
Henry Blyth

My name is Henry Alfred Blyth and I was born in Perth on 27 July 1918. I attended primary school in Cunderdin for 4 years then on correspondence lessons (my family lived 8 miles from a school) to grade 7.

I got a job in a motor garage in Cunderdin and worked there for 9 years and became a qualified mechanic.

During the war I continued to repair motor vehicles in the 13th Aust Brigade Workshop, which was an Army unit attached to the 13th Brigade.

I was called up for service in 1941 and drafted to 3rd Field Regiment then transferred to 28th Battalion and did a few weeks basic training in each. Feeling that I could serve more effectively in my trade I applied for a transfer to Ordinance and this was granted in November 1941. I worked in a workshop in Murray Street for a month or two and then joined the field workshop that was attached to the 13th Brigade. 1942 was spent up the West Aust coast with the Brigade, mainly around the Jurien Bay and Dandaragan area. In 1943 we followed the Brigade to North Australia and camped north of Adelaide River in the Darwin area.

In the 2 years I was there the enemy bombers came over mostly at night to attack the air force landing strips etc but not near enough to our camp to cause too much damage to us.

Our unit moved to Brisbane at the end of 1944 and later went over to the islands. However I was classed as Medical B2 so was transferred to a Base workshop at Rocklea - a suburb of Brisbane. I spent 10 months there and in October 1945 obtained my discharge to help my father-in-law on his farm at Bodallin. I finished up owning the farm and this for me was a complete change of life and environment. I still live on the farm where we reared our family and now retired.