



Source 2

Extract from the diary of British factory worker Robert Cude, September 1914
(Imperial War Museum, reproduced by kind permission of Susan Ashton)

How to use this source:

Study this source carefully. There are details in this source that will help you to answer the key question. As you study the source, ask yourself:

- Would you say that Robert Cude supported the war?
- Does this source provide any evidence that public opinion dragged Britain into the war?
- Does this source support the view that the British people backed the government's decision to go to war?
- In what ways does this source contrast with source 1?



Source 2

Next few days am unable to settle down. There is a certain amount of Personal Pride in being a part, (if a very minor part,) of the War Machine. Now it is plain Mr. Nobody. It is impossible.

However, I resume my old occupation pending my joining the Army.

This latter is inevitable, if it lasts another week or two.

On Sept. 7th, meet three of the lads at the gate of firm. The question that has been on the tip of our tongue for days now, is asked, Result, four more present themselves at NEW CROSS TOWN HALL, and duly pass Doctor. Not sworn in today, 24 hrs. grace to attend to our affairs.

Sept. 8th at 9 am we are sworn Privates of the 8th Buffs. Regt. (BUFFS) and before 11 a/c are on our way to WOOLWICH BARRACKS.

Apply for and receive 24 hrs. grace. We have some money left.

On 9th however move off to our depot. (Note Our) at BANJOBURY.