

Charles Turnbull

Issue of Uniform

The dishing out of uniforms was very haphazard. One day you might receive a pair of boots and a pair of socks. The next day you might get a blouse, an Army blouse, and probably a pair of trousers dished out. Then the next day you might get a forage cap and a greatcoat, ill fitting and not very smart. I think that after being in a week we were allowed a weekend pass, and I can always remember coming back to Hetton le Hole and marching up Edward Street, where we lived. My mother was at the door and when she saw me coming up the street, a greatcoat on that was down to my ankles, she started to cry. And really it took her a long time to get over it, the thing, and she said. I can always remember her saying to me father "Ee, our Charlie's never ever worn big boots like that. He'll never get used to that". And that was the initial response.