

Name	DRUMMOND, WILLIAM THOMAS
Service	Royal Australian Air Force
Service Number	65344
Date of Birth	10 Apr 1907
Place of Birth	MOLONG, NSW
Date of Enlistment	01 Jun 1942
Locality on Enlistment	CUMNOCK, NSW
Place of Enlistment	SYDNEY, NSW
Next of Kin	DRUMMOND, OLIVE
Date of Discharge	20 Aug 1945
Rank	Sergeant
Posting at Discharge	5 MOBILE WORKS SQUADRON
Prisoner of War	No
Honours	None for display



Biography:

William Thomas Drummond was born on 10 Apr 1907, registered at Molong, the only child of Grace and Thomas Charlton Drummond. Thomas Drummond was a son of John Drummond (1846 - 1886) who came to Australia from Scotland and married Margaret Graham in Sydney in 1876.

Thomas Drummond married Grace Brown in Molong in 1907. His older brother, John William Drummond married Grace's sister, Alice Brown, in Molong in 1911. A news report in the *Molong & Western District Advertiser (WDA)* - 11 Jun 1910, p7, mentioned a Mrs T Drummond of "Burgoon", Cumnock. Thomas bought a motor hiring business in Cumnock in July 1924, from Mr Noble Miller. In 1927, Thomas was reported as working as a leading hand and mechanic for the Amaroo Shire Council. He died, aged 56 years, in Molong, on 15 Jul 1939. Grace Drummond died, aged 79 years, in Sydney on 19 Apr 1966. Both are buried in the Molong General Cemetery.

William Thomas Drummond completed his Qualifying Certificate, aged 13 years, at Cumnock Public School in 1920. He played cricket, tennis and football for Cumnock. Joan Marriott mentions in her book, "The Crossroads - The History of Cumnock," page 127, that "Cumnock's last brass band got together around 1926, entertaining at local functions for three years. Bill Drummond was one of the band members, playing the cornet."

In March 1929, William took over the Agency for the Ford Motor Cars and Trucks in Cumnock.

On 29 Dec 1934, William married Olive Henrietta Williams at Waverley, Sydney. The couple made their home in Cumnock. They had no children. William worked for the Amaroo Shire Council from around 1937, according to local newspaper reports.



William Drummond enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) at Molong on 3 May 1942 and was medically examined in Sydney on 1 Jun 1942. He was stated to be 35 years old, his occupation was a Motor Patrol Grader Driver for the Amaroo Shire Council, he was 5 feet 8½ inches tall, had brown eyes and hair and a dark complexion. His religious denomination was Church of England and his next of kin was his wife, Olive Drummond, of Bishop Street, Cumnock.

William Drummond's RAAF rankings were:

Aircraftman on enlistment; Leading Aircraftman 1 Jan 1943;
Temporary Corporal 1 Aug 1943; Plant Operator 6 Nov 1943; and Temporary Sergeant 1 Apr 1944.

William Drummond's RAAF postings were:

2 Recruiting Center, Sydney	- 1 Mobile Works Squadron, Ascot Vale, Vic.	1 Jun 1942
1 Mobile Works Squadron	- 2 RAAF Hospital, Ascot Vale, Vic.	16 Nov 1943
2 RAAF Hospital	- 6 RAAF Hospital, Heidelberg, Melbourne	17 Nov 1943
6 RAAF Hospital	- 1 Convalescent Depot, Warburton, Vic	13 Dec 1943

The Wellington Times - 9 Sep 1943, p6, reported:

"Aircraftman W Drummond is at present spending one month's leave from his unit with his wife and mother in Cumnock. Drummond has been posted at a distant battle station for over 12 months."

William Drummond postings continued:

1 Convalescent Depot	- 2 Aircraft Depot, Richmond, NSW	28 Jan 1944
2 Aircraft Depot, Richmond	- 5 Mobile Works Squadron, New Guinea	11 Feb 1944
5 Mobile Works Squadron	- 1 Reserve Personnel Pool, Townsville	3 Nov 1944
1 Reserve Personnel Pool	- 2 Medical Rehabilitation Unit, Jervis Bay	4 Nov 1944
2 Medical Rehabilitation Unit	- 3 RAAF Hospital, Richmond	21 Mar 1945
3 RAAF Hospital	- 2 Medical Rehabilitation Unit, Jervis Bay	6 Jul 1945
2 Personnel Depot, Bradfield Park	- Discharged, medically unfit for further duty	20 Aug 1945

"No. 5 Airfield Construction Squadron aka "The Flying Shovels", began life as an offshoot of 1 Mobile Works Squadron when it was decided that there was a requirement for construction support in New Guinea. The new unit was formed at Ascot Vale on 7 Jul 1942 using men from 1 Mobile Works Station. One month later the Squadron disembarked at Port Moresby, with its first task to complete airfield construction at Wards Strip. Considerable effort had to be expended to improve drainage, as the soil was a fine grey clay, which became thick mud at the hint of rain."

In mid-November 1942 the Special Works Squadron was re-named 5 Mobile Works Squadron (MWS). In March of 1943 a detachment was sent to Milne Bay to assist 6 MBS, while the remainder of the unit prepared to move to Goodenough Island. On Goodenough the Squadron was engaged in the construction of the Vivigani strip, using preformed steel. Following the completion of its tasks on Goodenough, the Squadron sailed south for rest and recuperation. After a break of one month, 5 MWS reformed and returned to New Guinea, landing after the assault forces at Aitape on the northern coast. There, the unit made the Tadjji strip operational. The next move was to Noemfoor Island, where the Squadron assisted American and British construction units in the construction of two 7000-foot runways.



A No. 5 Airfield Construction Squadron bulldozer working in a coral quarry at Noemfoor Island during Dec. 1944.

As of 18 July 1944, the Squadron became known as No. 5 Airfield Construction Squadron. While at Kornasoran, four members of the Squadron had won awards for rescuing the crew of a plane that crashed into a lagoon soon after take off. One was awarded the British Empire Medal and the other three were Mentioned in Despatches."

[No. 5 Airfield Construction Squadron RAAF - Our Contribution \(birtwistlewiki.com.au\)](http://birtwistlewiki.com.au)

The Molong Express & Western District Advertiser - 20 Jul 1945, p3, reported:

"Sergeant W Drummond, RAAF, is another serviceman who is spending leave with his relatives in Cumnock. Sergeant Drummond has had a rather bad spin, owing to the effect of an accident received when serving overseas, and has spent quite a lot of time in hospital since his return to Australia."

Sergeant William Drummond was discharged medically unfit for service from the RAAF on 20 Aug 1945. He received the Pacific Star Medal, the Defence Medal, the Australia Service Medal 1939 -1945, and the Returned from Active Service Medal. He is honoured on the WW2 plaque on the Cumnock War Memorial Gates.

Late 1945, William and Olive sold their house in Bishop Street, Cumnock, and moved to Sydney. They lived at Kingsgrove and William worked as a fitter until his retirement. Olive Drummond died, aged 75 years, on 16 Jan 1982. William Hammond died, aged 78 years, on 8 Jul 1986. Both were interned at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium, North Ryde.