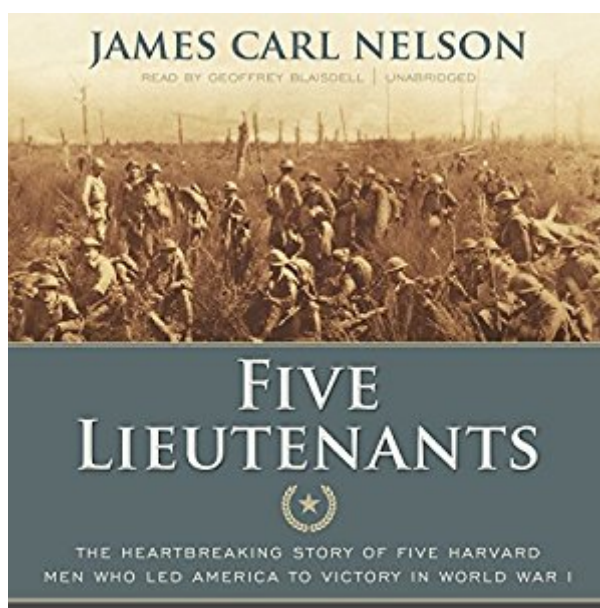


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# Five Lieutenants: The Heartbreaking Story Of Five Harvard Men Who Led America To Victory In World War I



## Synopsis

The dramatic true story of five brilliant young soldiers from Harvard, this is a thrilling tale of combat and heroism. *Five Lieutenants* tells the story of five young Harvard men who took up the call to arms in the spring of 1917 and met differing fates in the maelstrom of battle on the western front in 1918. Delving deep into the motivations, horrific experiences, and ultimate fates of this Harvard-educated quintet - and by extension, of the brilliant young officer class that left its collegiate and postcollegiate pursuits to enlist in the army and lead America's rough-and-ready doughboys - *Five Lieutenants* presents a unique, timeless, and fascinating account of citizen soldiers at war and of the price these extraordinary men paid while earnestly giving all they had in an effort to end "the war to end all wars." Drawing on the subjects' intimate, eloquent, and uncensored letters and memoirs, this is a fascinating microcosm of the American experience in the First World War and of the horrific experiences and hardships faced by the educated class of young men who were relied upon to lead doughboys in the trenches and, ultimately, in open battle. James Carl Nelson is a journalist who has worked as a staff writer for the Miami Herald. He is a member of the Western Front Association, which is devoted to the study of the Great War. He lives in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book tells the story of five Harvard graduates who served as junior officers in the 28th Infantry Regiment, 1st Division. James Carl Nelson does a masterful job of weaving the stories of these men with the overall story of the 28th Infantry, a successful regiment in a highly regarded, effective

Regular Army division. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the AEF, 1st Division, or the role of junior officers in this conflict. Peter L. Belmonte Days of Perfect Hell: The U.S. 26th Infantry Regiment in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, October-November 1918

I don't usually go for "war books," but I spotted "Five Lieutenants" at a local bookstore and was intrigued by the subtitle: "The Heartbreaking Story of Five Harvard Men Who Led America to Victory in World War I." I came home and instantly ordered it on Amazon, where the prices can't be beat and I get free shipping as a Prime Member .... Anyway, after reading a few pages, I was hooked. The author is a gifted storyteller. The book reads like a novel. I really felt like I was inside the soldiers' heads and on the battlefields with them.... In short, "Five Lieutenants" is a vivid and poignant and dramatic story of the trials faced by five young men in an almost forgotten and brutal war, and a rare insiders' view of American history from those who experienced it firsthand. I highly recommend it, to history buffs and to anyone who enjoys a great tale well-told.

One of the 5 Lieutenants was my grandfather. Normally, I am not fond of this genre, but this is very well written. It was easy to read, enjoyable and I learned a lot about WWI. Given how miserable the trenches were, I have a much greater admiration for those who fought for my freedom. If nothing else, we should be proud to be Americans. I highly recommend this book.

As I'm not one to write reviews I must say that Mr Nelson has done an excellent job of writing this book. The memories of these brave men who were not professional soldiers is riveting. Sad at times to see what war can do to you; and not have the public understand what you have gone through is still the same then as now. I would recommend this to those who wish a better understanding of the stress and strain of war that is inherent to our nature.

Interesting reading the personal accounts of the experiences and thoughts of the men who fought in the First World War. I appreciated the author's skill in describing the conditions and loss of the First World War through the writings of these men. I was also affected by the family histories and how the war and loss had such a profound impact on their lives.

A well written account of the training and combat experiences of the WW1 trench soldier. A moving and detailed description of the war through the eyes of the soldiers as it was described in their letters. Well worth it.

Thoroughly enjoyable read. The most touching point being the personal letters from these brave men; what they were thinking and going through. One was able to truly grasp to anticipation, anxiety and fear that all Soldiers felt before the battle. One cannot put this down without gaining a sense of appreciation for the sacrifice and commitment of US Soldiers during the latter part of the war. An excellent read and highly recommended

This is the story of Five Harvard men who took military training during the summers of 1915 & 1916. When the US declared war on Germany in 1917 they were prepared and when joining the US Army were all made Lieutenants and fought in trench warfare leading their men in heroic charges against German machine guns. Mr. Nelson read many journals and letters mailed to their families to be able to write the stories of the Five Lieutenants. I first read it from the local library, but enjoyed it so much I wanted a copy of my own to refer to. Next month on June 28 it will be 100 years since the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife Soffie in Sarajevo. He was the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne. When Serbia could not meet Austria-Hungary's demands war broke out on July 28th when Belgrade the capital of Serbia was shelled. Mr. Nelson does an excellent job of weaving together the stories of the five young men who fought with other Americans in the GREAT WORLD WAR. There are many personal stories that you will not find in other books on WW1.

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