

The Ending of World War I: The Road to 11 November

Gresham College Lecture

7 November 2018

Wagon 2419D



Why The War Did Not End Earlier

- Military Stalemate
- Domestic Political Stalemate
- Diplomatic Stalemate

Passchendaele, 1917



Lenin and Trotsky



Brest-Litovsk



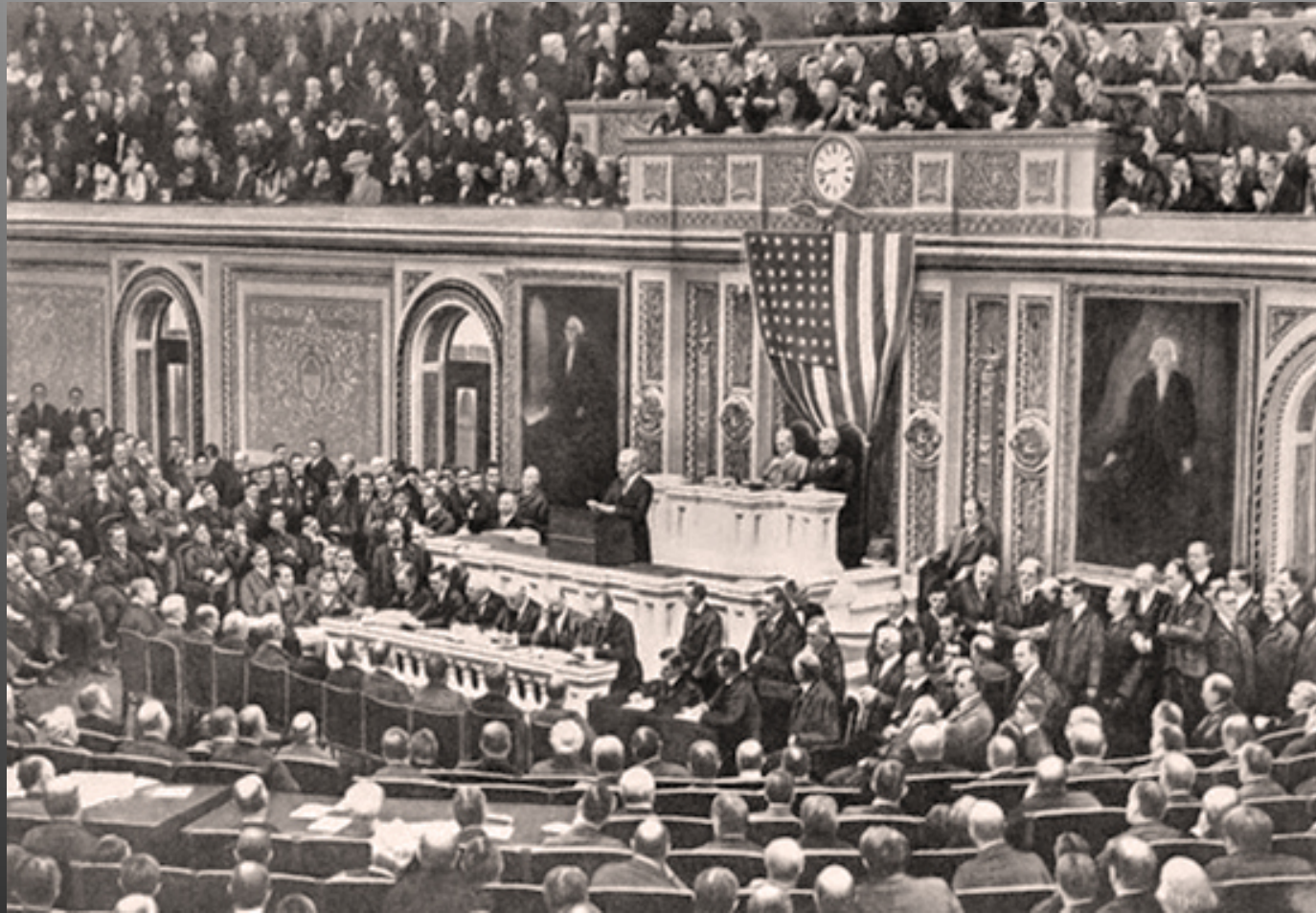
Brest-Litovsk Map



Timeline, 1918

- 8 January: Fourteen Points
- 3 March: Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
- 21 March-17 July: German and Austrian offensives
- 18 July-11 November: Allied counter-offensives
- 4/5 October: German ceasefire request
- 9 November: Wilhelm II abdicates
- 11 November: Armistice

Fourteen Points



Hindenburg and Ludendorff



Bundesarchiv, Bild 146-1987-127-00A
Foto: O. Ziegler, 1. 1917

Wilhelm and his Generals



www.alamy.com - B5M7F7

Why Germany Requested an Armistice

- Bulgaria
- Western Front General Offensive
- Condition of the Army
- Condition of Home Front

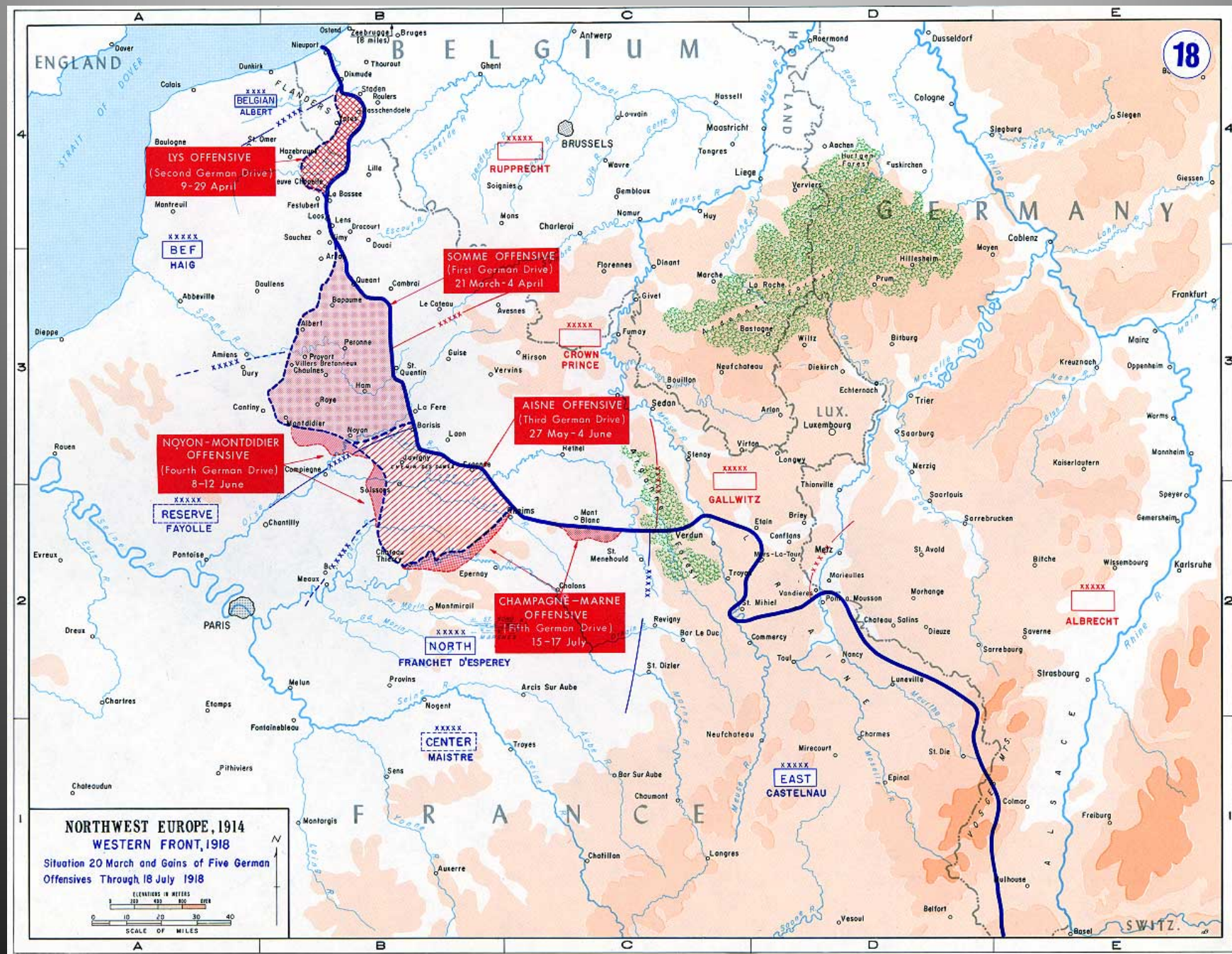
Salonika Field Hospital, 1918

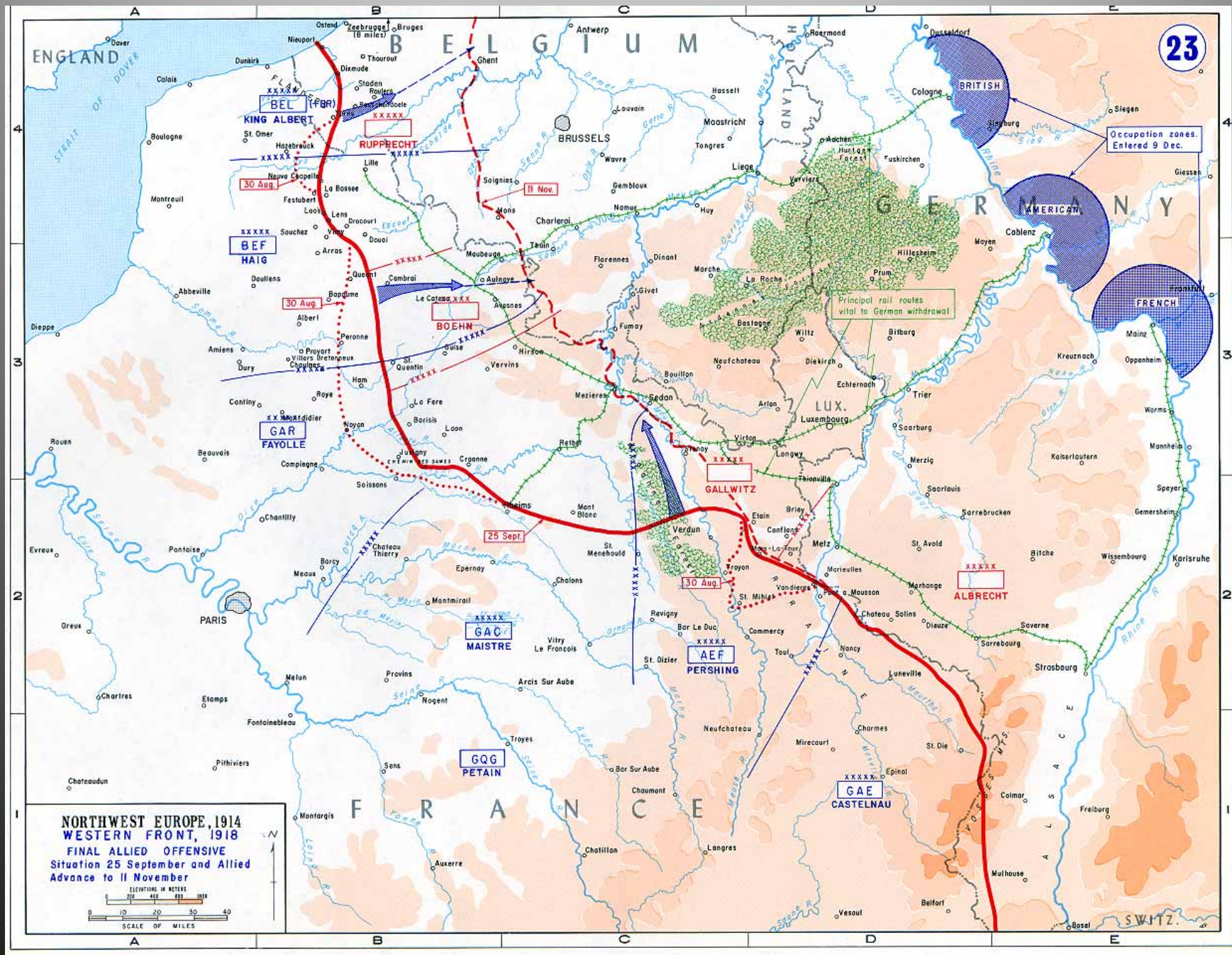




Balkan Breakthrough







Allied Offensives

- 15 July Final German Attack
- 18 July Allied Counterstroke
- 8 August Battle of Amiens
- 26 September Start of general offensive
- 29 September Breach of Hindenburg Line
- 11 November Armistice

Australian War Memorial



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART12208

After the Hindenburg Line





Heavy Artillery

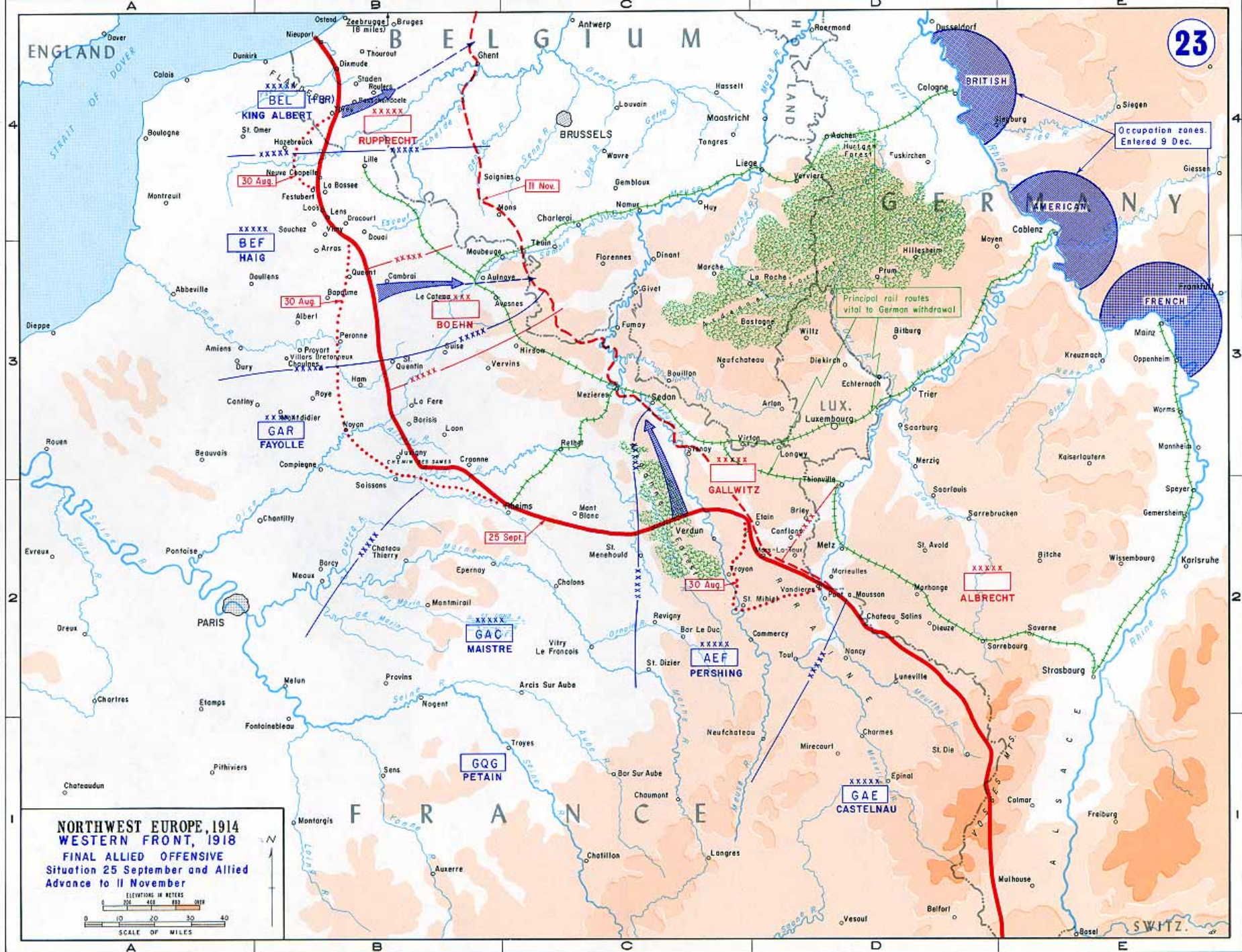




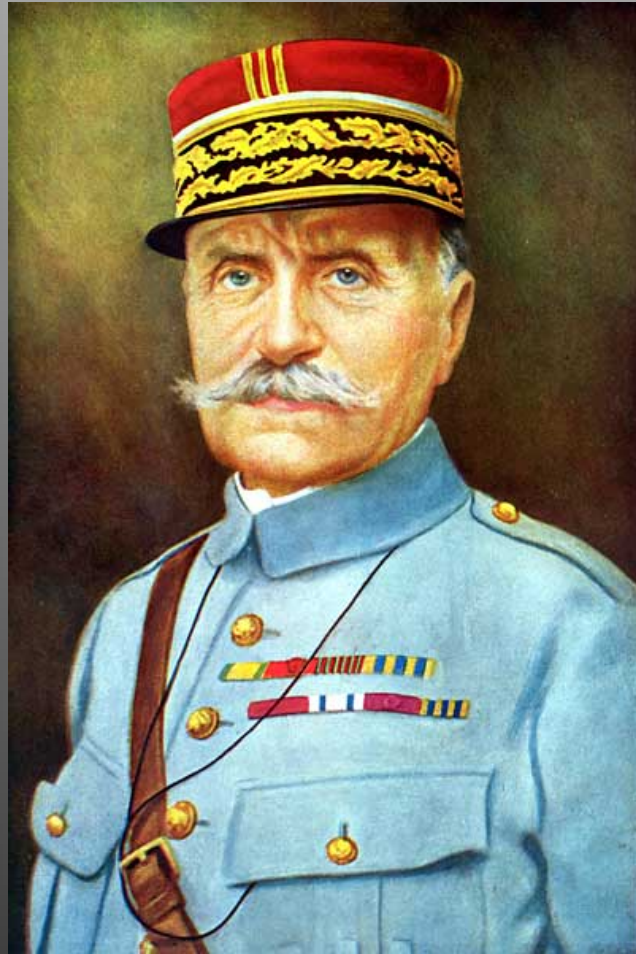


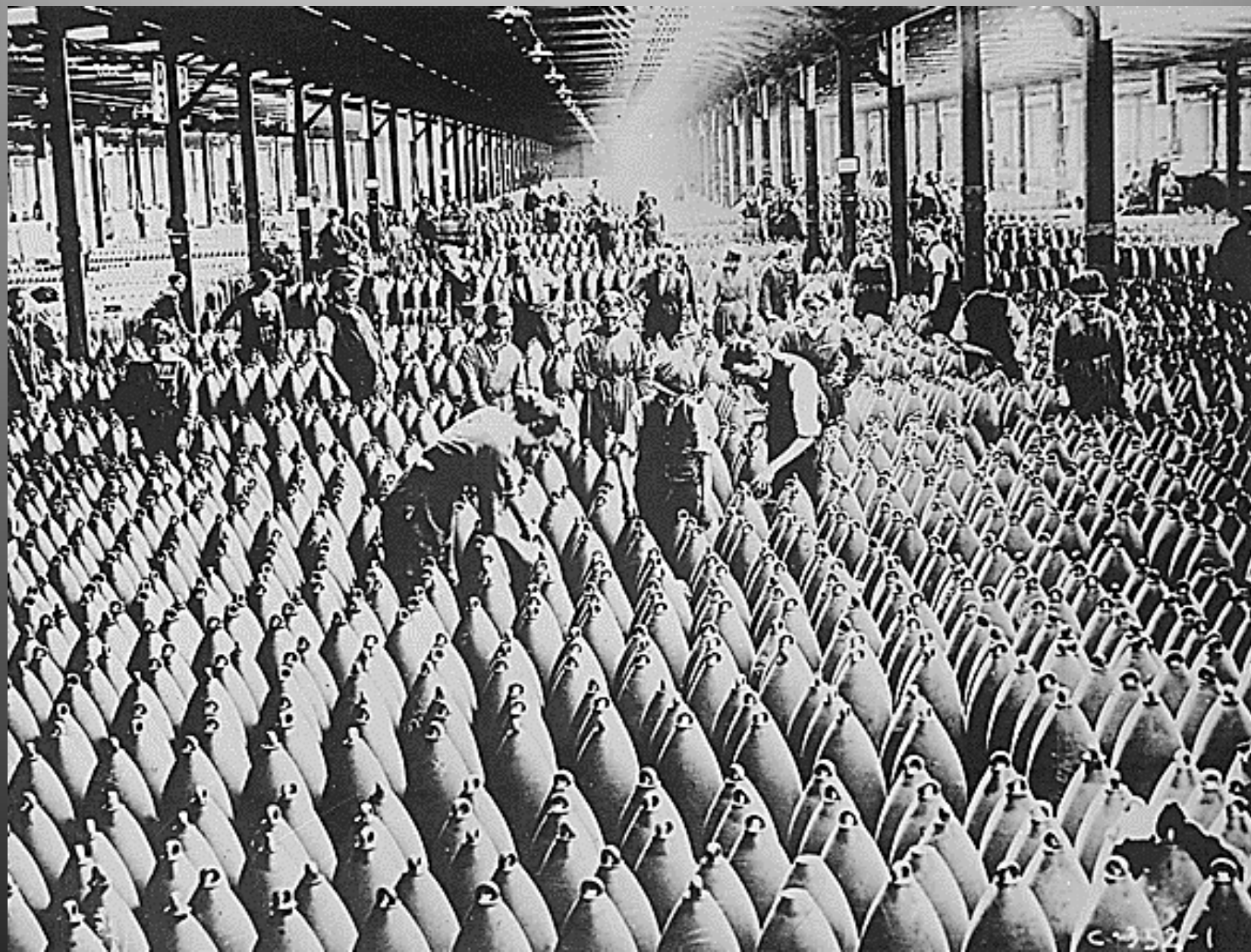
Aerial Photography



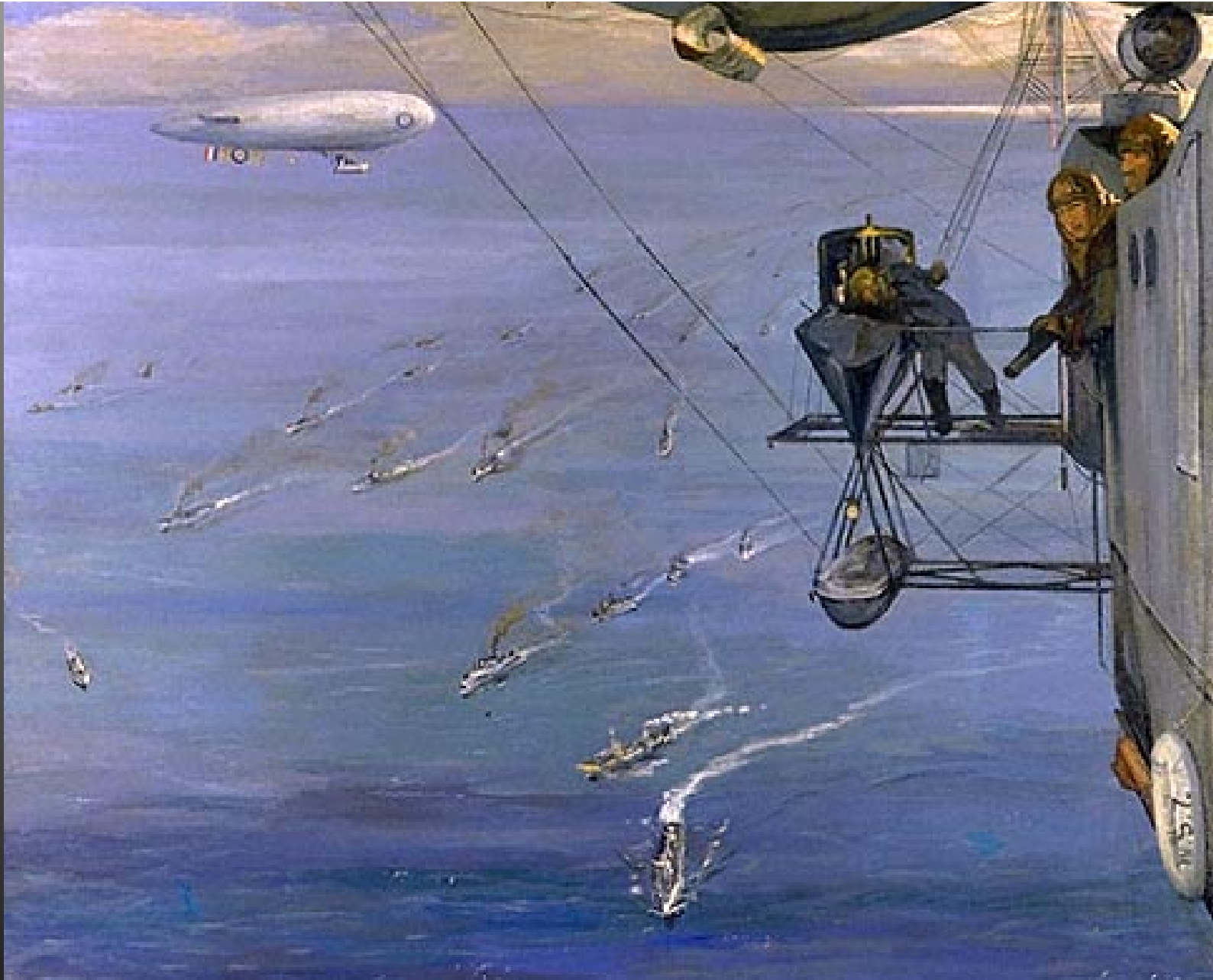


Ferdinand Foch











Doughboys



Poilus



Amiens – Germans



German Prisoners, 1918



German Surrenders

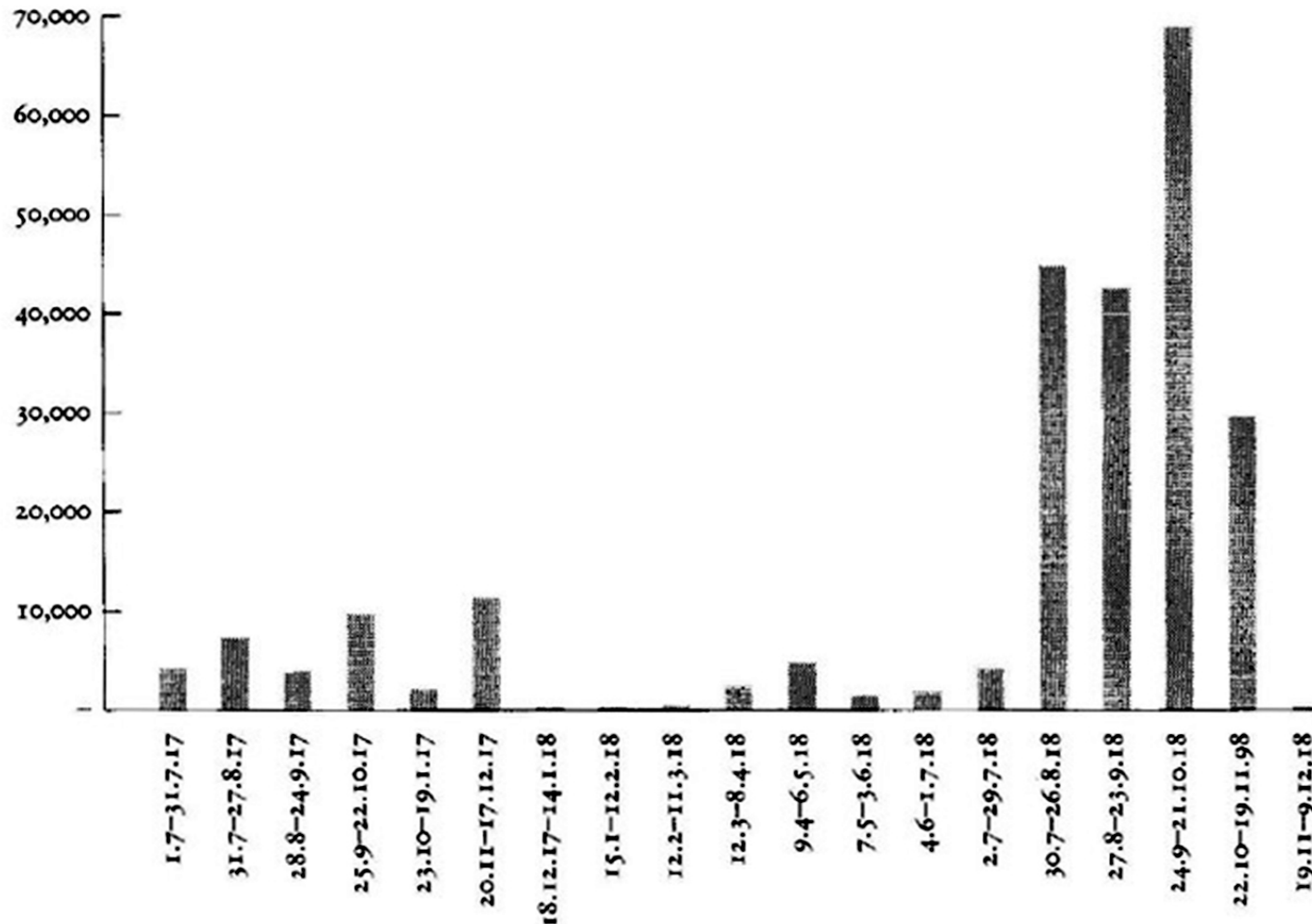


Figure 17 German prisoners taken by the British army in France, July 1917–December 1918

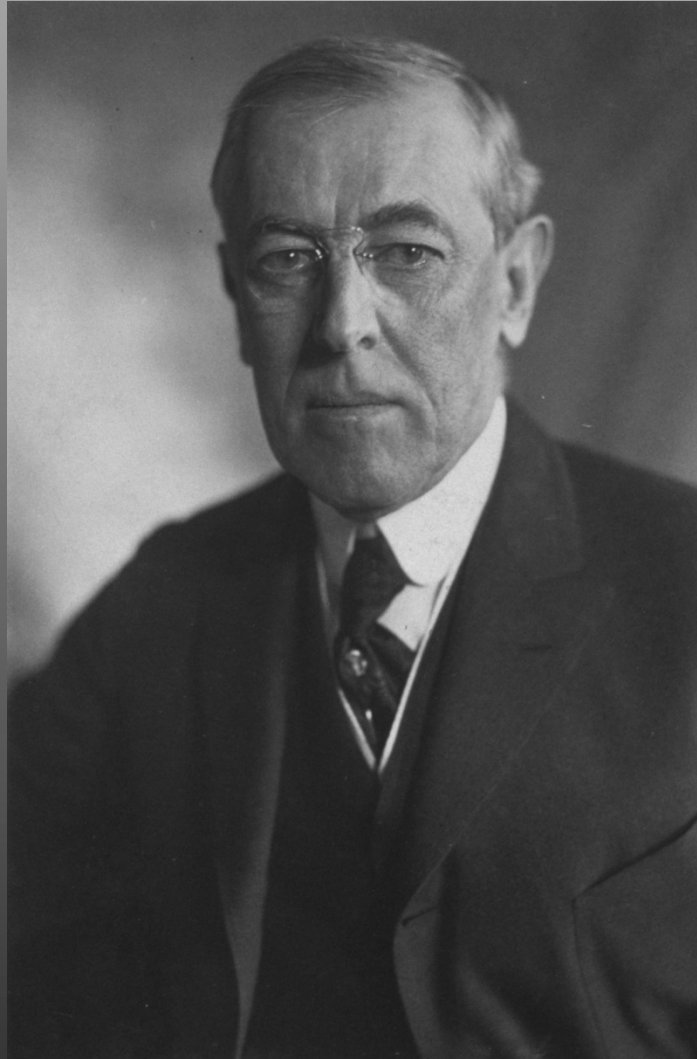
Hertling and Hintze



Why America and the Allies Granted an Armistice

- US – limited regime change; fear of the Allies; cost of the war; domestic politics
- Italy – followed France and Britain
- France – manpower and morale crisis; transport crisis
- Britain – fear of US and France; manpower shortage

Woodrow Wilson



William G. McAdoo



USA

- Limited regime change
- Fear of Allies as much as Germany
- Domestic Politics
- Finance

The European Allies

- Italy – territory from Austria; dependence on allies
- France – Alsace, Rhineland; crisis of troop numbers, morale, and transport
- Britain – Belgium, German navy; running out of men; fear of France and US
- TERMS HAD TO SATISFY ALL PARTIES

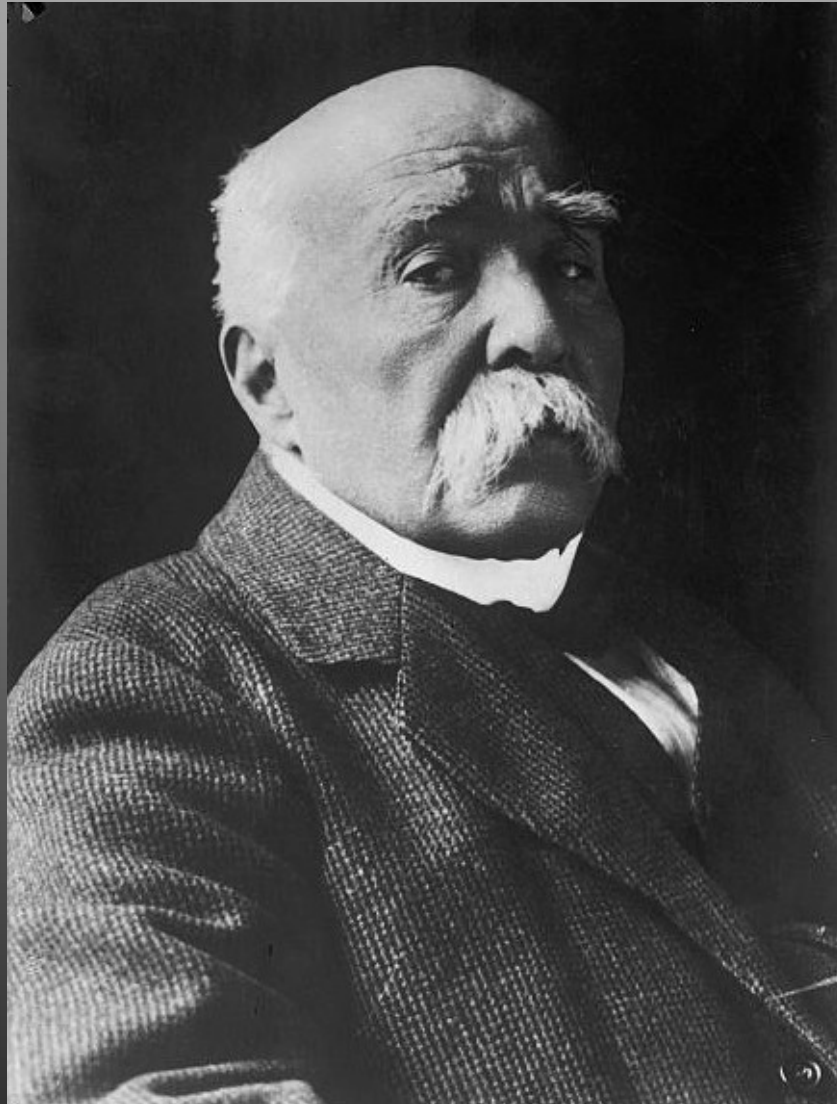
Vittorio Orlando

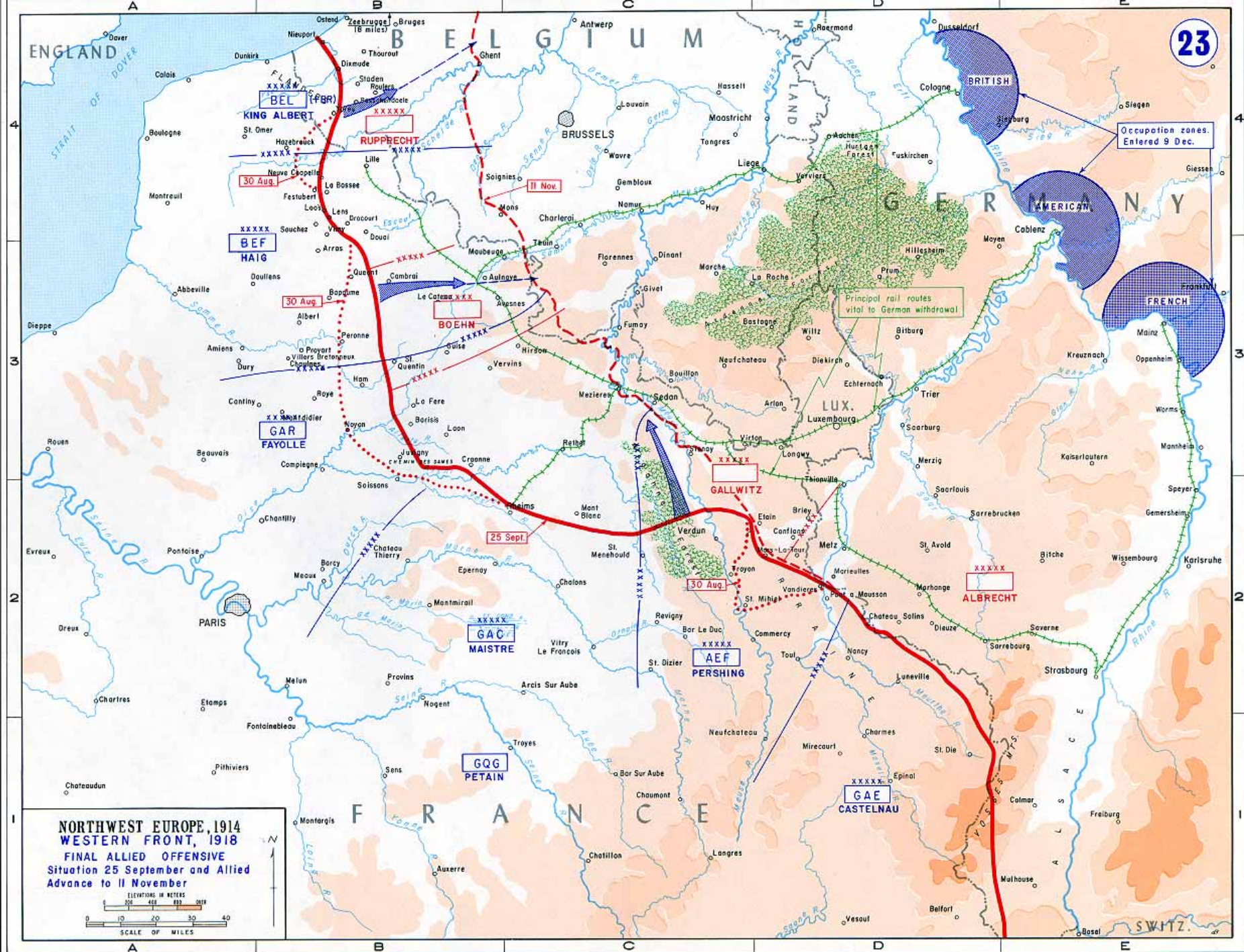


Vittorio Veneto

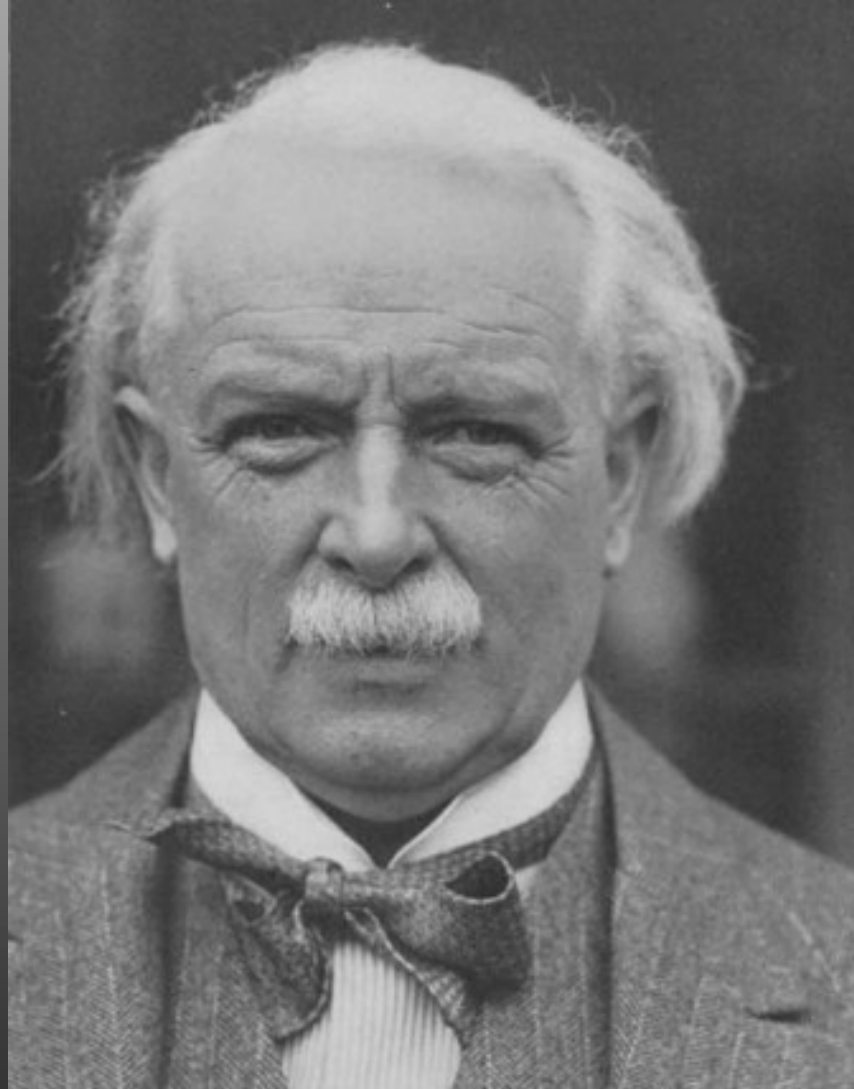


Georges Clemenceau





David Lloyd George



Jan Christian Smuts



Why Germany Accepted

- Removal of Ludendorff
- Collapse of Germany's Allies
- German Revolution

Wilhelm Groener



Revolution in Prague



German Revolution



THE BRAINERD DAILY DISPATCH

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ARMISTICE IS SIGNED GERMANY SURRENDERS

By United Press



Washington, Nov. 11, 2:30 a. m.---
Government at Washington officially
announced the signing of the armistice
by Germany, which occurred at 5:00 a. m. Paris time.
Hostilities ceased at 11 a. m. News from Washington flashed to St. Paul 30
seconds after announcement was made.



President Reads Armistice Terms

(By United Press)

Washington, Nov. 11.—President Wilson today addressed the joint session of Congress at one o'clock regarding the armistice terms which brought Germany to surrender, ending the war.
The allied armistice terms accepted by Germany as read by President Wilson to the joint session of Congress at one o'clock this afternoon include: Cessation of hostilities, evacuation of invaded territory, including Alsace Lorraine and Luxembourg, surrender of a vast amount of guns and equipment, the evacuation of the Rhine bank of the Rhine, surrender of the vast amount of rolling stock in the occupied territories, abandonment of the Bucharest and Brest treaties, unconditional surrender of all German forces in East Africa, the concentration of air craft at stipulated points, the evacuation of all Black Sea ports, the restoration of all allied and United States merchant vessels, duration of the armistice to 30 days, reparation for all damages done, and the surrender of scores of submarines and larger vessels.

(Specials to the Dispatch by the United Press)

"America Gains All She Fought For."

---PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON.

Washington—President Wilson to-day issued the following proclamation: My fellow countrymen—the armistice was signed this morning. Everything for which America fought has been accomplished. It will now be our fortunate duty to assist by example, by sober friendly counsel and by material aid in the establishment of just democracy throughout the world. Signed, WOODROW WILSON, President.

American Boys Delighted Laughed and Sang

BY WEBB MILLER

(United Press Staff Correspondent.)
With the Americans in France, Nov. 11—Motorcycle couriers were along the road shouting "It's All Over, Boys!" The marching columns tired and unquarrelled, were gassed into new life. They shouted, laughed and sang. It was easy to tell who had heard and who had not. Grim men were turned instantly into laughing boys. With weapons in their hands the gunners continued pouring fourteen inch and smaller shells far into the German rear until the last minute.

PRES. CANCELS OUTSTANDING DRAFT CALLS

Washington, Nov. 11—Robert J. Bender—At six o'clock this morning, United States Eastern time, the greatest war in history came to an end, the State Department officially announced to-day. The German plenipotentiaries signed United States and Allied armistice terms at Marshall Foch's headquarters at five o'clock this morning, French time, and that hostilities ceased at 11 o'clock this morning, French time. While an armistice merely halts war and does not end it the terms laid down by Foch are such as to prevent Germany from renewing hostilities and the war therefore may be regarded as definitely ended. There remains now the great problems of a peace conference and the gigantic work of returning the fighters to the home lands.

Geneva and Brussels are considered as most likely place for the peace negotiations, and so far the General Staff has already completed its plans for a general demobilization. The nation celebrated wildly to-day. Factories and stores everywhere were closed and thousands formed intertwining parades.

Kaiser Bill Flees to Holland

London, Nov. 11. Germany today is Kaiserless and Kingless. All reports tended to show that in addition to the Emperor all the Kings, Princes, Grand Dukes and other Royalty of the Empire, had renounced that their divine right to rule over a people which already had abdicated that right by Revolution. Former Kaiser Bill has fled to Utrecht Holland with his frau.

READ THE LATEST WAR, ARMISTICE AND PEACE NEWS ON PAGES 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of THIS ISSUE

All Draft Calls are Cancelled

Washington—Wilson will read Armistice Terms to Congress today he also has cancelled all outstanding Draft calls.

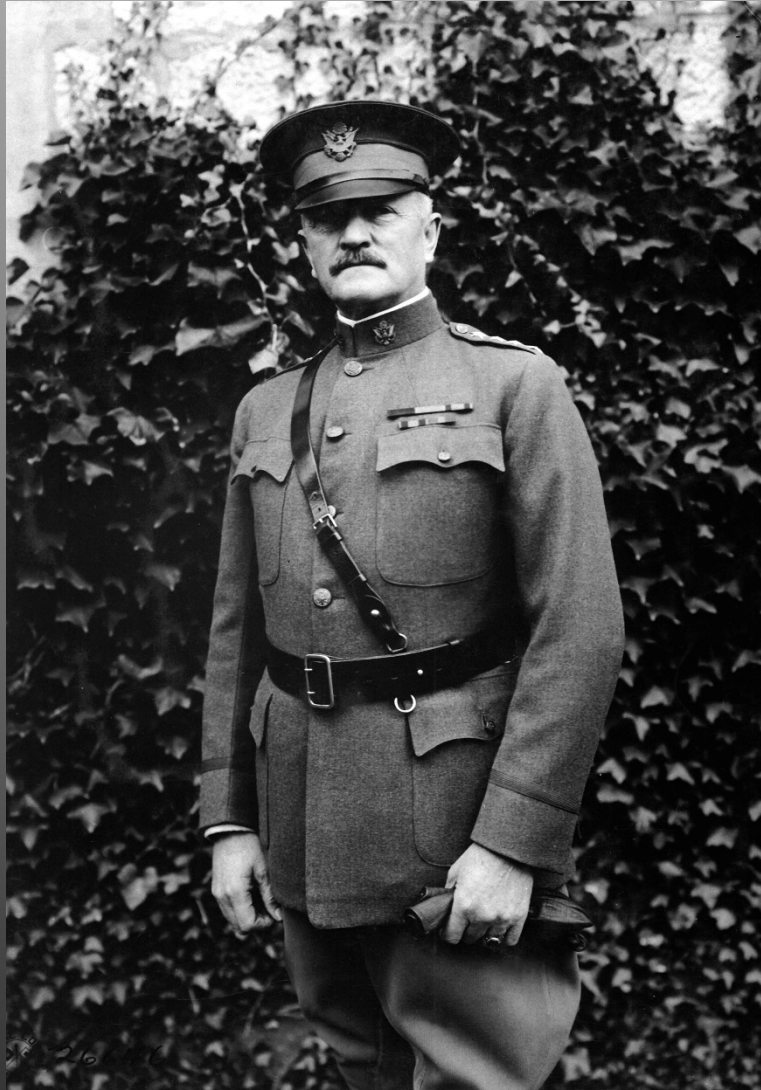
Big Parade at Brainerd

READ ALL ABOUT THE BIG CELEBRATION IN BRAINERD ON PAGE FIVE OF THIS ISSUE HEREIN!

On to Berlin?



John J. Pershing



Ferdinand Foch



Douglas Haig



Dolchstoßlegende, 1924



London, Armistice Day, 1919

