

31. Infanterie-Division (31st Infantry Division)

The 31. Infanterie-Division (1. Welle) was formed in 1934-35 by expansion of Infanterie-Regiment 12 (Halberstadt) and Infanterie-Regiment 17 (Braunschweig) of the old Reichswehr. In September 1939 the division took part in the campaign in Poland and in May 1940 in the western campaign. In June 1941 the division was in the central sector of the eastern front. It crossed the Bug River into Russia near Terespol, participated in the capture of Gomel and Bryansk, and by November 1941 had advanced to Tula. In December 1941 it began defensive operations in the Tula, Kaluga, Yukhnov, Kirov, Vyazma, and Gzhatsk areas. Although no records of this division dated later than December 31, 1942, are avail-

able, situation maps of Lage Ost show that it participated in the Kursk offensive in the summer of 1943 and in defensive engagements in the Chernigov, Novgorod Severski, Gomel, Rogachev, Bykhov, and Mogilev areas from August 1943 to June 1944. The division withdrew to Germany in July, where it was reorganized as the 31. Grenadier-Division, returning in August 1944 to the northern sector of the eastern front to take part in defensive operations in the Valga and Sigulda areas. In October 1944 the division was redesignated the 31. Volksgrenadier-Division and withdrew to the area east of Liepaja (Libau), which it defended until the end of December. It was transferred to East Prussia in January 1945 to defend the Tuchel, Hel Peninsula, and Putzig areas until the latter part of April 1945.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Kriegstagebuch, Feldzug in Polen. Operations during march movements to the Oppeln and Breslau areas; the invasion of Poland; the battles for Liswarta; enemy positions along the Warta, Widawka, and Bzura Rivers, in the Sochaczew-Uniejow and Puszcza-Kampinos areas; the pursuit of the enemy across the Vistula River at Gora Kalwaria; the capture of Modlin; engagements near Warsaw; the encirclement of and attack against Warsaw; the armistice on Sep 28; the march through Warsaw; and march movements to entraining points in the Lodz and Liegnitz areas for transfer of the division to the West. The division was subordinate to the XI., XVI., XV., and XIII. A.K. at various times during this period under the command of Gen.Lt. Rudolf Kaempfe.	Aug 25 - Oct 20, 1939	P 657d	863	1
Ia, Anlagenband A/1 z. KTB, Taktische- und Versorgungsbeefehle.	Sep 8 - 14, 1939	P 657g	863	98
Ia, Kriegstagebuch, Band 1. Division operations during the crossing of the Juliana Canal, the Scheldt-Meuse Canal at Maaseik, the Albert Canal, the Dyle River at Havre, and the Scheldt River at Potter; the bypassing of the fortifications at Lille; and the crossing of the Lye River at Courtrai and the Ypres Canal. The division was subordinate to the IV. A.K.	May 16 - 29, 1940	W 2159/4	863	265
Ia, Anlagenband I z. KTB, Band 1, Vorbereitung des Einsatzes im Westen. Orders relating to preparations for Operation "Gelb" (the invasion of the Low Countries).	Mar 15 - May 9, 1940	W 2159/5	863	341
Ia, Anlagenband II z. KTB, Band 1, Funkmeldungen und Befehle.	May 9 - 29, 1940	W 2159/8	863	534

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Anlagenband IV z. KTB, Band 1, Kriegsgliederungen, Kriegsranliste, Gefechts- und Verpflegungsstärken, Verlustliste.	May 1 - 29, 1940	W 2159/11	863	832
Ia, Anlagenband V z. KTB, Band 1, Erfahrungsbericht 10.5.-25.6.1940; Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte. Afteraction report covering the crossing of the Juliana Canal and the advance to the Ypres Canal, the Bresle River, Neufchâtel, and Boulogne to the English Channel; the crossing of the Seine River near Rouen; and arrival at the Loire River at Pont-Château. Also, activity reports of the Intelligence Branch, May 9 - 29, 1940, and of the Personnel Branch, May 10 - 29, 1940.	May 9 - Jun 25, 1940	W 2159/12	863	892
Ia, Anlagenband VI z. KTB, Band 1, Gefechtsschilderungen Westen.	May 9 - 29, 1940	W 2159/13*	863	939
Ia, Anlagenband V z. KTB, Band 3, Befehle; Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht; IIa, Erfahrungsbericht. Orders relating to the transfer of the division to Brittany for coastal security duties and defense against enemy landings, relief by the 211. Inf. Div., and transfer of the division to Normandy for coastal defense along the English Channel. Also, an activity report of the Intelligence Branch, Jun 25 - Aug 31, 1940, and an experience report of the Personnel Branch, Jun 29 - Sep 10, 1940, pertaining to preparations for Operation "Seelöwe" (planned invasion of Great Britain), and order of battle charts.	Jun 29 - Jul 30, 1940	W 2159/26	863	992
Ia, Anlagenband V z. KTB, Band 3, Fern- und Funksprüche.	Jun 25 - Sep 1, 1940	W 2159/26b	863	1094
Ia, Kriegstagebuch, Band V, Darstellung der Ereignisse vom 1.11. bis 31.12.41. Zeittafel für den Einsatz der 31. Division vom 20.4.41 bis 25.2.42.** Timetable showing the commitment of the division:				
Apr 20	March movements from the Kalisz (Kalisch)-Kutno area to the Pulawy-Deblin area.			
May 25	Transfer to the German-Russian border near Terespol.			
Jun 15	Strategic assembly in the Terespol area.			
Jun 22	Attack across the Bug River.			
Jun 23	Rear guard engagements across the Pruzhany River to Sczara.			
Jun 28	Defensive operations along the Zel'vyanka River near Ruzhany.			

* Item damaged by fire.

** According to this document, war journals, activity reports, and annexes for the period Sep 19, 1940 - Nov 27, 1941 were destroyed on Dec 26, 1941, to keep them from falling into the hands of the enemy.

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	<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Jul 2	Advance via Slonim, Baranovichi, and Nesvizh and across the Ptich, Berezina, and Drut Rivers to the Dnieper River near Staryy Bykhov.				
Jul 20	Capture of Novy Bykov.				
Jul 22	Defensive engagements between the Drut and the Dnieper Rivers and on both sides of the Dnieper River.				
Aug 12	Start of the Gomel offensive.				
Aug 18	Advance toward Bryansk.				
Oct 2	Beginning of the offensive against Bryansk.				
Oct 9-10	Capture of Bryansk and Bezhitsa.				
Oct 12	Pursuit toward Tula.				
Oct 23	Capture of Belev.				
Nov 10	Start of the Tula offensive.				
Nov 29	Operations northwest of Tula.				
Dec 4-5	Offensives between Tula and Aleskin and continuation of operations against Tula.				
Dec 15	Withdrawal to Kaluga.				
Dec 24	Defense of Kaluga.				
Jan 8	Operations west of Kaluga.				
Jan 9	Withdrawal to Yukhnov and attacks in the direction of Zubovo.				
Jan 21	Operations south of Yukhnov.				
	The division was subordinate to the XII. A.K., Jun 22 - Sep 20, 1941, the LIII. A.K., Sep 21 - Oct 14, and the XLIII. A.K., Oct 15, 1941 - Feb 25, 1942. It was under the command of Gen.Lt. Rudolf Kaempfe, until May 21, 1941, when Gen. Maj. Gerhard Berthold took command.	Apr 20, 1941 - Feb 25, 1942	17014/1	864	1
Ia,	Anlagenband 1 z. KTB, Band 5, Korpsbefehle.	Nov 27 - Dec 30, 1941	17014/2	864	213
Ia,	Anlagenband 2 z. KTB, Band 5, Divisionsbefehle.	Nov 8 - Dec 30, 1941	17014/3	864	281
Ia,	Anlagenband 3 z. KTB, Band 5, Marsch und Einsatz der 31. Division während des Ostfeldzuges.	Jun 22, 1941 - Feb 9, 1942	17014/4	864	379
Ia,	Anlagenband 4 z. KTB, Band 5, Tages- u. Funkmeldungen, Gefechtsberichte und Allgemeines.	Oct 14 - Dec 31, 1941	17014/5- 17014/8	864- 865	411, 1

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Ia, Anlagenband 5 z. KTB, Band 5, Kriegsrang- u. Verlustlisten; Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht; IIa, Gefechts- u. Verpflegungsstärken.	Nov 1 - Dec 31, 1941	17014/9	865	162
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 6, Band I u. II. Operations west of Kaluga, withdrawal to and defense of Yukhnov, defensives south of Yukhnov, and withdrawal to positions along the Ressa-Ugra Rivers. The division was subordinate to the XLIII. A.K. under the command of Gen.Maj. Gerhard Berthold and Generalleutnant Pflieger.	Jan 1 - May 31, 1942	21915/1-2	865	251
Ia, Anlagenband 1 z. KTB 6, Korpsbefehle.	Jan 1 - May 31, 1942	21915/3	865	685
Ia, Anlagenband 2 z. KTB 6, Divisionsbefehle.	Jan 1 - May 31, 1942	21915/4	865	990
Ia, Anlagenband 4a z. KTB 6, Gefechtsberichte.	Jan 1 - May 31, 1942	21915/6	865	1243
Ia, Anlagenband 4b z. KTB 6, Allgemeine Anlagen. Reports, charts, orders, and directives.	Jan 1 - May 31, 1942	21915/7	866	1
Ia, Anlagenband 4c z. KTB 6, Funkbefehle und Meldungen.	Jan 1 - May 31, 1942	21915/8	866	269
IIa, Anlagenband 5 z. KTB 6 Ia, Verlust- u. Kriegsranlisten, Gefechts- u. Verpflegungsstärken.	Jan 1 - May 31, 1942	21915/9	866	474
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht mit Anlagen als Anlagenband 6 z. KTB 6 Ia. Enemy operations, antipartisan action, unit identification, intelligence bulletins, interrogation summaries, and the tactical situation during defensives between Kaluga and Yukhnov; overlays showing the tactical disposition of enemy forces.	Jan 1 - May 31, 1942	21915/10	866	616
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 7, Darstellung der Ereignisse. Defensive operations along the Yukhnov-Ugra Rivers, and in the Kirov, Vyazma, and Gzhatsk areas. The division was subordinate to the XLIII. and XII. A.K., Pz.AOK 3, and the XX. A.K., successively.	Jun 1 - Dec 31, 1942	27848/1	866	892
Ia, Anlagenband 1 z. KTB 7, Korpsbefehle.	Jun 1 - Dec 31, 1942	27848/2	866	1179
Ia, Anlagenband 2 z. KTB 7, Divisionsbefehle.	Jun 2 - Dec 31, 1942	27848/3	867	1

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Ia, Anlagenband 4 z. KTB 7, Besondere Anordnungen für die Kampfführung und den Stellungsbau.	Jun 5 - Dec 31, 1942	27848/5	867	238
Ia, Anlagenband 5 z. KTB 7, Kriegsgliederung und Zustandsberichte.	Jun 19 - Nov 30, 1942	27848/6	867	327
Ia, Anlagenband 6 z. KTB 7, Zustandskurzmeldungen u. Ist- u. Gefechtsstärken.	Jun 20 - Dec 25, 1942	27348/7	867	590
Ia, Anlagenband 7 z. KTB 7, Meldungen, Erfahrungs- u. Gefechtsberichte.	Jun 1 - Dec 28, 1942	27848/8	867	808
Ia, Anlagenband 8 z. KTB 7, Funkbefehle und Meldungen, Mitgehörte Funkprüche der Aufklärungsflieger.	Aug 15 - Sep 9, 1942	27848/9	867	1017
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht als Anlagenband 9 z. KTB 7.	Jun 1 - Dec 31, 1942	27848/10	867	1140
Ic, Anlagen z. TB als Anlagenbände 10 u. 11 z. KTB 7, Feindnachrichtenblätter und Feindlagenkarten. Intelligence bulletins concerning enemy operations, unit identification, and the tactical situation; and maps showing the tactical disposition of enemy forces.	Jul 21 - Dec 24, 1942	27848/11- 27848/12	867, 2336	1149, 1
Ic, Anlagen z. TB als Anlagenband 12 z. KTB 7, Gefangenenvernehmungen.	Jun 2 - Dec 27, 1942	27848/13	868	1
Ic, Anlagen z. TB als Anlagenband 13 z. KTB 7, Abwehrangelegenheiten.	Sep 6 - Dec 22, 1942	27848/14	868	193
Ic, Anlagen z. TB als Anlagenband 14 z. KTB 7, Befehle über landeseigene Hilfskräfte und Bandenjägerzug 31. I.D.	Jun 3 - Dec 16, 1942	27848/15	868	211