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## **Henry George Hooks**

Born 14<sup>th</sup> June 1923 in Kalgoorlie.

I lived my early years in Boulder. I had a very basic education at the local state school where we had two classes in the one room and if one of the other teachers was away we would have three classes in the room.

We had a very good science teacher who was young and interested in electricity. I took a correspondence course with Marconi School of Wireless at the age of 13 years and had a lot of help from the science teacher.

We had just come out of the Great Depression. I had to leave school at the end of the year to look for work. I managed to find work at a business dealing in sales and service of wireless, refrigeration and any type of other electrical work.

In June 1941, the R.A.A.F. was having a recruiting drive to enlist people in wireless and signals. I had just turned 18 year and had 3½ years experience in wireless and electrical servicing. I took the exam and was told they would contact me later.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> September, I received a letter together with a train pass telling me to report in Perth on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 1941. On arrival I was given a kit of clothes, a service number 45718 and packed off to Melbourne by cattle train with 10 other new recruits to become Wireless Electrical Mechanics.

I never served overseas and was sent to numerous stations on different jobs – Nhill in Victoria as an electrician, Parafield in South Australia as a wireless maintenance mechanic on aircraft, Geraldton, Western Australia as wireless maintenance in signals. I also worked at the transmitting station at Pot Shot (Exmouth) and Yanery on the High Frequency Direction Finding installation, then into the transmitting station until I was discharged on December 6<sup>th</sup> 1945.