

## 41 – Thirteen further new divisions formed

### Statements in the book

41: ‘Another thirteen divisions were raised between November 1916 and the opening of the spring offensive. Formed largely from existing units, they were in principle immediately deployable. However, only four of them were fit for major battle on the Western Front: the others were a mixture of *Landwehr* and lower quality formations that could only be used in quiet sectors in the west or on the Eastern Front.’

### Update and comment

See Chapter 8 for analysis of the quality of divisions; and p. 41 fn. 25 for the meaning of *Landwehr*.

My list excludes conversion of 8th Ersatz Division to 243rd Infantry Division in April 1917. It also differs slightly from the list in *Weltkrieg*, XII, p. 4 fn. 3, which lists the formation of twenty divisions between November 1916 and April 1917. Five of these were formed after my cut-off date of 9 April, when the Entente spring offensive began. The other two were 225th and 302nd Infantry Divisions. *Weltkrieg*, XII, 4 gives their dates of formation as November and December 1916 respectively; however, a definitive list of all divisions in *Weltkrieg*, XIV, Beilage 34 has June and October 1916 respectively, and I have adopted these dates. This is an example of how even the best sources – in this case both from *Weltkrieg*! – sometimes produce conflicting results.

Note that adding in the five divisions formed after 9 April leads *Weltkrieg*, XII, p. 5 to record the total number in the field ‘by April 1917’ as 232, whereas I have 228 by 9 April and 236 by the end of the Entente spring offensive in late May.<sup>1</sup>

### Supporting evidence

No.	Division	Date formed	Quality
1.	5th Guard Infantry Division	15 Jan 1917	Fit for major battle on the Western Front
2.	205th Infantry Division	11 Nov 1916	Only deployed on the Eastern Front
3.	219th Infantry Division	29 Dec 1916	Semi- <i>Landwehr</i> ; only deployed on quiet Western Front sectors and on the Eastern Front

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<sup>1</sup> As usual, these figures exclude cavalry divisions.

No.	Division	Date formed	Quality
4.	220th Infantry Division	10 Jan 1917	Fit for major battle on the Western Front
5.	226th Infantry Division	25 Nov 1916	Semi- <i>Landwehr</i> ; only deployed on the Eastern Front
6.	227th Infantry Division	2 Feb 1917	Fit for major battle on the Western Front
7.	255th Infantry Division	15 Jan 1917	Regiments all <i>Landwehr</i> ; only deployed on quiet Western Front sectors
8.	16th Bavarian Infantry Division	13 Jan 1917	Fit for major battle on the Western Front
9.	21st Landwehr Division	14 Feb 1917	<i>Landwehr</i>
10.	26th Landwehr Division	10 Jan 1917	<i>Landwehr</i>
11.	45th Landwehr Division	20 Feb 1917	<i>Landwehr</i>
12.	46th Landwehr Division	11 Feb 1917	<i>Landwehr</i>
13.	2nd Bavarian Landwehr Division	31 Dec 1916	<i>Landwehr</i>

### Sources

Reichsarchiv, *Weltkrieg*, XII, 4 and XIV, Beilage 34.

Hermann Cron and others, eds., *Ruhmeshalle unserer alten Armee* (c. 1934).

United States War Office, *Histories of Two Hundred and Fifty-One Divisions of the German Army which Participated in the War (1914–1918)* (London: London Stamp Exchange Ltd, 1989).