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GUNS THAT FOUGHT THE CIVIL WAR

A THESIS

**PRESENTED TO THE GRADUATE FACULTY
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by
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ABSTRACT OF
GUNS THAT FOUGHT THE CIVIL WAR

Guns That Fought The Civil War is a pamphlet designed primarily for the seventh and eighth grade reader. It's general purpose is to provide supplementary material for the Civil War period of their course in American History. Guns were chosen as a topic because of the very great interest shown in them by the average American boy from the age of ten. Every attempt was made to make the pamphlet authentic, legible and interest-provoking to the young reader. Where ever possible the designing, purchasing or use of the various guns described is directly related to the total picture of the Civil War.

The pamphlet begins by identifying the reader with the atmosphere and feelings of the early days of the Civil War. Once his interest is captured, he is introduced to a general resume of weapons that have led up to the subject he is about to pursue. After the evolution of early non-explosive weapons, and the first primitive use of gunpowder as a propelling force, the reader is ready for detailed information concerning Civil War ordnance.

First, the musket is introduced. Then the construction and adaptation of rifles are discussed. The reader learns about some of the men most directly concerned with the purchase of federal arms for the Union troops. He discovers that Lincoln was greatly responsible for the progress that was made in this field. Along with the intro-

ductions of the various new types of guns and cannon are included incidents and character sketches relating to these concerned with their use.

Wherever it seems important to strengthen or clarify the text, illustrations are used. All information is sufficiently detailed to interest any beginner in the field of Civil War shoulder and field arms, yet it is also simply enough presented to make pleasant reading for the more casual researcher.

Men like Lincoln, Ripley, Scott, Dahlgren and Spencer are introduced through the text. Muskets, rifles, breechloaders and repeating rifles are carefully explained and illustrated. Heavy artillery is described and explained, and its use in the field visually presented. Reader identification is brought into use wherever it seems advisable. The entire thought behind writing this pamphlet is to present an interesting, informative study of Civil War ordnance that will serve as supplementary reading for the average twelve or thirteen year old student of American History. Since most boys in the United States are already keenly interested in any phase of guns and munitions, their interest in Civil War history may be quickened and encouraged by identification with an allied subject that, in itself, attracts them.