

General Headquarters of Armies of the East
Staff
3rd Bureau
3795
At HQ, 4 September, 2200
Annexe No. 2332

Telegram to be encrypted

General Order No. 6

To send by separate telegrams to¹
1 Colonel Huguet², Melun
2 Governor, Paris
3 Comm army Sézanne³
4 Comm army Fère-Champenoise⁴
5 Comm army, le Raincy⁵

I

It is advisable to take advantage of the risky situation of the 1st German army to concentrate on it the efforts of the allied armies of extreme left.

II

¹Notes 1-5 are included with the document in **Les armées françaises dans la Grande**: According to the HQ register, encoded telegrams were sent to the 5th and 6th armies at 2315, to the 9th army and G.M.P. [Military Governor of Paris] at 2350 and to Colonel Huguet on 5 September at 0010.

²Head of the French military mission at the British army headquarters. [Victor Huguet (1858-1925) remained liaison officer to the British army until December 1915. Melun is located on the Seine River, about twenty-five miles to the south-southeast of Paris.]

³5th army [Louis Félix Marie François Franchet d'Espèrey (1856-1942) had just been promoted to command of the 5th army. Sézanne is a commune about sixty-five miles east of Paris.]

⁴9th army [Ferdinand Jean Marie Foch (1851-1929), later commander-in-chief of the allied armies, had just been promoted to command of the 9th army. Fère-Champenoise is a commune about seventy-four miles east of Paris.]

⁵6th army [Michel-Joseph Maunoury (1847-1923) had just been transferred to command of the 6th army. Le Raincy is a commune in the north-eastern suburbs of Paris.]

The plan to be implemented on the evening of September 5 will be:

a. All the available units of the 6th army to the northeast of Meaux, ready to cross the l'Ourcq between Lizy-sur-Ourcq and May-en-Multien, in the general direction of Château-Thierry.⁶

Available units of the Cavalry corps that are proximity will be put under the orders of General Maunoury for this operation.

b. The English army, established on the front Changis[-sur-Marne], Coulommiers facing east, ready to attack in the general direction of Montmirail.⁷

c. The 5th army, tightening lightly on the left, will establish itself along the general front Courtacon, Esternay, Sézanne ready to attack in the general direction from south to north.⁸

The Cavalry corps of Conneau will assure liaison between the English army and the 5th army.⁹

d. The 9th army (General Foch) will cover the right flank of the 5th army by holding the borders of the Saint-Gond marshes and by moving part of its forces on the plateau to the north of Sézanne.¹⁰

III

The offensive will be undertaken by the different armies on the morning of 6 September.

J. Joffre¹¹

⁶Château-Thierry is a commune about fifty miles to the northeast of Paris.

⁷Montmirail is a commune about fifty-five miles to the east of Paris and a little more than twelve miles southeast of Château-Thierry.

⁸Courtacon is about forty-four miles to the east-southeast of Paris and a little more than sixteen miles southwest of Montmirail.

⁹General Louis Napoléon Eugène Joseph Conneau (1856-1930) commanded the Cavalry corps that included the 4th, 8th and 10th cavalry divisions.

¹⁰The Saint-Gond marsh (Marais de Saint-Gond) is a vast bog about fifteen square miles, formed by the Petit Morin River and located about seventy-five miles to the east of Paris.

¹¹Marshall Joseph Jacques Césaire Joffre (1852-1931), formerly chief of staff of the French army, was named commander-in-chief of the French armies in France at the

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Major-general Belin¹²

start of the war, a position he held until December 1916.

¹²General Émile Eugène Belin (1853-1937) was the deputy chief-of-staff of the French General Staff at the start of the war.