

**FIRST LESSONS IN SPOKEN  
FRENCH FOR MEN IN  
MILITARY SERVICE**

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First Lessons in Spoken French for Men in Military Service by Ernest H. Wilkins & Algernon Coleman & Howard R. Huse

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**ERNEST H. WILKINS & ALGERNON COLEMAN & HOWARD R. HUSE**

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HOWARD R. HUSE



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## PREFACE

The purpose of this book is to help men in American military service (1) to understand what may be said to them in French; (2) to make themselves understood in French; (3) to understand printed French.

The facts and words of French are presented consistently in terms of sound, just as they will chiefly present themselves in France. French spelling is not directly studied until the latter part of the course is reached.

For the representation of the French sounds we have used a set of phonetic symbols for which we claim at least the merit of simplicity. It coincides to a considerable degree with the set used in Grandgent's *Short French Grammar*. We have deliberately ignored certain differentiations in sound which are commonly taught, and which should be taught under normal circumstances. We use but one symbol, [a], for the two varieties of the French *a*-sound; we use but one symbol, [ɛ], for the two *eu*-sounds and the feminine *e*; and we use [ü] for the semi-vowel as well as for the vowel. We say that certain French sounds are "like" certain English sounds, though aware of the considerable differences that actually exist. We believe that scholarly accuracy in these matters would serve rather to confuse than to help the men for whom the book is intended. The slight inaccuracy in speech that may result may be largely and naturally corrected in the imitation of particular words as uttered by instructors or French associates.

In the statements of grammatical fact the teacher will note similar omissions and simplifications, which have

seemed to us imperative in view of our special purpose. This book is not intended to take the place of a grammar; it is indeed to be desired that the student, after finishing this book, should study one of the simpler regular French grammars.

The words chosen for the Word-Lists have been selected with reference to the particular needs of men in the service.

The Exercises are intended rather as suggestions for practice, to be expanded by the instructor, than as exercises complete in themselves.

The writers will gladly consider any suggestions for alteration and improvement that may come to them from users of the book.

Royalties will be devoted to the Army work of the Y.M.C.A.

E. H. WILKINS

A. COLEMAN

H. R. HUSE

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