WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

1 Apr 41

Training to-day was held up as it was too wet and snowy to do any work on the Minature [sic.] Range. Lectures were held in-doors instead.

All Compasses and Binoculars were drawn in to-day to be held in the Battalion Stores to be re-drawn as needed.

Capt C. Letourneau the MO attended a meeting of the 1 Cdn Div Medical Society at Redhill to-day.

Capt H.O. Harding, our Dental Officer, took sick to-day and was ordered to bed by the MO.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

2 Apr 41

The Muster Parades which were to be held to-day were cancelled because “A” Coy was on a wiring job at Dover.

CO and all Coy Comdrs of the Unit attended an Address by the GOC at the Drill Hall, Caterham.

There was a Concert at the YMCA to-night by a party from London. After the Concert the Players were entertained in the Bn Officers’ Mess by the Officers of the Unit.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

3 Apr 41

The Battalion is on one hour’s notice to-day.

The Unit, less “A” Coy who was wiring at Dover to-day, was on an 18-mile Route March.

The CO and the Coy Comdrs made a Recce of several areas at the coast where we will have some schemes in the future.

The Unit made a fine showing on our Bridging Exercises to-night at Dorking.

Lieut J.W.K Smeltzer went on 7 days Privilege to-day. Lieut C.R. Day proceeded on command to No. 2 Cdn Inf Holding Unit for a month. This is the start of a monthly switch which exchanges an Officer in the Unit for an Officer in the Holding Unit for a period of one month.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

4 Apr 41

The men had the morning off to-day because they were late on the Bridging Exercises last night.

The Unit carried out an “Attack” Exercise in Marden Park this afternoon.

A Sgt’s Mess Meeting was held to-night in the Instructional Hut.

A dance was held at the YMCA for the Troops to-night.

Strength Returns - Officers - 36 - Other Ranks - 738

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

5 Apr 41

Company Inspections were held this morning. The CO spent one and one-half hours inspecting “C” Company. There was a Trophy up for the best Section and it was won by No. 6 Section.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

6 Apr 41

The Battalion is on one-hour’s notice to-day.

Church Parades were held to-day at St. Paul’s Church, Woldingham, with the Band in attendance.

The 1 Cdn Div Boxing Team defeated a Team from the Guards Depot at Caterham to-day by seven bouts to five. The WNSR had four men on the 1 Div Team and each man won his bout. They were: Cpl Embree F.A., L/cpl Falls T.A., Pte Fowler W.G., and Pte Garnier A.F.

Lieut J.K. Rhodes proceeded on command to Weapon Training School, Dorking, on a Course in Anti-Aircraft.

Lieut B.H. Wallace came to the Unit from the No. 2 Cdn Inf Holding Unit to-day.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

7 Apr 41

Training to-day consisted of Inspections by Platoon Commanders, Exercises in Recognition of Targets, and Judging Distance. Sgts’ Mess held a Dance to-night at the Golf Course. Lt-Col M.F. Gregg, VC, MC, who is now out of the hospital, was up to see us to-day.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

8 Apr 42

A number of Rifles were called in to-day and Tommy Guns were issued in their place.

We supplied a Working Party of 1 Sgt and 30 men to Epsom to-day to help in some Road Construction.

Brig H.M. Ganong was up to see Lt-Col L.T. Lowther to-day. Lt-Col M.F. Gregg left for Scotland this morning to spend a week's leave fishing.

Lieut D. McG. Archibald returned from on command to Small Arms School at Bisley to take a Course in Platoon Weapons.

A number of HE Bombs landed near our area in Warlingham last night, doing very little damage.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

9 Apr 41

The Divisional Exercise “Hare” started to-day. The day was spent mostly in Orders and turning in Barrack Stores.

Lt-Col L.T. Lowther and Lieut C.B. Higgins went to Brigade to-night to get Orders of our move for the “Hare” Scheme.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

10 Apr 41

The Unit crossed the SP at the Godstone Lights at 0930 hrs this morning after being held up for about an hour waiting for the Carleton & York Regt to clear the SP. We arrived at our Position of Readiness at Rotherfield at 1200 hrs. As the TCC was working with the 2 Cdn Div, we were transported by an English Bus Unit. We had dinner about 1400 hrs and after a quiet afternoon had supper about 1830 hrs. We received orders to move to our Forward Assembly Area at 1900 hrs and crossed the Starting Line at 2100 hrs, arriving on foot at our new area about 0130 hrs.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

11 Apr 41

As we were in Reserve, we didn’t have very much to do and after receiving orders to proceed home, we arrived home at 1220 hrs.

Posted Strength - Officers - 36 - Other Ranks - 733

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

12 Apr 41

The usual Company Inspections were held this morning by the COA. A number of Officers and Other Ranks from the Unit along with Officers and Other Ranks from the Brigade made up a Rugby Team and played the Metropolitan Police at West Wickham. The Police won by a score of 24 to 3. After the game, we were all treated to a dinner by the Police, everybody having a swell time.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

13 Apr 41

The Unit supplied a Special Picquet at Brigade to-day. This Picquet is to be at Brigade for five days.

To-day being Easter Sunday, a Special Drumhead Service was held on the Green at Woldingham. The whole Unit was paraded in a hollow square formation and a touching service was rendered by Capt Addie, the Brigade Padre.

Lieut C.B. Cochrane returned to the Unit to-day from the 3 Cdn Inf Bde where he has been attached for quite some time.

All maps of our area were drawn in to-day and sorted out in readiness for turning in to Brigade as we are going to receive a new issue of maps of a later date.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

14 Apr 41

Training to-day consisted of Range Practises and a short Route March under Company arrangements.

This afternoon was proclaimed a Special Sports Day by the GOC. The Regimental Softball League was started. The results of the games were as follows: “A” Coy 19 - Bn HQ 7, “HQ” Coy 30 - “B” Coy 0, “D” Coy 9 - “C” Coy 8. The Officers of the Unit and the WOs and Sgts played a game, the WOs and Sgts winning 21 to 20. Lt-Col L.T. Lowther scored the first run for the Officers.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

15 Apr 41

This morning Bn HQ, HQ Coy and D Coy were paid, while A Coy, B Coy, and C Coy went on a short Route March. This afternoon A Coy, B Coy, and C Coy were paid while Bn HQ, HQ Coy, and D Coy went on a short Route March.

Lieut McKinney from the Carleton & York Regiment gave the Commanding Officer, the Intelligence Officer and the Weapon Training Officer a demonstration of the new Sten Gun to-day. This Gun is to take the place of the Thompson Submachine Gun and seems to be a very formidable weapon. It is very cheap to produce and has a high rate of fire power, so should prove very useful.

The CO attended a conference by the GOC at Division this morning where the recent “Hare “ Scheme was discussed. The CO held a conference of the Officers at the Bn Mess to-night were the points that came up at the GOCs’ conference were passed on to the Officers for discussion. The Brigadier was present and gave us his views as to how the scheme was carried out as he saw it.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

16 Apr 41

Training to-day consisted of Range Practices, Grenade Throwing Practices, and Recognition and Indication of Targets.

Lt-Col L.T. Lowther went to Stratford-on-Avon to-day on 24-hours leave. He was accompanied by Capt Butts, the Padre.

The Unit went to Dorking to-night and carried out exercises in River Crossing on the small river there. The exercises were carried out very satisfactorily

There was a heavy Blitz on London to-night. At times around here, the sky seemed to be alive with planes. The show from this area seemed like a Fourth-of-July Fireworks Display. Fires could be plainly seen in the vicinity of London. Flares and Anti-Aircraft Shells seemed to be everywhere, and the odd H.E. Bomb and Incendiary Bomb came down in this area. The Night Fighters of the RAF seem to have solved the problem of getting the Night Bombers as an extremely heavy amount of Machine/Gun fire could be heard from time to time.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

17 Apr 41

Training to-day was all Range Work, and Weapon Training.

The Unit supplied a Special Picquet of one Cpl and ten men at Brigade to-day.

On account of the casualties in the recent London Bombing Raids, 48-hour passes to London have been cancelled for the remainder of the month.

One hundred Officers and Other Ranks of the Unit attend a Picture at the Warlingham Hospital to-night.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

18 Apr 41

To-day the Unit was on one-hour’s notice.

Training to-day consisted of Practises on the Miniature and Grenade Ranges, and a twelve-mile Route March.

“C” and “D” Companies were at Deal and Herne Bay to-day wiring.

Lt-Col L.T. Lowther was at Seaford to-day to discuss the scheme “Hare” with the GOC.

The Intelligence PLatoon put on a very good Demonstration for the NCO’s class of a day Recce Patrol.

Strength Returns - Officers - 35 - Other Ranks - 743

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

19 Apr 41

Lt-Col L.T. Lowther inspected the NCO’s Class this morning, while the 2 i/c inspected the Companies.

“C” and “D” Companies returned from Deal and Herne Bay to-day where they were wiring.

A Dance was held at the YMCA to-night for the Troops. All who attended had a very enjoyable time.

There was a heavy Blitz on London to-night.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

20 Apr 41

To-day being Sunday Church Parades were held as usual at St. Paul’s Church, Woldingham, with the Band in attendance.

Lieut A.B. Cooke proceeded on command to the Weapon Training School at Dorking to-day to attend a course in Platoon Weapons.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

21 Apr 41

The Unit was on one-hour’s notice to-day.

Training to-day consisted of Arms Drill, Practices on the Miniature Range, and INspections by Platoon Commanders.

Lt-Col M.F. Gregg, VC, MC, returned to the Unit to-day from the Junior War College where he has been on a Staff Course for the last three months.

Capt E.M. Crouse went to HQ, 1 Cdn Div, to-day where he is to be attached as a “G” learner.

The Intelligence Section started work on an Observation Post to-day. When this OP is completed it is to be manned for a week, day and night.

There was a movie to-night in the YMCA for the Troops.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

22 Apr 41

The Unit was on a 22-mile Route March to-day.

The area for which we are responsible in the event of Paratroops was slightly changed to-day. The I Sect were still working on the OP to-day. Capt C.E. Miller proceeded on command to 400 Sqdn, RCAF at Odiham to-day on a week’s Course in Air Liaison Work. Lieut F.M Reardon proceeded on command to the School of Signals at Catterick on a seven weeks course in Signals. Lieut G.L. McNeil proceeded on command to Shillingly Park on a Junior Leaders Course.

A number of the Troops attended a Dance and Social at the YMCA to-night.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

23 Apr 41

Training in following a Barrage and in Patrolling was carried out by all companies to-day. The I Sect completed the OP this morning and “D” Coy started to man in at 1200 hrs. Lieut C.B. Higgins and Lieut D. McG. Archibald proceeded to the Wescott Ranges on a recce in preparation for the Unit carrying out Practices there Friday and Saturday of this week.

This afternoon was Sports afternoon. Softball games were played, the results being: A Coy 32 - D Coy 3 - B Coy 16 - Bn HQ 6, HQ Coy 9 - C Coy 0.

Lieut C.B. Cochrane proceeded to HQ 1 Cdn Div as ADC to the General. Lt-Col M.F. Gregg was in for supper with us to-night. He will be back with the Unit as Commanding Officer in a day or two.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

24 Apr 41

The Unit was on one-hour’s notice to-day.

A, B, C Coys took part in a Battalion Exercise in the “Attack” to-day. D Coy carried on with the manning of the OP to-day. At 2400 hrs to-night A Coy took over from them.

Movies were held to-night at the YMCA for the Troops.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

25 Apr 41

Lt-Col M.F. Gregg took over command of the Unit to-day. Everybody was very pleased to see the Col back ater his long illness.

Range practises were held at Westcott Ranges to-day. 144 from the Unit were put through five practices. Training in LMG and Rifle were carried out to-day by the remainder of the Battalion.

A Concert was held in the YMCA to-night by the Canadian Legion.

Strength Returns - Officers - 35 - Other Ranks - 741.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

26 Apr 41

Training was carried out to-day in LMG and Rifle. Range Practices were held to-day at the Westcott Ranges. 165 from the Unit were put through five practices.

An NCO’s Course was started at the Guards Depot for a number of NCOs from the Unit.

A Coy finished manning the OP at 2400 hrs to-night. They were relieved by B Coy.

A Dance was held for the Troops at the YMCA to-night.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

27 Apr 41

To-day being Sunday, the usual Church Parades were held at St. Paul’s Church, Woldingham, with the Band in attendance.

The Unit was on one-hour’s notice to-day.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

28 Apr 41

Practices were held to-day at the Miniature Range in Mortar 2” and .22 Rifle.

A short Route March was carried out by all Companies to-day under Company arrangements.

The I. Sect. were busy to-day constructing a Sand Table for use in the Lecture Room.

Capt H.P. Jenkins returned from Division to-day and was posted as 2 i/c of D Coy.

Capt C.E. Miller returned from off command the 400 Sqdn RCAF to-day, where he has been for a week on a Liaison Course.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

29 Apr 41

B Coy was to Dover to-day wiring. C Coy sent 144 men to the Westcott Ranges and they were put through five Practices.

A Meeting of the Bay (*sic*) Sports Officers was held to-day in the Bn Officers Mess.

Practices were carried out to-day on the Mortar Range and the .22 Rifle Range.

The Unit found out for the first time to-day that they had been in Scotland for a couple of months. We were under the impression we had been in Brighton, but the Halifax Herald insisted that it was Scotland. We must have been using the wrong maps for those two months.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

30 Apr 41

Exercises in “The attack on a Village” were held to-day by all Coys except B Coy.

The Unit was on one-hour’s notice to-day.

Pay Parades were held to-day.

B Coy was at Dover today, wiring.

The CO attended a lecture at HQ, 1 Cdn Div, by Brigadier Murison on the “Battle of the Atlantic.”