George Lodge

Rifle Cleaning and Inspection

Any time after you fired it, you'd been on a course. You came back, you went to the cookhouse, you got eight pints of boiling water pouring it down the barrel. Then you've got oily gauze on a pull-through, and you pulled it through. And then you had what they call a piece of 'four by two', which was like a piece of flannel four by two, and you put that on the end of your pull-through and you pulled that through, the final stage, it left it slightly oiled. And then you, where the firing pin was there's also a ring, and you used to get a bit of pencil and used to take it off, all that had to be clean. And your rifle was, had to be kept very clean, spotless. Use, use a brush or a shaving brush to get into all the nooks and crannies which was, then it was inspected. Then the inspection you're bellying outside and you did the port arms with the bolts pulled back and you had to put your thumb in front of the bolt so as when the officer or a sergeant looked down the barrel he could see your thumb nail. And just reflect up the barrel then he could see if it was clean or not. And if it was dirty well, you were for it.