

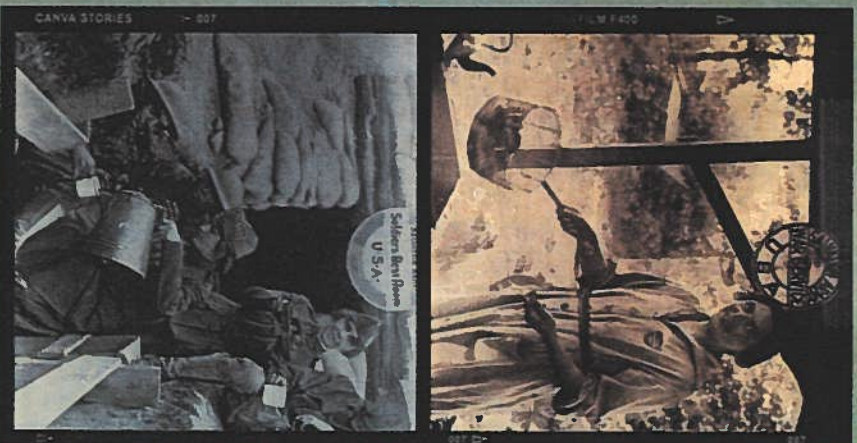
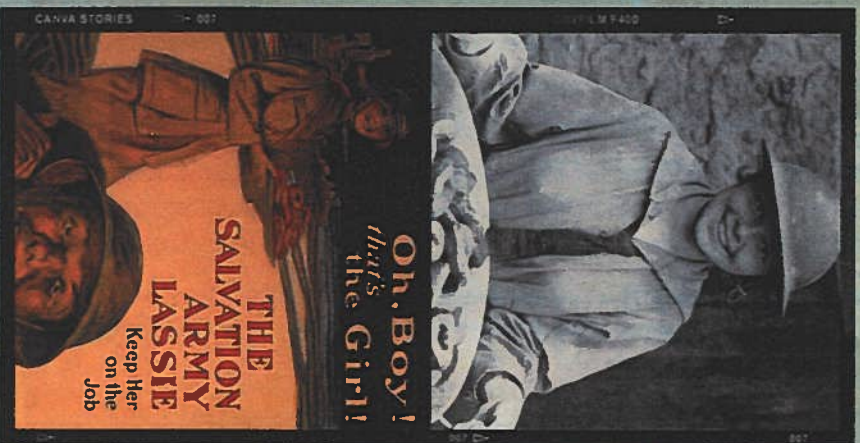


*Donut Day*  
*June 4, 2021*



"It is always in the places where the boys need help - and the closest hut to the lines you'll find is The Salvation Army."

US SOLDIER SERVING IN FRANCE, 1918



## What is Donut Day?

The Salvation Army performed many acts of service to American military personnel serving in the trenches of World War One (1914-1918). But it was their donut making ministry, by far, that caused The Salvation Army's war work to rise in prominence and reputation.

The reason that women Salvation Army

officers were given the nickname, "Donut Girls", was due to the innovation of Ensign Helen Purvance and Ensign Margaret Sheldon. Having had the idea to bake something for hungry soldiers, they experimented with pies, but settled on the humble donut as it was easier to make large quantities. Purvance formed the dough into a circular shape with a baking-powder can and made the hole using a campfire tube. The first US soldier to eat a Salvation Army donut was Private Braxton Zuber Alabama.

Salvation Army historian Edward McKinnon notes, "The donut proved ideally suited both to the insatiable cravings of the troops for hot, fresh homemade treats and to the conditions in France...Donuts could be produced in large numbers in lard melted any sort of pot or bucket, placed over a fire built in a hole dug in the ground."

As G.I.'s wrote letters home, lauding the practical ministry of the Donut Girls, a grateful American public began to take notice of The Salvation Army and its work. By the time the war ended on November 11, 1918, The Salvation Army had won a special place in the hearts of everyday Americans.

The first Donut Day was celebrated in 1919 by The Salvation Army in Chicago as fundraiser. The idea caught on and later the first Friday of June was forever designated National Donut Day.