

‘What a pillar of strength a woman can be to a man’

12 September 1914

It's a woman's job to make heroes of men, but have you thought that it's also possible for women to make cowards of men?

That must be our new motto when our boy looks up to us with a new light in his eyes, and says, 'Mother, don't persuade me not to do my duty.'

We are gripped with a nameless dread. We have read of our men who faced the steel and fire for hours, for our sake, and the boy, our boy, the light of our home, has felt the call, and up to now the others have borne the brunt.

But suppose if every mother whispered with white lips: 'No, not my boy, there are crowds of men still, without him, who would fill that gap in the line.' My dears, if he feels the call, LET HIM GO.'

10 October 1914



"Sob letters"... from mothers and wives who write to their men telling them how they miss them, and pouring out torrents of terrified talk as to their fears for them, and describing their own woe at being left in solitude... The officer says that such letters 'break a man all up, so that he's no good for hours after he gets them.'

These are not the kind of letters any woman of grit and sense should write. She knows that depression is a bad thing to fight on, and when she writes, as she often does write, with a breaking heart, she hides the fact, and constrains herself to write cheerfully and courageously. She heartens up her man for all she is worth, tells him nothing of what she really feels, but everything of what she hopes.'

15 December 1917



'When baby says, 'When will Daddy come, Mummy?' the very questions strikes a chill through our hearts. But we must stifle that feeling, and tell the story of how he is defending all that is dear to him... We must keep the flag flying, and stamp down depression. We help our men so much by this.'

12 September 1914

‘We women of England must never display the ‘white feather’ any more than our men.’

Your Editress, 3 October 1914



‘The very word friendship has, since our declaration of war, gained fuller meaning’

5 September 1914

'This is the time we women must be good to each other. A word of sympathy will be a splendid help to us now, and if we can pour out our soul to someone who will readily understand, why, the burden will be twice as easy to bear.'

12 September 1914

'Give our time and energy and thoughts to the task of bringing smiles to the lips of some sister who is battling her way through the storm and stress of bitter bereavement.'

Your Editress, 17 October 1914