

**SHORT RATIONS: AN
AMERICAN WOMAN IN
GERMANY, 1915 ... 1916**

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Short Rations: An American Woman in Germany, 1915 ... 1916 by Madeleine Zabriskie Doty

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MADELEINE ZABRISKIE DOTY

**SHORT RATIONS: AN
AMERICAN WOMAN IN
GERMANY, 1915 ... 1916**



A German Mother, Who Has Given Her Seven Sons to the War. She and Her Three Grandchildren Were Trying to Live on Potatoes—all They Had.



SHORT RATIONS

AN AMERICAN WOMAN IN
GERMANY, 1915 . . . 1916

BY
MADELEINE ZABRISKIE DOTY
AUTHOR OF "SOCIETY'S MISFITS"

*ILLUSTRATED WITH
PHOTOGRAPHS*



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SHORT RATIONS



TO
MY FATHER
WHO NEVER HELD ME BACK
BUT EVER ENCOURAGED
ME IN MY ADVENTURES



PREFACE

This book is a journal of my experiences in warring Europe. I have tried to set down simply and honestly what I saw. It is the story of what happens at home when men go to war. It has been difficult to find a title that would cover such a range. But everywhere I traveled one fact obtruded itself. When the battle rages all forces are concentrated on destroying; man has no time to create. The doctrine of social welfare is temporarily extinguished. No thought can be given to the hungry, to the convict, to social evils, to education, to understanding the heart of a child.

These divine causes are pushed aside. The country goes spiritually, as well as materially, bankrupt. There is a shortage all along the line. It is in this sense that I use the title "Short Rations."

While the men at the front slaughter one another, at home the mothers and children, the sick, the aged, the prisoners, are starved spiritually, intellectually, and physically. Life be-

comes a fight for existence, a struggle for one's self and not for humanity.

Through infinite suffering man has broken away from the old ideal which was "Concentrate on self and be a great person." He has come to see that a truer and finer ideal is "Forget self and give to humanity." Nations must learn this truth also; not my country first, what can it grab, but what can it give. When that idealism is accepted, wars will cease. "Love thy neighbor as thyself." It is an old doctrine, new only when applied by one nation to another.

And to that nation which has sinned most, as to the greatest criminal, must we most freely open our hearts. In each case the need is great; in neither case will punishment avail. Punishment fills both man and nation with hate and vengeance. But love remakes the world. Regeneration comes from within. Let our new faith be: "I dedicate myself, my home, and my country to every other nation; my life, my love, my liberty will I share."