

## 716. INFANTERIE-DIVISION - UNIT HISTORY

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| DATE                      | LOCATION                                                                                                                                                                                  | ACTIVITY                                                                                                                                                   | CHAIN OF COMMAND                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1941/03/26                | Wehrkreis VI                                                                                                                                                                              | Activation (15. Welle)                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                    |
| 1941/05/01                | Bielefeld                                                                                                                                                                                 | Formation                                                                                                                                                  | Subordinate to: Stellv.Gen.Kdo. VI, 1941/05/01-1941/05/31<br>C.O.: Gen.Lt. Otto Matterstock, 1941/05/03-1943/04/01 |
| 1941/05/28                | Rouen, France,<br>Vernon, Louviers, Elbeuf                                                                                                                                                | Transfer,<br>training                                                                                                                                      | Subordinate to: AK 32 Hoeh.Kdo., 1941/06/01-1941/06/20                                                             |
| 1941/06/21                | Saint-Lo, Coutances, Carentan,<br>Coigny, La Haye-du-Puits,<br>Feugeres, Lessay, Periers, Marginy,<br>Saint-Sauveur-Lendelin, Granville,<br>Le Mont-Saint-Michel, Pontorson,<br>Avranches | Movement, coastal defense,<br>security, maneuvers,<br>defense against air landings,<br>regrouping                                                          | AK 43 Hoeh.Kdo., 1941/06/21-1941/07/07<br>AK 60, 1941/07/07-1941/11/27                                             |
| 1941/11/21                | Soissons, Laon, Vouziers, Chauny,<br>Saint-Quentin, Hirson, Creil,<br>Amiens                                                                                                              | Movement, occupation duty,<br>training                                                                                                                     | AK 32, 1941/11/27-1942/03/20                                                                                       |
| 1942/01/26                | Charleroi, Belgium,<br>Mons, Peruwelz, Boussu, Nimy,<br>Fontaine l'Eveque, Thuin                                                                                                          | Transfer,<br>occupation duty, training,<br>regrouping                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                    |
| 1942/03/20                | Caen, France,<br>Trevieres, Colomby, Ver-sur-Mer,<br>Merville-Franceville-Plage,<br>Colleville-sur-Mer, Luc-sur-Mer,<br>Benouville, Mondeville                                            | Transfer, coastal defense,<br>air raid protection,<br>alert exercises,<br>training                                                                         | AK 60, 1942/03/20-1942/08/04<br><br>AK 84, 1942/08/05-1943/12/31                                                   |
| 1942/11/01-<br>1943/12/31 | Caen, Courseulles-sur-Mer, Sully,<br>Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer, Beuville,<br>Port-en-Bessin, Grandcamp-les-Bains,<br>Arromanches-les-Bains,<br>Isigny-sur-Mer, Bayeux, Falais,<br>La Cambe    | Coastal defense, construction of land<br>and coastal defenses, alert exercises,<br>air raid protection, training,<br>formation of new units,<br>regrouping | C.O.: Gen.Lt. Wilhelm Richter, 1943/04/01-1944/12/30                                                               |

Records of the 716.ID are reproduced on rolls 2260-2261 of NARS Microfilm Publication T315 and are described following the unit history.

| DATE                                                                                                                                                                            | LOCATION                                                                        | ACTIVITY                                                       | CHAIN OF COMMAND                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Although no records of this division dated later than 1944/05/31 were available in the National Archives, the following sources give additional pertinent information and show: |                                                                                 |                                                                |                                                |
| records of OKH/GenStdH/Org.Abt., H 1/38 (T78, roll 398, p. 19, 97, and 102) and H 1/131 (T78, roll 412);                                                                        |                                                                                 |                                                                |                                                |
| records of OKH/AHA/Abwicklungsstab, H 41/61b (T78, roll 672), afteraction report of 6 Jun 1944;                                                                                 |                                                                                 |                                                                |                                                |
| Miscellaneous German Records Collection, EAP 34-b/33 (T84, roll 301), military training;                                                                                        |                                                                                 |                                                                |                                                |
| situation maps of Lage West; the general staff officer personnel files; and manuscripts in the Foreign Military Studies series.                                                 |                                                                                 |                                                                |                                                |
| 1944/01/01                                                                                                                                                                      | Caen, France                                                                    | Coastal defense, occupation duty                               |                                                |
| 1944/06/06                                                                                                                                                                      | Caen                                                                            | Defense (Allied invasion)                                      |                                                |
| 1944/06/23                                                                                                                                                                      | Caen                                                                            | Withdrawal of remnants                                         |                                                |
| 1944/06/26                                                                                                                                                                      | Thury-Harcourt                                                                  | Assembly of remnants                                           |                                                |
| 1944/07/10                                                                                                                                                                      | Perpignan                                                                       | Rehabilitation                                                 |                                                |
| 1944/08/19                                                                                                                                                                      | Lyon, Chalon-sur-Saone, Nolay,<br>Dijon, Membrey, Jussey                        | Withdrawal                                                     |                                                |
| 1944/09/16                                                                                                                                                                      | Le Val-Saint-Eloy, Vecoux,<br>Cornimont                                         | Disengagement movements                                        |                                                |
| 1944/10/02                                                                                                                                                                      | Gerardmer, Corcieux,<br>Etival-Clairefontaine,<br>Colroy-la-Grande, Ban-de-Sapt | Disengagement movements                                        |                                                |
| 1944/10/29                                                                                                                                                                      | Selestat (Schlettstadt)                                                         | Movement, position defense                                     |                                                |
| 1944/12/24                                                                                                                                                                      | Bereich d. Obfh. Oberrhein                                                      | Transfer for rehabilitation                                    | Obst. Wolf Ewert, mFb., 1944/12/30-1945/01/18  |
| 1945/01/00 ca.                                                                                                                                                                  | Mulhouse area                                                                   | Defensive operations                                           | Obst. Karl Hafner, mFb., 1945/01/18-1945/02/18 |
| 1945/01/23                                                                                                                                                                      | Neuenburg, Germany                                                              | Defensive operations as Kampfgruppe 716                        |                                                |
| 1945/02/10                                                                                                                                                                      | Kandern, Zell, Todtmoos                                                         | Withdrawal, Stab 716.ID                                        |                                                |
| 1945/02/14                                                                                                                                                                      | Freiburg,<br>Kandern, Loerrach                                                  | Reorganization as 716.Volks.Gren.Div.,<br>defensive operations |                                                |
| 1945/03/11-<br>1945/03/22                                                                                                                                                       | Zell, Todtmoos                                                                  | Defensive operations                                           | Obst. Friedrich Trompeter, mFb., 1945/03/17    |

Manuscripts in the Foreign Military Studies series, prepared by former German officers for the Historical Division, Headquarters U.S. Army, Europe, between 1945 and 1959, contain reference to the 716.ID as follows:

Lorraine: MS A-999 (Army Group G Report, combat operations in the Lorraine and Vosges areas, Nov 1944), by Gen.Maj. Friedrich-Wilhelm von Mellenthin;

Normandy: MS B-621 (The battle of the 716th Infantry Division in Normandy, 6-23 Jun 1944), by Gen.Lt. Wilhelm Richter;

MS C-048 (The I SS Panzer Corps in the West in 1944), by Gen.Maj. Fritz Kraemer;

Southern France, 15 Aug-15 Sep 1944: MS A-875, by Gen.Lt. Wilhelm Richter.

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| <p>Ia. TB. Activity reports concerning activation of the 716.ID (15. Welle) from replacement units in Wehrkreis VI, 26 Mar 1941, with Div.Nr. 156 and 166 responsible for formation in Bielefeld, 1-27 May; transfer to the Rouen area of France, 28-31 May; training in the Vernon, Louviers, and Elbeuf areas, 31 May-20 Jun; movement to the Saint-Lo and Coutances area, 21-22 Jun; security, defense against air landings, maneuvers, coastal defense, and regrouping in the Carentan, Coigny, La Haye-du-Puits, Saint-Sauveur-Lendelin, Feugerues, Lessay, Marginy, Brainville, Periers, Le Mont-Saint-Michel, Pontorson, Granville, and Avranches areas, 23 Jun-20 Nov; exchange of sectors between the 711. and 716.ID and movement to, 21-30 Nov, and occupation duty and training in the Soissons, Vouziers, Chauny, Saint-Quentin, Hirson, Creil, Amiens, and Laon areas, 1 Dec 1941-25 Jan 1942; and movement of Inf.Rgt. 736 to Paris for guard duty, 16 Dec 1941.</p> <p>Transfer of the division to Charleroi, Belgium, to relieve the 71.ID, 26-28 Jan 1942; occupation duty, training, release of personnel, and regrouping in the Mons, Peruwelz, Boussu, Fontaine l'Eveque, Nimy, and Thuin areas, 29 Jan-19 Mar; return of Inf.Rgt. 736 to Charleroi, 3 Mar; transfer to the Caen area of France to relieve the 323.ID, 20-23 Mar, and coastal defense, training, defense against enemy air and sea landings, air raid protection, alert exercises, and regrouping in the Trevieres, Colombv, Ver-sur-Mer, Merville-Franceville-Plage, Colleville-sur-Mer, Luc-sur-Mer, Ducy-Saint-Marguerite, Benouville, Mondeville, Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer, and Arromanches-les-Bains areas, 24 Mar-31 Oct 1942.</p> <p>Strength reports, a list of officer duty assignments, and data relating to division organization.</p> | 1941/05/01-1942/10/31 | 716.ID 24183/1 | 2260 | 1         |

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| Ia, Anlagen zum TR. Afteraction reports and a critique relating to the sighting of two ships in the Arromanches-les-Bains area on the night of 27-28 Aug 1942, and to British landing attempts in the Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer area, 13 Sep; billeting surveys for the Rouen, Coutances, Soissons, and Caen areas of France and the Charleroi area of Belgium; order-of-battle charts as of 12 Apr and 27 Jun 1941, and 20 Apr, 28 May, 3 and 27 Jul, and 4 and 27 Aug 1942; maps showing the location of division units in 1941 and 1942; lists of officer duty assignments; and a list of classified documents released to the Heeres-Archive, Potsdam.                               | 1941/04/12-1942/10/15 | 716.ID 24183/2 | 2260 | 51        |
| Ia, KTB 1. War journal concerning coastal defense, training, regrouping, construction of land and coastal defenses, preparations for alerts in case of an enemy attack, reorganization of the 716.ID as a stationary (bodenstaendige) division, formation of new units and an Auffang-Organisation, assembly of reserves, and reorganization of the artillery in the Caen area. Ration and combat strength reports.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1942/11/01-1943/12/31 | 716.ID 39431/1 | 2260 | 156       |
| Ia, Anlagenband 1 zum KTB 1. Orders and directives pertaining to reorganization of the 716.ID as a stationary (bodenstaendige) division by 1 Dec 1942, coastal defense, training, regrouping, construction of land and coastal defenses, formation of new units and an Auffang-Organisation, preparations for alerts in case of an enemy attack, assembly of reserves, organization of volunteer units (Ostverbaende), and reorganization of the artillery in the Caen, Luc-sur-Mer, Courseulles-sur-Mer, Vierville-sur-Mer, Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer, Colleville-sur-Mer, Port-en-Bessin, Grandcamp-les-Bains, Sully, Beuville, Arromanches-les-Bains, Isigny-sur-Mer, Bayeux, Falais, | 1942/10/30-1943/12/31 | 716.ID 39431/2 | 2260 | 258       |

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| Crepon, La Cambe, and Maisy areas.<br>Order-of-battle charts, billeting surveys, maps showing location of coastal defenses, inventories of weapons and motor vehicles, and special supply directives.                                                                                                                                                                             |                       |                |      |           |
| Ia, Anlagenband 2 zum KTB 1, Besprechungen, Uebungen. Notes and reports concerning command conferences and training and alert exercises relating to coastal defense in preparation for an enemy attack in the Caen, Bayeux, and Isigny-sur-Mer areas and the Orne River sector.                                                                                                   | 1943/01/13-1943/12/20 | 716.ID 39431/3 | 2260 | 515       |
| Ia, Anlagenband 3 zum KTB 1, Weisung fuer die Kampffuehrung und Aufgaben im Kuestenverteidigungsabschnitt (K.V.A.) der 716.ID. Directives and maps pertaining to battle conduct, combat methods, problems, and assignment and mission in securing the Caen coastal defense sector.                                                                                                | 1942/06/22-1942/10/12 | 716.ID 39431/4 | 2260 | 691       |
| Ia, Anlagenband 4 zum KTB 1, Akte "Alarm". An order concerning maximum state of alert for security of the coastal defense sector, and reports on security patrols in defense against enemy acts of sabotage and an accidental fire exchange between patrols of the 11./Gren.Rgt. 726 and 3./Gren.Rgt. 729 in the boundary area of the 709. and 716.ID on the night of 9 Dec 1942. | 1942/11/27-1942/12/24 | 716.ID 39431/5 | 2260 | 745       |
| Ia, Anlagenband 5 zum KTB 1, Akte "Abwehr". Reports, directives, maps, and a list of code names pertaining to defense against enemy acts of sabotage and air or sea landings and securing the coastal sector.                                                                                                                                                                     | 1942/04/29-1943/02/16 | 716.ID 39431/6 | 2260 | 766       |
| Ia, Anlagenband 6 zum KTB 1, Kampfanweisung fuer den Kuestenverteidigungsabschnitt der 716.ID. Directives, with maps relating to coastal defense and securing the Caen sector; also a list of minefield locations.                                                                                                                                                                | 1942/12/20-1942/12/20 | 716.ID 39431/7 | 2260 | 858       |
| Ia, Anlagenband 7 zum KTB 1, Sonderkarten. Situation maps showing the division's coastal defense sector of Caen.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1942/11/01-1943/12/31 | 716.ID 39431/8 | 2260 | 931       |

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| Ic, TB zum KTB 1. Monthly activity reports concerning enemy reconnaissance and sabotage raids in France, air activity, acts of sabotage, black marketeering, morale and attitude of the French population, control of movement in the coastal obstacle zone, security patrols, counterintelligence, military security, and troop indoctrination and entertainment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 1942/09/01-1943/09/30 | 716.ID 39431/9 | 2261 | 1         |
| Ia, Na.Fue., WuG, Ib, Ic, IVa-IVd, V, IIa/b, III, VI, Tagesbefehle. Orders of the day concerning assignments, transfers, appointments, and promotions of personnel; official travel; training; military security; counterintelligence; troop indoctrination and entertainment; medical, veterinary, and religious services; and administrative, supply, disciplinary, motor transport, signal communications, and ordnance matters. (Most of the orders of the day appearing in this record item are identical to those in record item 77653/3.)                                                   | 1941/09/27-1944/05/31 | 716.ID 77653/2 | 2261 | 79        |
| Ia, Na.Fue., WuG, Ib, Ic, IVa-IVd, V, IIa/b, III, VI, Tagesbefehle. Orders of the day concerning assignments, transfers, appointments, and promotions of personnel; official travel; training; military security; counterintelligence; troop indoctrination and entertainment; medical, veterinary, and religious services; administrative, disciplinary, supply, motor transport, signal communications, and ordnance matters; and pay sheets of the 12./Gren.Rgt. 736 for Jun 1944. (Most of the orders of the day appearing in this record item are identical to those in record item 77653/2.) | 1942/01/04-1944/05/31 | 716.ID 77653/3 | 2261 | 447       |