WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

1 Jun 41

1000

Usual church parades to St. Paul’s Church, Woldingham. The band was in attendance.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

2 Jun 41

0800

Training by Coys as per syllabus.

0900

The Int Section together with the Scouts and Snipers spent the day at the rifle range at Gangers Hill, specializing in snap and moving targets shooting. Some very credible scores were turned in including a possible (20) by Sniper Pte Gibson.

Lieut R.T. Anand proceeded to Plymouth on an Engineering Course.

A/CMS Nauss was today attached to “D” Coy, where he will replace CSM Williams who will proceed to OCTU June 7.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

3 Jun 41

0800

Coys carried on according to syllabus.

1030

Lt-Col Ernst accompanied by Maj Hebb left on a recce of the Westerham area where “A” Coy will be doing special guard duty re Prime Minister’s estate.

1400

No. 3 Pl 3” mortar gave demonstration of the mortar at the rifle range.

1600

Lt-Col Ernst and Mr. Millard proceeded to Div HQ and attended conference re war establishment and tradesmen pay.

1800

All officers of the Unit attended lecture at Market Hall, Redhill, subject: “The Libyan Campaign.”

4 Jun 41

0800

Coys carry on according to syllabus.

“C” Coy proceeded to Limpsfield as a work party under instructions fro Div.

1300

Field Sports were held today which included a soft ball game between Bn HQ and “HQ” Coy, the final score being 8-10 in favor of “HQ” Coy. This was a hotly contested game.

1845

A concert sponsored by the Cdn Legion was held in the YMCA hut.

1900

Movies at Warlingham Hospital, admission by tickets which were distribute and taken advantage of by various numbers from all Coys including Bn HQ.

2200

The concert party was entertained in the Officers Mess of Bn HQ.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

5 Jun 41

0800

18 mile route march by Coys this morning.

1600

CO, Adj, and Coy Commanders attended conference at Bde re “Brenda” exercise.

1700

Coy Commanders conference at Bn HQ Ref Training etc.

1830

Movies at YMCA Hut.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

6 Jun 41

0800

Coy carried on according to syllabus. Lt-Col Ernst, Maj Bryson and Lieut Millard spent this morning on a recce.

1600

Conference for Adjutants at Bde HQ. Routine matters discussed.

1900

Mens Mess meeting. Field Return 736 – Officers 33.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

7 Jun 41

0900

Coy inspection this morning by Maj Bryson.

1000

Lt-Col Ernst attended conference at Div to finalize plan of West NSR taking over responsibility of Biggin Hill Aerodrome in the event of invasion.

1400

2 i/c, Adj, Asst Adj an IO proceeded to Albert Hall, London, and witnessed a boxing tournament arranged by the Amateur Boxing Association, L/Cpl Fall of the Provost Section, West NSR was entered in the heavyweight class but lost out in the semi finals to L/Bdr G.F.K. Preston of the 222 Searchlight Trig Regt RA.

Lt-Col Ernst accompanied by the BM proceeded to Biggin Hill Aerodrome to finalize plans of an all round defense of the area.

1730

Dance at the YMCA

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

8 Jun 41

1000

Usual church parades to St. Paul’s Church Woldingham.

1900

A grand concert was held tonight in St. Paul’s Church, Woldingham. Those present included the GOC, BRIG, and Officers representing each Unit in Div. After the concert, the artists were invited to the Officers Mess at Bn HQ. The GOC Brig and other Officers were also visitors.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

9 Jun 41

0800

Coys carry on according to syllabus. Lt-Col Ernst left for Aldershot on a two days messing course for senior Officers.

0900

IO and Int Section made a recce in the Biggin Hill area where West NSR will take over in the event of invasion.

1400

2 i/c and IO together with the Int Section made a further recce of the Biggin Hill area.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

10 Jun 41

0800

Coys carry on according to syllabus.

0830

Maj Bryson and Lieut Higgins proceeded to Biggin Hill area where further recce was made and a fire plan drawn up.

1530

Brigadier Ganong and Lieut Abell visited the CO with ref to two men proceeding to rifle range and work with Bren gun on 11 June, also arranged to have coal hauled to Carleton & York Regt.

1600

Mr. Higgins proceeded to Biggin Hill area, making further recce of secondary roads leading to area.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

11 Jun 41

0800

Coys carry on according to syllabus.

0830

Two men per Bren gun proceeded to FURZE HILL range for AA practice.

1400

There were no sports today owing to condition of ground and lack of personnel who were on duty.

Capt Boult, HOME GUARD, called at Bn HQ and thanked the 2 i/c Maj Bryson, for services rendered by our band on Sunday, at the same time donating £100 toward the purchase of dress uniforms for the band.

1930

Movies at WARLINGHAM HOSPITAL.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

12 Jun 41

0800

Coys carry on according to syllabus. CO and Adj proceeded to Supply Rail Head and followed the Supply column with tomorrow’s rations from RH to Div bulk breaking points, Bde meeting point, and Unit QM stores where rations were shipped to RH this morning and distributed to Coys at 1600 hrs today.

1600

Sitrep received re WATERLOO exercise.

1700

The Brig and BM called at Bn HQ.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

13 Jun 41

0800

Coys carry on according to syllabus. “B” and “D” Coys were at HANGMORE range today doing field firing practices.

1500

IO from Bde visited Bn HQ this afternoon.

1900

A mess meeting of the various Coys mens messes. Ways and means were discussed for the improvement of messing facilities throughout the Coys.

2100

CO held conference re WATERLOO exercise. Coy comdrs and 2 i/c plus MO and QM attend. Information in general re the scheme was handed out. Field return 734 - Officers 35.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

14 Jun 41

0800

Unit turned to barrack room stores and preparations for scheme WATERLOO. “B” Coy provided TC personnel for scheme.

1300

CO, Adj, IO and 2 i/c together with recce gp went to Bde for Brigadiers conference, returning at 1630 hrs.

1330

In our Bn area at WOLDINGHAM, “A” Coy, who had been doing special duty at the Prime Minister’s estate at WESTERHAM, was paid.

1630

Recce gp under command of Maj Bryson proceeded to Unit posn of readiness near HORSHAM.

1635

COs conference. Unit to cross Bn start line at 1858 hrs at RR viaduct. CO and Adj travelling with Bde.

1858

Unit crosses Bn SP.

1917

Unit crosses Bde SP.

2300

Unit debussed at Bewbush Manor and marching to take up posn at ROFFEY after being held up enroute by “enemy action ahead.”

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

15 Jun 41

0030

Arrived at ROFFEY and took up posn of readiness. Info coming in that heavy fighting going on.

0??0

Unit preparing to make a flanking attack around SE corner of HORSHAM to relieve Carleton & York Regt who are literally surrounded in HORSHAM.

0630

Zero hr. Unit goes into attack.

0830

Patrol who had been sent out to either flank report enemy in very near vicinity and appearing to be surrounding us.

1200

After very heavy fighting, fwd Coys report having made their objective in HORSHAM and have connected up with the Carleton & York Regt.

1230

Orders come through from Bde to prepare to push on SOUTH to new area in SEDGWICK PK.

1630

Reached new area at SEDGWICK PK.

1930

CO holds short conference. TPS bedding down for the night. All round defence put out.

2130

DO, Adjt, and IO return from Bde conference CO holds conference and issues orders to move to new forward area at STARKER’S Fm.

2400

Unit well on way to new area.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

16 Jun 41

0300

After march of 8 miles, Unit arrive at STARTKER’S Fm and bed down for balance of night.

0900

Everybody enjoying haversack breakfast after a good rest.

1000

Lieut Fortune arrives from Bde with orders for Unit to move to CHANCTONBURY RING to reinforce 1 Bde who are encountering very heavy opposition.

1030

COs conference. Orders were issued for Bn to move forward to reinforce 1 Bde. IO and Dr left for CHANCTONBURY RING to try and obtain sitrep on fighting in that area.

1120

Tps move off for CHANCTONBURY RING area.

1215

IO and DR return with sitrep from 1 Bde, 2 Bde and 8 Armoured Div. Word received from Bde that exercise “WATERLOO” concluded. Tps return to STARKER’S Fm area.

2015

After two good hot meals in STARKER’S Fm area and a good rest in the afternoon, tps embussed and moved off for home.

2110

Tps passed Bde SP en route home.

2400

After very successful scheme, tps

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

17 Jun 41

0830

Pay parades for “B,” “C,” and “HQ” Coys.

1400

Pay parade for “D” Coy and Bn HQ

1430

“C” Coy put on demonstration for Officers and NCOs of a German Pl? In action.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

18 Jun 41

0900

COs conference. Brief orders were issued for move to BIGGIN HILL area to carry out a scheme against the landing of paratroops.

1030

Bn crossed the start line at Xrds at “C” Coy in following order: C” Coy, “Bn HQ,” “B” Coy and “D” Coy.

1130

Enemy opposition was encountered in area just NORTH of TATSFIELD. Bn dispersed and took up defensive posn and formed a plan of attack. Enemy were dealt with and scheme terminated about 1230 hrs.

1300

Tps assembled and had dinner.

1400

COs conference and remarks on scheme.

1430

Bn crossed SP for home in the following order: “HQ” Coy, “C” Coy, “B” Coy, Bn HQ and “D” Coy.

1610

Tps arrived at Bn area. Our Adjt attended a demonstration of flame thrower put on by the HOME GUARD at EAST HORSLEY (RANMORE COMMON).

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

19 Jun 41

0845

OCs conference. Orders were issued for a move to the BIGGIN HILL area to carry out another scheme against landing of paratroops.

0930

Lt-Col Ernst attended conference at Div re WATERLOO exercise.

1015

Bn crossed SP at “D” Coy HQ in the following order: “A” Coy, Bn HQ, “B” and “C” Coys.

1105

Fired on by “enemy” at 823722 (this was at the excessive range of appx 700X. “B” Coy was held up by “enemy” activity but advanced slowly.

1250

Message arrives, exercise concluded. Tps marching home in same order as that in which they started out arriving at “D” Coy corner at 1430.

1330

Sports meeting in Bn HQ Officers mess to arrange for Bde Sports meet to be held 21 June.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

20 Jun 41

0800

Training carried on as per syllabus. Range practice was carried on with 2” mortar.

1000

Lt-Col Vokes accompanied by Lt-Col Ernst visited the Biggin Hill area.

1400

Sports this afternoon. Soft ball, Volley ball and horse show pitching. Soft ball between “HQ” Coy and A'' Coy. “B” and “C” Coy also played. These games were umpired by the CO. Lieut Millard left on 48 hrs leave. Field returns 733 - Officers 35.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

21 Jun 41

1000

CO and 2 i/c proceeded to the Biggin Hill area where a recce was made of intended Coy areas.

1045

Brig and O were at Biggin Hill. Area was thoroughly covered and explained to the Brig by the IO.

1145

Bn left area for SP to Bde sports to be held in Caterham on the Hill with band in attendance.

1200

Div signal Officer was a visitor and requested information regarding the Biggin Hill area.

1400

3 Cdn If Bde Track and Field Sports were held at the Rugby Football Field, Upper Caterham. West NSR cleaned up in most of the events. Total points for West NSR were 74 - R22eR. 47 - Carleton & York 14.

2000

A beer party was provided by the Officers for the regimental sports team. This was held at the “Horse Shoe,” Warlingham.

The usual weekly dance was held in the YMCA hut and was well attended.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

22 Jun 41

1000

Usual Church parades were held this morning, Bn falling in on the Village Green. RCs paraded to Parish Hall, Woldingham.

1200

COs conference. All Coy comdrs attended together with Maj Cassidy of the RCE. This conference was with reference to Biggin Hill.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

23 Jun 41

0800

Coys carry on according to syllabus.

1000

Brig Ganong visited Bn HQ this morning and inspected the guard.

1700

Nothing of import happened this afternoon.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

24 Jun 41

0800

Coys carry on according to syllabus.

1015

GOC, Brig, Lt-Col Ernst visited the Biggin Hill area.

1100

Maj Harris, Capt Millar, Capt Steadman, Lieut Bent, Lieut McIntosh, Lieut McNab, Lieut Putman and Lieut Rhodes proceeded to Borden to make a recce on exercise “Maple” in which they are to be umpires.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

25 Jun 41

0600

Personnel from all Coys proceeded to ASH range for firing practice. Coys passed SP in the following order: “B” Coy, “C” Coy, “D” Coy, Bn HQ, “HQ” Coy and “A” Coy. Major Courney was in charge of the party and was assisted by the following officers: Capt S.D. Smith, Lieut Theakston, Lieut Johnson, Lieut Cook and Lieut Higgins.

1000

CO, Adjt, and Lieut Reardon visited the Biggin Hill area with view to pending move to that area.

1930

A soft ball game was held between Bn HQ and the RCE. RCE winning by a wide margin, the score being 10-3. “One lady spectator wanted to know why the catcher and umpire were wearing their gas masks.”

2000

A concert by the West NSR band was held on the front lawn of Bn HQ. A number of our civilian friends from WOLDINGHAM were in attendance.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

26 Jun 41

0800

Coys carry on according to syllabus.

0900

“I” Section recce alternative routes from present area to Biggin Hill.

1400

Coys carry on according to syllabus.

2000

Nothing of import to enter for balance of day.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

27 Jun 41

0800

Coys carry on according to syllabus. Carleton & York Regt supply working party for the Biggin Hill area today.

1100

Through the courtesy of the Canadian Broadcasting Company, a broadcast was made to Canada by the Officers and ORs of all Coys. This broadcast was well patronized by the men who had the opportunity to say “hello Mom and Dad,” “Send along the cigarettes,” while one lad requested a can of Saur Kraut [sic.]. Lt-Col Ernst wound up the broadcast with a few well chosen general remarks.

2100

The CO, Adjt, IO, and LO plus referees proceeded to PETERSFIELD where they will take part in exercise MAPLE. Field returns 742 - Officers 35.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

28 Jun 41

0900

Coys inspection by Major Bryson. “B” and “D” Coys.

1030

Coys inspection by Major Bryson. “C,” “HQ” and Bn HQ.

1400

A free distribution of cigarettes and chocolate bars to the entire Bn was made this afternoon. These items were donated by the Auxiliary Services from Canada.

2000

The usual Saturday night dance was held at the YMCA hut. The West NSR orchestra was in attendance.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

29 Jun 41

1000

Usual Church parades. Bn falling in on the VILLAGE GREEN.

1700

CO, Adjt, and IO returned to Bn HQ conclusion exercise “MAPLE.”

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

30 Jun 41

0900

Pay parades were held as follows: 0915 “A” Coy. 1000 “B” Coy. 1100 “D” Coy.

1215

Col Cole and Maj Galaway of the United States Army Intelligence together with Maj de Rome from 1 Cdn Div, Capt Robertson from Corps and Lieut Johnson, acting IO for Bde, visited Bn Intelligence Section. Methods of operation were discussed and explained by IO, Lieut Higgins. Later, the party returned to Corps HQ for lunch.

1400 Pay parade as follows: 1415 “HQ” Coy. 1500 “C” Coy. 1600 “Bn HQ.”

Lt-Col Ernst and Maj Bryson visited London on Regimental business this afternoon.