

## 257 – Divisions suffering the heaviest casualties in the Entente spring offensive

### Statements in the book

257: ‘... 242nd Infantry Division lost 3,100 men, one-third of its infantry establishment. At least twenty-two other divisions suffered similar or heavier casualties in the two battles, or at least one-fifth of divisions engaged.’

### Update and comment

In this list, I've included 18th Infantry Division with 2,929 casualties as ‘similar’ to 242nd Infantry Division’s 3,100. 112 German divisions were engaged in the defence against the Entente spring offensive, so the 23 divisions here represent 20.5 per cent of them.

### Supporting evidence

No.	Division	Arras or Nivelle Offensive	Casualties
1.	183rd Infantry Division	Nivelle Offensive	4,340
2.	16th Reserve Division	Nivelle Offensive	4,154
3.	14th Bavarian Infantry Division	Arras	4,018
4.	9th Bavarian Reserve Division	Nivelle Offensive	4,004
5.	21st Infantry Division	Nivelle Offensive	4,000 <sup>1</sup>
6.	20th Infantry Division	Nivelle Offensive	3,876
7.	1st Guard Infantry Division	Nivelle Offensive	3,784 <sup>2</sup>
8.	208th Infantry Division	Arras	3,669
9.	2nd Guard Infantry Division	Nivelle Offensive	3,604
10.	35th Infantry Division	Arras	3,583
11.	11th Infantry Division	Arras	3,530
12.	3rd Guard Infantry Division	Arras	3,431
13.	5th Bavarian Reserve Division	Nivelle Offensive	3,283
14.	3rd Bavarian Infantry Division	Arras	3,264
15.	27th Infantry Division	Arras	3,222

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<sup>1</sup> Calculated from regimental fighting strength after the battle given in *Weltkrieg*, XII, 344.

<sup>2</sup> Accurate casualty figures are available for two of the division’s three regiments; this total was arrived at by adding the lower of the two to represent the losses of the third regiment. Spears, *Prelude*, 427 gives the division’s casualties as 3,259.

No.	Division	Arras or Nivelle Offensive	Casualties
16.	19th Reserve Division	Nivelle Offensive	3,216
17.	79th Reserve Division	Arras	3,205
18.	5th Infantry Division	Nivelle Offensive	3,190 <sup>3</sup>
19.	33rd Reserve Division	Nivelle Offensive	3,183
20.	213th Infantry Division	Nivelle Offensive	3,165
21.	1st Bavarian Reserve Division	Arras	3,132
22.	242nd Infantry Division	Nivelle Offensive	3,091
23.	18th Infantry Division	Arras	2,929

### Sources

General der Infanterie a.D. Freiherr von Soden to the Kriegsgeschichtliche Forschungsanstalt des Heeres, 27 February 1939, BArch, RH61/1901.

Generallandesarchiv Karlsruhe, 456 F1/257 and F1/639.

HKR, 'Liste des Einsatzes der Divisionen bei 6. Armee und ihre Verluste', April-May 1917, Kriegsarchiv Munich, HKR alte Nr. 150.

BOH 1917, I, 276.

Jack Sheldon, *The German Army on Vimy Ridge 1914-1917* (Barnsley: Pen & Sword Military, 2008).

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).

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<sup>3</sup> Accurate casualty figures are available for two of the division's three regiments; this total was arrived at by adding the lower of the two to represent the losses of the third regiment.