



1863 - 2009

NATIONAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

AWARDS CEREMONY

held at

NEWCOME HALL, ARTILLERY CENTRE, LARKHILL

on

SATURDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2009

Prizes donated by

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

THALES GROUP

and other donors

to the Winners in the recent Artillery Concentrations  
of Field and Surface to Air Artillery held on  
Salisbury Plain and Otterburn Training Areas

Presentations by

Brigadier C W Tadier CBE ADC  
Director Royal Artillery

NATIONAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

COMPETITION WINNERS 2008 - 2009

**FIELD AND SURFACE MISSILE ARTILLERY**

THE NATIONAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION CUP

Won by

207 (City of Glasgow) Battery RA (V)  
Battery Commander: Major R V Smith RA (V)

101st (Northumbrian) REGIMENT RA (V) COMPETITION

Won by

205 (3rd Durham Volunteer Artillery) Battery RA (V)  
Battery Commander: P D Winton TD RA (V)

**AIR DEFENCE ARTILLERY**

THALES TROPHY - BEST AIR DEFENCE BATTERY

Won by

457 (Hampshire Yeomanry) Battery RA (V)  
Battery Representative: WO2 (BSM) C E Stockwell

TAURUS TROPHY - AIRCRAFT RECOGNITION COMPETITION

Won by

210 (Staffordshire) Battery RA (V)  
Battery Representative: Gnr W M Watkiss

NAA CUP 1896 - FSC COMPETITION

Won by

210 (Staffordshire) Battery RA (V)  
Battery Representative: Bdr B I Alcock

NAA CUP 1897 - HVM COMPETITION

Won by

457 (Hampshire Yeomanry) Battery RA (V) Detachment 2  
Battery Representative: Bdr M Keddily

NATIONAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION  
COMPETITION WINNERS 2008 - 2009

**BEST OVERALL BATTERY COMPETITIONS**

THE SURREY YEOMANRY CUP 1984  
MT/DRIVING COMPETITION

Won by

203 (Elswick) Battery RA (V) Team 6  
Battery Commander: Major W G Murray RA (V)

QUEEN VICTORIA CUP 1894 and NAA CUP 1895  
FIRST AID COMPETITION

Joint Winners

100th (Yeomanry) Regiment RA (V) Team 4 (Recce)  
Team Representative: Gnr Bridges

106th (Yeomanry) Regiment RA (V) Team 2 (265 Bty)  
Team Representative: LBdr Hurley

QUEEN VICTORIA CUP 1872 - NAVIGATION COMPETITION

Won by

100th (Yeomanry) Regiment RA (V) Team 6  
Team Representative: LBdr Edwards

**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S CUP**

Won by

105th Regiment RA (V) Composite Battery  
Commanding Officer: Lt Col Iain Ross TD RA (V)

Runner Up

103rd (Lancashire Artillery Volunteers) Regiment RA (V)  
Composite Battery  
Battery Commander: Major P Collins RA (V)

## **Abridged History of the National Artillery Association (NAA)**

Following the success of the National Rifle Association, formed in 1860 for the benefit of the many volunteer rifle corps which had been raised throughout the country, it was decided in 1863 to form an Association on similar lines for the artillery volunteers, with the expressed aim of encouraging enrolment into the corps and promoting efficiency in gunnery and associated skills through the medium of competition.

The first meeting of the NAA took place in August 1865 at the School of Artillery at Shoeburyness. 25 gun detachments employing some 250 volunteer gunners took part and competed for various prizes, including those donated by HM The Queen, the National Artillery Association, the Prince of Wales and the Commander in Chief of the Army. The Queen's Prize was awarded originally to the detachment achieving the highest aggregate score over several of the individual competitions.

From 1895 separate competitions were held for Garrison and Heavy Artillery, a Prize and badge being awarded for each category. In the early days the detachments had a choice of four guns, 24 or 32 pounders on garrison carriages, 18 pounders on field carriages or 64 pounders on traversing garrison carriages. This variety of equipment was not unusual in the Royal Artillery, just as it is in modern times. Over the years the guns changed and also the nature of the competitions from the somewhat individual character of the single gun firing to the more collective effort of a battery of guns manoeuvring and firing under the orders of the battery commander.

The requirement for a field force composed entirely of part-time soldiers, organised in peacetime as they would be for war and serving alongside the regular army, led to the formation of the Territorial Force in 1908. The competitions were now divided into 3 groups, those for horse and field artillery, for medium artillery and for coast defence artillery. Competitions were suspended during World War I. The competitions were revived again in 1921 under the auspices of the Territorial Army and were held annually until the outbreak of World War II in 1939.

The Prize giving of 1937 is of particular interest in that the Sunday Times Anti-Aircraft Trophy was presented at the Guildhall with the NAA trophies. This was not to happen again until 1968. It is worthy of note that the Anti-Aircraft competitions resumed in 1954 and at that time were not under the control of the NAA. After World War II field branch competitions were not immediately revived. Due to the effort of some determined Territorial Gunners they recommenced in 1962 and have been held annually ever since for the modern volunteer gunners to enjoy and to benefit from, as did his earlier counterparts.

The University Officer Training Corps competition was started in 1967. This date was also a year of fundamental change for the Territorial Army, which was disbanded and replaced by the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve. Of the 44 regiments and 3 independent batteries of the TA Gunners only 6 regiments (including the HAC) and 4 independent batteries were to remain.

During 1986/87 the Territorial Army was expanded to meet the perceived increase in tasking in support of 1st (British) Corps in Germany. However, due to the lessening of tension in Europe after the collapse of the eastern Bloc, reductions were introduced in 1992 and 1999 across the whole of the Territorial Army and the TA Gunners were no exception. However, the Territorial Army seems to be able to expand, reduce and re-organise as part of a continuing process and yet it never falters.

The NAA competitions also continue unabated. Today, the NAA supports the training, exercising and evaluation of TA Gunners in preparation for their support to regular regiments engaged on current and enduring operations. The training, exercises and evaluation are overseen by CRAs and moderated by the Gunnery Training Team based at Larkhill, helping to prepare TA Gunner units for the culture of mobilisation and the delivery of military capability.

The NAA reaffirms its intention of continuing to act as the focus for the annual exercises and evaluations including Exercise Bustard Challenge which now provides an important forum for TA Gunners to attend familiarisation training, briefings and an Awards Ceremony at the Artillery Centre, Larkhill. In addition, it provides an opportunity for newly commissioned TA officers and newly promoted sergeants to be formally Dined In to the Royal Regiment of Artillery. The NAA greatly appreciates Regular Army support for both the NAA itself and Exercise Bustard Challenge.