WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

WORTHING

1 Mar 42

0930

Church parades as usual.

1400

Lt-Col Ernst and Maj Hebb went out on downs on recce for Tuesday night’s scheme.

WORTHING

2 Mar 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1130

Lt-Gen Montgomery, 7th Army Commander, called on Bn. He was accompanied by his ADC, Brigadier Ganong, Bde [illegible] Jerome. He first interviewed the CO, Lt-Col Ernst, the 2 i/c Maj Hebb, each of the Coy comdrs, Lieut Archibald, Adjt and RSM Humpherson. HIs visit lasted about forty-five minutes. A special guard was selected from C Coy for this occasion.

1500

The COs O Gp assembled on downs area 597272 to receive orders for the night attack in exercise “Ernst” to be held ¾ of Mar.

WORTHING

3 Mar 42

1000

A recce of area of exercise “Ernst” carried out by officers and NCOs down to sec leaders.

1300

Maj Hebb and H/Capt Butts attended a reception of the Overseas League, London, given in honor of His Excellency the President of Poland.

1900

All coys left for downs on exercise “Ernst”.

WORTHING

4 Mar 42

0800

Troops have this morning off after last night’s arduous exercise.

1300

Lt-Col Ernst left on a forty-eight hour leave.

1800

Tps at Weppons Fm and later HQ Coy were entertained by show given by Auxiliary Services.

WORTHING

5 Mar 42

0900

Meeting of Coy Comdrs at Bn HQ to discuss training for following week.

1430

Maj J. Dodds, OC 77th Bty 3 Fd Regt called to bring details of an exercise for tomorrow.

1900

A Coy entertained by “Bingo” with prizes given by Auxiliary Services.

WORTHING

6 Mar 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. Majors Hebb, Berringer, Courtney and Stehelin attended an exercise on the co-operation of Inf and Arty.

1900

B Coy were entertained by show, sing-song party and refreshments given by Aux. Services. Field Return.

WORTHING

7 Mar 42

0800

D Coy moved to new quarters at Eardley Hotel, giving up all former billets except Granview Hotel. The new billets were inspected during the morning by Lt-Col A.A. Ernst.

1415

A party of two officers per Coy assembled at Bn officers mess for instruction and practice in the indication of targets to the Arty. Also a party from the Arty consisting of four officers and a number of sigs in charge of Maj Dodds, OC 77th Bty. After preliminary instructions the party carried out an actual practice on high ground, area of 574253.

2000

Lieut Fraser, member of the staff at Junior Leadership School, called on this Regt.

WORTHING

8 Mar 42

0930

Church parades as usual.

1000

Maj Hebb and Lieut Gray, 4th Fd Coy, RCE went out to downs, area of Highden Ho to spot camping site for summer months.

1400

Coy Comdrs conference at Bn officers mess to discuss the promotion of NCOs to fill Vacancies made by sending instructional party back to Canada.

1900

D Coy entertained by show, “Stranded in Paris”, given by Auxiliary Services.

WORTHING

9 Mar 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1430

The CO inspected the billets of A and HQ Coys.

1900

HQ Coy entertained by show, “Andy Hardy” and short, given by the Auxiliary Services.

WORTHING

10 Mar 42

0900

The CO (Lt-Col Ernst) and Adjt (Lieut D. MacG. Archibald) proceeded to 2nd Ech at Farnham to obtain reinforcements of officers and NCOs to replace vacancies caused by instructional party returning to Canada. Also went to Algonquin Camp, Witley, where the CO inspected a draft which is coming to this unit 11 Mar 42. Thence to NETD to bid farewell to the instructional party.

1400

A dress rehearsal for a night attack was carried out on the downs.

1900

A Coy entertained by show, B Coy by concert party provided by Auxiliary Services.

WORTHING

11 Mar 42

0845

The CO and ten other officers left to practice indication of target with Arty officers but due to unfavorable weather this was cancelled.

1100

Draft arrived from Holding Unit. The CO left to lunch with Brig Ganong at Bde HQ.

1150

B Coy entertained by a local concert party under the auspices of Auxiliary Services.

WORTHING

12 Mar 42

0800

Training as per syllabus which consisted chiefly of digging and improving battle posns.

1900

C Coy entertained by show provided by Auxiliary Services. A party from this unit attended the hockey final held at Brighton.

WORTHING

13 Mar 42

0800

C Coy move into new billets at Adversane Rd. Majors Berringer, Stehelin, Courtney and Capt Mooore proceed to Bostal [sic. Bostall] Hill to view an arty shoot and also participated by indication of targets to the arty by medium of the 18 W/T set.

1600

Maj Heb went to Highden Park to consult with Maj Holwood, R.E., on the matter of a summer camp at that place for this unit. Field Return. On the whole, Friday the 13th passed quite peacefully.

WORTHING

14 Mar 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1315

A meeting of the members of Bn HQ and HQ Coy mess was held.

1900

Part of HQ Coy entertained by show provided by the Auxiliary Services.

WORTHING

15 Mar 42

1400

A special church service was held at Christ Church, Worthing. The mayor, counselors and representatives of Worthing, also Red Cross were present.

1700

A Coy entertained by show provided by Auxiliary Services.

WORTHING

16 Mar 42

0800

A party from C Coy are erecting wire in the beach under supervision of 4th Fd Coy, RCE.

1300

A party from C Coy doing same as above.

1900

A lecture, “Defeating the Invasion”, was given at the New Drill Hall, Worthing, by Brigadier H.N. Ganong, attended by all officers and ORs of this unit.

WORTHING

17 Mar 42

0945

The CO went out on a recce of route to be used on exercise “Mouse”.

1400

Coy Comdrs conference at Sky Ring to discuss, (a) training of the Home Guard, (b) training on the tuning and netting of 18 wireless sets.

1730

O Gp conference on exercise “Mouse”. CO gives Operation Orders.

1900

All officers of Bde gp attended conference at Highden Ho to discuss offensive action to be taken by MT column when attacked on the move by enemy tanks.

WORTHING

18 Mar 42

0800

C Coy still erecting scaffolding on beach under supervision of RE. Due to the loss of 18 NCOs to Canada for instructional duties for eight months, many promotions became necessary and the unit has now many vacancies for junior NCOs. With a view to filling these vacancies, an NCOs school has been opened at Weppons Fm. This school is under the benevolent patronage of our genial 2 i/c, Maj Hebb.

[Page missing between 18 a.m. - 26 March 1942]

WORTHING

27 Mar 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1300

Meeting of all officers at Highden Ho to discuss forthcoming Div exercise.

1900

C Coy entertained by show, “The devil and Miss Jones”, provided by Auxiliary Services.

2130

Personnel at Weppons Fm shown same as above. Field Return.

WORTHING

28 Mar 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

0930

TEWT for all available officers at High Titton Hill.

1900

A concert party arranged for by Aux Services Entertained D Coy.

WORTHING

29 Mar 42

0900

Maj Hebb visited Weppons Fm to give the NCOs class their final inspection.

1000

Tps paraded to West Tarring Church. Brig Ganong attended church with us this morning and took the salute on the march past following the service.

1900

HQ Coy sees show “The Devil and Miss Jones”, provided by Auxiliary Services.

WORTHING

30 Mar 42

0900

Bn officers meet at Sky Ring for general discussion of exercise “MICKEY”, followed by O GP conference.

1200

“MICKEY”. Stand To. Bn moved off at 1330 and arrived in battle posns at 1545 hrs. Only incident during the night was heavy rain which amounted to a mild deluge in the early morning of the 31st.

WORTHING

31 Mar 42

0400

Reports come from R22eR that enemy are landing at Rustington, Kingston and Goring-by-Sea. At 0455 hrs Thirtieth Royal Sussex report they are being attacked from the East, also enemy landing on their front.

0715

D Coy report that enemy paratps of approximately one plat strength landed in Findon Park, area 568292. One sec of carriers and a patrol from D Coy were sent to deal with this situation.

0910

O Gp left to attend conference at Bde. But, due to heavy fog, visibility was practically nil, and “Cease Fire” sounded at 0950 hrs. End of “MICKEY”.

1500

Tps arrive back at billets and the rest of the day is spent in cleaning and drying up.