

# The Battle Of Ligny

16 June, 1815

A *Grande Armée* scenario by Lloyd Eaker

As Napoleon opened his 1815 offensive into Belgium he rapidly began to squander the advantages of interior lines and strategic surprise. Splitting his army with a smaller wing under Ney to take the crossroads of Quatre Bras, Napoleon planned to assemble the main body to strike the Prussians at Ligny. But Ney bungled the Quatres Bras operation, Napoleon was unable to assemble his entire force, and the Prussians put up a ferocious resistance. As evening fell, Napoleon committed his Guard for a final assault that broke the Prussian lines. But the late hour and French exhaustion meant that the Prussians got away without a serious pursuit, and Napoleon seemed unable or unwilling to organize one until the next day, by which time it was too late. Napoleon had won his last victory.

## The Scenario:

The Weather is normal and variable. The ground is Hard. The game begins on turn 4, and the basic length is 8.

The French Army is "Fair" Its break point is 13.

The Prussian Army is "Fair". Its break point is 16.

## *Alternative Lignys, Play-Balancing, and What-Ifs:*

Both sides were expecting reinforcements that never came. Aside from altering the weather or generals' abilities, the following Force additions could make for a radical transformation of the game. In each case, these are Forces which appeared two days later at Waterloo, so players should copy the Force rosters and labels from the Waterloo scenario in the *Grande Armée* rulebook.

### 1. D'Erlon

The French I Corps was marching and countermarching between the battles of Ligny and Quatre Bras, responding to Napoleon and Ney's contradictory orders. At one point they were clearly visible to the Prussians, who feared a devastating descent upon their right flank. If you wish to simulate this option, then at the end of Turn 3 Napoleon and Blücher each begin rolling a die. If Napoleon's roll is higher, then D'Erlon has listened to Napoleon's orders and disregarded Ney's, and the I Corps will arrive in the first pulse of the next Turn. If Blücher's is equal or higher, then I Corps is still confused. Do this at the end of each Turn until D'Erlon arrives. At the end of Turn 5, Napoleon gets a +1 modifier to his roll. The I Corps will enter on the West map edge between Wagnele and Marbais.

### 2. Bülow

The Prussian IV Corps was a day behind the rest of the army. It had been deployed furthest away from Army HQ, but it was also suffering from a staff problem and Bülow's personal spat with Gneisenau. As a result, it got a leisurely start on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and never made the battle of Ligny. If you wish to include it, then have the Blücher player roll at the end of Turn 3, trying to roll *less than* the current turn number. Repeat at the end of each turn until successful. The IV Corps will enter on the first pulse of the next turn, on the northern map-edge along the road leading to Sombreffe.

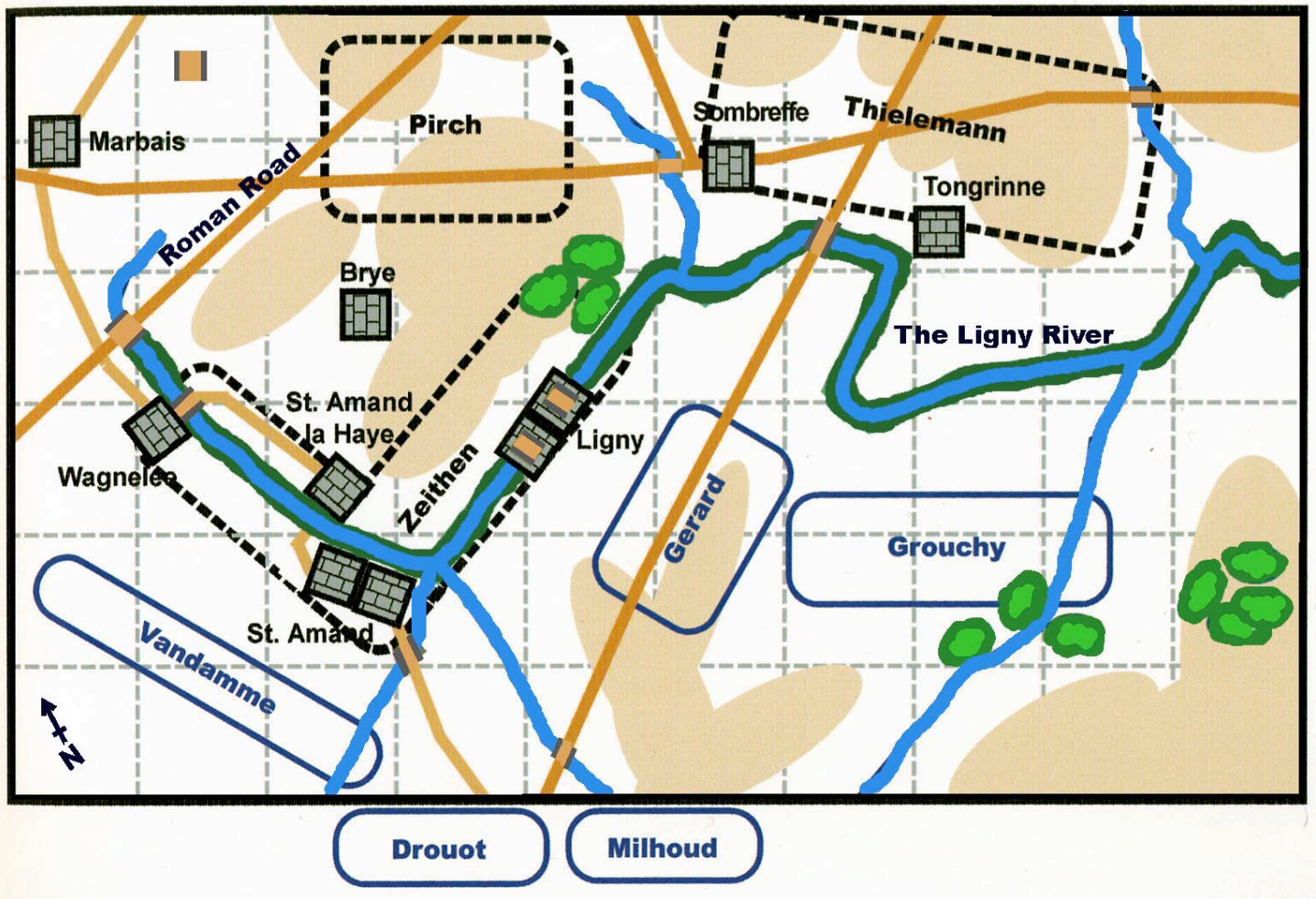
### 3. Lobau

The French VI Corps did actually arrive in the final hour of the battle and played virtually no role in the fighting. Apparently its tardiness was the result of poor staffwork by Soult and poor memory on the part of Napoleon. If you wish to include it, have it enter on the St. Amand road on the South edge on the first pulse of Turn 6. (Note: if using the Waterloo OB, remove the two cavalry units from the VI Corps, as they were attached to the corps only for Waterloo. The VI Corps had no cavalry at Ligny.)

## The Map:

The sectors are one foot square. The towns are all hard cover. The The Ligny River is rough ground and is considered 2" wide at all points East of the Roman Road. This is indicated by the extra wide banks on the map. West of the Roman Road the The Ligny River counts as an obstacle. All contours are slight. So cavalry attacking downhill should be penalized by -1 in combat instead of not being allowed to attack. The Town of Ligny is straddling the Ligny River. The bridges in the town are just for information and to make clear that the river is just part of the town at this point. Attackers do not have to cross the river to attack troops in the town, to enter the town or to leave the town. Drouot's and Milhoud's Forces are deployed just off the table. They count as Forces for CPs and may be entered any time they are given CPs by Napoleon. They may not move on their own initiative.

# The Battlefield of Ligny



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# *Roster for l'armee du Nord*

Commander: Napoleon (Good)

Weather: Normal, Variable (20")

Army's Break Point: (Fair) 13 \_\_\_\_\_

Generals Available: 3

This is a Napoleonic Army of 5 Forces. Napoleon has no ADCs. He does have Marshal Grouchy who has command of the I and II Cavalry Corps and acts as one of the Forces.

## **IMPERIAL GUARD: GENERAL DROUOT 2 / 18"**

### **1st Division: Friant**

G/1/1 O.G. Grenadiers a pied SK2 Guard 12SP \_\_\_\_\_

G/1/2 M.G. Grenadiers SK2 Guard 10SP \_\_\_\_\_

### **2nd Division: Morand**

G/2/1 O.G. Chasseurs a pied SK2 Guard 14SP \_\_\_\_\_

G/2/2 M.G. Chasseurs SK2 Guard 12SP \_\_\_\_\_

### **3rd Division: Duhesme**

G/3/1 Chartrand SK2 Elite 9SP \_\_\_\_\_

G/3/2 Guye SK2 Elite 9SP \_\_\_\_\_

### **Guard Cavalry**

G/C Guard Heavy Cavalry Guard 12SP \_\_\_\_\_

### **Corps Artillery:**

G: O.G. 12-pdr Foot A \_\_\_\_\_

G: O.G. 12-pdr Foot B \_\_\_\_\_

G: O.G. 12-pdr Foot C \_\_\_\_\_

G: O.G. 6-pdr Horse A \_\_\_\_\_

G: O.G. 6-pdr Horse B \_\_\_\_\_

## **III CORPS: GENERAL VANDAMME 3 / 18" VALOR AGGRESSIVE**

### **8th Infantry Division: Lefol**

III/8/1 Billard (Legere) SK2 Veteran 8SP \_\_\_\_\_

III/8/2 Corsin SK2 Trained 6SP \_\_\_\_\_

### **10th Infantry Division: Habert**

III/10/1 Gengoult SK2 Trained 7SP \_\_\_\_\_

III/10/2 Dupeyroux SK2 Trained 8SP \_\_\_\_\_

### **11th Infantry Division: Berthezene**

III/11/1 Dufour SK2 Trained 6SP \_\_\_\_\_

III/11/2 Lagarde SK2 Trained 5SP \_\_\_\_\_

### **3rd Cavalry Division**

III/C/1 Domon (Chasseurs) Trained 3SP \_\_\_\_\_

### **ATTACHED**

### **7th Infantry Division: Girard**

III/7/1 Sebastiani (Legere) SK2 Veteran 6SP \_\_\_\_\_

III/7/2 Matis (Legere) SK2 Veteran 7SP \_\_\_\_\_

### **5th Cavalry Division**

III/C/2 Subervie (Lancers) Veteran 5SP \_\_\_\_\_

### **Corps Artillery:**

III: 12-pdr Foot \_\_\_\_\_

III: 6-pdr Horse \_\_\_\_\_

**IV CORPS: GENERAL GERARD 2 / 14" VALOR**

**12th Infantry Division: Pecheux**

IV/7/1 Rome	SK2	Trained	7SP	_____
IV/7/2 Schaffer (Legere)	SK2	Veteran	6SP	_____

**13th Infantry Division: Vichery**

IV/8/1 LeCapitane	SK2	Veteran	5SP	_____
IV/8/2 Desprez	SK2	Trained	5SP	_____

**14th Infantry Division: Hulot**

IV/10/1 Hulst (Legere)	SK2	Veteran	7SP	_____
IV/10/2 Toussaint	SK2	Trained	5SP	_____

**VI Cavalry Division**

IV/C Maurin (Hussars&Dragoons)	Veteran	6SP	_____
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**Corps Artillery:**

**III:** 12-pder Foot \_\_\_\_\_

**III:** 6-pder Horse \_\_\_\_\_

**IV CAVALRY CORPS: GENERAL MILHAUD 2 / 6" VALOR**

IVC1 Wathier (Cuirassiers)	Elite	6SP	_____
IVC2 Delort (Cuirassiers)	Elite	7SP	_____

**Corps Artillery:**

IVC 6-pder Horse A \_\_\_\_\_

IVC 6-pder Horse B \_\_\_\_\_

**CAVALRY: MARSHAL GROUCHY 2 / 9"**

C/4CD Soult (Hussars)	Elite	6SP	_____
C/9CD Strolz (Dragoons)	Trained	5SP	_____
C/10CD Chastel (Dragoons)	Trained	6SP	_____

**Corps Artillery:**

C 6-pder Horse A \_\_\_\_\_

C 6-pder Horse B \_\_\_\_\_

C 6-pder Horse C \_\_\_\_\_

# *Roster for die Rheinarmee*

Commander: Blucher (Good)

Weather: Normal, Variable (20")

Army's Break Point: (Fair) 16

Generals Available: 2

This is a Napoleonic Army of 3 Forces.

## **I CORPS: GENERAL ZEITHEN 3 / 18" VALOR**

### **1st Infantry Brigade: Steinmetz**

I/1/1 12th Line MX SK2 Veteran 7SP \_\_\_\_\_

I/1/2 24th Line SK2 Trained 7SP \_\_\_\_\_

I/1/3 1st Westphalian Ldwr SK1 Conscript 5SP \_\_\_\_\_

### **2nd Infantry Brigade: Pirch II**

I/2/1 6th Line SK2 Veteran 7SP \_\_\_\_\_

I/2/2 28th Line SK1 Trained 6SP \_\_\_\_\_

I/2/3 2nd Westphalian Ldwr Conscript 4SP \_\_\_\_\_

### **3rd Infantry Brigade: Jagow**

I/3/1 7th Line SK2 Veteran 6SP \_\_\_\_\_

I/3/2 29th Line SK2 Trained 5SP \_\_\_\_\_

I/3/3 3rd Westphalian Ldwr SK1 Conscript 4SP \_\_\_\_\_

### **4th Infantry Brigade: Donnersmark**

I/4/1 19th Line SK1 Trained 5SP \_\_\_\_\_

I/4/2 4th Westphalian Ldwr Conscript 4SP \_\_\_\_\_

### **1st Cavalry Division: Roder**

I/C/1 Treskow (Dragoons) Trained 5SP \_\_\_\_\_

I/C/2 Lutzow (Landwehr) Conscript 4SP \_\_\_\_\_

### **Corps Artillery:**

I: 12-pdr Foot A \_\_\_\_\_

I: 12-pdr Foot B \_\_\_\_\_

I: 6-pdr Horse A \_\_\_\_\_

I: 6-pdr Horse B \_\_\_\_\_

I: Howitzer Btty \_\_\_\_\_

**II CORPS: GENERAL VON PIRCH 3 / 19"****5th Infantry Brigade: Tippelskirch**

II/5/1 2nd Line	SK2	Veteran	6SP	_____
II/5/2 25th Line	SK1	Trained	5SP	_____
II/5/3 5th Westphalian Ldwr	MX	Conscript	4SP	_____

**6th Infantry Brigade: Krafft**

II/6/1 9th Line	SK2	Veteran	6SP	_____
II/6/2 26th Line	SK1	Trained	5SP	_____
II/6/3 1st Elbe Ldwr	MX	Conscript	4SP	_____

**7th Infantry Brigade: Brause**

II/7/1 14th Line	SK1	Trained	6SP	_____
II/7/2 22nd Line	SK1	Trained	6SP	_____
II/7/3 2nd Elbe Ldwr	MX	Conscript	4SP	_____

**8th Infantry Brigade: Bose**

II/8/1 21st Line	SK1	Trained	5SP	_____
II/8/1 23rd Line	SK1	Trained	4SP	_____
II/8/2 3rd Elbe Ldwr	MX	Conscript	4SP	_____

**1st Cavalry Division: Jurgass**

II/C/1 Thumen (Drngns & Ldwr)		Trained	4SP	_____
II/C/2 Sohr (Hussars)		Elite	7SP	_____

**Corps Artillery:**

II: 12-pder Foot A	_____
II: 12-pder Foot B	_____
II: 6-pder Horse A	_____
II: 6-pder Horse B	_____
II: 6-pder Horse C	_____

**III CORPS - GENERAL THIELMANN 2 / 20"****9th Infantry Brigade: Borcke**

III/9/1 8th Line	SK2	Veteran	6SP	_____
III/9/2 30th Line	SK1	Trained	5SP	_____
III/9/3 1st Kurmark Ldwr	MX	Conscript	4SP	_____

**10th Infantry Brigade: Kemphen**

III/10/1 27th Line	SK1	Trained	5SP	_____
III/10/2 2nd Kurmark Ldwr	MX	Conscript	4SP	_____

**11th Infantry Brigade: Luck**

III/11/1 3rd Kurmark Ldwr	MX	Conscript	4SP	_____
III/11/2 4th Kurmark Ldwr	MX	Conscript	4SP	_____

**12th Infantry Brigade: Stulpnagel**

III/12/1 31st Line	SK1	Trained	5SP	_____
III/12/2 5th&6th Kurmark	MX	Conscript	6SP	_____

**3rd Cavalry Division: Hobe**

III/C/1 Marwitz (Uhlans)		Veteran	4SP	_____
III/C/2 Lottum (Dragoons)		Trained	4SP	_____

**Corps Artillery:**

III: 12-pder Foot	_____
III: 6-pder Horse A	_____
III: 6-pder Horse B	_____
III: 6-pder Horse C	_____

## ***Labels for the Ligny Scenario***

### **Napoleon (Good)**

#### **G: DROUOT 2 / 18"**

G/1/1 O.G. Grenadiers a pied SK2  
 G/1/2 M.G. Grenadiers SK2  
 G/2/1 O.G. Chasseurs a pied SK2  
 G/2/2 M.G. Chasseurs SK2  
 G/3/1 Chartrand SK2  
 G/3/2 Guye SK2

G/C Guard Heavy Cavalry

**G:** O.G. 12-pder Foot A

**G:** O.G. 12-pder Foot B

**G:** O.G. 12-pder Foot C

**G:** O.G. 6-pder Horse A

**G:** O.G. 6-pder Horse B

#### **III: VANDAMME (V) 3 / 18"**

III/8/1 Billard (Legere) SK2  
 III/8/2 Corsin SK2  
 III/10/1 Gengoult SK2  
 III/10/2 Dupeyroux SK2  
 III/11/1 Dufour SK2  
 III/11/2 Lagarde SK2

III/C/1 Domon (Chasseurs)

III/7/1 Sebastiani (Legere)

III/7/2 Matis (Legere)

III/C/2 Subervie (Lancers)

**III:** 12-pder Foot

**III:** 6-pder Horse

#### **IV: GERARD (V) 2 / 14"**

IV/7/1 Rome SK2  
 IV/7/2 Schaffer (Legere) SK2  
 IV/8/1 LeCapitane SK2  
 IV/8/2 Desprez SK2  
 IV/10/1 Hulst (Legere) SK2  
 IV/10/2 Toussaint SK2

IV/C Maurin (Hussars&Dragoons)

**III:** 12-pder Foot

**III:** 6-pder Horse

#### **IV CAV: MILHAUD (V) 2 / 6"**

IVC1 Wathier (Cuirassiers)

IVC2 Delort (Cuirassiers)

**IVC** 6-pder Horse A

**IVC** 6-pder Horse B

#### **CAV: GROUCHY 2 / 9"**

C/4CD Soult (Hussars)

C/9CD Strolz (Dragoons)

C/10CD Chastel (Dragoons)

**C** 6-pder Horse A

**C** 6-pder Horse B

**C** 6-pder Horse C

### **Blucher (Good)**

#### **I ZEITHEN (V) 3 / 18"**

I/1/1 12th Line MX SK2

I/1/2 24th Line SK2

I/1/3 1st Westphalian Ldwr SK1

I/2/1 6th Line SK2

I/2/2 28th Line SK1

I/2/3 2nd Westphalian Ldwr

I/3/1 7th Line SK2

I/3/2 29th Line SK2

I/3/3 3rd Westphalian Ldwr SK1

I/4/1 19th Line SK1

I/4/2 4th Westphalian Ldwr

I/C/1 Treskow (Dragoons)

I/C/2 Lutzow (Landwehr)

**I:** 12-pder Foot A

**I:** 12-pder Foot B

**I:** 6-pder Horse A

**I:** 6-pder Horse B

**I:** Howitzer Btty

#### **II: VON PIRCH 3 / 19"**

II/5/1 2nd Line SK2

II/5/2 25th Line SK1

II/5/3 5th Westphalian Ldwr MX

II/6/1 9th Line SK2

II/6/2 26th Line SK1

II/6/3 1st Elbe Ldwr MX

II/7/1 14th Line SK1

II/7/2 22nd Line SK1

II/7/3 2nd Elbe Ldwr MX

II/8/1 21st Line SK1

II/8/1 23rd Line SK1

II/8/2 3rd Elbe Ldwr MX

II/C/1 Thumen (Drgns & Ldwr)

II/C/2 Sohr (Hussars)

**II:** 12-pder Foot A

**II:** 12-pder Foot B

**II:** 6-pder Horse A

**II:** 6-pder Horse B

**II:** 6-pder Horse C

#### **III THIELMANN 2 / 20"**

III/9/1 8th Line SK2

III/9/2 30th Line SK1

III/9/3 1st Kurmark Ldwr MX

III/10/1 27th Line SK1

III/10/2 2nd Kurmark Ldwr MX

III/11/1 3rd Kurmark Ldwr MX

III/11/2 4th Kurmark Ldwr MX

III/12/1 31st Line SK1

III/12/2 5th&6th Kurmark MX

III/C/1 Marwitz (Uhlans)

III/C/2 Lottum (Dragoons)

**III:** 12-pder Foot

**III:** 6-pder Horse A

**III:** 6-pder Horse B

**III:** 6-pder Horse C