

## 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-west of Portsmouth, England.*

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 swallow 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 gun  
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

Final Chorus

*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*

*<Repeat Chorus 1, quietly and in unison>*