

266. INFANTERIE-DIVISION - UNIT HISTORY

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1943/06/10	Muensingen, Wehrkreis V	Activation of the 266.ID (bo.), formation	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Karl Spang, 1943/06/01-1944/08/14 (taken prisoner by the British)
1943/07/22	Guingamp, France	Transfer, relief of the 371.ID	Subordinate to: Stellv.Gen.Kdo. V, 1943/06/10-1943/07/23 AK 87, 1943/07/24-1943/08/04
1943/08/05	Le Gollot, Guingamp, Belle-Ile, Morlaix, Lannion	Coastal defense, construction of the Atlantic wall, training	AK 74, 1943/08/05-1944/07/25

Sources for the above information are the general officer personnel files and situation maps of Lage West (no records of the 266.ID (bo.) were available for the period 1943/06/10-1944/06/05 and after 1944/08/06, except for the mention of the time and place of activation and transfer to Brittany).

Record item 77625, manuscript in the Foreign Military Studies series, MS P-176 ("Bericht ueber die Lage der 266.ID in den Monaten Juni-August 1944, Die Kaempfe der Kraeftegruppe des Stuetzpunktes Le Conquet bei der Verteidigung der Festung Brest") by Gen.Lt. Karl Spang and Obst. Martin Fuerst, and records of OKH/GenStdH/Org.Abt., H 1/38 (T78, roll 398), and OKH/AHA/Abw.Stab, H 41/57 (T78, roll 142), contain references to the 266.ID as follows:

1944/06/06	Morlaix, Guingamp, Saint-Brieuc, Brest	Antiaircraft and coastal defense, operations against the French Resistance	
1944/06/07 1944/06/28	Saint-Lo, Vire Saint-Malo	Defensive operations by KpfGr. Kentner Disengagement movement	
1944/07/04	Saint-Servan, Saint-Malo	Movement and defensive operations by I./Gren.Rgt. 899 and I./Art.Rgt. 266	AK 25, 1944/07/26-1945/05/07
1944/08/01	Saint-Brieuc, Rance River, Dinan, Saint-Brieuc, Plounevez-Moedec, Morlaix	Formation of KpfGr. Spang from remainder of the 266.ID, defensive operations, disengagement movements	
1944/08/07	Fortress Le Conquet	Disengagement to and defense of	
1944/08/12	Saint-Malo	Surrender of elements of the 266.ID	
1944/09/09	Fortress Le Conquet	Surrender of KpfGr. Spang	
1944/09/17	Fortress Brest	Surrender of remnants of the 266.ID	
1944/10/26	Germany	Formal disbandment	

Only two record items of the 266.ID were available in the National Archives; they are reproduced on roll 1841 of Microfilm Publication T315 and are described following the unit history.

266. INFANTERIE-DIVISION

75

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
Ia, Uebergabe an die 266.ID. List of orders and directives of OR West, AOK 7, AK 87 and 25, and the 343.ID which were transferred by the 371.ID to the 266.ID.	1943/07/24-1943/07/24	266.ID 34956/5	1841	1
Ia, KTB mit Anlagen. War journal with orders, reports, and maps pertaining to the activation of the 266.ID (bodenstaendig) in Truppenuebungsplatz Muensingen, Wehrkreis V, 10 Jun 1943; formation and training, 11 Jun-21 Jul; transfer to Brittany, 22 Jul; antiaircraft defense and operations against the French Resistance in the Morlaix, Guingamp, and Saint-Brieuc areas and coastal defense in the Brest area by the division (without Kampfgruppe Kentner, which consisted of elements of Gren.Rgt. 897 and III./Art.Rgt. 266), 6 Jun-31 Jul; movement of Kampfgruppe Kentner to Saint-Lo, 12-15 Jun, and the 2. Fallschirmjaegerkorps to Vire, 22-23 Jun; and movement of I./Gren.Rgt. 899 and I./Art.Rgt. 266 to Saint-Servan and Saint-Malo for their defense, 4-5 Jul 1944. Formation of Kampfgruppe Spang from the remainder of the 266.ID and its defensive operations in the Rance River sector, 2-4 Aug, and disengagement movements to Dinan, Saint-Brieuc, Plounevez-Moedec, and Morlaix and to the fortress Le Conquet west of Brest, 4-6 Aug 1944. Order-of-battle charts and strength reports.	1944/06/06-1944/08/06	266.ID 77625	1841	15