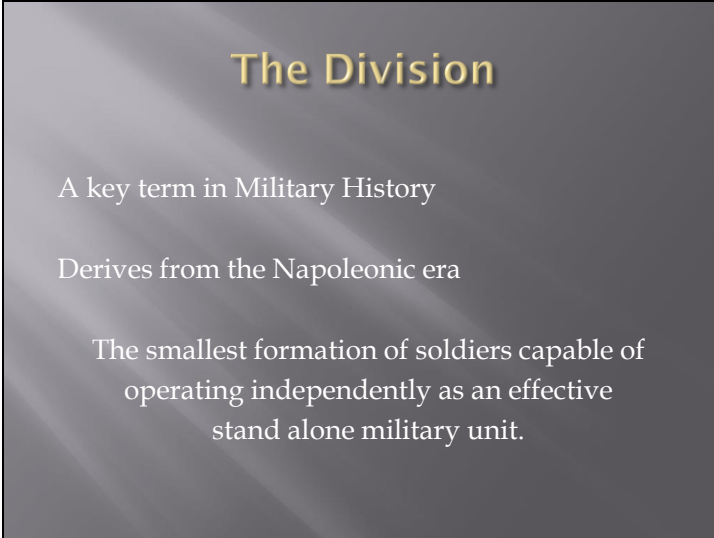


Slide 1

1914 ARMY FORMATIONS

The Division

Slide 2



The Division

A key term in Military History

Derives from the Napoleonic era

The smallest formation of soldiers capable of operating independently as an effective stand alone military unit.

In pre war Europe each of the belligerent nations used the Division as the building block for their respective armies.

1914 Divisions initially consisted of about 20,000 officers and men.

Of that number 12,000 were infantry and 8,000 provided support functions – artillery, transport, catering, health, engineers payroll etc etc.

A Division was in effect the size of a reasonable sized regional European city of the era – except it was mobile.

Slide 3

The Division




Transporting a Division by rail required 30 trains X 40 carriages + 8 vans carrying gear and provisions

In August 1914 the rail systems of France and Germany transported in excess of 100 Divisions

Slide 4

The Division



Marching

The standard British / Dominion marching pace in 1914 was

- 98 yards (90 metres) a minute
- 3 miles (4.8 k) per hour
- 25 miles (40 kilometres) a day

This would have approximated the march rate of other nations at the time. In an era of unpaved roads the movement of a Division from point A to B provided a significant challenge.

Slide 5

An Army Marches on its Stomach



FEEEDING THE MEN IN THE TRENCHES - A GERMAN FIELD BAKERY

The Division



Consumption

A British Division during the war consumed between one and a quarter and four trainloads of supplies each day, depending on whether it was resting or fighting.

Slide 7

The Division



- ▣ The 'Mad Minute'
- ▣ Russia - 114 Divisions
- ▣ France - 80 Divisions
- ▣ Germany - 80 Divisions

In just one minute a well trained army Division in 1914 had the combined ability to discharge 120,000 rounds of rifle fire, 14,000 machine gun rounds and at least 1,000 explosive shells.

Slide 8

The Division

Formations within a Division

Formation	Strength	Sub Units	Commander
Section	16 > 9 men		Corporals & Sergeant
Platoon	60 > 30	4 Sections > 3	Lieutenant
Company	225 > 100	4 Platoons	Captain / Major
Battalion	1000 > 550	4 Companies (ABCD)	Lieutenant Colonel
Brigade	4,000 > 2,500	4 Battalions	Brigadier
Division	20,000 > 10,000	3 Brigades	Major General

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The Division

Military Formations Beyond the Division

Formation	Strength	Made up of	Commander
Division	20,000 > 10,000		
Corps	40,000 > 60,000	2 > 4 Divisions	Lieutenant General
Army	80,000 >120,000+	2 > 3 Corps	General

After 1916 Britain had five Armies on the Western Front, with Australia's five AIF Divisions split up among them, AIF Divisions were moved from army to army as required.

The four Canadian divisions fought as a united unit under the command of a Canadian general.

The AIF was combined as a Corps in May 1918 under Sir John Monash.