

SKILL AT ARMS

THREE CHEERS FOR THE GENERAL —AND ONE FOR THE KINGOS!

Report: Chris Vere

Headquarters North West District held their Annual Skill at Arms Meeting on the Altcar Ranges, Merseyside, on Saturday and Sunday, 17th/18th May — and picked a really splendid weekend. The sun shone throughout, and on the 5/8th Battalion, The Kings Regiment more than most. This was the reason for the 'And one for the Kingos' cry in a Liverpool accent after the traditional 'three cheers for the General' after the presentation on Sunday.

Lt Col Ian Paterson, CO of the 5/8th Kings, saw them presented with the prizes for GPMG Pairs (C Company from Manchester, L/Cpls Thomas Souter and Glen Neild), the SMG Individual (L/Cpl John Coughlin from Liverpool's A Company), the TA Pistol Individual (Cpl Dobson from C Company), the TA Section Match (C Company from Manchester), and the Falling Plate (D Company from Warrington), narrowly beating the HQ Team (Preston) from the 4th Bn, The Queen's Lancaster Regiment. Lt Clarke from A Company (Liverpool) won the Clay Pigeon shoot.



Why shouldn't they look happy? They did far better than their male colleagues. 80th (Cheshire Yeomanry) Signal Sqn Ladies team who won the WRAC team rifle and pistol. Kneeling (bottom right) is L/Cpl Hazel Smith who took the individual WRAC rifle and pistol. The others are (standing l-r) 2Lt Denise Avery and Capt Catriona Miller and (kneeling, left) Pte Anne Ebbrell.

The next most successful of the District's infantry battalions were the 4th QLRs, winning the TA Individual Rifle (Cpl Woodhouse from HQ at Preston), and the Best Young Soldier (Pte Richardson from C Company in Ashton under Lyne) and were runners-up in the TA Falling

Plates with their HQ team. The 4th Battalion, The Kings Own Border Regiment won the TA SLR (A Company from Workington) and the TA Minor Unit Championship (B Company, Kendal and Lancaster). C Company, 2nd Mercians won the TA SMG Team, and Sgt Palmer was the runner-up in the individual contest.

The only non-infanteers to win prizes were the 116 Provost Company Detachment from Manchester who won the TA Pistol, and the ladies from the Liverpool University OTC, who won the WRAC Falling Plates, the WRAC SMG team, and the WRAC individual SMG, whilst their 'sisters in arms' from Chester's 80 Signal

Squadron (Cheshire Yeomanry) took the individual WRAC Rifle & Pistol (L/Cpl Hazel Smith) and the team Rifle & Pistol.

While the Kingsmen were the TA stars, the Regulars had their Champions too, a team from the 10th Gurkha Rifles on a course at Preston, who scampered away with the Falling Plates, beating the 1st Battalion the Gordon Highlanders from Chester, and then going on to beat the Kingsmen in a special 'end of the meeting' match, which was started by the GOC, Maj Gen W M E Hicks after Colonel, The Earl of Derby (President of the North West of England and IOM TAVRA) had started the TA Final, a great pleasure for him, since he is Honorary Colonel of both the 5/8th Kings and the 4th QLRs.

General Hicks in his speech at the end of the meeting, thanked all who had taken part, TA and Regular, and all those who had helped with the administration and running the meeting.

Luckiest man of the meeting was undoubtedly Tpr John Malone of A Sqn Duke of Lancasters Own Yeomanry from Wigan whose sharpshooting earned him a share in the jackpot in the Pool Ball for the Rifle And Pistol.

QUEENSMEN MAKE A HABIT OF IT

report: Richard Putnam

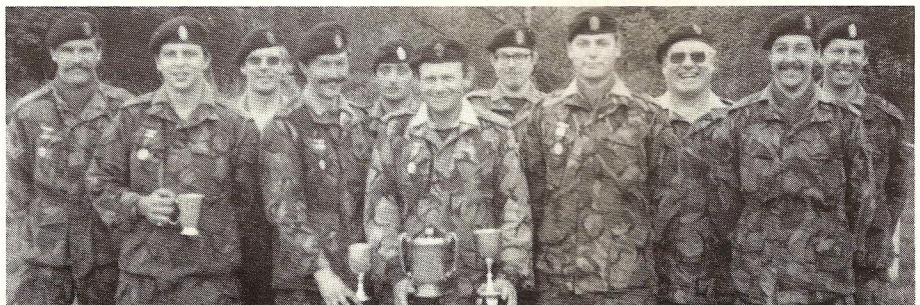
In almost perfect weather conditions at Ash Ranges on the weekend 24/25 May, 6/7 Queens (V) Shooting Team retained the TA Unit Championship for South East District and won a number of other trophies and medals. This year the Regular Army and TA Competitions took place concurrently and indeed the individual competitions and championships were combined in line with the 'One Army Concept'.

The Bn entered two teams of six for the meeting and team A comprising Lt John Day, C/Sgt Bicker, Cpls Blockley, Smith and Goss and L/Cpl Springall were in fine form and proved beyond all doubt that the training, perseverance and dedication over the last four or five years has paid off. The team fired a first class Roupell with L/Cpl Springall, Cpl Blockley and C/Sgt Bicker all scoring 140 and Lt Day scoring 132. With the best four scores in each team being aggregated to decide the Unit Rifle Match they were uncatchable and beat the second team by 60 clear points. The same four headed the top 25 TA scores in the Roupell and indeed nine members of the Bn Team came in the leading 25 who moved onto The Roberts together with the top 50 Regular Army Firers to decide the Individual Championship. Lt Day also got

3rd place in the Officers' Individual Rifle

Lt Day and C/Sgt Bicker also swept down the Ranges to win the LMG Match with Cpl Smith and L/Cpl Springall coming third and Cpls Martin and Jones securing fourth place. The firers from team A also came second in the SMG Unit Team Match with C/Sgt Bicker also gaining second place in the TKA Individual SMG Championship. We lost the Section Match to our old rivals from CVHQ RAOC and came third in the Pistol team match. To conclude the meeting our fastest Falling Plate team got through to an exciting final with CVHQ REME to whom they lost. The team were also particularly pleased to learn that the newest member of the team, Pte Hinchliffe, had won the Young Soldier Rifle Championship.

Essentially shooting forms a vital part of the Battalion's activities and the competition to get into the Bn Shooting Team is getting hotter each year. With their much coveted specially designed T-shirts and Sweat Shirts fast becoming collectors' items the team is very much in the forefront of battalion life. With the Bn 2IC, Major Richard Putnam, and the RSM, WO1 B Lively, driving hard from the rear, the battalion is looking forward to the TA Meeting at Bisley.



Cheerful chappies from the south east. The 6/7 Queens team. L-r, Cpl Goss, Pte Hinchliffe, Cpl Jones, Cpl Smith, Pte Burchell, Lt Day, Pte Brookes, L/Cpl Springell, Capt Cannon, Cpl Martin and C/Sgt Bicker.