

william james andrew mitchell

world war two

military medal citation

29 NOVEMBER, 1944

B-43530 CPL MITCHELL W.J.A.
CIC (S SASK R)

FIELD MARSHAL SIR BERNARD L MONTGOMERY HAS ADVISED ME THAT YOU HAVE BEEN AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY AND DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT DURING THE BRAY DUNES PLAGE BATTLE. I WISH TO CONGRATULATE YOU, NOT ONLY FOR YOUR EXAMPLE AND COURAGE, BUT ALSO FOR THE HONOUR WHICH YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO THE 2ND CANADIAN INFANTRY DIVISION.

I AM ENCLOSING HEREWITH A RIBBON WHICH YOU MAY TAKE INTO WEAR IMMEDIATELY. UNTIL THE AWARD HAS FINALLY BEEN APPROVED BY HIS MAJESTY THE KING AND PUBLISHED IN THE CANADA GAZETTE, HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE NO PUBLICITY IN CONNECTION WITH YOUR AWARD.

I ALSO ENCLOSE A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL CITATION WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED IN DUE COURSE.

A BRUCE MATTHEWS MAJ-GEN
COMMANDER
2ND CANADIAN INFANTRY DIVISION

HEADQUARTERS
2 ND CANADIAN INFANTRY DIVISION

IN THE FIELD

C I T A T I O N

M I L I T A R Y M E D A L

B-43530 CPL MITCHELL, W.J.A.

ON THE 17TH OF SEPTEMBER 1944, THE SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN REGIMENT WERE ATTACKING ENEMY POSITIONS AT BRAY DUNES PLAGE. IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE INFORMATION OF THE ENEMY'S DISPOSITIONS AND STRENGTH, AND A STRONG PATROL WAS DESPATCHED, OF WHICH CORPORAL MITCHELL WAS A MEMBER.

EARLY IN THE ACTION ANOTHER PLATOON WAS PINNED DOWN BY A WELL-SITED ENEMY MACHINE GUN POST. REALIZING THAT IF THIS PLATOON DID NOT GET FORWARD, THE FLANK WOULD BE EXPOSED, CPL. MITCHELL BROUGHT FIRE TO BEAR ON THE ENEMY. HE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN DIVERTING THE FIRE AWAY FROM THE PLATOON, BUT WAS WOUNDED IN DOING SO. ALTHOUGH PAINFULLY WOUNDED, HE WENT FORWARD TOWARD THE POST AND, FIRING HIS WEAPON FROM THE HIP, DESTROYED THE POST.

BY HIS QUICK APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION, AND DETERMINATION TO CARRY OUT HIS TASK, THE PATROL WAS ABLE TO GET FORWARD AND SECURE VALUABLE INFORMATION, WHICH WAS EXTREMELY USEFUL IN SUBSEQUENT OPERATION THAT DROVE THE ENEMY FROM THEIR POSITIONS.

