WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

West N S R

April 1945

BERLAER

1

1000

Church Parades were held in the Bn area.

Eighteen Other Ranks proceeded on rotational leave to Canada.

Today the time was advanced one hour to Double British Summer Time.

Weather today was cloudy with rain.

2

Training as per syllabus

0930

Advance party consisting of Two offrs and 12 ORs proceeded to concentration area for the coming operations, REICHSWALD FOREST 8052.

1600

Warning Order was received that the Bn was to be prepared to move at 0600 hrs 4 Apr 45.

Weather today cloudy with rain.

3

Training as per syllabus

1130

The CO, Lt col F E Hiltz, proceeded to a conference at 3 CIB where he received information on the coming move.

1400

CO held a Bn conference at which the coming move was discussed. He also discussed discipline generally and training for time spent in the concentration area.

1800

Movement Order was issued containing instructions for move to the RIECHSWALD [sic. REICHSWALD] FOREST area 8052.

Weather today cloudy with showers.

4

Reveille at 0445 hrs. Breakfast at 05500 hrs.

0630

Bn underway and the move was carried out without incident as per movement order, arriving at concentration area 801524 in good time.

1830

A warning order has come out that Capt G G Taylor and one Sgt per coy will be on two hours notice as from 1800 hrs to proceed on an advance party to fwd area. Three days rations will be carried.

2130

Instructions have been received by this HQ that advance party previously mentioned can now stand down. Judging from this one would consider that some change in plans is in progress.

Weather today unsettled with intermittent periods of sunshine and overcast.

REICHSWALD FORREST [sic.]

5

Training as per syllabus

1000

One offr and twenty six other ranks proceeded on leave to the United Kingdom.

1300

Five Offrs and forty Other ranks proceeded to NIJMEGEN on an afternoon leave.

1530

Twenty-six other ranks arrive as reinforcements and were allotted to coys.

Weather cloudy with light rain.

8

0900

Roman Catholic Church Parade was held in Bn Area.

1000

Protestant Church Service in Bn Area.

1300

Five Offrs and forty other ranks proceeded on afternoon leave to NIJMEGEN.

The Unit was honoured today by a visit from a former member Capt W Theakston who is now with the Public Relations Branch.

2000

Warning Order was issued, the unit will be prepared to move on the morning of 10 Apr 45.

Weather today fine and cold.

9

Training as per syllabus.

1000

One officer and twenty-nine other ranks proceeded on leave to UK.

1000

One officer and twenty-nine other ranks proceeded on leave to UK.

0800

Recce party consisting of Capt G G Taylor and one NCO per coy left his morning for concentration area 983807.

0100

One offr and 31 Other ranks arrived as reinforcements and were allotted to coys.

1600

EFI issue – One Bottle of Champagne per Officer and one bottle of beer free per man.

1615

The CO, Lt col F E Hiltz, proceeded to 3 CIB where he attended a Bde conference.

1900

The CO held a Bn conference at which details were laid on for move to concentration area tomorrow. A general outline of future operations was given to all officers.

In the evening a film was shown in the Bn area, “High Sierra”.

Weather today fine and warm.

10

Move as per movement order to intermediate concentration area 9684.

HUMMELO

1900

One officer, Lt J J MacDonald arrived as a reinforcement and was allotted to “D” Coy.

2315

Message from Bde warned this Bde warned this Bn that enemy patrol was active in sq9287. No immediate stand to was called for but all guards were specially warned.

11

0915

The CO, Battle Adjt and Coy Comds proceeded to area 982011 to attend a demonstration on “Buffalos”, a special vehicle (tracked) for assault crossing of rivers. They will carry a pl of infantry or an A Tk gun or a Jeep and two MCs and are capable of climbing a 45 degree slope.

1300

Accommodation recce party on one hours [sic.] notice from now. It is expected that 3 Bde Group will move to 1 Cdn Inf Bde area sometime in the morning of 12 Apr 45.

1500

Recce Party under command of Capt G G Taylor proceeded to area 972982 (RCR area).

In the evening a message received from Bde HQ that this Bn would be on one hours [sic.] notice as from 0600 hrs 12 Apr 45.

2359

Movement order issued for tomorrows [sic.] move to RCR area.

Weather today fine and warm.

12

Reveille at 0600 hrs, breakfast at 0615 hrs.

Bn embussed and moved off as per movement order.

1030

Bn arrived without incident in area 972982.

ZUTPHEN

One man in “A” Coy accidentally shot himself while debussing at the end of the days [sic.] move. He died instantly.

1230

The CO, Lt col F E Hiltz, held an “O” Group where the forthcoming operations were discussed.

1545

Accommodation recce party left to go forward across IJSSEL River area 9202 to recce accommodation area.

2040

Bn received word that we would be moving prior to 2400 hrs.

2120

The CO, IO and Arty Rep proceed to Bde HQ to attend a conference. At this conference the general plan of the coming track was discussed. A warning was passed on from Bde by the CO that he would hold a conference immediately on his return, and informed the Adjt that marching troops would be ready to move by 2230 hrs and would be at the SP 966984 by 2245 hours. First vehs will be at SP 966984 at 2400 hrs. Tac recce party to RV at BnHQ at 2250 hrs.

2230

The CO returned from Bde and held a Bn conference at which a general plan was discussed for the coming operations.

Weather today fine and warm, with intermittent periods of rain.

13

0230

The move across the LJSSEL [sic. IJSSEL] River was carried out without incident and at this time Tac HQ was established at 925023, with Coys dug in, in the near vicinity.

0530

CO, Arty Rep and IO, attended a co-ordinating conference at Bde HQ at which the plan was discussed on a Bde level and tasks of the Bns discussed in detail.

0600

The CO, returned from Bde and immediately held his own “O” Group. At this conference the plan was discussed in complete detail. The Bn attack would advance on a one coy front, “A” Coy leading, and would follow the axis laid on by higher formation.

0845

Tac HQ moved forward and now established at 911026. The expected H Hour was 0830 hrs but the attack did not begin until approximately 1100 hrs, at which time “A” Coy supported by tanks, started for their first objective. They were barely on their way when, due to an arty concentration called down by CYR, it was necessary to hold up until 1130 hrs. The axis of advance is divided into seven report lines. These have been given the prefix “LOBSTER[“] and are indicated by this prefix and the appropriate number.

Course of Action for the day – see Battle Story Appx 1 (pages 4 & 5)

Weather today fine and warm.

14

0350

TacHQ moved forward and established at 857010. It had been intended that the Bn would move at 2030 hrs but due to the fact that the R22R was using the route in their move forward, we were forced to use a more dubious route.

0700

The first hot meal in the past 24 hrs was breakfast which arrived this morning.

0910

A recce fighting patrol of One Sgt and 8 men from MMG Pl went and searched buildings in area 856000, where several enemy were observed a short time before, but they returned without contacting any enemy.

0915

A recce patrol from “B” Coy heard movement in a house at 831018. They cleared the house taking one PW afterwards entering the nearby woods but saw or heard nothing and returned to the coy area.

1030

Information received from civilians state that upwards from 50 to 60 enemy are digging in on line of railway on left flank.

1345

A large number of enemy were observed forming up in front of “A” Coy 831009. It is apparent that a counter-attack is in the offing. Arty fire was brought down and observation stated that the enemy broke and ran.

1350

“D” Coy had a small recce patrol sent out to investigate some movement a short distance from coy position and they were pinned down by enemy fire. 3” Mortar, HE, and Smoke as well as arty smoke was brought down in an endeavour to extract the patrol. In spite of this one NCO was killed and one other member of the patrol wounded.

1430

A Warning Order was sent to all coys that the Bn was to go into the attack at 1530 hrs.

1545

At this time attack was held up by enemy SP, Mortar and MG fire. Flamethrowers which were to support attacking infantry, were forced to withdraw by heavy air-bursts. Due to this the attack was postponed, until 1830 hrs. The infantry will be supported for some considerable distance south of APELDOORN. Coy objective are to be: “A” Coy 800023, “B” Coy 801014, & “D” Coy 804004.

1645

The Bde Comd, Brig J P E Bernatchez, DSO, OBE, paid a visit tot his HQ.

1755

Orders have now been received from Bde that all coys are to retain their original positions.

1800

Ten other ranks arrived at this HQ as reinforcements and were allotted to coys.

2150

Information received from Bde that their [sic.] was no intentions slated for tonight for this Bn.

2220

“D” Coy now in former positions 858016, having been relieved by a coy of the CYR. The reason for this relief is that CYR is to attack through this Bn tonight.

Course of Action for the day – See Battle Story App 1 (pages 5 & 6)

Weather today fine and warm.

APELDOORN

15

The night passed without incident and the morning Sitrep to Bde has NTR.

0915

The CO, Lt col F E Hiltz, proceeded to an “O” Group at R22R HQ at 855013. “C” & “A” Coys were warned to stand by. Intention being that this unit is to clear a portion of the woods in front of R22R positions and these are to be the leading coys.

0935

The CO, returned from “O” Group and held a discussion with “A” & “C” Coy Comds. Here he outlined the plan for their advance. H Hour was to be 1130 hrs.

1130

“C” Coy moved off and their first objective was to be crossroads 824026.

Course of Action for the day – See Battle Story Appx 1 (pages 6 & 7).

Weather today, rain early in the morning, turning fine and warm later in the day.

16

0900

The CO held a conference at Tac HQ which was attended by all Coy Comds.

1050

The CO and IO attended an “O” Group at Bde.

1610

Received notification from Bde that the Bn is on two hours notice to move as from this time.

1655

The CO, Arty Rep and the IO proceeded to Bde HQ to attend an “O” Group.

2315

Warning Order received from Bde that the Unit would move at 0100 hrs. The CO proceeded to Bde to get details and Capt J R Reid and Capt G G Taylor left for area 8394 to recce for Tac HQ and “F” and “A” Echelons.

Course of Action for today – See Battle Story Appx 1 (pages 7 & 8)

Weather today fine and warm.

17

0005

The CO returned from 3 Cdn Inf Bde HQ and immediately proceeded to HQ 2 Cdn Inf Bde 864970 accompanied by the IO, Lt F A Embree.

Due to some misunderstanding, supporting tanks were late at the SP and the Bn was not ready to move until 0230 hrs.

0345

Tc HQ now established across the Canal 827963.

Course of Action for today – See Battle Story Appx 1 (pages 8, 9 & 10)

BARNEVELD

Weather today fine and warm.

18

0600

Bn arrived at BARNEVELD after the long and tiresome journey from APELDOORN. During the journey 24 PW were taken.

Course o Battle for today – See Battle Story Appx 1 (pages 10 & 11)

Weather today fine and warm.

PUTTEN

19

0430

The night passed without incident and the morning Sitrep to Bde had nothing to report.

0620

Message received from 3 CIB that this unit is now under comd of 5 Cdn Armd Bde.

1115

The CO, Lt col F E Hiltz, paid a short visit to HQ of The Westminister [sic.] Regt.

Course of Action today – See Battle Story Appx 1 (pages 11, 12 & 13)

Weather today fine and clear and very warm.

20

1050

The Bde Comd, Brig J P E Bernatchez, DSO, OBE, arrived at this HQ and goes over the plan for the bridgehead of the Canal, with the CO.

1300

The Battle Adjt, Capt J R Reid, went forward to recce area for a new Tac HQ.

1600

Tac HQ moved forward and established at 470067.

Course of Action for today – See Battle Story Appx 1 (pages 13, 14, & 15).

Total PW taken today – 22. Total to date since start of present action – 176.

Weather fine and warm.

NIJKERK

21

1115

Bde informs us that enemy are moving back into area south of us where there are no troops. A mobile column has been organized and is now ready to move forward on a recce.

1830

Message received from Bde that intentions for tomorrow is mobile patrolling.

1900

The CO, Lt col F E Hiltz, attended a Dinner at 3 CIB HQ.

Course of Action for today – See Battle Story Appx 1 (page 15)

Weather today cloudy with occasional showers.

22

0900

The CO attended a conference at Bde, and while there he calls and orders “A” Coy to go to area SPAKENBURG 3908 and BUNSCHOTEN 3807. They are to take with them Arty Rep, one Sec of Pioneers, two A Tk Guns, one Det of 3-In Mortars, Two MMG Carriers (SLI), and 48 hrs rations. The Coy will be tpted on carriers

1100

RC Church Parade was held at BnHQ.

1135

“A” Coy is now on move to new area, and at 1315 hrs report in position and consolidating. Coy HQ 389089, Pls at 387093, 389089 and 384067.

1330

CO attended an “O” Group at Bde.

1600

A Demonstration of Tans against road blocks took place at 449038.

1630

Thirteen other rank reinforcements arrived at this HQ and were allotted to coys.

2000

The Officers held a social evening at BnHQ at which the CO, Lt col F E Hiltz, announced that the next day he was going on leave and would no longer be in Command of this Regiment.

Weather today cloudy with frequent showers.

23

0430

The night passed without incident and the morning Sitrep to Bde had nothing to report.

1115

Three PWs arrived at this HQ from “A” Coy, they were found wandering around the area, apparently trying to give themselves up.

1345

The CO, Lt Col F E Hiltz, left the Regt to proceed on leave and to new duties in another command.

1400

The Bde Comd arrived at this HQ accompanied by Lt col J A Nesbitt. Lt col Nesbitt is to be the Commanding Officer of this Regiment.

1600

Fifteen other rank reinforcements arrived at this HQ and were allotted to coys.

1655

The CO, Lt col J A Nesbitt, accompanied by the Battle Adjt, proceeded on an inspection of “A” Coy’s positions.

1700

Message received from Bde that a Coy of Dutch personnel will come under Command of this Bn some time tomorrow. The Bn will be responsible for any necessary transport and supporting arms that they may require.

1720

Several enemy shells landed in “A” Coy area BUNSCHOTEN 3807, killing one and wounding one other rank.

2015

The CO held a formal meeting with his Coy Comds.

During the day the Padre, H/Capt L F Wilmot MC, held two church services in the Bn area.

Weather today was cloudy with scattered showers in the morning.

24

1000

The Scout & Sniper Officer, Lt W T Hollinger, accompanied by a Dutch recce party, proceeded to “A” Coy area to recce the Coy position in view of a Coy of Dutch personnel relieving “A” Coy today. Lt Hollinger will be staying with the Dutch Coy as LO.

1230

The CO accompanied by the IO, proceeded on a visit to all coys.

1330

A recce party from “A” Coy, arrived at this HQ to recce former coy area 482062 which they will be moving to today when they are relieved by the Dutch Coy.

1900

A Mess Dinner was held at the Officers’ Mess at BnHQ.

1955

Lt W T Hollinger left this HQ with the necessary transport to take the Dutch Coy to “A” Coy’s positions.

2215

The Dutch Coy, now known as the “HOLLINGER FORCE”, have completely relieved “A” Coy in the same Pl posns. “A” Coy now on their way back to area 482062.

2330

“A” Coy now back in former coy area, Coy HQ and one Pl at 481060 and two Pls in area 478060.

Weather today fine and warm.

25

The night passed without incident and the morning Sitrep to Bde had nothing to report.

1200

During the morning the CO, Lt col J A Nesbitt, accompanied by the IO, Lt F A Emree, visited all coys and “B” Echelon.

The “HOLLINGER FORCE” observed enemy moving in area 374106 and in EEMDIJR [sic. EEMDIJK] 3509. Enemy at 374106 were engaged by 3 inch mortars and MMGs and no further movement was seen. It is estimated that the enemy has one Spandau and one 20MM automatic weapon.

1630

Enemy, approx Coy strength, were observed digging in at 358090 and 359096.

1740

Several shells landed in area 389089 and they were believed to be from an 88mm. These shells were either AP or duds as none exploded.

During the day the MO held a skin inspection for the Bn in the respective coy areas.

Weather today fine and warm.

26

0900

A tactical recce party, consisting of the CO, Rifle Coy Comds, Battle Adjt, IO, Pl Comds, Sp Coy Comd and Arty Rep proceeded to CYR area 389018 to recce all positions in view of this Bn releiving [sic.] the CYR shortly after last light tonight.

The TO accompanied above recce party, to recce area for “A” Echelon, Capt D I Rice to recce area for “B” Echelon and Capt G G Taylor to recce area for “F” Echelon.

1345

Advance from CYR arrived at this HQ and the CO held a coordinating Group to tie in guides with this party. CYR will take over our reserve posns tonight.

1600

The CO held an “O” Group at the Officers’ Mess BnHQ.

1850

The Coys start to move forward to CYR positions.

2000

The CO and IO attended an “O” Group at Bde HQ. At this meeting the Bde Comd outlined the policy to be followed in our future battle role. It would appear that from now on non-aggression is the byword. He explained that in all probability our actual fighting in HOLLAND is over. If our forces continue to press forward on the offensive the enemy will flood the Dutch country and set the Dutch level of civilization back centuries. It is imminent that the war in GERMANY can't last much longer and it is thought that when all GERMANY is occupied the Germans in HOLLAND will surrender. He also outlined the sports programme for the future. Training will be carried on with the 24th of May as 1 Cdn Inf Div Sports Day. Trophies will be given for winning Bdes and Bns. The back area where the Bn came from before relieving CYR area 4706 will be purely a rest area, Bns being in the line 10 days and out for 5 days.

2150

TacHQ in charge of the Battle Adjt, Capt J R Reid, went forward and established at 389018. The change-over is now in progress.

2305

At this time change-over is completed without incident.

Everything is very quiet along the whole Bn front.

The Bn having taken over the exact positions, Coy for Coy as the CYR, positions were 386002 and Standing Patrol at 382005; “B” Coy HQ 371018, Pls at 370918, 374019 and 370017; “C” Coy HQ 381028, Pls at 380029, 376029 and 378029; “D” Coy HQ 377010 Pls at 378010, 375010 and 375009, with an Outpost at 374008.

2400

A recce patrol from the “HOLLINGER FORCE” went to rd june 384059. They made no contact with the enemy and had nothing to report on their return.

Weather this date was fine and warm.

27

0100

“A” Coy at this time is being mortared.

0400

An enemy force of at least three men came within 50 yds of the rt forward pl of the “HOLLINGER FORCE” when the Dutch opened fire with Bren and rifle and the enemy replied with MG, rifle and grenades. 3-in Mortars then put down a DF on the bend of dyke 387095 and the enemy withdrew.

0800

A small recce patrol went out to investigate the area where the enemy came in on the “HOLLINGER FORCE” and they found several pools of blood and brought back with them two enemy caps, one rile, four MG mags, four grenades and one belt. They estimate one enemy killed and at least one wounded but no body was found.

0915

The CO accompanied by the Battle Adjt and RSM W R Callaghan, leave Tac HQ to recce for new Tac in this general area.

1130

INtentions for today – to establish line and road communications with the “HOLLINGER FORCE” left pl at 385065. The engineers will sweep the lateral road from “C” Coy to the left sub-unit of the “HOLLINGER FORCE”. This sub-unit will then move to area rd junc 383059 and secure against infiltration. A line will then be laid to our exchange. Up until now the only communications with these people is by 22 set. A message is received from Bde HQ that we cannot engage any targets west of the River EEM. At this time it is known that we are now holding the longest front, to our knowledge, in the history of the Bn, more than 10,000 yds.

During the morning “B” Coy area was mortared but there were no casualties.

1315

Enemy movement was observed by “D” Coy and they were also machine gunned from 375004.

1330

The CO, Battle Adjt, RSM and Dutch LO who is working with us, proceed to area of new Tac HQ 386014 to get things in order before the move this afternoon.

1400

The road has now been swept from “C” Coy to the left forward pl of the “HOLLINGER FORCE”. But owing to a blow in the road, vehs will be unable to use it. However, line communications are being laid and should have more satisfactory results than wireless which has been in use up to the present.

1450

It is intended that Tac HQ will move from present location to 386014 at 1800 hrs. The Carrier Pl will be responsible for the defence of Tac HQ as it is expected that strong enemy patrols may attempt to come in Flamethrowers will be on hand also to assist in the defence.

1745

A message is received from Bde to the effect that we are not to engage any targets on the East bank of the River EEM unless we are being directly fired on and enemy is advancing toward us. The Arty Rep was told that in a case of enemy attacking he could use one gun but if a house was hit he must cease fire.

The CO orders the 4.2 Mortars to engage a suspected enemy SP gun area 359018.

“B” Coy observe enemy working party in area 366017 and this was engaged by “3”inch mortars.

1830

“D” Coy at this time is still being bothered by SP. But the CO orders no more firing unless absolutely necessary.

1900

“D” Coy reported 3 A Tk mines at 37430095 of an unknown type. The pioneers removed these and one was sent to Engineer Intelligence Sec at HQ 3 Cdn Inf Bde. But so far no report has been received as to what new type, if any, they are.

1910

Tac HQ moves forward and established at 396014.

2230

The CO laid on a curfew for civilians from 2100 hrs to 0600 hrs. All civilians found out between these hours will be apprehended. The Dutch LO will notify civilians. During the afternoon the Coys have been subjected to Mortar and Arty fire from both Sp and Field weapons as well as MG fire.

2359

A message was received from 3 Cdn Inf Bde that effective 280800 hrs there will be no firing whatsoever on this Brigade sector and the order will remain in force until further notice. A party of Germans may be expected to cross into our lines and may or may not be in possession of a white flag. IN any case there will be no firing. A German party may land in our FDLs in a STORCH aircraft. Even if the Bde sector is being fired on there will be no retaliation.

Weather this date cloudy with frequent showers.

28

0015

A Recce patrol from the “HOLLINGER FORCE”, strength one NCO and two men, went out to houses at 384059 with a view of establishing outposts. But civilians report there have been no Germans in that area since 23 Apr 45, and so the patrol returned.

0440

The night passed without incident and the morning Sitrep to Bde had nothing to report.

0845

A message was passed to all coys that any enemy coming into the coy areas will be escorted to this HQ by an officer. If the enemy came by plane a strong guard would be placed on the plane. All coys were also warned that they will not send anyone out to meet any of these parties.

1045

A report is received from civilians by the “HOLLINGER FORCE” that 40 to 50 boats were approaching SPAKENBURG, 3908. The CO laid on plans in case they proved hostile. Lt W T Hollinger ws warned by the CO to bring all except a skeleton force to position where all fire power could be brought down on the boats if necessary. Two carriers will be left at Coy Hq as a mobile reserve and the A Tk Gun on the left will be taken up. It was later known that these boats were fishing boats and the whole thing turned out to be a false alarm.

1200

During the morning the Coys were subjected to light shelling, mortaring and MG fire. Enemy movement was observed from “D” Coy in area 372006.

1315

The CO and IO proceed on a visit to all coys.

1445

Spasmodic shelling and enemy mortar fire continues. “A” Coy had one casualty from MG fire, he died on the way to the RAP.

1635

“D” Coy has been heavily mortared and machine gunner and they are expecting a counter-attack After everything had been laid on, it quieted down and the counter-attack did not come.

1830

The Bde Comd called the CO and expressed his sorrow on the loss of life and wounded suffered today. At 1800 hrs the truce was called off but since then word has been received that it would stay on until further notice.

2125

The CO orders Lt W T Hollinger to send a patrol to 386099. He also tells him that if the enemy comes in on them sowing fight, he may retaliate in full measure.

2130

The CO and IO proceeded to “D” Coy.

2145

Bde informs this HQ that if we are attacked, we may call on Arty DFs after referring to the Brigadier. Div suggests that in view of the fact that the Truce has not got around to all German troops, our own troops must keep under cover as much as possible during the hours of daylight tomorrow.

2155

The “HOLLINGER FORCE” report a very large fire burning a long distance away. At 2220 hrs another large fire was observed in the same direction The bearings they gave would put these fires somewhere in the vicinity of AMSTERDAM.

2320

“A” & “D” Coys both report considerable enemy wagon and truck movement across the river.

2400

The recce patrol that went out from the “HOLLINGER FORCE” to 384099 have now returned having nothing to report.

Weather this date cold and rainy, with snow later in the evening.

29

0138

18 Pl of “D” Coy observed eight men going across their front. Later two explosions were heard in the direction of their outpost. The outpost also reported the explosions and they said shouting came from in front of their positions approximately 400 yds away. Further investigation found two different people shouting. They were not sure that the people seen by 18 Pl were the same as those heard by the outpost. At 0230 hrs there was still shouting going on out front and “D” Coy is ordered to go on a 100% stand to. By 0245 hrs everything had quieted down and “D” Coy were told to go back to 50% stand to. Approx position of the shouting was 370008.

0735

A Message was passed to all coys that the “cease fire” order was still in effect.

1110

Enemy movement was observed in area 372006, two or three enemy appeared to be clearing brush and digging. Either preparing or improving their positions. When this was reported to Bde, we were told that we had their permission to snipe at the enemy in that certain area but no heavier weapons were to be used.

1155

The CO and IO proceed to the “HOLLINGER FORCE” and on their return at 1355 hrs the CO orders a conference to be held for all Coy Comd and all Supporting Arms Reps.

1545

The Bde Comd paid a visit to this HQ.

1800

Today was very quiet on the Bn front as far as shelling or mortaring was concerned, but much enemy movement was observed.

1930

Ten men from each rifle coy reported at this HQ before proceeding on a 24 hour pass to NIJKERK. The leave party consisting of 65 men left this HQ at 2000 hrs. During the last few days a Bn leave camp has been set up in the town of NIJKERK where personnel of this Bn can spend 24 hrs away from the front. Canteen, moving pictures, games, etc and shower bath and clean clothes are available.

2120

There is still much enemy movement on the Bn front. “D” Coy observed at least 50 enemy crossing the dyke at 356014 and they appeared to be moving in a tactical manner. One Officer and 29 other ranks proceed on rotational leave to Canada today.

Weather this date cloudy with rain.

30

0430

The night passed uneventful, morning sitrep to Bde had nothing to report.

1000

“A” Echelon has now moved forward into this immediate area.

1200

During the morning the usual enemy activity was observed at different times and places. None of these enemy carried weapons. Several explosions or demolitions were heard on the front and it may be that the enemy was preparing defences to the GREBE Line or it is possible he is blowing up some of his ammunition dumps.

1400

Civilians coming through the enemy lines report that a party of six enemy, none of whom were carrying weapons, ordered them out of their houses by 1300 hrs today.

1600

The CO proceeded to Bde HQ to attend a conference.

1930

A leave party of 15 men per rifle coy proceeded to NIJKERK for 24 hour leave at the Bn Leave Centre.

During the afternoon several more explosions were heard at various times and places along the Bn front.

Weather this date was cloudy with showers.