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CLASSIFICATION	SUBJECT	SOURCE	DATE
Biog.	MITCHELL, Mrs. Florence	S.D.E.	3.1.46.

WIDOW OF FAMOUS PLANE DESIGNER

Death of Mrs. Florence Mitchell

MRS. FLORENCE MITCHELL, widow of Mr. R. J. Mitchell, C.B.E., famous designer of the Spitfire, died in Manchester to-day after an illness lasting about a year.

Like her husband, Mrs. Mitchell was a native of Stoke-on-Trent. She was a school teacher there when she met and married the man whose genius subsequently took him to the forefront of the world's aircraft designers.

They were a most devoted couple and Mr. Mitchell often acknowledged the inspiration and encouragement he received from his wife throughout his career.

HER WAR WORK

They came to Southampton after Mr. Mitchell's appointment to the staff of the Supermarine Aviation Works at Woolston. Mr. Mitchell died in 1937, and Mrs. Mitchell remained at their home in Russell-place until 1940.

During the war she did a great deal of voluntary work, driving her own car for Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd., in the Reading area. She also did a considerable amount of work in connection with the National Savings campaign in that district.

"FIRST OF THE FEW"

Mrs. Mitchell's devotion to her husband was exemplified in the film, "The First of the Few," based on Mr. Mitchell's life and work. She and their son, Flying Officer Gordon Mitchell, took an active part in an advisory capacity in connection with the production of the film.

Mrs. Mitchell entered wholeheartedly into the national effort to raise funds for a memorial to her husband, and attended many functions in connection with the campaign.

MANY FRIENDS

Mrs. Mitchell endeared herself to many friends in Southampton and elsewhere by her charm of manner and her natural sincerity. News of her death will come as a great shock to a large circle of friends.

Flying Officer Mitchell, to whom sympathy will be extended, is at the R.A.F. Station, Northolt, Middlesex.

A funeral service will be held in Manchester, and the ashes, after cremation, will be interred in Mr. Mitchell's grave at South Stoneham Cemetery, Southampton. There will be a service in the cemetery chapel, the date and time of which have not yet been fixed.