

Home Lads Home

The original words to "Home Lads Home" were written by Cicely Fox Smith during the First World War and first published in 1916. Sarah Morgan found a modified version of the poem in 'This England' magazine in 1984, adapted it, and wrote a tune.

The River Meon and the village of Swanmore are situated in the beautiful landscape of the South Downs, in the county of Hampshire just north-east of Portsmouth, England. Not in Roud.

Overseas in Flanders the sun was dropping low
With tramp of feet and jingle I heard the gun-teams go
But something seemed to set me a dreaming as I lay
Of my old Hampshire village at the quiet end of day

Chorus 1

*And it's home lads home, all among the corn and clover
Home lads home, when the working day is over
There'll be rest for horse and man when the longest day is done
And we'll all go home together at the setting of the sun*

Brown thatch and gardens blooming, with lily and with rose
The Meon flowing past them so quiet as it goes
White fields of oats and barley and the elderflower like foam
And the sky all gold at sunset and the horses going home

Oh Captain, Boxer, Traveler, I see them all so plain
With tasseled earflaps nodding all along the leafy lane
Somewhere a bird is calling and the swallows flying low
And the lads all sitting sideways and singing as they go

Well gone is many a lad now and many a horse gone too
All those lads and horses from those old fields I knew
For Dick fell at Givenchy, and Prince beside the guns
On that long red road to glory a mile or two from Mons

<more>

Dead lads and shadowy horses, I see them all so plain
I see them and I know them and I call them each by name
Riding down through Swanmore when all the West's a-glow
And the lads all sitting sideways and singing as they go

Chorus 1 <quietly and in unison>

Final Chorus <quietly and with gentle harmony>

*And it's home lads home, with the sunset on their faces
Home lads home to those quiet happy places
There'll be rest for horse and man when the longest day is done
And we'll all go home together at the setting of the sun*

