
Ronald Joseph Milner

NAME : Milner, Ronald Joseph

D.O.B. : 21.11.1917 England

Employed by British Railways as signalman/Guard at the start of World War II, when compulsory registration for the armed services was introduced.

I was required to register with the twenty-one years of age group, which I did and passed my medical with a fortnight registering for the Royal Engineers.

However much to my disgust I was informed that I was in a reserved occupation and was required on the Railways, which had come under Government control, I was therefore transferred to a train guards position. I was handed a tin helmet, gas mask and a couple of ships biscuits and a tin of bully beef and told to get on with the job. There was no relief for the job and you were expected to carry on from start time to finish, the longest time I was on duty was twenty-three hours twenty minutes. We were not allowed to stop during the continual air raids day or night.

My train was bombed on several occasions but suffered near misses also machine gunned. It was especially dangerous when convoys were in port as the trains were loaded with guns, ammunition, tanks and petrol, which had to get through, there were also troop trains involved.

My engine driver was given the George Medal, I received a letter of appreciation. I saw the war out and came to Western Australia with my family.