



## British Army News Release

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### **21-GUN SALUTE IN MUSEUM GARDENS, YORK, TO MARK THE 65<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACCESSION TO THE THRONE OF HM THE QUEEN**

Photographs by SSgt Chris Hargreaves RLC:

Guns thundered over the ancient capital of the North as the British Army celebrated the Sapphire Jubilee of the accession to the throne of Her Majesty The Queen.

Her Majesty's accession was marked with the firing of a 21-gun salute in York's Museum Gardens.

Crowds gathered to watch the spectacular event, hosted by 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade and HQ North East.

The Band of The Royal Armoured Corps, led by Major Ian Johnson, the band's Director of Music, performed a marching display through the city – before entertaining the crowds with stirring military music before arriving at the Museum Gardens.

At the stroke of noon The Saluting Troop from 3/29 (Corunna) Battery, 4th Regiment Royal Artillery, started firing 21 rounds at 10-second intervals from three 105 mm light guns.

As the final shots echoed along the banks of the River Ouse, the National Anthem was played.

Troop commander, Captain Robert Male, said, “ It is always an honour for 3/29 Corunna Battery to be entrusted with firing a Royal Salute, especially on this auspicious occasion of the anniversary of Her Majesty’s accession to the throne.”

Guests at the event included the Inspecting Officer, Mr Richard Edwards, Master Cutler of the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire, who said, “For me as Master Cutler, it is a great honour to be the inspecting officer at the Royal Gun Salute. As you may know I represent the manufacturing industries of the Sheffield City Region where industry has played a pivotal role in supplying the armed forces and I’m keen to promote that link, the ceremony has been most impressive and I have much appreciated seeing the guns in action.”

The 21-gun Royal Salute took place simultaneously with 11 other saluting stations around the country.

York is the only Saluting Station in the North of England, and was given the honour to commemorate the 1,900th anniversary of the city in 1971.

The discharge of cannon as a form of salute is almost as old as the artillery itself, although Royal Salutes are relatively modern.

The first military regulations governing the firing of Salutes were created in 1827, when the Board of Ordnance decreed that 41 guns should be used in a Royal Salute when fired from St James's Park or the Tower of London.

That was later extended to include 21-gun Royal Salutes to be fired elsewhere, and include the Birthday, Accession and Coronation of the Sovereign.

**ENDS**

Notes to Editors:

On special days, such as anniversaries and birthdays, Royal salutes are fired from various locations in London and across the UK. In London, salutes are fired from the Tower of London, and also either Hyde Park or Green Park, depending upon the occasion. The basic salute is 21 rounds, fired at ten second intervals, but in Hyde Park an extra 20 are fired because it is a Royal Park. At the Tower an extra 20 are also fired, because the Tower is a Royal Palace, and a further 21 are fired because it is located in the City of London, meaning a total of 62 rounds and a total firing time of around ten minutes.

In the parks, The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery fires the salute, the first round usually being fired at noon. The salute at the Tower of London is fired from four twenty-five pounder guns located on Tower Wharf facing the River Thames, by the Honourable Artillery Company at 1pm.