

Ernest Harvey

Standard of Turnout when Leaving Camp

When you got a weekend pass you had to report to the guardroom before you went out, and when you went to the guardroom you had to be very smart, and when I say very smart, I mean smart. They had a mirror. It must have been five or six foot tall and the corporal or the sergeant of the guard would come out and he would examine you and for the least bit seen he sent you back. Your cap had to be dead centre, or if your badge wasn't, he would find something wrong with you. I don't care what it was he would find something wrong with you. And three times I remember I had this weekend pass. I went to the guardroom and reported. This was me cap badge, "Clean your cap badge". And you'd trail all the way back to your barrack room, you'd clean your cap badge and then you go back to the guardroom again and he would find something else wrong. Three times, so I gave that up as a bad job, but eventually we found out how to get out of the camp without going to the guardroom, and that was what used to happen and we never bothered with the guardroom because we knew what was happening.