

88. Infanterie-Division (88th Infantry Division)

The 88. Infanterie-Division (6. Welle) was formed from reservists on December 1, 1939, in Grafenwöhr, Wehrkreis XIII, and received its training with Czech weapons. On May 15, 1940, it moved to Trier, marched through Luxembourg and southeastern Belgium to Sedan, France, and, from June 1, participated in offensive operations on the Oise-Aisne Canal in the vicinity of Montigny-sur-Crécy, Laon, and Troissy on the Marne River to Champoulet, until hostilities ceased on June 25, 1940. In July 1940 it was transferred via Nancy and Zweibrücken to Dinkelsbühl for reorganization and training with new weapons. In February 1941 the division was again transferred to France, to Biarritz on the Bay of Biscay for coastal defense and security duty on the French-Spanish border. On December 17, 1941, it entrained in Bayonne for movement to the southern sector of the eastern front, to Kiev, and to Kursk for defensive actions between Belgorod and Kharkov. The division fought continuously between the Seim and Oskol Rivers from January 1942 to January

1943 when it was encircled by Russian forces between Voronezh and Kursk; however, it was able to break through with the aid of the XIII. Armeekorps, suffering heavy losses during this period, and withdrew to the Rylsk area. The division regrouped in the Rylsk area and engaged in antipartisan and defensive operations in that area until June 1943. Although no records of this division dated later than June 30, 1943, are available, situation maps of Lage Ost show that it defended the Rylsk area in July and August 1943 and from September to November the areas northeast of Yagotin, southeast of Kiev, and east of Zhitomir. The division took part in position defense in the Belaya Tserkov area until it was encircled in February 1944 east of Cherkassy and returned to the central sector in May after reorganization. It defended the Vladimir Volynski area from May to July, the area west of Lvov in August, and the Opatow area from September to December. The division withdrew to east of Radom in January 1945.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 1. Formation of the division on Dec 1, 1939, in Grafenwöhr, Wehrkreis XIII, and training with Czech weapons; entraining in Amberg on May 15, 1940, for movement to Wengerohr in the vicinity of Trier; and march through Luxembourg and Belgium to Sedan, France. A list of officers' duty assignments and combat and ration strength reports. The division was subordinate to the XIII. A.K., OKH as a reserve unit, AOK 16, and the XVII. and XIII. A.K., successively, under the command of Gen.Maj. Georg Lang from Dec 1, 1939, to Feb 1, 1940, and of Gen.Maj. Friedrich Gollwitzer from Feb 2, 1940, to Mar 9, 1943.	Dec 1, 1939 - May 31, 1940	W 543/a	1150	1
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 1. Corps and division orders, directives on organization, messages, and maps.	Nov 23, 1939 - May 31, 1940	W 543/b-c	1150	63
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 2. Formation and training of the division at Grafenwöhr, Amberg, Weiden, and Bayreuth; transfer to the Trier area on May 15, 1940; march through Luxembourg and southeastern Belgium to Sedan, France, on				

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May 19; and preparations for offensive operations to cross the Oise-Aisne Canal in the vicinity of Montigny-sur-Crécy, Laon, and Troissy on the Marne River to Champoulet; with photographs, lists of officers' duty assignments and casualties, and combat and ration strength reports. The division was subordinate to the XIII. and XLIII. A.K. during this period.	Dec 15, 1939 - Jun 25, 1940	W 7014/1	1150	748
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 2. Corps and division orders, reports, messages, casualty lists, afteraction reports, and maps.	Jun 1 - 24, 1940	W 7014/2	1150	977
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht nebst Zusatz und Anlagen (Tätigkeitsbericht u. Zusatz fehlen). OKW bulletins and army reports concerning the enemy situation and billeting, and march orders.	May 17 - Jun 4, 1940	W 7014/5a*	1151	1
Ic, Anlagen z. TB. Corps and division orders and intelligence reports concerning the enemy situation; air reconnaissance reports, maps, and overlays.	Jun 6 - 29, 1940	W 7014/5b	1151	125
Ia, Tätigkeitsbericht. Transfer of the division from France via Zweibrücken to Dinkelsbühl in July 1940, reorganization, training with new equipment, leave of absence for division personnel to help in the harvest and armament industry, discharging of older personnel; and lists of officers' duty assignments. The division was subordinate to the XIII. A.K. and OKH as a reserve unit during this period.	Jul 23, 1940 - Feb 14, 1941	10752	1151	288
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 4. Recall of division personnel who were on leave of absence; reorganization; entraining in Dinkelsbühl, Crailsheim, Nördlingen, and Feuchtwangen in February 1941 for movement to Biarritz on the Bay of Biscay for coastal defense and security duty on the French-Spanish border; entraining of the division's advance detachment in Bayonne on Dec 17, 1941, for movement to Kiev via Bordeaux, Tours, Orléans, Belfort, Strasbourg, Ludwigshafen, Darmstadt, Würzburg, Bamberg, Cracow, and Przemysl; the march to Lemberg and Zhitomir, and the move by train to Kiev. Lists of officers' duty assignments and combat and ration strength reports. The division was subordinate to the XIII. and XXXI. A.K. and OKH as a reserve unit during this period.	Feb 1 - Dec 25, 1941	16884/1	1151	315

* Item damaged by fire.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Anlagenband z. KTB 4. OKH orders concerning recall and reorganization of reserve (6. Welle) divisions within their respective command (Wehrkreis); corps and division orders and reports pertaining to transfer, training, and coastal and border security duties; order of battle charts, and reports of the Supply Branch.	Feb 1 - Dec 18, 1941	16884/2	1151	433
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 3. Cessation of hostilities on Jun 25, 1940, when the division was in Champoulet, France, transfer via Nancy and Zweibrücken to Dinkelsbühl; lists of officers' duty assignments; and combat and ration strength reports. The division was subordinate to the XLIII. A.K., AOK 9, 2, 12, and 1, and the XIII. A.K., successively, during this period.	Jun 25 - Jul 25, 1940	18186/1	1151	961
Ia, Anlagenband z. KTB 3. Army, corps, and division orders, reports, messages, railroad loading lists, and maps and overlays.	Jun 25 - Jul 25, 1940	18186/2	1152	1
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5. Transfer of the division from France to Kiev, Dec 17 - 27, 1941, and to Kursk to participate in defensive operations between Belgorod and Kharkov; and lists of officers' duty assignments and casualties. The division was subordinate to the XXXI. A.K., OKH as a reserve unit, and the XLVIII. Pz.K. during this period.	Dec 10, 1941 - Apr 17, 1942	20024/1	1152	278
Ia, Anlagenbände 1-4 z. KTB 5. Corps and division orders and reports, messages and reports of subordinate units, order of battle charts, aerial reconnaissance photographs, sketches of fortifications, and maps and overlays.	Dec 11, 1941 - Apr 5, 1942	20024/2- 20024/5	1152- 1153	652, 294
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 5; Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht. "Unternehmen Auferstehung" (offensive operations southeast of Kursk along the Seim River in March 1942), reports and messages of subordinate units, and maps and overlays. Activity report of the Intelligence Branch, with interrogation summaries of prisoners of war and deserters, and intelligence bulletins.	Dec 22, 1941 - Apr 17, 1942	20024/6	1153	516
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 5, Unternehmen "Auferstehung". Detailed combat instructions for the capture of Kalinov and a report on action taken, with overlays.	Mar 5 - 30, 1942	20024/7	1153	619
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 5, Gefechts- und Versorgungsstärken. (This record item, filmed originally without frame numbers on MR 1441, has been assigned a simulated initial frame number.)	Jan 11 - Apr 11, 1942	20024/8	1153	1165

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 6; IIa/b, Tätigkeitsbericht. Defensive operations southeast of Kursk along the Seim River, withdrawal to west of Kursk for rehabilitation and rest, and move back to the frontline southeast of Kursk for defensive actions. Activity report of the Personnel Branch pertaining to replacements, transfers, and decorations, with lists of officers' duty assignments and casualties. The division was subordinate to the XLVIII. Pz.K., AOK 6 and 2, and the XIII. and LV. A.K., successively, during this period.	Apr 18 - Sep 30, 1942	23906/1	1153	766
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht. Activity report, with reports concerning impressions gathered on the enemy situation, combating partisan units, and the conduct of the civilian population; evaluation of prisoner of war interrogations, and an overlay showing location of enemy units.	Apr 18 - Sep 30, 1942	23906/2	1153	1074
Ia, Anlagenbände I-III z. KTB 6. Corps and division orders and reports, and reports and messages of subordinate units, order of battle charts, and maps and overlays.	Apr 17 - Sep 30, 1942	23906/3-5	1154	1
Ia, Anlage Sonderakt "Auffrischung". Army, corps, and division reports concerning rehabilitation of divisions within AOK 2; improvement of antitank defenses; replacement of personnel, horses, and equipment; and order of battle charts.	Jan 20 - Jun 10, 1942	24917/1	1154	900
Ia, Anlage Sonderakt "Feldersatzbataillon". Corps and division reports concerning training of Feldersatzbataillon 88 (88th Field Replacement Battalion) in Wehrkreis XIII and transfer to the division frontline in the Kursk area.	May 4 - Jul 23, 1942	24917/2	1154	989
Ia, Ic, Berichte über die Abwehrkämpfe bei II./I.R. 246. Reports concerning defensive operations by the II. Bataillon of Infanterie-Regiment 246 in the Livny area northeast of Kursk.	Oct 9 - 16, 1942	32844	1154	1051
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 7. Withdrawal from the Don River bridgehead to the Oskol River, to the vicinity of Starya Oskol, west to Livny, and later to Rylsk west of Kursk. The division was subordinate to the VII. A.K., Korpsgruppe Siebert, and the VII. and XIII. A.K., successively, during this period under the command of Gen.Lt. Friedrich Gollwitzer and Obst. Heinrich Roth, who assumed command of the division on Mar 9, 1943.	Jan 6 - Mar 31, 1943	33690/1	1154	1076

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Ia, Anlagenband z. KTB 7. Corps and division orders, reports, and messages.	Jan 28 - Mar 30, 1943	33690/2	1154	1125
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 8. The breakthrough from encirclement between Voronezh and Kursk and retreat west to the vicinity of Rylsk, regrouping and partisan warfare in the Rylsk area; lists of officers' duty assignments and combat and ration strength reports. The division was subordinate to the XIII. A.K., AOK 2, and the VII. A.K. during this period.	Apr 1 - Jun 30, 1943	33690/3	1154	1385
Ia, Anlagenband 1 z. KTB 8. Corps and division orders concerning Operation "Sommerzeit" (operation by the XIII. A.K. to break out the 88. Inf.Div. from encirclement between Voronezh and Kursk in April 1943 and withdrawal to the Rylsk area), reports and messages of subordinate units, order of battle charts, and maps and overlays.	Apr 1 - Jun 26, 1943	33690/4	1154	1436
Ia, Gefechtsbericht. Afteraction report concerning the division's defensive operations and counterattacks in the combat sectors "Direr" and "Donau," located between Kursk and Voronezh, while the division was subordinate to the LV. A.K. Due to encirclement all the division's records for the period Oct 1, 1942 to Jan 5, 1943, were destroyed to keep them from falling into enemy hands.	Oct 1, 1942 - Jan 5, 1943	33690/7	1154	1652
Ia, Gefechtsbericht. Afteraction report and an operations report on measures taken for withdrawal.	Jan 23 - Feb 18, 1943	33690/8	1154	1660
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht. The enemy situation on the frontline north of Rylsk, German and enemy propaganda, intelligence bulletins, reports on the attitude of the civilian population and partisans, summaries of interrogations of deserters, and maps and overlays.	Apr 1 - Jun 30, 1943	33690/10	1154	1675