

The National Artillery Association Prizegiving



Capt David Lithgow-Smith reports the Guard ready for inspection to the Lord Mayor of London.

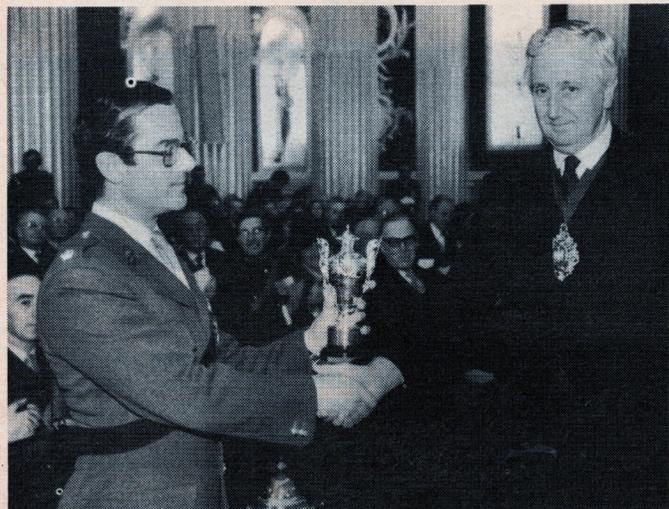
You've really got to hand it to the Royal Artillery — they **do** do things with a certain style! Who else but the TA Gunners could have a tradition of an annual prizegiving (and Speech Day too) that dates back to 1863? Who else but the Gunners could get one of Britain's most successful Companies to provide a new major prize and could persuade the Lord Mayor of London (himself a former TA Gunner) to present the awards in the Mansion House? It is the prizegiving of the National Artillery Association.

Woolwich Dinner

The weekend began on Fri, 30 Oct, with the customary Ladies Dinner in the RA Mess, presided over by the Master Gunner St James's Park, General Sir Harry Tuzo, and held jointly for the Territorial regiments and batteries and the National Artillery Association. Over 130 serving and retired officers, their ladies and guests met, and during the evening the new BP Trophy for the three Air Defence Regiments was formally presented to the gathering, by Mr Peter Cazalet of BP representing the Chairman of BP, Sir David Steele.

'Patriotism — a scarce, but much needed, commodity'

This was how Mr Cazalet greeted the assembled company. 'I do not believe', he added, 'that the best form of defence is to retreat into your shell. We need a positive attitude in matters of defence, and that is why such a body as yours is so encourag-



Maj R A N Irvine receives the OP Bty Trophy from the Lord Mayor of London.



Members of 202 Fd Bty (V), 100 Fd Regt (V) with their trophy which they won as Runners-up in the Field Artillery sector.

ing . . . the volunteer forces give us great hope for the future. The TA skills are important to civilian life. The TA is an excellent way to develop the young — and the not so young, and it is for these reasons that British Petroleum are delighted to help the National Artillery Association. My Chairman says, and I quote, 'The Regular Army needs the wholehearted support and back-up of a modern TA, and has the full support of BP'. We are delighted to present the trophy, and the annual replica to the Air Defence Batteries. I am deeply honoured to be here this evening, and wish you all the best of luck for the future'.

The Master Gunner, accepting the trophy said how grateful the TA and NAA were, and 'how very much we appreciate your presence with us this evening'.

'How much we value you, how much we'll have to rely on you'

In the final speech of the evening, the Vice Chief of the General Staff, Lt Gen Sir Thomas Morony, looked to the future, hoping that next year things would be better for the TA — but that 'we will rely on you even more'.

Mansion House

Saturday dawned bright and fair, and ready on parade on the Walbrook were 50 men from Headquarters (King's) Battery of 103 Air Defence Regiment RA (V) — chosen for this honour



Maj Kevin Wilson receives from the Lord Mayor the Trophy which HQ Bty, 103 AD Regt(V) won for the sixth consecutive year.

(so they said, with Liverpudlian humour) because of their own unbeaten record in winning the Headquarters Air Defence Battery trophy six times in a row (in fact, no one else had ever won it).

Commanded by Capt David Lithgow-Smith, they marched on to the music of the Royal Artillery Band, and were inspected by the Lord Mayor of London, Col Sir Ronald Gardner-Thorpe, accompanied by Maj Gen Sir John Bates, who presided at the prizegiving, and Col David Sime, Chairman of the NAA. At the prizegiving in the Egyptian Hall, Maj Gen Bates introduced the Lord Mayor and paid tribute to his services to the TA, the TA Associations of The City of London and Kent, and to the Court of the HAC. He paid tribute to the great achievements of the TA in these economically difficult days of international tension and strife; the steadfastness and pride of the TA were a tremendous comfort.

The presentations

There was a good spread of prizewinners. Each of the five TA regiments was represented, 205 (3rd Durham) Fd Bty, 101 (Northumbrian) Fd Regt, from South Shields, won HM The Queen's Cup as the top field prize. The runners-up prize was won by 202 (Suffolk & Norfolk Yeomanry) Bty, 100 (Yeomanry) Fd Regt from Bury St Edmunds, Fakenham and Norwich. In the Air Defence sector, the BP Trophy — a model of Blowpipe in action — the first time winners were 210 (Staffordshire) AD Bty. The Manorbier Trophy went north of the border to Glasgow & Edinburgh based 207 (Scottish) AD Bty of 102 AD Regt. Then, it was Wales' turn, with the Taurus Trophy being presented to Cardiff, Ebbw Vale & Newport based 211 (South Wales) Bty of 104 AD Regt. Maj Kevin Wilson from Liverpool collected the Headquarters Battery Trophy thus giving 103 AD Regt their prize, whilst in the final presentations, Leeds based 269 (West

Riding) OP Bty won the OP Trophy in its first year of being awarded. 2Lt Debbie Porter WRAC was presented with the 'University Challenge' Trophy for Gunner OTC Troops on behalf of Bristol OTC, with Oxford OTC receiving the runners-up trophy.

Volunteers — one of the greatest jobs in the country

The Lord Mayor extended his own welcome to the regiments and batteries who filled the hall. 'Volunteers are doing one of the greatest jobs for this country, and without them Great Britain would be totally different. I thank you all on behalf of the citizens of the whole of the United Kingdom. I also thank you for the privilege of being asked to present the cups and trophies today'.

A Notable Year — but not without sadness

Col David Sime, Chairman of the NAA, concluded the prize-giving by thanking all who had made the presentations possible, especially BP for their extremely handsome trophy.

The sadness was the loss of Brig Sir Douglas Crawford, who died in October. He was a beloved and distinguished campaigner, and former Vice President of the NAA. A staunch supporter and a true friend had been lost. Sir Douglas was regarded as the doyen of the TA Gunners. Colonel David then paid his tribute to the Lord Mayor 'as one of us', and thanked him for parading with them.

The formal occasion over, the TA Artillery, who had seen prizes distributed to all the regiments, from England, Scotland and Wales, and to the WRAC who serve in Gunner Troops of OTCs and in HQ Btys of AD Regts, then had the rest of the day for the delights of London, assured that once again the TA Gunner family had made a huge success of their own special day in London, alongside the National Artillery Association.