

Battle of Waterloo Weekender 17-18th April 2010

A walk-thro' guide to gaming with

Republic to **Empire**

PART 2

The Orders of Battle

This took most time in preparation as I wanted to ensure all units were more or less the correct strength relative to each other. My main source of reference was Adkin's magnificent Waterloo companion although I also referred to www.mont-sainte-jean.com. Many decisions were required during the orbat preparation but I particularly enjoyed this and learned a huge amount about the battle and the regiments which fought in it.

The figures were drawn from the collections of Peter Nicholson, Peter McCarroll, Dave O'Brien, David Imrie, Ray King and myself. Many of the units were actually playing their correct historical roles although several were substituted when an actual painted unit was not available.

ORDER OF BATTLE (1)

D'ERLON'S I CORPS

Formation		# MODELS IN UNIT	Strength on unit roster
1st Infantry Division (Quiot)		6pdr battery (3 x 6pdr + 1 x howitzer)	
1st Brigade (Charlet)	quality		
1/54e de Ligne	V	24	24
2/54e de Ligne	D	24	24
1/55e de Ligne	D	30	30
2/55e de Ligne	R	30	30
2nd Brigade (Bourgeois)			
1/28e de Ligne	V-E	24	24
2/28e de Ligne	D	24	24
1/105e de Ligne	V	24	24
2/105e de Ligne	R	24	25

These tables show how to arrange your forces to fight the scenario.

THESE 3 COLUMNS SHOW

- Actual strength of the unit on the roster or Orbat
- Number of models in the unit
- Name of the Division

These boxes show:

- The name of the brigade
- The name of the units in the brigade
- The quality of the UNIT where
 - G = GUARD
 - V = VETERAN
 - D = DRILLED
 - R = RECRUIT
 - E = ELITE
- Artillery attached if any

Formation		# MODELS IN UNIT	Strength on unit roster
2nd Infantry Division (Donzelot)		6pdr battery (3 x 6pdr + 1 x howitzer)	
1st Brigade (Schmitz)	quality		
1/13e Leger	V-E	36	36
2/13e Leger	V	30	30
3/13e Leger	D	30	30
1/17e de Ligne	V	24	24
2/17e de Ligne	R	24	24
2nd Brigade (Aulard)			
1/19e de Ligne	V-E	24	26
2/19e de Ligne	D	24	25
1/51er de Ligne	R	24	30
2/51er de Ligne	R	24	28

Quiot's 1st Infantry Division was the command of Chris Stone and was fully deployed as the game commenced.

Donzelot's 2nd Infantry Division was the command of Bob Thornton and was fully deployed as the game commenced.

ORDER OF BATTLE (2)

D'ERLON'S I CORPS

Formation		# MODELS IN UNIT	Strength on unit roster
3rd Infantry Division (Marcognet)		6pdr battery (3 x 6pdr + 1 x howitzer)	
1st Brigade (Nogues)	quality		
1/21e de Ligne	V	24	26
2/21e de Ligne	D	30	30
1/46e de Ligne	D	24	24
2/46e de Ligne	R	18	21
2nd Brigade (Grenier)			
1/25e de Ligne	D	24	25
2/25e de Ligne	D	24	23
1/45e de Ligne	V	24	26
2/45e de Ligne	R	24	24

Marcognet's 3rd Infantry Division was the command of Jim O'Neill and was fully deployed as the game commenced.

Artillery Reserve

2 x 6pdr batteries (Marines)
1 x 12pdr battery
1 x 12pdr battery (Old Guard)
1 x 6pdr battery (Guard Horse Art)

This formidable artillery park was positioned on the south western most edge of the WEST table during set up. The French team were allowed a choice about its deployment, sacrificing some gaming time for good positioning. They chose to give up two turns (40 minutes) and place the guns along the north facing ridge.

Durette's Division was the last from D'Erlon's Corps to form up at Waterloo and played the least critical role in the attack. The scenario therefore held the division back to allow the three French players to get a feel for the rules with one division apiece. In order to keep the game flowing Pegot's Brigade was placed on as a reinforcement almost in alignment with the most eastward of Marcognet's battalions around the 1500 turn

Formation		# MODELS IN UNIT	Strength on unit roster
4th Infantry Division (Durette)		6pdr battery (3 x 6pdr + 1 x howitzer)	
1st Brigade (Pegot)	quality		
1/8e de Ligne	V	24	26
2/8e de Ligne	D	24	24
1/29e de Ligne	D	30	30
2/29e de Ligne	R	30	28
2nd Brigade (Brue)			
85er de Ligne (1 & 2)	D	32	31
1/95er de Ligne	D	30	28
2/95er de Ligne	R	24	26

Pegot's Brigade appeared in column of march. The area of arrival was very congested with artillery from the 3rd and 4th Divisions together with many of Marcognet's battalions. The umpire team soon detached two battalions over a 3 turn period and diverted them off table to the east to deal with 'unidentified' threats – alluding to the Prussians.

As a consequence of the congestion on the EAST table the Umpires decided not to bring on Brue's Brigade as a reinforcement simply to avoid an unmanageable situation for Jim O'Neil playing Marcognet. Instead we introduced an 'off the cuff' innovation... we brought a breakthrough brigade from Reille's II Corps on just below the ridge on the extreme left of The WEST table.. Read more of this later in the guide.

In the end.. only 2 battalions from the 4th Infantry Division took an active part in the game .

ORDER OF BATTLE (3)

FRENCH CAVALRY REINFORCEMENTS

Formation		# MODELS IN UNIT	Strength on unit roster
1st Cavalry Division (Jacquinot)		6pdr Horse battery (3 x 6pdr)	
1st Brigade (Bruno)	quality		
7 th Hussars	VE	24	24
3 rd Chasseurs a cheval	D	24	24
2nd Brigade (Gobrecht)			
3 rd Lanciers	D	20	20
4 th Lanciers	D	12	12

Jacquinot's 1st Cavalry Division was part of D'Erlon's I Corps and positioned on the French right at Waterloo. In the scenario it was kept off the field and appeared as a reinforcement. As it arrived on the East table command was given to Jim.

Formation		# MODELS IN UNIT	Strength on unit roster
13th Cavalry Division (Watier)		6pdr Horse battery (3 x 6pdr)	
1st Brigade (Dubois)			
1 ^{er} Cuirassiers	VE	24	24
4 ^e Cuirassiers	DE	16	16
2nd Brigade (Travers)			
7 ^e Cuirassiers	VE	10	10
12 ^e Cuirassiers	DE	18	18

Watier's 13th Cavalry Division was composed entirely of Cuirassiers. In the scenario it arrived on the West table but east of the Charleroi-Brussels road. It was the first French Cavalry to arrive on table and command was given to Chris as most of Quiot's Division was at that point disorganized and dispersed or in La Haie Sainte.

Formation		# MODELS IN UNIT	Strength on unit roster
14th Cavalry Division (Delort)		6pdr Horse battery (3 x 6pdr)	
1st Brigade (Decreux)			
5 ^e Cuirassiers	VE	24	26
10 ^e Cuirassiers	DE	18	18
11 ^e Cuirassiers	DE	8	8
2nd Brigade (Vial)			
6 ^e Cuirassiers	VE	14	14
9 ^e Cuirassiers	DE	22	22

Delort's 14th Cavalry Division was also composed entirely of Cuirassiers. In the scenario it arrived on the East table. It was the second French cavalry formation to arrive on table and command was given to Bob. The Waterloo anoraks will notice that the 11th Cuirassiers have erroneously been included in Decreux's Brigade because we had a few spare cuirassier models we wanted to use!

ORDER OF BATTLE (4)

OTHER FRENCH REINFORCEMENTS

Formation		# MODELS IN UNIT	Strength on unit roster
Old Guard			
(Petit)	quality		
1/1er Grenadiers a pied	G	32	32
2/1er Grenadiers a pied	G	32	32
Young Guard			
()			
1/1 Tirailleurs	DE	32	32
2/1 Tirailleurs	DE	32	32

The scenario required some very high quality reserve troops for the French. We included a regiment from the Old Guard and one from the Young Guard. Although they arrived on the table about 1400 hours 'battle time' they were not handed to the French team till much later. The Emperor (Umpire's) kept control until the time was right in the scenario to release.

Formation		# MODELS IN UNIT	Strength on unit roster
6th Infantry Division (Bonaparte)			
1st Brigade PART (Soye)	quality		
1/1er de Ligne	V	24	24
2/1er de Ligne	D	24	24
1/2e de Ligne	D	24	24
2/2e de Ligne	R	24	24

During the scenario things were getting very busy on the East table and the addition of Durette's full division would have added more problems for the French than for the Allies!

Chris had fought a good battle with Quit's Division but it was disorganized and dispersed from about 1330 battle time till about 1500. On the spur of the moment the Umpire team ditched the second brigade from Durette's brigade as a reinforcement and created an event which saw a breakthrough brigade from Reille's II Corps attacking Hougoumont. This brigade arrived on the 1540 hours turn at the base of the slope on the extreme left of the West table. A bit of a surprise for both teams!

GENERAL NOTES ON QUALITY RATINGS FOR THE FRENCH FORCES

I used a fairly arbitrary system for rating of the quality of French units. It was as much based on getting balanced forces for the game as on service histories. Where unequivocal data was available on performance such as The Old Guard, The 13th Leger, the 105th Line etc, this is reflected in the ratings. Where a unit has a nickname such as the so called 45th Line (The Invincibles) this has also been taken into consideration. Otherwise an infantry brigade usually has one Veteran, two Drilled and one Recruit battalion to gain an overall balance. The first battalion of the first regiment in each brigade is usually Veteran. The 2nd battalion of the second brigade usually Recruit. There are several variations on this.

With the cavalry, all Cuirassiers carried the ELITE suffix because of their well recognised status in the army and on the field. Several of these heavy units are also Veteran. The light cavalry were frequently the busiest in the army and so the Hussars carry a Veteran rating.

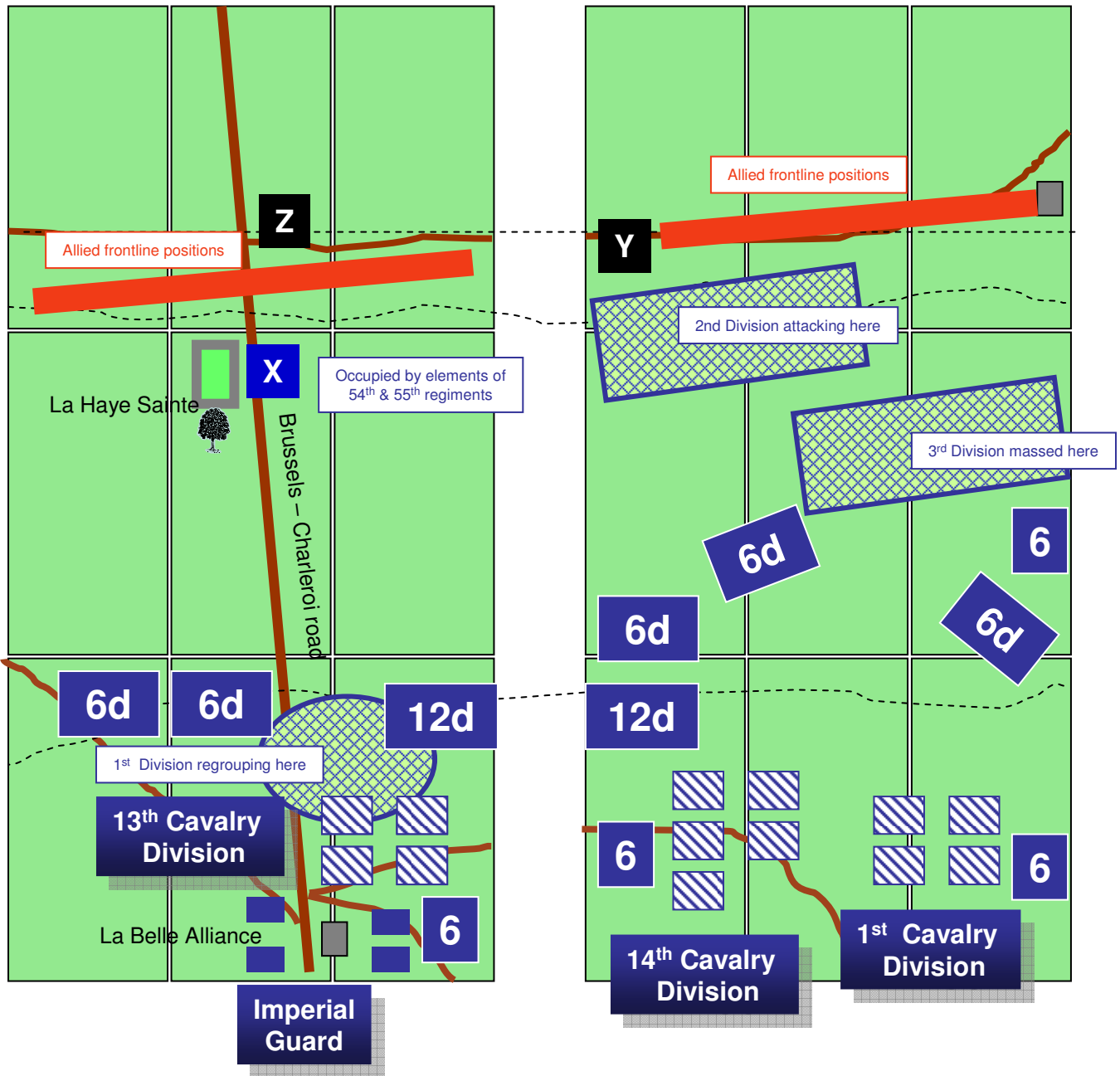
The artillery were generally rated as Drilled except for the Guard. Horse artillery were on most cases classed as Drilled-Elite.

ORDER OF BATTLE (5)

FRENCH CAVALRY REINFORCEMENT POSITIONS

WEST TABLE

EAST TABLE



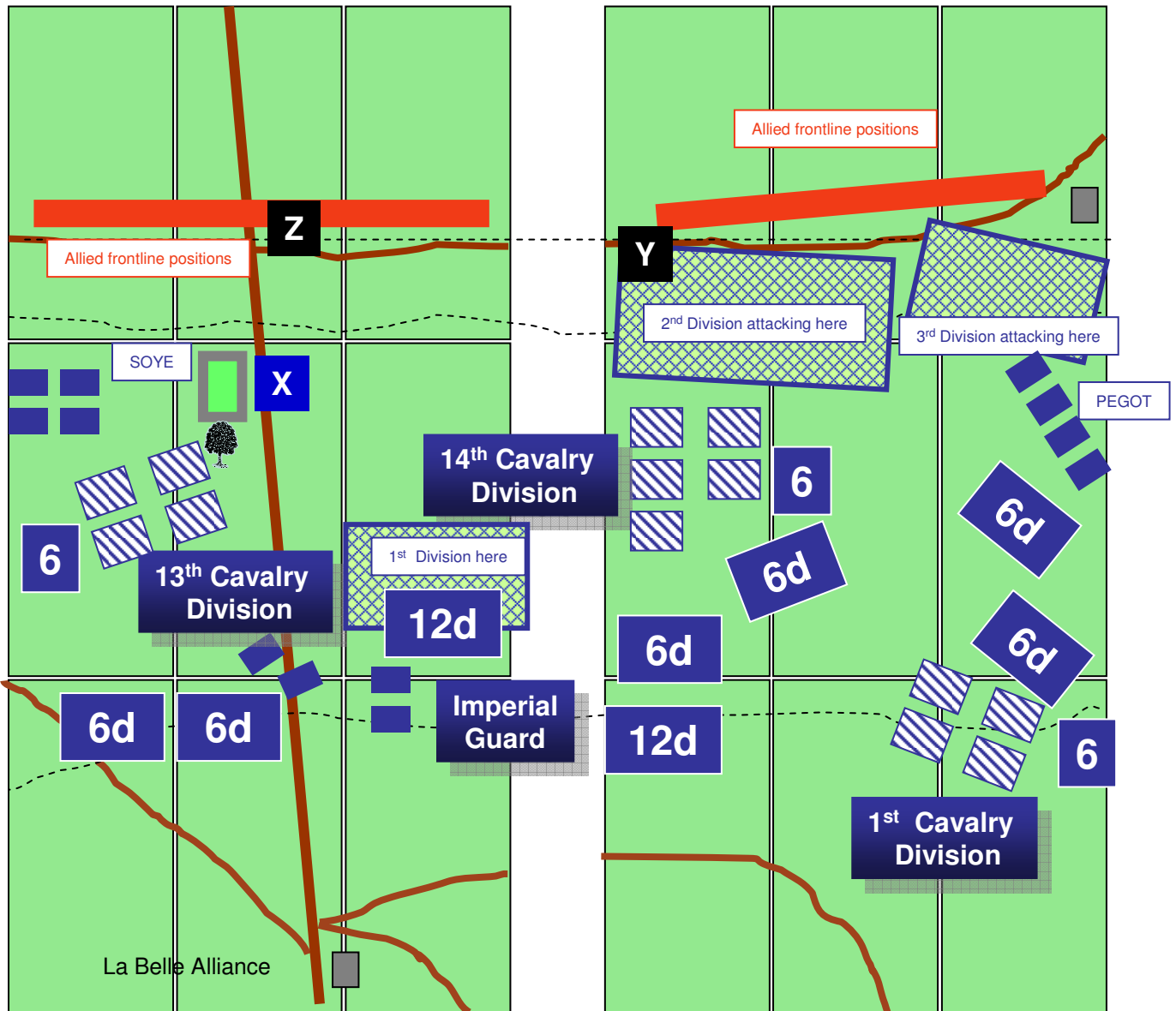
All 4 of these major French reinforcing formations arrived sometime between 1400 and 1440 hours. The approximate positions of the existing divisions and their status are also indicated. Artillery positions are also shown. The 1st Division's artillery company had broken under fire and retreated from the field about 1230 hours.

ORDER OF BATTLE (6)

FRENCH INFANTRY REINFORCEMENT POSITIONS

WEST TABLE

EAST TABLE



Two significant reinforcements Soye's breakthrough brigade on the left and Pegot's on the right although half of the latter was quickly removed from the table to deal with the Prussians farther east.

ORDER OF BATTLE (7)

ALLIED FORCES

Formation		# MODELS IN UNIT	Strength on unit roster
2nd Netherlands Infantry Division (Perponcher)		Bijleveld's 6pdr battery split into 2 half batteries	
1st Brigade (Bijlandt)	quality		
27 th Dutch Jager	D	36	35
7 th Belgian Line	D	24	26
5 th Dutch Militia	R	12	11
7 th Dutch Militia	R	34	36
8 th Dutch Militia	R	28	30
2nd Brigade (Saxe Weimar)			
1 st / 2 nd Nassau Usingen	D	48	45
2 nd / 2 nd Nassau Usingen	R	48	45
3 rd / 2 nd Nassau Usingen	R	48	45
Nassau Jager	DE	9	9

This was the infantry component of Peter McCarroll's command.

The much maligned brigade of Bijlandt performed extremely well during the scenario. In fact the 7th Belgian Line received the umpire's accolade as the hardest fighting unit in the entire battle. It survived artillery bombardments, charges by Donzelot's Brigade and further bombardment. It only broke on the very last turn of the game when having just pulled back from the area of heaviest fighting it stood isolated and battered on the line of the hedged road east of the crossroads. It was charged by enemy cuirassiers and for the first time in the game failed its *Resolve Check* and ran taking the bold Bijlandt with them. No shame there!

Saxe Weimar's powerful 2nd Nassau Usingen Regiment was kept off table and appeared as a reinforcement. Around 1400 hours they marched on from the general direction of Papelette. The Jaeger occupied the 'Papelette building' whilst the battalions engaged heavily with Marcognet's battalions. One performed particularly well routing two French battalions in a bayonet charge.

Quality Ratings for 2nd Netherlands Infantry Division

Available data on performances at Quatre Bras and Waterloo seem to fly in the face of Anglo centric descriptions of the Netherlanders as unreliable and poorly trained. I wanted to strike a balance and rated the regular units as Drilled in the 1st Brigade. I also rated the 1st Bn 2nd Nassau as Drilled. The 'hand picked' nature of the Jaeger unit was rewarded with the suffix of Elite.

Formation		# MODELS IN UNIT	Strength on unit roster
5th British Infantry Division (Picton)		Rogers RFA 9pdr battery (3)	
8th British Brigade (Kempt)		Braun's Hanoverian 6pdr battery(3)	
28 th Foot	D (V)	28	30
32 nd Foot	D (V)	24	25
79 th Foot	D (V)	24	22
95 th Foot	VE	20	21
95 th Foot (detachment)	VE	9	9
9th British Brigade (Pack)			
3/1 st Foot	R	24	23
42 nd Foot	V	18	17
2/44 th Foot	D (V)	24	25
92 nd Foot	V	18	20

This was the infantry component of Paul McLaughlin's command.

Quality Ratings for 5th British Infantry Division

The British often assume demi god status when being rated for Napoleonic games. I always found Bruce Quarrie's rules to be most guilty of this. Like all other armies the quality of troops was variable. The 95th was easy as Veteran-Elite. The 1st Foot was always easy as they were inexperienced lads. The 3 Highland regiments I ruminated over. I do not subscribe to the 'Quarrie-view' that all Highlanders are in some way special but these units were all Peninsular veterans. My classification of the Cameron's as Drilled is probably unfair but otherwise I may have been accused of extreme Scot Nat xenophobia.

In truth the 28th, 32nd and 2/44th should also be classed as Veteran but this would have made the Division enormously resilient. I have in this case added in brackets a retrospective rating if gamers want to resort to the 'weel researched' version of my ratings!

ORDER OF BATTLE (8)

ALLIED FORCES

Formation		# MODELS IN UNIT	Strength on unit roster
3rd British Infantry Division (Alten)		Ross's RHA 9pdr battery (3) Veteran-Elite	
2nd KGL Brigade (Ompteda)			
1 st KGL Light Battalion	VE	24	26
2 nd KGL Light Battalion	VE	20	20
5 th KGL Line	D	24	26
8 th KGL Line	D	32	32
6th British Infantry Division (Cole)			
4th Hanoverian Brigade (Best)			
Verden Landwehr	R	32	32
Luneberg Landwehr	R	32	32
Munden Landwehr	R	32	34
Osterode Landwehr	R	32	35

This was the infantry component of Ray King's command.

Ompteda's brigade provided the garrison for La Haie Sainte in the form of the 2nd Kgl Light battalion. 4 skirmishers were placed in the orchard whilst the rest of the battalion occupied the farm itself

Best's brigade remained hidden until Marcognet's leading battalions attacked the left centre of the line about 3pm. The Osterode Landwehr had already fled about 1pm as a result of an umpire driven event.

Quality Ratings for 3rd British Infantry Division

The King's German Legion was highly rated by Wellington himself. For that reason the Light battalions were rated Veteran – Elite. The Line battalions were rated as Drilled.

Quality Ratings for 4th Hanoverian Infantry Brigade

This was an easy decision. All the battalions are recently recruited Landwehr with no combat experience. They were rated as Recruits.

Formation		# MODELS IN UNIT	Strength on unit roster
Household Brigade (Somerset)		Whinyates RHA 6pdr troop	
1 st Lifeguards	G	12	13
2 nd Lifeguards	G	12	12
Royal Horse Guards	G	12	12
1 st Dragoon Guards	VE	24	29
Union Brigade (Ponsonby)			
1 st Royal Dragoons	V	22	22
2 nd North British Dragoons	D	22	22
6 th Inniskilling Dragoons	D	24	25

Quality Ratings for British Heavy Cavalry

The Household brigade was rated very highly but somewhat controversially I rated the Union Brigade as ordinary Drilled cavalry. The evidence for this very average rating of the famous Greys and Inniskillings was their lack of active service experience over the previous 15 years or so.

The Household Brigade was under the command of Peter McCarroll and the Union Brigade, Paul Mclauchlin

ORDER OF BATTLE (9)

ALLIED REINFORCEMENTS

Formation		# MODELS IN UNIT	Strength on unit roster
Brunswick Light Brigade		Moll's 6pdr Foot battery	
Leib Battalion	DE	32	32
1st Light Battalion	R	32	32
2 nd Light Battalion	R	32	32
3 rd Light Battalion	R	32	32
Avant Garde Battalion	DE	32	32
Brunswick Cavalry Brigade		Heinemann's 6pdr Horse battery	
Uhlans	D	12	12
Hussars	D	12	12
4 th Dutch Light Dragoons	D	24	24

The Brunswick Light Brigade was of variable quality with the better units rated as Drilled-Elite.

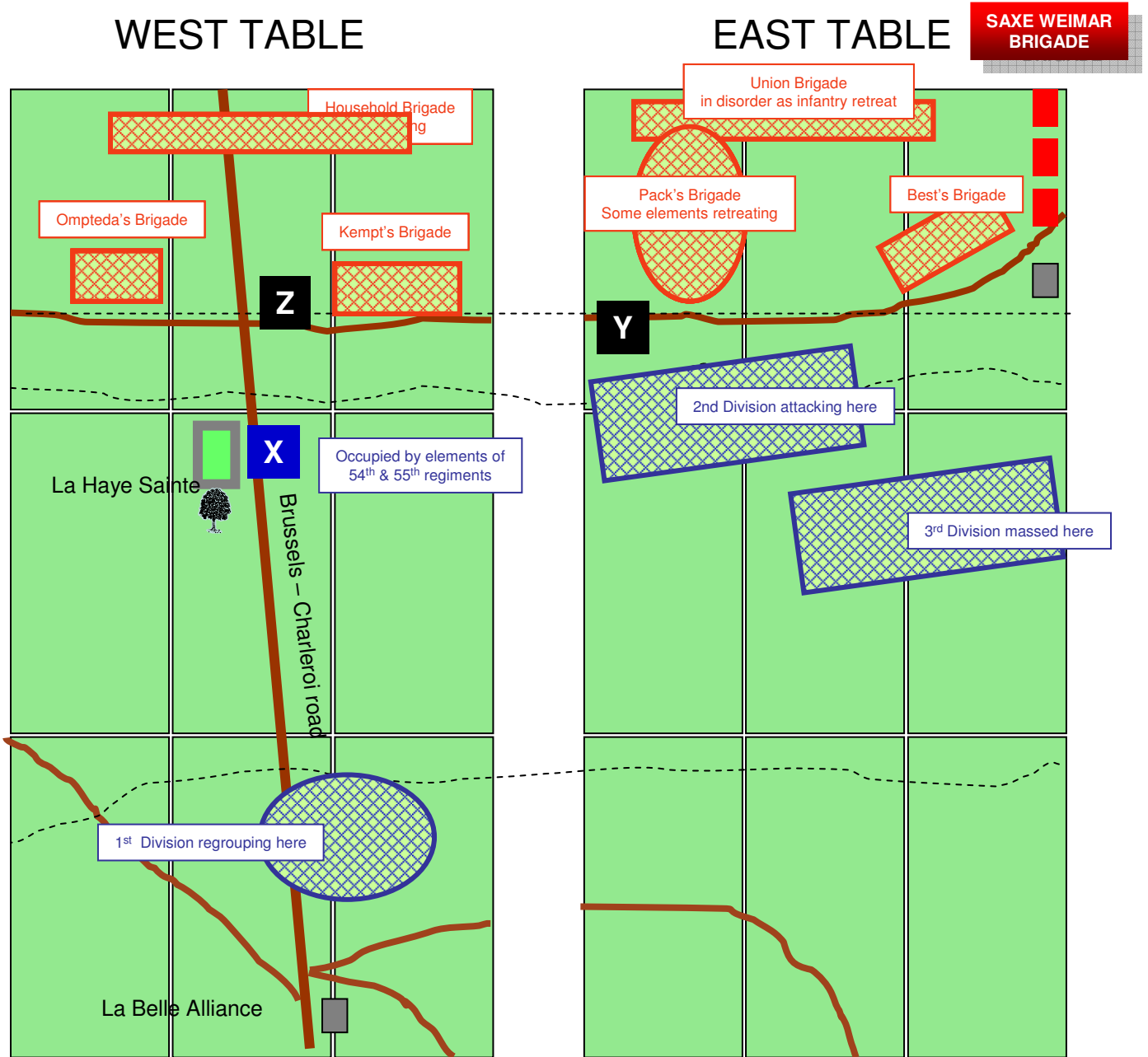
The Brunswick Cavalry contingent was beefed up by adding a unit of Dutch Belgian Light Dragoons. Rather than feed in two brigades I used this composite formation to represent units being thrown into the crisis area by Wellington on a piece meal basis. Their rating a Drilled is probably a little generous particularly for the Brunswickers

Formation		# MODELS IN UNIT	Strength on unit roster
4th British Cavalry Brigade (Vandeleur)			
11 th Light Dragoons	D	18	22
12 th Light Dragoons	D	18	22
16 th Light Dragoons	D	18	22

Vandeleur's brigade was moved via internal lines of communication from 'off table' on the extreme Allied left to arrive around 1540 on the extreme right of the Allied position behind the ridge and west of La Haie Sainte.

ORDER OF BATTLE (10)

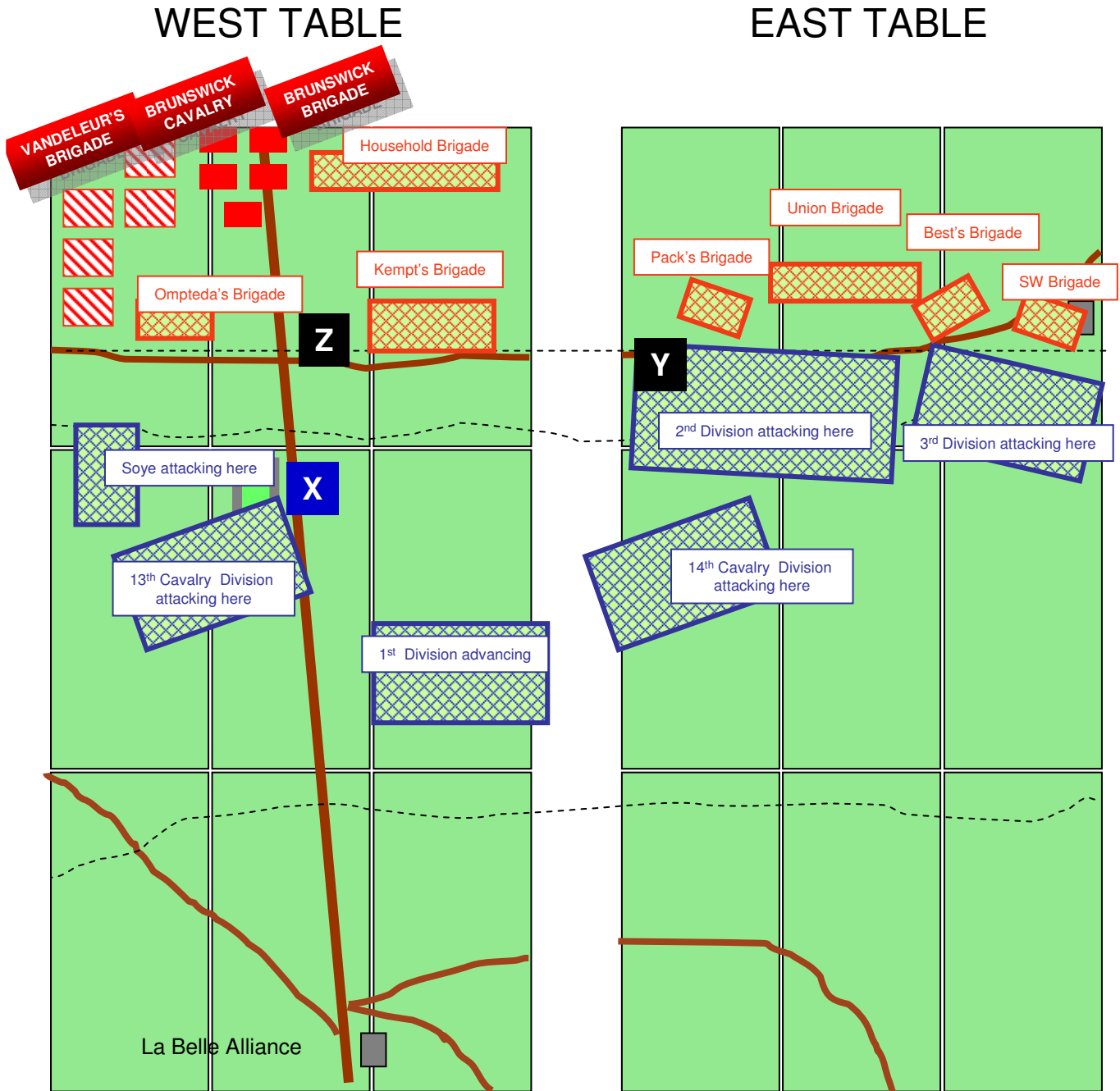
ALLIED INFANTRY REINFORCEMENT POSITIONS 1



The arrival of Saxe Weimar's Brigade from the Papelotte area around 1500 hours

ORDER OF BATTLE (11)

ALLIED REINFORCEMENT POSITIONS 2



The final Allied reinforcement arrival positions. Vandeleur and the Brunswick Light Brigade arrived about 1540 with the Brunswick cavalry following about 1600