WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

FD FIRING AREA LEWIS

1 Aug 42

0830

[Illegible.]

0915

The Bn was gathered on the high ground at [Illegible] practices to be carried out in the next two days.

1400

A rehearsal without firing was carried out by the Bde, this lasted until 1700 hrs.

[Illegible. 1920?]

Coy commanders at Bn HQ at which Lt-Col M.P. Bogert [Illegible].

FD FIRING AREA LEWIS

2 Aug 42

0745

Bn move over to start line to be in posn by 0830 hrs. An extraordinary heavy thunder storm doesn’t help things very much except, of course, to settle the dust. The practice went according to plan.

1500

All officers of the Bde attend a [Illegible.] in which the Brigadier outlined the action to be carried out to morrow. The 14 Cdn AT Bn will be working in conjunction with us.

1800

Bn O Gp on the morrows [sic. morrow’s] practise.

1930

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert went on a recce of area of a Bde exercise which he is preparing to take place on 4 Aug 42.

FD FIRING AREA LEWIS

3 Aug 42

0830

Tps on the start line for a morning practise which today will be carried out in conjunction with tanks. A pouring rain helped the tps and tanks to churn the course into a morass of mud.

1330

Tps push off on final practise. Final objective was achieved at 1630 hrs. Rained continuously all day.

FD FIRING AREA LEWIS

4 Aug 42

This morning the coys carry out two hrs training under coy arrangements.

1100

COs conference re training, discipline etc, on reaching the New Haven area.

1815

Bde exercise gets under way. Lt-Col M.P. Bogert is acting Brigadier during this exercise. The start line is Balmer Down, axis of advance, Streathill Fm. Exercise in nature of a night attack with West NSR on the right, C & Y R centre and R22eR on the left. For West NSR the attack was in two phases, Streathill Fm being the first objective and Dickmans Beacon the second and final which was gained at 0010 hrs 5 Aug 42. “Cease Fire”.

FD FIRING RANGE LEWIS

5 Aug 42

0900

Capt Moore proceeded on exercise “Black Bull” as umpire. Lt-Col M.P. Bogert attended an air support demonstration at West Grinstead Pk.

1500

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert and Maj J.A. Kebb liaised with the Regina Rifles in connection with our exchange of area with that unit. Today our transport commenced moving stores to the new area. Lorries taking a load of our stuff down brought back a load for the Regina Rifles.

FD FIRING RANGE LEWIS

6 Aug 42

0530

At 0745 Bn pushed off for area of Conyboro (843331). On arrival normal training was carried out by the coys. During the day all Coy commanders liaised with their opposite numbers in the Regina Rifles. An exercise that had been scheduled for this evening was cancelled [sic.]. Transport still moving stores between the two areas.

FD FIRING RANGE LEWIS

7 Aug 42

0730

The advance party, consisting of one NCC and one Pte per plat and one officer per coy in charge of Maj J.A. Hebb, proceeded to New Haven area. Remainder of the Bn carry out normal training during the day.

[NEWHAVEN, EAST SUSSEX]

8 Aug 42

0900

West NSR proceed to New Haven to take over new area. The tps marched arriving at approximately 1200 hrs. Balance of the day spent in getting acquainted with the area of responsibility and in getting settled.

1700

Brig C. Foulkes called at Bn HQ to discuss anti raid precautions with Lt-Col Bogert. Lieut Frank Rearden, formerly our SO, is spending the week end [sic.] with the unit.

NEWHAVEN

9 Aug 42

No church parades today, for which ye diarist is truly thankful.

1100

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert went to Bde HQ.

1600

COs conference at Bn HQ re training, dress and discipline in this area. Memories of the autumn of ‘41 were brought back when a small party of enemy bombers called. No bombs were dropped in our immediate vicinity but a surprising amount of “flak” was put up

NEWHAVEN

10 Aug 42

Maj J.A. Hebb went to Tunbridge Wells on a camouflage course. The Bn is still busy getting settled and acquainted with new area.

NEWHAVEN

11 Aug 42

0800

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert inspected B Coy, tps and billets. Coys carry out normal training. This evening there was again slight enemy aerial activity but so slight that only two or three “ack-ack” posns went into action.

NEW HAVEN (sic)

12 Aug 42

0800

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert inspected C Coy, tps and billets.

1500

Brig C. Foulkes called on unit and discussed training.

NEWHAVEN

13 Aug 42

0800

The CO inspected D Coy tps and billets.

1000

Coy commanders conference at Bn HQ at which the CO discussed training for next week.

1430

A draft consisting of one Cpl and eight Ptes arrived from holding unit.

1500

Col E.B. Wilson, AAQMG, 1 Cdn Div, visited the unit today. This afternoon group pictures of each coy were taken for purposes of future identification. This in compliance with a recent Corps order and they will be enlarged to facilitate individual recognition.

NEWHAVEN

14 Aug 42

0800

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert inspected A Coy tps and billets. The Bn was paid today. Despite the noted (perhaps notorious) high spirit of this unit and that of other formations in this vicinity, which includes commandos, good will seemed to prevail everywhere and little disturbance was caused. Field Returns.

NEWHAVEN

15 Aug 42

The duties of Adjt were taken over temporarily by Lieut J.R. Cameron for an indefinite period Tonight a dance was held at Drove Hall under auspices of K of C. Music was provided by the West NSR orchestra. A very large attendance of all services both English and Cdn.

NEWHAVEN

16 Aug 42

Church parades as per. Lieut S.B. Beaton and L/Sjt F. Blakeney proceeded on a SA course, which will last until 12 Sep 42. Maj J.A. Hebb went to Rolands Castle where he will attend a Battle Drill course

NEWHAVEN

17 Aug 42

0830

Lieut C.L. Putnam started a two weeks course on the 3” Mortar. An NCO school was started today. Trainees are billeted in vicinity of A Coy, and are under the direction of Lieut G.O. Curphy. For drill purposes they have the use of the Recreation Ground (882195).

NEWHVEN [sic. NEW HAVEN]

18 Aug 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. Lt-Col M.P. Bogert accompanied the Bde-Maj on a visit to the Reinforcement unit. Quite a large movement of tps was noticed in this area tonight.

NEWHAVEN

19 Aug 42

0800

Lt-Col lM.P. bogert inspected the Carrier Plat, tps and billets.

1030

1 Cdn Corps requested that Telescombe [sic. Telscombe] Cliffs Ho be prepared as a transit depot for tps returning from Dieppe raid. Two bull-pens were constructed in this locality for receiving PWs. We provided transport to bring a party of the R22eR to act as guards for PWs. Lt-Col K.P. Bogert is Acting-Brig during these operations. West NSR is at “Stand-to” and numerous Lt AA posns are taken up throughout the area.

1400

C Coy WEst NSR, reported to Col Gough (Cdn Corps) CC Transit Depot, for duties as detailed by him.

1600

COs conference at Bn HQ.

2130

Capt N.L. Walker, MO of this unit was called out to attend minor casualties of tps returning from raid on Dieppe.

NEWHAVEN

20 Aug 42

1200

Transit Depot closed at Telescombe [sic.] Cliffs No. Excitement of the raid has subsided to normal or nearly so.

1530

A reinforcement draft arrived at the unit. The draft consisted of three officers, Lieut R.?. Bullock, T.O.S., Lieuts J.?? Smeltzer and C. Hutchins, Special Increment, and ten ORs.

NEWHAVEN

21 Aug 42

0830

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert inspected the NCO school. Lieut J.R. Cameron, Adjt, and Lieut H?D.M. MacPhee recced the radio-location site at Saltdean with a view to additional defensive wiring. Personnel from this unit who have been on the A/tk gun (2-pdr) course at the Cdn Army school returned to the unit today; Field Return.

NEWHAVEN

22 Aug 42

Bn carry out normal training. Lieut J.R. Cameron attended the wedding of Lieut A.J.[?]. Dyer. Wedding took place at the Church of St. Mary’s, Caterham. In the evening Mr. Cameron was recalled to act as defending officer in the case of Capt D. McG. Archibald. Lieut Neilson is Acting-Adjt during the period of Cameron’s absence.

NEWHAVEN

23 Aug 42

Normal church parades as per. All week-end passes to London were cancelled to allow the tps that had taken part in the Dieppe raid to be sure of getting accommodations. Maj J.A. Hebb returned from Rolands Castle where he has been attending a Senior Officers battle drill course.

NEWHAVEN

24 Aug 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1500

Maj-Gen G.R. Pearkes, VC, DS]O, MC, GOC. 1 Cdn Div visited the unit today. He was accompanied on a tour of the harbor area by Lt-Col M.P. Bogert.

NEWHAVEN

25 Aug 42

1000

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert inspected the Carrier Plat carrying out battle drill.

1100

COs weekly conference on training for following week. Lt-Col M.P. Bogert is leaving for Barnhams Castle where he will attend a course.

NEWHAVEN

26 Aug 42

0930

Maj J.A. Hebb attended a TEWT in the vicinity of Lewes race course. This is a preliminary to Bde exercise which will be carried out by 1 Cdn Bde probably on 3 Sep 42. The operation consists of a Bn attack on an enemy front with the object of penetrating and making a break through which the rest of the Bde can move. Remaining two Bns enter the gap and attack on the right and left flanks. Support tps in this exercise will include ARty, a Chemical Warfare Coy and an Army Co-operation Sqn.

NEWHAVEN

27 Aug 42

0830

Maj J.A. Hebb visited the NCO school.

0900

Brig C. Foulkes and Maj J.A. Hebb witnessed a demonstration put on by Carrier Plat.

1330

C Coy proceeded to area of XXXX on a 24 hr exercise, “Forming a Laager”. Two officers were taken on strength as Special Increment, Lieut A.B. Cooke and Lieut A.T. Boutlier.

1700

Maj J.A. Hebb interviewed potential OCTU candidates at Bn HQ. Night of 27/28 C Coy formed a larger area of Southease Hill (8523). The Bn Sniper-Scout Secs practised stalking and infiltration on this formation. Due to the bare nature of the ground and a very bright moon and also to an abnormally large number of sentries posted by C Coy, stalking was difficult. In spite of this a fair degree of penetration was achieved.

NEWHAVEN

28 Aug 42

0800

Pay parades as per.

1200

Cliffor Turner, British Consul, Reigate and Educational Officer, 1 Cdn Div called on this unit to discuss education and vocational training, and particularly inspection tours by members of the unit to farms, and agricultural societies in this district.

1330

Maj J.A. Hebb attended a lecture on ALC. Field Returns.

NEWHAVEN

29 Aug 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1330

Capt Conners of the Personnel Selection Staff was at the unit interviewing OCTU candidates.

1900

Maj J.A. Hebb recced pillboxes and defenses around harbor entrance.

NEWHAVEN

30 Aug 42

Church parades as per.

1200

The six OCTU candidates of this unit proceeded to pre-OCTU school at Eastbourne.

1330

Maj J.A. Hebb and Lieut H.M. Eisenhauer recced area of Saxon Down also the condition of the defensive wiring around vulnerable points in harbor area.

1800

Maj J.A. Hebb attended a farewell party at Div HQ in honor of Maj-Gen G.R. Pearkes, VC, DSO, MC.

NEWHAVEN

31 Aug 42

Maj J.A. Hebb made a recce of harbor defenses and vulnerable points. Maj F. Courtney attended a meeting at 1 Cdn Bde HQ in connection with his duties as officer i/c control staff of exercise “Breast Stroke.”

1345

Coy commanders and Lieut H.M. Eisenhauer, IO, proceeded on a recce of Saxon Down.