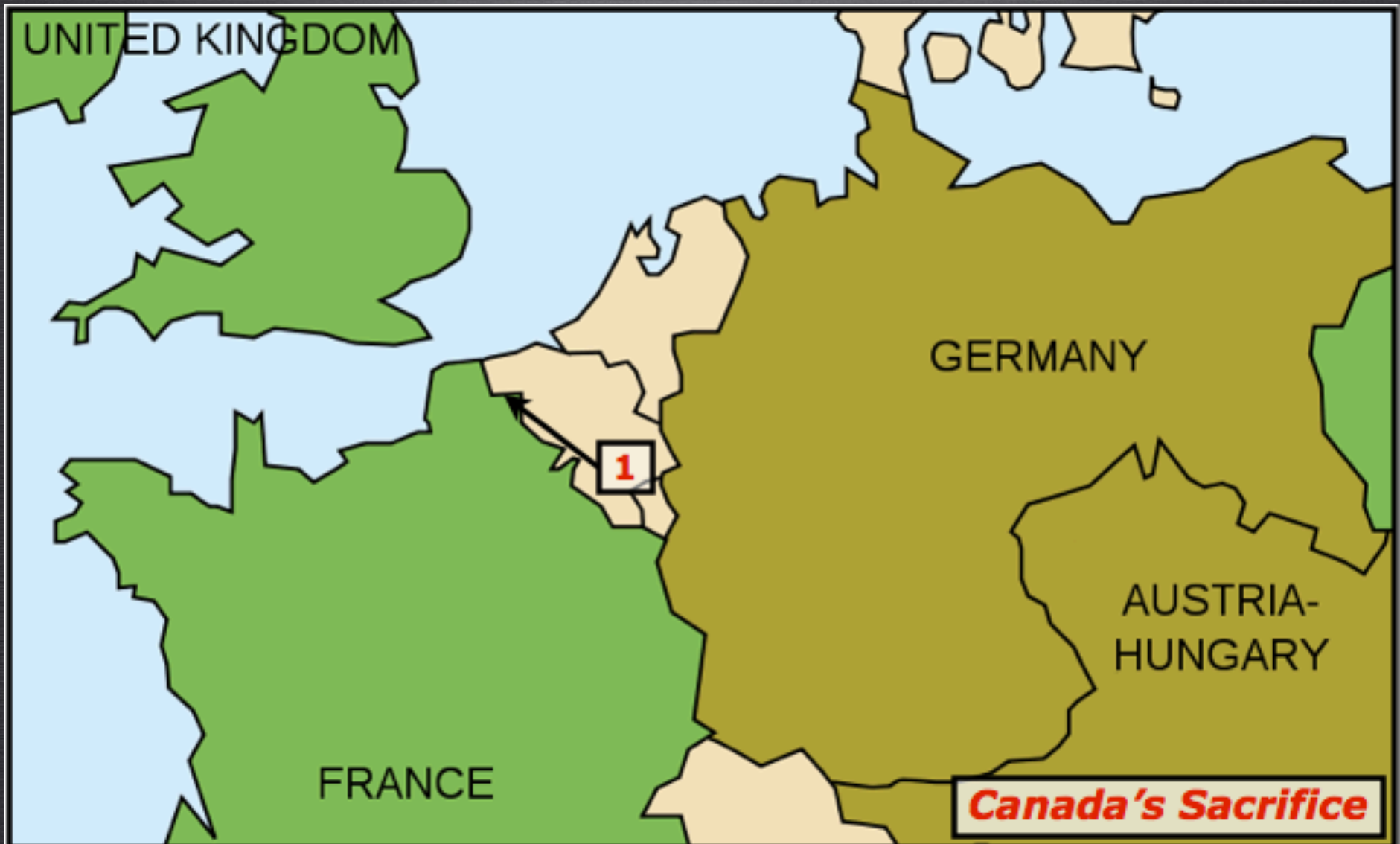


CANADA EMERGES IN THE 20TH CENTURY
BATTLES OF THE GREAT WAR



2nd Battle of Ypres

April 22, 1915



2nd Battle of Ypres

April 22, 1915

Interesting Details

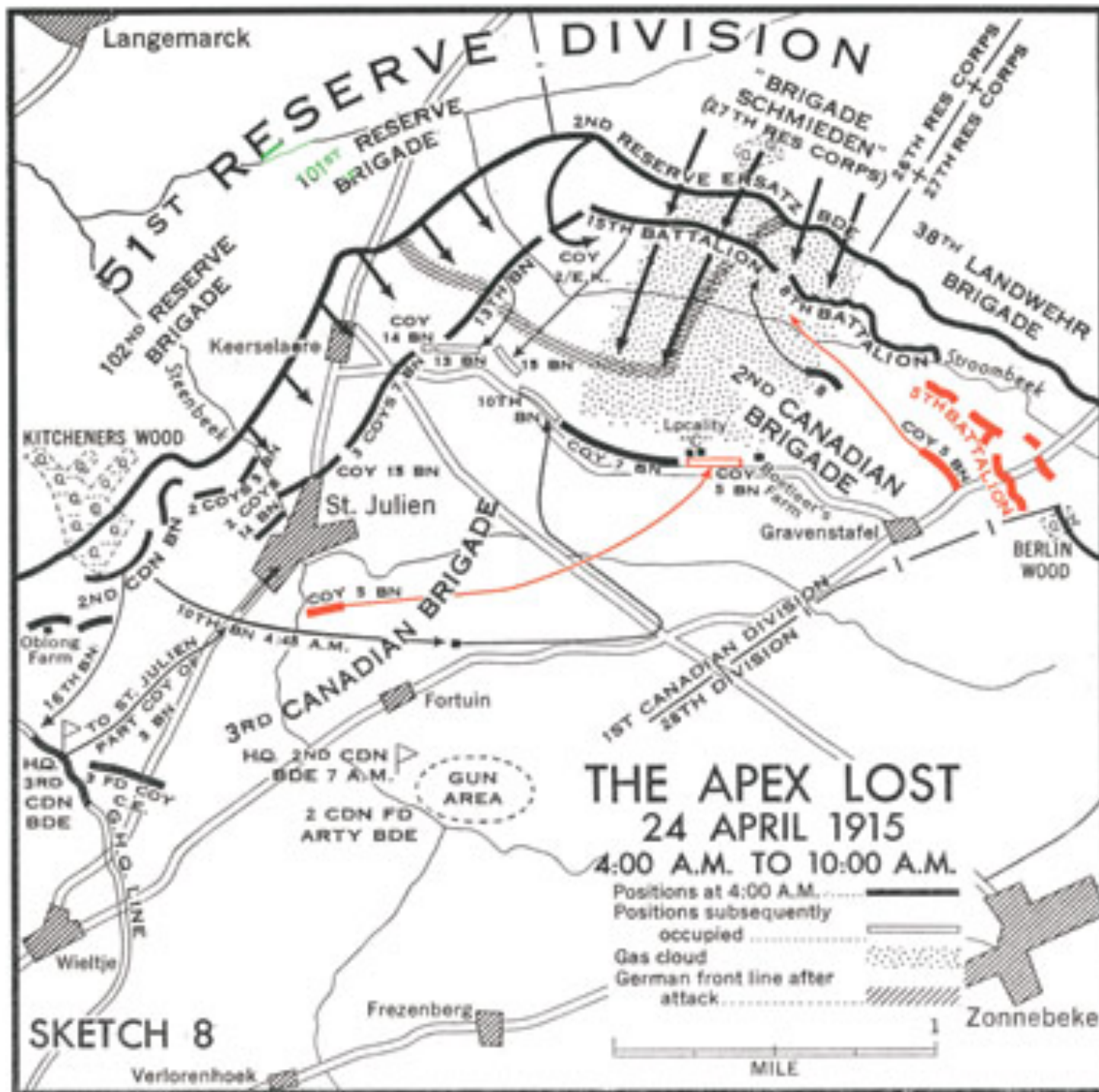
- first action seen by Canadian troops
- Germans used chlorine gas
- 6000 Canadian casualties

Canada's Role

- sent to stop Germans from reaching English Channel
- proved themselves a strong fighting force by facing mustard gas
- did not retreat; held the line



http://www.solarnavigator.net/world_war_one.htm



Battle of the Somme

July 1916



Battle of the **Somme**

July 1916

Interesting Details

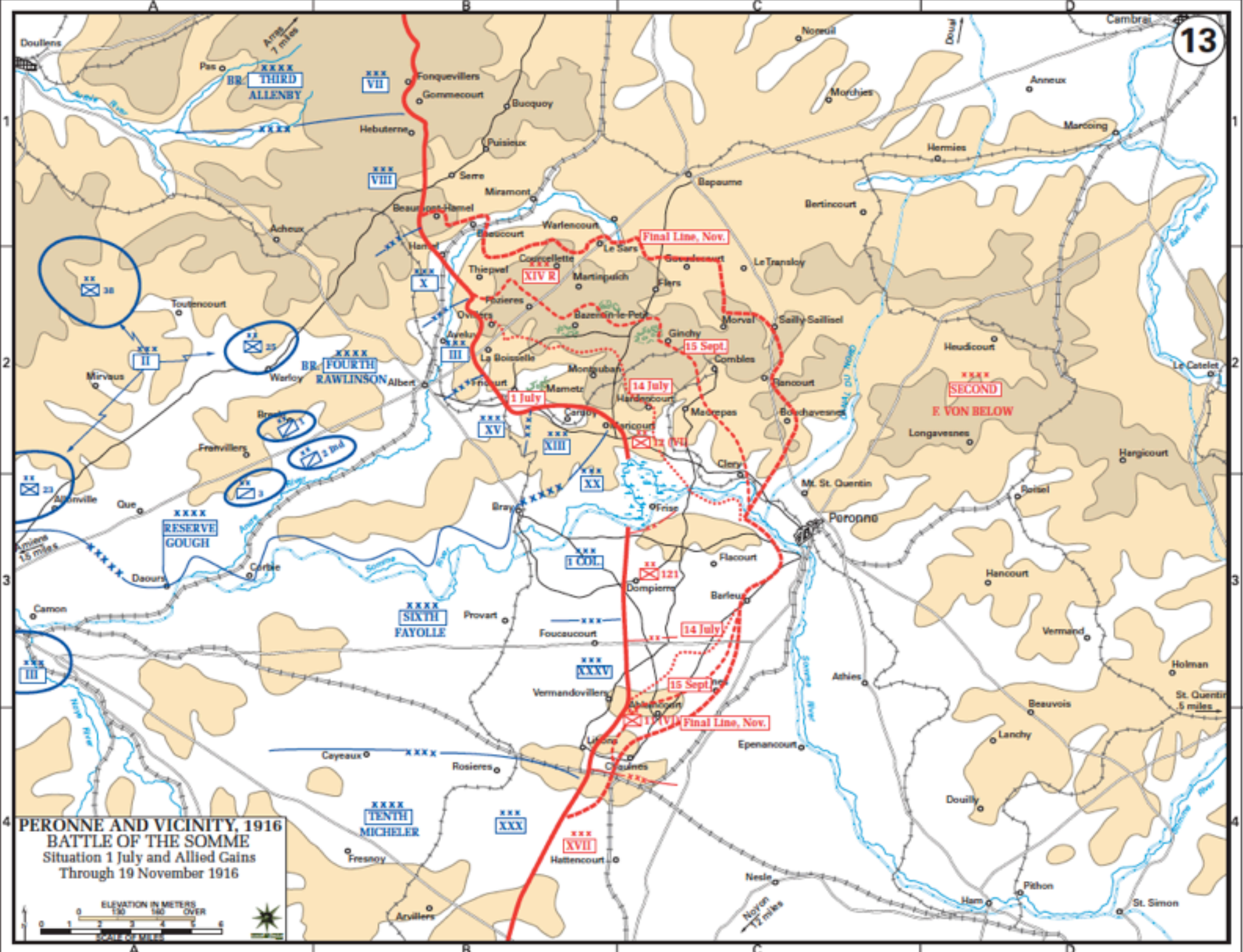
- Commander: Douglas Haig
- 85% of Royal Newfoundland regiment suffered casualties
- over 1 million casualties overall
- 24,000 Canadian casualties
- called the “bloodbath”
- no clear victory; only 11 km gained

Canada's Role

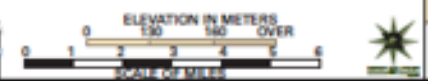
- part of the largest offensive in the war along the Somme River, an attempt to win the war
- set in strategic offensive positions, known to be good fighters



<http://www.freeinfosociety.com/article.php?id=456>



PERONNE AND VICINITY, 1916
BATTLE OF THE SOMME
 Situation 1 July and Allied Gains
 Through 19 November 1916



Battle of Vimy Ridge

April 9, 1917



Battle of **Vimy Ridge**

April 9, 1917

Interesting Details

- Germans captured ridge in initial assault (strategic position)
- over 3500 men killed, 7000 wounded
- largest victory of the war up to that date
- efficient planning and training contributed to victory
- part of a campaign called Battle of Arras

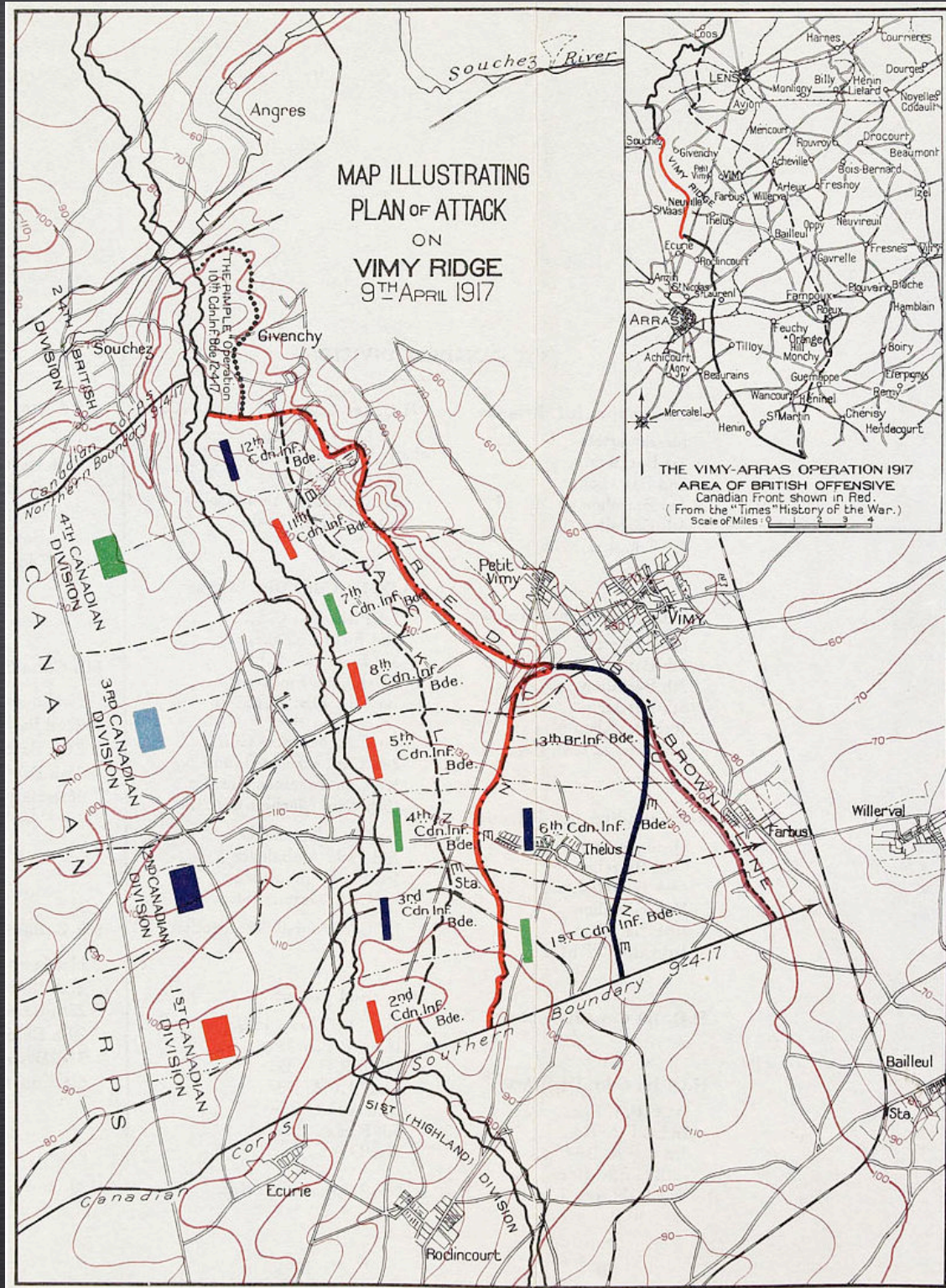
Canada's Role

- captured strategic position (French had tried 3 x)
- first time all 4 Canadian divisions fought together
- led by General Byng (later Lord Byng, Gov-Gen)
- meticulously planned (Arthur Currie); use of tunneling and the “creeping barrage”
- captured more ground, prisoners, artillery than any previous British offensive
- a source of pride and for Canada (rallying point)



<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/lac-bac/result/all-tout.php?>

FormName=Fed+Simple+Search&SourceQuery=&ResultCount=5&PageNum=1&MaxDocs=-1&SortSpec=score+desc&Language=eng&SearchIn_1=&Operator_1=AND&SearchIn_2=&SearchInText_2=&Operator_2=AND&SearchIn_3=&SearchInText_3=&Sources_1=amicus&Sources_2=mikan&Sources_3=genapp&Sources_4=web&soundex=on&cainInd=&SearchInText_1=vimy+ridge





Canadian soldiers returning victorious from Vimy Ridge
more at <http://mapleleafup.ca/ww1/vimy-photos1.html>

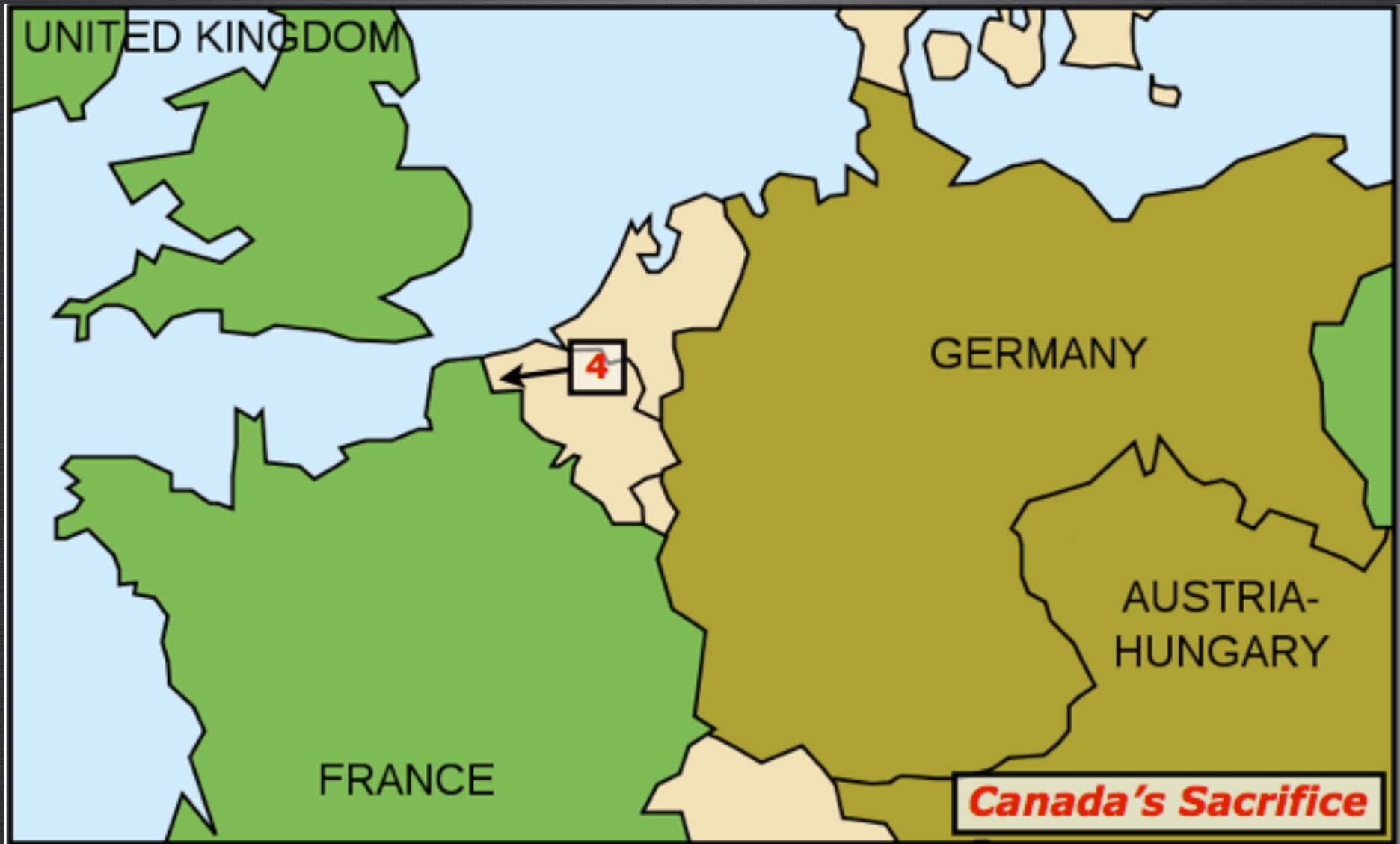




The Battle of Vimy Ridge, a painting by Richard Black, Canadian War Museum

2nd Battle of Passchendaele

October 26, 1917



2nd Battle of **Passchendaele**

October 26, 1917

Interesting Details

- mud was so bad that horses and men drowned in it
- 15,000 Canadian lives lost
- poorly organized but Allies still won
- nearly 1/2 million soldiers lost on both sides
- part of campaign called 3rd Battle of Ypres

Canada's Role

- led by General Arthur Currie (first Canadian to command our troops)
- called on because of Vimy
- Currie warned of slaughter but Haig insisted



