



Napoleon's Battles

16th of June 1815

The battle of Quatre Bras

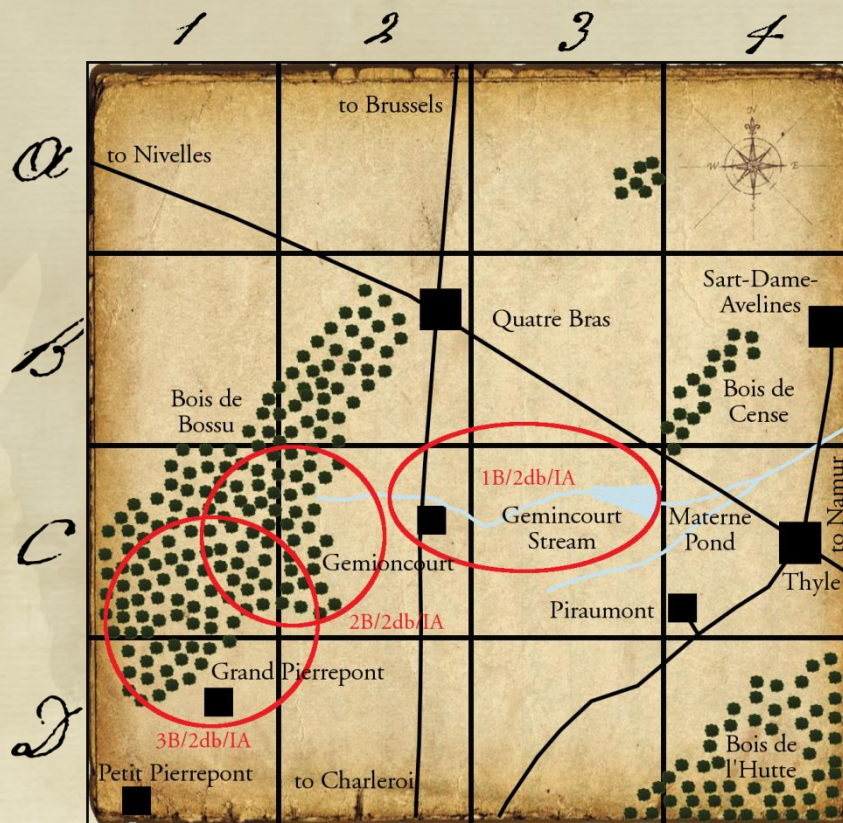
Introduction

After the rushing French advance from the previous day that opened the campaign, this strategic crossroads that leads to Ligny became a keystone, as it was the connection between the current allied positions.

Blucher planned his stand at Ligny believing his right flank would be reinforced by Wellington's troops coming from Quatre Bras. And Napoleon, once discovered that the Prussian army was offering battle, conceived a plan for pinning Blucher's troops until the arrival of reinforcements through the same road in order to destroy the Prussian army (his main goal at that very moment). In his own words "*The Prussians have been caught flagrante delicto as they were seeking to join the English*".

As the battle of Ligny was materializing, Wellington hastened their troops to advance, and Napoleon began to hurry Ney for the attack. At 14:00, at last, Ney launched the expected assault on Quatre Bras. Thus, the control of the crossroads so vital for the fate of the campaign began. Throughout the evening, one after the other, orders of the emperor urging Ney to take the crossroads and march to Ligny in his assistance, kept coming. Meanwhile, Wellington desperately tried to hold his ground, expecting that the continuous arriving of reinforcements would save the day.

Map





Napoleon's Battles



Map Notes

Quatre Bras, Thyle and Sart-Dame-Avelines have a +2 combat modifier. Petit Pierrepont, Grand Pierrepont, Gemincourt and Piraumont have a +1 combat modifier.

The pond may not be entered by any units.

The Allied on-table forces are set up first.

If desired one base of 1B/2db/IA may start detached at Piraumont and/or Quatre Bras, and one base of 3B/2db/IA may start detached at Grand Pierrepont.

Petit Pierrepont, Grand Pierrepont, Gemincourt and Piraumont are small BUA (1,5"x1,5") and a maximum of 2 infantry bases and 1 artillery battery may be deployed in each of them.

Cavalry or artillery units that are in any portion of the Gemincourt Stream between Materne Pond and Gemincourt any part of their movement are immediately disorder.

The Bois the Bossu is considered an open wood area.



Napoleon's Battles



OOB

French

LW	Left Wing	(3) Ney	10"E(10)+3	8M
II	Second Corps	(2) Reille	9"G(5)+1D	5F
	5/II Fifth Division	(1) Bachelu	3"G(7)+1	
	1B/5/II	16 FrLN		10D
	2B/5/II	20 FrLN		12D
	6/II Fifth Division	(1) Jerome	3"A(4)+0	
	1B/6/II	16 FrLT		10D
	2B/6/II	20 FrLT		12D
	3B/6/II	16 FrLN		10D
	4B/6/II	16 FrLN		10D
	9/II Ninth Division	(1) Foy	4"G(7)+2	
	1B/9/II	20 FrLN		12D
	2B/9/II	24 FrLN		14D
	C/II Cavalry Division	(1) Pire	3"A(5)+0	
	1B/C/II	12 FrLC		7D
	2B/C/II	12 FrLC		7D
		II 1 Fr6#		
		II 1 Fr12#		
IIIC	III Cavalry Corps	(2) Kellermann	6"E(7)+2	1F
	11/IIIC Eleventh Cavalry Division	(1) Heritier	4"G(6)+1	
	2B/11/IIIC	8 FrHC		3D
		IIIC 1 Fr6#		
	L/G Guard Light Cavalry Division	(1) Lefebvre	4"E(8)+1	2F
	1B/L/G	12 FrGLC		5D
	2B/L/G	16 FrGLC		6D
		L/G 1 FrG6#		
		L/G 1 FrG6#		



Napoleon's Battles



Allied

AA	Anglo-Allied Army	(4) Wellington	17"G(10)+3D	9M
IA	I Corps	(2) Orange	7"G(6)+1	4F
	1/IA First Division	(1) Cooke	3"G(6)+1	
	1B/1/IA	16 BrGD		5D
	2B/1/IA	20 BrGD		6D
	1/IA	1 Br6#		
	3/IA Third Division	(1) Alten	4"G(7)+1	
	1B/3/IA	20 BrLN		8D
	2B/3/IA	28 HnLN		17D
	3/IA	1 Br9#		
	2Db/IA Second Dutch-Belgian Division	(1) Perponcher	3"G(7)+1	
	1B/2Db/IA	28 DbLN		17D
	2B/2Db/IA	20 NsLN		10D
	3B/2Db/IA	16 NsLN		8D
	2Db/IA	1 Db6#		
	5/R Fifth Division	(1) Picton	5"E(8)+2	2F
	1B/5/R	20 BrLN		8D
	2B/5/R	20 BrLN		8D
	3B/5/R	24 HnLW		17D
	5/R	1 Br9#		
	B/R Brunswick Division	(1) Brunswick	3"G(7)+1	2F
	1B/B/R	24 BwLT		12D
	2B/B/R	24 BwLN		14D
	3B/B/R	12 BwLC		6D
	B/R	1 Bw6#		
	3C Third Cavalry Birgade	(1) Merlen	3"A(6)+0	1F
	1B/3C	12 DbLC		7D
	3C	1 Db6# (4guns)		



Napoleon's Battles



Special Rules

Game Length and sequence

13:30 pm to 20:30 pm.

TIME RECORD CHART							
13:30	14:00	14:30	15:00	15:30	16:00	16:30	17:00
17:30	18:00	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	

The French are the first side.

The French start with the initiative marker.

Arrival Times

French

13:30 – Ney, Reille, 5/II, 9/II, C/II & artillery batteries from II Corps, deployed in any desired formation and facing, at D2 & D3.

14:00 – 6/II in march column formation on D2 road end.

14:30 – IIIC deployed at D2 & D3.

Allied

14:00 – 3C in march column formation on A1 road end.

14:30 – 5/R in march column formation on A2 road end.

15:00 – Wellington and B/R (less B/R artillery) in march column formation on A2 road end.

16:00 – 3/IA in march column formation on A1 road end.

18:00 – 1/IA in march column formation on A1 road end.

18:30 – B/R artillery in march column formation on A2 road end.

Due to the arrival of reinforcements the army morale of both armies increases as the day progresses. Check the following table to find the Army Morale at any time.

	13:30	14:00	14:30	15:00	15:30	16:00	16:30	17:00
French	4	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Allied	2	2	5	7	7	8	8	8
	17:30	18:00	18:30	19:00	19:30	20:00	20:30	
French	7/8	7/8	7/8	7/8	7/8	7/8	7/8	
Allied	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	

The fatigue of II Corps and IA also varies due to reinforcements.

At 13:30 the fatigue of the II is 3F instead of 5F, but once 6/II arrives at 14:00 it becomes 5F for the rest of the game.



Napoleon's Battles



The fatigue of IA is 2F at 13:30, rises at 3F at 16:00 and it is 4F at 18:00.

Options

Free rolls

The French get 6 free rolls and the Allied get 5.

French	1	2	3	4	5	6
Allied	1	2	3	4	5	

Abilities

French

- 1B/6/II - battle hardened infantry.
- 2B/6/II - battle hardened infantry.
- 3B/6/II - battle hardened infantry.
- 4B/6/II - battle hardened infantry.
- 2B/9/II - mixed with light battalions.

Allied

- 2B/3/IA - mixed with light battalions.
- 1B/2Db/IA - combined with militia.
- 1B/5/R – mixed with light battalions.
- 2B/5/R – battle hardened infantry.

Ney lack of staff

As Marshal Ney has just received his command, he lacked a proper staff and aide-de-camps (only Colonel Heymès was attached to him) and they had to be provisionally provided by supernumerary officers from the guard regiments under his command. To represent this fact, the span of Ney should be reduced to 5 inches instead of 10 inches. An alternative label is provided and the victory points should be adjusted, thus the French player adds 5 points to his final victory points.

Committing the guard

Although Ney has been given command of the Guard Light Cavalry, he was forbidden to use them by the emperor. Anyway as more and more allied reinforcements arrived and once Ney was informed that the I Corps of d'Erlon was not arriving on time, the desperate Ney could have been tempted to throw them into the fray. To reflect this, the G/L can arrive as a reinforcement at any turn after 17:00 (They were close at the rear), as desired by the French player. But if this option is used, any casualty scored on the L/G is counted as three times its normal value in victory points and victory points should be adjusted in the following way:

- Quatre Bras – 45/51 Allied/French.
- Gemioncourt – 15/17 Allied/French.
- Grand Pierrepont – 5/6 Allied/French.
- Thyle – 20/23 Allied/French.



Napoleon's Battles



Prince of Orange in command

Until the arrival of Wellington, the Prince of Orange may be considered the overall commander for the Allied army, thus a 10 response is used instead of 6. Once Wellington arrives the Prince of Orange uses his normal response.

Brunswick 3rd Light Battalion reinforcement

This battalion was left in the rearguard until late in the evening, and they arrived at 18:30 at the battlefield. Hence, to reflect this in a proper manner an alternative version of the 1/B/R label is provided. This optional rule simulates that the 3rd battalion was not present with the main Brunswick reinforcements, but arrived later. If this option is used, initially the Allied player uses the alternative provided label (20 BwLT instead of 24 BwLT) until 19:00, at this time the former label is used and one base with four figures is added to the 1/B/R existing forces during the Arrival Step (if the unit is already dispersed, surrendered or has abandoned the map then the reinforcement is lost).

Victory Points

Quatre Bras – 45/64 Allied/French.

Gemioncourt – 15/21 Allied/French.

Grand Pierrepont – 5/7 Allied/French.

Thyle – 20/29 Allied/French.

Historical Quatre Bras

After a dashing start of the campaign on the 15th, the French troops arrived with the last light of the day in front of Quatre Bras. The Prussian retreat to Sombreffe left unprotected the road to Brussels. Only a few Belgian and Dutch troops, supposedly in cover behind their Prussian allies, defended now the crucial crossroads of Quatre Bras. Fortunately for the Allies, general Constant Rebecque, well informed of the French advance, foresight the importance of Quatre Bras and choose to ignore the orders received, and instead of withdrawing to Nivelles, the Dutch-Belgian troops held his ground against the French patrols and called for reinforcements.

On 16th, Ney, who had just come to the frontline the previous day to take command of the left wing, fails to fully concentrate the troops under his command throughout the morning. Meanwhile the allies finally react, and they send orders reinforcements to urgently come to the crossroads. At 14:00, finally, Ney launches an assault to seize the strategic crossroads that gives access to the Prussian flank in the battle of Ligny. The roar of the guns at Ligny (which is 6km away) is clearly distinguished.

Ney initially enjoyed numerical superiority and pushed the Belgian-Dutch troops towards the crossroads, but when the victorious French were grasping Quatre Bras and the allied troops were about to collapse, Picton arrived, just in the nick of time, with his crash division, and saved the day. Then the delay in the attack revealed critical. If it had been launched only one hour before, the battle would be over before Picton's arrival. But the slaughter ragged for seven hours more.

Constant arrival of allied fresh reinforcements at key moments ended up turning the tide to the allied. As the afternoon passed Ney received order after order urging him to march to Ligny in assistance of the Emperor. But he had to watch helpless as the allied were reinforced, while he failed being supported by the I Corps of general d'Erlon, which due to miscommunications marched and counter marched unable to participate in any combat that day.

Gradually, despite the French élan and the gallant cavalry charges from Piré and Kellerman, the allies went forward and the French withdrew to their initial positions.



Napoleon's Battles



At the end of the day, the casualties for each side were between 4,000 and 5,000 to no avail. Neither commander accomplished their primary goal of participate at the battle of Ligny, but both negated the reinforcement of the enemy, which was a secondary goal. The French failure was decisive for the outcome of the campaign, as negated Napoleon the decisive victory he was looking for at Ligny. On the 16th the French had a real chance to win a crushing victory against the Prussian that would, probably, finished the campaign. Napoleon's genius had again overwhelmed their foes. Instead of this the Prussian defeat was not severe and they were able to fight another battle only two days later.

Next morning, while Ney was waiting for orders, Wellington became aware of the Prussian defeat at Ligny, and realizing that his army was now in danger of being in turn outflanked began the withdrawal to Mont Saint Jean.



Napoleon's Battles



Labels

French

LW 10"E(10)+3 Ney	8M	II	4F 9"G(5)+1D Reille	5/II 3"G(7)+1 Bachelu	6/II 3"A(4)+0 Jerome	9/II 4"G(7)+2 Foy	C/II 3"A(5)+0 Pire	IIIC 6"E(7)+2 Kellermann	1F	11/IIIC 4"G(6)+1 Heritier
L/G 4"E(8)+1 Lefebvre	2F	LW	8M 5"E(10)+3 Ney							
1B/5/II [17D] 28 FrLN	2B/5/II [12D] 20 FrLN	1B/6/II [10D] 16 FrLT	2B/6/II [12D] 20 FrLT	3B/6/II [10D] 16 FrLN	4B/6/II [10D] 16 FrLN	1B/9/II [12D] 20 FrLN	2B/9/II [14D] 24 FrLN			
		Battle hardened infantry	Battle hardened infantry	Battle hardened infantry	Battle hardened infantry					mixed with light battalions
1B/C/II [7D] 12 FrLC	2B/C/II [7D] 12 FrLC	II Fr6#	II Fr12#	2B/11/IIIC [3D] 8 FrHC	IIIC Fr6#	1B/L/G [5D] 12 FrGLC	2B/L/G [6D] 16 FrGLC			
L/G FrG6#	L/G FrG6#									

Allied

AA 17"G(10)+3D Wellington	9M	IA	4F 7"G(6)+1 Orange	1/IA 3"G(6)+1 Cooke	3/IA 4"G(7)+1 Alten	2Db/IA 3"G(7)+1 Perponcher	5/R 5"E(8)+2 Picton	2F	B/R 3"G(7)+1 Brunswick	2F	3C 3"A(6)+0 Merlen	1F
1B/1/IA [5D] 16 BrGD	2B/1/IA [6D] 20 BrGD	1/IA Br6#	1B/3/IA [8D] 20 BrLN	2B/3/IA [17D] 28 HnLN	3/IA Br9#	1B/2Db/IA [17D] 28 DbLN	2B/2Db/IA [10D] 20 NsLN					
				mixed with light battalions		combined with militia						
3B/2Db/IA [8D] 16 NsLN	2Db/IA Db6#	1B/5/R [8D] 20 BrLN	2B/5/R [8D] 20 BrLN	3B/5/R [17D] 24 HnLW	5/R Br9#	1B/B/R [12D] 24 BwLT	2B/B/R [14D] 24 BwLN					
		mixed with light battalions	battle hardened infantry									
3B/B/R [6D] 12 BwLC	B/R Bw6#	1B/3C [7D] 12 DbLC	3C Db6#									
			4 guns									



Napoleon's Battles



Stats

UNIT TYPE	COMBAT MODS				DRD	RSP	FIRE	MOVEMENT <i>e</i>			MOVE MODS		
	COL or LIM	LN or ULM	SQ vs CV	<i>a</i> vs OT				ROUT NO.	DSP <i>b</i>	MODS <i>l</i>	COL or LIM	LN or ULM	MCH or COL
A General <i>eq</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36"	-	2/1	1/1	-
L Messenger <i>ep</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36"	-	2/1	1/1	-
L Wagon / Pack Train <i>p</i>	-7	-	f	f	k	3/-	-	10"	-	14"	6/1	-	-
L Dismounted Cavalry	-3	-2	+3	-7	i	i	2"/-4	5"	1"	15"	2/1	3/1	1"
F FGLC Guard Light Cavalry	+1g	+2g	-	+4	2/4	8/B	-/-	14"	13"	24"	3/1	2/1	6"
F FHC Heavy Cavalry	+1g	+2g	-	+5	2/4	7/B	-/-	13"	12"	21"	4/1	3/1	6"
R FLC Light Cavalry h	-2g	+0g	-	+4	2/3	6/D	-/-	15"	14"	22"	3/1	2/1	7"
A FLN Line Infantry	-1	+2	+7	-4	2/4	6/D	4/+0	10"	3"	18"	2/1	2/1	2"
N FLT Light Infantry	-1	+2	+7	-4	2/4	6/D	5/+1	12"	3"	18"	3/2	3/2	1"
C Fr12# 12# Heavy Artillery <i>p</i>	-5	-3	f	f	k	6/-	12/+2	9"	2"	14"	6/1	1/1	2"
E FrG6# Guard 6# Horse Artillery <i>p</i>	-4g	-2g	f	f	k	8/-	9/+2	12"	4"	22"	4/1	1/1	2"
E FrG6# Horse Artillery <i>p</i>	-5g	-3g	f	f	k	6/-	9/+2	12"	4"	21"	4/1	1/1	3"
E BrGD Guard Infantry	+0	+4	+9	-2	3/5	6/A	4/+1	12"	5"	18"	2/1	3/2	1"
L BrLN Line Infantry	-1	+3	+8	-3	2/5	6/B	4/+1	12"	4"	15"	2/1	2/1	2"
L Br9# 9# Horse Artillery <i>p</i>	-5g	-3	f	f	k	6/-	10/+2	11"	3"	18"	5/1	1/1	3"
L Br6# 6# Horse Artillery <i>p</i>	-5g	-3g	f	f	k	6/-	9/+2	12"	4"	21"	4/1	1/1	3"
A BwLC Light Cavalry h	-2g	+0g	-	+4	2/3	5/C	-/-	15"	14"	24"	3/1	3/1	7"
L BwLN Line Infantry	-2	+1	+6	-5	2/4	5/D	4/+0	10"	2"	16"	2/1	2/1	2"
L BwLT Light Infantry	-2	+1	+6	-5	2/4	5/C	5/+1	12"	3"	18"	3/2	3/2	2"
I Bw6# 6# Horse Artillery <i>p</i>	-5g	-3g	f	f	k	5/-	9/+1	12"	4"	21"	4/1	1/1	3"
E DBLC Light Cavalry h	-2g	-0g	-	+3	2/3	4/D	-/-	15"	14"	24"	3/1	3/1	7"
S DBLN Line Infantry	-2	+1	+6	-5	2/3	4/D	3/-1	9"	2"	16"	3/1	3/1	2"
S Db6# 6# Horse Artillery <i>p</i>	-5g	-3g	f	f	k	5/-	9/+0	11"	4"	21"	4/1	1/1	3"
S HnLN Line Infantry	-2	+1	+6	-5	2/3	4/D	3/+0	10"	2"	16"	2/1	2/1	2"
S HnLW Landwehr Infantry	-3	-1	+5	-6	1/3	3/E	2/-2	8"	1"	15"	4/1	3/1	1"
S NsLN Line Infantry	-1	+2	+7	-4	2/3	5/C	4/+0	10"	2"	16"	2/1	2/1	2"