**CONSTRUCTION NOTES, GARMENTS FROM SURPLUS MILITARY UNIFORMS**

***Toward the Day that Peace is Recyclable…***

**AS SHOWN IN PHOTOGRAPHS—PROTOTYPES OF GARMENTS FOR WOMEN OR GIRLS:**

**Short Vest and Short Skirt; Long Vest and Long Skirt; Belts; Hat; Shoulder Purse.**

**NOTES RE FABRIC USE, GENERAL DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION:**

Military trousers and shirt-jackets were used for the garments.

Cutting the military uniforms into useful sections takes concerted effort. Like the strong fabric, seaming and stitching are formidable.

The designs shown in the photographs were derived in progress, as sectioning the uniforms presented various possibilities.

The pattern drawings included at the end of this text show (outlined, finished) measurements of the garments shown (measurements generally being about size 10). Rather than making life-size patterns per the drawings, commercial patterns certainly can be used instead, as well as for other potential items (*e.g.* shorts, sleeveless tops, shirt dresses, quilts).

**A FEW NOTES ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL GARMENTS AND “PATTERN” DRAWINGS:**

**IMPORTANT: If home-made patterns *are* made from the drawings made around *finished prototypes*, *ADD SEAM ALLOWANCES.***

**“PATTERN A”**

**Short Vest Front-** The face of a uniform shirt-jacket was used, keeping collar, button

plackets and pockets.

**Shoulder Purse –** Three were made. Uniform pieces with pockets were used for fronts; one lined with dark cotton; others not lined but French-seamed (*i.e.* sewing front and back wrong sides together, trim seam, turn right-side out, top stitch to enclose inner seam. Tabs from uniforms used for closures.

**“PATTERN A”**

**Short Vest Back -**  An example of adjusting for insufficient cutting: not enough fabric was left at shoulder area, requiring a triangular piece added to accommodate attaching the remainder of collar. (A possible addition to the vest would be sleeves.)

**“PATTERN B”**

**Long Vest Front –** Military shirt-jacket was used, keeping its pockets. Note: Shoulder sides need to be cut a bit wider to allow for a dart on each side. (As noted above, darts are to be added to the back for fitting at waist.)

**Long Vest Back –** Lengthwise darts are not shown on the drawing but are to be added for desired fitting, and the width of the pattern enlarged to accommodate dart spaces.

**Belt –** Two lengths were made from spare fabric pieced together; the two lengths were sewn right sides together, turned right sides out, and steam pressed, closing open end.

**“PATTERN B”**

**Long Vest Back –** *See Note above* re adding shoulder widths for darts.

**“PATTERN C”**

**Short Skirt, Front and Back –** Allow fabric for hem as well as for seams. Use purchased zipper and leftover fabric for zipper plackets.

**“PATTERN D”**

**Hat –** Crown Sides: sew two each, right sides together; turn right sides out; press in raw bottom seams. Crown Top: sew the two pieces right sides together; turn right sides out; press in and enclose end; attach finished crown top between tops of crown sides, *stitching close to edges.* Brim: sew the two pieces right sides together; turn right sides out; press in and enclose ends; stitch inner circle to bottom of crown sides, *stitching close to edges.*

**NO PATTERN DRAWING APPEARS FOR:**

**Long Skirt –** A pair of trousers was used, sectioning the uniform as follows: cutting out button plackets all around; cutting through inseam and then cutting down and separating at leg inseams, until long lengths to sew together were available for the skirt. Looking at the prototype photographs one can see how the front zipper and pockets were kept; and also how kept was the ‘oval’ at back. Hem tape was used to finish the back slit.