WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

[Note: FIRST PAGE OF DIARY NOT INCLUDED IN FOLDER OF SCANNED PAGES.]

WORTHING

6 Jan 42

1315

This exercise was held on the River ADUR and the victims were: L/Cpl McLean, W.J. Pte’s Jaquist, S.A. Farnsworth, H.T., Gaudet, J.E., Melanson, E.C., McDonald, R.H.

1400

A sports meeting was held at Bde and was attended by Lieut Bent vice Capt Letourneau.

1600

Capt Fillpot, Staff Capt 1 Cdn Div Aux Services, called at this Unit with reference to the services carried on in this area and if same were satisfactory.

1730

A TEWT and sand table exercise was held at Bde HQ and was attended by Lt-Col Ernst, Maj Hebb, Adjt and Coy comdrs.

WORTHING

7 Jan 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1000

A Court of Enquiry and Board of Adjustment was held with reference to the drowning accident which occurred in B Coy area yesterday.

1100

C Coy 3 Sussex HG have been affiliated with this Unit for training purposes.

1700

A Coroners inquest was held re the drowning accident yesterday.

WORTHING

8 Jan 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1500

A TEWT was held at WEPPONS Fm for officers of this Unit.

1900

The Salvation Army, SOMPTING have invited 50 of the personnel of this Unit to a get together and smoker.

WORTHING

9 Jan 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1000

A party of Scouts and SNipers together with a carrier pl spent the day at CISSBURY RING ranges trying out the Parker Hale 5B aperture sights. This party was i/c Lieut Bent, IO.

1500

The three Units of this Bde took part in a cross country run this afternoon and finished as follows: Carlt & York R first, Pte B.J. Martin, R22eR second, Pte Laurendeau, West NSR third, Pte Letourneau. It might be noted here that this Unit had only five entries against fifteen from each of the other Units.

Field Return: Officers 33 Other Ranks 749.

Special Increment: Officers 7 Other Ranks 85.

WORTHING

10 Jan 42

0900

Coy Inspections by Maj Hebb.

1400

The funeral of the six victims of a drowning accident which occurred last Tuesday was held this afternoon at Brookwood Cemetery and was conducted by Capt Addie, Bde Chaplain and Capt Butts of this Unit. The burial party and firing party were supplied by B Coy Lt-Col Ernst and all officers of B Coy attended. This funeral was very impressive. The service was conducted by Bde Chaplain, Capt Addie and Capt Butts.

WORTHING

11 Jan 42

0930

Usual Church parade to West Tarring Church. The West NSR band was in attendance but could not play owing to frost.

WORTHING

12 Jan 42

0800

General routine and training.

1230

The Brigadier and BM visited this HQ and conferred with Lt-Col Ernst and inspected posns at HIGHDEN HILL, STEYNING and FRIESLANDS.

1700

Capt Upton of the 4 Bd Dorset Best has been attached to this Unit for training and umpire service and will be with us for a period of two months.

1900

Movies at C Coy.

WORTHING

13 Jan 42

0800

Training and general routine.

0830

The TEWT which was to be held on the DOWNS was cancelled by the Brigadier on account of poor visibility in the vicinity of STORRINGTON

1100

A lecture was held at BRIGHTON this morning at Whittinghame School. The lecture was on the use of cipher by Maj A.M. Harford, cipher security Officer, GHQ. One or two highlights of this lecture were: “that it takes the enemy six hours to act upon an intercepted message sent out in clear which acts as a guide in deciding which message should go in cipher, also warned against sending messages word for word in code and later in clear, as this method gives the enemy a valuable key”. Those attending the lecture from this Unit were Lt-Col Ernst, Maj Hebb, Lieut Archibald and Lieut Bent.

1400

Pay parade for HQ Coy.

1900

Movies at HQ Coy.

WORTHING

14 Dec 42

0800

General routine and training.

0900

Pay parade Bn HQ.

1400

Pay parade C Coy.

1900

COs conference in Officers Mess, Skyring discussing training followed by a short address by Capt Butts on the psychology of the German Soldier in the present crisis. The CO then pointed out on a cloth model the new dispositions of the various Coys which he had received from Bde earlier in the day.

WORTHING

15 Jan 42

0800

Training and general routine.

[Pages of diary missing, from 16th (p.m.) - 21 (a.m.) Jan 42.]

WORTHING

22 Jan 42

1300

This same film was shown to the personnel at A Coy.

1400

Lieut Bent lectured at B Coy. His subject was Identification of the German Army. Maj Hebb was summoned for an interview at CMHQ by AG 4.

WORTHING

23 Jan 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1000

A discussion by Lieut Bent at “Goldington” on employment Int personnel.

1400

Lieut Bent lectured to the “I” section and Scouts and Snipers on the German Army.

Field Return: Officers 33 Other Ranks 760.

Special Increment: Officers 7 Other Ranks 84.

WORTHING

24 Jan 42

0800

Coy inspection and general routine.

1700

Lt-Col Ernst completed week of study in Brighton.

2000

Maj Hebb attended OCTU dance at Bordon. This dance was held in Havana Barracks.

WORTHING

25 Jan 42

0900

Protestant church parades were cancelled today owing to illness of Capt Addie, Bde Chaplain.

1000

A party of five officers from this Unit attended a Home Guard demonstration of the Northover projector. His dem was conducted by the inventor, Maj Northover and was held at AMBERLEY.

WORTHING

26 Jan 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

0830

“I” Section, Scouts and Snipers proceeded to Cissbury rifle range for practice. Lieut Bent scored a possible (90) followed by Pte’s Cameron and Gibson with 87 each.

1330

Corps Comd Lt-Gen Crerar visited this area this afternoon.

WORTHING

27 Jan 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1500

Lt=Col Ernst attended a lecture at Highden House on British Railways.

1600

Training as per syllabus.

1100

Capt Grimmer, padre of the Carlt & York Regt visited this Unit today.

1900

Coy comd conference at Skyring. General discussion.

WORTHING

29 Jan 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

0930

Pay parades commence with HQ Coy.

1330

All available officers of this Unit attended a revolver practice at Chalk Pits rifle range.

1700

Conference at Officers Mess, Skyring when Lt-Col Ernst gave a resume of proceedings during “Study Week” at Brighton. Capt Upton gave a talk on composition of advance guard during approach march when enemy’s AFVs are encountered.

WORTHING

30 Jan 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1000

All available officers of this Unit attended a demonstration at Brighton sponsored by 1st Div re approach march.

Field Return: Officers 33 Other Ranks 747

Special Increment: Officers 7 Other Ranks 92

WORTHING

31 Jan 42

0900

Coy Inspections.

1000

CO and Coy comd went to battle positions to site posns in accordance with orders received the day previous. All posns change excepting A Coy, and main reason for change is to dispose the Regiment in such a way that it can offer more protection to Highden Wood as well as carry out its role in protecting Washington Gap. Highden Wood has been designated as a harbour for Tank Regiment.