

999. AFRIKA-DIVISION - UNIT HISTORY

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1942/10/05	Stuttgart, Wehrkreis V	Activation of Aufstellungsstab 999 (Arbeitsstab) by Wehrmeldeamt Ulm	
1942/10/07	Truppenuebungsplatz Heuberg	Formation of Afrika-Brigade 999 from criminals and anti-Nazi personnel, training, preparations for transfer	Subordinate to: Stellv.Gen.Kdo. V, 1942/10/07-1943/01/02 C.O.: Gen.Lt. Kurt Thomas, 1942/10/15-1943/05/07 (missing on his flight to Tunisia) Subordinate to: AK 89, 1943/01/03-1943/02/15
1943/01/01	Antwerp, Luithagen, Schoten, Turnhout, Beverloo, Lierre, Maria-ter-Heide, Belgium	Transfer, coastal defense, security, training, alert exercises	
1943/02/01	Truppenuebungsplatz Maria-ter-Heide and Heuberg	Redesignation as 999. Afrika-Div., reformation to a full strength division, formation of Afrika-Schuetzen-Rgt. 963	
1943/02/08			
1943/02/15	Nimes, Avignon, Tarascon, Aramon, Beaucaire, Ledignan, Nozieres, Tr.Ueb.Pl. Rendez-Vous, France	Movement, training, reorganization, alert exercises, counterintelligence, preparations for transfer to Tunisia	Armeegruppe Felber, 1943/02/16-1943/03/29
1943/03/09-1943/03/23	Tunis, Tunisia, via Naples, Italy	Transfer of division units and Kampfgruppen Wolf and Retzlaff	PzAOK 5
1943/04/04	Tunis, Kairouan, Pichon, Fondouk, Pont-du-Fahs	Transfer of Afrika-Schuetzen-Rgt. 961 and 962, I./AR 999, 2./Pi.Btl. 999, defensive operations	Deutscher General beim Hauptquartier der ital. Wehrmacht in Rom (Obfh. Sued), 1943/03/30-1943/05/14
1943/04/24	Tr.Ueb.Pl. Heuberg, Wehrkreis V	Return of the remainder of the division	
1943/05/04	Tunis	Transfer of the division staff	
1943/05/10	Tunisia	Remnants probably captured or destroyed	
1943/05/12	From Tunis to San Cataldo, Sicily	Transfer of the division staff and incorporation into Division Sizilien	
Records of the 999. Afrika-Division are reproduced on roll 2111 of NARS Microfilm Publication T315 and are described following the unit history.			
1943/05/21-1943/06/08	Heuberg to the Island of Rhodes, Greece	Transfer of Afrika-Schuetzen-Rgt. 963 and some supporting units and incorporation into Sturm-Division Rhodos or assignment as fortress (Festungs) units Source: record item 41824/1 of Sturm-Division Rhodos (T315, roll 2274, in this Guide)	

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CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	RCLL	1ST FRAME
<p>Ia; KTB 1 mit Anlagen. War journal, including orders, directives, reports, and messages pertaining to formation and training of Afrika-Erigade 999 at Truppenuebungsplatz Heuberg/Baden, Wehrkreis V, from personnel previously considered unworthy to serve in the German Armed Forces because of a criminal record or an offensive political attitude toward the Nazi regime, 7 Oct-22 Dec 1942; preparations for movement to the west, 23-31 Dec; transfer to Antwerp and Luithagen, Belgium, 1-7 Jan 1943; training at Maria-ter-Heide; and coastal defense, security, and alert and map exercises in the Schoten, Turnhout, Beverloc, and Lierre areas as an army group reserve, 8 Jan-11 Feb.</p> <p>Reformation to a full strength division and redesignation as the 999. Afrika-Div., 1 Feb, with formation of additional units including Afrika-Schuetzen-Rgt. 963 at Truppenuebungsplatz Heuberg, in Wehrkreis V, 8 Feb-28 Mar; preparations for, 12-14 Feb, and movement to Avignon and Nimes, Southern France, 15-20 Feb; reorganization, training, alert exercises, and preparations for transfer to North Africa in the Tarascon, Aramon, Chateaurenard, Iedignan, Nozieres, and Beaucaire areas and at Truppenuebungsplatz Rendez-Vous, 18 Feb-28 Mar; and transfer of Kampfgruppen Wolf and Retzlaff to Tunis, Tunisia, via Naples, Italy, 9 and 23 Mar. Order-of-battle charts; status reports; notes on command inspections and conferences; a report concerning formation of Afrika-Schuetzen-Rgt. 963 at Heuberg from criminals and anti-Nazi personnel, 8 Feb 1943; maps showing the location of division units; billeting and entraining surveys; lists of officer duty assignments; and intelligence reports regarding the morale and attitude of the French</p>	1942/12/23-1943/03/28	999.AfrD 28388/1	2111	1

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
population, counterintelligence, military security, and troop indoctrination and entertainment.				
Ib, KTB 1; WuG, IVa-IVc, V, III, TB. War journal, including special directives and orders pertaining to supply troops, the supply situation, and other supply matters; security of railroad and supply lines; transfer of the supply branch from Truppenuebungsplatz Heuberg/Baden, Wehrkreis V, to Maria-ter-Heide, north of Antwerp, Belgium, 1-7 Jan 1943; and movement to Nimes and Avignon, France, 15-20 Feb, and preparations for and transfer to Naples and Palermo, Italy, 24-28 Mar, and planned transfer to Tunisia. Lists of supply officer duty assignments and casualties; register of officers; combat and ration strength and status reports; and inventories of weapons, equipment, motor vehicles, and ammunition. Activity reports of the administrative, medical, and motor transport officers, 27 Dec 1942-28 Feb; the military police troop (mot) 999, 26 Dec 1942-28 Feb; and the veterinary officer, the judge advocate, and the ordnance group, 1 Jan-28 Feb.	1942/12/24-1943/03/29	999.AfrD 28388/2	2111	302
Ib, KTB 2 und TB, 5. Okt. 1942-3. Jan. 1943. War journal, 1 Apr-14 May 1943, concerning transfer of the supply branch to Naples, Italy and Sicily; supplying division units at Truppenuebungsplatz Heuberg, Wehrkreis V, Nimes, France, Naples, Italy, and Tunisia, 1 Apr-3 May; return of supply troops to Heuberg, 3 May; transfer of the division staff to Tunisia, 4-5 May; the reported missing plane of the commanding officer, Gen.Lt. Kurt Thomas, on his flight to Tunisia, 7 May; and the withdrawal of the division staff from Tunisia to San Cataldo, Sicily, 12-14 May and its incorporation into Division Sizilien, 14 May.	1942/10/05-1943/05/14	999.AfrD 31429	2111	644

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CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	RCLL	1ST FRAME
<p>Activity report of the supply branch for the period 5 Oct 1942-3 Jan 1943, regarding activation of Arbeitsstab 999 by Wehrmeldeamt Ulm, 5 Oct 1942, and its arrival at Heuberg for the formation of Afrika-Brigade 999, 7 Oct-22 Dec; preparations for transfer to Maria-ter-Heide, 24-31 Dec; and transfer from Storzigen near Stuttgart to Antwerp, Belgium, 1-3 Jan 1943. Includes a list of supply officer duty assignments.</p>				
<p>Ia, KTB 2. War journal concerning preparations for transfer from Nimes, France, to Tunisia via Naples, Italy, with Kampfgruppe Wolf leaving for Tunis, 9 Mar 1943, Kampfgruppe Retzlaff, 23 Mar, I./ASR (Afrika-Schuetzen-Rgt.) 961 and 962, I./AR 999, and 2./Pi.Btl. 999, 4-17 Apr, and the return of the rest of the 999. Afrika-Div. to Tr.Ueb.Pl. Heuberg/Baden, 24 Apr-2 May, and transfer of the division staff to Tunisia, 4-5 May; commitment of division units in the Tunis, Kairouan, Pichon, Fondouk, and Pcmt-du-Fahs areas of Tunisia, 1 Apr-9 May, with remnants either captured or destroyed during the period 10-14 May; the reported missing plane of Gen.Lt. Kurt Thomas on his flight to Tunisia, 7 May; and withdrawal and movement of the division staff to San Cataldo, Sicily, 12-14 May, and its incorporation into Division Sizilien, 15 May.</p>	1943/03/02-1943/05/14	999.AfrD 32931/1	2111	682
<p>Ia, Anlagenband 1 zum KTB 2. Orders, reports, and messages pertaining to rearming of III./AR 999, 13 Mar 1943; activation of Aufstellungsstab Heuberg for the formation of Afrika-Schuetzen-Rgt. 963 at Tr.Ueb.Pl. Heuberg, Wehrkreis V, 8 Feb-20 Mar; a map exercise on the defense against enemy landings in the area north of Naples, Italy, 3 Apr; preparations for and transfer of division units from Naples to Tunisia, Apr 1943;</p>	1943/03/13-1943/05/11	999.AfrD 32931/2	2111	738

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counterintelligence in the Nimes area of France, 14 Apr; movement of division units in the Nimes area to Heuberg, 28 Apr-1 May; formation of Nachschutstab 999, 2 May; transfer of Arbeitsstab 999. Afrika-Div. to Tunisia, 4-5 May; the loss of the division's commanding officer, 5 May; and the movement of division headquarters and military police units from Naples to Reggio di Calabria, Italy, 8 May. Instruction pamphlets concerning defense against enemy parachutists and air landing troops and the attitude and behavior of German troops in Italy and Tunisia; periodic orders; notes on command conferences and duty travel; strength reports of units located in Tunisia, Sicily, Naples, Italy, Nimes, France, and Heuberg, Wehrkreis V; and lists of casualties.				
Ia, Anlagenband 2 zum KTB 2, Einsatz Tunis (T). Reports concerning sea and air transport to and combat activities by division units in Tunisia, including losses at sea, in the air, and during land offensives. Activity reports of 2./Pi.Btl. 999, 27 Mar-4 May 1943.	1943/03/26-1943/05/12	999.AfrD 32931/3	2111	910
Ia, Anlagenband 3 zum KTB 2, Karten. Situation maps showing the location of division units during their combat engagements in Tunisia.	1943/04/02-1943/05/05	999.AfrD 32931/4	2111	1116
Ia, Kriegsgliederung Uebersicht. An order-of-battle chart of the 999. Afrika-Div.	No date	999.AfrD 77752	2111	1127
Die deutsche Spezialformation "Division 999". A narrative account and formal justification for the establishment and formation of the 999. Afrika-Div., which consisted of personnel previously considered unworthy to serve in the German Armed Forces due to their criminal record or political offensive attitude toward the Nazi regime.	No date	999.AfrD 77754	2111	1132