

**ARMY BALLADS
AND OTHER VERSES**

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Army Ballads and Other Verses by Erwin Clarkson Garrett

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ERWIN CLARKSON GARRETT

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BY
ERWIN CLARKSON GARRETT

Author of "My Bunkie and Other Ballads,"
"The Dyak Chief and Other Verses"



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THIS VOLUME, LIKE ITS PREDECESSORS,
IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED
TO MY MOTHER,
AND TO THE MEMORY OF MY FATHER,
CAPTAIN GEORGE L. GARRETT.

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PREFACE

THIS book consists of verses taken from my two previous volumes, "The Dyak Chief and Other Verses" and "My Bunkie and Other Ballads", and fifteen recent poems, not heretofore published in book form. Of these latter, fourteen have been grouped together and form Part II, and the other, an army piece entitled "The Cavalryman," is the first poem in Part I.

The volume as a whole is divided into four parts.

Part I is composed exclusively of American army ballads, based on my personal experiences and observations while serving as a private in Companies L and G, 23rd U. S. Infantry (Regulars) and Troop I, 5th U. S. Cavalry (Regulars), during the Philippine Insurrection of 1899-1902.

For the benefit of the general reader, but especially for the benefit of those who have been good enough to take an interest in the army verses of one or the other of my two previous books, I would like to mention that this volume contains, in Part I, my full and complete collection of army ballads, to date.

Parts II and III consist of poems on various subjects, without any interrelation, and could as readily and consistently have been grouped together except for a possible desirability of keeping separate the newer and the older ones. Consequently I have placed all my new verses, except "The Cavalryman," by themselves to form Part II, and the non-military ones that appeared in "The Dyak Chief and Other Verses" and "My Bunkie and Other Ballads" I have grouped to form Part III.

PREFACE

Part IV consists wholly of the single, long poem, "The Dyak Chief." If one's liver is not strong or one's heart action is imperfect or if one is the unfortunate possessor of a supersensitive astral soul of abnormally ultra-violet susceptibility—they should pause, ponder and procrastinate ere attempting to peruse this final poem. It is the tale of a savage people, far beyond civilization's last outpost, in the heart of central Borneo, and for me to attempt to treat or adorn the subject in a delicate, dilettante manner would be about as logical and apropos as for the manager of the Zoo to use lavender water and talcum powder on the laughing hyena.

In closing this Preface it might be well to quote verbatim from the Preface of "The Dyak Chief and Other Verses:"

"The Dyak Chief is a romance of central Borneo, that I visited in July, 1908, during a little trip around the World.

"Coming over from Java, which I had just finished touring, I arrived at Bandjermasin, in southeastern Borneo, near the coast, and from whence I took a small steamer up the Barito River to Poeroek Tjahoe, corrupted by the white man to 'Poerook Jow,' deep in the interior of the island.

"Poeroek Tjahoe was the last white (Dutch) settlement, and from there I went with three Malay coolies five days tramp on foot through the jungle, northwest, penetrating the very heart of Borneo, sleeping the first three nights in the houses of the Dyaks, some nomadic tribes of whom still roam the jungle as head-hunters, and the last two nights upon improvised platforms out in the open, till I reached Batoe Paoc, a town or kampong in the geographical center of the island.

"I also visited a nearby village, Olong Liko, afterwards returning by the Moeroeng and Barito Rivers to Poeroek

PREFACE

Tjahoe, and from thence back to Bandjermasin on the little river-steamer and then by boat to Singapore, which was the radiating headquarters for my trips to Sumatra, Java, Borneo and Siam.

"Having thus reached the very center of Borneo on foot, I had an excellent opportunity to study the country, the people and the general conditions, so that the reader of 'The Dyak Chief' need feel no hesitancy in accepting as accurate and authentic, all descriptions, details and touches of 'local color' or 'atmosphere' contained in the poem.

"Full notes on 'The Dyak Chief' will be found at the end of the volume. * * * * *

"It is sincerely hoped that the reader will make full use of the notes appended at the back of the book, which addenda I have endeavored to treat with as much brevity as may be compatible with succinctness."

E. C. G.

Philadelphia, March 1, 1916.

