

**WAR TIME FRANCE; THE
STORY OF AN AMERICAN
COMMISSION ABROAD**

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War time France; the story of an American commission abroad by F. R. Stoddard

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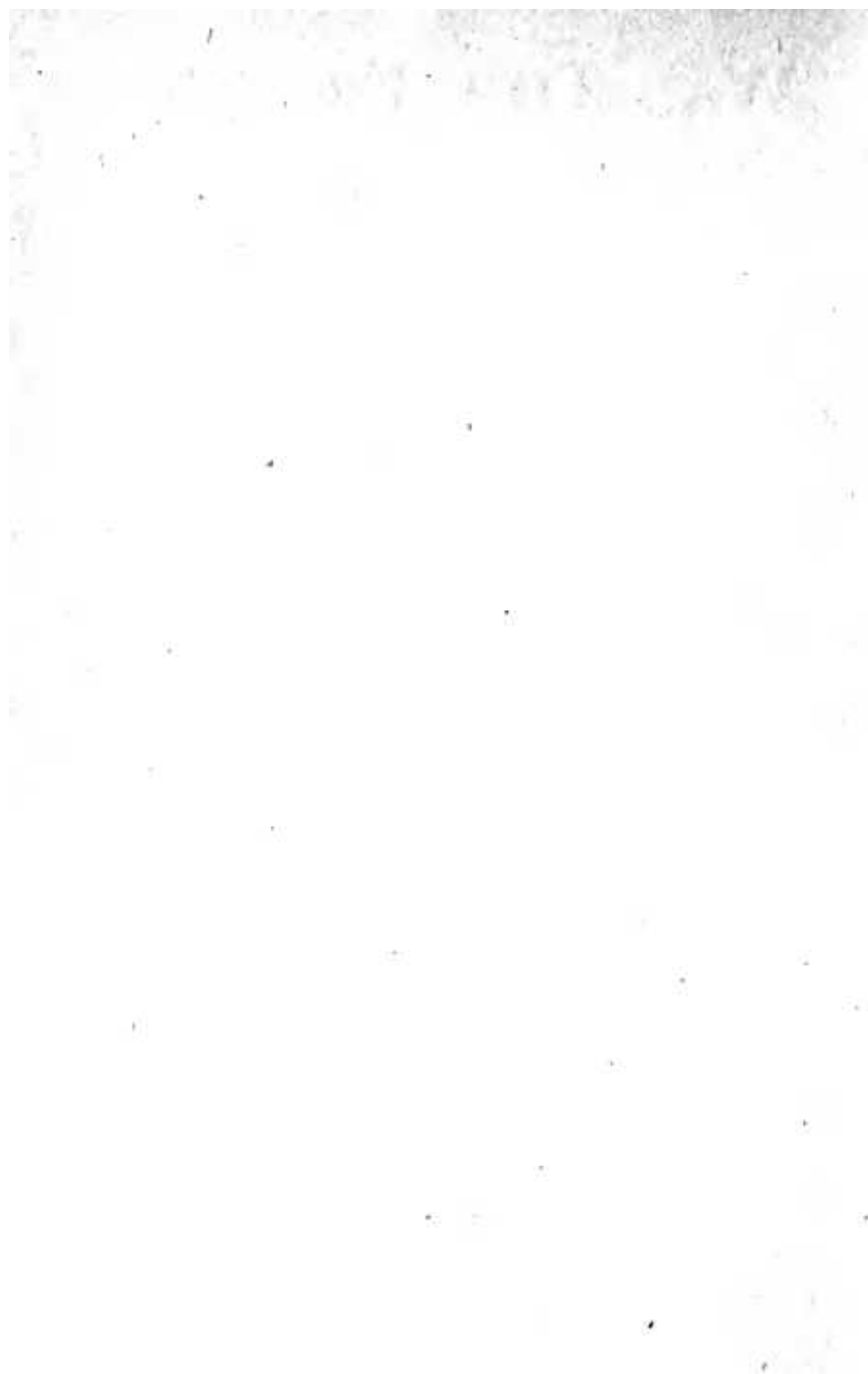
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WAR TIME FRANCE

THE STORY OF AN AMERICAN
COMMISSION ABROAD

BY
MAJOR F. R. STODDARD, JR.



UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

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1918

DEDICATION

*To my Comrades of the VETERAN CORPS OF ARTILLERY and the
NINTH COAST ARTILLERY CORPS of the NEW YORK GUARD,
with whom have been some of my happiest associations.*

436073

INTRODUCTION

BACK and forth across the Atlantic, ever since the entrance of America into the war, there has been a continuous procession of representative citizens from all the Allied countries, soldiers, statesmen, technical experts, and business men, who are forging the chain of knowledge and understanding which will bind us together in a solid fellowship of efficiency and good-will for many years to come. The following story is the personal narrative of one such commission. It is not in any sense a military report, nor does it touch upon anything which can be regarded as a military secret. It is the intimate, informal story of the adventures and the day by day happenings of an American Commission abroad.

This Commission is, to the best of my belief, unique in the annals of the Militia of the United States. It is the only time that a Board of Officers belonging to a militia organ-

ization has been sent with credentials from the Federal government to obtain important military information.

The adventures of the Commission were many. Captain Wilder was gassed on the Aisne front at Chemin des Dames, the first man in the uniform of an American officer to receive that unpleasant distinction. The report presented by Major Stoddard to the Government of the United States on behalf of the Commission has been the principal document on the subject in the possession of the War Department. The services of Lieutenant Cabot Ward were of such value that he was persuaded to remain in France and was made a Lieutenant-Colonel in the National Army.

As the Commanding Officer of the Ninth Coast Artillery, N. Y. G., I feel particular satisfaction writing this introduction, and take this occasion to say a few words about the circumstances which led to the sending of this unusual mission and about the regiment which accomplished such results.

What would happen if, in some ingenious way, Germany should succeed in sending a fleet of aircraft to bombard our seacoast cities? We sincerely hope that no such event will ever