William Roberts

Issue of Uniform and Alterations

It was a hitty-missy sort of thing at the first when they were dishing out because the quartermaster looked at you and he thought "Well, medium size, small size" and "large size". And he'd look at these. He said "Well, they might fit you, try them on first", and that's how it all started. So we all got dressed and you've never seen anything like it in all your life. The blousons, or blouses of the battledress were hanging in some cases right down over their bottoms. They were trying to turn up the trousers to fit they were overlapping the trousers around the waist. Some couldn't get into their jackets or the trousers. And so it then started a complete sorting out from one to the next. "Get that off, give it to him. You try that on. Up to there". And this went on all day until finally quartermaster had a good look and he says "Well, that's as near as we can possibly get it, but over the period of time here if something doesn't fit you'll come back to the stores and see what we can do because we have a tailor that can alter". That was accepted by all of us.