

william james andrew mitchell

world war two

transcription of military service records

William James Andrew Mitchell, MM

Regimental No. B43530

RECORD	DATE	LOCATION	UNIT	DIRECT TRANSLATION	REMARKS
TOS No 2 District Depot (AF)	16 Jul 41	Toronto, Canada	D & H Rifles "I" Wing	Taken on Strength No 2 District Depot	<p>Joined the Canadian Army in Toronto, and assigned to the Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles of Canada, "Instruction" Wing.</p> <p>The Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles of Canada mobilized 'The Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles of Canada, CASF' for active service on 24 May 1940. It was redesignated '1st Battalion, The Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles of Canada, CASF' on 7 November 1941. It served in Canada in a home defence role as part of the 17th Infantry Brigade, 7th Canadian Division. The battalion was disbanded on 8 March 1945.</p>
SOS N2 DD on trans to DHRC Nanaimo	29 Jul 41	Toronto, Canada	D & H Rifles "I" Wing	Struck off Strength No 2 District Depot on transfer to Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles of Canada Nanaimo	He's now moving to Vancouver Island to join the Battalion.
TOS DH Rifles for all purposes	30 Jul 41	Nanaimo, Canada	DHRC	Taken on Strength Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles of Canada for all purposes	Joined the Battalion in Nanaimo. For all purposes means "for everything; pay, equipment, employment". Basically, the DHRC now "own" him.
Secured qualification Driver Class III of MT Vehicles	3 Nov 41	Colwood, Canada	DHRC	As record indicated	He has been trained, taken the test, passed and now is qualified to driver Military vehicles.
Granted furlough - 16 Feb 42 to 2 Mar 42 Traveling time - 2 Mar to 10 Mar 42 Transport Warrant A- 83629	16 Feb 42	Colwood, Canada	DHRC	As record indicated	<p>He is now on leave. He's give "travel time", or added time that is needed to get from the West Coast to his home in Toronto. He is also given a Transport Warrant.</p> <p>A Transport Warrant was like a "ticket" on any transportation that he took. Such as a bus, train, cab etc. The owners of a Transport Warrant sent a copy of it with all their receipts for travel to Ottawa for reimbursement. The Canadian Forces used Transport Warrants up until mid 1970s.</p>

Admitted to Chorley Park M. H. Toronto, Ont sick while on furlough	23 Feb 42	Colwood, Canada	DHRC	Admitted to Chorley Park Military Hospital, Ont, sick while on furlough	<p>He was diagnosed with “Coryza” and admitted to hospital. Coryza is an acute inflammatory contagious disease involving the upper respiratory track. It is also known as the “common cold”. Remember, he was on Leave at this time and staying with his mother.</p> <p>The records state “Colwood” and “DHRC”. This is because he still “belonged” to this unit. He was only on Leave in Toronto, not stationed there.</p>
Discharged from CPMH - Toronto, Ontario	27 Feb 42	Colwood, Canada	DHRC	Discharged from Chorley Park Military Hospital, Ontario.	<p>The unit name has changed again to #20 (Basic) Training Centre. He ceases to be “On Command”. He has been “called out” for enlistment in the C.A. (A).</p> <p>Chorley Park Military Hospital was located on Douglas Street in the Rosedale section of Toronto. It was originally built as the home of Ontario’s Lieutenant Governor. Construction started in 1911 and was completed in 1915. Built to resemble French Renaissance Châteaux’s of the Loire Valley at a cost of \$1.2M, this mammoth residence became far too expensive to maintain and the Ontario government closed it in 1937. The federal government bought the estate and converted it to a military hospital that opened in 1940 and operated until 1955. The RCMP used the home to house their administrative staff as well as using it to house Hungarian students who had fled the Russian invasion of Hungary in 1956. In 1959, it was purchased by the City of Toronto and demolished, due to its deteriorated condition, a year later.</p>
Appointed A/L/Cpl wop	7 Apr 42	Nanaimo, Canada	DHRC	Appointed Acting Lance Corporal without pay	<p>He has been promoted to Acting Lance Corporal, but is still being paid as a Private. The Army did this quite often to “try a man out”, before they offered him the rank and money. They also had to have an “establishment” for the position, so sometimes they would reward a man by promotion, but make it “Acting” without pay, so they didn’t have to have an established position.</p>

Appointed L/Cpl with pay	7 Apr 42	Nanaimo, Canada	DHRC	Appointed Lance Corporal with pay	He was given a full promotion with pay to Lance Corporal on the same day he was promoted to "Acting Lance Corporal" without pay. This is not common and the "Acting" promotion must have been something to do with the army's "red tape".
A.W.L. 2359 hrs 2 May 42 to 1045 hrs 3 May 42. Total absence 10 hrs 46 mins (Admonished & forfeits 1 days pay FRI 149(1a))	4 May 42	Nanaimo, Canada	DHRC	As record indicated	He was away without permission. He was "admonished" and lost a day's pay. Admonished means that the Commanding Officer yelled at him, then the Regimental Sgt Major yelled at him, then his Sergeant yelled at him and then his Corporal yelled at him. "FRI 149 (1a) is the official military regulation that allows everyone to yell at him and loose 1 days pay.
SOS on transfer to the 13th A/Tank Bty, RCA, Petawawa, Ont	15 Jun 42	Otter Point, Canada	DHRC	Struck off Strength on transfer to the 13th Anti Tank Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery, Petawawa, Ont	He has left the DHRC and has been transferred to an Anti Tank Battery located in Petawawa, Ontario. He probably volunteered for this transfer.
Att. To this Unit for a/P ex pay, eff 1 Jul 42 to 4 Jul 42 Incl	1 Jul 42	Otter Point, Canada	DHRC	Attached to this unit for all purposes except pay, effective 1 Jul 42 to 4 Jul 42 inclusive	Even though he has been transferred to the 13th Anti-Tank Battery of the Royal Canadian Artillery, he is still "owned" by the Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles. The reason for this is unknown.
Attached (A2) CATC Petawawa for duty, quarters & Rations	8 Jul 42	Petawawa, Canada	(A2) CATC	Attached to (A2) Canadian Artillery Training Centre, Petawawa for duty, quarters and rations	He arrived in Petawawa for Artillery training.
On Command DD#3 Ottawa all purposes including pay	27 Jul 42	Petawawa, Canada	(A2) CATC	On Command District Depot No 3 Ottawa all purposed including pay	

TOS DD3 for all purposes on transfer from A-2 CATC Petawawa for 2nd Cdn Para Concentration and posted to Misc Wing	28 Jul 42	Ottawa, Canada	DD3	Taken on Strength for all purpose on transfer from A-2 Canadian Artillery Training Centre Petawawa for 2nd Canadian Parachute concentration and posted to Miscellaneous Wing	<p>He has been posted to a District Depot, then he's attending a 2nd Canadian Parachute "training camp" and while there is with the Miscellaneous Wing.</p> <p>The 2nd Canadian Parachute Battalions were being created as an elite fighting unit that were to collaborate with British and American Special Forces in difficult Actions. They later became Canada's 1st Special Services Force. Both the American and Canadian armies were involved in the initial training of both forces, with Canadians being trained at Fort William Henry Harrison, Helena, Montana in the finer art of jumping out of planes. The Battalion had a rigorous screening process and training program, creating a battalion made up of "the best of the best". Volunteers were subjected to a grading system and both the rejection and dropout rate were extremely high. The battalion took officers mainly from the battle front in Europe and other ranks from all stations. The battalion had an authorized strength of 26 officers and 590 other ranks. Casualties were extremely high during the first training program, including the unit's first Commanding Officer, Major H.D. Proctor, who was killed when his parachute rigging lines were severed by a following aircraft.</p> <p>It is presumed that William was to take his first jump on August 17, 1942. Out of those that jumped that day, 23 other ranks were returned to #13 DD. Some who completed their first jump successfully felt they could not make another while 6 outright refused to leave the plane.</p>
On proceeding to DD Having been att for R & Q is att for pay purposes	21 Aug 42	Calgary, Canada	DD13	On proceeding to District Depot. Having been attached for Rations and Quarters is attached for pay purposes	He has either voluntarily left the 2nd Canadian Parachute Battalion or has been rejected and has now arrived in Calgary, Alberta.
SOS on proceeding to DD 2	21 Aug 42	Calgary, Canada	DD13	Struck off Strength on proceeding to District Depot 2	He's left Calgary heading for Toronto, Ontario.
Att to DD2 Holding Coy "A" Wing for R & Q from DD13	24 Aug 42	Toronto, Canada	DD2	Attached to District Depot 2 Holding Company, "A" Wing for Rations and Quarters from District Depot 13	He has arrived in Toronto, Ontario.

Ceases to be att to DD2 Holding Coy "A" Wing for R&Q from A2 CATC, Petawawa	25 Aug 42	Toronto, Canada	DD2	Ceases to be attached to District Depot 2 Holding Company "A" Wing for Rations and Quarters from A2 Canadian Artillery Training Centre, Petawawa	This is a "paper trail" to say he's no longer with A2 Training Centre in Petawawa
TOS 8 Cdn A/Tank Regt, RCA for all purposes and posted to 13th A/T Bty on transfer from No 2 Dist Depot Toronto, Ont	26 Aug 42	Sussex, Canada	8 A/T	Taken on Strength *th Canadian Anti Tank Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery for all purposes and posted to 13th Anti Tank Battery on transfer from No 2 District Depot, Toronto, Ontario	<p>He's now been transferred to the 13th Anti-Tank Battery, which is part of the 8th Canadian Anti Tank Regiment that is located in Sussex Military Camp, New Brunswick. This unit was part of the 17th Infantry Brigade, 7th Canadian Infantry Division.</p> <p>Interesting Note: The 7th Canadian Infantry Division contained The Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles of Canada, the Unit he originally joined the Army with.</p> <p>The 8th Canadian Anti Tank Regiment consisted of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10th AT Battery 11th AT Battery 12th AT Battery 13th AT Battery
Tested and graded DM Class I Group C	2 Nov 42	Sussex, Canada	8 A/T	Tested and graded Driver Mechanic Class I Group C	He has been trained and tested and qualified as a Driver Mechanic. Class I and Group C is the "extra pay" classification he would received for this extra qualification.
Leave of Absence from 1200 hrs 15 Nov 42 to 0800 hrs 16 Nov 43 (2 days)	Date in Record	Sussex, Canada	8 A/T	As record indicated	
(2 days) Draw Ration Allowance .50 C per diem	13 Nov 42	Sussex, Canada	8 A/T	As record indicated	He was paid an extra 50 cents a day for 2 days to pay for food outside the camp.
Tested and graded (MM) Class II Grp "B"	18 Nov 42	Sussex, Canada	8 A/T	Tested and graded (Motor Mechanic) Class II Group B	He has now been qualified as a Motor Mechanic with a higher pay grade.
Granted embarkation leave from 1200 hrs 24 Nov 42 to 1700 hrs 1 Dec 42 (2 days) TW No A-20912	24 Nov 42	Sussex, Canada	8 A/T	As record indicated, leave with Transportation Warrant	Before heading to England, he is given 2 days embarkation leave and travel expenses.

Granted Annual Furlough from 7 Dec 42 to 20 Dec 42 (14 days) Draw ration allow .50 Cents per diem	7 Dec 42	Sussex, Canada	8 A/T	As record indicated	He has been given leave and a meal allowance while away from camp.
Reverted to rank of Gunner for AWL from 1804 hrs 20 Dec 42 to 1230 hrs 25 Dec 42 Forfeits 5 days R & A	26 Dec 42	Sussex, Canada	8 A/T	Reverted to rank of Gunner for Away without Leaveforfeits 5 days Rations and Allowances	While away on Leave from December 7 to December 20, he decided to extend it to Christmas Day. Because he has been AWL before, he has been demoted from Lance Corporal to Private (Gunner) and loses 5 days ration money and pay.
SOS 8 A/T Regt for all purposed on transfer to Cdn Army Overseas	28 Dec 42	Sussex, Canada	8 A/T	Struck off Strength 8th Anti Tank Regiment on transfer to Canadian Army Overseas	He has been shipped overseas.
SOS, CA Canada	29 Dec 42	Halifax. Canada		Struck off Strength Canadian Army Canada	He is now starting his trip to England.
TOS CA Overseas	30 Dec 42	Ship - Andes	Convoy AT 32	Taken on Strength Canadian Army Overseas	<p>He is now on the Convoy AT 32, on the ship "Andes". This vessel carried 3987 troops. This convoy had no escort ships. It departed Halifax on December 30, 1942.</p> <p>The H.M.S. Andes was built by the Harland & Wolff Shipyard in Belfast, Ireland, the same yard that built the Titanic. She was built for the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and was ordered with the finest and most luxurious interiors as they planned to have her serve their deluxe market. Because of the outbreak of WWII, she never left the yard for her maiden voyage, but instead, she was taken by the British government and quickly converted to a troop transport. She was returned to the Royal Mail in 1947, who converted her back to her original glory. She then operated as a luxury cruise liner until her retirement and scrapping in 1971. She had a length of 700', weighed 27,000 tons and cruised at a speed of 21 knots. She was originally designed to carry 500 passengers.</p>

Disembarked	7 Jan 43	Clyde, United Kingdom	UK	As record indicated	The H.M.S. Andes arrived at Clyde on Wednesday, January 6, 1943, but the troops did not disembark until the following day, Thursday, January 7, 1943. The entry, "Clyde", refers to the ports of Greenock and Gourock, located at the mouth of the River Clyde in the Firth of Clyde, a sheltered coastal area on the west coast of Scotland. This was the most important port in the United Kingdom which saw a massive number of troops from all the Allied countries pass through its gates.
TOS	8 Jan 43	Bramshott, Surrey, England	3 CARU	Taken on Strength	He has arrived at the No. 3 Canadian Artillery Reinforcement Unit. This was an "Anti Aircraft Artillery reinforcement unit. These reinforcement units were set up in England to "hold" men until they were needed in a front line unit. While attached to a Reinforcement Unit, soldiers would continue to be trained in preparation of joining a front line unit.
Proceeded HQ Crse #1109 Ser 6 (Motor Mech) & att'd to #3 (Brighton) T.T. Grp fap except pay	3 Mar 43	Bramshott, Surrey, England	3 CARU	Proceed Headquarter's Course No 1109 Serial 6 (Motor Mechanic) and attached to No # (Brighton) Trades Training Group for all purposes except pay	He has now been sent on a Motor Mechanics course at the No.3 Brighton Trades Training Group. While on the course, he is temporarily attached to this unit for everything except pay.
Reg'l Rate of pay of 1.40	28 Mar 43	Bramshott, Surrey, England	3 CARU	Regimental Rate of pay of \$1.40	He is now being paid \$1.40 per day.
Retd from #3 Brighton TT Group	29 Apr 43	UK	3 CARU	Returned from #3 Brighton Trades Training Group	
Trade Tested on Motor Mech Gp "B" passed "C"	15 May 43	UK	3 CARU	Trade Tested on Motor Mechanic Group "B" and Passed "C"	He has been tested on his trade knowledge and passed. He is now classified in Group B. Groups B and C were "levels" of knowledge, as well as levels of pay with the B classification being the higher of the two.
Granted RR of Pay \$1.50 Pd	25 May 43	UK	3 CARU	Granted Regimental Rate of Pay \$1.50 per diem	His daily pay has been raised 10¢ to \$1.50 per day to reflect his new trade classification.

Qual Driver I/C Class 1	5 Jun 43	UK	3 CARU	Qualified Driver In /Charge Class 1	He was been classified as a Class 1 driver. The "I/C" designation stands for "In/Charge". As each unit had two drivers, the army way is to designate one the leader and the other the follower.
Pri Leave MA 9 days	3 Jun 43	UK	3 CARU	Privilege Leave Meal Allowance 9 Days	He has been given Leave for 9 days including a meal allowance.
Having Qual is Grant T Pay	1 Jul 43	UK	3 CARU	Having Qualified is Granted Trades Pay	His increased qualifications have been recognized and his pay has been increased.
Pay as Grp "B" MM Quatd	1 Jul 43	UK	3 CARU	Pay as Group "B" Motor Mechanic Qualified	He has been qualified as a Group B motor mechanic and is being paid accordingly.
Proc on CMHQ Crse #1083	2 Jul 43	UK	3 CARU	Proceed on Canadian Military Headquarters Course No 1083	He has been sent on a 1 day "Fitter Motor Vehicle" Course sponsored by Canadian Military Headquarters.
Ret from CMHQ Crse 1083 (Fitter MV) & ceases attment to #1 CORU fap ("B" MM)	2 Jul 43	UK	3 CARU	Returned from Canadian Military Headquarters Course No 1083 (Fitter Motor Vehicle) & ceases attachment to No 1 Canadian Ordinance Reinforcement Unit for all purposes (Group "B" Motor Mechanic)	He has returned from his 1 day course.
("B" MM) SOS to 2 HAA Regt	10 Aug 43	UK	3 CARU	(Group "B", Motor Mechanic) Struck of Strength to 2 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment	
TOS from 3 CARU (Motor M "B")	11 Aug 43	UK	2HAA	Taken on Strength from 3 Canadian Artillery Reinforcement Unit (Motor Mechanic Group "B")	He has now joined the 2nd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment (Mobile). They were part of 2nd Army Group, Royal Canadian Artillery. This unit was armed with 3.7 inch Anti-Aircraft Guns
Awarded Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp	15 Jan 44	UK	2HAA	As record indicated	
SOS to 2 CARU (Mot Mech "B")	17 Mar 44	UK	2HAA	Struck off Strength to 2 Canadian Artillery Reinforcement Unit (Motor Mechanic Group "B")	He is being moved again.
TOS from 2 HAA Regt ("B" MM)	18 Mar 44	UK	2 CARU	Taken on Strength from 2 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment (Group "B", Motor Mechanic)	

Att to 2 HYAA FAP 18/21 Mar 44	18 Mar 44	UK	2 CARU	Attached to 2nd Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment, for all purposes from 18 to 21 Mar 44	He has moved back to the 2nd Heavy Anti-Aircraft Artillery Regiment for a specified length of time.
SOS to 1 CARU	27 Mar 44	UK	2 CARU	Struck off Strength to 1 Canadian Artillery Reinforcement Unit	He is being moved again.
from 2 CARU	28 Apr 44	UK	1 CARU	from 2 Canadian Artillery Reinforcement Unit	
To 3 CIRU	28 Apr 44	UK	1 CARU	To 3rd Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit	He has now been moved to the 3rd Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit.
TOS from 1 CARU Remustered from RCA to CIC (Motor Mech B)	29 Apr 44	UK	3 CIRU	Taken on Strength from 1st Canadian Artillery Reinforcement Unit. Remustered from Royal Canadian Artillery to Canadian Infantry Corps (Motor Mechanic "B")	He has "remustered" from the Artillery to the Infantry. This meaning that he is permanently changing CORPS in the Army, changing from being a Artillery man, to an Infanteer. He is now attached to the 1st Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit
Granted tradesmen Rate of Pay MM "B"	14 May 44	UK	3 CIRU	Granted tradesman's Rate of Pay Motor Mechanic Group B	He has been given another raise in pay due to his qualifications.
SOS to 2 CBR Gp 12 Bn	15 May 44	UK	3 CIRU	Struck off Strength to 2 Canadian Base Reinforcement Group, 12th Battalion	
TOS from 3 CIRU	16 May 44	UK	CIC	Taken on Strength from 3 Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit	He has been moved to the 3rd Canadian Infantry Reinforcement Unit.
Granted tradesmen Rate of Pay MM "B"	18 May 44	UK	11th Btn, 3 CIRU	Granted tradesman's Rate of Pay Motor Mechanic Group B	His new unit recognizes his trade classification and is paying him accordingly.
SOS to X4 SD& GH MM "B"	2 Jul 44	UK	11th Btn, 3 CIRU	Struck off Strength to X4 to Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders as a Motor Mechanic Group B	He is now moving to the SD&GH, which is an infantry unit, which were part of the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division. The "X4 " designation means he part of the reinforcements that have not been posted as yet, even though they are within the theatre of war and belong to a particular unit or corps.

Embarked UK	2 Jul 44	UK	SD&GH		He is now being shipped off to France.
TOS from X4 CIC MM "B"	3 Jul 44	UK	SD&GH	Taken on Strength from X4 List, Canadian Infantry Corp, Motor Mechanic Group B	He is now part of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders.
Disembarked France	3 Jul 44	France	SD&GH		He has arrived in France.
SOS to SSR M Mech "B"	1 Sep 44	France	SD&GH	Struck off Strength to South Saskatchewan Regiment Motor Mechanic Group "B"	He is now leaving the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders.
TOS from X4 List Mot Mech "B"	2 Sep 44	Field	SSR	Taken on Strength from X4 List, Motor Mechanic Group B	He has joined the South Saskatchewan Regiment, 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 2nd Canadian Infantry Division.
To be A/Cpl	16 Sep 44	Field	SSR	To be a Acting Corporal	He is promoted to Acting Corporal, but without Corporal pay.
To be A/Lsjt M Mech "B"	26 Sep 44	Field	SSR	To be a Acting Lance Sergeant Motor Mechanic Group B	He is promoted to Acting Lance Sergeant.
SOS DECEASED (KILLED IN ACTION)	4 Oct 44	Between Putte and Cappellen, Holland	SSR	Struck off Strength (Killed in Action)	Locations of 6th Canadian Infantry Brigade: 30 Sep 44 - Brecht, Belgium 3 Oct 44 - Camp de Brasschaet, Belgium 4 Oct 44 - Near Cappellen, Belgium 5 Oct 44 - Putte, Netherlands