Knitted Sleeveless Sweater

American Red Cross, as printed in The Priscilla War Work Book (Boston, 1917), p.9

MATERIAL (1917): 3 hanks (3/4 lb, 340 g) light-weight four-ply knitting worsted; 1 pair Red Cross Needles No. 3 or Standard Needles No. 7 (amber). Gauge: 50 stitches = 11 in. (28 cm) in plain knitting (p.8). Use needles that give it. Plain knitting = every row knit (garter stitch). Slip the first stitch of each row (p.8).

LIGHT-WEIGHT SWEATER (verbatim, size chest 96 cm; other sizes: numbers from the table)

Front. - Cast on 80 stitches. Knit 2, purl 2 alternately for 4 inches. Each row begins with knit 2 and ends with purl 2. This forms the ribbing at bottom of sweater. Knit plain until sweater measures 25 inches in length.

Shoulders. - Knit 28 stitches, bind off (loosely) 24 for neck; knit 28. On these 28 stitches, with spare needle knit back and forth for 7 ridges and fasten yarn at neck edge. Commencing at neck edge on other shoulder work back and forth for 7 ridges ending on shoulder edge.

Back. - Knit 28 stitches, cast on 24 for back of neck, knit 28 on other shoulder. Knit plain for 21 inches.

Knit 2, purl 2 alternately for 4 inches and bind off.

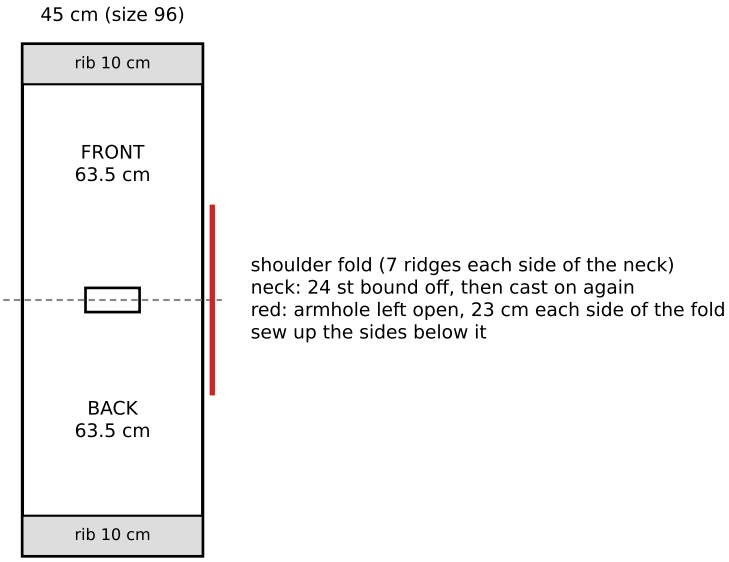
Sew up sides, leaving 9 inches for armholes. Work two rows single crochet around neck and one row around armholes to give a firm edge.

TODAY'S SIZES (ours: stitches scaled from her 80 = chest 96 cm, multiple of 4 for the rib)

Chest (body)	Cast on	Each shoulder	Neck	Width laid flat	Armhole	Yarn
88 cm	72 st	24 st	24 st	40 cm	21.5 cm	350 g
96 cm (1917)	80 st	28 st	24 st	45 cm	23 cm	340 g
104 cm	88 st	32 st	24 st	49 cm	24 cm	400 g
112 cm	92 st	34 st	24 st	51 cm	25 cm	400 g
120 cm	100 st	38 st	24 st	56 cm	26 cm	450 g

Length 25 in. (63.5 cm) front and back for every size (4 in. / 10 cm of it rib): knit longer or shorter as wanted.

Garter stitch stretches: the knitted width is less than half the chest by design, as in 1917.



Ours, not the Red Cross's: the sizes other than 96 cm, the metric conversions, the yarn per size, the schematic.