

Chapter Questions for *Guns of August*
Chapter 13: Sambre et Meuse

1. When the French began their thrust into Alsace and Lorraine (Plan 17), how did the Germans respond? In what ways was this part of the overall German strategy? What did Tuchman mean when she stated that the Germans would give the French tactical victory in exchange for strategic defeat? (pg. 244)
2. Explain in detailed narrative how and why French General Lanrezac aggravated Joffre, a behavior that Tuchman wrote was opposite of Joffre's belief that "the whole duty of generals was to be lions in action and dogs in obedience." (pp. 246-247)
3. Explain Joffre's "Special Instruction No. 10." To what degree did this acknowledge Lanrezac's continued assertions about German movements? (pg. 249)
4. How did Joffre's Order No. 13 coincide with Plan 17? How did it undermine Lanrezac's efforts in Belgium? (pg. 263-264) What was meant by the following quote: "If the Germans commit the imprudence of an enveloping maneuver through northern Belgium, so much the better!"
5. Assess Joffre's leadership of French forces in the opening days of the war. What would you list as his strengths and weaknesses?
6. Describe Von Kluck and Von Bülow's treatment of Belgian towns and civilians. Explain their reasons for such actions. (pp. 266-267) What evidence showed premeditation of these acts?
7. How did news of German actions against civilians spread beyond Belgium? (pg. 269)
8. Was Joffre convinced that German movement through Belgium was worthy of altering Plan 17? (pg. 272) Explain.