Two special infantry brigades were formed by the Czar to support the French on the Western Front during World War I. The 1st Special Infantry Brigade was formed in 1915 and arrived in France on May 1916. It served until October 1917, when, as result of Bolshevist propaganda, the brigade mutinied. The brigade had to be assaulted militarily, the brigade taken prisoner and was broken-up. The other brigade was dispatched to Salonika and where it served until broken up.

Brigade Commander: Major General N.A. Lokhvitskiy

Brigade Staff

1st Special Infantry regiment:

1st Infantry Battalion:
- 1st Infantry Company (200 men)
- 2nd Infantry Company (200 men)
- 3rd Infantry Company (200 men)
- 4th Infantry Company (200 men)
- 1st machine-gun Company (12 machine-guns)

2nd Infantry Battalion:
- 5th Infantry Company
- 6th Infantry Company
- 7th Infantry Company
- 8th Infantry Company
- 2nd Machine-gun Company

3rd Infantry Battalion:
- 9th Infantry Company
- 10th Infantry Company
- 11th Infantry Company
- 12th Infantry Company
- 3rd machine-gun Company

Connection Platoon
Supply Group

1st Reserve Battalion
- 1st Reserve Company
- 2nd Reserve Company
- 3rd Reserve Company
- 4th Reserve Company
- 5th Reserve Company
- 6th Reserve Company

2nd Special Infantry regiment
- same organization as 1st Regiment.

Total Strength: 180 officers, 8,762 enlisted & 72 machine-guns.


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