

## **CEREMONIAL, SALUTES AND THE TIME GUN**

### **HISTORY OF THE ROYAL SALUTE**

1. Royal Salutes are fired at Saluting Stations throughout the UK by the Royal Artillery to mark or celebrate Royal Occasions. The detachments manning the Guns for the Royal Salutes are often members of the Royal Artillery's Territorial Army Regiments or of Kings Troop, Royal Horse Artillery. Military Saluting Stations are found in London and York Castle in England, Edinburgh and Stirling Castles in Scotland, Cardiff Castle (Wales) and Hillsborough Castle in County Down, Northern Ireland. Royal Salutes may also be fired at other locations such as HMS Caroline in Belfast.

2. The number of rounds fired during a Royal Salute depends on the Saluting Station and the occasion. The basic number of rounds fired in a Royal Salute remains 21. In Hyde Park and Green Park an extra 20 rounds are added because they are Royal Parks. At the Tower of London 62 rounds are fired on royal anniversaries (the basic 21, plus a further 20 because the Tower is a Royal Palace and Fortress, plus another 21 'for the City of London') and 41 on other occasions. The Tower of London probably holds the record for the most rounds fired in a single salute - 124 are fired whenever the Duke of Edinburgh's birthday (62 rounds) coincides with the Saturday designated as the Queen's official birthday (also 62 rounds).

3. The Royal Salutes at Edinburgh Castle are fired by members of the Saluting Troop of 105th Regiment Royal Artillery (Volunteers), usually by the officers and soldiers of 207 (City of Glasgow) Battery RA(V). The Saluting Troop consists of three ceremonial 105mm light guns, manned by crews of 4-6 soldiers, two Troop Officers to direct the guns firing and a round counter and a time-keeper to ensure that both the correct number of rounds are fired and at the right time. Unless Her Majesty is present, the Royal Salute is taken by a Reviewing Officer who receives the salute on Her behalf.