

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL TO OUR OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS

Comrades

War has broken out between several of the Great Powers, and a dark and ominous threat hangs over half the world. A long train of events has effected great changes in the forces, the interests, and the friendships of the Nations of Europe. For many years monster armaments have gone on increasing, notwithstanding the enormous burdens they have imposed upon the people, and side by side with them has grown the spirit which has made them more and more dangerous to the peace and happiness of mankind. And now, the cruel conflict has begun, a conflict which saddens the face of the whole world and burdens us all with the agony of a personal grief.

That grief is made all the greater because it seems that this is a war of rulers rather than of peoples and a war which every one of the parties concerned declares to be entered upon because it is unavoidable. Men of the highest character, and of world-wide reputation, in every country assure us that they have striven with all their powers for peace, but without avail.

Whether or not England is to be involved in the storm is, while I write, still undecided. That further calamity trembles on the brink! Nay, unless the hand of God be stretched out in a remarkable manner, I see little hope of avoiding that crowning sorrow.

All this is a heart-breaking spectacle. One of the great purposes of our lives as followers of Jesus Christ is to knit together in true friendship the nations of the earth. No Salvationist can look on at any kind of quarrelling without sorrow. How much more at a quarrel as this—for already the knell of innocent sufferers begins to toll.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

WE CAN PRAY. PRAY THAT GOD'S WILL MAY BE DONE

- He can make even the wrath of man to praise Him and serve His great ends. His thoughts are higher than our thoughts and His ways than our ways. He can turn both victory and defeat to help His holy purposes in this poor world. Pray that he will do it, even by this appalling calamity. Pray that the area of this awful visitation be not further extended. The war spirit soon spreads. God can stop it. Pray that the conflict may be brought quickly to an end. Men talk as if it was unavoidable that it should take its dreadful course through months of dreadful carnage, ruin, and death. Let us cry day and night to our Great War Lord - the Lord of Hosts- to stop it.

Pray for the Salvationists in every nation, not only for the men who must go out to fight, but for their dear ones left behind, and for all our comrades - especially where our numbers are small and our opportunity limited, that the Living God will stand by and comfort them, and above all, that their faith fail not.

Pray for The Salvation Army everywhere, and for me, that I maybe guided and helped in this time of great stress and difficulty. We must go steadily on with our work!

Yours affectionately,

W BRAMWELL BOOTH
London August 3rd 1914



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