

TIPPERARY ATHLETES



Neddy O'Connell

by **Michael O'Dwyer**

Neddy O'Connell was born on 31 July 1916 at Littleton, County Tipperary. He was the fourth son of Patrick O'Connell, a stone mason, and Mary O'Connell (née Shanahan). His parents got married in Moycarkey church on 9 April 1902. The 1911 census shows his parents and three eldest siblings were at the time living at Liskeveen, Littleton. His mother died at her residence in Liskeveen on 19 May 1929, and his father died in Thurles district hospital on St Stephen's Day, 1931. Littleton National School records show Neddy O'Connell first attended there as a student in 1919. It is believed the family later lived at Ballybeg, Littleton and he was better known as a musician in that period, when house dances were popular. He ran with the Coolcroo AC novice team and joined the Defence Forces shortly before the war. At the Irish athletics championships held in Drogheda on Sunday, 3 August 1941, the biggest cheer of the day was reserved for Private Neddy O'Connell, of Army Metro AC, as he entered the field an easy winner of the national marathon, having run from Santry to Drogheda. He finished in a time of 3:45:16 and was a half a mile ahead of the second-placed runner. The following year in the national marathon race held at Enniscorthy he was competing for An Dara AC and was lying in second place when he dropped out after fifteen miles. Neddy O'Connell was employed by CIE as a bus driver after he left the Defence Forces.

Titles Won at Senior National Championships:

National Athletic and Cycling Association Championships

1941	Marathon	3:45:16
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