

**A WAR MINISTER AND HIS
WORK: REMINISCENCES
OF 1914-1918**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649131099

A war minister and his work: reminiscences of 1914-1918 by Hermann Christlieb Matthäus von Stein

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

HERMANN CHRISTLIEB MATTHÄUS VON STEIN

**A WAR MINISTER AND HIS
WORK: REMINISCENCES
OF 1914-1918**

A WAR MINISTER
AND
HIS WORK



v. Stein

45768



A WAR MINISTER AND HIS WORK

Reminiscences
S

REMINISCENCES OF 1914-1918

BY
GENERAL VON STEIN
LATE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL
AND WAR MINISTER (1916-1918)



LONDON
SKEFFINGTON & SON, LTD.,
34, SOUTHAMPTON ST., STRAND, W.C.2.

- 1920



DEDICATED
TO MY COMPANIONS AT THE FRONT
AND
MY COLLEAGUES AT HOME

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

HOMELESS

	PAGE
The Beginning—To Berlin—My Appointment as War Minister—Reflections on the Housing Situation at the End of the War - - - - -	13

CHAPTER II

PERSONALITIES

FIELD-MARSHAL COUNT VON MOLTKE.

The Laws of War—My Knowledge of Moltke's Plans during my Term as Chief of the Operations Department—Moltke's Principles—Moltke not a Soldier by Temperament—Moltke and the Kaiser - - -	20
---	----

FIELD-MARSHAL COUNT WALDERSEE.

Waldersee as Chief of the General Staff—His Plan of Operations Against France—His Views on the Training of the Officers—His Attitude to Politics - - -	33
--	----

FIELD-MARSHAL COUNT VON SCHLIEFFEN.

My Acquaintance with Count von Schlieffen—His Reputation for Taciturnity—His Development of the System of General Staff Rides—His Work for the <i>Kriegsacademie</i> —His Preparations for the War—The Development of Heavy Artillery—Not a Fighting Temperament—A Hard Worker - - -	39
--	----

GENERAL VON MOLTKE.

My Term as Chief of a Section under Him—I am Appointed Deputy Chief of Staff to Him and take the Field with Him as Quartermaster-General at the Beginning of the War—He Continues the Methods and Traditions of His Predecessor—The Kaiser and Liège—He is taken Ill during the Battle of the Marne—His Sudden Death—His Achievements are not to be Measured by Results - - - - -	52
---	----

CHAPTER III

MILITARY PREPARATIONS FOR WAR AND POLITICS

The Relations between Politics and Military Plans—The Attitude of our Prospective Enemies—The Opening of the War and our Plan of Operations—The March Through Belgium—The Question of Right - - -	58
---	----

CHAPTER IV

MOBILISATION

My Command of a Division in East Prussia—The Impossibility of a Secret Mobilisation—Confusion at Deutsch-Eylau—My Appointment as Quartermaster-General—I go to Berlin—I report to von Moltke—Moltke's Opinion of the Situation—THE CONCENTRATION—In the West—The Capture of Liège - - - -	65
---	----

CHAPTER V

WAR DAYS

Ludendorff and Liège—Headquarters Transferred to Coblenz—The Recall of Hindenburg and Appointment of Ludendorff—The Movements in the West—Headquarters Transferred to Luxemburg—Daring Requisitions—The Failure at the Marne—I Visit the Armies—A Visit to Rheims—"You Have Been	
--	--

CONTENTS

ix

PAGE

CHAPTER V.—*Continued.*

Sacrificed for Me !"—I am Appointed to the Command of the XIV. Reserve Corps—From Lorraine to Cambrai—Fighting in the North—On the Somme—Trench Warfare Begins—My Headquarters at Martinpuich—Our Relations with the Civilian Population—Pleasant Memories—A Visit from the Kaiser—Trench-digging—A Shortage of Ammunition—In the Front Lines—The Monument in Bapaume Cemetery—Bapaume—Air Heroes—The English Offensive on the Somme - 74

CHAPTER VI

THE WAR MINISTRY

My Unfamiliarity with the Ways of the War Ministry—An Awkward Building—The Routine—The Creation of an Aviation Department—The Administration Department—The Billeting Department—The Medical Department—The General War Department—The Ammunition Shortage—Anxieties—The Powder Question—Man-Power—Measures to Meet the Crisis—The Central Department—The War Bureau—Its Popularity with the Reichstag—Special Legislation and the Censorship—The War Press Office—The Question of an Imperial War Ministry—Relations with the Reichstag - - - - - 110

CHAPTER VII

THE REICHSTAG

Tales of the Reichstag—The Demands it made on my Time—My Work on the Auxiliary Service Law—Its Evil Effects on the Troops—The Reichstag and the Auxiliary Service Law—The Reichstag and the Prussian Franchise—The Reichstag Resolution of July, 1917—Its Effects at the Front—The Longing for Peace—The Reichstag lacked Political Instinct for Questions of Peace and War—Hardships and