

Where Is Everybody - or -Where Did Everyone Go?

A full strength Infantry Division had 14,253 men, BUT of that only 5130 were riflemen in 27 companies, three battalions with 3 rifle companies. A rifle company had about 190 men. When a Division went on line, it was usual to put 2 regiments on line with one regiment in reserve, (one third). This same system usually was followed by regiment and battalion, one third in reserve. Same when it came to company, one platoon was held in reserve. Lets examine how this works out.

5130 are riflemen leaving 9123 for everything else, artillery, headquarters of various levels, cannon companies, service companies, etc, etc.

Speaking of riflemen only, 1 regiment had 1710 riflemen in 9 companies. Two regiments on line had 3420 riflemen in 18 companies. 1710 riflemen were in reserve in the third regiment. Each regiment had 3 battalions of 9 rifle companies. Two battalions of each regiment (2280 riflemen) went on line, one of each regiment (1140) in reserve. Each company also set up a reserve. One third of 2280 is 760 leaving 1520 riflemen actually on the line. Behind these 1520 are 3610 riflemen in reserve and 9123 of the rest of the division.

Now that is why it was so lonesome in that foxhole! But just think of the buzz saw the Germans would run into if they over ran those 1520!

4/19/98

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