

September 16, 2020

The Field Kitchen

(Pennsylvania Military Museum, T. Gum, Site Admin.)

The ability to properly and efficiently feed the troops while in engaged in field training exercises or during combat operations has continued to prove critical since the first armies stepped foot on the field. To accomplish this, a number of options have been deployed over the centuries, including but not limited to: foraging, carried-rations, packaged rations, and most desired, fresh meals.

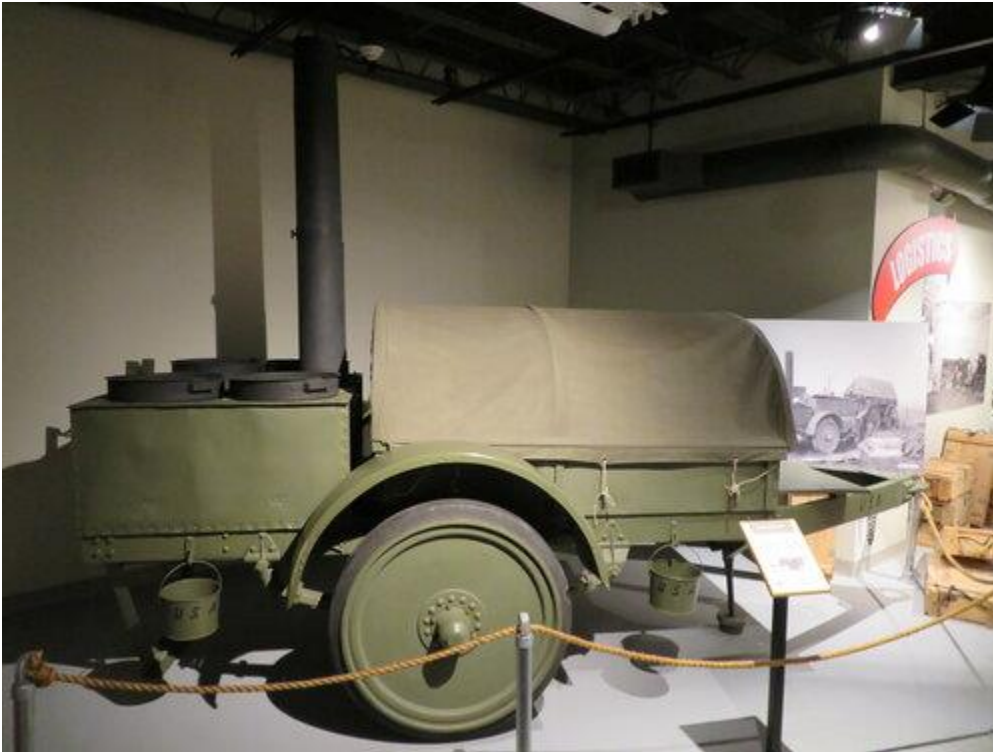


Photo of Field Kitchen, 72.118.187.

To provide fresh meals while away from larger bases or formal commissary's, the US Military sought the development and supply of equipment such as this field kitchen. This kitchen is rather simple in design but highly capable of feeding hundreds of troops per day.

The adjacent photo shows a World War One Liberty Rolling Field Kitchen that was built in 1918. Though the manufacturer of the kitchen is unknown, its wheels were produced in Philadelphia, PA by the BUDD Wheel Company.

While fueling the kitchen's ovens was typically accomplished via a wood fire that was tendered in the large square box at the rear of the kitchen, lacking wood, any combustibile material would suffice - especially with an accelerant.

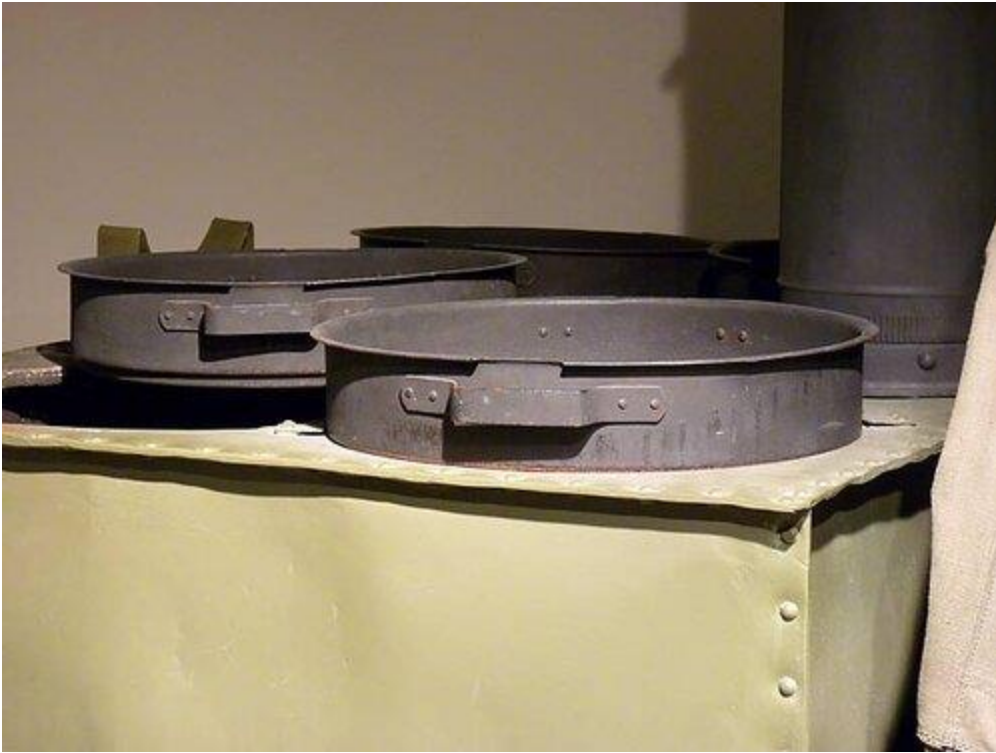


Photo of pots on Field Kitchen 72.118.187.

Once at the desired heat, the black pots located above the fire could be used for boiling, making soups or stews, or any number of other recipes. If desired, a pan could be placed over the stove opening and used for frying, etc. Along with such capability, the oven located in the rear was also used for bread making.

Though easily pulled by a team of horses, this type of field kitchen was designed to be pulled by a vehicle.

Of critical importance to the US Army in World War One was the capability of this kitchen to be forward deployed at the front lines where reliable rations, and fresh rations were often hard to come by. Able to feed 200 men three meals a day, the Liberty Rolling Field Kitchen was a welcomed sight by all that could smell the fire-box and meals cooking!