WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

1 Mar 41

The Unit is on one hour’s notice to-day..

Training to-day consisted mostly of Small Arms Training.

Capt E.M Crouse proceeded on command to School of MIlitary Administration at Bickenhurst [sic. Brockenhurst], on a three-weeks Course in Military Administration.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

2 Mar 41

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

Major A.A. Ernst went to the Drill Hall, Caterham, to-day to discuss with the GOC possible candidates for the coming OCTU Courses.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

3 Mar 41

Training to-day consisted of Loading and Uploading of Platoon Vehicles, Map Reading, Lectures on Water Supply, and Lectures on Gases.

Twelve NCOs from the Unit attended a short Course in Wiring Instruction at the 4 Fd Coy, RCE, to-day.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

4 Mar 41

The Unit is on one hour’s notice to-day.

Kit Inspections were held to-day.

The Companies were all busy rehearsing to-day for the Company Competition in Night Patrols, which is being held to-night.

The Night Patrolling Competitions were held to-night and the Companies taking part put on a darned good show.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

5 Mar 41

Lt-Col L.T. Lowther, PEILH, took over command of the Unit to-day as Major A.A. Ernst is going on a seven-weeks Tactical Course.

The Unit went on a 10-mile Route March this morning. Training this afternoon was mostly Company Drill.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

6 Mar 41

Training to-day consisted of Lectures and Drill in Gas, and Gas Contamination, and Lectures and Drill in Anti Aircraft Fire.

One NCO and twelve Other Ranks went as a Working Party to Brigade Headquarters this morning.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

7 Mar 41

The Unit is on one hour’s notice to-day.

This morning Embussing and Debussing Exercises were carried out by the Companies.

The Battalion paraded this afternoon to bid farewell to Maj-Gen C.B. Price, who has been promoted from Brigadier of the 3 Cdn Inf Bde. Maj-Gen C.B. Price is going to return to Canada and take command of the 3 Cdn Div. Brig H.N. Ganong takes over command of the 3 Cdn Inf Bde.

Major A.A. Ernst proceeded on command to Tactical School, Earlstroke, for a seven-weeks Course in Military Tactics.

Strength Returns - Officers - 35 - Other Ranks - 737

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

8 Mar 41

Usual Saturday morning Inspections were held by Lt-Col L.G. Lowther this morning.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

9 Mar 41

Usual Sunday morning Church Parades were held at St. Paul’s Church, Woldingham.

A very nice letter of farewell from Maj-Gen C.B. Price was posted in our Orders to-day.

Lieut D. McG. Archibald proceeded to Bisley to-day on a four-weeks Course in Weapon Training.

Lieut D.W. MacAdam was struck off Strength to-day to 3 Cde Inf Bde as Acting Intelligence Officer.

Various transfers in the Battalion were posted in Orders to-day.

Capt M.C. Clennett from “B” Coy to “D” Coy, Lieut A.B. Cooke from “HQ” Coy to “D” Coy, Lieut C.R. Day from “HQ” Coy to “D” Coy, Lieut F.M. Reardon from “D” Coy to “HQ” Coy.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

10 Mar 41

Training to-day consisted of Bayonet Fighting, Map Reading, Field Signals, Fighting Patrols.

Unit on one hour’s notice to-day.

The Signals Platoon plus one Officer from each Company attended a Demonstration of T and Ball Communication between ground and Aircraft.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

11 Mar 41

Embussing and Debussing Exercises were held to-day

Everybody busy turning in Barrack Stores in preparation for “Beagle” Scheme which starts to-morrow.

The CO held a meeting of Coy Commdrs, Adjutant, Intelligence Officer, Signal Officer, Medical Officer, and Transport Officer to issue verbal orders and discuss move on Beagle Scheme.

Lieut R.T. Annand left to-day on seven days leave.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

12 Mar 41

The Divisional Scheme “Beagle” started to-day. This Scheme is chiefly for practise in Inter-communication and INformation. The unit moved from Woldingham this afternoon and took up position of readiness in the Smarden Area.

At 2100 hrs to-night, the CO and the IO attended a conference at Brigade Headquarters to get Orders for a night move to a forward area near Upper Thruxted Farm.

SURREY

13 Mar 41

At 0044 hrs this morning the Unit passed the Brigade SP enroute to our new area near Upper Thruxted Farm. We arrived in our new area about 0330 hrs and spent the day there carrying on the scheme.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

14 Mar 41

We returned home to-day from the “Beagle” Scheme. The WNSR was the leading Unit in the Brigade Convoy on the way home. We crossed the SP about 0900 hrs and after being held up a number of times by the RCA who was ahead of us, we finally arrived home about 1330 hrs.

Strength Returns - Officers - 34 - Other Ranks - 733

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

15 Mar 41

Lt-Col L.T. Lowther held the usual Saturday morning Inspections this morning.

All the Officers of the Unit attended a conference at the Drill Hall, Caterham, where Brigadier H.N. Ganong discussed the “Beagle” Scheme.

Pay Parades were held to-day.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

16 Mar 41

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

The Unit was on one hour’s notice to-day.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

17 Mar 41

This morning the Unit went on a 10-mile Route March.

Training this afternoon consisted of practice in throwing Grenades and in Tommy Gun Instruction.

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

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

18 Mar 41

The Unit spent most of the time to-day in training in Night Patrols in preparation for the competitions to-night in Night Patrols.

Competitions were held to-night in Patrolling. All who took part did a good job.

A Social and Dance was held at the YMCA to-night for the Troops.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

19 Mar 41

The Unit is on one hour’s notice to-day.

Training to-day consisted of Loading and Unloading Platoon Vehicles. Also loading “A” Ech Vehicles from Company Vehicles.

Organized Sport was carried on this afternoon.

To-night the 1 Cdn Div Boxing Team defeated the Corps Boxing Team Eleven fights to four. The West Nova Scotia Regiment had the following fighters on the 1 Div Team: Cpl Embree F.A., L/cpl Falls T.R., Pte Garnier A.F., Pte Helpard P.R.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

20 Mar 41

To-day the Unit went on a 20-mile Route March.

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

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

21 Mar 41

Training in the Withdrawal was carried out by all Companies to-day.

A Dance was held at the YMCA to-night for the Troops.

Strength Returns - Officers - 34 - Other Ranks - 738

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

22 Mar 41

The Unit is on one hour’s notice to-day.

The usual Saturday morning Inspections were held by the CO to-day.

A Word Contest was held at the YMCA to-night for the Troops.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

23 Mar 41

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

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

24 Mar 41

This morning A and D Coys were on the Range taking part in .22 Rifle Firing and Live Grenade Throwing.

The remainder of the Battalion was on a 10-mile Route March.

This afternoon Kit INspections were held.

Lieut S.D. Beaton from the No 2 Cdn Inf Holding Unit was posted to “HQ” Company to-day.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

25 Mar 41

The Unit is on one hour’s notice to-day.

B and HQ Coys were on the Range to-day holding Practises with the .22 Rifle and throwing Live Grenades.

The Remainder of the Battalion held INspections in Anti Gas Equipment to-day.

Capt C. Letourneau our Sports Officer attended a meeting of the Unit Sports Officers at the Purley Ice Rink to-day.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

26 Mar 41

The Unit went on a 20-mile Route March to-day

Capt E.M. Crouse returned from School of Military Administration at Bickenhurst [sic. Brockenhurst], where he has completed a three-weeks Course in Military Administration.

The 1 Div Boxing Team won from the Canadian Holding Units Boxing Team to-night, by twelve fights to three. The WNSR had the following representatives on the 1 Cdn Div Team: Cpl Embree F.A., L/cpl Falls T.R., L/cpl Wilton R.J., Pte Garnier A.F., Pte Helpard P.R.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

27 Mar 41

One hundred and seven all ranks under command of Capt S.D. Smith proceeded to Dover to-day for Instruction in Wiring under the RCE.

A Working Party of 1 NCO and 30 men went to Epsom to-day to load and unload rubble for road building.

Training to-day was under Brigade arrangements. The Unit went to Dorking to-night and took part in River Crossing Exercises.

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

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

28 Mar 41

The CO, IO, and Coy Comdrs took part in a Brigade TEWT in the Seven Oaks Area this morning. A Withdrawal Scheme.

The Unit was on one hour’s notice to-day.

One hundred and seven all ranks under command [illegible] Capt S.D. Smith returned from Wiring Instruction at Dover to-day.

This afternoon a Battalion Scheme was held in Marden Park. It was a Battalion in the attack on a two-company front.

Strength Returns - Officers - 36 - Other Ranks - 738

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

29 Mar 41

CO held usual Saturday morning INspections to-day. A trophy was put up in “C” Coy for the best Section by “C” Coy Officers. After a two hour Inspection by Lt-Col L.T. Lowther No. 7 Sect. were declared the Winners.

Pay Parades were held to-day.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

30 Mar 41

The Usual Church Parades were held to-day at St. Paul’s Church, Woldingham.

All Transport NCOs and Drivers had their Picture taken to-day in a Group.

WOLDINGHAM, SURREY

31 Mar 41

The Unit is on one hour’s notice to-day.

Lt-Col L.T. Lowther was at Bde LAD to-day on a short MT Course.

As it was a very wet day to-day all training was done indoors.

All Messes and Canteens busy to-day making up Monthly Statements.