

216. INFANTERIE-DIVISION - UNIT HISTORY

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DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1939/02/02	Wehrkreis XI, Hannover	Activation of 216.ID by conversion of 216.LdwD	Subordinate to: Stellv.Gen.Kdo. XI, 1939/02/02-1939/08/31
1939/08/31	Hannover, Schnee Eifel	Operational readiness, movement, border security	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Hermann Boettcher, 1939/09/-1940/09/08 Subordinate to: HGr C, 1939/09/01-1939/09/04 AK 6, 1939/09/05-1939/10/10
1939/10/11	Ludwigshafen, Worms, Pfeddersheim, Heppenheim	Training	AOK 1, 1939/10/10-1939/10/11 AK 24, 1939/10/12-1939/10/14 AOK 1, 1939/10/14-1939/10/31
1939/10/27	Duisburg, Angermund, Ratingen, Velbert, Duesseldorf	Training	AOK 6 (HGr B), 1939/11/01-1939/11/05 AK 26, 1939/11/05-1940/02/06
1940/02/11	Dinslaken, Gladbeck, Kempen	Movement, training, assembly	
1940/05/10	Helmond, Eindhoven, Netherlands Turnhout, Antwerp, Syngem, Scheldt and Lys Rivers, Dixmude, Furnes, Belgium	Invasion of the Low Countries, advance, offensive operations	
1940/05/30	Ghyvelde, Dunkirk, France Bergues, Saint-Omer, Etaples, Amiens, Dives-sur-Mer	Offensive operations, coastal defense	
1940/07/06	Saint-Lo, Cotentin Peninsula, Guernsey and Jersey Islands, Cherbourg, Coutances	Coastal defense, occupation duty, training	AK 9, 1940/07/22-1940/07/27 AK 2, 1940/07/28-1941/02/28 C.O.: Gen.Maj. Kurt Himmer, 1940/09/08-1941/04/01 Subordinate to: AK 28, 1941/03/01-1941/03/14
1941/06/04	Vire, Flers, Alencon, Argentan	Occupation duty, training	AK 43, 1941/03/15-1941/04/05 AK 60, 1941/04/06-1941/12/20
1941/12/15	Smolensk, Soviet Union Roslavl, Spas-Demensk, Mosalsk, Sukhinichi, Yukhnov, Vyazma, Rzhev	Transfer, defensive operations	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Werner Freiherr von und zu Gilsa, 1941/04/01-1943/05/05 Subordinate to: AOK 4, 1941/12/20-1941/12/23
1941/12/23	Sukhinichi	Formation of Gruppe Gilsa, defensive operations, breakthrough of encirclement,	AK 40 Pz, 1941/12/23-1942/01/22 AK 24 Pz, 1942/01/22-1942/02/08
1942/02/28		Disbandment of Gruppe Gilsa	

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1942/06/05	Zhizdra	Assembly, rehabilitation	
1942/06/16	Zhizdra, Yelnya, Bryansk, Navlya, Altukhovo, Lokot, Dmitrovsk-Orlovski	Formation of Gruppe Gilsa, defensive and antipartisan operations	PzAOK 2, 1942/06/16-1942/10/10
1942/09/26	Lyudinovo, Kirov	Disbandment of Gruppe Gilsa, defensive and assault operations	
1942/11/30	Novo-Dugino, Sychevka, Milyatino, Vyazma	Defensive and assault operations	AK 47 Pz, 1942/10/10-1942/12/01 AK 56 Pz, 1942/12/02-1942/12/17 AK 39 Pz, 1942/12/18-1943/02/06
1943/02/06	Mukovesovo, Bol'shaya Makhovatka, Berezovka	Movement, army reserve	C.O.:Gen.Maj. Friedrich-August Schack, 1943/05/05-1943/12/10
1943/02/13	Orel, Maloarkhangelsk, Kromy, Bryansk, Altukhovo, Pochep, Starodub, Dobrush, Rechitsa	Movement, position defense, defensive operations, withdrawal (source: situation maps Lage Ost)	
1943/11/24	Khoyniki, Yurevichi, Kalinkovichi, Bol'shiye Avtyuki	Defensive and assault operations, redesignated 216.Div.-Gruppe, remnants of 216.ID incorporated into 102.ID	Oberstlt. Gerhard Gnoth, 1943/11/25-1944/09/26 Subordinate to: 292.ID (AK 20), 1943/11/23-1943/11/24 102.ID (AK 20), 1943/11/24-1944/01/08
1944/03/31	Aleksandrovka, Kalinkovichi, Shestovichi, Petrikov	Defensive and assault operations	292.ID (AK 20), 1944/01/09-1944/01/14 102.ID (AK 20), 1944/01/15-1944/03/31

Records of the 216.ID are reproduced on rolls 1639-1643 of Microfilm Publication T315 and are described following the unit history.

Manuscripts in the Foreign Military Studies series, prepared by former German officers for the Historical Division, Headquarters U.S. Army, Europe, between 1945 and 1959, contain references to the 216.ID:

Russia, Summer 1943, MS D-153 (XX Corps in the Defense of the Area Southwest of Orel - Withdrawal across the Desna and Dnieper Rivers to the Border of the Pripet Marshes), by Gen. Rudolf von Roman.

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CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
Ia, KTB. War journal concerning the formation of 216.ID in the Hannover area, Wehrkreis XI, 25-30 Aug 1939; operational readiness (31 Aug 1939); movement to the Schnee Eifel area east of Saint Vith, Belgium, via Hagen, Cologne, and Remagen for security duty along the German-Belgium border, 1 Sep-10 Oct 1939; movements to the Ludwigshafen, Worms, Pfeddersheim, and Heppenheim areas, 11-27 Oct 1939; and to the Duisburg, Ratingen, Angermund, Velbert, and Duesseldorf areas for training, 27 Oct-29 Dec 1939.	1939/08/25-1939/12/29	216.ID W3912/a	1639	1
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders and entraining and detraining surveys pertaining to movements, security of the German-Belgium border, and training; maps showing the tactical disposition and quartering areas of the division, 2 Sep-1 Nov 1939.	1939/10/12-1939/12/12	216.ID W3912/c	1639	52
Ia, KTB 3. War journal concerning movement to and coastal defense, occupation duty, and training in the Cherbourg, Coutances, Granville, Valognes, Carentan, and Saint-Lo areas and the Channel Islands, 22 Jul 1940-4 Jun 1941; relief by 83.ID and movement to the Vire, Flers, Alencon, and Argentan areas for occupation duty and training, 4 Jun-15 Dec 1941; and transfer to Smolensk, 15-25 Dec 1941 (the division was split up into various units and participated in defensive operations in the Roslavl, Spas-Demensk, Yelnya, Sukhinichi, Mosalsk, Yukhnov, Vyazma, and Rzhev areas, 26 Dec 1941-4 Jun 1942), reunification of the division and rehabilitation in the Zhizdra area, 5-15 Jun 1942, defensive operations in the Zhizdra area, excluding the 216.Division-Stab, and movement to Yelnya for antipartisan operations, 16 Jun 1942.	1940/07/22-1942/06/16	216.ID 30136/1	1639	116
Ia, Anlagenband A zum KTB. Orders, reports, overlays, and maps pertaining to coastal and air defense, billeting areas, and disposition of troops on the Cotentin Peninsula and the Channel Islands,	1940/07/22-1940/11/07	216.ID 30136/2	1639	204

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reorganization of coastal defense, regrouping, alert and map exercises, training, counterintelligence activity, and enemy air attacks; order-of-battle charts; status and strength reports; officers register; interrogation summary; and reports of the medical officers.				
Ia, Anlagenband B zum KTB, Ic, IIa, TB. Orders, reports, and maps pertaining to movements in France, coastal defense, regrouping, reorganization, defense against enemy landings and parachutists, disposition of troops, billeting areas and surveys, alerts, training, preparations for Fall Seelowe with code name "Haifisch" (planned invasion of Great Britain), enemy air attacks, entraining schedule, and transfer to the eastern front, 15 Dec 1941; status and strength reports; order-of-battle charts; lists of officers duty assignments; afteraction critique relating to coastal defense; activity report of the intelligence branch, 1 Aug 1940-27 Dec 1941; and activity report of the personnel branch, 1 Aug 1940-30 Nov 1941.	1940/11/15-1941/12/18	216.ID 30186/3	1639	432
Ia, Anlagenband C zum KTB 3, Ic, IIa, TB. Orders and reports pertaining to the transfer from France to the Smolensk area, combat operations in the Sukhinichi area, and rehabilitation; order-of-battle charts; strength and casualty reports; list of officers duty assignments; billeting surveys; afteraction reports regarding combat operations of IR 348 southwest of Rzhev, 7 Jan-8 Feb 1942; activity reports of the intelligence branch concerning enemy operations, losses, and unit identification, operations against partisans, interrogation summaries, and troop indoctrination and entertainment; and activity report of the personnel branch, 1 Dec 1941-30 Sep 1942.	1941/12/12-1942/06/09	216.ID 30186/4	1639	733
Ia, KTB 3A der Gruppe Gilsa I (Ssuchinitschi) mit Anlagen. War journal with messages pertaining to the	1941/12/23-1942/02/08	216.ID 30186/5	1640	1

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transfer of the Division-Stab and IR 396 of the 216.ID from Smolensk to Sukhinichi via Spas Demensk, 23-26 Dec 1941; formation of Gruppe Gilsa I, under the command of Gen.Lt. Werner Freiherr von und zu Gilsa, from units in Sukhinichi and Division-Stab and IR 396 of the division to defend this city, 27 Dec 1941-2 Jan 1942, which Russian forces had encircled. Gruppe Gilsa I defended the city until the 18.PzD and 208.ID broke through the encirclement, 8 Feb 1942. Division-Stab and attached supply units were assigned to AOK 4 and troops of Gruppe Gilsa I to 18.PzD.				
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 3A der Gruppe Gilsa I (Ssuchinitschi), 3.1.-5.2.42; Ic, TB. Orders and maps relating to operations of Gruppe Gilsa I in Sukhinichi; daily situation reports of AK 24 Pz; captured Soviet combat orders, situation maps and propaganda; and activity report of the intelligence branch concerning enemy operations and unit identification and German military situation in the Sukhinichi area, 27 Dec 1941-9 Feb 1942.	1941/12/27-1942/02/09	216.ID 30186/6	1640	423
Ia, KTB 4 der Gruppe Gilsa II, 16.6.-2.10.42. War journal concerning the movement of the division to the Zhizdra area for rehabilitation, 5-15 Jun 1942, formation of Gruppe Gilsa II consisting of Division-Stab 216 and the Hungarian 102d and Hungarian 108th Divisions, 16 Jun-5 Jul 1942, antipartisan operations in the Bryansk, Navlya, Altukhovo, Lokot, Sevsk, and Dmitrovsk-Orlovski areas, 7 Jul-25 Sep 1942, assignment of units of Gruppe Gilsa II to Korueck 532, 26 Sep 1942, and transfer of Division-Stab 216 from Lokot to Lyudinovo, 27 Sep-11 Oct 1942.	1942/06/05-1942/10/11	216.ID 30186/7	1640	580
Ia, Anlagenband A zum KTB 4 der Gruppe Gilsa II, 9.6.-2.10.42. Orders, messages, and maps pertaining to the movement of the division to the Zhizdra area for rehabilitation, formation of Gruppe Gilsa II for	1942/06/09-1942/09/30	216.ID 30186/8	1640	600

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operations against partisans, mopping-up and control of partisan-infested villages, and disbandment of Gruppe Gilsa II, 2 Oct 1942; partisan activities, losses, organization, strength, and weapons; disposition of partisan forces; order-of-battle charts; and casualty reports.				
Ia, Anlagenband B zum KTB 4 der Gruppe Gilsa II. Orders, daily messages, and maps pertaining to Gruppe Gilsa II disposition and operations against partisans south of Bryansk; casualty and strength reports; order-of-battle chart of PzAOK 2.	1942/06/17-1942/09/30	216.ID 30186/9	1640	898
Ia, KTB 5. War journal concerning the assignment of elements of Gruppe Gilsa II and the Hungarian 102d and 108th Divisions to Korueck 532 in the Bryansk area, movement of Division-Stab 216 from Lokot to Lyudinovo via Bryansk and Zhizdra, and the reassembly of 216.ID units under Gen.Lt. Gilsa to defend this area, 26 Sep-11 Oct 1942; defensive and assault operations in the Lyudinovo and Kirov areas, 11 Oct-29 Nov 1942, movement to the Novo-Dugino and Sychevka areas via Milyatino and Vyazma, 30 Nov-17 Dec 1942; and defensive and assault operations in the Sychevka and Novo-Dugino areas, 18 Dec 1942-5 Feb 1943, relief by 102.ID and movement to the Mukovesovo, Bolshaya Makhovatka, and Berezovka areas west of Sychevka as army reserve, 6 Feb 1943.	1942/09/26-1943/02/06	216.ID 30186/10	1640	983
Ia, Anlagenband A zum KTB 5, Karten, Skizzen und Zeichnungen. Coordinated fire plans, operation maps, order-of-battle charts, and overlays showing the location of billeting areas.	1942/12/04-1943/02/27	216.ID 30186/11	1641	1
Ia, Anlagenband B zum KTB. Corps orders concerning assignment of the division, rail security in the Dyatkovo area, 7 Jul-21 Aug 1942, assignment of units of the 216.ID to the 208.ID and 211.ID for rail security in the same area, 22 Aug-25 Sep 1942,	1942/07/02-1943/03/06	216.ID 30186/12	1641	50

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disbandment of Gruppe Gilsa II and reassignment to the 216.ID in the Lyudinovo area, 26 Sep-10 Oct 1942, defensive and assault operations in the Lyudinovo and Kirov areas, 11 Oct-29 Nov 1942, movement to Sychevka and Novo-Dugino, 30 Nov-17 Dec 1942, and defensive operations, 18 Dec 1942-5 Feb 1943, and movement to the Mukovesovo and Bolshaya Makhovatka areas as an army reserve, 6 Feb 1943.				
Ia, Anlagenband C zum KTB 5. Tagesmeldungen.	1942/10/10-1943/02/06	216.ID 30136/13	1641	560
Ia, Anlagenband D zum KTB 5, IIa, TB. Messages concerning division combat operations, activity report of the personnel branch, 1 Oct 1942-31 Jan 1943, officers register, and casualty and strength reports.	1942/10/04-1943/01/21	216.ID 30136/14	1641	1078
Ia, Anlagenband E zum KTB 5, Ic, TB mit Feindlagekarten. Activity report concerning enemy operations, unit identification, partisan activity, control of the civilian population, defense against enemy agents, military security, troop entertainment and indoctrination, and movements of the division; interrogation summaries; and intelligence bulletins.	1942/10/01-1943/01/31	216.ID 30136/15	1642	1
Ia, KTB der Division-Gruppe 216. War journal concerning defensive, mopping-up, and assault operations in the Khoyniki, Yurevichi, Bol'shiye Avtyuki, and Kalinkovichi areas.	1943/11/23-1943/12/31	216.ID 40562/1	1642	69
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB der Division-Gruppe. Orders, reports, messages, and overlays pertaining to construction and defense of Biberstellungen, assault operations, mopping-up action in enemy-penetrated areas, coordinated fire plans, formation and organization of alert units, and command conferences; a list of officers duty assignments; and a strength report.	1943/11/23-1943/12/22	216.ID 40562/2	1642	103
Ia, KTB. War journal of the Division-Gruppe concerning defensive, assault, mopping-up, and reconnaissance operations, and withdrawal movements in the	1944/01/01-1944/03/31	216.ID 45325/1	1642	133

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Aleksandrovka, Kalinkovich, Shestovich, and Petrikov areas.				
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders, reports, maps, and overlays pertaining to defensive and assault operations, reconnaissance activity, mopping-up action in enemy-penetrated areas, construction and defense of the Pripet positions, coordinated fire plans, disposition of enemy forces, and withdrawal to the "blaue Linie" in the Petrikov area; lists of officers duty assignments; strength reports; an afteraction report concerning Stosstruppen-Unternehmen Igel, 22-26 Feb 1944; and an afteraction critique relating to disengagement movements from May 1943 to March 1944.	1944/01/01-1944/03/29	216.ID 45325/2	1642	238
Ic, IVa, Berichte. Reports concerning enemy air attacks and a British landing attempt, counterintelligence activity, troop indoctrination, entertainment, and welfare, and the activities of the administrative officer in the Vire, Flers, and Argentan areas in France. (This item contains records of the 212.ID, frames 570-966, which are described with the records of 212.ID.)	1941/05/26-1941/12/02	216.ID 77832/1	1642	461
IIa, Division - Tagesbefehle. Periodic special orders by the personnel branch and a brief survey on areas of losses during division operations from 1 Sep 1939-2 Jul 1940, advance toward Antwerp, 10-15 May 1940, battle for the fortress of Antwerp, 16-19 May 1940, offensive engagements west of the Scheldt River near Syngem, 20-23 May 1940, attack across the Lys River at Denterghem and battle for Thielt, 24-27 May 1940, offensive operations and crossing of the Yser River near Dixmude, 28-29 May, offensive operation in the Furnes area and attack on the border fortification at Gayvelde and the capture of Dunkirk, 30 May-4 Jun 1940, coastal defense in west Flanders and northern France and occupation duty in northern France and on the	1939/11/04-1940/12/31	216.ID 77832/2	1643	1

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islands of Guernsey and Jersey, 5 Jun-1 Jul 1940, and coastal defense on the French Channel and the Atlantic coast from 2 Jul 1940.				
Ic, Lageberichte. Reports concerning the military situation along the eastern front, 15 Oct to 28 Nov 1941.	1941/10/18-1941/12/02	216.ID 77832/5	1643	434