WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

West NSR

May 1945

NIJKERK

MR4605

Sheet 370

1/ 25,000

1

0415

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

0725

“D” Coy outpost observed two enemy working on a position 372006. These were apparently strengthening and constructing defences. It may be noted that since the truce started the enemy have been taking advantage of this to construct new defences.

During the morning the CO, Lt col J A Nesbitt, visited the Bn Rest Centre at NIJKERK.

1315

All Coys area asked to send in to this HQ all known enemy positions to be engaged by arty when truce is lifted.

1530

One officer and thirty other ranks arrived as reinforcements and were allotted to coys.

1630

The CO and RSM proceeded on a visit to the “Hollinger Force”

1900

Sixty-five other ranks left on a 24 hr leave to the Bn Rest Centre at NIJKERK.

2215

The pioneers have now finished sweeping the ground for mines around “D” Coy outpost.

Weather today cloudy with showers.

2

During the early hours of the morning several explosions were heard on the Bn front, as well as several flares reported from the outpost positions and from the “Hollinger Force”.

1120

The Brigadier, Brig J P E Bernatchez DSO OBE, paid a visit to this HQ.

During the morning the usual enemy movement was observed on the Bn front but as the truce was still on there was no firing by either side.

1235

The CO and RSM proceeded to the “Hollinger Force” on a tour of inspection.

1330

Capt D A Campbell, Bn Sports Officer, attended a Sport Conference at Bde HQ. At this conference the points discussed were the Bde eliminating contests to take place on 9th, 10th and 11th of May. Forward coys to do as much training as possible. After Unit teams are picked there will be a Bde Sports Camp from the 12th to 24th of May. The Div Sports Day will be 24th of May. The Bde Comd gave a short talk and said he wanted everyone behind the sports programme. He also said he wanted a Bn Boxing Team of 11 men and Lt F A Embree was to be in charge of the Bde Boxing Group.

1550

We are now informed that the truce is over but all coys are warned not to take any offensive action.

1600

A Sports meeting was held at BnHQ.

1800

Sixty-five other ranks left for 24 hr leave at Bn Rest Centre at NIJKERK.

2220

Bde informs us that the reason for warning was that reports had been received that the Germans would break the truce at 0600 hrs and he may want to go out in a blaze of glory by putting in an attack. Two troops of tanks are now on one hours [sic.] notice should they be needed by this Bn.

2330

The CO, Lt col J A Nesbitt, and the Battle Adjt Capt J R Reid, proceeded to “D” Coy. Capt D I Rice left this unit today to take a new position as Staff Learner at Bde HQ.

Capt S B Beaton left today for rotational instructional duties in the UK.

The 2IC, Major J R Cameron, was today SOS this unit to X-9 List.

Two officers Lt W J Lake and Lt G W Smith arrived as rfts.

Weather today cloudy and cool with rain.

4

0005

Carrier outpost at this time to hear enemy vehicle movement of either tanks or half-tracks across the canal on their front as well as a lot of loud talking.

0010

Patrol from “Hollinger Force” returned from recce of buildings near rd junc 383059 and had nothing to report.

0525

The second patrol from the “Hollinger Force” returned after searching buildings rear the rd junc 383059 and they had nothing to report.

0600

During the night several heavy explosions were heard some distance back from the front in the enemy lines.

1100

The Bde Comd, Brig J P E Bernatchez DSO, OBE, paid a visit to the “Hollinger force” and congratulated the Coy Comd on the positions that the coy were occupying.

1145

The CO held a sports conference at BnHQ and discussed the sports that were to take place between 12 and 24 May. Capt C H Smith is now Bn Sports Officer in place of Capt D A Campbell who is now acting commander of “D” Coy, in the absence of Major W E Garber who is on leave to UK.

Lt J J MacDonald also replaces Lt F A Embree as Bde Boxing Group instructor.

Lt F A Embree is leaving today for leave to UK.

1200

During the morning several more explosions were heard on the Bn front well in enemy territory.

1410

The CO left for the Bn Rest Centre at NIJKERK and from their [sic.] proceeded to 3 Bde HQ where he attended Bde Comds conference at 1500 hrs.

1540

Fifty-one ORs proceeded to Bn Rest Centre at NIJKERK for 24 hrs leave.

1820

The CO returns from Bde and immediately leaves for “B” Echelon and the “Hollinger Force”.

1945

Major H M Eisenhauer, “C” Coy Comd and Lt H W Long, Carrier Pl Comd, proceeded on a recce of “C” Coy positions in view of the Carrier Pl taking over a defence of that area and “C” Coy going into Bn Reserve in vicinity of BnHQ.

2030

BBC News Flash – Supreme HQ announces that the Germans in North West Germany, Holland, Denmark, Heligoland and the Frisian Islands have surrendered unconditionally to Field Marshall Montgomery’s 21st Army Group to be effective 050800.

Today three other ranks left on rotation leave to Canada.

Weather today is cloudy with scattered showers.

5

0006

Bde informs this HQ that all offensive action will stop forthwith. No firing of any type of weapon after 0800 hrs today and no firing of weapons in celebration.

0007

Bde orders this Bn to stand fast until further notice. It is expected there will be a conference between the Allies and Germans in this sector.

0145

Further message from Bde states that there will only be three persons allowed to pass into enemy territory, they are the Corps Comd, GOC 1 Cdn Div and GOC 49th Br Div. Any other persons must be in possession of a pass from HQ 1 Cdn Corps.

0515

A small enemy patrol came in on “D” Coy and after a short fire fight [sic.] enemy withdrew leaving behind a Sten Gun. It was later recorded in the Press News that Pte Warnell G S was the last man of the Bn to be fired on by the enemy.

0950

The left fwd pl of “A” Coy report considerable MG and Schmeiser ire in the town of AMERSFORT.

1010

Ten fully armed Germans were observed by “A” Coy going into a house, driving out the civilians and taking away a pig. This house was quite near “A” Coy outpost.

1020

The CO proceeds on a visit to “A” Coy.

1335

The Carrier Pl is now taking over the defence of the right flank in “C” Coy area with Pl HQ at 38080285, Section posts at 37570288, Four Flamethrowers at cross roads 37970293.

1400

“C” Coy now in new positions as follows: Coy HQ 38810147, 13 Pl 38440146, 14 Pl 38670128, 15 Pl 38530181.

1420

This HQ has just been informed that this Bn will be relieved by R22R on night 6-7 May.

1550

Several other explosions have been heard on the Bn front and Bde informs us that this is 2 CIB engineers blowing up road blocks outside AMERSFOORT.

2040

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

Two Officers and forty-six other ranks proceed on leave to UK.

Five other ranks proceeded on leave to Paris.

One officer and ten other ranks proceeded on leave to Brussels.

Three other ranks proceeded on rotational leave to Canada.

2325

CO and RSM proceeded on a visit to “B” Coy.

During the last few hours some MG fire has been heard on the Bn front, this has been reported by several of the fwd sub-units, but so far no fire has come into our posns.

Weather today was fair and cool.

6

0314

“A” Coy had a man wounded this morning on the guard change-over. The man wounded failed to answer the pass word [sic.] and was fired on by the guard.

0940

It is now quite definite that the Bn will not move tonight.

1430

The Brigadier paid a visit to this HQ.

1500

Many flags some white and some Dutch flags can be seen flying in the town of AMERSFOORT which is just across EEMS River from our FDLs.

1630

Major E W Cutbill DSO arrived at this HQ to take over the duties of 2 IC of the Bn. Major Cutbill was originally from the PPCLI and prior to this appointment was BM of 3 Cdn Inf Bde.

1900

A PW was brought into this HQ by a Dutch policeman but when taken to Bde we are informed that due to the fact that there is a truce on, no PWs may be taken.

1945

The CO and 2IC proceed to SPAKENBURG to visit the “Hollinger Force”.

2155

Information has been received from Bde that the Germans will be clearing mines and blowing road blocks [sic.] in front of our positions during the night. We are not to fire but to be on the alert.

Weather today fair with a fresh breeze.

7

0440

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

0840

A message from Be, passed on from Div said that at 070141 the war in Europe was over but this will not be officially announced by the three Great Powers until 090001 hrs. A possible move is anticipated tomorrow morning.

1005

The CO and 2IC proceeded on a visit to all coys.

1200

A warning order was received from Bde and passed to all coys – The West N S R is now on one hours [sic.] notice to move as from 080700. The Regt will move to the area of ROTTERDAM. A recce party will move ahead of the main body and an X-Area will be established in the DMA for supplies, weapons and ammunition (3” Mor and A Tk).

The Bn Rest Centre at NIJKERK is to close after lunch today.

1945

The CO, Lt col J Aird Nesbitt and Lt Hollinger proceeded to Bde to attend an “O” Gp. Points discussed were the move tomorrow and Bn duties in the new area.

2130

The CO returned from Bde and immediately held his own “O” Gp. Details were laid on for tomorrows [sic.] move.

Weather today fine and warm.

8

0100

Movement Order was received and issued to all coys.

0520

The 2IC and Battle Adjt, one offr rep from each coy, proceeded on accommodation recce to area of The Hague.

One Officer and 10 ORs left this morning on a 72 hr leave to BRUSSELS.

0600

Bn convoy moved off as per movement order.

The journey this morning was one which will be long remembered by the members of our Regiment. At many places along the route, German Camps were passed and groups of German Troops still armed. The convoy got a rousing welcome as it passed through the towns and villages and when it was necessary to come to a halt civilians swarmed over and through the vehicles and it was impossible to keep any vestige of control. At one time it was necessary to solicit the aid of the Dutch Underground Forces to allow the convoy to continue.

DEN HOORN

MR66748327

Sheet 381

1/ 25,000

1330

TacHQ had at this time reached its destination and was established at DEN HOORN MR 66748327, and at 1445 hrs coys were disposed in the following positions: “A” Coy 651809, “B” Coy 651806, “C” 652808, “D” Coy 605807, “Sp” Coy 607808.

1700

A Warning Order was received from Bde that the Bn was to be prepared to move as from 090600 hrs. The same recce party as for this morning will be ready to proceed on a recce of the area tonight. There will be an “O” Gp at Bde any time after 1800 hrs, time to be notified later.

1830

CO attended Bde “O” Gp.

1945

The CO and Adnt proceeded to the German HQ at 5580. It was expected that this Bn would have to move into that area and help to contain the German forces there.

2010

The move for 9 May 45 has been cancelled. Coy Comds will attend a conference at BnHQ at 091400 hrs. A curfew has been put into effect by the CO for all troops at 2200 hrs. Also troops to be confined to their own immediate areas.

Weather today fine and warm.

9

0900

The 2IC, Major E W Cutbill DSO and RSM W R Callaghan made a recce for accommodation for the coys closer to BnHQ than there [sic.] present positions.

1400

The CO held a conference at BnHQ. POints discussed were, poor communication, wireless in some cases, due to the very large Bn area; trg of NCOs for peace time [sic.] establishment; Offrs’ Mess, Sgts Mess and other administrative matters.

One other point discussed was the sending of one platoon from this Bn as a protective force for the German HQ at RIDDERKIRK 8468, where Lt Gen DIESTEL has complained that his troops are being hindered by the civilians in carrying out their duties.

His DRs are also to be accompanied by our DRs.

1415

The 2IC and Capt Hollinger attended a conference with German Commander, Lt Gen DIESTEL at his HQ at RIDDERKIRK 8468.

1930

The CO held a short conference at BnHQ at which he gave the Coy Comds a brief outline on the duties of the Bn after the move tomorrow (disarmament of German Forces).

This Bn will handle German Naval and Marine personnel only.

1935

A composite platoon under command of Lt P A H Archibald and Lt E M S Fisher left this HQ to take up duties as a guard at the German HQ of the Lt Gen DIESTEL. With this Pl are two DRs who will accompany the German DRs on their runs to the field units. These German DRs have recently been stopped by civilians and important messages concerning the disarming of German Forces have been delayed.

1955

The CO accompanied by all Coy Comds and one officer from each coy, the Adjt, MO, TO Sig O and RSM, proceeded to recce area 6395 which will be occupied by this Bn tomorrow.

2230

Four Officers and two Sgts arrived at this HQ as refts.

Weather today fine and very warm.

10

0600

One Pl from each of “A” “B” & “C” Coys, each Pl with one Sec of Carriers, proceeded and occupied a strategic road entrances into the German concentration area.

0830

The 2 IC, Adjt, OC Sp Coy, proceeded to recce to The Hague to recce Coy areas.

1000

Major W E Garber, OC “D” Coy, proceeded on a recce of Coy positions for move this afternoon, and also at the same time the CO and Capt Hollinger proceeded to The Hague.

1030

A message was received from Bde that the Bn would be complete in the new area as soon as possible.

1200

The CO held a conference at BnHQ when the afternoon’s move was discussed.

1315

“A” Coy started to move, the Coy carriers were used as tpt in a shuttle service.

1430

Capt J R Reid the RSM and four other ranks proceeded to 699917 to set up a skeleton HQ.

1630

Remainder of BnHQ proceed to 699917 arriving there at 1735 hrs.

1630

Coys now in positions as follows: “A” Coy 636938, “B” Coy 646946, “C” Coy 647957.

VOORBURG

MR699917

Sheet 372

1/ 25,000

Sp Coy 668903. The following dumps are being established for Small Arms, Ammunition German War Supplies, etc.. Dump No 1 637942, Dump No 2 645946, Dump No 3 648957. The following are the perimeters to be guarded by the three fwd coys: “A” Coy 625955 excl canal to 637951; “B” Coy 637952 incl canal to 647958 and excl road; “C” Coy incl road 646958 to 634964.

2000

“D” Coy now concentrated in area 656929 being the last coy to move.

“B” Coy has changed positions as follows: Coy HQ 648945, Pls at 646946, 651942 and 658950.

The CO holds a conference at BnHQ with German Adjt, attended also by the 2IC and Battle Adjt. POints discussed were the disarming of Germans and putting arms and equipment in the proper dumps.

2010

The CO and Battle Adjts proceeded to HQ of the 48 Highrs of Canada to attend a conference with the Brigadier.

2120

The 2IC, Adjt and Battle Adjt returned from conference with the Brigadier at which it was learned there was a slight change of plan for this Bn. German concentration area is much smaller and it is probable that BnHQ and several of the coys will be moving tomorrow. The new perimeter will be as follows: 625957 – 631949 – 623949 – 620946 – 618949; “B” Coy being responsible from the Coast 625957 – 631949 and “C” Coy the remainder.

Weather this date fine and very warm.

11

0900

The CO, Adjt, RSM, proceeded on a visit to all coys.

1400

The CO, MO and RSM proceeded on a recce in area 6393 for a new BnHQ on the proposed move tomorrow. During the after noon [sic.] the CO made a further recce of the German concentration areas.

2030

Approximately 400 German Naval personnel were escorted from the R22R area to the concentration area of this Bn. These were all disarmed before arrival.

2100

The Burgomaster of VOORBURG paid a visit to the CO.

Weather today fine and warm.

12

0900

The 2IC, Major E W Cutbill DSO held a conference at BnHQ with the Adjt of the German Force in this area, conference also attend by “B” Coy Comd Capt R E Campbell, and an LO from 3 CIB HQ and a Captain from Royal Artillery. This conference had to do with teeing up of the German Naval personnel in the ROTTERDAM area who are to be moved to the concentration area of this unit. A similar conference will be held every morning at this same time until all German Naval personnel are in the concentration area.

Due to the change in the concentration area, “C” & “B” Coys moved into the following positions: “B” Coy HQ 629949, Pls at 627955, 629952, 630951; “C” Coy HQ and one Pl 624949, Pls at 621946 and 630948.

1000

The CO proceeds on a visit to all coys.

1230

The Bde Comd, Brig J P E Bernatchez DSO OBE pays a visit to this HQ.

1450

The CO and Adjt proceed on a visit to the coys and also on a recce for a new BnHQ.

1900

The CO and 2IC go to “A” Coy Dump and then proceeded to HQ 3 CIB.

1950

A message was received from Bde that this Bn would be responsible for the Junc Post with the 48th Highrs of Canada at 634946.

2200

The CO, Adjt, RSM, with a skeleton HQ move to 636938. Sp Coy HQ move to 632949.

Weather today was fine and warm.

13

0035

The CO proceeded on a visit to “B” & “C” Coys.

0840

The remainder of BnHQ moved to 636938. The 2IC Major E W Cutbill DSO remained behind at the old BnHQ to liaise with the German Adjt at a conference which will be held there every morning.

THE HAGUE

MR 636938 Sheet 372

1/ 25,000

1100

The CO proceeds on a visit to all coys.

1345

Message received from Bde that a Bn of Dutch personnel under command of Capt SMITZ of the Underground will report to the CO at 1000 hrs 14 May 45. HIs Bn of 400 men will be ready to move by 1400 hrs. This Bn will be responsible for administration food, billets, etc. These Dutch personnel cannot be used as guards on concentration camp, food, clothing or petrol dumps.

1530

The CO proceeds on a visit to “A” & “B” Coys.

During the afternoon a slight change in “A” & “D” Coy positions had to be made to comply with the change in the concentration area which has pushed slightly further northeast as laid down by Bde.

1600

“A” Coy positions – Coy HQ 633958, Pls at 638963, 634959 and 632957.

2000

“D” Coy now in new area, Coy HQ 637937, Pls at 637942, 645947 and 648957.

Weather today, fine and warm in the morning with high winds and lower temperature later in the day.

14

0410

A leave party of 15 Other ranks left this morning for the UK.

0900

The CO held a conference for all Coy Comds at BnHQ. POints discussed were, Control Point to be set up and manned by “A” Coy at 630956, A Tk Pl to be under Comd of “B” Coy Carrier Pl under command of “A” Coy.

1030

The Commanding Officer of the Dutch Bn reported to the CO at this HQ. His Bn is now under Command of this Bn.

1100

“B” Echelon an dHQ Coy moved to area 648945.

1230

The CO and Battle Adjt proceeded on a recce to area 6494 to find accommodation for approximately 450 Dutch Underground personnel who are now under command of this Bn. These people have no weapons, no equipment, no cooking gear and only one blanket per man.

1555

The Dutch Bn is now concentrated in area 648945.

1700

The RAP moved to a new area 630954 which is more centrally located for all coys.

The Dutch Bn under Command this Bn has three coys and approximately 450 all ranks. No 1 Coy is going to R22R tonight and No 2 Coy is going to CYR tomorrow. No 3 Coy will stay here for the present. No 2 & 3 Coys will be armed with German weapons.

1900

One Pl of “A” Coy moved from 638963 to 630956. Carrier Pl now under comd of “A” Coy took over Pl posn at 638963.

2000

“B” Coy moved to new positions as follows: Coy HQ 629952, Pls at 627955, 629956 and 630952. The A Tk Pl now under comd of “B” Coy is at 624951. “C” Coy moved and now concentrated in area 648957.

2100

No 1 Coy of the Dutch Bn is now under comd of the R22R.

Weather today fine and warm but very windy.

15

0930

The CO and MO proceeded on recce for a new BnHQ in area 6494.

1330

No 2 Coy of the Dutch Bn is now under Command of the CYR, and they have moved to area 6091.

1525

“D” Coy now have all the coy concentrated in area 637939. The Coy had been doing guard duty on German arms & equipment dumps but No 2 & 3 dumps have now been moved and everything put in No 1 dump at 637943.

1850

Word has been received from Bde that all German Officers will be disarmed. Up until now German Officers were allowed to keep pistols. Major O J Price MC liaised with the German Commander at VOORBURG and the arms will be turned in a “A” Coy Control Post or Barrier, 630956, and then taken to No 1 Dump.

2220

Today enemy disarmed to date and in concentration area is 4439.

Weather today fine and warm.

16

0400

Thirty other ranks left this morning for leave to UK.

0800

One DR left for Bde HQ to do escort duty for the G3 and two DRs went to Col EGGARS’ HQ (German Commander). They will be gone three days escorting barges from The Hague to Rotterdam.

1555

The CO and Pioneer Officer proceeded to LEIDEN 7700 for an inspection of the dumps in that area that concern this Bn.

1830

Forty-one reinforcements arrived at this HQ and were allotted to coys.

1930

The CO and all officers except one duty officer at Bn Orderly Room attended a Social Evening at Rear BnHQ 699917 where there was wining, dining and dancing.

Total Germans disarmed to date 5274.

Weather today fine and warm.

17

0900

The CO held a conference at BnHQ which was attended by all Coy Comds, Adjt, Battle Adjt, MO, Sig O, IO, TO and QM, at which the following points were discussed: the present role of the Bn; the present demobilization scheme. The CO instructed all officers to study the schema and give all details to their men. The CO notified Major W E Garber that he would take command of and form a Ceremonial Coy which would represent the Bn on all Ceremonial Parades. This Coy is to be composed of preferably men who have had long service, with the Bn and a long battle record.

1500

The CO, accompanied by the 2IC Major E W Cutbill DSO, Major W W Mair OC “B” Coy, Capt D I Rice, Capt A J W Dyer, Capt C H SMith, Capt J R Reid, Lt P A H Archibald and the Padre H/Capt L F Wilmot, went to the Town Hall VOORBURG where a Civic reception was held. Here they met the Burgomaster, the Town Council and the leaders of the Resistance Forces.

1700

Two Officers and 120 Other Ranks arrived as reinforcements and were allotted to Coy. These rfts put the Bn much overstrength but recently a message from Bde stated that all units would be over-posted to 20% above normal.

Total Germans disarmed to date 6296.

Weather today fine and warm.

18

0400

One officer and 46 ORs left this morning for leave to UK.

0800

Thirteen ORs left for 72 hrs leave in Brussels.

1400

CO proceeded on a visit to all coys.

2000

Another Dutch Coy, known as No 4 Coy, is row under comd this Bn and concentrated at 653944. No 3 Coy is also in this same area.

Total Germans disarmed to date and in concentration area 6458.

A Dance was held this evening at the RAP.

Weather this date fine and warm.

19

It is intended that this afternoon No 3 Dutch Coy will relieve “A” Coy with the exception of the Control Post at 630956. This post is under Comd of Capt R E Cambpell who has three Lieutenants, a Pl of Inf and a Sec of Regimental Provost.

1600

No 3 Dutch Coy relieved “A” Coy with positions as follows: Coy HQ 633958, Pls at 638963, 635961, 634959 and 632957.

1650

The CO, Lt col J A Nesbitt, accompanied by the IO, Lt F A Embree, proceeded on a tour of inspection of the perimeter area.

1655

“A” Coy is now concentrated in area 638957. The Carrier Pl which was under Comd of “A” Coy is now back at Sp Coy area 632949.

Total Germans disarmed to date 6489.

Cdn Army Show put on two performances at the Capitol Theatre, The Hague, at 1800 hrs and 2000 hrs. Unit was allotted 150 seats.

Weather today fine and warm.

20

1000

Two officers and 30 ORs left this morning to act as escort for German personnel going to DEN HELDER 0089.

1100

Protestant Church Service was held at the Church near “B”Coy area.

1600

No 4 Dutch Coy have now taken over the responsibilities of the former “B” Coy area with positions as follows: Coy HQ 629952, Pls at 624949, 627955, 628955 and 629955. “B” Coy is now concentrated in area 634947. The A Tk Pl which was under Comd “B” Coy is now back in Sp Coy area 632949.

1900

One officer and forty-two other ranks arrived as reinforcements and were allotted to Coy.

1940

A message was received from Bde that the 2 IC Major E W Cutbill DSO was to be SOS this Bn on 18 May 45 on posting to RHLI for appointment of 2 IC that Unit.

This afternoon the Officers’ Mess moved from Rear Bn to 636948. This evening they held their first Mess Dinner in the new area, at which the CO gave an afterdinner [sic.] speech. Weather today, heavy rain and thunder storm in the morning, becoming fine and warm in the afternoon.

21

A composite company composed of members of each coy of the Bn represented the Bn at a Ceremonial Victory Parade in The Hague today. This coy, known as the Ceremonial Coy, was commanded by Major W E Garber OC “D” Coy, and was made up as far as possible of men who had seen the most action. This Coy formed part of a Bn commanded by remaining coys at 595894. The parade moved off at 1130 hrs. After a 35 minute march the Bn arrived at the Saluting Base 608912 where Lt Gen Foulkes GOC 1 Cdn Corps and Prince BERNHARDT of the Netherlands took the salute. The streets were lined with civilians who cheered the Canadian Troops wildly. After the March Past the Bn moved to the dispersal point and the coy returned back to the Bn area at 1500 hrs. It might be mentioned that this parade took place in a very heavy downpour of rain but despite this the parade was fully a success.

Weather this date – rainy in the morning becoming fine later in the afternoon.

22

0900

The Ceremonial Coy is now disbanded and personnel returned to their respective coys. Major W E Garber who was in command of this Coy has now been detailed to control liaison with German Naval personnel.

1100

One German Naval personnel was brought to this HQ from Bde and was handed over to the Control Post. He had been AWL eight months.

“C” Coy moved to area ALEXANDER VELD 6493 to guard German vehicle dump. Coy Tac HQ at 647934, QM and Adm staff remained in old coy area 648957.

The force at the perimeter is now known as “Campbell’s Circus” so named by the CO in all respects to Capt R.E. Campbell in charge of the post. This post consists of one platoon of Infantry, one section of Regimental provost and three junior Offrs, supplemented by two Coys of Dutch Underground Personnel. These are the forces who now hold under their thumb 6 to 7000 German Naval Personnel.

1300

Lieut L.R. Kingston Bn, polling booth officer for Ontario Election proceeded to HENGELO where Col Medlin gave the necessary instructions how the unit voting was to be conducted. At this conference one officer rep from every unit in the Canadian Army was present.

1730

The Co held a conference at the Officers Mess attended by all Coy Comds.

1800

“D” Coy moved and now concentration in area 642952.

Major W.W. Mair is now 2IC of this Bn.

Capt C.F” Whynacht is now Major and Coy Comd of HQ Coy.

During the past four days the following articles were issued to all Other Ranks in this Bn under Officer supervision – 1 bottle wine, 1 bottle tomatoe [sic.] juice, 1 comb, 1 mirror, 1 bottle Eau De Cologne, 1 bottle brilliantine, 10 boxes matches, 1 jar face cream, 1 tin shoe polish, 1 box face powder, 1 box foot powder, 1 tube toothpaste. These articles were acquired from German dumps and were distributed under the classification of booty.

Weather today, fine and warm.

23

0400

Two Officers and 36 ORs left this morning on leave to the UK.

0900

The CO attended a Bn Comds conference at 3 Bde HQ. Main points discussed were the movement of German Personnel out of the different concentration areas back to GERMANY, also discussed was the discipline and training of our own troops.

1330

During the afternoon the pipe band of the Cape Breton High’rs played at Bn HQ and then made a round of all the Coys including the Command Post.

1900

Bn HQ moved to new area and established at 648947.

Weather today, fine and warm.

24

0600

An escort party from “A” Coy consisting of one NCO and 3 men left to escort German Field Butchery to DEN HELDER (0086), Sheet 2A, 1/ 100,000 HOLLAND.

1200

“D” Coy with 2 platoons of Support Coy U/C started “screening” (weeding out of War Criminals, etc) of German Naval Personnel. 16 were detained by Field Security.

1830

1 platoon of “B” Coy moved to No 4 German Staging camp in area 610 Sheet 358 HOLLAND 1/ 25,000. Where it is anticipated 9 to 10000 Germans will lodge over night [sic.] on their way back to Germany until such evacuation of this sector of HOLLAND is completed.

2000

The CO, 2IC and the IO proceeded on a recce of No 4 German Staging Camp area 7610. This will be the area that this Bn will be responsible for guarding when the Germans are being marched back to Germany.

Weather today, fine and warm.

25

Training as per syllabus.

0900

Two ORs left this morning on 9 days leve [sic.] to PARIS and four ORs left on 72 hour leave to BRUSSELS

1400

Three vehicles were dispatched to DEN HELDER to bring back two Officers and 30 ORs who are returning to the Bn after doing escort duty on German Personnel being carried on ships by the Royal Navy.

1430

Support Coy moved and now concentrated in area 639958.

1900

The remainder of “C” Coy (2 platoons) started to move and at 1930 hrs were in area 6493 This includes the platoon that was in DEN HELDER. Coy Hq at 645934.

The CO 2IC, Major C.F. Whynacht, Capt A.J. Dyer and Lieut F.A. Embree attended a dance at 3 Bde HQ.

Weather today, fine and warm.

26

Training as per syllabus

0800

All Coys will go on bath parades today starting at 0800 and continuing, each Coy in turn until 1600 hrs. Mobile Bath is at 3rd Bde HQ

0900

4 ORs left this morning on a 60 hour leave to PARIS

During the course of the morning the 2IC Major W.W. Mair inspected all Coy billets.

2000

One carrier and one Dr went to area 7092 to get a party of Germans who were looking after horses there and escorted them to the CYR area.

The Platoon of “D” Coy that was guarding No 1 Dump at 637942 are now back in their Coy area 642952.

Weather today, cloudy and cool with scattered showers.

7

0400

2 Officers and 21 ORs left this morning for leave to the UK.

0600

The head of a column of 5000 Germans crossed the start point on their move to the HOEK VAN HOLLAND. There they will go on ships and be taken to GERMANY.

0750

Remainder of “B” Coy left for No 4 German Staging Camp area 7610 and at 0945 hrs their Hq was established at 765101 Sheet 358 HOLLAND 1/25,000.

0930

Protestant Church Parade was held in HQ Coy Area 647844.

1800

Lieut J.J. MacDonald and Lieut McConnell together with 30 ORs left for HOEK VAN HOLLAND where they will guard German Naval Personnel being evacuated to WILHELMSHAVEN by ship.

1930

A German Naval Officer was brought to this HQ from 3rd Bde HQ. He was trying to leave the country with 50000 Guilders. He wa [sic.] sent to the Control Point and put in the Concentration area. A paper with particulars came with him from Bde and this was given to the German Camp Commandant.

Weaher [sic.] today, cloudy with rain.

28

Training as per syllabus

1250

A message was received from Bde That they had given authority to two Eclipse Officers to remove any quantity of vehicles or stores from our dumps. They will have written authority with them.

1420

Escort party of 1 NCO and 2 men returned from escorting 167 horses, 1 foal, 32 carts or wagons and 65 Germans who have now returned to HOEK VAN HOLLAND.

1430

4 Carriers each with a crew of 2 left for “B” Coy as an extra guard on No 4 German Staging Camp. German Transport extends over more than the camp area and the carriers will help guard and keep civilians out who are more bother than the Germans. They arrived in “B” Coy area 665101 at 1600 hrs.

In the course of the afternoon the CO paid a visit to No 4 German Staging Camp where “B” Coy is guarding. German transport was found to be along the road blocking traffic and a vehicle park is being arranged to get transport off the road.

2030

A message from Bde states that Dutch Police at present on guard may be released from their duties on 29th May 45. The Dutch Coys U/C may be released from their duties on 1 Jun 45. If needed for guard duties they may be kept and the number notified to 3rd Bde HQ.

Weather today, cloudy with showers.

29

Training as per syllabus

0400

2 Officers and 28 ORs left for leave fo [sic.] the UK. 8 ORs left for leave to BRUSSELS.

1230

Two 60cwt lorries went to “A” Coy to assist a platoon under Lieut Jordan, under the supervision of Capt J.R. Reid, to search German Concentration area for any valuable war material and haul it to central dump.

1400

The 2IC Major W.W. Mair, proceeded to Div HQ at ROTTERDAM.

1500

This HQ wa [sic.] informed by 3 Bde HQ that the guards on No 4 German staging Camp which is “B” Coy, will remain until further notice as stragglers will still be coming in.

The last Germans in the Bn concentration left this afternoon for HOEK VAN HOLLAND to be evacuated to GERMANY.

A message from 3 Bde HQ stated that the Dutch Personnel U/C will be released by units as soon as possible. If necessary to retain as guards on dumps a minimum number may be held and the remainder dismissed.

During the day at different times there was a muster parade and pay parade in each of the Coy areas.

The West NSR Officer’s Club opened this evening at SCHEVENINGEN

2030

WOs and Sgt’s held a dance near the K of C 630954.

Weather cloudy with frequent showers.

30

Training as per syllabus

1500

The 2IC, Major W.W. Mair paid a visit to the control point.

Since coming into this area the Auxiliary Services, the K of C, have set up a recreation hall, a reading and writing room and a canteen. There is also a hall which can be used to hold dances in.

Weather today, cloudy with scattered showers.

31

Training as per syllabus

0830

10 ORs left for 72 hour leave to BRUSSELS.

0900

26 ORs left for return to CANADA on repatration [sic. Repatriation].

1330

The CO and IO paid a visit to “B” Coy.

1700

The CO held a conference at the Officers Mess and it was attended by 2IC, Coy Comds, MO, IO and Padre.

Weather today, cloudy with scattered showers.

NOTE

For complete details of the concentration and evacuation of German Naval Personnel also location of different dumps in Bn area see Appx 1.