

## TO S.A. SOLDIERS OLD AND NEW

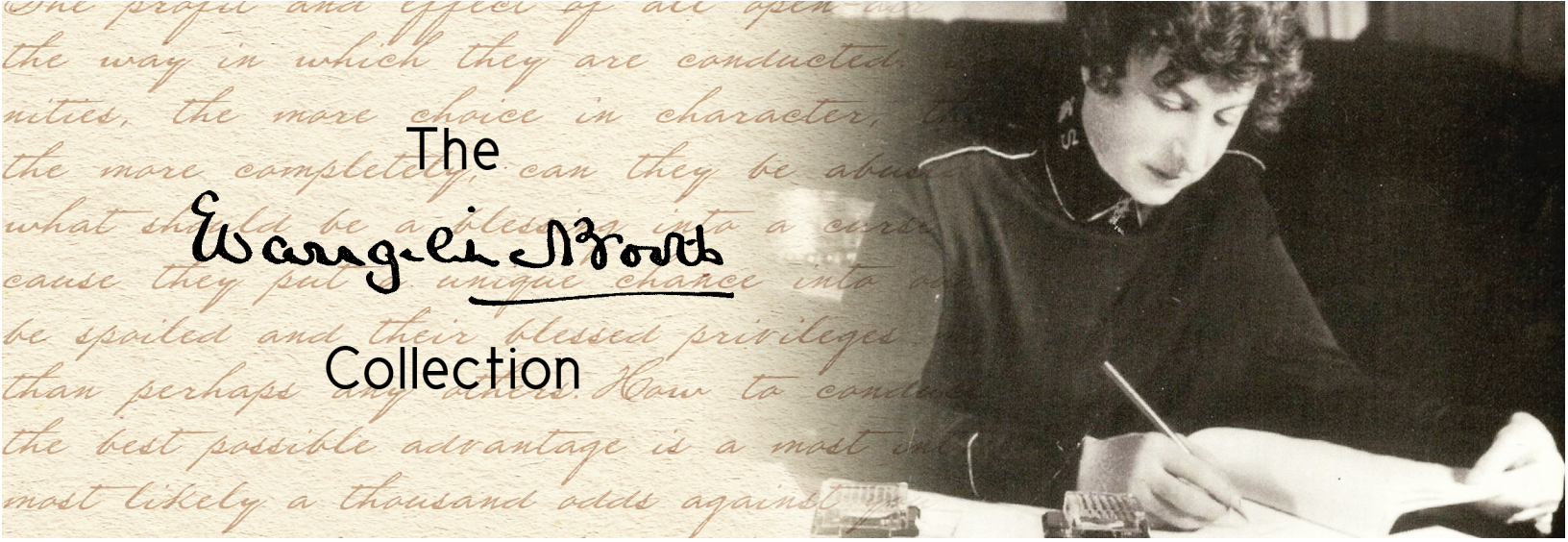
My Dear Comrades:

There has never been an occasion when I desired more strongly that all intervening distances could be bridged and that I could meet all my soldiers in one great band under one roof than at the present. But this is impossible, and after all, when hearts are firmly knit in one purpose, what matter the miles that divide or the different scenes and circumstances under which our enrollment will take place? In spirit I traveled the space between us, and through the columns of our War Cry I send you each individually a message from my heart.

First let me say to my long-trying and proved soldiery that from personal experience of the fighting line, I know of your toil and sacrifice; how often the contest has asked that you should take your stand against a tide of opposing circumstances; how you have triumphed by virtue of unwavering faith in the fulfillment of a soldier's duty to his Flag, and how God has helped you to keep your eye fixed upon the goal, — the Salvation of more sinners and the enlistment of more soldiers.

Now, this night we rejoice together over vanquished foes and unquestionable victory. Our efforts are rewarded by an increased and stimulated soldiery, by more sinners redeemed, by a great number of tongues to praise Him, of hearts to serve Him, of lives in which to do His will on earth as the angels do it in Heaven. And while giving Him all the glory for every sinner brought to the Blood and every soldier warrior enlisted for the battle, I want to say to each loyal-hearted soldier of the Cross and the colors that for the brave and steadfast stand which you have taken during the period of the siege you have become increasingly dear to myself, who has given the whole passion of my heart, and every moment of my life to the worldwide battle for the Flag against sin and sorrow.

But upon this occasion I want more especially to speak to those who have this day entered a position which will declare them the children of the Lord, and call them to contend in war against sin and the powers of evil in every shape and form — the all important position of a soldier of Jesus Christ.

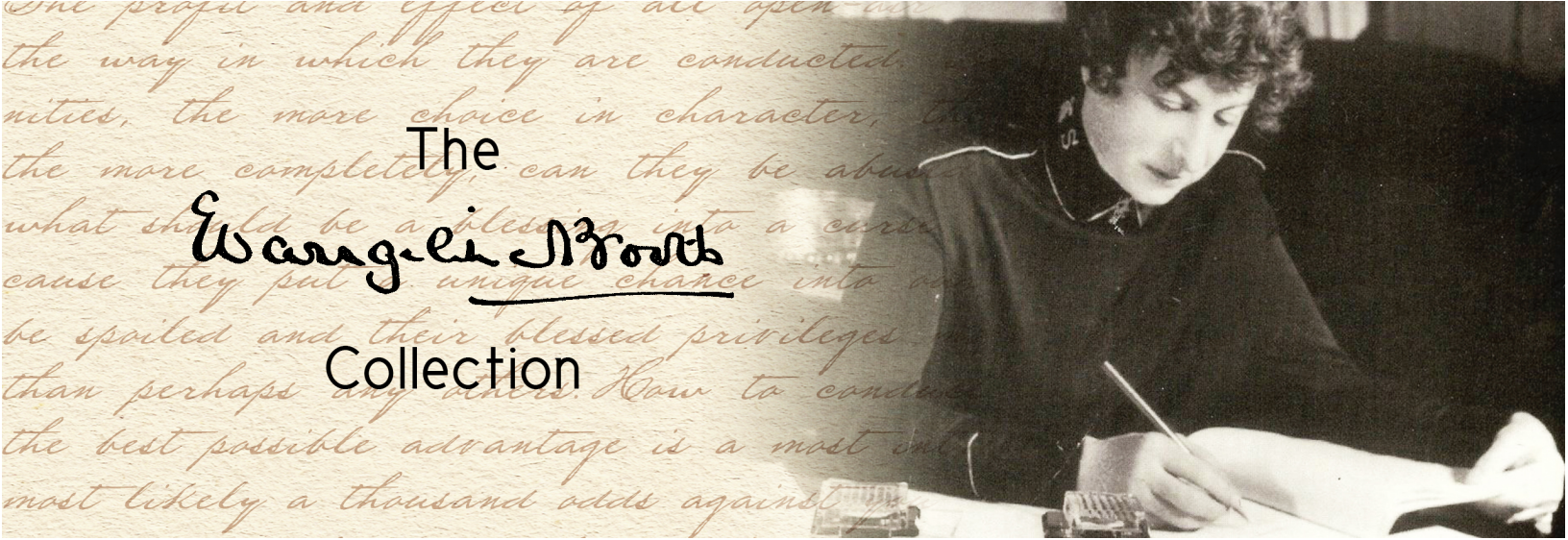


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As I think of you standing beneath the waves of our Blood-and-Fire Banner, making those sacrifices which it asks in its interests, my heart swells with tender compassion toward you, and my soul is filled with prayer. I plead that Heaven's guiding, protecting, strengthening blessing should be given you.

Some of you are new-born children of grace. As a thick cloud He has blotted out your transgressions, and planted your feet in the ways of truth, and now, leaving what is behind, you press onto what is before with the promise of all-sufficient grace and undying love that will never leave nor forsake you. Temptations will come — sometimes strong and thick and fast — there will be the enemies of God and truth to daily face and rivers of tribulation to cross; but if you will keep seeking first His interests and unceasingly watch and pray, none of these things need move you, but rather help fit you for the blessing of others and the winning of a starry crown. Let me remind you that you are as yet infants in the Kingdom — each day will bring further light, and each day you must seek new grace to follow it. Do not be discouraged or despair if you have some heavy battles against yourself, and even sin; God is your Father, and you love and fear Him, and "like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him," and all the regiments of Heaven are yours to help you fight your way toward its gates. Again, when in trial and difficulty and sorely tempted, I would ask you to remember that in becoming a soldier of The Salvation Army you stand in ranks numbering hundreds of thousands of God-fearing and God-honoring men and women whose love and prayers and faith are given to you, and that you are found under the Flag which is waving to the Glory of God all around the world, while your feet, though trembling in their spiritual infancy, now tramp in the heavy march of troops, who counting not their own lives dear unto them are ever pushing on, carrying the light and hope of God's Salvation to the lowest, poorest, most downtrodden and dark.

Some of you have longer known God and the power of his Salvation, but you have lately been awakened to the obligations which your own blood-washed spirit owes to the cause of Christ and the souls of others, and tonight, in harmony with such convictions, you step to the front and take upon yourself a mark which will declare you in the eyes of the world as a soldier of the bloodstained banner of Calvary. I do not think of you as taking this step hastily, but rather as giving it much thought and prayer. God has let you see the millions that are dying — how you must help rescue them — help by your dress, help by your word, and help by every action of



your life. Do not be discouraged because you are not a perfect soldier at the commencement of your career; do not think that your commander or your leading officer expects it of you but by the abundant grace of God and the military training which your connection with The Army will give you, you will become more and more efficient to deal with the forces of heaven and fight the good fight of faith day by day.

Hold unflinchingly to that which is good. After a forward march, look not back. Keep your eye upon Calvary. Love Jesus best. Put the interests of his Kingdom first. Remember God is strong. Use every opportunity to stem the tide of evil. Do your utmost to get sinners converted. Be loyal to your Flag. Be true to your General. Follow closely your Commander. Love and help your comrades. Stand fast in the faith, and heaven will see you through more than conqueror.

Your affectionate Commander, praying for you,

Evangeline Booth.