

26. Infanterie-Division (Volksgrenadier) (26th Infantry Division /Volks Grenadier/

The 26. Infanterie-Division was formed in 1935-36 during the expansion of the Army after the introduction of universal military service in March 1935. In May and June 1940 the division took part in the western campaign. Between December 1940 and May 1941 it was transferred to Lötzen, East Prussia, for preparations for the campaign against Russia. From June 1941 the division was employed in the central sector of the eastern front and participated in the battles on the Volga River between Rzhev and Kalinin in the fall and winter of 1941 and in the Orel area in the spring of 1942. The division suffered heavy losses south of Voronezh between the Don and Donets Rivers in the fall and winter of 1942, and in the Kursk offensive in the summer of 1943. Although no records of this

division dated later than July 13, 1943, except for two items dated August 5 and December 16-31, 1944, are available, situation maps of Lage Ost and West show that it participated in defensive engagements in the Sumy, Trubchevsk, and Roslavl areas from July to October 1943 and position defense in the Dubrovno area until February 1944. It moved northward in March to defend the Idritsa area and returned in April to defend the Gorki area. From May to July the division took part in position defense in the Kovel area and in August and September defended the Radom and Wierzbnik areas. In October 1944 it was transferred to the Trier area, and reorganized as a Volksgrenadier-Division. From December 1944 to January 1945 the division fought in the Ardennes counteroffensive in the Bastogne area.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 3. Activities in Darney, France, after the western campaign; transfer to Amiens for reorganization and training; and subsequent transfer to the Boulogne area for ship loading and unloading exercises in preparation for Operation "Seelöwe" (planned invasion of England). Also, lists of officers' duty assignments and combat and ration strength reports. The division was subordinate to the XVII, XXIII., and XXXVIII. A.K., successively, during this period, under the command of Gen.Lt. Sigismund von Förster.	Jun 25 - Nov 21, 1940	8386/1	816	1
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 3. Division orders and maps.	Jul 25 - Nov 20, 1940	8386/2	816	27
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 4, Textband Russland. Preparations for the invasion of Russia after the transfer from France to Lötzen, East Prussia, the crossing of the border near Mariyampole; offensives to Polotsk; antipartisan warfare; the battle at the Dvina River southeast of Velikiye Luki; and the advance to the Volga River near Rzhev and Staritsa. Also, lists of officers' duty assignments and casualties and combat and ration strength reports. The division was subordinate to the VI. A.K. under the command of Gen.Maj. Walter Weiss.	Jun 6 - Oct 31, 1941	13895/1	816	208
Ia, Anlagenbände A 1-2 z. KTB 4. Corps and division orders and maps.	May 10 - Oct 31, 1941	13895/2-3	816	516
Ia, Anlagenbände E-D z. KTB 4, Meldungen der Division an vorges. Dienststellen, Divisionstagesbefehle, Bemerkungen des Divisionskommandeurs.	Jun 13 - Oct 31, 1941	13895/4	817	1

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Anlagenband E 1 z. KTB 4, Divisionsbefehle.	Jun 4 - Sep 30, 1941	13895/5	817	343
Ia, Anlagenband E 2 u. F z. KTB 4, Divisions- u. Einzelbefehle.	Jun 19 - Oct 25, 1941	13895/6	817	887
Ia, Anlagenband G 1-2 z. KTB 4, Meldungen der Truppe.	Jun 22 - Oct 25, 1941	13895/7-8	818	1
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5. Offensives north of Staritsa, antipartisan warfare along the Volga River between Staritsa and Kalinin, and position defense during the winter and spring of 1941-42. Also, corps situation orientations, combat and ration strength reports, and lists of officers' duty assignments and casualties.	Nov 1, 1941 - Jun 30, 1942	24547/1	818	732
Ia, Anlagenbände A 1-2 z. KTB 5. Corps orders and messages.	Nov 1, 1941 - Jun 20, 1942	24547/3-4	819	1
Ia, Anlagenbände B-D z. KTB 5, Meldungen der Division an vorges. Dienststellen, Tagesbefehle, Bemerkungen des Divisionskommandeurs, Besprechungspunkte.	Nov 8, 1941 - Jun 30, 1942	24547/5	819	733
Ia, Anlagenband E z. KTB 5, Divisionsbefehle.	Nov 3, 1941 - Jun 28, 1942	24547/6	819	1107
Ia, Anlagenband F 1 z. KTB 5, Div.-Einsatzbefehle.	Nov 4, 1941 - May 9, 1942	24547/7	820	1
Ia, Anlagenband F 2 z. KTB 5, Div.-Einsatzbefehle; Anlagenband G 2 z. KTB 5, Meldungen der Truppen.	May 1 - Jun 30, 1942	24547/8	820	511
Ia, Anlagenband G 1 z. KTB 5, Meldungen der Truppen.	Nov 6, 1941 - Apr 30, 1942	24547/9	820	886
Ia, Anlagenbände L, M z. KTB 5, Leitungsskizzen, Erfahrungs- und Kampfberichte.	Nov 2, 1941 - Jun 18, 1942	24547/13	821	1
Ia, Anlagenband R z. KTB 5, Stellungsakte, Tyna-Abschnitt, Königsbergstellung.	Oct 26, 1941 - Jun 30, 1942	24547/15	821	386

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Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht mit Anlagen. Intelligence bulletins, prisoner-of-war interrogation summaries, maps, and overlays.	Nov 1 - Dec 31, 1941	24547/16	821	694
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht mit Anlagen. Enemy activities on the Volga River between Staritsa and Kalinin, interrogation summaries on prisoners of war and deserters, German and enemy propaganda leaflets, and maps and overlays.	Jan 1 - Feb 28, 1942	24547/17	2333	1
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht mit Anlagen. Enemy situation and evaluations, air activity in the area northeast of Staritsa along the Volga River; interrogation summaries on prisoners of war and deserters; enemy intercepted radio messages and situation overlays; enemy propaganda leaflets; reports on prisoners of war, equipment captured, and ammunition used; and reports and overlays showing the location of artillery targets.	Mar 1 - Apr 31, 1942	24547/18	2333	228
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht mit Anlagen. Reports on the enemy situation, prisoner-of-war interrogation summaries, translations of captured Russian documents, enemy propaganda material, and overlays.	May 1 - Jun 30, 1942	24547/19	821	805
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 6. Operations north of Rzhev on the Volga River, entraining of the division in Rzhev for movement to Karachev, night march to Bolkhov to take part in Operation "Wirbelwind" (offensive north of Orel on the Oka and Zusha Rivers by Pz.AOK 2), withdrawal and entraining in Orel for movement to Starobelsk, to an area east of Voroshilovgrad, and to Nikolayevka and Alekseyevka for an anticipated attack on the Don River Bend at Korotoyak. Also, a list of officers' duty assignments and combat and ration strength reports. The division was subordinate to the VI., LIII., and XXXV. A.K., the Italian 8th Army, and the Royal Hungarian 2d Army during this period under the command of Gen.Lt. Friedrich Wiese, who replaced Gen.Maj. Walter Weiss on Sep 1, 1942.	Jul 1 - Dec 31, 1942	33355/1	821	1108
Ia, Anlagen L, M z. KTB 6, Leitungsskizzen, Erfahrungs- und Kampfberichte.	Jul 1 - Dec 31, 1942	33355/13	822	1
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht mit Anlagen. Enemy activities on the Volga River north of Staritsa, information and charts on enemy artillery positions on the front line, interrogation summaries, German and enemy propaganda leaflets and newspapers, and maps and overlays.	Jul 1 - Dec 31, 1942	33355/15	822	346

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Gefechtsbericht der Division mit Lagekarten. Afteraction reports, with maps, in the Nikolayevka area and along the Oskol River between Stary Oskol and Novo Oskol.	Jan 15 - Feb 15, 1943	33770	822	847
Ia, Kriegstagebuch. Detraining activities at Prinzevka on the Oskol River and at Alekseyevka northeast of Kharkov, the march east to Podgornoye on the Don River in an effort to stop the enemy breakthrough, and the retreat to the Oskol and Donets Rivers. Also, lists of casualties, combat and ration strength reports, and a map of the area between Kharkov and Kursk. The division was subordinate to the Royal Hungarian 2d Army, AOK 2, and the VII. and XIII. A.K. at various times during this period.	Jan 1 - Jun 30, 1943	39240/1	822	903
Ia, Anlagen A z. KTB, Korps- und Einzelbefehle vorges. Dienststellen.	Jan 1 - Jun 30, 1943	39240/2	823	1
Ia, Anlagen B-E z. KTB, Meldungen an vorges. Dienststellen, Kommandeur-Tagesbefehle, Bemerkungen und Besprechungspunkte, Divisionsbefehle.	Jan 1 - Jun 30, 1943	39240/3	823	385
Ia, Anlagen F-G z. KTB, Divisions-Einzelbefehle, Meldungen der Truppen.	Jan 1 - Jun 30, 1943	39240/4	824	1
Ia, Anlagen J2 z. KTB, Tägliche Meldungen.	Jan 1 - Jun 30, 1943	39240/7	824	535
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht und Lagekarten. The enemy situation in Podgornoye and Kamenka on the Don River and Stary Oskol on the Oskol River, intelligence bulletins, interrogation summaries, propaganda leaflets and newspapers, and situation maps.	Jan 1 - Mar 30, 1943	39240/10	824	1123
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht. Partisan warfare in the Alekseyevka area and observation of enemy fortification activities, intelligence bulletins, interrogation summaries on prisoners of war and deserters, propaganda leaflets and newspapers, and situation maps.	Apr 1 - 30, 1943	39240/11	824	1248
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht, Mappe A. Transfer to Andreyevka, to Sudzha, and to Sumy; orientation reports of the enemy situation; and situation maps.	May 1 - Jul 13, 1943	39240/12	825	1
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht, Mappe B. Intelligence bulletins, interrogation summaries on Russian deserters and prisoners of war, enemy and German propaganda leaflets, ideological troop indoctrination, and overlays.	May 1 - Jul 13, 1943	39240/13	2333	537

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Ia, Anlagenband z. KTB 6. Operation orders from higher headquarters, afteraction reports from regiments on the artillery situation, and division reports about the attack against Shelesniza in the Bolkhov area.	Aug 28 - Sep 4, 1942	41886	825	68
Ia, Durchbruch und Vormarsch auf Bastogne. A report of the 26. Volksgrenadier-Division pertaining to the breakthrough and advance toward Bastogne between Dec 16 and 31, 1944. The division commander was Gen.Maj. Heinz Kokott.	Dec 16 - 31, 1944	77581*	828	428
Ia, Erfahrungsbericht über die Kämpfe der 26. Inf.Div. bei den Absetzbewegungen zwischen Büffelstellung und Weichsel. Afteraction report concerning the battles of the division in the withdrawal from the "Büffel und Weichsel" positions, west of the Kaunas area.	Aug 31, 1944	77471*	825	100

* This document was filmed with the records of the 26. Panzer-Division.