# LETTERS FROM AN AMERICAN SOLDIER TO HIS FATHER

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Letters from an American Soldier to His Father by Curtis Wheeler

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### **CURTIS WHEELER**

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CURTIS WHEELER Second Lieutenant, Field Artillery, U. S. R.

# AN AMERICAN SOLDIER TO HIS FATHER

By

# CURTIS WHEELER Second Lieutenant of Field Artiflery, U S. R.

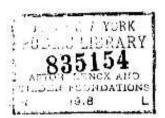
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### PREFATORY NOTE

These letters were written with no thought in the mind of the writer of their being published. The personal note is obvious in them and no attempt has been made to edit it out. The editing, in fact, has been of the slightest. About all that has been done is to give initials in place of names where persons are mentioned by name, to give a heading to each letter, and to eliminate here and there a personal reference that would be blind to the reader. Otherwise the letters are just as written-the fresh, spontaneous, unconstrained narrative of personal experiences that link themselves up closely to a million American homes from which boys have gone to prepare themselves for similar experiences.

Lieutenant Wheeler was one of the contingent selected from the first Plattsburg camp to be sent abroad for three months' study, close up, of modern warfare. Prior to his Plattsburg experience he had spent four

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#### PREFATORY NOTE

months on the Texas border in Battery C of the First Illinois Field Artillery. Before that, while a student at Yale (class of 1911), he had joined a troop of cavalry then in training in New Haven, maintaining his connection with it for two years while still pursuing his academic course.

It is hard at times for parents whose boys are called to the service of their country to view the situation through the eyes of the boys themselves. These letters may help them to do so. They are so full of the joy of life, the spirit of high adventure, so blithe and buoyant, that their gaiety becomes infectious, and one is inevitably reminded of Wordsworth's oft-quoted lines:

"Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,
But to be young was very Heaven."
E. J. W.

#### MEMORANDUM

# ON THE LETTERS OF LIEUTENANT CURTIS WHEELER

As the officer in charge of the Press Division, A. E. F., which reviews all matter about the A. E. F. intended for publication, I have read the letters, fourteen in all, with the liveliest interest and appreciation. They form a message of spirit and cheer from France which should be of genuine service. Of course, the author will have to comply with the regulations about officers writing for publication which have been issued by the War Department.

FREDERICK PALMER,

Chief of Press Division, I. S. G. S., A. E. F. February 10, 1918.