

Ken Wood**Uniform Allowance and Uniform Bought**

I was given £40 and given a list of stuff that I had to have, which was quite considerable. My brother Reg, who knew all about this who'd had several times equipment, and he was now a captain I think in the Glasgow Highlanders. And he used to come down and see us every weekend and he said "Come on then £40. Good, we're off to London, we'll get your kit", and he had this list. This £40 paid for our journey to London and our journey back. It paid for all my equipment and it paid for extra stuff which he bought for himself on that £40. And I'll tell you what I landed up with and this was all second hand stuff but one would not know the difference. We start with the complete service dress with slacks and plus fours and puttees and two pairs of boots to go with them. A fore and aft, and then we had the 'blues', we had a complete set of 'blues' with leggings covered by the straps. Black patent leather leggings covered by my trousers and with that what I called a blue peaked cap and a blue forage cap as well. In addition to that we had scarlet tunic and extra things to go with that, I forget what. And two khaki shirts, two white shirts with hard collars for the 'blues'. Two pairs of socks and two of everything one can imagine. You know absolutely everything. A Sam Browne. A sword and a scabbard and other things which I can't quantify, and a steel box, a uniform case, into which all this went. And an extra sword and scabbard for my brother. And all this went into £40 and we still had money left over for a meal. It's quite unbelievable.