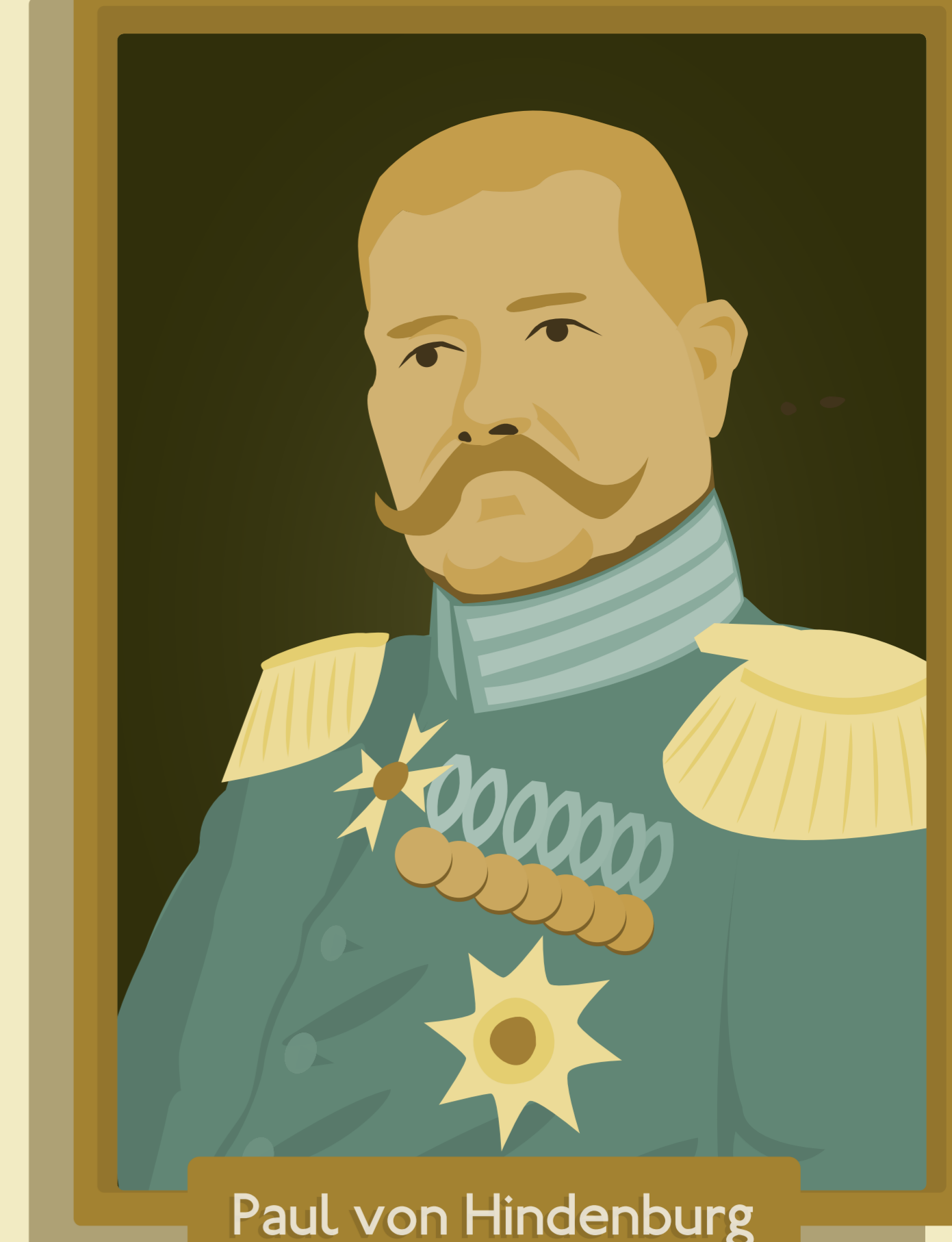


SECOND BATTLE OF PRZASNYSZ

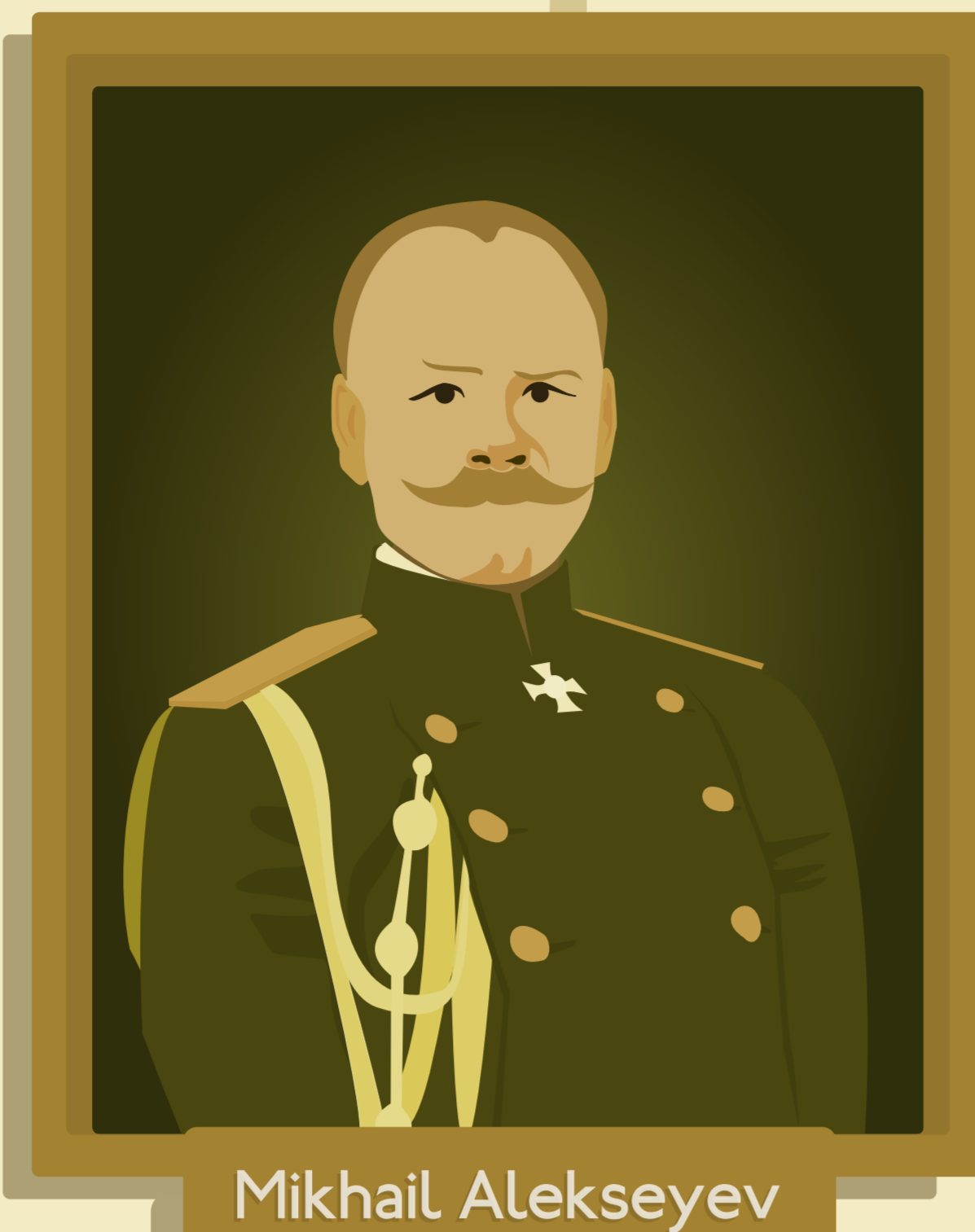
13 - 16 July 1915

The second battle of Przasnysz was a part of the large spring and summer offensive of the Central Powers on the Eastern front. The success of Austro-Hungarian and German forces in Galicia (in May and June) was bigger than expected, which encouraged the Germans to try to break through the Russian forces in the north, in Mazovia. Breaking through the Russian positions near Przasnysz enabled the Germans to march towards the Narew and, as a consequence, take the Modlin fortress and threaten Warsaw. The battle of Przasnysz was one of the largest battles on the Eastern front.

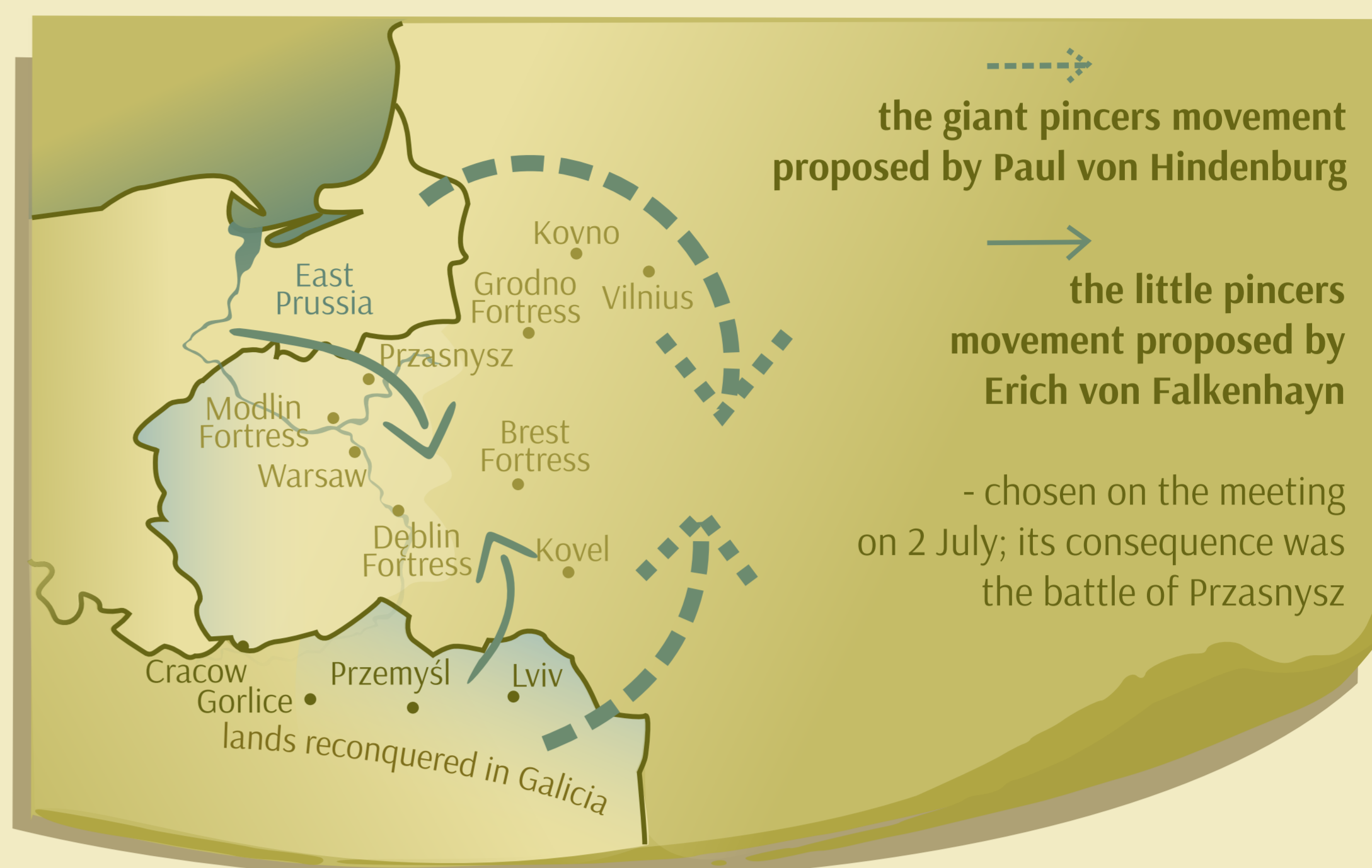
2 July
a meeting of German commanders in Poznań, attended by Wilhelm II; there were two conflicting concepts on the direction of the offensive (presented by Hindenburg and Falkenhayn) and the latter was chosen



Paul von Hindenburg
68 YEARS OLD
FIELD MARSHAL
COMMANDER OF THE EASTERN FRONT
FUTURE PRESIDENT OF THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC



Mikhail Alekseyev
58 YEARS OLD
COMMANDER OF THE NORTHWESTERN FRONT
AND THE FUTURE CO-FOUNDER OF THE VOLUNTEER ARMY
WHICH FOUGHT WITH THE BOLSHEVIKS



5 July
a meeting of Russian commanders in Siedlce; the decision to evacuate Russian forces from the Kingdom under the cover of the 1st Army and the crew of the Modlin fortress

13 April
the decision to start the German and Austrian offensive between Tarnów and Gorlice

2 May
the beginning of the Central Powers' offensive in Gorlice (4 hours of drumfire from 1000 cannons)

3 June
the recapture of Przemyśl from the Russians after 73 days of occupation (from 22 March)

19 June
the charge of the 1st Uhlans Regiment of Polish Legions near Rokitna

21 June
the recapture of Lviv from the Russians after 291 days of occupation (from 3 September 1914)

the end of June
In less than 2 months, the front moved almost 250 kilometres to the east.

more than the whole Expeditionary Corps that landed on the Gallipoli in April 1915

107 000
soldiers
1ST ARMY

177 000
soldiers
MAX VON CALLWITZ GROUP

more than the whole Expeditionary Corps that landed on the Gallipoli in April 1915

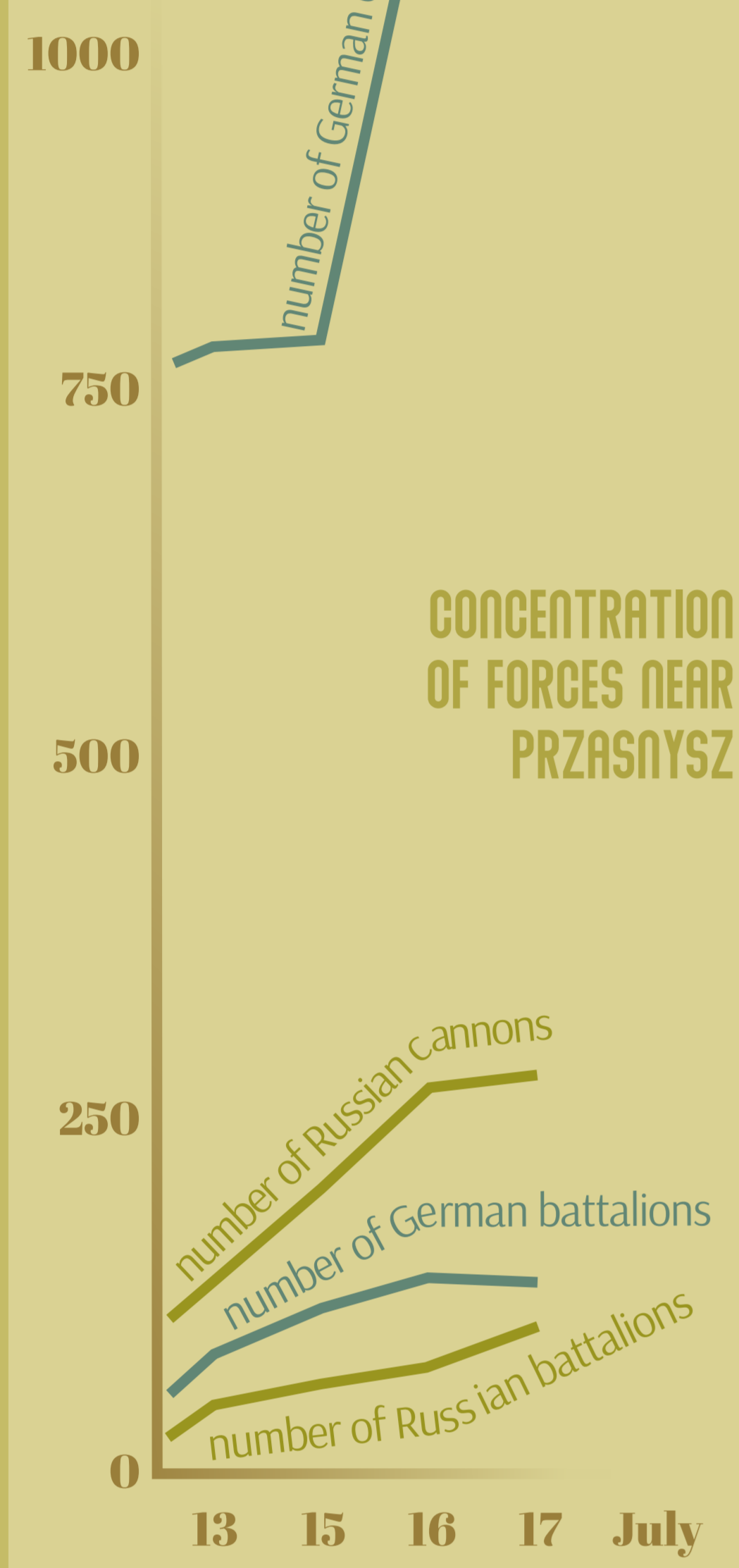
almost the same as the number of soldiers in three Austro-Hungarian armies which attacked Serbia in August 1914

CONCENTRATION OF SOLDIERS AND CANNONS ON THE FRONT PER KILOMETRE



German army front - 140 kilometres

Russian army front - 200 kilometres



THE COURSE OF THE BATTLE

line thickness reflects the concentration of soldiers per kilometre (from 500 to 3,000 per km)



13 July - After 4-hour artillery fire, the Germans started the charge.

The hardest battle with four times more numerous enemies was fought by the **11th Infantry Division**.

14 July - Przasnysz is taken by German forces.

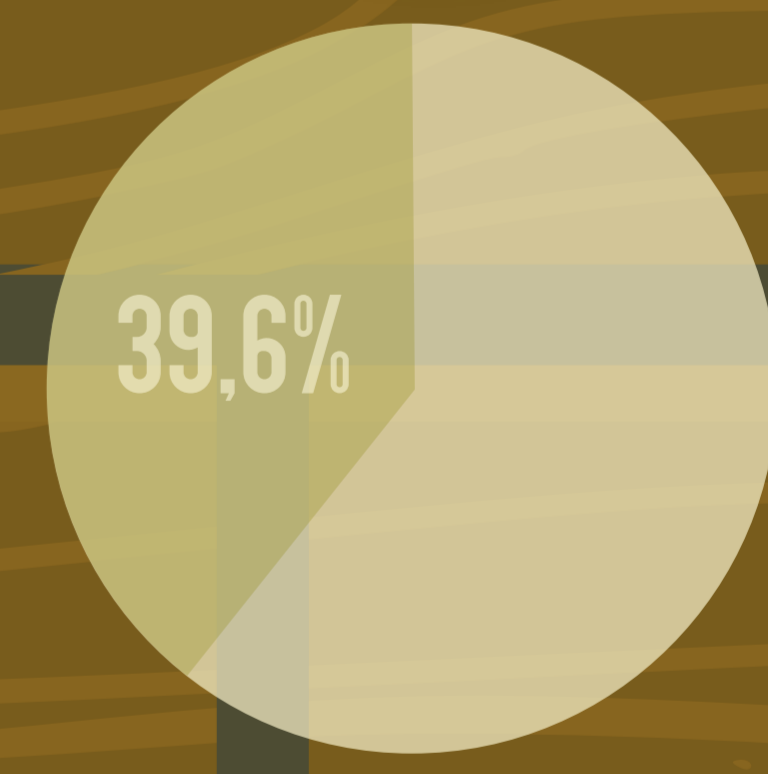
16 July - After losing Ciechanów, the Russians decide to retreat to the Narew.

LOSSES IN BATTLE:



30 TYS.
rifles were lost by the Russians

rifles lost in the battle of Przasnysz in comparison to the Russian production in July 1915 (75,743)



After 4 days of battle, on 17 July, the Russian 1st Army retreated to the south. Winning the battle of Przasnysz enabled the Germans to continue the offensive, followed by more victories of the Central Powers in the next months. After over 100 years, the Russian rule in Przasnysz came to an end and the 3-year German occupation commenced.

The offensive continued and the Central Powers captured:

5 August
Warsaw

20 August
Modlin Fortress

23 August
Kovno

25 August
Brest Fortress

4 September
Grodno Fortress

18 September
Vilnius



Ministerstwo Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego



Dofinansowano ze środków Narodowego Centrum Kultury w ramach programu „Kultura w sieci”

projekt reaktor

opracowanie: Łukasz Wrona i Urszula Wrona

Monika Miłoszewska, Bartosz Drejerski, Hubert Dęby