

**Driver Neville Herbert WINDRED - Australian Army
N199789, NX193679 - 14th Battalion &
54 General Transport Company**



Neville Herbert Windred was born on 2 Feb 1924 in Orange, a son of Edward William and Ethel May Windred. Edward married Ethel May Astill in Molong on Wed 27 Sep 1911. They had seven children: Alice b1912; Ethel b1914; Beryl b1915; Ronald b1916 d1918; Aubrey b1921; Neville b1924; and Patricia b1933.

Edward Windred was a driver for his father's (George Windred) daily mail coach service between Molong and Cumnock. George Windred died in August 1909 and his wife took over running the coach service, with her son Edward as a driver. Mrs Windred sold the coach service in January 1910. Edward bought the fruit and confectionary shop in Cumnock, owned by Mr P Mulhall, in March 1911.

**Windred's Dining & Refreshment
Rooms, Cumnock. c1930s**



He advertised his new store (in the *Molong Argus* - 4 Aug 1911, p7) as being a Fruiterer, Confectioner and Tobacconist business, plus he stocked stationery, post cards and fancy goods in premises next door to H V Hoare, Tailor, Cumnock.

Before the outbreak of WW1 in 1914, Edward moved his business to a building on the corner of Obley and Black Streets, called Windred's Dining and Refreshment Rooms. Edward and Ethel retired to Molong in 1947, when his daughter and son-in-law, Ethel and Norman Johnson, took over the business.

Ethel Windred died on 13 Oct 1953 at Molong, aged 67 years. Edward Windred died on 20 Mar 1958 at Bankstown, aged 72 years. They are both interred in the Molong Cemetery.

Neville started his primary school education at Cumnock Public School in 1929. He played cricket during his school years.

Aubrey Wilfred Windred, Neville's elder brother, enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) - N256227, on 7 Oct 1941 at Belmore, Sydney. He enlisted in the 9 Coy Australian Army Service Corps (AASC), NX151436, at Port Moresby and later served as a Driver for the 158th Australian General Transport Company and other platoons. He was discharged from the AIF on 14 Feb 1946.

Neville enlisted with the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) on 2 Feb 1942 (also reported as 11 Mar 1942) at Orange. He was 18 years old, single, his occupation was listed as an electrician and his mother Ethel Windred was his next of kin. His medical examination states that he was 5 feet 9 inches tall, had blue eyes, brown hair and a fair complexion, and he was of the Church of England religious denomination. Neville spent part of 1942 in Bathurst and Dubbo. He was admitted to the 104 Australian General Hospital at Concord for 3 days in August 1942 and spent leave with his parents in Cumnock.

On 7 Jun 1943, Neville was transferred to 4 Australian Infantry Training Battalion (4 AIT Btn) Carungra, QLD. He was hospitalised with an Upper Respiratory Tract Infection at the 22 Australian Camp Hospital at Carungra, from 1 Aug to 10 August. He moved to Warwick, QLD, in November 1943 where he spent time with the 7th, 4th, and 33rd AIT Btns.

Driver Windred was Absent Without Leave from 0700 hours to 1 Mar 1944 to 0700 hours to 4 Mar 1944 and was fined 30/- and forfeited 3 days pay. He embarked on SS *Ormiston* at Townsville, QLD, as part of the 30 Btn on 5 May 1944 and disembarked at Port Moresby, PNG, on 7 May 1944. He transferred from the Citizen Military Forces (CMF) on 24 Aug 1944 and joined the 158th Australian General Transport Company (AGTC) on 3 Oct 1944.

On 17 Nov 1944, Driver Windred was transferred to Bougainville Island and was transferred to the 54th Australian Transport Platoon on 24 Feb 1945.



Over the next few months in Bougainville, Driver Windred was transferred at various times from the 54 Australian Transport Platoon (ATP) to the 67 ATP, the 40 ATP and the 59 ATP.



On 10 Mar 1946 Driver Windred became sick with Tonsilitis and was evacuated to the 118 Australian General Hospital at Rabaul, a township in the East New Britain province of New Guinea. He returned to duty on 24 March and later embarked at Rabaul on *MV Duntroon* on 2 May 1946, disembarking at Sydney on 9 May.

The Molong Express & WDA - 9 Aug 1946, p2, reported that Neville received his discharge from the AIF on 21 June on account of demobilization and was spending a holiday with his parents in Cumnock. Driver Neville Windred was awarded the 1939/45 Star Medal, the Pacific Star Medal, the War Medal and the Australian Service Medal.

Neville Windred (aged 25 years) married Dorothy Irwin (aged 22 years), daughter of Myrtle and Arthur Irwin of Punchball, on 12 Feb 1949, at St John's Church of England, Campsie. They had four sons: Dennis, Raymond, Robert and Ronald.

The 1949 Australian Electoral Rolls for Banks/Milperra list Dorothy's occupation as a textile worker, and Neville's a French polisher. They lived at 30 Gallipoli Street, Bankstown.

According to Neville's Army records, a letter from The Secretary, Department of Air, Canberra, dated 20 Apr 1966, stated that Neville joined the RAAF on 31 Mar 1952 - A25290 Flight Sergeant. It is not known what date he was discharged from the RAAF.

Neville Windred died, aged 53 years, on 20 Sep 1977, at Bankstown. His funeral notices stated that his funeral was to be held at St Paul's Church of England, Bankstown. Members of the Loyal Kia-ora Lodge No 259 Muloos (Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows - M.U.I.O.O.F.), the St George District M.U.I.O.O.F., and the Padstow RSL Sub-branch and Club were invited to attend the funeral. Neville was interred at the Rookwood Crematorium.

Dorothy Windred died, aged 75 years, on 17 Oct 2003, at Sydney.

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Above: *Flight Sergeant Neville Windred, RAAF.*



Right: *Cumnock WW2 Honour Plaque, Cumnock Memorial Gates.*