

THE PERTH REGIMENT OF CANADA

Sgt. M. J. Pickens DCM Citation

O.P.A. 1
40/P & R/1420 (3000)

1 Cdn Inf Brigade 1 Cdn Division 5 Corps

Schedule No. (to be left blank) Unit Perth Regt.

Army No. and Rank A 11701 Cpl.

Name PICKENS Murlin Joseph
(Christian name must be stated)

Date recommendation passed forward	
Received	Passed
Brigade 26 Jan	27 Jan 44
Division 28 Jan	5 Feb 44
Corps 8 Feb 44	1 Mar 44
Army 4 Mar 44	6 Mar 44
ACMF 9 Mar	14 Apr 44

Action for which commended (Date and place of action must be stated)	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
<p>Ref Map ITALY 1/50,000 Sheet 141-II ORTONA</p> <p>On 17 Jan 44 The Perth Regiment put in an attack against strong enemy positions South of the ARIELLI River in the area MR 2917.</p> <p>During the assault, Cpl. PICKENS was acting platoon Sergeant of No.17 Platoon D Coy . When his platoon came under heavy machine gun fire Cpl.Pickens went forward alone in order to reconnoitre new positions and the best route to them and then led the platoon into these positions, thus avoiding casualties. One man in his section was however wounded; Cpl. Pickens pinpointed the fire and by skilful use of cover stalked the enemy post and disposed of it single handed.</p> <p>A few minutes later the leading section came under heavy mortar machine gun and sniper fire, as they came over the crest of a slope, Cpl.Pickens</p>	<p>Sgt. W.S. Rutherford Lt.Col OC Perth Regt.</p> <p>Sgt. G. Kitching Brig. Comd 11 Cdn Inf Bde</p> <p>Sgt. C. Vokes Maj.Gen GOC 1 Cdn Div.</p> <p>Sgt. C.W. Allfrey Lt.Gen Comd 8 Corps</p> <p>Sgt. O.W. L.Lesse Lt.Gen GOC Eighth Army</p> <p>Sgt. H.R. Alexander Gen Comd in Chief A.C.M.F.</p>	<p>DCM (IMMEDIATE)</p>	<p>P.T.O.</p>

WAS AT THE TIME AT Pl.HQ. Quickly appreciating the situation and realising that the momentum of the attack must not be lost, he dashed forward and shouting "Follow me, there's nothing to it", led the section on. He then returned and brought the remainder of the pl forward in the same manner, inspiring the men by his gallantry and drive to continue the advance in spite of intense fire.

The courage and leadership displayed by Cpl. Pickens were of the highest order. By his dash and elan he inspired the pl to drive forward in the face of bitter resistance until the enemy fire was sufficiently neutralised to enable the remainder of B Coy to occupy their intermediate objective.

If a casualty as under, fill in date.

Nature of Casualty	Date
Killed in action	
Died of Wounds	
Died	
Missing	
Prisoner of War	