

# **TALES FOR THE MARINES**

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Tales for the Marines by Robert Blatchford

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**ROBERT BLATCHFORD**

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"And while we were doing this I found myself thinking of all sorts of things"—THE MOUSETRAP.

# TALES FOR THE MARINES

BY ROBERT BLATCHFORD

AUTHOR OF "TOMMY ATKINS"

"A SON OF THE FORGE" "A

BOHEMIAN GIRL" "JULIE" ETC.

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**DEDICATION**

**OF ALL THE GIRLS THAT ARE SO SMART**

**THERE'S NONE LIKE PRETTY**

**SALLY**





## FOREWORD

A FAVOURITE amusement of soldiers in the barrack-room is story-telling, or, as Tommy Atkins calls it, "spinning cuffers."

The time for telling "cuffers" is after "lights out," when the barrack-room is in darkness and the men are in bed.

The form of procedure is much the same in all regiments. Private Noaks requests Private Stokes to "spin us a cuffer." Stokes calls "Attention!" and then says "Boots!" to which the men reply in chorus, "Spurs!" The "cuffer" then begins, the "spinner" testing the interest and wakefulness of his audience by interjecting the word "Boots!" at such intervals as may seem advisable.

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