

## **Exelmans' movements towards Wavre, 18th June 1815**

During the night of the 17th of June, the 5th regiment of dragoons (brigade Burthe, division of Strolz) was at Baudeset. The brigade of Bonnemains was at Ernage, and the remainder of the corps (13th regiment of dragoons, the brigades of Vincent and Berton) was at Sauvenières.

For the next morning, Exelmans was supposed to be the vanguard for Vandamme, which was supposed to leave at 6 a.m.<sup>1</sup>

Exelmans left at 6 a.m.<sup>(2)</sup> and collected his corps at Walhain at 7 a.m.<sup>3</sup>

From there he advanced through Saint-Martin and Corbais<sup>(4)</sup> in a northern direction as far as La Baraque, where he arrived between 9 and 10 a.m.<sup>5</sup> In doing so, the dragoons passed to the attention of colonel Von Ledebur, at Mont Saint Guibert. In their turn, the dragoons had not noticed his detachment.<sup>6</sup>

Revised: 25th July 2009

1. There is no written order from Grouchy for Exelmans of the evening of the 17th of June. It might have been a verbal order instead.

2. Houssaye, H. 1815. Waterloo p.295 He correctly takes the report of Bonnemains as a base for his calculation: that it would take Exelmans about one hour to cover the distance between Sauvenière and Walhain. (see below).

Berton says it was 8 a.m. that Exelmans left. In: Précis historique, militaire etc. p.54

Exelmans himself claims it was 7.30 a.m. In: Gérard. Nouvelles observations etc. p.24-25

Menuau believes it was 7.30 a.m. Cf. Menuau, H. Historique du 14<sup>me</sup> régiment de dragons p.294

3. Bonnemains. Report in SHAT.

4. Berton, J.B. Précis historique, militaire etc. p.54

5. Houssaye, H. 1815. Waterloo p.455

Bonnemains says it was 9 a.m. Cf. his journal, in SHAT.

6. Houssaye, H. 1815. Waterloo p.456