



1951 Mountbatten Medal – Robert Byron Wardle

Frances Burchak, Vulcan, Alberta Canada, while playing with her brother fell into a cistern which had been placed below the surface of the ground. By reason of the small opening and the depth of water it was necessary for Robert Wardle to get into the cistern, feet first, and then swim to the bottom. Lack of light, coldness of water, boards and a nail keg, and other refuse which children at different times had thrown in the tank, hampered the rescuer in locating the body at the bottom. Having done so, he brought her to the surface and passed her through the small opening. The water in the cistern was 10 feet deep, the manhole to the cistern was about 18 inches square and was three feet above the surface of the water. The diameter of the cistern was five feet

The child had been in the water for about ten minutes, breathing had stopped and the patient looked blue. Robert Wardle applied artificial respiration and the child was afterwards taken to hospital suffering from shock. After two days she made a complete recovery.