

Annexe No. 1230

Order for the Day 8 September

I

General order from the commander of the armies of the east. At a time when there is a battle on which depends the salvation of the country, it is important to remind everyone that the moment for retreat is no longer. All our efforts must be employed at attacking and driving back the enemy. Any soldiers that can not advance further will have to pay, no matter what the cost, to hold the ground conquered and die on the spot rather than retreat. In the current circumstances any failure will not be tolerated.

J. Joffre<sup>1</sup>

II

The general retreat of the German armies is confirmed; the 6<sup>th</sup> army is dealing with a strong rear guard; it is absolutely necessary to push it back to obtain decisive results; it is important for all the soldiers to be convinced of this to excite their ardor and energy. These two first paragraphs are to be read to all soldiers.

III-VII<sup>2</sup>

Deprez<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Marshall 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 start of the war, a position he held until December 1916.

<sup>2</sup>Not included in this translation.

<sup>3</sup>General Céleste Deprez (1855-1940) was a headquarters adjutant.