

Worksheet 2: Automatic Weapons

Group work

1. Inform the pupils about the biography of Ernst Jünger and the use of automatic weapons during the First World War. Part the class in three groups and ask them to check selected chapters from “Storm of Steel” for reports about machine guns. Collect the results and lead a discussion in the class concerning the reflected experiences with automatic weapons in Jünger’s text. Consider in this context the construction of manliness, soldiering and heroism.

Interpretation of sources

2. Distribute a copy of the photography depicting the assault troop leader from 1918 in the class and explain to the pupils the change of tactics of the German troops in the final phase of the war. Lead an interpretation of this source and try to find out the message of the picture and its connection to the text by Jünger.

Essay

3. Show the YouTube Video of a 08/15 machine gun at the „Big Sandy Machine Gun Shoot“. Ask them afterwards to write an essay of two to three pages where they reflect on their impression of this video and devote themselves to question if such an event would be possible in their home town.