

The 56. Infanterie-Division (2. Welle) was activated on August 25, 1939, from reservists in Wehrkreis IV. It was sent to Presov, Slovakia, September 9-11, 1939, to participate in the Polish campaign. After contact with the Russian Army on the Bug River, the division was transferred on September 29 to the Cologne area for training and security of the German-Dutch border. It fought in the western campaign in Holland, Belgium, and France in May and June 1940 and performed occupation duties in the northeastern suburbs of Paris. On September 7, 1940, it moved to Upper Silesia and southwestern Poland for training and reorganization. It returned to the Bug River in June 1941 and took part in the invasion of Russia in the central sector and later in the southern sector, advancing to the Dnieper River where it participated in the encirclement of Kiev in September. In October 1941 the division advanced northeast and fought in the encirclement of Bryansk. From December 1941 until 1943 it was continuously engaged east of Orel, along the Zusha River, and in the battles of Bolkhov, Mtsensk, Novosil, and Verkhovye, where it suffered heavy

losses. The division withdrew to the Bryansk and Roslavl areas for rehabilitation, and then defended positions in the Mstislavl area on the Sozh and Vakhra Rivers. From September 1943 until February 1944 it was engaged in position defense and antipartisan operations along the Pronya River in the Chausy area east of Mogilev. On November 15, 1943, the 56. Infanterie-Division and parts of the 262. Infanterie-Division were reorganized as Korpsabteilung D after both divisions suffered heavy losses. Although no records of this unit dated later than February 18, 1944, are available, situation maps of Lage Ost show that it defended the Mogilev area in December 1943 and January 1944, the Polotsk and Chausy areas in February, the Vitebsk area until June, the Svencionys area of Lithuania in July, and the Kaunas area until September. In October 1944 Korpsabteilung D was again redesignated as the 56. Infanterie-Division and defended the Gusev (Gumbinnen) area until January and the Heiligenbeil area until March 1945, when it was probably destroyed.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 2 mit Anlagen, Einsatz zur Sicherung der deutschen Westgrenze. Formation of the division on Aug 25, 1939; transfer to Presov, Slovakia; march across the Lupkow Pass in the Polish campaign; the advance to Przemysl where it met the Russian Army; and entraining on Sep 29, 1939, in the Tarnow area for movement to the Cologne area for training and security of the German-Dutch border. Also, corps and division orders, lists of officers' duty assignments, and maps. The division was subordinate to the XXII. and IX. A.K. during this period, under the command of Gen.Lt. Karl Kriebel.	Oct 14, 1939 - May 9, 1940	W 4155	962	1
Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte. Enemy activities and instructions in espionage and sabotage. An activity report of the Personnel Branch concerning personnel absent without leave, assignments, and losses.	Oct 14, 1939 - May 9, 1940	W 6860	962	487
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 3, Teil I, Der Durchbruch zum Ärmelkanal bei der 6. Armee. The breakthrough in the Venlo area on the Maas River, offensives as far as Ghent and the Turnhout Canal, and maps. The division was subordinate to the IX. A.K. during this period.	May 9 - 19, 1940	W 7576/1*	962	500

* Item damaged by fire.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 3, Teil II, Die Schlacht in Flandern und im Artois bei der 18. Armee. Offensives in the Ghent and the Scheldt River areas and in the vicinity of Antwerp, the battle for Dunkirk, and maps.	May 20 - Jun 4, 1940	W 7576/2	962	746
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 3, Teil I u. II; Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte. Division orders, order of battle charts, maps, sketches of bridges, photographs, and a city plan of Venlo. Also, activity reports of the Intelligence Branch from May 10 to Jun 22, 1940, and of the Personnel Branch pertaining to casualties, awards and decorations; and lists of officers' duty assignments.	May 10 - Jun 25, 1940	W 7576/3	962- 963	1103, 1
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 3, Teil III, Verwendung im Operationsgebiet während der Schlacht in Frankreich; Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte. Offensive operations in the breakthrough on the French northern front east of Dunkirk to Cambrai, Reims, and Châlons; the march through Paris to Versailles; the parade in Paris; and occupation duties in the eastern part of Paris. Also, army, corps, and division orders, messages, order of battle charts, and maps, and activity reports of the Intelligence and Personnel Branches.	Jun 5 - 25, 1940	8930/1	963	293
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 3, Teil IV mit Anlagen; Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte. Occupation duties north of the Seine River in Paris, march to Abondant for training, transfer to Chartres, entraining in Rennes and Chartres for movement to Cracow, Poland, on Sep 7, 1940. Also, army, corps, and division orders and directives, messages, order of battle charts, and combat and ration strength reports. Activity reports of the Intelligence Branch, Jun 23 - Sep 11, 1940, and of the Personnel Branch, Jun 26 - Sep 7, 1940. The division was subordinate to Militärbefehlshaber Paris, and the XXII. and XLIII. A.K. during this period, under the command of Gen.Lt. Karl Kriebel, and Gen.Lt. Paul von Hase from Jul 25, 1940.	Jun 23 - Sep 11, 1940	8930/2	963	525
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 4, Teil I mit Anlagen; Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte. Arrival of the division in Cracow, Oppeln, and Kreuzburg, and reorganization and training in the Neuhammer troop training area; directives, orders, order of battle charts, reports on training and ammunition, and maps. Also, activity reports of the Intelligence Branch, Sep 11 - Oct 31, 1940, and the Personnel Branch. The division was subordinate to the IX. A.K. during this period.	Sep 8 - Oct 31, 1940	8930/3	963	899

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Ia, Kriegstagebuch 4, Teil II mit Anlagen; Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte. Arrival in Upper Silesia of the last unit of the division from France (Pi.Btl. 156) that was to take part in Operation "Seelöwe" (planned invasion of England), training in the Neuhammer troop training area, and replacement of new recruits; army, corps, and division directives, orders, reports, and messages pertaining to winter training in the troop training area of Lamsdorf, training for artillery officers in Jüterbog, and afteraction reports from subordinate units. Also, activity reports of the Intelligence Branch, Nov 1 - Dec 31, 1940, and the Personnel Branch, Nov 1, 1940 - May 15, 1941. The division was subordinate to the IX. A.K. during this period, under the command of Gen.Lt. Paul von Hase, and Gen.Maj. Karl von Oven who became division commander on Nov 16, 1940.	Nov 1 - Dec 31, 1940	10507/1	963	1256
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 4, Teil III mit Anlagen; Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte. Army, corps, and division directives, orders, reports, messages, and order of battle charts concerning training in the troop training areas of Lamsdorf and Sieradz, the transfer to Brieg, maneuvers of subordinate units, and artillery training exercises. Also, activity reports of the Intelligence and Personnel Branches.	Jan 1 - Feb 28, 1941	10507/2	964	1
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 4, Teil IV mit Anlagen; Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte. Army, corps, and division directives, orders, reports, and messages concerning training, billeting of troops during maneuvers, and the march to Czestochowa on Apr 22, 1941. Also, an activity report of the Intelligence Branch pertaining to the enemy situation, espionage, sabotage, troops absent without leave, and troop entertainment. The division was subordinate to the IX. and XXIX. A.K. during this period. /The activity report of the Personnel Branch for this period is in KTB 4, Teil II./	Mar 1 - Apr 30, 1941	10507/3	964	428
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 4, Teil V mit Anlagen; Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte. Army, corps, and division directives, orders, reports, and messages concerning the march to Lublin on May 14, 1941, for training and maneuvers. Also, an activity report of the Intelligence Branch pertaining to the enemy situation, counterintelligence, and troop activities. The division was subordinate to the XXIX. and XVII. A.K. during this period. /The activity report of the Personnel Branch for this period is in KTB 4, Teil II./	May 1 - 14, 1941	10507/4	964	958

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Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil Ia mit Anlagen, Aufmarsch zum Feldzug gegen die Sowjet-Union. Army, corps, and division directives, orders, reports, and messages concerning training exercises in preparation for Operation "Barbarossa" (the invasion of Russia) and security of the assigned area under AOK 6.	May 15 - 31, 1941	18987/1	964	1075
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil Ib mit Anlagen; Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte mit Anlagen. Army, corps, and division orders for the march to Chelm between Jun 12 and 18, 1941; orders from Abschnittsstab Staufen on border security between Rudka and Sobibor; road traffic regulations; corps and division orders for the attack across the Bug River to Lyuboml; and maps and overlays. Also, activity reports of the Intelligence Branch concerning the enemy situation, fortifications along the Bug River, reconnaissance, instructions to the troops about the Soviet Union and its armed forces, and maps. Activity report of the Personnel Branch with lists of officers' duty assignments and combat and ration strength reports. The division was subordinate to the XVII. A.K. during this period.	Jun 1 - 21, 1941	18987/2	965	1
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil IIa mit Anlagen und Karten, Grenzschlacht in Wolhynien. Army, corps, and division orders, reports, messages, and maps concerning offensives from the Bug River at Swierze to Lyuboml, Kovel, Sarny, and Ludwipol. The division was subordinate to the XVII. A.K. and H.Gr. Süd during this period.	Jun 22 - Jul 23, 1941	18987/3	965	415
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil IIb mit Anlagen und Karten; Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte mit Anlagen. Army, corps, and division orders, reports, messages, and maps concerning offensives from Sarny and Ludwipol to the Korosten area. Also, activity reports of the Intelligence Branch pertaining to enemy activities and situation, reconnaissance, prisoner-of-war interrogations, and translations of enemy documents. Activity report of the Personnel Branch, with casualty lists from Jun 22 to Aug 1, 1941.	Jul 24 - Aug 1, 1941	18987/4	966	1
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil III mit Anlagen und Karten; Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte mit Anlagen. Kämpfe im Raum um Korosten und Verfolgungskämpfe bis zum Dnjeper und Pripjet. Army, corps, and division orders, reports, messages, and maps concerning offensives in the Korosten area to the Pripjat and Dnieper Rivers in the Chernobyl area. Activity report with annexes of				

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the Intelligence Branch pertaining to enemy operations; interrogation summaries; reports on enemy units, and translations of enemy documents. Activity report of the Personnel Branch including lists of officers' duty assignments and casualties. The division was subordinate to the XVII. and LI. A.K. during this period.	Aug 2 - Sep 10, 1941	18987/5	966	217
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil IV mit Anlagen und Karten, Schlacht um Kiew; Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte mit Anlagen. Army, corps, and division orders, reports, messages, and maps concerning the encirclement of Kiev between the Dnieper and Desna Rivers in the Brovary area northeast of Kiev, and advance toward Chernigov; charts on tank obstacles and fortified positions, orders from adjacent divisions, and reports of advance units. Also, activity reports of the Intelligence Branch pertaining to enemy operations, prisoner-of-war interrogations, enemy units, and number of prisoners captured, and translations of enemy documents. Activity report of the Personnel Branch including lists of officers' duty assignments and casualties. The division was subordinate to the XVII. A.K. and AOK 6 during this period.	Sep 11 - 25, 1941	18987/6	966	379
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil Va mit Anlagen und Karten, Schlacht um Brjansk und Sicherung des rückw. Armeegebietes der 2. Panzerarmee. Army, corps, and division orders, reports, messages, and maps concerning offensive operations, Operation "Taifun" (attack against Timoshenko's Army) from Chernigov northeast to Karachev, and the encirclement of Bryansk. Also, afteraction reports on the Russian campaign, air force instructions pertaining to air-ground contacts, order of battle charts, and sketches of Russian antitank mines. The division was subordinate to AOK 2 (H.Gr. Mitte), the LIII. A.K., and Pz.AOK 2 during this period.	Sep 26 - Oct 28, 1941	18987/7	967	1
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil Vb mit Anlagen und Karten; Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte mit Anlagen, 26.9. - 10.12.1941. Army, corps, and division orders, reports, messages, and maps concerning the encirclement of Bryansk, offensives toward Orel, and security operations of Pz.AOK 2 in the rear area. Also, reports of the Kommandant für das rückw. Armeegebiet, and of Feldkommandantur (V) 134 pertaining to the security of rear areas and antipartisan warfare. Activity reports of the Intelligence and Personnel Branches.	Oct 29 - Dec 10, 1941	18987/8	967	622

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Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil VI mit Anlagen und Karten, Abwehrkämpfe im Raum Werchowe-Nowossil; Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte mit Anlagen. Corps and division orders, reports, messages, and maps concerning offensives in the Novosil and Verkhovye areas east of the Zusha River and winter operations east of Orel. Also, activity report of the Intelligence Branch pertaining to enemy operations; counterintelligence, interrogation summaries, intelligence bulletins, and translations of captured documents. Activity report of the Personnel Branch including lists of officers' duty assignments and casualties. The division was subordinate to AOK 2 and Höh.Kdo. XXXV during this period.	Dec 11, 1941 - Jan 8, 1942	18987/9	967	1276
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil VIIa mit Anlagen und Karten, Abwehrkämpfe im Raum um Bolchow. Corps and division orders, reports, messages, and maps concerning position defense in the Bolkhov area on the Oka River. Also, strength reports and reports from division subordinate units. The division was subordinate to Pz.AOK 2 and the LIII. A.K. during this period.	Jan 9 - Feb 18, 1942	18987/10	968	1
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil VIIb mit Anlagen und Karten. Division and regimental orders, reports, messages, and maps concerning position defense in the Bolkhov and Krapivna areas.	Feb 19 - Mar 31, 1942	18987/11	968	682
Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte mit Anlagen z. KTB 5, Teil VIIa-b. Enemy operations, interrogation summaries, translations of captured documents, letters and propaganda material, and reports on enemy units. Activity report of the Personnel Branch including lists of officers' duty assignments and casualties.	Jan 9 - Mar 31, 1942	18987/12	2344	1
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil VIII, Text, Abwehrkämpfe im Raum nordwestlich Bolchow. Defensives northwest of Bolkhov.	Apr 1 - Aug 10, 1942	26472/1	969	1
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil IX, Text mit Karten, Angriffs- und Abwehrkämpfe südwestlich Kaluga; Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte. Offensive and defensive operations southwest of Kaluga. Activity report of the Intelligence Branch pertaining to enemy operations; interrogation summaries, intelligence bulletins; and enemy situation maps and overlays. Activity report of the Personnel Branch including lists of officers' duty assignments and casualties. The division was subordinate to the LIII. A.K. and XLI. Pz.K. during this period.	Aug 11 - Sep 13, 1942	26472/2	969	273

56. Infanterie-Division

127

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil X, Text mit Karten, Stellungskämpfe nordostw. Orel. Position defense northeast of Orel on the Zusha River, and maps and overlays. The division was subordinate to Höh.Kdo. XXXV during this period.	Sep 14 - Dec 31, 1942	26472/3	969	667
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 5, Teil VIII. Daily reports and messages from subordinate units, and situation maps and overlays.	May 1 - Aug 20, 1942	26472/5- 26472/9	969- 970	872, 873
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 5, Teil IX. Daily reports, orders, messages, sketches, target numbers, and overlays from corps, division, and subordinate units.	Aug 21 - Sep 13, 1942	26472/10-11	971	1
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 5, Teil X. Daily reports, orders, messages, maps, and overlays of the division and subordinate units.	Sep 14 - Dec 31, 1942	26472/12- 26472/15	971- 972	455, 1
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht z. KTB 5, Teil VIII. Enemy operations, counterintelligence, interrogation summaries, intelligence bulletins, activities of prisoners of war and Russian civilians, reports on a new type of Russian mine with electric detonator, and maps.	Apr 1 - Jun 30, 1942	26472/16	2344	277
Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte z. KTB 5, Teil VIII. Enemy situation, propaganda, employment of prisoners of war and ethnic Germans, interrogation summaries, sketches of a Russian rocket launcher, enemy situation maps and overlays, and reports on partisan activities. Activity report of the Personnel Branch including lists of officers' duty assignments, awards and decorations, and casualties, and ration strength reports.	Jul 1 - Aug 10, 1942	26472/17	972	289
Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte z. KTB 5, Teil X. Enemy operations, interrogation summaries, intelligence bulletins, and translations of captured documents. Activity report of the Personnel Branch including officers' duty assignments, awards and decorations, and casualties by rank and unit, and combat and ration strength reports.	Sep 13 - Dec 31, 1942	26472/18	2344	678
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil XIa-g mit Anlagen und Karten, Stellungskämpfe nordostw. Orel. Army, corps, division, and subordinate unit orders, reports, messages, and maps concerning position defense and construction of fortifications along the Zusha River, east of Orel, and between Mtsensk and Vyazhi.				

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Also, order of battle charts and situation overlays. The division was subordinate to the XXXV. A.K. during this period, under the command of Gen.Lt. Karl von Oven until Jan 28, 1943, when he assumed command of the XLIII. A.K. and of Oberst Otto Lüdecke who became temporary division commander on Jan 28 and division commander on Apr 1 when he was promoted to Generalmajor.	Jan 1 - Jul 10, 1943	36320/1- 36320/7	972- 974	590, 444
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil XIIa-b mit Anlagen, Abwehrschlacht ostw. Orel. Corps, division, and subordinate unit orders, reports, messages, and maps concerning position defense along the Zusha River between Mtsensk and Vyazhi and operations during the retreat to the Oka River north of Orel and to the Karachev area. The division was subordinate to the XXXV. A.K., Gruppe Lübbe, Gruppe Gollnick, and the LIII. A.K. during this period.	Jul 11 - 31, 1943	36320/8-9	974	609
Ic, Tätigkeitsberichte, Bände 1-7 mit Anlagen. Interrogation summaries, counter-intelligence, orders on treatment of enemy deserters, and intelligence bulletins; reports, messages, maps, and overlays concerning enemy activities and situation.	Jan 1 - Jul 31, 1943	36320/10-16	975	1
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil XIIIa-b, Abwehrkämpfe in Richtung nordostw. Rosslavl und Absetzen auf Stellung ostw. Mogilew. Withdrawal to Bryansk and Roslavl, rehabilitation of the division after it suffered heavy losses, and operations along the Sozh and Vekhra Rivers in the Mstislavl area. The division was subordinate to the XII. and IX. A.K., 20. Pz.Div., and Gruppe Harpe during this period, under the command of Gen.Maj. Otto Lüdecke and of Oberst Vincenz Müller, who became division commander on Sep 1, 1943.	Aug 1 - Sep 30, 1943	43310/1-2	975	765
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5, Teil XIVa, Stellungskämpfe ostw. Mogilew. Position defense and antipartisan operations in the Mogilev area along the Dnieper River. The division was subordinate to the XII. A.K. during this period.	Oct 1 - 31, 1943	43310/3	976	1
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 5, Teil XIIIa-b u. XIVa. Corps and division orders, after-action and daily reports, messages, order of battle charts, maps, and overlays.	Aug 1 - Oct 31, 1943	43310/4-6	976	144
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht mit Anlagen z. KTB 5, Teil XIIIa-b u. XIVa. Enemy operations and situation, propaganda, and counterintelligence measures; intelligence				

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bulletins; interrogation summaries; and enemy situation maps and overlays covering the areas between Bryansk, Roslavl, and Mogilev.	Aug 1 - Oct 31, 1943	43310/7	977	1
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 5, Teil XIVb, Korpsabteilung D, 56. Inf.Div. und Teile der 262. Inf.Div. Directives, orders, reports, and messages concerning defensive operations and antipartisan warfare in the areas between Chaussy and Mogilev. Also, reports and messages from subordinate units, with maps and overlays. Korpsabteilung D was organized from the 56. Inf.Div. and units of the 262. Inf.Div. under the command of Gen.Maj. Vincenz Müller.	Nov 11 - 30, 1943	43310/12	977	303
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht mit Anlagen z. KTB 5, Teil XIVb-c, Korpsabteilung D. Enemy activities and situation, propaganda, counterintelligence measures, and troop indoctrination. Also, daily reports and intelligence bulletins, and maps and overlays showing enemy positions east of Chaussy.	Nov 1 - Dec 31, 1943	43310/15	977	633
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht mit Anlagen z. KTB 5, Teil XIVd-e, Korpsabteilung D. Enemy operations and situation, partisan activity in the Chaussy area, German and enemy propaganda, counterintelligence, and troop indoctrination. Also, daily intelligence reports, intelligence bulletins, and enemy situation maps and overlays of the Chaussy area along the Pronya River.	Jan 1 - Feb 18, 1944	43310/16	977	1003