

## **The 2nd corps.**

In accordance to the orders he received around midnight of the 14th of June, Pirch I assembled his corps between Mazy and Onoz, but far later as he was supposed to do.<sup>1-2</sup>

Although very few details of the marches of the troops are known, most of the troops must have established their bivouacs there around 3 a.m. on the 16th of June.<sup>3</sup>

Parts of the 25th regiment (Von Tippelskirch), which got their orders by 9 a.m., only managed to reach Namur from 5 p.m. onwards well into the night.

From there the brigade of Von Tippelskirch reached a bivouac near the farm of Hermoye, to the right of the road, about one kilometer from Mazy. By 2 a.m. on the 16th of June it marched right through to Wagnelée on the battlefield of Ligny.<sup>4</sup> Of the 2nd regiment (Pommeranian nr.1), the 1st battalion was given the task of protecting the general headquarters at Sombreffe and that was the reason it marched through to this village, while the other battalions of the regiment had their position near Mazy.<sup>5</sup>

The brigade of Von Krafft was assembled at Gembloux in the afternoon of the 15th of June and marched through whole day and evening to arrive at Mazy somewhere in the night. Leaving at daybreak again for Sombreffe, the brigade reached Sombreffe between 9 and 10 a.m. of the 16th.<sup>6</sup>

The units of the 7th brigade of Von Brause (at Jodoigne, Chateau d'Huy etc.) received their marching orders at 9 a.m.

The delay of the 22nd regiment of this brigade was even worse. After having done its drills that morning, the companies returned to their positions towards afternoon. Then, after having received its marching orders by 2 p.m. on the 15th of June, the regiment assembled at 9 p.m. at Héron (almost 14 kilometers south of Hannut). Having had a pause there for about one hour, the regiment moved off and marched the whole night. At 4 a.m. on the 16th of June it reached Namur. From here it left at 7 a.m. to reach the position of Sombreffe. This march however was extremely difficult due to the presence of numerous baggage trains, convois of wounded of the 1st corps and the heat. Finally, the regiment reached its position on the battlefield on the 16th of June by 3 p.m.<sup>7</sup>

Von Brause's brigade had to be assembled at Namur; the brigade (except for the 22nd regiment of infantry) arrived at Namur around midnight; the moment the 3rd corps started to arrive there - by 2 a.m.- it left the town to join its corps.<sup>8</sup>

Von Böse, at Jodoigne (in the château d'Huy), would have received the orders of midnight by 9 a.m.<sup>9</sup>

The 23rd regiment of this brigade got the instruction at 11 a.m. to march to the rendez-vous of the brigade at Saint Denis; from there it marched to Mazy where it arrived around midnight.<sup>10</sup>

Of the regiment Neumark Dragoons nr.6 of the brigade Von Thümen, two of its squadrons (the 1st and 4th led by major Von Dossow) were ordered to take up a position near Onoz. The other two squadrons, led by the regimental commander, colonel Von Borcke, were supposed to watch the Sambre from a position near Namur and to keep up a communication with the general headquarters at the same time. In this they were joined by the fuselier battalion of the 21st regiment of infantry (brigade Von Böse).<sup>11</sup>

Of the same brigade, the 2nd regiment of Silesian uhlans left its bivouac around 2 p.m.; it

marched all night through to Onoz.<sup>12</sup> Also the regiment of Königin Dragoons nr.1 left its positions south east of Hannut in the afternoon, marched through Hanret and arrived near Mazy during the night.<sup>13</sup>

The 1st regiment of Pommeranian hussars nr.5 (brigade Von Sohr) left its bivouac only late that morning, to arrive near Mazy after dusk.<sup>14</sup>

On the night of the 15th of June, Gneisenau wrote a letter to Zieten. This letter confirms the concentration problems Pirch I faced. Gneisenau writes: "Das 2. Armee-Korps ist heute erst spät konzentriert gewesen; es ist also noch nicht gewiss, ob es der Absicht gemäss morgen mit Tagesanbruch wirklich hier eintrifft. " And: "..die Befehle sind dahin gegeben, dass das 2.Armeekorps morgen früh in Sombreffe eintrifft. "

Eventually, Gneisenau mentions the repeated order for Pirch I " 2 Regimenter Kavallerie über Onoz nach la Fay auf Ew.Excellenz [Zieten's] linken Flügel rücken zu lassen ". These regiments were the 2nd regiment Silesian uhlans and the 11th regiment of hussars.<sup>15</sup>

The 2nd corps must have taken up bivouacs on both banks of the Orneau, in a north-south and in a east-west direction. In all probability the bivouacs must have been bounded by Onoz, the Namur-road, Mazy and Saint Martin Balâtre. The corps (except for the 7th brigade) stood there collected by 3 a.m.<sup>16</sup>

Pirch I himself had established his headquarters at Temploux. From there he wrote that evening the following report for Gneisenau:

*Hauptquartier zu Namur, den 15.Juni 1815*

*Dem Kgl.Preuss.General Lieutenant Ritter pp.Herrn.Grafen von Gneisenau, Hochgeboren [sic]*

*Ew.Excellenz Befehl von gestern Abend zufolge ist die 7te Brigade beordert heute bey Namur die 5., 6. und 8. Nebst der Reserve-Cavallerie und Reserve-Artillerie zwischen Onoz und Macy [sic] im Bivouacq zu rücken. In Namur bleibt 1 Bataillon der 7.Brigade auf den Vorposten, bleibt das Füselier Bataillon des 21.Regiment und 2 Escadrons des Neumark Dragoner Regts. unter Befehl des Obrist Von Borcke, welcher angewiesen ist alle Meldungen directe hierher an Sr.Durchlaucht den Feld Marschall Fürst Blücher zu machen.*

*Alles dasjenige was die Truppen noch zu ihrer Retablirung bisher bey sich gehabt haben, und nicht zur etatsmässigen Bagage gehört, ist angewiesen nach Verlaine [<sup>17</sup>] zu gehen. Die beyden fliegenden Feld-Lazarett sind nach Hanret [<sup>18</sup>] dirigirt, die maroden Pferde der Cavallerie nach Hannut, der vorrätthige Bestand an Lebensmittel den die Brigade bis jetzt zusammengebracht haben, sind in ein Magazin bey Glimes [<sup>19</sup>] geschafft von wo aus die selben die Truppentheile durch die Proviand Colonnen, die dort bey Elimes stehen, theils durch Vorspann weggeschafft wird. Ich nehme mein Quartier heute in Temploux.*

*Pirch I* <sup>20</sup>

There is no information at what time this report reached Gneisenau.

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<sup>1</sup> The fact that the order got in Pirch I's headquarters at midnight is taken from the report of the 2nd corps. In: KA, VI.E.15.2 In: GSA, VPH-HA. VI, nr.VII.5.p.4

<sup>2</sup> Before the corps broke up that day, colonel Von Borcke, commander of the Neumark dragoons (2nd corps) in outposts at Moulin reported to Blücher :  
“In Benachrichtigung des General Majors Von Tippelskirch soll Ich Euer Durchlaucht alle Meldungen des mir anvertrauten Vorposten Kommandos directe machen, indem Ich nun ganz unterthänigst melde, dass sich dabey nichts Neues zugetragen hat, schliesse Ich gleichmassen eine mir gewordene Nachricht im Original hier an. Die französichen Dörfer längs der Grenze, die den Feldwachen 2ten Armee Corps gegenüber liegen sind bis jetzt noch nicht mit französischen Truppen besetzt. Cantonnierungs Quartier Moulin, den 15.Juny 1815. Borcke.”  
In: GSA, VPH-HA, VI nr.I nr.10 p.17

3.Report of Pirch I. In: KA, VI.E.15.2 in GSA, VPH-HA,VI nr.VII.5.p.4  
The Silesian Uhlán regiment must have marched out to Onoz by 2 p.m. Cf.Dziengel, J.D.von Geschichte des Königlich etc. p.385  
The 9th regiment of Colberg infantry (6th brigade) reached Glimes (halfway between Gembloux and Tirlemont) in the afternoon of the 15th of June. Cf. Von Gaensky – Geschichte des 9ten Infanterie Regiments etc. p.233

<sup>4</sup> Cf. MWBL, Vol.30 p.20 The Jäger detachment of the regiment arrived at Onoz around midnight. Cf. Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte des Königlich Preussischen 25ten Infanterie Regiments etc. p.10  
Report of major general Von Tippelskirch. In: KA, VI.E.15.12 in GSA, VPH-HA,VI nr.VII.5.p.10  
Stawitzky states the 25th regiment received its concentration orders by 2 a.m.(15th of June), upon which order it concentrated at Boninne (east of Namur); by then it was in the afternoon. In: Geschichte des Königlich Preussischen 25ten Infanterie-Regiments p.45

<sup>5</sup> Mach, A.von Geschichte des königlich preussischen Zweiten Infanterie, genannt Königs-Regiment p.325  
Major Ritz, a former ensign of the regiment, states in his account (dated 1861)that his regiment, although being called up between 3 and 4 a.m., only left Namur by 4 p.m. In: GSA, VPH-HA, VI nr.VII nr.1.p.29

<sup>6</sup> Of the 3rd battalion 1st Elbe landwehrinfantry regiment (brigade of Von Krafft) it is known that it marched through the whole night; after a long and slow march it reached Sombrefe on the 16th of June between 9 and 10 a.m. Cf. Captain Von Borcke of this battalion. In: Kriegerleben etc. p.306  
The 26th regiment, alarmed in the afternoon, arrived in Gembloux late in the afternoon and broke up from here to Mazy at 9 p.m. Cf. Stuckrad, B.von Geschichte etc. p.103-104

<sup>7</sup> Lieutenant Von Becker (2nd company, 22nd regiment), in his diary. In: Geschichte des 1.Oberschlesischen Infanterie-Regiments Nr.22 p.112

In: Geschichte des Königlich Preussischen 25ten Infanterie-Regiments p.46

8. Report of Pirch I. In: KA, VI.E.15.2 in GSA, VPH-HA,VI nr.VII.5.p.4

<sup>9</sup> MWB, 1846 p.20 – it refers to the diary of major Von Rangow, of the 3rd regiment of Elbe Landwehr. In: Minerva, July 1840

<sup>10</sup> Busse, Von Geschichte des königlich Preussischen 23.Infanterie Regiments p.162

<sup>11</sup> Report of Pirch I himself, dated 15th June 1815. In: KA, VI.E.3.II.47 In: GSA, VPH-HA, VI nr.VII.4.p.7-8

Cf. Hagen, E.von Geschichte des Neumärkischen Dragoner-Regiments nr.3 p. 279  
Lettow Vorbeck, O.von – Napoleon's Untergang p.198

<sup>12</sup> Dziengel, J.D.von Geschichte des Königlichen Zweiten Ulanen-Regiments p.385

<sup>13</sup> Ravenstein, H. Historische Darstellung etc. p.121

<sup>14</sup> Count Von Wedel of this regiment. In: Geschichte eines Offiziers etc. p.249

Beitzke confirms the arrival at Mazy during the night. In: Aus dem Leben etc. p.135

15. Report of Pirch I. In: KA, VI.E.15.2 in GSA, VPH-HA,VI nr.VII.5.p.4

That evening the 11th regiment of hussars advanced towards Fleurus find out about the whereabouts of the enemy. Cf. Eck, Von Geschichte des 2.Westfälischen Husaren Regiments nr.11 p.140

The 11th regiment of hussars was attached to the brigades of Von Tippelskirch and Von Krafft (each two squadrons).

<sup>16</sup> Report of Pirch I. In: KA, VI.E.15.2 in GSA, VPH-HA,VI nr.VII.5.p.4

<sup>17</sup> About 21 kilometers west of Liège.

<sup>18</sup> About 14 kilometers north of Namur .

<sup>19</sup> 17.5 kilometers east of Louvain .

<sup>20</sup> Report of Pirch I himself, dated 15th June 1815. In: KA, VI.E.3.II.47 In: GSA, VPH-HA, VI nr.VII.4.p.7-8

In: KA, VI.C.3.II.p.47 in GSA,VPH-HA, VI, nr.VII.6.p.10

Register of staff. In: KA, VI.D.9.nr.255 in: GSA,VPH-HA, VI nr.VII.6.p.5