WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

1 Dec 40

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

We supplied the Divisional Guard to-day.

A/Sgt McBain A.J. left for three weeks to take a Junior Leaders Course.

Cpl Webb, D.E. went to the Canadian Provost Depot to take a two weeks course.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

2 Dec 40

Training to-day consisted of Bath Parades and a complete check-up of all equipment, arms, vehicles, etc.

All the Officers of the Unit except the Orderly Officer attended a lecture at the Drill Hall, Caterham, on the German Army, by Brigadier C.B. Price.

L/Sgt Bryne J.M. left for a three weeks course on Infantry Platoon Weapons.

The troops enjoyed a Picture Show at the YMCA to-night.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

3 Dec 40

We had a visit from Maj-Gen G.R. Pearkes, GOC 1 Cdn Div Bde arrived at 0255 hrs and spent the morning visiting the Companies. After having lunch with us he inspected the [?] Transport, leaving at 1340 hrs informally he told the CO that he was very pleased with our showing.

The Medical Officer to-day ordered Lt-Col M.F. Gregg to bed. Although the CO has not been feeling very well for the last two or three days he would not give in until after the GOC had held his inspection.

We supplied the Brigade Guard to-day.

A Social was held to-night at the YMCA for the troops. Everybody had a very enjoyable time.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

4 Dec 40

To-day was pretty well taken as with Bath Parades.

The Coy Comdrs attended a lecture at Weybridge, “The War in the Air”, by Air Marshall, Sir Phillip Joubert.

A number of our Officers and Other Ranks attended a dance at the North Downs Golf Club, put on by the RCASC.

There was also a Concert Party for the troops at the YMCA to-night.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

5 Dec 40

Training to-day as usual.

A meeting of the Coy Educational Officers was held at Bn HQ to-day to report on the progress made up to date on the Educational Survey.

Lieut C.B. Higgins represented the Unit at a Sports Meeting held in the Purley Hockey Rink to discuss the possibilities of forming a Divisional Hockey League in the 1 Cdn Div for the coming winter.

One hundred and fifty Officers and Other Ranks attended a Picture to-night, as Warlingham Park Hospital, Upper Warlingham.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

6 Dec 40

Training to-day consisted of a twenty-mile Route March.

The Unit supplied the Brigade Guard to-day.

“C” Coy held a Dance to-night at the North Downs Golf Club, Woldingham.

Posted Strength - Officers 33 - Other Ranks 744

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

7 Dec 40

The Medical Officer attended a lecture to-day at 1 Cdn Div Med Soc.

Pioneer Platoon returned from Pixholm where they were working under the Corps Engineers. They were commended highly on their work.

Most of the young Officers of the Unit enjoyed a Ground Hockey Match this afternoon with the young people of Woldingham, on the Woldingham Cricket Pitch.

Several of the Officers attended a very enjoyable dance to-night at the home of Miss Dianna Courtney of Woldingham.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

8 Dec 40

Church Parades as usual to-day with the band in attendance, at St. Paul’s Church, Woldingham.

Major [illegible] B. Berringer, the Quartermaster attended a meeting to-day at Adv Div HQ.

A Meeting of the Officer’s Mess was held to-night and a new Committee appointed, consisting of Major K.P. Harris - President, Major H.M. Bryson - Vice President, Lieut C.B. Higgins - Sect., and Lieut E.L. Fortune - Member.

All Guards were warned to be on the alert to-night for two men driving a stolen car. They are believed to be enemy agents.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

9 Dec 40

Very busy to-day on Muster Parades.

We started to haul our winter coal to-day.

We had a visit to-day from an Engineer Officer, who had a look around our billets and took notes on our many requirements.

Major A.A. Ernst held a meeting of all Officers at Bn HQ to-night and reminded us all that we could put a little more effort in our work.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

10 Dec 40

Training to-day consisted of Muster Parade and a thirteen-mile Route March.

Major A.A. Ernst who has taken command of the Battalion while Lt-Col M.F. Gregg is sick, attended a conference at Brigade to-day to discuss the points arising out of the GOCs Inspection.

Lieut C.B. Higins attended a lecture on Ca??ship at Adv HQ, 1 Cdn Div.

We placed second in the 3 Cdn Inf Bde Vehicle Inspection Competition to-day, the Royal 22 Regiment beating us out by a couple of points. We have vowed that we will win it next time or die in the attempt.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

11 Dec 40

Training to-day as usual.

There was an Inspection of our Water Vehicles to-day.

To-day we supplied the Brigade Guard.

A number of the Officers of the Unit attended a lecture on, “Our War on the Ocean”, at Whitley Hall, Weybridge, by, Rt-Hon A.V. Alexander PC, MP.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

12 Dec 40

A two day Brigade Exercise “Midex” started to-day. Most of the day was spent in making recce of the area we are going to occupy during the exercise.

Sgt Garber E.H., Cpl Corbin H.M, Pte Hiltz C.H., and Pte Grace C.A., started attending a Typing and Shorthand School at Croydon, today.

One hundred Officers and Other Ranks attended a Picture at the Hospital, Upper Warlingham, tonight.

There was also a Picture at the YMCA for the troops to-night.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

13 Dec 40

The Unit Officers took part in the Brigade Exercise “Midex” to=day. The only one to return home sporting Scars of Battle was the COs Station [illegible] argument with another [illegible].

The Other Ranks went on a twenty-mile Route March to-day.

Capt. M.G. Clennett was chosen to attend the “Boar’s Head” Ceremony, at Queen’s College Oxford.

Capt A.D. Butts, our Padre and Educational Officer, attended a meeting of Educational Officers at Adv HQ, 1 Cdn Div.

Posted Strength - Officers 32 - Other Ranks 740

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY [note: place name changes by mistake to Warlingham for 1 page]

14 Dec 40

Training to-day as usual, along with Pay Parades.

Major A.A. Ernst visited all Companies to-day on a Tour of Inspection.

A Concert was held for the troops at the YMCA to-night.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

15 Dec 40

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

Col Hebb D.E. returned from the Canadian Provost Depot to-day, where he has been on course for the last two weeks.

Courses in Carpenter Work, Plumbing, and Plastering, have been started to-day in the Polytechnic School at Croydon, a number of our other ranks attended.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

16 Dec 40

Training to-day as usual.

Major (?) today acted as (?) during their Exercise “Midex”.

Brigadier C.B. Price held a meeting of all Officers who took part in the 3 Cdn Inf Bde Exercise “Midex”, to discuss points arising out of the Exercise. All our Officers attended.

We supplied the Brigade Guard to-day.

A picture was shown at the YMCA to-night for the troops.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

17 Dec 40

Training to-day was pretty well taken up by Bath Parades

One hundred Officers and Other Ranks attended a Dance at the Hospital, Upper Warlingham to-night.

A Card and Checker Social was also held at the YMCA to-night for the troops.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

18 Dec 40

Training to-day as usual. From now on the Respirator is to be worn for fifteen minutes daily.

We supplied the Brigade Guard to-day.

A Checker and Ping Pong Tournament was held at the YMCA to-night for the troops.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

19 Dec 40

The Unit took part in a TEWT in the Wych Cross-Danehill area to-day.

A Hockey Practice was held to-day at Purley Ice Rink. Although the boys were a little unsteady on their skates, they showed lots of promise for the coming Divisional League.

The Canadian Legion put on a Concert Party at the YMCA to-night.

A picture was also put on for the troops at the Hospital at Upper Warlingham to-night.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

20 Dec 40

The Unit took part in the second stage of the Brigade TEWT in the Wych Cross-Danehill area to-day.

Lieut R.H. Beck, the Unit Transport Officer attended a meeting held by Brigadier Carr, DAG, at Adv HQ, 1 Cdn Div on the Maintenance of Unit Transport.

Pte C.J. Chiasson of this Unit, who was killed in a car accident a couple of days ago was buried to-day at Brookwood, Surrey. “D” Coy supplied the Firing Party.

Posted Strength - Officers 31 - Other Ranks - 740

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

21 Dec 40

Training to-day as usual.

We supplied the Divisional Guard to-day. The Guard was commented on by the GOC as being the best Guard of the year.

The Unit also supplied the Brigade Guard to-day.

As the Christmas Mail Rush is under way we are supplying a Mail Party from to-day till Christmas. Lieut E.L. Fortune is in charge of this Party.

We have been notified by the Records Office, Can Military HQ that we have never gone through Orders as being transferred from Canada to England. Officially we are still in Canada.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

22 Dec 40

To-day being Sunday, Church Parades as usual at St. Paul’s Church, Woldingham.

Our Regimental Band played at the Divisional Guard Mount this morning. The ceremony was recorded to be re-broadcast in Canada.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

23 Dec 40

The Battalion marched to Selsdon Park and were inspected by Major A.A. Ernst. This was a rehearsal for the coming visit of the Hon J.L. Ralston, Minister of National Defense.

The Unit supplied the Brigade Guard today.

A voluntary Church Parade was held at St. Paul’s Church, Wolding, where a Special Christmas Service was rendered.

A total of eight bombs fell and exploded in our area about 0400 hrs this morning. There was no damage done.

A meeting of the Officers’ Mess was held at Bn HQ where a set of By-laws, and Rules and Regulations were presented tot he Meeting for acceptance by the newly formed Committee.

A Picture was shown to the troops at the YMCA to-night.

A Special Christmas Pay Parade was held to-day, each man receiving ten shillings.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

24 Dec 40

Everybody busy to-day getting ready for our first Christmas in England.

We supplied the Brigade Guard to-day.

We received Hearty Christmas Greetings from Brigadier C.B. Price, 3 Cdn Inf Bde.

A Concert Party was put on at the YMCA to-night by some of the talent in our Unit.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

25 Dec 40

To-day is our first Christmas in England.

Voluntary Church Services were held in St. Paul’s Church, Willingham.

A marvellous Christmas Dinner was enjoyed by all the Other Ranks. During dinner the CO and all the Officers of the Unit visited all the Companies in turn and wished all the Other Ranks a Very Merry Christmas.

The Officers then returned to Battalion HQ Mess where a lovely Christmas Dinner was enjoyed by all. We all felt sorry that Lt (?) Gregg was unable to be present. After the dinner we all went to Bramshot Hospital to with Col. Greg a Very Merry Christmas.

Everybody was very pleased to hear that the Canadian Active Service Force has become as of 0001 hrs to-day, The Canadian Corps.

One hundred Officers and Other Ranks attended a dance to-night at the Hospital at Upper Warlingham.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

26 Dec 40

Everybody busy to-day putting the finishing touches on equipment, etc. for the Inspection to-morrow by the Hon J.L. Ralston, Minister of National Defense for Canada.

Major A.A. Ernst attended a dinner to-night given by Brigadier C.B. Price and Staff of the 3 Cdn Inf Bde.

A Picture was held at the YMCA to-night for the troops.

There was also a picture at the Hospital at Upper Warlingham for the troops to-night.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

27 Dec 40

A Dinner was given by the Unit at Selsdon Park to-day in honor of the Hon J.L. Ralston. It was a typical Nova Scotia Dinner. Lt Gen A.G.L. McNaughton, GOC, the Canadian Corps, Maj/Gen H.J. Crerar, Chief of General Staff, Maj-Gen G.R. Pearkes, GOC, 1 Cdn Div, Brig C.B. Price, OC 3 Cdn Inf Bde, were present at the dinner. After dinner Col Ralston gave a very enjoyable speech. The WNSR then withdrew and fell in with the Battalion which had marched over under the RSM and formed up outside the Selsdon Park Hotel. We were then inspected by Col Ralston, who was very pleased with the Unit. Afterwards in a personal letter to Major Ernst, Brig Price said the “Present was a joy,” and the “March Past a knock-out”.

Posted Strength - Officers 32 - Other Ranks 747

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

28 Dec 40

Training to-day as usual.

A meeting of the Coy Educational Officers was held at Bn HQ to-day. It was decided to complete the Educational Survey in the next two days and send all the information on to Brigade.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

29 Dec 40

To-day being Sunday, Church Parades were held as usual at St. Paul’s Church, Woldingham. The GOC attended the Service.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

30 Dec 40

A Route March of ten males was held this morning.

This afternoon was taken up by Bath Parades, and Pay Parades.

Lieut C.B. Higgins left for Dorking to-day to attend a two-week Intelligence Course.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

31 Dec 40

Training to-day as usual, along with Pay Parades.

Lieut I.H. MacIntosh and CQMS Whynott left to-day to attend a three-week Junior Leader Course.

The troops were paraded to the Capitol Theatre, Caterham to-day to see a picture, “Name, Rank, and Number.”

One hundred Officers and Other Ranks attended a dance to-night at the Hospital, Upper Warlingham.