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# Shakespeare's The Life of King Henry V: Pistol's Personal Reasons for Joining in Henry's French Wars

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## **Abstract**

The character Pistol in William Shakespeare's Henry V will be examined. In particular, his reaction to Henry V's decision to make war on France will be looked at. Pistol consciously sets out for France with the hope that he will become rich from the war. Henry expects his soldiers to fight for the glory of England and for his rightful claim to the throne of France. But for Pistol the war is personal, and he expects Henry to provide him with a chance, through war, to enrich himself and uplift his own personal station. The focus of this paper will be how these two expectations conflict with one another.

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