

**WHAT A SOLDIER
SHOULD KNOW. THE
SOLDIER'S CATECHISM**

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What a Soldier Should Know. The Soldier's Catechism by F. C. Bolles & E. C. Jones & J. S. Upham

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F. C. BOLLES & E. C. JONES & J. S. UPHAM

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THE SOLDIER'S CATECHISM

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
MAJOR-GENERAL HUGH L. SCOTT
Chief of Staff of the U. S. Army

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Introduction

BY MAJOR-GENERAL HUGH L. SCOTT, U. S. A.

The conditions under which modern wars are fought are ever making increasing demands on the individual soldier. The size of armies has increased beyond all previous conception; methods of leadership have been perfected but due to the increased difficulties in the control of men in fire swept areas, this leadership must be carried so far as to be almost automatic after the intention of the leader has been announced, or until a new order is signalled. The individual soldier must know how to interpret accurately orders and signals, for the enemy's fire may often so isolate him from his leader and comrades, perhaps only a step away, that he may be thrown on his own initiative in making his actions conform to those of the whole line; he may have to use his own judgment in opening fire, in advancing, in intrenching; he may have to prepare his own food, to dress his own wound unaided, or assist a wounded comrade.

The officer must be well trained to prepare his command for such a test. In doing so he trains individual soldiers and finally moulds them into an organization, which he handles as a unit or as a combination of units.

This training of the individual, if complete, means the development of discipline and character as well as the physical development of the soldier, training in the care and effective use of the weapons issued, individual sanitation, and the ability to care for one's self in camp, in the field, and in the trenches.

Are we willing to place our sons in such a position untrained, undisciplined, ignorant of how to advance under fire, how to use cover, how to properly use their arms, how to intrench when further advance has been halted, how to stem the flow of blood from a wound which a trained soldier might have avoided? What government wishes to force its untrained youth forward to such a sacrifice? A nation which plans to combat disciplined troops with raw or partially trained levies, must send forward

INTRODUCTION:

an army at least twice that of the enemy; must stand ready to give liberally from its manhood to replace frightful losses, and even then have no guarantee of success.

It is the fundamental duty of the state to provide for its defense; to have sufficient trained men available for the purpose because it is no less than murder for a nation to permit its youth untrained to war in the modern sense to enter battle to-day.

It is likewise the duty of every citizen to fit himself by means of the opportunities which the government should offer, and so be able to render efficient service to the state as a trained soldier in the event of need. For this purpose "The Soldier's Catechism" should be an efficient help.

H. L. SCOTT,
Major-General,
Chief of Staff.

Office of the Chief of Staff,
Washington, D. C.,
May 22, 1916.