

ATHLETICS

10 OCTOBER

The preparation put into this years competition by the participants was most commendable. I mean, what better than two weeks of stand down culminating with the World Cup Athletics even if viewed from armchairs in the comfort of the Townner Club! At least the officials put in a polished performance.

Once again the competition was healthy and contested in a good spirit. Fine performances were put in by Pte Hogan in the 100 m, 2Lt Somerville in the 400 m (a good demonstration of how not to apply the skids in bare feet at the finish Andy!) and Pte Mills in the 800 m. The Admin Coy 4 x 100 m relay team cannot pass without a mention — Pte Curtis the last runner holding on to fight off strong finishes from C and A Coy teams. Yes, there is life after the rifle coys.

Yet again our guest commentator attempted to keep the crowd amused with appropriate theme music and boundless wit. Thanks Capt Ron Hill. He was, however, under extreme duress working under the eagle eye of that seasoned commentator, television interviewer and renowned after dinner speaker Maj Tony Ralph. "Enunciate Ron, speak slower!"

A Coy resumed their traditional strangelhold on the athletics with a clear points win ahead of Spt and C Coys. Although athletics have never been one of the battalion's strengths we nevertheless agitate the opposition.....

And so to the NQ Area competition.

17 OCTOBER

Our representatives in the heats for the running events did us proud. All battalion runners in the 100, 200, 400 and 4 x 100 m events won through to the finals. A good start to the day.

The highlight of the day was Pte Mills and his outstanding run in the 800 m final — our only victory. Our loss to 1 RAR in the 4 x 100 m relay by .02 of a second also had the stand buzzing. These of course do not detract from our other feats. From a team which had been together less than a week the improvement and results were nothing less than remarkable.

Similarly the spirit and determination to do well was evident. Our 1500 and 5000 m runners to name just a few were advertisements for that. But a team is just a team without support and the battalion did a fine job spurring on our representatives to superlative results; not only in personal bests recorded but also results overall. On raw scores the battalion came second behind 1 RAR, a feat we have not achieved for some years. Well done all!

The merit list was as follows:

Pte Hogan	3rd	100m
Pte Annakin	3rd	200m
Pte Dunn	3rd	400m
Pte Mills	1st	800m
Pte Kiernan	3rd	5000m
Pte Hess		
Pte Allan	2nd	4x100m
Pte Curtis		(46.02 s
Pte Hogan		a new
		battalion
		record)
Pte McCarthy	3rd	Shot Put
Pte Daniels	2nd	Long
		Jump

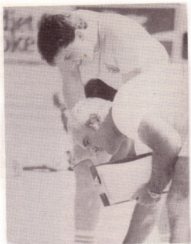
In all, four battalions records were broken this year. New marks were set in the 100 m, Long Jump and Shot Put. Congratulations to Pte's Hogan and McCarthy, and Cpl Murphy.



The winning A Coy team



The Starter



The Official



Command relay



Pte McCarthy throwing the Javelin



LCpl Buttery
"Up...."



Pte Daniel
....Up....



Pte Buscall
.... and away"



LCpl Montgomery



Pte Mills



Pte Leedie



Pte McCarthy