

National Artillery Association

Prizegiving 1985

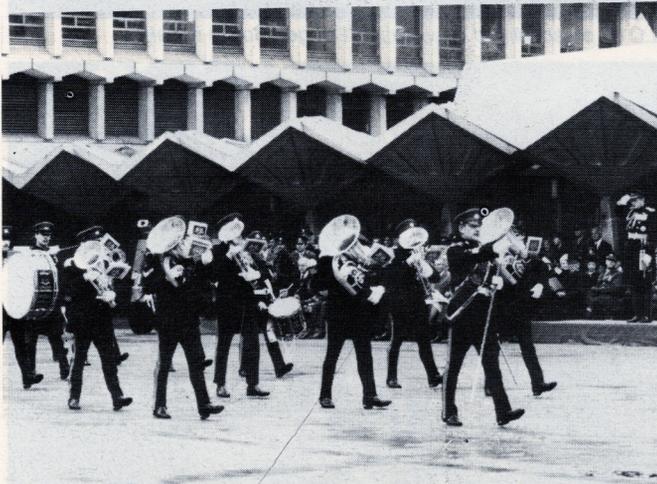
The Quartermaster General, Gen Sir Richard Trant was the principal guest of the National Artillery Association at their annual Prizegiving at Guildhall, London on Sat 23 Nov 85.

Quite unusually, Guildhall was not bathed in bright sunshine for the annual NAA Prizegiving for the volunteer Gunners — but the smart turnout of the Guard of Honour, furnished by 203 (Elswick) Fd Bty of Blyth of 101 (Northumbrian) Fd Regt, and the burnished 25 pounders of the HAC brought some sparkle to the occasion. Showers held off sufficiently for the guests to admire the Yeomanry panache of the Band of the South Notts Hussars Yeomanry — resplendent in their scarlet caps and sporting the acorn cap badges.

Capt Ian Dawson-Jefferson was the Guard Commander, and escorted Gen Sir Richard Trant, NAA Chairman, Col David Sime and 'Duty Vice President', Brig Tony Young on the traditional inspection before 'General Salute'. The spectators then filed into Guildhall itself. 203's BSM, WO2 John Rudd had the proud ribbon of the MBE in evidence — awarded in the most recent honours list.



Gen Sir Richard Trant inspects the second rank of the Guard accompanied by, the Guard Comd, Capt Dawson-Jefferson, Brig Young and Col Sime.



The band of the South Notts Hussars Yeo (RHA) march off as Gen Sir Richard Trant takes the salute.

Wet Weather plan

Gunners have to think of everything connected with the weather, so prudently, the Great Hall had been earmarked for possible use in case of really torrential rain, so that the presentations were in the smaller, and perhaps cosier, hall. The room was packed and a very pleasing touch was the presence of Pipe Major Bill Anderson, of the Pipes of the Tyneside Scottish, otherwise 204 Fd Bty of 101 Fd Regt, who played the platform party into the hall.

I struggled to no avail

Brig Tony Young, the Regimental Brigadier at Woolwich until his recent retirement explained how he came to be presiding at the prizegiving — the traditional role of the least senior of the NAA Vice Presidents. 'You, Young, will be Vice President of the Day', I was told, as he explained it to the gathering, 'and so it falls to me to welcome the principal guests, Gen Sir Richard & Lady Trant, together with Maj Gen Streatfeild, Representative Colonel Commandant'.

'It is my most pleasant duty to introduce Gen Sir Richard' added Brig Young. 'He is — as Quartermaster General a very distinguished Gunner — but he has not always been a Gunner — for his career started with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry — but he soon saw the light and joined the Royal Regiment in 1947, holding many and varied appointments — a troop commander in Korea, a student at the Indian Army Staff College, a Battery Commander with 3 RHA, DS at Staff College, CO of 3 RHA, Commander of 5 Airportable Brigade, Commander Land Forces in Northern Ireland, GOC of South East District and latterly Deputy Commander of Land Forces to the Fleet HQ at Northwood for the Falklands campaign before promotion to General in 1983 and appointment as Quartermaster General. On the way, he has received many other responsibilities and honours, being a Colonel Commandant of the Royal Artillery, RAOC, RAEC and, in 1984, of the HAC. What more can I say about so distinguished an officer, save that one of his greatest sources of pride is that he is a Cornishman'.

The Awards

With the National Artillery's Hon Sec, Maj Michael Harrison reading the citations, Gen Sir Richard presented the awards and trophies, and then addressed the audience.

Volunteers' Fine performance

'In recent years' said Sir Richard 'on the two major exercises, Crusader & Brave Defender, alongside the regulars and the reservists, we have had the men and women of the TA, who turned out to a high proportion of their strength. In both exercises, the volunteers showed by their fine performance what they are really made of. Attending both exercises as an observer, they earned my approval and my praise. In the event of their being needed, let no one doubt that the TA and the volunteer Gunners would be there. God forbid that it should ever happen, for we know better than most what would follow. But we also know that if war is to be prevented, not as sabre rattlers, we must be seen to be prepared. Thank heavens that the TA is there to complete the ORBAT and that it is good at its business.

The best of the best are here today, maintaining the fine record of the TA's Gunners. Three batteries have retained trophies that they won last year. This will surely sharpen the competition, and we have representatives of excellence from as far as Northern Ireland and Northumberland. This would not be possible without the wonderful support of the NAA, and all the competitors must place on record the deep appreciation of the work that the NAA does. I offer my heartiest congratulations to all the winners, your high standards are your hallmark.'

NAA Prize List 1985

Her Majesty The Queen's Cup

203 (Elswick) Field Battery RA (V), BC, Maj W B J McVicker; National Artillery Association Replica; WO2 (BSM) J J Rudd.

2nd Prize. National Artillery Association Cup

201 (Hertfordshire & Bedfordshire Yeomanry) Field Battery RA (V), BC, Maj R E F Morriss.

The BP Trophy

211 (South Wales) Air Defence Battery RA (V), BC, Maj D G Clarke; The BP Trophy Replica; Lieut D R Owen.

2nd Prize. The Manorbier Trophy

214 (Worcestershire) Air Defence Battery RA (V), BC, Maj J R S Shergold.

The Taurus Trophy

214 (Worcestershire) Air Defence Battery RA (V), Tp Comd, Lieut D A Humphrey.

Air Defence Headquarters Battery Competition

Headquarter Battery 102 (Ulster and Scottish) Air Defence Regiment RA (V), BC, Maj R G Moore.

King George VI Cup Competition

London University OTC, Officer receiving trophy, 2Lt S F Pakenham Walsh.

Observation Post Battery Competition

266 (Gloucestershire Volunteer Artillery) Observation Post Battery RA (V), BC, Maj D J Griffiths.

Surrey Yeomanry Cup

Headquarter Battery 100 (Yeomanry) Field Regiment RA (V), Radar Tp Comd, Capt M H Taylor.



Maj Bill McVicker, BC of 203 (Elswick) Fd Bty receives HM The Queen's Cup which the battery last won in 1978.

We don't interfere

It was then the turn of Col David Sime, Chairman of the NAA to thank Gen Sir Richard. 'We don't interfere but when the NAA asked for permission to visit the batteries, because we enjoy it so much and are made so welcome, was it an accident that we saw the winners? Although perhaps today we may not be so knowledgeable in the modern technology nevertheless, the spirit and the showmanship of the TA Gunners is much as it used to be, and today, the demands on the soldier is much heavier. These competitions have an important place in the scheme of things'.

Col Sime then thanked all those who worked so hard for the NAA, mentioning particularly the staff of HQ RA 2 Inf Div from York, the Gunnery staff, the DRA's team from Woolwich, 203 Bty for the Guard of Honour, Pipe Major Andrews for providing the 'breath of Scotland', the City of London for the use of Guildhall, and Brig Young, lately Regimental Brigadier, for being Vice President on duty and for all his help and encouragement whilst in post. 'There is a welcome to Brig John Howarth, our new Regimental Brigadier' added Col David.

'Finally, I must thank Gen Sir Richard Trant for finding time for us from his duties with the Army Board and a very full programme for being able to be with us last night at Woolwich and here today. It has been most refreshing to be with the volunteer gunners, good fortune to you all'.



A jubilant 211 (South Wales) AD Bty seem about to break into song as the BC, Maj Guy Clarke, holds aloft their BP Trophy.



Maj Bob Moore, BC of HQ Bty 102 (Ulster & Scottish) AD Regt, received the Air Defence HQ Bty trophy for the second year in succession.



The Taurus Trophy, for specific skills in the Air Defence section, won by 214 (Worcestershire) AD Bty and collected by Lt David Humphrey.



The Quarter-Master General presents the King George Trophy to Maj David Griffiths, BC of 266 (Gloucestershire Volunteers Artillery) OP Bty, the winners of the inter OP Bty Competition.



Radar Tp Comd, Capt Matthew Taylor, HQ Bty 100 (Yeomanry) Fd Regt is presented with the Surrey Yeomanry Cup for the best HQ Bty in the Field Section.



2Lt Sarah Pakenham Walsh, lately Tp Comd of London UOTC, receives the King George VI Cup, won in competition against Gunner Troops in all the other UOTCs.

THE ROYAL SOLDIERS' DAUGHTERS' SCHOOL HAMPSTEAD, LONDON NW3

An uninterrupted education for girls between the ages of 7 and 18 to 'A' Level standard



Primary education (7 to 11+) given within the school by qualified teachers ★ Secondary education takes place at selected Local Authority day-schools and colleges ★ High staff to girl ratio providing excellent care and extra coaching by graduate staff ★ Wide range of artistic and physical educational activities within the school and maximum use of London educational, historical and recreational facilities ★ Ideally situated close to main air, rail and coach termini to and from which younger girls are escorted ★ Excellent boarding facilities ★ 95% of fees covered by the Boarding School Allowance. ★ Open to daughters of serving and ex-service soldiers and airmen.

For Prospectus and full details write or telephone NOW

The Principal, The Royal Soldiers' Daughters' School
65 Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead, London NW3 5UD
Telephone: 01-794 7708