

# Dunkirk Grim, (The Little Boats of Albion) by Matt Kenrick 2025

#Intro G////G////G////Em//D//

[Verse 1]

G  
Come gather round and hear the song,  
Em7 C  
Of men both brave and true,  
G Em  
Not soldiers bold, nor admirals grand,  
C D  
But boatmen — me and you.  
G  
From Thames and Trent, from Lea and Wear,  
Em C  
From Avon down to Plym,  
G Em  
We left our homes, we left our trades,  
C G--G  
And sailed for Dunkirk grim.

[Chorus]

G Em  
And it's pull boys, pull, on the tiller tight,  
C D G  
With a rope-burned hand and an eye for fight.  
Em G C  
Through smoke and shell, through shot and flame,  
C D G---GMaj6  
We brought our boys back home again.

[Verse 2]

G  
We weren't no fleet with polished brass,  
Em7 C  
No gunships proud and grand,  
G Gm7 Em7  
But working boats from muddy cuts,  
C D  
And tradesmen's weathered hands.  
G  
Me barge were built for coal and clay,  
Em7 C  
Not bullets in the sky,  
G D Em G  
But when they called for every hand,  
C G-----G  
We kissed our wives goodbye.

[Chorus]



[Verse 3]

G Capo 3  
Past burning hulls and bodies pale,  
Em7 C  
Through waters thick with death,  
G D Em  
With engines coughing, canvas torn,  
C D  
And prayers beneath our breath.  
G  
The soldiers clambered, wet and worn,  
Em7 C  
With hollow, haunted eyes,  
G D Em  
And we just smiled and dragged them in,  
C G  
As hell fell from the skies.

[Verse 4]

G Em7 C  
I saw a mate from Oxford town, His little launch aflame,  
G Em  
But still he steered to save his crew,  
C D  
And never cursed his name.  
G  
And when at last we made the quay,  
Em7 C  
With men both safe and sore,  
G D Em C  
We tied her up with hands of blood  
C D G  
And then went back for more.

[Final Chorus]

G D Em  
So here's to them, the boat men's part  
C D G  
With shallow draft and brave of heart,  
G D Em  
They asked for aid and we gave them men —  
C D G----  
And brought their armies home again.  
G D Em  
No medals pinned nor glory gained,  
C D G  
Just tales told by the old canal.  
G D Em-----Em  
But when England called, we answered plain —  
C D----G G----GMaj6  
The little boats of Albion.