



HUTS

Salvation Army huts were a place soldiers could come for drinks, food and a chat. They were made to be as comfortable and as homely as possible. Tea was served to British soldiers and coffee was preferred by the Americans and Australians. Up to 5,000 men could visit a hut in one day, and by the end of the war there over 180 huts.

Salvation Army members did their best to make sure every soldier was made to feel welcome. Despite being busy cooking, serving and cleaning, they found time to speak to the soldiers and to help them with what they needed.

In general, each hut was manned by a married couple. The woman was often referred to as 'Mother' as she looked after the soldiers as if they were her own sons. All the Salvationists that served were volunteers, often leaving families and jobs behind. A typical working day for the volunteers could be up to 20 hours long.

Meals were prepared by the Salvationists running the hut. The food was to be of high quality, sold at cost and to be 'as good as you'd get at home'. British soldiers liked to eat egg and chips. American soldiers favoured doughnuts and apple pies. The Australians liked meat pies. If you didn't have enough money, you could still get food. When soldiers left for the front or had just returned, it was always free.

Meetings were also held in the huts. Numbers varied from hut to hut - some huts saw audiences of 700-1,000 per night.

