

Hi John,

I know those rifles well! Wayback in the dark ages, no one in the AMU had fired a shot out a bolt action rifle in the Palma match at Camp Perry since they started it. That was traditionally a day off for army shooters. We would usually just send the service rifle shooter who was in position to win the Billy Atkins award for high service rifle in the long range aggregate. Everybody else had the day off.

In 1998, my first summer with the team, I was offered the use of a spare rifle belonging to Ian Cheeseman to shoot the match. I asked my coach and he said, "Fine go shoot that @\$%& match, but don't get any ideas!" I did OK having never shot a 308 at 800-1000 yards before, and I think I had a 445 or something like that putting me into the top 20. When I went back to Fort Benning I went to the arms room and started looking around for any rifle that we had that I could shoot in Palma type matches. In short, there was nothing. We had a lot of bolt action .308's, but they were all old across the course match rifles with 24 or 26 inch barrels in 1:11 twist.

Fast forward to the end of 1999 and a new Palma captain was named and Palma tryouts were announced. I had a little bit of capital at that time because I had just won the interservice match and was on all of the. number one teams, and was generally well liked (those were the days). I made the case that we should try to put at least one Army shooter on the next team. I was hoping it was going to be me!

We had been shooting the Oak Ridge long range matches and at the time Greg Sigmund was running Accuracy Intl. out of a warehouse in Oak Ridge. I was part of the group of guys that went up there to Oak Ridge pretty frequently in the off-season because we were doing experiments with tungsten bullets that Carl's buddy was making not a quarter-mile from Greg Sigmund's warehouse. One thing led to another, and I put in a request to buy two of those rifles from Greg for the AMU. After much hem and haw, we executed the contract and got two rifles with cut rifle Border barrels made by Jeff Kolbe (sp?) in Scotland. I think they were chambered in Oak Ridge by a gunsmith Greg had working for him. They might have the Palma 95 chamber.

The guns shot great, and I really liked the way that it fit. Trigger was pretty good 2 stage that easily held the 1.5 kg weight. In addition, they were light. The old Palma rule had a 5.5 kg weight limit, which is pretty hard to meet. At Camp Perry in 1999, I set the service record in that match with a 449—29X using the old 155. When [REDACTED] came on the team in 2000, both of us use those rifles to try out and make the 2003 Palma team to England.

The summer before the match, we had two rifles on Barnard actions and Robertson stocks built by Alan Warner for [REDACTED] This was mainly due to the fact that Alan called the unit and told them that the accuracy international guns weren't good enough and he needed to build us guns.

The two Accuracy international rifles went back in the Arms Room and we're rarely shot after that. If your rifles have fluted barrels on them, those are the original Border barrels that came with the guns back in 1999!. I think [REDACTED] did shoot his Al rifle in 2007, Because it just fit him better. I have no idea on round count, but it must be 4000 rounds on each.

I have very fond memories of that one rifle that you have that doesn't have [REDACTED] name on it. It really launched my career in long-range shooting.

Anyway, I hope this was helpful and if you have any other questions feel free to give me a call.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]