

**Changes in the Composition of a British Division
On the Western Front
1914-1918**

August 1914

Headquarters:

Divisional HQ

Infantry:

3 Brigades (12 infantry bns, with 2 Vickers MGs each)

Mounted Troops:

1 Sqn, Divisional Cavalry

1 Divisional Cyclist Company

Artillery:

HQ Divisional Artillery

3 Field Artillery Brigades (18pdrs) & 3 BACs

1 Field Artillery (How) Brigade (4.5" how) & 1 (How) BAC.

1 Heavy Battery (60pdrs) and Heavy Battery AC.

1 Divisional Ammunition Column (DAC)

Engineers:

HQ Divisional Engineers

3 Field Companies

Signal Service:

1 Signal Company

Service Units:

3 Field Ambulances

1 Mobile Veterinary Section

1 Divisional Train (4 Horse Transport Cos, ASC)

All Ranks 18,179

Horses 5,594

Guns

18pdrs 54

4.5" how 18

60pdrs 4

Trench Mortars

Stokes

Medium (2")

Heavy (9.45")

Machine Guns

Vickers 24

Lewis

Carts & Vehicles 877

Cycles 382

Motor Cycles 9

Motor Cars 9

Motor Lorries

Motor Ambulances

June 1915

Headquarters:

Divisional HQ

Infantry:

3 Brigades (12 infantry bns, with 4 Vickers MGs each)

Mounted Troops:

1 Sqn, Divisional Cavalry

1 Divisional Cyclist Company

Artillery:

HQ Divisional Artillery

3 Field Artillery Brigades (18pdrs) & 3 BACs

1 Field Artillery (How) Brigade (4.5" how) & 1 (How) BAC.

1 Divisional Ammunition Column (DAC)

Engineers:

HQ Divisional Engineers

3 Field Companies

Signal Service:

1 Signal Company

Service Units:

3 Field Ambulances

1 Sanitary Section

1 Mobile Veterinary Section

1 Workshop for Motor Ambulance Cars

1 Divisional Train (4 Horse Transport Cos, ASC)

All Ranks 18,122

Horses 5,174

Guns

18pdrs 48

4.5" how 8

60pdrs

Trench Mortars

Stokes

Medium (2")

Heavy (9.45")

Machine Guns

Vickers 48

Lewis

Carts & Vehicles 834

Cycles 521

Motor Cycles 17

Motor Cars 11

Motor Lorries 5

Motor Ambulances 21

September 1916

Headquarters:

Divisional HQ

Infantry:

3 Brigades (12 infantry bns, with 12 Lewis MGs each)

3 Brigade Machine Gun Companies (16 Vickers MGs each)

3 Trench Mortar Batteries (8-3" stokes motars each)

Artillery:

HQ Divisional Artillery

4 Field Artillery Brigades (18pdrs & 4.5" how)

3 Medium Trench Mortar Batteries (4-2" TM each)
1 Heavy Trench Mortar Battery (4-9.45" TM each)
1 Divisional Ammunition Column (DAC)

Engineers:

HQ Divisional Engineers
3 Field Companies

Pioneers:

1 Pioneer Battalion (8 Lewis MGs)

Signal Service:

1 Signal Company

Service Units:

3 Field Ambulances
1 Sanitary Section
1 Mobile Veterinary Section
1 Divisional Train (4 Horse Transport Cos, ASC)

All Ranks	19,372
Horses	5,145
Guns	
18pdrs	48
4.5" how	16
60pdrs	
Trench Mortars	
Stokes	24
Medium (2")	12
Heavy (9.45")	4
Machine Guns	
Vickers	48
Lewis	152
Carts & Vehicles	878
Cycles	372
Motor Cycles	24
Motor Cars	13
Motor Lorries	3
Motor Ambulances	21

April 1917

Headquarters:

Divisional HQ

Infantry:

3 Brigades (12 infantry bns, with 16 Lewis MGs each)
3 Brigade Machine Gun Companies (16 Vickers MGs each)
3 Trench Mortar Batteries (8-3" stokes motars each)

Artillery:

HQ Divisional Artillery
2 Field Artillery Brigades (18pdrs & 4.5" how)
3 Medium Trench Mortar Batteries (4-2" TM each)
1 Heavy Trench Mortar Battery (4-9.45" TM each)
1 Divisional Ammunition Column (DAC)

Engineers:

HQ Divisional Engineers
3 Field Companies

Pioneers:

1 Pioneer Battalion (8 Lewis MGs)

Machine Gun Unit:

1 Machine Gun Company (16 Vickers MGs)

Signal Service:

1 Signal Company

Service Units:

3 Field Ambulances

1 Sanitary Section

1 Mobile Veterinary Section

1 Divisional Train (4 Horse Transport Cos, ASC)

All Ranks 18,825

Horses 4,342

Guns

18pdrs 36

4.5" how 12

60pdrs

Trench Mortars

Stokes 24

Medium (2") 12

Heavy (9.45") 4

Machine Guns

Vickers 64

Lewis 200

Carts & Vehicles 845

Cycles 388

Motor Cycles 22

Motor Cars 11

Motor Lorries 3

Motor Ambulances 21

October 1918

Headquarters:

Divisional HQ

Infantry:

3 Brigades (9 infantry bns, with 36 Lewis MGs each)

3 Trench Mortar Batteries (8-3" stokes motars each)

Artillery:

HQ Divisional Artillery

2 Field Artillery Brigades (18pdrs & 4.5" how)

2 Medium Trench Mortar Batteries (4-2" TM each)

1 Divisional Ammunition Column (DAC)

Engineers:

HQ Divisional Engineers

3 Field Companies

Pioneers:

1 Pioneer Battalion (12 Lewis MGs)

Machine Gun Unit:

1 Machine Gun Battalion (4 cos, with 16 Vickers MGs ea)

Signal Service:

1 Signal Company

Service Units:

3 Field Ambulances

1 Sanitary Section

1 Mobile Veterinary Section

1 Divisional Train (4 Horse Transport Cos, ASC)

All Ranks	16,035
Horses	3,838
Guns	
18pdrs	36
4.5" how	12
60pdrs	
Trench Mortars	
Stokes	24
Medium (2")	12
Machine Guns	
Vickers	64
Lewis	336
Carts & Vehicles	822
Cycles	341
Motor Cycles	44
Motor Cars	11
Motor Lorries	3
Motor Ambulances	21

Becke, A.F., History of the Great War Based on Official Documents, Order of Battle of Divisions, His Majesty's Stationary Office, 1937. Copyright GFN 1992.