

The 81. Infanterie-Division was formed on December 1, 1939, in Sagan, Wehrkreis VIII, and was trained at the Truppenübungsplatz Neuhammer. In May and June 1940 it took part in the western campaign. After advancing through Belgium and northern France, it participated in operations at the Oise-Aisne Canal, Chemin des Dames, and in the pursuit over the Marne, Seine, and Loire Rivers up to the Cher River. In July 1940 the division was sent back to Silesia for rest and reequipping. In February 1941 it returned to France for coastal defense duties in the La Rochelle area. In December 1941 the division was transferred to the northern sector of the eastern front to prevent the encirclement of Staraya Russa by Russian forces. In April and May 1942 parts of the division participated in defensive operations in the Demyansk pocket. After certain changes in organization during the summer of 1942 the division was assigned in July to defend the corridor between the Demyansk pocket and the main German front fighting continuously against extremely

heavy enemy pressure until it was relieved. In January 1943, after a temporary assignment to its quarters in Staraya Russa, the division was transferred to the area south of Chudovo on the Volkhov River. The division took part in defensive operations from February to August 1943 and in offensive action in September along the Volkhov River between Chudovo and Kirishi. In the latter part of September it participated in Operation "Hubertusjagd" (disengagement movement from the bridgehead near Kirishi). In October it moved to Pushkin to defend this area and in November withdrew to defend the Nevel area until the end of 1943. Although no records of the division dated later than December 31, 1943, are available, situation maps of Lage Ost show that it was engaged in position defense near Pustoshka from January to June 1944 and in the Griva, Yelgava, and Tukums areas in Latvia from July 1944 to the end of April 1945.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Abschrift von den Kriegstagebüchern 1 u. 2. Formation of the division on Dec 1, 1939, in Sagan, Wehrkreis VIII; transfer to Neuhammer and Glogau on Dec 27 for training; transfer to Aachen on May 16, 1940; the march through eastern Belgium to Rocroi, France; offensive operations on the Aisne River near Soissons, at Château-Thierry on the Marne River, at Gien and Briare on the Loire River, at Châtillon-sur-Loire where hostilities ceased; and the march via Nancy, Saarbrücken, and Kaiserslautern to Mannheim for entraining and movement to Bunzlau between Jul 15 and 24, 1940. The division was subordinate to the VIII., XXXVIII., XLII., and XVIII. A.K. during this period under the command of Gen. Maj. Friedrich Wilhelm Loeper from Dec 1, 1939, to Oct 4, 1940.	Dec 1, 1939 - Jul 31, 1940	W 4151/b*	1115	1
Ia, Anlage A, 1. Teil z. KTB 1. Orders, instructions, and regulations issued by division headquarters concerning training of troops and the transfer of the division to Aachen.	Dec 16, 1939 - Apr 26, 1940	W 4151/c	1115	179
Ia, Anlage A, 2. Teil z. KTB 2. Incoming orders concerning operations in the West.	May 10 - Jun 10, 1940	W 4151/d	1115	364

\* Item damaged by fire.

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Anlage A, 3. Teil z. KTB 2. Division orders concerning the advance of the division in France, march schedules, maps, and overlays.	May 10 - Jun 10, 1940	W 4151/e	1115	531
Ia, Anlage A, 4. Teil z. KTB 2, Operationsakten. Daily reports of subordinate units.	May 15 - Jun 10, 1940	W 4151/f	1115	658
Ia, Anlage A, 5. Teil z. KTB 2. Daily operations reports of the division to the XXXVIII., XLII., and XVIII. A.K.	May 17 - Jun 10, 1940	W 4151/g	1116	1
Ia, Anlage A, 6. Teil z. KTB 2. Incoming operations orders of the XVIII. A.K.	Jun 11 - 30, 1940	W 4151/h	1116	66
Ia, Anlage A, 7. Teil z. KTB 2. Outgoing operations orders of the division.	Jun 11 - 30, 1940	W 4151/i	1116	173
Ia, Anlage A, 10. Teil z. KTB 2. Division orders, regulations, and instructions concerning logistics and movement by rail.	Jul 1 - 31, 1940	W 4151/m	1116	366
Ia, Anlage C z. KTB 1 u. 2. Afteraction and evaluation reports and reports about incidents of special significance.	Dec 1939 - Oct 1940	W 4151/o	1116	520
Ia, Anlage F z. KTB 1 u. 2, Gefechts- und Verpflegungsstärken.	Dec 1, 1939 - Jul 11, 1940	W 4151/s	1116	657
Ia, Anlage G, 1. Teil z. KTB 1 u. 2. Formation of the division, training of troops, security matters, and reports concerning equipment; and strength and status reports.	Dec 1, 1939 - May 10, 1940	W 4151/t	1116	752
Ia, Ic, Anlage G, 2. Teil z. KTB 2. Orders, reports, and regulations of the Operations and Intelligence Branches.	May 10 - Jul 27, 1940	W 4151/u	1116	963
Ia, Anlage H z. KTB 1 u. 2. Division orders of the day.	Dec 22, 1939 - Jul 30, 1940	W 4151/v	1116	1047
Ia, Anlage K z. KTB 2, Besondere Anordnungen für die rückwärtigen Dienste.	May 24 - Jul 16, 1940	W 4151/x	1117	1
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 1 u. 2. Operations orders, overlays, and maps.	May 18 - Jul 18, 1940	W 4151/y	1117	29

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht. The transfer of the division from Sagan to Aachen, march through eastern Belgium to Rocroi, northern France, and to Gien on the Loire River.	May 15 - Jun 27, 1940	W 4151/z8	1117	191
Ic, Anlagen z. TB. Intelligence reports, translations of captured French papers, interrogation summaries, security instructions, and maps.	May 18 - Jun 21, 1940	W 4151/z9	1117	245
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 3. Training as an OKH reserve division in the Truppenübungsplatz Neuhammer, and reports pertaining to personnel who were given leave of absence to work in industry and on farms. Gen.Maj. Hugo Ribstein became division commander on Oct 5, 1940.	Aug 1, 1940 - Feb 25, 1941	W 7171/1	1117	357
Ia, Anlage A z. KTB 3, Kriegsgliederungen.	Aug 1, 1940 - Feb 10, 1941	W 7171/2	1117	418
Ia, Anlage C z. KTB 3, Operationsakten. Formation of new units, transfers, replacements, training, reorganization, and changes in personnel; and status reports.	Jul 27, 1940 - Feb 22, 1941	W 7171/3	1117	425
Ia, Anlage F z. KTB 3, Kriegsrangliste.	Aug 1, 1940 - Feb 25, 1941	W 7171/5	1117	666
Ia, Anlage I z. KTB 3, Divisionstagesbefehle.	Aug 1, 1940 - Feb 18, 1941	W 7171/6	1117	671
Ia, Anlage K z. KTB 3. Miscellaneous orders, notices, and regulations concerning equipment, operating procedures, and keys to recognition signals.	Aug 1, 1940 - Feb 18, 1941	W 7171/7	1117	779
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht als Anlage L z. KTB 3. Troop indoctrination and entertainment in Wehrkreis VIII.	Aug 1, 1940 - Feb 25, 1941	W 7171/8	1117	861
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 4. Recall of personnel who were on leave of absence; transfer via Stuttgart, Strasbourg, and Troyes to Rennes in Brittany to replace the 255. Inf.Div. between Feb 20 and 26, 1941; training and coastal security activity; transfer to La Rochelle on Mar 23 and to Niort on Apr 19; and reorganization				

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
and regrouping of parts of the division. Lists of officers' duty assignments and casualties and combat and ration strength reports. The division was subordinate to the VIII. and VI. A.K., and to Höh.Kdo.z.b.V. LIX during this period.	Feb 20 - Oct 15, 1941	13025/1	1117	870
Ia, Anlage A z. KTB 4, Kriegsgliederungen.	Mar 1 - Oct 10, 1941	13025/2	1117	1008
Ia, Anlage I z. KTB 4, Divisionstagesbefehle.	Mar 4 - Oct 13, 1941	13025/3	1117	1018
Ia, Anlage C1 z. KTB 4, Operationsakten. Division orders, with overlays, concerning the deployment of the division in France, assumption of command of the Vendee area, coastal defense, reorganization of the division, assignments, training, and quartering of troops.	Feb 26 - May 10, 1941	13025/4	1118	1
Ia, Anlage C2 z. KTB 4. Orders and other annexes concerning the formation of motorized units and mobile reserves, coastal defense, control of march convoys and military traffic, firing practice with live ammunition, combat exercises, training on the beaches, amphibious landing practices, transfer of troops and units, measures against enemy paratroopers, and other security measures.	May 12 - Aug 28, 1941	13025/5	1118	196
Ia, Anlage C3 z. KTB 4. Orders and other annexes concerning relief and replacement of regiments, the deployment of captured Russian guns, antiaircraft defenses in La Pallice, formation and order of battle of the 22. Pz.Div., relief of the 2. Pz.Div., and quartering of the 81. Inf.Div.	Aug 28 - Oct 14, 1941	13025/6	1118	435
Ia, Anlage D z. KTB 4, Gefechts- und Erfahrungsberichte. Afteraction and evaluation reports and reports on special events.	May 3 - Sep 19, 1941	13025/7	1118	507
Ia, Anlage K z. KTB 4. Survey of weapons and equipment, recognition signals, military celebrations, organization of service units, and formation of anti-tank units.	Mar 1 - Oct 10, 1941	13025/10	1118	520
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht mit Anlagen als Anlage L z. KTB 4. Counterintelligence activities and indoctrination and entertainment of troops in the La Rochelle area.	Feb 26 - Oct 15, 1941	13025/12	1118	595

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5. Coastal security in the La Rochelle area and transfer in December to the eastern front. Gen.Maj. Werner Freiherr von und zu Gilsa became division commander on Dec 8, 1941, and Gen.Maj. Erich Schopper from Dec 10, 1941 to Apr 4, 1944.	Oct 16 - Dec 24, 1941	13645/1	1118	606
Ia, Anlage A z. KTB 5, Kriegsgliederungen.	Oct 16 - Dec 10, 1941	13645/2	1118	645
Ia, Anlage C z. KTB 5. Coastal defense, communications exercises, mobile reserves, and transfer of the division to the Nantes-Tours area.	Oct 17 - Dec 20, 1941	13645/4	1118	650
Ia, Anlage D z. KTB 5. Afteraction report on a coastal defense communications exercise.	Oct 28 - Nov 1, 1941	13645/5	1118	761
Ia, Anlage E2 z. KTB 5. Division orders, with maps and overlays, concerning coastal defense in the La Rochelle area.	Jun 28 - Sep 8, 1941	13645/6b	1118	771
Ia, Anlage I z. KTB 5, Divisionstagesbefehle.	Oct 20 - Dec 17, 1941	13645/9	1118	818
Ia, Anlage K z. KTB 5. Miscellaneous corps and division orders.	Oct 7 - Dec 18, 1941	13645/10	1118	876
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht als Anlage L z. KTB 5. Activity reports and a report concerning a sports contest.	Oct 15 - Dec 14, 1941	13645/11	1118	895
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 6. Entraining in Tours for movement via Paris, Metz, Trier, Hamm, Berlin, Schneidemühl, Insterburg, Memel, and Riga to Pskov between Dec 14 and 31, 1941, and march to Novgorod and Chudovo to participate in defensive operations in the northern sector of the eastern front along the Volkhov River and at Nagovo on the Makovo River. The division was subordinate to the Höh.Kdo. z.b.V. LIX, the XXXVIII. and X. A.K., AOK 16, and the X. A.K., successively during this period.	Dec 14, 1941 - Apr 11, 1942	17518/1	1118	903
Ia, Anlage A z. KTB 6, Kriegsgliederungen.	Dec 22, 1941 - Apr 1, 1942	17518/2	1118	1191
Ia, Anlage C z. KTB 6, Operationsakten, Teil I. Division orders, status reports, and messages concerning movements of units to the new combat zone				

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on the Volkhov River, defensive operations, security tasks north of Staraya Russa, the attack east of Staraya Russa, relief and replacement of units, and subordination of the division to the XXXVIII. A.K.	Dec 22, 1941 - Mar 20, 1942	17518/4	1118	1209
Ia, Anlage C z. KTB 6, Operationsakten, Teil II. Division orders concerning changes in organization, relief and replacement of units, and measures to stabilize the front.	Mar 22 - Apr 11, 1942	17518/5	1119	1
Ia, Ic, Anlage D z. KTB 6, Erfahrungsberichte und besondere Vorkommnisse. After-action reports of subordinate units and prisoner-of-war interrogation summaries of the Intelligence Branch.	Jan 1942	17518/6	1119	54
Ia, Anlage E z. KTB 6, Karten, Skizzen, Zeichnungen, Fliegerbilder.	Jan 10 - Apr 10, 1942	17518/7	1119	72
Ia, Anlage H z. KTB 6, Gefechts- und Verpflegungsstärken.	Jan 29 - Apr 11, 1942	17518/10	1119	88
Ia, Anlage I z. KTB 6, Tagesbefehle.	Mar 6, 1942	17518/11	1119	97
Ia, Anlage K z. KTB 6, Sonstiges. Report of the division Medical Officer concerning health and rations and a report of the commanding officer.	Jan 6 - 31, 1942	17518/12	1119	102
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht mit Anlagen als Anlage L z. KTB 6. Activity report with maps and overlays showing disposition and strength of enemy units, translations of captured Russian documents, periodic reports on the enemy situation, and enemy losses.	Dec 14, 1941 - Apr 11, 1942	17518/13	1119	110
Ia, Anlagen N-P z. KTB 6, Morgen-, Zwischen- und Tagesmeldungen.	Jan 12 - Apr 11, 1942	17518/15-17	1119	191
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 7. Defensive operations in the area northeast of Staraya Russa along Lake Ilmen and the Lovat River where the division suffered heavy losses. The division was subordinate to the X. A.K. and the II. A.K. (Gruppe Laux) during this period.	Apr 12 - Dec 31, 1942	30002/1	1119	484
Ia, Anlage A z. KTB 7, Kriegsgliederungen.	Apr 12 - Dec 26, 1942	30002/2	1119	935
Ia, Anlage B z. KTB 7, Lagekarten.	Apr 12 - Dec 26, 1942	30002/3	1119	959

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Anlage C z. KTB 7, Operationsakten. Operations reports concerning security tasks the division on the southern shore of Lake Ilmen, reorganization and rehabilitation of units, relief and replacement of units of company and battalion strength, training of reserves, construction of fortifications north of Staraya Russa, formation of new antitank units, preparations for the winter, and orders concerning "Unternehmen Pussta" (taking over of the Olkhovets front).	Apr 12 - Oct 22, 1942	30002/4	1119	980
Ia, Anlage C z. KTB 7, Operationsakten. Orders for defensive operations, after-action reports, and a report on the condition of units deployed in the division combat sector.	Nov 24 - Dec 23, 1942	30002/5	1120	1
Ia, Anlage D z. KTB 7, Gefechts- und Erfahrungsberichte, besondere Vorkommnisse. Afteraction and evaluation reports of subordinate units and sketches of bunkers and sleds.	Aug 20 - Nov 13, 1942	30002/6	1120	101
Ia, Anlage F z. KTB 7, Kriegsrangliste des Stabes der 81. Infanterie-Division.	Apr 12 - Dec 31, 1942	30002/8	1120	146
Ia, Anlage H z. KTB 7, Gefechts- und Verpflegungsstärken.	May 1 - Dec 21, 1942	30002/10	1120	151
Ia, Anlage I z. KTB 7. Orders of the day concerning personnel matters.	Mar 6 - Dec 23, 1942	30002/11	1120	158
Ia, Anlage K z. KTB 7. Miscellaneous reports.	May 1 - Jul 13, 1942	30002/12	1120	202
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht mit Anlagen als Anlage L z. KTB 7. The enemy situation, propaganda, and partisan activity; intelligence bulletins; a report on the number of prisoners captured and enemy equipment collected; and maps and overlays.	Apr 11 - Oct 15, 1942	30002/13	1120	219
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 7, Zwischen- und Tagesmeldungen.	Apr 12 - Dec 25, 1942	30002/16-17	1120	269
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 8. Defensive operations along the Volkhov River in the Chudovo area. The division was subordinate to the II. A.K. (Gruppe Laux), X., XXXVIII., I., and XXVIII. A.K. during this period.	Jan 1 - Jun 30, 1943	36582/1	1120	621
Ia, Anlagen A u. B z. KTB 8, Kriegsgliederungen und Lagekarten.	Jan 6 - Jun 30, 1943	36582/2	1120	814

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Ia, Anlage C z. KTB 8, Operationsakten. Division orders concerning training and construction of fortifications, and afteraction and status reports.	Jan 4 - Jun 27, 1943	36582/3	1120	837
Ia, Anlagen F-K z. KTB 8, Kriegsrank- und Verlustlisten, Gefechts- und Verpflegungsstärken, Tagesbefehle, Sonstiges.	Jan 5 - May 31, 1943	36582/4	1120	994
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 8, Morgen- u. Tagesmeldungen.	Jan 17 - Jun 30, 1943	36582/5- 36582/6	1120- 1121	1063, 1
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht mit Anlagen als Anlage L z. KTB 8. The enemy situation, counterintelligence, propaganda, Russian volunteers, and indoctrination of troops; intelligence bulletins, interrogation summaries of prisoners of war and deserters; and maps and overlays.	Jan 1 - Jun 30, 1943	36582/7	1121	168
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht mit Anlagen als Anlage L z. KTB 8. <u>✓</u> This is a duplicate of the preceding document, item No. 36582/7.	Jan 1 - Jun 30, 1943	37154/6	1121	245
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 9. Defensive actions in July and August 1944 and offensive operations in September along the Volkhov River between Chudovo and Kirishi, Operation "Hubertusjagd" (disengagement movement from the bridgehead near Kirishi), movement to Pushkin in October and defense of this area, and withdrawal to the Nevel area in November and its defense until the end of 1943. The division was subordinate to the XXVIII. and L. A.K., Armeegruppe Loch, and the VIII. A.K. during this period.	Jul 1 - Dec 31, 1943	44226/1	1121	306
Ia, Anlagenband 1 z. KTB 9, Operationsakten. Afteraction reports relating to defensive operations in the Mga area; division orders concerning reorganization of the division on the basis of the new division structure, relief and replacement of subordinate units, preparations for the winter, and antiguerrilla patrol activities.	Jul 1 - Dec 27, 1943	44226/2	1121	613
Ia, Anlagenband 2 z. KTB 9, Kriegsgliederungen, Lagekarten.	Jul 1 - Dec 31, 1943	44226/3	1121	875
Ia, Anlagenband 3 z. KTB 9, Morgenmeldungen.	Jul 1 - Dec 31, 1943	44226/4	1121	902
Ia, Anlagenband 4 z. KTB 9, Tages- und Zwischenmeldungen.	Jul 1 - Dec 31, 1943	44226/5	1121	1079

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht als Anlagenband 5 z. KTB 9. Activity report with enemy situation and operations maps, order of battle of enemy units, prisoner-of-war interrogation summaries, propaganda, and intelligence bulletins.	Jul 1 - Dec 31, 1943	44226/6	1121	1297