

Canadians in Worthing

Seven days after Britain, Canada also declared war on Germany. As soon as this occurred volunteers from all over Canada began joining the Canadian armed services. As early as December 1939, ships started arriving in Scotland packed with these raw recruits having had only a few weeks basic training in Canada.

In January 1940 after being kitted out with uniforms and weapons the first Canadian troops arrived in Worthing. Campsites soon sprung up around the town and hotels, like the Cavendish and Beach soon rang with the noise of army boots and voices of a completely different accent, as the Canadian troops were billeted in Worthing for training and defence of the south coast. As time went by troops were also billeted with families in and around the town and friendships were forged which lasted throughout the war and beyond.

Life during those times was not all plain sailing, and the local newspapers reported a number of confrontations between rival Canadian troops from different regiments, locals and British servicemen. However, a number of local girls married Canadian servicemen and in one regiment alone The Three Rivers Tank Regiment, 62 marriages took place, which is proudly recorded in the regiment's war diaries.

Many local people remember with sincere fondness the help and support that these young Canadians gave during the fear of WW2 and it is with this in mind that we wish to commemorate their stay in and around our town.

We would like to thank the following for their help in making the memorial possible.

