

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Henry Jermyn MBE (1904-1998)



Thomas was born on 3 November 1904 in Pine Lake Alberta.

In 1910 the family moved to North Vancouver and by 1911 he was living with his parents and sister at 114 13th Street in North Vancouver.

During WWI his father joined the reserve company of 6 Field and his son was a cadet with the 6th.

In 1923 he joined the 6th as a sapper. He qualifying as a Sergeant in 1927. In 1929 he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. He became a Captain in 1934 and a Major and the 6th's commanding officer on 1 April 1939. At that time he was working as a machinist and toolmaker for Boeing.

Upon the declaration of war he was granted leave by Boeing and became the 6th's CO during the mobilization. On 1 June 1940 he reverted to the rank of Captain when Maj Sweeney, an officer with extensive combat experience in WWI, became the CO. Later, on September 4, 1940, while in Debert, he married Helen M. Malcolm from Springfield Missouri and had a short honeymoon in Ontario. After Maj Sweeney's death in late 1940 he was restored to the rank of Major and resumed command of the unit. He remained in command during the 6th's deployment to England and in 1943 handed over command to Maj Bert Sukarov. As Lt Neil Mustard said many years later "*...the OC was an old peacetime officer, a nice guy...then before D-Day, they realized Maj Jermyn was not quite the man for an assault landing since he was older — 40 years — so they put in a young chap.*"

After leaving the 6th he commanded the 1st Workshop and Park Company RCE then was Assistant Director Labour at Headquarters 1st Canadian Army in Dec 1944, responsible for recruiting and employing large gangs of civilian labourers. He remained the AD Labour in Europe until 27 July 1945 at which time he began the demobilization process. He finished the war as a Lt Col and was awarded the MBE.

He eventually retired to the small town of Cabool Missouri and passed away in Walnut Shade Missouri on Wednesday October 28, 1998 at the age 93.