

The rear-guard's retreat from Quatre Bras.

The approach of the French troops along the Namur road also brought the cavalry of Jacquinet into an advance. Shortly after that, the French pickets hit those of the 11th regiment of light dragoons, the 10th regiment of hussars (both south of Quatre Bras) and those of the 18th hussars (on the Namur road, near the Bois Delhütte). It was around 1.30 p.m. ¹

After having been skirmishing for some time, the picket of the 18th regiment of hussars got the instruction to fall back which it did in line through the fields, led by captain Croker. ²

By now, captain Gardiner opened fire on the pursuing French cavalry which slowed it down a bit, but not long after the French also brought up horse artillery and soon an artillery duel ensued. ³

Sir H. Vivian had his brigade now to the east of the hamlet of Quatre Bras. Just before this confrontation the brigade made a change of front by wheeling backwards with its left wing; as a result it now had a front facing south-eastward, straight against the French coming from Marbais.

Initially, Wellington, Lord Uxbridge and major general Vivian had been observing the approaching French force, but now Wellington left towards the Brussels road. Before doing so, however, he had instructed Uxbridge to hold the crossroads as long as possible but at the same time to try to avoid a real fight. By then it was shortly before 2 p.m. ⁴

As the French cavalry pressed hard, Vivian decided to send Gardiner with his guns to the rear. A moment later he joined the artillery: covered by a group of skirmishers he wheeled back to a position just in rear of Quatre Bras and east of the Brussels road. At the same time his brigade was bombarded by the French horse artillery. ⁵

Now, Vandeleur's brigade was near Vivian's. To the left of the farm of Quatre Bras also was captain Mercer's troop. Mercer, meanwhile, had decided to withdraw to a position just in front of Vandeleur's squadrons. Feeling his front been blocked for charging, Vandeleur asked Mercer what he was doing. Mercer explained his idea to fire some rounds first and then to retire through Vandeleur's files. Vandeleur disapproved doing so and by now lord Uxbridge intervened in the discussion. He ordered Mercer to keep his position and he ordered Vandeleur to take his brigade back while leaving open the road for the other cavalry in front of him. ⁶

Now, Sir Hussey Vivian led back his brigade on the one of Vandeleur presuming Vandeleur would open his files to let him pass through, so that Vandeleur would take over the extreme rearguard. Though this must have been the intention to do, Uxbridge decided to withdraw them prematurely. ⁷ As a result, Vivian took his position upon the one of Vandeleur. It was here that the brigade skirmished just for a short time but then Sir H. Vivian requested Vandeleur by one of his aide de camps to head back to the other side of the Dyle so that he could move his squadrons back as well. Meanwhile, Vandeleur had sent back some officers to find out about possible crossings, but now he decided not to wait for their report and both brigades now moved northward. ⁸ From their positions they moved through the fields and small roads towards Thy (see below).

It was the moment a huge thunderstorm was about to break. During the morning hours it had

grown slowly, but now large dark clouds were covering the scene, while the French position was still in the sun.⁹

Mercer had the instruction to fire a round and then to retire as soon as he could.¹⁰ Mercer opened fire on the French cavalry and at the same time the storm broke with a terrible thunder and lightning. Immediately afterwards, the rain came down in torrents.¹¹ By now, it was about 2 p.m.¹² Somewhere near Mercer's troop, captain Whinyates had his, but where is unknown.¹³

The moment the brigade of Sir H. Vivian was confronted with the French cavalry, the brigades of Somerset and Ponsonby were already moving.

During the morning hours Somerset's brigade had moved from a bivouac to the left of the Brussels road to a temporary position to the right of it. There it was formed in line. Sometime later it took up a position further to the rear, but almost immediately moved from there to a position north of Genappe.¹⁴

The brigades of Somerset and Ponsonby moved back over or along the Brussels road with in their wake the 23rd regiment of light dragoons (with general Von Dörnberg), the squadron of the 11th regiment of light dragoons (brigade Vandeleur) led by captain Schreiber and the 7th regiment of hussars, which had initially formed a line near Quatre Bras.¹⁵

In the rear of this column were both troops of Mercer and Whinyates.¹⁶ This whole column, led by lord Uxbridge, went back in good order over the Brussels road to a position in rear of Genappe. The only units which were not in good order were the troop of captain Mercer, as well as a few platoons of hussars.¹⁷

While lord Uxbridge was in his vicinity, captain Mercer fired his round and then pulled back over the road as fast as he could while having the French cavalry at his heels. Finally, the troop, in disorder and mingled with some hussars, reached Genappe.¹⁸

The distance between Quatre Bras up to the southern entrance of Genappe is about 4 kilometres. The most rearward cavalry to cross Genappe was the squadron of the 7th regiment of hussars led by captain Hodge. It had been designated to skirmish and was under the command of Sir Dörnberg. From Quatre Bras, the squadron had slowly moved back towards Genappe, having the company led by lieutenant O'Grady to the left on the road and the company led by lieutenant Elphinstone to the right of it, in the fields as skirmishers. Major Hodge was with them.

Meanwhile, Sir W. Dörnberg had joined lieutenant O'Grady, but left him just before Genappe with the instruction to gain time but not to compromise his men.

Though the French were superior in numbers (some 14 to 20 squadrons), O'Grady continued to dispute the ground by inches until the moment the enemy called in all his skirmishers and appeared determined to avail himself of the hussars being obliged to pass through Genappe and to attack them. Now, O'Grady succeeded to pull back his skirmishers and to link up with the left company. By advancing, halting and advancing he finally reached Genappe safely. Now out of sight of the enemy, he galloped through the central street.¹⁹ While the right squadron of the 7th regiment of hussars moved through the village, the two remaining squadrons turned it and had taken up positions on the other side of it.²⁰

Another main column moved west of the Brussels road. This one was led by Sir Colquhoun Grant, the commander of the 5th brigade of cavalry. Of this brigade there were here the 15th regiment of hussars and the 13th regiment of light dragoons.²¹ Other units of the column were

the 1st and 2nd regiment of KGL light dragoons (brigade Von Dörnberg), the regiment of Cumberland hussars and the battery of Webber Smith.²² The rear-guard of the column was formed by a company of a squadron of the 13th regiment of light dragoons and by the regiment of Cumberland hussars.²³ In the general retreat the rear-guard of this column moved parallel with the one in the middle, consisting of the 7th regiment of hussars. While doing so, in some cases they could see what was actually happening on both sides.²⁴ There was some intense skirmishing on the stretch Quatre Bras – Genappe, in which a company of the squadron led by major Macalester assisted. The units of the right column left the Namur road either by the road which either leads through Banterlez to Loupoigne or through the road which leads there through the farm of Biequenet.²⁵

In all probability the cavalry used the most southern passage of the Dyle at Loupoigne, and then took the road which leads through this village to the bridge of Vieux-Genappe. The column kept at the west-hand side of the Brussels road all the way up to Mont Saint Jean. After the passage of the Dyle the French gave up their pursuit. The 1st regiment of light dragoons KGL was covered by a platoon (in extended order) led by captain Von Hattorf.²⁶



A view of the centre of Loupoigne around 1900.

It was just before the outbreak of the storm that the brigade of Vandeleur left its position just north of Quatre Bras. From there it reached Thy through small field-roads.²⁷ In this brigade the 11th regiment of light dragoons was in front.²⁸ In its rear was the troop of captain Gardiner.²⁹ With him was the commander of the British engineers, colonel Carmichael Smyth with one of his staff members, captain Oldfield.³⁰

After that, Vivian took up his position in rear of Vandeleur but soon left it. By then the storm

had started and Sir H.Vivian had sent his 18th regiment of hussars (in front) and his 10th regiment in a trot towards Thy; he kept the 1st regiment of hussars as an ultimate rear-guard. Both regiments had to take up positions in columns of squadrons at the other side of the bridge and a division of the hussars had to dismount to defend the bridge with their carbines, in case the enemy would come too close. The hussars had their positions behind the hedges which were on the height opposite the bridge.³¹

One squadron (supported by a second) skirmished with the French cavalry. At the same time, most of the French cavalry moved towards the Brussels road. Though the weather was terrible, the French tried to turn Vivian's left flank. In doing so, it succeeded in separating a squadron of the 1st regiment of hussars and force it to cross the Dyle even further east.³² Initially, the 1st regiment of hussars went back as it was skirmishing, but at some point Sir H.Vivian decided to lead it to the bridge at Thy in a gallop. They were strongly pursued by the French, but as soon as the hussars had crossed the stream the dismounted horsemen fired at them and they fell back.³³ By far the largest part of the French force now moved towards the Brussels road; just a few platoons kept checking out the Anglo-Netherlands-German cavalry here.³⁴ It was in rear of the Dyle that the 10th regiment of hussars formed the extreme rear-guard.³⁵ As the left column crossed the Dyle at Thy (there is not a single witness mentioning Thy as such³⁶), the column in the centre came from Quatre Bras over the track which leads (400 metres north of Quatre Bras, from La Baraque) to Bézy.

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1. Lieutenant Duperier (18th regiment of hussars) believes it was 11 a.m. while colonel Von Wissell (1st regiment of hussars) believes it was around noon.

In: BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.90-91 and 34.703 p.98-102

Lieutenant colonel Manners (10th regiment of hussars) claims it was 2 p.m. In: BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.103-108

Captain Taylor (10th regiment hussars) gives 3 p.m. Cf. his diary. In: Carew, P. - Combat and carnival p.30

2. Captain Taylor (10th regiment of hussars). In: BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.80-90

Sir H.Vivian in a letter to his wife date 23rd June 1815. In: Vivian, Cl. - R.H.Vivian, first baron Vivian etc. p.277

Also see lieutenant colonel Murray (18th regiment hussars). In: BL, Add.ms.34.704 p.205-209

Both lieutenant Duperier reports that the regiment sent out skirmishers the moment French cavalry and artillery came near. In: BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.90-91

According to Malet, the 18th regiment of hussars had two pickets: one led by captain Croker on the Namur road and one led by major Howard. In: Historical records of the 18th hussars p.38

3. Sir H.Vivian. In: BL, Add.ms.34.707 p.50-57

And in the letter to his wife, dated 23rd June 1815. In: Vivian, Cl. - R.H.Vivian, first baron Vivian etc. p.277

Lieutenant Ingilby (batter Gardiner). BL, Add.ms.34.706 p.465-467) and in his diary. In: RAI, nr.MD 797

Lieutenant Swabey (battery Gardiner). In a letter dated 24th June 1815.In: King's Hussars Museum

Lieutenant colonel Manners (10th regiment hussars). In: BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.103-108

Lieutenant colonel Murray (18th regiment hussars). In: BL, Add.ms.34.704 p.205-209

Captain Taylor (10th regiment hussars) in his diary. In: Carew, P. - Combat and carnival p.30

According to Sir H.Vivian maybe another battery took part further to the right, but it is not clear which one this could have been.

4. FitzRoy Somerset believes Wellington left Quatre Bras between 2 and 3 p.m. Cf. FitzRoy Somerset's account. In: NAM, Book of manuscript copies of Waterloo letters. Nr.6507-1

The surgeon called James (1st Life Guards) confirms he saw Wellington passing by the moment his regiment left Genappe on its northern side. Cf. Vansittart, J. (ed) - Surgeon J.H.James's journal p.24 This must have been between 3 and 4 p.m.

5. Lieutenant colonel Manners (10th regiment of hussars). In: BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.103-108

Lieutenant Duperier (18th regiment of hussars) says the brigade went back in line, first per divisions and later by files. In: BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.90-91

Captain Taylor (10th regiment of hussars). In a letter to mr. Brownrigg, dated 16th July 1815. In collection A.Lagden.

Sir H.Vivian remarks he went back unwillingly. In: letter to his wife, dated 23rd June 1815.
In: Vivian, Cl. - R.H.Vivian, first baron Vivian etc. p.278

6. Mercer, C. - Journal of the Waterloo campaign. Vol.I.p.267-268.
Mercer in a letter dated 24th January 1866. In: RAI, nr.MD88.
Major general Vandeleur. In: BL, Add.ms.34.708 p.218

7. Major general Vandeleur. In: BL, Add.ms.34.708 p.218
Mercer, C. - Journal of the Waterloo campaign Vol.I p.267-268
General Vandeleur expected to charge, as soon as Vivian had passed through.
However, major Tomkinson (16th regiment of light dragoons) informs us there was no time to let Vivian pass through as the enemy was already too near. In: The diary of a cavalry officer p.283
Erroneously, lieutenant Bacon (10th regiment of hussars) claims Vandeleur almost compromised Vivian. In: BL, Add.ms.34.708 p.162-166

8. Lieutenant colonel Sleigh (11th regiment of light dragoons). BL, Add.ms.34.708 p.210-212
According to lieutenant Hay (12th regiment of light dragoons) the retreat took place from the left flank of the brigade per divisions, initially at a walk, but then later in a trot. Cf. Hay, W. Reminiscences under Wellington p.171
Surgeon J.Gordon Smith (12th regiment of light dragoons) confirms the passage along a small road to the east of the main road, where the regiment was guided by peasants. He correctly remembers that one squadron of the brigade, however, passed over the main road. This was the one of the 11th light dragoons, led by captain Schreiber. In: The English army in France etc.p.116-117

9. Mercer, C. - Journal of the Waterloo campaign Vol.I.p.269.
Vansittart, J. (ed) - Surgeon J.H.James's journal. p.23
The storm came from sea (northwest) and pulled south-east. It had a strength of about 28 km/hour. As it had been very dry the days before, the French approached in a cloud of dust. Cf. captain Shakespear. In: NAM, Manuscript letters and journals of the service of captain Arthur Shakespear (10th regiment of hussars). In: NAM, nr.7706-17
Lieutenant Riddock says it was a storm from the southwest (44th regiment). In: BL, Add.ms.34.706 p.293-297
According to lieutenant F.Hope Pattison (33rd regiment) two large clouds merged into one to the south-south east from 10 a.m. onwards. In: Personal recollections etc. p.16

10. Mercer's letter dated 24th January 1866. In: RAI, nr.MD88

11. Logically, there is a large number of witnesses, of whom just a few are mentioned:
Mercer, C. - Journal of the Waterloo campaign. Vol.I.p.270 and in his letter dated 24th January 1866. In: RAI, nr. MD88

Lieutenant Ingilby (battery Gardiner). In: BL, Add.ms.34.706 p.465-467
Captain Naylor (King's Dragoon Guards). Diary. In: Mann, M. And they rode on p.19
Sergeant major Page (King's Dragoon Guards). Cf. his letter to his wife dated 4th of July 1815. He states the heavy rain continued for about one hour. In: 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards Heritage Trust

Lieutenant colonel Murray (18th regiment of hussars). In: BL, 34.704 p.205-209
Captain Taylor (10th regiment of hussars). In: BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.80-90
Lieutenant Pattison (33rd regiment). In: BL, Add.ms.34.707 p.509-512
Lieutenant Martin (45th regiment of the line, division of Marcognet). In: Souvenirs d'un ex-officier 1812-1815 p.280

12. Cf. Lieutenant Martin (45th regiment of the line, division Marcognet). In: Souvenirs d'un ex officier 1812-1815 p.280

Lieutenant Henckens (6th regiment of chasseurs à cheval, division of Piré). In: Mémoires se rapportant etc. p.231

Lord FitzRoy Somerset. In: NAM, Book of manuscript copies of Waterloo letters. Nr.6507-1

Captain Shakespear (10th regiment of hussars). In: Manuscript letters and journals of the service of captain Arthur Shakespear. In: NAM, nr.7706-17

C.v.W. - Geschichte des Feldzugs der englisch-hanovrisch-niederländisch-braunschweigschen Armee etc.p.19

Adjutant Duperier (18th regiment of hussars). In a letter dated 19th June 1815 to major Hughes. In: Hunt, E. - Charging against Napoleon: diaries and letters of three hussars, 1808-1815 p.243

Lieutenant Hope (92nd regiment). In: Letters from Portugal etc. p.239

Lieutenant Hope Pattison (33rd regiment) claims it was 1.30 p.m. In: Personal recollections etc. p.16-17

Kellermann says it was 3 p.m. Cf. His account. In: SHD, nr.MR719

Lord Edward Somerset claims the storm lasted for about 30 minutes. Cf. his letter dated 23rd June 1815. In: Bodleian Library nr.MS Eng.hist.d. ff.49-60

Ensign Macready (30th regiment) believes the storm started at 3 or 4 p.m. Diary. In: History of the 30th regiment p.324

13. Mercer, C. - Journal of the Waterloo campaign. Vol.I.p.269-270

Mercer claims to have seen the emperor with his escort, and this may very well have been the case. Cf. Mercer, C. Journal of the Waterloo campaign. Vol.I.p.268

Houssaye romanticizes this scene, taking Mercer's account as a source. In: 1815. Waterloo p.265

14. Vansittart, J. (ed) - Surgeon J.H.James's journal. p. 22-24

15. Captain Schreiber (11th regiment of light dragoons). BL, Add.ms.34.707 p.145-146

Lieutenant Banner (23rd regiment of light dragoons). BL, Add.ms.34.706 p.301-311
Lieutenant colonel Leighton-Cathcart-Dalrymple (commander of the 15th regiment of hussars). Cf. Journal of lieutenant colonel Leighton-Cathcart-Dalrymple (3 May 1815 - 3 September 1815). In: NAM, nr.7207-22, 14-21
Captain Wildman (7th regiment of hussars). In a letter to his mother, dated 19th June 1815. In: NAM, nr.8112-53

16. So Mercer didn't move with the brigade to which it was attached (Vandeleur).

17. Cf. Captain Schreiber (11th regiment of light dragoons). BL, Add.ms.34.707 p.145-146
Lieutenant Banner (23rd regiment of light dragoons). BL, Add.ms.34.706 p.16-18
Captain Naylor (King's Dragoon Guards) confirms the storm broke while his regiment pulled through the village of Genappe. Cf. his diary. In: Regimental Museum 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards
According to surgeon James (1st Life Guards) his brigade moved through Genappe in column. Cf. Vansittart, J. Surgeon J.H. James's journal p.24
Sergeant Clarke of the Scots Greys relates how his regiment went back in alternate divisions of the line and that all houses at Genappe were shut. Cf. Journal of sergeant Clarke (Scots Greys). In: NLS, reference unknown.

18. Mercer, C. - Journal of the Waterloo campaign. Vol.I p.270-274
Mercer's letter dated 24th January 1866. In: RAI, nr.MD88

Between Quatre Bras and Genappe, for an unknown reason, lord Uxbridge had Mercer move two of his guns into a narrow lane between some gardens just south of the hamlet of Le Dernier Patard. At the end of it, these guns were almost cut off by French horsemen but captain Mercer was able to return to the chaussée and to lead the guns back safely towards the heights north of Genappe.

19. Lieutenant O'Grady (7th regiment of hussars). In:
BL, Add.ms.34.706 p.287-292
Letter dated 31st July 1815. In: NAM, nr.1978-05-24
Captain Verner (7th regiment of hussars). In: Reminiscences of William Verner (1782-1871)
7th hussars p.41
Cotton, E. - La voix de Waterloo p.24
With this squadron probably was captain Wildman (7th regiment of hussars), extra aide de camp of lord Uxbridge. Cf. his letter to his mother dated 19th June 1815. In: NAM, nr.8112-53

20. Cotton, E. – Une voix de Waterloo p.24

21. This last regiment formed part of the brigade of Von Arentschildt, but was attached to the

one of Grant. Cf. History of the 13th hussars.

Its commander, colonel Doherty, wasn't present due to a heavy fever. He managed to reach Braine le Comte on the 16th of June, but then his doctor, Armstrong, led him to Brussels. The regiment was commanded by major Boyse. Cf. History of the 13th hussars.

22. Captain J.Thackwell (15th regiment of hussars). In: Wylly, H.C. - The military memoirs etc. p.70

Nettelblatt, A.von - Die Althannoverschen Überlieferungen etc. p.35

Of Webber Smith's troop two guns must have been detached under captain Walcott, but where these guns rejoined their troop is not known. Cf. captain Walcott. In: BL, Add.ms.34.704 p.184-185

23. Lieutenant colonel Leighton-Cathcart-Dalrymple (15th regiment of hussars). Cf. Journal of lieutenant colonel Leighton-Cathcart-Dalrymple (3 May 1815 - 3 September 1815). In: NAM, nr.7207-22, 14-21

Erroneously, he mentions the 2nd regiment hussars instead of the 2nd regiment of light dragoons.

24. Lieutenant colonel Leighton-Cathcart-Dalrymple (15th regiment of hussars) saw the 7th regiment of hussars in column of divisions on the Brussels road, with the French cavalry about 270 metres in rear of them. Cf. Journal of lieutenant colonel Leighton-Cathcart-Dalrymple (3 May 1815 - 3 September 1815). In: NAM, nr.7207-22, 14-21

Cf. Major Turner (13th regiment of light dragoons). In: NAM, nr.7509-62

Lord Uxbridge. In: BL, Add.ms.34.706 p.185-192

25. A passage through Loupoigne is confirmed by lieutenant colonel Leighton-Cathcart-Dalrymple (15th regiment of hussars). Cf. Journal of lieutenant colonel Leighton-Cathcart-Dalrymple (3 May 1815 - 3 September 1815). In: NAM, nr.7207-22, 14-21

Nettelblatt, A.von - Die Althannoverschen Überlieferungen etc. p.35

²⁶ During the skirmishing corporal Mahler distinguished himself. The platoon losses were one dragoon and one horse killed and two dragoons and five horses wounded. Cf. Nettelblatt, A.von - Die Althannoverschen Überlieferungen etc. p.35

27. According to lieutenant Hay (12th regiment of light dragoons) the road was narrow and slippery. In: Reminiscences under Wellington p.171

28. Captain Childes (11th regiment of light dragoons). In: BL, Add.ms.34.708 p.210-212

29. Captain Childers (11th regiment of light dragoons). In: BL, Add.ms.34.708 p.210-212

Captain Ingilby (battery of Webber Smith). In: BL, Add.ms.34.706 p.465-467

The troop had a very hard time getting through the soft terrain and road; eventually it reached

the position of Mont Saint Jean in a gallop. Cf. Lieutenant Swabey. In a letter dated 24th June 1815 (see above).

If we have to believe lieutenant Duperier (18th regiment of hussars) the brigade of Sir H.Vivian passed the battery even before reaching the Dyle. In: BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.90-91

30. Captain Oldfield (Royal Engineers). Cf. Manuscript notebook compiled by col.John Oldfield in december 1844. In: NAM, nr.7403-147

31. Sir H.Vivian in a letter to his wife. In: Vivian, Cl. - R.H.Vivian, first baron Vivian etc. p.278

Captain Taylor (10th regiment of hussars). In a letter to mr. Brownrigg, dated 16th July 1815. In collection A.Lagden.

The fact that the brigade halted for a short time in rear of the Dyle is confirmed by lieutenant Duperier (10th regiment of hussars) In: BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.90-91

Also see lieutenant colonel Manners (10th regiment of hussars). In: BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.103-108

Gilson erroneously situates this confrontation in front of the bridge of Genappe and in relation to French lancers which actually charged the British hussars and brought them into a state of confusion. In: Genappe à travers les âges p.126

32.The exact location is unknown. Cf. Sir H.Vivian. BL, Add.ms.34.707 p.50-57

Private Marshall (10th hussars). Cf. his letter dated 11th July 1815 to his parents. In: former www.1815.ltd.uk Original in: Derbyshire Record Office, Matlock. D3287/29/15

Colonel Von Wissell (1st regiment of hussars) In: BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.98-102 Von Wissell speaks about some horsemen only.

33. Sir H.Vivian. In: BL, Add.m.34.707 p.50-57

Captain Taylor (10th regiment of hussars) In: BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.80-90

Lieutenant colonel Manners (10th regiment of hussars). In: BL, 34.703 p.103-108

Captain Taylor denies the hussars fired with their carbines.

According to captain Dyneley (Gardiner's troop) Sir. H.Vivian would have sent two guns forward to bombard the French and then to retreat as soon as they could to the four remaining guns. This was carried out, though the guns had to get back through the heavy ground. Cf. letter of Dyneley to J.Douglas dated 23rd August 1815. In: RAI, nr.MD 1051

Lieutenant Ingilby suffices to say that the French skirmishers appeared to attack the rear-guard of the battery, but that they didn't push through probably due to the terrain. Cf. his diary. In: RAI, nr.MD 797

34. These were the men of the 11th regiment of chasseurs à cheval (division of Subervie – see below), though lieutenant Woodberry talks about lancers, “escorting” the rear-guard.

The fact that the French stopped pressing the column is confirmed by captain Shakespear

(10th regiment of hussars). In: Manuscript letters and journals of the service of captain Arthur Shakespear. In: NAM, nr.7706-17

Also see: Sir H.Vivian. In letter dated 23rd June 1815 cited from in the history of the 18th regiment of hussars.

Lieutenant Duperier (18th regiment of hussars). In: BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.103-108

Lieutenant coonel Manners (10th regiment of hussars) In: BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.90-91

35. Lieutenant colonel Murray (18th regiment of hussars). In: BL, Add.ms.34.704 p.205-209

36. Neither Vivian, nor captain Taylor, nor lieutenant Ingilby or lieutenant Woodberry mention Ways or Thy. Additionally, lord Uxbridge claims the column crossed the Dyle at a ford about 800 metres east of Genappe. The bridge of Ways is at about 1100 metres and the one of Thy at about 2500 metres east of Genappe. In: BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.5-10

Captain Taylor (10th regiment of hussars) mentions a "hollow way with an ascent commanded by high banks" on issuing from the village. This situation is the one as it was north of Ways (and not Thy). Cf. BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.80-90 and the Ferraris-map.

Additionally, both Vivian and captain Taylor refer to buildings scattered along the Brussels road, and these could not be seen from Thy.

According to lieutenant Duperier all villages where the regiment passed through were deserted. In: BL, Add.ms.34.703 p.90-91