WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

UTRECHT

MR224903,

Sheet 376

Holland,

1/ 25,000

1

0430

1 Officer and 34 Other Ranks proceeded on leave to the United Kingdom

0800

4 Other Ranks proceed to join the Canadian Occupational Forces

0900

RC and C of E Church Parades were held, Dress, Battle Dress, beret, web belt and anklets.

All Bn Commanders were invited to Bde Hq after the march past for a chat.

1800

Show at the K of C, “Blondie On A Budget”

2000

Show at the K of C “Double Indemnity”

Weather today, Cloudy with scattered showers.

2

Training as per syllabus.

0800

1 Other Rank proceeded to join the Canadian Occupational Forces.

1800

Show at the K of C “Keys Of The Kingdom.

2000

Show at the K of C “Girl In Overalls”.

Weather today, Cloudy with scattered showers.

3

Training as per syllabus

1300

1 Officer and 22 Other Ranks proceeded on 72 hour leave to Amsterdam.

This afternoon the Officers of the Bn played volleyball to pick a team to play the men.

During the day Major Diamond, Cameron High’rs Of Ottawa, who formerly served with the Special Service Force paid a visit to the A/CO, Major WW Mair.

1800

Show at the K of C “Double Indemnity”.

2000

Show at the K of C “Double Indemnity”

Weather today, Cloudy and cool with scattered showers.

4

Training as per syllabus.

0930

The 2IC major HM Eisenhauer and Capt JR Reid proceeded to area BUSSUM MR-Z2311, sheet 361, Holland, 1/25,000. Approximately 300 all ranks attended.

1800

The A/CO and 2IC attended an “AT Home” at 1st Field Regt HQ, RCHA.

1800

Show at the K of C “Blondie On A Budget”

Weather today, Fine and warm.

5

Trg as per syllabus

0900

1 other rank proceeded to join the Canadian Occupational Forces

1000

2 educational films were shown in the K of C Cinema, Travelogue, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

1000

Recce party proceeded to the new area, Bussum MR Z2311, Sheet 361, Holland, 1/ 25,000.

1030

Major HM Eisenhauer and Major CF Whynacht (MBE) proceeded to BUSSUM area for further recce of Bn accomodations [sic.]. Move expected between the 7th and 10th July.

1800

Show at the K of C “The Thin Man Goes Home”

1830

All Majors of this Bn attended a dinner at the AMBASSADOR Hotel, THE HAGUE

2000

Show at the K of C “The Thin Men Goes Home”

Weather, fine and warm.

6

Training as per syllabus

0500

11 other ranks proceeded on 72 hour leave to BRUSSELS.

0645

6 other ranks left this morning to attend a Christian Citizenship Course (RC) at OOTMARSUM, MR V-3124, Sheet K53, Germany, 1/250,000.

0800

2 other ranks proceeded on repatriation draft.

1100

2 other ranks arrived as reinforcements and were alloted [sic.] to Coys.

1300

14 other ranks proceeded on short leave to AMSTERDAM.

1300

1 NCO and 5 other ranks proceeded to UTRECHT on a tour of the underground communications.

Lieut HN Lash, of this Unit, now employed as Bde LO will be in charge of the Bde Party.

1300

3 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Occupational Forces.

1345

The 2IC and all Coy Commanders proceeded to area BUSSUM, MR Z2311 to recce billets for the Bn for the move on July ?.

1800

Show at the K of C “Keys Of The Kingdom”

2000

Show at the K of C “Keys Of The Kingdom”

Weather today, cloudy and cool with scattered showers in the afternoon.

7

Training as per syllabus

0800

1 other rank proceeded on Repatriation Draft

0900

A number of Officers and NCOs proceeded to HQ, 1st Canadian Infantry Div, where they were interviewed by the Div IO having+volunteered for a course in Intelligence and to serve with the Far East Forces in that capacity.

1000

Major WW Mair attended a conference at 3 CIB HQ.

1115

A/CO, Major WW Mair held a Conference attended by Coy Commanders, Adjt, MO, Padre, IO and RSM. POints discussed were (i) Move to BUSSUM Area will not take place until 13th July. (ii) Starting school with limited education at which they will be taught on a standard of grades 3, 4, 5 and 6. (iii) The establishing of a Unit Leave Centre in THE HAGUE. (iv) Possible educational convoy to GERMANY for period of 3 to 5 days under Unit arrangement. (v) Committee consisting of Capt DR Bews, Capt CH Smith and Lieut MH Marchessault was nominated to arrange 2 dances for other ranks of this Bn in UTRECHT.

1430

Bde Field and Track sports will be held this Afternoon. This Bn took second place in the meet.

Major WE Garber proceeded to SCHEVENINGEN MR638954, Sheet 372, Holland, 1/25,000 to see about establishing a Bn Leave Centre there.

1800

Show at the K of C “I[n] Society”

2000

Show at the K of C “In Society”

Weather, cloudy in the morning turning clear and warm in the afternoon.

8

0800

1 other rank proceeded on Repatriation Draft

1000

C of E Church Parade was held in 3 Bde Theatre, West NSR Lines and communion was held immediately following

1000

Mass was celebrated for RCs at the Church Of St. Aloysius, on the corner of REMBRANDETKADE [sic. REMBRANDTKADE] and ADRIAN [sic. ADRIAEN] VAN OSTADELAAN, UTRECHT.

1800

Show at the K of C “The Thin Man Goes Home”.

2000

Show at the K of C “The Keys Of The Kingdom”

Weather today, Fine and warm.

9

Training as per syllabus

0930

IO and Padre proceed to 1st Canadian Army HQ, APPELDOORN to get information on educational and recreational trips to Germany.

1400

Recce party proceeded from HQ Coy to new area BUSSUM to see about billets for the Coy also Officers Mess etc.

It has just been learned that W02 RQMS CW Seaboyer a former member of this Unit, now Canadian Occupational Forces has been awarded at MBE.

1800

Show at the K of C “Girl In Overalls”

2000

Show at the K of C “Girl In Overalls”

Weather today, fine and warm.

10

Training as per syllabus

0430

18 other ranks proceeded on leave to the United Kingdom.

0800

22 other ranks proceeded on repatriation draft.

0900

Advance Party of 1 Officer and 31 other ranks proceeded to new area BUSSUM.

1800

Show at the K of C “The Thin Man Goes Home.

2000

Show at the K of C, “The Thin Man Goes Home”.

Weather today, fine and warm.

11

Training as per Syllabus

0430

1 Officer and 15 other ranks proceeded on leave to the United Kingdom.

0800

1 other rank proceeded on repatriation draft.

0930

Lieut FA Embree, Lieut WJ Lake proceeded on a recce of Staging Areas and Route for recreational trips to Germany.

1800

3 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Occupational Forces.

1800

Show at the K of C “Blondie On A Budget”

2000

Show at the K of C “Blondie On A Budget”

Weather today, fine and warm.

12

Training as per syllabus

0900

H/Capt LF Wilmot (MC) proceeded to join the Canadian Pacific Forces. Padre Wilmot has been with this Unit since Feb 1944.

1800

Show at the K of C “ In Society”

2000

Show at the K of C “ In Society”

Weather, fine and warm.

13

Training as per syllabus

0900

5 Officers and 2 other ranks proceeded on a tour of North West GERMANY and Northern Holland.

1800

The CO and 2 other officers of the Sask Light Inf were guests of Major WW Mair this evening. Major Mair was a member of the Sask Light Inf previous to the Special Service force and the West NSR.

1800

Show at the K of C “Thin Man Goes Home”

2000

Show at the K of C “Thin Man Goes Home”

Weather today, fine and warm.

14

Training as per syllabus.

1230

1 Officer and 16 other ranks proceeded to AMSTERDAM to attend “Meet The Navy”

1330

15 other ranks proceed to Bn Leave Centre SCHEVENINGEN MR638954, Sheet 372, Holland, 1/25,000. It is the intention that the same number will proceed daily to this rest centre. The Centre is under Unit arrangement with Lieut HN Lash in charge.

1330

6 other ranks proceeded on a short leave to AMSTERDAM.

1330

The K of C Supervisor Mr AH Chivers and 3 other ranks proceeded on 60 hour leave to PARIS.

1800

Show at the K of C “Girls In Overalls”

2000

Show at the K of C “Girl In Overalls”

Weather today, fine and very warm.

15

0800

3 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Pacific Forces.

1000

RC Church parade at ST. ALOYSIUS Church, UTRECHT.

1000

C of E Church parade held in the Bde Cinema. Service was conducted by the CYR Padre.

1300

14 other ranks proceeded on 72 hour leave to HAGUE HOUSE, Scheveningen.

1800

Show at the K of C “Cinderella Jones”

2000

Show at the K of C “Cinderella Jones”

Weather, fine and warm.

16

Trg as per syllabus

0800

3 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Pacific Forces.

0900

A/CO Major WW Mair held a conference attended by 2IC, Coy Comds, Adjt, TO, IO and RSM. Points discussed were : [illegible. Movs?] which is to take place on the morning of 18th July, Cross Posting which begins on the same date, Tours to GERMANY permission having been granted but tours have been cancelled until after the move has been completed, and the programme for the next few days will be cleaning of billets and getting the stores ready for the move.

Major CF Whynacht (MBE) has taken over duties as 2IC of this Bn. Major HM Eisenhauer has proceeded on leave.

1300

15 other ranks proceeded on 72 hour leave to “HAGUE HOUSE”.

1330

1 officer and 16 other ranks arrived as reinforcements and were alloted [sic.] to Coys.

1800

Show at the K of C “ Cinderella Jones”

2000

Show at the K of C “Cinderella Jones”

Weather today, fine ad [sic.] warm.

17

Training as per syllabus

0830

6 officers and 50 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Pacific Forces.

1100

Movement Order received on move to BUSSUM AREA.

1300

15 other ranks proceeded on 72 hour leave to “HAGUE HOUSE”

1400

1 officer and 13 other ranks proceeded on 72 hour leave to AMSTERDAM.

Weather today, fine and warm.

18

0800

32 other ranks proceeded to 13 BN (50 Points)

0900

60 other ranks left this Unit on Cross Posting to Units in the Div from their own Military District.

BUSSUM

MR23621165

Sheet 361

Holland,

1/ 25,000

0930

Bn convoy moved off as per movement Order. Move was completed without incident and Bn HQ established at 23621165, Rifle Coys MR23701173 and Support Coy 24311095, Sheet 361, BUSSUM, Holland, 1/25,000.

1400

A Dutch Civilian visited the A/CO Major WW Mair and invited the Officers of the Unit to have tea at his home any or every afternoon.

1800

Major WE Garber returned from NIJMEGEN to obtain qualifications of the men of this Unit who proceeded on last Canadian Army Pacific Draft re Campaign Ribbons.

During the day 1 officer and 88 other ranks arrived at this HQ cross posted from other Units in the Division.

1900

Show in the Mess Hall “The Mark Of The Whistler”

Weather, fine and warm.

19

Training as per syllabus.

0800

1 other rank proceeded to join the Canadian Pacific Forces

0930

A/CO, Major WW Nair proceeded on a visit to the “HAGUE HOUSE”, Scheveningen and found everything in good order.

This HQ informed that Lieut MH Marcheszault is to proceed to the Intelligence Service of the Canadian Pacific Forces.

1800

10 other ranks arrived as reinforcements and were alloted [sic.] to Coys.

The Officers of this Bn beat the Sask Light Inf Volleyball team this evening by taking two straight games. Return games are expected.

1900

Show in the Mess Hall “The Mark Of The Whistler”

Weather, Fine and warm.

20

Training as per syllabus

0800

2 Officers and 1 other rank proceeded to join the Canadian Pacific Forces.

0900

1 other rank proceeded by air on compassionate leave to the United Kingdom.

0900

3 Officers and 69 other ranks proceeded on a tour of the RUHR Valley and North Western Germany.

Capt CH Smith has taken over duties as the Unit Educational Officer.

1300

12 other ranks proceeded on 72 hour leave to AMSTERDAM.

1300

15 other Ranks proceeded on 72 hour leave to “HAGUE HOUSE”.

1800

A number of personnel from the Unit proceeded to HILVERSUM to attend a softball game between 30th Light AA and 1st Div Arty. The 30th Light AA have played 87 straight wins this season.

1900

Show in the Mess Hall “Bullfighters”

Weather today, fine and warm.

21

Training as per syllabus

0800

28 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Pacific Forces.

0930

A/CO Major WW Mair held a meeting of all Officers at BN HQ. Pionts [sic.] discussed were : General problems, sports, cleanliness of billets and the D situation which has taken an upward sweep this week.

1300

15 other ranks proceeded on 72 hour leave to the “HAGUE HOUSE”.

1600

3 other ranks arrived as reinforcements and were alloted [sic.] to coys.

1730

A number of personnel from this Unit proceeded to attend “Meet The Vavy” [sic. Navy] at AMSTERDAM.

1900

Show in the mess hall “Bullfighters”

Weather today, fine and warm.

22

0930

RC Church parade was held at the church in BUSSUM. MR 243115, Sheet 361.

1000

C of E Church parade was held in the church near Bn Hq.

1300

15 other ranks proceeded on 72 hour leave to the “HAGUE HOUSE”.

1600

6 other ranks arrived as reinforcements and were alloted [sic.] to Coys.

1900

Show in the mess hall “Woman In The Dark”.

Weather today, Cloudy and cool.

23

Training as per syllabus.

0900

5 officers proceeded to Canada as SPOs.

0900

1 Other Rank proceeded on Repatriation Draft.

1000

Bde Major, Major Lambert visited the Unit and looked over the sports facilities.

1300

15 other ranks proceeded on 72 hour leave to the “HAGUE HOUSE”.

1400

Preliminary football practice was held.

1600

9 other ranks arrived as reinforcements and were alloted [sic.] to coys.

1730

A number of personnel from the Unit proceeded to AMSTERDAM to attend the “Meet The Navy” show.

1800

Officers of the Sask Light Inf beat the Officers of this Bn 3 to 1 in volleyball. [F]inals scheduled for Friday night.

1900

Show in the mess hall “Woman In The Dark”.

Weather today, Cloudy and cool.

24

Training as per syllabus

0900

1 other rank proceeded on draft to CANADA.

1100

A/CO, Major WW Nair held a conference at Bn HQ attended by all Coy Comds and RSM. Points discussed were cleanliness of billets, educational programme and also whether or not the “HAGUE HOUSE” would continue to operate. Tours to GERMANY were also discussed.

1300

15 other ranks proceeded on 72 hour leave to the “Hague House”

1300

13 other ranks proceeded on 72 hour leave to AMSTERDAM.

1530

2 other ranks arrived as reinforcements and were alloted [sic.] to coys.

1900

Show in the mess hall, “Lets Go Steady”

Weather today, fine and warm.

25

Training as per syllabus

1000

The Bde Major, Major Lambert, paid a visit to this Hq to check the programme for Lieut General GG Simonds, CB, CBE, DSO (Commander Of the Canadian Troops In Holland) visit in the near future.

Lieut MH Marchessault is now acting as Unit IO.

1300

15 other ranks proceeded on 72 hour leave to the “HAGUE HOUSE”. This will be the last leave party to the leave centre which, during it’s [sic.] operation has provided a pleasant source of recreation and rest for other ranks of the unit.

1900

Show at the mess hall “Lets [sic.] Go Steady”

Weather, fine and warm.

26

Training as per syllabus

1030

A/CO, Major WW Nair attended a conference at 3 Bde HQ Points of discussion were: Promotions, Visit of Lieut General GG Simonds, CB, CBE, DSO., also discussed were minor disciplinary questions.

1245

A/CO Major WW Nair held a conference at the Officers Mess attended by all Coy Comds. Points of discussion were the Bde conference and matters relating to tours of GERMANY.

1500

The Officers of this Bn held a garden party at the officers mess. The guests were the civilian families with whom the officers are billeted also the Burgomaster and a few of the Towns [sic.] leading citizens. In the evening a dance was held at the home of the doctor with whom the CO is living.

6 other ranks arrived as reinforcements and were alloted [sic.] to coys

1900

Show in the mess hall “Life Of Woodrow Wilson”

Weather today, fine and warm with light showers in the late evening.

27

Training as per syllabus

0800

4 other ranks proceeded on repatriation draft

0900

4 Officers and 59 other ranks proceeded on a tour of north West GERMANY.

1100

The Bde Major, Major Lambert visited this Hq for the purpose of a recce of the route from the sports field to this HQ for the visit next week of Lieut General GG Simonds, CB, OBE, DSO.

1300

13 other ranks proceeded on 72 hour leave to AMSTERDAM.

1400

Major CF Whynacht (MBE) visits the Head of the Local Labor to make arrangements regarding 50 men whom the Bn will send to the Amsterdam Area for farm labor.

1500

Mr Boss, Canadian War Correspondent paid a visit to the CO and obtained the story of the battles in which this Regt took part in Holland also a summary of the Sicilian and Italian battles.

1900

Show in the mess hall “Life Of Woodrow Wilson”

Weather, cloudy and cool with scattered showers.

28

Training as per syllabus

0800

32 other ranks proceeded on repatriation draft.

0900

4 Officers and 59 other ranks proceeded on a tour of north West GERMANY.

1000

The Adjt, Capt AJW Dyer attended an A&Q Conference at 3 Bde Hq. This was followed at 1030 hours by Rehabilitation, Repatriation and Demobilization conference where plans were discussed concerning movement of 1st Canadian Division to Canada and the work which had to be done, also various other problems.

1040

CO will meet Lt-Col JA Nesbitt, Bde Comd at the sports field where plans will be discussed for the visit of LIeut General GG Simonds, CB, CBE, DSO.

1400

Lieut Col JA Nesbitt, A/Bde Comd paid a visit to this Hq.

1900

Show at the mess hall “Cinderella Jones”

Weather today, cloudy with scattered showers.

29

0800

1 other rank proceeded on repatriation draft

0800

2 other ranks proceeded to Canada (Tri-wound scheme)

0930

RC church parade held at the local church, BUSSUM.

0930

C of E Church Parade held at the local church, BUSSUM.

1000

A/CO, Major WW Nair begins a week of local leave in this area and Major HM Eisenhauer the 2IC, takes over command of the Unit.

1400

A former member of the Unit, Major JK Rhodes (DSO) paid a visit to this HQ.

1500

A number of Officers of this Bn participated with Civilians in a tennis tournament at the Tennis courts, Bussum.

1900

Show in the mess hall “Cinderella Jones”

Weather today, fine and cool.

30

Training as per syllabus

0930

1 Officer and 40 other ranks proceeded to Amsterdam Area for farm labor.

0930

1 officer and 6 other ranks proceeded on a sailing trip to HUIZEN, MR2914, Sh 361.

1000

A/CO, Major HM Eisenhauer held a conference at Bn Hq, attended by all Coy Comds, Adjt, MO, Sports Officer and RSM. At which plans were completed for the visit of Lieut General GG Simonds, CB, CBE, DSO.

1300

Lieut NVK Wylie returned to the Unit from Bde HQ where he has been employed as LO.

1400

Major Mallard former member of this Unit paid a visit to the officers mess from NIJMEGEN where he is enroute to Canada.

1900

Show at the Mess Hall “Enter Arsen Lupin”

1900

The officers field hocket [sic. hockey] team held a trial game with a civilian team.

2100

Stag party was held at the Officers mess in honor of Capt GN Budreski who is being married on wednesday, 2 Aug 45.

Weather today, cloudy and cool with scattered showers.

31

Training as per syllabus

0900

1 officer and 2 other ranks proceeded on Canadian Pacific Forces Draft.

0900

2 other ranks posted to 13 Bn.

0930

40 other ranks proceeded to Amsterdam Area for farm labor.

1000

4 other ranks arrived at this Hq (Cross posting Scheme)

1300

13 other ranks proceeded on 72 hour leave to Amsterdam.

1900

Show at the mess hall “Enter Arsen Lupin”

Weather today, cloudy and cool with scattered showers.

Summary of activities for the month ending 31st July 1945:

The month of July was spent half at UTRECHT and half at BOSSUM. In the former area the Bn was centralized in barracks with parade ground and weapons; In the later [sic.] area there was no parade square or convenient parade ground and rifles were all turned in, so that the standard of drill and discipline was very hard to maintain. More attention was given to sports and hardening training, and as many men as possible were employed usefully to prevent boredom. The educational classes were increased to include about 75 persons in morning classes daily, and within the Bde West NSR made the most determined effort to provide farm labor assistance so that 50 men were employed in this manner. Very successful and interesting four day tours to GERMANY for about 50 personnel were conducted. All the above activities plus the number of men required for Regimental fatigues kept the entire Bn occupied during the day. Morale suffered somewhat by the general feeling of disappointment in the delays in promised dates of repatriation. On the other hand, the very cordial welcome and friendliness of the civilian population of BOSOM, very many of whom spoke English, tended to keep morale from “slipping”. The large number of men cross-posted to the Regiment and the number of officers lost to CAPF, COF, and SPO, brought together a large number of officers and men unknown to each other and in this respect the sports field served a dual purpose in being a place where everyone “got together”.

General health remained good, though frequent moving from one town to another with consequent “chance” acquaintances tends to keep the VD rate high, in spite of constant anti-VD training.