

The action near Genappe.

Sir John Elley, deputy general of the cavalry and major Evans were sent ahead of the central column of the army. Their mission was to reconnoitre the defile of Genappe and to find a position north of the village for the heavy cavalry and which was suited best to stop the French from pursuing.

Having done that, they halted between the heights immediately north of Genappe and the village itself. From here they both directed the two brigades of British household cavalry towards their positions the moment they came from the north entrance of the village. These positions were on the heights of the inn of Courte Botte (700 metres north from the north-end of the village of Genappe).¹



View from the heights of Courte Botte towards Vieux Genappe (right) and Genappe (left).

Lord Edward Somerset posted his brigade in line to the east of the Brussels road, with its right flank leaning on it. On the other side, in line, was the brigade of Sir William Ponsonby.²

In rear of these brigades, the squadron of Schreiber of the 11th regiment of light dragoons, the 23rd regiment of light dragoons and the majority of the 7th regiment of hussars all passed through the village without any problems and took up positions between the village and the heavy cavalry. At that moment, the squadron of Hodge of the 7th regiment of hussars was still disputing the grounds south of Genappe.

As the French cavalry was approaching, Lord Uxbridge had the two brigades of Somerset and Ponsonby take up positions in a line of columns of half squadrons.³

The main body of the 7th hussars came into columns of divisions on the road, at about 450

metres from Genappe, in front of the Household cavalry. ⁴ The 23rd regiment of light dragoons took a position in rear of the 7th regiment of hussars. ⁵ The Schreiber's squadron got a position between the 7th hussars and the village of Genappe, while the squadron of Hodge of the 7th regiment of hussars wasn't far from the first houses at the north side of Genappe, so in front of the squadron mentioned above. ⁶ By now, it was about 3.30 p.m. ⁷⁻⁸

As stated before, the troop of captain Mercer reached Genappe amidst a state of confusion. Now, it slowed down and moved through it, having been deserted by the Anglo-Netherlands-German troops. Emerging from the village again, Mercer saw the cavalry in its positions and halted. Mercer in all probability marched near the 7th regiment of hussars, as other hussars and light dragoons followed in the wake of his troop. Mercer now headed for the Household cavalry, but got the instruction to get a position immediately north of Genappe from where he would be able to respond to the fire of the French artillery which was located on the other side of it. Though Mercer had some trouble getting there, he managed to silence the French guns with his superior fire. ⁹

After that, Mercer returned to the Household cavalry with his guns where he chose a position immediately to the right of the regiment of Royal Horse Guards. This was just before the charge of the Life Guards (see below). It was here that the rocket troop of captain Whinyates also could be found. ¹⁰

It took about 20 minutes before the first French reached the road in the north part of Genappe. ¹¹ These were probably the scouts of the 2nd regiment of lancers (brigade Colbert, division Subervie), which had reached the front of the column. ¹²

Near to the exit of the village, the lancers came to a halt. However, as the road winded through the Genappe the more rearward squadrons couldn't see this and soon the village became fully jammed with cavalry. ¹³

Near the entrance of Genappe, all scouts of the lancers were killed or taken prisoner by the men of the squadron led by major Hodge of the 7th regiment of hussars. ¹⁴

The lancers were now in the village, having their flanks covered by houses along the road, in their front by a strong and solid file and further to the rear by a large mass of horsemen. ¹⁵

Lord Uxbridge didn't await their charge and decided to launch the hussars of major Hodge. ¹⁶

The charge made no impression as the lancers kept the hussars at bay, but both parties kept up the fighting, neither of them going back. ¹⁷ Though the men and horses of the 7th regiment of hussars had never faced lancers⁽¹⁸⁾ and couldn't do a lot, some of the officers succeeded in penetrating into the mass of lancers. In one of the confrontations, major Hodge was mortally wounded and taken prisoner. ¹⁹ The commander of the French lancers, colonel Sourd, had three serious sabre-cuts in his right arm. ²⁰

Meanwhile, the French had brought up a troop of horse artillery east of Genappe, and which caused losses under the British hussars. ²¹ Now, Lord Uxbridge ordered them to go back, and immediately the lancers followed in their track. ²² The hussars, now led by lieutenant O'Grady, went back as far as the main body of the regiment which was posted in rear of the 11th regiment of light dragoons on the Brussels road. ²³

At this stage, the regiment was collected and charged as a whole. In doing so, they threw the French lancers back into Genappe. Immediately after, however, the lancers swept the hussars

back in their turn and the fight dragged on for some time, in which both sides suffered casualties.

In the 7th regiment of hussars lieutenant Meyers got mortally wounded; lieutenant Gordon and Peters got wounded, while lieutenant Wildman and Grenfell as well as captain Elphinstone (who was seriously wounded) got prisoners of war, but the first two managed to escape on French horses during the charge of Life Guards (see below).²⁴

The 2nd French regiment of lancers, apart from its commander, lost 13 officers, all wounded.²⁵

By now, the half squadron of the 13th regiment of light dragoons, led by major Macalister, intervened in the action. This unit was coming from the right column.²⁶

In rear of the 7th regiment of hussars was the 23rd regiment of light dragoons, and Lord Uxbridge now decided to let the hussars fall back in rear of them; the light dragoons opened their ranks, and the hussars passed through over the road.

According to Lord Uxbridge he asked the 7th regiment of hussars to advance but it refused to do so; this would have led him to launch the 1st regiment of Life Guards.²⁷

Another version of the events is that Lord Uxbridge ordered the 1st Life Guards to charge, though the hussars were ready to receive the lancers. The 23rd regiment of light dragoons would then have opened its ranks to have the dragoons charge.²⁸

Meanwhile, the French lancers came in close column out of Genappe, shouting “en avant”. The circumstances for the charge were far from favourable: the horsemen had no cover on their flanks and the terrain towards the British position was sloping up the height. Apart from that, the French now had the defile of Genappe in their rear. On top of that, the men were in a slight disorder.²⁹

By that time, the horse troops of Mercer and Whinyates had joined the brigade of Somerset, in order to attract the French gun fire. At this stage of the action, the role of the squadron of captain Schreiber of the 11th regiment of light dragoons is unclear. According to captain Schreiber himself, it drove back the lancers after the échec of the hussars, but Lord Uxbridge believes it wasn't involved in the action at all.³⁰

Lord Uxbridge now decided to launch the Life Guards. Just at that moment, the regiment was involved in some kind of backward movement in a slight disorder, which was due to a misunderstanding in an order issued at that time. Immediately after however, the regiment reformed and formed a closed front towards the French lancers which were approaching.³¹

Meanwhile, the remainder of the Household Brigade was led back by Lord E. Somerset.³² At the moment the French lancers were about halfway the slope (³³) the Life Guards started their charge over the road. Captain Kelly had ridden forward to lead (³⁴), followed by major Ferrior.³⁵ In all probability, the regiment charged in a column of half squadrons.³⁶ The charge was supported by the 23rd regiment of light dragoons.³⁷

The charge was very powerful, not only because of the slope, but also because of the sheer weight of the men and their horses. Despite the fact that the lancers engaged a confrontation, they were thrown back into the village. The British Life Guards virtually crushed them and they suffered high losses.³⁸ The British cavalry now pursued the French lancers into Genappe.³⁹

By now, the cavalry-division of Jacquinet approached Genappe, having the 7th regiment of hussars (led by colonel Marbot) in front, and the 3rd regiment of chasseurs à cheval immediately behind them.⁴⁰ The advance guard of the French hussars entered the village from the south,

crossed the Dyle and found the lancers in full confusion.⁴¹

Colonel Marbot decided to act. From fear to be carried away by the lancers and fearing a chaotic situation and a complete obstruction of the bridge over the Dyle, the more as he had the 3rd regiment of chasseurs à cheval in his rear, Marbot placed his 1st squadron across the road in order to block it. At the same time, he led the 2nd and 3rd squadron in a trot through a side-street to the fields west of Genappe. Here he formed them into order of battle and advanced towards the British cavalry. At the same time, the 3rd regiment of chasseurs à cheval advanced from Genappe itself.⁴²

Marbot showed on this occasion such a high level of courage that he was promoted to brigade general on the spot.⁴³ In doing so, the division of Jacquinet now reached the front ranks of the army, followed by the corps of Milhaud and the division of Subervie. In rear of these units, Napoleon followed, escorted by his duty squadrons.

There is no clear idea about the way the Life Guards went back, but they didn't sustain much losses.⁴⁴ Lord Uxbridge now joined and thanked them.⁴⁵

The French cavalry, in its turn, advanced from a distance, and threatening to charge; some skirmishing took place.⁴⁶ At the same time, the French hussars suffered from their own batteries firing north of Genappe as they took them for enemy cavalry.⁴⁷ It was at that time that captain Whinyates fired some rockets from his troop on the road; this fire, however, didn't prove to be very successful.⁴⁸

During the charge of the Life Guards, the Union brigade had deployed west of the Brussels road and now it fell back through the fields by squadrons, and covered by skirmishers.⁴⁹ This action, in combination with the state of the terrain, prevented the French cavalry from reaching the Anglo-Netherlands-German right flank.⁵⁰

The central column was re-established again on the road under the cover of the 7th regiment of hussars and the 23rd regiment of light dragoons. Though the French bombardment was intense now and then, the column pulled further to the north without being disturbed.⁵¹ The march had slowed down.⁵² It were mostly the Blues which covered the retreat of the Household brigade.⁵³

After some time, however, Lord Uxbridge pulled the Union brigade onto the main road again. The reason was that the French cavalry didn't manage to get onto their flank, and their march through the muddy fields would only unnecessarily fatigue the men and horses.⁵⁴ The Union brigade fell back in good order, while skirmishing now and then with the French cavalry.⁵⁵

Lord Uxbridge says about this stage of the action: “[...] The moment the squadrons of the rear guard halted and fronted, those the enemy invariably avoided a collision, and the retreat was conducted at a walk. The artillery, however, on both sides were occasionally at work, and our congreve rockets were pitched into their squadrons with good effect.[...]”⁵⁶

There are no details available about the further movements of the Household Brigade north of Genappe. After the action at Genappe, the troop of captain Mercer went back along the Brussels road and overtook the most rearward infantry. Having done that, captain Mercer led his troop to a position on a height which was located between the sandpit to the east of the Brussels road and the hedge in rear of it. The moment the units of Wellington's army had passed and the French cavalry appeared in large numbers, Mercer decided to open fire. After that, other batteries opened fire as well. A duel took place in which Mercer's battery didn't suffer any

casualties but shortly after Mercer got the instruction to fall back and establish a bivouac.⁵⁷ The movements of the left column (the brigades of Vandeleur, Vivian with the battery of Gardiner) continued from Ways further through Glabais, Maransart, the abbey of Aywiers, the chateau of Fichermont and Smohain to Vert Coucou.⁵⁸



The centre of Ways.

In rear of Ways (Thy), Vivian's brigade came to lead the column here.⁵⁹ It was during the early evening that the units forming this column reached the position of Mont Saint Jean.⁶⁰ Because of the ground and the bad weather, the speed of this column was low.⁶¹

The right column (consisting of the artillery of Webber Smith, the 15th regiment of hussars, the 13th regiment of light dragoons, the 1st and 2nd regiment of dragoons KGL and the Cumberland hussars) marched through Loupoigne and Vieux Genappe.

After the passage of the Dyle the French gave up their pursuit. The 1st regiment of light dragoons KGL was covered by the platoon (in extended order) led by captain Von Hattorf.⁶²

From Vieux Genappe all the way up to Mont Saint Jean, the column kept on the left of the Brussels road; here the column probably passed the farm Cour les Moines and the hamlet of Bruyère Madame and to reach the Nivelles-road, in the vicinity of the farm of Mon Plaisir.⁶³

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1. Cf. De Lacy Evans. In: BL, Add.Ms. 34.708 p.130-132
Sir J.Elley. In: BL, Add.Ms.34.706 p.413-415
Sir J.Elley himself was in front of the brigade of Sir E.Somerset (cf.sketch)

2. Cf. De Lacy Evans. In: BL, Add.Ms.34.708 p.130-132
Journal of sergeant Johnston. In: Atkinson, C.T. - A Waterloo journal. In: JSAHR. Vol.38.1960. p.34
Mercer, C. - Journal of the Waterloo campaign. Vol. I p.275
Sir J.Elley, however, places the brigades the other way around in his sketch. In: BL, Add.Ms.34.706 p.413-415 (in one line).

A person present states the Life Guards were formed in open column in a bend of the road, which is nearly 200 metres further north. Cf. his (hardly readable) letter to colonel Gurwood, dated 22nd July 1845. In: HL, Gurwood papers nr.MS 321, nr.3

3. Cf.Sir J.Elley. In: BL, Add.Ms.34.706 p.413-415
Surgeon J.H.James (1st Life Guards) mentions a position for his regiment in column on the road which leads to Nivelles. In: Vansittart, J. (ed) - Surgeon J.H.James's journal. p.24

4. Lord Uxbridge. In: BL, Add.Ms.34.703 p.5-10
Cotton, E. Une voix de waterloo p.24
The highroad here lay higher as the surrounding fields.
Cf. Map Ferraris.
Captain Verner (7th regiment hussars). In: Reminiscences of William Verner p.41

5. Lieutenant Banner (23rd regiment of light dragoons). In: BL, Add.Ms. 34.706 p.301-311

6. Cf.Captain Wildman (7th regiment of hussars). In: Letter to his mother, dated 19th June 1815. In: NAM, nr.8112-53
According to captain Shakespear (10th regiment of hussars) the road was just wide enough for half a squadron. Cf. Manuscript letters and journals of the service of captain Arthur Shakespear (10th regiment hussars). NAM, nr.7706-17

7. It was around 4 p.m. that the action near Genappe started. Cf. Report of major Von Gröben in which he writes: " Die Kanonade mit dem Herzog Wellington fing gegen 4 Uhr an."
Captain Dyneley of Gardiner's troop to J.Douglas, dated 23rd August 1815. In: RAI, nr.MD 1051

It was around 3.30 p.m. that general Constant Rebeque joined the central column. Coming from Nivelles to Quatre Bras, it was at Thisnes (three kilometres east of Nivelles, north of the road to Namur) that he learned that the crossroads had been evacuated. However, he managed to reach the rear-guard of Wellington's army through Fonteny (halfway between Nivelles and

Genappe) and Vieux Genappe. Cf. his journal. In: NA, 2.21.008.01 nr.25

⁹ According to Stoffel a French battery stood south-east of Genappe, at about 400 metres from the Dyle. In: Choppin de Janvry, A. - Waterloo. In: Revue militaire générale June 1909 map nr.5

10. Mercer, C. - Journal of the Waterloo campaign. Vol.I.p.275-277.

The fact that the troop of Mercer fired is confirmed by lieutenant Sandilands (Ramsay's troop). Notes in RAI, nr. MD 638

In total, Mercer fired the 17th of June 113 rounds of 9p. and 15 of howitzers. Cf.table of munition spent. In: Papers relating to the battle of Waterloo. In: BL, Add.mss.19.590

Sir J.Elley depicts these guns immediately to the left (east) of the road, to the right of the brigade of Ponsonby; his positions of the two brigades of heavy cavalry also differ to those as given by De Lacy Evans.

Captain Verner (7th regiment of hussars) claims two guns were on a height in rear of the regiment. In: Reminiscences of William Verner (1782-1871) 7th hussars p.42

11. Lieutenant O'Grady (7th regiment of hussars). BL, Add.Ms.34.706 p.287-292

12.The fact that it was probably the 2nd regiment of lancers and not the 1st, can be read from the losses the regiment sustained. Cf. Martinien, A. - Tableaux par corps et par batailles des officiers tués et blessés pendant les guerres de l'empire 1805-1815 p.571-573

The presence of the 2nd regiment of lancers in front can also be deduced from the work of Pascallet. Cf. Pascallet, M.E. Galerie militaire. Sourd, le général baron. p.14-17

Colonel Levavasseur, aide de camp of Ney, would have participated in the charge hoping he would get another fresh horse, his own having got too much fatigued. In: Souvenirs p.293.

According to Houssaye the lancers pursued the hussars of Sir Hussey Vivian, while leaving Genappe. However, Vivian crossed the Dyle further to the east, at Ways. In: 1815. Waterloo p.269

13. Siborne,W. - History of the Waterloo campaign Vol.I p.270

Captain Wildman. Cf. his letter to his mother dated 19th June 1815. In: NAM, nr.8112-53

According to lieutenant O'Grady 14 to 18 French squadrons were involved. In: BL, Add.Ms.34.706 p.287-292

14. Aerts, W. - Etudes etc. Livre IV (manuscript) p.127

15. Lord Uxbridge to the 7th regiment of hussars, letter dated 28th June 1815. In: Manuscript letters and journals of the service of captain Arthur Shakespear (10th regiment hussars). In: NAM, nr.7706-17

Captain Shakespear (10th regiment hussars). In: Papers, published in the JSAHR,

Vol.36.1958. p.127

Lieutenant S.O'Grady in a letter to his father. In: Barrett, C.R.B. - The 7th hussars p.374

16. Lieutenant O'Grady (7th regiment of hussars). In a letter to his father. In: Barrett - The 7th hussars p.374

Lieutenant O'Grady. In: BL, Add.Ms. 34.706 p.287-292

Lord Uxbridge to the 7th regiment of hussars, letter dated 28th June 1815. In: NAM, Manuscript letters and journals of the service of captain Arthur Shakespear (10th regiment hussars), nr.7706-17

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

Sometimes it is being asserted that at that time, the whole regiment charged. Cf. Siborne, W. - History of the war etc. Vol.I p.270

According to captain Wildman two other squadrons of the regiment followed, but didn't take part in the action then.

According to captain Verner (7th regiment hussars) the squadron of Hodge, as well as a platoon of his squadron, led by captain Fraser, were sent out skirmishing. In: Reminiscences of William Verner (1782-1871) 7th hussars, p.42

There is no clear evidence from Verner that the remainder of the squadron came into action that day.

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

Lieutenant O'Grady (7th regiment hussars) In: BL, Add.Ms. 34.706 p.287-292

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

Also in his papers published by C.T.Atkinson. In: Waterloo Arthur. In: JSAHR, Vol.36.1958. p.127

18. Cotton, E. - Une voix de Waterloo p.24

Captain Verner (7th regiment hussars). In: Reminiscences of William Verner (1782-1871) 7th hussars, p.41

Lord Uxbridge. Undated memorandum in the Plas Newydd Papers, published by Lord Paget.

Lord Uxbridge believes the lance was not superior to the sabre, except for the action near Genappe. In: BL, Add.Ms. 34.706 p.185-192

Lord Uxbridge also saw that the horses of the hussars got confused by the small flags at the end of the French lances.

19. Captain Verner (7th regiment of hussars). In: Reminiscences of William Verner (1782-1871) 7th hussars, p.42

Lieutenant O'Grady (7th regiment hussars). In: BL, Add.Ms.34.706 p.287-292

Baron Petiet (staff-officer of marshal Soult). In: Souvenirs militaires de l'histoire contemporaine P.206

For quite some time there was no clear idea about the fate of major Hodge. During that time, letters were exchanged between the military and the family of Hodge. This correspondence has been published in 1965 in the Journal of the Society for Historical Research, by the marquess of Anglesey, entitled: "Correspondence concerning the death of major Hodge, 7th hussars, at Genappe 17th June 1815." (p.80-91). In all the conflicting evidence it finally became clear after 2 to 3 weeks that Hodge had died of his wounds. Even on the morning of the 18th of June, an aide de camp of Lord Uxbridge, captain Streerwitz, was sent out towards the enemy carrying a white flag in order to find out about the fate of Hodge. He was told that Hodge was slightly wounded.

It was also on the 19th of June that Sir H. Vivian tried to find out about Hodge. For this reason he rode on the 19th of June to Genappe, accompanied by captain Keane and Irwin and a surgeon. This only gave rise to conflicting information.

According to a (wounded) private of the 7th regiment of hussars, Hodge would have got a severe sabre-cut on his head, and his hand would almost have been cut in two. Then, Hodge would have been taken prisoner, as well as two men of the regiment. The moment the lancers charged again, the men were killed. Cf. H.C.Lowther in a letter to the count of Lonsdale dated 23rd August 1815 in the above mentioned correspondence.

20. Surgeon Poussiergues (2nd regiment of lancers). In: file of colonel Sourd. In SHD, nr.2791 GB/2

Apart from cuts on his head and his left shoulder, he had two cuts in the joints of the right wrist; a third one had got as deep as to the bone into the muscles and the artery of the elbow. The arm had for the most part to be amputated, which was done by Larrey. Erroneously, Larrey mentions Sourd as the commander of the 20th regiment of chasseurs à cheval. In: Relation médicale etc. p.8-9

Statement of the surgeon Poumier, of the 2nd regiment lancers. He treated Sourd later for his wounds. In: Delloye, S. - Le combat de Genappe du 17 Juin 1815. In: Bulletin of the SBEN, nr.45 p.14-15

The amputated arm would have been buried on the field of action. Cf. Mauduit, H. de - Les derniers jours etc. Vol.II p.228

Also see Pascallet. In: Pascallet, M.E. - Galerie militaire. Sourd, le général baron. p.17

Pascallet claims Sourd had been asked by a British colonel to surrender, which he – obviously - didn't.

²¹ Stoffel places this battery south-east of the village, about 400 metres south of the Dyle, on a height 120. In: Waterloo, les opérations etc. Part 2 Map nr.5

22. Lord E. Somerset. Diary. In: NAM, nr.6807-344

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

Captain Wildman. Cf.his letter of the 19th of June to his mother. In: NAM, nr.8112-53

²³ Lieutenant O'Grady. In a letter dated 31st of July 1815. In: NAM, nr.1978-05-24
O'Grady adds that out of the 100 men of the squadron, 19 were mustered after the action.

24. Aerts, W. - Etudes etc. Livre IV (manuscript) p.128

According to captain Wildman (7th regiment hussars) lieutenant Wildman and Peters were taken prisoner, but managed to escape again. Cf. his letter to his mother, dated 19th of June. In: NAM, nr.8112-53

However, lieutenant J.Wildman himself states he wasn't at the battle of Waterloo due to the fact that he had got wounded and taken prisoner on the 17th of June. Cf. BL, Add.Ms. 34.705 p.200

Captain James D.Elphinstone (brother of colonel Elphinstone of the 33rd regiment) was held in a loft of a house in Genappe but was released again on the evening of the 18th of June.

During the afternoon he would have been interrogated by the emperor himself through colonel Flahaut.

Napoleon, asking him about the strength of Wellington's cavalry and whether the Duke intended to fall back as far as Brussels, he said he didn't have any answers to these questions. Later, he would have said the cavalry numbered between 7000 and 8000 men.

Elphinstone was wounded in one of his arms, and the emperor saw to it he was attended to. Much later, as Napoleon was on St.Helena, Elphinstone would have awarded him with gifts like an ivory chess-set, two ivory globes and a box filled with pearl-shell fiches. Cf. Cotton, E. - Une voix de Waterloo p.300

Captain Wildman (7th regiment hussars), in the letter addressed to his mother dated 19th June 1815. In: NAM, nr.8112-53

Cf. Captain Verner. In: Reminiscences etc. p.48-49

Lieutenant Hope Pattison (33rd regiment). In: Personal recollections of the Waterloo campaign p.19

Saint-Denis, L.E. - Souvenirs du mameluck Ali sur l'empereur p.108-109

Napoleon would also have said to a French officer: "I desire you will treat these officers well in every respect as British officers deserve." Cf. letter of captain T.Wildman (addition, dated 21st of June 1815).

According to Verner, captain Elphinstone and Peters were taken prisoner, but it was Elphinstone who escaped on the 18th of June. In: Reminiscences etc. p.49

This is confirmed by Wildman, claiming Elphinstone was in Brussels on the 19th of June.

Sir E.Kerrison, commander of the 7th regiment of hussars, yet mentions he was there the 20th or 21st of June instead. In: Anglesey, Major Marquess of. Correspondence concerning the death etc. In: JSAHR.1965 p.80-91

According to captain Wildman Lord Uxbridge was informed on the 17th of June about the fate of prisoners through the French outposts: he was told major Hodge and lieutenant Meyer were in their hands, but that both, despite being wounded, were OK. (Later both would expire from their wounds). Cf.Wildman's letter.

The regiment lost that day six men killed (all privates), 21 men wounded (five sergeants and 16 men), one trumpeter and 14 men were missing. 17 horses were killed and 20 wounded.

Cf. Letter of Lord Uxbridge to the 7th regiment dated 28th June 1815. He mentions lieutenant Beattie being wounded in stead of lieutenant Peters. In: NAM, Manuscript letters and journals of the service of captain Arthur Shakespear (10th regiment hussars), nr.7706-17

Private Boulter (Scots Greys) adds that British hussars were falling from the slippery road caused by the mud, and ridden over by the French. In his letter dated 23rd September 1815. In: NAM, nr.9501-118

25. Martinien, M. - Tableaux par corps et par batailles p.573

26. Lieutenant Maclean (13th regiment of light dragoons). In: BL, Add.Ms.34.708 p.154-157 According to lieutenant Packe the French charged his unit twice, but were repulsed both times. Cf. his letter dated 20th of June 1815. In: former www.1815.ltd.uk Original in Leicester and Rutland record office. DE 1346/419-427 (DG18).

27. Lord Uxbridge. BL, Add.Ms. 34.706 p.185-192

It is surprising that this detail about the refusal is also described by ensign Short of the 2nd battalion of Coldstream Guards, in a letter dated Nivelles 19th of June 1815. In: NAM, nr.7702-5

The same refusal is mentioned by a letter written by lieutenant Macmillan (adjutant in the Scots Greys) to major general Balfour. Cf. Almack, E.A. - Historical records of the Royal Scots Greys (1912) p.72-73

Also Barrett, in the regimental history, writes: "The regiment suffered very severely and I believe things were not exactly what they ought to have been owing to some mistake; the officers were all broken-hearted about it." In: The 7th hussars p.374

Apparently, the rumour already circulated shortly after the campaign.

The refutation of all this by Lord Uxbridge came in a letter dated 28th June 1815. In: Manuscript letters and journals of the service of captain Arthur Shakespear (10th regiment hussars). NAM, nr.7706-17

In this letter he confirms that the regiment charged twice unsuccessfully and that it went back in good order; then he would have committed the Life Guards, not because of the fact that the hussars were not advancing, but that the lancers were still moving and were in slight confusion.

The fact that the hussars had been involved can also be traced from the diary of Lord Edward Somerset. In: NAM, nr.6807-344

²⁸ Lieutenant Banner. In: BL, Add.ms.34.706 p.301-311

According to Lord E.Somerset the 7th regiment of hussars and the 23rd regiment of light dragoons were both pushed back, but it is not very clear whether the 23rd regiment actually was engaged. Cf. his letter dated 23rd June 1815. In: Bodleian library MS Eng.hist.d. ff.49-60

29. Lord Uxbridge, letter dated 28th June 1815. In: Manuscript letters and journals of the service of captain Arthur Shakespear (10th regiment hussars). NAM, nr.7706-17

Captain Shakespear (10th regiment of hussars). Cf. his papers published by C.T. Atkinson in: Waterloo Arthur. In: JSAHR, Vol.36. 1958. p.127.

30. Lord Uxbridge In: BL, Add.Ms. 34.703 p.5-10

Captain Schreiber. In: BL, Add.ms.34.707 p.145-146

Captain Kelly. In a brief note about the action of Genappe. In: Papers relating to the battle of Waterloo. In: BL, Add.ms.19.590

Cornet Bullock of the 11th regiment of light dragoons claims his regiment charged several times in combination with the Life Guards. In: Quarterly Review, 1888

31. Captain Kelly. In: Anglesey, marquess of - One leg: the life and letters of Henry William Paget p.363

Also see his letter to his wife, dated 19th June 1815. In: McGuffie, T. - Kelly of Waterloo. Vol.33.1955 p.103-104

According to sergeant Johnston (Scots Greys) the 2nd Life Guards also charged, but this is incorrect. Cf. Journal, in: Atkinson, C.T. A Waterloo journal. In: JSAHR. Vol.38.1960 p.34

³² Cf. His letter dated 23rd June 1815. In: Bodleian library MS Eng.hist.d. ff.49-60

Captain Naylor of the King's Dragoon Guards reports that his regiment was formed for the charge, but wasn't engaged as the 2nd regiment of Life Guards was. Cf. his diary. In: Regimental Museum 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards.

According to sergeant Page (King's Dragoon Guards) the 1st regiment of Life Guards charged, while his regiment and the Blues were formed in open columns of divisions on the road; yet they were not ordered to charge. After that, the brigade was formed in line. The same time is given by sergeant major Barlow (King's Dragoon Guards) Cf. his letter to his wife dated 4th of July 1815. In: 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards Heritage Trust

33. Lieutenant Banner (23rd regiment of light dragoons). In: BL, Add.Ms. 34.706 p.301-311

34. Lord Uxbridge. In: BL, Add.Ms. 34.703 p.5-10

Captain Kelly. In: Anglesey, marquess of - One leg: the life and letters of Henry William Paget p.363

Kelly, commander of the rear half squadron, claims he rode forward the moment he saw that the regiment was turning to fall back. There he met Lord Uxbridge who told him that the French lancers didn't seem to push through their charge and that they had to be dealt with. Then, the Life Guards reformed. It wasn't lord Uxbridge himself who led the charge (as claimed by Houssaye); at least Uxbridge himself doesn't mention he did so. Cf. Houssaye, H. - 1815. Waterloo p.270

35. Lord Edward Somerset. Diary. In: NAM, nr.6807-344

Captain Kelly. In: Anglesey, marquess of - One leg: the life and letters of Henry William

Paget p.363

36. Sir K.Elley. BL, Add.Ms.34.706 p.413-415

Captain Naylor of the King's Dragoon Guards claims it was a column of divisions.Cf. his diary. In: Regimental Museum 1st Queen's Dragoon Guards.

Aerts states it was "en colonne par six". Cf. Aerts, W. - Etudes etc. Livre IV (manuscript) p.131

M.Mann says it was a formation of columns of divisions. The regiment numbered two squadrons (each of about 228 men). Both of these charged, though colonel Sir De Lacy Evans speaks about a squadron of the Household Brigade.

In: And they rode on etc. p.20

Cf. Major De Lacy Evans. In: BL, Add.ms.34.708 p.1301-132

37. Siborne, W. - History of the war in France etc. Vol.I p.274

Captain Kelly in a brief note about the action at Genappe. In: Papers relating to the battle of Waterloo. In: British Museum. Department of manuscripts.Add.mss. 19.590.

The regiment of King's Dragoon Guards prepared to charge, in rear of the Life Guards but this charge wasn't needed after the success of the Life Guards. Cf. Mann, M. - And they rode on p.21

Cf. Poem of trumpeter S.Wheeler of the same regiment. In: Regimental Museum 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards

38. Lieutenant Banner (23rd regiment light dragoons). In: BL, Add.Ms. 34.706 p.301-311

Lord Uxbridge. In: BL, Add.Ms. 34.703 p.5-10

Vansittart, J. (ed) - Surgeon J.H.James's journal p.25

An officer of the Life Guards claims the regiment made three successful turns in their charge upon the French. In a letter as published by lieutenant general Scott. In: Battle of Waterloo etc. p.124

39. Siborne, W. - History of the war in France etc. Vol.I p.273

Sir J.Elley. In: BL, Add.Ms. 34.706 p.413-415

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

Captain Kelly. Cf.letter of the 19th June 1815 to his wife. In: McGuffie - Kelly of Waterloo. In: JSAHR. Vol.33. 1955 p.103-104.

Unexplicable so far is that Lord E.Somerset claims the Life Guards carried out **two** succesful charges, against **cuirassiers**. Cf. Letter dated 23rd June 1815. In: Bodleian library MS Eng.hist.d. ff.49-60

According to Houssaye the 2nd regiment of lancers, " débouchant en pélotons par quatre d'une ruelle transversale " charged the British. However, not the 2nd , but the 1st regiment of lancers was leading. And further to that, they didn't charge the enemy by a sideway, but over the great road leading to Brussels.In: 1815.Waterloo. p.270

40. Chef d'escadron Dupuy (7th regiment of hussars). Souvenirs militaires p.287-294
41. This proves that the British cavalry didn't drive them all the way through the village, as is asserted by lord Uxbridge and Sir J.Elley. In: BL, Add.Ms. 34.706 p.185-192 and p.413-415
42. Cf. Chef d'escadron Dupuy (7th regiment of hussars). In: Souvenirs militaires p.287-294
Houssaye erroneously believes it was at the east side that Marbot moved out his men. In: 1815.Waterloo p.270
43. The fall of the empire, however, prohibited the confirmation of this promotion.
44. According to captain Kelly (1st Life Guards) the regiment lost 2 or 3 men and a few horses. Cf. letter dated 19th June to his wife. In: McGuffie - Kelly of Waterloo. In: JSAHR. Vol.33.1955 p.103-104.
Baron Petiet, staff-officer of Soult, mentions the flank action of the hussars of Marbot and confirms the capture of a high number of horses. In: Souvenirs militaires p.208
After the campaign, captain Mercer got into a discussion with lord Uxbridge in the sense that he saw the Life Guards coming back from the charge in a great hurry, as a flight. In referring to some letter-book, of which the details are unavailable, Mercer mentions Uxbridge's strong denial of this, by stating that the horsemen came back from a triumph. Cf. (unpublished) side-mark note of Mercer himself in the original manuscript of his book "Journal of the Waterloo campaign" In: NLS, MS4849 p.111
45. Cf. Captain Kelly (1st Life Guards). In: Letter to his wife, dated 19th June 1815. In: McGuffie, Kelly of Waterloo. In: JSAHR.Vol.33. 1955 p.103-104
46. The fact that the Household Brigade went back under cover of skirmishers is confirmed by Sir J.Elley. In: BL, Add.Ms. 34.706 p.413-415
47. Cf. Chef d'escadron Dupuy (7th regiment of hussars). Souvenirs militaires p.287-294
48. Lord Uxbridge to Croker on 15th March 1852 (Plas Newydd Papers) and in: BL, Add.Ms.34.706 p.185-192
Captain Mercer - Journal of the Waterloo campaign Vol.I, p.278-280
Captain Whinyates. In: BL, Add.Ms.34.707 p.531-533
Captain Dansey (Whinyates' troop). In: BL, Add.Ms.34.706 p.468-470
Lieutenant Strangeways (Whinyates' troop). In: BL. Add.Ms.34.708 p.342-343
Sir H.Seymour. In: BL, Add.Ms.34.707 p.517-519
Notes of lieutenant Sandilands (Ramsay's troop). In: RAI, nr.MD 638
Sergeant Johnston (Scots Greys). Journal in: Atkinson, C.T. - A Waterloo journal. JSAHR.Vol.33.1960 p.35

Captain Kennedy Clark (Royals). In: BL, Add.ms.34.708 p.7-9

Baron Colonel Gourgaud. In: AN, Fonds Gourgaud 314 AP30

The use of rockets is also confirmed by sergeant Clarke of the Scots Greys. Cf. Journal of sergeant Clarke (Scots Greys). In: NLS, MS 15379 p.3

In total, on the 17th of June, Whinyates fired 21 rockets; they may, however, not all have been fired near Genappe.

Cf. Letter of Sir J.May to captain Whinyates, 5th April 1816. In: RAI, nr.MD 1438)

The table of expenditure of ammunition in the BL, Add.mss.19.590 (Papers relating to the battle of Waterloo).

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

It was the squadron under captain Radcliffe in particular which skirmished with the enemy.

Cf. Captain Kennedy Clark (1st Royal Dragoons). In: BL, Add.Ms.34.703 p.3-5

Captain Radcliffe (Royals) to Sir H.Fane, letter dated 7th July 1815. In: NAM, nr.6310-36

Journal of captain Radcliffe (Royals). He speaks of two squadrons of chasseurs à cheval unable to overpower them with their fire; once they actually charged, they stopped short. In: NAM, nr.6807/244

Cornet Clape (Scots Greys) speaks of fronting the enemy now and then. Cf. his letter to his mother, dated about one week after the battle of Waterloo. In: Almack, E. – The history of the second dragoons etc. p.70

50. Lord Uxbridge. In: BL, Add.Ms.34.703 p.5-10 and his letter dated 9th December 1815 to general Adam. In: NAM, Book of manuscript copies of Waterloo letter, nr.6507-1

According to major Clarke (Scots Greys) the French cavalry annoyed the British cavalry, but never pushed through. Cf.his letter dated 11th July 1815 to Sir J.Stewart. In: The Cavalry Journal, 1926 Vol.16 p.76

51. Lord Edward Somerset. Diary. In: NAM, nr.6807-344

Also see his letter dated 23rd June 1815. In: Bodleian library MS Eng.hist.d. ff.49-60

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

Captain Kelly (1st Life Guards). Letter dated 19th of June 1815 to his wife. In: McGuffie, Kelly of Waterloo. In: JSAHR. Vol.33.1955 p.103-104.

Captain Wildman. Letter dated 19th of June 1815.

Cotton, E. - Une voix de Waterloo p.26

52. Lord Uxbridge. In: BL, Add.Ms.34.703 p.5-10

53. Lord Edward Somerset. Diary. In: NAM, nr.6807-344

His letter dated 23rd June 1815. In: Bodleian library MS Eng.hist.d. ff.49-60

Vansittart, J. (ed). Surgeon J.H.James's journal p.27

Captain Elton (1st Dragoon Guards) confirms the fact that there was some skirmishing, but that his regiment didn't get into an actual fight that day. Cf. his letter to lieutenant general

Fane dated 15th July 1815. In: NAM, nr.6310-36

Captain Kelly (1st Life Guards) claims the Blues suffered slightly from the French bombardment. Cf. his letter dated 19th of June 1815 to his wife. In: McGuffie - Kelly of Waterloo. In: JSAHR. Vol.33.1955 p.103-104

During the retreat, captain Sweny of the King's Dragoon Guards was ordered out with a division to skirmish with the enemy, but owing to the misconception of his orders he took his division into a place where they were likely to be taken prisoner; accordingly, sergeant Page was despatched to fetch them and succeeded in doing so, despite the French gunfire.

Cf. his letter to his wife dated 4th of July 1815. In: 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards Heritage Trust.

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

55. Major De Lacy Evans. BL, Add.Ms.34.708 p.130-132

Captain Kennedy Clark (Royal Dragoons). BL, Add.Ms. 34.703 p.3-5

One squadron in particular skirmished with the French chasseurs à cheval. It was the left squadron of the Royal Dragoons, led by colonel Radclyffe. The French horsemen would have been unable to impress the British dragoons, neither by their fire, nor by their shouting or incomplete charges. Cf. Journal of captain Radclyffe, cited by De Ainslie in: Historical records of the first or the Royal regiment of dragoons p.150

⁵⁶ Uxbridge to Croker, 15th of March 1852. In: Anglesey, marquess of - One leg: the life and letters of Henry William Paget etc.p.362

⁵⁷ Mercer, C. - Journal of the Waterloo campaign. Vol.I p.282-285

Also see Mercer's letter dated 24th January 1866 to an unknown person. In: RAI, nr.MD88

58. Vivian, Cl. - R.H. Vivian, first baron Vivian etc. p.295.

Siborne, W. - History of the war in France etc. Vol.p.267-268

59. Lieutenant Sleigh (11th regiment of light dragoons). In: BL, Add.Ms. 34.708 p.210-212

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

J.Gordon Smith (surgeon in the 12th regiment of light dragoons) states it was 7 p.m. In: Brett-James, A. - The hundred days p.95

Captain Shakespear (10th regiment hussars) says it was at dusk. Cf. his account. In: NAM, Manuscript letters and journals of the service of captain Arthur Shakespear nr.7706-17

For the artillery, claims are entirely different. While lieutenant Swabey (Gardiner, in his letter dated 24th June 1815, in the King's Hussars Museum) claims it was 4 p.m., captain Gardiner however mentions 11 p.m. ! Cf. His account in the NLS, nr.MS3615

Lieutenant Duperier (18th regiment hussars) believes it was later that evening. In: BL, Add.Ms.34.703 p.90-91

Surgeon J.Gordon Smith (12th regiment of light dragoons) states his regiment established its bivouac at 7 p.m. In: *The English army in France etc.* p.120

According to major Von der Decken the pickets which had been left behind at Tournai now arrived as well. Cf. Report of Von der Decken. In: NHH, Des.41 E, XXI k, nr.3

61.Cf. His letter to his wife, dated 23rd June 1815. In: Vivian, Cl. - R.H.Vivian, first baron Vivian etc. p.278

⁶² During the skirmishing it was corporal Mahler who distinguished himself. The platoon losses were: killed one dragoon and one horse and wounded: two dragoons and five horses. Cf. Nettelblatt, A.von - *Die Althannoverschen Uberlieferungen etc.* p.35

63. Account of lieutenant colonel Leighton-Cathcart Dalrymple (15th regiment hussars). In: NAM, nr.7207-22,14-21

The regimental history of the 13th regiment light dragoons mentions the village of Lillers. What is meant here is the village of Lillois, but this was too eccentric for this march. Cf. Barrett, C.R.B. - *History of the XIII hussars* p.272