



CREWE
TOWN COUNCIL

CREWE



John. A. Bunting

1941

About me

My name is John. A. Bunting and I am 16 years old.

I live in the year 1941.

It's a strange time at the moment, we are in the middle of the war.

I have a really special job in Crewe helping the war.

To get to work, it takes me about 35 minutes to walk to my job at a factory in Pym's Lane.

This is the street I walk down every day to get to work.



- **What can you see?**
- **Does it look different?**



Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies

My job

I have a top secret job to help out in World War 2!

Have a look below at this register. This is where the government write down all the details about people, where they live and what jobs they do. Can you read out loud what my job is?

I'm an apprentice fitter in the Aero Test Department at Rolls- Royce in Crewe!

I train to put the different parts together in a Merlin engine!

But that's not all!

Take a look at the pictures below to see me in my job.



- **What do you think I did in this job?**
- **Do you think it was an important job?**

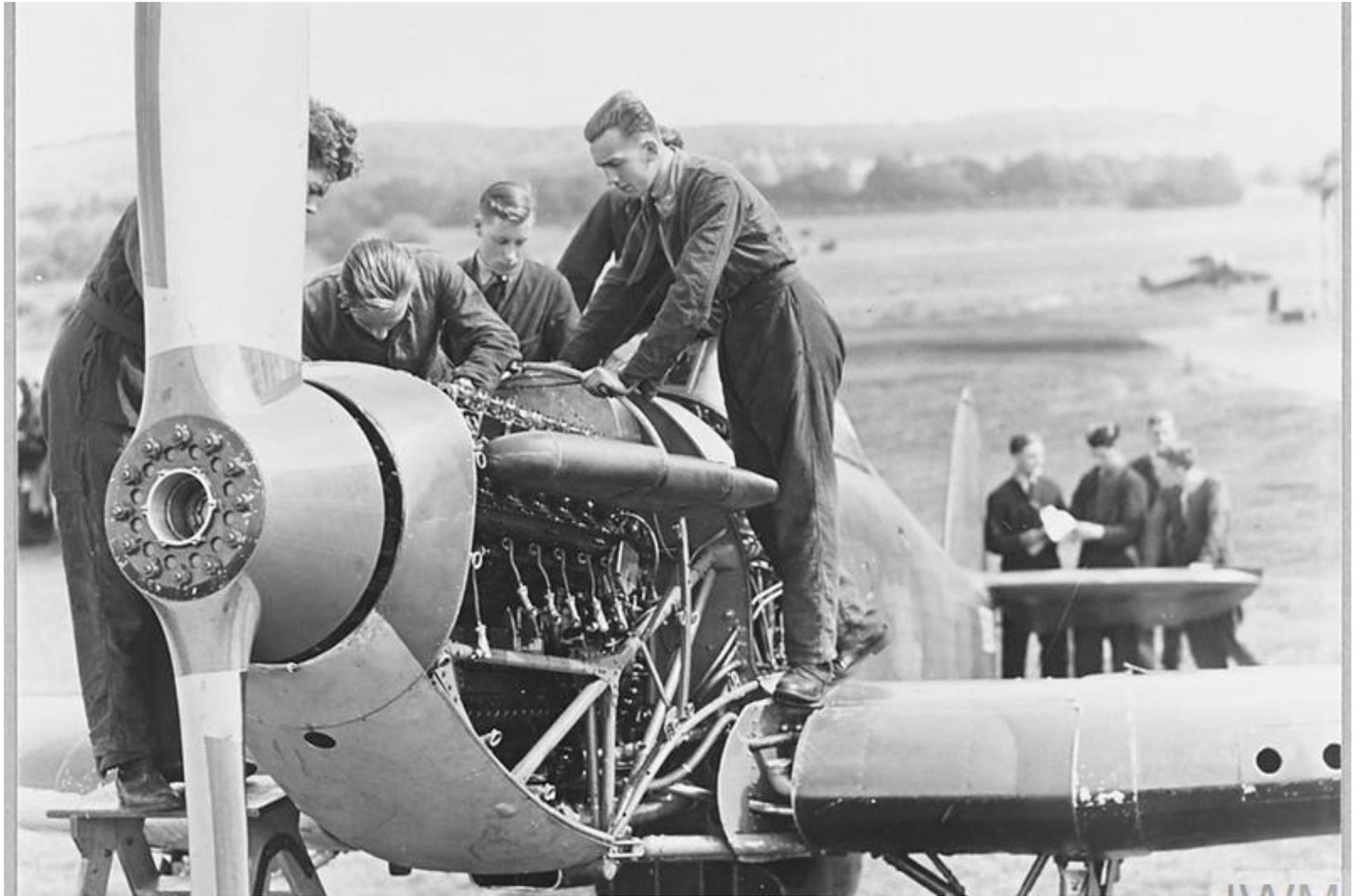
Bunting John A

apprentice Fitter. Aero Test Dept.
Rolls Royce Works.

Credit: National Archives, UK



Credit: The Imperial War Museum



Credit: The Imperial War Museum

Merlin engines

I also put the Merlin engines into the planes.

I travel to different places to fit the Merlin into the plane- quite an important job!

I think the planes that use the Merlin engines are the coolest, fastest, strongest planes in the world!

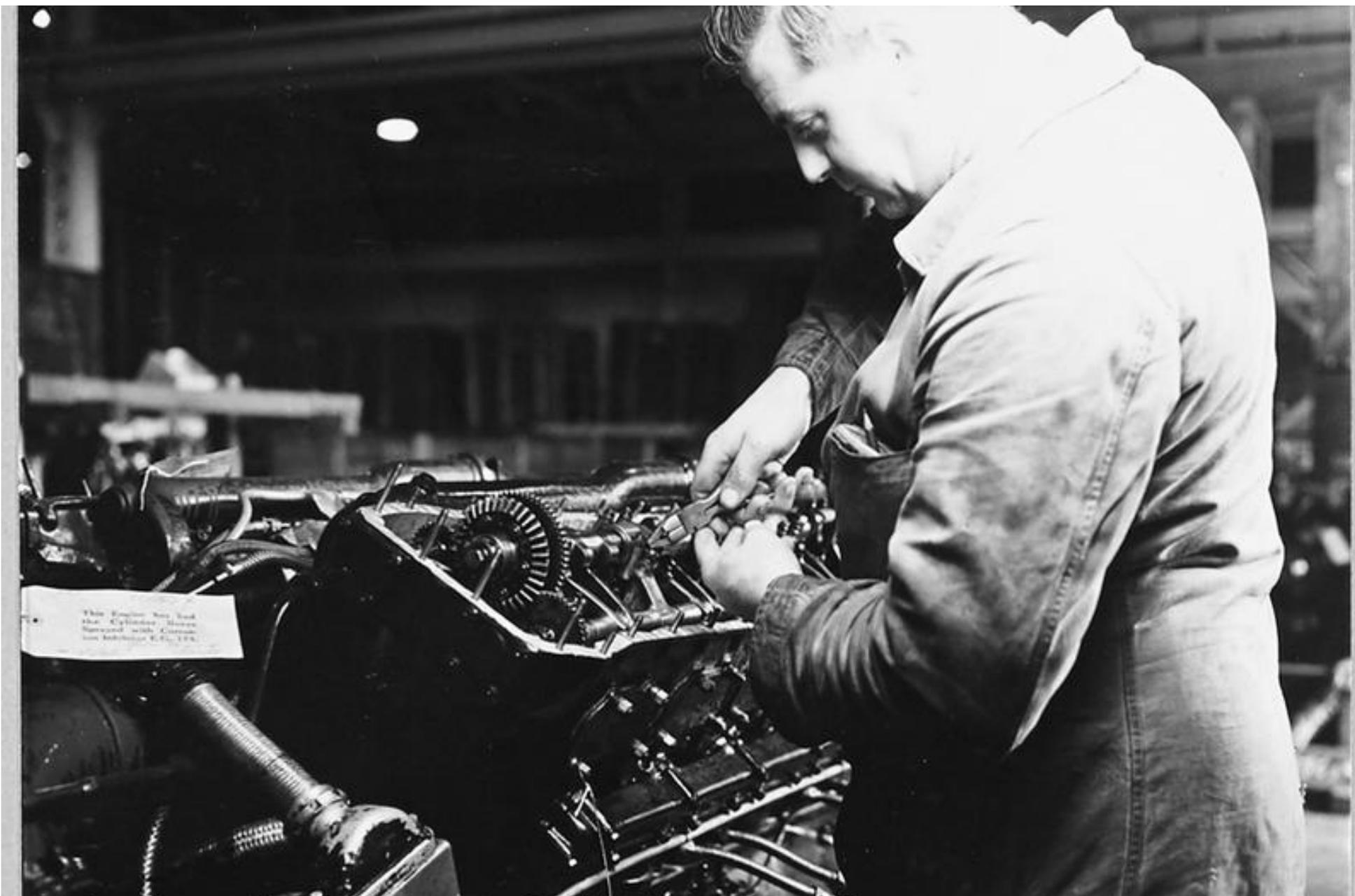
I'm an apprentice which means I am still training. So it's important I do a good job.



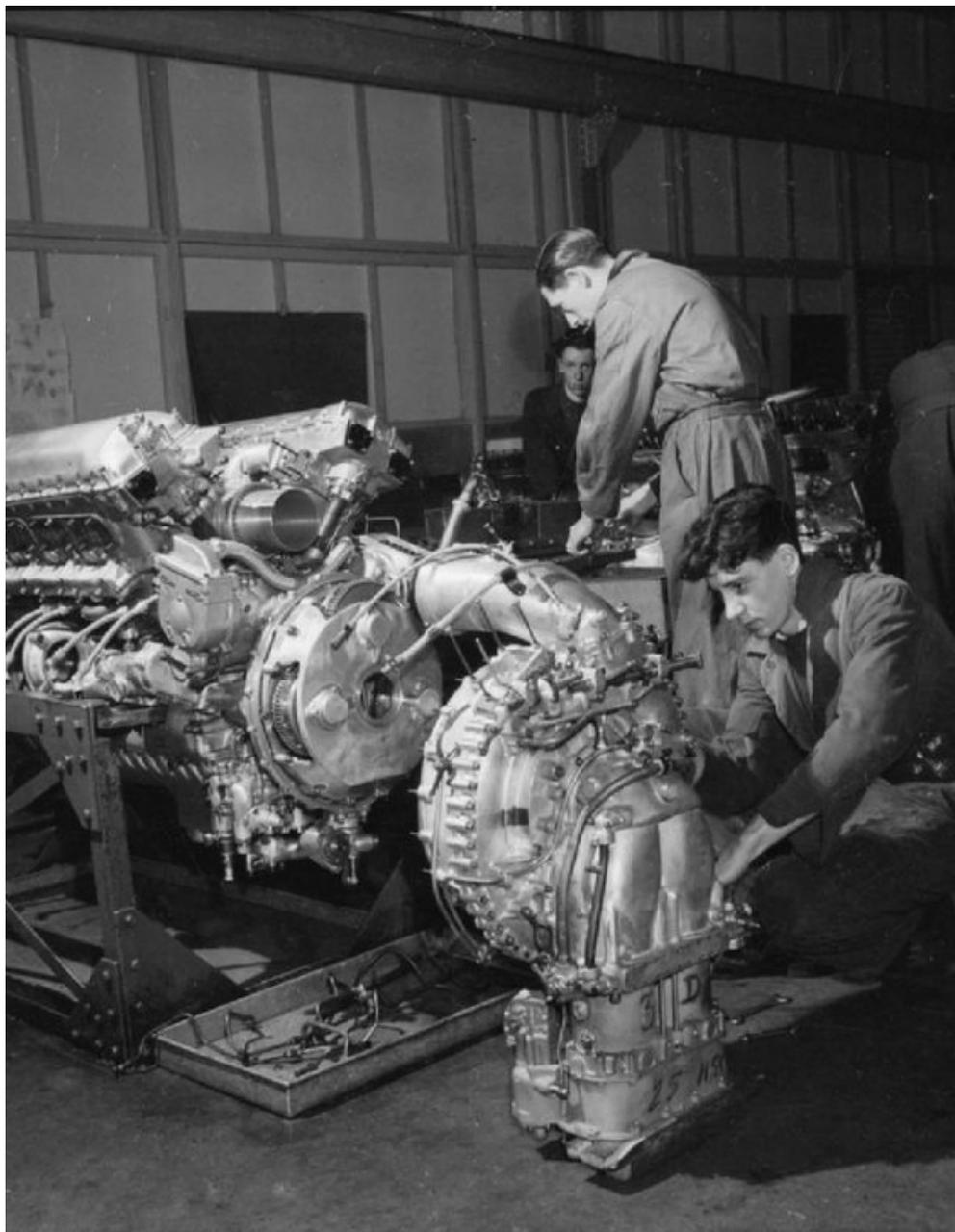
- **Take a look at me in this picture making sure the Merlin engine is put together the right way!**
- **What can you see?**
- **Do you think this was a difficult job?**



Credit: The Imperial War Museum



Credit: The Imperial War Museum



Credit: The Imperial War Museum

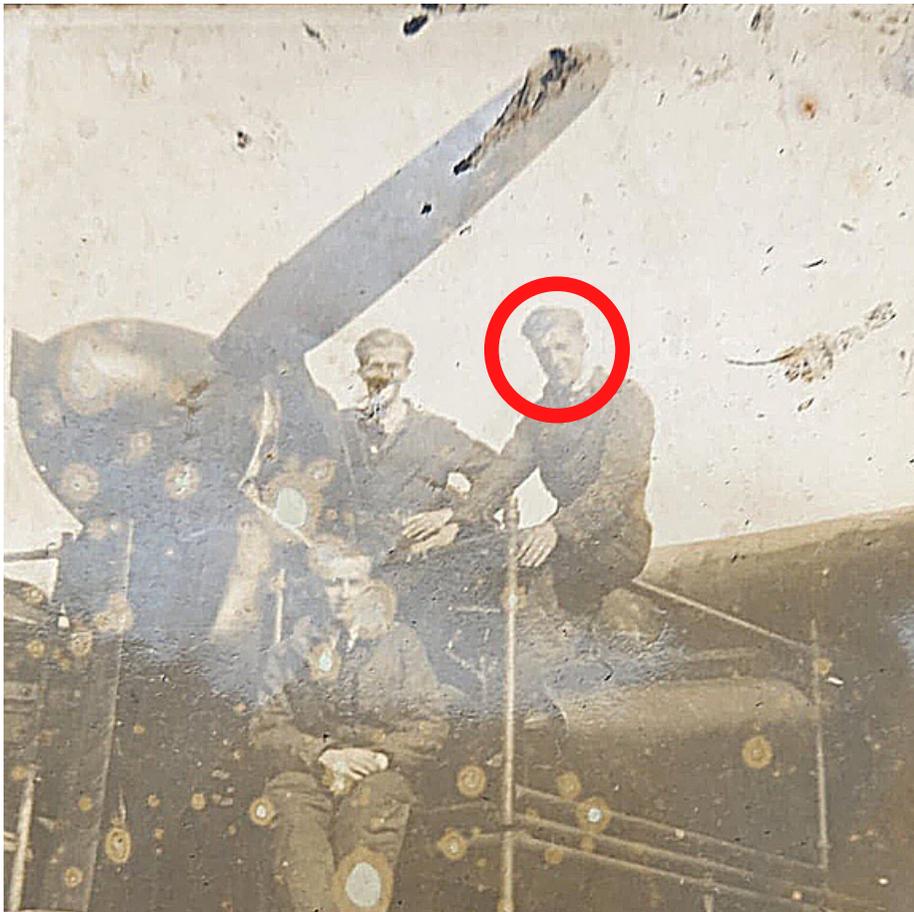


Credit: The Imperial War Museum

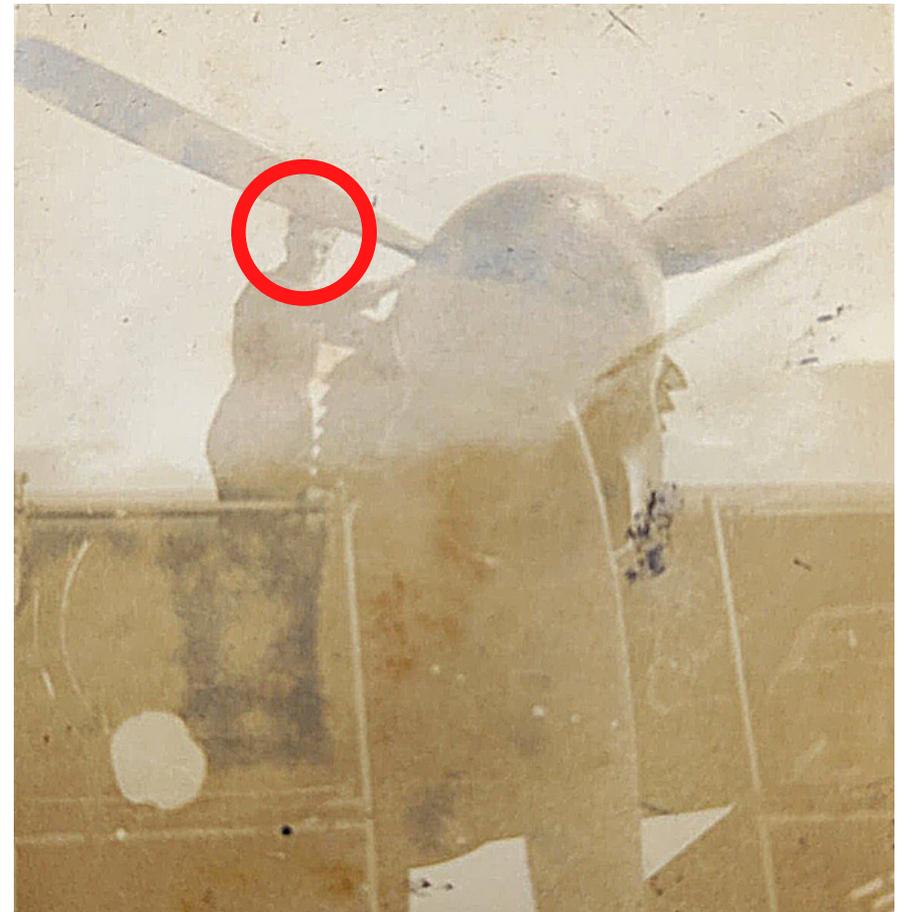
I have a group of friends and we all work together.

Take a look at some of the pictures of me and my friend, Donald Addison who started at the Rolls- Royce factory in 1938. He's the one circled in red.

We work together to make sure the Merlin engines fit into the Spitfire and Hurricane planes!



Credit: Andrew Addison



Credit: Andrew Addison



Credit: Andrew Addison



Credit: Andrew Addison

Spitfires and Hurricanes!

The Rolls- Royce Factory in Crewe is a really important factory.

Crewe was chosen because it is really well connected to other towns by the railway and a lot of people good at their jobs live here.

It's called a shadow factory- that's because our job is top secret!

The engines I make go into two fast planes- the Spitfire and the Hurricane!

They can travel over 400mph because of the strong Merlin engines powering them up!

Take a look at the planes below.



Credit: The Imperial War Museum



Credit: The Imperial War Museum



Credit: The Imperial War Museum

Camouflaging the factory

Take a look at these images.

They show the walls of the Rolls Royce shadow factory in Crewe.



- **What do you notice on the wall?**
- **What do you think these marks are?**
- **Do you think this plan worked?**

The walls of the shadow factory in Crewe were painted this way to try and trick the enemy so that they wouldn't drop a bomb on the factory and stop us from making important Merlin engines!

This trick made the enemy pilots think that the factory was in fact houses and streets!

Sadly, it didn't work.



Credit: Crewe Heritage Centre

29th December 1940

On the 29th December 1940 at 3pm, two bombs were dropped on the factory.

I survived but 17 workers died.

The bombs were dropped on the factory on purpose by the enemy and the factory was given no warning about the incoming plane attack.



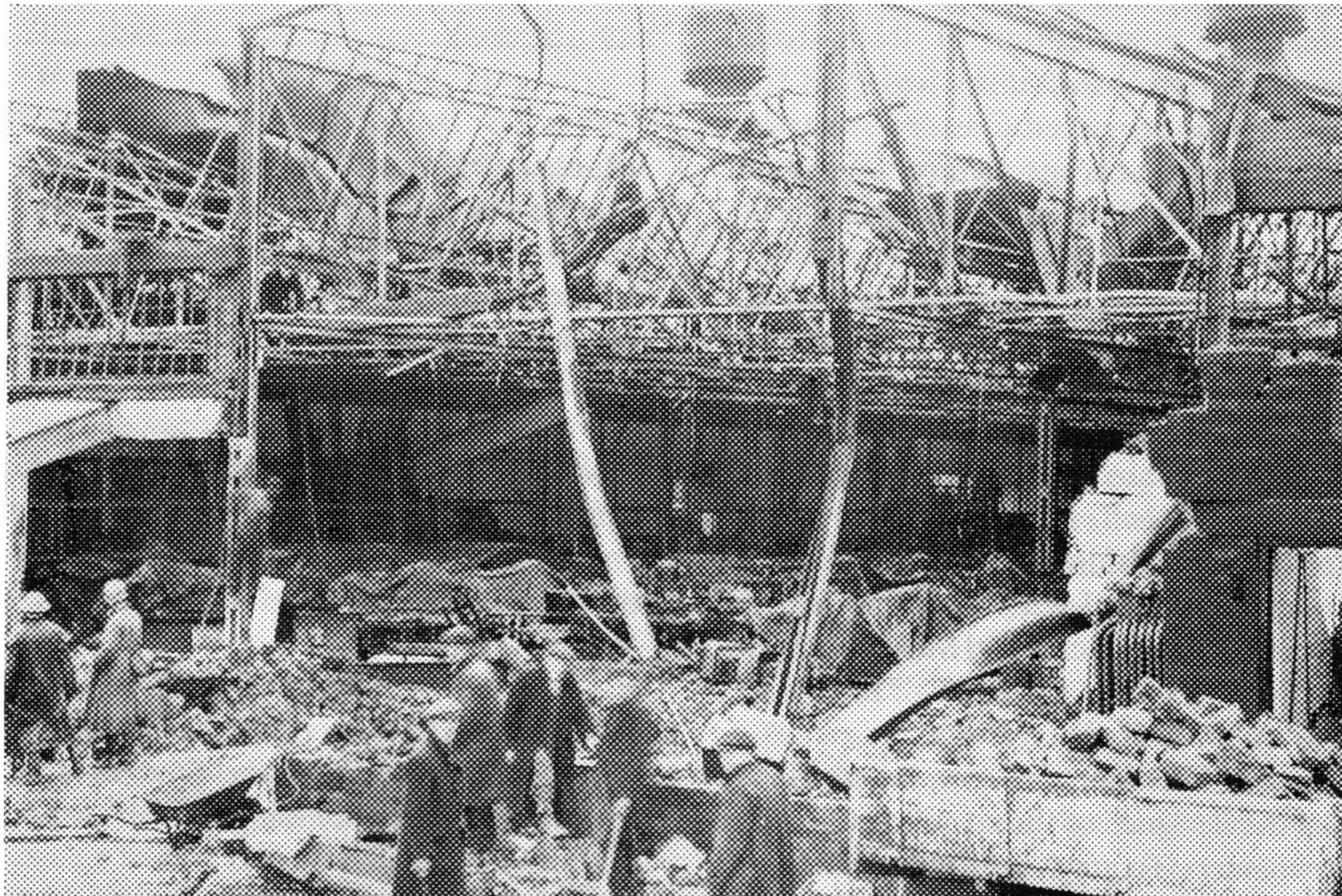
- **How do you think John. A. Bunting felt on this day?**
- **How would you feel?**
- **What adjectives would you use to describe this feeling?**



- **Using these adjectives, try writing a diary entry from John. A. Bunting.**
- **Have you ever written in a diary before?**
- **What do you write about? Maybe about how you were feeling, what happened and what you did next.**



Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies



Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies

Hilda Edwards was working in the Rolls- Royce factory when the two bombs fell.

Read what she said about that day.



Credit: Vivienne Jones

"At the age of 18, I worked as a trimmer and my husband was an apprentice fitter.

On Sunday December 29th 1940, I was at work in the main shop along with friends Mary, Edna and Emily when I was told to go to 16 shop....I heard an awful noise. I ran on the main shop and went into the trip shop and met another friend, Harriet who was just going to get her coat. We both got under the bench when there was a loud bang. We stayed there for a short while afraid to move.

We later collected our belongings and 'clocked out'. There were crowds of people outside including my father on his motorbike-riding up and down keeping the crowds away from the gates... my mother was pleased and relieved to see I was ok but it took a while to get over the shock."

Women in the factory

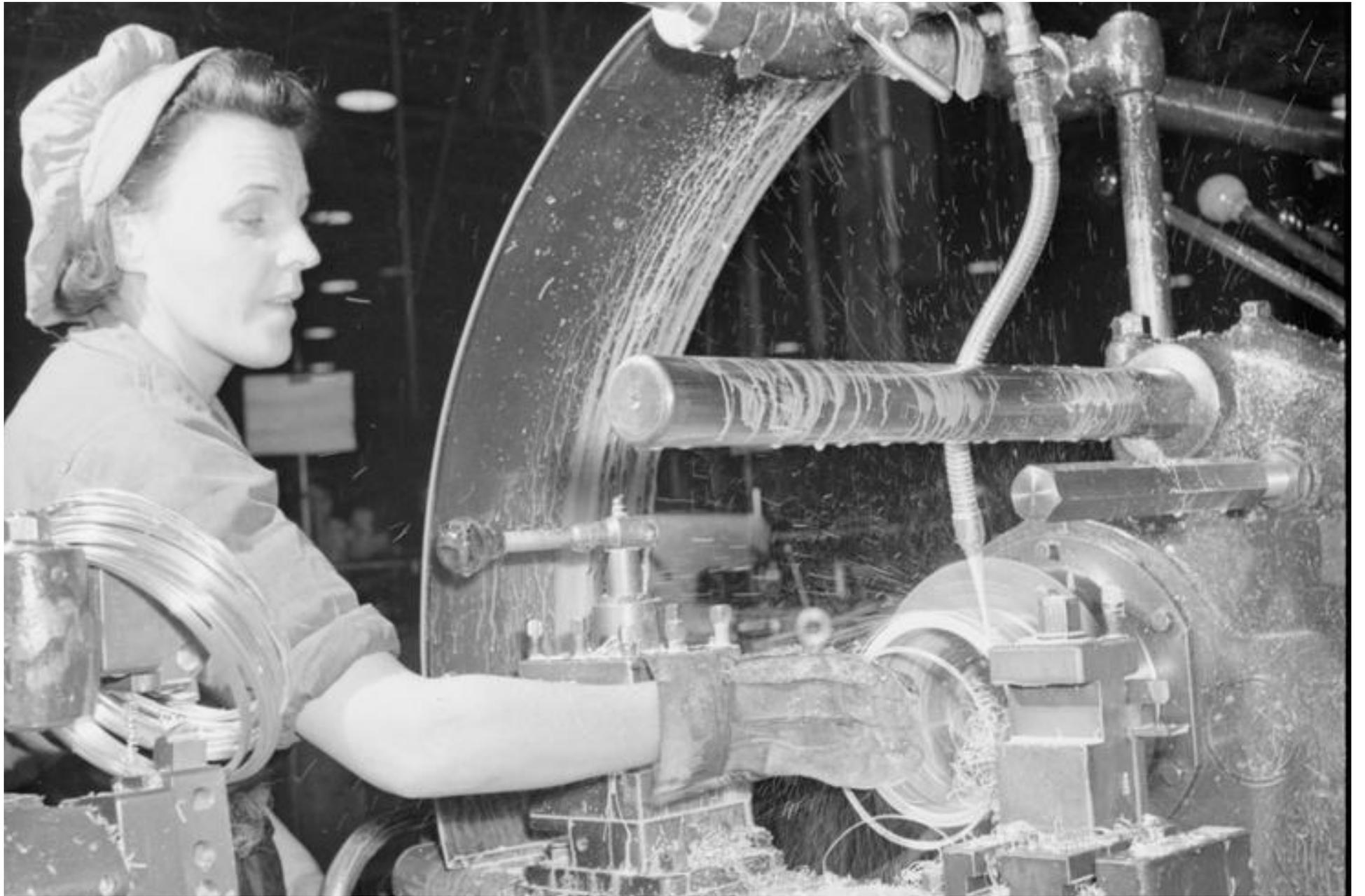
I also work with a lot of women in the factory too!

This was quite unusual because women didn't usually work in factories before- this was thought to be a man's job!

But with most of the men off fighting in the war, women had to step into their jobs to help out and keep the country running.



- **Do you think this is fair that women weren't allowed the same jobs as men?**
- **How would you feel if you were a woman and you had your first job in a factory?**
- **Do you think you might have been treated differently when you went to work as a woman?**
- **Take a look at the images below.**



Credit: The Imperial War Museum



Credit: Ann Black



Credit: The Imperial War Museum

Rolls Royce: Crewe Division

The Rolls- Royce Merlin engine was one of the most powerful engines of World War 2.

It powered both the Spitfire and the Hurricane.

I feel really proud to have been a part of this team at the factory and I know that we contributed to Britain's aircraft-making it even stronger and faster!

While I worked here, I helped to make 25,000 Merlin engines!



- **Watch the short video about the life of John. A. Bunting.**



Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies

ROLLS ROYCE LTD

CREWE DIVISION

TEST DEPT.

1939 - 1945