



# NAA prizegiving

The National Artillery Association prizegiving ceremony takes place annually, at the Guildhall in the City of London. It is the weekend when all ranks of the TA Gunners, from all over the country, 'come to town' to celebrate the achievements of their batteries over the training year.

The ceremony has three stages. The first stage is a parade within the Guildhall Square with the Guard of Honour being provided by the winners of the Queen's Cup; the second part is the prizegiving ceremony itself which takes place within the magnificent Great Hall and the third stage is a reception for all ranks and guests which is held in the atmospheric crypt beneath the Great Hall and which traces its ancestry back to the 13th century.

The ceremony this year took place on Saturday, 4 February. Although cold the spectators soon warmed to an excellent Guard of Honour provided by 100 Regt RA(V), commanded by Lt Ben Worley, and the excellent and spirited music of the Band

of the Lancashire Volunteer Artillery.

The inspecting officer was The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London, Alderman David Brewer CMG, and together with the Master Gunner, he obviously enjoyed inspecting and meeting the individual members of the guard and the band.

The competitions are organised to test the technical, professional and organisational skills of the TA batteries in their respective roles. The prizegiving ceremony is a public acclamation of the skills, enthusiasm, hard work and determination shown by all members of the TA batteries in performing their roles, a fact that was recognised by all three speakers; the Master Gunner, the Lord Mayor and the Chairman of the Association, Brig John Thomson.

The Lord Mayor presented the trophies – many of which have been presented to the Association by various benefactors since 1863. The 'trophy of trophies' is the Queen's Cup which was presented to the Association in 1937 by King George VI. It is currently awarded to the best overall performing battery across all gunnery disciplines. The winner this year was the composite battery from 100 Regt RA(V) under the command of Maj Ian Oldershaw.

The eight Gunner OTC troops also compete with great enthusiasm for the King George VI Cup. This year it was narrowly won by Northumbrian UOTC with Leeds UOTC a close second. It is the eighth time that Northumbrian UOTC have either won or been runners up in this competition over the past 10 years.

And so, having received their trophies and had their photographs taken with the Lord Mayor, the Master Gunner and the DRA, it was time for a well earned drink – or two! – in the crypt and to start planning for next year's ceremony, which will take place on 3 February, 2007.

by Maj Andrew Dines



Top row third left: Maj Lisa Brooks receiving the Dodds Trophy  
Above: Maj Ian Oldershaw receiving the (very heavy!) Queen's Cup.  
Below: 2Lt Dan Deering receiving the King George VI Cup.



Pictures by Bdr Darren Gray

