

**AN AMERICAN
SOLDIER, LETTERS**

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An American soldier, letters by Edwin Austin Abbey

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EDWIN AUSTIN ABBEY

**AN AMERICAN
SOLDIER, LETTERS**

AN AMERICAN SOLDIER



Edwin Austin Abbey, Lieutenant

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AN
AMERICAN SOLDIER

LETTERS OF
EDWIN AUSTIN ABBEY, 2d



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Published May 1918

~~SECRET~~

“VIMY RIDGE”

*Killed at Vimy Ridge
In the flower of his youth ;
Killed in battle, facing foe—
Oh ! May the world find Truth.*

*Killed at Vimy Ridge
Fighting for a “cause,”
The cause of all Humanity
And God’s all-perfect laws.*

R. B. H.

APRIL 10, 1917

*“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man
lay down his life for his friends.”*

FOREWORD

THE letters are printed, with little or no editing, as they were written from the engineers' shack in the Canadian woods, or from "overseas" in camp, trench, or hospital. There was, of course, no idea in the mind of the writer that they would ever be published. That they are is due to the insistent request of many who have found in them both illumination and inspiration. They tell their own story.

The summer of 1915 was spent in superintending the construction of the bridge at Shaw's Creek, which was completed at the end of September. On October 2d, the writer of the letters enlisted in the Second Canadian Pioneer Battalion, in Toronto, going overseas on December 6th, and arriving at the Flanders Front on the 11th of March, 1916. Early in the morning of April 23d, Easter Day, "Lance Corporal" E. A. Abbey was wounded, and a week later sent to England, where he remained seven months. On December 1st he was returned to France, gazetted Lieutenant, Fourth Canadian Mounted Rifles, and went at once to the front, where he was "killed in action" at Vimy Ridge, on the morning of Easter Tuesday, April 10, 1917.

W. B. A. AND K. E. A.

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE, 1917