

American History 8 -- Mr. Runnett
Chapter 23: The Great World War
Portfolio Assignment # 8 (50 points)

You will be watching a documentary called "The Doughboys." Doughboys is the story of the American soldiers who fought in World War I. When President Woodrow Wilson declared war on Germany in April of 1917, thousands of young men rushed to enlist. In their youthful exuberance they did not realize the horrors of the war raging in Europe. The industrial and technological advancements of the late 19th and early 20th centuries changed the nature of warfare. No longer was war the romantic heraldry of an earlier day. It was now the methodical slaughter wrought by the machine age. The Doughboys soon learned the horrors first-hand, and their innocence was forever lost. This is their story.

Your Portfolio Assignment: Complete each of the following

1. Answer these questions based on what you learn from the the video -- TYPED (10 points)

- a) When young men enlisted for duty in World War I, they had a nostalgic, romanticized vision of the war. How did the media (newspapers, etc.) contribute to this unrealistic image in the minds of soon to be soldiers?
- b) Soldiers on a battlefield form intense and enduring friendships. Why do you think they would form these relationships? Why is friendship so important to a soldier?
- c) What are the possible origins of the nickname "Doughboy" for American soldiers?
- d) When young people become soldiers, they are taught to kill the enemy. Most of our lives we are taught that killing is wrong and criminal. How does a soldier justify an action, such as killing, that is criminal in one situation, and his job in another situation?
- e) Gas was feared by the soldiers more than any other weapon. Soldiers would rather face bullets and mortar fire than gas. Why was gas so feared by the soldiers? Why was it so lethal (deadly)?

2. Imagine that you are a doughboy on the Western Front. Write a letter (approx. 1 page in length -- should be typed unless you are doing something "wacky" like tea-staining) home to your family describing your experiences and your feelings about the war. This letter should include as much content from the video as is possible. Use this sheet to take notes on the experiences of the doughboys as you view which will help you write an authentic first person account. (20 points)

3. Create one propaganda poster which promotes /sells the war to the American people. Some ideas are to develop a poster for recruiting American soldiers (Selective Service), for the Food Administrator (ex campaign for "Meatless Tuesdays"), for the National War Labor Conference Board (no strikes in industry, unity among businesses/factories, etc.), or for the CPI (possibly depicting those "bloodthirsty Huns"). An example of poster artwork is found on page 833 of your text. (20 points)

This poster should be done on 8.5 x 11 or 11x 17 paper and may be done on computer with imported visuals or hand drawn.

VIDEO NOTES

Name _____

Period _____

American History 8 -- Mr. Ruppert
Chapter 23 (The Great War) Portfolio
Grading Rubric (50 points)

_____ Video Content Questions (10 points)
Based on quality and accuracy of your typed responses

_____ History Journal Style Letter (20 points)
-- Proper length?
-- Spelling and Grammar?
-- Authenticity and creativity?
-- Incorporation of accurate content from the video?

_____ Mini-Poster (20 points)
-- Effort and craftsmanship
-- Authenticity and historical accuracy?

_____ = Final Grade
50

Comments (if any)

