

Chapter Questions for *Guns of August*  
Chapter 14: Debacle – Lorraine, Ardennes, Charleroi, Mons

1. Tuchman writes “...and if, amid the adulation, the ghost of Schlieffen grumbled at “ordinary frontal victories” without envelopment or annihilation or muttered scornful references to a “wild hunt for medals,” no one heard him.” (pg. 288) Explain her point in the context of the action in the Ardennes on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  
2. Analyze British General Henry Wilson’s decision to discount intelligence reports about the numbers of German troops aligned opposite the British Expeditionary Force in Belgium. What did he believe to be true about the situation? (pp. 292-294)
  
3. What surprise did Von Kluck’s German forces discover on the road to Soignies? What disadvantage did the British face there? (pp. 293-94)
  
4. Who was made the scapegoat for French failure at Charleroi and a call for retreat to preserve his forces? (pg. 300) Provide a brief narrative of the events at Charleroi.
  
5. What is Tuchman’s tone when summarizing the Battle of Mons? (pp 306-307) Explain.
  
6. Joffre cast blame for allied failures on the field generals. Assess the accuracy of his judgment. (pp. 308-309)
  
7. Discuss the realistic causes for allied failures in the four major engagements discussed. What did Tuchman mean when she wrote “*Élan* had not been enough?”