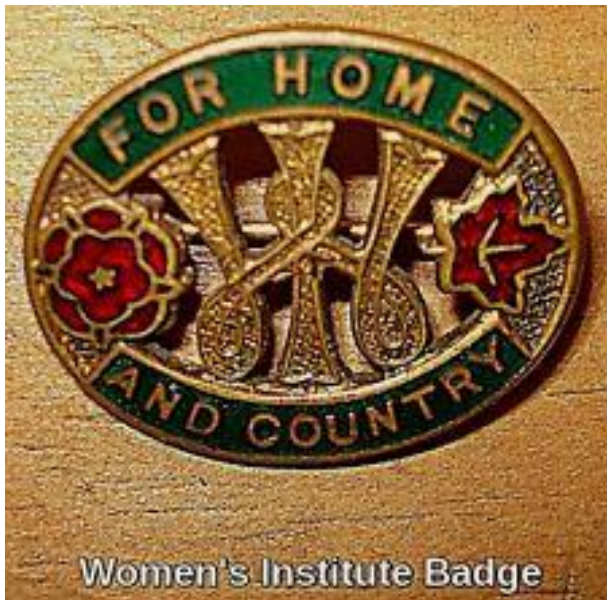


Women - WWII - Women's Institutes - Primary Source

What can you learn by looking at these pictures?



Women – WWII – Women’s Institutes

The Women’s Institutes (WIs) and other women’s groups did their part as well. Helping neighbours was part of their members’ daily lives and during wartime their ‘neighbourhood’ expanded to include those in the military. Marking quilts, bandages and clothing for the men overseas were just a few of their wartime projects.

These groups sent books, newspapers, and special treats to military hospitals overseas. They also held send-off and welcome home parties for servicemen from their area and after the war were in the forefront of efforts to create local war memorials.

The Women’s institutes also had a Central War Charities Fun that raised millions of dollars during the Second World War.

The WI’s used their agricultural connections to cooperate with the government to establish farm labour bureaus to encourage city women to volunteer to help harvest crops. They also had calling clubs to keep up with the high demand for preserved fruits and vegetables.

Their members’ experiences in adapting recipes to wartime shortages also led them to publish special cookbooks. The average homemaker struggled to prepare meals within the restrictions of food rationing and these books were an excellent resource.

How did the women’s institute help with the war effort?