

Joseph Clark

Latrines

They had places where they could put two petrol tins with the tops cut out, they could put them together and they had like a wooden frame and they used to fasten them together with the, more or less like a wooden frame that had been made. And there were two or three of them, they would be in each area, I know they were in HQ area. And they had the frame keeping them together and excreta went in one tin and the urine went into the other tin. And, of course, after that the Pioneer Corps men it was their job to dispose of that. They would probably have a trench dug to get rid of it. But somebody in the desert with flies and things around it was an idea, it would have come from somewhere, put a lid on them to seal them. And what they used for hinges was piece of rubber tyre from the tyre of a truck, and they fastened them on to this wooden frame and on to the seat and you had to lift the seat up to use the toilet, and then, of course, when you left the toilet it came down and the rubber brought it down like a hinge. Now I saw that in the desert, but there's a lot of people doesn't know what a 'desert rose' is. But a 'desert rose' was you had to dig a trench or a hole. Let's put it, say a hole. It needn't be very wide, maybes a yard at the most, and they got these petrol tins, they'd made them into a funnel. What they did first they put some gravel in the bottom of this hole and then they made these funnels, maybes about four feet long, and they sank the funnel down the middle of this hole which they'd dug and then they filled it up with gravel and sand, gravel and sand until it reached the level of the desert which left about three foot sticking out of the desert. And they took the corner of a petrol tin and put holes in it and they fixed that in the top of the pipe that was sticking out of the desert. So that if you only, you wanted to urinate you went to that 'desert rose'. And that didn't stop on the ground level, it went down through the sand and gravel and sand and gravel into the desert and that kept this area in a good condition. And that was a 'desert rose'.