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A message from the front to the womenfolk at home.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE FRONT TO THE WOMENFOLK AT HOME

General Sir HORACE SMITH-DORRIEN

Writing from the Front to Lady SMITH-DORRIEN, says:

“Knowing as I do that you are striving to help the wives and families of the brave soldiers who are fighting under me in this glorious war, I should like you to tell them, when you have an opportunity, a little about the doings of their husbands, brothers, and sons, so that they may learn to appreciate them at their true value.

“**Never has an Army been called on to engage in such desperate fighting** as is of daily occurrence in the present war, and **never have any troops behaved so magnificently as our soldiers in this war.**”

“The stories of the battles of Le Mons and Le Cateau are only beginning to be known, but at them a **British force not only held its own against a German Army four times its own size**, but it hit the enemy so hard that never were they able to do more than follow it up.

“SMILING FACES EVERYWHERE”

“Of course, our troops had to fall back before them, an operation which would demoralise most armies. Not so with ours, however. Though they naturally did not like retiring for twelve successive days, they merely fell sullenly back, striking hard whenever attacked, and the moment the order came to go forward there were **smiling faces everywhere.** Then followed the battles of the Marne and the Aisne.

“Tell our women that all these great battles have, day by day, witnessed countless feats of heroism and brave fighting. Large numbers will be given Victoria Crosses and Distinguished Conduct Medals; but many more have earned them, for it has been impossible to bring every case to notice.

“**Tell the women that, proud as I am to have such soldiers under my command, they should be prouder still to be near and dear relatives of such men, and that they can show their pride by their own behaviour.**”

“TELL THE WIVES”

“**Tell the wives to talk to their children about their brave fathers, and for themselves never to do anything a full account of which they would shrink from giving their husbands on their return from the war.**”

“**Tell the women and girls they can serve their country best by leading quiet lives, thus setting an example of self-restraint and uprightness at home, which, equally with the bravery of their dear ones in the war, is necessary to bring the country through this great national crisis with credit to those who have the good fortune to live under the Union Jack.**”

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