

## The 6th corps.

The 6th corps had its position on the 14th of June in two lines, to the east of Beaumont, about one kilometer west of the rearguard of the 3rd corps which was in front of Barbencon.

Though it started its march at 4 a.m., it soon had to halt for the troops of Vandamme as this corps hadn't moved at all. <sup>1</sup> Taking into account a delay of approximately three hours (like the 3rd corps) then the corps must have left its position in rear of the 3rd around 7 a.m. Following Vandamme's corps, the 6th corps passed through Clermont, Donstienne, Marbais, Ham sur Eure and along Les Hayes de Nalines. It was on a plateau east of Mont-sur-Marchienne along the road which leads from this last place to Marcinelle and west of the tombe de Marcinelle that Lobau halted his men towards 8 p.m. <sup>2</sup> Lobau established his headquarters at Mont-sur-Marchienne itself. Here, Lobau wrote his report for Soult. It read:

*Au quartier général sur le plateau à une lieue en arrière de Charleroi entre Jamignon et le bois du prince de Liège le 15 juin 1815 à 8 heures du soir.*

*Monsieur le maréchal,*

*Le 6e corps, d'après l'ordre général de mouvement reçu la nuit dernière, a pris les armes ce matin à 3 1/2 heures et s'est mis en marche à quatre heures.*

*J'ai bientôt joint la gauche du 3e corps, où j'ai fait halte jusqu'à sept heures parce que ce n'est que vers six heures que ce corps d'armée a commencé son mouvement. J'ai laissé passer devant moi le parc du génie et une partie de l'équipage de pont. J'ai suivi la direction du 3e corps, et j'ai passé par Clermont, par Donstienne, Marbais, Ham sur Eure, les Hayes de Nalines. <sup>3</sup> Notre marche a été très lente, à cause des défilés et des mauvais chemins. Il est huit heures et j'arrive seulement sur le plateau que j'occupe, quoique je n'aye fait tout au plus que six lieues dans la journée.*

*La troupe est très fatiguée, mais les chevaux d'artillerie encore plus. Ne recevant point d'instructions, j'ai pris sur moi d'établir mon camp, et d'attendre vos ordres.*

*Je n'ai pas des nouvelles des équipages du corps d'armée. Je pense qu'ils nous rejoindront demain; ....j'en ai vu d'autres devant moi. J'ai l'honneur d'être de Votre Excellence le très humble et très obéissant serviteur, le lieutenant général aide-de-camp de l'empereur, commandant le 6e corps,*

*Cte.Lobau*

*P.S. Ci-joint le croquis de ma position fait par Mr.Guibert. Mon chef d'état-major vous a envoyé une situation le 11, de la Capelle, il vous [...] cette nuit. <sup>4</sup>*

It was the original intention that all the luggage of the imperial headquarters, the 3rd and the 6th corps and the imperial guard would have followed the imperial guard in the central column. <sup>5</sup>

In stead of the imperial guard, however, the corps of Lobau marched in the rear of the central column. The grand park had its marching position just behind the 6th corps and its must have taken position south of Lobau during the night, near Jamioulx. <sup>6</sup> This position is confirmed by the order of the morning of the 16th of June to the "vaguemestre général " (the officer responsible for the movements of the convoys) which reads:

*Le parc de réserve doit entrer en arrière de Charleroi sous la protection du corps de M.le comte Lobau.<sup>7</sup>*

Originally, the luggage of the imperial headquarters would leave at 10 a.m., after which those of the imperial guard, the 3rd and the 6th corps would follow.

At the same moment the "vaguemestre général" had to take care that the luggage of the reserve cavalry would follow this cavalry too.

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<sup>1</sup> Colonel Janin erroneously claims the 6th corps left at 3 a.m. In: Campagne de Waterloo etc. p.6

<sup>2</sup> This would mean that the troops of the corps of Lobau would have covered 19 kilometers in 13 hours and that it marched with a speed of almost 1.5 kilometer per hour.

3.Lobau mentions Marbais; this is at level with Ham-sur-Heure. The troops marched along Les Hayes de Nalennes and not through it. The hamlet consists of houses which are scattered over a relatively large area.

4.Original in SHAT. C15, nr.5 In studying the enclosed sketch the corps must have taken its bivouacs between Mont-sur-Marchienne and La Tombe de Marcinelle, the division of Simmer in the first line, the division of Jeanin in the second and the division of Teste in the third, with the artillery on the right flank. Nowadays, this whole area has become urbanized.

5.To this column were also attached the luggage and the train of the administration of the Armée du Nord.

6.Houssaye, H. Waterloo. p.135 Also see the sketch of the position made by the son of Pajol (SHAT). Also, Lobau reports on the more rearward position of the grand park in his report.

<sup>7</sup> In: Register of staff. In: AN, FR.Nouv.acq.4366 p.41