

## Memorial 1995

### William Edward (Ted) EARLE

**T**ed Earle was born in Ireland in 1920 and emigrated to Canada along with most of his family in 1927. After living in Montreal, the family moved to Noranda in 1935.

In the summer of 1941, Ted joined the army in Montreal and was assigned to the Royal Forestry Corps. After training, in Huntingdon and Valcartier, Quebec, he shipped out from Halifax early in December arriving in Liverpool three weeks later on Christmas Day. After some time with the Forestry Corps in Scotland, Ted transferred to the Royal Canadian Engineers, took further training at Farnborough and was posted to the south of England. "We were stationed in 'Buzz Bomb Alley' and saw one of the first to come over, hear the motor stop, and see the destruction." Ted's posting in the Dover area was part of a diversionary scheme since the Germans were being led to believe the invasion would be attempted across the narrowest part of the English Channel, on to the beaches of the Pas de Calais. In reality, Ted became part of 2nd Division that went over to Normandy in late June - early July.



THEN



Ted remembers the sleeping conditions, menu and bathing facilities of the Normandy Invasion with less than great fondness -- but with good humour. With the heat of summer, 1944 he recalls that the stink of dead animals and humans was terrible. He remembers as well the tragic bombing of ground troops by their own allied bombers.

By Christmas of 1944 his company was in Nijmegen, Holland, sleeping in schools; "...slept in more schools than I ever attended." On Christmas Day they were guarding a bridge, to prevent German frogmen from blowing it up. In early 1945 they moved into Germany and at the end of the War Ted transferred to the Service Corps. He was posted back into Holland and remained there until New Year's Day, 1946. Then it was over to England and back to Canada. Looking back on his time overseas, Ted says, "I must state

that I myself was no hero. I find that I did more than some, and not so much as others."

After discharge at Lansdowne Park in Ottawa in February, 1946, Ted pulled together his own personal savings and, together with \$500 from his mother, made

a down payment on a farm outside of Richmond. To meet the rest of the cost he obtained help from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Ted lives in Richmond with his wife Helen but still runs his farm.

Ted and Helen remained residents of Richmond until their passing. Ted passed in April 2003 and Helen in February 2008.

NOW