

1946

## Death on a Stricken Field

J. C. Crews

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq>

---

### Recommended Citation

Crews, J. C.. "Death on a Stricken Field." *New Mexico Quarterly* 16, 2 (1946). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol16/iss2/26>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the University of New Mexico Press at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in New Mexico Quarterly by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [disc@unm.edu](mailto:disc@unm.edu).

## DEATH ON A STRICKEN FIELD

Mud enshrined  
*dust thou art*  
mud was his home now  
and the grass was mud too  
since the howitzers passed here  
and the tanks  
and the heavy weary feet  
which had relinquished again  
all they had ever gained  
all, but the blood and the sorrow

Mud was his home now  
hunched and sprawled  
where the sniper left him

And all his cocky arrogance  
and all his proud boast  
gone too.

These fled faster even  
than the general staff did  
faster faster than the guns  
the motorized units  
and the frightened foot troops

Only pity stayed  
keeping his side  
pity in every fold of flesh  
slack as his lifeless garments  
pity only  
and the diffident mud

And terror  
terror stayed by his side too  
there on the drenched shore

And when his comrades found him  
these two still at his side  
those who hated him wept  
and those who loved him fled.

J. C. CREWS