How did soldiers keep their clothes mended while away at war? They carried their "housewife" with them, of course. No, soldiers did not bring their wives with them on the battlefield. A “housewife” is a sewing kit made from extra pieces of cloth that were lying around. It contained needles, thread, pins, patches, scissors, etc.

Housewife Sewing Kit

Fill your housewife with the buttons, thread, and safety pins that you’ll need to mend your uniform! Make sure everything either fits in the pockets or is threaded well so it won’t fall out. Roll your housewife up and tie it.

Now put your housewife in your haversack and head off to war!