His approach to the war of is self-consciously the approach of an amateur.

The book:

open:

description of an old family album

SUBJECT:

the remembrance and representation of war.

The work:

Looking at WWI in this fashion, Dyer is always searching for “*what is not there*,” and what is not there

book attempts to retrieve the 73,077 soldiers who died in 1916.

***The Missing of the Somme***

THEME:

Memory

First World War

He tries to not sound like an historical

It is not a work of historical or political insight, but a beautifully sustained experiment in *thought*.

“I wanted to write a book that was not about ‘the War itself but the effect of the idea of [the War] on my generation.”

Moves on:

to more general reflections on the photography, memorials, and literary testaments of the war.

Important:

the first world war was the first war to be comprehensively memorialized.

comprehend the ways in which wartime memory is used and abused.