

**THE FIRST SHOT FOR LIBERTY; THE  
STORY OF AN AMERICAN WHO  
WENT OVER WITH THE FIRST  
EXPEDITIONARY FORCE AND SERVED  
HIS COUNTRY AT THE FRONT**

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The first shot for liberty; the story of an American who went over with the first expeditionary force and served his country at the front by Osborne De Varila

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**OSBORNE DE VARILA**

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# THE FIRST SHOT FOR LIBERTY

THE STORY OF AN AMERICAN  
WHO WENT OVER WITH THE  
FIRST EXPEDITIONARY FORCE  
AND SERVED HIS COUNTRY AT  
THE FRONT

By  
CORPORAL OSBORNE DE VARILA  
Battery C, Sixth U. S. Field Artillery,  
Who fired the first shot of the American Army

ILLUSTRATED

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# The First Shot for Liberty

## CHAPTER I

### I JOIN THE COLORS

**S**OME of my buddies have the superstitious belief that destiny picked me to fire the first gun for the United States in the war against the Hun.

Personally, I take very little stock in destiny, fate or any of those things of the occult, around which sentimental, half-baked novelists like to weave impossible yarns.

According to my understanding of the case, I was selected to send Uncle Sam's first shell-message to the Kaiser because I put in many weeks of hard training, and got to know every twist and wrinkle in the disposition and temperament of my French "75."

But, just to give the romantists a little consolation, I will concede that I come of a race of red-headed, freckled-faced fighters, and am proud of it.

My father, Walter de Varila, was a United