

Fred Welsh**Processing and First Night**

Well, there was so many coming in from all parts that forever someone was arriving, so your particulars were taken and you were pushed to the side and you hung about. Cold castle and we were just sat against the walls. And we were given some sort of meal, it was just bread and something, probably bread and cheese. And it took so long that we finally were given our uniforms. You wanted the size of your boots, that's the only thing that you got that was supposed to be of your size, the other you were either big, little or it didn't fit. This went on till, I say, about nine o'clock at night they started bundling you into platoons, and I was put on a wagon and eleven o'clock at night we went along the road to a little village of Willington and we were put to bed there just literally got a paliasse full of straw and laid on the bed in this hall. I can't remember going to sleep; I don't suppose we did on the floor. No heating, and next morning woken at reveille six o'clock and had to get a wash in fire buckets, about 33 of us, I think it was 33 in a platoon in those days. And then the next morning we were introduced to our sergeant, corporal and lance-corporal who were to train us for the first initial seven weeks.