

HIST 102C: World Civilizations since 1500
The Forgotten Soldier Paper Assignment

Focusing on Guy Sajer's memoir, *The Forgotten Soldier* (1965), write a 3-4 page paper (typed, double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font, 1" margins) that analyzes one section of the book and discuss how it relates to the work as a whole.

The paper assignment has **TWO** main components:

1. **THESIS STATEMENT:** You must construct a historical argument (thesis) based on your reading of *The Forgotten Soldier*.
2. **CRITIQUE:** You must offer a critique of one of the book's sections AND how it relates to the rest of the book.
 - (1) Describe the section and its content;
 - (2) Criticize and evaluate the account;
 - (3) Offer some subjective reflections on the work.

A good critique is **NOT** merely a summary of content. The critique should be informational, analytical, and critical. Some of questions to keep in mind:

- What is the setting, location, or time period of the story?
- What does it tell us about this time period, event, and soldier experiences?
- What was the writer's purpose in writing?
- Is the narrative convincing? Does it neglect important subjects or events?
- To what extent does the author seem biased in his point of view?
- Are some parts of the account better than others?
- What seems to be the unique aspects of the account?
- What were the major forces that the central character had to deal with and attempt to overcome?
- How does the author deal with hate, love, fear, cowardice, bravery, etc.?
- In what ways is the central character changed or unchanged at the end of the section?
- How important are the supporting characters to the central character's struggle?

A successful paper will contain an introductory paragraph, a strong thesis statement, and a conclusion. It is important to remember that you need to use evidence to support your argument and critique. Direct quotations and all paraphrasing need to be cited using in-text citations. For example: (Sajer, 44). It is not necessary to include a bibliography, list of sources, etc. **NO ADDITIONAL OUTSIDE SOURCES MAY BE USED FOR THIS PAPER.**

Papers should also have the following single-spaced heading. See the heading above for reference. Any deviation from the formatting described here will result in a loss of points; as will the failure to fulfill the page requirement (at least 3 **FULL** pages of text). Excessive grammar and spelling mistakes will also result in a loss of points.

Papers are due at the beginning of lecture on Tuesday, April 3. Late papers will not be accepted after 7 days (April 10), and will receive a penalty of 1/3 of a letter grade deducted for each day late, including the weekend. Failure to turn in a paper will result in a zero for the assignment.