WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

[Note: Place not written for this month, but it is Worthing, West Sussex.]

1 Feb 42

1030

Church parades cancelled because of heavy snow storm.

1900

“D” Coy entertained by film “Cisco Kid”, put on by K of C.

2 Feb 42

Training as per syllabus.

3 Feb 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. “D” Coy has selected Ptes suitable for training as NCOs (Coy school).

1600

“I” Sec and Sig Sec proceeded to Battle HQ at Frieslands where they will take part in exercise “Beaver 2”.

1750

Arrive at Battle HQ and informed Bde of location. Exercise starts at 0700 hrs tomorrow.

4 Feb 42

0855

“Beaver 2”. “B” Coy reports their posn dive bombed. Suffered eight casualties.

0930

Heavy casualties inflicted on paratps that landed on Harrow Hill by Carlt & York carrier. Remnants of enemy withdrew South.

1105

Enemy reinforcement almost completely wiped out R22eR. Meanwhile Worthing is being heavily bombed.

1545

Gas in the nature of toxic smoke has been released in Brighton.

1700

Sitrep and Int summary forwarded to Bde. Meanwhile at Rear Bn HQ, Maj Hebb is somewhat perturbed about one missing training directive.

5 Feb 42

0835

“C” Coy have been attacked by paratps, “A” Coy move in to support them.

0910

Enemy retreating toward Chanctonbury Ring. We suffer few casualties.

0940

Enemy paratps landed near Lancing, moving NW. “A” Coy moved to Frieslands to relieve “C”.

1140

PLDG put in a three pronged attack on Findon Pk. Fm. and Kingswood with Arty supporting.

1145

“D” Coy report enemy cleared out of area.

1208

“Cease Fire”. (End of “Beaver 2”.)

6 Feb 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1000

Capt Crouse has returned to unit from Bde where [he] has been Staff Capt. Field Return.

1900

COs conf at Sky Ring on training and administration. Capt Jenkins gave a talk on current affairs. A sand table exercise, “Coy in night attack” was also held followed by film shown by the Auxiliary Services.

7 Feb 42

0800

Training as per syllabus

1900

HQ Coy were entertained by a luncheon and film given by the Auxiliary Services.

8 Feb 42

Church parades as usual.

9 Feb 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. The CO spent the afternoon with “B” Coy supervising training.

1900

“A” Coy were entertained by a social evening, free Bingo with prizes put on by the Auxiliary Services.

10 Feb 42

0800

Training as per syllabi.

1430

CO attended GOCs conference on training and general dispositions.

1900

“C” Coy were entertained by film “Nice Girl”, given by Auxiliary Services. The finals of the Bde boxing eliminations were held at the Sussex County Sport Club. Our boys did remarkably well, winning most of their bouts. The thriller of the evening was a middleweight contest between “Gussie Savarnoch”, WNSR who lost a very slim decision to “Irish” Knowlan, Carlt & York Regt, a professional of some repute.

11 Feb 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1800

Coy commanders conference at Sky Ring.

1900

A concert party performed for “B” Coy at North Lancing. Performance was described as quote, “lousy,” end of quote. The players were entertained in the officers mess after the show.

12 Feb 42

0900

Lt-Col Ernst, Maj Hebb, Maj Berringer, Capt Upton and Lt Bent attended a lecture given by Dr. Franz Burger who had been in an internment camp in Germany for some time. Address was accompanied by a film.

1330

Mr. Gordon of the 12th Tank Regt gave a lecture to officers and plt. sergeants on tactics while working in conjunction with tanks.

1830

HQ Coy were entertained by film, “Our Neighbors”, given by the Auxiliary Services.

13 Feb 42

0900

All Coy commanders and 2/ i/c Coys attended a cloth model exercise at Highden Ho. Field Return.

1800

Study night for officers at Sky Ring. Mr. Putnam gave a twenty minute talk on the characteristics and handling of the three inch mortar. (was). “C” Coy officers put on a TEWT “Immediate counter-attack”. Following this the Auxiliary Services provided a film. “A” Coy entertained by film “Our Neighbors”.

14 Feb 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1300

Band and “A” Coy of this unit are taking part the “Warships Week” parade in Worthing. Ten members of WNSR are competing with other units of the Bde in a cross country run.

1730

A large number of this unit attended a concert party by Ensa at New Drill Hall, Worthing.

15 Feb 42

1000

Church parades as usual. Coy commanders conference at Sky Ring. Capt J.O. Millard was chosen to supervise training at Ordnance Depot for an indefinite period.

1400

Band of WNSR played for Home Guard inspection and march past at Broadwater Green.

1800

Conference at Sky Ring to discuss selection of officers and NCOs for infantry training centres in Canada. Names to be submitted by Coys later.

16 Feb 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. Lt-Col Ernst on the “Downs” all day with the Coys.

1630

“C” Coy entertained by show “Our Neighbors” provided by Auxiliary Services.

17 Feb 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. Lt-Col Ernst on “Downs” inspecting Coy posns.

1900

Lt-Col Ernst, Capt Worth, Capt Butts, Lt Archibald, Lt Burns, Mr Lozie, Sgt-Maj Foley, Sgt-Maj Dean, Sgt Hebb, Sgt Taylor, Cpl Garber, Ptes Clarke and Withers were guests of the Round Table Club at a luncheon in Mitchells’ Restaurant, Worthing. Speakers of the evening were Lt-Col Ernst and Capt Butts.

18 Feb 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1900

Coy commanders meeting at Sky Ring to discuss training and administration. At Weppons Fm a show, “Stanley and Livingstone” was shown by the Auxiliary Services.

19 Feb 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1900

“B” Coy entertained by show, “Waikiki Wedding”. Shown by the Auxiliary Services.

20 Feb 42

1300

Bn HQ, HQ, D, and C Coys were shown training films, “Use of assault boats and bridges,” and “Platoon in the attack”. The unit was visited today by Lt Fortune and Lt Higgins, Bde IO, also by Maj Bethune and Capt Trask of the RCAMC. Field Return.

1900

All officers attended a sand table exercise at Sky Ring put on by D Coy, “Coy in deliberate counter-attack”. This was followed by two training films and show, “Waikiki Wedding”.

21 Feb 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1300

Mr. Bent, Unit IO gave a sand table exercise at Sky Ring for the benefit of the Sig. Pl. Progress Report to date. A Coy 95%, B Coy 60%, C Coy 50%, D Coy 60%. All Coys have weapon pits practically completed and all pits are revetted.

22 Feb 42

1000

Church parades as usual. This afternoon Lt-Col Ernst and Lieut Archibald, Adjt, went to Witley on Bn business.

23 Feb 42

0830

Training as per syllabus.

1330

The “I. Pl.” have adopted the use of semaphore, and this afternoon under the supervision of Mr. Bent they journeys to the golf course, where, midst the drives, putts and mashie-shots of the worthy citizens of Worthing, they gained much useful practice.

24 Feb 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

0900

“I” Pl. proceeded to Cissbury range for firing practice. Today our IO failed to live up to his precedent of a “possible”, scored at a former firing practice. Alibi, quote, “different rifle”.

1130

Twenty-four officers and twelve ORs attended a demonstration at Friston, “RAF fighter aircraft attacking ground targets.”

25 Feb 42

0900

Lieuts Beck, Putnam and Reardon were on an exercise, “Cooperation of Inf and Arty”.

1400

Lt-Col Ernst attended a sand table exercise given by the 12th Tank Bn.

1900

Coy commanders meeting at Sky Ring. Chief item of the discussion was the proposed visit of army commander, Lt-Gen Mongomery.

26 Feb 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

0900

Two pls D Coy proceeded to Bow Hill Range for firing practice.

1300

Three pls A Coy proceeded to Bow Hill Range for firing practice. Progress Report on diggins, wiring etc. A Coy 95%, B Coy 90%, C Coy 70%, D Coy 80%. Most of this week was spent in erecting wire and Coy HQs in Coy battle posns. Plan for Anti-raid Defence. Operation Instruction on anti-invasion role.