

SCHOOL HISTORIES CALLED INACCURATE

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Concerning the World War,
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Laughing-Stock.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20.—Lieut. Col. Thomas J. Dickson, who was senior combat chaplain with the American forces in France during the World War, today issued a critique on American school histories, in which he charged that many of them contain gross inaccuracies in dealing with the World War.

"I have read about fifty-two American school histories on file in the Congressional Library," said Colonel Dickson, "also in the Bureau of Education and other places in Washington and vicinity. All have serious errors of omission and commission.

"Some of these school histories are ridiculous, absurd and stupid. Unless our histories are immediately corrected, our pretensions, unwitting or otherwise, doom us to become the laughing-stock of the world."

Colonel Dickson not only served with the Sixth Field Artillery of the First Division, the unit which fired the first American shot in the war, but has since his retirement come to be regarded as one of the army's most competent historians of the great conflict. He is the chaplain who was selected to deliver the homage at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington, and wears all the battle stars of the First Division.

Colonel Dickson's statement, which quotes typical extracts from the school histories to which he takes exception and then comments on their alleged inaccuracies, is in part as follows:

"In 1914 Germany had one of the most powerful navies on earth. Where is it now?

The Fate of the German Navy.

The Student's American History—Montgomery, Ginn & Co. The great German Navy, the Kaiser's pride, was delivered over to the Allies without firing a shot.

"Now that disposes of the German Navy! I understood that the Battle of Jutland, in which forty-four battleships, fourteen cruisers and numerous other war vessels were in action, was one of the greatest sea battles in history. The Moewe and Emden were 'Flying Dutchmen.' The submarines were harmless. Great Britain lost between 700 and 800 ships. The American Navy lost about 10,000 men.