

Tony Cameron**Slit Trenches in Italy**

A normal slit trench you'd get about five foot across, not two foot if you can avoid it the narrower the better, but it's normally enough for two of you. Two of you used to normally work together, dig a slit trench for two. And mostly where I dug in Italy it was cultivated ground so it wasn't very difficult digging a hole. I'd been a pitman and I could use a bloody spade and a shovel and a pick. Carried an entrenching tool on your belt, and an entrenching tool had a blade at one end and a point at the other end and a handle about that long, and that you used yourself. We finished up later on we had spades, used to carry your spade hung on to like your small pack. Now it was a spade with a shortened handle. You had the normal spade head but they chopped the handle more or less in half so that it was easier to carry.