

## **Harold Edward Crowley**

A short list of duty whilst employed by Emergency Pool Transport Depot, Crescent Wharf, Birmingham 1. Care of M.A.P. Ministry of Aircraft Production L.E.P. Transport Co.

Being a disabled person grade five, together with many others, we were engaged as transport drivers on the full compliment of vehicles used exclusively and supplied by the Royal Air Force R.A.F. and American Air Force.

The following short list will give you some idea of our involvement in the war effort.

Using R.A.F. special trailers, nicknamed Queenmarys, we carried Lancaster Bomber leading and trailing edges fuselages etc. Also Hmilcar gliders used in the Arnhem landing in Holland.

We were often used in convoy from the factory in Coventry to Stranrare in Scotland, where we were shipped to Larne in Northern Ireland. Then by road to Short and Harland Bros. Belfast. Often with an R.A.F escort on Motorcycles.

Most all of the equipment was top priority such as radar equipment to Hove Brighton etc. On the South coast used with great success against incoming enemy aircraft also the V1 doddlebug pilot-less craft.

Many trips to No. 1 R.E.D. Repairable equipment Depot at Castle Bromwich with damaged aircraft etc. Mosquito parts from Rubury Owen factory Birmingham to Hatfield and Leavesdon near London, De Haveland Aircraft Co.

Bomber Command at Scunthorpe, Swinderby, Brig. In the Fenn District, the equipment we never understood. Our convoys invariably travelled through the night to avoid we assume the blitz. Apart from civilian V.I.P.s we were the only other civilians allowed to stay overnight on R.A.F. Bases. In fact we were required to sign the official secrets act.

A varied amount of experimental equipment including flame flares and incendiary bombs were carried from the I.C.I. Linlithgo Scotland to Weston Super Mare for testing. In fact we covered most of the British Isles. Always reporting to R.A.F. movement control after completing our journey.

May I mention, that my dear brother Arthur Crowley also served, as a submariner in the Royal Navy based in Fremantle. His dep't ship was the Maidestone. Now deceased and buried at Karrakatta cemetery.

I migrated to Australia in 1949 to the Snowy River Project. I am very proud to be an Australian citizen, and recognized by the Australian Government for my small contribution to World War II. So far as I can remember Mr William Hill was seconded from L.E.P. Transport Co. to take charge of M.A.P. Emergency Pool Transport.

The Birmingham address was Crescent Wharf, Birmingham 1.