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978-1-107-02428-1 - Winning and Losing on the Western Front: The British Third Army and the Defeat of Germany in 1918

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Winning and Losing on the Western Front

The 'Hundred Days' campaign of 1918 remains a neglected aspect of the First World War. Why was the German army defeated on the Western Front? Did its morale collapse, or was it beaten by the improved military effectiveness of a British army which had climbed a painful 'learning curve' towards modern combined arms warfare? This revealing insight into the crucial final months of the First World War uses state-of-the-art methodology to present a rounded case study of the ability of both armies to adapt to the changing realities they faced. Jonathan Boff draws on both British and German archival sources, some of them previously unseen, to examine how representative armies fought during the 'Hundred Days' campaign. Assessing how far the application of modern warfare underpinned the British army's part in the Allied victory, the book highlights the complexity of modern warfare and the role of organisational behaviour within it.

JONATHAN BOFF is a Lecturer in History at the University of Birmingham.

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Winning and Losing on the Western Front

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Abbreviations

A&Q	Adjutant and Quartermaster
AAR	After-action report
AG	Adjutant-General
AQMG	Assistant Quartermaster-General
ASC	Army Service Corps
ATL	Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington
AWOL	Absent without leave
BA-MA	Bundesarchiv-Militärarchiv, Freiburg im Breisgau
<i>BavOH</i>	<i>Bavarian Official History</i>
BEF	British Expeditionary Force
BGGGS	Brigadier-General, General Staff
BGRA	Brigadier-General, Royal Artillery
BKA	Bayerische Hauptstaatsarchiv Abteilung IV: Kriegsarchiv, Munich
<i>BOH</i>	<i>British Official History</i>
CHA	Commander, Heavy Artillery
CO	Commanding Officer
CRA	Commander, Royal Artillery
CRE	Commander, Royal Engineers
CSM	Company Sergeant-Major
DAQMG	Deputy Adjutant and Quartermaster-General
DGMS	Director-General of Medical Services
DGT	Director-General of Transportation
DHQ	Divisional Headquarters
<i>FSR</i>	<i>Field Service Regulations</i>
GD	Guards Division
GHQ	General Headquarters
GOC	General Officer Commanding
GOCRA	General Officer Commanding, Royal Artillery
<i>GOH</i>	<i>German Official History</i>
<i>GQG</i>	<i>Grand Quartier Général</i>
GS	General Staff

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GSO	General Staff Officer
<i>HB</i>	<i>Heeresgruppe Boehn</i> (Army Group Boehn)
<i>HKR</i>	<i>Heeresgruppe Kronprinz Rupprecht</i> (Army Group Crown Prince Rupprecht)
IGT	Inspector-General of Training
IWM	Imperial War Museum, London
KIA	Killed in action
LHCMA	Liddell Hart Centre for Military Archives, King's College London
MG	Machine gun
MGGS	Major-General, General Staff
MGRA	Major-General, Royal Artillery
MIA	Missing in action
MLR	Main Line of Resistance
MT	Motor transport
NAM	National Army Museum, Chelsea
NCO	Non-commissioned officer
NLS	National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh
NYD(N)	Not Yet Diagnosed (Nervous)
OC	Officer Commanding
<i>OHL</i>	<i>Oberste Heeresleitung</i>
POW	Prisoner of war
RA	Royal Artillery
RAF	Royal Air Force
RE	Royal Engineers
RFA	Royal Field Artillery
RGA	Royal Garrison Artillery
SIW	Self-inflicted wound
TNA	The National Archives, Kew
VC	Victoria Cross
WIA	Wounded in action

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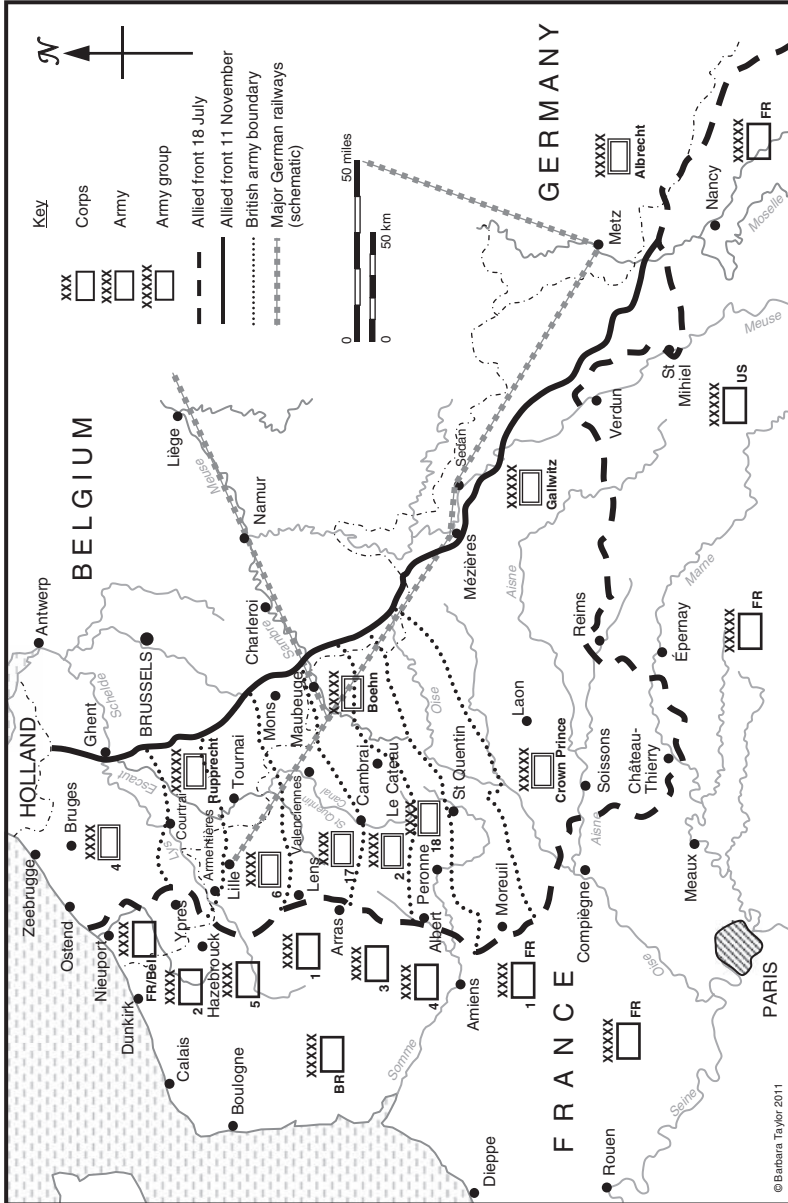
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Map 1 The Western Front, July–November 1918

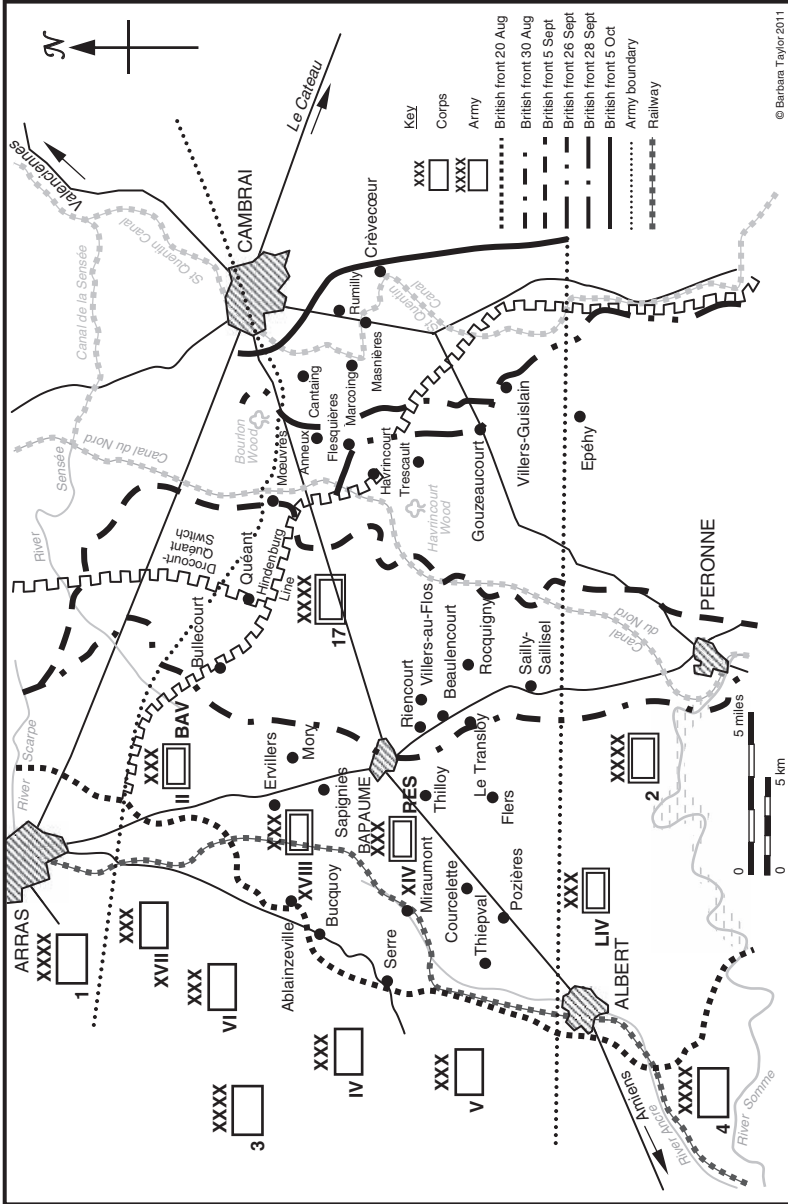
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Map 2 Third Army's advance, August–September 1918

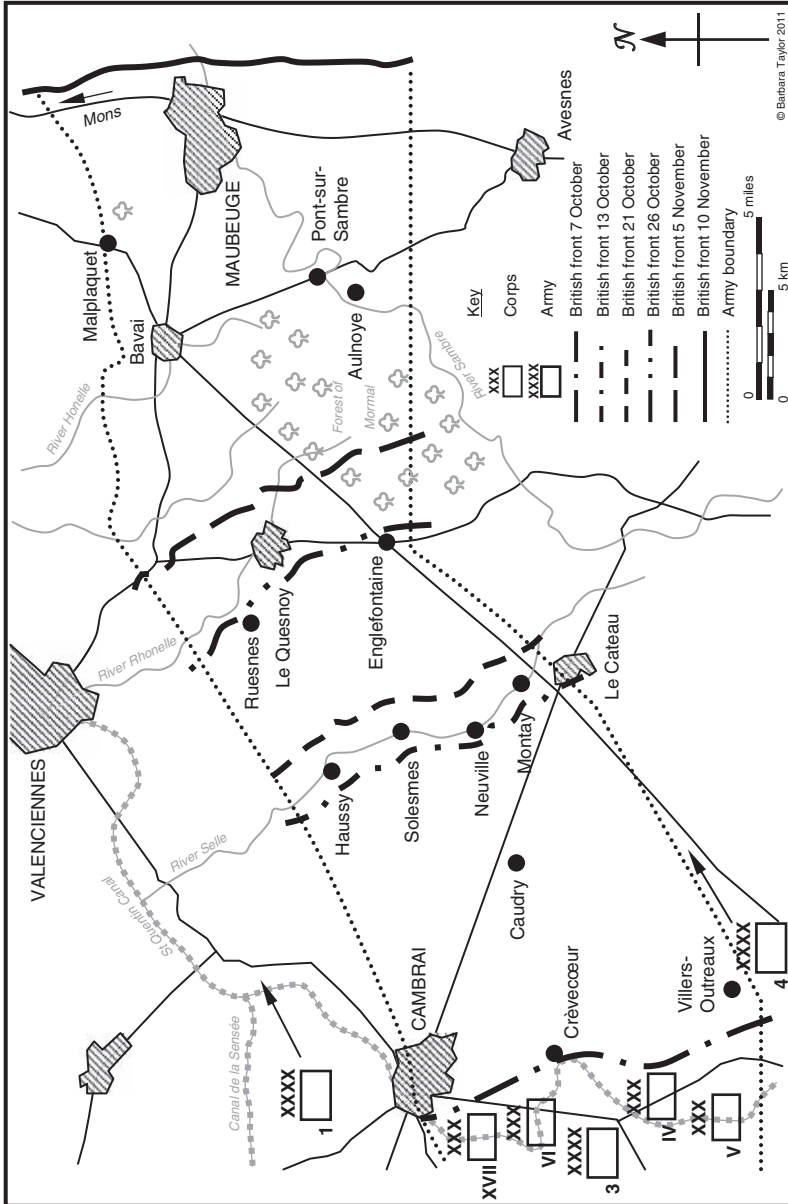
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Map 3 Third Army's advance, October–November 1918

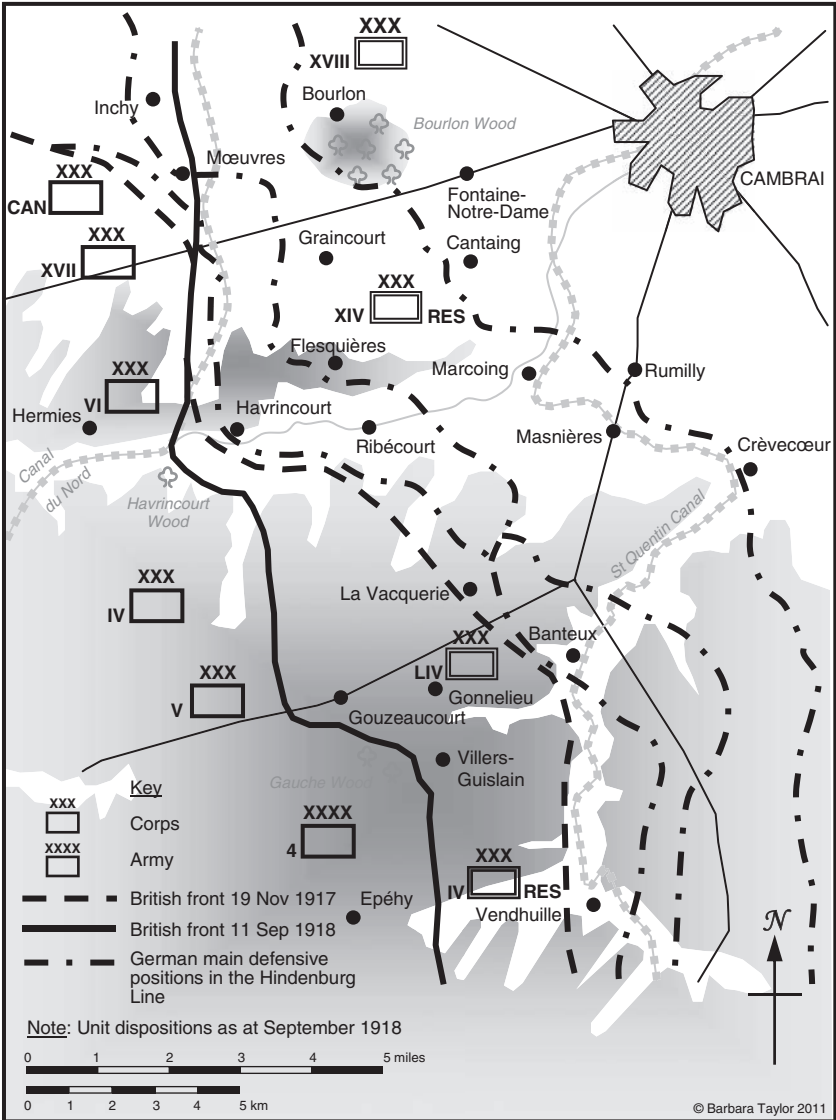
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Map 4 Attacking the Hindenburg Line, November 1917 and September 1918