

*I AM THE AMERICAN SOLDIER. For the American people, my family, my fellows, my sons to come—I carry on. Born of explorers, colonists, hunters in deer skins; schooled in the wilderness; fighting for our continent—I carried on for the rights of man. Wherever I was needed, whenever I was called, I stood and delivered. I came through. I was America on the march. And now today here I come again, marching again at the same old job—same old, brand new job—marching again with all free men. I am the ring of steel around Democracy; the ramparts that you sing about; I am the Citizen Soldier; the Nation in Arms. I am the eyes of the cannon, the marching refrain, the brains of the tank, the nerves of the plane, the heart of the shell. I am the Liberty Bell; the salt of our youth. I am the fighting man of every outpost from Alaska to Hawaii to Korea and beyond; from Panama to Puerto Rico to Iceland and beyond. Whatever the need—for the spirit of Liberty, for the future we're making—I, the American Soldier, am the shield.*