

## The 2nd corps

### *The division Clinton*

It must have been in the early morning of the 16th of June that lieutenant general Clinton wrote the following letter to Wellington, as a result of his letter of the 15th of June (1 p.m.):

*Ath, 16th June 1815*

*My dear Lord,*

*I have this morning only had the honour to receive your Grace's letter of yesterday's date, communicating to me the wishes of some of the generals respecting the numbering of the divisions of this army, and desiring to know if I participate in their wish. I thank your Grace for the consideration which this letter evinces, and I will state my own feeling upon the subject of it. If the whole of the divisions had been formed at the same time, and commanded by those Generals who had served with the army formerly under you Grace's command, the replacing those Generals as they had formerly stood would have been a very natural arrangement and one to which I certainly should have felt no sort of objection. Circumstanced as this army is, the case appears to me very different. There is an imaginary advantage belonging to seniority; and I cannot participate in wishing for a measure the effect of which would be to deprive the division which your Grace has appointed me to command of that advantage.*<sup>1</sup>

Though Wellington's letter Clinton refers to had been written at 1 p.m. it must have reached Ath somewhere during the night of the 15th of June or on the early morning of the 16th of June. Somehow it must have been seriously delayed, taking into account that the distance between Brussels and Ath is about 50 km. This is also why Clinton uses the words "this morning only." It shows that by the early morning of the 16th of June, Clinton had no clue of the French offensive operations or of any concentration orders which were issued in the early evening of the day before. Taking into account the hours mentioned below as those at which these concentration orders actually reached the units in the field, it may have been between 6 and 7 a.m. that Clinton received them.

According to these concentration orders his division had to be collected in and around Ath and had to be in readiness to move at a moment's notice.

Additionally,<sup>2</sup> due to the scattered state of the division the concentration took some hours to be completed.

Of the division, the brigade Adam was at Leuze (about 12.5 kilometers from Ath) and Lessines.<sup>3</sup> It would have been by 1 a.m. that the 3rd battalion of the 95th regiment was alarmed by a beacon.<sup>4</sup>

Of the brigade Duplat, the 3rd battalion line KGL was at Lens, the 4th battalion line KGL at Ellignies-Ste.Anne.<sup>5</sup>

Of the brigade H.Halkett the battalion Osnabrück was at Rebaix and Ostiche (2.5 and 5 kilometers north of Ath respectively).<sup>6</sup> The battalion Bremervörde of the same brigade was at Isières.<sup>7</sup> The battalion of Yorck was at Bouvignies while the one of Salzgitter was at Houtaing.

The brigade of Du Plat approached Ath from the south-east. The 1st battalion line KGL received its orders at 8.30 a.m. and arrived at her point of assembly at 9.30 a.m.<sup>8</sup>

The 2nd battalion line KGL had gone out that morning for exercises at 3 a.m. that morning; at 9 a.m. it got the orders to leave immediately. This order was obeyed; the troops didn't get any rations and the baggage would follow.<sup>9</sup>

The 3rd battalion line KGL left Lens and marched through Cambron (now Cambron Saint Vincent) and Gibecq to the road Ath-Enghien, west of Enghien.<sup>10</sup>

Eventually, the brigade took up a position on the road Ath-Enghien, near the village of Meslin l'Eveque, where it was supposed to collect.<sup>11</sup>

Of the battalion Bremervörde of the brigade H.Halkett we know that it received its first orders to collect at 8 a.m. and that at 10 a.m. it was on its way to its point of concentration.<sup>12</sup>

Coming from the north, the brigade probably took up a position on and near the same road, west of the brigade of Du Plat.

Adam's brigade approached Ath from the west, coming from Leuze and its environments.

At 10 a.m. that morning the 52nd regiment would have got the order to collect on the road to Ath. After it had done so and after the baggage had arrived it left for Ath.<sup>13</sup>

According to a member of the 71st regiment the regiment collected on one side of Leuze, halted here for some time and then left.<sup>14</sup> Another member of the regiment says it left at 10 a.m.<sup>15</sup>

In this way, the division was collected in and east of Ath between 9 and 10 a.m.

Meanwhile, the "after order" for the division to march through to Enghien had arrived.<sup>16</sup>

Having rested for a while, the division left for Enghien. Here, the first units must have started dropping by 2 p.m.<sup>17</sup> The main body of the division halted here for 2 to 3 hours and cooked. Far away, a cannonade could be heard.<sup>18</sup> Around that time the order for the immediate march to Braine le Comte arrived.

While the other brigades filed out to the right into the road towards Braine le Comte, it was the 52nd regiment (Adams brigade) which – for some reason - advanced over the road leading from Enghien to Hal. At two miles from Enghien, however, it returned and took to the left into a cross-road. Later this road was abandoned too, in order to reach Braine le Comte.<sup>19</sup> On whose orders these marches were carried out remains unclear.

The march from Enghien towards Braine le Comte was one over bad cross-roads.<sup>20</sup> It was this, plus the presence of a mass of cavalry on the road that caused the front of the division to arrive at Braine le Comte by 9 p.m.<sup>21</sup>

At least the brigade of Duplat must have halted around 8 p.m. at a half-hours distance west of Braine le Comte. Here the brigade came into a bivouac in a clover-field which was barely large enough to hold the troops lying down in close columns. The brigade kept this bivouac until about 10.30 p.m. when it broke up to continue its march towards Braine le Comte. At that time the weather was very bad.<sup>22</sup>

Behind Braine le Comte the column marched through the Bois de la Houssière, where the roads were in an extremely bad condition due to the weather and the fact that other troops had already passed before.<sup>23</sup> Eventually, they established their bivouacs on the other side of it.<sup>24</sup> By then it was between midnight and 1 a.m. Adam's brigade – which marched in the rear - and after two halts (of which one from 8 to 8.30 p.m. in a wood) reached Braine le Comte at midnight only.<sup>25</sup>

The brigade of H.Halkett had reached Braine le Comte before, around 11 p.m.<sup>26</sup>

### *Division Colville*

According to the concentration-orders for the division Colville, the brigade of Johnstone had to concentrate at Audenaarde, while those of Lyon and Mitchell had to do so in Geraardsbergen.

According to Colville himself the division got the orders to march at 6 that morning.<sup>27</sup>

Around 8 a.m. the 51st regiment (Mitchell's brigade) got the order to leave its position and march to Geraardsbergen. The regiment left at 10 a.m.<sup>28</sup>

While marching, Mitchell's brigade must have received the order to go to Enghien (the after order), and then to Braine le Comte and Nivelles.<sup>29</sup>

Johnstone's brigade must have gone to Enghien too, through Audenaarde.<sup>30</sup>

There are no details about the bivouacs of the division on the night of the 16th., but these must have been somewhere west of Nivelles, as the order of the evening of the 16th of June for Colville states his division had to march to Nivelles. That night, at least the brigade of Mitchell must have halted for a very short time at Braine le Comte and to proceed even before dawn towards Nivelles.<sup>31</sup>

### *The troops of prince Frederik of Orange*

Quartermaster-general count Van St.Aldegonde, of the general staff of prince Frederik of Orange, received on the night of the 15th or the morning of the 16th of June a letter written by Constant Rebecque on the evening of the 15th of June in which, however, no reference is made to any French offensive whatsoever. This letter reads:

*A Mr.le colonel Comte Ste.Aldegonde, à Sotteghem  
Q.Gl. à Braine le Comte, le 15 juin 1815.*

*J'ai l'honneur de vous donner connaissance que deux cents hommes du bataillon de milice no.2 conduits par deux officiers, deux s.officiers et un tambour ont marché du depot du dit bataillon à Groningen pour se rendre à Braine le Comte suivant la route marquée ci-dessous. Vous voudrez bien, Monsieur le comte, faire prendre les mesures nécessaires pour que ce détachement soit dirigé à temps en son bataillon qui fait partie de la seconde brigade de la Ire division.*

*Route:*

*Le 11 juin à Assen*

*12 juin à Diveren [=Diever]*

*13 juin à Meppel*

*14 juin à Zwoll [sic]*

*15 juin à Vaassen*

*16 juin Sejour*

17 juin à Loenen  
18 juin à Arnhem  
19 juin à Nijmegen  
20 juin à Grave  
21 juin à Bois le Duc  
22 juin Sejour  
23 juin à Hilverenbeek [=Hilvarenbeek]  
24 juin à Turnhout  
25 juin à Herenthals  
26 juin à Keerbergen  
27 juin Sejour  
28 juin à Bruxelles  
29 juin à Braine le Comte

Constant Rebecque <sup>32</sup>

According to Wellington's first set of orders, Lord Hill was requested to order the prince Frederik of Orange to collect the 1st Dutch division and the Indian brigade at Sotteghem, so as to be ready to march in the morning at daylight and to occupy Audenaarde with 500 men. Lord Hills order for the prince then runs as follows:

*Grammont, June 16th 3.a.m. 1815*

*Sir,*

*I have this moment received orders from the Duke of Wellington to move the troops under my command. His Grace requests that Your Royal Highness will occupy Audenarden [sic] with five hundred men, and collect the 1st division of the Army of the Low Countries and the Indian Brigade at Soteghem [sic]. These movements to take place without delay.*

*I have the honour to be,*

*Your Highness' most obedient servant,*

*Hill* <sup>33</sup>

Prince Frederik of Orange got these orders at 4.15 a.m. <sup>34</sup> After that, the prince must have sent out orders for the generals Stedman and Anthing.

Shortly after prince Frederik of Orange wrote a letter to his father. He writes:

*Sotteghem, le 16 juin 1815*

*Mon très-cher Père !*

*Je m'empresse de Vous faire rapport que je viens de recevoir ce matin à 4 heures et un quart l'ordre de Lord Hill de concentrer mes troupes ici près de Sotteghem aussi vite que possible et d'attendre alors ses ordres, et d'envoyer 500 hommes à Audenaerde aussi vite que possible; ou le 14me de milice qui est à Velsique se rendra ce qui est le plus près d'Audenaerde. Les troupes seront dans les villages suivants: la première Division à Sotteghem, Strijpen, Godverthegem et Erwerteghem, la Brigade des Indes à Grootenberghe, Leeuwerghem et Elene.*

*Il parait que Lord Hill s'attend à recevoir d'un moment à l'autre l'ordre du Duc de Wellington de se mettre en mouvement.*

*Buonaparte parait rassembler ou d'avoir rassemblé une force assez considérable aux environs de Maubeuge. Tout ceci me fait croire que nous pourrions bien peut-être un de ces jours [..]. aux prises avec lui. Je suis bien charmé de ce mouvement car voilà pourtant au moins une petite variation dans le train de vie ordinaire depuis au-de-là d'un mois que nous sommes ici. Les troupes sont extrêmement bien disposées et ne demandent mieux que de marcher en avant et de se battre, je suis persuadé qu'ils seront très charmés déjà de leur petite marche d'aujourd'hui, croyant qu'ils iront bientôt plus loin.*

*Je suppose que cette lettre ci ne vous donnez pas la première nouvelle de ce petit mouvement, mais j'ai crus de mon devoir de vous en faire toutefois immédiatement mon rapport. Je serai bien content de recevoir l'ordre de Lord Hill de me mettre immédiatement en marche à quoi il m'a dit que je devois m'attendre. Vous pouvez être bien assuré, très-cher Père, que je travaillerai de toutes mes forces à remplir mon devoir dans toutes les circonstances qui pourront se présenter et ferai mon possible de bien mener ceux qui sont confié à mon commandement.*

*Ayez la grace de me mettre aux pieds de toute la famille qui j'espère se porte bien.*

*Adieu, très cher Père, je suis éternellement avec le plus profond respect.*

*Votre très dévoué et respectueux*

*filz Fritz<sup>35</sup>*

The 1st division was now ordered to concentrate as soon as possible at Sotteghem, Strijpen, Godverthegem and Erwerteghem.

The order to general Stedman, written by count Van St. Aldegonde, reads:

*Hoofdkwartier te Sotteghem, 16 juny 1815*

*Ingevolge de dispositien van Zijne Excellentie den generaal en chef beveelt zijne K.H. dat de eerste divisie onder Uw H.E.Gestr.orders zig zonder het minste verwijl in de omstreken van Sotteghem concentreere.*

*Uwe Excellentie zal dus op ontvangst deezer wel dadelijk orders willen geven, opdat de bataillons welke de brigades van uw divisie uitmaken, zig ten spoedigsten verzamelen, en de volgende plaatsen bezetten, als*

*Strijpen, en staf der divisie  
Sotteghem*

*Erwertheghem  
Godvertheghem*

*De artillerie moet op Sotteghem gedirigeerd worden. Uwe Excellentie zal wel door het vooruitzenden van eenige officieren gelieven de nadere verdeling van uwe troupen in de bovengenoemde plaatsen te bepalen.*

*Maar behalve deeze dispositien zal Uwe Excellentie ook wel gelieven order te geven aan het bataillon landmilitie no.14 en tot de eerste brigade behoorende, om onverwijld en langs den kortsten weg, zig op marsch te begeven na Audenaarde alwaar het bataillon tot nader order blijven zal.*

*Uwe Excellentie word wijders geinviteerd met den ordonnancebrenger deezes, mij te willen doen weten, in hoeveel tijd de verzameling der troupen onder uwe orders zal kunnen geschieden en om welk uur zij in hunne nieuwe quartieren zullen kunnen aankomen.*

*Op last van Z.K.H.,  
de graaf van St.Aldegonde<sup>36</sup>*

The Indian brigade got the orde to concentrate at Leuwerghem, Elene and Grootenberghe.  
The order for lieutenant general Anthing reads:

*Hoofdkwartier te Sotteghem, den 16 juny 1815*

*Ingevolge dispositie van Zijne Excellentie en generaal en chef gelast Z.K.H. dat de Indiaansche brigade onverwijld zig bij Sotteghem concentreerd.*

*Uwe Excellentie gelieve dien ten gevolge dadelijk na ontvangst deezer, de nodige orders aan de onderscheiden corpsen onder deszelfs [...] ten einde dezelve zig met den meesten spoed vergaderen om volgende dorpen te bezetten.*

*Leeuwerghem, staf der divisie*

*Grootenberghe*

*Elene*

*De artillerie zal te Leeuwerghem gestationneerd worden. Uwe Excellentie word verzogt officieren na de bovengenoemde plaatsen vooruit te zenden ten einde aldaar tot de ontvang der troupen de nodige schikkingen te maken.*

*Uwe Excellentie word wijders geinviteerd met den ordonnance brenger deezes, mij te willen doen weten in hoeveel tijd de verzameling der troupen onder Uwe orders zal kunnen geschieden en om welk uur zij in hunne nieuwe quartieren zullen kunnen aankomen.*

*Op last van Z.K.H.,  
de graaf van St.Aldegonde<sup>37</sup>*

Shortly after, count Van St.Aldegonde informed his adjudant, lieutenant colonel Van Roye van Wichem, in the following letter:

*Hoofdkwartier te Sotteghem, den 16 Juny 1815*

*Ik heb de eer ter Uwer H.Ed.Gestr.kennis te brengen dat ingevolge last van Zijne Koninklijke Hoogheid Prins Frederik order gezonden is aan de eerste divisie en Indiaansche brigade om onverwijld zig in marsch te zetten om zig bij Sotteghem te concentreren en wel volgende cantonnementen te betrekken.*

*Sotteghem*

*Strypen*

*Godvertheghem*

*Grootenberg*

*Erwertheghem*

*Leeuwerghem en Elene*<sup>38</sup>

Having received the above letter, general Anthing wrote to Van St.Aldegonde:

*Bambrugge den 16 juny 1815*

*Op den ontvangst Uwer missive van heden no.33 geve ik de nodige orders aan de korpsen uit om naar de drie daarin vermelde plaatsen te marcheren en alles wat U.H.Ed.G.meld zal worden geobserveerd.*

*De preciezen tijd wanneer de troepen in de voorgeschreven kantonnementen zal kunnen aangekomen zijn, kan ik met geen juistheid opgeven, vermits dezelve juist allen aan eene militaire promenade zijn; echter zal er niets worden verzuimt en ik denk tegen de middag alles op de bestemde plaats zal wezen.*

*De generaal Komm.de Indiaansche brigade,  
Anthing*<sup>39</sup>

Lieutenant general Stedman replied as well:

*Hoofdkwartier Oosterzeelen 16 juny 1815*

*Uw H.E.Gestr. missive van heden no.32 betrekkelijk de marsch-order der divisie is mij geworden, en heb onverwijld de nodige dispositien om aan den inhoud der zelve te voldoen genoomen, terwijl ik tevens de eer heb Uw H.E.Gestr.te prévénieren dat ik vermoede de geheele divisie tegen 12 of 1 uuren in de aan mij voorgeschreven dorpen zal kunnen samengetrokken zijn.*

*De Lt.generaal Kommanderende de 1e divisie,  
Stedman*<sup>40</sup>

For the execution of the orders for Stedman, his chief of staff, baron Snouckaert van Schauburg wrote the following order for captain Wijnands, commander of the battery artillery of the 1st division:

*Aan den commandeerenden officier der artillerie te Oosterzeelen*

*Oosterzeelen 16 junij 1815*

*Ingevolge bevel van Z.E. den Lt.generaal Stedman heb ik de eer uw te inviteeren op ontfangst deezes met uwe onderhebbende batterij van Oosterzeelen naar Sotteghem te marscheren alwaar Uw E.Gestr.nader order zult ontvangen.*

*De zieken die niet mede kunnen marscheren moeten naar Gend in 't hospitaal opgezonden worden.*<sup>41</sup>

Finally, the 1st division took up positions round Sotteghem and the Indian brigade at Leeuwerghem; the 14th battalion militia (1st division) (586 men) occupied Audenaarde until further notice.<sup>42</sup> These troops must have reached their new positions in the late morning and the early afternoon.<sup>43</sup>

At Sotteghem, captain Wijnands got the following order, written at Strypen (where the divisional headquarters were established):

*Strypen den 16 junij 1815*

*Ingevolge bevel van Z.E. den Lt.generaal te Sotteghem moeten de treinsoldaten voor een dag fourage in reserve houden om op de paarden te kunnen meede nemen, het hooij moet gesponnen worden.*

*Ik heb de eer uw te inviteeren de nodige orders dien aangaande te geeven en te willen surveilleeren dat zulks heede nog in order gebragt word. [sic]*<sup>44</sup>

Late morning, Lord Hill at Geraardsbergen must have received the order issued between 5 and 6 a.m. from Brussels. It reads:

*To general Lord Hill, G.C.B. 16th June 1815*

*Your Lordship is requested to order Prince Frederic of Orange to move, immediately upon the receipt of this order, the 1st division of the army of the Low Countries, and the Indian brigade, from Sotteghem to Enghien, leaving 500 men, as before directed, in Audenaarde.*<sup>45</sup>

Lord Hill sent his order to Sotteghem where it came in around 2 p.m.<sup>46</sup> It reads:

*Grammont, June 16th at noon.*

*I request your Royal Highness move immediately upon the receipt of this, the 1st division of the army of the Low Countries and Indian Brigade from Sotteghem to Enghien leaving 500 men as before ordered, in Audenaarde.*

*I send this by Lord Charles Fitz Roy, who has been in my staff some years. He is an intelligent officer I take the liberty of introducing to your Royal Highness.*

*Have the honour to be your most etc.*

*Hill*<sup>47</sup>

Immediately afterwards, orders for the troops were issued. From Strypen, orders were issued for the 1st and 2nd brigade of the 1st Dutch division. The one for general major Eerens (2nd brigade) reads:

*Strype den 16 junij 1815*

*Ingevolge bevel van Z.E. de Lt.generaal heb ik de eer U.H.Gestr. te verzoeken heeden namiddag om half vijf uren de watermarsch [?] te laten slaan zodat de troepen uwer onderhebbende brigade ten vijf uren op de groote weg naar Gramond [=Grammont] onder de wapens staan, alwaar zij totdat de eerste brigade zal zijn aangekomen zullen moeten verblijven. De fourgons en wagens zullen de brigade volgen.*<sup>48</sup>

And the order for general major d'Hauw (1st brigade) reads:

*Strypen den 16 junij 1815*

*Ingevolge bevel van Z.E. den Kommandeerende generaal heb ik de eer uw Edele Gestrengte te inviteeren de nodige orders te geven opdat heden na den middag om half vijf uren de watermarsch geslagen word. De troepen onder uwe bevelen moeten om vijf uren tot den afmarsch klaar staan. De fourgons en wagens zullen het mouvement der divisie volgen.*<sup>49</sup>

The order written for the 1st Dutch division's march to Enghien reads:

*Hoofdkwartier te Sotteghem, den 16 Juny 1815*

*Ingevolge de dispositien door Zijne K.H. zooeven ontvangen van Zijn Excellentie den Generaal en chef, beveelt Hooghdezelve dat de Eerste divisie zig uit haare tegenwoordige standquartieren heden namiddag om 5 uren op marsch zal begeven om over Grammont na Enghien zig te begeven.*

*Uwe Excellentie zal wel ogenblikkelijk de dispositien willen nemen welke zij volgzaam [...] zal, opdat deeze beweging zig zonder tijdverzuim vervulle. Zij zal ten dien eind officieren vooruitzenden om het kampement of de inkuartiering indien nodig te reguleren. De artillerie, zoo als ook de fourgons en wagens, zullen de divisie volgen moeten.*

*Er is geene verandering in de dispositie rakende het 14e bataillon nationale militie; hetzelfde blijft te Audenaerde tot nader order.*

*Op last van Z.K.H., de graaf van St.Aldegonde*<sup>50</sup>

The order for general Anthing reads:

*Hoofdkwartier te Sotteghem, den 16 Juny 1815*

*Ingevolge door Z.K.H. ontvangene nadere dispositien van den generaal en chef, beveelt Hoogstdezelve dat de brigade onder de orders van uwer Excellentie zig heden om half zes uren van hunne tegenswoordige standkwartieren over Grammont na Enghien in marsch zetten.*

*Uwe excellentie gelieve dadelijk de nodige orders te geven ten einde [...] mouvement onverwijld geschiede; terwijl officieren vooruit [...] zullen dienen gezonden te worden ter beschikking van het campement of cantonnement te Enghien voor zoo verre zulks plaatsheeft.*

*De artill [sic] als ook de fourgons en legerwagens volgen de colonne. In allen gevallen word Uwe Excell [sic] verwittigd dat de 1e divisie en tête voor de colonne marscheert.*

*Op last van Z.K.H.,*

*de graaf van St.Aldegonde* <sup>51</sup>

Conform these instructions, the first troops left between 5 and 6 p.m. <sup>52</sup>

Headquarters itself must have gone ahead of the infantry and at Enghien further orders were issued for the concentration at Enghien. One of these instructions was the one written by count Van St.Aldegonde during the evening to lieutenant general Stedman. It reads:

*Hoofdkwartier te Enghien, den 16 Juny 1815*

*Ik heb de eer Uw H.Ed.Gestr.kennis te geven dat ingevolge de bevelen van Zijne K.H.de divisie onder Uwe orders, alsmede de Rijdende Batterij welke tot dezelve behoort zig tot nader order concentreeren zal in de stad Enghien, met uitzondering echter van het bataillon 't welk Uwe Excellentie daar toe uitkiezen zal en 't welk bestemd is voorposten en sterke piquetten op den weg na Soignies te plaatsen en zig ten dien einde in de rigting van Hove begeven zal, om deeze weg militairement te observeren, zullende de weg na Ath op ene dergelijke wijze door de Indiaansche brigade geobserveerd worden.*

*De maire van Enghien is van bovengenoemde dispositie onderrigt, in zoo verre hem de plaatsing der divisie in Enghien aangaat. Uwe Excell.zal dus wel gelieven aan de troupen bevel te geven dat zij zig de ogenblikken rust te nutte maken om hun eeten te koken en gereed te zijn om morgen ogtend vroegtijdig indien het nodig is te kunnen marscheren.* <sup>53</sup>

The order for the Indian brigade reads:

*Hoofdkwartier te Enghien, den 16 Juny 1815*

*Ingevolge de bevelen van Z.K.H. zal de Indiaansche brigade gedurende deeze nagt geconcentreerd worden in de dorpen St.Pierre en Marcq; de batterij artill. zal in St.Pierre*

*blijven en zal Uwe Excell. wel een van de bataillons die in St.Marcq geplaatst zijn uitkiezen om voorposten en sterke piquetten op den weg na Ath in de rigting van het Kruysken uit te zetten en voornoemde weg militairement te observeren, zooals die van Soignies door de eerste divisie zal geobserveerd worden. Ook zal Uwe Excell.wel de nodige bevelen gelieven te geven opdat de troupen zig de oogenblikken van rust ten nutte maken ten einde te kunnen kookken en morgen ogtend en indien nodig te kunnen marscheren.*<sup>54</sup>

It took a long time for the troops to march from Sotteghem to Enghien (through Geraardsbergen) and most of them reached their positions between 3 and 4 a.m. of the 17th of June. The Indian brigade reached its position between 4.30 and 5 a.m.<sup>55</sup> The artillery arrived around 8 a.m. and more stragglers after that time.<sup>56</sup>

The troops took up the following positions: the 1st division at Enghien, with outposts of the 16th battalion Jager near Hoves (on the road to Soignies); the Indian brigade at Marcq and Saint Pierre (northwest of Enghien), with one battalion in outposts and pickets on the road of Ath (at a point called 't Kruijsken) and the battery at Saint Pierre.<sup>57</sup> Because of the heat and the heavy rains a lot of troops reached their destinations only about 5 a.m.<sup>58</sup>

Of the remaining parts of the army of the Netherlands not a lot is known.

The reserve-artillery, the 12-pounder battery of Dubois, must have left its position near Braine le Comte to Nivelles at dawn, and must finally have taken a position near Chassés division. In the afternoon of the 15th of June it had got the instruction to be ready for departure.<sup>59</sup>

The company of sappers under command of captain Esau, at Braine le Comte, got the order on the 16th of June at 1 a.m. to be ready for march. It did so on the marketplace of Braine le Comte and remained there till further notice. Finally, she remained there the whole day, witnessing the passage of numerous other troops.<sup>60</sup>

I do not have any information about the reserve-park.

Lord Hill's headquarters moved on the 16th June from Geraardsbergen towards Braine le Comte; the exact time is not known, nor where it was established in Braine le Comte.

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<sup>1</sup> HL, WP 1.468 and (in print) MS 61, WP 7.2.20

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Sir H.Clinton's letter dated 23rd June 1815. In: NLS, MS 3615 f.38

3. Journal of a private of the 71st regiment.

While the 52nd and 71st regiment were at Leuze, the companies of the 3rd battalion of the 95th regiment were at Tourpes (which is about 3 kilometers south west of Leuze). Cf. Corporal Knight (3rd battalion / 95th regiment). In: The British battalion at Oporto etc. p.12 Knight mentions Leuze "Louis" and Tourpes "Thorp".

<sup>4</sup> Cf. Corporal Knight. In: The British battalion at Oporto etc. p.15

5. Journal of the 3rd and 4th battalion line. In: NHA. Hann.38D, nr.816 p.22-25 and Hann.38D, nr.236 p.118-119  
Dehnel, H. Rückblicke etc. p.236

6.Report of major L.von Dreve (Osnabrück battalion). In: NHA. Hann.41.XXI,nr.151 p.70-72

7.Report of captain F.Scheuch (Bremen battalion). In: Hann.41.XXI, nr.151 p.65-68

8.Journal of the 1st battalion of line KGL. In: NHA. Hann.38D, nr.236 p.27-28

9.Letter of J.Hamilton, dated at paris, 21 July 1815. NAM, nr.7905-5

10.Journal of the 3rd battalion line KGL. In: NHA. Hann.38D, nr.816 p.22-25  
It claims it left at 11 a.m.

11.Journal of the 3rd battalion line KGL. In: NHA. Hann.38D, nr.816 p.22-25

12.Report of captain Von Scheuch (battalion Bremervörde). In: NHA. Hann.41.XXI, nr.151 p.65-68

13. Cf. lieutenant Hart (52nd regiment), in a letter of the 20th of June 1815. In: NAM, nr.8111-84

14. Cf. journal of a private of the 71st regiment.He mentions "Louis" in stead of "Leuze".

<sup>15</sup> Private John Smith, in a letter to his brother dated 14 July 1815. In: NLS, MS 15385, p.68

16.The journal of the 1st and 3rd battalion line KGL. In: Hann.38D, nr.236 p.27-28 and Hann.38D, nr.816 p.22-25  
Cf. Assistant commissary general Tupper Carey. In: Reminiscenses of Waterloo p.726

17. Cf. Sir H.Clinton's letter dated 23rd June 1815. In: NLS, MS 3615 f.38  
Journal of the 3rd battalion line KGL. In: Hann.38D, nr.816 p.22-25  
It states that the battalion arrived in front of Enghien around 5 p.m.  
Cf. lieutenant Dehnel (3rd battalion of the line KGL). In: Dehnel, H. Rückblicke etc. p.238  
Also according to ensign Leeke the 52nd regiment arrived shortly after 2 p.m. . Cf. Leeke, W.  
The history of lord Seaton's regiment Vol.I p.10

18. Leeke, W. The history of lord Seaton's regiment Vol.I p.10

19. Leeke, W. The history of lord Seaton's regiment Vol.I p.11  
Moorsom, in his history of the 52nd regiment, gives an incorrect interpretation of the  
countermarch of the regiment. He believes the regiment, while it was moving from Ath to  
Enghien, passed the side-road which leads to Soignies and had to return to this road in order  
to get there, instead of continuing towards Enghien. Moorsom then has the regiment move to  
Braine le Comte through Soignies. In: Historical record of the 52nd regiment p.244-245

20. Leeke, W. The history of lord Seaton's regiment Vol.I p.11  
Journal of the 3rd battalion line KGL. In: Hann.38D, nr.816 p.22-25  
Lieutenant Dehnel, H. (3rd battalion line KGL) Rückblicke etc. p.238

<sup>21</sup> Cf. Sir H.Clinton's letter dated 23rd June 1815. In: NLS, MS 3615 f.38

22. Journal of the 3rd battalion of line KGL (Hann.38D, nr.816 p.22-25). This is confirmed by  
J.Hamilton, a member of the 2nd battalion line KGL. He states that his battalion halted near a  
few houses (the outskirts of Braine le Comte) around 8 p.m. and remained here for about 2  
hours. At 10 p.m. the march was resumed under bad weather, the troops lacking their mantles.  
In his letter of 21 July 1815, Paris. In: NAM, nr.7905-5  
The journal of the 1st battalion line KGL says the brigade halted for about one hour near  
Braine le Comte after 9 p.m. This would mean the brigade arrived there at 10 p.m. In: NHA.  
Hann.38D, nr.236 p.27-28  
Major L.von Dreves (battalion Osnabrück, brigade H.Halkett) claims the battalion arrived at  
11 p.m. at Braine le Comte. In: NHA. Hann.41.XXI, nr.151 p.70-72

23. Journal 3rd battalion line KGL. This document calls the wood the forest of Soignes ! In:  
NHA. Hann.38D, nr.816 p.22-25

24. Journal of the 3rd battalion line KGL. In: NHA. Hann.38D, nr.816 p.22-25  
J.Hamilton says it was 2 a.m. Cf. his letter. In: NAM, nr.7905-5

25. Leeke, W. The history of lord Seaton's regiment Vol.I p.11  
G.C.Moore-Smith, The life of John Colborne p.215  
Moorsom, W.S. – Historical records of the 52nd regiment p.245  
Lieutenant Hart (52nd regiment) says it was 11 p.m. in his letter dated 20th of June 1815. In:

NAM, nr. nr.8111-84

A member of the 71st regiment speaks about a stop in a place at 1 a.m.; this must have been Braine le Comte. In: Journal of a private of the 71st regiment.

Private W.Robinson also claims his battalion (2nd of the 95th regiment) halted at Nivelles from 10 p.m. till 2 a.m. but, apart from the hours, this must have been Braine le Comte. Cf. His letter to his brother dated 10th september 1815. In: Regimental Headquarters, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, Wellesley Park, Halifax

Private Lewis (2nd battalion / 95th regiment) mentions a halt for two hours from 11 p.m. until 1 a.m. Cf. his letter dated 8th of July 1815 to his sister. In: [www.1815.ltd.uk](http://www.1815.ltd.uk) Original in: Dorset History Centre, Dorchester. D/FIL/Z5

26. Report of major L.von Dreves. In: NHA. Hann.41.XXI. nr.151 p.70-72

<sup>27</sup> Letter of Colville to his brother 19 June 1815. In: Colville papers, C41283/TD 97/1 In Scottish Record Office, Edinburgh.

Cf. Colville, J. - Portrait of a general p.200

28. Private Wheeler (51st regiment). In: The letters of private Wheeler p.168

And in: NAM, 6806-42

In reading the account of ensign G.Th.Keppel (14th regiment), later count Albemarle, it becomes clear that his regiment left for Enghien from Acren (5 kilometers south of Geraardsbergen). In: Albemarle, G.T. Fifty years of my life Vol.II p.13

29. Albemarle, G.T. (14th regiment). Fifty years of my life.Vol.II p.14-15 The brigade must have halted a few hours at Enghien. Cf. For years of a soldier's life. In: USM, 1844, part II p.408

30. Lieutenant Hildebrand (35th regiment). In: The recollections of Lt.J.Hildebrand,1809-1815

31. Several historians place Mitchell's brigade at Nivelles and the rest of the division at Braine le Comte. Cf.

Charras. Histoire de la campagne de 1815 Vol.I p.210

Löben Sels, E.van Bijdragen tot de krijgsgeschiedenis etc. Vol.IV p.561

Cf. Albemarle, G.Th. (14th regiment). Fifty years of my life. Vol.II p.14-15

He says his regiment reached Braine le Comte late that night and left before the crack of dawn. While marching from Braine le Comte to Nivelles it encountered waggons of the Royal Waggon Train filled with wounded from the action at Quatre Bras. At Nivelles the regiment would have been delayed for about two hours in order to let pass some Belgian cavalry.

This all is being confirmed by a private T.Jeremiah of the 23rd regiment. In: Account in NLW, MS.22102A p.43-45

For the fact that the brigade of Mitchell had its position outside Nivelles that night: Four years of a soldier's life. In: USM, 1844, part II p.408

Lieutenant Hildebrand (35th regiment) is not very specific. In: The recollections of  
lt.J.Hildebrand,1809-1815

According the History of the 91st regiment, this regiment joined the army on the 17th of June.

32. NA. Stafregister der afgezonden stukken, 2.13.14.01 nr.5-6 nr.180

It is being dated in the register as sent out " au soir ".

33. Original in: KHA. nr.A37 VIIb nr.4

Copy in: BL, Add.ms.35.060 f.414

Cf. Bas, F.de. Prins Frederik en zijn tijd. Vol.III.2 p.608

E.Sidney. The life of lord Hill p.305

34.Letter of prince Frederik to his father (see below)

35. In: KHA.

36. NA. 2.13.14.02 nr.6 nr.32

37. NA. 2.13.14.02.nr.6 nr.33

38. NA. 2.13.14.02. nr.6. nr.34

39. In: NA. 2.13.14.02 nr.1

40. In: NA. 2.13.14.02.nr.1

41. NA. 2.13.52.1 nr.1078, nr.738

42. NA. 2.13.52.1 nr.7 (Journal)

43.According to Van Löben Sels the division Stedman left at 8 a.m. and arrived at 11 a.m. In  
his letter Anthing expects to arrive somewhere in the afternoon. In: Löben Sels, E.van  
Bijdragen tot de krijgsgeschiedenis etc. Vol.IV. p.

44. NA. 2.13.52.1 nr.1078, nr.739

45. WD p.474-475

Also in: Bas, F.de Prins Frederik en zijn tijd. Vol.III, 2 p.1179

46. NA. 2.13.14.02 nr.7 (Journal)

Cf. Dagboek der operatien en bewegingen etc. p.10

47.Original in: KHA. nr.A37 VIIb nr.4

Also see: Bas, F.de Prins Frederik en zijn tijd. Vol.III, 2 p.609

48. NA. 2.13.52.1 nr.1078, nr.740

49. NA. 2.13.52.1.nr.1078, nr.741

50. NA. 2.13.14.02. nr.6 nr.35

51. NA. 2.13.14.02 nr.6 nr.36

52. NA. 2.13.14.02 nr.7 (Journal)  
Dagboek der operatien en bewegingen etc. p.9

53. NA. 2.13.14.02 nr.6 nr.37

54. NA. 2.13.14.02 nr.6 nr.38

55. Register of incoming documents of the count Van St.Aldegonde. The note which makes this clear reads: " Dat de brigade te St.Pierre en Marcq is aangekomen 's ochtend ten half vijf en vijf uren. " In: NA. 2.13.14.02 nr.1

56. Journal. In: NA, 2.13.14.02 nr.7  
Captain Wijnands says it was on the morning of the 17th of June. Cf. his letter in VLS.  
Nr.II.nr.4.13

57. Journal. In: NA. 2.13.14.02 nr.7  
Also in:  
Dagboek der operatien en bewegingen etc. p.10

58.Bas, F.de Prins Frederik en zijn tijd. Vol.III, 2 p.610

59.1st lieutenant Sierevelt of this battery in his letter to captain Van Löben Sels. In: VLS.  
nr.II.no.4.10

60.Notes of 1st lieutenant Klijsma of this company. Cf. his letter in: VLS. nr.II.no.4.16