

Wartime West Sussex 1939 – 1945

CANADIANS

Canadians in Worthing

Extracts from *Despatches from the Home Front, The War Diaries of Joan Strange 1939-1945* (Monarch Publications, 1989)

1941

December 27th We've had a really lovely Christmas. Moll and her two boys, Michael and Roger, arrived on Christmas morning. Ken and family and Mrs Wenban-Smith and a Canadian soldier came too.....

A Canadian soldier has been shot and killed here over the holiday. They get rather fed up and have a drink and get out of hand. A sentry challenged and got a wrong answer or something and shot. The Worthing shops have suffered from much broken glass over the weekends - Hubbards have hastily rigged up a wooden contraption for protection. The men I've spoken to at the two canteens have been awfully decent - it's just a few who spoil it and give them a bad name.

1942

March 23rd Mother and I went to a lecture, 'The Voice of Canada', at the Town Hall by Major Coulter - most interesting, especially as we've thousands here in Worthing. The major put in a plea for the 'black sheep'. Every week there are several in the courts. Drink is responsible for most of their escapades.

1943

June 29th At the Report Centre I heard some Canadians enticed the commandos to 'do their stuff' with the result that two Canadians are in hospital!

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