

The Glittering Prizes, Territorial Gunners at Guildhall

by *Captain D C Bulmer*

THE 1997 PRIZE GIVING of the National Artillery Association competitions of volunteer Field and Air Defence Artillery were held on Saturday, 15 November 1997. The sun broke out of an otherwise overcast sky to welcome the dignitaries, prize winners and spectators to one of the most prestigious of locations, the Guildhall in the City of London. And setting the scene on Guildhall Yard were the 25 pounders of the HAC with music provided by the Lancashire Artillery Vol-unteers Band.

The NAA in its 134th year of volunteer service to the Crown once again demonstrated it was a dynamic organisation by introducing for this year's competitions an inter regiment trophy for the Air Defence Regiments.

The Field Gunners top prize, The Queen's Cup, was again taken by 205 Battery from Durham; while winners of the major Air Defence prize, the British Petroleum Trophy were 209 Battery from Manchester who also provided the Guard of Honour.

After the arrivals of the principal guests, Alderman Sir Christopher Walford, on behalf of The Lord Mayor, accompanied by The Master Gunner, Field Marshal the Lord Vincent, inspected the Guard of Honour.

The Inspecting Officers and Senior Guests, including the DRA, Brig Mark Douglas-Withers, then proceeded to the Great Hall of Guildhall for the presentation ceremony.

The competitions are divided into three separate areas. Firstly, those competed for by the Gun Regiments and Gun Batteries. Secondly those competed for by the Air Defence Regiments and Missile Batteries. And finally those competitions competed for by the UOTCs.

In opening the proceedings the Chairman of the NAA, Col Mike Taylor, welcomed the guests. He spoke of the National Artillery Association and the reason for its existence, noting: "It was founded by our Victorian ancestors with the aim to advance and promote the science and practice of Artillery in the Territorial Army". Col Taylor also thanked the Gunner chain of command for all the hard work in planning and carrying out the competitions. He then invited the guests to present the awards which commenced with Sir Christopher Walford and the Field Artillery prizes.

For the third year running 205 (3rd Durham Volunteers) carried off The Queen's Cup. The first hat-trick since that achieved by 289 Commando Battery in 1984. The competition was fought on Salisbury Plain where the regiments and batteries undertook a three day fully tac-

tical live firing exercise supervised and run by the Gunnery Training Team under the direction of the CRA 3rd Division. The runners up, 203 (Elswick) Battery received the National Artillery Association Cup.



The Master Gunner, Sir Christopher Walford and Dr Howell with members of 209 (The Manchester Artillery) Bty

The King George Cup was won by The Gun Troop HAC who entered the competition for the first time since the 1980s. The competition this year consisted of a 12 hour fire and manoeuvre and fire planning exercise.

The Surrey Yeomanry Cup tests the Headquarter Batteries of 100 and 101 Regiments and both the Fire Direction Centre and echelons. HQ Battery of 100 Regiment were the winners.

Turning to the Air Defence competitions, The British Petroleum Trophy was won by 209 (The Manchester Artillery) Battery. Three regiments competed for the trophy, 103 and 104 Regiments were tested on Salisbury Plain and 105 Regiment in the newly established Kirkcudbright Training Area and

surrounding land. The exercise consisted of three deployments and a night rolling replenishment during which each regiment was tested in its regimental and battery deployment procedures, command and control. The competitions were organised under the direction of the Commander Air Defence, Col S Gledhill. Dr Howell of British Petroleum presented the prize. The runners up, who received the Manorbier Trophy, were 206 (Ulster) Battery.

The SMS Trophy was presented to 210 (Staffordshire) Battery, who won by a large margin, by Mr Terry Stone of Shorts Missile Systems Limited. The trophy is awarded to the battery with the best Javelin missile live firing results in the training year 1996/7.

In the Air Defence Headquarters Battery Competition 213 (South Lancashire Artillery) HQ Battery carried off the prize making it five wins in six years.

In a new competition for this year, after the suggestion of the Commander Air Defence, a new trophy was competed for to find out which was the best Air Defence Regiment. Originally presented by King George V, the cup was won by 105 (Air Defence)

Regiment.

In the final category the University Officer Training Corps competed for the King George VI Cup. This competition was based on two, one week training periods at Stanford and Otterburn Training Areas. The winners this year for the first time in the history of the competition were The City of Edinburgh University. Runners up were Northumbria UOTC appearing at the presentations for the sixth successive year.

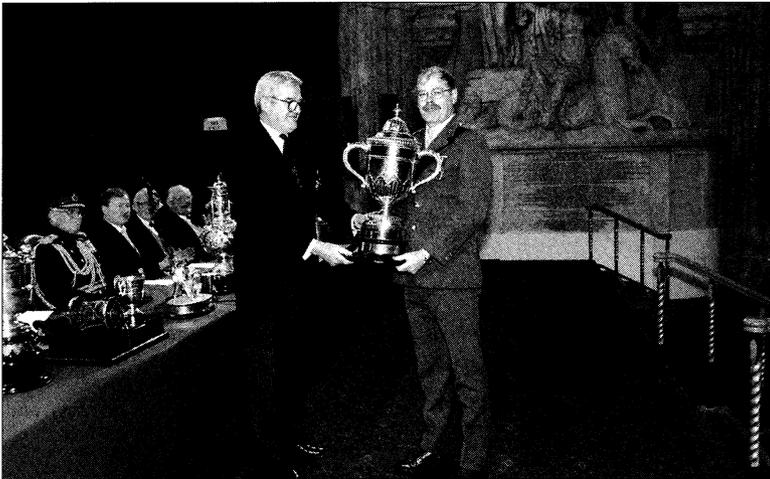


The Guard of Honour formed by 209 Bty



After a photocall to show off the prizes, there was a reception in the Crypt which concluded a very successful day and, indeed, another great year for the Territorial Gunners.

The wheel turns full circle, as the preparation and planning for the 1998 competitions is already well underway .



Top Left: Lord Vincent pauses to speak to Gnr Surman

Lower Left: Sir Christopher presents the Queen's Cup to Maj I Jones of 205 (3rd Durham Volunteer Artillery) Bty

Above: Sir Christopher presents the King George V Cup to Capt B Baldwin HAC

Speaking after the presentation ceremony, Sir Christopher, himself a former Lord Mayor and Gunner, welcomed everyone to Guildhall the seat of government in the City for over 800 years and thanked all the sponsors of trophies including British Petroleum and Shorts for their continued support.

Lord Vincent in his first time at Guildhall as Master Gunner, proposed a vote of thanks to Sir Christopher for presiding and for allowing the use of the historic Great Hall. In closing he added his own congratulations to the winners.

National Artillery Association Prize List 97

Her Majesty The Queen's Cup

Won by 205 (3rd Durham Volunteer Artillery) Battery (V)
Received by Maj I Jones

National Artillery Association Replica

Received by WO2 (BSM) J Urwin.

National Artillery Cup

Won by 203 (Elswick) Battery (V)
Received by Maj D Middleton

King George V Cup

Won by The Gun Troop
Honourable Artillery Company
Capt B Baldwin HAC

Surrey Yeomanry Cup

Won by Headquarter Battery
100 (Yeomanry) Regiment (V)
Capt R Elliot

The BP Trophy

Won by 209 (The Manchester Artillery) Battery (V)

The BP Replica

Received by WO2 (BSM) J E Walker

The Manorbier Trophy

Won by 206 (Ulster) Battery (V)

Received by Maj P Shepherd

The SMS Trophy

Won by 210 (Staffordshire) Battery (V)
Received by Maj D C Horton

The Taurus Trophy

Won by 206 (Ulster) Battery (V)
Received by Maj P Shepherd

The Dodds Trophy

Won by 214 (Worcester) Battery (V)
Received by WO2 R Miles

Air Defence Headquarters Battery Competition

Won by 213 (South Lancashire Artillery) Battery (V)
Received by Maj R Farrell

National Artillery Association Inter Regiment Competition

Won by 105 Air Defence Regiment (V)
Received by Lt Col J A B Kinlock

King George Cup VI Cup

Won by The City of Edinburgh Officer Training Corps
Received by JUO Milne

Runners up

Won by Northumbria University Officer Training Corps
Received by JUO P White