



*Their Gracious Majesties  
King George Sixth & Queen Elizabeth*

# "FACING THE ENEMY"

By W. H. ADAMSON

In one of the daily papers of a certain city several years ago there appeared a letter to the Editor from a man who signed himself "The Sergeant." In it he stated that on the 27th March, 1918, an eminent General of one of the allied armies, whose name he mentioned, made the following statement to the soldiers of his command as they were one day about to enter into an important and dangerous engagement with the opposing forces:

*"Under the orders of your devoted officers in the coming battle you will advance or fall where you stand, facing the enemy. To those who will fall I say, 'You will not die, but step into immortality. Your mothers will be proud to have borne such sons. Your names will be revered for ever and ever by your grateful country, and GOD WILL TAKE YOU UNTO HIMSELF'."*

\* \* \* \*

As war has again been declared by Great Britain against Germany, thousands of young men will be enlisting for military duty at the call of their country; and it were well that in doing so they should be fully prepared for whatever the consequences might be.

The commanding officer to whom "The Sergeant" refers in his letter was himself a striking figure, intellectually brilliant and with an outstanding reputation as a valiant soldier, but who some years after the close of the war in 1918, passed away, deeply mourned not only by his former comrades in arms, but also by the community at large.

It is a matter of record that this General was

thoroughly familiar with the tactics and strategy of modern warfare, and through his knowledge and bravery achieved more than one notable victory with the force under his command; but in giving his final word to the men on the eve of the conflict, when he pointed out that death on the battlefield would be the stepping-stone into immortality and win a welcome into the presence of God, the General showed a regrettable lack of familiarity with the clear statements of Scripture.

Lest any similar misleading assurance should be given in the present conflict, either by a commanding officer, a chaplain, or any other person, we desire to point out on the authority of God's Word that however lofty or noble the cause for which one might be willing to give his life, either on the battle field or on the mission field, such a death would never secure to him an entrance into God's presence, for the Lord's own words are: "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

The portals of Heaven do not swing open to a dying soldier simply at the instance of an enemy's bullet, or even because of "works of righteousness which we have done" but solely through the infinite love and mercy of God by the exercise on our part of simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This applies alike to the soldier, the statesman, the philanthropist, and the thief on the cross, since in God's sight "there is no difference: for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

The substitutionary death of Christ on the cross of Calvary secures for the believing sinner a perfect and "finished" work of redemption from the penalty of his sin; and nothing either of human achievement or sacrifice need be—or indeed can be added thereto.



"Not the labour of my hands  
Can fulfil Thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears for ever flow,  
All for sin could not atone,  
Thou must save, and Thou alone."

But thank God it is possible here and now to enjoy the assurance that should death come, as come it may, a believer has nothing to fear, for his life is "hid with Christ in God."

If therefore these lines should be read by one connected with the Navy, the Army, or the Air Force, our prayer is that before exposing yourself to the danger of clashing arms or bursting shell, you first settle the momentous question of your eternal destiny by trusting the Saviour who died for you. Then, whether you "fall where you stand, facing the enemy" or from any other cause, **"GOD WILL TAKE YOU UNTO HIMSELF."**

"In a fear-racked world there is only one way to safety."

*"War has no power, safe shall be my going;  
Secretly armed against all death's endeavour;  
Safe, though all safety's lost; safe where men fall:  
And if these poor limbs die, safest of all."*

"What must I do to be saved?"

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."



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