

## 5.1 THE LUDENDORFF OFFENSIVE, SPRING 1918

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand why Ludendorff launched a German offensive in the spring of 1918
- Understand the early successes of the offensive
- Understand the reasons why the offensive finally failed.

Significant events occurred in both the USA and Russia in 1917 and 1918. The events were not linked, but together they helped to end the war and defeat Germany.

On 6 April 1917, the USA declared war on Germany. This was partly due to Germany restarting its policy of unrestricted submarine warfare (see pages 65–69) and partly because of the Zimmermann telegram that was published in US newspapers. This was a coded telegram sent by the German Foreign Secretary, Arthur Zimmermann, to the German ambassador to Mexico on 11 January 1917. The German government thought the USA was going to join the war. So they wanted to persuade Mexico to invade the USA if that happened. The Germans offered to provide military and financial support and help Mexico take over territory in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. Such an invasion would delay the sending of US troops to Europe and give Germany a good chance of winning the war. The government of Mexico, however, did not agree.

In February and October 1917 there were two revolutions in Russia. The first revolution removed the tsar, Nicholas II, from power. The provisional government that was created to rule Russia in his place continued the war. A new attack on Germany was at first successful, but then the German **counter-attack** defeated the Russian troops. Thousands of Russian soldiers deserted. In this chaos, there was a second revolution. Lenin set up a **Bolshevik** government that had promised to end the war with Germany. On 3 March 1917, Russia signed a peace treaty with Germany, the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. Russia was out of the war.

### THE NEED FOR GERMAN ACTION

The German Kaiser and the German High Command realised that they needed to take action as soon as possible.

- The USA had declared war on Germany. However, American troops had to be transported across the Atlantic Ocean and they had to be trained in the type of fighting they would experience on the Western Front. This would take time. Germany needed to win the war before the American troops made a real difference to the Allied fighting forces.
- War against the Russians on the Eastern Front had ended, and Germany had transferred 500,000 men to the Western Front. The time had come to use them.
- General Ludendorff chose the day of 21 March 1918 for his offensive.

### OPERATION MICHAEL, MARCH–JULY 1918

General Ludendorff launched his great and final offensive – Operation Michael – on 21 March 1918.

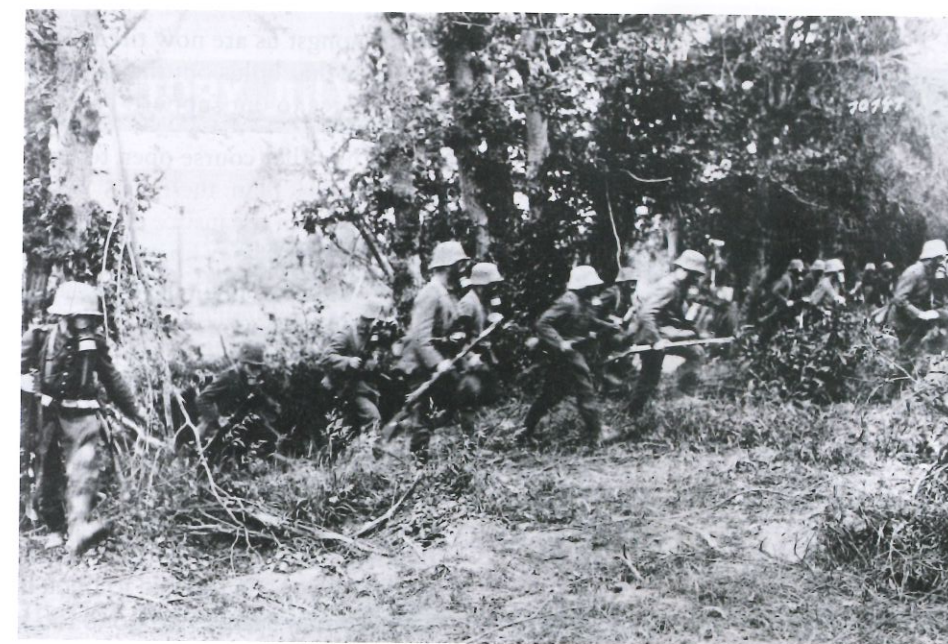
#### GERMAN ACTION

Ludendorff planned to break the stalemate on the Western Front by driving west through the weakest part of the French and British lines of trenches. Before dawn on 21 March, suddenly, 600 German guns began a powerful bombardment of enemy trenches that lasted for 5 hours. This was followed by the releasing of clouds of deadly mustard gas that suffocated the British soldiers in their trenches. Instead of following up the bombardment with waves of infantry, as was usual and which the British would be expecting, Ludendorff used a different strategy. Specially trained and lightly armed small bands of ‘storm troopers’ advanced quickly along the whole front line. Luckily for them, they were hidden in a thick fog as they focused on breaking through gaps and weak defences. Confused and disoriented, the British climbed out of their trenches, and retreated. Thousands surrendered or were taken prisoner of war.

#### SOURCE A

A British soldier remembers the German attack in March 1918.

As the fog cleared a little, we saw the Germans for the first time advancing in thousands. The whole area was darkened by their figures, a moving mass of grey. The ground helped their advance; it was a maze of shell holes and they crawled from one to the other. All our guns, damaged by earlier shell-fire, were out of action, and by now German bullets were whistling at us from all directions. It was only then that we realised that we were completely surrounded and hopelessly outnumbered.



Close to 100,000 German infantrymen followed the storm troopers and took control of the land gained, despite some fierce opposition from Allied forces. At first, this strategy was brilliantly successful. By July, German troops had advanced 65 km into France. They had crossed the River Somme and had reached the banks of the River Marne. Paris was within range of heavy gunfire.

#### EXTEND YOUR KNOWLEDGE

##### PRISONERS OF WAR

During the First World War, around 10 million people were captured. Most were servicemen, but some were civilians. They were sent to detention camps until the war ended. The countries holding prisoners of war sent lists of their prisoners to the International Red Cross. The International Red Cross informed the prisoners' relatives that they were safe.

#### SOURCE B

Specially trained German storm troops, wearing gas masks, attack Allied positions through thick woods.

▼ Figure 5.1 The Ludendorff Offensive



For the second time in the war, it looked as though Paris would fall to the Germans. However, an important part was played by about 20,000 newly arrived American soldiers. (See page 82.) Fighting with the Allies, they helped to stop the German advance at the second battle of the Marne in July 1918.

### ALLIED REACTION

British and French leaders decided to put all the Allied forces under the overall command of General Foch. A French general, his task was to make sure that all the Allied armies acted as a single force and not as separate units. Each national army kept its own commanders-in-chief, although they all worked under General Foch. At first, even though the Germans had been stopped at the Marne, it seemed that the combined Allied forces could do little to stop the German advance.

### SOURCE C

A 'Special Order of the Day' issued to British troops on 11 April 1918 by Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, the commander-in-chief of the British armies in France.

Three weeks ago today the enemy began his terrific attacks against us on a fifty-mile front. His objects are to separate us from the French, to take the Channel Ports and destroy the British army.

In spite of throwing already 106 Divisions into the battle and enduring the most reckless sacrifices of human life, he has as yet made little progress towards his goals.

We owe this to the determined fighting and self-sacrifice of our troops. Words fail me to express the admiration which I feel for the splendid resistance offered by all ranks of our Army under the most trying circumstances.

Many amongst us are now tired. To those I would say that Victory will belong to the side that holds out the longest. The French army is moving rapidly and in great force to our support.

There is no other course open to us but to fight it out. Every position must be held to the last man: there must be no retirement. With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause, each one of us must fight on to the end. The safety of our homes and the Freedom of mankind alike depend upon the conduct of each one of us at this critical moment.

### THE FAILURE OF THE LUDENDORFF OFFENSIVE

It may have looked as if the Ludendorff Offensive had been a success. Allied forces were in retreat; German troops were 65 km inside France and were now in a position to attack Paris. Perhaps above all, the offensive had broken the stalemate of trench warfare. What could possibly go wrong?

- Ludendorff had sent too many men into French territory, where 400,000 had been killed, and those that remained were exhausted. He did not have enough troops in reserve to back up or replace his forces in France.
- The German troops had gone too far and too fast into French territory. It had not been possible for supplies to keep pace with them. The men were hungry and short of replacement weapons and ammunition. They had to **loot** food and supplies from captured enemy trenches and French villages. The supply lines that did exist were long and could be easily disrupted by the Allies.

- The German advance into France had created a '**salient**', or bulge, that was 130 km long and 65 km wide. (See Figure 5.1.) It could be attacked from three sides and so the German troops were open to attack.

### ACTIVITY

- 1 Imagine you are one of Ludendorff's advisors. There is a short period between Russia leaving the war and American troops arriving on the Western Front. What do you advise him to do? With a partner, decide not only on the advice, but also on how it should be carried out.
- 2 Draw a flow chart of the Ludendorff Offensive. Start with the bombardment and end with Paris being within range of German heavy gunfire. Write a short paragraph explaining which point was the most significant in breaking the stalemate on the Western Front.
- 3 Read Source C.
  - a Why did 'the enemy' begin 'terrific attacks' against the Allies three weeks before the order was made?
  - b Do you agree with Haig's statement that the enemy 'has as yet made little progress'? Explain your answer.
  - c Some British soldiers found the 'Special Order of the Day' inspiring; others found it depressing. Find one sentence that a soldier would find inspiring and one that another soldier would find depressing.
  - d Using just the content of Source C, explain whether or not you think Haig expected to lose the war.
- 4 Read the section headed 'The failure of the Ludendorff Offensive'. Which of the three reasons do you think was the most important in bringing about failure? Explain your answer.

## 5.2 THE ALLIED DRIVE TO VICTORY, JULY–NOVEMBER 1918

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the impact of US entry into the war
- Understand the ways in which the Allies changed their strategy to make use of new technology
- Understand the importance of the Hundred Days' counter-attack by the Allies.

A combination of the arrival of US troops in Europe and the regrouping of Allied armed forces using different tactics following the collapse of the Ludendorff Offensive led to the final defeat of Germany.

### THE ENTRY OF THE USA INTO THE WAR

The USA had remained neutral before its official declaration of war in April 1917. Nevertheless, it had supplied Britain and other allies with money, food, raw materials and arms. Once war was declared, these supplies were increased considerably and were no longer secret. After April 1917, the USA sent thousands of armed forces across the Atlantic. By the time of the armistice in November 1918, there were almost 2 million American soldiers in Europe.

## SOURCE D

An American song, written in 1917.

Over there, over there  
Send the word, send the word, over there.  
That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming,  
The drums rum-tumming everywhere.  
So prepare, say a prayer,  
Send the word, send the word to beware.  
We'll be over, we're coming over,  
And we won't come back till it's over, over there.

## EXTEND YOUR KNOWLEDGE

## DOUGHBOYS

Doughboy was the nickname given to US soldiers. No one knows exactly where this nickname came from. It might have started during the Mexican war (1846–48), where US troops made long marches across dusty land, which made them look as if they had been covered in flour, or dough. The name could also have referred to the soldiers' white belts that they cleaned with dough, or to the fried dough balls that the soldiers liked to eat.

## AMERICAN FORCES ON THE WESTERN FRONT

The US President, Woodrow Wilson, put Major-General John Pershing in command of the American Expeditionary Force (the AEF) sent to Europe. Few American soldiers had fought in any wars, and they were certainly not familiar with the sort of conditions they would find on the Western Front. Pershing therefore insisted that American forces were well trained before going to Europe and, later, many received further training once they arrived in France. The first American troops landed in France in June 1917 and by the end of the month, 14,000 American soldiers had arrived. Eleven months later, over 1 million American troops were stationed in France, arriving at the rate of 10,000 a day.

About half of the US soldiers stationed in France worked on developing the French transport system so that it could move vast numbers of men and supplies quickly and efficiently. For example, they:

- enlarged French ports so that more ships could deliver men and supplies
- built over 1,600 km of railway lines
- laid over 16,000 km of telegraph and telephone cables.

The US troops that took part in the fighting played an important part in the military defeat of Germany.

- General Haig agreed to send two divisions of the recently arrived Americans to join the Allies in the second battle of the Marne in July 1918. This successfully prevented German forces taking Paris during the Ludendorff Offensive. (See page 79.)
- On 21 August 1918, over 108,000 US soldiers joined with the British Third Army in the second battle of Albert. After 2 days, over 8000 German soldiers had been captured.
- Pershing commanded the US First Army, consisting of more than 500,000 men, in the largest operation ever undertaken by American forces. Beginning on 12 September, they launched an attack on the salient created by the Ludendorff Offensive. Within 4 days, the whole salient was under Allied control. The Germans were forced to retreat.
- Between 26 September and 11 November, Pershing commanded more than 1 million American and French soldiers. Using over 300 tanks and 500 American aircraft, the troops he commanded had advanced by 32 km towards the German border by 11 November 1918.

Although the American forces played a significant role in fighting and ensuring that supply lines worked effectively, perhaps the greatest impact the US forces

had on the Western Front was psychological. They were young, enthusiastic and determined. They had not had time to become depressed and tired of the war. Above all, the USA itself had an almost limitless supply of men and materials that it was prepared to use in support of the Allies. This motivated the tired Allied forces to rethink, reassess the situation and fight on.

## SOURCE E

An American field hospital inside the ruins of a French church, in September 1918.



## EXTRACT A

Written by a modern historian in 1978.

Once the Americans were in, the result was almost certain to be a German defeat. The United States had vast supplies of manpower and materials, far greater than the Germans could achieve. Germany fast became exhausted; so, too, did Britain and France – but they could be boosted by America.

**THE HUNDRED  
DAYS' OFFENSIVE,  
8 AUGUST–11 NOVEMBER 1918**

By August 1918, the Allies were ready to go back on the offensive. The American Expeditionary Force was present in France in large numbers, and had strengthened and refreshed the Allied armies. Foch was aware that Haig commanded a highly skilled mass army, with all the artillery he needed and the backing of a strong air force. The British army had been working with new technology. This included learning how to use and interpret **aerial photography**, calculating the effect of air temperature on explosives and working out distance by recording the strength of the sound when enemy shells were fired. This meant that the British army had become a very effective fighting force. Foch therefore agreed to a British attack plan that began with an attack on Amiens.

**8 AUGUST 1918, AMIENS**

The Allies began their **assault** with a carefully prepared artillery barrage that knocked out all the German guns that were capable of destroying tanks. A creeping barrage followed, which travelled at the same speed as the advancing infantry and with more than 500 tanks – 92 m every 3 minutes. The attack broke through the German lines and by the end of the day, the Allies had created a gap 25 km wide south of the River Somme. By the end of the day, too, the Allies had killed, wounded or captured 48,000 enemy troops. German morale collapsed. Ludendorff described the day as ‘the black day of the German army’ and told the German Kaiser that Germany could not win the war. The Kaiser agreed with him.

**EXTRACT B**

Written by a modern historian in 2007.

The real achievement of Amiens had been the triumphant co-ordination of an all arms attack. It was the first truly modern battle. It was also the beginning of the ‘hundred days’ in which German forces in the West were driven back and brought so close to total destruction that on 11 November their government was forced to ask for an armistice.

**SOURCE F**

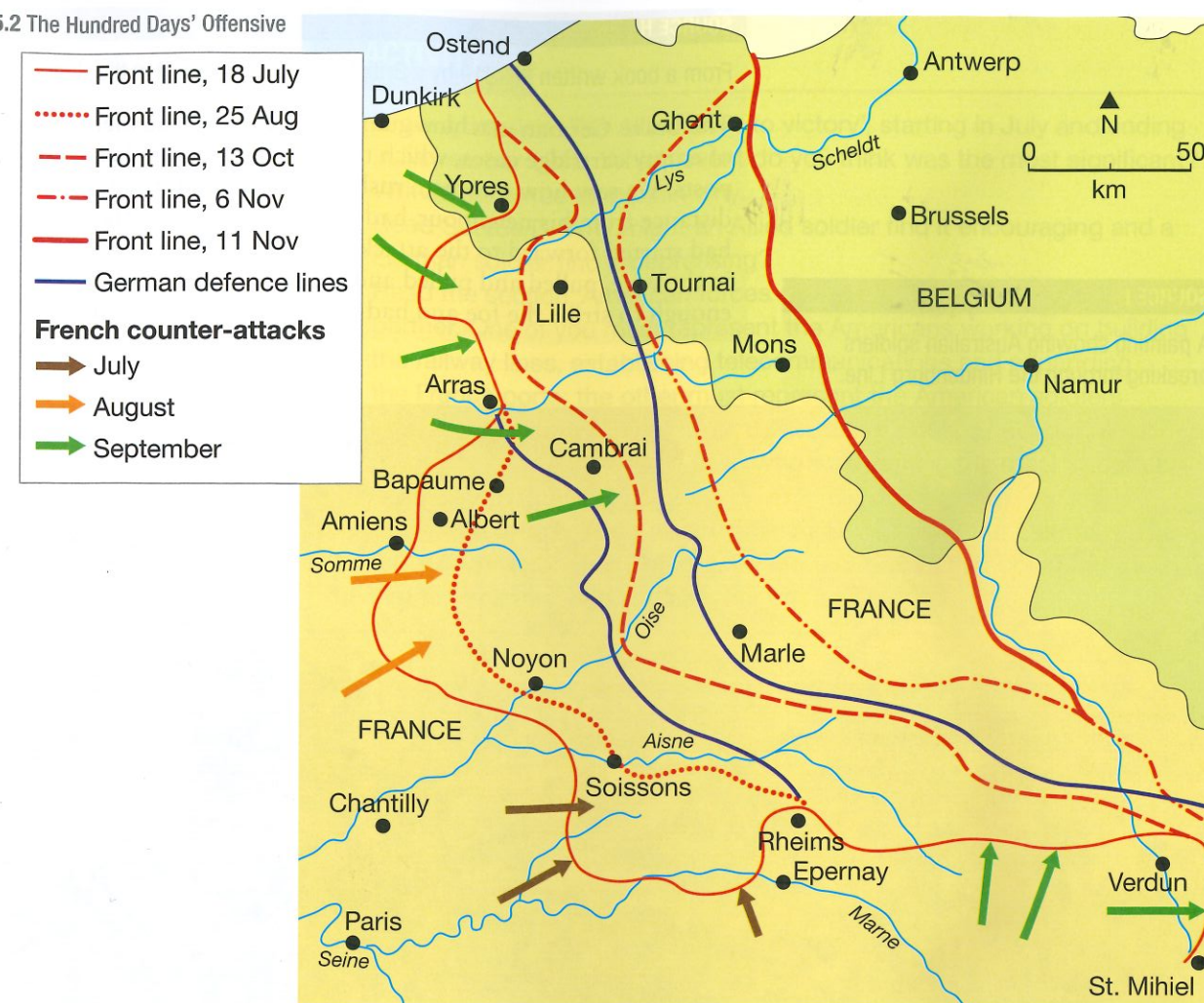
A cartoon published in Britain in 1918.

**KEY TERM**

**Hindenburg Line** a defensive line of three trench systems, built by the Germans in the winter of 1916–17

The battle of Amiens had broken the German front line. Battle after battle followed, as the Allies forced the Germans back to the **Hindenburg Line**. The old battlefields, lost to the Germans earlier in the war, were recaptured. The Allies, together with the American Expeditionary Force (see page 82) captured the Somme, successfully fought the second battle of Arras and, at the end of September, recaptured the old battlefield of Ypres where in 1917 Passchendaele had been such a disaster (see page 51).

► Figure 5.2 The Hundred Days' Offensive 1918

**SOURCE G**

From the diary of a British soldier who fought in the Hundred Days' Offensive.

28 September 1918

The day's success has been astonishing; an advance of over five miles (more than in five months' bloody fighting last year). No doubt the hostile shelling has been less severe than formerly. And the enemy's infantry, behind ample defences, have not put up their usual resistance. Nevertheless, allowing for every mercy (including our smoke screens) the good leadership and drive of all our ranks from sunrise to sundown, through this bullet-swept wilderness, has been admirable, hustling the enemy off his feet.

29 September 1918

The dismal belt of land devastated by four years of war lies behind. In front, and slightly below us is spread a flat unshelled plain, crossed by winding streams and dotted with undamaged farms, hamlets and a few trees.

The main attack on the Hindenburg Line began on 29 September 1918. By 8 October, four massive offensives enabled the Allies to break through the Hindenburg Line. It was this breakthrough that forced the German High Command to accept that the war had to be ended.

## SOURCE H

From a book written in 1919 by a British soldier, who fought in the Hundred Days' Offensive.

The brave German machine-gunners lay dead beside their machines and piles of empty cartridge cases, which they had fired before being bayoneted at their posts. We saw how our men, rushing forward in formation, each man a good distance from his neighbour, had fallen, one here, another there, one directly he had started forward to the attack; one poor wretch had got far, but got tangled in the wire, pulled and pulled and at last had been shot; another had got near enough to strike the foe and had been shot with a revolver.

## SOURCE I

A painting showing Australian soldiers breaking through the Hindenburg Line.



Throughout October, the German armies retreated through the territory they had gained in 1914. As they went, the troops abandoned large amounts of heavy equipment and supplies. This further reduced their morale and their capacity to fight back, but they never stopped fighting, even though they were in full retreat.

## EXTEND YOUR KNOWLEDGE

## WILFRED OWEN, 1893–1918

Wilfred Owen, who wrote the poem on page 47, was killed on 4 November 1918. He started fighting on the Western Front in January 1917 and was sent back home suffering from shell-shock. He returned to France and in October 1918 was awarded the Military Cross for bravery. He was killed while leading his men across a canal on the Western Front. The news of his death reached his parents on Armistice Day, 11 November 1918.

## ARMISTICE

Realising that defeat was inevitable, the German government asked the United States to arrange an end to the fighting. Germany's allies – Bulgaria, Turkey and Austria-Hungary – had already made peace with the Allies. Inside Germany, there were riots as people starved and a deadly 'flu (**influenza**) virus spread across the country. The navy rebelled and, on 9 November, the Kaiser **abdicated** and escaped to Holland.

On 11 November 1918, in a railway carriage in the French forest of Compiègne, the Germans agreed to the Allies' terms for an armistice. They had no choice. At the 11th hour of the 11th month, 1918, the guns stopped firing. It was finished.

## ACTIVITY

- 1 Draw a timeline 'The Allied drive to victory', starting in July and ending in November 1918. Which event do you think was the most significant? Write a sentence to explain why.
- 2 Read Source D. Why might an Allied soldier find it encouraging and a German soldier find it depressing?
- 3 Read the section 'American forces on the Western Front'. Work with a partner. One of you must represent the Americans working on building the railway lines, establishing telecommunications and expanding the French ports; the other must represent the American soldiers involved in military action. Write down, and if possible act out, an argument between the two as to who was making the most important contribution to Allied victory.
- 4 Look at Source F. The Kaiser is shown as worrying that Germany's time to achieve victory is running out. Find two events that could have led him to think this, and explain your choice.

## 5.3 THE REASONS FOR GERMANY'S DEFEAT

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the ways in which food shortages and illness contributed to the final defeat of Germany
- Understand the ways in which **political turmoil** contributed to the final defeat of Germany
- Understand the reasons for the military defeat of Germany.

There is no single reason for the Allies' victory in the autumn of 1918. There are a number of factors, some more important than others, which together led to Germany's final defeat. Once the Schlieffen Plan had failed (see page 14), the war became one of attrition. The winner would be the side that could carry on the longest, and this meant carrying on in terms of manpower and supplies. Soldiers that were killed needed replacing, as did weapons that were destroyed by enemy fire or abandoned during retreats. Armies needed to be supplied with bullets, shells and food. In order for this to work well, the home government needed to be secure and well organised. It had to be able to organise its industry and agriculture so that both the fighting forces and their families left behind at home were supplied with what they needed. This would have the added benefit of keeping morale high: the soldiers at the front would feel supported and the people at home would believe that their armed forces were fighting in their best interests.

## FOOD, FAMINE AND 'FLU

## KEY TERM

**conscript** to make someone join the army, navy or air force

When the army was mobilised for war in 1914, the army took most of the horses that the farmers used for pulling ploughs, and they **conscripted** many of the farmers themselves. The army needed the horses for transporting armaments and supplies, and they needed the men to fight in the army. Then the army took large numbers of farm animals and killed them to feed the army. This meant that German agriculture became far less productive after 1914

than it had been before the war. This would not have mattered if the Schlieffen Plan had worked and the war had been a quick one. Because the Plan failed, German politicians had to organise feeding both the army and the people at home. Feeding the army came first.

Germany began to rely on importing food from European countries. However, the British naval blockade worked well. Germany could not import very much food, and it could not import nitrates (a type of chemical) that were needed, for growing better food and making explosives. Food production in Germany fell dramatically and the situation was not helped by a series of bad harvests. By 1918, there was **famine** in Germany and the people were starving. They were cold, too, as the blockade prevented adequate supplies of **coal** and other fuel from getting in to Germany.

## SOURCE J

German women working on a farm towards the end of the war.



Many civilians lost faith in the ability of their government to support them. Additionally, most Germans believed their government's claim that the U-boat campaign was starving Britain and the Allies. However, when German soldiers captured British and French supply dumps during the Ludendorff Offensive (see page 78), they found them full of food – jam, coffee and white bread, for example – that they hadn't seen for a long time. This further added to the growing lack of trust in the German government.

In the summer of 1918, a severe form of 'flu affected most of the countries in the world. It spread through Germany where the people, already weakened by hunger, died in their thousands. On just one day, 1722 Berliners died from 'flu. Altogether, there were about 400,000 civilian deaths in Germany before the 'flu virus disappeared in 1919. Starving and desperate people rioted against the government that they believed had betrayed them.

## EXTEND YOUR KNOWLEDGE

## INFLUENZA 1918–19

About 500 million people, worldwide, were ill from 'flu, and between 40 and 50 million died from it in the years 1918–19. This was far more than the 38 million civilian and military casualties (dead and wounded) in the whole of the First World War.

## POLITICAL TURMOIL

There were riots and revolts in three main centres in Germany.

- On 29 October 1918, sailors in ships of the German navy, moored on the Kiel canal, rebelled. They had heard a rumour that they were to be sent out for one last battle with the British Royal Navy. They believed that to do this would be suicidal. They refused to obey orders and joined a movement on 4 November that promised to set up soldiers' and workers' councils in rebellion against the existing government.
- In Munich on 8 November 1918, a revolutionary movement set up a Bavarian Democratic and Socialist Republic.
- In Berlin there were strikes and riots in the streets. On 9 November 1918, the Kaiser escaped to Holland and a new government was set up. Wilhelm II formally abdicated on 28 November.

## SOURCE K

German workers protesting in Berlin, November 1918.



## MILITARY DEFEAT

- The Ludendorff Offensive (see page 78) had stretched the German army to its limit. Arms, food and relief troops could not, where they existed, reach the front-line troops. Forced to retreat during the Allied Hundred Days' Offensive, they abandoned guns, ammunition and supplies. Morale in the army was low and hundreds of soldiers deserted.
- By the summer of 1918, the British army had learned how to combine artillery and infantry in a combined attack. Allied commanders understood how technology could be used effectively, together with a combined artillery and infantry attack. This was shown clearly at the battle of Amiens on 8 August 1918.
- Almost 2 million American troops on the Western Front gave the Allied forces a great boost. They raised morale and supported the Allies in stopping the Ludendorff Offensive and in the Allied Hundred Days' Offensive. The USA, with its vast resources of manpower and supplies, could continue to support the Allies for a long time.
- Germany's allies surrendered: Bulgaria made peace with the Allies in September 1918, Turkey in October 1918 and, on 4 November, Austria-Hungary also surrendered.

Although there were many people in Britain and France who would have liked the war to end with the Allies marching into Berlin, there was no Allied invasion of Germany. Instead, the Allies imposed a peace treaty that included making Germany accept responsibility for starting the war.

## ACTIVITY

- 1 Study Source J. Does this source prove that the Germans were short of food? Explain your answer.
- 2 Work in groups of six. You are going to make a large spider diagram showing the reasons for Germany's defeat in the First World War. Two of you draw a spider diagram focusing on food, famine and 'flu; two of you draw one focusing on political troubles and two of you draw one focusing on military defeats. Put the three diagrams together, making links between them.
- 3 Use the giant spider diagram to answer the question, 'In considering why Germany lost the war, how important a factor were food shortages?'
- 4 Select six events that happened in 1918 that were important in bringing about the Allied victory. Make connections between them to show how they worked together. You could draw this on a chart.
- 5 Why did the Ludendorff Offensive fail for the Germans and the Hundred Days' Offensive succeed for the Allies?
- 6 What was the impact on the Western Front of the USA's declaration of war on Germany?

## EXAM-STYLE QUESTIONS

A03

SKILLS ANALYSIS, ADAPTIVE  
LEARNING, CREATIVITY

(a) Study Sources G and H (pages 85 and 86). How far does Source G support what Source H says about the Hundred Days' Offensive?

Explain your answer.

(8 marks)

(b) Study Extract A (page 83). Extract A suggests that the main reason for the defeat of Germany in 1918 was the arrival of US troops in Europe.

How far do you agree with this interpretation?

Use Extracts A and B, Source F and your own knowledge to explain your answer.

(16 marks)

A03

A04

SKILLS CRITICAL THINKING, REASONING,  
DECISION MAKING, ADAPTIVE  
LEARNING, CREATIVITY, INNOVATION

## HINT

(a) When asked to consider how far one source supports another, it is important to look for both agreement and disagreement. Once you have established that, you will be better placed to consider the 'extent' of support.

(b) The question asks you to use your own knowledge, so make sure you bring in some evidence that is not in the sources or the extract.

## RECAP

## RECALL QUIZ

- 1 When did the USA declare war on Germany?
- 2 What happened as a result of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March 1917)?
- 3 When was the Ludendorff Offensive launched?
- 4 What were the specially trained German soldiers, used during the Ludendorff Offensive, called?
- 5 How far into France did the Ludendorff Offensive go?
- 6 What does AEF stand for?
- 7 When did the Hundred Days' Offensive begin?
- 8 What was the Hindenburg Line?
- 9 Who was in charge of the British armies during the Hundred Days' Offensive?
- 10 When was the armistice between Germany and the Allies signed?

## CHECKPOINT

## STRENGTHEN

S1 Why did the USA declare war on Germany?

S2 Re-read the information about the Ludendorff Offensive. Identify one reason for it, one event and one consequence.

S3 What was the importance of the Hindenburg Line?

## CHALLENGE

C1 To what extent was the Ludendorff Offensive a success?

C2 To what extent was the battle of Amiens (8 August 1918) a turning point in 1918?

C3 Would the Allies have won the war without the intervention of the USA?

## SUMMARY

- The Germans launched the Ludendorff Offensive in the spring of 1918.
- The offensive took German troops to within 65 km of Paris.
- The Germans had gone too far, too fast. Reinforcements and supplies could not keep up.
- In April 1917, the USA declared war on Germany.
- US troops improved communications in France and fought with the Allies against Germany.
- In August 1918, the Allies launched the Hundred Days' Offensive.
- The Allies used new technology to improve their tactics.
- The Allies pushed the German armies back over the Hindenburg Line into Germany.
- The German Kaiser fled to Holland and abdicated.
- Many German people died from 'flu.
- There were strikes and riots in Germany because the people were close to starvation.
- The German navy rebelled.
- Germany's allies (Bulgaria, Turkey and Austria-Hungary) surrendered.
- Germany asked the Allies for an armistice. On the 11th hour of the 11th month in 1918, the war ended.