

Wartime West Sussex 1939 – 1945

CANADIANS

Remembering the Canadians

From *Bulletin of the East Grinstead Society no 47* (East Grinstead Society, May 1990)

By Mrs Eileen Jeffrey (nee Gallant), who was an evacuee near East Grinstead

The Army camped in our woods. The Canadians were great with us children. We would help them with their spud bashing and they told us great tales of Indian attacks! They took us to a summer fete in their lorry, with Mum's permission of course. We couldn't believe the loaded tables of food we saw. We had to be told to help ourselves. It was the first time we tasted potato salad. They also taught us to play baseball.

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From *Wartime Memories 1939-45, By the Residents of South Harting, East Harting, West Harting, and Nyewood* (One Tree Books, 1995)

By Laura Barnard, who was an evacuee in South Harting

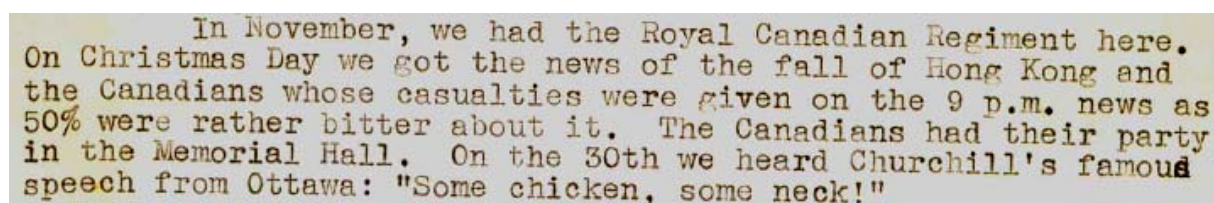
There was an Air Force Radar Station up on Harting Hill and airmen were billeted in homes in and around the village. As children, we particularly liked the French Canadian soldiers because they gave us chocolate and chewing-gum.

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From the *West Wittering Women's Institute Village Scrapbook*.

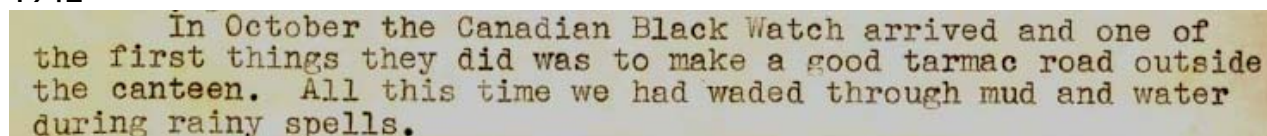
From an account written in 1946 of West Wittering Women's Voluntary Service, by L. F. Ramsey.

1941



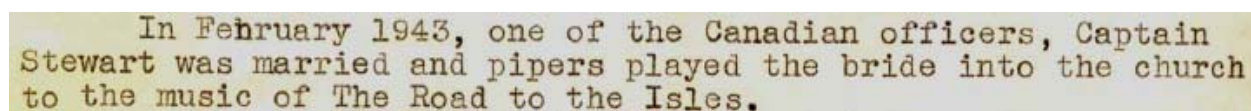
In November, we had the Royal Canadian Regiment here. On Christmas Day we got the news of the fall of Hong Kong and the Canadians whose casualties were given on the 9 p.m. news as 50% were rather bitter about it. The Canadians had their party in the Memorial Hall. On the 30th we heard Churchill's famous speech from Ottawa: "Some chicken, some neck!"

1942



In October the Canadian Black Watch arrived and one of the first things they did was to make a good tarmac road outside the canteen. All this time we had waded through mud and water during rainy spells.

1943



In February 1943, one of the Canadian officers, Captain Stewart was married and pipers played the bride into the church to the music of The Road to the Isles.

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