WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

BIGGIN HILL

1 Nov 41

0900

This Unit participated in a “Gadget” display at Bde HQ in which novel ideas were incorporated in various MTs. There will be a similar show next Saturday at Redhill, sponsored by 1 Cdn Div.

1700

Pte’s Gates and Langley returned from Borden where they underwent a course in sniping

1900

A dance was held at Keston Hall, and the West NSR orchestra was in attendance.

BIGGIN HILL

2 Nov 41

1000

Usual Church parades at Kesto Hall.

1315

Lt-Col Ernst lunched with Lady Stanley at “Holwood” where he had the pleasure of meeting and chatting with the French Ambassador.

1900

Sing-song at the “Y” Keston Hall.

BIGGIN HILL

3 Nov 41

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1100

Preparing for “Exercise Plunger” Bn are “C B” in view of this.

1630

CO held a conference for Coy cmndrs re Exercise Plunger.

BIGGIN HILL

4 Nov 41

0330

Breakfast.

0410

Bn Embussed.

0430

Crossed Bn SP.

0547

Bn crossed Bde SP.

0700

Bn reached concentration.

1645

Exercise Plunger concluded.

2120

Bn returned and debussed at billets.

BIGGIN HILL

5 Nov 41

0800

Training as per syllabus. Nothing of importance happened today. No visitors etc.

BIGGIN HILL

6 Nov 41

0800

Bn route march 18 miles.

0900

CO, Lt-Col Ernst, Maj Clennett, Lieut Archibald and Lieut Higgins proceeded to the coast where a recce was made of the billets in new proposed area.

BIGGIN HILL

7 Nov 41

0700

All officers, WOs and Sgts proceeded to a point SOUTH of TUNBRIDGE WELLS where they witnessed a demonstration of co-operation with arty and infantry which was put on by the Hastings and PE Regt. This dem was very interesting and instructive

0800

Training as per syllabus. Maj Hebb attended demonstration of PACHAM (co-operation of arty and infantry).

1600

A broadcast was made from the Beaver Club over BBC by the “Nova Scotians”. This broadcast started with the Regimental march followed by violin solo by Lieut McNab, a tap dance by Pte C.D. Gray, Cornet Solo by Sgt Slauenwhite. The quartet composed of the following officers: Lieut Beck, Lieut C.R. Day, Lieut J.W.K Smeltzer and CQMS Hopper sang two numbers, “Passing By” and “I’ve Got Sixpence”. The program Director was Capt. C.U. Latourneau, RCAMC.

1930

Lt-Col Ernst attended a dinner at the HOSKINS ARMS, OXTED. This affair was sponsored by the Officers Commanding and the Officers of the Carlt & York R, and the Edmonston Regt. Viscount R.B. Bennett was the chief speaker and replied to the Toast, “New Brunswick - Alberta Canada”.

STRENGTH RETURN: Officers 32 Other Ranks 760.

BIGGIN HILL

8 Nov 41

0800

Coy inspections. “Gadget” exhibition was continued today when several vehicles including Carriers and RAP truck proceeded to LIMPSFIELD COMMON where they were inspected by the GOC. The GOC was quite happy over the whole show and much impressed by the various “gadgets” on display.

1900

Movies at the “Y”.

BIGGIN HILL

9 Nov 41

1000

Usual Church parades at the Hall in Keston. The band was in attendance.

1315

Lt-Col Ernst lunched with Lady Stanley today at “Holwood” where he met and talked with Capt David Margeson, Sec of State for War, also Capt Barlow, CC Fighter Command, Biggin Hill aerodrome.

BIGGIN HILL

10 Nov 41

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1500

A demonstration was put on by “C” Coy under the direction of Maj Stehelin. This was in the form of attack and defense. The visitors were composed of the personnel of Coy cmndrs Training Wing, Junior Leaders School, Borden.

1900

Lieut Higgins, IO, has received word to report to Bde tomorrow, and will undertake the duties of “G” learner.

1930

Movies at the “Y”.

BIGGIN HILL

11 Nov 41

0800

Training as per syllabus. Lieut C.E. Bent has been appointed IO in the place of Lieut Higgins who has been transferred to Bde.

1030

Lt-Col Ernst, Lieut Beaton, CSM Foley and Sgt Colbran attended a lecture at the Hippodrome Theatre, Reigate. The speaker was Maj-Gen Waterhouse, and his subject, IRAN. Maj-Gen Waterhouse was recently head of the Military Mission in IRAN. This lecture was most interesting.

1930

Movies at the “Y”.

BIGGIN HILL

12 Nov 41

0800

Coy’s training as per syllabus. The CO and Adjt proceeded to the Coast where they made a recce of the proposed new area.

1900

Boxing tournament at the YMCA, Keston Hall.

BIGGIN HILL

13 Nov 41

0800

Training as per syllabus. Lieut Bent, IO, Lieut McNab together with “I” Sgt and Provost Sgt, visited new area in the vicinity of WORTHING.

2000

Lt-Col Ernst, Lt-Col Lawson and Lt-Col Ford dined with Lady Stanley at “Holwood” tonight. Concert party at the YMCA.

BIGGIN HILL

14 Nov 41

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1500

Lt-Col Ernst attended a conference at Bde re Coy cmndrs exercise with use of Arty and 18 sets.

1900

Dance at Keston Hall with West NSR orchestra in attendance.

STRENGTH RETURN: Officers 32 Other ranks 732.

BIGGIN HILL

15 Nov 41

0800

COs inspection of Coys.

1115

Lt-Col Ernst proceeded on recce re coming exercise for Coy cmndrs.

2000

Officers of West Nova Scotia Regiment held a dance at “Nightens”.

BIGGIN HILL

16 Nov 41

1000

Usual Church parades at Keston Hall.

1900

Sing-song at the YMCA.

BIGGIN HILL

17 Nov 41

0800

Bn busy checking barrack stores in preparation for move to coast.

0900

Div snipers shoot results have just come to hand and are as follows: This shoot was held at HENLEY PARK on Nov. 10. The West NSR led the Bde gp by a healthy margin and just being defeated by one point to make the leaders in the entire Division. Pte Gates was high man on our team with a score of 87.

BIGGIN HILL

18 Nov 41

0800

Bn continue preparations for move to Coast.

1000

Adv party leave for Coast under command of Maj Courtney.

1900

Concert party at the “Y”.

BIGGIN HILL

19 Nov 41

0800

Bn preparing for move to Coast.

0900

Demonstration by “A” Coy re ARty and 18 sets.

1400

Lt-Col Ernst left for BISLEY where he attended a short course in Bn weapons.

1430

COs conf with Coy cmndrs re move to Coast.

BIGGIN HILL

20 Nov 41

0800

Coys busy checking in Barrack stores in preparation for move to new area tomorrow.

BIGGIN HILL

21 Nov 41

0700

Balance of Barrack stores turned in.

1300

Bn pass Bde SP.

1315

Bn pass Div SP

1600

Bn arrive at WAPPINGTHORN fm where tps will bivouac for the night.

1655

Tps preparing for a hot supper and “digging in for the night”. Sentries have been posted.

STRENGTH RETURN: Officers 32 Other Ranks 766.

22 Nov 41

0800

Crossed SP for new area at WORTHING.

0930

Arrived at Bn HQ.

1100

Official take over from the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. OP’s manned by “I” sec and personnel from various Coys.

1800

Lt-Col Ernst returns from course at BISLEY where he attended a course on Bn weapons.

23 Nov 41

No Church parades today.

1000

CO inspects D and A coy billets and posts.

24 Nov 41

Coys getting settled in new quarters etc.

1500

Brig Ganong and IO from Bde visited this HQ and conferred with Lt-Col Ernst.

WORTHING

25 Nov 41

0800

Coys manning posts and performing normal duties.

1600

Lt-Col Ernst and LIeut Archibald attended a conference at Bde, the main topic of which, was the discussion of change in present dispositions of Coys and concerning the DOWNS.

WORTHING

26 Nov 41

0900

West NSR has taken over sole responsibilities of SHOREHAM airport.

0930

OC, 2 i/c, Adjt and IO, made a recce of the DOWNS re locations for new dispositions. The following areas were looked over: WAPPINGTHORN fm and WEPHAM fm. Battle posn taken over will be CHANOTONBURY [sic. CHANCTONBURY] RING and STEYNING ROUND HILL.

1600

Lt-Col Green, CMG, DSO, 4 Bn Home Guard visited this HQ and discussed with Lt-Col Ernst relations re Home Guard and this Unit.

WORTHING

27 Nov 41

0800

Coys carry on respective duties.

1000

A further recce of new dispositions was made this morning by the CO and Adnt.

WORTHING

28 Nov 41

0800

Coys carry on respective duties.

1600

COs conference with Coy Cmndrs re. new dispositions of Coys and tasks for coming week, training etc.

STRENGTH RETURN: Officers 32 Other Ranks 766.

WORTHING

29 Nov 41

0800

Coys carry on respective duties.

1030

4 Officers and 74 other ranks arrived from Holding Unit this morning. Nothing further of import happened today.

WORTHING

30 Nov 41

1000

Usual Church parades to TARRING Church.