

THE CANADIANS FROM SUSSEX

(By A MILITARY OBSERVER)

It was across a Sussex bar one day that two senior officers of a battalion of the Stormont Dundas, and Glengarry Highlanders of Canada were greeted with the toast of "Up the Glens". Months later, on the Western Front, while seeking a short name by which the battalion might be known this incident in Sussex was remembered. And now it is by the name of the "The Glens" that these men of the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders--the S.D.G's as the people of Sussex will remember them--would wish to be known! "The Glens", a D-day assault unit, will be remembered in a number of Sussex towns. Their first Sussex station was Middleton-on-Sea, in November, 1941. In 1942 and half of 1943 the battalion was in the area of East Wittering and West Wittering, Selsey, Thorney Island, Chichester, and Horsham.

Within 24 hours of landing in Normandy "The Glens" were being shelled persistently as they held on gallantly to their positions at "Hell's Corner". There, as the first vicious German reaction came in, they had their first real taste of war. A month later, still in the line, they captured Gruchy in the final attack on the Caen bastion. "The Glens" mopped up in Caen, did their first street fighting just south, and at Trun, as the push to Falaise got under way, Sergeant W.M. MacKenzie came in at the head of a band of 250 Germans with a white flag in his hand!

The clearing of the Channel ports saw "The Glens" do a big job. As they cleared behind Dieppe Major Jack Peterson picked up a German Admiral complete with his staff. Fighting with a fine dash, "The Glens" then moved on to one of their major successes, the capture of the Citadel of Boulogne. The next major battle for them, and one of the toughest, was the clearing of the Scheldt Estuary. These grand fighters smile and laugh over memories of Sussex, of Middleton-on-Sea in particular where, in November, 1941, they made a host of friends. To "The Glens", Middleton-on-Sea is "Home". And they remember and talk of the Witterings, Selsey, Thorney Island, Chichester and Tangmere, and of the many marches from Goodwood Park to Selsey. "It's always a good go in Sussex say 'The Glens'". And they are coming to Sussex on leave, a lot of them, to re-visit the people who "made them at home" in England.