

**DEAR  
FATHERLAND**

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Dear fatherland by Fritz Oswald Bilse

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**FRITZ OSWALD BILSE**

**DEAR  
FATHERLAND**



DEAR FATHERLAND

*BY THE SAME AUTHOR*  
**LIFE IN A GARRISON TOWN**

With a Preface written by the  
Author whilst in London, and an  
Introduction by Arnold White,  
and a Portrait.

# DEAR FATHERLAND

By  
EX-LIEUTENANT BILSE

JOHN LANE THE BODLEY HEAD  
LONDON AND NEW YORK MDCCCCV

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DEAR FATHERLAND



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# Dear Fatherland.

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## CHAPTER I

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**T**HERE had been a storm in the Koehler family. This was no rare occurrence. Ever since the Major had come to grief, and was left with nothing but a nominal pension and his military title to take with him into civilian life, he had become one of those soured and discontented people who, looking back over the glamour of their career, fondly imagine that the very moment when it has all perforce come to an end, was the beginning of the best time of all; that fate has dealt specially hardly with them, and that they are the only people whom the world's injustice has robbed of their ideals and cheated of their expectations. Such was the old Major. Who, at one time, would have thought of saying to the smart lieutenant, whose love for his gay uniform was deeply rooted in his heart, the favourite of the regiment, the *enfant gâté* of society, the most capable officer on the drilling ground, with all the doors of a soldier's paradise open to him, who would have thought of saying, "This is all vain splendour, a passing dream; you too will soon be treading the well-worn path to the military Tartarus, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth, poor living, hopeless boredom, and nothing but vain regrets; whilst above you hangs, far out of reach, your former heaven, peopled by the despised inferiors who have usurped your place, and are decorated with the honours you had vainly hoped might be yours."