This is a definitive history of the American Army’s role and performance during the First World War. Drawing from a rich pool of archival sources, David Woodward sheds new light on key themes such as the mobilization of US forces, the interdependence of military diplomacy, coalition war-making, the combat effectiveness of the AEF and the leadership of its commander John J. Pershing. He shows us how, in spite of a flawed combat doctrine, logistical breakdowns and the American industry’s failure to provide modern weaponry, the doughboys were nonetheless able to wage a costly battle at Meuse-Argonne and play a decisive role in ending the war. The book gives voice to the common soldier through first-hand war diaries, letters and memoirs, allowing us to reimagine their first encounters with regimented military life, their transport across the sub-infested Atlantic to Europe, and their experiences both in and behind the trenches.

David R. Woodward is Emeritus Professor of History at Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia
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This is a major new series of studies of the armies of the major combatants in the First World War for publication during the war's centenary. The books are written by leading military historians and set operations and strategy within the broader context of foreign policy aims and allied strategic relations, national mobilisation and domestic social, political and economic effects.

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The American Army and the First World War

David R. Woodward
To Frank Buckles
The last American veteran of World War I who died on his farm in West Virginia at age 110 in 2011.
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Preface

My commander-in-chief, Michael Watson, the capable and patient military history editor for Cambridge University Press, presented me with a formidable objective in late 2010: write a holistic history of the US Army’s role in World War I that examined diverse social, political, diplomatic, and military themes. At times during the past two years I have felt as if I were one of Pershing’s Doughboys attempting to navigate the unfamiliar and intricate German defenses at Meuse-Argonne. Indeed, their persistence was required to achieve my assigned mission.

Once the United States becomes a belligerent I address multiple themes, including the raising, training, transporting, and logistical support of a diverse force which included African and Native Americans as well as many other hyphenated Americans, coalition warfare (a new experience for the US military and political leadership), failures in war production, the interdependence of armed force and diplomacy, armed intervention in Russia, and the creation of an independent US force with its own strategical objectives. Although this narrative with its emphasis on leaders such as Pershing and Wilson generally embraces a top-down rather than a bottom-up approach, ordinary American soldiers are given their due by including their voices through the use of letters, memoirs, and other personal accounts. Finally, by placing the American Expeditionary Force’s role within the larger war, I avoid examining American participation exclusively from a US perspective.

This account is much indebted to recent scholarship on America’s involvement in World War I but it will stand on its own because of its holistic approach. I wish to recognize and express my considerable debt to the scholarship of the older generation of Great War historians, which includes Edward Coffman, Robert Doughty, David Trask, Robert Ferrell, Allan Millett, John Milton Cooper, Timothy Nenninger, Donald Smythe, Daniel Beaver, Holger Herwig, Russell Weigley, and Arthur Link, as well as the rapidly expanding new generation of scholars with their original insights, which includes David Stevenson, Mark
Grotelueschen, Richard Faulkner, Robert Bruce, Elizabeth Greenhalgh, Douglas Johnson, Jennifer Keene, and Michael Neiberg.

I am also exceedingly grateful for the support of the Marshall University history department, especially its chair Daniel Holbrook and its administrative secretary Teresa Bailey, the latter having assisted, really mothered, the history faculty for almost two decades. The university library staff, especially members of Special Collections and Government Documents, generously gave of their time and the university administration provided me with office space following my retirement to work on this and other manuscripts. The West Virginia Humanities Council awarded me with a fellowship that supported archival research at the United States Army Military History Institute at Carlisle, Pennsylvania and elsewhere. I remain most appreciative of the advice and assistance that I received from staff members at Carlisle and elsewhere in both the United States and Great Britain. I owe a special debt to Edward Coffman, “Mac” to his friends, who reviewed the entire manuscript with his always astute and knowledgeable eye, sharing valuable insights with me. Any errors in fact or interpretation, of course, are my responsibility. Facets of this manuscript have previously been published in my *Trial by Friendship: Anglo-American Relations, 1917–1918*.

Finally and most importantly I express my appreciation to my wife and closest friend of over four decades, Martha Cobb Woodward, whose encouragement and sharp proof reading skills played a major part in bringing this manuscript to fruition.
Abbreviations

AEF American Expeditionary Force
AFG American Forces in Germany
AHEC Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle, Pa.
AUAM American Union Against Militarism
AWOL absent without leave
BEF British Expeditionary Force
BL British Library, London
CAB Cabinet Papers, The National Archives, Kew, United Kingdom
CCC Civilian Conservation Corps
CIGS Chief of the Imperial (British) General Staff
CPI Committee on Public Information (United States)
CTCA Commission on Training Camp Activities
DAN Détachement d'Armée du nord (Northern Army Detachment)
DMO Director of Military Operations
Doughboys nickname for US soldiers in Europe; also called “Sammies”
FO Foreign Office (British)
GHQ General Headquarters
GOC General Officer Commanding
GQG Grand Quartier Général (Supreme Headquarters of French Army)
IWC Imperial War Cabinet (British)
IWM Imperial War Museum, London
LHCMA Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives, King’s College London
LOC Library of Congress, Washington, DC; also Line of Communications
MID Military Intelligence Division (United States)
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<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>NA</td>
<td>National Archives, Washington, DC; also The National Archives (formerly Public Record Office), Kew, United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAM</td>
<td>National Army Museum, London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCO</td>
<td>non-commissioned officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NLS</td>
<td>National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHL</td>
<td>Oberste Heeresleitung (Supreme Army Command)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTC</td>
<td>Officer’s Training Corps (United States)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poilus</td>
<td>nickname for French soldiers (“hairy ones”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>POW</td>
<td>prisoner of war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RG</td>
<td>Record Group, National Archives, Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROTC</td>
<td>Reserve Officers’ Training Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOR</td>
<td>Services of the Rear</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOS</td>
<td>Services of Supply</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWC</td>
<td>Supreme War Council (inter-Allied body created late 1917)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tommy</td>
<td>nickname for British soldier (from “Tommy Atkins”)</td>
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<td>U-boat</td>
<td>Unterseeboot (German submarine)</td>
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<tr>
<td>USMC</td>
<td>United States Marine Corps</td>
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<td>WIB</td>
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