At 10:40 in the morning on November 11th, 1918, four soldiers were sitting out the last half hour of the so called “War to end all Wars.” However, American Henry Gunther, Frenchman Augustin Trebuchon, and Canadian George Lawrence Price would all be dead within a half hour. Gunther was camped out in a French town near the front lines. Meanwhile, Trebuchon, a runner for the French Army, was given a message to deliver to the front lines. At the same time, Price and his company were crossing a bridge while taking a town controlled by the Germans. Trebuchon was the first to fall. At 10:45 am, he was shot in the chest while delivering his message (O’Mara). Ten minutes later, Price peeked out from behind cover. He, too, was shot by a German sniper and died at 10:58 (Goodmurphy). As Price fell, Gunther began to charge at a German machine gun post, seeking glory in the last moments of the war. Both his comrades and the German gunners yelled at him to fall back, and he was shot in the head. The time was 10:59 (Klein). War has destroyed all but our memories of these men. Enrich Maria Remarque, both a German WWI veteran and the author of “All Quiet on the Western Front”, has had some experience with the destruction caused by war. Born in 1898, Remarque was drafted into the German army at age 18. Here, he experienced the horrors that would give rise to his most famous book, “All Quiet on the Western Front.” This book takes place on the German side of the front and follows German Soldier Paul Baumer and his group of friends as they try to survive the First World War. One by one, his companions are taken from him, until it is only him and his friend Tjaden. Erich Maria Remarque in "All Quiet on the Western Front" highlights that war is a machine that destroys all involved through setting, character, and conflict.

Starting off, Remarque uses a rapidly changing setting to display the chaos caused by war. Paul is swept across the western front, and Paul travels between relief camps, front lines, no-man’s land, training camps, and trenches. He also visits his home town during leave, as well as an abandoned village, a village being evacuated, and a hospital.

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