

## Strength Definitions

### **Sollstärke (authorized strength)**

The *Sollstärke*, usually written as *Soll* (should be; target), was the number of personnel that a unit was authorized to have according to its *Kriegsstärkenachweisungen* (tables of organization and equipment). The number included any *Hilfswilligen* (foreign auxiliary volunteers) with the unit.

This number would be constant unless the organization of the unit was changed.

### **Iststärke (actual strength)**

The *Iststärke*, usually written as *Ist* (is), was the actual number of personnel supported by the unit, regardless of their status. This included personnel on leave, lent out to other units, and those wounded or fallen since in the past eight weeks.

The difference between the *Soll* and the *Ist* was referred to as *Fehlstellen* (unfilled positions), usually written as *Fehl*. If a unit was overstrength, it was referred to as *über Soll* (in excess of authorized strength). It could be possible for a unit to have one section that had unfilled positions and another that was overstrength, but the *Fehl* only counted the net difference.

### **Tagesstärke (strength of the day)**

The *Tagesstärke* was the number of personnel physically available for service with the unit on the day of reporting. This excluded on personnel on leave and those wounded or sick.

The number also excluded those lent out to other units, but included those lent from other units. This ensured that no personnel would be double-counted or left out due to temporary personnel allocations.

### **Gefechtsstärke (fighting strength)**

The *Gefechtsstärke* was the strength of the subunits who would be involved in the actual fighting, except for their combat, baggage, rationing, and supply trains or their maintenance sections.

The number included non-combat personnel directly supporting the combat, such as drivers and co-drivers of combat vehicles (tanks, assault guns, armored cars, half-tracks, and self-propelled guns) and ammunition carriers.

### **Kampfstärke (combat strength)**

The *Kampfstärke* was the strength of the personnel available for actual combat. This excluded the drivers of all non-combat vehicles, horse keepers, administrative personnel, staff of artillery and mortar regiments, and staff of tank destroyer and engineer battalions. Excluded was also signal personnel that did not work either directly alongside, or received signals from, units that were part of the combat strength.

The number included the staff companies at the regimental level and below, messengers, field replacement units, as well as field medical personnel.

## Verpflegungsstärke

In addition to the terms above was also the term *Verpflegungsstärke*. This was not used when reporting combat strength. Instead, it was an administrative term to determine the number of persons with a unit for supply purposes.

## Schematic Summary

<i>Sollstärke</i> (authorized strength)	
Minus	<i>Fehlstellen</i> (unfilled positions)
Plus	<i>Über Soll</i> (personnel in excess of authorized strength)
<i>Iststärke</i> (actual strength)	
Minus	Personnel on leave
Minus	Personnel wounded or fallen sick within the past eight weeks
Minus	Personnel allocated to other units
Plus	Personnel allocated from other units
<i>Tagesstärke</i> (strength of the day)	
Minus	Unit staff, except for the <i>Ia-Staffel</i> (combat command section)
Minus	Unit band
Minus	Map section
Minus	Military police units
Minus	Combat train
Minus	Baggage train
Minus	Rationing train
Minus	Supply train
Minus	Maintenance section
Minus	Rationing units
<i>Gefechtsstärke</i> (fighting strength)	
Minus	Drivers of non-combat vehicles
Minus	Horse keepers
Minus	Administrative personnel
Minus	Staff of artillery and mortar regiments
Minus	Staff of tank destroyer and engineer battalions
Minus	Signal personnel not working with combat units
<i>Kampfstärke</i> (combat strength)	