

205. INFANTERIE-DIVISION - UNIT HISTORY

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DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1939/08/25	Wehrkreis V, Freiburg	Operational readiness of 14.LdwD (3. Welle), training	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Ernst Richter, 1939/08/26-1942/03/26 Subordinate to: Stellv.Gen.Kdo. V, 1939/08/25-1939/12/30
1939/11/21	Freiburg, Breisach	Training, border security, defensive engagements	
1940/01/01	Freiburg	Redesignated 205.ID	AOK 7, 1939/12/31-1940/02/07
1940/01/29	Villingen, Endingen, Ebingen, Muensingen	Movement, training	OKH Res., 1940/02/08-1940/05/17
1940/05/16	Arlon, Belgium Sedan, Laon, Marle, Rheims, Chalons-sur-Marne, Troyes, Nivernais, Nevers, France	Transfer, advance, offensive engagements occupation duty	AOK 16, 1940/05/18-1940/05/29 AK 9 (AOK 2), 1940/06/10-1940/07/06 AOK 2, 1940/07/07-1940/07/11
1940/07/10	Nevers, Dijon, Lure, Belfort, Freiburg, Germany	Transfer	AK 27 (AOK 12), 1940/07/12-1940/07/17
1940/07/17	Karlsruhe, Rastatt, Heilbronn, Baden-Baden, Neckarsulm	Movement, training	Stellv.Gen.Kdo. V, 1940/07/17-1941/02/26
1941/02/15	Karlsruhe, Saint-Nazaire, Nantes, Angers, Chateaubriant, Auray, Lorient, Pontivy, Vannes, France	Transfer, coastal defense, security of rear areas, training, regrouping	AK 25, 1941/02/27-1942/01/10
1941/07/01	Groix Island, Nantes, Guer, Saint-Nazaire	Coastal defense, training	
1942/01/26	Vitebsk, Russia	Transfer	AK 59, 1942/01/11-1942/11/04
1942/02/11	Velizh, Velikiye Luki, Demidov	Movement, defensive engagements	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Paul Seyffardt, 1942/03/28-1943/11/04
1942/07/27	Velizh, Western Dvina River, Surazh	Defensive and assault troop operations, action against partisans	Subordinate to: AK 41 Pz, 1942/11/04-1942/11/18 AK 6, 1942/11/18-1942/12/31

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1943/01/01	Nevel, Velikiye Luki	Movement, rehabilitation, liberation of encircled forces	AK 59, 1943/01/01-1943/02/28
1943/01/28	Novosokolniki	Movement, defensive engagements	PzAOK 3, 1943/02/28-1943/03/10
1943/04/01	Velikiye Luki, Novosokolniki	Position defense	AK 43, 1943/03/10-1943/12/31
1943/12/31	Novosokolniki	Defensive and assault troop operations	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Horst von Mellenthin, 1943/11/25-1945/03/14

Records of the 205.ID are reproduced on rolls 1587-1593 of Microfilm Publication T315 and are described following the unit history.

Although no records of this division dated later than 1943/12/31 were available at the National Archives, general officer personnel files and situation maps of Lage Ost show:

1944/01/01	Novosokolniki, Loknya, Pustoshka, Idritsa	Disengagement movements	
1944/02/18	Polotsk	Withdrawal, position defense	
1944/07/20	Zarasai, Lithuania, Jekabpils, Jaunjelgava, Plavinas, Latvia	Withdrawal, defensive operations	
1944/10/02	Riga, Tukums	Movement, defensive engagements	
1944/11/21	Mazeikiai, Lithuania, Saldus, Luce, Latvia	Defensive engagements, withdrawal	C.O.: Gen.Maj. Karl Giesse, 1945/01/08-
1945/04/25	Tukums, Latvia		

205. INFANTERIE-DIVISION

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Ia, KTB 2. War journal for the original period 15 Sep-20 Nov 1939 was destroyed in the Potsdam fire and the remainder for the period 1 Oct-20 Nov 1939 is partially burnt and pertains to the formation and training of the 14. Landwehr Division in the Freiburg and Breisach areas, and includes a casualty and a strength report.	1939/10/01-1939/11/20	205.ID W5842a	1587	1
Ia, KTB 3. War journal concerning training, construction of fortifications, and defensive operations in the Freiburg and Breisach areas. (This document is partially burnt.)	1939/11/21-1939/12/31	205.ID W5842b	1587	40
Ia, KTB 4. War journal concerning the redesignation of 14. Landwehr Division as 205.ID, 1 Jan 1940; training and defensive operations in the Freiburg and Breisach areas, 1-29 Jan; movement to and training in the Villingen, Endingen, Ebingen, and Muensingen areas, 30 Jan-15 May 1940; transfer to Arlon, Belgium, via Trier, Merl, and Mamer, Luxembourg, 16-20 May 1940. Included is a register of officers and a strength report. (This document is partially burnt. Item W5842d, KTB 5, 21 May-25 Jun 1940, was destroyed by fire; according to the situation maps of Lage West the division advanced from Arlon, Belgium, to Marle, France, for offensive engagements in the Laon, Nevers and Nivernais areas.)	1940/01/01-1940/05/20	205.ID W5842c	1587	65
Ia, KTB 6. War journal concerning occupation duty in the Nevers and Nivernais areas, 26 Jun-9 Jul 1940; movement to Freiburg, Germany, via Dijon, Lure, and Belfort, 10-17 Jul 1940; and subsequent transfer to the Karlsruhe area for training, 17 Jul 1940.	1940/06/26-1940/08/15	205.ID W5842e	1587	120
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 1-3, Lageberichte. Reports, orders, directives, and maps pertaining to training, construction of fortifications, and defensive operations of 14.ID, 28 Oct-12 Dec 1939, and 205.ID, 1-29 Jan 1940, in the Freiburg and Breisach areas, movement to the Villingen, Endingen, Ebingen, and	1939/10/28-1940/05/20	205.ID W5842b-i	1587	146

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Muensingen areas, 30 Jan-15 May 1940, transfer to Arlon, Belgium, via Trier, Merl, and Mamer, Luxembourg, 16-20 May 1940; and a list of officers duty assignments.				
Ia, Lageberichte zum KTB. Reports concerning training, construction of fortifications, and defensive operations in the Freiburg and Breisach areas.	1940/01/06-1940/02/16	205.ID #5842L	1587	417
Ia, Ic, IB. Activity reports of the operations branch relating to movement to the Karlsruhe, Fastatt, Baden-Baden, Heilbronn, and Neckarsulm areas; granting of leave to 60 percent of the personnel to harvest crops; training for the remainder of the division; and reorganization for march preparedness in February 1941. Activity report of the intelligence branch concerning troop entertainment and indoctrination.	1940/07/27-1941/02/08	205.ID #7426/1	1587	442
Ia, Anlagen zum TB. Orders, directives, reports, and maps pertaining to quartering of troops in the Karlsruhe, Fastatt, Heilbronn, Baden-Baden and Neckarsulm areas; training; march preparedness; and recall of personnel on long leaves. Included are a status report and an order-of-battle chart.	1940/08/07-1941/02/12	205.ID #7426/2	1587	457
Ia, Anlage zum TB. Ausbildungsplaene.	1940/08/01-1940/09/30	205.ID #7426/3	1587	556
Ia, Anlage zum TB. Ausbildungsplaene.	1940/11/01-1940/12/31	205.ID #7426/4	1587	787
Ia, Anlage zum TB. Flugzeugabwehr.	1940/09/01-1940/10/31	205.ID #7426/5	1588	1
Ia, KTB 3 mit Anlagen; Ic, TB. War journal and orders pertaining to the transfer from Germany to Saint-Nazaire, Nantes, Angers, and Chateaubriant to relieve the 290.ID, 21-28 Feb 1941, for coastal defense; entraining and detraining surveys; a strength report; and a register of officers. Activity report of the intelligence branch concerning enemy air operations, counterintelligence activity, and troop entertainment, and an intelligence report on the military and political situation in France.	1941/02/15-1941/03/31	205.ID 11657	1588	40
Ia, KTB 4 mit Anlagen; Ic, TB. War journal concerning	1941/04/01-1941/06/30	205.ID 12875/1	1588	136

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coastal defense and training in the Saint-Nazaire, Nantes, Chateaubriant, Vannes, Auray, Lorient, and Pontivy areas; activity report of the intelligence branch regarding enemy air operations, counterintelligence activity, and troop entertainment; French propaganda leaflets; and reports on the attitude and morale of the civilian population and on providing for their needs.				
Ia, Anlage zum KTB. Orders, maps, and reports pertaining to coastal defense, combating of airborne troops, map exercises, maneuvers, and enemy air operations and acts of sabotage. Order-of-battle charts and an afteraction critique relating to map exercise, 4-5 Jun 1941.	1941/04/01-1941/06/30	205.ID 12875/2	1588	184
Ia, KTB 5 mit Anlagen. War journal with orders and directives pertaining to coastal defense, security of rear areas, alerts against enemy air landings, and training in the Groix Island, Nantes, Vannes, Lorient, Auray, Guer, and Saint-Nazaire areas; relief by 305.ID, 5 Jan 1942; and transfer to the eastern front, 19-31 Jan 1942. Activity report of the intelligence branch concerning enemy air operations and acts of sabotage, counterintelligence activity, and troop entertainment; order-of-battle charts; strength reports; and a register of officers.	1941/07/01-1942/01/10	205.ID 14190/1	1588	293
Ia, KTB 6. War journal pertaining to the relief by the 305.ID, 28 Dec 1941-5 Jan 1942; transfer to Vitebsk, Russia via Troyes, Saarburg, Wiesbaden, Kassel, Frankfurt an der Oder, Thorn (Torun), Kaunas, Vilna, Daugavpils, and Polotsk, 26 Jan-5 Feb 1942; and defensive operations in the Velizh, Velikiye Luki, and Demidov areas, and the Western Dvina River sector. Activity report of the intelligence branch concerning enemy operations, unit identification, partisan activity, tactical situation, and troop entertainment;	1941/12/22-1942/09/30	205.ID 24746/1	1588	519

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Registers of officers; and casualty and strength reports.				
Ia, Anlagen 1-75 zum KTB 6. Orders, reports, maps, and messages pertaining to the transfer from Vannes, France, to Vitebsk, Rudnya, and Smolensk, Russia; movement to the Surazh area and defensive operations in the Western Dvina River sector near Surazh and Velizh; instruction pamphlets concerning the tactical situation on the eastern front; directives relating to conduct of battle during winter; an afteraction report of IK 353, including casualty reports, 11-25 Feb 1942; special supply directives; and intelligence bulletins.	1942/01/12-1942/02/28	205.ID 24746/2	1589	1
Ia, Anlagen 76-176 zum KTB 6. Orders, reports, messages, maps, and overlays pertaining to defensive operations, assault troop actions, security of supply routes, and construction of strong points; a list of officers duty assignments; strength reports; directives relating to battle conduct during the thaw period; an afteraction report concerning combat operations, 22 Mar 1942; special signal communications and reconnaissance directives; and intelligence bulletins.	1942/03/01-1942/04/01	205.ID 24746/3	1589	333
Ia, Anlagen 177-285 zum KTB 6. Orders, reports, messages, and maps pertaining to the counterattack in the Kamenka forest near Velizh, 1-7 April, relief of the 83.ID and taking over the Velizh sector, defensive operations in the Western Dvina River sector, security of roads in the Surazh and Vitebsk areas, training, and reconnaissance; afteraction reports relating to a Russian breakthrough in the Inf.Btl. 550 sector, 10 April, and a Russian attack in the Velizh sector, 29 April; special supply and signal communications directives; and intelligence bulletins.	1942/04/01-1942/05/01	205.ID 24746/4	1589	597
Ia, Anlagen 1-120 zum KTB 6. Orders, directives, reports, messages, and maps pertaining to defensive and assault troop operations, counterattacks, construction	1942/04/25-1942/06/01	205.ID 24746/5	1589	874

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of defensive positions and strong points, training in the western Dvina River sector, and security of roads in the Vitebsk, Surazh, and Velizh areas; reports concerning reconnaissance results and partisan activities; and intelligence bulletins.				
Ia, Anlagen 121-250 zum KTB b. Orders, reports, messages, and maps pertaining to defensive and assault troop operations, reconnaissance results, counterattacks, artillery activity, operations against partisans, and training in the area east of the Western Dvina River and security of roads in the Surazh and Velizh areas; special supply directives; an interrogation summary; and intelligence bulletins.	1942/06/01-1942/07/27	205.ID 24746/6	1590	1
Ia, Anlagen 251-442 zum KTB b. Orders, reports, and maps pertaining to the encirclement in the Velizh and Demidov areas, 24 Jul-5 Aug 1942; defensive operations, artillery activity, construction of defensive positions, operations against partisans, and training in the Surazh and Velizh areas; security of roads in the Vitebsk, Surazh, and Velizh areas; and preparations for and execution of Unternehmen Rotwild (closing the gap between the left wing of 205.ID and the right wing of 83.ID in the Velizh and Surazh areas, 24-25 September). Afteraction reports concerning Russian attack and German counterattack in IR 358 sector, 19-20 August; intelligence reports on enemy military situation and partisan activity; intelligence bulletins; and a translation of an order of the People's Commissariat for Defense, 28 Jul 1942.	1942/07/28-1942/09/30	205.ID 24746/7	1590	308
Ia, KTB 7; Ic, IS. War journal concerning defensive and assault troop operations against partisans in the Surazh and Velizh areas, 1 Oct-31 Dec 1942, movement to Nevel for rehabilitation, 1-4 Jan 1943, offensive operations to free the occupation force in Velikiye Luki, 4-22 Jan 1943, disengagement movements and	1942/10/01-1943/03/31	205.ID 36611/1	1590	833

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construction and occupation of fortified positions between Nevel and Velikiye Luki, movement to and defensive engagements in the Novosokolniki area, 28 Jan-27 Feb 1943, relief by 291.ID and movement to the area northwest of Nevel as army reserve, 28 Feb-6 Mar 1943, and relief of 8.PzD and movement to and defensive operations in the area northeast of Novosokolniki, 7-31 Mar 1943. Activity report of the intelligence branch concerning enemy operations, unit identification and strength, and air and artillery activities.

Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 7. Orders, directives, reports, messages and maps pertaining to construction of fortified positions, movement to and defensive engagements in the Novosokolniki area, and training. Afteraction critiques relating to the battles southwest of Velikiye Luki and defense of PZAOK 3 against a major Russian attack, dated respectively 24 Jan 1943 and 5 Feb 1943; military-geological studies pertaining to the division sector; notes on command conferences; and interrogation summary and intelligence bulletins.

1943/01/22-1943/03/31

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Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 7. Orders, reports, messages, maps, and overlays pertaining to defensive operations, construction of strong points and support positions, regrouping, reorganization as a two-regiment division, operations against partisans and airborne landing, and training in the Velizh area, 26 Nov-31 Dec 1942; movement to the Nevel area for rehabilitation; offensive engagements in the Velikiye Luki area; and movements to and construction of fortified positions between Nevel and Velikiye Luki. Strength and casualty reports, order-of-battle charts, special supply directives, notes on command conferences, an afteraction report on the assignment of Abteilung Brandenburg, 11-15 January, and intelligence bulletins.

1942/11/26-1943/01/22

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Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 7. Orders, reports, messages, and maps pertaining to defensive and assault troop operations, artillery activity, construction of winter positions and antitank defense, laying of minefields, operations against partisans, organization and missions of alert units, occupation of rear strong points, assignment of GrKpt 555 to 205.ID, and training in the Surazh and Velizh area; afteraction critique relating to defensive battles of PzAOK 3, Aug-Sep 1942; and intelligence bulletins.	1942/10/01-1942/11/26	205.ID 36611/2c	1593	1
Ia, KTB 8; Ic, TB. War journal concerning position defense, assault troop action, and operations against partisans in the Velikiye Luki and Novosokolniki areas. Activity report of the intelligence branch pertaining to enemy operations, unit identifications, artillery activity, partisan situation, losses, and training in chemical warfare, German propaganda, recruiting of auxiliary forces, and troop entertainment. Interrogation summaries and intelligence bulletins.	1943/04/01-1943/06/30	205.ID 36791/1	1593	423
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 8. Orders, directives, reports, messages, and overlays pertaining to position defense, assault troop action, operations against partisans, artillery activity, saving on ammunition, construction of defensive positions, and training in the area northwest of Novosokolniki, and preparations for and execution of Unternehmen Fruhjahnbestellung (operations against partisans in the Kudever area, 14-25 April), and intelligence bulletins.	1943/04/01-1943/06/28	205.ID 36791/2	1593	652
Ia, KTB; Ic, TB. War journal concerning defensive and assault troop operations and counterattacks in the area northeast of Novosokolniki; activity report of the intelligence branch pertaining to enemy operations, losses, unit identification, artillery activity, partisan situation, and troop entertainment; and a register of officers.	1943/07/01-1943/12/31	205.ID 45295/1	1593	1022

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Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders, reports, and overlays pertaining to defensive and assault troop operations, counterattacks, construction and occupation of defensive positions, alert readiness, winter preparations, and training. Order-of-battle charts, a status report, special supply directives, afteraction critiques relating to fire-control maneuvers and the penetration of Nevel in December, and an intelligence bulletin.	1943/07/01-1943/12/31	205.17 45295/2	1593	1437