



Source 2

Orders sent out to British commanders, 22 June 1916

(Catalogue ref: WO 158/234)

How to use this source:

Study this source carefully. It contains information that could be useful in your presentation. As you study the source, ask yourself:

- According to this document, what were the British commanders hoping for?
- What was the role of the cavalry?
- Will you use this source in your presentation?



Source 2

1. During the first two phases of the operations, outlined in para 4 (1) and 4 (2) of the above orders, there may arrive a moment when the enemy's resistance may break down, in which case our advance will be pressed eastwards far enough to enable our cavalry to push through into the open country beyond the enemy's prepared line of defence. Our object will then be to turn northwards, taking the enemy's lines in flank and reverse, the bulk of the cavalry co-operating on the outer flank of this operation while suitable detachments will be detailed to cover the movement from any offensive of the enemy from the east. For the latter purpose the line LES BOEUFES - BAPAUME - high ground east of MOHY - high ground west of CROISILLIES - MONCHY-le-PINCH is of tactical importance. The front gained between the rivers SOUBE and ARCON will meanwhile be maintained by part of the forces available.

2. During which phase of the operations the enemy's resistance is likely to break down it is impossible to foretell, but the Army commander wishes to be prepared for the most favourable situation to ourselves, while at the same time running no risk of a less favourable situation finding us unprepared.

If the enemy's resistance breaks down during the first phase of the operations it is necessary to have the cavalry close at hand to exploit our success and that all other troops should make way for their advance. On the other hand, if the enemy's resistance is not at once broken and hard fighting ensues on the Green line, then it is essential that nothing should interfere with the rapid advance of our artillery and reserves in preparation for attacking the Brown line and maintaining our position on the Green line. The cavalry must, in this case be kept back and clear of all routes to be used by artillery and infantry in their advance.