

Lt Neil Stanley Francis Burke April 1923 - August 2025



338325 Lt Neil Stanley Francis Burke, was commissioned into the Royal Army Veterinary Corps on January 19th 1945.

After training he was posted to the NW frontier in India (now Pakistan) as Neil said "When I arrived in India, I went left and the others went right" meaning he was heading to the NW frontier and the others were heading over to Burma.

The North-West Frontier (NWF) during World War II remained a strategically important, though relatively calm, region for the British, primarily serving as a buffer zone between India and Afghanistan. While the NWF didn't see major combat like other theatres, it still required a British military presence to maintain order and prevent potential disruptions from tribal unrest or external threats.

During the War the strength of the Veterinary Corps increased from 85 officers and 105 other ranks, to a total of 519 officers and 3,939 other ranks. By 1942 the Army had 6,500 horses, 10,000 mules and 1,700 camels in service. Neil's main veterinary responsibility were Mules that were used as pack animals. After VJ Day 1945 he was posted across to Burma to take part in the Post War clear up and organised the re-distribution and onward transportation of pack mules from Burma across Europe. Many ended up in North Africa, Sicily, Malta and Greece.

Post war he became a veterinary Surgeon, an Oxted resident and member of the Oxted and District Branch of the Royal British Legion.