

Name THOMAS Thomas Francis Mitchell

Regtl No. and rank A29464 Pte

Unit R.C.O.C.

Date of enlistment

Place of enlistment London, Ontario

Married or single Married

Next of kin Mrs. Catherine Mary Mitchell (Wife)
144 Wharncliffe Rd (S)
London, Ontario.

Civil occupation Mechanic's Helper

Previous service Nil

B.E.M.

A29464 Pte Thomas Francis Mitchell

On 21 Feb 42 a serious fire broke out in a garage occupied by a section of 2 Cdn Div Ord Wkshop, R.C.O.C., at Crowborough, Sussex. A Machinery Lorry Type MT (valued at approximately \$17,000.00) was in the building and in danger of total destruction by fire. Tow unsuccessful attempts had already been made to remove the lorry, one by driving and one by withdrawing by means of a winch and cable. Members of the Local Fire Services had already given it up as beyond recovery and had advised against further attempts to recover vehicles. Pte Mitchell, on his own initiative, realizing the seriousness of the possible loss of such equipment and appreciating the monetary value of same, went into the burning building, entered the blazing cab of the truck and despite smoke, fumes and heat attempted to back the lorry out of the garage. After one unsuccessful attempt and realizing that the only chance of saving the vehicle was to crash it through the corner of the building, he drove the vehicle forward a few feet and on this second attempt, succeeded in backing the lorry, the front end now in flames, through the corner of the building to safety while the Fire Services assisted by turning their hose on him.

By this outstanding demonstration of leadership, his prompt and commendable action, Pte Mitchell not only prevented the total loss of a valuable Machinery Lorry but made an opening through which further recoveries were made.

(Canada Gazette Extra Issue No. 1 Vol 77 dated 1 Jan 43)

(London Gazette No. 35842 dated 1 Jan 43)

(Overseas R.O. 2983 dated 4 Jan 43)