

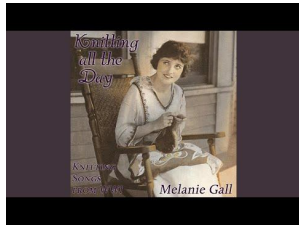
# Knit one for the troops

Historic knitting for soldiers, sailors and airmen

Presented to the Salem Millstream Knitting Guild

Laura Wegman

12/12/2020



Words by  
RAYMOND LEEVEN

Music by  
JESSE WINNE

Marcia

Piano

John - ny Jones en - list - ed in this war of Lib - er - ty, And  
John - ny in the trench - es got a box the oth - er day, And

er - ry place that John - ny went, This night he'd al - ways see, The  
in that box a pair of socks were neat - ly packed a - way All

girls were knit - ting things for boys all fight - ing in the fray, When a  
wrapped in tis - sue pap - er and with rib - buns on them John - ny

meant girl he'd see knit - ting Young John - ny Jones would say, say  
Jones was dis - ap - point - ed. When he found they would sit on.

Copyright 1917 by White Music Co.

Chorus

I wonder who's knit - ting for me? I wonder just who she can be?  
I wonder who's knit - ting for me? I wonder just who she can be?

Now I wonder if she's tall I wonder if she's small? I'd love her, I'd love her, Why  
She must think I'm big and tall she does not know I'm small, No mat - ter, I'll

for her I would fall in com - fort - ing you must all - with, To  
wear them af - ter all I'd like to thank her for the hose, They're

know that she's doing - ing her bit, Knit, knit, knit, the girls are  
big - ger than my un - der - clothes, Knit, knit, knit, the girls are

knit - ting I wonder who's knit - ting for me? I wonder who's knit - ting for me?  
knit - ting I wonder who's knit - ting for me? I wonder who's knit - ting for me?

Copyright 1917 by White Music Co.

# Revolutionary War

- Knitting as spy activity:
  - Even more common throughout many conflicts was the secreting of information using knitting as a cover. As far back as the Revolutionary War women concealed information using their knitting. **Molly Rinker** of Philadelphia was incensed when British troops were billeted in her home. She eavesdropped on them, making notes on a tiny piece of paper which she then wrapped up inside a ball of yarn. She would then use this yarn to knit in the woods, where the note would slip to the forest floor to be picked up later by one of George Washington's men.



# American Civil War

- Soldiers received boxes directly from home, containing, among other things, knitted items and sometimes a bit of romance:
  - Across the country, groups of women rallied to sew mittens, scarves and socks for soldiers. While today's world has dating applications that can connect strangers and kickstart a romance, in the Civil War-era, Chamberlain described how a young woman might use a knitted pair of socks or a quilt to help find an eligible bachelor.
  - "Here's a note that was tucked into one [pair of socks]," Chamberlain said. "It says, 'dear boy. I have knit these socks expressly for you. How do you like them? How do you look and where do you live when you're home? I'm 19 years old, of medium height, slight build, blue eyes and fair complexioned. If the recipient of these socks has a wife, will he please exchange socks with some fellow not so fortunate?'"
    - Hammon, Kelsea, Leaderpub.com, May 13, 2019
- The U.S. Sanitary Commission received donations of knitted items for soldiers.
  - The **United States Sanitary Commission (USSC)** was a private [relief agency](#) created by federal legislation on June 18, 1861, to support sick and wounded soldiers of the [United States Army](#) (Federal / Northern / [Union Army](#)) during the [American Civil War](#).<sup>[a]</sup> It operated across the North, raised an estimated \$25 million in Civil War era revenue (assuming 1865 dollars, \$417.55 million in 2020) and in-kind contributions<sup>[1]</sup> to support the cause, and enlisted thousands of volunteers. The president was [Henry Whitney Bellows](#), and [Frederick Law Olmsted](#) acted as executive secretary.

# American Civil War

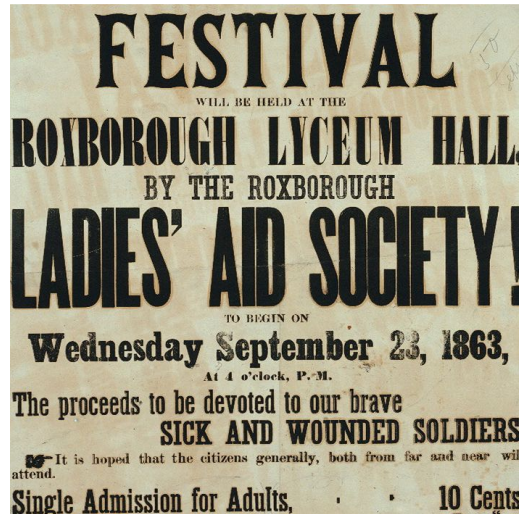
[1] The **United States Christian Commission** (USCC) was an organization that furnished supplies, medical services, and religious literature to Union troops during the [American Civil War](#). It combined religious support with social services and recreational activities. It supplied [Protestant chaplains](#) and [social workers](#) and collaborated with the U.S. [Sanitary Commission](#) in providing medical services.

The Christian Commission was created in response to what the troops suffered in the [First Battle of Bull Run](#). On November 14, 1861, the National Committee of the [YMCA](#) called a convention which met in [New York City](#). Leaders outlined the work needed to support the soldiers, the design for the United States Christian Commission, whose organization was completed next day. Two of the founding members were [Vincent Colyer](#), who was appalled by the aftermath of the battle of Bull Run, and George Stuart, a well-to-do businessman.



# American Civil War

- Southern Aid Societies
  - In the Confederacy, Soldiers' Friend Societies, Hospital Aid Societies and Soldiers' Relief Associations were in abundance. They were noted for their creativity in raising funds for needed supplies by planning bazaars, balls, auctions, theatricals, tableaux and concerts.







**CHESTER COUNTY SOLDIERS' SOCKS,**  
FOR THE  
Great CENTRAL FAIR for the SANITARY COMMISSION to be held  
in Philadelphia in June.

**Every Woman to the Work.**

Let our brave *Soldiers* know and feel that they are remembered, and cared for in every household in the land. Let us begin by knitting one or more pairs of Socks. And to distinguish the *CHESTER COUNTY* Socks, from all others, let the ribbing at the top be red, white and blue, one inch of each color.

In order that a full report may be made of the whole number contributed, it is requested, that they be sent with the names of the donors, to the nearest *Aid Society*, or to the *Central Aid Society*, West Chester. **Ply fast your Needles.**

**S. H. HIESTER,**  
*Associate Manager, U. S.  
Sanitary Commission.*

Read and circulate.

Whole length of Foot from 0 to 11 inches.

Width length of Heel from 10 to 14 inches.

Read and circulate.



# CROCHET SCARF FOR A GENTLEMAN.

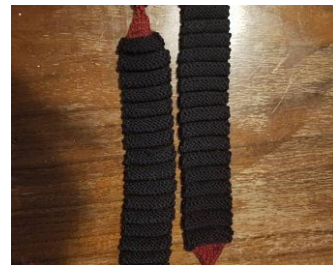


This scarf is worked in two colors, with a contrast needle, No. 3. It is worked lengthwise. Make a chain of 120 stitches, and make two rows of wave stitch in chain worked; then three rows in Afghan stitch with blue ground; continue to do so until the scarf has seven chain stripes and six blue stripes; then bind off; finish the ends with a deep fringe, and the sides with a wavy, looped edge. Wave stitch is done by making one row of plain Afghan stitch, but in picking up the second row you push the chain over on the right side and pick the long loops up on the back; the third row you do in plain Afghan stitch, and the fourth as the second row, and so continue to work.

491

Digitized by Google

Original from:  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN







12-14-1862

V

Camp near Nashville  
Dec the 14<sup>th</sup> 1862  
Dear Uncle and Aunt  
I am happy to inform  
you that I am well  
and I would be glad  
to know that you  
was enjoying the same  
blessing at the present  
time. I received a letter  
from Lottie on the 12<sup>th</sup>  
informing me that she  
was at M. Hesters



She wrote that she and  
Ida was well and  
trying to enjoy themselves.  
I was surprised when  
I opened her letter and  
saw that it was headed  
Columbia City. I  
would first look at  
the hand writing and  
than at the heading  
of the letter. I concluded  
that it was certainly  
Lotties hand writing  
and I would read it

and see if it would  
Salve the mystery I soon  
found out that I was  
not fasted as she had  
designed for me to be  
as I had not got the letter  
that she had sent by  
Col. Tripp. Frank Rust  
returned last evening  
he had the letter that  
was designed to be sent  
by the Colonel and the  
mittens for John and me  
and my mittens fits

John is well  
Foot & hand sent to  
good fine

equally as well as them  
Sacks did that you knit  
for me I am in hopes  
that Lattie will enjoy  
herself out there better  
than she has in the few  
months past and as a  
change of pasture makes  
fat calves I think that  
she will we are looking  
for a heavy Bottle here  
in a short time dont  
forget to be punctual  
with your new correspondent  
I remain as ever Dr Seely Payne

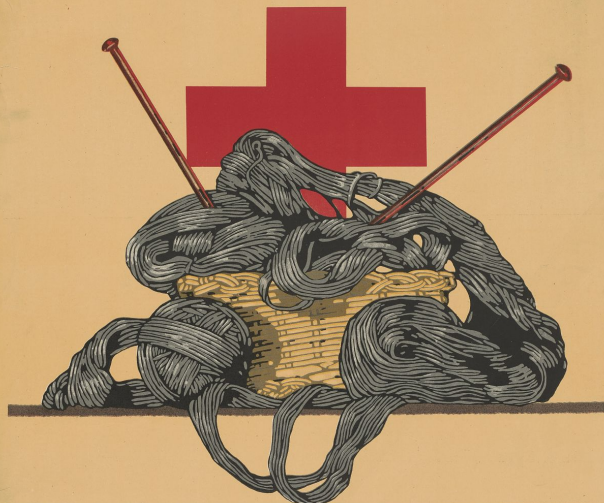
# World War 1

- The American Red Cross

Europe was thrown into conflict in June 1914. At the beginning of the war, the American Red Cross was a small organization still in the process of developing its identity and programs. When the United States declared war against Germany on April 6, 1917, the organization began a period of extraordinary growth. By the time the war ended in November 1918, the Red Cross had become a major national humanitarian organization with strong leadership, a huge membership base, universal recognition, and a broad and distinguished record of service.



# AMERICAN RED CROSS



OUR BOYS NEED  
**SOX**  
KNIT YOUR BIT

## HOW TO KNIT SOCKS FOR SOLDIERS

Full instructions for knitting socks as done by Canadian women were given recently by Mrs. Margaret J. Blair, home economics lecturer. "On my trips into Canada, I have found the women knitting everywhere, even in church," Mrs. Blair said. "No other socks can compare with those knit by hand. It will be a tremendously practical help for the women to knit footgear for the American soldiers, and will add hugely to the comfort of our men afield." Here are the directions for hand-knitted regulation socks:

Length of foot when finished not less than 10 inches, not more than 12½ inches.

Worsted—Four or five ply superfine or three ply wheeling; needles, No. 12 or 13 English gauge.

For socks with foot 10 or 10½ inches—Cast on 84 stitches, rib 4½ inches, two plain, two purl, knit plain 7½ inches.

Heel—Knit plain 32 stitches on one needle, turn, purl back these 32 stitches, turn, slip one, knit to end of row, turn, slip one, purl to end of row. Repeat, always slipping the first stitch till you have 32 rows in all for back of heel. This makes a square, 22 stitches by 32 stitches for back of heel.

With the inside of the heel towards the one who is knitting, purl 18 stitches, purl two together, purl one, turn, knit 6 stitches, slip one, knit one, pull slipped stitch over, knit one, turn, purl two together, purl one, turn, knit eight stitches, slip one, knit one, pull slipped stitch over, knit one, turn, purl nine stitches, purl two together, purl one.

Turn—Knit 10 stitches, slip one, knit one, pull slipped stitch over, knit one; turn, purl 11 stitches, purl two together, purl one.

Turn—Knit 12 stitches, slip one, knit one, pull slipped stitch over, knit one; turn, purl 13 stitches, purl two together, purl one.

Turn—Knit 14 stitches, slip one, knit one, pull slipped stitch over, knit one; turn, purl 15 stitches, purl two together, purl one.

Turn—Knit 16 stitches, slip one, knit one, pull slipped stitch over, knit one; turn, purl 17 stitches, purl two together, purl one.

Turn—Knit 17 stitches, slip one, knit one, pull slipped stitch over. Pick up and knit 17 stitches down the side of the heel piece. Knit the 32 stitches of the front needles onto one needle. Pick up and knit the 17 stitches at the other side of the heel piece. Divide the heel stitches on the two side needles, and

knit right around again to the center heel.

First needle—Knit to within three stitches of the front end of side needles, knit two together, knit one.

Front needle—Plain.

Third needle—Knit one, slip one, knit one, pull slipped stitch over, knit plain to end of needle.

This reducing to be done every other row until there are 64 stitches on the needles (front needle 32, side needles 16 each).

Knit plain until the foot (from the back of the heel) measures 2½ inches less than the full length required, namely, 8¾ inches for 10½ inch foot.

To decrease for the toe begin at the front needle, knit one, slip one, knit one, pull slipped stitch over, knit plain to within three stitches of the end of the needle, knit two together, knit one.

Second needle—Knit one, slip one, knit one, pull slipped stitch over, knit plain to end of needle.

Third needle—Knit plain to within three stitches of the end of needle, knit two together, knit one.

Knit three plain rounds, then decrease as before; knit another three plain rounds, then decrease as before.

Knit two plain rounds, then decrease as before; knit another two plain rounds, then decrease as before.

Knit one plain row, then decrease again, knit another plain row, then decrease again.

Now decrease as above in each of the next three rows, which leaves 20 stitches.

Intake of Toe—Having 20 stitches on two needles, put 10 on needle across the front and 10 on back needle. Break off wool, leaving half a yard with which to finish off sock and thread it into a darning needle. Put darning needle in first stitch of the front knitting needle as if to knit; pull wool thru and take off stitch.

Put darning needle in next stitch of front needle as if to purl, pull wool thru, but leave stitch on. Go to back needle, being particularly careful that the wool is taken under the knitting needle each time and not over.

Put darning needle in first stitch of the back needle as if to purl, pull wool thru and take off stitch; put darning needle in next stitch of the back needle as if to knit, pull wool thru, but leave stitch on. Return to front needle and repeat.

Mrs. Blair said her experience and that of the Canadian women had convinced her these instructions would produce the best results.

## How to Knit Sleeveless Jackets, Mufflers and Wristlets

Directions Approved and Standardized by the Navy Department Committee.

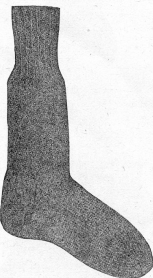
Sleeveless Jackets—Cast on 80 stitches; knit 2; purl 2 stitches for 4 inches; knit plain until sweater measured 25 inches; knit 28 stitches; bind off 24 stitches for neck; knit 28 stitches; knit 5 rows on each shoulder; cast on 24 stitches; knit plain for 19 inches; purl 2; knit 2 stitches for 4 inches; sew sides up, leaving 9 inches for arm holes. No. 5 celluloid needle; knitting yarn, either dark grey or blue, cost \$1.00, 2 skeins.

Mufflers—Cast on 50 stitches; knit for 58 inches. No. 5 celluloid needle; dark blue knitting yarn, cost \$1.00, 2 skeins.

Wristlets—Cast on 50 stitches; knit 2; purl 2 stitches for 12 inches; sew up leaving 2 inch space for thumb 4 inches from top. No. 3 bone needle; grey knitting yarn; skein 50c. It takes 500 of these sets for one battleship down to twenty for a submarine.

# American Red Cross Items

## MEDIUM SIZED MAN'S SOCK



Sock

stitches knit 1 row, purl 1 row alternately for 26 times (or 3 inches), always slipping the first stitch. Begin to turn heel on the wrong side, slip 1, purl 13, purl 2 together, purl 1.

Turn work over, slip 1, knit 4, slip 1, knit 1, and pass it over slipped stitch, knit 1. Turn, slip 1, purl 5, purl 2 together, purl 1. Turn, slip 1, knit 6, slip 1, knit 1, and pass it over slipped stitch, knit 1. Continue working toward the sides of the heel in this manner, leaving 1 more stitch between decreases on every row until all the stitches are worked in. There should then be 15 stitches on the needle. Pick up 13 stitches on side of heel; now knit the 25 stitches on 2d and 3d needle on to one needle, which becomes your 2d needle; with your 3d needle pick up the 13 stitches on other side of heel, and knit 7 stitches off your 1st needle so that you will now have 21 stitches on the 1st needle, 25 stitches on the 2d needle, and 20 stitches on 3d needle. 1st needle (a) knit to within 3 stitches of end, knit 2 together, knit 1. 2d needle (b) knit plain. 3d needle (c) knit 1, slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over, knit plain to end of needle. Knit around plain (d).

Repeat a, b, c and d until you have 13 stitches on 1st needle—25 stitches on 2d, 19 stitches on 3d. Knit plain for 4½ inches. 1st needle (e) knit 10 stitches—knit 2 together, knit 1. 2d needle (f) knit 1, slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over, knit 19 stitches. Knit 2 together, knit 1. 3d needle (g) knit 1, slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over, knit 9 stitches, knit 2 rows plain (h).

Repeat e, f, g and h 5 times, then narrow every other row until you have 5 stitches on your 1st needle, 9 stitches on your 2d needle and 4 stitches on your 3d needle. Knit the 5 stitches on your 1st needle on to your 3d. Your work is now all on 2 needles opposite each other. Break off yarn leaving 12-inch end. Thread into worsted needle and proceed to weave the front and back together as follows:

Pass worsted needle through 1st stitch \* of front knitting needle as if knitting and slip stitch off—pass through 2d stitch as if purling—leave stitch on, pull thread through 1st stitch of back needle as if purling, slip stitch off, purl thread through 2d stitch of back needle as if knitting, leave stitch on. Repeat from \* until all the stitches are off the needle.

Sock when finished should measure:

Foot, from tip of heel to tip of toe, 11 inches.

Leg, from tip of heel to tip of leg, 14 inches.



MUFFLER

2 hanks of yarn (½-lb.); 1 pair Red Cross Needles No. 3.

Cast on 50 stitches or 11 inches. Plain knitting for 6 inches.

Hand Knitted Socks Outwear Five Times Those Made by Machine. Knit for the Red Cross.

# KNITTED GARMENTS

Used For Both Army and Navy

## Learn to Knit

If you don't know how to knit learn now. The need in plain knitting is an excellent article for a beginner. Experienced workers are urged to make socks, sweaters, and helmets.

If there is no Red Cross organization in your town, knitted garments may be sent to us for distribution. Address: Modern Practical War Relief, 85 Broad Street, Boston, Mass.



## Join the Red Cross

100,000 new members means \$100,000 additional for war relief work. Do your part. Annual dues are \$1.00 or \$2.00 with the Red Cross Magazine.

Subscriptions may be made through your local chapter or sent direct to Red Cross Headquarters, Washington, D. C. A list of chapters from which information may be had as to the preparation of hospital supplies is given on page 22.

Models Illustrated  
Furnished by the Boston  
Metropolitan Chapter

DO YOUR BIT

FROM VINTAGE REPERTORY.COM



Thumbless Mitten Wrister

TRIALS.—One-half hank, knitting yarn, 2 or 4 steel needles No. 12.

Cast on each of three needles. Knit 2 and purl 2 inches. To make hole for thumb reverse knitting, and forth for inch and a quarter, then join, closing with 2 stitches. Overcast edge of thumb or crochet stitch to strengthen edge.

Finish.—Cast on 60 stitches. Knit 2 and purl 2 for nine inches. When sewing up, leave one inch and one-quarter for 2 or 4 needles, and should be at least 3 inches long.

Short Wrister

Short wrister is also made in ribbing of knit 2, purl 2 or 4 needles, and should be at least 3 inches long.



Long wristers  
with thumb opening.



The Sleeveless Sweater a much needed garment



Sleeveless Sweater

Helmet (Model B)

## Sleeveless Sweater

MATERIALS.—Four hanks knitted wooden needles No. 5 or 6.

Cast on 72 stitches, rib 2, purl 2, plain until it measures 30 inches.

Make neck hole as follows: Knit 24, Knit 2 ribs on each side, 16 stitches, k 24. Knit for 27 inches, rib 2.

Sew up sides, leaving single arm 15 inch deep around neck hole.

Heavy wool.—One pair hanks or w Cast on 60 stitches, rib 2 inches.

inches. Hole for neck: Knit 20 stitches rib on each side. Knit 20 stitches for 27 inches, rib 2 inches.

CONVENTION AND ALLEVIATION OF HUMAN SUFFERING IN



94



Nov. 18. 1918

SUBJECT: 165NW-35B-2  
 Rec'd. from J. R. Schmidt,  
 Cincinnati, Ohio.

NUMBER  
 AU

PHOTOGRAPHER

REC'D 1918

TAKEN

165-WW 35B-2

MEMBERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
 of Cincinnati, Ohio, making  
 sweaters, socks and mufflers  
 for soldiers in France.

Photo shows women members  
 of the American Red Cross  
 teaching firemen the art of  
 knitting for the soldiers.



ISSUED:

NOTES:

9-5005

SUBJECT:	NUMBER
165-WW-450-23	AP
Rec'd. from G. E. Mathios, Waterbury, Conn.	
PHOTOGRAPHER	
REC'D July 1/18, TAKEN	
165-WW	40D-23
DESCRIPTION:	
KNITTING FOR THE SOLDIERS while waiting to be served.	
ISSUED:	NOTES:



**Title:**

Red Cross Knitting Department - Mrs. Abbey and Mrs. Goss with finished product

**Creator/Contributor:**

Unknown

**Date:**

1918 October

**Contributing Institution:**

San Mateo Public Library





## Title

Operating  
bandage roller  
and knitting  
machine at Navy  
League  
Headquarters,  
St. Paul.

## Creator

St. Paul Dispatch  
Date

1918



WW I home front Duluth,  
Minnesota

S. C. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, N. Y.

PHOTOGRAPH

DATE

TIME

DESCRIPTION

MEMBERS OF N. Y. POLICE DEPT.,  
KNITTING SOCKS FOR THE BOYS  
"OVERTHERE".





NUMBER

SYMBOL

165-WW-68E-2 AU

MRS. WM. DURRANT, PLAINFIELD, N.J.

165-WW 68E2

PHOTOGRAPHER

REC'D 6-11-19

TAKEN

DESCRIPTION:

WAR ACTIVITIES. CHILDREN OF THE  
IRVING-JEFFERSON SCHOOL, PLAIN-  
FIELD, N.J., LEARNING TO KNIT.

Even the boys become interested  
in the knitting classes, 1st  
grade.



ISSUED:

M

NOTES:

3-5805

SUBJECT

INDEX

A. U.

COMMITTEE PUBLIC INFORMATION.

HARRIS & EWING, WASH. D. C.

PHOTOGRAPHER

REFS

TAKEN

165-WW 265 B17

DESCRIPTION

WALTER REED HOSPITAL,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Bed-ridden wounded, knitting.





**Title**

With [Our War Knitting - 1916-1917](#)

**Subject**

[Students](#)

[World War, 1914-1918](#)

**Publisher**

The Baldwin School

**Date**

[1917](#)

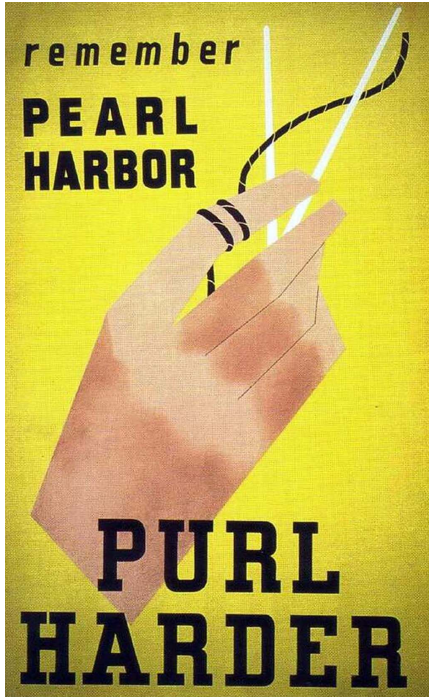




# World War II

- Knitting for soldiers was also very prominent in WW II.

○





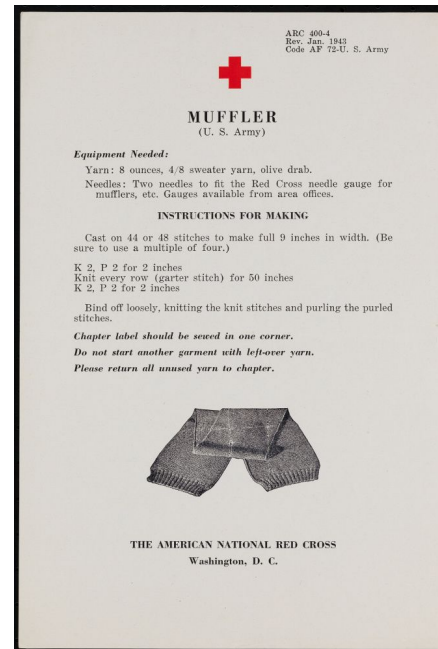
# World War II

- Not exactly about knitting, but a fun song that shows how women helped the war effort.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55NCElsbjEQ>



# American Red Cross knitting WW II



# INSTRUCTIONS FOR HAND KNITTED

## SERVICE SOCKS

**MATERIALS:** One 4 ounce ball P.K. Victory Service Yarn.

Needles for average knitter—No. 11.  
Needles for tight knitter—No. 10.  
Needles for loose knitter—No. 12.

Cast on loosely 60 stitches (20-20-20). Rib 4 inches, 2 plain, 2 purl.

Knit plain 7 or 8 inches according to length of leg desired.

### HEEL

Knit plain 28 stitches on to one needle, turn, purl back these 28 stitches, turn, knit plain.

Repeat these 2 rows (always slipping the first stitch) 11 times (12 in all) or 24 rows. Having the inside of the heel toward you, purl 15 stitches, purl 2 together, purl 1.

Turn, knit 4 sts., knit 2 together, knit 1.  
Turn, purl 5 sts., purl 2 together, purl 1.  
Turn, knit 6 sts., knit 2 together, knit 1.  
Turn, purl 7 sts., purl 2 together, purl 1.  
Turn, knit 8 sts., knit 2 together, knit 1.  
Turn, purl 9 sts., purl 2 together, purl 1.  
Turn, knit 10 sts., knit 2 together, knit 1.  
Turn, purl 11 sts., purl 2 together, purl 1.  
Turn, knit 12 sts., knit 2 together, knit 1.  
Turn, purl 13 sts., purl 2 together, purl 1.  
Turn, knit 14 sts., knit 2 together, knit 1.  
Pick up and knit the 12 stitches down side of heel piece.

Knit 2 stitches off the front needle.

Knit 28 stitches off the front needle on to one needle, the last 2 stitches knit on to 3rd needle, on which pick up and knit the 12 stitches at other side of heel piece.

Divide heel stitches on to 2 side needles, and knit right around again to the centre of heel.

First needle—knit to within 3 stitches of the front end of side needle, knit 2 together, knit 1.

Front needle, knit plain. Third needle, knit 1, knit 2 together, knit plain to end of needle.

Reduce in this way every other row until there are 56 stitches on needles, (front needle 28, side needles 14 each).

Knit plain until the foot, from the pack of the heel measures:

To Obtain	8 inches for size 10.
Different Sizes:	9 inches for size 11.
	10 inches for size 12.

### TOE (Combination)

Decrease for toe.

On front needle Knit 2, K2 together. Knit to within 4 stitches from end of needle Knit 2 stitches together, Knit 2.

On first side Knit 2, K2 together. Knit to end of needle.

Knit to within 4 stitches from end of second side needle, Knit 2 together. Knit 2. Knit around plain.

Repeat these two rows until there are 10 stitches on front needle and 5 on each of side needles. Now slip stitches from one side needle to the other, making 10 stitches on 2 needles. Break wool, leaving about 10 inches. Thread this into a darning needle, put through the first stitch on front needle as if for purling, but do not take the stitch off. Then put the darning needle through the first stitch on the back needle, as if for purling, and take off.

\* Then through next stitch on back needle, as if for knitting, and do not take off. Then through the first stitch on front needle, again knitting and slip off. Through the second stitch on front needle purling and do not take off. Through the first stitch on back needle purling and take off.

Repeat from \* until all the stitches are worked off. N.B.—Each stitch must be gone through twice, except the first and last on back needles. Always keep the wool under the knitting needles. In finishing off end of yarn, run yarn once down the toe so as not to make a ridge or lump.

\* This means that the directions immediately following are to be repeated.

### Finishing Instructions

Put on stretchers of correct size and press with damp towel, and warm iron.

Do not hang up to dry.

Sew size label in each sock.

Tie two socks together.

MAITLAND SPINNING MILLS, LTD.  
Listowel, Ontario

A woman is knitting most all the day  
A sock that shapes from a ball of grey,  
Her fingers fly, and the needles click.  
Fast grows the sock so soft and thick.

"Why do you knit at such a pace,  
Dear woman, with patient face?  
Is it for tireless little feet,  
Or covering warm for the huntsman fleet?"

"Or maybe for fisherman strong and bold,  
Who fights the sea when the winds blow cold.  
Or perhaps for the strong brave pioneer,  
Who faces new worlds with dauntless air?"

"No, no, my child, 'tis for none of those  
That I patiently knit in endless rows;  
'Tis for nearer and dearer" — then a broken pause,  
"For those who are fighting their country's cause.

"For those who sailed on the ocean wide,  
To do their bit 'gainst a lawless tribe.  
Thus, I do for my country a woman's part,  
Who give the pride of their mother's heart."

"But what means the white row I see right here,  
Is it a sign to make the pair?"  
"No, that marks the socks for the slender youth,  
Who does his part for the cause of truth.

"The red is the sign for the hardy man.  
At the height of his strength in life's short span;  
But young and old alike do the same.  
For life or death, for honour or fame.

"Blue in the sock is the medium size,  
The color dear to the sailors' wives,  
So in the grey socks, red, white and blue  
Form our colours so bright and true.

"And that is why all the livelong day,  
I sit and knit in the same old way;  
And into each sock I weave a prayer  
That God keep our boys in His love and care." M. D.



INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ORDER  
Knitting circle luncheon  
LOS ANGELES NOV. 12, 1941



Metal tag imprinted "Mary A. Millian" on a chain. Green yarn crocheted cover.

#### General History

The idea of identifying a soldier in case of injury or death during combat dates back to the Civil War, when soldiers pinned paper notes to their clothing as identification. Metal identification tags, or "dog tags" as they are popularly known, have their origins in World War I. By 1913 the United States Army made ID tags mandatory. During World War II each soldier was given two dog tags, a short chain and a long chain. The purpose of the different lengths of chain was to keep the two tags separate, so as not to make noise in the field. The smaller chain was also used for purposes of body identification in case of death.





**Title** Marine Corps Afghans For Peace

**Description** Project Chairman Mrs. Florence Christopher holds up one of the 10 afghans completed so far for the Marine Corps League Auxiliary donation to Fort Snelling. The group is knitting blankets for veterans at the hospital.

Marine Corps League (U.S.) -- Auxiliary

World War, 1939-1945 -- Peace

**Date** 1947-06-06

"Emergency Aid Juniors knitting for victory at Emergency Aid booth at Wanamakers, sweaters will be sent through the Emergency Aid to the men in the Armed Services

Left to right

Nini Cooke (Chestnut Hill)

Dottie Yerger (Chestnut Hill)

Marion Harvey (Gwynedd Valley Pa.)

Elizabeth Knight (Kulpsville Pa.)

Francis Earhart (Chestnut Hill)"



**Title**

Emergency Aid Knit for Victory booth

**Date**

1942-11-14

Mrs. Thomas Mansfield and Mrs. Henry G. Harvey, seamen's wives, knitting for the Red Cross.



**Title**

"Their men go down to sea in ships"

**Date**

1942-07-20



## Title

Allied Veterans Club

## Description

Four men sitting and knitting

## Subject - TGM

Veterans

Knitting

## Date

1950-05-17

# World War II





## Korean War



Kid knits for Korea 1952



Female soldier knitting on the way to base

After WWII, manufactured goods were more readily available than ever. Knitting was still seen as a useful skill, but no longer a necessity. New, easy wash synthetic fibers were available in a variety of bright colors which made knitting quite **fashionable**. The *entre* of knitting into the fashion world solidified knitting as “women’s work” and likely sounded what appeared to be a death knell for knitting in the military. Can’t imagine why – I mean, nothing says “battle ready” like a twinset and pearls, right?

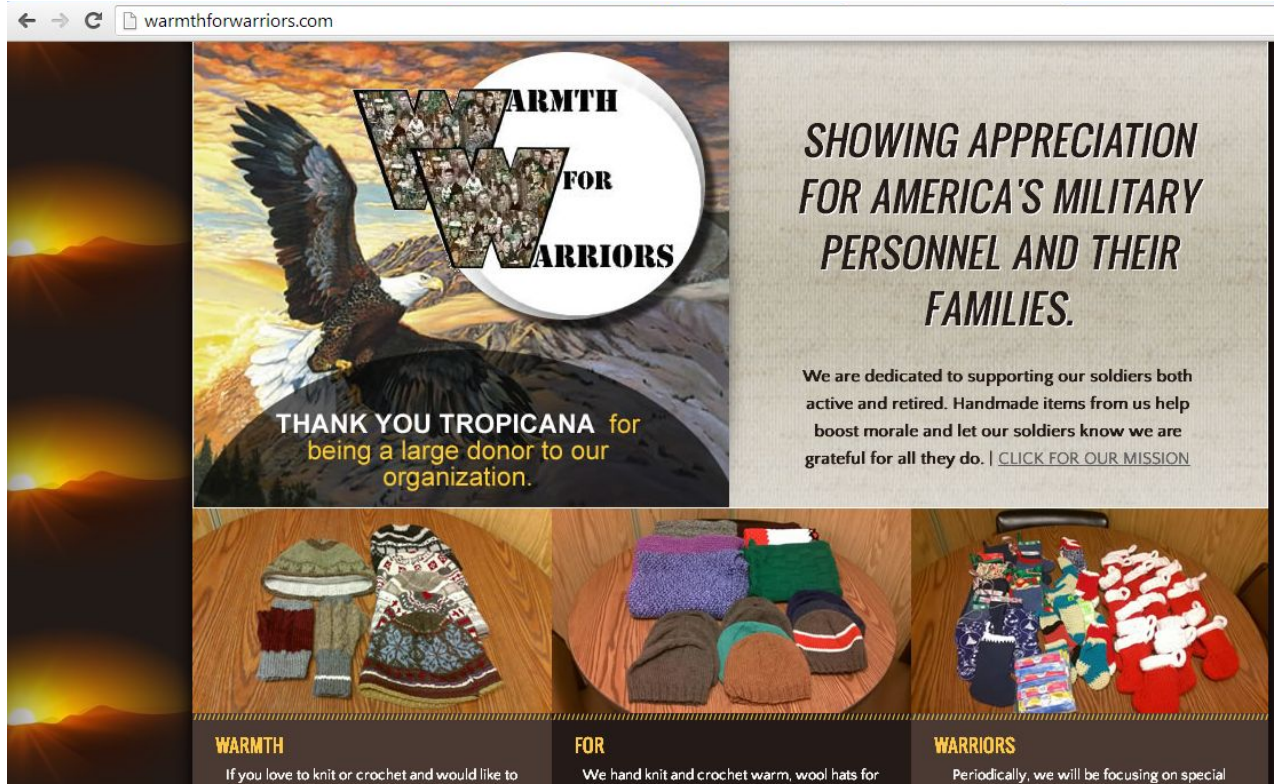
# Vietnam War

By the Vietnam era most clothing was commercially manufactured. I'm sure that, individually, family members may have sent handknitted items to soldiers.



# Conflicts late 20th century and beyond

There is a new resurgence of knitting for soldiers at home and overseas.



← → ↻ warmthforwarriors.com

**WARMTH FOR WARRIORS**

*SHOWING APPRECIATION  
FOR AMERICA'S MILITARY  
PERSONNEL AND THEIR  
FAMILIES.*

We are dedicated to supporting our soldiers both active and retired. Handmade items from us help boost morale and let our soldiers know we are grateful for all they do. | [CLICK FOR OUR MISSION](#)

**THANK YOU TROPICANA** for being a large donor to our organization.

**WARMTH**  
If you love to knit or crochet and would like to

**FOR**  
We hand knit and crochet warm, wool hats for

**WARRIORS**  
Periodically, we will be focusing on special

# Knitting for military members today

**A reciprocal force for good: How two women's knitting charity helps Soldiers, the sick**





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## SCARVES & HATS

In the cold winter months, we include a lovingly handmade scarf or hat in every Care Package we send to the Troops. To make that happen, we need the knitting and crocheting talents of many Volunteers across the country.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING & SHIPPING

During this time of social distancing, you don't need to leave your home to mail your handmade items! Please use this guide to order



ny-to-knit hat suitable for troops deployed to cold climates. **Gauge**

6 st = 1" in Stockinette St. on #5 needles

## ribbing

row: \*(K1, P1), rep \* till end

## hat:

8 circular needles, cast on 100 (108) stitches.

in 1 x 1 ribbing till piece measures 6 " from beginning.

change to #5 circular needles and work in stockinette st till piece measures 9" (10") from beginning.

*for women's size: On the last row before crown shaping. knit to last 2 st, then K2tog - 99 st remain]*

**crown: [Men's - start at R1; Women's - start at R3]**

change to double pointed needles when necessary.

R1: \*(K10, K2tog), rep \* till end - 99 st rem.

**and all even rows:** Knit

R2: K9, K2tog), rep \* till end.

R3: K8, K2tog), rep \* till end.

R4: K7, K2tog), rep \* till end.

R5: K6, K2tog), rep \* till end.

**R11:** \*(K5, K2tog), rep \* till end.

**R13:** \*(K4, K2tog), rep \* till end.

**R15 (Final row for shape crown):** \*(K3, K2tog), rep \*  
till end - 36 st rem.

**Finishing:**

Divide st equally onto 2 needles (you should have 18 st  
on each needle).

With wrong sides facing each other, use Kitchener  
Stitch to seam together the stitches.

Weave in loose ends.

**Knitted Measurements**

To fit women's size with men's size in parenthesis.

**Materials**

2 x [Merino Xtra #504](#) (or color of your choice)

16" Circular knitting needles: US Size 3 and 5

Double pointed knitting needles: US Size 5



# Appreciated items



You can't believe (unless you've done it) how unbelievably cold it is to roll out of your cot in the morning and put your feet on the bare ground!



Helmet liners-aka balaklavas-are also greatly appreciated.

# What can we do?

- There are many volunteer and non-profit organisations that knit for soldiers.
- Use animal fibers-acrylic is plastic and, well, it melts.
- Soldiers deployed and injured soldiers-and their families- appreciate hand made items
- I can make a list of organisations if there is an interest to do this individually or as a guild.