

Sailors Played Ball On Invasion Beach

Little Excitement on D Day Crew of Camrose Maintain

A game of ball on a French beach provided about the most excitement of the invasion for the crew of H.M.C.S. Camrose, according to men from the veteran Royal Canadian Navy corvette who arrived in Canada recently on leave.

Numerous Albertans serve on it.

"We did spot a couple of German E-boats in the Channel one night and had a few shots at them. 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," said one member of the crew.

They were the only enemy ships Camrose saw in the Channel in many weeks of invasion escort duties.

Camrose, under command of Lieut. Cdr. Louis R. Pavillard, R.C.N., Halifax, first crossed the Channel on the second day of the invasion, "D plus One."

One of the old-timers in Canada's navy, H.M.C.S. Camrose was built and commissioned at Sorel, and for three and a half years saw action in many parts of the world under her original captain, Lieut. Cdr. Pavillard.

She served for months on convoy escort duty in the North Atlantic, and took part with other Canadian corvettes in the invasion of North Africa. While in the Mediterranean she attacked an enemy submarine with guns and depth charges, and was credited with "probably damaging the U-boat.