WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

NEWHAVEN

1 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1800

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert, Lieut J.R Cameron, Lieut H.M. Eisenhauer, members of Sig Plat and cipher personnel proceeded to Friday St near Eastbourne on a TEWT, “Harvest.” These and corresponding elements of the entire 1 Cdn Div represented the attacking force. This battle raged verbally all the following day and “Cease Fire” sounded at 1810/2 Oct with the attacking force firmly established on an intermediate objective.

NEWHAVEN

2 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. Field Return. For entertainment as provided by the K of C, see App 5. In addition to this entertainment K of C facilities are used for the showing of training films to the tps.

NEWHAVEN

3 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

0830

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert carried out an inspection of HQ Coy in which he paid special attention to equipment and kit.

NEWHAVEN

4 Oct 42

Church parades as per. Maj J.A. Hebb visited the unit this afternoon. Maj Hebb is on a senior officers course at Erlstoke [sic. Erlestoke] Park, Denizes.

NEWHAVEN

5 Oct 42

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert, Maj F.B. Courtney, Capt W.R. Moore, Capt G.F. Johnston, Capt G.L.F. MacNeil, Lieut J.R. Cameron, Adjt, Lieut H.M Eisenhauer, IO, and Lieut R.G. Thexton attend a lecture at East Grinsted [sic. Grinstead]. This lecture was divided into two parts, (1) types of German and Italian bombs and passive defence against types of booby traps dropped from planes, (2) German and Italian A t/k and anti-personnel mines and methods of disarming same. Maj W.C. Gemmell and Maj P.H. Stehelin attended an anti-tank demonstration at Burlington Gap.

1600

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert attended a conference at Bde HQ.

NEWHAVEN

6 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. Lieut H.M. Eisenhauer, IO, took a working party area of Telescombe [sic. Telscombe] and Southease for the purpose of filling any remaining slit trenches etc.

1130

Maj Howard of the Mobile Laboratory reported at this unit for the purpose of carrying out various tests to determine the vitamin content of food being served in the unit. He found that the contents were very high in comparison to the average.

NEWHAVEN

7 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. Lieut H.M. Eisenhauer, IO, and the Int and Scout Sub-sections proceeded to Bde HQ where two days intensive “I” training will be given by the Div and Bde IOs.

NEWHAVEN

8 Oct 42

0900

Inspection under medical arrangements of stretcher-bearers of the unit by ADMS.

1930

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert attended a Bn commanders conference at Bde HQ. Subject of the discussion was “Battle Procedure”.

NEWHAVEN

9 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1000

Capt Henry of the Small Arms School, Hythe, visited the unit for the purpose of discussing weapon training problems.

1400

Bn parade. Field Return.

NEWHAVEN

10 Oct 42

0830

D Coy inspected by the Commanding Officer, Lt-Col M.P. Bogert.

1030

A demonstration in the coaching of small arms was given by Capt Henry of the Hythe staff. This was attended by all the senior NCOs of the Bn and the NCO class. Advised by Bde that this unit will not supply control staff for exercise “Breast stroke” as was previously intended, reason being the inspection to take place on 12 Oct 42.

1900

A dance held at the Bn officers mess was largely attended.

NEWHAVEN

11 Oct 42

Church parades as per.

2015

Notified by Bde that inspection to-morrow will take place at Lewes Race Course.

NEWHAVEN

12 Oct 42

0950

Tps embussed and proceeded to lewes Race Course. There at 1140 hrs, four hundred and fifty members of the Bn were inspected by Col the Hon J.L. Ralston, Min of Nat Def, together with Lieut-Gen A.G.L. MacNaughton, Army comdr, Lieut-Gen Stuart, CGS, Lieut-Gen Crerar, Corps comdr, Maj-Gen H.L.N. Salmon, Div comdr and Brig A.E. Walford, AQMG of 1 Cdn Corps. Lieut F.E. Hiltz and Lieut E.L. Fortune who have just returned from Junior War Staff course in Canada were attached to this unit for general duty pending appointment to Staff.

1930

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert attended a discussion at Bde HQ. Discussion was on new form of village fighting. Maj P.H. Stehelin and Capt J.R. Cameron attended the first two of a series of lectures on Military Law.

NEWHAVEN

13 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1330

A lecture on the first “Battle of Burma'' was given at the Hailsham Pavilion. This was attended by Lt-Col M.P. Bogert and several other officers of the Bn. Maj M.G. Clennett arrived at the unit for a period of approximately three days to assist with the Regimental accounts. Unit commenced operating as per new war establishment today.

NEWHAVEN

14 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. Bn paid today as per. Lt-Col M.P. Bogert gave a lecture to the “Battle-drill Wing”, Windlesham School.

NEWHAVEN

15 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1930

A Naval officer gave a lecture at Downe School, Seaford, attended by all available officers of 3 Cdn Inf Bde. Lecture was in two parts, (1) Submarines (2) Convoys and Naval AA protection.

NEWHAVEN

16 Oct 42

0930

The Bn was inspected by the Bde commander and his staff. Brig Foulkes inspected the tps on the Recreation ground, following which he inspected the billets, RAP, QM stores etc. At the same time Staff Capt D.W. Hay inspected the administrative part of the unit such as Bn HQ offices, Coy offices, RQM stores and Coy QM stores. Capt Whitty, Bde TO Capt DeVebre, Div catering adviser, inspected rations, cookhouses and general messing arrangements. Capt Harvey of the Regt Funds Board assisted in making up and checking of accounts for the three month period past. The Bde commander and staff appeared to be well satisfied with the turnout and efficiency of the unit.

1700

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert attend Bn commanders conference at Bde HQ.

NEWHAVEN

17 Oct 42

0912

Exercise “Blackboy” starts. This exercise was designed to test the anti-raid plan of 3 Cdn Inf Bde. 4 PLDG acted as enemy. Main activity took place in area held by C & Y R and R22eR. No action took place in that held by West NSR. “Cease Fire” at 1115 hrs.

NEWHAVEN

18 Oct 42

Church parades as per.

0900

Maj P.H. Stehelin and Capt J.R. Cameron attended another in the series of lectures on Military Law and Administration.

NEWHAVEN

19 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. A very quiet day.

NEWHAVEN

20 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. Lieut W.A. Himmelman arrived from the Holding Unit and was posted to “A” Coy. A report on the Pioneer Plat was submitted to Bde. Report recommended that this Plat should be trained for skilled work and demolition duties and that on no account should they be employed as unskilled handymen. This policy has been adopted in training of the Pioneer Plat in this Regt.

1400

COs weekly conference on training. Chief topic of discussion was the intensive period of Sec and Plat training to be carried out during November. The training programme was prepared for the four week period commencing 26 Oct 42. This was laid down by CO.

NEWHAVEN

21 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. Lt-Col M.P. Bogert proceeded to HQ. 1 Cdn Div to attend a Bn commanders discussion of a TEWT “Tourist”.

NEWHAVEN

22 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. NCO school closed today. Capt C.B. Higgins [has] taken on strength of the unit and posted to “A” Coy.

NEWHAVEN

23 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. A muster parade of the Bn by Coys was held.

1400

The weekly Bn parade was held on the Recreation Ground. Field Return.

1500

Lieut J.W.K Smelter gave a demonstration of the correct method of examination TOETs. Following this Lieut Smeltzer gave a lecture to officers of the Bn on the most up-to-date methods of teaching weapon training.

1930

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert, Maj P.H. Stehelin an dCapt J.R. Cameron attended a cloth-model exercise at Bde HQ. This exercise was in the nature of “The movement of an advance guard through a bridge-head.” Lieut C.L. Putnam reported back from a course to day [sic.]

NEWHAVEN

24 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. Weather very fine and sunny today.

0930

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert inspected “B” Coy.

2100

A dance was held at Bde HQ, this was attended by the senior officers of the Bde.

NEWHAVEN

25 Oct 42

Church parades as per.

1030

Maj P.H. Stehelin and Lieut H.M. Eisenhauer inspected the BEC School Cadet Corps at the County School, Mountfield Rd, Lewes. Maj PH. Stehelin and Capt J.R. Cameron attended another in the series of lectures on military law and administration at Rushlake Green.

NEWHAVEN

26 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. Twenty-two Sjts of the Bn commence a refresher course to be carried out for a period of one week under the direction of Lieut J.K. Rhodes.

1230

Slight enemy air activity over the Bn area but no bombs dropped.

NEWHAVEN

27 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. Brig C. Foulkes visited the unit and had lunch at the Bn officers mess.

1330

All officers and NCOs of the Bn gathered at A Coy mess to listen to a lecture delivered by Brig C. Foulkes. Brig Foulkes expressed the view that the coming winter would be the last opportunity we would have to add the final touches to our training before putting it to the test. He also stated that in view of the fact that this unit is recruited largely from the seafaring elements of N.S. and so should prove immune to seasickness, that he would look to it to be the spearhead of any landing attempt made by 3 Cdn Inf Bde.

NEWHAVEN

29 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1830

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert went to Bde HQ to obtain information on exercise to be held 30 Oct 42.

NEWHAVEN

30 Oct 42

0800

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert and Capt J.R. Cameron proceeded on exercise .Bounder”. This exercise is in the nature of “Practice of movement of arty in bounds behind the advance Bn.”

1400

Weekly Bn parade. Holding Unit band was in attendance. Lieut H.M. Eisenhauer, IO, and two ORs attended a demonstration of fieldcraft and stalking put on by elements of the Seaforthers of C. Field Return.

NEWHAVEN

31 Oct 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. Refresher course for sjts ended today. It is felt that this course proved highly beneficial to all and especially to several whose duties are normally of a specialist nature. Gatherings of this nature also promote a feeling of fellowship that is invaluable to the esprit-de-corp of the unit.