

Research Space

Other

The Somme - innocence lost

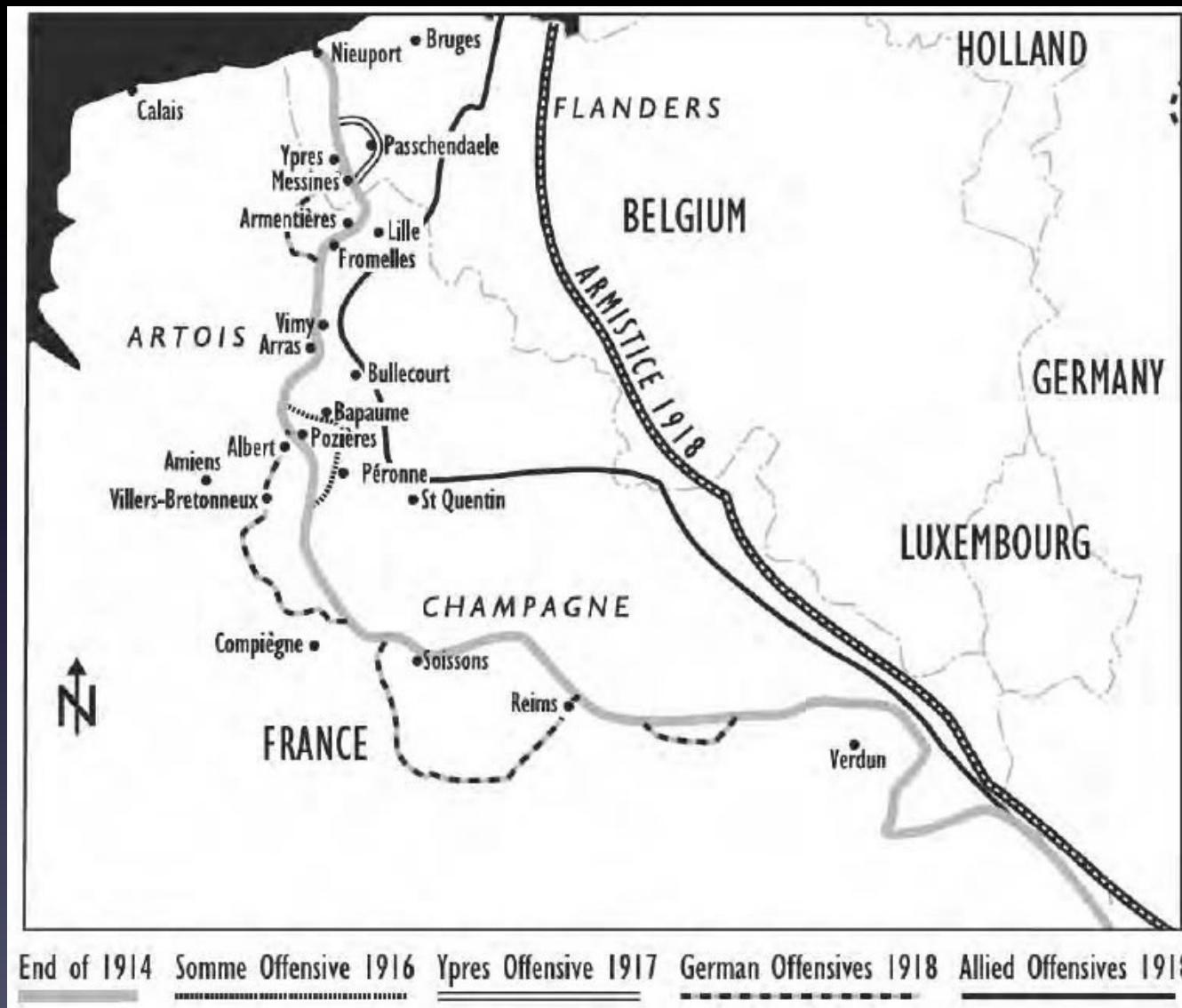
Watts, M.

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN KENT
HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY

WHY?

- ALLIED OFFENSIVE PLANNED FOR 1916 LONG BEFORE VERDUN
- VERDUN – 21 FEBRUARY – 18 DECEMBER 1916
- GERMAN INTENTION – ATTRITION TO DESTROY FRENCH RESERVES & BRITISH RELIEF AT VERDUN
- SOMME OFFENSIVE PLANS ALTERED AS GERMAN RESERVES HELD AT VERDUN
- END MAY 1916 CIGS ROBERTSON WARNS HAIG ABOUT RAISING EXPECTATIONS

SOMME - VERDUN



BRITISH ARMY DISPOSITION



WHO?

- FOURTH ARMY CREATED FEBRUARY 1916
- GENERAL RAWLINSON COMMANDER
- NEW ARMY SOLDIERS – KITCHENER'S MEN
- NEW ARMY INFANTRY TRAINING REQUIRED
- ONE WEEK OUT OF FOUR MONTHS
- FATIGUE OF ENDLESS LABOUR

ROBERTSON



HAIG



RAWLINSON



Digging

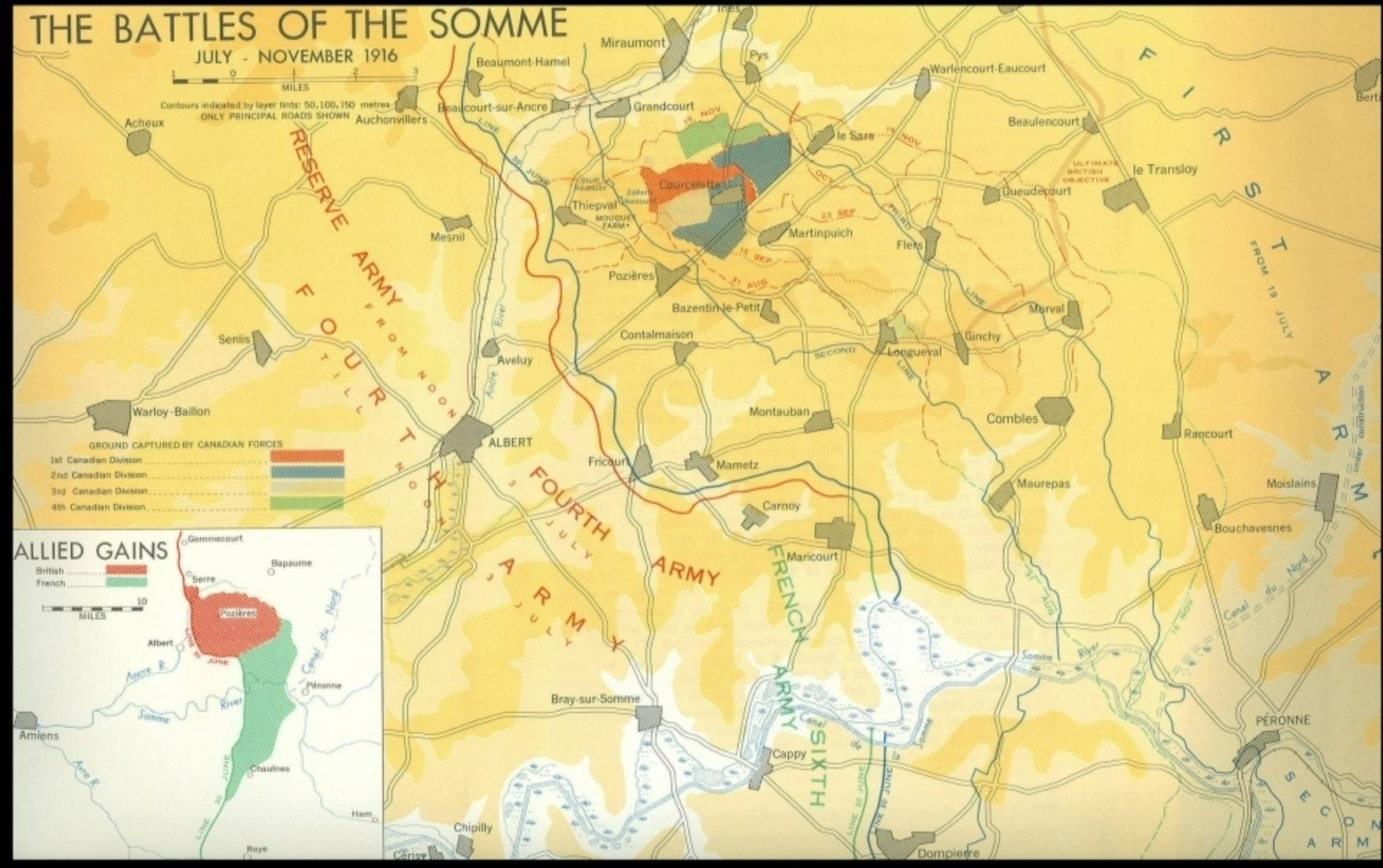


Cattonfield trench digging March 1918

HOW?

- DECENTRALISED COMMAND
- ‘BREAKTHROUGH’ OR ‘BITE & HOLD’
- ARTILLERY – LONG & SLOW OR FAST & INTENSE?
- ARTILLERY RESOURCES MISMATCHED TO REQUIREMENTS

BATTLE OF SOMME MAP



Thomas Charles Farmer

Originally from Essex, arrived in France 3 November 1914 as a

George C. Pearson

Born Ashford

Regular soldier

CSM – holder of Distinguished Conduct Medal

UP TO THE LINE



INTO NO MAN'S LAND



BACK IN THE TRENCH



THE PRICE

AND?

- AYLMER HALDANE – 22 OCTOBER 1916 ‘ IT IS EVIDENT THAT THEY HAVE NO CLEAR PLAN EXCEPT POSSIBLY THAT OF ATTRITION.’
- HAIG’S BELIEF UNTIL NOVEMBER IN BREAKING GERMAN MORALE
- HAIG INFORMS KING THAT ATTRITION ‘A VALID MILITARY OBJECTIVE’ WORKING IN ALLIES FAVOUR & BRITISH ARMY

PRESIDENT WILSON'S SPEECH 2

APRIL 1917

HAIG'S SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY 11 APRIL 1918

‘ Many amongst us now are tired. To those I would say that Victory will belong to the side which holds out the longest. The French Army is moving rapidly and in great force to our support. There is no other course open to us but to fight it out. Every position must be held to the last man: there must be no retirement. With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause each one of us must fight on to the end. The safety