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Comfort Kits

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Every man who goes to the trenches carries a comfort kit. Over and above its practical use, the comfort kit serves to carry a message of cordial good will to the Man in the Trench and the Man on the Ship from the Nation that sent them there.

Major General Pershing, in speaking of the kits sent to his men in Mexico by the Red Cross, said: "These things make the soldier remember that the people at home are behind him. You do not know how much that will mean to us who are going abroad. You do not know how much that means to any soldier who is over there carrying the flag of his country."

The directions which follow for making the kit supersede all others which have been published on this subject. These comfort kits are made in the simplest manner possible and should contain only the specified articles which are listed below. Articles not mentioned have been purposely excluded, since they are supplied by the Government as a regular part of every soldier's and sailor's equipment.

MATERIALS FOR THE KIT

(This does not include material for housewife.)

A plain, inexpensive khaki-colored twill for the Army and blue denim or "dungaree" for the Navy are suggested as most desirable. Figured cretonnes are not suitable for this purpose.

Quantity required: One-fourth of a yard of 27-inch material; 60 inches of khaki or blue tape for a double draw-string; and an American flag for marking the outside.

DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING THE KIT

Fold the material in the center of the 27-inch length and sew it up into a simple bag, with an inch-and-a-half hem at the top through which is run the double draw-string. This makes a bag about 12 by 8 inches. The tape should be particularly strong.

This bag may also be made without the draw-string, in which case a piece of tape about one-half inch wide and one and one-half yards long should be strongly attached to the bag about two inches below the top at one of the seams, so that it may be tightly wrapped around the gathered folds of the bag, securing the contents.

CONTENTS OF THE KIT

1. Housewife (Directions for making are given below).
2. 20 yards of light strong cord, fish-line style
3. Cigarette lighter with cotton wick, flint and steel sparker, but without liquid. (For the Army only—must be omitted from all kits for the Navy.)
4. Shaving soap
5. Tooth brush, in case
6. Short comb, in case
7. Pencil (with eraser and metal cap to cover point)

The kit may contain in addition:

Jack knife (containing, if possible, corkscrew, can opener, leather punch, combination screw-driver and bottle-opener)

Small carborundum stone, about 3" \times 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", for sharpening knife

Safety razor

25 post cards

Small crash towel } For the Navy only
White handkerchief }

In no case should anything perishable, such as chocolate, candy, etc., be included.

HOUSEWIFE

MATERIALS

A durable fabric of lighter weight than that suggested for the comfort kits is recommended. Flannel should be used for holding the pins and needles.

Quantities required: One strip of material $5\frac{1}{4}'' \times 12''$ for roll; two pieces of flannel $3'' \times 4''$; and 21 inches of tape.

Size when finished, $4'' \times 6\frac{1}{2}''$ (unrolled).

DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING

Make a narrow hem at each end of the 12-inch strip. Turn up these hemmed edges to form a $2\frac{1}{4}$ -inch pocket at each end. Button-hole, hem, or pink sides and one end of flannel pieces. Lay the flannel pieces, overlapping each other, in the center of the strip, with the raw edges lying along either side of strip. Stitch along sides of strip, $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch from edge; then turn these stitched edges to make flat, felled seams. Attach middle of tape to center of outside of strip. Roll and tie.

CONTENTS OF THE HOUSEWIFE

- (a) 8 sharp needles (large enough to carry heavy thread easily)
 - (b) 2 darning needles
 - (c) 6 safety pins about 2 inches long
 - (d) 6 safety pins about 1 inch long
 - (e) 2 blanket pins
 - (f) Strong thread, carded, khaki for the Army, black for the Navy
 - (g) Strong white linen thread, carded
 - (h) 12 buttons, khaki for the Army, black for the Navy
 - (i) 6 white buttons
 - (j) 6 hooks and eyes
- } Enclosed in small bag $3'' \times 2''$,
with draw-string

