

# LOVE AND THE LOVELESS

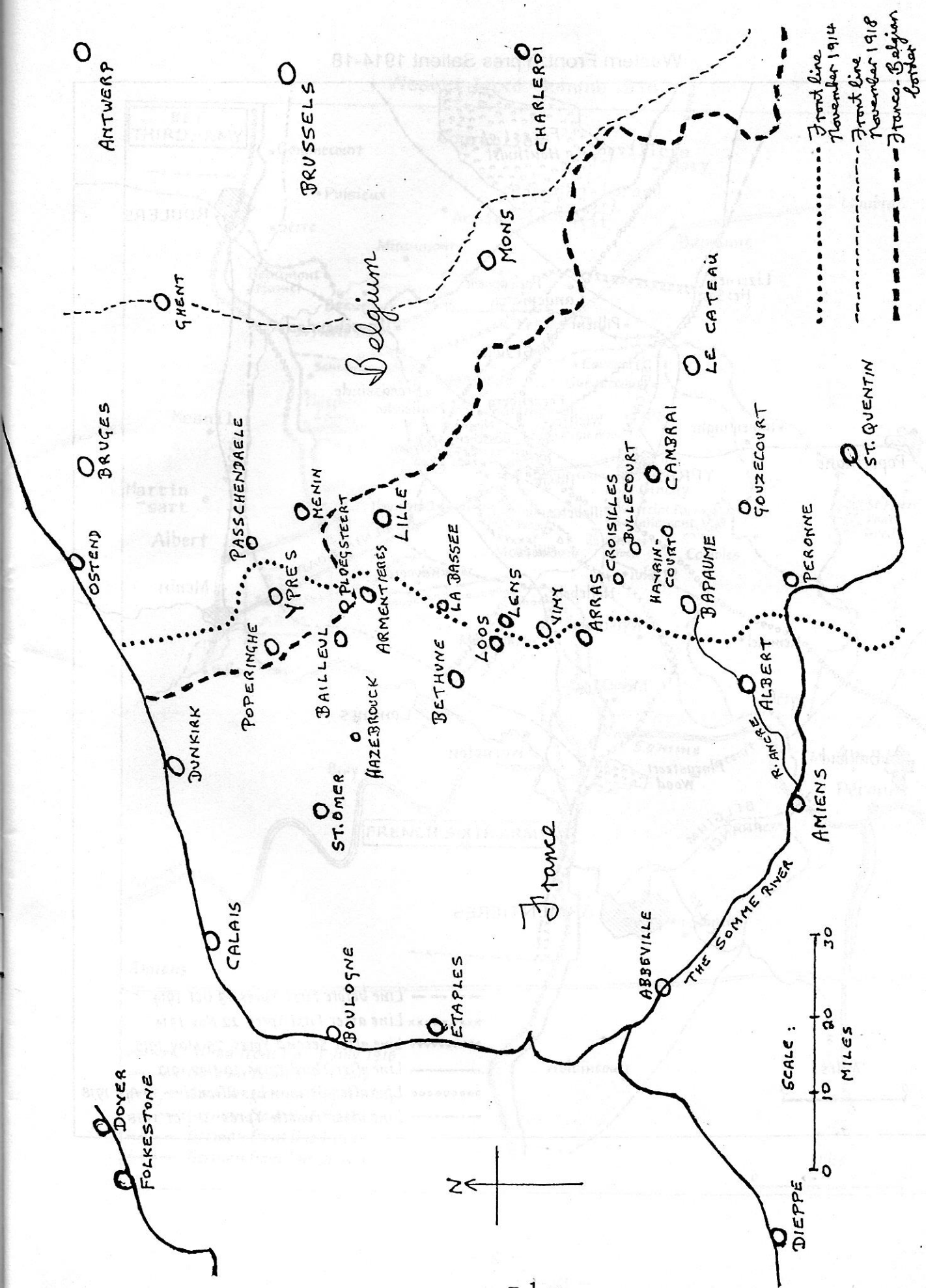
## AN INDEX





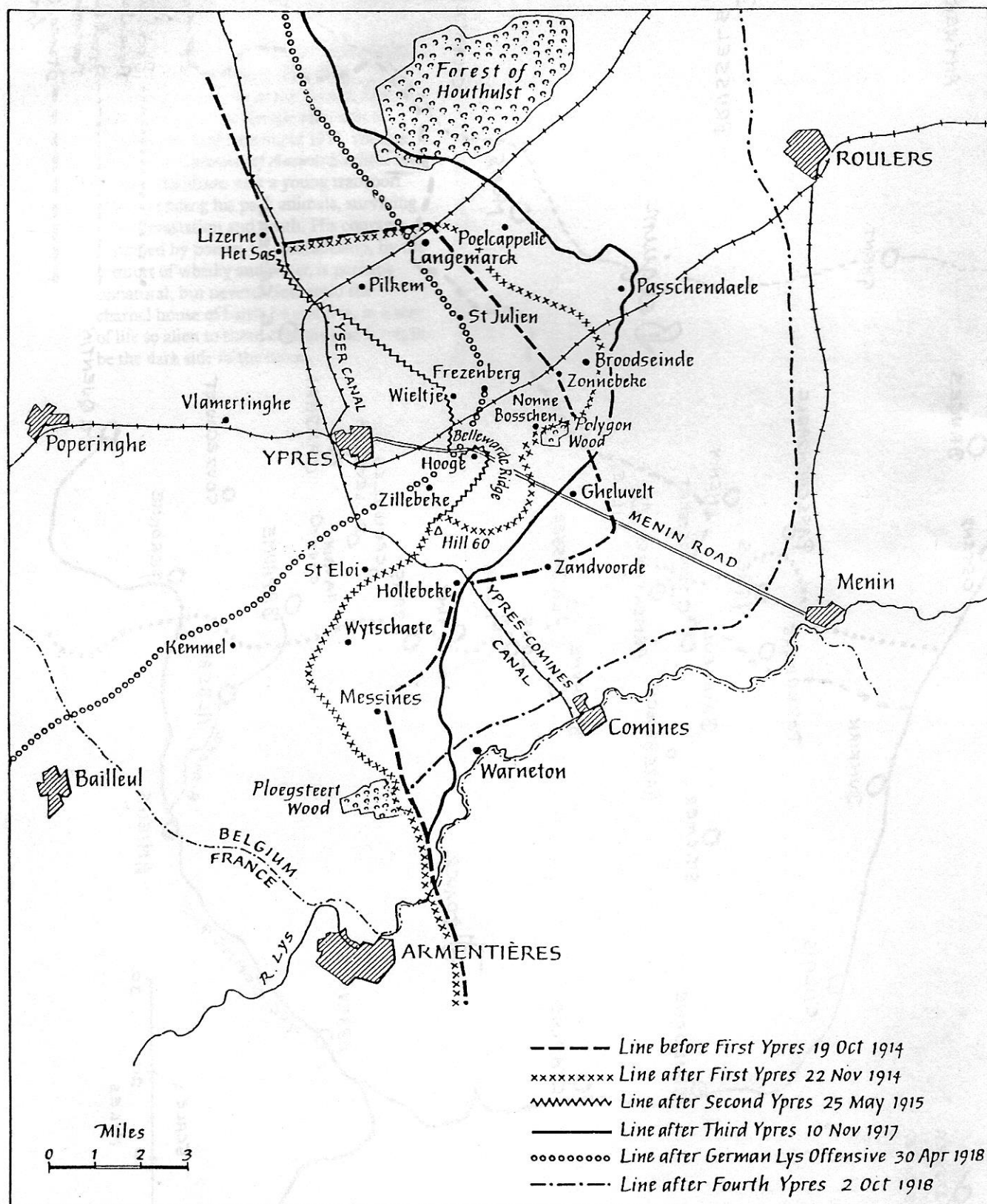
Vol. 7 of A CHRONICLE OF ANCIENT  
SUNLIGHT

The year covered by this novel was perhaps the darkest of the Great War, with widespread mutinies in the French Army after the disastrous Nivelle offensive in Champagne in the spring of 1917. Volume seven of *A Chronicle of Ancient Sunlight* sees Phillip Maddison now a young transport officer, tending his pack animals, surviving amid devastation and death. His courage, sustained by poetry, by comradeship, by the comfort of whisky and water, is perhaps unnatural; but nevertheless amid the charnel house of battle he endures, in a way of life so alien to those at home that it might be the dark side of the moon.

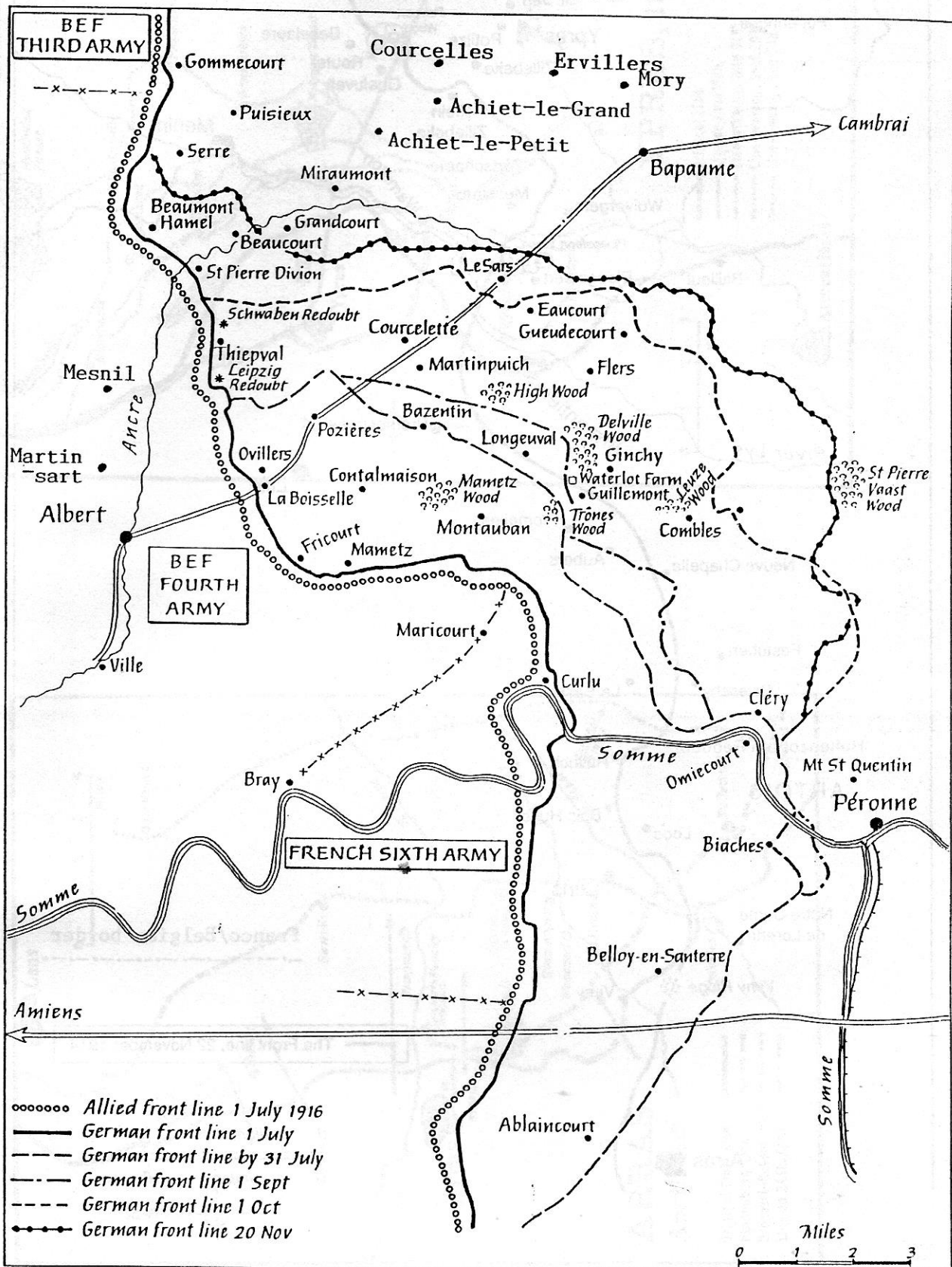


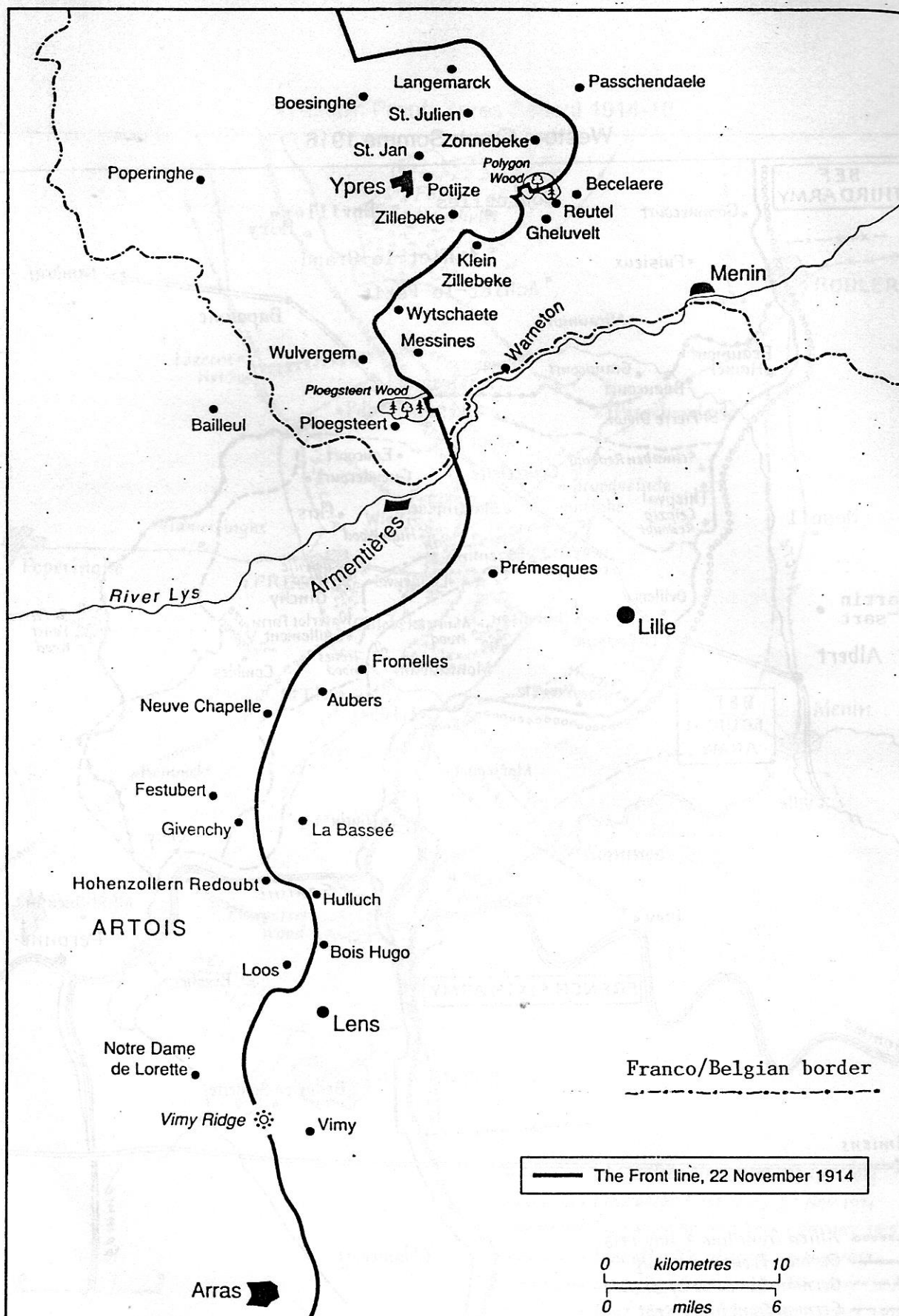


# Western Front: Ypres Salient 1914-18

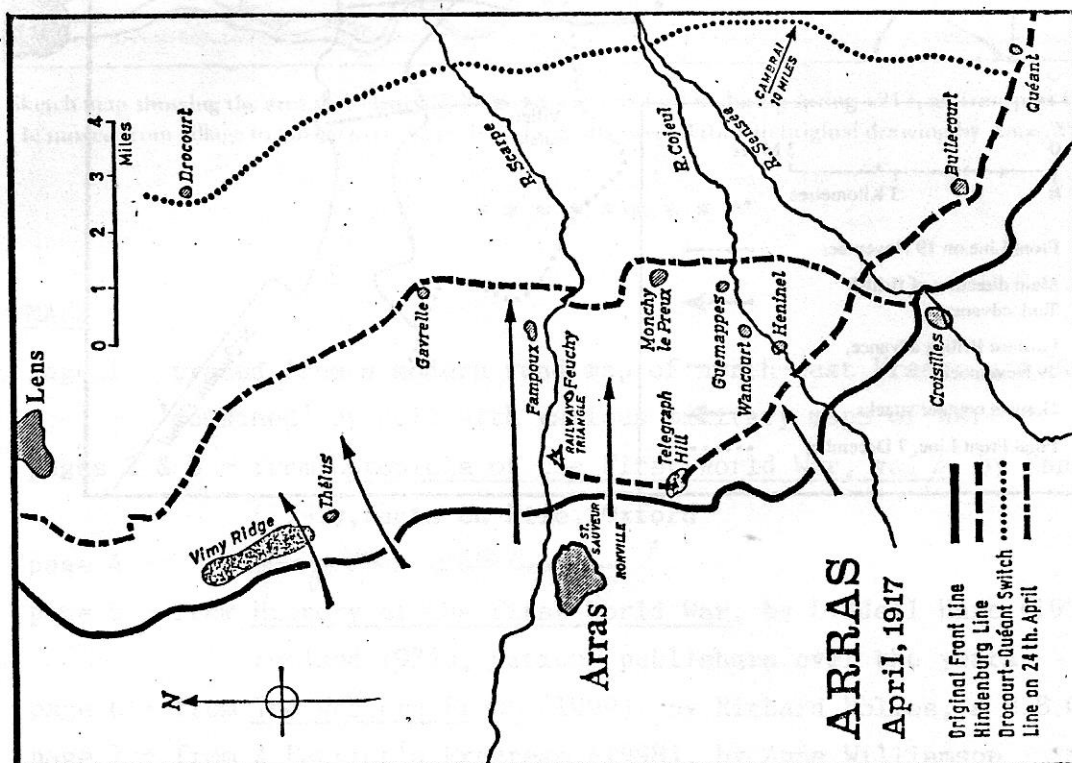
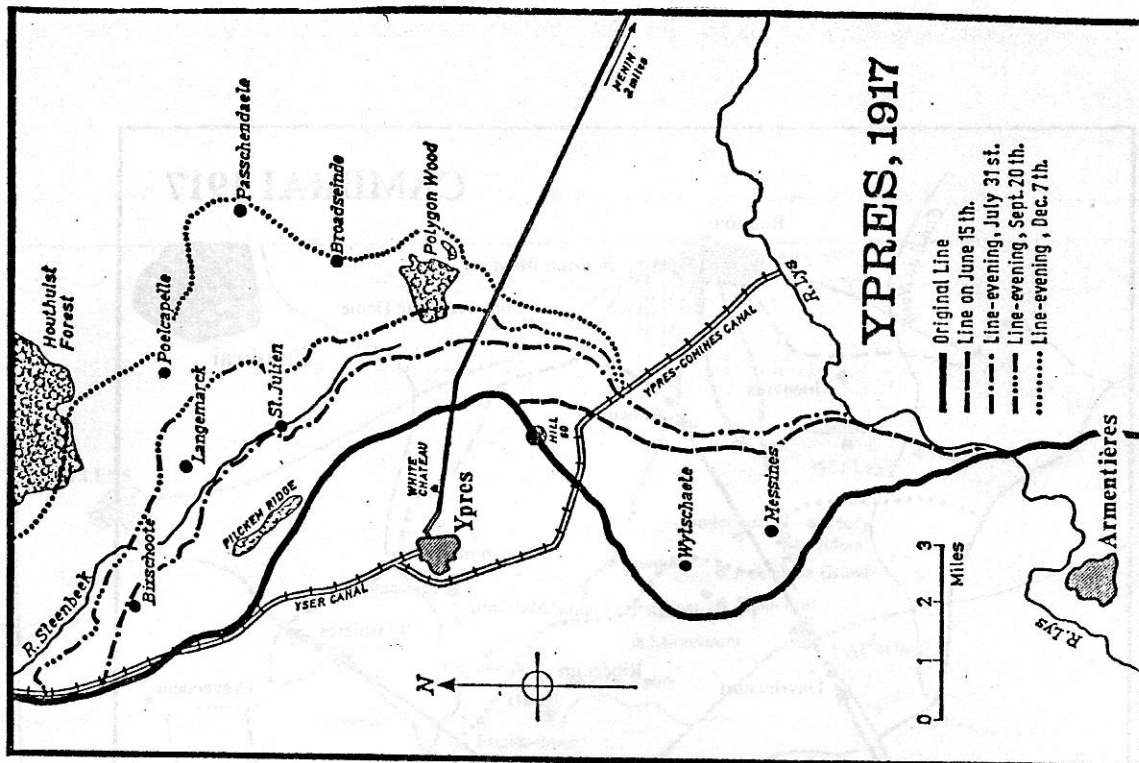


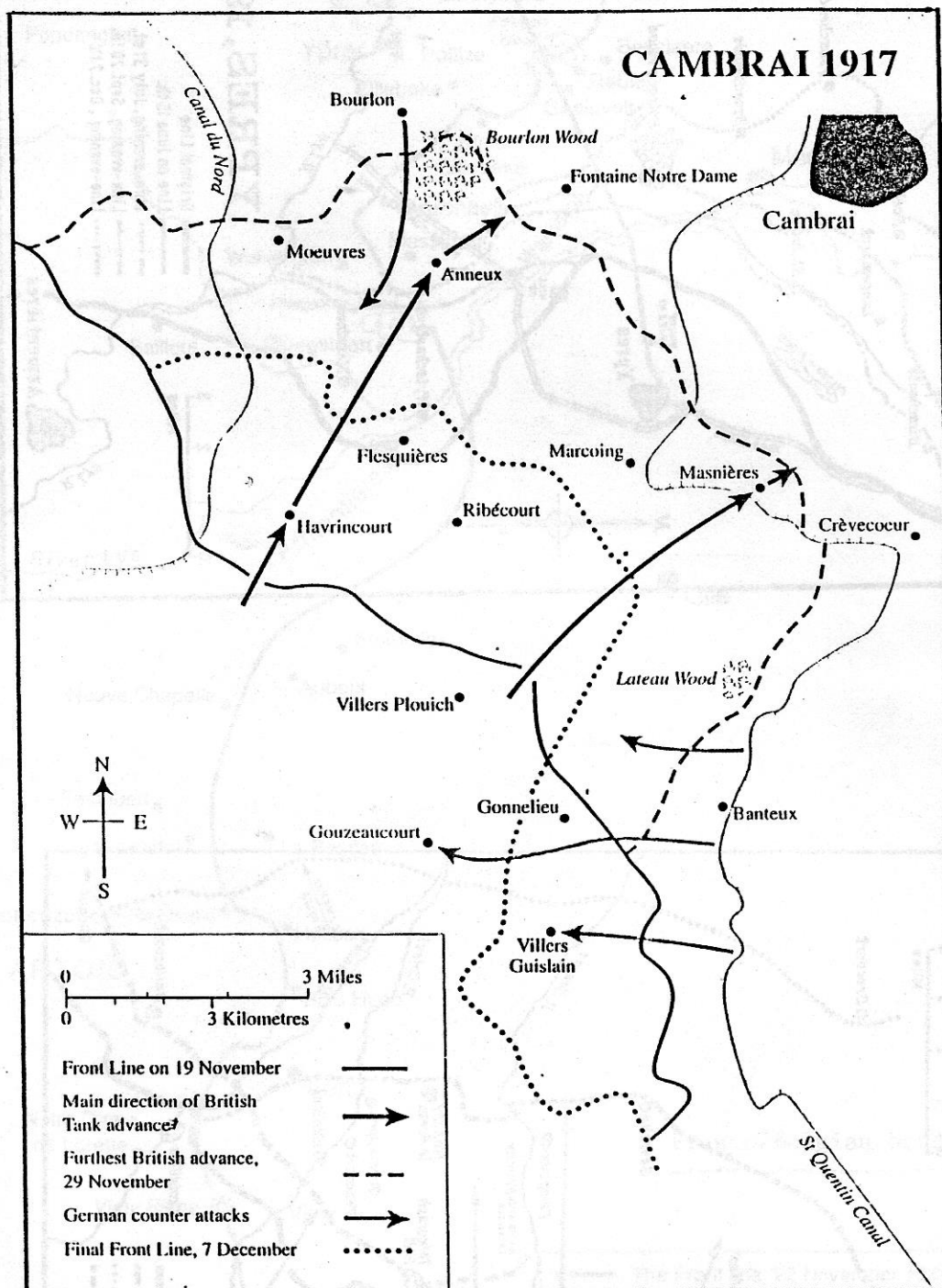
# Western Front: Somme 1916



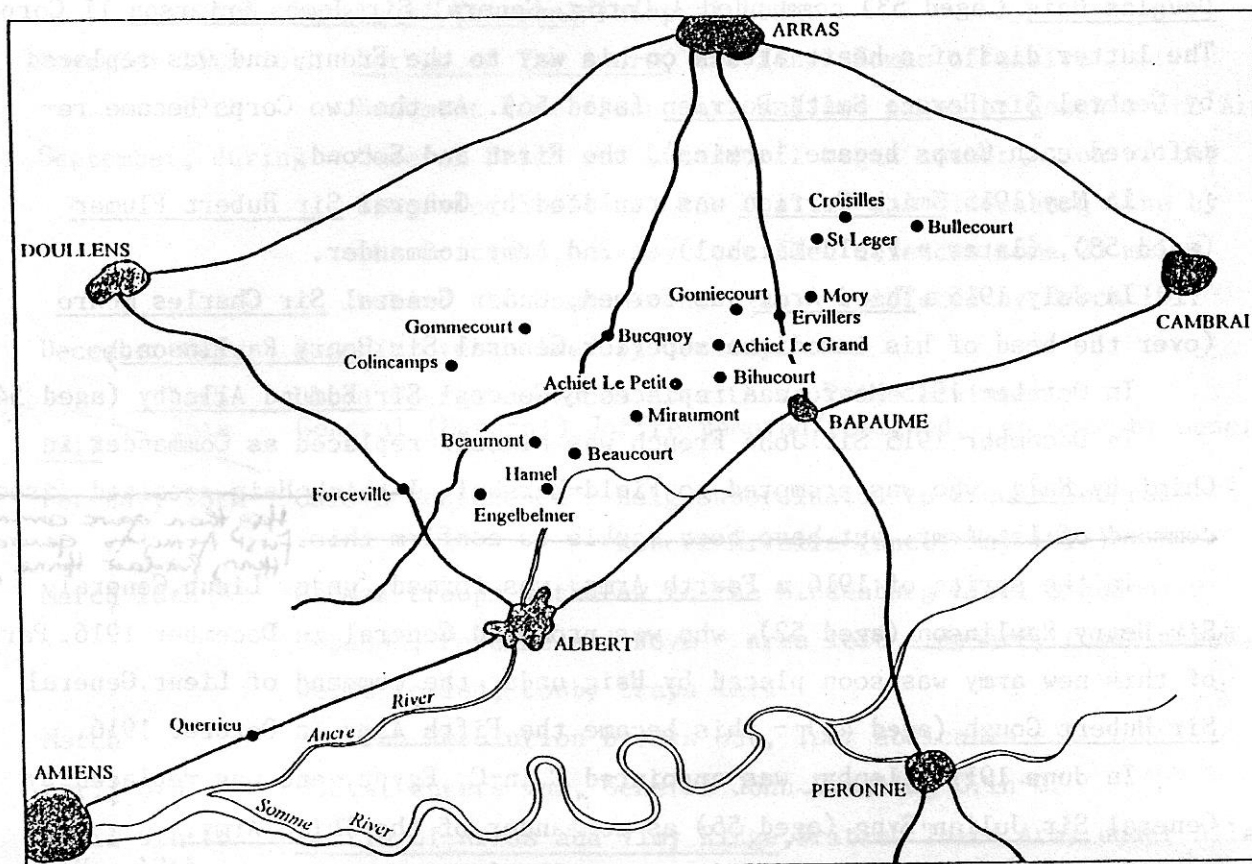












Sketch map showing the area that Henry Williamson was involved in during spring 1917, as Transport Officer, MGCoy. He moved from village to village over the period of the offensive. (From an original drawing by Anne Williamson.)

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## MAPS

page 1 - traced from a modern road map of north-east France and Belgium,

'combined' by self with various military maps of WW1

pages 2 & 3 - from Chronicle of the First World War, vol 2, by Randal Gray

(1991), Facts on File, Oxford

page 4 -

*forgotten - still looking!*

page 5 - from History of the First World War, by Liddell Hart (1930, revised 1934), various publishers over the years

page 6 - from The Western Front (1999), by Richard Holmes, a B.B.C. publication

page 7 - from A Patriot's Progress, (1998), by Anne Williamson

## British Army commanders on the Western Front

The original British Expeditionary Force consisted of some 100,000 men, commanded by Field-Marshal Sir John French (in 1914 aged 62).

The B.E.F. consisted of two Corps (each of two divisions). General Sir Douglas Haig (aged 53) commanded 1 Corps, General Sir James Grierson 11 Corps. The latter died of a heart attack on his way to the Front, and was replaced by General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien (aged 56). As the two Corps became re-inforced ~~the~~ Corps became 'armies', the First and Second.

In May 1915 Smith Dorrien was replaced by General Sir Hubert Plumer (aged 58), (later a Field-Marshal) as 2nd Army commander.

In July 1915 a Third Army was formed, under General Sir Charles Monro (over the head of his immediate superior General Sir Henry Rawlinson.)

In October 1915 Monro was replaced by General Sir Edmund Allenby (aged 54).

In December 1915 Sir John French was himself replaced as Commander in Chief by Haig, who was promoted to Field-Marshal. ~~I think Haig retained direct command of 1st Army, but have been unable to confirm this.~~ *He then gave command of 1st Army to General Sir Henry Birdair Home, aged 55.*

In the spring of 1916 a Fourth Army was formed, under Lieut.General Sir Henry Rawlinson (aged 52), who was promoted General in December 1916. Part of this new army was soon placed by Haig under the command of Lieut.General Sir Hubert Gough (aged 46) - this became the Fifth Army in October 1916.

In June 1917 Allenby was appointed C.in-C., Egypt, and was replaced by General Sir Julian Byng (aged 55) as commander of the Third Army.

In March 1918 Gough was sacked, and 'his' Fifth Army became part of the Fourth Army again, under Rawlinson.

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My main sources of information on all military matters in these indices are:

'History of The First World War' (1930, revised 1934) by Liddell Hart

'The Western Front' (B.B.C. publication 1999) by Professor Richard Holmes

'Remembrances of Hell' (1997), extracts of diaries of Norman Ellison (1893-1976) edited by David R. Lewis



A 'Western Front' chronology for the period covered by Love and The Loveless  
(late September 1916 to end of 1917)

1916            the Somme campaign continues apace

September 20th Battle of High Wood

                 26th Battle of Thiepval/Thiepval Ridge

November 11th-16th Battle of The Ancre, the final Somme offensive

                 13th        Beaumont Hamel/Beaucourt salient taken by Gough's 5th Army

September, during    General Erich von Ludendorff began construction of the Siegfried Stellung Line (called the Hindenburg Line by the British), heavily fortified defences some 25 miles behind the Somme front line - completed by March 1917

December 6th        Rumania overwhelmed by Germany

                 11th        Lloyd George replaces Asquith as Prime Minister

                 26th        General (Marshal) Joffre removed/resigned, replaced by General Nivelle

1917

February 26th        Calais Conference - Haig subordinated to French General Robert Nivelle (until May 1917)

March 16th        German troops withdraw to the Hindenburg Line, abandoning Bapaume, Peronne and Roye - area left a desert, roads mined, wells fouled, booby traps laid

March            Russian Revolution breaks out, Tsar abdicates

April 6th        U.S.A. enters war, General John Pershing C.in-C.

April 9th to May 17th    Battle of Arras and Vimy Ridge, British Third Army under Allenby, Canadians under Byng at Vimy

April 16th began Second Battle of The Aisne - failed, some French troops mutiny,

May 16th        Nivelle sacked, replaced by General Philippe Petain

June 7th-14th    Battle of Messines Ridge (Ypres). 2nd Army under Plumer. 19 mines blow up German trenches. Hill 60 taken. Germans abandon Messines and Wytschaete

July 31st to November 10th Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele), including:  
                  July 31st to August 2nd, Battle of Pilckem; August 16th to 18th, Battle of Langemarck; Sept 20th to 25th, Battle of the Menin Road; Sept 26th to October 3rd, Battle of Polygon Wood; October 4th, Battle of Broodseinde; October 9th, Battle of Poelcapelle; October 12th, First Passchendaele; October 26th to November 10th, Second Passchendaele. Nov 4th, Passchendaele (ruins of) taken.

November 20th- December 3rd Battle of Cambrai. 3rd Army under Byng. 30th November, Brigadier R.B. Bradford, V.C., M.C., aged 25 (the 'Boy General') killed.

November 30th    German counterattacks regain nearly all lost ground. Each side suffers about 45,000 casualties ('3rd Ypres a pitiful tragedy')

December 1917    Russian collapse and capitulation complete.                    Liddell Hart)

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## Love and The Loveless (1958)

covering period late September 1916 to end of 1917

### A Chronology

#### 1916

September, late (First) Lieutenant Phillip Maddison, aged 21 yrs 6 mos, recovering from wounds received on the first day of 'the Somme' (July 1st), returns to the Training Centre at Grantham, Lincs, with 286 M.G. Coy, grieving for recently killed Lily Cornford. He longs 'to get back to France to the only life that was left.' (p 15)  
At Grantham he shares a billet with Lieuts. Teddy Pinnegar, Monty and 'Darky' Fenwick, D.C.M. Captain 'All Weather' Jack Hobart invites him to be the transport officer of a new company being formed when Phillip completes the transport course.

December, late Phillip returns to France, his coy attached to the East Pennines, (pp 97-99) with his horse Black Prince, and moving through Engelbelmer, Martinset and Mesnil (see map p 3) arrives at Albert.

#### 1917

February, late transport lines advanced to a mile beyond Hamel (p 114) - (map p 3, and other maps I have seen show Beaumont Hamel to be one village, but there were two separate villages, Beaumont and Hamel, see map p 7). Phillip used a wrecked tank as a billet.

March, early rations and ammo are being moved by Phillip's transport section under fire beyond Baillescourt north of Miraumont (see map p 3) - the Germans were withdrawing eastwards from nearby Achiet-le-Petit to their newly completed Siegfried Stellung (called the Hindenburg Line by the British), evacuating Courcelles, Gomiecourt and Ervillers. (p 117)

April, early U.S.A. enters the war, noted with little interest (p 121)  
transport section moves forward to Mory (p 123)

April 9th Battle of Arras (Vimy) begins (p 128) The spring push is on! The French under Nivelle move forward down south in Champagne. The Hun might crack! (p 129)

May 1st Phillip's M.G. Coy (with the East Pennine Division) take active part in the battle in the Croiselles/Bullecourt area (see map p 5)  
Phillip bravely rescues 'Darky' Fenwick, badly wounded, from under the German guns. (p p 134-139)



1917 (cont'd)

May 14th, onwards Phillip's coy at Bullecourt which has been re-taken after German counter-attack. (p 140) The main battle fizzles out, and on May 22nd we find Phillip in a cinema at Achiet-le-Grand.

Back at Albert, the coy, now in the 2nd Army under Plumer, entrains for the Flanders front via Amiens and Abbeyville (a very long way round, it seems to me, see map p 1) eventually arriving at Bailleul. They await a new offensive, again at Messines/Ypres, Phillip diarising events.

June 7th to 14th Battle of Messines which begins with the blowing up of nineteen huge mines under the German trenches (it seems that 21 mines were laid - one was found and disarmed by the Germans, another blew up in 1955! Phillip, slightly inebriated, watched the first attack from a hilltop chateau. All Weather Jack is killed, Teddy Pinnegar taking his place. (p 160)

The new C.O. is 'Sharpshooter' Downham! (p 165-166) Phillip receives an adverse report from a signalling course - on leave in London he requests a transfer back to the Gaultshires. We learn that Phillip has by now been out to France four times, but had done only 14 months in all. (p 169) Back in the company near Bailleul, morale under Downham has collapsed. (p 192) The coy is transferred back to the 5th Army under Gough, near Poperinghe. Phillip meets up with 'Spectre' West again. (P 202)

July 31st (p 218) so-called Third Battle of Ypres begins, in the rain, of course, the first objective to take Passchendaele Ridge, the final aim to drive the Germans out of Belgium and to keep the vital channel ports clear. The battle was worse than 'the Somme', says Pinnegar. (p 227) The battlefield turns into a swamp - Phillip's transport limbers bogged down and unable to deliver food and ammo.

August 10th coy is relieved. Phillip and Spectre attend a service at Talbot House (Toc H H.Q.) in Poperinghe. (pp 237-238)

August 31st Phillip is sent on a course to the Infantry Base Depot at Etaples. (p 246) Etaple and its notorious, short-lived mutiny is described in ch 15. Phillip avoids the repellant Tom Ching (p 261) and soon returns to the coy at Poperinghe. (p 267) Downham is gone, Pinnegar now in charge. The battle rages on, in the mud, huge losses reported on both sides

1917 (cont'd)

October 10th Phillip and Spectre West inspect the Passchendaele area.

Westy is shot & severely wounded, but orders Phillip to take their findings to G.H.Q. at Montreuil.(pp 301-302) Phillip

'borrows' Major Brendon's horse to get to Montreuil, where he is treated kindly by the C.in-C. himself.(pp 313-316)

Phillip rejoins the coy at Waialy, just south of Arras - the coy is now in the Third Army Group under the 'Boy General', V.C., M.C.

November 14th, circa 'Third Ypres' fizzles out, Passchendaele (ruins of) taken. All quiet, it is thought, on the Western Front.(p 324)

Phillip writes to his mother 'everything is pretty cushy'.(p 327)

He meets up with old comrade Lieut.Cox - much whisky is drunk. This is just before the Battle of Cambrai, featuring a mass tank attack, the main objective being the Hindenburg Line, via Bourslon Wood, see maps pp 6 & 7.

November 20th the tanks advance as part of Byng's Third Army tactics. A huge victory, it is thought, celebratory church bells ring in London.

Wrong! The battle is described in ch 20 as 'Victory'. Phillip's transport section is fully committed. Although the German line was open, the British wave was spent.(p 338)

November 30th the Boy General is killed.(p 354) German counter-attacks regain nearly all lost ground.(see map p 6) 286 M.G.Coy withdraws to Ribecourt - it has been found wanting, it seems. Phillip's transport section moves back to Havrincourt wood.(p 353)

Soon, Phillip, sick, exhausted, is packed off to Blighty.(pp 356-357)

He writes to Teddy Pinnegar from Landguard Fort, Suffolk, having received 3 months Garrison B duty and ten days leave. He is relieved to find that Westy has survived his wounds and in fact is also in Blighty.(p 357)

December Phillip catches up with home life in Hillside Road.(ch 21) His pal Desmond Neville has obtained his commission. Soon Phillip reports back to Landguard Fort, where he shares a billet with Lieut.Allen. He tells Allen that he has 'just been turfed out of the M.G.C.' (p 361) Then he finds that Westy is also at Landguard Fort.(p 362)

December 25th Phillip, Mons Star on breast, attends Christmas Church Parade. The C.O. (Lord Satchville) and his officers lunch in the Sergeants' Mess. Phillip is back in the Gaultshire Regt (the Mediators)



1917 (cont'd)

December, late Phillip has to appear at a medical board in March (1918)  
December 31st Phillip is invited to Westy's home, the Grapes Inn in Lime Street, for tea. He learns that Westy's two younger brothers in the Army have been killed, and that Westy himself hopes to take Holy Orders after the War.  
Phillip and Westy, who has just collected his bar to his D.S.O., spend New Year's Eve at Flossie Flower's 'hotel'. Westy's cousin/girlfriend<sup>Frances</sup> has married somebody else, and a possible liason with Sasha is envisaged. But he sees Sasha jumping into bed with Phillip (who is thinking of Lily, of course), and leaves. (pp 374-384)

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