

# The Woodstock Advanced Driving & Maintenance School

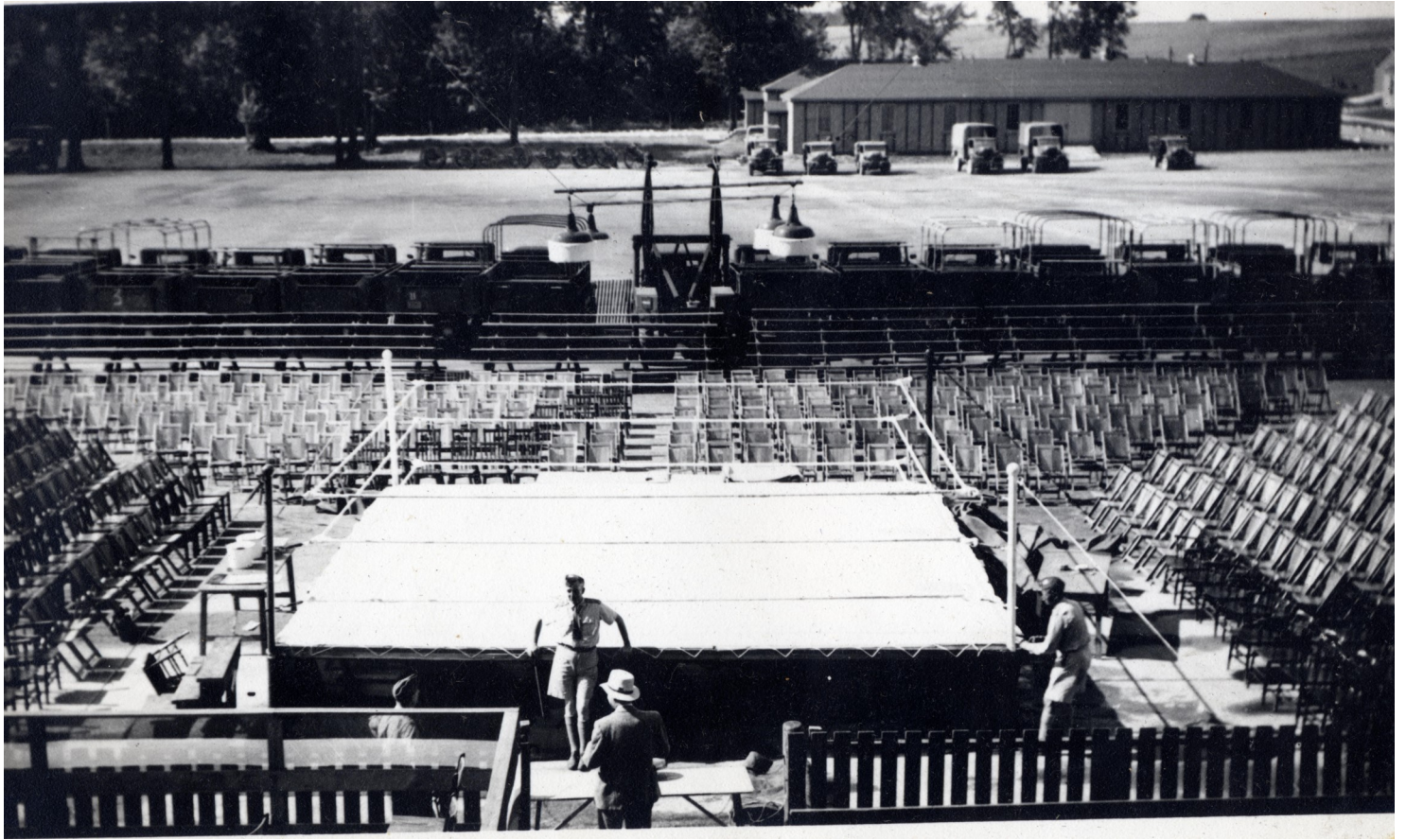
Construction on the Militia Training Camp at the Woodstock Fairgrounds began September 1940. Known as No. 11 Training Centre, it was officially opened in October 1940, with Lt.-Col. R.B. Crouch named as Commanding Officer.

The school included barracks, for trainees as well as officers, a kitchen and mess hall, lecture rooms and library, office space, quartermaster store, rifle range, parade ground, mechanic shops, etc. The fairground and bandstand were converted to the parade ground for inspections, as well as social events for the men and the public. Such events included an all-star professional and amateur boxing show in June 1942 and the Lowney's Caravan show.

Men were trained on driving and repairing military vehicles such as universal carriers, field artillery tractors (F.A.T.'s), motorcycles, trucks, etc. The School also had several training areas located outside the city with conditions that were meant to reflect the landscape they would face in Europe including water, mud, gravel, hills, and forested area. Training Area No. 1 was located north of Eastwood ; Training Area No. 2 included the A.F. Hamilton Gravel Pit; and Training Area No. 3 included the Hewitt Farm, 13th Line, William Dunn Gravel Pit and the McKay Bros. Farm (near Tollgate Side Road). Training Areas 2 & 3 were later owned by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority and turned into the Pittock Conservation Area. The school also conducted two manoeuvre training exercises in the Bruce Peninsula in 1943 and 1944, as well as a simulated sea and airborne attack near Goderich in 1944.

On May 12, 1941 the camp officially became known as S-11 Advanced Driving and Maintenance School and in January 1943 it was renamed S-5 Canadian Driving and Maintenance School. On October 9th, 1943 the school officially opened its sports field with a football game between the Wester University Mustangs and the Hamilton Navy team. Over the years, the school also conducted several "open house" events held to benefit civilian recruiting as well as contributed to the Victory Loan Campaigns through parades and other fundraising opportunities. In 1944 a mock execution of Hitler and Hirohito was held in front of the Woodstock City Hall as part of an event put on by the Canadian Driving and Maintenance School in support of the 7th Victory Loan Campaign.

The school closed in March 1946 with remaining personnel being transferred to Camp Ipperwash. Around 23,000 men passed through the school for training during its existence.



Boxing Ring set up at the Woodstock Advanced Driving & Maintenance School for the all-star boxing match. - 22 June 1942



Inside the office at the Woodstock Advanced Driving & Maintenance School—1940s.



Trainees playing music and entertaining themselves at the Woodstock Advanced Driving & Maintenance School—1940s.



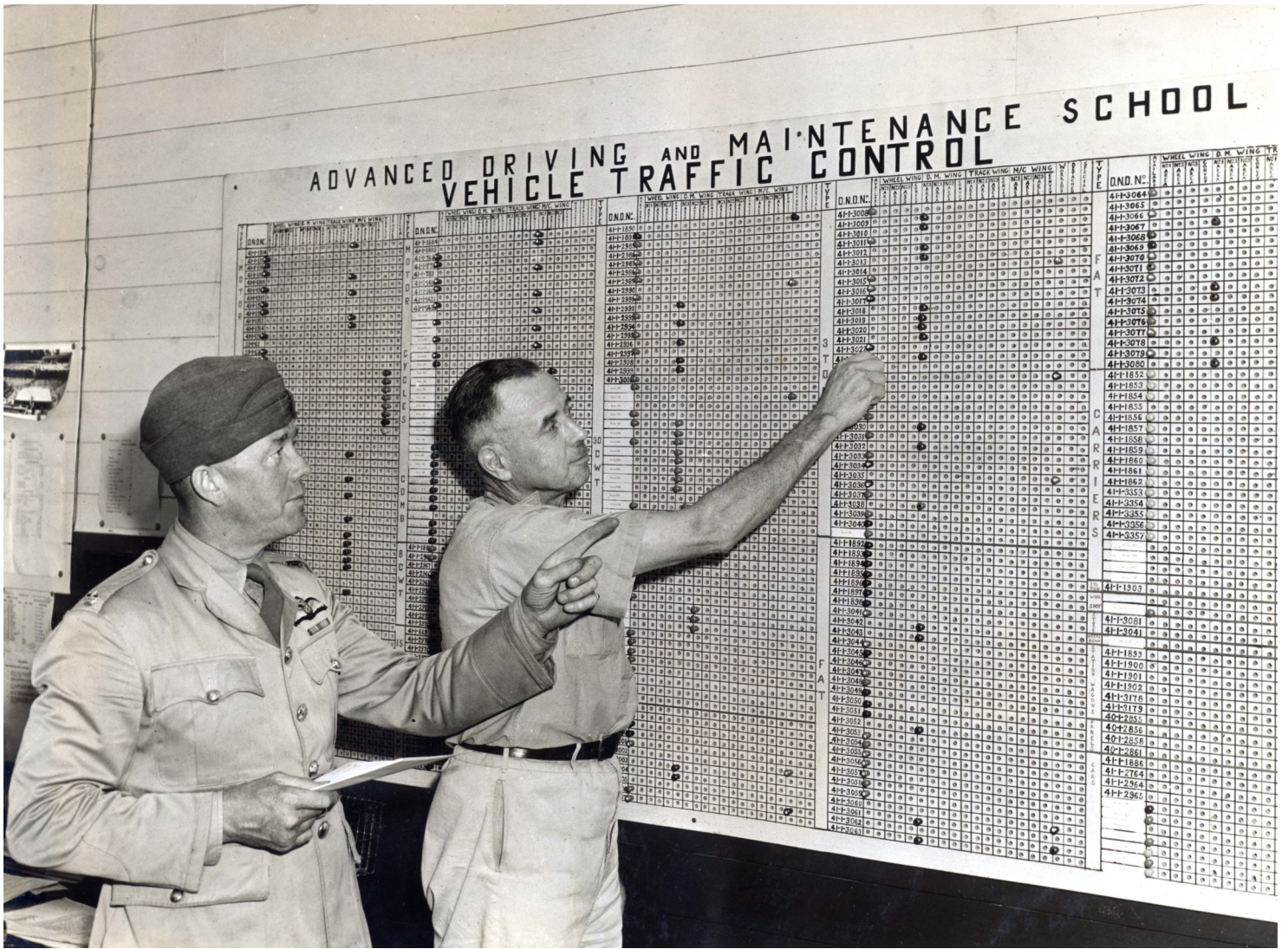
Training in camp at the Woodstock Advanced Driving & Maintenance School—1940s.



Vehicle training out in the field at the Woodstock Advanced Driving & Maintenance School—1940s.



Training in the Thames River for driving universal carriers across difficult terrain, Woodstock Advanced Driving & Maintenance School—1940s.



The vehicle traffic control board at the Woodstock Advanced Driving & Maintenance School—1940s.





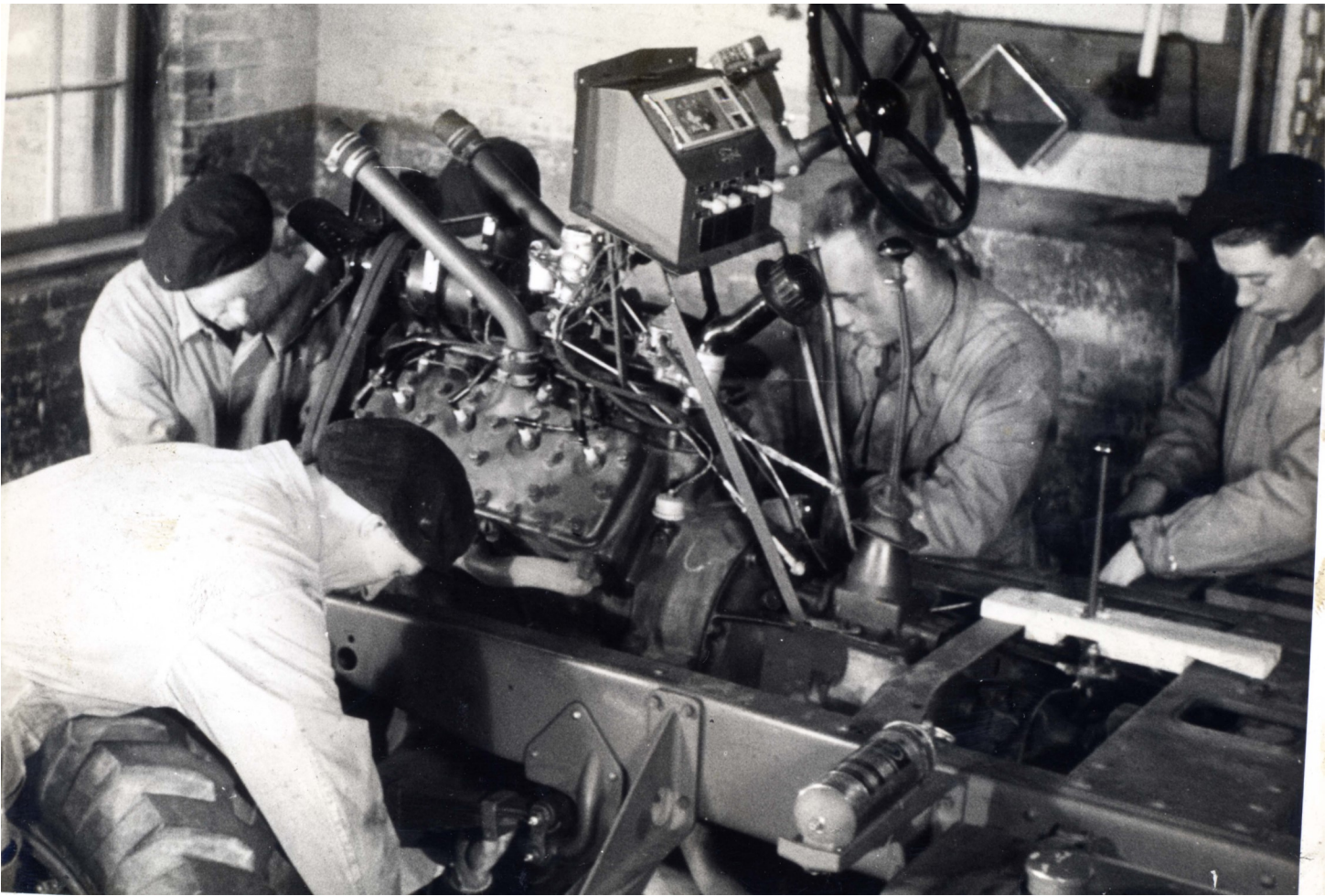
Synchronization of watches before the “Battle of the Bruce” training exercise, Woodstock Advanced Driving & Maintenance School—1943.



Trainees and vehicles at the “Battle of the Bruce” training exercise, Woodstock Advanced Driving & Maintenance School—1943.



Trainees using an anti-tank gun during a simulation of an airborne and seaborne attack at a training exercise in Goderich, Woodstock Advanced Driving & Maintenance School—1944.



Mechanics inside the shop at the Woodstock Advanced Driving & Maintenance School—1940s.