WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

WORTHING

1 Dec 41

0700

A report has just been received from C Coy OP to the effect that during the night a plane displayed a red flare in the vicinity of C Coy OP, and that one of two men, presumably enemy, tried to get through the wire on beach. Apparently some shots were fired by the sentry on duty, but man escaped unharmed. Upon investigation later in the day, the above report proved to be groundless.

WORTHING

2 Dec 41

0700

Coys carry on according to syllabus.

1000

Lt-Col Ernst reviewed HG posts, 4 and 5 Bns.

1300

Acting GOC, Brig Potts visited this HQ this morning and accompanied by Major Hebb, proceeded to Sisbury [sic. Cissbury]Ring and inspected new battle HQ. Major H.V. Wier, CSM WOOD and L/Sgt Young of the Halifax Rifles arrived from Canada today and will be attached to this Unit for a period of three months.

1600

Lt-Col Gregg VC visited this HQ today and conferred with Major Hebb in the absence of Lt-Col Ernst.

1900

Movies at C Coy tonight under the auspices of the Auxiliary Services.

WORTHING

3 Dec 41

0700

Coys carry on as per syllabus.

1030

Qar NAE band broadcast a program to Canada through the BBC. Lt-Col Ernst and the MO accompanied the band.

1600

Lt-Col Ernst visited the rear party at Keston, and was quite satisfied with the work that has been carried on since the Unit left in November

WORTHING

4 Dec 41

0700

Coys carry on as per syllabus. Nothing of import during balance of day.

WORTHING

5 Dec 41

0900

Lt-Col Ernst and Adjt attended a conference between Fd Units and Holding Unit in order to find out if closer co-operation could be obtained between the Units.

1000

2 i/c, Major Hebb inspected battle posns in Coy area.

1115

Major Shipwright, comd A Coy HG called at this HQ.

2000

Lt-Col Ernst left for KETTERING where he will act as an umpire in an aerodrome exercise “Scorch”.

Field Return: Officers 32 Other Ranks 766.

Special Increment: Officers 5 Other Ranks 83.

WORTHING

6 Dec 41

0900

Major Hebb and Lieut Archibald attended a conference at Bde with reference to O Gp and new dispositions.

1100

Major Courtney and Major Stehelin returned for 48 Div (London) where they have been attending a battle drill course at Chelwood Gate.

1330

Bn O Gp conf of Coy comdrs to pass on the Brigadiers comments received this morning at Bde. These orders dealt mainly with defense scheme which will not be put in effect till approved by Corps Comdr on Dec 15.

WORTHING

7 Dec 41

1000

Usual church parades to West Tarring Church, while B Coy attended at Lancing. Lieut Bent left for Aldershot where he will attend an ICs course for a period of two weeks.

WORTHING

8 Dec 41

0800

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1000

Lieut Johnson, Bde IO and Lieut HIggins called at this HQ and conferred with Adjt.

1100

Lt-Col Ernst returned from KETTERING where he attended an aerodrome exercise in the capacity of Umpire.

This being SECURITY WEEK, personnel are “on their toes”. Nevertheless a SECO agent in the guise of a local postman managed to get past the guard and found his way to the Orderly room and handed the Adjt a parcel addressed to the CO. Major Hebb and the Adjt became suspicious owing to the weight of this parcel, and after taking due precautions, by opening the window and closing the door etc, proceeded to open said parcel To their amazement and horror, they found the parcel contained two “bombs” duds, they hoped. This was the only “mark” against the Unit in the entire week.

WORTHING

9 Dec 41

0800

Training as per syllabus. Nothing of import happened throughout the day.

1900

Officers Mess meeting at Sky Ring.

WORTHING

10 Dec 41

0130

Radio broadcast to Canada by West NSR.

1300

OC 49 Edmonton Regt lunched with the Officers of West Nova Scotia Regt at Sky Ring.

1400

Lt-Col Ernst proceeded to CHANCTONBURY RING to make recce for taking up def posn there. Owing to heavy mud, car became bogged and the OC was forced to thumb his way back to HQ.

1100

A lecture on the battle of PERSIA was held at HIGHDEN HOUSE in a Carlt & York area. This was a very interesting lecture.

WORTHING

11 Dec 41

0800

Coys carry on as per syllabus.

1030

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

1945

Worthing Police advised this office that a plane had been seen to crash off Worthing Pier.

WORTHING

12 Dec 41

0800

Coys carry on according to syllabus.

0900

Wreckage washed ashore near Worthing Pier proved to be from British Bomber.

Field Return: Officers 32 Other Ranks 761

Special Increment: Officers 6 Other Ranks 83

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WORTHING

13 Dec 41

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1630

Meeting of Bn O Gp in preparation for GOC tour on the 15th. At this conference orders which originated from Lt-Gen Montgomery were to the effect that there would be no OPs or sentries posted on beach and none other than normal sentries would be posted at HQ in future.

WORTHING

14 Dec 41

0900

Usual Church parades to TARRING CHURCH.

0915

COs conference at SKy Ring re GOCs visit tomorrow, training campaign for winter and discipline Later in the morning the CO made a tour of the battle posns on the DOWNS.

1430

Sgt Colbran and Cpl Stone while patrolling the beach in the vicinity of Worthing Pier found the body of a New Zealand airman. No doubt one of the victims of the plane crash of Dec 11th. Coast Guard and the Worthing Police were informed of this.

1800

Candidates for the assault school assembled at their billets 17 Broadwater Rd. The school will be conducted by Lieut Oxley of this Unit, together with Lieut Cannon, R22R and Lieut Smith of the Carlt & York R.

WORTHING

15 Dec 41

0800

Coys continue training as per syllabus.

0915

GOC visited Bn area and made a great many changes in our battle disposns. Cissbury Ring is to be abandoned and A Coy will take up battle posn at Highden Hill. B and C Coys are still to occupy Steyning Round Hill but their arc of fire and general sightings will be completely changed.

WORTHING

16 Dec 41

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1100

Major Gammel called at the Officers Mess and accompanied several officers siting localities.

1500

Capt Cattermole of the Worthing Home Guard called at this HQ and discussed beach defences. Nothing further to report for today.

WORTHING

17 Dec 41

0800

Coys carry on as per syllabus.

1000

Lt-Col Ernst visited Chanctonbury Ring area.

1500

Sgt Freeman of C Coy and Sgt Garber, Bn HQ visited the Mansion House in London, the official residence of the Lord Mayor, where they were received by the Lord Mayor, Sir John Laurie and Lady Laurie, Viscount Massey and Mrs. Massey. During the Lord Mayor’s address, Nova Scotia was outstanding and mentioned several times. This was a very colourful affair and was much appreciated by the “boys”.

WORTHING

18 Dec 41

0900

Lt-Col Ernst proceeded to Brigade with sketch of defended localities.

1100

Col Cunningham visited Bn area and assault school. Two pls from C Coy moved to new billets at WAPPINGTHORNE [sic. WAPPINGTHORN] Fm, while the area vacated was turned over to the Edmonton Regt.

1500

The Brigade Major visited this HQ and conferred with Major heb.

1900

D Coy held a dance tonight at South Lancing.

WORTHING

19 Dec 41

0800

A party of 5 ORs proceeded to the 4 Fd Coy and demonstrated 2 and 3 inch mortar to Sappers and Engineers.

1000

The remainder of C Coy moved to new area at WAPPINGTHORNE [sic.] Fm.

1930

Meeting of all officers at Sky Ring re instruction and training.

Field Return: Officers 32 Other Ranks 762.

WORTHING

20 Dec 41

0800

Coy inspections.

1000

C Coy has completed move to new area at WAPPINGTHORNE Fm.

1700

Ptes Garnier, Fowler and Savornoch boxed at the Metropolitan Police Tournament at Hove. Garnier won his fight while the other two lost theirs.

1900

A Regimental dance was held at the Connaught Hotel for members of this Unit.

WORTHING

21 Dec 41

0930

Usual Church Parades to West Tarring Church.

1100

COs conference at Sky Ring re Christmas entertainment for the men.

2200

Lieut Bent returned from Aldershot where he has been attending a SE Comd Int Course.

WORTHING

22 Dec 41

0800

Training as per syllabus.

0900

Lt-Col ernst attended a lecture at Haywards Heath, when the speaker was Gen. Montgomery. The subject was training and general discussion re Bde and Coy comdr.

1500

Lt-Col Ernst proceeded to Highden Hill and conferred with Capt Millard re siting and defense.

WORTHING

23 Dec 41

0800

Training as per syllabus.

0900

Lt-Col Ernst and Lieut Bent went to Bde for an interview with Corps camouflage officer Lieut J.K. Sandbrooke. Later they visited battle posns in Bn.

1300

A TEWT was held in which officers comd pls took part. The subject was defense, and the ground chosen was Highden Hill.

WORTHING

24 Dec 41

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1000

A party consisted of the following officers and NCOs proceeded to London where they put on a broadcast over the BBC: Capt Worth, Lieuts Archibald, Beck, Day, Isnor and Smeltzer. CQMS Hopper and Sgt Fiendel. Lt-Col Ernst accompanied this party to London.

1300

Capt Watson, OC 77 Bty 3 Fd Regt RCA called at this HQ and discussed siting of guns on Friesland feature.

1900

C Coy sponsored a dance at Wappingthorne [sic.] Fm tonight. The guest of honour was Lady Howard, owner of Wappingthorne [sic.] estate. Major Gemmel returned to this Unit from Holding Unit.

WORTHING

25 Dec 41

1100

Brigadier and BM visited the Officers Mess. Later in the morning the CO and officers visited various mens messes, passing the seasons greetings etc.

1500

Lt-Col Ernst and Major Hebb were guests at the home of Col. Grace HGs.

1900

A Bn dinner was held for our officers at the Findon Manor Hotel. This was much enjoyed by all who attended.

WORTHING

26 Dec 41

0800

Bn continuing normal duties.

1130

Brigadier Ganong visited this HQ. Lieut Felton, special weapons officer, 4 Bn HG and offered to put on a demonstration of HG weapons should we desire it.

Field Return: Officers 30 Other Ranks 755.

Special Increment: Officer 7 Other Ranks 84.

WORTHING

27 Dec 41

0900

Coy inspections.

1500

Major Hebb and Lieut Bent visited A and B Coys and inspected selective posns. Lieut Bent has been appointed camouflage officer.

WORTHING

28 Dec 41

0930

Usual Church parades to West Tarring Church.

1100

Capt Smith B Coy proceeded on Coy Comdrs course at Lavington House.

WORTHING

29 Dec 41

0800

Training as per syllabus. D Coy proceeded to Friesland where they carried on with digging pits in Coy area. Bivouacked overnight and returned to Worthing in the morning.

WORTHING

30 Dec 41

0800

Training as per syllabus

1030

The remains of Sgt Sullivan who met with a fatal accident on Christmas Eve at C Coy, were buried in Brookwood Cemetery with Capt Addie officiating. The burial party consisted of Sgts from the entire Bn while C Coy provided the firing party.

1500

Lt-Col Gregg VC visited this HQ and conferred with Lt-Col Ernst.

WORTHING

31 Dec 41

0830

The RAP gadget show was put on at Div this morning. This Unit took third place in this show. Capt Letourneau was in charge of the exhibit. A Coy started work at Highden Hill digging weapon pits and trenches.

1100

CO visited Highden Hill and Friesland and inspected progress made in tasks.

2000

Lt-Col Ernst and officers of this Unit sponsored a New Years dance at Steyne Hotel Bde was represented by the Brigadier and the BM also Capt Addie. At midnight the Brigadier expressed his greeting and best wishes for the coming year and hoped we would all be back in Canada a year from tonight.