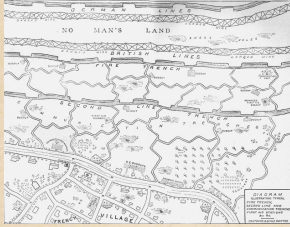


**Angry Staff Officer:**

Rather than field one heavily-defended line which could be outflanked or exploited in some other way, Germans deployed their resources across multiple, successive lines. They filled these lines with supporting artillery and machine gun positions — well out of the reach of British artillery. This created space and time where the Germans could counterattack or bring in reserves, forcing the British to lose momentum and with it, leave themselves open.



*Defense in depth*

**Adin:**

We usually think of trenches like the ones at High Wood as muddy caverns full of lice and rats — which, to be fair, were what they often were. But the Germans had brought something new to the game — concrete. Something so simple it seems unnecessary to even mention, right?

**Angry Staff Officer:**

Wrong.

**Adin:**

Soldiers from Britain, France, and the U.S. remarked over and over at how, well, nice the German trenches were.

In addition to concrete positions, the Germans strung miles and miles of barbed wire obstacles across the front of their positions. These would be designed to slow attacking troops and make them vulnerable to artillery and machine gun fire.

In this hellscape, why would anyone even think of introducing...horses?

**Angry Staff Officer:**

And you'd have a legitimate question. But with that said, horses played a long-standing, important role in battles pretty much as far back as we can remember.

Firstly, transportation. Getting there “first-est with the most-est” as Confederate cavalryman Nathan Bedford Forrest reputedly said, is one of the key tenets of warfare.

Next is reconnaissance. Historically, cavalry have always been the eyes and ears of an army. They scout the enemy's lines, routes of march, and prevent the enemy scouts from viewing friendly troop movements.

Last but not least is breakthrough and exploitation. The cavalry charge was both a physical and a psychological weapon. Thousands of horses at full canter or gallop was often enough to break an enemy soldier's spirit.

*Nathan Bedford Forrest was one prominent Southern character in the American Civil War. Though becoming a successful businessman in the early to mid-1800s, Forrest volunteered to raise up and lead a unit with his own money. In his call for troops, he sought out people who explicitly wanted to “be actively engaged [in combat]...want a heap of fun and [want] to kill some Yankees.”*

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