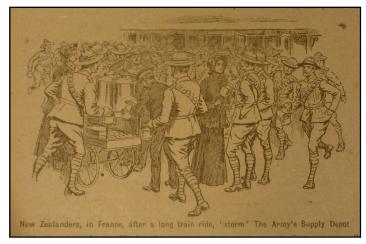




By now you will have heard the sad news of your husband's passing. I have enclosed a sketch of his final resting place as well as a flower I laid on your behalf at his grave side. I was with him in his last hours and he wished me to tell you



You get three doughnuts for a penny out here and a cup of coffee. Fresh, hot and sweet. Oh, and don't forget the smile! Now that's a bargain! Don't mind queuing for ages to get them too. Nothing else to do here behind the line.





Dear Sír,

I am writing to you today to request more resources that I can give to our men. My fellow sister and I visit the hospital two days every week and try to see 400 beds each time.

We give each man two sheets of writing paper, two envelopes, a pencil, a bar of chocolate, a box of peppermints, a Bible and a War Cry. We also supply a copy of The War Cry in German.

As you can see, more resources would be gratefully received. The men do love a visit so.

I have to carry a notebook around my neck - for the names of relatives or friends they wish to write to.

Yours faithfully,

Adjutant Lucy Lee

Dear Mother,

You will be surprised to hear that I am in the hospital but I am getting well quickly and am having a good time.

But best of all, some Salvation Army people came and sang and talked about sunshine, and while they were talking the sunshine came in through my window - not into my room alone, but into my heart and life as well, where it is going to stay.

I know how happy this will make you.

She wore a simple 30 cent silver ring. It belonged to a soldier's mother. He gave it to her and asked her to wear it

Just to remind him that someone out there cared.

The Red Cross had the bread.

The Salvation Army had the jams and potted meats. So they put their supplies together.

Made the finest sandwich in the world –

The Red Cross and Salvation Army.

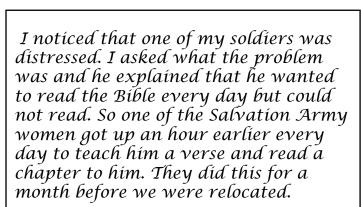


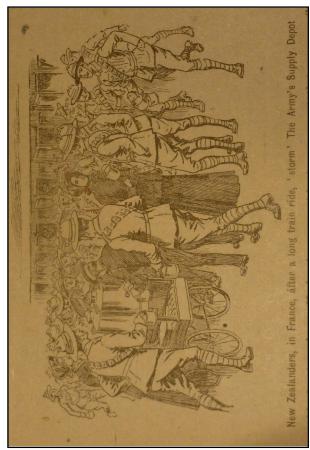










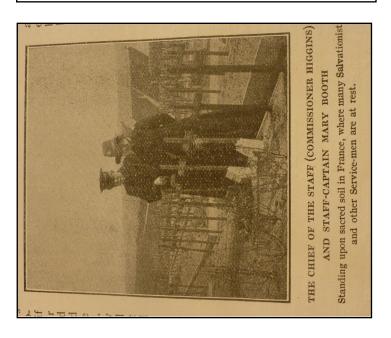




In France three Salvation women officers slept for nearly three weeks in a haystack, just so they could be closer to the trains that went by and give them food and drink. The men were so grateful they collected 1,600 francs for new uniforms for the women. The women's response: 'I am quite accustomed to hard toils. I have only done what all my comrades are doing – my duty.' And the money was put towards more coffee and doughnuts.

I woke up this morning to find a gift of chocolate by my bedside and a War Cry. I was told that one of the Salvation Army ladies had been visiting and did not wish to disturb my rest. Oh how sorry I was to have missed those sisters of comfort. I have left word that I would love them to come again soon and to wake me next time!

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The hospital was so overcrowded today that we had to put the wounded outside in the hot sun. The Salvation Army girls arrived in all this chaos. They found netting to make tents to help keep the heat and the flies off the men. They sent a driver to find ice cold water and made lemonade to cool them. I do not know how many lives they have saved today. Thank goodness for their quick thinking.

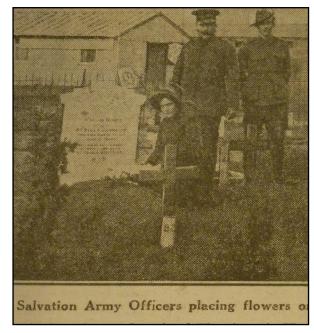
They were so busy baking and serving, the Red Cross gave them hot chocolate to help keep them going!

'Here's a real honest to goodness woman in the trenches!

"Yes, your mother couldn't come today so I've come in her place."

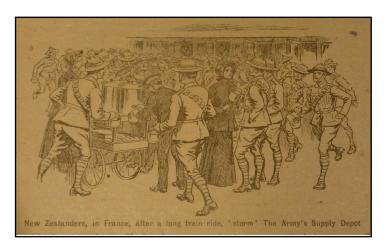














We were ordered to leave. Too dangerous, too near the front. I told them, my girls won't go. Well if the Salvation Army wants to stay, let them stay.





I can hardly find words to express my feeling towards you and your Army for the visits paid to my son, and the comforting words in your letter to me. I do thank you, and may you live long to minister to many a mother's son for it makes things much easier for us all here when we think our heroes in France are receiving kindness and comfort from such God-fearing people.

We arrived to find the hospital very busy today. The doctors and nurses looked so tired. We offered not to hold a service but were persuaded to carry on.

"The boys would miss it so, and we would miss it, too! It rests us to hear you sing."

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There were 800 men. Cold, and hungry, and tíred. And we had nothing left to give them but some flour and sugar and fat. Only good for... doughnuts! So doughnuts were what we made. In a frying pan! 150 that first day. 300 the next. We've heard that one lassie has made 2,300 in a day now! And the men love them.

Helen Purviance

They were the first women I'd seen in France and they were American! Just as kind as my Ma, but you don't dare disrespect them. No way. Call them a dearie or anything too familiar and you got a look, just like my Ma.

The mayor of Indiana, USA, has declared tomorrow a public holiday in honour of the return of one of the Salvation Army doughnut lassies, returning from 15 months serving in France.

