



The Miracle of Dunkirk (Wordsworth Collection)

By Walter Lord

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The true story of the British army's miraculous evacuation as the Nazis closed in, by the #1 *New York Times*–bestselling author of *Day of Infamy*.

In May of 1940, the remnants of the French and British armies, broken by Hitler's blitzkrieg, retreated to Dunkirk. Hemmed in by overwhelming Nazi strength, the 338,000 men who gathered on that beach were all that stood between Hitler and Western Europe. Crush them, and the path to Paris and London was clear. And so, unable to retreat any farther, the Allied soldiers set up defense positions and prayed for deliverance.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill ordered an evacuation on May 26th, expecting to save no more than a handful of his men. But Britain would not let its soldiers down. Hundreds of fishing boats, pleasure yachts, and commercial vessels streamed into the Channel to back up the Royal Navy, and in a week nearly the entire army was ferried safely back to England. Assembled from interviews with hundreds of survivors who witnessed the evacuation, *The Miracle of Dunkirk* is a striking history of a week when the fate of Britain hung in the balance.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Stirring . . . The difference between the Lord technique and that of any number of academic historians is the originality of his reportage. . . . Contemporary history at its most readable.” —*The New York Times*

“Amazing and unexpected heroism . . . well worth reading.” —*Milwaukee Sentinel*

“A master narrator.” —Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.

About the Author

Walter Lord (1917–2002) was an acclaimed and bestselling author of literary nonfiction best known for his gripping and meticulously researched accounts of watershed historical events. Born in Baltimore, Lord went to work for the Office of Strategic Services during World War II. After the war’s end, Lord joined a New York advertising firm, and began writing nonfiction in his spare time. His first book was *The Fremantle Diary* (1954), a volume of Civil War diaries that became a surprising success. But it was Lord’s next book, *A Night to Remember* (1955), that made him famous. The bestseller caused a new flurry of interest in the *Titanic* and inspired the 1958 film of the same name. Lord went on to use the book’s interview-heavy format as a template for most of his following works, which included detailed reconstructions of the Pearl Harbor attack in *Day of Infamy* (1957), the battle of Midway in *Incredible Victory* (1967), and the integration of the University of Mississippi in *The Past That Would Not Die* (1965). In all, he published a dozen books.

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