

18. Panzergrenadier-Division (18th Panzer Grenadier Division)

This division was formed in the years 1935-36 as the 18. Infanterie-Division during the expansion of the Army after the introduction of universal military service in March 1935. It saw action first in Poland in September 1939, then in the western campaign in May 1940, and moved to Lower Silesia in September 1940. On November 1, 1940, the division was reorganized as a motorized division. In June 1941 it fought in the central sector of the eastern front, transferring in August 1941 to the northern sector and took part in offensives from August through December 1941 in the Volkhov and Svir River sectors and in position defense from January 1942 to July 1943 in the Staraya Russa area. Gruppe von Erdmannsdorff was formed from the 18. Infanterie-Division (mot.) and the 5. Jäger-Division on

February 22, 1943, as a defensive force during the 1943 winter battle south of Lake Ilmen and was disbanded on April 5, 1943. On May 20, 1943, the division was converted to the 18. Panzergrenadier-Division and returned in July 1943 to the central sector, Smolensk area. Although there are no records of the division available dated later than December 31, 1943, the situation maps of Lage Ost show that from January through June 1944 the division took part in position defense in the Mogilev and Bobruisk areas and was virtually destroyed in the Bialystok area in the summer. In November 1944 it was reformed in East Prussia and in February 1945 the division was transferred to Görlitz, Silesia. In March it withdrew to Eberswalde and in April 1945 the division participated in the defense of Berlin.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 2. War journal concerning the transfer of the division from Lodz to the Cologne and Düsseldorf areas in Oct 1939. After guarding the Belgian border from Oct 1939 to May 1940 the division entered Belgium on May 10, 1940 in the Maastricht area, engaging in combat through Belgium to the Ostende, Auxi-le-Château, Hesdin, St. Pol, and Étapes areas. The division was subordinate to the VIII., XI., XXVII., IV., X., I., and XXVIII. A.K., successively.	Oct 17, 1939 - Jun 6, 1940	W 1078a	694	1
Ia, Anlage I z. KTB 2. Division orders, training regulations, and maps. Also, orders and reports concerning Operation "Gelb" (invasion of Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg).	Oct 13, 1939 - Mar 14, 1940	W 1078b	694	129
Ia, Anlage II z. KTB 2. Corps and division orders, daily reports, and radio and teletype messages.	Mar 21 - Jun 12, 1940	W 1078c	694	442
Ic, Kriegstagebuch, Westen. Intelligence activity during the transfer from Poland and the defense of the Belgian border and from May 10, 1940, enemy operations, losses, and unit identification in Belgium and northeastern France.	Oct 16, 1939 - Jun 6, 1940	W 1078e	694	831
Ic, Anlagen z. KTB, Westen. Instructions for interrogations of prisoners and deserters.	Oct 13, 1939 - Jun 4, 1940	W 1078f	694	868
Ia, Kriegstagebuch. Position defense along the Belgian border, combat engagements through Belgium to the Auxi-le-Château, St. Pol, Hesdin, and Étapes areas, and the march to Paris.	Feb 1 - Aug 2, 1940	W 1078i	694	1041

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Ia, Kriegstagebuch 3. War journal concerning the division's combat engagement in the Bethune and Cassel areas, and its transfer to Paris and to Lower Silesia in Sep 1940. The division was subordinate to the XV. and X. A.K., Stadtkommandantur Paris, and the VIII. A.K., successively, under the command of Gen.Lt. Friedrich Karl Cranz.	Jun 6 - Oct 31, 1940	W 5871a*	695	152
Ia, Anlagenheft z. KTB 3. Corps and division orders, reports, and radio and teletype messages. Also, orders concerning Operation "Seelöwe" (planned invasion of Great Britain).	Jun 6 - Oct 12, 1940	W 5871b	695	190
Ic, "Unser Weg zum Meer", Kriegserlebnisse, bearbeitet von Major von Altenstadt. A book concerning the combat experience of the 18. Inf.Div. published by the German Armed Forces, Berlin 1940.	1940	W 6171	695	1
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht.	Jun 7 - Oct 31, 1940	W 7027/1	695	396
Ia, Ic, Tätigkeitsberichte. Activity reports concerning training activities and the reorganization of the 18. Inf.Div. to a motorized division in Nov 1940. Also, activity reports of the Intelligence Branch relating to indoctrination and entertainment of troops.	Nov 1, 1940 - May 24, 1941	9783	695	409
Ib, Tätigkeitsbericht des Stab Franke; Ia, Anlagenheft z. KTB 3. Activity report of Stab Franke and an Ia order concerning the formation of this staff (a quarter-master staff), which was subordinate to Gruppe von Erdmannsdorff and had as its mission the supplying of combat units operating along the Volkhov River front. Also, special directives relating to supply and supply troops.	Oct 31 - Nov 19, 1941	17190/6	695	482
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5. War journal concerning the division's operations during its transfer from Lower Silesia to the Bialystok area. On Jun 22, 1941, it invaded Russia and engaged in combat in the Polotsk, Vitebsk, Gorodok, and Smolensk areas. In Aug 1941 the division was reorganized and rehabilitated after which it was transferred north via Demidov, Velizh, Nevel, OPOCHKA, and Ostrov to the area northeast of Ostrov. It then fought in the Dno, Novgorod, and the Volkhov River areas, and late in Dec 1941 it withdrew from the Tikhvin area. The division was subordinate to the LVII. and XXXIX. A.K. (mot.), Pz.Gr. 3, I. A.K.,				

* Item damaged by fire.

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Gruppe v. Roques, and the X. A.K. (tactically AOK 16) at various times during this period under the command of Gen.Maj. Friedrich Herrlein.	May 25 - Dec 31, 1941	23027/1	695	535
Ia, Anlagenhefte 1-4 (Nr. 1-270) z. KTB 5. Corps and division orders and radio and teletype messages.	May 28 - Dec 31, 1941	23027/2- 23027/5	695- 696	997, 569
Ia, Anlagenheft 5 z. KTB 5, Tagesmeldungen. Daily reports concerning operations.	Jun 22 - Dec 31, 1941	23027/6	696	676
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht. Activity report concerning intelligence matters relating to Operation "Barbarossa" and information pertaining to enemy operations, movements, and unit identification in the Vitebsk, Gorodok, and Smolensk areas and later in the Dno, Novgorod, and Volkhov River areas.	May 26 - Dec 31, 1941	23027/10	696	858
Ic, Anlagenheft z. TB, Band 1, Anlagen 1-125. Radio and teletype messages, maps, and summaries of interrogations of German soldiers concerning Russian atrocities.	Jun 5 - Aug 8, 1941	23027/11	696	938
Ic, Anlagenheft z. TB, Band 2, Anlagen 126-321. Radio and teletype messages, maps, daily reports, and interrogation summaries on prisoners and deserters.	Aug 22 - Nov 10, 1941	23027/12	697	1
Ic, Anlagenheft z. TB, Band 3, Anlagen 322-423. Radio and teletype messages, maps, and daily reports.	Nov 11 - Dec 31, 1941	23027/13	697	280
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5. War journal concerning operations in the Novgorod and Staraya Russa areas. The division was subordinate to the I. A.K. under the command of Gen.Maj. Friedrich Herrlein through Feb 28, 1942, and Gen.Maj. Werner v. Erdmannsdorff, from Mar 1, 1942.	Jan 1 - Apr 30, 1942	32743/1	697	446
Ia, Anlagen 1-149 z. KTB 5. Afteraction, casualty, and combat strength reports, division orders, and maps.	Jul 23 - Aug 10, 1941	32743/2	697	590
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 5, Morgen- und Zwischenmeldungen.	Jan 8 - Apr 30, 1942	32743/4	697	929
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 5, Tagesmeldungen.	Jan 8 - Apr 30, 1942	32743/5	698	1
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht. Activity report concerning Soviet plans to break through at Staraya Russa and capture Pskov and thus separate H.Gr. Nord from H.Gr. Mitte. Soviet operations attempting to carry it out were unsuccessful.	Jan 1 - Apr 30, 1942	32743/6	698	133

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Ic, Anlagenheft (Anlagen 1-165) z. TB. Summaries of interrogations of prisoners of war, radio and teletype messages, intelligence bulletins, and maps.	Jan 9 - Apr 30, 1942	32743/7	698	154
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 6, Russland. War journal concerning operations in the Staraya Russa and Lake Ilmen areas. The division was subordinate to the X. A.K. under the command of Gen.Maj. Werner v. Erdmannsdorff.	May 1 - Dec 31, 1942	32743/9	698	447
Ia, Anlagenband I (Anlagen 1-135) z. KTB 6. Division orders concerning reorganization and defense.	May 1 - Aug 31, 1942	32743/10	698	513
Ia, Anlagenband II (Anlagen 136-220) z. KTB 6. Division orders, afteraction evaluations, reports concerning winter preparations, and maps.	Sep 3 - Nov 16, 1942	32743/11	698	787
Ia, Anlagenband III (Anlagen 221-267) z. KTB 6. Division orders concerning reorganization and defense, and maps.	Nov 16, 1942 - Jan 6, 1943	32743/12	698	1068
Ia, Anlagenbände V u. VI z. KTB 6, Morgen- und Zwischenmeldungen.	May 1 - Dec 31, 1942	32743/14-15	699	1
Ia, Anlagenband VII z. KTB 6, Tagesmeldungen.	May 1 - Dec 31, 1942	32743/16	699	473
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht. Activity report concerning enemy operations, movements, strength, and unit identification in the Lake Ilmen area.	May 1 - Dec 31, 1942	32743/17	699	722
Ic, Anlagenhefte 1-3 z. TB. Afteraction reports, interrogation summaries on prisoners and deserters, and maps.	May 1 - Dec 31, 1942	32743/18,20 32743/19	699 2327	765 1
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 7, Russland. War journal concerning operations in the Staraya Russa, Sychëvo, and Penna areas. Gruppe von Erdmannsdorff was disbanded on Apr 5, 1943.	Jan 1 - Apr 5, 1943	32743/22	699	1247
Ia, Anlagenband I z. KTB 7. Division orders and maps. Also, orders relating to Operation "Meteor" (the destruction of enemy forces in the Sychëvo area, the shortening of the main line of resistance, and increasing the depth of the defense line northeast of Penna).	Jan 1 - Feb 21, 1943	32743/23	700	1
Ia, Anlagenband III z. KTB 7, Morgen- und Zwischenmeldungen.	Jan 1 - Feb 22, 1943	32743/25	700	66

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Ia, Anlagenband IV z. KTB 7, Tagesmeldungen.	Jan 1 - Feb 22, 1943	32743/26	700	175
Ia, Anlagenband V z. KTB 7, Luftlagemeldungen. Aerial reconnaissance reports concerning enemy operations, movements, and unit identification in the Staraya Russa area.	Jan 1 - Feb 22, 1943	32743/27	700	232
Ia, Anlagenband VI z. KTB 7. Corps and division orders, maps, and afteraction evaluations.	Feb 22 - Apr 5, 1943	32743/28	700	279
Ia, Anlagenband VII z. KTB 7, Gruppe von Erdmannsdorff, Morgen- und Zwischenmeldungen.	Feb 22 - Apr 5, 1943	32743/29	700	488
Ia, Anlagenband VIII z. KTB 7, Gruppe von Erdmannsdorff, Tagesmeldungen.	Feb 22 - Apr 5, 1943	32743/30	700	573
Ia, Anlagenband IX z. KTB 7, Gruppe von Erdmannsdorff, Luftlagemeldungen. Aerial reconnaissance reports concerning enemy operations and movements in the Staraya Russa area.	Feb 22 - Apr 5, 1943	32743/31	700	619
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht. Activity report concerning enemy operations, movements, and personnel strength in the Staraya Russa and Sychëvo areas.	Jan 1 - Apr 5, 1943	32743/32	700	651
Ic, Anlagenhefte 1-2 z. TB. Daily reports, maps, and interrogation summaries on prisoners and deserters.	Jan 5 - Apr 2, 1943	32743/33-34	700	701
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 1, Stab Giesecke. War journal concerning the formation of Stab Giesecke whose mission was to construct and secure the Staraya Russa sector (a 17 km long defensive position) with the help of infantry, engineer, artillery, and supply train units and 500 civilians, and the disbandment of this staff, Mar 15, 1943. Stab Giesecke was subordinate to the 18. Inf.Div. (mot.), Stab der 18. Pz.Jg. Abt., G.R. (Grenadierregiment) 376 u. 377 (225. Inf.Div.), G.R. 174 (8. Inf.Div.), and G.R. 48 (12. Inf.Div.) at various times during this period under the command of Maj. Herbert Giesecke.	Nov 4, 1942 - Mar 15, 1943	32743/36	700	1012
Ia, Anlagenband 1 z. KTB 1, Stab Giesecke. Maps and afteraction reports.	Nov 7, 1942 - Mar 10, 1943	32743/37	701	1

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Ia, Erfahrungsbericht der 18. Inf.Div. (mot.). Afteraction critique concerning the military situation, tactics, organization, weapons and equipment, and quarter-master service.	Jul 18, 1940	34188	701	145
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 8. War journal concerning antipartisan activities in the Staraya Russa area, Operation "Sonnenwende" (antipartisan action in the Pskov and Luga areas, Jun 16 - Jul 13, 1943); relief by the 5. Jg.Div. in the Staraya Russa area; conversion to the 18. Panzergrenadier-Division on May 20, 1943; transfer in July to Smolensk via Pskov, Ostrov, Oepochka, Pustoshka, Mevel, and Vitebsk; and fighting in the Kardymovo, Smolensk, and Dubrovno areas. The division was subordinate to the X. A.K., H.Gr. Nord, Pz.AOK 3, AOK 4, XXXIX. Pz.K., and the XXVII. A.K., successively, under the command of Gen.Maj. Werner von Erdmannsdorff.	Apr 6 - Dec 31, 1943	42887/1	701	205
Ia, Anlagenband 1 z. KTB 8, Anlagen 1-170. Register of officers, casualty lists, maps, orders, and reports concerning antipartisan action in the Lake Ilmen area and, beginning in May, in the Pskov and Luga areas.	Apr 6 - Aug 3, 1943	42887/2	701	878
Ia, Anlagenband 2 z. KTB 8, Anlagen 171-350. Instructions for defense against a Russian large-scale attack and for withdrawals, with maps.	Aug 4 - Oct 9, 1943	42887/3	701	1181
Ia, Anlagenband 3 z. KTB 8, Anlagen 351-500. Reorganization orders, maps, and afteraction evaluations.	Oct 9 - Dec 31, 1943	42887/4	702	1
Ia, Anlagenband 5 z. KTB 8, Tagesmeldungen.	Apr 6 - Dec 31, 1943	42887/6	702	240
Ia, Anlagenband 6 z. KTB 8, Morgen- und Zwischenmeldungen.	Apr 6 - Dec 31, 1943	42887/7	702	723
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht. Activity report concerning enemy operations, movements, and unit identification in the Staraya Russa, Pskov, Luga, and Smolensk areas.	Apr 6 - Dec 31, 1943	42887/8	702	1113
Ic, Anlagenbände 1-2 z. TB. Afteraction critiques, maps, interrogation summaries on prisoners and deserters, and reports on antiguerrilla warfare.	Apr 9 - Oct 31, 1943	42887/9-10	703	1