

National Artillery Association

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Boulton retires as Chairman

The National Artillery Association has for more than a century sponsored gunnery competitions to encourage efficiency and esprit-de-corps in the Volunteer and Territorial units of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. These competitions, organised in conjunction with the DRA and other Regular expertise and support, include such famous trophies as the Queen's Cup for field and medium artillery and the Sunday Times Trophy for air defence artillery. Her Majesty The Queen is Patron of the Association and the Master Gunner is the President.

Since 1962 when the competitions were revived following their suspension during the last war and for the immediate post-war period, one man has played a vital and significant part in the success story of the NAA in maintaining the aims of the Association despite the traumas and disappointments caused by the massive cuts in — and re-organisation of — the TA strength over the past 20 years. He is Lieutenant Colonel Peter Boulton TD, who has recently retired after 10 most successful and rewarding years as Chairman of the Association, and before that as a member of the Council from 1962 when plans for reviving the annual competitions were made. Peter Boulton was commissioned into 149th Field Regiment RHA (TA) in Liverpool on 2 September 1939 —



Lt Col Peter Boulton.

the Adjutant being Selwyn Lloyd who after the war became Foreign Secretary and then Speaker of the House of Commons.

Peter Boulton saw active service in Tobruk during the first siege, in the Western Desert (including Alamein) and in Sicily. He was also a gunnery instructor overseas, and following a gunnery staff course in 1943 became, in 1944, a Major IG at the School of Artillery, Larkhill, from where he was demobilized in 1946.

When the TA was re-formed in 1947, he joined 290th (City of London) Field Regiment RA (TA) serving as a Battery Commander, 2IC and in 1954 as Commanding Officer for three years.

During his years as Chairman of NAA, Peter Boulton not only maintained the high standards of the gunnery competitions but by personal initiative was largely responsible for increasing their variety, notably by taking over the administration of the Sunday Times Trophy in 1968, and introducing competitions for the University OTCs.

He increased the membership of the NAA and ensured that the Members of the Council, the governing body, were truly representative of Territorial Gunners in all parts of Britain. He also, for the first time, showed the NAA flag in places other than at the Association's HQ in Woolwich, by holding Council meetings in drill halls of Gunner units in various parts of the country, thus improving the liaison between the Association and the Regiments and Batteries.

In appreciation of his leadership as Chairman, he has been elected a Vice President of the Association which will ensure that his knowledge and guidance can still be available to the Council.

He has been succeeded as Chairman by Colonel David Simé OBE MC TD.