

The farms of Papelotte and La Haye. ¹

The Walloon word "papelotte" corresponds to the French word "papilotte" , which means of strip of leather or textile.

The name of the farm can be found in the 17th century. In 1673 it had 18 hectares and was owned by Alexandre de Baillancourt Courcol. Since 1807 it was owned by Pierre Francois Xavier de Bienne. In 1815 it was inhabited by Melchior Mathieu, who – according to the local tradition – didn't leave the farm during the battle. As the farm was for a part damaged by fire it was being restored not long after the battle. ² Another reconstruction took place in 1860. ³ In 1884 a part of the farm burned down. ⁴

Papelotte was also a farm which has been constructed around a large courtyard. ⁵ Its west side was formed by a wall in which the (not vaulted) main entrance was built. Against the inside of this wall some annexes were constructed. The north side of the farm was formed by the huge barn. Stables formed its east part as well as a part on the south side. Here the house of the farm could be found. Near the house was a well like the one which could be found at Le Caillou and the inn of La Belle Alliance.

Apart from the fact that the old buildings have been reconstructed, some have been added after 1815. The wall on the west side has been expanded with stables and a large vaulted main entrance gate. Later, probably in 1860, this main gate was crowned with a small, mid -19th century neo-styled tower. The garden, south of the farm, is walled. ⁶ Nowadays a large annex can be found in the southwest corner of this wall. The old well has gone. ⁷

The farm of La Haye dated from 1744. ⁸ The buildings formed a rectangle, with a garden on the north side and one on the south, surrounded by a low wall which was covered in bushes. A gateway led into a barn from which access to the inner courtyard could be gained. There was also a small door leading from one of the gardens to the courtyard. ⁹

In 1815 the farm must have been covered with a thatched roof and its wall must have been constructed from lime and straw. Through time, the house of the farm has been transformed considerably into some kind of villa. ¹⁰

First version: 5th December 2010 - Last revised: 24th December 2010 - Copyright © Pierre de Wit

1. Logie, J. Waterloo, l'évitable défaite p.172

² Aerts refers to the sale of the farm in 1817 and in which deed no reference is made to any damage at all. In: Etudes etc. Livre V (manuscript) p.103

3. Fierens-Gevaert claims it was around 1880. In: Waterloo légendaire. In: Revue de Paris.15 september 1900. p.402-448

⁴ Aerts, W. – Etudes etc. Livre V (manuscript) p.103

5. Cf. Old prints in:

Navez, L. – Le champ de bataille et le pays etc. p.52

Logie, J. Waterloo, l'évitable défaite p.173

6. Cf. Carte de cabinet des Pays-Bas Autrichiens.

Siborne, W. History of the war in France and Belgium etc. London.1844. Atlas.

7. Old postcards and aerial photos published. In: Weller, J. Wellington at Waterloo. London.1967

8. Nowadays, the name is La Haie. Sometimes the name of Ter la Haie is used. However, this is another farm which stands between Vert Coucou and Haut-Ransbèche

⁹ Rössler, A. von - Geschichte des Königlich Preussischen 1.Nassauischen Infanterie Regiments no.87 und seines Stammes der Herzoglich Nassauischen Infanterie Regiments p.86

10. There is a sketch of the farm of 1894 made by the historian A.H.Kennedy-Herbert. Then the roof was still thatched. In: NAM, nr.7303-73

In 1910 the farm would have partly burned down. Cf. Uffindell, A. On the fields of glory p.230

Aerts gives 1912. In: Etudes etc. Livre V (manuscript) p.101

Another sketch shows the ruins of a large (arched) gate, which must have given access to the courtyard. This sketch was probably taken from a photograph, as other sketches in this book have been taken from known photographs as well. Cf. Gele, A. van - Le Brabant en images p.67