

E-Boats Didn't Fire Back In Rush To Avoid Canucks

Ottawa, Oct. 20 — Pre-invasion sweeps proved more exciting for the crew of H.M.C.S. Camrose than cross-Channel trips after the invasion, men from the Canadian corvette said on returning to the Dominion for leave.

"We did spot a couple of German E-boats in the Channel one night and had a few shots at them," said Chief P.O. Walter Palmer, of Burlington Beach, Ont. "Every ship in our convoy took a crack at them as they went by, and some of our men say they saw several hits. They weren't firing back—they were just getting out of there as fast as they could."

The E-boats were the only enemy ships Camrose saw during many weeks of invasion escort duties.

Camrose, under command of Lt. Cmdr Louis R. Pavillard, Halifax, went overseas and found action in pre-invasion days as part of an

escort support group in the Atlantic and the Bay of Biscay. She was in at the sinking of a Nazi blockade runner, and also got credit for "probable sinking" of a German submarine.

The blockade runner, running through the Bay of Biscay, was spotted and bombed by Allied planes, and was in sinking condition when the Canadian corvette steamed up. She picked up 29 survivors as prisoners of war, and had them on board for several days before landing them at a British port.

"They slept in one of the mess-decks," said P.O. Edmund "Tug" Wilson, of Essex, England, and Toronto. "Our boys gathered up blankets and windbreakers to give them," he said. "By the time we reached port one of the Germans, a messman, didn't want to leave the ship.

"He offered to sail with us."

Camrose paired off with a British warship to score the "probable" on the German U-boat. Detected on the surface, the enemy sub crashed, and the Allied ships attacked with depth charges.