

**FRANCE BEARS  
THE BURDEN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649587858

France Bears the Burden by Granville Fortescue

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**GRANVILLE FORTESCUE**

**FRANCE BEARS  
THE BURDEN**





*Underwood and Underwood.*

*Frontispiece*

**THE TRENCH SENTINEL**

Ever-watchful guardians upon whom the safety of  
France depends.

# FRANCE BEARS THE BURDEN

BY  
GRANVILLE FORTESCUE  
Author of "At the Front With Three Armies,"  
"Russia, the Balkans and the Dardanelles,"  
"Fore Armed," etc., etc., etc.

New York  
THE MACMILLAN COMPANY  
1917

*All rights reserved*

OT-2-52-500

TO  
MY MOTHER  
WHO LOVED FRANCE

Author B. J. 5-12-36

354557

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14



## FOREWORD

LETTER FROM HIS EXCELLENCY,  
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF FRANCE,  
M. ANDRÉ TARDIEU

My dear Major Fortescue:

That which, in my opinion, gives special value to your book on France in war time, is that you have not been content only to gather therein the excellent articles sent by you from Paris and the Front to the *Washington Post*, but you also, from your observations and experiences, develop a picture of the whole subject. Yours is the work of the historian.

To your vivid and accurate articles, to your accounts of the fighting on the Somme, at Verdun, in the Argonne, you have added a methodical delineation, exact and instructive, of the organization and practice of war as developed in France during three years.

Systems of transport, artillery with its new method of firing, *liaison*, aviation, new tactics, new

arms, as well as the co-operation of the different branches in defence and attack, are actually described by you in their functioning as "the business of war"—the gigantic war enterprise of today—and you recognize in this new war machine and these new tactics, a new work of the spirit of the French people. Another proof, the most eloquent perhaps, of the creative genius and adaptability of our democracy and our race.

With sympathetic understanding and friendliness, on the other hand, you have known how to show the inner side of this organization for war, to express those moral and spiritual forces which explain the efficacy of this technical work.

If, to use your own words, the French army has "saved the world from the domination of Germany and despotism," it is, to again quote you, because our army "has been the soul of the nation"; because it has been without peer, the army of democracy and liberty, the army of citizen-soldiers. For this reason, if I may avail myself once more of your strong words "the French who hate war, are the finest soldiers in the world."

Do not say, however, that "the soul of France today was born at the battle of the Marne." The

battle of the Marne was for nation, only the occasion of a new awakening under trial. If the battle of the Marne has been won, if the invasion of the German hordes has been stopped, it is because that soul pre-existed, because it was present, entire, in the breast of every French soldier, and, because in defending our soil and our existence, every soldier knew that he defended at the same time, the cause of democracy and liberty throughout the world. Here again, is the reason why, through three years of struggle, behind the armies and the front, the steadfastness and spirit of sacrifice of the whole nation has never wavered.

You have happily explained how this identity of our national spirit and democracy is reflected in the special discipline of the French army, an army of a free people under a discipline of intelligence, a discipline, fair, humane, and fraternal.

This you have seen in France. All those Americans who have seen what you have seen with us, are thus convinced of the absolute agreement of minds and aims which the participation by the American democracy in the war reveals and will reveal between your nation and our nation, between your army and our army.