

The Crucial Year

1917

USA enters the War

1. Remember Germany resumes “Unrestricted Submarine Warfare”
2. Anti-German feeling rising in America



Zimmerman Telegram



Title; Some promise

3. Arthur Zimmerman
was a German
Foreign Secretary



4. Zimmerman was in Mexico

- i. A telegram was sent to him
- ii. It was intercepted by Britain
- iii. The telegram promised Mexico land back if they attack the USA

Zimmerman Telegram



- a. USA is outraged
- b. April 6, 1917, USA Congress declares war on Germany and her allies



Russia exits the War

1. The Brusilov Offensive weakens both Austria-Hungary and Russia
2. Russia had over 1 million casualties



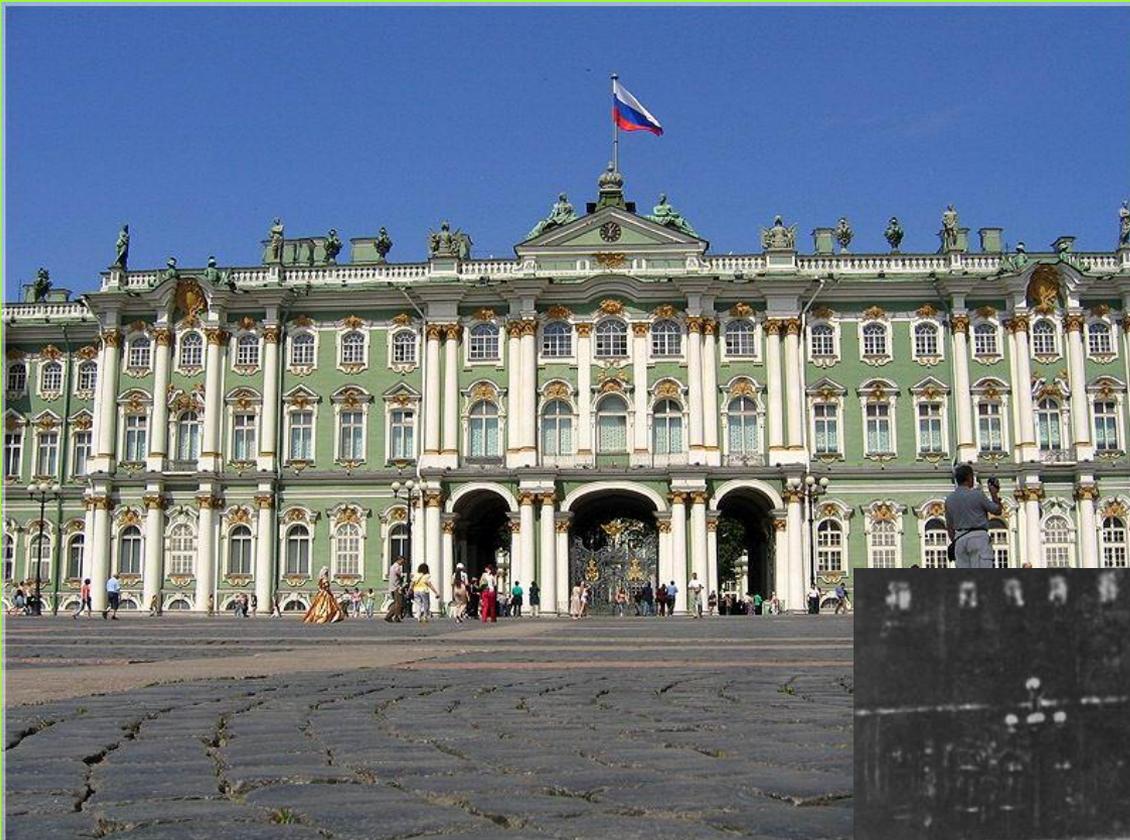
3. Revolutions occur in Russia

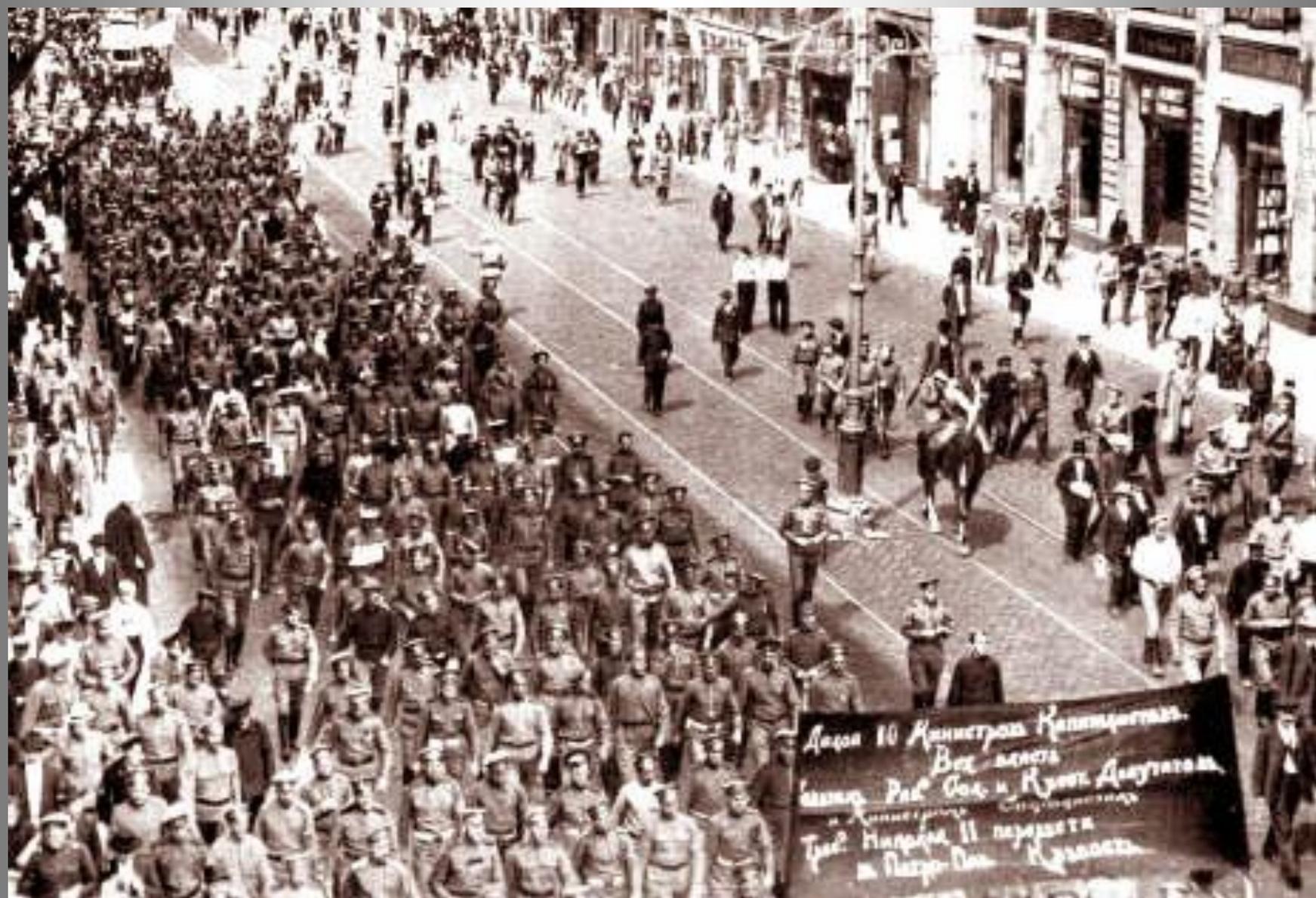
- a. March 1917, Czar Nicholas abdicates
- b. Provisional Government under Kerensky stays in the war



c. Bolsheviks revolt in October 1917







Vladimir Lenin



4. Lenin and Trotsky seize power

a. they have Russia withdraw from the war

b. sign the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

- Russia wants “no annexations, no indemnities.”

- doesn't happen, Russia lost $\frac{1}{2}$ of its territory



Der Friede mit der Ukraine.
Die Schlußsitzung in der Nacht vom 9. zum 10. Februar,
in der das Friedensprotokoll unterzeichnet wurde.

VIMY RIDGE



Germans in Control

- 1. The ridge was 12km north-east of Arras**
- 2. Germans occupied the ridge since 1914**
 - a. They built a network of artillery-proof trenches and bunkers**
 - b. Protected by concrete machine-gun posts**



Heavily fortified trenches

Battles at the ridge

- 1. Since the beginning of the war, French and British tried to take the ridge**
 - a. Cost 160,000 British and French soldiers**
 - b. Over 100,000 Germans died**
- 2. By 1917, Canadians had moved into position facing Vimy Ridge**





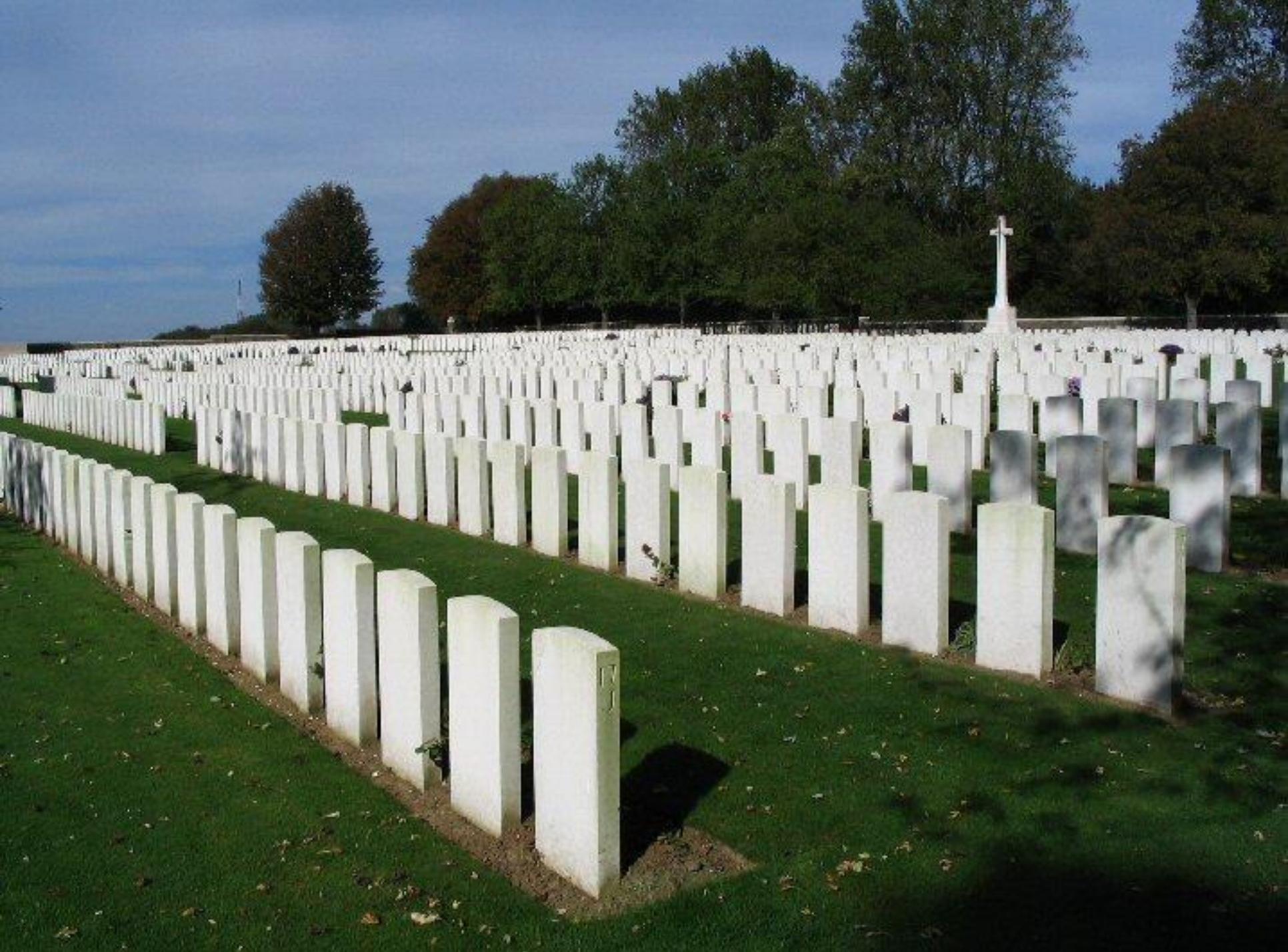
Planning the Attack

- 1. Canadians were now under the command of Arthur Currie**
- 2. Aerial photographs of the German lines and defences were taken**
- 3. They built plaster models, to scale, marking positions, trenches and dugouts**
- 4. Every officer and man studied them**

Canadians Attack

- 1. On April 9, 1917 at 5:30 am about 2,800 allied guns began pounding the German trenches**
- 2. Canadians went over the top into “no-mans-land”**
 - a. Captured the trenches in 30 minutes**
 - b. Within 90 minutes the Canadians took several tunnels**
 - c. Several machine-gun posts survive**
 - Causes heavy casualties**

- 3. By the 12th of April, 1917, the Canadians had taken control of the “pimple” (top of the ridge)**
 - a. this is something British and French couldn't take for 3 years**
- 4. Germans, unable to launch a counter-attack, withdrew from the area**



The losses

- 1. British had lost 158,606 in the Arras area**
- 2. Canada had 11,297 men killed wounded or missing**



Impact of the Success

- 1. The Vimy Glide was adopted by the British**
- 2. The Canadian success brought prestige to Canada**
- 3. It opened up the area to an eventual allied victory**

Vimy Ridge

Assignment:

1. View video
2. Explain the attack on Vimy Ridge
3. What impact did the victory have on Canada?

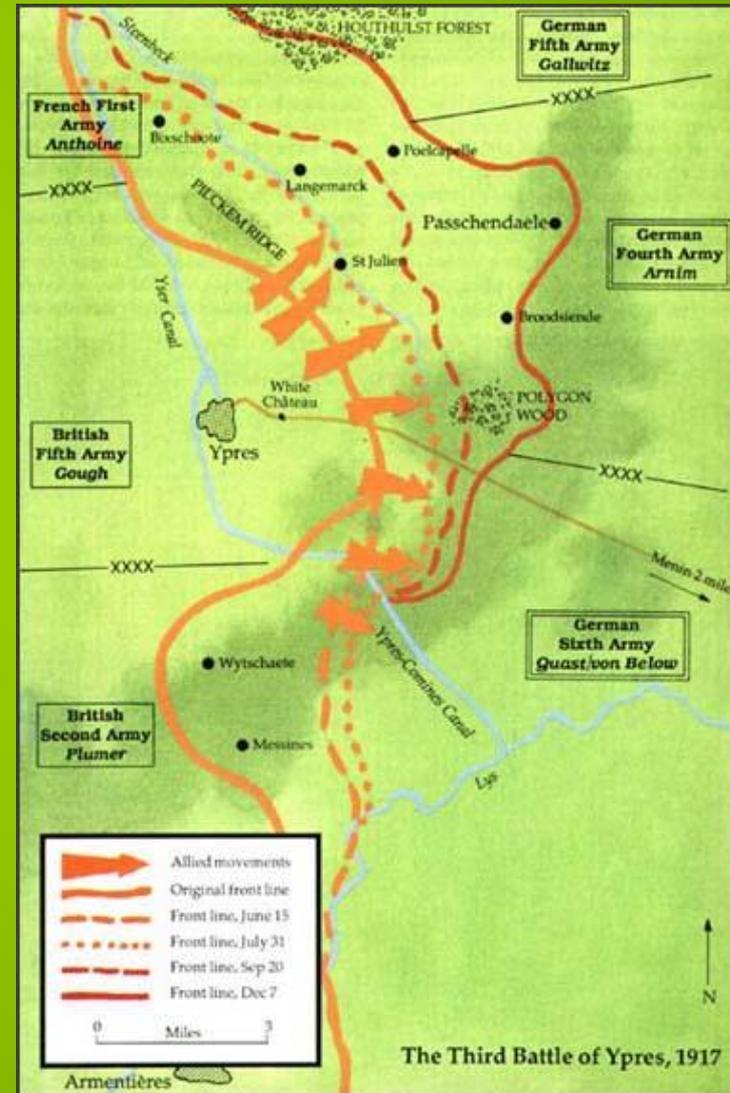
The Battle of



Passchendaele

Third Battle of Ypres

1. The battle began in July and lasted until November, 1917
2. This area is known as “Flanders.”



3. Huge shell craters and heavy rains made the area a mud pit
 - a. it took 10 men to carry one wounded soldier
 - b. often wounded soldiers drowned in the mud



Passchendaele

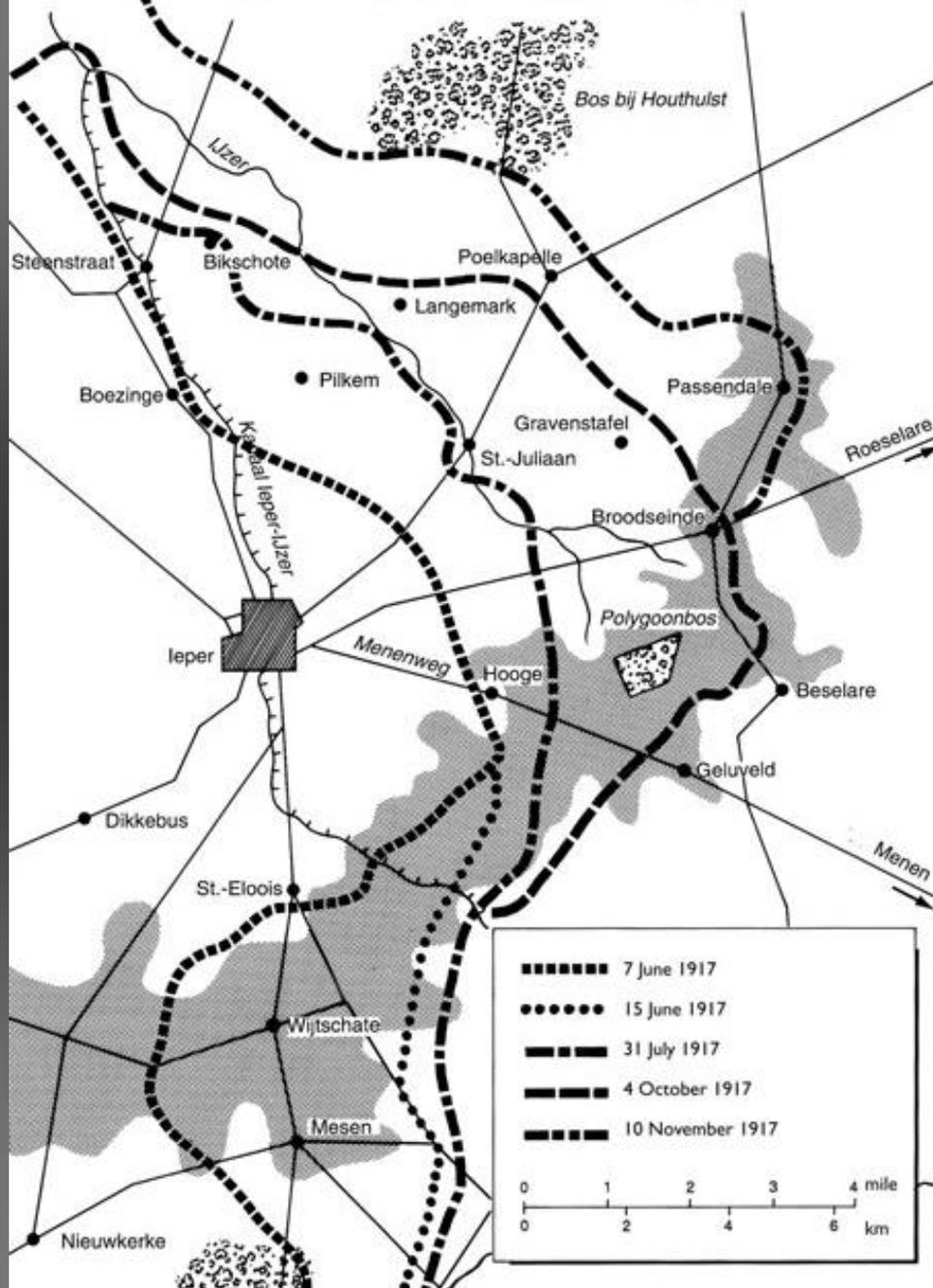




4. Canadians were given the task of taking the small town of Passchendaele
5. October 26, 1917, the 3rd and 4th divisions of the Canadian Corps attack
6. In early November, the 1st and 2nd divisions were sent in to replace the 3rd and 4th
7. November 10, 1917, Canadians capture Passchendaele
8. Canada lost 15, 600 men (British 330,000)



THE THIRD BATTLE OF YPRES



Legend for the front line positions:

- Thick dashed line: 7 June 1917
- Dotted line: 15 June 1917
- Solid thick line: 31 July 1917
- Thin solid line: 4 October 1917
- Thick dashed line: 10 November 1917

Scale bar:

0 1 2 3 4 mile
0 2 4 6 km