

**A JEWISH
CHAPLAIN
IN FRANCE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649157969

A Jewish chaplain in France by Rabbi Lee J. Levinger

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THE MACMILLAN CO. OF CANADA, LTD.
TORONTO

A Jewish Chaplain in France

BY

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WITH A FOREWORD BY

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New York

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1922

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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

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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-