



## DOING THE MOST GOOD YESTERDAY, TODAY – *and with your help* – TOMORROW

The Salvation Army Wausau: Serving Marathon County

Makes 4 dozen donuts

- 5 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 5 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Pinch of Nutmeg to taste
- 2 eggs
- 1-3/4 cups evaporated milk
- 1 tablespoon shortening



- 1) Mix ingredients and thoroughly knead dough.
- 2) Roll smooth – 1/3 inch thick.
- 3) Cut into rings. A soup can works. Cut center hole.
- 4) Heat oil to 370 degrees, deep enough so donut can float.
- 5) Caution: Oil will bubble when donut is dropped in.
- 6) After 1 minute flip donut over – brown evenly on both sides.
- 7) Lift out. Place on paper toweling.
- 8) Optional – Dust with powder or baker’s sugar while hot. *Enjoy!*

The Donut Lassies extended understanding, sympathy, and sometimes “*sistering*” to young men tested to their limit by the harsh realities of war. Through the Second World War, several other international wars, and military actions, The Salvation Army continues to shine lights of hope, love, and compassion. Its volunteers, staff and donors continue to offer their selfless service and love through the dark and terrifying days (and memories) of soldiering.



### Leave a Legacy Gift in Your Estate Plan

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Wisconsin and Upper  
Michigan Development  
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414-302-4300

Marathon County: 715-845-4272

# The Brave Donut Lassies



**“We were happy to be considered worthy to be of service to our boys during those tragic years ... 'service' is our watchword, and there is no reward equal to that of doing the most good for those people in the most need.” –A Lassie**

## THE UNITED STATES ENTERS WWI



President **Woodrow Wilson** declared war against Germany on April 17, 1917. The Salvation Army established service centers adjacent to US military camps. **Evangeline Booth**, the National Commander, wanted to do more than just serve military in the USA: “*American boys are going to France. We must go with them.*”

She requested a meeting with General **John J. Pershing**. He had experienced firsthand The Salvation Army’s concern. In 1915, he was a Colonel. Fire swept through his San Francisco home, killing his wife and three young daughters. Although other pastors largely ignored Pershing, The Salvation Army reached out to him and his remaining family.

Pershing told Booth that he appreciated her offer, but he could not approve it. Soon, however, reports from the field indicated that demoralized American boys were deserting or turning to the vices that often follow soldiers.

When given the tentative “go-ahead” from General Pershing, Commander Booth sprang into action, sending Lt. Colonel **William Barker** overseas.

Lt. Col. Barker wired back a surprising and urgent response: “*Send lassies!*” There was work to be done and Evangeline Booth was determined to send only the very best. “*I felt it was better to fall short in quantity than to run the risk of falling short in quality,*” she stated.

So the first women ever to serve in the Army front lines were of The Salvation Army. Their fight was against the pain, suffering, loneliness and horror of war. The first group of 11 sailed on August 12, 1917. They earned the nickname:

“*The Doughnut Lassies*”

DOING

THE  
MOST

GOOD



“*I don’t know what we boys would do were it not for The Salvation Army...those women certainly have courage to come right out to the trenches...and they are so kind and good.*” –Soldier

## SOLDIERS - ONE AND ALL

“*I send you to be soldiers, soldiers in all that the name implies. You will know what it means to sleep in wet blankets, to work on and on when you are tired beyond endurance, to keep a smiling face when the tears are perilously near the surface.*”–Evangeline Booth



“*I tell you the truth—whatever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me.*”  
Matthew 25:40

In spite of their hard work, the first women were treated with indifference. The men had a war to fight. Soon, however, the troops came to realize that even on the firing line these women would **not** neglect them.

Brave women, like **Florence Turkington**, crawled under shell fire to deliver coffee and doughnuts to troops in the trenches, and soon letters praising the work of The Salvation Army began flooding back home.

Overnight, the bewildered girls found themselves national heroines. At times they worked so close to the German lines that they could not even whisper for fear of being heard. The “Christian sermon” that came with the coffee and doughnuts? It was a friendly squeeze on the shoulder.

Their love and concern came in the form of a humble doughnut, and that arose out of necessity. After 36 days of rain, supplies of food were almost exhausted. All that remained was some flour, lard and sugar. Two women, **Helen Purviance** and **Margaret Sheldon**, came up with an idea that was to literally go down in history. “*Why don’t we make them doughnuts?*” In later years, the name was shortened to simply “donuts.”

They had no rolling pins or cake cutters. Strong winds had blown down their tent. The ingenious women crouched in the rain to prepare the dough. An empty wine bottle did duty as a rolling pin. An empty can was used as a cutter, the top of a coffee percolator made the hole. The first doughnuts were cooked over a wood fire.. a triumph of improvisation. It was back-breaking to cook over the low fire; Helen spent most of her time kneeling and crouching in the mud.

“*When those first doughnuts were fried, seven at a time, in a small fry pan, I was literally on my knees,*” Helen recalled. “*There was also a prayer in my heart that somehow this tiny home touch would do more for those who ate the doughnuts than satisfy just a physical hunger.*”