



Resource F

Did the Germans plan well enough for their spring offensive of 1918?

- In January 1918 the German government imposed a very harsh peace on the Russian communist government called the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. The German army chose to keep nearly a million soldiers in occupation of part of the old Russian Empire called Ukraine. **These soldiers could not be used to reinforce attacks on the Western Front.**



Territory occupied by German and Austrian forces as a result of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk



- While shipping soldiers across Germany in trains from the Eastern to the Western Front around 10% deserted from the German Army, slipping away as a result of low morale. **These were soldiers who could not be replaced. What do the desertions tell us about morale in the German Army as a whole?**
- The storm troopers advanced very quickly but the German Army could not keep up with them to ensure that they had enough supplies. **Short of food some soldiers stopped their advance so that they could loot French towns for plentiful food from deserted shops. Horses meant to be used as transport were slaughtered for food instead.**
- The German infantry suffered great casualties when they were sent in to battles in “waves” after the advance of the storm troopers. **The German Army ran short of men to replace these casualties.**
- German soldiers soon became exhausted and also demoralized when they realized that victory was not going to come as quickly as they had been promised. **The German Army did not have enough reserves of soldiers to give those who had been fighting time to have a break and recover.** The last German offensive in July advanced just two miles with huge losses.