

Crosland Hill Knitting Circle - Worksheet 1

During the Second World War the Crosland Hill Knitting Circle combined sociability with support for the nation's war effort. The History to Her Story site contains records from the time period 1940 – 1946. Using the sources, try answering the questions below:

Acronyms Explained:

ATS = Auxiliary Territorial Service (the women's branch of British Army in WWII)

RAOC = Royal Army Ordnance Corps (dealt with supply of weapons, munitions and other military equipment)

SSAFA = Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association. A charitable organization which helps former and serving member of the UK British Armed Forces.

WVS = Women's Voluntary Service – helped with air raids

SEWING ROOM

Since September, 1943, 2,314 garments and other articles have been made in the Sewing Room, with the outside help of the Shipley and South Bank Working Parties. They include men's and women's dressing gowns, dressing jackets, balcony coats, bed jackets, pyjamas and night gowns, Coats and robes, for the A.T.S., called in by the R.A.O.C., dispatch tilters' gloves and padded jackets, children's coats, dresses, blouses, shirts, trousers and blouses, etc. for S.S.A.F.A. and the Greenhead, Milnbridge and Southgate War-time nurseries. Total number of articles made to date, 12,220.

RED CROSS

Garments made from materials supplied by the Red Cross and returned:

48 pairs of Men's Pyjamas	292 Children's Vests
122 Pullovers	25 Women's Nightgowns
26 Scarves	626 Casualty Bags
20 pairs of Socks	1,349 Total
28 pairs of Gloves	

Gifts:

Men's Garments.	Women's Garments.
312 Pullovers	21 Bed-jackets
24 Scarves	32 Dressing Gowns
38 pairs of Gloves	7 Dressing Coats
62 pairs of Mittens	1 pair Ankle Socks
17 Cap Mufflers	
75 Helmets	81
40 pairs of Slippers	44 Knitted Bandages
83 pairs of Socks	41 Eye Masks
6 Miscellaneous	
102 Khaki Shirts	

1943

Total number of returns	1,349
Total number of gifts	1,196
Total	2,545

GENERAL REPORT.

Steady work has been the keynote during the fifth year of war, and in spite of all the difficulties of the times, working parties and others have kept up the level of achievement. Requests from all the Services have been constant, and urgent demands not infrequently. Among these was a sudden request from W.V.N.s for 1,000 pairs socks for the Merchant Navy, these were completed in two months. Goods have been sent in fairly equal quantities to the Army and the Royal and Merchant Navies, and there is still a stock of 5,480 knitted garments awaiting instructions from the Director of Voluntary Organisations whose own depot was blitzed.

Letters of thanks from all fronts testify to the very widespread distribution of comforts by the Service Organisations. For instance, during the worst of the fighting in Italy a great number of messages of appreciation were received from men at the front. The issue of comforts is limited only by the number available, and in view of the continued official ban on personal parcels, it will be realised that the goods are rightly sent where the need is greatest. The obvious conclusion to draw from this is that the more comforts that are made, the more needs will be met.

So many of the letters from men—personally quite unknown—stress the pleasure they have, not only in the comforts themselves, but in the realisation that they are not forgotten and that women at home are finding time still, to knit and work for them. Officers have repeatedly emphasised the value of morale of this link with home. There can be only one response from the workers at the Bureau.

1. What was the most popular garment that the Crosland Hill Knitting Circle made for women?

2. What was the most popular garment that the Crosland Hill Knitting Circle made for men?

3. How did the Crosland Hill Knitting Circle help the war effort?

4. Imagine that it is 1944, you are working overseas in the army during the War, and you have just received a parcel from the Crosland Hill Knitting Circle. Write a letter to them to thank them and explain how it makes you feel: