

**MARSHAL FOCH,
HIS LIFE, HIS WORK,
HIS FAITH**

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Marshal Foch, his life, his work, his faith by René Puaux & E. Allen

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RENÉ PUAUX & E. ALLEN

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MARSHAL JOFFRE AND MARSHAL FOCH.

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HIS LIFE, HIS WORK, HIS FAITH

BY
RENÉ PUAUX

TRANSLATED BY
E. ALLEN

HODDER AND STOUGHTON

LONDON NEW YORK TORONTO

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

THREE months have passed since I first handed this little book of faith and hope to my publishers. Destiny has fulfilled itself. Victory has smiled on the Allied flags, and in response to the wishes of a grateful people the Government of the Republic have raised General Foch to the dignity of Marshal of France.

I am writing these lines in a village on the banks of the Aisne. German prisoners, taken last night, are pouring in in their hundreds, covered with dust. To-morrow before daybreak we attack again. Will the blow we are going to strike break the last resistance of the enemy, who, but yesterday, was soiling the fair land of Valois? Will it mean a withdrawal to the Ailette, the prelude

12 Preface to Second Edition

of a great retreat to the Meuse, the last act before final defeat? We cannot tell, but our bosom swells with faith in our country. We feel that the clear genius of France, upheld by the heroic effort of her companions in arms—all the free nations of the world—is at last imposing her law on sombre German materialism, and that humanity is saved.

August 19th, 1918.

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

DURING the grave days we are passing through, we must, as we do when our minds are invaded by philosophic or religious doubt, concentrate all our effort on the reasons for faith. We have never doubted and never could have doubted the final issue of the war, for to imagine a victorious Germany would mean making up one's mind to renounce for ever the eternal ideal of humanity. We know not how and when we shall win, but we know that we shall win.

From the day that the German offensive was first launched, and all through the time when the German progress was causing such keen anxiety to so many, and my friends were begging me for words of comfort, for encouraging news,

for an explanation of our operations in the field, I had always but one word to say in reply : FOCH.

By gathering together here the notes I have collected on the supreme head of the allied armies, I believe I shall be doing a service to all those who desire to base their faith on definite proofs.

I hope that my little book, although necessarily incomplete, will be of some value.

I humbly trust that the chief under whose orders I have had the honour of serving will accept this modest token of faithful homage.

May 6th, 1918.