

**A MILITARY PRIMER, INCLUDING AN OUTLINE
OF THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
MILITARY PROFESSION
AND AN ELEMENTARY DISCUSSION OF THE
PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF THE SERVICE OF
SECURITY AND INFORMATION**

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A military primer, including an outline of the duties and responsibilities of the military profession and an elementary discussion of the principles and practice of the service of security and information by Francis C. Marshall & George S. Simonds

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FRANCIS C. MARSHALL & GEORGE S. SIMONDS

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A MILITARY PRIMER

INCLUDING

An Outline of the Duties and Responsibilities
of the Military Profession

AND

An Elementary Discussion of the Principles
and Practice of the Service of
Security and Information

FOURTH EDITION — Revised

By
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and
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PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION.

This book is in no sense a textbook for advanced students of military science, but a book for the beginner, designed to teach the cadets of the Military Academy, at the very beginning of their military education, the objects of the profession for which they are preparing themselves, to show them the reason for the discipline to which they are subjected, and to define some of the independent duties of subaltern officers, in time of war in connection with the service of security and information.

In this service they must be trained, first, by thorough theoretical study of the general principles involved, and then by such practical applications of those principles as can be made when the enemy is imaginary, and all danger, save that of criticism, is absent.

Whether an officer so trained will prove valuable under the conditions attending actual hostilities, will always remain more or less of a problem, until tested by those conditions; but it can be asserted positively that in the present state of the military profession, no one can hope to really succeed, as an officer, who does not combine courage and loyalty with a thorough knowledge of the principles of strategy and tactics that can only come from exhaustive study.

The game of chess is the most complex game that is played with inanimate tools. The game of war possesses all the intricacies of chess, with the infinite added tangles caused by having the chess-men equipped with human minds, moved by the will, and not by the hand, of the master player, and by having the smooth squares of the chessboard replaced by the ever changing terrain of the theater of operations, where the weather often conspires with the enemy to change, and often to defeat, the most carefully laid plans.

An appreciation of the difficulties of his profession should make clear to the military student that he should hasten to prepare himself for its duties, for there will be no time to do so when war is declared.

West Point, New York, January 1, 1907.

PREFACE TO THIRD EDITION.

The United States is geographically isolated from the other great powers of the world. In Europe, Germany, Russia, France, Austria, Italy, and the Balkan States, maintain at all times enormous armies, trained and equipped in instant readiness for war. The British Empire relies mainly on a very large naval establishment for its home protection. In Asia, Japan is the only nation that maintains a modern military and naval force. The necessity for this comes from the fact that both Russia and Japan include, in their policies of expansion, the occupation of Korea and Manchuria. One great war, fought in 1904, between these two nations, resulted favorably for Japan. Her sovereignty has since extended completely over Korea, and her influence in the political and commercial affairs of Manchuria is very great. These advantages can, however, be held only by military superiority, and Japan must maintain a large army and navy in a state of high efficiency to keep what she has fought for.

The United States, set between two great oceans, and separated from her only two neighbors on the American continent, Canada and Mexico by natural boundaries at all points where the density of population is enough to require any boundaries at all, has no such need for excessive protection as influences Japan or the European States.

The policy of the government of the United States is announced in the Constitution as opposed to large standing armies. Acting on this policy, the Congress of the United States has built up a military system based on a small Regular Army, with a first reserve of National Guard troops, organized by the governments of the several States, and supported, partly by the States, and partly by the United States.

The program of field instruction of these troops culminates in maneuver exercises held from time to time in various parts of the country. The forces engaged in these maneuvers are usually very small. This book is intended to illustrate the application of the Field Service Regulations to these small forces, during the period of the maneuver exercises that precedes actual contact.

The problems discussed are little more than map-reading problems, and if, when the student has completed the book, he can read the maps readily, and, at the same time he has learned the relations the various covering detachments bear to the larger forces they protect, the purpose of the book will be accomplished.

The art of war is no less an art than the art of painting. Neither can be reduced to rule, or learned from formulas. But the student of the art of painting must first learn to hold his brush and to mix his colors. So the student of the art of war must learn to read his maps, and the meaning of his vocabulary before he can progress in the knowledge of the art.

The first and second editions of this book were designed for the use of the Cadets at the U. S. Military Academy. This edition is made with a view of meeting the particular needs of the students in other military schools and of the officers and non-commissioned officers of the National Guard.

Hartford, Conn., September 1, 1913.