WEST NOVA SCOTIA REGIMENT

WWII WAR DIARY

Place

Date

Time

Entry

West NSR

June 1945

THE HAGUE

MR 648947

Sheet 372

Holland

1:25,000

1

0430

2 Officers and 24 other ranks left this morning on leave to United Kingdom.

1200

Bde informs this HQ that “B” Coy now at No 4 German Staging Camp can be withdrawn immediately.

1500

2 Officers and 2 other ranks arrive as reinforcements and were allotted to Coys.

1700

All carriers that are at the Control Post MR630956 are being moved to “C” Coy area.

Weather today, cloudy in the morning becoming fine in the afternoon.

2

0400

8 other ranks proceeded on leave to United Kingdom.

0900

3 other ranks proceeded on re-patriation draft.

1100

“B” Coy starts to move from No 4 German Staging Camp to former Coy area 634947. Two platoons now in the area. They will move again tomorrow to area 643951.

1200

Capt C.H. Smith is now Bn polling booth Officer.

Weather today, fine and warm.

3

0915

“B” Coy now in area 643951.

Church Parade as per pt1 Orders

Lieut JJ MacDonald is now Bn Sports Officer.

Weather today, fine and warm.

4

Training as per syllabus

0430

1 Officer and 42 Other Ranks proceeded on leave to United Kingdom.

0830

A drivers course is started at Unit transport. 18 men from the Bn are attending.

1400

Lieut A J Gillis and 4 Other Ranks as armed guards proceeded to NIJMEGEN with the Ontario Election Ballot. They will be gone 24 hrs.

Weather today, fine and warm.

5

Training as per syllabus

1000

2IC, Major WW Mair attended a conference on rehabilitation at ROTTERDAM. The topic of discussion was the training of the soldier during the coming period prior to his discharge.

1100

The CO and IO proceeded on a visit to Div HQ.

1100

H/Capt LF Wilmot (MC) and Sgt Dempster gave a talk on rehabilitation to the Bn HQ.

1600

39 other ranks arrived as reinforcements and were allotted to Coys.

2025

No 3 and 4 Dutch Coys are no longer under command of this Unit.

Weather today, fine and warm.

6

Training as per syllabus

0400

15 other ranks proceeded on short leave to BRUSSELS.

1030

The Co held a Bn Parade and march past at ALEXANDER VELD MR647934, THE HAGUE. Dress was web belt, anklets and personal weapons. Before the march past the CO gathered the men around him and gave them a short talk on what was going on and the expectancies of the future.

1030

The IO attended a conference at Bde HQ to receive instructions on the Ceremoniel [sic.] Parade to be held at ROTTERDAM on Sunday, 10 Jun.

1530

Message received from AA & QMG, 3 CIB It is intended to turn over enemy naval stores and naval installations (including coast defences) to the Royal Navy. Advise location and nature of all stores and installations soonest.

1530

CO and IO proceeded to attend Bde Sports held at VUC Sports Ground MR671921. This Unit took second place in the Bde Championship.

1700

The CO held a conference at the officers mess attended by all Coy Comds. Points discussed were discipline, generally, and the coming parade to be held in ROTTERDAM.

1800

The Control Post at 630956 has been removed. Perimeter responsibility is now completely in the hands of No 3 and 4 Dutch Coys, who are no longer under command of this Unit.

Weather today, fine and warm.

7

Training as per syllabus

0600

Major HM Eisenhauer and 20 other ranks proceeded on a tour of the RUHR and North West GERMANY from the air. The air trip lasted for two hours and proved to be an educative as well as interesting one.

0800

8 other ranks proceeded to join the Pacific Draft.

1130

“C” Coy moved to former Coy Area MR648957.

Lieut-Col JA Nesbitt has taken over command of 3 Cdn Inf bde and Major WW Mair assumes command of this Unit.

1700

2IC held a conference attended by Adjt, IO and all Coy Comds. At this conference three committees were appointed as follows: – (1) Committee of education, Capt RJ McNeil Educational Officer with Lieut Clements and Lieut Gillis as assistants. (2) Sports Committee, Capt CH Smith Chief Sports officer with Lieut JJ MacDonald in charge of boxing and Lieut AE MacDonald assisting in other sports. (3) Recreational Committee made up of the MO and Capt DR Bews with the Padre H/Capt Wilmot MP as an honorary member.

Weather today, fine and warm.

8

Training as per syllabus

1400

Parade was held for all personnel who had not previously voted.

1500

A practice parade was held in the area between “A” and “D” Coy for the ceremonial parade to be held in ROTTERDAM Sunday. This Bn is to send 4 Coys of 96 men each to take part. The parade was identical to instructions laid down for tomorrows [sic.] show.

1700

A/CO, Major WW Mair held a conference in the Officers Mess attended by the Coy Comd IO and QM. Points of discussion were administrative difficulties, how they could be corrected and further details of the parade in ROTTERDAM tomorrow.

Weather today, fine and warm with exceptionally high wind.

9

Training as per syllabus

0430

3 other ranks proceeded to join the Pacific Draft.

1030

A/CO, Major WW Mair and IO proceeded to 3 CIB to attend a co-ordinating conference Re Div March Past in ROTTERDAM, tomorrow, 10 Jun 45.

1100

Major HM Eisenhauer has taken over the duties as 2IC of this Bn.

1100

1 other rank proceeded on compassionate leave to United Kingdom.

1330

A/CO held a conference in the officers mess attended by the four Rifle Coy Comds and one officer from each of their Coys, Sup Coy Comd, Hq Coy Comd, Padre, Adjt, IO and TO. Here he passed down the latest instructions on the parade tomorrow which he received from Bde this morning. Immediately following the conference the CO, 2IC, IO, Adjt and the four Rifle Coy Comds proceeded to ROTTERDAM and made themselves acquainted with the SP, line of march and the DP.

Weather today, Fine and warm.

10

0400m

18 other ranks proceeded on short leave to BRUSSELS.

0900

As many personnel as possible proceeded to ROTTERDAM as spectators for the march past to be held this morning.

1015

Church parades, see Ptl Orders

1100

The Divisional March Past was held this morning. For particulars see notes on Bde Conference 1030 hrs, 9th Jun 45.

1400

Warning Order received from 3 CIB that this Bn will take over responsibility of guards from 443 Bty, 1t AA at Mr649978, 609938 and 638948 Sheet 372, Holland 1:25,000

Relief to be completed by 1800 hours, 11 Jun 45.

Weather today, fine ad [sic.] warm with scattered showers towards evening.

11

Training as per syllabus

0430

10 other ranks proceeded on leave to United Kingdom.

0900

Capt RE Campbell left for CANADA this morning to take over duties as an SPO (Selection Personnel Officer).

1000

IO and 1 officer from “B”, “C” and “D” Coys proceeded on a recce of positions this Bn will take over from the Lt AA this evening The following is the proposed plan: – Each post will be manned by Platoon strength. (a) Costal [sic.] defence position, SCHEVENINGEN South MR609938, Sheet 372, Holland to be taken over by “B” Coy. (b) Costal [sic.] defence position, SCHEVENINGEN North, MR649978, Sheet 372, Holland to be taken over by “C” Coy. ( c ) Radar Dumps and telephone exchange SCHEVEVINGEN MR638948, Sheet 372, Holland to be taken over by “D” Coy.

1355

Lieut Smith, /B” Coy reports his Platoon is on the way to take over guard at 609938.

1415

Lieut Murray reports his platoon on the way to take over guard at 638948 (“D” Coy)

1420

Bde informs this HQ that 443 Bty, Lt AA will be moving from Old German HQ and Telephone exchange at VOORBURG MR700918, Sheet 372, Holland. 1:25,000.

1500

CO and IO proceed to VOORBURG to recce for the taking over of Old German HQ and Telephone exchange at 700918.

1510

Lieut Smith, /B” Coy on arriving at area 609938 where he is to take over the guard finds no accommodation for his platoon. He leaves one Sgt and 10 other ranks there. The remainder will move in when the Lt AA moves out.

1600

11 other ranks arrive as reinforcements and were allotted to Coys.

1950

“D” Coy informs this HQ that one Officer and 32 Other ranks of their Coy relieved the Lt AA of their duties at the dump at SCHEVENINGEN (radar and telephone exchange) MR638948, sheet 372, Holland.

Weather, fine and warm with rain later in the evening.

12

Training as per syllabus

1700

CO, Major WW Mair held a conference at the Officers Mess attended by the Coy Comds, Adjt and IO. Main points discussed were the educational, sports and recreational programmes. At the meeting the CO stressed that it was of primary importance that the men be kept busy.

Today “B” Coy moved the remainder of their platoon to the coastal defence position SCHEVENINGEN South, MR609938, Sheet 372, HOlland making the strength of the post 1 officer and 36 other ranks.

Weather today, fine and warm, changing to cloudy with scattered showers in the late afternoon.

13

Training as per syllabus

0400

3 other ranks proceeded on short leave to BRUSSELS.

0800

1 other ranks proceeded on compassionate leave to CANADA.

0800

19 other ranks proceeded to join Pacific Draft.

0830

Capt GG Taylor proceeded with the DAA & QMG on a preliminary accommodation recce to UTRECHT MR227904, Sheet 376, Holland, 1:25,000.

0900

19 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Occupational Forces.

1400

The CO and 2IC paid a visit to the guard positions at SCHEVENINGEN.

1400

It is the intention that “C” Coy will move the remainder of their platoon to the post (coast defence position 649978) at 1730 hours today, making the guards on all German dumps and installations platoon strength.

1800

“C” Coy now have a full platoon (1 officer and 33 other ranks) at the costal [sic.] defence position SCHEVENINGEN North, 649978, Sheet 372, Holland, 1:25,000.

Weather today, Cloudy and cool.

14

Training as per syllabus

0900

9 other ranks proceeded to join Pacific Draft

0910

CO, Major WW Mair paid a visit to “B” Coy guard position MR609938, Sh 372, 1:25,000

1345

The Padre, H/Capt LF Wilmot gave a talk on rehabilitation to all personnel with 150 service points and all those who have volunteered for service with the Cdn Far East Forces.

1400

Lieut EJ McConnell and 29 other ranks proceeded on an advance party to Army concentration area MR227904, Sheet 376, Holland, 1:25.000. (Utrecht)

1400

It is expected that this Bn will move to the army concentration area 16 or 18 Jun 45.

1400

Capt RJ McNeil conducted a tour of the Peace Palace, THE HAGUE. It was attended by 15 other ranks from the Bn.

1430

Major WW Mair and IO proceeded to 443 Bty, Lt AA re the taking over of German HQ and telephone exchange MR 700918, Sheet 372, Holland, 1:25,000. It is now learned that this relief is unlikely to take place.

1600

Warning order received from 3 CIB : – 74 AA Bde will relieve 3 CIB of all guards etc forthwith (.) Rep from 74 AA Bde expected to report this afternoon (.) Further details later (.) 3CIB expected to move to concentration area UTRECHT on or about 17 Jun 45 (.)

Weather today, fine and warm.

15

Training as per syllabus

1000

2IC, RSM and 1 officer from each coy proceeded on a recce to UTRECHT concentration area.

1330

Bn tabloid sports were held this afternoon at the sports field near BHQ. It was won by the Signal Platoon from HQ Coy with 60 points. “A” Coy were a close second with 58 points.

1400

Lieut LL Clements proceeded on a rehabilitation course to the United Kingdom.

1430

The CO and IO proceeded to the sports field and then to the Bn Guard positions.

1700

Capt Edgar, Bde Educational Officer gave a talk to the Officers of the Bn in the Officers Mess on the rehabilitation educational programme.

Weather today, fine and warm.

16

Training as per syllabus

0400

2 officers and 61 other ranks proceeded on leave to the United Kingdom.

0830

4 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Occupational Forces

0900

Lieut LN Gervais gave a lecture on rehabilitation to Bn Hq and Hq Coy.

0930

The IO paid a visit to the Bn guard positions

Lieut HN Lash has replaced Lieut NVK Wylie as LO at 3CIB. Lieut Wylie proceeded to the United Kingdom on leave.

1000

The CO, 2IC and RSM made a tour of inspection of all Bn billets.

1200

Representatives from 74 AA Bde arrived at this Hq and arrangements were made for the take over [sic.] which is to take place 19 Jun. They will relieve the Bn guards at the following positions ; MR609928, 628948 and 649978 Sheet 372, Holland, 1:25,000. “C” Coy won the Bn volleyball championship this afternoon and were presented with 100 cigarettes and chocolate by the K of C.

17

0800

1 other rank proceeded to join the Cdn Far East Forces.

Church parades as laid down in Ptl Orders

This afternoon the officers of the Bn played softball to decide upon a team to play the men.

Weather today, fine and warm.

18

Training as per syllabus

0700

1 Dispatch Rider proceeded to MR2895, UTRECHT, Sheet 376, Holland, 1:25,000 to guide a platoon of RCRs to be used as a demonstration Platoon in THE HAGUE. This Platoon will go to each of the Units of 3CIB and give a demonstration of drill, guard mounting, etc.

1000

Representatives from 2CIB, 3CIB and Sask Lt Inf attended a meeting held at this HQ to discuss Infantry Weapons and equipment problems.

1025

Message to all Coys : All available personnel, less those on courses will attend a demonstration on foot drill, guard mounting, etc to be put on between 1430 and 1530 hours today by a platoon from the RCRs. Place to be made known later.

1055

Demonstration platoon from the RCRs arrive at this HQ.

1055

Demonstration by the RCR platoon, slated for this afternoon cancelled until tomorrow.

Major WE Garber is now conducting an NCOs school of 21 Cpls and L/Cpls. RSM and various other NCOs are giving instruction. School will commence at 1330 hours, today.

1600

Message to platoons of “B”, “C” and “D” Coys. You will be relieved of guards on German dumps and installations by 74 AA Bde tomorrow, 20 Jun 45. Relief to be completed by 1400 hrs.

Weather today, fine and warm.

19

Training as per syllabus

0800

4 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Occupational Forces

1330

Capt RJ McNeil, Unit Educational Officer conducted a tour of DELFT Museum and Pottery Works. About 45 other ranks from the Bn attended.

1330

“D” Coy report the relief of their guard at 638948, Sheet 372, Holland, 1:25,000 complete

1415

“B” Coy report the relief of their guard at 609938, Sheet 372, Holland, 1:25,000 complete

1415

“C” Coy report the relief of their guard at 649978, sheet 372, Holland, 1:25,000 complete

1500

Bn Parade was held on the Bn parade square. The parade was held in honor of those who have offered their service in the Pacific. Major CF Whynacht, Officer in charge of the Pacific Draft took the salute from the Bn.

1545

IO proceeded to UTRECHT to recce the route laid on by 3CIB for the coming move to the concentration area.

1700

Movement Order No 7 issued, on the move to the Concentration area UTRECHT on 21 Jun.

Weather today, fine and warm.

20

Training as per syllabus

0430

2 officers and 46 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Far East forces.

0800

25 other rams proceeded to join the Canadian Occupational Forces.

0910

A demonstration of drill, guard mounting etc was given by the RCR demonstration platoon on the Bn parade square. All available personnel were in attendance.

1430

The IO with 3 dispatch riders proceeded to the Bde SP, VOORBURG. He instructed the dispatch riders where their confoy control points would be through THE HAGUE.

1500

100 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Occupational Forces.

1700

The CO held a conference in the officers mess attended by Coy Comds. Final details were laid on for the move to the concentration area MR227904, Sheet 376, Holland, 1:25,000 tomorrow 21 Jun 45.

Weather today, fine and warm.

K of C activities.: During the period spent in THE HAGUE a Bn canteen was organized with reading and writing rooms, a theatre and a dance hall. Numerous films were shown and other entertainment provided, including stage shows by Dutch Entertainment Units. Dances were held twice a week and the canteen was open daily for cigarettes, candy, etc.

21

Training as per syllabus

0800

1 officer and 23 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Far East Forces

UTRECHT

MR 224903

Sheet 376

Holland

1:25,000

0915

Bn moved as per movement order and arrived in area UTRECHT at 1125 hours. The move proceeded very well and was completed without the loss of a meal, breakfast being in THE HAGUE and dinner in UTRECHT. BHQ was established at 22459030, sheet 376, Holland, 1:25,000.

1500

10 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Occupational Forces.

1600

The CO attended a conference at 3CIB HQ where details were laid on for General Crerar’s visit tomorrow, 22 Jun, also rules and regulations for the Bde camp were discussed.

1830

Immediately following dinner the CO held a conference in the officers mess and discussed his party as well as the Bde Staff will have coffee with the CO and his Coy Comds at 1005 hours. At this conference the CO also made known the policy to be followed in the present location.

Major WE Garber is now at BHQ in preparation for taking over the position of 2IC when Major HM Eisenhauer the present 2IC assumes the acting command of the Bn.

Major WW Mair the present Bn Commander will be leaving on 23 Jun on repatriation draft to Canada.

Weather today, fine and warm.

22

Training as per syllabus

0800

2 officers and 2 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Occupational Forces.

1000

General Crerar and his party along with Lt Col JA Nesbitt, A/Bde Comd paid a visit and observed the training of this Unit.

Tonight the CO, Major WW Mair attended a mess dinner at his old Unit Hq the Saskatoon Light Infantry.

1900

Show at the K of C – Between Two Women.

Weather today, fine and warm.

23

Training as per syllabus

0830

3 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Occupational Forces

0830

1 officer and 54 other ranks proceeded on repatriation draft to CANADA

Major WE Garber, who for the past few days has been at Bn HQ in preparation for taking over as 2IC in the event of Major WW Mair returning to CANADA on repatriation drafts, has resumed command of “D” Coy. It became known today that Major WW Mair falls under the classification of key personnel and will remain in command of this Bn with Major HM Eisenhauer as 2IC.

1800

A mess dinner was held at the Bn Officer’s Mess. Guests were Lt-Col JA Nesbitt A/Bde and West NSR officer personnel serving with 3 CIB.

1800

Show at the K of C – “Between Two Women”.

2000

Show at the K of C – “Here Comes The Waves”

Weather today, fine and warm.

24

0800

1 Officers and 2 other ranks proceeded on repatriation draft to CANADA.

Church parades as per Pt 1 Orders

1400

Major CF Whynacht (MBE) proceeded to England to receive his MBE decoration from the King.

1800

Show at the K of C – “Tahiti Nights”

2000

Show at the K of C – “Sunday Dinner For A Soldier”

Weather today, cloudy with showers.

25

Training as per syllabus

0800

2 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Occupational Forces.

0800

9 other ranks proceeded on repatriation Draft to CANADA.

Lieut NPE Fox has taken over the duties of Unit Sports Officer and Unit Fire Officer.

1800

Show at the K of C – “Keys Of The Kingdom”

2000

Same Show.

Weather today, cloudy in the early morning then fine and warm.

26

Training as per syllabus

0800

7 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Occupational Forces.

0900

Major WE Garber proceeded to 2 Echelon to inquire into the Canadian Far East Drafts.

Also he is proceeding to the Refinforcement [sic.] Unit in an attempt to acquire berets, Divisional patches and Unit Titles for the Bn.

1900

Show at the K of C – The Thin Man Goes Home.

2000

Same show.

Weather today, Fine and warm changing to cloudy with light showers in the late evening.

27

Training as per syllabus

0430

20 other ranks proceeded on leave to the United Kingdom.

0800

1 Sgt and 14 men proceeded as a guard to 1 Cdn Inf Div Vehicle Park. They will remain there as long as we are in this area.

Approximately 500 all ranks will attend a parade in AMSTERDAM tomorrow

1900

Show at the K of C – Blondie On A Budget

2000

Same show

Weather today, cloudy with showers.

28

0700

Approximately 500 all ranks of this Unit proceeded to AMSTERDAM. The role of this Bn was to do point duty and they were deployed in positions along the parade route. The parade consisted of a massed Canadian Pipe Band, 5 Canadian Infantry Regiments, 1 Recce Regt, 1 Troop of tanks, and 3 Bts of Canadian Artillery. Also included in the parade was the NBS and Dutch Civil Organizations. At the end of the parade was a massed brass band of the Canadian Army. This parade proceeded along the main street of AMSTERDAM and was reviewed by General HDG Crerar, GOC-C, 1st Canadian Army and Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands. Estimated number on parade was 30,000, spectators were estimated at 180,000.

1000

29 other ranks arrived as reinforcements and were alloted [sic.] to Coys.

1900

Show at the K of C – In Society

2000

Same show

Weather today, Cloudy with a few scattered showers.

29

Training as per syllabus

1130

General Dempsey, Commander of the 2nd British Army paid a visit to this Bn.

1900

Show at the K of C – Girl In Overalls

2000

Same show

Weather today, Fine and warm turning to cloudy with light showers later in the evening.

30

Training as per syllabus

0800

4 other ranks proceeded to join the Canadian Occupational Forces.

1800

Show at the K of C – Double Indemnity

2000

Same show

Weather today, fine and warm turning cloudy in the evening.

General

The beginning of June saw the West NSR settling down to “Peace Time” routine in SCHEVENINGEN. Emphasis therefore fell entirely on relieving as much as possible the inevitable feeling of boredom, which would follow the Units long period in action. Tactical training was abandoned, and hardening training and smartening drill with afternoon sports became the syllabus of the day. Every advantage was taken of organized tours to points of interest. Hours of training were short and snappy to maintain interest.

As a preliminary to educational courses and return to civil life, three weeks period of rehabilitation lectures, including vocational information, was included in the training of all Coys. In spite of constant change of personnel due to repatriation, Canadian Far East Forces, and Canadian Occupational Forces Drafts the standard of discipline with West NSR was in most respects higher than that of any Bn within the Bde. Cases of disciplinary action were very limited, and at no time did the Unit incur the disfavor of higher formation or the civil authorities. General health remained good. The VD rate which rose following VE day was more than cut in half by a “Stamp-It-Out” campaign in which lectures by Platoon Commanders played a large part. The short training hours, complete freedom in the evenings until 2300 hrs and the friendliness of the Civilian Population assisted in keeping the morale of the men at a high level. The excellent work by the K of C Supervisor Mr AH Chivers, in providing a club and cinema for other ranks, is well worthy of praise.