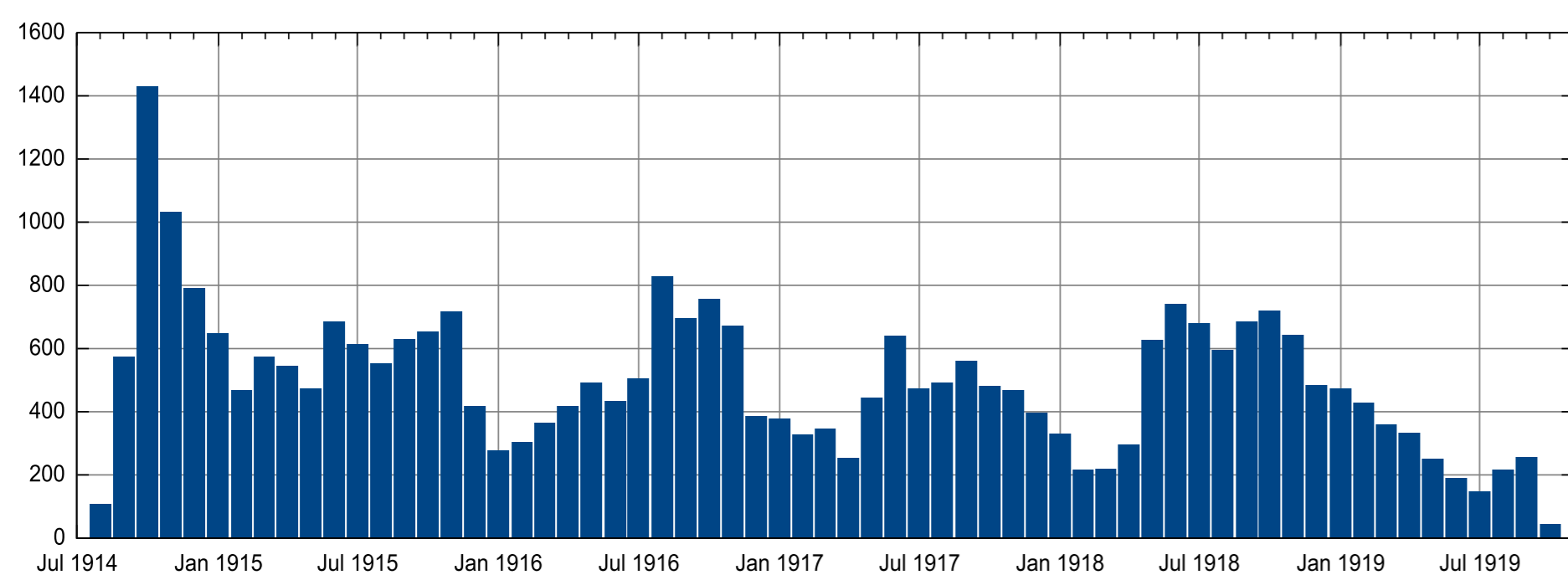


# VERLUSTLISTEN.DE

## GERMAN WW I CASUALTY LISTS

### The Source

The German casualty lists for the Great War have been published between 1914 and 1919. They include the official notifications from the Prussian government on the military losses of the entire armed forces of the German Empire. The lists were written in chronological order and sorted by armies, regiments, units, etc.



Number of pages per month

Each entry in the list contains information about woundings, MIA, captures, deaths, as well as corrections to previous messages. In total there are 31,200 pages in Tabloid Extra format (305 x 455 mm) written in Gothic script. One page contains between 200 and 300 individual entries.

Until 1916 the entries were sorted by military unit—except for the lists of the marine in which the entries are sorted by lastname. Organizing principle for the specification of the units was the official ranking of the military branches. Usually this information can be found in an entry: military unit, family name, first name, rank, place of birth, type of loss.

The structure changed on 7th December 1916: All entries were sorted alphabetically. No more information about military units was given. To ease the identification of persons, the date of birth was added to the entries. Starting in summer 1917 the year of birth was kept secret. After the end of the war the casualty lists contained information military units again. The full date of



Two pages from the German WW I casualty lists. Left page: Marine casualty list #13, right page: Prussian casualty list #447. While the marine's list is sorted alphabetically, the Prussian list is sorted by regiments.

birth was specified, too. Therefore, an entry consists of this information: military unit, family name, first name, rank, date of birth, place of birth.

### Why is it an Important Source?

On 14th April 1945 the Prussian army archive was destroyed in an air raid on Potsdam after only a few weeks earlier—in February 1945—the Zentralnachweiseamt für Kriegerverluste und Kriegsgräber (central office for war losses and war graves) had been bombed. Today, it is therefore difficult to investigate information about veterans of the 1st World War—if not even impossible. This is why the casualty lists are among the most important surviving sources about German soldiers of the 1st World War.

### The Indexing Project

Since the end of 2011 the Verein für Computergenealogie owns a full copy of scans of the casualty list. In a crowdsourcing project the casualty lists are being indexed completely for the first time. Scans and the indexed data is available online for free. See the next poster for more information about the indexing project.

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