



Knitting Instructions

ISSUED BY

THE NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA

For further information please apply to

THE WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

ONTARIO DIVISION

748 YONGE STREET

TORONTO 5, ONT.

Excerpts from Sailors' Letters received by Our Workers who filled Ditty Bags

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Radio Officer—"I think you must have sons of your own in the services because you certainly know what a fellow needs at sea when his mother is not there to darn and mend his things."

Another Survivor—" . . . I know my wife and mother are doing the same for your boys over home though not on such a scale as the people of Canada, but as well as they can under the circumstances. I am a survivor, waiting to go home and when I get there I will tell them of all the kindness shown us by you in Canada."

United States Bosun—" . . . You have no idea how handy it came in and virtually your ditty bag and others like it, saved the lives of all our merchant seamen on the vessel I was on " . . ." The ditty bags were put aboard the ship with instructions that they were not to be opened until Christmas. Unfortunately when Christmas came, we were in the land of midnight sun and consequently we had air raids on the average of one every hour around the clock with no time to wonder about the hour of the day, much less about the day of the year. Then on the seventh day of that week we caught a bomb aft and it didn't do us any good. As we were taking to the lifeboats, the Captain suggested we split up our Christmas presents, which we did. We lived seven more days (thanks to you) because in these Arctic waters all our drinking water in our lifeboat had become frozen and useless to use. Therefore, you and your canned milk, cocoa, chewing gum and candy, saved our lives—boy was it good! Even the buttons from the sewing kit came to practical use. We kept them in our mouth to keep the saliva from drying in our throats."

Long Way from Home—" . . . It makes one warm all over knowing that, although you are a long way from home, there are others, whom you have never seen, thinking of you as one of their own. It makes it worth fighting for . . . and I only hope that one day I shall be able to repay your kindness. . . ."

Out of Everything—" . . . I received a ditty bag after being out to sea months longer than anticipated. We were out of everything and I mean everything. You should have seen the looks on the faces of the boys when they saw those blue bags piled."

Sailor's Wife—" . . . My husband was the fortunate young man to receive your Christmas package and he is very proud and happy with the many useful gifts which you were so kind to think of. Our hearts go out to the people of Canada who so generously made our boys so happy at Christmas time. . . ."

Questions and Answers REGARDING DITTY BAGS and WOOLLENS

1. *Does the Navy League send comforts to the men of the Merchant Marine?*
Yes—Our services are for the Merchant Marine, the Canadian Navy, Empire Navies and for sailors of all Allied Nations.
2. *How are Ditty Bags and Woollens distributed?*
Shipments of woollens, leather and fur jerkins, and other comforts are made each week to the Eastern ports, and Newfoundland. These are sent to the Commanders in charge of distribution for both the Navy and the Merchant Navy. Woollens and Ditty Bags are also shipped to our Allied Merchant Seamen's Clubs, to be given to shipwrecked sailors. Commanders of ships report to the Distributing Depot the needs of their men, and these comforts are put aboard the ships. Ditty Bags are considered a Special Christmas Gift. They are packed for shipment in cartons of 6 or 12 bags. Enough cartons containing sufficient bags for the complement of men, are put aboard the ships.
3. *Who supplies the leather and fur for the jerkins?*
A great part of the leather is donated by firms who are using leather in the manufacture of gloves, furniture, etc. The fur jerkins are made from old fur coats and pieces of fur. The jerkins are made free of charge by furriers who wish to help in the work of sending these much needed garments to the sailors.
4. *Wool is available through the Navy League at wholesale prices for our workers. Price list on request.*
5. *Does the Navy League supply wool free of charge to those who wish to knit for the Navy League?*
No—The knitted garments and other comforts are all donated to the Navy League for the sailors. Many of the groups of workers raise their money for wool by having small teas and bridges among their members and friends. Of course, there may be a few exceptions but it must be understood the amount of wool available to the Navy League is restricted.
6. *It is necessary to have a permit to raise funds with which to purchase wool and other comforts for the sailors?*
Yes—In order to comply with the War Charities Act, it is necessary to have a letter of authorization from the Navy League when a bridge, dance, or bingo is held where tickets are sold to the public to raise funds for the work of the Navy League.
7. *How many Ditty Bags and how many woollens are needed for the sailors?*
We would like to supply 300,000 knitted garments and jerkins, and 150,000 Ditty Bags, from the Dominion of Canada. This means a very large increase over 1942.
8. *Does the Navy League want supplies of comforts in bulk from Local Committees for the purpose of filling "Ditty Bags" at Provincial Navy League Headquarters?*
No.—The Ditty Bags are supplied to the Committee free and each individual woman is expected to fill a "Ditty Bag" herself and put as many comforts in the bag as it will hold. It is desirable that a letter be enclosed for the unknown sailor, to encourage and cheer him in his perilous task. The Navy League does desire quantities of knitted articles sent in to Headquarters for the purpose of outfitting sailors who are going on the North Atlantic route where it is so decidedly cold. The necessary knitted articles are not supplied through the "Ditty Bags" but are shipped in large cartons which contain a quantity of garments.
9. *Does the Navy League open the "Ditty Bags" at Headquarters before shipping them to the ports?*
Definitely No—unless the bags are not well filled, in which case extra comforts may be added. Ditty Bags are considered by the Navy League as a sacred trust.

CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

FLYING MITTS
with slit palm and thumb

MATERIALS: 4 ozs. SPECIAL HEAVY RED CROSS SERVICE YARN. Air Force Blue only. Set of 4 No. 11 Steel Knitting Needles. (points at both ends).

MEASUREMENTS: Width all round hand at thumb 8 ins.

TENSION $6\frac{1}{2}$ sts. = 1 inch.

WORK TO EXACT TENSION

ABBREVIATIONS: K=knit. P=purl. st.=stitch. sts.=stitches. ins.=inches. tog.=together. inc.=increase.

RIGHT MITT: Cast on 48 sts. loosely. (16.16.16). Work $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins. ribbing (K2.P2). Knit 6 rounds plain knitting. Proceed:-

To make gusset for thumb: 1st round: P1. (Inc. 1.st. in next st. K1) twice. P1. Knit to end of round. *Next 2 rounds: Knit, purling the sts. which were purled in previous round. 4th round: P1. Inc. 1.st. in next st. Knit to the 2 sts. before the next purl st. Inc. 1.st. in

next st. K1. P1. Knit to end of round.* Repeat from * to * until there are 16 sts. between the 2 purled sts. Next 2 rounds: Knit, purling the sts. which were purled in previous round. Next round: K1. Cast on 4 sts. Slip next 16 sts. onto a thread and leave for thumb. Knit to end of round. Rearrange sts. as follows:- 1st needle: (the needle with the sts. of thumb gusset). 26 sts. 2nd needle: 11 sts. 3rd needle: 11 sts. Knit 12 rounds even in plain knitting ending with 3rd needle.

To make palm opening: 1st. needle: (K1.P1) 13 times. Turn. Working on the 1st. needle only proceed:- 1st row: (K1.P1) 12 times. K2. Repeat 1st. row 4 times. Cast off in ribbing. Join wool to end of 3rd needle. Cast on 26 sts. onto 1st. needle. Join in round. Knit across 2nd and 3rd needles. Next round: 1st. needle: (K1.P1) 13 times. 2nd and 3rd needles: Knit. Repeat this round 7 times then knit 8 rounds plain knitting ending with 3rd needle.

To shape top: *K6.K2tog. Repeat from * to end of round. Knit 5 rounds even. 7th round: *K5.K2tog. Repeat from * to end of round. Knit 4 rounds even. 12th round: *K4.K2tog. Repeat from * to end of round. Knit 3 rounds even. 16th round: *K1.K2tog. Repeat from * to end of round. Knit 2 rounds even. 19th round: *K2tog. Repeat from * to end of round. Break wool. Thread end through remaining sts. Draw up and fasten securely.

The Thumb: Divide the 16 sts. left for thumb on 2 needles. (8.8). Join wool and with another needle pick up and knit 4 sts. at base of thumb. (This is 1st. needle). Rearrange sts. as follows:- Slip last 6 sts. off 3rd needle onto end of 1st. needle. 10 sts. on 1st. needle. Slip last 3 sts. off 2nd needle onto end of 3rd needle. 5 sts. on each of 2nd and 3rd needles. Knit across 2nd and 3rd needles then 1st. needle. Turn. Working on 1st. needle only, K2. (P1.K1) 4 times. Repeat this row twice. Cast off in ribbing. Join wool to end of 3rd needle.

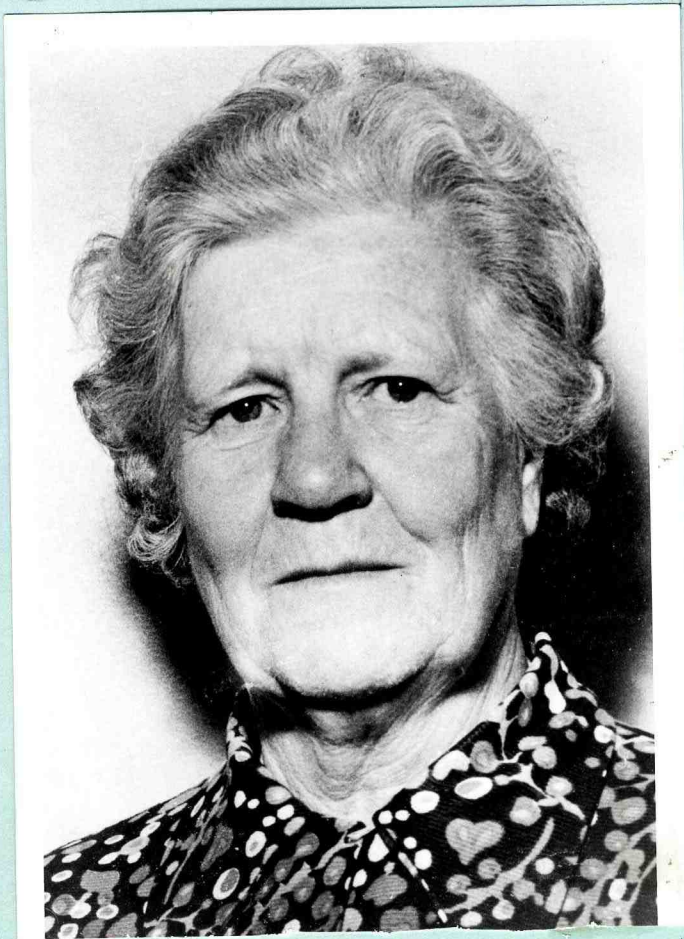
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 DONATED
 By
 MARION HOWEY

HOWEY HOUSE USED AS RED CROSS ROOMS
 DURING WORLD WAR II





The BAYHAM Red Cross, Eden division, began work December 13th. 1939. Miss Catharine McDowell was put in at a Red Cross meeting held at the Straffordville Township Hall.. When Miss McDowell left in September 1940, to teach in Haldimand County, her mother, Mrs. L.(Anna) Walter McDowell took over. Early in 1942, MRS.McDowell became ill and Miss Ruth Gray took over .The Red Cross room was in the old hotel-building on the north-east corner in Eden . The building belonged to Mr.J.H.Howey.

The following are the persons who completed work in knitting and sewing from December 11,1939,to January 1942.

Mr.Wilfred Nelson,a World War 1 amputatee (right leg and right arm)did the button holes for the dressing gowns made at Eden.

- 1.Mrs.Arthur Allemand
- 2.Mrs.John Alton
- 3Mrs.Lorne Alton
- 4 .Mrs.HENry Beaman
- 5.Miss.Nina Baldwin
- 6.Mrs.William Berry
- 7.Mrs. Brandon
- 8Mrs. Bert Brooks
- 9.Mrs.Jack Capling
- 10.Mrs.Charles Cowan
- 11.Mrs.Thomas Craven
- 12.Mrs.O LIVE M.Fletcher
- 13.Miss Madge Hodgson
- 14.Mrs.Alex.Howey
- 15.Mrs. George Haley
- 16.Miss Ruth Gray
- 17.Mrs. J. H. Howey
- 18.Mrs. Frank Humphreys
- 19.Miss Jean Jacques
- 20.Mrs. Lorne Kennedy
21. Mrs. Harvey Kennedy
22. Mrs. C. J. Ketchabaw
23. Mrs. Martin Kidd
24. Mrs. Robert Kitchen

- 25, Miss Jean Mabee
26. Mrs. Vera Mabee
27. MissCatharine McDowell
- 28.Mrs. L. Walter McDowell
29. Mrs. John Moore
30. Mrs. Wilfred Nelson
31. Mrs. Bruce Nunn
32. Mrs. Annie Ronson
33. Mrs.Ernest Scanlan
34. Miss MarjorieSitts
35. Mrs Perry Sitts
36. Mrs. Percy Somers
37. Miss Lucille Small
38. MRS. R Stenabaugh
39. Mrs. N. O. Stilwell
40. Mrs. Ira Stilwell
41. Mrs. John Tanner
42. Mrs. Horace West
43. Mrs. Claude Wilson
44. Mrs. Clayton Wilson
- 45, Mrs. Goodsell Wilson
46. Mrs. Maude Wilson
47. Mrs. William WILSON

There was an enthusiastic group of women who worked at Eden during World War 1, 1914-1918. First to enlist, was Delmer Healy. His wife, Mabel and his mother, Mrs.Deloss D.Healy were the leaders in work , if not the official leaders. Mrs.K. Alex Howey and Mrs.Walter McDowell are two, who the writer knows, worked for both wars.