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A Close Shave

(Pennsylvania Military Museum, T. Gum, Site Admin.)



This Gillette Safety Razor (Shaving Kit) was used by Bernard McGuire (b. 1/6/1896) of Cresson, PA. McGuire was a member of the 7th Army Corps, Headquarters Troop, serving abroad during World War I from June 24, 1918 to July 2, 1919.

This type of razor was developed by the Gillette shaving company in 1900. Such razor quickly became a common sight in the US Military with that advent of the standard issue shaving kit, which was manufactured by Gillette. It is estimated that Gillette supplied more than three million kits to the US military.



This style of personal shaving became immensely popular due to its ability to provide a professional quality shave without the need of visiting a barber. This new ability & habit, was carried home from the front lines and contributed to the increased demand for products domestically.

To this day, military grooming standards are adhered to unless a commander approves relaxed grooming standards to be implemented.

Only a dedicated few prefer to use the classic safety razor... though it is arguably more reliable in austere conditions, lacking the need for electricity.