

FAREWELL TO A COMMANDING OFFICER

On 30th August, 1982 the Battalion bid its farewell to Lieutenant-Colonel David Rowe, our Commanding Officer since 10th November, 1980.

The Battalion paraded under the command of Major Frank Edwards, the Operations Officer, with Lieutenant-Colonel Rowe as the Reviewing Officer.

Despite limited time for preparation the Battalion put on a creditable performance as they paraded for the last time for their Commanding Officer.



Lieutenant-Colonel D. J. P. Rowe begins his review of the Battalion as he inspects soldiers of Support and A Company.

A younger onlooker checks to see how many extras the junior Sgt should get.





Administrative Company demonstrating to their Commanding Officer that they are the equal of the rifle companies in the "spit and polish" department.



Lieutenant-Colonel Rowe paused in his inspection of the Pipes and Drums for a brief word with Corporal Rory MacDonald.



The Battalion marched past in both slow and quick time and on all such occasions the Colour Party provided an impressive sight.



Lieutenant-Colonel Rowe was impressed by the Battalion's performance as he took the salute during the march-past.



Lieutenant-Colonel Rowe attempts to break the tension of the parade with a 'Hitler' joke. However, the soldiers training shows through and they are unmoved.



As his last official function in the unit Lieutenant-Colonel Rowe presented National Medals to Captain Des Wilkatt, Warrant-Officer Class 2 Joe Furna and Staff Sergeant Alan (Rusty) Vincens.



Following the parade Lieutenant-Colonel Rowe attended a luncheon in the Sergeants' Mess. As he left the Sergeants' Mess for his departure from the unit the entire Battalion was drawn up on either side of the road on his route out.



Lieutenant-Colonel Rowe's passage through the ranks made a moving spectacle as he paused every few steps to say a special goodbye to the soldiers.