

## 254. INFANTERIE-DIVISION - UNIT HISTORY

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DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1939/03/00	Lingen, Wehrkreis VI	Activation of 254.ID (4.Welle) by conversion of 254.LdwD, formation, training	
1939/09/01	Lingen	Operational readiness (source: Potsdam catalog)	
1939/09/05	Grevenbroich, Bedburg, Goch, Geilenkirchen, Geldern	Movement, training	
1939/10/13	Goch, Cleves, Emmerich	Border security, training (source: situation maps Lage West)	
1940/05/10	Grave, Netherlands Hertogenbosch, Breda	Invasion, offensive engagements	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Walter Behschnitt, 1940/04/30-1942/03/23
1940/05/18	Antwerp, Brussels, Ath, Renaix, Menin, Belgium	Advance, offensive engagements	
1940/05/30	Dunkirk, France	Battle for	
1940/06/05	Calais, Boulogne, Etaples, Berck, Saint-Valery-sur-Somme, Abbeville, Rue, Samer, Montreuil	Offensive engagements, coastal defense, occupation duty	
1941/04/05	Preussisch Stargard (Starogard), Dirschau (Tczew), Poland	Transfer, occupation duty, training	
1941/05/13	Wormditt (Orneta)	Movement, preparations for the invasion of Russia	Subordinate to: AK 38, 1941/05/04-1941/07/03
1941/06/17	Insterburg (Chernyakhovsk)	Assembly	
1941/06/22	Taurage, Kelme, Seduva, Birzai, Pasvalys, Lithuania	Invasion, offensive engagements	
1941/07/05	Plavinas, Jaunjelgava, Velenā, Vecpiebalga, Ape, Latvia Aseri, Jogeva, Paide, Tapa, Kunde, Viljandi, Estonia	Advance, offensive engagements	AOK 18 (Armeereserve), 1941/07/04-1941/07/14 AK 26, 1941/07/15-1941/08/14

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1941/08/12	Sonda, Reval (Tallinn)	Mopping-up action, security	AK 42, 1941/08/15-1941/08/31
1941/09/09	Narva-Joesuu, Estonia, Kingisepp, Krasnoye Selo, Russia Mga, Glazhevo, Volkhov River, Kirishi, Chudovo, Lyuban	Movement, defensive operations	AOK 18, 1941/09/01-1941/09/14 AK 26, 1941/09/15-1941/09/16 AK 38, 1941/09/16-1941/09/28 AK 39 Pz, 1941/09/29-1941/10/12 AK 1, 1941/10/12-1942/10/20
1942/04/01	Babino, Apraksin Bor, Chervino, Finev Lug, Krivino, Rogavka, Spasskaya Polist'	Movement, defensive operations, position defense	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Friedrich Koechling, 1942/04/10-1943/08/15 Subordinate to: AK 38, 1942/10/20-1943/01/14
1943/01/09	Chudovo to Demyansk pocket, Olkhovets, Zdrinoga, Fedorovo	Transfer, regrouping, defensive operations	Gruppe Hoehne (AK 2), 1943/01/15-1943/02/26
1943/02/24	Pustoshka, Lyadiny, Soltsy	Disengagement movements	AK 10, 1943/02/26-1943/03/08
1943/03/09	Gatchina, Krasnoye Selo, Krasny Bor, Izhora River	Movement, position defense	AOK 18, 1943/03/09-1943/03/14 AK 50, 1943/03/14-1943/03/21 AK 54, 1943/03/21-1943/07/31
1943/07/23	Mga		

Records of the 254.ID are reproduced on rolls 1761-1767 of Microfilm Publication T315 and are described following the unit history.

Although no records of this division were available in the National Archives for 1940/10/01-1941/06/09 (situation maps of Lage West and Ost were used covering that period), or after 1943/07/31, records of OKH/AHA, H37/85 (MR 1303), the general officer personnel files, and situation maps of Lage Ost show:

1943/08/01	Mga	Position defense	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Alfred Thielmann, 1943/08/15-1944/03/21, and
1944/01/01	Vinnitsa	Transfer to the southern sector	1944/04/20-1944/12/18
1944/01/11	Lipovets, Ilintsy, Nemirov	Defensive operations	
1944/03/16	Dzhurin, Bar, Olkhovets	Disengagement movements	
1944/03/24	Borshchev, Chortkov, Buchach	Redesignation as Kpf.Gr. 254	
1944/05/02	Monastyrska	Reorganization as 254.ID, disengagement movements	
1944/07/16	Podgaitsy, Vybranovka, Stry	Movement, defensive operations	
1944/07/29	Sambor, Russia, Ustrzyki Dolne, Poland	Redesignation as Kpf.Gr. 254, movement, defensive operations	
1944/08/12	Sanok, Rymanow, Dukla, Snina, Slovakia	Reorganization as 254.ID movement, defensive operations	
1944/10/30	Vysna, Radvan, Presov, Budimir, Bidovce, Gelnica, Levoca	Movement, defensive operations	Gen.Maj. Richard Schmidt, 1944/12/18-1945/03/01
1945/01/29	Strehlen (Strzelin), Lower Silesia	Withdrawal, defense	
1945/03/01- 1945/04/17	Schweidnitz, Ziegenhals (Glucholazy)	Withdrawal, defensive operations	

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
Ia, KTB 2, Heft 1. Orders, reports, and maps pertaining to regrouping, training, border security, and preparations for the invasion of the Netherlands and Belgium in the Goch, Cleves, and Emmerich areas, 6-21 Feb 1940; and the invasion of the Netherlands, 10 May, and advance and offensive engagements in Grave, Hertogenbosch, and Breda, 11-17 May, and in the Antwerp, Brussels, Ath, Renaix, and Menin areas of Belgium, 18-27 May 1940. Special directives concerning supply, signal communications, use of engineers, and reconnaissance (damaged by fire).	1940/02/06-1940/05/27	254.ID W6868/4	1751	1
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 2, Heft 3. Orders, reports, and maps pertaining to coastal defense, occupation duty, regrouping, and contact between infantry and artillery in the Boulogne, Etaples, Berck, Saint-Valery-sur-Somme, Abbeville, Rue, Outreau, Samer, and Montreuil areas (no records available for the period 1 Oct 1940-9 Jun 1941). Order-of-battle charts.	1940/07/09-1940/09/30	254.ID W6868/6	1751	205
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 2. Conscript of daily radio messages.	1940/05/10-1940/05/26	254.ID W6868/7	1751	327
Ic, TB. Activity report concerning enemy operations in the Netherlands from Grave to Breda, 10-17 May, in Belgium from Antwerp to Ypres, 18-29 May, and in France in the Dunkirk area, 30 May-4 Jun, and the Calais, Boulogne, and Etaples areas, 5-16 Jun 1940.	1940/05/10-1940/06/16	254.ID W6868/9	1751	596
Ic, Anlagenband I zum TB. Orders, reports, and maps pertaining to the tactical disposition of enemy forces in the Netherlands, Belgium, and France before and during the western campaign; division and enemy operations; surrender negotiations with the Belgian Armed Forces, 28-29 May; the battle for Dunkirk, France, 30 May-4 Jun; and advance, offensive engagements, and occupation of the French coast in the Calais, Boulogne, and Etaples areas, 5 Jun-4 Jul 1940.	1940/03/18-1940/07/04	254.ID W6868/11	1751	545
Ic, Anlagenband II zum TB. OKW bulletins citing	1940/04/01-1940/06/16	254.ID W6868/12	1751	334

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information on the military situation and reports on troop recreation.				
Ia, KPB 4, Teil I. Quarters and training in the Wornitt (Orneta) area, 10-16 Jun; assembly in the Insterburg (Chernyakhovsk) area, 17-21 Jun; invasion of Lithuania, 22 Jun, and offensive engagements in the Taurage, Kelme, Seduva, Pasvalys, and Birzai areas, 23 Jun-4 Jul, in the Jekabpils, Jaunjelgava, Plavinas, Vecpiebalga, Varena, and Ape areas of Latvia, 5-12 Jul, and in the Voru, Viljandi, Jogeva, Paide, Tapa, Kuuda, and Aseri areas of Estonia, 13 Jul-11 Aug; movement to and mop-up action and security activity in the Sonda and Reval (Tallinn) areas of Estonia, 12 Aug-8 Sep; movement to Krasnoye Selo, Russia, defensive operations; and movement to the Mga area, 26 Sep-25 Oct 1941. A register of officers and casualty and strength reports.	1941/06/10-1941/10/25	254.ID 21100/1	1751	371
Ia, KPB 4, Teil II. War journal concerning defensive operations in the Mga, Glazhevo, and Podsol'ye areas south of Lake Ladoga and along the Volkhov River.	1941/10/26-1941/12/23	254.ID 21100/2	1751	939
Ia, KPB 4, Teil III. War journal concerning movement to and defensive operations and regrouping in the Kirishi, Chudovo, and Lyuban areas in the Volkhov River sector south of Lake Ladoga.	1941/12/24-1942/04/02	254.ID 21100/3	1752	1
Ia, Abhandlung ueber die Kaempfe um den Wolchow-Kessel. Afteraction reports concerning the battles in the Volkhov River pocket.	1942/01/24-1942/05/21	254.ID 21158	1752	155
Ic, IB. Activity report concerning enemy operations, losses, and unit identification in the Volkhov River sector and troop entertainment; interrogation summaries; and maps showing the location of enemy units facing the 254.ID.	1942/02/09-1942/03/31	254.ID 29055	1752	433
Ia, KPB 5. War journal concerning defensive and assault operations in the Babino, Apraksin Bor, Chervino, Pinev Luz, and Krivino areas, 1 Apr-31 May,	1942/04/01-1942/12/31	254.ID 34354/1	1752	452

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and in the Pogavka area, 1-30 Jun; position defense in the Spasskaya Polist' area, 1 Jul-31 Dec; and planned movement of Gren.Bqt. 474 to Griqorovo, 2 Jan 1943. Reports on enemy operations, a register of officers, and casualty and strength reports.				
Ia, Anlagenband 1 zum KTB 5. Daily reports concerning defensive operations, training, and the formation of Gruppe Koechling (consisting of elements of the 254.ID and the 291.ID), 25 Apr; daily intelligence reports regarding enemy operations; and strength and status reports.	1942/04/01-1942/04/25	254.ID 34954/2	1752	907
Ia, Anlagenband 2 zum KTB 5. Daily reports concerning defensive and assault operations and daily intelligence reports regarding enemy operations.	1942/04/25-1942/05/13	254.ID 34954/3	1753	1
Ia, Anlagenband 3 zum KTB 5. Daily reports concerning defensive operations and the disbandment of Gruppe Koechling, 2 Jun 1942, overlays showing the tactical disposition of the division, and daily intelligence reports regarding enemy operations.	1942/05/14-1942/06/10	254.ID 34954/4	1753	470
Ia, Anlagenband 4 zum KTB 5. Daily reports concerning defensive and assault operations and construction of positions, training directives, status reports, a map showing the tactical disposition of the division, daily intelligence reports regarding enemy operations, and interrogation summaries.	1942/06/11-1942/07/22	254.ID 34954/5	1754	1
Ia, Anlagenband 5 zum KTB 5. Daily reports concerning defensive operations, preparations for the winter, and engineer activity; status reports; maps showing the tactical disposition of the division; daily intelligence reports regarding enemy operations; and interrogation summaries.	1942/07/23-1942/08/31	254.ID 34954/6	1755	1
Ia, Anlagenband 6 zum KTB 5. Daily reports concerning defensive operations, regrouping, construction of winter positions, engineer activities, and the formation of alert units; order-of-battle charts;	1942/09/01-1942/10/31	254.ID 34954/7	1755	505

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status reports; training directives; maps and overlays showing the tactical disposition of the division; daily intelligence reports regarding enemy operations; and interrogation summaries.				
Ia, Anlagenband 7 zum KTB 5. Daily reports concerning defensive operations, fortifying Spasskaya Polist', training, and engineer activity; status reports; maps showing the tactical disposition of the division; an appraisal of the enemy military situation; reports on enemy operations; and interrogation summaries.	1942/11/01-1942/12/30	254.ID 34954/8	1756	1
Ic, IB zum KTB 5. Activity reports concerning enemy operations, losses, unit identification and strength, probable intentions, the tactical situation, control of the civilian population in rear areas, operations against partisans, counterintelligence, and troop indoctrination and entertainment. Maps and overlays showing the location of enemy units facing the 254.ID and interrogation summaries.	1942/04/01-1942/12/31	254.ID 34954/9	1756	314
Ia, KTB 6. War journal concerning defensive operations in the Spasskaya Polist' area, 1-8 Jan, movement from Chulovo to the Demyansk pocket, 9-14 Jan, relief of the 225.ID, 15 Jan, and its attachment to the 254.ID, defensive engagements in the Olkhovets, Zdrinoqa, and Savkino areas, 16 Jan-23 Feb, disengagement movements to Lyadiny via Fedorovo and Pustoshka, 24 Feb-2 Mar, movement to and entraining at Utorqosh and Soltsy, 3-8 Mar, arrival at Gatchina 9-14 Mar, movement to and position defense in the Krasnoye Selo, Krasny Bor, and Izhora River areas, 14 Mar-22 Jul, and movement to and defense of the Mga area, 23-31 Jul 1943. A register of officers and casualty reports.	1943/01/01-1943/07/31	254.ID 37991/1	1756	393
Ia, Anlagenband 1 zum KTB 6. Daily reports and messages concerning movements, defensive operations, and construction of positions; order-of-battle charts; status reports; maps and overlays showing the tactical	1943/01/01-1943/01/31	254.ID 37991/2	1756	722

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disposition of the division; and reports on enemy operations.				
Ia, Anlagenband 2 zum KTB 6. Daily reports and messages pertaining to defensive operations and preparations for and execution of Unternehmen Ziethen (disengagement from the Demyansk pocket), order-of-battle charts, status reports, special directives concerning supply, afteraction reports, maps and overlays showing the tactical disposition of the division, and reports on enemy operations.	1943/02/01-1943/02/28	254.ID 37991/3	1757	1
Ia, Anlagenband 3 zum KTB 6. Daily reports and messages pertaining to the transfer to the Leningrad front, position defense, regrouping, training, combat experience, construction of positions, and formation of alert units; order-of-battle charts; status reports; maps and overlays showing the tactical disposition of the division; an afteraction critique relating to the closing of a Russian penetration in the sector between the 58. and 254.ID, 12-13 Apr; and reports on enemy operations.	1943/03/01-1943/04/30	254.ID 37991/4	1757	342
Ia, Anlagenband 4 zum KTB 6. Daily reports and messages pertaining to position defense on the Leningrad front, training, regrouping, formation of and mission of centers of resistance (Widerstandszentrum), traffic control officers, and construction of positions. Order-of-battle charts; status reports; afteraction reports concerning an assault operation of Gren.Rgt. 474, 22 Jun, and an enemy attack on that regiment, 22-23 May; maps showing the tactical disposition of the division; appraisal of the enemy military situation; and reports on enemy operations.	1943/05/01-1943/06/30	254.ID 37991/5	1757	716
Ia, Anlagenband 5 zum KTB 6. Daily reports concerning position defense on the Leningrad front, training, regrouping, construction of positions and roads, and relief of the 58.ID and part of its sector, 23-24 Jul.	1943/07/01-1943/07/31	254.ID 37991/6	1757	1038

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
Order-of-battle charts, status reports, maps showing the tactical disposition of the division, and reports on enemy operations.				
Ic, IB mit Anlagen. Activity reports concerning enemy operations, losses, unit identification, probable intentions, and tactical situation; German propaganda; and troop entertainment and indoctrination. Appraisals of the enemy military situation in the Demyansk and Leningrad areas and south of Lake Ilmen; and maps and overlays showing the location of enemy units facing the division.	1943/01/15-1943/06/30	254.ID 37991/7	1757	1227