

23. Infanterie-Division (23d Infantry Division)

The 23. Infanterie-Division was formed in the autumn of 1935 in Potsdam by expansion of Infanterie-Regiment 9 of the old Reichswehr. In 1939 the division took part in the campaign in Poland and in 1940 in the western campaign. From June 1941 until June 1942 the division fought on the eastern front, central sector, where it suffered heavy losses. Although there are no records of the division available for the period June 22 to September 20, 1942, the situation maps of Heeresgruppe Süd and Lage West show that the division departed from Izheshkovo, Russia, on June 27, 1942, and arrived at Charleroi, Belgium, on July 1, 1942. It was transferred in August to north of Tourcoing, France. In September 1942 the 26. Panzer-Division was formed from the 26. Panzergrenadier-Brigade (Infanterie-Regimente 9 and 67 of the 23. Infanterie-Division). Another regiment of the division, Infanterie-Regiment 68, was transferred to Denmark in October 1942 to form the nucleus of a new 23. Infanterie-Division. In January 1943 the division was transferred from Denmark to Pskov. From January to May it

took part in the defense of the Staraya Russa, Novgorod, Chudovo, and Gatchina areas and from May to August in the Mga, Gatchina, and Novgorod areas. Although there are no records of the division available dated later than August 10, 1943, the situation maps of Lage Ost show that in September and October 1943 the division defended the Novgorod area and in November and December participated in the defensive battle at Nevel. From January through March 1944 it defended the Polotsk area and in April part of the division defended Tallin (Reval) and the main part the Ostrov area. It took part in position defense in the Pustoshka area from May through July and in the Madona area in August and September. The division participated in operations from October to early December on the Saare Island and the Sorve Peninsula and was transferred on December 9, 1944, from Ventspils to Danzig. From December 1944 to February 1945 the division was rehabilitated in the Mikolajki area and took part in operations from March through April 1945 in the Praust and Danzig areas.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 1, Polenfeldzug. Preparations for the Polish campaign; combat operations during the crossing of the corridor to East Prussia; the advance to Bialystok via Nidzica, Lomza, and Wizna; and the return to East Prussia as an army reserve unit. The division was subordinate to AOK 4 and the XIX. A.K. under the command of Gen.Lt. Graf v. Brockdorff-Ahlefeldt.	Aug 26 - Sep 21, 1939	P 266	786	1
Ia, Anlagenband z. KTB 1. Orders of the division and superior headquarters, strength reports, training directives, a register of officers' duty assignments, and entraining and detraining tables.	Aug 26 - Sep 4, 1939	P 266a	786	58
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 1, Befehle.	Sep 5 - Oct 19, 1939	P 266b	786	222
Ia, Anlagen I u. II z. KTB 2, Operationsakten. Reports and orders concerning the transfer of the division from East Prussia to the Rhineland and training and position defense in the Moselle River and Gemünden areas during the periods Sep 20 - Dec 31, 1939, and Mar 12 - Apr 16, 1940. The division was subordinate to the XII. and III. A.K. under the command of Gen.Maj. Josef Reichert.	Sep 20, 1939 - Apr 16, 1940	W 617b- W 617c1	786	421
Ia, Anlage C z. KTB 2, Gefechts- und Erfahrungsberichte.	Sep 1, 1939 - Mar 10, 1940	W 617f	786	770

23. Infanterie-Division

11

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 2, Tagesbefehle, Anordnungen, Übungen.	Sep 20, 1939 - Mar 10, 1940	W 617h	786	872
Ia, Anlagenband 1 z. KTB 4. Operation orders and reports concerning combat north of Rheims and east of Soissons, transfer to the Swiss border for security duty and then to Freiburg via Belfort for rail movement to the east. The division was subordinate to the III., XXV., and the XVIII. A.K., successively, under the command of Gen.Maj. Heinz Hellmich.	Jun 8 - Sep 10, 1940	W 5550a	786	992
Ia, Anlagenband 6 z. KTB 4. Orders and sketches pertaining to combat in the Aisne River area and transfer to the Charquemont, Le Russey, and Goumois areas to secure the Swiss border.	Jun 10 - Jul 15, 1940	W 5550f	786	1188
Ia, Anlagenband z. KTB 3 u. 4, Feindnachrichten.	May 23 - Jun 14, 1940	W 6820/1	786	1211
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5. Transfer of the division to the Gnesen and Hohensalza areas for training. The division was subordinate to the XII. A.K.	Sep 14 - Oct 31, 1940	W 6820/2	787	1
Ia, Anlagenband 1 z. KTB 5, Korps- und Divisionsbefehle.	Sep 14 - Oct 31, 1940	W 6820/3	787	13
Ia, Anlagenband 2 z. KTB 5, Abgaben aus dem Feldheer; Aufstellung der 123. Inf.Div.	Sep 10 - Oct 31, 1940	W 6820/4	787	77
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht als Anlagenband 4 z. KTB 5. The strength and organization of the Red Army, Soviet fortifications, counterintelligence activity, and troop entertainment.	Sep 16 - Oct 31, 1940	W 6820/6	787	321
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht. The Soviet military-political situation, Russian border fortifications, Red Army training and tactics, counterintelligence activity, and troop entertainment.	Nov 1, 1940 - May 24, 1941	9365/5	787	326
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 6. Preparations for Operation "Barbarossa" (the invasion of Russia) and the advance via Bialystok, Grodek, Volkovysk, Slonim, Minsk, Berezino, Mogilev, and Roslavl to the Bryansk area. The division was subordinate to the VII. A.K. under the command of Gen.Maj. Heinz Hellmich.	May 25 - Aug 7, 1941	24182/1	787	340
Ia, Anlagenband 1 z. KTB 6, Operationsakten, Korps- und Divisionsbefehle.	Apr 24 - Aug 7, 1941	24182/2	787	459

23. Infanterie-Division

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Ia, Anlagenband 2 z. KTB 6, Operationsakten, Eingegangene Fernsprüche und Meldungen.	Jun 21 - Aug 7, 1941	24182/3	787	865
Ia, Anlagenband 3-6 z. KTB 6, Ausgegangene Fernsprüche und Meldungen; Lagenkarten; Gefechts- u. Erfahrungsberichte; Kriegsgliederungen; Tagesbefehle; Übersichten.	May 25 - Aug 7, 1941	24182/4	788	1
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht als Anlagenband 7 z. KTB 6. Enemy operations, movements, unit identification, losses of men and equipment, the military situation, and counterintelligence activity.	May 25 - Aug 7, 1941	24182/5	788	405
Ic, Anlagen z. TB, Nachrichtenblätter, Aufklärungs- und Beobachtungsergebnisse, Feindfeststellungen, Feindlagekarten und Abend- und Morgenmeldungen.	May 29 - Aug 7, 1941	24182/6	788	464
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 9. Combat operations in the Gorodok, Gzhatsk, Nikolskoye, Yelnya, and Vyazma areas. The division was subordinate to the V. and IX. A.K., XLVI. Pz.K., and Korück 590, successively, under the command of Gen.Maj. Kurt Badinski.	Jan 25 - Jun 22, 1942	24182/7	788	749
Ia, Anlagenband 1 z. KTB 9, Operationsakten, Korps- und Divisionsbefehle.	Jan 25 - Jun 20, 1942	24182/8	788	919
Ia, Anlagenband 5 z. KTB 9, Karten, Skizzen, Fliegerbilder und Kriegsgliederungen. Gefechts-, Erfahrungs- und Zustandsberichte.	Jan 22 - Jun 21, 1942	24182/13	789	1
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht als Anlagenband 8 z. KTB 9. Enemy operations, movement, unit identification, and losses of men and equipment.	Jan 25 - Jun 21, 1942	24182/14	789	250
Ic, Anlagenband z. TB als Anlagenbände 9a u. 9b z. KTB 9. Ic-Mitteilungen, Propaganda, Feindlageberichte, Feindnachrichtenblätter, Beutebefehle und Agrar-Erlass.	Jan 21 - Jun 21, 1942	24182/15-16	789	348
Ia, Tätigkeitsbericht. Reactivation of the 23. Inf.Div. by order of OKH, dated Oct 12, 1942. Formation of the division was completed in Denmark on Dec 1, 1942, and it was ordered to be combat ready for service on the eastern front by Mar 1, 1943. The division was subordinate to the X. A.K. under the command of Oberst von Schellwitz.	Dec 1, 1942 - Jan 19, 1943	28165/1*	791	57-71

* This item was filmed with the records of the 23. Panzer-Division.

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Ia, Ia/Mess., Ia/Gabo., Tätigkeitsberichte mit Anlagen, 26. Pz.Gren.-Brigade. Transfer of the reinforced Infanterie-Regiment 68 from Amiens, France to Oksboel, Denmark, Oct 21 - 25, 1942, for the reactivation of the 23. Inf.Div. with the mission to be combat ready for service on the eastern front as of Mar 1, 1943. The division commander was Oberst von Schellwitz.	Sep 21 - Oct 28, 1942	33147/1*	826	1-69
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 1. Transfer of the division from Denmark to Pskov, engagements in the Staraya Russa area, the battle of Novgorod, movement north to Demyansk and Chudovo, defense of the Volkhov front, and operations in May in the Gatchina-Pushkin area. The division was subordinate to the XXXVIII. A.K. under the command of Gen.Maj. Friedrich von Schellwitz.	Jan 19 - May 20, 1943	34815/1	789	770
Ia, Anlagenband I z. KTB 1, Operationsakten, Korps- und Divisionsbefehle, Lagekarten.	Feb 4 - May 10, 1943	34815/2	790	1
Ia, Anlagenband II z. KTB 1, Allgemeine Divisionsbefehle, Zustandsberichte, Allgemeine Meldungen an das Korps, Eisenbahntransportfolgen.	Jan 19 - Mar 10, 1943	34815/3	790	218
Ic, IIa/b, Tätigkeitsberichte mit Anlagen als Anlagenband III z. KTB 1. Enemy operations, movements and losses of men and equipment, intelligence bulletins, directives relating to military security, and enemy situation maps. Also, an activity report of the Personnel Branch with registers of officers' duty assignments.	Jan 19 - May 20, 1943	34815/4	790	422
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 2. Rehabilitation and training of the division to prepare for offensive operations by Jun 20, 1943; action northwest of Mga, northwest of Gatchina late in July, and north of Novgorod in August. The division was subordinate to the L. and XXVI. A.K. /This record item (filmed originally without frame numbers on MR 1641) has been assigned a simulated initial frame number./	May 21 - Aug 10, 1943	42141/1	790	1117
Ia, Anlagenband I z. KTB 2, Korps- und Armeebefehle, Lagenkarten, Allgemeine Divisionsbefehle, Zustandsberichte, Gefechtsstärkemeldungen.	May 21 - Aug 10, 1943	42141/2	790	527

* This item was filmed with the records of the 26. Panzer-Division.

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Ia, Anlagenband II z. KTB 2, Korps- u. Divisionsbefehle, Meldungen, Erfahrungsberichte.	May 21 - Aug 10, 1943	42141/3	790	822
Ic, IIa/b, Tätigkeitsberichte mit Anlagen als Anlagenband III z. KTB 2, Feindnachrichten, Gefangenenvernehmungen. Enemy operations, probable intentions, unit identification, the tactical situation, and troop indoctrination and entertainment; intelligence bulletins, care and control (Betreuungs) orders, daily and 10-day intelligence and casualty reports, and enemy situation maps. Also, an activity report of the Personnel Branch.	May 21 - Aug 10, 1943	42141/4	790	1030
Ia, Erinnerungsheft, 3 Jahre Einsatz der 23. Inf.Div., Polen, Frankreich, Russland, 1939-1942. Chronological account with maps covering division battles from 1939 through 1942 in Poland, France, and Russia. Also, a roster of officers' duty assignments.	1939 - 1942	77624	2331	1