

## Thomas Captain Theodore C. (Ted)



Ted joined 6th Field Company, Royal Canadian Engineers as a sapper in 1933 and by September 1939 was the unit Company Quartermaster Sergeant. In 1940 he became 6 Field's Company Sergeant Major.

He landed in Normandy on the afternoon of D-Day with the headquarters party. He then served continuously with the 6<sup>th</sup> until he was badly wounded in Germany in April 1945. As Captain Neil Mustard, the second in command of the 6<sup>th</sup> recalled:

*"Sgt-Maj Thomas and his batman Spr Fernie Poulin were in a little forest just deciding where to put the troops for shelter for the night, and the trailer was about 100 yards away. The Germans sent the Moaning Minnies over — six at once, and it landed among us in the forest. The Sgt-Major had both legs badly bashed up, so badly that he was to spend nearly three years in hospital and treatment centres before discharge. Fernie Poulin was hit in the chest. I*

*caught him in my arms and I got the pair out. I didn't get a scratch. Don't know how I escaped. The Orderly truck was full of pieces of shrapnel. I caught Fernie before he fell."*

Thomas was repatriated and spent three years in the Shaughnessy Military Hospital in Vancouver, where he met his future wife, one of his nurses.

After recovering, Ted worked as a manager in a number of plastic plants in the Vancouver area. He also returned to the Militia became the RSM for 7th Field Engineer Regiment.

In 1958 he was commissioned as a Captain and became the regimental band officer. He then served as the Unit Pay Officer until he retired from the Army in 1965 when 7 FER was disbanded. By then he had over 30 years of service.

Ted was an active member of the 6th Field Squadron Veterans Association and one of its leaders. With CQMS Sam Flatt he helped write the unit history in the 1950s and donated a considerable amount of material to the 6 Field Engineer Squadron Museum Association.

He passed away peacefully in Port Coquitlam B.C. on March 5, 2002 in his 88th year. As Honorary Lt Col WA (Bill) Dow once said of Ted *"He was a good man. Blunt and honest. A rough diamond."*