

21. Panzer-Division (21st Panzer Division)

This division was formed late in 1940 as the 5. leichte Division (mot.) and was reformed in Africa on August 1, 1941, as the 21. Panzer-Division. It participated in the third Axis offensive in Africa in the summer of 1942 and in October 1942 the division took part in the battle of El Alamein, where it suffered heavy losses. Subsequently the division provided the rear guard during the retreat to Tripoli and Tunisia and was virtually destroyed in Tunisia in the early spring of 1943. It was reformed in May 1943 in Normandy, where, after training it performed occupation duties. The division fought during the

Allied landing in June 1944 and withdrew from France. Although there are no records of the division available dated later than September 5, 1944, the situation maps of Lage West show that from September to December 1944 it participated in defensive actions as it withdrew from France via Epinal, St. Die, Lunéville, Nancy, and Metz. In the latter part of 1944 the division withdrew to Kaiserslautern and in February 1945 it was transferred to the eastern front. The division defended the Luban, Görlitz, Lwowek Slaski, and Cottbus areas from February to April 1945.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 2. Offensives in northern Cyrenaica. The division was subordinate to the Deutsches Afrikakorps under the command of Gen.Maj. Karl Böttcher.	Nov 1, 1941 - Jan 30, 1942	18572/1	767	1
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 2. Orders, reports, and radio messages concerning operations of the division and of the enemy.	Oct 7, 1941 - Jan 29, 1942	18572/2	767	80
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 3. War journal concerning combat engagements in northern Cyrenaica. The division was under the command of Generalmajor von Bismarck.	Jan 30 - Mar 21, 1942	18572/3	768	1
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 3. Division orders, inventory of captured equipment, training instructions, and combat reports.	Jan 30 - Mar 21, 1942	18572/4	768	85
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 4. Defensives in northern Cyrenaica.	Mar 21 - May 15, 1942	18572/5	768	407
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 4; Ic, IIa/b, Tätigkeitsberichte. Corps orders, afteraction reports, retraining instructions, and situation overlays. Also, activity reports of the Intelligence Branch, Mar 1 - Apr 30, 1942, and the Personnel Branch, Apr 1 - 30, 1942.	Mar 24 - May 1, 1942	18572/6	768	448
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5. Combat engagements in northern Cyrenaica.	May 16 - Jun 13, 1942	27641/1	768	631
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 6. War journal concerning the attack on and capture of Tobruk and the pursuit of the enemy into Egypt.	Jun 14 - Jul 28, 1942	27641/2	768	689

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Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 5 u. 6. Corps orders, afteraction reports, intelligence bulletins, and overlays.	Apr 10 - Aug 3, 1942	27641/3	763	771
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 7. War journal concerning offensive operations in northern Egypt to El Alamein. The division was under the command of Generalmajor von Bismarck until Aug 31, 1942, and then Generalmajor von Randow.	Jul 29 - Sep 30, 1942	27641/5	768	936
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 7; Ic, IIa/b, Tätigkeitsberichte. Division and corps orders, reconnaissance reports, instructions to combat enemy landings, reports on the situation of the enemy, and overlays showing the location of division and enemy units. Also, activity reports of the Intelligence Branch, Sep 1 - 30, 1942, and the Personnel Branch, May 1 - Sep 30, 1942.	Jul 30 - Sep 30, 1942	27641/6	768	998
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 8. War journal concerning combat engagements in the El Alamein area and the withdrawal to Sirte on the Gulf of Sidra.	Oct 1 - Dec 31, 1942	27641/7	769	1
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 8; Ic, IIa/b, III, Tätigkeitsberichte. Division orders, reconnaissance reports, directives and plans for counteroffensive actions, and overlays showing anticipated operations. Also, activity reports of the Intelligence Branch, Nov 1 - Dec 31, 1942, the Personnel Branch, Oct 1 - Dec 31, 1942, and the Judge Advocate, Jul 1 - Dec 31, 1942.	Sep 28, 1942 - Jan 21, 1943	27641/8	769	60
Ia, Kriegstagebuch. War journal concerning combat engagements in Tunisia, the withdrawal to Tripoli, and the last offensive operations in Algeria. The division was under the command of Gen.Lt. Hans Georg Hildebrandt.	Jan 1 - Mar 31, 1943	33135/1	769	192
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB. Division orders, reconnaissance reports, intelligence bulletins, activity reports, and situation overlays. Also, orders relating to Operations "Capri" (offensive northwest of Medenine, Tunisia) and "Frühlingswind" (attack against Sidi-bou-Zid, Tunisia).	Jan 8 - Mar 31, 1943	33135/2	769	301
Ia, <u>No title.</u> 7 Division orders, training directives, afteraction evaluations, and special supply directives. Also, reports on the burning of classified documents.	Dec 20, 1943 - Jun 11, 1944	77765	769	557

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, <u>[No title.]</u> Training instructions for non-commissioned officers and officer candidate schools, combat instructions, reports on maneuver exercises, and directives concerning conduct of officers.	Mar 10, 1943 - Jun 2, 1944	77767	769	743
Ia, Brigade- und Divisionstagesbefehle. Orders of the day Nos. 35-56 of the Verstärkte schnelle Brigade West, Mar 8 - May 5, 1943, and Nos. 57-230 of the 21. Panzer-Division, May 7, 1943 - Sep 5, 1944, relating to personnel and administrative matters. The Verstärkte schnelle Brigade West was absorbed by the 21. Pz.Div. on May 7, 1943. The division was under the command of Gen.Lt. Edgar Feuchtinger, Feb 22, 1943 - Jan 9, 1944, and Mar 27 - Sep 5, 1944, of Gen.Maj. Grolig, Jan 9 - Mar 12, 1944, and of Gen.Lt. Franz Westhoven, Mar 12 - 27, 1944. Gen.Lt. Feuchtinger was transferred to H.Gr. Mitte from Jan 9 to Mar 27, 1944.	Mar 8, 1943 - Sep 5, 1944	77768	769	939