

**A YANKEE IN  
THE TRENCHES**

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A Yankee in the trenches by R. Derby Holmes

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**R. DERBY HOLMES**

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THE TRENCHES**



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CORPORAL HOLMES IN THE UNIFORM OF THE 22ND LONDON  
BATTALION, QUEEN'S ROYAL WEST SURREY REGIMENT,  
H. M. IMPERIAL ARMY. *Frontispiece.*

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# A YANKEE IN THE TRENCHES



BY

R. DERBY HOLMES

CORPORAL OF THE 22D LONDON BATTALION OF THE  
QUEEN'S ROYAL WEST SURREY REGIMENT

*ILLUSTRATED FROM PHOTOGRAPHS*



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### **Dedication**

TO MARION A. PUTTEE, SOUTHALL, MIDDLESEX, ENGLAND, I DEDICATE THIS BOOK AS A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION FOR ALL THE LOVING THOUGHTS AND DEEDS BESTOWED UPON ME WHEN I WAS A STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND



## FOREWORD

I HAVE tried as an American in writing this book to give the public a complete view of the trenches and life on the Western Front as it appeared to me, and also my impression of conditions and men as I found them. It has been a pleasure to write it, and now that I have finished I am genuinely sorry that I cannot go further. On the lecture tour I find that people ask me questions, and I have tried in this book to give in detail many things about the quieter side of war that to an audience would seem too tame. I feel that the public want to know how the soldiers live when not in the trenches, for all the time out there is not spent in killing and carnage. As in the case of all men in the trenches, I heard things and stories that especially impressed me, so I have written them as hearsay, not taking to myself credit as their originator. I trust that the reader will find as much joy in the cockney character as I did