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From the author of *The Children's Blizzard* comes an epic story of service and sacrifice in The First World War

THE LONG WAY HOME
An American Journey from Ellis Island to the Great War
By David Laskin

“A compelling book...Imaginative.” —*The Washington Post*

“*The Long Way Home* reads with the heart-quickenning pace of a novel... Laskin’s great genius for creating affection for long-dead heroes lies in his tireless research.” —*The Minneapolis Star Tribune*

“Compelling...Laskin has built his book on dozens of interviews, family and regimental histories, military records and historical archives. He clearly has a firm grasp on a lot of detail, both military and personal.” —*The Seattle Times*

“*The Long Way Home* is a riveting remembrance of the Great War by a master writer. David Laskin, by homing in on the lives of a dozen immigrants to Ellis Island, is able to tell a grand American saga about the true cost of democracy. All around a deeply compelling narrative.” —**Douglas Brinkley, author of *The Wilderness Warrior***

In **THE LONG WAY HOME: *An American Journey from Ellis Island to the Great War*** (Harper Perennial; Trade Paperback; On sale: March 15, 2011; \$15.99) award-winning author **David Laskin** tells the story of a dozen men who were born in Europe, emigrated to the U.S. in search of hope and freedom, and ended up fighting with American armed forces in The Great War. These twelve, and tens of thousands of foreign-born Doughboys like them, joined the army as immigrants – but they came home from the war Americans. Many came back American heroes.

When America declared war on Germany in 1917, one third of the nation had been born overseas or was the child of an immigrant. When the War Department began drafting men, one out of every five soldiers was foreign born. Most of these alien draftees knew little of America outside of tight-knit ghettos and back-breaking jobs. The army was their first immersion in the mainstream of American life—and the experience of war transformed not only them but their families and ultimately their new country as well.

The twelve men in **THE LONG WAY HOME** represent every major immigrant group of the last century—Italian, Jewish, Polish, Slovak, Russian, Irish and Scandinavian. Though these men passed through Ellis Island, they settled all over the country—not just in big cities like New York, Pittsburgh and Chicago but also in Butte, El Paso, Newark, Providence, and Swampscott. Laskin describes their childhoods in Europe, the trauma of crossing the Atlantic, and the daily reality of immigrant life before the war. When America entered the conflict, everything changed. The horror our soldiers endured in the trenches is rendered here with searing immediacy.

THE LONG WAY HOME brings to life the heartbreaking stories of how twelve men were swept into the army, passed through the ordeal of boot camp, and endured the hell that culminated in the Great War’s final battle in the Argonne. Epic, inspiring, and masterfully written, this book is an unforgettable true story of the Great War, the world it remade, and the humble, loyal men who became Americans by fighting for America.

About the Author: David Laskin is the author of *The Children's Blizzard*, a narrative of six families who endured the great Midwestern blizzard of 1888, which won the 2006 Midwest Booksellers’ Choice Award for Nonfiction and the Washington State Book Award. His writing has also appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *Seattle Metropolitan*. He lives in Seattle.

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