
Leonard Ball

I was seventeen when my two older brothers were in the army AIF. I, with my father, had to keep the family farm going. Having horses to pull the machinery I was given the job of teamster. I used to drive a team of between 8 and 12 horses, depending on what machinery we were using. 8 horses pulled the harvester and 5 pulled the wagon to bring in the 100 ton of hay to cut into chaff. Lumping bags of seed and super, super bags weighed 180 or nearly 82kg which was heavy for a 17 year-old, bags of wheat were the same weight.

My uncle and I did the shearing of 4 farms, we got paid for one farm, 5,000 sheep at three pound a hundred or 6 dollars a hundred. The other three sheds were our Grandad's and his neighbour, we all worked together. We did that for four years until the brothers came home. They had enough money to buy our first Ford tractor in deferred pay.

During that time I wanted to help the war effort so I spent 4 years in the VDC. During the war the farm was at Wagin.