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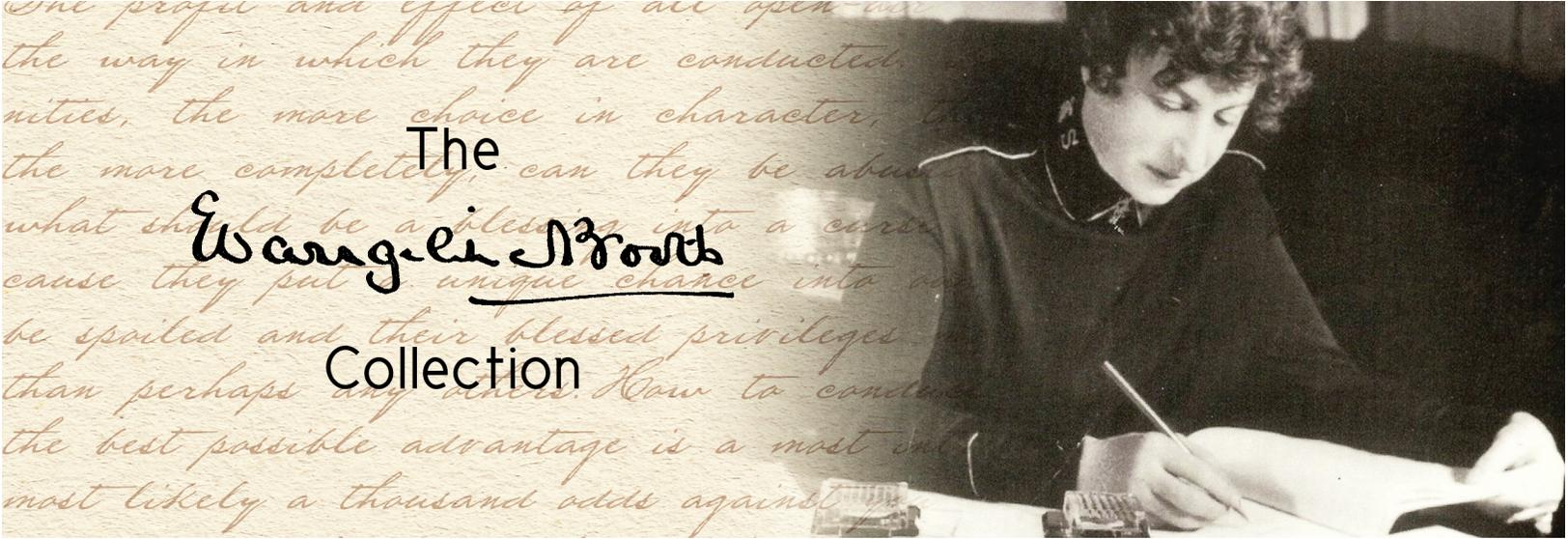
THE MIRACLE OF THE PAST – THE WONDER OF THE FUTURE.
A BRIEF REVIEW

As this is to be the last opportunity that will come to me this year for addressing my dear people through the War Cry, I am stirred with a very deep desire to say something that will serve as a fitting expression of the abounding sense of gratitude that fills me as I review the past, and at the same time, I wish to point out anew how every consideration impels us all to such a forward march during the year upon which we are about to enter, that its every step shall be a certain testimony of measureless confidence in the all-sufficiency of the God whom we serve.

GOD HAS BEEN GOOD!

The past is laden with fruitage most abundant. What a year we have had! Yet, I feel in order to emphasize wisely the exceptional record that has been made, I must call attention to the conditions and happenings of a time rather longer than can be comprehended in just one year. Such abundant opportunity for new spheres of activity has rolled in upon The Army for effective service during the past two years that it has been with the most utmost difficulty we have been able to legislate to keep pace with the demands made upon our strength, and upon our time and upon our forces. As we look back upon this period it seems more like a startling dream than a series of actualities. In addition to our ordinary duties, were the ever-increasing claims made by the abnormal conditions brought about by the war, and as I review the achievements it seems almost incredible that so much could have been accomplished in so short a time. Happenings and events of stupendous import have taken place in this country and throughout the world, and some reference to the salient facts will be interesting at this time so opportune for review.

During the past two Winters, we have had some great contrasts. There was the severity of 1917-1918, succeeded by the exceptional mildness of the next Winter. Both of these conditions brought their peculiar problems to The Salvation Army which, I am glad to say, did its full duty. I was the happy recipient of many messages from civic authorities throughout the country expressing their appreciation and gratitude for the splendid services rendered by The Army when the period of almost arctic weather was upon us. Then, with the mildness prevailing the following Winter came the scourge of the "terrible flu." This death-tide ran rampant through the land,



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defying every means known to medical science to arrest it. The life of whole cities was paralyzed by the frightful visitation and hospitals, doctors and nurses were at times so few compared to the demand that thousands sickened and died without remedy. It is said that this dreadful disease resulted in more deaths than did the great World War, and here in this land its victims ran into hundreds of thousands.

The Salvation Army was

TRUE TO ITS TRADITIONS

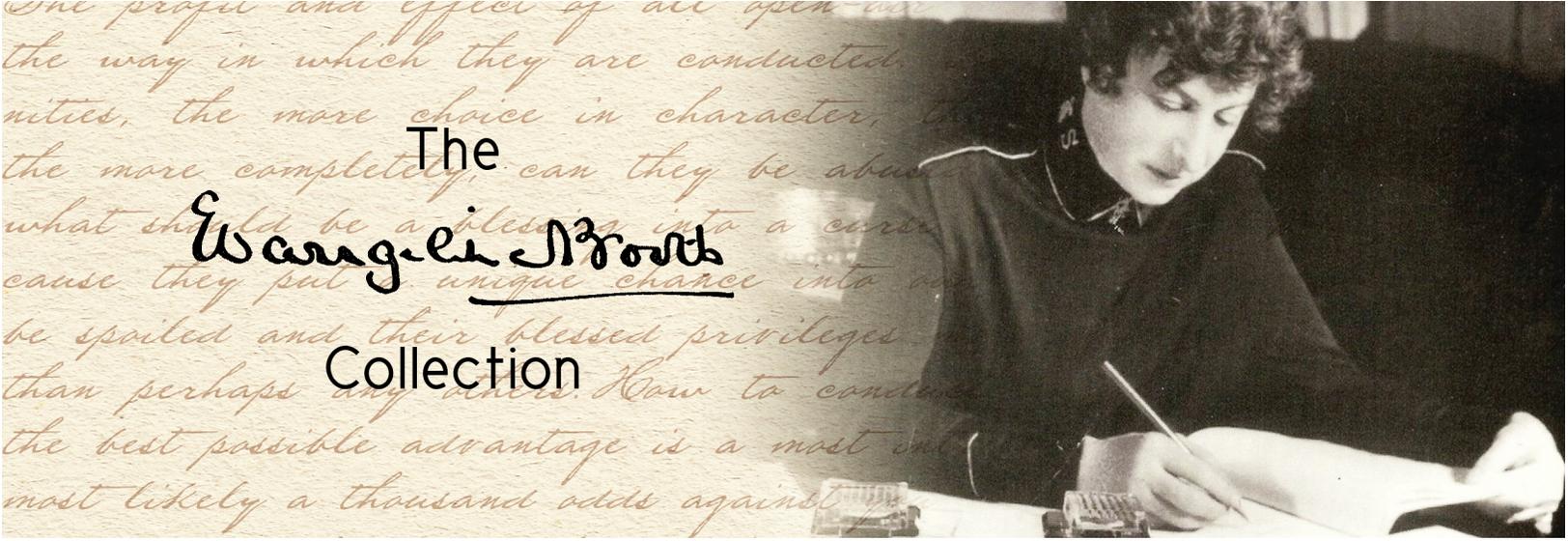
And noble and sacrificial work distinguished it throughout the trying period of the prevalence of this sickness. The way our people braved the disease when visiting hospitals, nursing the sick and burying the dead was inimitable, and in the patient and heroic discharge of their duties some lost their lives.

This epidemic wrought havoc with every department of our work. Especially was this so with those places that have to do with our young people and with public meetings.

There was also the severe and almost irreparable loss sustained through the death of twenty-five of our own officers. Some of these had given long years of faithful service, while others were called away in the prime of life.

It does seem meet that I should interject here a word of high regard and very affectionate remembrance for those heroes who have fallen in the fight. They loved not their lives to the death and were called away in the midst of their toil. This very War Cry has the story of the triumph of three or four who have recently been translated and I wish to place upon the work of their lives my own need of praise, which is all too small when compared to the wealth of their love and the strength of their toil for Him and his cause. In their passing away our loss has been very real and very great, and our tenderest sympathy is still with those whose sorrows were so accentuated through their going while our remembrance of their (and our) loved ones will never die. We must press on, for every gap in the fighting front must be filled.

The burning of the Training College which, it is regretfully recorded, resulted in the loss of two lives, necessitated our changing for a period our training ground to the city of Philadelphia, where the cadets made an ineffaceable impression upon the city. We have since been able to



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restore the Training College to New York, and while it is yet in a very inadequate building, I am pleased to announce that there is every prospect for a vast improvement in the very near future.

The misfortunes that I have instanced, however, are

NOT THE WHOLE OF THE STORY,

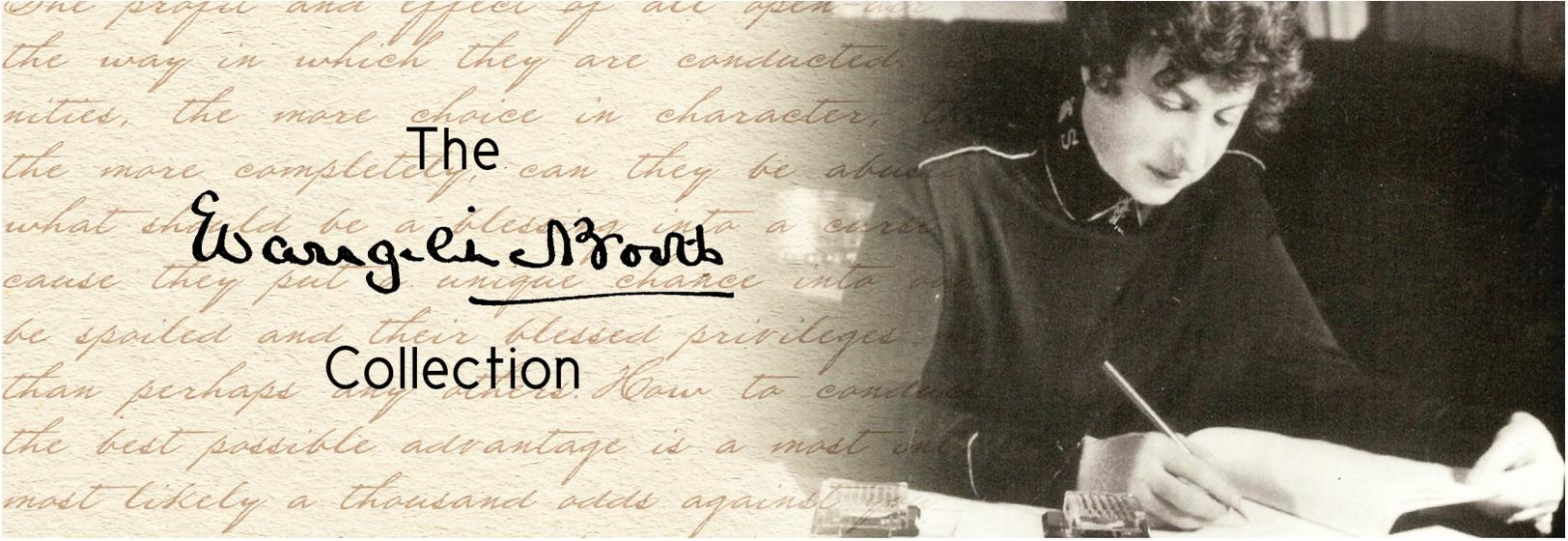
And when compared with the great goodness which God has bestowed upon us as a people, these untoward things seem to be almost infinitesimal, and we must with bounding hearts raise our voices in loud praises to Him for His unfailling and all-prevailing blessing. As an army the evidences that God has been with us in growing favor and increasing power are everywhere.

The great crisis of the world's mammoth war produced exceptional opportunities and also brought almost unbearable responsibilities. The whole demanded special enterprise and extraordinary executive ability. When the door opened we entered it. When the crisis arose we proved that we had the necessary machinery at hand to cope with it. The greatest emergency that ever faced our Blood-and-Fire Flag was when the clarion cry of war rang through the land – when father's faces turned grave, and mothers' cheeks became pale and over 3,000,000 youths – the flower of the nation – crowded the recruiting stations.

Because of my knowledge of the benefits that a Salvationist's presence brings in trouble, danger and death – proved through half a century – I immediately decreed that, as were our comrades in Europe, we would be with them to help.

It is not my intention to recall all the details of that which The Salvation Army accomplished both overseas and at home. You are familiar with the facts. It is well, however, to record simply two or three of the outstanding difficulties with which we were met at the inception of this special work.

Big things almost invariably are accompanied by big difficulties, and it was so in this case, for we had no easy task to prepare for the exceptional demands. The monetary obstacles were tremendous. We hesitated to attempt the raising of the first \$25,000 imperatively necessary to our earliest activities. In fact, we soon proved that at that time it could not be done, and we were forced to go to the banks for a loan. We quickly found that this sum was a mere nothing, and that we should require at least \$100,000 to make anything like a beginning. In reply to my appeal



to the General he gladly and generously loaned us this amount, which we were able to pay back within twelve months.

Finally, we appealed to the public for \$1,000,000 and received a most generous four-fold response, the Western portion of this contribution being even greater in proportion to the fine liberality of the East.

Governmental recognition was also

ANOTHER SERIOUS PROBLEM.

From the President down, in a personal sense, all seemed to highly esteem The Salvation Army for its work's sake. They admired the objects of the movement and greatly esteemed its spirit, but there was a certain official hesitancy about allowing us to function in a quasi-governmental fashion. This recognition would put the official brand upon us, and that of course was too precious to be imperiled by any hazard of inefficiency on the part of an organization of well-meaning religious enthusiasts. Were we competent? Was the all-important question, and because of the boundless confidence that filled our hearts, we were glad to submit to all the needed observation. You all know that recognition duly came, and it has been our constant privilege to so labor as to merit the flood of commendation that has poured in upon us from the highest official quarters. Nothing has been more gratifying unless it be the unbroken note of praise and gratitude that has come from the men with and for whom we toiled.

The personnel of our working force constituted another great difficulty. Who was available and who could measure up to the conditions? The restrictions relative to age, ancestry, name, health, teeth, etc., were almost countless. But, with it all, we were able to gradually increase our overseas forces, and under the heroic and capable leadership of Lieut.-Colonel Barker, who demonstrated from the beginning to the end unswerving energy and unabating enterprise, our people served a righteous cause, their God and their country, in a manner which surprised Governmental officials, military officers and others, and won for our Flag an affection and confidence of which we never dreamed. They did their work nobly. They endured like good soldiers. They served with an ability that was truly meritorious, and, amid perils of the battlefield, they

UPHELD THEIR RELIGION



At all times, and in shell-torn church and in dugout they lifted up the Cross and preached Christ and Him crucified.

The influence of their devoted and uplifting service has served to strike with admiring wonder the whole world.

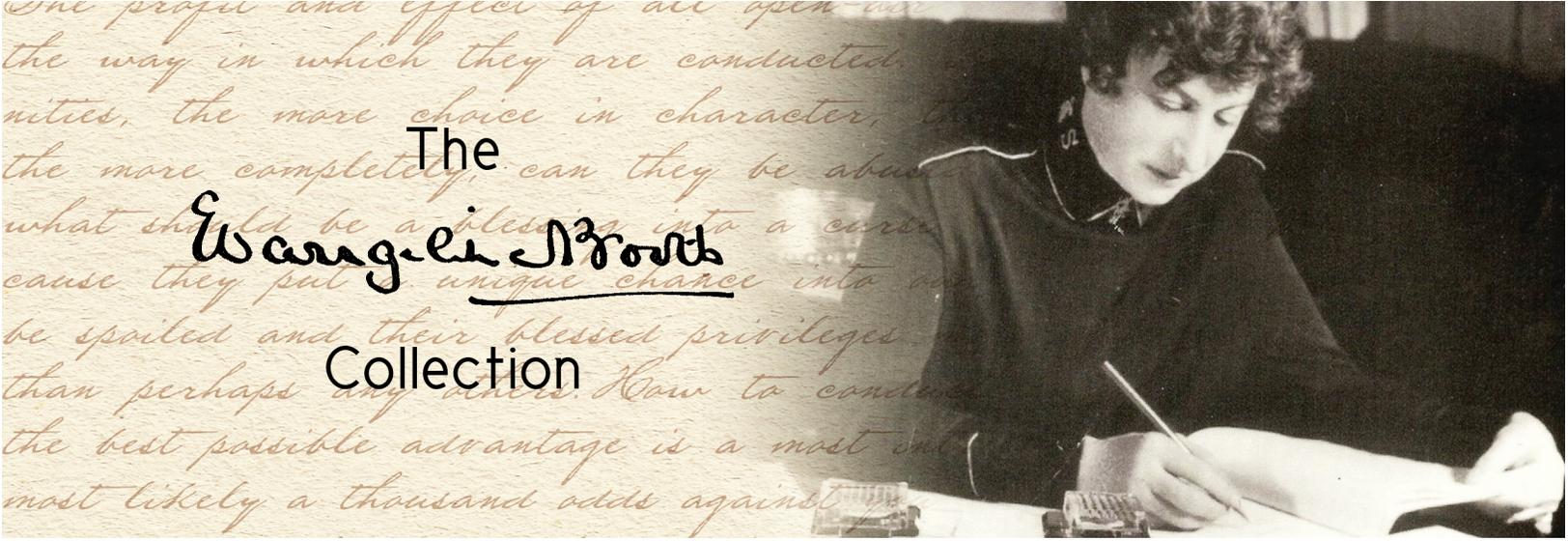
I question if any of us at this time can sufficiently measure or duly appreciate the far-reaching importance and benefits which this devotion, faithfulness, sacrifice and service of our splendid men and women, who served with equal devotion and sacrifice at home, brought to The Army. From the farthest lands – India, Korea, China, Japan, - letters have reached my desk, saying that America's service in the war has made it easier for them in their far-distant fields.

The great world-war was the occasion of the discovery of The Salvation Army to multitudes of our fellow citizens. At most they had known us in a very superficial way. The bravery of our people, their disinterested service, their absolute devotion to an ideal, and their worthy intelligence in an hour of need and crisis was all a closed book to very many until the spotlight of the war revealed it all.

It was evident that these surprised and admiring multitudes would gladly express their appreciation if but given an ordered and intelligent opportunity to do so, and in what better way could this be done than by contributing to the equipment and the efficiency of the movement which so many by the awful accident of war had been brought to esteem? So it was that, under the inspiration and guidance of God, I was able to arrange for and organize

THE HOME SERVICE FUND.

This conception and enterprise was the boldest that has happened in our history, but I clearly saw that one of our deepest needs would be met if a revolution could be brought about in the method of financing the work. The old way had served well, but under it there was little hope of ever ridding ourselves of the sense of extreme burden. To wipe away our crippling debts, to liquidate our long-standing mortgages, to lighten the incessant load that took such constant and exacting toil to pull, required a radical change. So in conference with Commissioner Estill, together with my Chief Secretary and my Provincial Officers decided upon a program the success



of which has reflected immeasurable credit upon the great giving public in this land and at once astounded the whole Salvation Army world.

We are not far removed as yet from the date of that great effort, but its beneficent results are already being seen on every side. New properties and superior equipment are springing up everywhere, but the finest result is found in the freeing of a great force of good men and women for the doing of direct salvation work, the preaching of the glorious Gospel and the multifarious duties that daily fall to the lot – and never more so than now – to my loyal and devoted officers. That this system will be followed each year is my firm purpose, as it has the support of the people and the blessing of God, and I give it as my unwavering conviction that it will double the practical efficiency of The Army.

There is only one thing for which we live for as an organization, namely the salvation of men. Whatever will contribute toward that end must be fostered, and I have recently inaugurated a great campaign with the avowed purpose of gaining 100 percent in several branches and phases of our work. Already the news of most gratifying results is being wired to me from every part of the states, and I now look joyfully toward the coming of our beloved General, to give a great and glorious impetus to this soul-saving and soldier-making campaign.

This is but a brief review – a very imperfect review in its detail – for it would be quite impracticable to treat exhaustively a subject so vast through the columns of the War Cry, but I cannot close without again acknowledging with profound thankfulness the great goodness of God, who has led us all the way. It is His work, and we are His people, and without Him we can do nothing, but with Him we march on into the New Year, assured that the wonders of the past shall be succeeded by still greater wonders, and the greatest wonder of all shall be the full revelation of His saving power at work in our midst, and I now call upon all to join me in unceasing prayer that it may be so.