

Gummed blanket

Object Card

In 1844 Charles Goodyear patented the process of vulcanizing rubber. This made rubber good for waterproofing when applied to items like a blanket or haversack. Soldiers were not issued a gummed, or rubberized, blanket but “An Old Soldier Advice” pamphlet from the Civil War era urged soldiers to buy one. It could be used to lie “on the ground or to throw over your shoulders when on guard duty during a rain storm.” Soldiers also used the back of the rubber blanket to draw game boards for chess and checkers.

