NORMANDY LANDINGS D-DAY 6TH JUNE 1944 FAMILY MEMORIES OF A VETERAN

Frederick John Mitchell

14/9/1907 - January 1993 **Service No. 1429136** Rank Major RASC



In 1932 he married Doris Jarden in Bedford. They settled in Surrey where he bought a men's outfitters shop.

In Oct 1937 he enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corps, gaining a commission as 2nd Lt. and began his training at Aldershot. FD Unwin acted as a referee for him.

In Sept 1939 Frederick joined 13 Coy RASC and was mobilised with No 1 Bridge Coy. In 1940 he was in Belfast completing training with Motor Coach Coy. The next entry on his military record finds him hospitalised in Stranmillis, south Belfast for a month but there is no record of the reason why.

On 8th June 1944 Frederick's record shows he embarked for France with 645 Coy RASC, responsible for taking supplies for the troops following the landings in France.

Frederick was born in Hoveton House, High street, Haverhill, the home of his maternal grandparents. He was the son of Harry Mitchell and his wife Carrie Lee nee Bates. Carrie Lee was the daughter of Frederick William Bates, who was a grocer and draper.

The family moved to Queen Street, Withersfield and he had fond memories of his childhood, growing up in the area and witnessing the changes of the village after the first world war. He was a pupil at the school in Haverhill and belonged to the tennis club. In 1931/2 he played hockey for Bedford.



that I have examined Frederick John MITCHEL Height 73 45 Weight 154 6 Chest Measurement :- Max.

In September 1939, No. 1 Bridge Company of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) was deployed to France as part of the advance parties. They left for France on 4th September, first major contingents arriving at Cherbourg on September 10th, and Nantes and St. Nazaire on September 12th. The BEF played a crucial role during the early

Hoveton House was an impressive three

storey building seen left in this photo.

Demolished in about 1969 it stood

approximately where W H Smith and

Frederick drove an open top small car

with a 'dickie' seat in the boot, where his

spaniel 'Wizzard' sat, complete with a

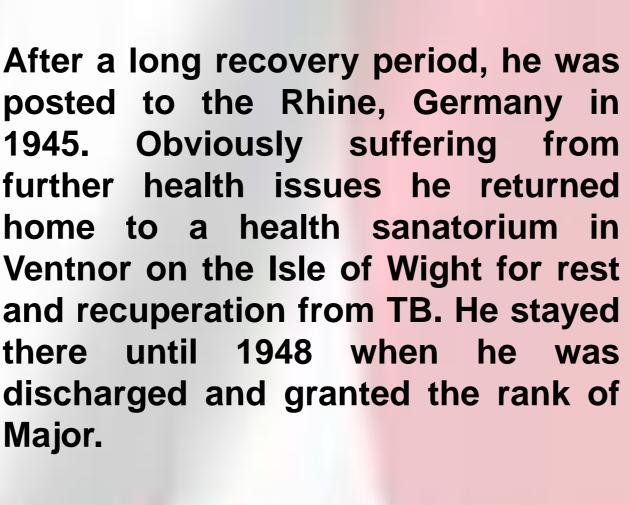
pair of goggles to protect his eyes, and

his spaniel ears flapping in the breeze.

stages of WW2. **Shaftesbury Military Hospital**

Costa Coffee are today.

He was injured some months later, and flown back to the military hospital at Shaftesbury, Dorset, where he had a pneumonectomy to remove one lung. He recalled his main worry on the plane was that he didn't want to lose his army boots, as they were so



Surrey to be with his wife and son. He was employed by Selfridges in Oxford Street, and retired in the late 1970s.

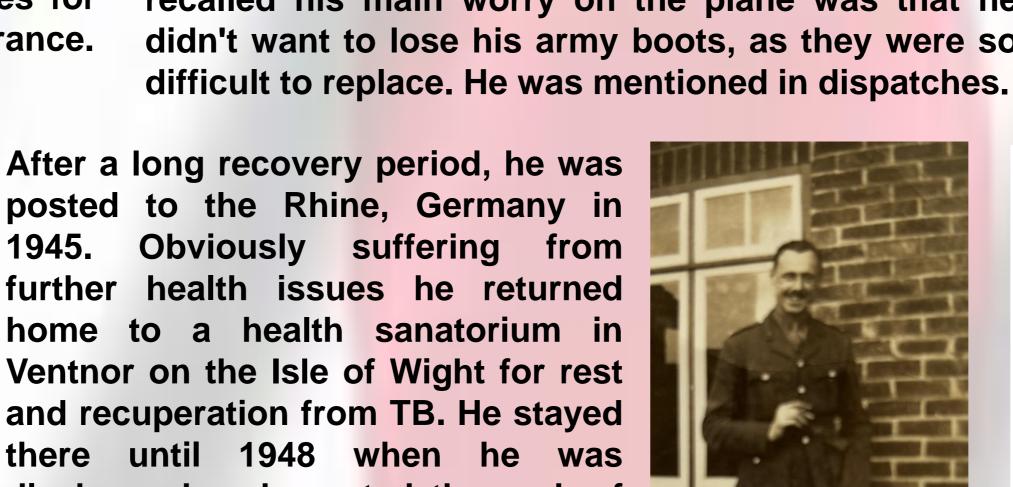


Family memories:

He was such a lovely character, always full of fun, and the best uncle to his nephew and nieces. He supported us all through our formative years, and rarely talked about his war experiences, but when he did it was always to record a funny episode and nothing about what he must have been through.

He died peacefully in 1993, a tall, handsome, witty, supportive, soul who we all miss.

With thanks to Sally Barnard for information about her uncle Frederick John Mitchell.



After his discharge, he returned to





