



Honouring Our Veterans: LCPL Thomas Dick (1920–2011) 🇬🇧 🇨🇦

From the beaches of Dunkirk to the landing craft of Juno Beach, Comrade Tom Dick lived through some of the defining moments of the Second World War. Serving six and a half years with the Royal Engineers (British Expeditionary Force), Tom left behind a remarkable firsthand account of duty, survival, and brotherhood.

The Miracle of Dunkirk (1940)

Volunteering in 1939, Tom was deployed to France to fortify the Franco-Belgian frontier. When the blitzkrieg struck, his unit laid mines and blew bridges under intense

enemy fire to slow the German advance. During the chaotic retreat, Tom climbed a rope ladder onto the destroyer *HMS Wakeful* under constant shelling and strafing, escaping back to Dover just before the ship was tragically sunk on its return trip.

Later that year, during a short 72 hour leave in July 1940, he met his beloved wife Evelyn and they married that December, before returning to train for the liberation of Europe.

D-Day at Juno Beach (June 6, 1944)

On D-Day, Tom was part of an elite four-man British Army Reconnaissance Party landing on **Juno Beach alongside Canadian forces**. Dodging incoming mortar fire from "Moaning Minnies," his team pushed through the sand to neutralize snipers, mines, and booby traps ahead of the main engineer company.

Moving inland to establish an assault bridging depot, Tom witnessed a moment that stayed with him forever: on Bastille Day, local French villagers and children arrived with posies of wildflowers to hold a quiet memorial service over the temporary graves of fallen Canadian soldiers who had liberated their town.

A Lasting Legacy

Tom served through France, Holland, and Germany until VE Day, completing occupation duties before emigrating to Canada in 1947. In later years, Tom brought that same generous spirit to our Branch as our genial Seniors Officer, an avid snooker player, and an unforgettable friend to all.

We will remember them!



Wartime memories and photos shared with heartfelt thanks to former 'Contact' editor Garry Fancy and the Dick family.