

# Knitting through the War

These patterns are adapted from the *Schools Patriotic Fund (SPF) Service Knitting booklet*. The booklet was released during the Second World War to provide patterns for people knitting for the troops on the home front. During the First World War basic instructions for knitting similar items were published in newspapers around Australia.

The patterns here have been translated for the beginner and modern knitter by Lianne Gould, Master Knitter. History SA in partnership with Artlab Australia have released them for the anniversary of the First World War. For more on how South Australians experienced the First World War, at home and abroad, visit *A World Away: South Australia's War*.

[www.southaustraliaswar.com.au/](http://www.southaustraliaswar.com.au/)

## Knitted skull cap or sleeping cap

(Skull caps were worn under helmets, they're essentially a 'beanie')

Materials – 2 ½ oz 4 ply wool 4 no. 11 needles 4 no. 10 needles.

Translation: 100 gram sports weight wool. One set each 3mm and 3.5mm double pointed needles

With No. 11 double pointed needles (3.5 mm) cast on 100 stitches, 36 on the first needle, 32 on the second needle, and 32 on the third needle.

Join in the round, being careful not to twist the stitches.

K2, p2 rib for 3 in. (7 cm)

Change to No 10 needles (3mm needles)

Knit plain for 5 in. (12 cm).

Shaping for the crown

Round 1-- \*K 18, k 2 together, repeat from \* to the end of the round.

Round 2 and alternate rounds – Knit plain.

Round 3 --\* K17, k 2 together, repeat from \* to the end of the round.

Round 5 -- \*K16, k 2 together, repeat from \* to the end of the round.

Continue decreasing in this manner until 25 stitches remain.

Break off the wool and run the end through the remaining stitches, draw up and fasten off securely.



If you would like to donate your finished knitting to a good cause consider Fred's Van, providing comfort and a warmth for those experiencing homelessness. [https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Get\\_Involved/Become\\_a\\_volunteer/SA/Freds\\_Van/](https://www.vinnies.org.au/page/Get_Involved/Become_a_volunteer/SA/Freds_Van/)

With Thanks to Kristin Phillips, Senior Textile Conservator at Artlab Australia, Lianne Gould, Master Knitter, and the rest of the KnitWW1ts team at History SA.

# Lianne Gould's crochet pattern for a soldier's skull cap or sleeping cap

(The skull cap was worn under the helmet)

100 gram sport weight yarn 3.5 crochet hook, or whatever size you prefer.

Start with magic circle, or crochet 6 chain and join to form circle.

Row 1: Crochet 1 chain (You do this at the beginning of each single crochet row to get your work up to the height you need), then 8 single crochet into the circle and join to the first chain with a slip stitch.

Row 2: Crochet 1 chain, then 1 single crochet into the first single crochet below, 2 single crochet into next single crochet, 1 single crochet into the next, 2 single crochet into the next, continue this way until you have made your way around the circle, then use a slip stitch to join the last stitch to the first chain.

Row 3: Crochet 1 chain, then 1 single crochet in next 2 crochets, then 2 single crochet in next single crochet, continue this way until you have made your way around the circle, then use a slip stitch to join the last stitch to the first chain.

Row 4: Crochet 1 chain, then 1 single crochet into the next three single crochets, then 2 crochets into the next single crochet, continue this way until you have made your way around the circle, then use a slip stitch to join the last stitch to the first chain.

Row 5: Crochet 1 chain, then 1 single crochet into next 4 single crochets and 2 single crochets into next single crochet, continue this way until you have made your way around the circle, then use a slip stitch to join the last stitch to the first chain.

Row 6: Crochet 1 chain, then 1 single crochet into next 5 single crochets, then 2 single crochets into next single crochet, continue this way until you have made your way around the circle, then use a slip stitch to join the last stitch to the first chain.

Row 7: Crochet 1 chain, then 1 single crochet into next 6 single crochets, then 2 single crochets into next single crochet continue this way until you have made your way around the circle, then use a slip stitch to join the last stitch to the first chain.

Row 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13: continue as the previous rows, increasing the number of single crochets to match the previous row number.

Now for the sides:

Now for each row, begin with one chain and then one single crochet in each crochet below, and a slip stitch to join last single crochet and the first chain in each row, for 22 rows, or until the side measures 12 cms.

For the Roll back:

Traditionally, this would be knitted in rib, to represent this in crochet, you will need to turn your work around so that you are now working on the inside.

Row 1: Chain three and then 1 treble crochet in each single crochet below. Join with a slip stitch.

Row 2: Chain 3, then one treble crochet for each treble below, but instead of going into the top of the previous treble with every stitch, do this with every second stitch, and with the alternate stitch, after you have wound the yarn around the hook, place the hook through the front post of the treble below, and form your treble in this way. Join your work with a slip stitch.

Row 3: As for row 2, ensuring you place your "Front post trebles" into the front post trebles below to give the impression of ribbing. Join your work with a slip stitch.

Continue this for a further 7 rows.

Row 11: Chain 1, and 1 single crochet into each treble below, join with a slip stitch and bind off.

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