

Fred Cottier

Kit Inspection

You had a sheet of hardboard and you laid that on to your bed covered neatly with a blanket. Now on that blanket, there had to be no creases in, on that blanket you had your other two blankets folded with your two sheets. Then it was stepped down. You had a shirt. It had to be folded just like the shirts are folded when you buy them at the shop, creased folded on cardboard. Your socks were folded, I think it was two and a half inches up to three inches square on cardboards. A pair of socks with your number, rank and name on. Your pullover had to be neatly folded just like your shirts on cardboard. Your spare pair of boot laces had to be rolled neat and tidy. Your PT kit vest and pants all square formation, and it covered the whole of your bed. In addition to that at the head of your bed your equipment, your webbing, that's your belt, your cross straps, your pouches had to be Blancoed and your brasses highly polished. Your greatcoat hung by the side of it with the buttons highly polished, and, of course, at the foot of your bed you had your spare pair of boots. Toe plates polished, studs polished, heel plates polished. And your white belt, white Blancoed and the buckle highly polished. Even your housewife, which is a small container containing thread and needles and thimble and spare buttons, had to be laid out in uniform fashion. Everything had to be in line. Now everything on those beds had to be in line corresponding with the bed next to you. So your socks, your shirt had to be in line right the way up fifteen beds. And you had to put a line on so that your shirt was in line with his shirt and your socks was in line with his socks. And that was your kit inspection.