaps in the documentation of the National Trophy Infantry Team Match. Those little gaps make it impossible to write a complete and accurate story, and perhaps it is better that way. There is nothing like a little cloud of mystery in historical events to make them more interesting and enhance their legends and traditions.

The following document is an attempt to bring the many aspects of the National Trophy Infantry Team Match into a short historical synopsis. I owe debts of gratitude to the Civilian Marksmanship Program, the National Rifle Association, Dick Culver, Robert Barde, Charlie Adams, Shawn Carpenter, Steve Rocketto, Barney Higgins, and especially Ray Brandes who sparked the idea of this monograph in an exchange on the Civilian Marksmanship website. To these people go all of the credit, but none of the blame, for this work.

In the interest of historical accuracy the author solicits insights, corrections and updates that are supported by appropriate documentation to 18 Stenton Avenue, Westerly, RI 02891.

A Short History of the National Trophy Infantry Team Match  
By  
Hap Rocketto

There is no rifle match that will make a high power shooter's pulse race at Marathon rates as the National Trophy Infantry Team Match. The match is designed to simulate an infantry squad's mission, which is "to close with the enemy and destroy or capture him." Competitive riflemen pride themselves on being calm and in control but this exhilarating rapid fire event brings out the exact opposite in the competitor.

More familiarly and commonly known as the Rattle Battle, perhaps because of clatter and jangle of the shooting designed to simulate a combat situation, the match is occasionally called the "Mad Minute." This term, which first gained circulation during the First World War, described a timed shooting drill for British infantryman. "Mad Minute" has remained in military parlance as the definition of a short period of concentrated weapons fire which perfectly describes the Infantry Trophy Team Match.

The match has its antecedents in an individual event known as the Skirmish Run. It was part of the United States Army Rifle Qualification Course at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and part of the early National Match Course. The Skirmish Run was fired twice for record, the rifleman shooting 20 rounds from any position at two silhouette targets. The match began at 600 yards where two shots were allowed in 30 seconds. The same conditions applied at 500 yards. Three shots were fired at 400 and 350 yards in 30 seconds. The remaining ten rounds were fired at the rifleman's discretion at 300 yards in 30 seconds and 20 seconds at 200 yards. The larger of the two targets, the "E" silhouette, known as the "squaw" was approximately 42 inches tall and 26 inches wide while the smaller "papoose" "F" silhouette was 22 inches high and 26 inches across. Hits on the squaw earned four points while hits on the papoose were worth five.<sup>1</sup>

A Skirmish Run type team match debuted at the 1909 National Matches and was named in honor of the match executive officer, United States Army Lieutenant Colonel R. K. Evans. The Evans Skirmish Match had two teams of 16 riflemen advance forward, side by side, from 1200 yards while engaging targets which popped up at various distances for differing times. When a target was hit the member of the opposing team, shooting on the corresponding number target, was declared "dead." The first team to "kill" all members of the opposing team was declared the winner.<sup>2</sup>

The first Evans Skirmish Run was notable for an incident of good sportsmanship which has been memorialized with a prestigious national high power trophy. As the run began Marine Second Lieutenant Randolph Coyle was scoping the line from the assembly area. When he saw the shots of First Lieutenant W. Dulty Smith hit the silhouette he jumped up, spontaneously and innocently, crying out, "Good wind! Good Wind!" Colonel Evans overheard the excited lieutenant and, because the team was so close to

---

<sup>1</sup> Culver, Dick, 1902-1903 Krag Rifle Qualification Courses, [http://www.jouster.com/sea\\_stories/krag\\_rifle\\_qualification\\_course\\_1902-1903](http://www.jouster.com/sea_stories/krag_rifle_qualification_course_1902-1903).

<sup>2</sup> Barde, Robert E., *The History of Marine Corps Marksmanship*, USMC, Washington, DC. 1961, page 34.

Coyle, ruled the action as illegal coaching and disqualified the Marine Team. The disappointed Marines uttered not a word of protest.

The final results found the US Cavalry in second place, rather than the disqualified Marines. Cavalry team captain, First Lieutenant William H, Clopton, Jr., filed a protest of Evan's decision. After a hearing the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice (NBPRP) reversed Evans' ruling and the Marines were jumped from 42<sup>nd</sup> to second place with the Cavalry moving down to third.

One of the enlisted Marines suggested that the \$350 second place prize be used to purchase a token of "admiration and esteem" and so a large sterling silver cup was presented to the US Cavalry Rifle Team and the Cavalry Cup was born. Originally awarded to the high cavalryman in the President's Hundred it later went to the high Army shooter with the demise of the horse cavalry. It is now the winner's prize for a 300 yard rapid fire match at the national championships.<sup>3 4</sup>

The Evans Skirmish, while exciting to watch, was difficult to control and officiate. It was last seen as part of the 1919 National Matches, staged at the United States Navy Rifle Range in Caldwell, New Jersey, with a comment in the program that the conditions of the match would be announced later.<sup>5</sup>

A notice appearing in the May 1922 issue of the *Infantry Journal* reported that,

"The Chief of Infantry recently attended a meeting of the National Rifle Association, during the course of which the subject of an Infantry Match came up for discussion. It was decided that it would be desirable to have such a match included in the program of events for the annual national shoot and the association agreed to it.

The rules and regulations under which the match will be fired are now under consideration and will be published to the service as soon as finally approved by all agencies concerned.

In connection with this match the question of a suitable trophy and medals for the winning team came up, and General Farnsworth stated that the Infantry would supply the trophy and the funds for procuring the medals.

The whole subject was presented to the Executive Council of the Infantry Association at a meeting on March 30, and after a full discussion it was decided that the funds should come from the infantry as a whole—in other words, it was desirable to have as many members of the infantry service participate as possible.

---

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid* page 41.

<sup>4</sup> National Rifle Association, *NRA Shooting Trophies*, Washington, DC.

<sup>5</sup> National Rifle Association, *Program 1919 National Matches*, Washington DC, 1919.

The cost of the trophy and the medals extending over a period of ten years will amount to something in the neighborhood of \$1,500.

It is not desired that any officer contribute more than \$1 or any soldier more than 10 to 15 cents to this fund, but it is desirable to have as many members of the infantry as possible contribute to it.”<sup>6</sup>

Major General Charles Stewart Farnsworth had been appointed the first Chief of Infantry in 1920. He took his job seriously and was in the forefront of improving all aspects of the branch encompassing issues as broad as education, budget, equipment, training, morale, and as small as details in uniform accouterments. Farnsworth was instrumental in the creation of the Infantry’s crossed musket branch insignia when he declared that, “...an excellent device for the infantry would be the oldest American infantry musket.”<sup>7</sup>

As a result of his insistence a pair of crossed 1795 model Springfield Arsenal muskets, the first official United States production shoulder infantry weapon, today adorns the lapels of the Class A uniform of every United States Army Infantryman.

Farnsworth’s attention to detail meant he would cast a wide net in his search for a suitable trophy for the proposed Infantry Match. In the aftermath of the Great War communities across the nation were rushing to erect suitable monuments to veterans living and dead. One of the most popular statues was the "Spirit of The American Doughboy," created by Edward Viquesney, nearly 150 of them being erected about the country. The statue is an exquisitely detailed bronze of an infantryman aggressively striding forward, rifle in his left hand, while his right is held above his head clutching a hand grenade.

Farnsworth was taken by Viquesney’s work and commissioned him to create The United States Infantry Association Trophy. The work depicts a pair of advancing infantrymen, bayonets fixed, one firing from the kneeling position while the other is rising from position and moving forward. The trophy was completed in time for presentation at the 1923 matches.

Lack of a trophy did nothing to slow down planning for the new match that made its debut in 1922, as part of the National Rifle Association program, as match number 27 entitled “The Infantry Match-A Combat Problem.” Pages 55 through 58 of the 1922 National Match program covers the event in exquisite detail from its philosophy, conditions, targets, procedures, ammunition, time limits, scoring, penalties for failure to follow signals during the advance, eligibility, classification of teams, and awards. Trophies and medals were awarded to teams representing active duty services, the various National Guards, civilian teams which included those from the Civilian Military Training Camps, and school or college teams which also encompassed Reserve Officer Training Corps of those institutions.

---

<sup>6</sup> US Infantry Association, *Infantry Journal*, Washington, DC, May 1922, page 567.

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/UniformedServices/crossed\\_musket.aspx](http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/UniformedServices/crossed_musket.aspx).

In lieu of a public address system the firing was controlled by the senior range officer who had a man with a telephone, for communication with the pit, and a musician who played "Attention", "Halt", "Commence Firing", and "Cease Firing" on a trumpet to control movement and firing. There was also a "semaphore," a paddle or flag displayed from the pits, to help in controlling the team's movement

An Infantry Match team consisted of two fire teams of five men each representative of an infantry squad of the day-less its automatic rifleman and grenadier, under the command of a "corporal." Each man in the squad, with the exception of the corporal, was issued 60 rounds of ammunition. The rifle is not mentioned but is assumed to be the service rifle which was, at that time, the Springfield 1903. A pair of teams would then advance from 500 to 200 yards in 25 yard increments.

The target was 36 feet long and six feet tall. Starting at the top was a strip one foot wide worth one point and under it was another with a three point value. In the center area of two feet, were six "F" silhouette targets upon which a hit counted for ten points while shots in between were worth five. Two more foot wide strips at the bottom completed the target with the upper worth four points and the lower two.

Using the basic Evans Skirmish Match rules a team's goal was to reach the 200 yard line in the shortest time with the most efficient use of its ammunition supply. Simply put the winner of the match was the team that moved the fastest, had the most number of hits, the most men left standing, and the fewest number of rounds expended. It was perhaps fitting that the first team to win the match was the team representing the Infantry.<sup>8</sup>

The Marine Corps would be conspicuously absent from the Infantry Trophy Match during its early years. The Marines felt, having already won the 1922 National Trophy Team Match, that, "The match had admirable qualities, for it is designed to give value not only for accuracy of fire, but also proper fire distribution. ... However, to win the Infantry match required special training. Because of this, the Marines, who came in second to the Infantry in 1922, did not participate in the event in the following years."<sup>9</sup> The Marines preferred to concentrate on the National Trophy Team Match, considering that the more prestigious event, and would win it seven times before they returned to shooting the Infantry Trophy Match in 1936, a year in which they won both.

The match regulations and conditions would remain the same for the next three years but there would be no Infantry Match in 1926 as Congress, citing a poor economic climate, declined to provide funds for the National Matches. A reduced shooting schedule, with limited Federal assistance, would be conducted at six regional sites approved by the War Department. The bulk of the events would be fired at the regional match conducted at the National Guard facility at Sea Girt, New Jersey while matches

---

<sup>8</sup> National Rifle Association, *National Matches 1922*, The National Rifle Association, Washington, DC, 1922, pages 55-58.

<sup>9</sup> Barde, page 131.

at Fort Screven Georgia, Fort Sheridan, Illinois, Wakefield, Massachusetts, and Harrisburg, Ohio took up the remaining slack.<sup>10</sup>

When the National Matches resumed in 1927 so did the Infantry Trophy Match. This would be the last hurrah for its original conditions as adjustments were made to the match conditions in 1928. The massive target bank was abandoned and replaced with eight “D” silhouette targets mounted on carriers and the ammunition allotment was reduced to 40 rounds per man. Perhaps the most significant change was the distance. Teams would now start at 1,000 yards and stop to fire when the targets, regulated from the pit, appeared at unannounced distances.<sup>11</sup>

The Infantry Trophy had been tightly in the grasp of active duty and National Guard teams until 1929 when the Massachusetts civilians won. A year later civilians again won, this time the Nebraska civilian team took the trophy home but the military would wrest the title back in 1931 and not relinquish its hold for a very long time.

The course and conditions would be tweaked again in 1931 when it was decided to begin the match at 600 yards and restore the ammunition allotment to 60 rounds per man. The scoring also changed, the removal of ‘killed’ rifleman was dropped. In its stead a target struck was simply pulled into the pits. The scoring system was changed with the first mention of bonus points via “squaring.” The number of targets hit, squared, would be added to the value of hits on the targets to determine the team’s score. If 80% of all exposed targets were hit then an additional 50 points would be awarded for that stage.<sup>12</sup>

The 1931 program also made it crystal clear that the Infantry Match was a simulation of battle when it unequivocally stated that, “The Infantry Match is a combat problem and no protests involving disabled pieces or ammunition failures of any kind will be allowed.” As the financial crisis of the Great Depression deepened Congress’ cost cutting scissors clipped the 1932 National Match funds from the War Department’s budget. To keep the spirit of the National Matches alive regional events, based on Army Corps areas, were scheduled, just as they had been in 1926. The Infantry Trophy was not scheduled for any of the eight sites and when no appropriations were made in 1933 or 1934 the same situation existed. The National Matches returned to Camp Perry in 1935 but, with limited monies available, the Infantry Trophy was not funded.

A complete National Match schedule was funded in 1936 and the Infantry Match was again in the program. In this iteration the team consisted of an eight man rifle squad armed with seven service rifles and one Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR). The team was issued with “the prescribed amount of ammunition” and was required to wear the

---

<sup>10</sup> National Rifle Association, *The National Matches: 1903-2003 The First 100 Years*, The National Rifle Association, Washington, DC, 2010, pages 127-128.

<sup>11</sup> National Rifle Association, *The National Matches 1928*, The National Rifle Association, Washington, DC, 1928, pages 55-58.

<sup>12</sup> National Rifle Association, *The National Matches 1931*, The National Rifle Association, Washington, DC, 1931, pages 53-54.



appropriate cartridge belt. Ammunition issued the riflemen could be used by all but the ammunition issued for the BAR could only be fired by the BAR.

The team then began advancing from the 600 yard line with rifles loaded and locked, stopping to shoot when eight "D" targets appeared in the vicinity of the 500, 300, and 200 yard lines. The "D" target was a black silhouette with scoring rings surrounding it. A hit in the five ring, the black silhouette, counted for two points while shots in the surrounding four ring counted for one point. Shots outside of the four ring were misses. Targets were exposed until struck at 600 and 500 yards, but for no longer than 45 seconds. At the 300 and 200 yard halts the targets were exposed for 45 seconds.

The numerical score of hits was the base score to which was added the square of the number of targets hit. If a target did not receive 20 hits the difference between the number of hits on that target and 20 was deducted from the aggregate to arrive at the final score. The logic behind this method was so that, "...the final score embodies not only a reward for good distribution throughout the match, as to targets hit, but a penalty, as well, for those teams whose volume of fire throughout is not both accurate and well distributed."<sup>13</sup>

With a change in format also came a change in custody for the Infantry Trophy as the NRA transferred the sculpture to the NBPRP which added the match to the National Match program. A slight change in match title also accompanied the trophy transfer, the Infantry Trophy Match went from being called "A Combat Problem" to the more archaic and picturesque "A Musketry Problem."

The National Firearms Act (NFA) had been enacted some ten weeks prior to the resumption of the Infantry Trophy. It was in an optimistic attempt to curb the flow of automatic weapons to the lawless Depression era gangsters exemplified by John Dillinger, who had been shot down by FBI agents in Chicago just a month before the National Matches began. It was wistfully, and futilely, hoped that the Federal tax and registration requirements of the NFA would deter criminals from stealing automatic weapons and explosives from police stations, National Guard Armories, and military installations.

The NFA had little, if anything, to do with ending of the crime wave but, as an unintended consequence, it helped the military gain the upper hand in the Infantry Trophy Match. The NFA effectively placed the ownership of automatic firearms, of which the BAR was a prime example, out of the hands of civilian teams and, as teams were required to furnish their own BARs for the match, they were unable to practice to the extent of the service teams, placing them at a distinct disadvantage. BARs were available for issue at Camp Perry, allowing civilian teams to compete, but they did not have them for long term training as did the military.

---

<sup>13</sup>National Rifle Association, *The National Matches 1936*, The National Rifle Association, Washington, DC, 1936, pages 61-62.

The match conditions remained the same until the 1940 National Matches when the ammunition allotment was adjusted downward to 20 rounds per rifle and 40 for the BAR. The penalties also changed to reflect the smaller number of cartridges issued, the deduction now being the difference between 15 and the actual number of hits if below 15.<sup>14</sup>

The 1940 National Matches was a water shed year. The new service rifle, the semi automatic U.S. Rifle, Cal. .30 M1-the Garand, was introduced into competition while the old, much beloved, workhorse bolt action U.S. Rifle M1903-the Oh Three, would make its last appearance as the service rifle.

In his classic account of the 1940 National Matches Ellis Christian Lenz describes his participation in the Infantry Trophy Match.

“Thus began the Battle of the Paper Men! The targets came up and we went down. Those “D” targets looked very small, at 600 yards As I held and squeezed for the first shot I experienced the fleeting illusion of firing at a ‘chuck sprawled across a log, at say, 200 yards away. The rifle cracked; I saw another ‘chuck and another! Others were firing; the Browning beside me barked a number of times and within 30 seconds every ‘chuck-on-a log had vanished!...

As we slid to prone at 500 I was not forgetting that I’d fire only two shots before having to snatch a fresh clip from my belt. The target in the sight-picture was now noticeably larger...crack!...crack! The bolt stood open. I rolled to my left side and the butt smacked the ground as my hand found a belt-clip; smoothly the cartridges rattled into the magazine. I slammed the first cartridge home, palmed the butt to my shoulder and rolled back into position. Targets 65 and 67 were already down, I fired a shot at 69 just as it started down, and another at 73, the last one up. Again all targets went down within the time limit.

As we walked to 300 we reset our sights.... Familiar ground, that 300. My seven shots got away well in spite of the added difficulties of an unroutine recharging and having to shift my position somewhat to swing right and then back to the extreme left. And finally, at 200, the wide angle of that swing, including 15 targets width, was particularly disturbing. But I got the last two shots off with good calls and had several seconds to spare.

Our match was done and we all felt more or less suddenly let down...”<sup>15</sup>

Lenz’s words reach across nearly three quarters of a century speaking directly to, and for, present day Rattle Battle shooters, expressing the anticipation, excitement, issues,

---

<sup>14</sup> National Rifle Association, *The National Matches 1940*, The National Rifle Association, Washington, DC, 1940, pages 34-36.

<sup>15</sup> Ellis Christian Lenz, *Muzzle Flashes*, Huntington, West Virginia, 1944, pages 475-476.

and emotional ups and downs that make the match unique. In the intervening years many things have changed in the Infantry Trophy Match but the essential elements have remained the same so that a competitors in 1940 and 2010 share much the same experience.

The 1940 Infantry Trophy Match was won, for the first and only time, by the United States Coast Guard with a score of 560. Lenz's Ohio Civilian Team fired a score of 491 on that long ago September 17<sup>th</sup>, placing among the top 18 of the 72 teams; high enough to take home bronze medals as mementos of the event.

As the competitors left Camp Perry at the end of the 1940 matches they could see threatening clouds of war on the horizon. What they could not foresee was that it would be 13 years before they would return to Camp Perry for something close to a full scale National Match program.

When the National Matches resumed in 1953, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first National Matches, the Infantry Trophy Match was not fired, nor would it be in 1954. However, in 1955, 15 years and five days after the final pieces of .30-06 brass had been policed up following the last pre World War II Infantry Trophy Match competitors lined up at the 600 yard line at Camp Perry to contest for the trophy.

In its post war reincarnation the general conditions of earlier matches were followed but the team size was reduced to six firing members, all armed with the M1, with a captain and coach to direct fire. The "D" Target was replaced by "E" and "F" silhouettes while each rifleman was issued five clips, 40 rounds, of service ammunition at each yard line for a team total of 960 rounds.

A team assumed the prone position at 600 yards and eight "E" silhouette targets were raised for 60 seconds, at 400 and 300 yards the kneeling or sitting could be used. An "F" silhouette was used at the 200 yard line and there the shooters assumed the standing position, with use of the sling optional. With squaring still a way to earn extra points, and eight targets engaged by only six men, some shooters needed to fire on more than one target and so the "swing man" was born. Hits at all ranges counted for one point and a penalty was assessed for less than ten hits, the difference between hits and ten being deducted from the total score.<sup>16</sup>

Over the years match officials seemed incapable of resisting tinkering with the conditions of the Infantry Trophy match and 1956 would be no different. The value of hits was changed so that four points would be given for each hit a 600 yards. The 400 yard line was dropped in favor of shooting at 500 yards where the prone, sitting, or kneeling positions were allowed, and a value of three points assigned for each hit. Two and one points were the values assigned to 300 and 200 yard hits. With the adoption of this scoring system penalties became a thing of the past. The number of hits required

---

<sup>16</sup> National Rifle Association, *Program The National Matches 1955*, The National Rifle Association, Washington, DC, 1955, pages 94-96.

for squaring a target was now set a six. Scoring, which had always been done in the pits, was now accomplished on the firing line with the pit reporting the number of hits via telephone to the scorer. The use of spotters to assist in scoring and help locate groups was also authorized.

Each team was now issued 384 rounds of ammunition. No records exist to explain the precise reason for the change. Most likely it was simply a matter of convenience. The M19A1 ammunition can contains 192 rounds of clipped ammunition for the M1 packed in four six pocket bandoleers. The soldiers detailed to the ammunition point needed only break open a crate and issue two cans to a team rather than dealing with laboriously counting out, and accounting for, loose ammunition. The empty crate could then be used to hold the policed brass.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Randolph McCall Pate presented the Leatherneck Trophy to the NBPRB in 1957 to be awarded to the high civilian team. The bronze statue is a replica of "Iron Mike," an effigy of a World War I Marine Infantryman, more formally titled, "Crusading for Right," which stands in front of the headquarters building at Marine Corps Base Quantico. The venerable Infantry Trophy now had a companion.

The penultimate adjustment to the match conditions, creating the match we know today, occurred in 1958 when the time limit was set at 50 seconds for each target exposure. The final would appear in 1962. Up to that time team captains and coaches would use a team spotting scope in the assembly area to make wind estimates. Once they left for the firing line they had to rely on their wits and intuition to call wind and direct fire. Match regulations now authorized team officials to carry field glasses or binoculars of no greater than ten power with an objective lens size no larger than 50 millimeters with them during the match to aid in wind calls and fire direction.

The NBPRB purchased a bronze figure of the British chieftain Caractacus, leader of the British resistance to the Roman conquest in the middle years of the first century. This third award, the Celtic Chieftain Trophy, was added in 1959 and is presented to the high scoring reserve or National Guard team regardless of service. 1959 would also mark the adoption of the United States Rifle, 7.62 mm, M14, but it would not be until 1964 that the first mention of the M14 and 7.62mm ammunition appeared in the match conditions at which time it was decreed that, "all team firing members must be equipped with the same type of service rifle."

There was slight tweaking of the match's name in 1962 when the match program stopped referring to as the Infantry Trophy Match and adopted the title The National Trophy Infantry Team Match. This appeared to be done to bring all of the National Match Team events into name alignment. The new title fit in quite well with the rest of the National Trophy Match titles; The National Trophy Individual Pistol Match, The National Trophy Pistol Team Match, The National Trophy Individual Rifle Match, and The National Trophy Rifle Team Match.

When the program of the 1968 matches arrived in competitors' mailboxes it was, ominously, almost half the thickness of previous programs and its cover read simply, "NRA National Rifle and Pistol Championships" with no mention of the National Matches. A small note on page seven explained the reason for the missing words and pages, simply stating that, "Due to reasons of economy and the requirements of the Viet Nam War, the Department of the Army has withdrawn support of the 1968 National Matches."<sup>17</sup>

While this certainly may have been true there was also a strong belief in the shooting community that anti-gun forces were afoot and had their finger in the decision. The NRA managed to keep the tradition of the President's Hundred alive that year and in 1969 the NBPRP authorized the NRA to conduct the National Trophy Matches, less the Infantry Trophy Match. Competitors were held responsible for rifles and ammunition but a fee \$15.50 would cover the entry fee, ammunition, one night's lodging in a Camp Perry hut, and three meals in the Mess Hall for The National Trophy Individual Rifle Match.<sup>18</sup>

The Rattle Battle would be absent from the Camp Perry and the National Match program but the match was not dead, it was still being shot in major military competitions with the M14. The Army introduced the 5.56mm M16A1 rifle into competition when it sponsored a combat phase to Army Area and All Army matches in 1976. The combat rifle match used the same match program as fired by the M14 competitors but adapted for the newest service rifle.

The Precision Combat Match was a traditional National Match Course (NMC) and the Combat Infantry Team Match followed the Infantry Trophy rules. Combat competitors were required to use out of the rack rifles and issue service grade ammunition. Recognizing the limited accuracy of the combination the match was shot at 100, 200, 300, and 400 yards on the "D" silhouette target. In all respects the combat matches were the same as their 30 caliber brother but for firearm, distance and target.

The 1977 Army Area Combat Match program was almost identical to the 1976 version with the exception of a small announcement stating that, because it was a combat match, a physical fitness phase would be added. Competitors would now be required to complete a two mile run carrying their rifles and wearing an M1 helmet and Load Bearing Equipment; suspenders, pistol belt, first aid kit, poncho, small arms ammunition cases, and a full canteen, in 24 minutes. The run started 29 minutes prior to the start of the preparation period.

---

<sup>17</sup> National Rifle Association, *1968 NRA National Rifle and Pistol Championship Program*, Washington, DC 1968, page 7.

<sup>18</sup> National Rifle Association, *1970 NRA National Rifle and Pistol Championship Program*, Washington, DC 1969 page 21.

The Connecticut Army National Guard had swept the 1976 All Army Combat Rifle Championships, taking all but a few of the individual matches, and all of the team events. As might be expected the mostly middle aged, and slightly paunchy Connecticut Guardsman, took a jaundiced view of this new requirement, believing it to be more of a device to level the playing field between the older skilled Guard riflemen and the less skilled, but physically fit, young troopers of the active Army.<sup>19</sup>

The Connecticut Guard placed eight individuals in the top ten of the 1977 All Army Individual Precision Combat Rifle Grand Aggregate, including the match winner, won the Precision Combat Rifle Team Championship, but finished sixth in the Combat Infantry Team Match.<sup>20</sup> The low finish in the Combat Infantry Trophy Match precluded placing in the grand aggregate, perhaps proving the Guardsmen's point

Over time the combat course of fire has evolved and no longer even remotely resembles the formal National Match format. The physical fitness phase is now more commonsensical, a point upon which the now retired Connecticut Guardsman seem to agree. The physical fitness phase currently requires teams to finish as a group and assigns a point value for the speed of finish as part of the match score.<sup>21</sup>

An off shoot of the Infantry Trophy Match was developed for pistol in 1975: The General S. Patton Trophy Match. In this event a team of four engages six targets at 25 and 50 yards directed by a team captain and coach with scoring similar to the rifle event.

The Infantry Trophy Match returned to the National Match Program in, appropriately enough, the Bicentennial year of 1976. There was also a formal recognition of the growing capabilities of the M16 as 5.56mm ammunition was issued for the first time.

Junior participation in the Infantry Trophy Match had been small since the restoration of the match. However, the introduction of the M16 made it easier for the smaller statured shooters to absorb the rapid fire recoil required of the event and as a result junior team entries soon soared. To recognize this new category of competitor the NBPRP commissioned The Junior Infantry Team Trophy, a trio of Springfield M1903s placed at stack arms on a hard wood base, in 1983 and placed into competition the following year.

The National Matches and the NBPRP had long been a Congressional football for both political and fiscal reasons. To put an end to this uncertainty in civilian marksmanship training Congress passed legislation, *Title 36 U. S. Code, 0701-40733*, creating the Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and Firearms Safety (CPRPFS) in 1996. Better known as the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) its mandate is to (1) To

---

<sup>19</sup> Author's personal experience and interviews with the 1976 and 1977 CTARNG Team Captain and Coach SFC Richard Scheller, CTNG(RET) and SFC Roger McQuiggan, CTNG (RET).

<sup>20</sup> US Army Infantry Center, *Official Bulletin 1977 Rifle Pistol and Machine Gun Championship Matches*, Fort Benning, GA, 1977, page 50, 52, and 54.

<sup>21</sup> US Army Infantry Center, *Official Bulletin 2005 United States Army Small Arms Championship*, Fort Benning, GA, 2005, page 24.

instruct citizens of the United States in marksmanship, (2) To promote practice and safety in the use of firearms, and to (3) To conduct competitions in the use of firearms and to award trophies, prizes, badges, and other insignia to competitors.<sup>22</sup> With this legislation the National Matches and the conduct of the civilian Distinguished program was transferred from the Department of the Army to the new federally chartered 501(c)(3) corporation. The transition from one agency to another was seamless and the participants in the National Matches hardly noticed the change.

The CPRPFS also sought to recognize the many competitors who had purchased M1s through its sales program and were now campaigning the classic battle rifle in competition. Out of respect for those iron men with wooden rifles the Infantry Trophy M1 Garand Award was created for presentation in 2007. There is no trophy but special CMP recognition plaques are presented to the members of the winning team.

The military's winning streak in the Infantry Trophy Match, which extended back to 1930, which came to a screeching halt in 2009 at the hands of the civilians of the California Grizzlies O'Connell team. After 52 consecutive wins the military was not only dethroned but by a team made up of juniors. The California Grizzlies team was named for team coach Jim O'Connell, the team captain was Anthony Henderson and firing team members were Cheyanne Acebo, David Bahten, Matthew Chezem, Chad Kurgan, Joshua Lehn, and Jim Minturn.

The Infantry Trophy Team Match has changed a great deal since its inception in 1922, but one thing has not changed in high power during that time. Even the most experienced shooter preparing for rapid fire is slightly anxious when the command, "Is the firing line is ready? Your time will begin and you may fire when your targets appear" is announced. On the other hand all shooters feel the flutter of butterflies and a rapid increase in pulse and breath when the command, "Load and be ready" booms out.

---

<sup>22</sup> Civilian Marksmanship Program, [http://www.odcmp.com/Comm/About\\_Us.htm](http://www.odcmp.com/Comm/About_Us.htm)

## Appendix A- The Infantry Team Trophy



The United States Army Infantry, through private subscription among its officers and enlisted members, presented the Infantry Trophy to the National Rifle Association in 1922 and it was first awarded in 1923. The NRA placed the trophy in the custody of the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice in 1936 at which time the Board added the match to the National Match Program. The trophy, sculpted by Edward Viquesney, depicts two United States Infantrymen, of the Great War advancing in full combat gear, bayonets fixed.

1922	U.S. Infantry	14,658	1980	US Marine Corps Gold	1327
1923	U.S. Infantry	Unknown	1981	US Marine Corps Gold	1344
1924	Oregon National Guard	Unknown	1982	USAMU Gold	1303
1925	US Cavalry	Unknown	1983	US Army Reserve Blue	1352
1927	Oregon National Guard	Unknown	1984	US Army Reserve Gold	1288
1928	New York National Guard	Unknown	1985	All Guard Spruill	1389
1929	Massachusetts Civilians	Unknown	1986	USAMU Ramos	1292
1930	Nebraska Civilians	Unknown	1987	US Army Reserve Gold	1335
1931	Washington National Guard	Unknown	1988	USAMU Gold	1375
1932-35	No Competition		1989	All Guard Hollon	1303
1936	US Marine Corps	493	1990	All Guard Spruill	1203
1937	US Cavalry	547	1991	USAMU Silver	1274
1938	California National Guard	551	1992	US Army Reserve Dickey	1269
1939	Washington National Guard	530	1993	US Marine Corps Gold	1360
1940	US Coast Guard	560	1994	All Guard Bowman	1267
1941-55	No Competition		1995	USAMU Dooley	1404
1956	US Marine Corps Gray	894	1996	USAMU Remily	1466*
1957	US Army #1	887	1997	USAMU Number 2	1339
1958	US Army Blue	1001	1998	US Marine Corps Morgan	1360
1959	US Army Blue	1107	1999	US Marine Corps Rollins	1394
1960	US Army	1100	2000	US Marine Corps Wilson	1432
1961	US Army Eastern	1234	2001	USAMU	1393
1962	US Army Eastern	1258	2002	USAMU Coffey	1368
1963	US Army Western Blue	1242	2003	US Marine Corps Wilson	1408
1964	US Army Blue	1242	2004	USAMU Praslick	1385
1965	US Marine Corps Eastern	1264	2005	US Marine Corps Abbott	1271
1966	US Army	1188	2006	USAMU Hopper	1367
1967	US Army Eastern	1279	2007	USAMU Hopper	1330
1968-75	No Competition		2008	USAMU Praslick	1409
1976	US Army Blue	1318	2009	CA Grizzlies Junior O'Connell	1284
1977	USAMU Gold	1311	2010	USAMU Micholick	1329
1978	US Army Reserve Gold	1252	2011	USAMU Praslick	1352
1979	US Army Reserve Gold	1288			

\*=Record



## Appendix B-The Leatherneck Trophy



The 21<sup>st</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Randolph McCall Pate, presented the Leatherneck Trophy to the NBPRB in 1957, in the name of the officers and enlisted members of the Marine Corps, to be awarded to the high civilian team. The bronze statue is a replica of "Iron Mike," an effigy of a World War I Marine Infantryman, more formally titled, "Crusading for Right," which stands in at Marine Corps Base Quantico since 1921.

1957	Ohio	647	1986	Virginia #3	1064
1958	Ohio	674	1987	Virginia Blue	1142
1959	Oklahoma	755	1988	California	1122
1960	California	702	1989	Michigan R&P Assoc	1168
1961	Wisconsin	814	1990	Michigan R&P Assoc	953
1962	Wisconsin	849	1991	Virginia	1186
1963	California	827	1992	Ohio R&P Assoc Gold	1062
1964	Texas	934	1994	Michigan R&P Assoc	1074
1965	Maryland	938	1995	Wisconsin Eagles	1165
1966	California	970	1996	Wisconsin Eagles	1196
1967	Ohio	949	1997	Illinois R&P Assoc	1149
1968-1975-No Competition			1998	Wisconsin Eagles	1302
1976	Virginia	Unknown	1999	Georgia	1339
1977	Virginia	1071	2000	Virginia State Rollins	1395*
1978	Virginia	981	2001	Oklahoma	1166
1979	Virginia	1026	2002	Pennsylvania R&P Seniors	1072
1980	Virginia	1091	2003	VA Firearms & Marksmanship	1295
1981	Virginia	1035	2004	VA Firearms & Marksmanship	1342
1982	Virginia	1048	2005	NY State R&P Assoc Carney	1259
1983	Virginia	1107	2006	NY State R&P Assoc Considine	1330
1984	Virginia	1141	2007	Pennsylvania R&P Assoc	1158
1985	Arizona	1123	2008	VA Firearms & Marksmanship	1355
1986	California	1225	2009	CA Grizzlies O'Connell	1284
			2010	Coalinga CA R&P Assoc	1278
			2011	Pennsylvania R&P Assoc	1155

\*=Record

## Appendix C-Celtic Chieftain Trophy



The National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice purchased a bronze figure of the British chieftain Caractacus, leader of the British resistance to the Roman conquest in the middle years of the first century. This third award, the Celtic Chieftain Trophy, was added in 1959 and is presented to the high scoring reserve or National Guard team regardless of service.

1959	US Marine Corps Reserve	868	1991	All National Guard Spruill	1215
1960	US Army Reserve	963	1992	US Army Reserve Dickey	1269
1961	US Marine Corps Reserve	938	1993	All National Guard Zaborac	1264
1962	US Marine Corps Reserve	959	1994	All National Guard Bowman	1267
1963	US Army Reserve Blue	1027	1995	US Marine Corps Reserve	1183
1964	US Army Reserve Blue	954	1996	US Army Reserve Gold	1242
1965	US Army Reserve Blue	1146	1997	US Army Reserve McHugh	1256
1966	US Army Reserve Blue	1173	1998	US Marine Corps Reserve Gold	1252
1967	US Army Reserve Blue	1143	1999	US Army Reserve Kesler	1324
1968-77	No Competition		2000	US Army Reserve Kesler	1277
1978	US Army Reserve Gold	1252	2001	All National Guard Silver	1286
1979	US Army Reserve Gold	1288	2002	US Marine Corps Reserve	1248
1980	US Army Reserve Gold	1306	2003	US Army Reserve Gold	1297
1981	US Army Reserve Blue	1252	2004	All National Guard Morgan	1174
1982	All National Guard	1280	2005	All National Guard Morgan	1169
1983	US Army Reserve Blue	1352	2006	All National Guard Mayer	1225
1984	US Army Reserve Gold	1288	2007	US Army Reserve Gold	1211
1985	All National Guard Spruill	1389*	2008	All National Guard McCollom	1238
1986	US Army Reserve Gold	1179	2009	All National Guard Gold	1101
1987	US Army Reserve Gold	1135	2010	US Army Reserve Gold	1175
1988	All National Guard	1148	2011	All National Guard Shaof	1161
1989	All National Guard Hollon	1303			
1990	US Marine Corps Reserve Gold	1168			

\*=Record

## Appendix D-Junior Infantry Team Trophy



The Junior Infantry Team Trophy, recommended by the NBPRP in 1983 and first presented in 1984, consists of three Springfield M1903 rifles mounted on a polished hardwood base. The Springfield rifles were used in the design because of their prominence in the Infantry Trophy.

1984	Michigan R&P Juniors	798
1985	California R&P Juniors	953
1986	Michigan R&P Juniors	763
1987	Alabama State Juniors #1	867
1988	Arizona Juniors	948
1989	Arizona Juniors	899
1990	Virginia State Juniors	1051
1991	Arizona Juniors	782
1992	Arizona Juniors	987
1993	Arizona Juniors	898
1994	Arizona State R&P Juniors	1024
1995	Arizona Juniors	802
1996	Arizona State R&P Juniors	826
1997	Arizona Juniors	878
1998	Illinois Harddogs Gold	1048
1999	Arizona Juniors	1028
2000	Oklahoma Rifle Team	1330
2001	Arizona State Assoc Juniors	964
2002	Arizona State R&P Juniors	869
2003	Michigan Juniors	1168
2004	Wisconsin R&P Assoc Juniors	933
2005	Arizona State R&P Assoc Gold	1143
2006	Illinois Harddogs Gold	1005
2007	WA State R&P Bad Apples JR	1130
2008	California Grizzlies	1233
2009	California Grizzlies O'Connell	1284*
2010	California Grizzlies O'Connell	1268
2011	California Grizzlies O'Connell	1139

\*=Record

## Appendix G-The Infantry Trophy M1 Garand Award



This award was first presented in 2007. The high scoring team, using M1 rifles, in the National Trophy Infantry Team Match receives special Civilian Marksmanship Program Recognition Plaques.

2007	Garand Collectors Association Blind Hogs	496
2008	Insufficient Entries	
2009	Garand Collectors Association Blind Hogs	621
2010	Garand Collectors Association Indiana	646
2011	Garand Collectors Association Blind Hogs	751*

\*=Record

**8.5 National Trophy Infantry Team Match** - The National Trophy Infantry Team Match is a National Trophy Match conducted during the annual National Matches.

**8.5.1 Team Composition**

The team consists of a captain, a coach and six members who fire for the team's score.

**8.5.2 Course of Fire**

The Infantry Team Match Course of Fire (Table 7) is used for each team of six firing members.

(1) For firing at 600 and 500 yards, a standard 600-yard target is reversed to display a white background and pasted on a standard competitive target frame. The Army "E" silhouette target is centered horizontally on this background, with the top of the silhouette 13" below the top of the frame.

For firing at 300 and 200 yards, the Army "F" silhouette target is pasted on the face of a standard 200-yard target, with the top of the silhouette positioned at the top of the 8 ring.

(2) Teams take their positions on the 600-yard firing line as directed by team officials. Only the captain, coach, and firing members are permitted on the line. A three-minute preparation period is given at the 600-yard firing line only. After the preparation period ends, the command LOAD AND BE READY is given and the targets are exposed between 10 seconds and no later than 40 seconds after this command. Shooters may start firing when targets appear. Between stages, each team moves forward abreast.

Rifles must be unloaded, with magazines removed and bolts open, with muzzles elevated and pointed down range. The firing procedures at each range are the same as those at 600 yards. Each relay must complete the match before the next relay is called.

**Infantry Team Match Course of Fire (Table 7)**

Stage	Distance	Firing Position	Time Limit
First	600 yards	Prone	50 Seconds
Second	500 yards	Prone	50 Seconds
Third	300 yards	Sitting or Kneeling	50 Seconds
Fourth	200 yards	Standing	50 Seconds

---

<sup>23</sup> Civilian Marksmanship Program, *CMP Competition Rules 15<sup>th</sup> Edition*, Port Clinton, OH, 2011, Pages 47-49.

### **8.5.3 Competition Conditions**

- (1) Slings. A sling may be used for support in all positions.
- (2) Ammunition. Each team is permitted a total of 384 rounds of ammunition. The team captain allocates the ammunition among stages, divides it among the firing members and decides the number of rounds to be loaded in the clips or magazines.
- (3) Targets. Each team is assigned a block of eight adjoining targets. Gaps in the target line separate one team's targets from those of another.
- (4) Coaching. During the Infantry Team Match, both the team captain and the team coach may coach and talk directly with the shooters and they may touch the shooters' rifles.
- (5) Malfunctions. No alibis are accepted for misfires, disabled firearms or other failures of range or team equipment.
- (6) Score Recording. An assistant range officer is assigned to each team to enforce safety regulations and record the team's scores. A designated team representative (verifier) may accompany this officer downrange to verify scores.

### **8.5.4 Scoring**

- (1) All scores are recorded on the firing line at the end of each stage.
- (2) Hits outside the silhouettes are not scored or marked.
- (3) Hits on the silhouettes count 4 points at 600 yards, 3 points at 500 yards, 2 points at 300 yards and 1 point at 200 yards.
- (4) A bonus for distribution is calculated at each range. The bonus is determined by counting the number of silhouette targets that contain six or more hits each. The number of targets with six or more hits is squared and that result is added to the total hit score for that range to produce the total score for that range.
- (5) Ties are broken according to the highest team score at 600 yards, then at 500 yards, etc.

### **8.5.5 Telescopes and Field Glasses**

In the National Trophy Infantry Team Match, the team captain and coach are permitted to use binoculars that do not exceed 10X50 in power and objective lens diameter. Telescopes may only be used behind the ready line and before the preparation period starts. Telescopes and field glasses may be used as follows:

- (1) The team captain and coach may use a telescope behind the assembly line for the purpose of reading the wind before the start of their team's relay. These telescopes may not be used for coaching or reading wind after the preparation period starts.

(2) After the preparation period starts, the captain and coach may use binoculars that do not exceed 10X50 in power and objective lens diameter.

(3) The assistant range officer or verifier may carry one telescope downrange and may use it only to check and verify scores.

(4) Telescopes taken downrange must be turned parallel to the firing line during the time when targets are exposed and may be turned towards the targets only during scoring.

#### **8.5.6 National Trophy Infantry Team Match Awards**

The highest scoring team in each category of the National Trophy Infantry

Team Match receives the award listed below. The firing members, coach and team captain of the second place team in each category receive silver medals and the firing members, coach and captain of the third place team receive bronze medals.

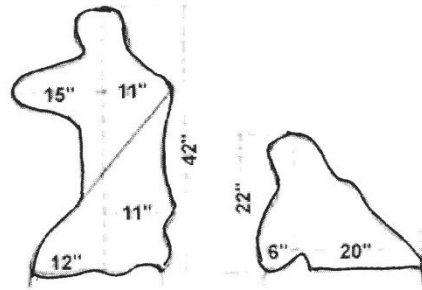
(1) Overall Team Champion. Infantry Trophy

(2) Reserve Component. Celtic Chieftain Trophy

(3) Civilian. Leatherneck Trophy

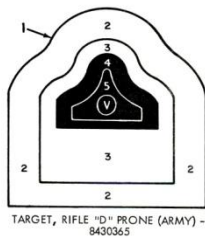
(4) Junior. Junior Infantry Team Trophy

## Appendix G-Targets



“Squaw” and “Papoose”<sup>24</sup>

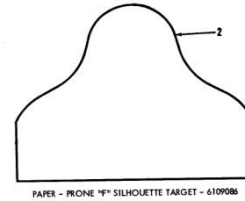
### Military Targets<sup>25</sup>



“D” Silhouette  
Six feet by Six feet  
Silhouette:  
Width: 26 inches  
Height: 19 Inches



“E” Silhouette  
a. Width: 20 inches  
b. Height: 40 inches



“F” Silhouette  
a. Width: 26 inches  
b. Height: 17 inches

Note: Targets are not to scale

<sup>24</sup> Gloria Culver, *Service Rifle Qualification Courses and Target Graphics*, Culver Shooting Page-  
<http://www.jouster.com>, 2006. page 4

<sup>25</sup> Department of the Army, TM 9-6920-210-14 Operator, Organizational Direct Support and General Support Maintenance Manual including Basic Issue Items List and Repair Parts List Small Arms Targets and Target Material, Washington, DC, 1969, pages 31 and 33.



## Bibliography and Reading List

- Robert E. Barde, *Marine Corps Competitive Marksmanship, U.S. Marine Corps*, Washington, DC, 1961.
- Civilian Marksmanship Program, *CMP Competition Rules 15<sup>th</sup> Edition*, Port Clinton, OH 2011.
- , CMP National Trophy Matches Program, Port Clinton, Ohio, various years
- , CMP Website, <http://www.odcmp.com>.
- Gloria Culver, *Service Rifle Qualification Courses and Target Graphics*, Culver Shooting Page-<http://www.jouster.com>, 2006.
- Karen Davey, et. al., *The National Matches 1903-2003 The First 100 Years*, The National Rifle Association, Fairfax, VA, 2003.
- Department of the Army, *Army Regulation 350-66 Army Wide Small-Arms Competitive Marksmanship*, Washington, DC, 2003.
- , *United States Army Regulation 650-66, Army-wide Small Arms Competitive Marksmanship*, Washington, 2003.
- , *United States Army Regulation 672-5-1 Decorations and Awards*, Headquarters Department of the Army, Washington, 1990.
- , *United States Army Regulation 920-15 National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and the Office of the Director of Civilian Marksmanship*, Headquarters Department of the Army, Washington, 1984.
- *United States Army Regulation 920-30, Civilian Marksmanship Rules and Regulations for National Matches*, Headquarters Department of the Army, Washington, 1967.
- , *Army Regulation 920-30, Rules and Regulations for National Matches and Other Excellence-in-Competition (EIC) Matches*, Headquarters Department of the Army, Washington, DC, 1990.
- , TM 9-6920-210-14 Operator, Organizational Direct Support and General Support Maintenance Manual including Basic Issue Items List and Repair Parts List Small Arms Targets and Target Material, Washington, DC.
- Department of the Navy, *Marine Corps Order P3590.13B, Rules and Regulations for National matches and Other Excellence-in-Competition (EIC) Matches*, Headquarters Department of the Navy, Washington, DC, 1990.
- , *OPNAVINST 3590.7C, Rules and Regulations for National Matches and Other Excellence-in-Competition (EIC) Matches*, Headquarters Department of the Navy, Washington, DC, 1990.
- William Emerson, *Marksmanship in the U.S. Army: A History of Medals, Shooting Programs, and Training*, University of Oklahoma, Norman, 2004.
- Ellis Christian Lenz, *Muzzle Flashes*, Huntington, West Virginia, 1944,
- National Rifle Association, *Official Program of the National Matches and Small Arms Firing School and the Annual Matches of the National Rifle Association of America*, Washington DC, various years.