

BATTALION BIRTHDAY PARADE

The format for the birthday parade was decided early in the year to be short, simple but effective. The week started off fairly well with rehearsals each day and revision for those that needed it most in the afternoon (Colour Party). The parade started off with the guns from 8/12 Medium Regiment holding ground while the soldiers of the first guard (B Company) lead the Battalion on to the parade with the soldiers of the second guard coming from Admin, Alpha and the first elements of C Coy and Spt Coy. Lead by the music of the combined Pipes and Drums from the 3rd and 5th/7th Battalions the Battalion went around in slow and quick time. The drill was first class and the dressing was magnificent, a real credit to the soldiers.

This was topped off with an advance in slow time and the firing of volleys, lowering of the national and unit flag and a speech from the first Commanding Officer Brigadier The Honourable D.S. Thomson, AM, MC which brought most of our Association guests to tears and highlighted the camaraderie that was and still is present in the unit to date. A point that not many guests or even soldiers would know is that on that parade was a number of soldiers from A Coy which had not completed a recruit course and they performed like veterans.

The unit then invited all of our guests to join the Battalion at the Other Ranks' Mess where the Commanding Officer assisted by the youngest member of the Battalion PTE Penn, cut the Birthday Cake.

The parade marked the Battalion Birthday with pride, style and dignity and showed the remainder of the Regiment that the 4th Battalion is back in pride of place where it always was.

Well Done.



