

*A
Short History
of
The United States Participation
in the
The Pershing and Roberts, Trophy
International Rifle Team Matches*

*Prepared for the
National Rifle Association of America
Smallbore Committee
on the occasion of the
2005 Pershing Match
by
Hap Rocketto*

After a string of wins in the Dewar International Rifle Match the prone shooters in the United States were building up quite a head of competitive steam. In 1931 the slightly cocky Americans issued a challenge to Great Britain's Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs for a shoulder-to-shoulder rifle match to be shot in England. The match would be a ten man team firing the Dewar Course, 20 shots for record at 50 yards and another 20 shots for record at 100 yards, using the targets and rules of the home country. The British accepted and a team of 12 shooters and 3 officials set sail from New York aboard the SS President Roosevelt. Being transported to the match aboard a ship named for America's most shooting conscious president must have been viewed as an auspicious omen by the American riflemen.

Arriving in England the Americans soon found themselves at Bisley competing in the British Championship. In five of the six individual matches they were nudged out of first place on the basis of tie breaking rules. However, the challengers were not to be denied and, in the Grand Aggregate Dr. Emmett O. Swanson, a dentist from Minneapolis, Minnesota, won the match while besting the British record by six points!

After taking a beating in the past few Dewar matches, and seeing the strength of the Americans at Bisley, the British team took to the line on July 10th to do battle with some trepidation. The match was fired in relays of five shooters. The hosts quickly took a lead of seven points at the 50-yard line. After the

first five fired at 100 yards the Americans were 12 points down. With a Herculean effort the second five Americans pulled within 2 points of the victorious British. F.S. Morse, of the British team, shot three clean targets to lead all with a 397.

Major Julian Hatcher, the United States team captain stated that, "It is just exactly the kind of match we like to see, where both teams are evenly matched and it is anybody's victory until the last shot." That evening he prophesied that, "we are coming back here again and again until we do beat you." The teams made tentative plans to meet again in 1932 but the financial crisis brought on by the Stock Market Crash of 1929 and the world wide Great Depression that followed in its wake would dash those plans.

The tradition of the match was not lost. General John J. Pershing, who felt that shooting was both a splendid sport as well as an aid to national defense, offered a challenge trophy to be awarded to the annual winner of the match series. Created by Baltimore sculpture Jack Lambert the trophy has a black marble base that is 21 by 13 inches. On each extreme end of the base is a prone smallbore shooter. Each shooter is dressed and armed with representative equipment of his respective nation. Between them is a silver representation of a US Army officer's cap badge in honor of General Pershing. Engraved upon the shield is the inscription, "THE PERSHING TROPHY presented to The National Rifle Association of America by General John J. Pershing for International Rifle Competition." The base is adorned

with silver shields proclaiming the year, winner, and score. Behind stands a bronze figure, about 30 inches tall, with his right hand raised in greeting and a Kentucky Long Rifle cradled in his left.

General of the Armies John Joseph Pershing was born in the first year of the American Civil War and graduated from West Point. His remarkable career spanned a half-century of service, beginning during the Indian Wars on the western frontier and ending in the nuclear age with his death in 1948. It is a relatively little known fact that he was one of the earliest winners of the Army's Distinguished Marksman Badge, given for a preeminent skill in the use of the service rifle. He reached the highest offices in the army, commanding American forces in France during World War One and closing his career as the Chief Of Staff of the United States Army. Poet Arthur Gutierman honored him in rhyme in his work, "Pershing at the Front". "Black Jack' Pershing is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

After six years, amid improving economic conditions, the Americans mounted another expedition to claim the Pershing Trophy. A superstitious observer might have noticed that there were certain ominous similarities between the American's first and second attempts. The team sailed for England aboard a liner named for a United States president, this time the SS President Harding. They would again arrive on July 1st, and five of the original team would be participating in the second attempt to

wrest the Pershing Trophy from the British.

The Coronation Year of 1937 was a year of might have been in England. King Edward VIII might still have been King of England instead of his Brother, George VI, if it were not for his abdication to marry an American divorcee. The Americans might have had a Pershing victory but the British, having lost a king to the twice divorced American socialite Wallis Warfield Simpson, would not lose the Pershing Trophy to her home country.

The match fell on the afternoon of Friday, July 9th, just one day short of exactly six years since the first match. The competition was keen and the teams were shooting to a high standard. Although the British had fired a disappointing low score in The Dewar Match the day before they were prepared for the Pershing and all bets are always off in a shoulder-to-shoulder match.

As in the first match the shooters fired in relays of five. After the first string at 50 yards the score was tied at 496 each. The second relay duplicated the first and the score stood tied at 992 going into the 100-yard stage. More than one English competitor's mind must have thought back to 1931 when the Americans came on strong and beat them by 5 points at 100. It was nip and tuck at long range and the British were holding hard. In the end they were not to be denied and, for the second time in as many attempts the Americans failed by a two-point margin to win the match. American shooter Dr. Russell Gardner shot the match's best score, a 399, in the same style as F.S. Morse did in

1931. He dropped his point on the first target and then cleaned the next three.

Two years later the Americans made a third challenge for the elusive trophy. An April 8th letter from C.B. Lister, the National Rifle Association of America's Secretary-Treasurer, requested that the 1939 match be fired prior to the British Championships so that the Bisley meeting would not distract the American's organization and training. Financial and transportation reasons were also cited for reasons supporting this unusual request. The British, in their characteristically gracious sporting manner, accepted these conditions, even though they felt that they were being placed at a disadvantage. The unexpected short notice of the challenge created problems. Their team was caught short. This denied them an orderly team selection and raised havoc among the British shooters who had already arranged vacation schedules in order to make their national matches.

Some of this perceived advantage may have been lost when the Americans made two decisions that would bar 13 of the better shooters from even trying out for the team. Three woman shooters, Mrs. L.P. Bartlett, Mrs. Alice Cole, and Mrs. Dorothea Kelly, were eliminated from selection because of "...practical difficulties involved in arranging steamship and hotel accommodations for a mixed team..." Another ten shooters were eliminated because they were in the employ of munition manufacturers. Pershing veteran, National Prone Champion, and Western employee

Bill Woodring, as well as Winchester's eminent Jack Lacey, fell to this rule. It was felt that these shooters might be placed in an uncomfortable position if the team, in its effort to win the match, used ammunition or equipment not manufactured by their employers.

This team was selected from eight regional tryouts with the balance made up of shooters chosen from averages established during the previous competition year. Additionally the team officers, Dr. Russ Gardner, J.C. Lippencott, and Ralph McGarity, would have the final say and would not permit a shooter who was, "...temperamentally unsuited for the trying trip..." or, as a precursor to the 1980s and the 30 degree rule, one, "...whose prone firing position is so low as to arouse doubt as to its legality."

The American team was armed with 21 rifles made by Winchester, Remington, Springfield, and Marlin with barrels produced by celebrated gunsmiths Harry Pope and Eric Johnson. They arrived in England aboard the SS President Roosevelt, the same vessel that brought them to the first match in 1931, and proceeded to the ranges at Ham and Petersham to prepare for the July 9th match. Great Britain was involved in increased military training and mobilization in the face of the deteriorating political situation on the continent. Increased use of the Bisley ranges by the army made it impossible to schedule the tournament at the traditional venue.

After a practice session that gave the Americans some insight into the range, but no scores of consequence, the hosts had every

reason to be confident. The British were favored to hold onto the trophy for another year. However, after the first relay had fired the visitors sat on a fat 12-point lead and, even though the hosts never let up the pressure, the match eventually ended with a 19 point United States victory. Carl Frank was high gun with a 397, as he creedmoored teammates Willis Kenyon and R.C. Pope for the honor. The third time proved to be the charm for the Americans.

Although the British were raising funds and planning for a rematch the following summer that contest would not take place as scheduled. Shooting, of a more deadly nature, would erupt within a few weeks of the end of the third Pershing Match. Hitler's troops invaded Poland on the first of September, setting off The Second World War. The British would have to wait 14 years before they could challenge the United States for the Pershing Trophy.

Eight years after the end of World War II England was still suffering the economic and social after effects of the epic struggle. The high regard and affection that the Americans held the British shooters was amply displayed by a 500-pound sterling donation to the British Team by American Pershing veteran Bill Schweitzer. The British had high hopes of doing well in the 1953 Pershing Match. In 1952 they had established a new Dewar record of 7977 and were eagerly looking forward to meeting the Americans at Camp Perry. The Canadians were also invited to contest the trophy and sent the best available team.

However, they arrived late and were travel weary.

Despite being tired and unable to train at Perry the Canadians acquitted themselves very well, shooting a splendid score that bested the Pershing record. Unfortunately for them so did the British and the United States. The United States Team fired a 3990, the British a 3980, and the Canadians a 3966. The margin of victory, just one point per shooter, shows that the British were not to be taken lightly. The Americans had four shooters turn in perfect scores with high match honors going to Charles C. Whipple who had 31 Xs. Ransford Triggs had the same X count but was two shy of Whipple's 100 X count. The British had trained long and hard and were coming on strong during the National Championship. Had the match been a few days later the margin may have been much closer or the results quite different for the fourth Pershing.

The British were treated in royal style. They were fresh from a nation that had suffered greatly during the late conflict. War enforced austerity at home, a memory to the Americans, was still a fact of daily life to them. They were taken aback by the hurly-burly of the crowds and traffic in New York, by the wealth and size of the nation, the availability and variety of food and manufactured goods, and high spirits of the people.

At Camp Perry the visitors were housed in cabins in Hough Grove and ate in the old clubhouse. They made new friendships and renewed old ones. And, like the rest of the shooters, they left some

money in the shops on Commercial Row: the "bazaar lines" as they referred to them. The visitors viewed the Camp Perry experience as interesting and noted that awards "in kind" at Camp Perry replaced the large amount of prize money offered in England. They felt the competition was keen and fair, while the match was well run. Over all the facilities were better than at Bisley with high marks being given for the washing facilities. The weather was typical Perry: hot and humid. It was most un-English and drew down the physical reserves of the visitors.

At that time, a condition of the Pershing Match was that the challenger had to travel to the winner's ranges to compete. As a result eight years would pass before the British would again challenge. The fifth Pershing Match kicked off on August 11, 1961 with typical Camp Perry Late summer conditions. It was a bright day with temperature and humidity both in the 90s. The firing line cover, familiar to younger shooters, was then but a suggestion by the team from Great Britain. Teams from Canada, Great Britain, and the United States took the line and shooting began about midday. The Canadians, making their second Pershing appearance, were squadded in the center with the British on the right while the United States took up the left.

The team from the United States followed it custom and assigned a coach to each shooter. The British, used to a great many wind flags at Bisley, had none at Perry and not every shooter had a coach. The Canadians who were not shooting coached those who

were. It was a tight match with the British and the United States teams within 5 points of each other after the 50 yard stage was fired with the Canadians dropping as many as both of the other teams combined. Historically the long-range stage had decided the match and this year was no exception. The United States team beat off a strong British effort at 100 yards by just 2 points. The aggregate scores put the United States first with a 3970-239X, the British second with a 3961-237X, and the Canadians third with a 3935-176X. The close X count between the first two teams indicates that the match was a bit closer than the numerical score indicates. Of the 30 shooters only two fired perfect scores. The British shooter Don Bester, who would represent his nation in the Maccabiah Games, cleaned it with 25 Xs.

The big news was Janet Friddell who became the first American woman to shoot on a Pershing Team. She was also the Pershing Match high shooter with a 27X possible. She then joined the Randle ladies and shot another clean with 29Xs to top the field in that match. After refilling her loading block she joined with fellow members of the Dewar team to fire that postal. In this match, on the tougher English target, she was again at the top of her form, but two points off of the leader's score. Friddell's skills, and the happy timing of the three matches at the same time, lead her to complete a hat trick that has yet to be matched.

In 1965 the Pershing Trophy would be contested for the sixth time. It would be the third British

challenge for the Pershing Trophy. The Canadians were again invited. As usual the guests were completely supported by the host with entries, room, and board provided by the NRA. The British were again housed in Hough Grove, the present site of volunteer housing, located behind Petrarca Range. Special arrangements were made to allow the visitors training time so that they might check their equipment while getting a feel for the range.

It is interesting to note that BSA, Winchester, and Anschutz made arrangements for spare rifles to be available in case the visitors needed them. The manufacturer provided 15,000 rounds of Eley Tenex to the British and this ammunition was used by all of the British shooters throughout the matches. The British made many purse lightening visits to Commercial Row to purchase shooting equipment that was not readily available at home.

The match was shot on the 13th of August and it proved to be an unlucky day for all but the United States. It was, as usual, a bright hot day with strong gusty winds and soupy mirage. The scores reflect the tough conditions. The winning score of 3945 was one of the lowest winning scores in the match history. The British were second with 3929 and the Canadians were third with a 3886. The Canadians were at a disadvantage as they had a smaller number of shooters from which to select a team. They again arrived late and were unable to take advantage of any training sessions.

There were no 400s but there were two 399-24s. Adam Gordon of

Great Britain beat Lones Wigger of the United States on a tiebreaker. Gordon, who dropped his only point on his 40th shot, bested Wigger at 100 yards by 4 Xs for high match honors.

The British were impressed with the number of entries, 658 for prone and 364 for position, and the facilities and accent on cleanliness at Camp Perry. They commented favorably on the large number of junior shooters attending the NRA schools during the matches. After departing Perry they were hosted in Washington DC by the NRA staff. They toured the city, dined, and attended the theater before returning home.

1969 would see a major change in the Pershing Match series. Until this time the matches had been fired on an irregular basis. Noted British shooter Colonel Thomas Sutton, a veteran of the first Pershing Trophy match in 1931, donated The Field Marshall Earl Roberts Trophy. Field Marshall Lord Roberts of Kanadahar was commissioned in 1851, nine years before John Pershing was born. His distinguished career spanned the bulk of the reign of Queen Victoria and ended with him holding the post of Commander in Chief of The British Army in 1904. An artillery officer, and recipient of the Victoria Cross, as was his son, he was a strong believer in marksmanship doing much to support shooting programs. Frederick Sleigh Roberts, like Pershing, was honored by poetry. No less a bard than the Poet Laureate of England, Rudyard Kipling penned two verses to this brilliant tactician. The first was titled

"Bobs" and the second, "Lord Roberts", written after his death, is a memorial to the 'Master-Gunner'.

With the donation of the trophy the international match series took on a more regular form. The Pershing and The Roberts would be contested at eight year intervals so timed as to allow a match to be fired every four years. All matches conducted in the United States are for the Pershing Trophy while those in Great Britain are for the Roberts Trophy. Both are fired over a Dewar course with the host country's rules determining the minutia of the match. The rules are quite similar which makes the target the major change.

The Roberts Trophy is a statue of the Field Marshall standing in full field uniform at the position of parade rest.

The first Field Marshall Earl Roberts Trophy Match was fired at Bisley on June 20, 1969 under conditions that were described, in typically understated British style, as "really skill testing". The United States' Jack Foster and host team's Art Skinner, each with a 394, were the top shooter from each team. The American team had been selected during the metallic sight aggregate the previous year at Camp Perry while the British made their selection from the members of their Dewar Team that had fired the previous day. In the end it was the consistency of the Americans that won out. Three Americans shot over 390, six were in the 380s, and only one score in the 370s. The British had but one 394, eight scores in the mid 380s, and a low 370. The final score was 3851 to 3829. The American team was treated to the

customary flurry of parties, dinners, and entertainments. The British hospitality more than matched that offered to them at Camp Perry. Although the British would have wished for a different outcome, the maiden Roberts match was a huge success.

The seventh Pershing Trophy was held on the 9th of August 1973. The Pershing usually kicks off early, about 7:30 AM, as opposed to the traditional afternoon firing time of the Roberts. This year it was a slightly over cast day with a light breeze. Each team had five coaches and the battle was tight. The American team completed the 50-yard stage without dropping a point while the visitors had seven possible scores, but was down four points. Knowing the British skill at 100 yards the match was far from over. The hosts could not relax, as their small lead was inconsequential in a match of this magnitude. The shooters bore down and in the end the home team saw eight of its shooters go clean. Allen Knowles, very much home at Perry, fired a 400-37 to best the field in individual honors. The British were not so fortunate and in the end the score was 3996 to 3985. The difference was the long-range stage. Had the British cleaned it, as the Americans had the 50 yard stage, the shoe might well have been on the other foot.

Continuous rains marked the second Lord Roberts Match, in 1977. It was the wettest anyone could remember for three decades. The Americans came to defend the trophy and were faced with a stiff challenge. At the end of the short range stage the British held a slim

two-point lead. The American Team was young but was not diverted by either the weather or the nonstop social whirl that attend these matches. Holding together they managed to best the British at their own game, the 100-yard match, by four points. They retained the trophy by a two-point margin.

The British returned to in 1981 for the eighth Pershing Match. On Friday July 31st Canadians, Britons, and Americans took the line for the Pershing Match. It was a dead calm morning and the scores reflected the condition with thirty shooters dropping but five points. The host team was clean, the Canadians down two and the British three off. The targets were quickly moved and the 100-yard stage began. While the British showed great improvement, they were out Xed by the Canadians for second place. The Commonwealth countries each shot 3992; three points behind the winning United States, but the colonial cousins were six Xs better than the mother country. It was a close and exciting Pershing match made more so by the fact that the Canadians had done so well. Hans Adlhoch, of Canada, was the high shooter with a 400-37 while Briton Peter Martin was second by an X. Linda Smallbone entered the record books as the first woman to represent England in the Pershing Match.

Contemporary reports of the 1985 Roberts Match state that conditions were "the worst...ever seen on any range" The two teams were fairly evenly matched, in this the third Roberts Match, and it was just a matter of chance as to who

won. The wind was so bad that it was the luck of the draw as to where the shots were going. In the end the United States was luckier than the hosts and by a razor thin margin of one point, 3825 to 3824, earned the victor's laurels. It was one of those matches where one comes away knowing that it was a shame that someone had to lose. The competition was keen, the teams matched, and it was just who was fortunate enough not to get caught by the random gusts of wind.

1989 saw the ninth Pershing Match and with it the traditional extension of the prone championship by a day. It was to be reminiscent of the 1973 Randle Trophy Match. Shooting on the same range the United States Pershing team would duplicate the ladies feat of shooting a perfect team score of 4000, but not quite. The day began with gloomy weather but by the time the match began the promise of rain had turned into a forgotten threat and the match was shot under fine conditions. The home team was clean at the 50 yard line and held onto perfection at long range accumulating 301X along the way. The score was just two Xs shy of the Randle record. The visiting British were second with a 3995-310X. The X count showing just how fine a group of shooters they were. The Canadian Team was a further 13 points behind.

Presley Kendall, a former United States prone champion and world class rifleman, donated a trophy in memory of William J. Grater, the United States National Junior Champion in 1955 and a member of the 1961 United States Pershing Team, to be presented to

the high score on the British Team. With a score of 400-36X Cliff Ogle became its first recipient.

The Fourth Roberts match was shot on August 20, 1993 at two in the afternoon. The day broke windy and conditions only got worse during the day. At match time the winds seemed of gale force and were rapidly switching. The normally quick firing American team found itself having to wait out conditions and some team members came close to running out of time. Web Wright III was the high United States shooter dropping 11 points. The high scorer over all was British shooter Jon Stern who completed the match only eight down. As usual there was a great fellowship among the shooters marked by dinners and gift giving. This win, the first in the match series, was all the sweeter for the British who had to endure a long spell second place finishes in the Pershing/Roberts series.

The Tenth Pershing Match was fired on Wednesday July 30th as part of the 1997 United States National Outdoor Smallbore Prone Championships. By 7:30 in the morning all of the principals had assembled for the target draw. Canada drew the left side of the line, Great Britain the center, and the United States the right hand firing points. The competitors set up their equipment and then waited until the sun fully illuminated the target faces.

It was quite breezy, gusty winds whipped in from the north off of Lake Erie, causing Frank Boyd, coach of the United States team, and a veteran of many Dewar, Pershing, and Roberts Matches, to remark that this competition was sure to be close

as the British were very tough in the wind. The conditions, which were much like those found at Bisley, home of the British National Championship, are less common on the shores of Lake Erie. The home field advantage that the United States may have held was negated by the unusual conditions for Camp Perry.

The match requires each team of ten shooters to fire a Dewar Course on the United States target. Twenty record shots are fired at 50 yards on the A-23 target with another 20 shots following on the A-25 target at 100 yards. The competitors knew that each point was precious. In the past three Pershing Matches the winning United States teams lost only nine points out of a possible 12,000. Concentration was intent as the shooters listened carefully to their coaches calling the wind. At the end of the 50-yard stage the unofficial scoreboards indicated that the United States held a small four or five point lead over Great Britain with Canada several points behind them. Long range is the deciding factor in most matches and this one proved to be no exception.

There is no such thing as a safe lead in a prone match and the United States shooters knew that the British were going to give them no quarter. In the end the United States Pershing Team was able to maintain its lead and won the match by just three points. The United States Team of Shane Barnett, Glenn Dubis, James Hinkle, Lones Wigger, Jr., Steve Goff, Cory Brunetti, Jason Parker, Eliza Bishop, Kerry Spurgin, and Barry Smith fired a 3990-289X to Great Britain's 3987-273 and

Canada's 3959-228. Tony Leone and Dave Cramer were team alternates. George Harris, of the NRA Rifle Competitions Division, ably assisted Coach Boyd and Edie Reynolds, the first woman to captain a United States Pershing Team. As team adjutant, Harris was charged with many administrative tasks that he executed with aplomb.

Glenn Dubis was the high gun for the United States, and the match, with a 400-36X. Great Britain's Cliff Ogle's 400-33X had the best score on the British team again earning him the William Grater Trophy, just as he had done in 1989. Adding another record to his long list of shooting accomplishments was Lones Wigger, Jr. who competed in his fifth consecutive Pershing Match, not having missed one since 1965. No other United States shooter approaches this milestone. Eliza Bishop repeated the hat trick first accomplished by Janet Fridell in 1961 when she earned a berth on the Pershing, Dewar, and Randle Teams in the same year.

A group of riflemen from Ireland attended the match as observers, acting as scorers for the Canadian team, with an eye on participation in the next Pershing Match to be held in 2005. Many members of the Canadian team participated in the metallic sight aggregate but left after the Pershing to get home in time to prepare for their national championship the following week.

The traditional series of banquets and awards presentations accompanied the match. When all of the hoopla was done the British continued competing in the matches

with British shooters Ron Fowke and Mike Babb finishing in second and third place over all in the anysight aggregate. Apparently the wining and dining did not slow the two visitors down one bit. Following the prone phase awards ceremony on Friday night, where they were recognized and warmly greeted, the British flew home to get ready for the upcoming Bisley meeting.

The United States returned to Bisley in August of 2001 with sights set on recovering the Roberts Trophy. It would not be easy as the British are always tough competitors and they would be hosting the match while celebrating the centennial of the British National Smallbore Rifle Association, whose first president was Field Marshall Earl Roberts.

Selected the previous year at Camp Perry the team enjoyed the relaxed format of the 2800 point British Championship, compared to the 6400 point Camp Perry competition, and managed to acquire a few individual honors as it acclimatized to the world famous Bisley wind.

On August 17 the teams set out their equipment on Century Range and set to work. The United States Team got off to a good start with a four point lead after the 50 meter state of the match. Great Britain's Neil Stirton was high gun with a 197 but the Unites States team had a smaller deviation in scores-Dave Johnson's 196 being high while the lowest score was 191. However, the real test remained-long range, a British specialty.

Mike Babb, no stranger to the United States team because of his excellent performances at Camp

Perry, led the British with an outstanding 197 at 100 meters. He received strong support from his team mates who shot no score lower than a 190. For the United States the situation was grim. Shane Barnhart came close to covering Babb with a 196 but two United States shooters fell out of the 190s giving the home team the higher score at the longer range.

In the end it was to be just about as tight a match as imaginable. The British out scored the United States by three points at 100 meters but they were unable to overcome the earlier four point advantage at short range. The United States had eked out a victory by the margin of a single point. Had the score been tied the match would have been gone to the home team by virtue of the higher long range score.

It was a dramatic end to a hard fought contest between two tenacious teams who have nothing but respectful for each other. The spectators and fans were treated to an exciting match, the likes of which are seldom scene. If prone shooting can ever said to be exciting this was the example.

The United States team took away more than the Roberts Trophy, they left with bonds between national shooting organizations renewed, overwhelmed by British hospitality, and looking forward with anticipation to another hard fought contest at Camp Perry in four years when the Pershing Trophy will be contested.

It was a close run match when the British came to the United States in 2005 to try to reclaim the Pershing Trophy. An early morning rain beat a

monotonous drum roll on the firing line awning and extended the eight year wait for the start of the Pershing Match by a few hours. Anxious match officials huddled under the canvas awaiting word on the weather. They breathed a sigh of relief as the torrent slowed to a shower to a drizzle to a mist which soon melted away under a strong sun. After drawing for firing points ten shooters from Canada, Great Britain, and the US Teams took to the line grouped in five pairs of two, each with a coach.

A large easel stood behind each pair where sat a register keeper whose duty it was to keep an unofficial score for the gallery that wandered from team to team trying to keep abreast of the action. The twelve shooters were selected from the metallic sight aggregate and the ten best would fire the match under the watchful eye of Captain Edie Reynolds, Adjutant George Harris, and Head Coach Dave Cramer. Beyerle, Tamas, Anti, Barnhart, Hein, Parker, Goff, Paul Gideon, and Wes Robinson shot while Boyd Goldsby and Nathaniel Holcomb acted as alternates.

The competition and the weather were both a challenge, made all the more so by the fact that the conditions were more like those found at the Bisley and more comforting to the British than the traditional hot and humid Perry weather favored by the home team. Firing across the Dewar Course on US targets the match began at 50 yards and when the relay had come to an end the United States enjoyed a small edge over Great Britain, 1997-152X to 1994-131X, while

Team Canada was in third with a 1965-126X.

Considering the conditions and the long range skill of the visiting teams the United States could not afford to ease up. Believing the match would be very close Captain Reynolds took the position that if the team shot for Xs the tens would take care of themselves. She was clairvoyant: the British experience enabled them to nibble away at the US lead until it disappeared, the British shooting 1996-139X at 100 yards to the United States team's 1993-143X. In the end it came down to Xs and, in the closest finish in the history of the match, the United States managed to come out on top by a margin of just 25Xs. Canada, a team of great sportsman, came in third with a 3929-221X. In a game

that where the winner is often decided by just fractions of an inch it was a very close shave for the home team. Keith Ridgeway shot a 400-33X for the high score of the match and, as high rifle on the British Team, was awarded the William Grater Trophy.

The English speaking countries are preparing to square off again in 2009 at Bisley. As it has been for over a half of a century it will be an event that is eagerly awaited, well conducted, and hard fought. The best shooters will meet on the grounds of intense, but friendly, contest. The heat of competition is like the fire in a forge. It will test and temper the metal of the shooters while it shapes stronger links between the competitors and their countries.

United States Pershing Team Roster

<i>Aaron Hupman</i>	1981		
<i>Allan Knowles</i>	1973		
<i>Anthony Leone</i>	1997		
<i>Arthur E. Cook</i>	1953	1961 CO	
<i>Barry Smith</i>	1997		
<i>Bill Krilling</i>	1965 ALT	1973 CO	1989 CA
<i>Boyd Goldsby</i>	1989	2005 ALT	
<i>C.J. Schaffer</i>	1973 ADJ		
<i>C.L. Madden</i>	1965		
<i>C.R. Cater</i>	1953		
<i>Carl Frank</i>	1939		
<i>Carl Jackson</i>	1939 ALT		
<i>Charles Hamby</i>	1939		
<i>Charles Whipple</i>	1953		
<i>Cory Brunetti</i>	1997		
<i>Dave Carleson</i>	1937		
<i>David Cramer</i>	1997 ALT		
<i>David Johnson</i>	1989		
<i>David Ross III</i>	1981		
<i>David Weaver</i>	1973	1981	1989
<i>Dean Delamater</i>	1965		
<i>Dennis Ghiselli</i>	1989		
<i>Don Adams</i>	1965		
<i>Don Bartless</i>	1965		
<i>Donald E. Lockstrom</i>	1961		
<i>Doug Knoop</i>	1965		
<i>E.A. Craven</i>	1937		
<i>Edie P. Reynolds</i>	1997	2005 CA	
<i>Edward Caygle</i>	1961		
<i>Eliza Bishop</i>	1997		
<i>Emmet O. Swanson</i>	1931	1937	
<i>Eric Sundstrom</i>	1973 ALT		
<i>Ernest Vande Zande</i>	1981		
<i>F.J. Pafe</i>	1931		
<i>Frank Briggs</i>	1965		
<i>Frank R. Boyd</i>	1997 CO		
<i>Fred Johansen</i>	1931	1937	
<i>G. Sittler</i>	1931		
<i>Gail Evans</i>	1931 ALT		
<i>Gen Dubis</i>	1997		
<i>George A. Snelgrave</i>	1961		
<i>George B. Harris</i>	1989 ADJ	1997 ADJ	2005 ADJ
<i>George Sheldon</i>	1931		
<i>George Whittington</i>	1965 CA		
<i>Harold D. Allyn</i>	1939		
<i>Harry Hoy</i>	1981 ADJ	1973 CA	

Henry Adams	1931				
Herb Hollister	1961 ADJ	1965 CO	1981 HCO		
Homer H. Jacobs	1931 ALT	1937			
J. Eric Sondstrom	1961 ALT				
J.C. Lippencott	1939 CO				
Jack Foster	1965				
Jack Hession	1953 ADJ				
James Hinkle	1997				
James T. Morris	1961				
Janet Friddell	1961				
Jason Parker	1997	2005			
Jayme Beyerle	2005				
Jerry Boswell	1973				
Jesse Johnston	1981				
Joe Hein	2005				
Joe Steffy	1961				
John Akermon	1973				
John Blackman	1989 ALT				
John Chapman	1981				
John J. Crowley	1953				
John L. Kelly, Jr.	1953				
John O. Miller	1939				
John Wark	1939 ALT				
Julian Hatcher	1931 CA				
Kermit Montross	1965				
Kerry Spurgin	1997				
Kevin Richards	1973				
L. Brewster	1953 AL				
L.A. Pope	1937				
Larry Moore	1953				
Larry Wilkens	1931	1953 ALT	1961	1965 ADJ	
Lones Wigger	1965	1973	1981	1989	1997
Mary E. Stidworthy	1981				
Merle Isrealson	1937	1939			
Mike Anti	2005				
Nathaniel Holcomb	2005 ALT				
Ned Moor	1937 CA				
Oliver H. Lauderman	1961				
Paul Gideon	2005				
Presley Kendall	1973	1981			
R.C. Berkheiser	1939				
R.C. Pope	1939				
Russell D. Lambert	1937				
R.E. Boydston	1953				
R.H. Green	1965				
Ralph H. McGarity	1931 ADJ	1937 ADJ	1939 ADJ		
Ransford Triggs	1939	1953	1961 CA		
Ray Steele	1953				

<i>Richard Hanson</i>	1989		
<i>Rob Harbison</i>	2005		
<i>Robert Hill</i>	1989		
<i>Robert Mitchell</i>	1981		
<i>Robert Smith</i>	1981 CA		
<i>Ron West</i>	1973		
<i>Roy Oster</i>	1961 ALT		
<i>Russell Gardner</i>	1937	1939 CA	
<i>Shane Barnhart</i>	1997	2005	
<i>Steve Goff</i>	1989	1997	2005
<i>Steve Kern</i>	1973		
<i>Teddy McMillion</i>	1965 ALT		
<i>Thomas Tamas</i>	1989	2005	
<i>Thurman Randle</i>	1931	1937 CO	
<i>Tom Daniels</i>	1989 ALT		
<i>Tom Whittaker</i>	1973		
<i>Vere F. Hamer</i>	1931	1937	
<i>Vergil Z. Canfield</i>	1937		
<i>Victor Auer</i>	1961		
<i>William G. Summerall</i>	1937		
<i>Walter Tomsen</i>	1953		
<i>Wes Robinson</i>	2005		
<i>William B. Woodring</i>	1937		
<i>William Dodd</i>	1989		
<i>William E. Summers</i>	1973 ALT	1981 CO	1989 CO
<i>William J. Grater</i>	1961		
<i>William P. Schweitzer</i>	1937	1939	1953 CA
<i>Willis Kenyon</i>	1939		

United States Roberts Team Roster

<i>Anthony Leone</i>	2001		
<i>Arthur E. Cook</i>	1993 Coach		
<i>Bill Dodd</i>	1993		
<i>Bill Kovaric</i>	1985		
<i>Bill Krilling</i>	1977 Coach		
<i>Bob Alyward</i>	1985		
<i>Bob Gustin</i>	1993 Alternate		
<i>Boyd Goldsby</i>	1993		
<i>Brad Carnes</i>	1985		
<i>Brad Throne</i>	1993		
<i>Bruce Meredith</i>	1969		
<i>Butch Sentner</i>	2001		
<i>C.J. Schaeffer</i>	1969 Adjutant	1977 Adjutant	
<i>Celeste Green</i>	2001		
<i>Cindy Estep</i>	2001 Alternate		

<i>Cory Brunetti</i>	1993	2001	
<i>Dan Makucevich</i>	1993		
<i>Dan McCabe</i>	2009		
<i>Dave Chesser</i>	1985	1993	
<i>Dave Johnson</i>	2001		
<i>Dave Weaver</i>	1977	1985	1993 Alternate
<i>David Cramer</i>	2009		
<i>David Sprecher</i>	2009		
<i>Dennis Ghiselli</i>	1985		
<i>Don Adams</i>	1969		
<i>Ed Etzel</i>	1977		
<i>Edgar P. O'Neal</i>	1969	1977	
<i>Edie P. Reynolds/Fleeman</i>	2001 Captain	2009 Captain	
<i>Erin Gestl</i>	2001		
<i>Ernie Vande Zande</i>	1977		
<i>Frank R. Boyd</i>	1985 Coach	1993 Captain	
<i>George B. Harris</i>	1985 Adjutant	1993 Adjutant	2001 Adjutant
<i>Glenn Dubis</i>	2009		
<i>H. Wood</i>	1969		
<i>Hap Rocketto</i>	2009 Adjutant		
<i>Harry Hoy</i>	1969 Captain	1977 Captain	
<i>Henry Gray</i>	2009		
<i>Herb Hollister</i>	1969		
<i>J. Garrison</i>	1969		
<i>J. O'Hare</i>	1969		
<i>Jack Foster</i>	1969		
<i>Jamie Beyerele</i>	2001		
<i>Jim Hinkle</i>	2001 Coach		
<i>Jim Meredith</i>	1985		
<i>Joe Barnes</i>	1969		
<i>Justin Tracy</i>	2009		
<i>Kevin Nevius</i>	2009		
<i>Lance Hopper</i>	2001		
<i>Larry Wilkens</i>	1969 Alternate		
<i>Lones Wigger</i>	1985	1993	2009 Coach
<i>Mark DelCotto</i>	2009		
<i>Marsha Beasley</i>	1985		
<i>Matt Suggs</i>	1993		
<i>Michael McPhail</i>	2009		
<i>Niel Koozer</i>	1977		
<i>Paul Collins</i>	1977		
<i>Paul Gideon</i>	2001	2009	
<i>Paul Nordquist</i>	2001 Alternate		
<i>Presley Kendall</i>	1977	1985	
<i>Ray Carter</i>	1977		
<i>Reed Thorkildsen</i>	1977		
<i>Kim Chrostowski</i>	2009		
<i>Robert Smith</i>	1985 Captain		

<i>Ron West</i>	<i>1985 Alternate</i>
<i>Ron Wigger</i>	<i>1993</i>
<i>Shane Barnhart</i>	<i>2001</i>
<i>Steve Clendenen</i>	<i>1977</i>
<i>Sue Mitchell</i>	<i>1985 Alternate</i>
<i>Tarl Kempley</i>	<i>2009</i>
<i>Thurston Banks</i>	<i>1977 Alternate</i>
<i>Tim O'Daly</i>	<i>1977 Alternate</i>
<i>Tom Whittaker</i>	<i>1969</i>
<i>Web Wright III</i>	<i>1993</i>
<i>William E. Summers</i>	<i>1969 Alternate</i>

