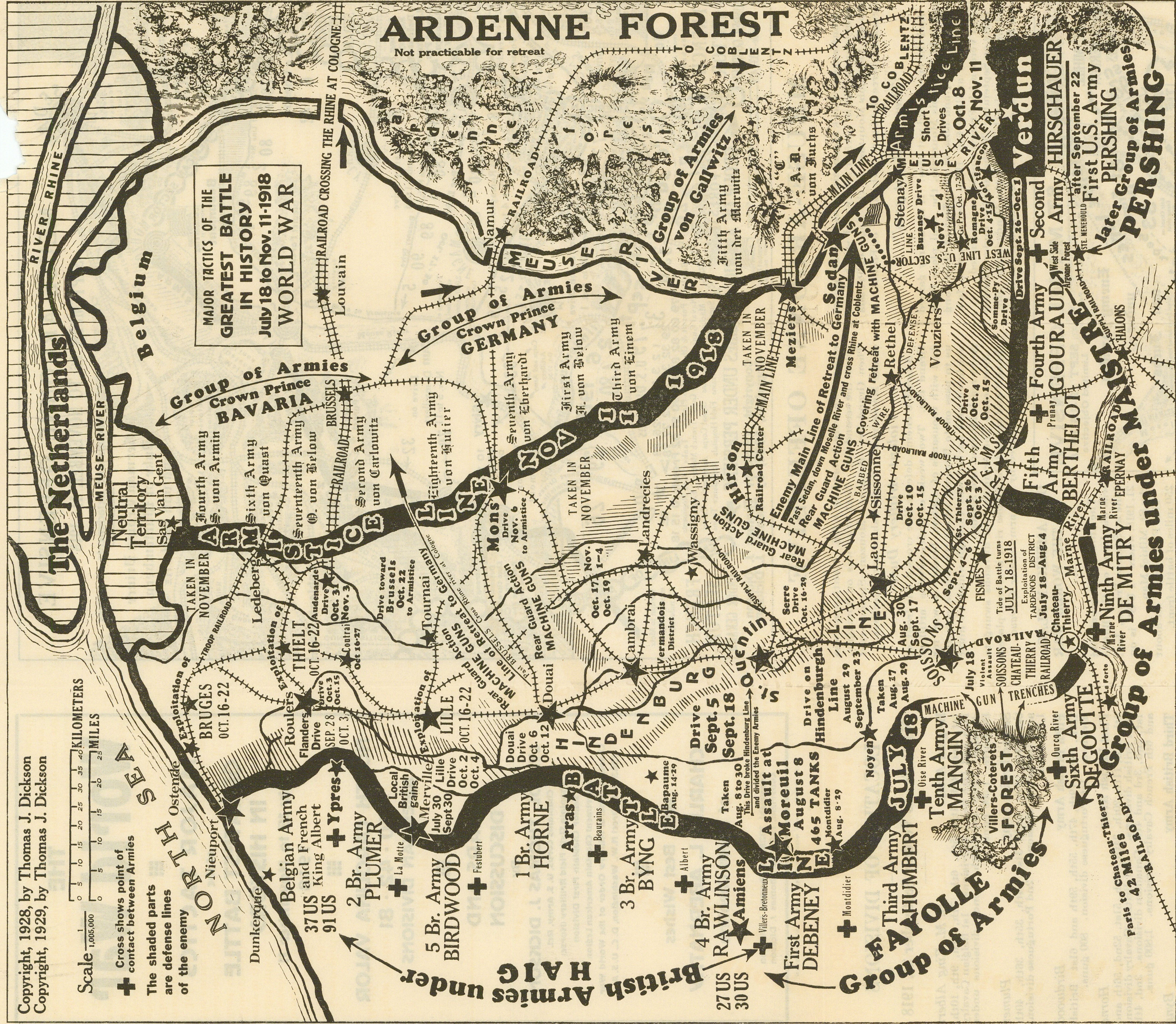


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Scale 1:1,000,000
0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40
KILOMETERS
0 5 10 15 20 25
MILES

✚ Cross shows point of contact between Armies

The shaded parts are defense lines of the enemy



Who Won World War?

Major Tactics of over 25 Armies. The Greatest Battle in History. Millions of Soldiers in Action.

Locate shaded Hindenburg Line from North Sea to Verdun. All enemy drives in 1918 started near this line. In March, enemy drove toward Amiens and broke the battle line where the British joined the French. Allied reserves promptly closed the gap of eight miles. The Merville salient was made by enemy in April. In May, the enemy drove to Chateau-Thierry—42 miles from Paris. This Aisne-Marne salient was very weak in supply roads; had but one railroad from Soissons to Chateau-Thierry. In June, the enemy tried in vain to widen base of this salient. July 15th was the supreme effort of the enemy for mastery by a violent drive on a front of 70 miles—Chateau-Thierry to the Argonne Forest. Our situation was momentous! Our main railroad—Chateau-Thierry—Epernay—Chalons—St. Mihiel—Verdun—ran parallel to the battle line and was under enemy fire.

There was but one place on Western Front where a successful assault by us would produce decisive results. Near Soissons! The enemy realized that such an assault near Soissons would exactly reverse conditions, as their supply railroad from Soissons to Chateau-Thierry was just inside of and ran parallel

to the battle line. The enemy had superiority of the air. Man and gun power of the opposing armies about equal with the Allies gaining daily by arrival of new divisions.

Foch Turns Tide of Battle

Shock divisions from the groups of armies of Fayolle and Maistre were secretly massed in Villers-Coterets Forest. In early hour of July 18, 1918, they met in frontal attack the divisions from the armies of the Crown Prince of Germany and von Gallwitz. The railroad from Soissons to Chateau-Thierry was soon under our artillery fire. Same day at three o'clock in the afternoon the tide of battle turned and the enemy began to leave the Chateau-Thierry salient by stages. The tide of battle had turned!

Union Jack, Tricolor and Stars and Stripes

20,000 enemy prisoners and 400 cannon were captured in this assault. The Gordon Highlanders and French Moroccans fought side by side with the Americans. By August 4th, the enemy was driven out of this salient and back to the Hindenburg Line. There were involved about 50 allied and 45 enemy divisions in the assault and the exploitation of the Tardenois (Chateau-Thierry) District. The American divisions with the Allies were: First, Second, Third (Marne), Fourth (Ivy), Twenty-sixth (Yankee), Twentieth (Keystone), Thirty-second (Red Arrow), Forty-second (Rainbow) and Seventy-seventh (Liberty).

The enemy was now on the defensive. Railroads in bad condition. On July 23rd, Debene struck the enemy; then Mangin; followed by Byng and Rawlinson.

465 Tanks in Action

It was a terrible enemy disaster when Rawlinson and Debene in a surprise assault August 8 at Moreuil used 465 tanks in driving back the salient, capturing thousands and their planes rained confusion in the ranks of the enemy. Then Plumer and Birdwood drove back Merville salient and Pershing struck St. Mihiel.

The Hindenburg Line Destroyed

The powerful Hindenburg Line was smashed in several places almost at the same time, notably in the center at St. Quentin. The enemy could not retreat through Ardennes Forest and had only two lines of retreat to Germany—one via Cologne and a superior line crossing the Rhine at Coblenz.

On September 26 began a campaign of exhaustion shown by advancing lines of troop gains with enemy armies consumed in rear guard action trying to cover the two lines they must use to reach Germany.

305,500 Prisoners and 6,615 Cannon

British captured 188,700 prisoners and 2,840 cannon. French captured 139,000 prisoners and 1,880 cannon. America captured 43,300 prisoners and 1,421 cannon. Belgians captured 14,500 prisoners and 474 cannon.

