WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

HIGHDEN[, SUSSEX]

1 Jul 42

0800

This being Dominion, day was treated as a holiday to the same extent as a Sunday. Transport was provided for a large party to attend the Div sports meet at Hove. Of the contestants entered from this unit, those two placed in the finals were L/Cpl Falls 1st in shot-putt, Pte LeTourneau 3rd in 880, West NSR relay team 3r in 440, Pte MacInes 3rd in 220 and the light tug-of-war team took second place.

HIGHDEN

2 Jul 42

0800 Training as per syllabus.

0900

Signal TEWT “Phoenix” starts. Bn HQ remained at Highden Ho with the 11 set. This exercise designed to test a system whereby officers work in teams on W/T. “Cease Fire” came at 1645 hrs.

1900

Tps entertained by a concert party arranged for by the K of C. Maj J.A. Hebb attended a dinner given to senior officers at Bde HQ.

HIGHDEN

3 Jul 42

0745

Lieut H.M. Eisenhauer, IO proceeded with his sniper & scout Secs to ThunderBarrow HIll to be spectators at the fd firing carried out by Seaforths of C. Apparently the GOC has been dissatisfied with the manner in which these secs work with their units throughout the Div and had them gather to adopt a standard way of working.

1000

Maj Hebb went to HQ 1 Bde to receive orders for the relief of that Bde while they are carrying out fd firing exercise next week.

1500

Maj Hebb contacted RCR at Arundel Pk at which place West NSR less three rifle coys will camp while taking over the role of that unit. Lieut C.N.G. Wilde contacted the Haste PER, area 404193 which will be relieved by “A COY”. Other coys have not as yet liaise but “D COY” will be on Ford Aerodrome and C Coy will relieve 48th at Littlehampton.

HIGHDEN

4 Jul 42

0815

A COs inspection was held on a point system.

1100

Bn O gp conference held in the COs office regarding the move on the morrow.

1400

The Bn softball team played the 3rd RCA at Highden and won the game by the imposing score of 25 to 5. Big things are expected of this team this summer.

HIGHDEN

5 Jul 42

No church parades today. Coys move off at their own time to relieve the various units of the 1st Bde. Bn HQ, HQ and B Coys arrived at Arundel Pk at 1600 hrs to take over for the RCR. A Coy arrived at 1615 hrs to relieve Hast & P.E.R. area of Middleton 4119. C Coy relieved the 48th in the area of Littlehampton, arriving at 1400 hrs. D Coy arrived at 1500 hrs to relieve the unit on Ford Aerodrome. The Regt softball team was drawn from their various coys and attached to HQ Coy in order to keep them together and maintain their high standard of training.

HIGHDEN

6 Jul 42

H/Capt R. Phillips, new C of E padre arrived at the unit today to take over his duties. Owing to the wide dispersal of the coys, they are carrying out training under their own arrangements, the training being that most suited to the terrain of the area they are in. A Coy had been looking forward to a bit of bathing, but found to their disappointment that the beaches had been closed the day of their arrival.

Six officers and eleven NCOs went under charge of Maj Gemmel to act on the patrol staff of the fd firing range in the area of Lewis.

HIGHDEN

7 Jul 42

0800

Coys carry on with normal training.

0900

Maj J.A. Hebb went to 2nd Ech and to 1 CDIRU at Witley. Very quiet day.

HIGHDEN

8 Jul 42

0800

Coys carry on with normal training.

1400

A Coy commanders meeting was held at Bn HQ to discuss (a) NCO establishment, (b) next weeks’ training. Again an uneventful day.

HIGHDEN

9 Jul 42

1000

The latest reinforcement officers to the unit assembled at this HQ for instructions and practise in the use of 18 sets. The officers and NCOs who were on the patrol staff of the fd firing range returned to Highden Ho.

1930

Bn HQ officers and Coy commanders attended a dinner given by the 5th Bn Sussex (Wor) HG at the “Fountain”, Worthing.

HIGHDEN

10 Jul 42

0800

A very wet day. Training was rearranged to suit the weather, a number of training films were shown.

1500

The CO, IO, Adjt and Sig Sjt rvd at the area of the fd firing range to make a recce of that area under the direction of Bde.

1800

The move back to Highden was commenced. Move was made by M.T. Coys moved under their own arrangement.

HIGHDEN

11 Jul 42

0800

Tps spend the morning in cleaning of weapons, area etc.

1500

Softball game at Highden Green, West NSR vs R22eR, West NSR winning by a score of 17 to 4. Our boys were provided with a uniform bearing the crest of this unit by the K of C. That is just one of the many splendid services rendered this unit by the branch of that organization attached [to] this unit under the able supervision of Mr. J.R. Losie. A very high standard of films are procured and shown twice nightly changing three times each week. They also run a Regt Canteen which is well stocked even to soft drinks and pies which were wangled with some difficulty by Mr. Losie. Hospitality services, free issues of tea, cakes, chocolate, smokes etc. are greatly appreciated by all ranks. Especially when the going is tough.

HIGHDEN

12 Jul 42

1000

Church parades as usual. H/Capt Phillips gave his opening address at this service.

1100

Maj J.A. Hebb went to Bde to attend a preliminary to the Corps discussion to be held on the morrow.

HIGHDEN

13 Jul 42

0800

Brig H.N. Ganong and the three Bn commanders proceeded to the area North of Ashford to attend a TEWT “Kitten 11”. They returned at 1500 hrs. (Recce of area.) West NSR today received a silver cup in recognition of their track and field team as Bde champions.

1900

Maj Hebb and Capt Clarke attended a party at Bde in celebration of the appointment of Brig H.N. Ganong to the rank of Maj-Gen. Brig Keller and Brig Vokes of the 1st and 2nd Bdes were among those present.

HIGHDEN

14 Jul 42

1000

Maj P.H. Stehelin proceeded to Corps HQ re exercise “Kitten 2”. Maj Stehelin is Bde umpire on this exercise.

1500

Maj Hebb went to Div HQ re “Kitten 2”. Maj Hebb had the dual role of CO and unit umpire on this exercise.

2000

Maj Hebb along with several other officers had a preliminary taste of “Battle Inoculation”. This promises to be rare stuff and the entire Regt will take it on the morrow.

HIGHDEN

15 Jul 42

0800

Maj-Gen H.N. Ganong delivered his farewell address to the unit. Training today is in the form of “Battle inoculation”. The tps advanced through a screen of fire laid down by the snipers and some LMGs. Grenades and fire hazards were also encountered in the course of the advance. Only a few minor casualties were sustained.

1700

The CO, Adjt, SO, Lieuts MacNab and MacIntosh along with several ORs proceeded to a concentration area at High Street Kent for the opening phase of “Kitten 2”.

1800

Softball game at Highden Green, West NSR vs RCA, our team winning by the score of 38 to 2. In the course of this game Pte Lockhart, of the West NSR batted out four homers, three times with the bases full.

HIGHDEN

16 Jul 42

0800

“Kitten 2” kicked off at this time. This is a skeleton exercise designed to give training to senior officers.

1330

All Coy commanders and the IO proceeded to Shoreham to recce the billeting area and while the 2nd Bde is carrying out fd firing practise.

1710

“Cease fire” came through on “Kitten 2”. Tps return to Highden.

HIGHDEN

17 Jul 42

Field Return. Lt-Col M.P. Bogert gave a lecture to all the officers of the 3rd Cdn Inf Bde in the cinema, Highden. The topic of the lecture was “The Libyan Campaign”, based upon the speaker's own experience in that country. On this evening Coys are busy preparing for the move to Shoreham to take place tomorrow.

HIGHDEN - SHOREHAM

18 Jul 42

0800

Marching tps move off to take over the role of the Edmonton Regt while that unit is carrying out fd firing. Transport followed later.

1200

Bn settle down in posns Bn HQ, HQ and D Coy area of Shoreham, C Coy South Lancing, B Coy Southwick, A Coy Shoreham Aerodrome. Five officers, five Sjts and six Cpls proceeded to fd firing range area of Lewes to act on the patrol staff.

SHOREHAM

19 Jul 42

0830

Lieut H.M. Eisenhauer, Lieut G.O. Curphy and three scouts proceeded to Amberley where they will act on the instructional staff of the school which 3 Bde conducts for Home Guards each Sunday. Owing to the wide dispersal of the Coys there were no church parades.

SHOREHAM

20 Jul 42

0815

The IO, Carrier Officer and MOrtar Officer proceeded to the area near Lewes to be spectators at the fd firing practice being carried out there by the 2nd Cdn Inf Bde.

1500

All Coys and Bn HQ turned out for fast practise march. This in accordance with an order which states that every man in the unit must be able to march ten miles in two hours or less if the necessity arises.

SHOREHAM

21 Jul 42

0800

Maj J.A. Hebb, Maj M.G. Clennett and Capt D. McG. Archibald went on a recce of the proposed move early in August.

1315

All available officers went to the area of Lewes to be spectators of the fd firing practise being carried out there by the 2nd Bde.

1930

Bn move off to the area of Highden. The very high standard of mobility which the modern army must attain is apparent in the fact that this march was accomplished in approximately half the time which would have been required for the same distance just one year ago.

HIGHDEN

22 Jul 42

Today Lt-Col M.P. Bogert made his first appearance as Commanding Officer of this unit

1115

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert called a meeting of all the officers of the Bn at which he expressed his pleasure at being with this unit and also discussed certain aspects of training and discipline

1330

Inspection of the Bn by the new CO.

1415

Lt-Col Bogert addressed all the NCOs of the Bn in the cinema, Highden.

1900

Bn and Coy commanders, Adjt, IO and MO proceeded to Bde HQ to attend a lecture. The subject of the lecture was “Reorganization of Medical Units”. Lt-Col Playfair, OC 5th Cdn Fd Amb presided at this meeting.

HIGHDEN

23 Jul 42

0800

The CO and Coy commanders proceeded on a recce of the area of the proposed move in early August.

1330

A competition on the point system between platoons was held. No 7 Plat took first place.

1900

A sudden death semi-final softball game in the Bde play-offs took place at Highden. West NSR handed the R22eR a sound trimming to the tune of 35 to 11 in this game.

HIGHDEN

24 Jul 42

0900

This morning the Bn do the ten miles in two hours test. Plats took off at five minute intervals. The results of this test were extraordinarily good

1500

Maj Hebb, Lieut Eisenhauer, T.O., Q.M., S.O., and paymaster proceeded to New Haven to recce area to be taken over early in Aug.

2200

An informal party was held at the “Fountain”, Worthing, to celebrate the morrows’ event in which Maj P.H. Stehelin takes the plunge.

HIGHDEN

25 Jul 42

0800

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert and Maj J.A. Hebb accompanied Maj P.H. Stehelin to London in order to be present at the wedding of the latter. Officers and NCOs of this unit detailed to act as umpires on the exercise being carried out by 3rd Cdn Div proceeded to Battle Abbey as per instructions. No 5 Plat who have been attached to 4 Fd RCE for training for a period of two weeks returned to the unit today.

HIGHDEN

26 Jul 42

No church parades today. A very quiet Sunday on the whole. In the evening the tps were entertained by a film, “Nice Girl”, provided by Aux Services.

HIGHDEN

27 Jul 42

0800

The CO, Coy commanders and Adjt carried out a recce of the area where this unit will carry out fd firing practice.

1800

West NSR softball team played a team from B Coy, 5 Fd Amb at Broadwater Green, Worthing, winning the game by a score of 25 to 3.

HIGHDEN

28 Jul 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1300

Officers meeting in Bn Orderly Rm in which Maj Hebb gave out some rules for fd firing. The final softball game for Bde championship was played on Highden Green. Our team lost 3 RCA 10 to 5. Our volley ball team was also eliminated by R22eR.

1700

A meeting of all officers of the Bn was held in COs office. Lt-Col Bogert outlined the attack Bde would carry out during fd practise. He also added a few comments training and discipline.

1930

A lawn dance was held on Highden Green. Regt dance band provided the music. Numbers of ATS and WAAFs were imported for this event. (Quote a good time was had by all. (end of quote)

HIGHDEN

29 Jul 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1300

Meeting of members of the officers [sic.] mess was held. The mess was closed and other details were discussed. Responsibility for week-end training of HG of this area was taken over by 1st Cdn Bde today. Lt-Col M.P. Bogert and Maj J.A. Hebb proceeded to A/tk school at Moon hill to be spectators for a short period.

HIGHDEN

30 Jul 42

Tps spend the day in cleaning up the area, packing spare kit and making general preparations for the move.

1330

Bn O gp conference re move to fd firing area was held.

HIGHDEN

31 Jul 42

0715

Marching tps push off for fd firing area near Lewes.

1330

Transport moved to area under Bde arrangements.

1530

Tps arrive at concentration area at Ashcombe Bottom.

2000

The CO attended Bde O gp at the Race pavilion.

2100

Bn O gp was held on Black Cap re tomorrow’s activities.