WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

1 Jan 41

To-day being New Year’s Day, Recreational Training was carried out.

We received a Cable to-day from A.L. MacDonald, Minister of Naval Services for Canada, “Best Wishes for 1941.”

A number of the Officers went to Bramshott Hospital to wish Lt-Col M.F. Gregg a “Happy New Year”.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

2 Jan 41

Training to-day consisted of Inspections by Company Commanders, and Small Arms Training in the morning. In the afternoon the Unit went on a twelve-mile Route March.

Major A.A. Ernst attended a Dinner at Westerham, in commemoration of the 214th Anniversary of General Wolfe’s Birth at Westerham.

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

A Picture, “The Scarlet Pimpernel” was put on for the troops at the YMCA.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

3 Jan 41

To-day Training consisted of Small Arms in the morning and a twelve-mile Route March in the afternoon.

A meeting was held at Bn HQ to-day of the Company Educational Officers to discuss the progress of the Educational Courses now being held.

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

Strength Returns - Officers 33 - Other Ranks - 746

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

4 Jan 41

Inspections of all Companies was [sic.] carried out by the CO this morning.

The Unit supplied the Brigade Guard to-day.

Removal of all metal hat badges from Officer’s steel helmets was ordered to-day.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

5 Jan 41

To-day being Sunday, Church parades were held at St. Paul’s Church, Woldingham.

An order was issued to-day making the Woldingham INstitute available for NCOs down to and including corporals. The WOs and Sgts have been spending some very enjoyable evenings at this Club. Let’s hope the Corporals have these good times also.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

6 Jan 41

The Unit to-day went on a fourteen-mile Route March.

An Inspection of all ammunition was carried out to-day by the Ordinance.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

7 Jan 41

Another fourteen-mile Route March was held to-day. These marches are toughening up the men’s feet in preparation for a three-day march which will be held later on in the month.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

8 Jan 41

The Unit supplied the Brigade Guard to-day.

We went on another Route March of sixteen miles to-day.

A number of the Other Ranks of the Unit attended a Skating Session at the Purley Ice Rink this afternoon.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

9 Jan 41

A Route March of eighteen miles was carried out to-day by the Unit.

A Hockey Match between the WNSR and the Carleton & York was played at Purley Ice Rink to-night. The WNSR won the game by a score of 3-2. CSM Williams SF scored our three goals in the last minutes of the game.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

10 Jan 41

The Officers of the Unit took part in a TEWT in the Wych Cross - Dane Hill area.

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

Strength Returns - Officers - 32 - Other Ranks - 728

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

11 Jan 41

Inspections by the CO of all Companies were held to-day. A Vehicle Inspection was held by Lieut R.H. Beck, the Transport Officer in preparation for the coming Vehicle Inspection Competition.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

12 Jan 41

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

Capt M.G. Clennett started a class in Bookkeeping for the Other Ranks who are interested in this subject, this morning after Church Parade. He intends to carry on with this class for the next few Sundays.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

13 Jan 41

The Commanding Officer, the Adjutant, and the Intelligence Officer, took part in an order Exercise “Ordex” to-day. This was a Divisional Exercise to practice Orders and Administration. Range Practices in Rifle, Tommy Gun, and Grenade were held to-day under the Supervision of Lieut S.D. Smith, and Lieut R.T. Annand. Instruction in wiring was carried out by Lieut G.F. Johnston.

A Course in Driving was started to-day by Lieut R.H. Beck, the Unit Transport Officer, to train spare drivers.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

14 Jan 41

The Unit was put on one hour’s notice to-day. This will continue indefinitely on every third day.

Pay Parades for Bn HQ, A, B, and C were held to-day.

The Commanding Officer, the Adjutant, and the Intelligence Officers took part in the second half of the “Ordex” Exercise.

Thirty men from the Unit were transferred to the 3 Recce Sqn to-day.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

15 Jan 41

Range Practises in Grenade, Rifle, and Tommy Gun were held to-day.

Pay Parades for D and HQ Coy were held to-day.

Brigade Vehicle Inspection Competition was held to-day. The Royal 22 Regt beat us out for first place by a very narrow margin.

The Unit supplied the Brigade Guard to-day.

A Lecture on Censorship was given by the IO to the Officers of the Unit at Bn HQ to-night.

A Billiards, Checkers, Cribbage, and Darts Tournament was held at the Institute, Woldingham, against the British Legion. We won everything but two Billiard Games and one Dart Game.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

16 Jan 41

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

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

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

17 Jan 41

To-day was pretty well taken up with Bath Parades

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

Strength Returns - Officers - 30 - Other Ranks - 725

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

18 Jan 41

Usual Saturday morning Inspections by the CO were held. A Blanket Exercise was held to-day. One blanket per man was collected and picked up by the Div Petrol Coy and returned to the Unit later on in the afternoon.

The Unit supplied the Brigade Guard to-day.

A Band Concert by the Regimental Band was put on in the YMCA to-night.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

19 Jan 41

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

An Illustrated Lecture by Dr. T.W. Jones was held at the YMCA for the Troops to-night.

Major F.B. Courtney gave the Officers of the Unit a lecture at Bn HQ to-night on his recent Company Commander’s Course.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

20 Jan 41

Range Practices under supervision of Capt S.D. Smith and Lieut R.T. Annand were held to-day.

Wiring Instruction under supervision of Lieut G.F. Johnston was carried out.

Our Vehicle Numbers were changed to-day from 68 to 69.

A Lecture by the Brigade Major on Section Leading for Officers and NCOs was attended to-day, by all the available Officers and NCOs of the Unit.

A Picture was put on at the YMCA to-night for the Troops.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

21 Jan 41

The Unit supplied the Brigade Guard to-day.

The Unit went on a fifteen mile Route March to-day.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

22 Jan 41

Range Practices were carried on to-day.

Nineteen reinforcements came to the Unit to-day from the No 2 Cdn Inf Holding Unit.

A number of Other Ranks attended Skating Session at Purley Ice Rink this afternoon.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

23 Jan 41

Range Practices as per Syllabus to-day.

The Unit played a Hockey Match with the Royal 22 Regt to-night at the Purley Ice Rink. The Royal 22 Regt won the game by a score of 4 to 3. One hundred and fifty Officers and Other Ranks from the Unit attended the game.

A Picture was put on at the YMCA to-night for the Troops.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

24 Jan 41

Training to-day as usual.

An Inspection of all Technical Stores was made to-day by the Ordinance.

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

Strength Returns - Officers - 30 - Other Ranks - 736

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

25 Jan 41

Usual Saturday Morning Inspections by the Commanding Officer were held this morning.

A number of the members of the Unit attended a very enjoyable Dance at the YMCA to-night.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

26 Jan 41

Everybody busy packing stores and getting ready for our three-day Route March which starts to-morrow.

Church Parades were held as usual at St. Paul’s Church, Woldingham.

Lieut G.W. Theakston and Sgt F.H. Marshall left to-day for Shillinglee, to attend a Junior Leaders Course.

Cpl Jarret R.G. took a Carrier and reported to the 1 Cdn Recce Sqn to-day, to instruct them in the use and work of the Carrier.

SURREY

27 Jan 22

The Unit started on the three-day Route March to-day. The head of the Column passed the starting point at 0800 hrs. We stopped at 1200 hrs and had a haversack lunch, continuing again at 1300 hrs. We arrived at our destination for the first day at 1530 hrs. This was the Limpsfield area, where the Seaforth’s of Canada are billeted. The Seaforth’s of Canada had marched to Rigate and taken over the Royal Canadian Regiment’s billets. Everybody was quite ready to have a good hot meal and turn in to bed early. We marched about twenty-three miles that day.

SURREY

28 Jan 41

Everybody was up bright and early to-day to get a good breakfast and resume our marching. The Unit crossed the starting point at the Cross Roads at Limpsfield at 0800 hrs. We halted as we did the day before at 1220 hrs for our haversack lunch. Everybody was rather wet as it had poured rain all morning. At 1300 hrs we resumed marching and after being shunted off on a new route by Division we arrived at Rigate at about 1730 hrs. The hills on the last part of the march had begun to take toll and there was the odd one or two with blistered feet. The Seaforth’s of Canada had marched from Reigate to Woldingham that day and taken over our billets there, while the Royal Canadian Regiment had marched from our billets and taken over the Seaforth’s at Limpsfield. Everybody was quite willing to go to bed after having a good hot meal. We marched about twenty-seven miles that day.

WADDINGHAM, SURREY

29 Jan 41

Everybody was up early to shake themselves out and get loosened up for the long climb up Reigate Hill to the starting point for our third and final day of marching. We were joined at the starting point by Brigadier C.B. Price, 3 Cdn Inf Bde. As we swung on to the main road between Coulston and Purley the boys were marching along looking like a million dollars. After climbing a few hills we halted for our lunch at 1220 hrs. At 1300 hrs we again resumed marching. The Brigadier left us at this point to attend a Conference at Division. The Unit arrived home at about 1430 hrs having marched about twenty iles that.

WADDINGHAM, SURREY

30 Jan 41

To-day everybody getting limbered up after our three days of marching.

Capt S.D. Smith left to-day to attend a week’s Weapon Training Course.

Pay Parades were held to-day.

WADDINGHAM, SURREY

31 Jan 41

To-day was taken up with Pay Parades and Bath Parades.

A Picture was put on at the YMCA to-night for the Troops.

Strength Returns - Officers - 29 - Other Ranks - 739