



take time to get a call through — so there might be some delay before a wagon came to pick them up. The telephone line was shared with the provincial Government House, and the Lt. Governor's wife spent a lot of time on the phone!

On reaching the barracks, new recruits were issued their first uniform of brown pants and tunic made from heavy cotton, or "duck" as it was called. They soon found out that this uniform was "fatigue dress" to be worn in carrying out the many chores required to keep Depot spick-and-span.

They were also assigned to a barrack room and issued with a palliasse and blankets. There were no beds in the early years of Depot. Each recruit received two wooden trestles and a supply of boards to stretch between them. On

these he placed his palliasse, filled with straw from the stables, and made himself as comfortable as possible. New arrivals were kept as fatigues until enough of them were assembled to form a squad, then training began.

Some recruits found the food "plain and rough fare."⁷ The main meal in the middle of the day was usually cooked meat and potatoes. Supper consisted of cold meat, bread and tea. The principal dish for breakfast was commonly referred to as "mystery." It was the remains of previous meals fried up into a kind of hash and served with bread and coffee. The menu changed very little from day to day. It was plain fare but probably not unlike what most recruits of the time were used to at home.

⁷ Op. Cit., Dwight, p. 28.