WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

TROOP TRAIN

1 Jan. 40

0746

The first train reaches the station at FARNBOROUGH NTH. and the troops detrain.

FARNBOROUGH NORTH

0820

Troops of the first train begin their march to GUILLEMONT BARRACKS.

0900

The second train reaches the station at FARNBOROUGH NORTH.

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

0930

First flight arrived at GUILLEMONT BARRACKS.

1030

Second flight arrived at GUILLEMONT BARRACKS.

No arrangements had been made for billeting the 1st Line Reinforcements. The Orderly Rooms for “A”, “B”, “C” and “D” Coy’s had to be used as billets for these men.

1105

The Baggage Train arrived at ALDERSHOT STATION.

1340

Our Baggage Party with our baggage arrived at GUILLEMONT BARRACKS.

1600

Blackout. The whole Bn. is settled down in their quarters.

1100

Lt. S.D. Smith re-joined the Bn. on completion of his small arms course.

Major C.H.R. Zwicker re-joined the Bn. “Off Command” in England.

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

2 Jan. 40

0900

Training as per syllabus of 2 Jan. 40

0800

Capt. W.M. Stedman proceeded to Hythe on Command (Small Arms School).

1730

All officers of the W.N.S.R. met Col. Price at Bde. HQ. Col. Price gave us a short talk on the necessity for efficient work.

On Parade 789 All Ranks

Total Strength 796

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

3 Jan. 40

0830

Muster parades, all Coy’s and details, to check nominal rolls.

1030

Bn. muster parade for paymaster to check nominal rolls.

The rest of the day was spent in training as per schedule.

Lt F.W. Oxley and his Anti-Tank Platoon were transferred to Brigade.

1500

Lt. Col. Bullock and Major Berringer visited the O.C.T.U. at Blenheim Barracks, Aldershot.

1030

On parade 789 A/R

Total 796 A/R.

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

4 Jan. 40

0900

Training as per schedule.

Coy’s parade in turn to the Paymaster for December pay.

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

5 Jan. 40

0900

Training as per schedule.

1130

33 ⅓ of All Ranks start on their five days’ “Landing Leave.”

On Parade 759 All Ranks

On Leave 0 “ “

Total Strength 774 “ “

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

6 Jan. 40

0900 - 1150

Training as per schedule.

1400

No parades this afternoon.

Lt. R.W. Spurr proceeded to Warburg Barracks to take a course on the Carrier Platoon.

On Parade 456 All Ranks

On Leave 292 “ “

Total Strength 774 “ “

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

7 Jan. 40

1000 & 1030

Church Parades.

On Parade 482 All Ranks

On Leave 266 “ “

Total Strength 774 “ “

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

8 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per Training Schedule of 8-13/1/40.

On Parade 490 All Ranks

On Leave 257 “ “

Total Strength 774 “ “

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

9 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per schedule.

1400

Route march, six miles.

On Parade 509 All Ranks

On Leave 240 “ “

Total Strength 774 “ “

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

10 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per schedule.

1500

All officers, except the Orderly Officer, attended a lecture on the employment of tanks. The lecture was given by Brig. D.H. PRATT, D.S.O., M.C., at ALDERSHOT.

On Parade 585 All Ranks

On Leave 158 “ “

Total Strength 774 “ “

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

11 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per schedule.

1400 - 1630

Route march. Distance approx. 7 ½ miles.

The first Bren Gun reached the Bn. today.

On Parade 631 All Ranks

On Leave 115 “ “

Total Strength 774 “ “

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

12 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per schedule.

1430

Demonstration of Attack by Army Tanks in co-operation with Infantry, attended by all ranks above cpts., except for those on essential duties. Demonstration by 7 Bn. R. Tank R. in conjunction with troops of 51 Div.

On Parade 498 All Ranks

On Leave 237 “ “

Total Strength 771 “ “

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

13 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per schedule.

1330

Officers instructors meet in gymnasium to go over first lesson ion Brin-Gun.

1400

No parades this afternoon.

On Parade 516 All Ranks

On Leave 227 “ “

Total Strength 771 “ “

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

14 Jan. 40

0830 - 1030

Church Parades.

1045

The O.D. parade reached the N.A.A.F.I. Canteen, Delville Barracks, at 1045 hrs. The Chaplain met the troops at the door, and slipped out without saying anything. Troops waited for him to return till 1115 hrs., and then marched back to GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

Lt. Spurr, R.W. returned from his course.

On Parade 525 All Ranks

On Leave “ “

Total Strength 773 “ “

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

15 Jan. 40

0830

Training as per schedule. Seventeen Bren Guns available for training purposes.

On Parade 532 All Ranks

On Leave 212 “ “

Total Strength 773 “ “

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

16 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per schedule.

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

17 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per schedule.

In Hosp. & sick 116

On parade 596 - A/R.

On Leave 40

Total 779

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

18 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per schedule.

On parade 522 A/R.

On Leave 80 “

Total 779 “

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

19 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per schedule.

On parade 519

On Leave 146

Sick 94

Total 779

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

20 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per schedule.

Lt. C.R. Day returned “off command” from his course in signalling.

The Sgts. of the R 22me R. and the W.N.S.R. held a dance in the Sgts. mess. About sixty couples were present.

On parade 546

On Leave 142

Sick 72

Total 779

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

21 Jan. 40

0900 & 0930

Church parade. The O.D.’s paraded with the C. of E.’s today, and marched to a C. of E. church at Cove.

The R.C. service was held in the N.A.A.F.I. hut here.

1100

On the march back from Cove, the wind instruments of the band froze up, so that the music died away in the middle of a march tune.

On parade 546

On leave 142

Sick 72

Total 779

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

22 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per syllabus.

On parade 626

On Leave 59

Sick 74

Total 779

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

23 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per schedule.

0900

Bn. parade to practice for the King’s unit.

1930

Carroll Levis and his Discoveries gave an entertainment in the gymnasium, under arrangement with the N.A.A.F.I. Entertainment Branch. After the show, the whole troupe were entertained in the officers’ mess.

On parade 696

On Leave 7

Sick 58

Total 779

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

24/1/40

1000

Bn. parade for inspection by the Co. All ranks in Battle Dress without great coats, carrying only respiration. Cold & damp.

1145

Bn. parade, same dress, still cold and damp, everybody shivering.

1200

The Bn. marched out of the camp grounds and took up a position on right side of main road, the leading Coy at Guillemont Barracks gte. Troops standing in three’s facing centre of road. Officers pace in front of troops. The Carleton and York Regif?ment were standing on the left of the W.N.S.R. and the A.T. Pl on our right, inside gate.

1240 - 1315

The King walked along our line and Lt. Col. Bullock presented most of the Officers of the W.N.S.R. to His Majesty. Three enthusiastic cheers were given by the Bn. as the King reached the end of the line.

1325

The Bn. marched down a side road and remained out of sight while the King inspected the Royal 22nd? Regiment on Guillemont Barracks Parade ground.

1400

Lt. Col. Bullock along with the staff officers and the other C.Os of the 1st Can. Div. ate dinner with the King at the Officers Club Aldershot.

On parade 668

Sick 88

Total 779

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

25 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per schedule.

1145

Lecture for the officers in the officers’ mess. The lecturer was Col. Henderson. He gave us a description of the system of intercommunication provided by the signallers in a Division.

On parade 689

Sick 67

Total 779

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

26 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per schedule.

Our M.O., Lt. J.S. Miller, was taken to Cambridge Hospital, with a broken ankle.

On parade 674

Sick 78

Total 779

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

27 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per schedule.

1800

Lt. V.F. Ogulnik, R.C.A.M.C., reported for duty as our M.O.

On parade 680

Sick 60

Total 779

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

28 Jan. 40

0945

R.C. Church parade to N.A.A.F.I. Hut, Guillemont.

1030

C. of E. Church parade to same Hut. O.D’s paraded with the C. of E’s. Ground very slippery, with ice.

On parade 689

Sick 49

Total 779

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

30 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per schedule.

More than an inch of snow on the ground, with dome drifts. English traffic paralyzed!

On parade 692

Sick 48

Total 779

GUILLEMONT BARRACKS

31 Jan. 40

0800

Training as per schedule, except that the M.O. has banned the P.T. classes because of the weather, and pay parades. Milder weather, but damp in air and underfoot.

On parade 707

Sick 43

Total 773 (Six C.D.C. personnel no longer shown on our Strength.)