## A JEWISH CHAPLAIN IN FRANCE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649255122

A Jewish chaplain in France by Lee J. Levinger

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### THE MACMILLAN COMPANY NEW YORK + BOSTON - CHICAGO - DALLAS ATLANTA - SAN FRANCISCO

MACMILLAN & CO., LINITED LONDON - BOMBAY - CALCUTTA MELBOURNE

THE MACMILLAN CO. OF CANADA, LTD. TORONTO

# A Jewish Chaptain in France

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### WITH A FOREWORD BY

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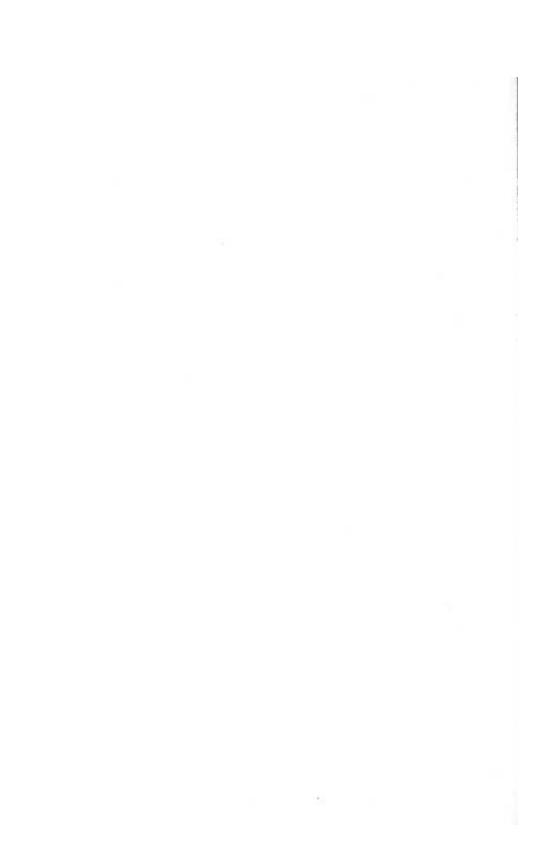
President of Dropsic College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning, Philadelphia

Dew Pork
THE MACMILLAN COMPANY
1921

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Set up and printed. Published October, 1921

TO A GOOD SOLDIER
WHO SENT ME TO FRANCE
AND BROUGHT ME BACK AGAIN—
MY WIFE



### FOREWORD

The tendency to "forget the war" is not admirable. Such an attitude is in effect a negation of thought. The agony which shook mankind for more than four years and whose aftermath will be with us in years to come cannot be forgotten unless the conscience of mankind is dead. Rabbi Levinger's book is the narrative of a man who saw this great tragedy, took a part in it and has thought about it.

In all the wars of the United States Jews participated, increasingly as their numbers grew appreciably. They served both as officers and privates from Colonial days. But not until the World War was a Rabbi appointed a Chaplain in the United States Army or Navy for actual service with the fighting forces. President Lincoln appointed several Jewish ministers of religion as chaplains to visit the wounded in the hospitals, but the tradition of the Army up to the period of the Great War, rendered the appointment of a Rabbi as chaplain impossible. The chaplain had been a regimental officer and was always either a Protestant or a Catholic. The sect was determined by the majority of the regiment. When the United States entered the Great War, this was clearly brought out and it required an Act of Congress to render possible the appointment of chaplains of the faiths not then rep-

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