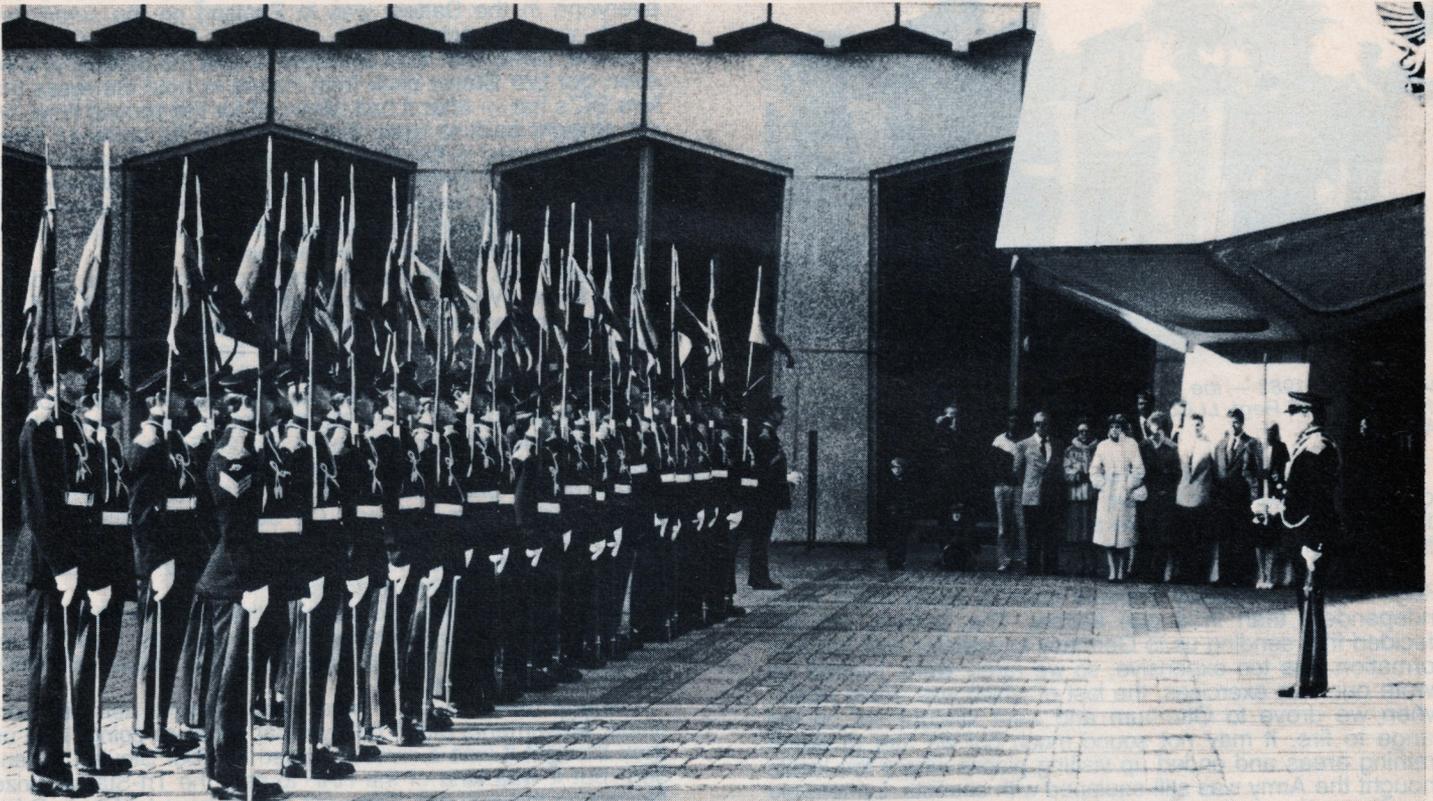


National Artillery Association Prizegiving



C Troop (Glamorgan Yeomanry), 211 (South Wales) AD Bty (V), 104 AD Regt (V), under the command of Capt D J Murphy, provided the Guard of Honour for the NAA Prizegiving at the Livery Hall of Guildhall, City of London, 29 Oct 83.

The TA Gunners — five regiments and four batteries — have done it again in their own special style at Woolwich and at London's Guildhall over the weekend 28/29 October.

After a dazzling turnout at the Annual National Artillery Association Dinner at Woolwich on Friday, 28 October 1983, with Maj Gen Bob Lyon, representing the Master Gunner, with the Director of the TA and Cadets, Maj Gen Dick Gerrard-Wright, and Mr Patrick Gillam, Managing Director of British Petroleum, and Mrs Gillam as the principal guests, the whole

company assembled on Saturday morning in bright sunshine at Guildhall, which was being used by permission of the Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City of London.

C Troop (Glamorgan Yeomanry) of 211 Air Defence Battery provided special colour, parading, as befits a Yeomanry Troop, in their No 1 Dress, with chain mail and lances, under command of their Troop Commander, Capt Dan Murphy, with TSM WO2 Martin Pearson dressing the ranks, and in Yeomanry style, armed with a sword. Music was provided by



Maj M R Faull, BC 289 Cdo Bty (V), receives the Field Artillery prize, HM The Queen's Cup, for the second year for the Bty, from the Director TA & Cadets, Maj Gen R E J Gerrard-Wright.



Maj B R Shaw, BC 210 (Staffordshire) AD Bty (V), receives the top Air Defenders' prize, the magnificent BP Trophy, for his Bty.



2Lt F A F Johnston WRAC (V), Tp Comd Oxford University OTC RA Tp, receives the King George VI University Challenge Cup for her Tp.

the Royal Artillery Band, who played the Troop on with 'Men of Harlech'.

Lt Col Peter Boulton, Vice President of the NAA, greeted the guests, and accompanied Maj Gen Gerrard-Wright and Col David Sime, Chairman of the NAA, on the inspection of the Guard of Honour and the Band, with 'General Salute' being given with the lances.

Welcoming members of the National Artillery Association, their guests, and members of the Volunteer Artillery to the Livery Hall of Guildhall, Lt Col Boulton paid tribute to the contribution made by the Regular members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery in assisting the TA. 'Even in the days of 'one army', he said, 'we must thank the regulars from the Director Royal Artillery to our own PSIs. The NAA looks back over 120 years, and in the first ever of our competitions at Shoeburyness we had 25 entries. In the 1930s, we had 40 times as many batteries, with three King's Cups and 17 other major prizes.'

Welcoming the Director of the TA and Cadets, Lt Col Boulton continued 'it seems that all his experience has fitted him for the TA job — demanding and complicated, and meeting Gen Gerrard-Wright only a few weeks ago for a briefing, I was impressed that he was not in his staff car at all. He was wearing a skid lid, and was just chaining his motor cycle to the railings in Berkeley Square; so that if you do see him in Whitehall, please don't salute. He would certainly try to return it, and really, he does need both hands on the handlebars. He is, indeed, the very model of a modern major general, and to amend the immortal words slightly, 'a better Major General never sat a bike.'

'2 up, plenty of smoke and keep your Gunner with you' was my introduction to 'The Royal Artillery' was Maj Gen Gerrard-Wright's reply. 'I give corporate congratulations to the winners — especially 289 Commando Battery, winners for the second successive time of HM The Queen's Cup; and to Headquarter Battery of 103 Air Defence Regiment who have taken the Air Defence Headquarter Battery trophy every year for EIGHT years — in fact, no one else has ever won this. We will need to change the rules I think. There is also a great huzza for all the non winners too. It is quite tremendous to see the entire Volunteer Artillery on parade, plus the eight University OTCs with Gunner troops. It is a great credit to the Royal Regiment, the SMIGs and instructors, and also to the staffs of HQ RA 2 Div and the Royal School of Artillery for all their help.'

I was sent to the Ministry of Defence after 36 years, and I thought that it was a tough punishment after so long and at the end of a peaceful career. But, in fact, it is the best job in Whitehall, and I am the happiest Director in the Ministry of Defence, because we have the political will of the Government, and strong Ministerial support. We have completed 12 new TA Centres this year, and there will be a further 20 in 1984. That's more than has been built in the last 30 years!

We are in a boom situation — it's a privilege to serve with the TA, and I feel very much part of it. I am very proud of your efforts — 30 per cent of the mobilisation strength of BAOR for 4½ per cent of the Army's budget, and 1¼ per cent of the whole Defence budget.

I offer renewed congratulations to the winners and the non-winners, and offer my personal thanks to all those who have helped to organise the National Artillery Association competitions, and indeed — in Kipling's words — 'You can't get away from the guns'. Maj Gen Gerrard-Wright then presented the prizes.

Col David Sime, Chairman of the NAA, then rose to thank the DTA & C and said 'Our one aim now — and it always has been our aim, even though once our batteries were numbered by the hundreds — is to support the art and science, and the practice of Artillery in the TA and to foster the traditions of the Royal Regiment. Thank you all from the NAA, and our special thanks to the DTA & C. In your time at Landsdowne House, Sir, please take from Guildhall today the very best wishes from the Volunteer Gunners.'

National Artillery Association Prize List 1983

Field and Air Defence Artillery

Her Majesty The Queen's Cup
289 Commando Battery RA (V)

2nd Prize
National Artillery Association Cup
203 (Elswick) Field Battery RA (V)

The BP Trophy
210 (Staffordshire) Air Defence Battery RA (V)

2nd Prize
The Manorbier Trophy
208 (3rd West Lancashire) Air Defence Battery RA (V)

The Taurus Trophy
208 (3rd West Lancashire) Air Defence Battery RA (V)

Air Defence Headquarter Battery Competition
Headquarter (King's) Battery, 103rd (Lancashire Artillery Volunteers) Air Defence Regiment RA (V)

University Challenge Cup
Oxford University OTC

Observation Post Battery Competition
307 (South Nottinghamshire Hussars Yeomanry RHA) Observation Post Battery RA (V)



Maj T S Richmond, BC 307 (Nottinghamshire Hussars Yeomanry RHA) OP Bty (V), receives the King George V Trophy for the recently organised OP Bty Competition.