WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

NEWHAVEN

1 Nov 42

Church parades as per. Another course for junior NCOs opens today under the direction of Lieut J.K. Rhodes. This will run for a period of one month.

NEWHAVEN

2 Nov 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. All officers of the Bn attended a conference at Bn HQ at which Lt–Col M.P. Bogert spoke on certain points concerning the present training program. Maj J.A. Hebb completed his course and returned to the unit today.

NEWHAVEN

3 Nov 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1600

Conference re training at Bn HQ.

1900

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert attended a TEWT, “The Attack”, at Heathfield.

NEWHAVEN

4 Nov 42

0900

Mess meeting held at Bn HQ under the direction of Lieut C.H. Pratt, unit messing officer. This was attended by a representative of all mens messes. Capt C.R. Day, who had been attached for AILO training, returned to the unit today.

1400

390 all ranks of this unit embarked on assault craft and went for a short cruise. Lieut C.L. Putnam and the 3” Mor detachment commanders proceeded to 3” Mor Sub Wing, CTS Battle Wing on course.

NEWHAVEN

5 Nov 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1240

Slight enemy air activity but no bombs in this Bn area. Weekly training report was submitted to Bde HQ.

NEWHAVEN

6 Nov 42

0930

Brig Chas. Foulkes inspected all vehicles of the unit by Coys.

1300

Weekly training films shown by K of C facilities, attended by Coys in turn.

1745

280 all ranks participated in assault landing exercises.

1900

A TEWT, “Tourist 2”, was carried out at Bde HQ. This was in the nature of an attack carried out on a Bde level, involving all Div arty and an AT Bde on the second day of an invasion.

2000

Supervisor Lozie of the Auxiliary Services has arranged a weekly tournament at Drove Hall in which boxers from our own and neighboring units, including the RN, take part. Field Returns.

NEWHAVEN

7 Nov 42

0800

Maj J.A. Hebb inspected C Coy, personnel, billets and messes. Lt-Col M.P. Bogert proceeded on nine days leave.

1930

Maj J.A. Hebb and Capt Clarke attended a dance put on by officers of the Carlt & York R.

NEWHAVEN

8 Nov 42

Church parades as per. Lieut H.D. MacPhee formerly of this unit but now with the Governor-General’s Foot Guards, visited the Regt today.

NEWHAVEN

9 Nov 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1830

Maj J.A. Hebb, Capt N.L. Walker and Capt J.R. Cameron went to Mitchelham [sic. Michelham] Priory (994282) to be present at a lecture given by the ADMS and his colleagues. Subject of the lecture was the training of all personnel in first aid.

NEWHAVEN

10 Nov 42

0800

Maj J.A. Hebb spoke to the Bn by Coys on the training program to be carried out in the immediate future. In the course of this lecture, he impressed on all ranks the importance of security.

1600

Lt-Col Wilson, AA & QMG and Maj Wallace, DAAG of HQ 1 Cdn Div, paid an informal visit to the unit, purpose of discussing any problems of the moment. Several minor problems the procedure for handling which had been somewhat obscure were clarified.

1815

Coy commanders conference at the Bn officers mess.

NEWHAVEN

11 Nov 42

0830

A TOET examination team, composed of Lieut Beatty and several NCOs of the Lorne Scots (PD & HR) who are attached to HQ 3 Cdn Inf Bde as defense Plat, commenced the testing of all personnel within the unit today.

1100

The band of this unit plate at a function in Newhaven, also gave a concert in the evening at the Navy Hall. Also at this concert, four members of the Sig Plat, L/Cpl Doucette, Ptes Doucette, Ward and Oakley rendered some “hill-billy” numbers.

1830

Maj J.A. Hebb, Maj F.B. Courtney, Capt J.R. Cameron, Capt G.F. Johnston and Capt C.R. Day were guests of Capt Heaton of the Royal Navy at the wardroom of the local London & Paris hotel.

NEWHAVEN

12 Nov 42

This morning carrier and mortar sections combined to form a combat team. During the morning practise without ammo was carried out.

1330

Brig Chas. Foulkes and the Bde-Maj along with Maj J.A. Hebb, Maj P.H. Stehelin, Capt E.M. Crouse and Lieut H.M. Eisenhauer attended a demonstration of the combat team in action. This was staged near Highdole HIll. Following this Brig Foulkes made an informal inspection of the Bn, reviewing training being carried out in the various Coy areas. The TOET examination team is carrying on today.

NEWHAVEN

13 Nov 42

0800

One hundred ORs of this unit proceeded to a local farm to pull sugar-beet, which a further twenty-three went to other farms in the vicinity on jobs of the same nature. Supplying these working parties plus the activities of the TOET team have completely disrupted the training schedule for the past two days. Lieuts C.R. Guy, W.H.P. David and C.M. MacDonald were taken on strength of the Regt.

1930

The usual Friday night card of boxing bouts were held at Drove Hall, Newhaven. Field Return.

NEWHAVEN

14 Nov 42

0800

Working parties same as yesterday, otherwise training as per syllabus. Maj J.A. Hebb inspected D Coy. HQ 3 Cdn Inf Bde moved to Downs School, Seaford, and opened there at 1500 hrs today.

NEWHAVEN

15 Nov 42

Church parades as per App 1. Otherwise a very quiet day.

NEWHAVEN

16 Nov 42

0900

Four hundred all ranks attended a training film at the Cinema DeLuxe, Newhaven. The TOET team are again in action at the unit. Lt-Col M.P. Bogert returned from leave today. Promotions for Lieut F.W. Oxley, Lieut F.E. Hiltz and Lieut E.L. Fortune to the rank of Capt were promulgated WEF 12 Oct 42.

NEWHAVEN

17 Nov 42

0800

TOET team still active, otherwise training as per syllabus.

1930

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert attended a conference re training and points of general interest at Bde HQ.

NEWHAVEN

18 Nov 42

1000

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert visited the NCOs school. The administration of Bn HQ has been taken over by the Administratie Wing under the command of Capt C.R. Day.

1900

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert attended a TEWT, “Tourist 3” at HQ 1 Cdn Div.

NEWHAVEN

19 Nov 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1900

All available officers of the Bn attended a cloth-model TEWT at Bn HQ. This was given under the direction of Lt-Col M.P. Bogert and in the course of the exercise he brought out many points of the encounter battle.

NEWHAVEN

20 Nov 42

0630

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert proceeded to Aldershot to attend a demonstration of PT.

0745

Maj J.A. Hebb, Capt J.R. Cameron, Lieut HM. Eisenhauer and Lieut J.H. Jones along with elements of the Sig Plat and cipher personnel proceeded on Sig exercise “Hunter”. Purpose of this exercise was to practise Sig communications during attacks on strongly held posns. The exercise closed at 1715 hrs.

1300

Educational classes start under unit arrangements. Personnel wishing to attend any of these courses are allowed each Friday afternoon for purposes of studying

1900

Fights were held at Drove Hall, Newhaven, under the auspices of the Aux Services. Field Return.

NEWHAVEN

21 Nov 42

0830

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert inspected A Coy at the same time Maj J.A. Hebb inspected B Coy. Maj J.A. Hebb proceeded on leave. The training program for the next four week period was got out today.

NEWHAVEN

22 Nov 42

Church parades as per App 1, again a very quiet Sabbath.

NEWHAVEN

23 Nov 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1645

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert addressed all personnel that have duties around Bn HQ. [This] address particularly emphasized security.

NEWHAVEN

24 Nov 42

Lieut S.B. Beaton was SOS to NETD en route to Canada to join instructional staff. An inter-coy football league has been formed. Support Coy is so far leading by virtue of having won all their games in the schedule.

1645

Training conference at Bn HQ presided over by Lt-Col M.P. Bogert.

NEWHAVEN

25 Nov 42

0800

Training as per syllabus. The NCO class carried out a field firing practise.

1900

A cloth-model exercise was staged at Bn HQ. In this Lt-Col M.P. Bogert illustrated Inf in the attack in conjunction with tanks.

NEWHAVEN

26 Nov 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

1930

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert, Maj P.H. Stehelin, Capt J.R. Cameron and Lieut H.M. Eisenhauer attended a TEWT at Bde HQ. This was in the nature of a Bn in the defence involving the use of all arms.

NEWHAVEN

27 Nov 42

0800

Training as per syllabus.

2000

Lt-Col M.P. Bogert attended a conference re “Blackboy” at Bde HQ. Usual card of boxing bouts held at Drove Hall, Newhaven. Field Return.

NEWHAVEN

28 Nov 42

0900

A demonstration lasting two hours and thirty minutes was put on and repeated at 1330 hrs by one officer and forty-two ORs of 4 Fd Coy, RCE. The demonstration is divided into two parts, (1) mines and booby-traps both enemy and our own and (2) mine-laying and the clearing of mine-fields. It will be repeated twice on 30 Nov 42 in order that the entire Bn may see it. This demonstration is, on the whole, very interesting and instructive.

1600

All officers attended a conference re “Blackboy at Bn HQ.

NEWHAVEN

29 Nov 42

Church parades as per. The A/tk Plat moved to a Bde concentration of A/tk Plats to carry out intensive training for a period of one week.

NEWHAVEN

30 Nov 42

0700

Exercise “Blackboy” starts. This was designed to test the anti-raid plan of the Bde and lasted until approximately 1130 hrs. A working party of three officers and one hundred and fifty ORs proceeded to neighboring farms to pull sugar-beet. Maj LaRue, who is on a tour of observation from Canada, is attached to this unit for 2 weeks. The carrier and mortar Plats reported to a Bde concentration for a week of training.

1600

Maj J.A. Hebb returned from leave today.