E.S. 1015

Confidential.

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[Ia/10,004.]

Series :

NOTES ON GERMAN ARMY CORPS.

IX. Reserve Corps.

GENERAL STAFF.

General Headquarters,

May, 1916.

STATIONERY SERVICES PRESS A—S120—5/16—1,000.

940.
41343

N911
v. IX

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

AWM2023.9.52

reserve opposite) battalions inclusive.
the IX Res. Corps)

Captain.

General Staff, I Corps.

GENERAL STAFF
- 3 JUN. 1916
18th DIVISION

Australian
War Memorial

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IX. RESERVE CORPS.

MAY, 1916.

The *Corps District* (Head-Quarters at Altona) comprises the provinces of Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg, and the Hanseatic cities of Hamburg, Bremen and Lübeck. Besides these cities the Corps District includes the towns of Kiel, Rostock, Flensburg, Schleswig, Schwerin and Neu-Strelitz.

Commander—General der Infanterie von Boehn.
Present H.Q. in the Field—Douai.

COMPOSITION.

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18th RESERVE DIVISION	13

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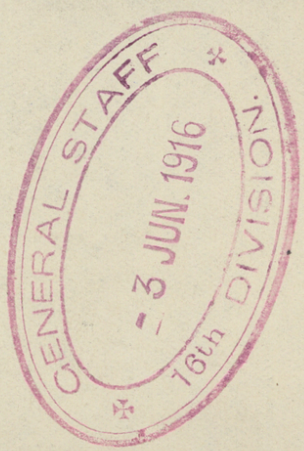
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E Saunders Captain.

General Staff, I Corps.

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IX. RESERVE CORPS.

History and Movements.

The IX. Reserve Corps was formed on mobilization in the Hamburg district, and remained there until the 22nd August, 1914. During this period some of its units were employed in guarding the coast of Schleswig-Holstein.

On the 23rd August, 1914, the Corps entrained for Belgium, where it formed part of the First Army under von Kluck. It came into action in the neighbourhood of Louvain, and the 76th Reserve Regiment took part in the sack of that town. On the 4th September the IX. Reserve Corps captured Termonde and entered France, via Audenarde and Tournai. On the 16th September, after the battle of the Marne, the IX. Reserve Corps was moved up to extend the right flank of the First Army North of the Oise, and engaged the XIII. French Corps near Lassigny. On the 28th September the IX. Reserve Corps was fighting astride the Oise, South of Noyon, the 17th Reserve Division on the right bank, and the 18th Reserve Division on the left.

At the begining of October, 1914, the Corps moved farther North to Roye, where it suffered heavy losses. On the 15th November it was holding the line between Roye and Lassigny.

Towards the end of December, 1914, the Corps moved slightly southwards and held the line between Lassigny and the Oise. The IX. Reserve Corps held that sector uneventfully until October, 1915, when the allied offensive necessitated a change in the German distribution.

The IX. Reserve Corps was relieved in the Oise sector by the Guard Corps, and was transferred from the First Army to the Sixth. The whole Corps was railed from the Noyon area to the Artois front, South-west of Lens.

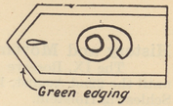
The Corps at first held its new sector with only one Division in line, but after the local attack against the Xth French Army on the 4th February, 1916, both Divisions went into line between Angres and Givenchy-en-Gohelle, each holding a short sector of the front.

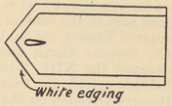
Attitude.

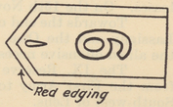
The attitude of the IX. Reserve Corps has been quiet on the whole. During the greater part of 1915, it had very little fighting while holding the Oise sector. Since its arrival in the Lens area it has displayed no particular activity, with the exception of a local attack in February at the Bois de Givenchy.

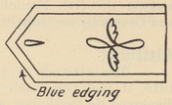
The moral of the Corps is rather below the average.

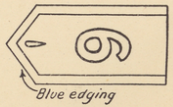
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CORPS TROOPS.

Infantry.—9th Reserve Jäger Battalion (attached 18th Reserve Division).

Heavy Artillery—
7th Battery (2nd Battalion) 2nd Guard Foot Artillery Regiment.
8th " " " " ".
272nd Foot Artillery Battery (attached 17th Reserve Division).
273rd " " 18th (").

Engineers—
4th Field Company, II. Pioneer Battalion No. 9.
Field Company, 19th Pioneer Regiment.
268th Pioneer Company.
Corps Bridging Train.
Corps Telegraph and Telephone Detachment.
86th Entrenching Battalion.

Trench Mortar Units—
IX. Reserve Corps Minenwerfer Detachment.
231st (Saxon) Medium Minenwerfer Detachment.

Flying Units—
18th Flight.
202nd Artillery Flight.
5th Balloon Detachment.

Train—Supply, Transport and Ammunition Columns.

TOTALS.

Battalions	1
Machine guns	8
Heavy guns and Howitzers	16

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17th RESERVE DIVISION.

Composition.

The 17th Reserve Division still maintains its original composition, namely one active brigade taken from the IX. (Active) Corps, and one reserve brigade formed on mobilization. In January, 1915, the 75th Reserve Regiment was withdrawn temporarily and attached to von Fuchs's Division in the Vosges, where it fought at the Hartmannsweilerkopf, but the regiment returned to the 17th Reserve Division towards the end of April.

On the 12th January, 1915, a battalion of the 163rd Regiment was detached to support the III. Corps in the attack on Soissons, where it suffered heavy losses, but returned later to the 17th Reserve Division.

At the beginning of June, 1915, battalions from the 162nd, 163rd and 75th Reserve Regiments, were sent to reinforce the IX. Corps during the French offensive at Quennevières.

At the end of September, 1915, the 3rd Battalion of the 162nd Regiment was detached to join a temporary grouping known as von Hartz's Division, which fought at Neuville St. Vaast, and shortly afterwards the whole of the IX. Reserve Corps was transferred to the Artois front.

On the 21st February, 1916, when the IX. Reserve Corps captured the French front trenches in the Bois de Givenchy, the 17th Reserve Division took the principal share in the attack, having at least three of its regiments in front line.

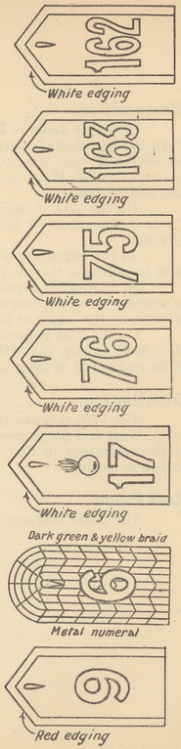
Distribution.

The 17th Reserve Division holds the southern sector of the Corps front along the crest of the Vimy ridge, West and South-west of Givenchy-en-Gohelle. One complete regiment is usually out resting. Each of the regiments in line has normally two battalions in the front line and support trenches and one battalion resting.

Rest Billets.

The battalions resting are billeted at Avion and Sallaumines.

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17th RESERVE DIVISION.

(Maj.-Gen. von Zieten.) (*Headquarters at* Hénin-Liétard.)

Infantry—81st Infantry Brigade.

(.)

162nd Infantry Regiment (*Lübeck, 3rd Hanseatic*).
(Has 13 Companies and 2 M.G. Companies.)
163rd Infantry Regiment (*Schleswig-Holstein*).
(Has 13 Companies.)

33rd Reserve Infantry Brigade.

(Maj.-Gen. von Sommer.)

75th Reserve Infantry Regiment.
76th Reserve Infantry Regiment.*
(Has a 7th Trench-Gun Detachment.)

Artillery—

17th Reserve Field Artillery Regiment. †
(6 batteries of six 7.7 c.m. guns.)
(2 batteries of four 10.5 c.m. howitzers.)

Cavalry—

6th Reserve Hussar Regiment (has a Cav. M.G. Detachment).

Engineers—

1st Reserve Company, II. Pioneer Bn., No. 9.
17th Reserve Divisional Bridging Train.
17th Reserve Divisional Telephone Detachment.

Trench Mortar Unit—

217th Minenwerfer Company.

TOTALS.

Battalions	12
Machine guns	48
Field guns and howitzers	44

* The Machine Gun Company is formed by the 8b (Cologne) Fortress Machine Gun Detachment.
† Comprises "Rehfeldt" Battery.

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18th RESERVE DIVISION.

Composition.

The 18th Reserve Division originally consisted of the 35th Reserve Infantry Brigade (84th and 86th Reserve Infantry Regiments) and the 36th Reserve Infantry Brigade (31st and 90th Reserve Infantry Regiments).

In January, 1915, a battalion of the 86th Reserve Regiment was sent to Soissons as a temporary reinforcement. In April, 1915, the 90th Reserve Regiment was withdrawn to join the newly-formed 54th Division. The remaining three regiments of the 18th Reserve Division were grouped together in the 35th Reserve Infantry Brigade.

At the end of September, 1915, the three battalions of the 31st and 86th Reserve Regiments were temporarily withdrawn to form von Hartz's Division, which was broken up at the end of the year after fighting in Artois. These battalions then rejoined their original regiments, which had meanwhile been transferred to the same area.

The effectives of the three regiments of the 18th Reserve Division has gradually been raised, each regiment now having four battalions.

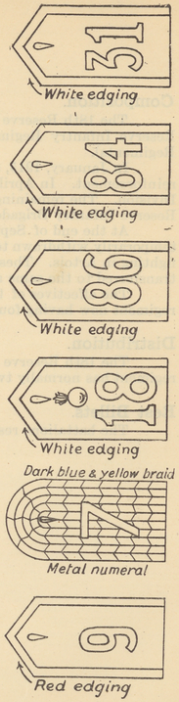
Distribution.

The 18th Reserve Division holds the Northern sector of the Corps front, West of Angres. Each regiment has normally two battalions in front line and support, and two battalions resting.

Rest Billets.

The battalions resting are billeted at Hénin-Liétard, Noyelles and Billy-Montigny.

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18th RESERVE DIVISION.

(Lt.-Gen. Wellmann. *Headquarters at* Billy-Montigny).

Infantry—35th Reserve Infantry Brigade.
(Maj.-Gen. von Ende).
31st Reserve Infantry Regiment (four battalions and (?) two M.G. companies and 317th M.G. section and 72nd M.G. Marksman Section).
84th Reserve Infantry Regiment (four battalions).
86th Reserve Infantry Regiment (four battalions).

Artillery—*18th Reserve Field Artillery Regiment—
(Six Batteries of 7.7 cm. guns).
(Two Batteries of 10.5 cm. howitzers).

Cavalry—7th Reserve Hussar Regiment.

Engineers—2nd Reserve Company, II. Pioneer Battalion, No. 9.
18th Reserve Divisional Bridging Train.
18th Reserve Divisional Telephone Detachment.

Trench Mortar Unit—218th Minenwerfer Company.

TOTALS.

Battalions	12
Machine guns	44
Field guns and Howitzers	44

*Has an Anti-aircraft Section.

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ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION.

Railhead and Supply.

The Railhead and principal refilling-point is at Hénin-Liétard, though trains occasionally come as far as Billy-Montigny. A system of light railways is being commenced. There is a trench tramway from Givenchy to the second line trenches near the Bois de Givenchy.

Ammunition and Pioneer Dumps.

There are ammunition depots near the Fosse at the level crossing at Drocourt, at Fosse 6 de Courrières, and at the Puits de Dahomey.

There are pioneer dumps at Hénin-Liétard and beside the railway embankment at Siége No. 6 (East of the Bois de Givenchy). There is a pioneer park and timber yard at Douai.

Rations are dumped at Givenchy.

Training and Instruction.

There is a Depot for the training of recruits at Noyelles.

There is a Cadet School at Cuincy, just West of Douai.

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REGIMENTAL RECRUIT DEPOTS IN GERMANY.

Every German regiment has a depot in the district from which it is recruited. Some regiments have two or more such depots, which are known as "Ersatz Battalions." It should be noted that there are also mobile Ersatz Battalions attached to Units in the field.

9th Reserve Jäger Battalion	Ratzeburg.
162nd Infantry Regiment	Lübeck (1,2). Eutin (3).
163rd Regiment	Neumünster (1, 2). Heide (3).
31st Reserve Infantry Regiment	Altona. Bremerhaven.
75th „ „ „	Bremen. Stade.
76th „ „ „	Hamburg.
84th „ „ „	Kiel. Rendsburg. Neustrelitz.
86th „ „ „	Flensburg. Schleswig.
6th Reserve Hussar Regiment	Wandsbek.
7th „ „ „	Schleswig.
17th Reserve Field Artillery Regiment	Lockstedt.
18th „ „ „	Altona.
II. Pioneer Battalion No. 9	Harburg

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SUMMARY OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE IX. RESERVE CORPS.

	Infantry Battalions.	Machine guns.	Field guns and Howitzers.	Heavy guns and Howitzers.
Corps Troops	1	8	—	16
17th Reserve Division	12	48	44	—
18th Reserve Division	12	44	44	—
	25	100	88	16

ORGANIZATION OF GERMAN UNITS.

An Infantry Regiment consists normally of three battalions, each of four companies (numbered from 1 to 12), and a machine gun company (numbered 13). Some regiments have a fourth battalion.

An Infantry Company is organized in three platoons (*Züge*). Each "*Zug*" consists of eight squads (*Gruppen*), of eight men apiece.

A machine gun company has at least eight guns; many regiments now have a second machine gun company (numbered 14). Extra machine gun sections attached to regiments have three to five guns.

Jäger Battalions consist of men of superior physique, who undergo an extended course of musketry. One Jäger Battalion is usually allotted to each Corps; during the early part of the War, these units did excellent service attached to Cavalry Divisions.

A Jäger Battalion has four companies, and also a machine gun company (number 5), and one or more cyclist companies.

A Cavalry Regiment consists normally of five or six squadrons.

A Field Artillery Regiment consists of two "Abteilungen," each of three batteries. Normally one "Abteilung" in each Division is armed with 10.5 cm. (4.13") field-howitzers, the others with 7.7 cm. (3.03") field guns, but the proportion of field-howitzers has, in many cases been increased.

A Foot Artillery Battalion consists of four batteries, each of four heavy guns or howitzers. The most common type is the 15 cm. (5.9") heavy field howitzer.

In a battalion of 21 cm. (8.3") mortars (heavy howitzers), there are only two batteries, each of four mortars.

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A Pioneer Battalion attached to a Corps, consists of four field companies.

A Minenwerfer Company is usually allotted to each division, and consists normally of three detachments. A detachment consists of two heavy, or four medium, or six light trench mortars.

A Flight of Aeroplanes is usually allotted to each Army and Corps, and has six or seven machines.

NOTES ON UNIFORM.

Colour.

The uniform worn by all units of the IX. Reserve Corps is the ordinary "field-grey" service dress, except for the 9th Reserve Jäger Battalion, which wears "grey-green."

Shoulder Straps.

The various units are distinguished by the shoulder straps, shown marginally beside the unit which wears them. These shoulder straps are in nearly every case, of the same cloth as the uniform, with red numeral or monogram. The colour of the edging varies for different units, as shown, but of late many shoulder straps have appeared without the edging. In the new pattern uniform the shoulder straps will be somewhat different. In the case of Infantry the edging only will be changed, but for other arms the colour of the whole shoulder strap will in most cases be altered (*vide* "The New German Field Service Uniform, Ia/455, S.S. 385."

Buttons.

The tunic buttons are of dull metal, embossed with a crown. The shoulder strap button has the company number (1-12). The machine-gun company is numbered 13.

The new pattern jacket will be fastened with hooks and eyes, not buttons.

The buckle of the waistbelt has a white nickel boss bearing a crown and the national motto: "*Gott mit uns*" (for Prussian Regiments).

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Fig. 1.

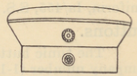


Fig. 2.

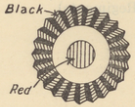


Fig. 3.

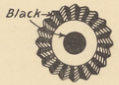


Fig. 4.

Badges of Rank.

Officers wear silver shoulder cords with their badges of rank, as follows:—

2nd Lieutenant (*Leutnant*).	Plain cord with metal numeral.
Lieutenant (*Oberleutnant*).	Plain cord with numeral and one star.
Captain (*Hauptmann*).	Plain cord with numeral and two stars.
Major (*Major*).	Twisted cord with metal numeral.
Lieut.-Colonel (*Oberstleutnant*).	Twisted cord with numeral and one star.
Colonel (*Oberst*).	Twisted cord with numeral and two stars.

N.C.O.'s wear the same uniform as the men, but are distinguished as follows:—

Lance-Corporal (*Gefreiter*).	A button on each side of the collar.
Corporal (*Unteroffizier*).	Gold lace on collar and cuffs.
Sergeant (*Sergeant*).	Gold lace on collar and cuffs and a button on collar.
Staff-Sergeant (*Feldwebel or Wachtmeister*).	Wears an officer's sword knot and slings.

Headgear.

The helmet is worn with a ball by artillery, with a spike by other arms. The helmet plate is of metal, and is different for the various States. Fig. 1 shows the Prussian helmet-plate.

On service the helmet has a cover of field-grey cloth with the number of the regiment stencilled in front.

With the new uniform the ball and spike are removed from the helmet.

Jäger Battalions wear a shako (like an English postman's headgear) instead of a helmet.

In the trenches the helmet is usually replaced by the soft field-service cap (*Feldmütze*). See Fig. 2.

The cap is of field-grey (grey-green for Jäger Battalions) cloth with coloured band and welt. Officers and Sergeants wear a peak.

In front of the cap are two small metal cockades, showing the national and imperial colours in concentric rings.

The upper cockade has the Imperial colours, black, white, red (3); the lower cockade has the State colours: black, white, black for Prussia (4).

Men of the Landwehr have a white cross in the centre of the lower cockade.

The national cockade is also worn on the helmet where the chin-strap is attached.

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The various units of the IX. Reserve Corps can be distinguished by the colour of their cap-bands as follows:—

Unit	Cap-Band	Welt
Infantry Regts....	Red	Red
9th Reserve Jäger Bn.	Green	Green
6th Reserve Hussar Regt. ...	Yellow	Yellow
7th Reserve Hussar Regt. ...	Yellow	Yellow
Field Artillery	Black, with red edging	Red
Foot Artillery		
Engineers		
Train	Blue	Blue

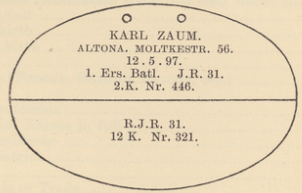
LANDSTURM UNITS.

Entrenching battalions (Armierungs-bataillone) sometimes wear the old pattern dark blue uniform, but more usually the field-grey uniform with blue or black shoulder-straps, the distinguishing mark of Landsturm Infantry and Landsturm Pioneers.

Battalions of the armed Landsturm are principally employed on garrison and sentry duties, and are rarely met with in front line. Landsturm battalions are distinguished by a copper numeral on either side of the collar, thus: IX./15 means the 15th Landsturm Battalion raised in the IX. Corps District.

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THE IDENTITY DISC.



The above is a specimen of the new pattern Identity Disc, which affords one of the surest means of identifying a man's unit.

The upper part gives the man's name, address, date of birth, depot battalion and company, and regimental number at the depot.

Below is the unit to which the man was posted, and his regimental number. If a man is transferred from one unit to another, the old marking is struck out, but not the original marking of the depot unit.

The specimen illustrated above shows that the man belongs to the 1917 class (born in 1897), and that he joined the 1st Ersatz Battalion of the 31st Infantry Regiment (IX. Corps). He was then posted to the 12th Company of the 31st Reserve Infantry Regiment (IX. Reserve Corps).

NOTE that the letter "J" stands for "Infantry."

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THE PAY BOOK.

As the identity disc is not always correctly marked, the best means of identifying a prisoner or dead German is his pay-book (Soldbuch).

The pay-book is a small book 5½" by 3½", with a brown paper cover marked :—

"Soldbuch für.....
No.....der Stammrolle."

on which is written the man's name and regimental number.

Inside, the book contains information about the man under the following headings :—

1. Name in full.....
   Date of birth.....
   Place of birth .....
   District .....
   Province (Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, etc.) .....
2. Parents'
   (*a*) Profession .....
   (*b*) & (*c*) Names in full .....
   (*d*) Residence .....
   (*e*) District .....
3. Religion.....
4. Profession or Trade.....
5. Married to.....
   Wife's residence .....
   District .....
   Number of children.....
6. Date of first joining the regular army.....
   Unit.....
   Date of being called up for active service .....
   Unit .....
7. Medals and decorations .....
8. Description .....
   Measurements of foot .....

This page is usually stamped with the regimental stamp.

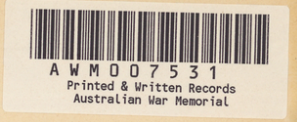
Then follows a statement of the daily rate of pay to which the man is entitled, and a record of the payments which have been made to him.

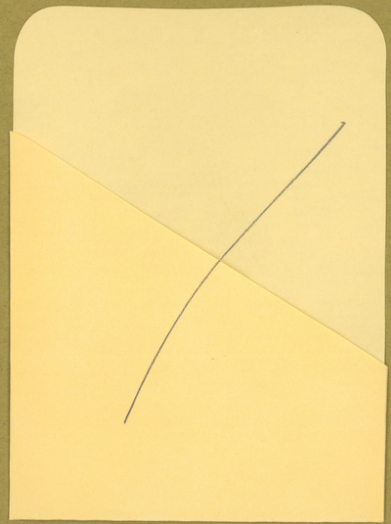
The book also records the number of times the man has been inoculated.

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