

The morning of the 16th June.

The French left wing.

During the early morning of the 16th of June, Ney was at Gosselies. It was here that he received before 7 a.m. Soult's letter of 4.30 - 5 a.m. ¹ This letter caused him to write a report to Soult at 7 a.m. ² Shortly after, Reille came to Ney to ask him for orders, as his troops were ready to march. However, Ney was awaiting his orders of the emperor. ³

Ney was about to leave for Frasnes and instructed Reille to carry out any imperial orders which would arrive and to transmit these orders to general d'Erlon at Jumet. ⁴

Shortly after 7 a.m. Ney left for Frasnes. ⁵ When he got there is not known, nor what he did there. ⁶

As has been stated before, Soult and Napoleon sent their orders to Ney at 8 a.m. and between 8 and 9 a.m. Yet, Napoleon's reached Ney somewhat earlier as the one of Soult. ⁷ Count Flahaut was the messenger of Napoleons orders. He passed the headquarters of Reille at Gosselies around 10 a.m. ⁸ This hour can be derived from the following letter which Reille wrote to Ney:

*Gosselies, le 16 juin 1815
10 heures et quart du matin*

Monsieur le maréchal,

J'ai l'honneur d'informer Votre Excellence du rapport que me fait faire verbalement le général Girard par un des ses officiers.

L'ennemi continue à occuper Fleurus par de la cavalerie légère qui a des vedettes en avant; l'on aperçoit deux masses ennemis venant par la route de Namur et dont la tête est à la hauteur de Saint-Amand. Elles se sont formées peu à peu, et ont gagné quelque terrain à mesure qu'il leur arrivait du monde: on n'a pu guère juger de leur force à cause de l'éloignement: cependant ce général pense que chacune pouvait d'être de six bataillons en colonne par bataillon. On apercevait des mouvements de troupes derrière.

M.le lieutenant général Flahaut m'a fait part des ordres qu'il portait à Votre Excellence; j'en ai prévenu M.le comte d'Erlon, afin qu'il puisse suivre mon mouvement. J'aurais commencé le mien sur Frasnes aussitot que les divisions auraient été sous les armes; mais d'après le rapport du général Girard [⁹], je tiendrai les troupes prêtes à marcher en attendant les ordres de Votre Excellence, et comme ils pourront me parvenir très vite, il n'y aura que très peu de temps de perdu.

J'ai envoyé à l'empereur l'officier qui m'a fait le rapport du général Girard. Je renouvelle à Votre Excellence les assurances de mon respectueux dévouement.

*Le général en chef du 2e corps
Comte Reille ¹⁰*

Ney must have received Reille's letter around 11 a.m.¹¹ It must have been towards 11 a.m., and some time earlier, possibly around 10.30 a.m. that Ney got the orders written by Soult and Napoleon respectively.¹² Shortly after, Ney issued his orders for the 2nd corps; it was about 11 a.m.¹³ They read:

*Ordre de mouvement à Mr. le Comte Reille, commandant le 2e corps d'armée.
Frasnes, le 16 juin 1815*

Conformément aux instructions de l'empereur, le 2e corps se mettra en marche de suite pour aller prendre position, la 5e division en arrière de Genappes sur les hauteurs qui dominent cette ville, la gauche appuyée à la grande route.

Un bataillon ou deux couvriront tous les débouchés en avant sur la route de Bruxelles.

Le parc de réserve et les équipages de cette division resteront avec la seconde ligne.

La 9e division suivra le mouvement de la 5e et viendra prendre position en seconde ligne sur les hauteurs à droite et à gauche du village de Banterlet.

Les 6e et 7e divisions à l'embranchement des Quatre Bras où sera votre quartier général.

Les trois premières divisions du comte d'Erlon viendront prendre position à Frasnes; la division de droite s'établira à Marbais avec la 2e division de cavalerie légère du général Piré; la 1er couvrira votre marche et vous éclairera sur Bruxelles et sur vos deux flancs. Mon quartier à Frasnes. Deux divisions du comte de Valmy s'établiront à Frasnes et à Liberchies.

Les divisions de la garde des généraux Lefebvre Desnouettes et Colbert resteront dans leur position actuelle de Frasnes.

*Pour le maréchal prince de la Moskowa,
Le colonel, premier aide de camp,
Heymès¹⁴*

Reille must have got Ney's orders around 11.45 a.m. and he started to move his troops at noon.¹⁵

At 11 a.m. Ney wrote his report for Soult:

Frasne, le 16 juin 1815 à 11 heures du matin.

à Son Excellence le Maréchal Duc de Dalmatie, major Général,

Je recois à l'instant vos instructions sur le mouvement des 1er et 2e corps d'infanterie, de la division de cavalerie légère du général Piré et des 2 divisions de cavalerie du 3e corps.

Celles de l'Empereur m'étaient déjà parvenues. Voici les dispositions que je viens d'expédier:

Le 2e corps, général Reille, aura une division en arrière de Genappe, une autre à Banterlet, les 2 autres à l'embranchement des Quatre Bras.

Une division de cavalerie légère du général Piré couvrira la marche du 2e corps.

Le 1er corps s'établira savoir: une division à Marbais, les 2 autres à Frasnne, une division de cavalerie légère à Marbais, les 2 divisions du Comte de Valmy à Frasnne et Liberchies.

Les 2 divisions de cavalerie légère de la garde resteront à Frasnne où j'établis mon quartier général.

Tous les renseignements portent qu'il y a environ 3000 hommes d'infanterie ennemie aux Quatre Bras et fort peu de cavalerie. Je pense que les dispositions de l'Empereur pour la marche ultérieure sur Bruxelles s'exécuteront sans grands obstacles.

Le maréchal Prince de la Moskowa,

Ney¹⁶

The movements of the 2nd corps (Reille), the 3rd cavalry-corps (Kellermann) and the light cavalry of the imperial guard.

On the night of the 15th June, the divisions of the 2nd corps had the following positions: Bachelu and Piré in front of Mellet, Jérôme east of the Bois de Lombuc, Girard at Wangenies and Foy in and around Gosselies.

Even taking into account the time the troops would have marched – noon - not all marches can be reconstructed completely.¹⁷ Mellet is four and half kilometers from Frasnne. Taking this distance into consideration, in combination with the fact that first of all the orders had to be brought to Mellet and that the divisions of Bachelu and Piré would have arrived at Frasnne at 1 p.m., the divisions would have marched at least 3 km / hour.¹⁸

The division of Foy had to cover at least 8.5 kilometers. It must have arrived at Frasnne around 1.45 p.m. [¹⁹] so this would mean the division covered this distance in almost two hours. Jérôme Bonaparte's had to cover a distance of 10.5 kilometers following Foy in his track.²⁰

Taking into account that the division left after 12 o'clock and that it arrived at the battlefield around 3 p.m., the division must have marched with an average speed of about 3.5 km / hour.

Kellermann's bivouac on the night of the 15th was near Charleroi, on the south bank of the Sambre.

It was around 4.30 a.m. that Soult sent the order to Kellermann to assemble his corps and to move it to Gosselies; it what time Kellermann received this order is not known.

Additionally, Soult wrote to Ney at 10 a.m.: " réunissez les corps des comtes Reille et d'Erlon, et celui du comte de Valmy, qui se met à l'instant en route pour vous rejoindre. " So, at 10 a.m. Soult, somehow, must have known about the delay Kellermann faced.

Having been delayed, for whatever reason, Kellermann received Ney's later order to place one division at Liberchies and one at Frasnne. In realizing how important it was to reach Frasnne, Kellermann sent forward his foremost brigade - the one of Guiton - this explains the high speed with which the cuirassiers arrived near Frasnne.²¹ Then, it was probably between 2 and 3 p.m.²²

That night, at 10 p.m., Kellermann wrote in his report to Ney that he didn't know where the division of l'Heritier was and I haven't been able to determine where it must have been either.

Somehow, it must have faced an enormous delay.

The division of lieutenant general Roussel d'Hurbal was in the fields near Frasnès. Kellermann himself had his headquarters that night near Frasnès.

Throughout the night of the 15th and the whole 16th of June the light cavalry of imperial guard must have been kept by Ney in position near Frasnès.²³

Reille himself reached Frasnès around 1.15 p.m. and at that moment his divisions of Bachelu and Piré were in front of the village, near the main road. Here he was joined by Ney and both observed the enemy's position.

Some time later Reille was ordered by Ney "de laisser ce bois [the Bois de Bossu] à gauche et de s'emparer de la position des Trois Bras".²⁴ By that time, the division of Foy was arriving, but before he actually attacked, Reille waited until he was sure this division was near enough to support the ones of Bachelu and Piré, just in case.

Reille clearly must have felt uneasy about the situation and this was probably due to his former experiences with Wellington in Spain.²⁵ By now, Ney must have had about 9700 men of infantry, 1760 men of cavalry and 22 guns.²⁶

The movements of the 1st corps d'Erlon.

On the night of the 15th of June, around 9.30 p.m., Soult wrote at Charleroi an order for d'Erlon to collect his corps on the left bank of the Sambre in order to be able to join the 2nd corps near Gosselies.

That night, the divisions of the corps must have had the following positions: Durutte between Gosselies and Jumet, Donzelot in front of Jumet, Marcognet at Marchienne-au-Pont and Quiot at Thuin. The cavalry of Jacquinet had one brigade at Solre-sur-Sambre and one at Jumet. D'Erlon himself was at Jumet. D'Erlon started to carry out his orders during the early hours of the 16th of June.²⁷

In this, there is an order of the chief of staff of the division Marcognet, colonel d'Arsonval, to the 1st brigade of the division, the one of Noguès. It reads:

*Au quartier général à Marchienne-au-Pont
16 juin 1815 à 3 heures du matin*

D'après l'intention du général en chef, le lieutenant général me charge de vous inviter à faire partir de suite votre brigade avec une 1/2 batterie pour être rendue à six heures du matin, et plus tôt s'il était possible, à Gosselies.

Le commandant d'artillerie a ordre de vous envoyer de suite les 3 pièces qui vous manquent pour compléter votre 1/2 batterie.

*L'adjudant commandant, chef d'état major:
Ch.d'Arsonval*

*P.S. La 2e brigade reste ici jusqu'à l'arrivée de la première division quelle suivra pour se rendre ensemble à la même destination. Mettez vous en route par la grande route.*²⁸

It orders Noguès to advance with his brigade and a battery over the chaussée to Gosselies; it should arrive there at 6 a.m. at the latest.²⁹ The 2nd brigade had to wait for the division of Quiot at Marchienne-au-Pont and then advance to Gosselies.

In fact Jumet was the destination, as the division of Durutte was at Gosselies, with Donzelot south of Jumet. The distance Jumet - Marchienne-au-Pont (through Roux) is about seven kilometers. If the brigade would have left between 3.30 and 4.00 a.m. it can be assumed that it arrived there between 6.30 and 7.00 a.m.

The cavalry-brigade of Jacquinot at Solre-sur-Sambre must have advanced together with the division of Quiot and, later, with the brigade of Grenier (of Marcognet) as well. Solre-sur-Sambre is about twelve kilometers from Thuin, the position of Quiot, and the distance between Thuin and Gosselies is about 20 kilometers. There are no details about the movements of these last units, but in relation to the distances involved there can be no doubt that both the one brigade of Jacquinot and the division of Quiot must have left their positions on the Sambre in the early morning.³⁰ It is not known at what time the full corps was collected immediately south of Gosselies.³¹

At 10.15 a.m. Reille wrote to Ney. In this letter Reille writes that count Flahaut had passed with orders for Ney and that he had informed d'Erlon about these orders so that the 1st corps could follow his. However, as the 2nd corps left at noon, the 1st corps was delayed as well.³² It must have been between 9.30 and 10 a.m. that Reille spoke to Flahaut. It could have been around 10 a.m. that Reille passed the information he got to d'Erlon. In all probability, d'Erlon must have been informed about this conversation around 10.30 a.m.³³ It must have been around noon that d'Erlon received Ney's march orders.³⁴

These orders contained the instructions to place the first three divisions at Frasnes and one division at Marbais.³⁵ Jacquinot would cover and explore the marches to and beyond Quatre Bras. D'Erlon immediately set off his troops. In this connection, general Delcambre, chief of staff of the 2nd corps, issued the following order to Donzelot:

Au Quartier Général [Jumet], le 16 juin 1815

Mon général,

Donnez, je vous prie, ordre à votre division de prendre les armes sur le champ. L'armée va marcher.

L'Empereur ne veut pas qu'on lui rende d'honneurs lorsqu'il se trouve aux avant-postes, car c'est faire voir que S.M. s'y trouve et cela peut avoir de l'inconvénient.

Donnez, je vous prie, vos ordres en conséquence.

Le maréchal de camp,

*Chef d'état-major du 1er corps, B.on Delcambre*³⁶

D'Erlon would have asked Durutte, being in the vanguard, to hurry.³⁷ However, due to the fact that the 2nd corps had not left yet, this was impossible. At 1 p.m. the division of Jérôme was

still moving from its bivouac through Gosselies. It was for this reason that Durutte stranded at Gosselies towards 1 p.m.³⁸

At the same time, as inhabitants would have seen a considerable enemy's force towards Chapelle Herlaymont, d'Erlon decided to halt his forces where they were. Accordingly, d'Erlon sent out a reconnaissance which made it clear that the information proved to be incorrect.³⁹

It was also from Gosselies that d'Erlon wrote to Soult. The reason for doing in all probability had to do with this delay. Whether d'Erlon also wrote a similar report to Ney is not known.⁴⁰

The 1st corps must have resumed its march from Gosselies between 2.30 and 3 p.m.⁴¹ It must have been around 4.30 p.m. that the division Durutte approached the cabaret à l'Empereur.⁴² It must have been about here that the column was diverted to the east (see below). This took place towards 5 p.m.

On the morning of the 16th of June, during a reconnaissance, the chief of staff of the division of Durutte, colonel Gordon, as well as an adjudant of Durutte, the chef de bataillon Gaugler, deserted the Anglo-Netherlands-German army.⁴³

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1. Ropes give 6 a.m. In: The Waterloo campaign p.120

2. Houssaye, H. 1815. Waterloo p.136 (footnote)

Unfortunately, I haven't found this most important report in the papers of baron Gourgaud, as mentioned by Houssaye (now in the Fonds Gourgaud, AN).

The only line quoted by Houssaye from this report is: "Le premier corps est à Julmet [sic]. Mon rapport d'hier en fait mention."

Reille refers to Ney writing this report around 7 a.m. In: Reille. In: Notice historique etc. In: Documents inédits. p.57

3. The division of Bachelu was ready to march since 5 a.m. In: Trefcon, T.J. Carnet de campagne etc. p.181

According to Trefcon the division got the order to march to Quatre Bras at 8 a.m.

4. Reille. In: Notice historique etc. In: Documents inédits. p.57

5. Reille. In: Notice historique etc. In: Documents inédits. p.57

Piérart would have done a meticulous research on the activities of Ney early that morning, but his sources remain unclear. His horses would have been ready at 7 a.m. and then Ney would have reconnoitred towards Heppignies and then to return to Gosselies. Then he would have gone to his outposts near Frasnes. In: Piérart, Z.J. Le drame de Waterloo. p.175

6. According to Scheltema, Ney had his headquarters at a farm called Revelaer. In: Scheltema, J. De laatste veldtocht etc. p.98

7. Cf. Ney's report of 11 a.m. (see below).

8. So not at 11 a.m. as Reille makes us believe. In: Notice historique etc. In: Documents inédits p.57

9. This report must have reached Reille around 9 a.m. In: Reille. Notice historique etc. In: Documents inédits p.57

10. Original in: AN, Fonds Ney 137 AP18

Copy in SHAT. C15, nr.5

Also in:

Duc d'Elchingen. Documents inédits p.37

Pontécoulant, F.G. Souvenirs militaires etc. p.153-154

Ropes, J.C. The Waterloo campaign. Annex nr.19

Aerts, W. Etudes relatives etc. p.353

11.Charras. Histoire de la campagne de 1815 Vol.II p.234

12. Cf. Ney's report of 11 a.m.. In: SHAT. C15, nr.5

Count Flahaut in a letter dated 1857 to A.H.Brialmont. In: The first Napoleon etc. p.314

Charras thinks it was 10.30 a.m. In: Histoire de la campagne de 1815 Vol.I p.188

11.00 a.m. is given by Houssaye. In: 1815.Waterloo p.194

Cf. Colonel Heymès. In: Relation etc. In: Documents inédits etc. p.8

Cf. the account of Flahaut in the Bowood papers, p.117

On top of the text of the order of Soult to Ney there is a note stating: " D'après ce que M.le maréchal Duc de Dalmatie nous a dit,cet ordre aurait été expédié après le déjeuner de l'Empereur vers 11 [or 10] heures du matin. Le Duc d'Elchingen ".

Cf. Copy. In: AN, Fonds Ney nr.137 AP 18

This statement is incorrect, unless Ney based his orders upon the order of Napoleon only.

De Pontécoulant erroneously claims that Soult's letter reached Ney before 9 or 9.30 a.m. In: Pontécoulant, F.G. de - Souvenirs militaires p.70

13. Cf. report of Ney to Soult. In: SHAT. C15, nr.5

14. Original in: AN, Fonds Ney 137 AP18

Cf. Aerts, W. Etudes relatives etc. p.409

Pontécoulant, F.G.de Souvenirs militaires etc. p.155-156.

Duc d'Elchingen. Documents inédits p.38

Koolemans Beijnen, G.J.W. Op welk tijdstip heeft etc. Annex nr. Q

Ropes, J.C. The Waterloo campaign Annex nr.20.

To make matters clear: the 5th division is the one of Bachelu, the 6th of Jérôme, the 7th of Girard and the 9th of Foy.

15. Cf. Houssaye, H. 1815.Waterloo p.196

Aerts, W. Etudes relatives etc. p.412

Chef de bataillon Jolyet (1st regiment of light infantry, division Jérôme). In: Souvenirs et correspondance etc. p.75

Charras says it was 11.45 a.m. In: Charras. Histoire de la campagne de 1815 Vol.I p.189

Reille erroneously claims the 2nd corps was put in motion after the receiving of the orders of Flahaut. In fact the 2nd corps was delayed for two hours.

Cf. Reille. In: Notice historique etc. In: Documents inédits p.57

Colonel Trefcon, chief of staff of division Bachelu, claims his division would have marched after 8.30 a.m. (see above) and yet arrived only in front of Quatre Bras by noon after wrong marches. He simply tries to connect these (false) times through false information. In: Trefcon, T.J. Carnet de campagne etc. p.181

D'Erlon believes both army-corps, his as well as the 2nd, left by 11 a.m. Cf. Drouet d'Érlon. Le maréchal Drouet, comte d'Erlon etc. p.95

Chef d'escadron Lemonnier-Delafosse writes that Ney started to move the 2nd corps by 1 p.m. In: Souvenirs militaires p.205

16.Copy in SHAT. C15, nr.5 Original in private collection.

¹⁷ For noon, cf.

Girod de l'Ain. Vie militaire etc. p.270

Chef de bataillon Puvis (93rd regiment of the line, division Foy). In: Souvenirs p.115

18.It also took at least half an hour before Reille's letter reached Ney.

19.Charras. Histoire de la campagne de 1815 Vol.I p.193

Siborne believes it was 1 p.m. In: History of the war in France etc. Vol.I p.100

20. By the fact that the 1st corps near Gosselies had to wait for this division it becomes apparent that the division marched through Gosselies.

21.According to H.de Mauduit, Guiton advanced from Charleroi without halting. The other brigade, of Piquet, must have followed further behind and have arrived later at Frasnes, too late to participate in the action.

Cf. Mauduit, H.de Les derniers jours de la grande armée Vol.II p.144

Chef de bataillon Rullière (95th regiment, division of Durutte) states the cuirassiers passed his division at 8 a.m. and that they took up a position in rear of a wood [Delhütte]. Cf. his account dated 1856. In: Largeaud, J.M. - Napoleon et Waterloo p.372

22.H.de Mauduit says it was 2.30 p.m. In: Les derniers de la grande armée Vol.II p.144

Colonel Heymès mentions a time of 3 p.m., and suggest as if the cuirassiers charged very shortly after, but this is not true. In: Relation etc. In: Documents inédits etc. p.9

Reille claims it was near the battlefield towards 2 p.m. In: Notice historique In: Duc d'Elchingen. Documents inédits p.58

23.From Flahaut's letter to the duke of Elchingen it becomes clear that the light cavalry of the guard kept the outposts north of Frasnes. In: Duc d'Elchingen. Documents inédits etc. p.63

Reille confirms a presence of this cavalry just north of Frasnes by 1 p.m., the moment he met Ney there. Reille. In: Notice historique etc. In: Documents inédits. p.58

It must have been around 11.15 a.m. that Flahaut met general Lefebvre Desnouettes.

Count Flahaut in a letter dated 1857 to A.H.Brialmont. In: The first Napoleon etc. p.314

Also general Foy confirms the presence of chasseurs and lancers of the light cavalry of the guard near Frasnes. In: Girod de l'Ain. Vie militaire etc. p.270

Chef d'escadron Lemonnier-Delafosse, chief of staff of Foy's division, confirms the presence of 2500 men of cavalry in reserve further to the rear [was in fact about 2000 men]. In: Souvenirs militaires p.207

Chef de bataillon Rullière (95th regiment, division of Durutte) states that a division of the cavalry of the guard took up a position near the cuirassiers in rear of a wood [Delhütte]. Cf. his account dated 1856. In: Largeaud, J.M. - Napoleon et Waterloo p.372

24. Copy in: Registre de correspondance du lieutenant général Comte Reille. In: SHAT. C15, nr.22 Reille in: Notice historique etc. In: Documents inédits p.58

Foy states his division (plus the one of Bachelu) was ordered "de faire tête de colonne à gauche" – in this way he headed for the northern point of the Bois de Bossu. Cf. Notes of Foy. In: Girod de l'Ain. Vie etc. p.271

The time of 2 p.m. is confirmed by colonel Trefcon. In: Carnets de campagne p.181

²⁵ According to Répécaud, chef de bataillon and member of a company of engineers of the 5th division of Bachelu, Ney would have said to Bachelu: "Qu'avez vous besoin de tant de précautions, vous n'avez affaire qu'à cette poignée d'allemands qui, hier, ont été sabré à Gosselies." Répécaud would have been with Bachelu and Foy at the time these words were spoken. In: Répécaud, Napoleon à Ligny etc. p.17

26. Division Bachelu: 5098 men and 8 guns. Division of Foy 4657 men and 8 guns. Division of Piré 1762 men and 6 guns. In: SHTA. C15, nr.35 – total of about 11.517 men.

This figure excludes the cavalry of Kellermann, Lefebvre Desnouettes and the 1st regiment of hussars (Pajol).

As for the artillery, I take into account that all three divisions present had their guns. Cf. Reille's report. In: SHAT. C15, nr.22

²⁷ The fact that the division was the leading one is confirmed by both Durutte himself as well as chef de bataillon Rullière.

Durutte's account in the Sentinelle de l'armée p.77

Chef de bataillon Rullière's account dated 1856. In: Largeaud, J.M. - Napoleon et Waterloo p.372

28. Original in: SHAT. C15, nr.5 Also in:

Ropes, J.C. The Waterloo campaign (Annex nr.7)

Pontécoulant, F.G.de Souvenirs militaires etc. p.144

Their versions are different from the original in details.

29. It is unclear where this hour is based upon.

30. Captain Duthilt (chief of staff of the brigade Bourgeois) says that his division, the one of Quiot, got the order to march swiftly to Marchienne-au-Pont and from there to Gosselies. In:

Duthilt, Les mémoires du capitaine Duthilt p.298

Private Canler, of the 28th regiment (brigade Bourgeois), says that his division left from Thuin at noon, but in relation to the later situation near Frasnes this is impossible; it must have been much earlier that the division must have left from Thuin, as the distance between Thuin and Gosselies is about 20 kilometers. In: Canler, L. Mémoires de Canler p.24

31. Heymès claims that Ney sent members of the cavalry of the guard, from the lack of adjudants, to the units of the 1st corps in order to speed them up. In: Heymès. In: Relation etc. In: Documents inédits. p.8

32. Reille had told d'Erlon that he was waiting for orders of Ney as well.

33. Colonel Durutte says that the corps received its marching orders at 10 a.m. D'Erlon got his orders from Ney. According to Houssaye it was just before 11 a.m. In: Durutte. Account in the Sentinelle de l'armée p.77
Houssaye, H. 1815. Waterloo p.204

34. Cf. H.de Mauduit. Les derniers jours de la grande armée etc. Vol.II p.171
Charras. Histoire de la campagne de 1815 Vol.I p.212
D'Erlon says it was at 11.00 a.m. or noon. In: Letter to the duke of Elchingen, dated 1829. In: Documents inédits p.64

35. The 1st corps marched with its divisions like this: 4th, 3rd, 2nd and 1st. This would have meant that the division of Quiot would have to take up position at Marbais. D'Erlon waited in detaching the division to Marbais and in the end it never got there due to the events which followed.

36. Brouwet, E. Mémoires et documents sur la campagne de 1815. In: Revue des études Napoléoniennes 1932. p.361
Strange enough, no destination is mentioned.

37. Mauduit, H.de Les derniers jours de la grande armée etc. Vol.II p.172
Both divisions of Donzelot and Quiot were pressed as well, and we can assume it was the same for Marcognet. Cf. Duthilt. Les mémoires du capitaine Duthilt p.298

38. Houssaye claims it was between 1.30 and 2 p.m. In: Houssaye, H. 1815. Waterloo. p.205
Chef de bataillon Rullière (95th regiment, division of Durutte) states that his division left at 10 or 11 a.m. but this is incorrect. Cf. his account dated 1856. In: Largeaud, J.M. - Napoleon et Waterloo p.372

39. Chapelle Herlaymont is about ten kilometers west of Gosselies in a line towards Mons. The order of the night of the 15th from Soult instructed d'Erlon to send out patrols towards Mons. This mission could possibly be regarded as such a patrol.

The halt is mentioned by chef de bataillon Rullière. He believes it lasted from 12.30 until 1.30 p.m. but this is incorrect. Cf. account dated 1856. In: Largeaud, J.M. - Napoleon et Waterloo p.372

There is probably a connection here with the emissaries sent out by d'Erlon and who had reported to d'Erlon about a threat formed by (part of) Wellington's army as coming from Mons towards Charleroi on the 16th of June. Cf. Lobau's report to Napoleon of the early afternoon.

40. Houssaye found the report in the papers of colonel Gourgaud, now in the AN, Fonds Gourgaud, but I haven't found it there.

The document would not be dated in time, but Houssaye himself dates it between 1 and 3 p.m. In: 1815.Waterloo p.205 (footnote)

41.Houssaye thinks it was at 3 p.m. In: 1815.Waterloo p.205

Cf. Germain, P. Drouet d'Erlon p.162

42.This means that the column had an average speed of 3 km/hour.

Répécaud believes it was there by 4 p.m. In: Napoleon à Ligny etc. p.22

According to Houssaye half of the column was north of this crossing between 4 and 4.15 p.m. This is too early. This would have meant that the most advanced troops of Durutte were by that time near the inn called à l'Empereur, which is about 7 kilometers north of Gosselies. Taking into account a departure at 3 p.m. the troops could not have covered this distance in about one hour. In: 1815.Waterloo p.205

43.Cf. Account of colonel Gordon written on the 20th of June written at Ghent. In: Mauduit, H.de Les derniers jours de la grande armée. Vol.II p.186

Sometimes it is erroneously asserted that Gordon and Gaugler deserted during the march of the division to Wagnelée, but that they actually deserted that morning is confirmed by general Brue (division Durutte). In: Chapuis, F.C. Waterloo. Notice sur le 85e de ligne etc. p.53

Cf. Note of the son of general Durutte in the Sentinelle de l'armée of 1838 p.77

Sir Augustus Frazer reports the desertion in his letter dated 7.30 a.m. 17th of June. He had got this information from the prince of Orange. In: Sabine, E. Letters of colonel Sir Augustus Frazer p.542

Captain Von Gagern, in riding from Braine le Comte to Nivelles on the late evening of the 16th of June, met Gordon. In: VLS nr. II.3.3

Chef de bataillon Rullière (95th regiment, division Durutte) erroneously claims that Gordon and Gaugler deserted during the night of the 15th of June. Cf. his account dated 1856. In: Largeaud, J.M. - Napoleon et Waterloo p.374