



Division Dufour in the 1814 Campaign in France

General François Marie Dufour (1769-1815)

Wounded at Borodino, Dufour seized the Kremlin upon entry into Moscow. As the Grande Armée fell back from Leipzig in November 1813, Dufour took temporary command of the II Corps at Strasbourg. In January of 1814 he took command of the 1st Division of the Paris Reserve under [General Gérard](#).

On 15-Jan Dufour's division had 8,721 men in three brigades.

Bde Jarry: 7/12L, 6/29L, 7/2, 6/4, (3,900)

Bde Bellair: 8/32, 6/58, 3/135, 3/155. (2,283)

Bde Bourmont: 113 (2,193)

Arty and Train: 1 Foot bty, 1 Horse bty, 2/14 Train bn (345)

On 25-Jan the division had 8,291 men in three brigades.

Bde Jarry: 8/32, 6/58, 7/12L, 6/29L (2,325) at Arcis-sur-Aube.

Bde Bellair: 7/2, 6/4, 3/135, 139, 3/155. (3,493). Detached to Châlons.

Bde Bourmont: 113 (2,173). Det. to Troyes, under Mortier.

Arty and Train: 340

On 26-Jan the division arrived at Lesmont. Failing to destroy the bridge there because of a lack of sappers, it withdrew to Vitry-le-François. On 28-Jan Gérard left Vitry with the divisions of Dufour and Ricard (from Marmont's VI Corps), and the cavalry brigade of General Piquet, marching on the road from Vitry to Brienne. The Dufour division marched behind div. Ricard toward Chavanges, stopping at Braux-le-Comte. At La Rothière, Dufour took post in reserve on the right flank of the French army, behind Dienville. On this day (1-Feb.) the division had three brigades, only one of which was present:

Bde Jarry: 8/32, 6/58, 7/12L, 6/29L

Bde Bellair: 7/2, 6/4, 3/135, 139, 3/155. Present at the battle (3,400)*

Bde Bourmont: 113

Arty and Train: 300

*LPeD game OrBat gives only 2L, 4L, 15L, 135, 139, 155

After the battle the French forces moved back to defend the Seine and had four days to regroup before the Hauptarmee began its offensive from Troyes.

On 8-Feb. the division had 1,503 men in two brigades at Plancy l'Abbaye, having lost about 3,000 men of Bde. Bellair during and after the battle of La Rothière.

Bde Jarry: 1013

Bde Bellair: 490

On 15-Feb Gérard's Reserve Corps had 4,500 men in the divisions of Dufour and La Hamelinaye. On the 17th the division did most of the fighting at Mormant.

On 22-Feb the division had about 2,300 men (Nafziger, p. 631). On that date Gérard's Paris Reserve Corps was merged with the II Corps and Dufour's division was amalgamated with Châtaux's division of the II Corps. Four days later (26-Feb), the combined II/Res Corps had lost 17%. If we apply that ratio to Dufour's strength, he would be down to 2,000 men.