



THE REMAINS OF COMPANY D

A STORY OF THE GREAT WAR



JAMES CARL NELSON

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A COMBAT NARRATIVE OF SUFFERING AND HEROISM AND A RARE EYE-LEVEL ACCOUNT OF WORLD WAR I



HAUNTED by an ancestor's tale of near death on a distant battlefield, James Carl Nelson set out in pursuit of the scraps of memory of his grandfather's small infantry unit. Years of travel across the world led to the retrieval of unpublished personal papers, obscure memoirs, and communications from numerous doughboys as well as original interviews of the descendants of his grandfather's comrades in arms. The result is a compelling tale of battle rooted in new primary sources, and one man's search for his grandfather's legacy in a horrifying maelstrom that is today poorly understood and nearly forgotten.

The Remains of Company D follows the members of Company D, 28th Infantry Regiment, United States First Division, from enlistment to combat to the effort to recover their remains, focusing on the three major battles at Cantigny, Soissons, and in the Meuse-Argonne and the effect these horrific battles had on the men.

This is an important and powerful tale of the different destinies, personalities, and motivations of the men in Company D and a timeless portrayal of men at war.





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ST. MARTIN'S PRESS  NEW YORK



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Book design by Phil Mazzone

Maps by Paul J. Pugliese

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Nelson, James Carl.

The remains of Company D : a story of the Great War / James Carl Nelson.—
1st ed.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 978-0-312-55100-1

1. Nelson, John, 1892–1993. 2. Soldiers—United States—Biography.
3. United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 28th. 4. World War,
1914–1918—Personal narratives, American. 5. World War, 1914–1918—
Regimental histories—United States. 6. United States. Army—Military life—
History—20th century. 7. World War, 1914–1918—Psychological
aspects. 8. Cantigny, Battle of, Cantigny, France, 1918. 9. World War,
1914–1918—Campaigns—France—Soissons. 10. Argonne, Battle of the, France,
1918. I. Title.

D570.3328th .N45 2009

940.4'1273092—dc22

[B]

2009016931

First Edition: October 2009

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



For my boys, Nathaniel and Ethan

For all the John Nelsons I have known

And for the men of Company D, 28th Infantry Regiment,
United States First Division, in the Great War



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