

121. INFANTERIE-DIVISION - UNIT HISTORY

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1940/10/06	Hamburg, Wehrkreis X, Munster	Formation, training	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Kurt Jahn, 1940/10/05-1941/05/06 Subordinate to: Stellvertretendes Generalkommando X, 1940/10/06-1940/10/31; AOK 11, 1940/11/01-1940/12/01; AK 52, 1940/12/02-1941/02/21; AK 20, 1941/02/22-1941/03/16; AK 26, 1941/03/16-1941/03/17; AOK 18, PzGr 4, 1941/03/17-1941/03/31; AK 2, 1941/04/01-1941/07/26
1941/03/00	Koenigsberg, Angerburg, Elbing, Gumbinnen, Ebenrode, Goldap, Eydtkau, East Prussia	Transfer, training, preparation for Operation Barbarossa (invasion of Russia)	C.O.: Gen.Maj. Otto Lancelle, 1941/05/09-1941/07/07; Gen.Lt. Martin Wandel, 1941/07/08-1942/11/10
1941/06/22	Ebenrode, Kaunas, Ukmerge, Daugavpils	Invasion of Lithuania and Latvia	
1941/07/07	Western Dvina River, Nevel, Pustoshka	Crossing into Russia, offensive operations	
1941/07/30	Porkhov, Soltsy, Chudovo, Lyuban	Offensive operations, movements	Subordinate to: AOK 16, 1941/07/27-1941/07/31; AK 28, 1941/07/31-1941/08/16; AK 1, 1941/08/16-1941/08/25; AK 28, 1941/08/25-1941/12/03
1941/08/26	Izhora River, Pavlovsk, Leningrad	Offensive and defensive operations, encirclement	
1941/12/25	Krasny Bor	Antitank defense, defensive operations	
1942/04/08	Kolpino, Gatchina	Defensive operations, training, movements	AK 50, 1941/12/03-1942/04/30
1942/05/01	Lyuban, Chudovo	Defensive operations	AK 1, 1942/05/01-1942/07/02
1942/07/17	Pavlovsk, Pushkin	Defensive operations	AK 50, 1942/07/03-1942/09/06; AK 54, 1942/09/06-1942/09/09; AK 26, 1942/09/10-1942/10/20; AOK 11, AK 30, 1942/10/20-1942/10/30
1942/10/00	Kolpino, Mga, Novolisino	Defensive operations, withdrawal for rehabilitation, training	
1942/10/22	Tosno, Sablino, Kolpino, Mga, Kirishi	Security duty, combating of partisan units	AOK 18, 1942/10/31-1942/11/01; AK 28, 1942/11/01-1942/11/30

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1943/01/20	Gruzino	Construction of defensive positions, assault operations	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Helmuth Priess, 1942/11/25-1944/07/10 Subordinate to: AK 1, 1942/12/01-1943/02/21;
1943/04/04	Lyuban, Mga	Defensive and assault operations	AK 28, 1943/02/21-1943/03/23; AK 26, 1943/03/25-1943/04/02;
1943/06/27	Neva River	Defensive operations, counteroffensive	AK 28, 1943/04/03-1943/07/21; AK 26, 1943/07/22-1943/08/07

Records of the 121.ID are reproduced on rolls 1303-1312 of Microfilm Publication T315 as described following the unit history.

Although no records of this division dated later than 1943/08/07 were available at the National Archives, situation maps of Heeresgruppe Nord and Kurland and the general staff officers personnel file show:

1944/01/00	Pskov	Withdrawal	
1944/02/00	Ostrov	Position defense	
1944/07/00	Sigulda, Mitau (Yelgava), Libau (Liepaja)	Withdrawal	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Werner Ranck, 1944/09/12-1945/05/04
1944/09/00	Libau (Liepaja), Latvia	Defensive engagements	Subordinate to: Heeresgruppe Kurland, 1945/02/02-1945/05/08

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Ia, KTB I. Activation of the 121.ID (11. Welle), 6 Oct 1940, in Hamburg, Wehrkreis X, from personnel of the 1. and 21.ID; the status of the division concerning the formation, training, and readiness by 15 Feb 1941, at the troop training camp Munster; the transfer in March 1941 to the Angerburg and Elbing areas, East Prussia, in preparation for Operation Barbarossa (the invasion of Russia); and the movement to the area east of Gumbinnen (Gusev). (The National Archives did not have TB for the period 5 Oct 1940-12 Feb 1941, record item 24121.)	1941/02/15-1941/06/21	121.ID 23294/1	1303	1
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB I. Orders, reports, overlays, and maps pertaining to assembly at troop training camp Munster and entraining and detraining schedules showing the transfer from the Hamburg area to Koenigsberg, East Prussia; training and preparation for Fall Berta (occupation of the Gumbinnenstellung in case of a Russian attack); movement to the Ebenrode area; and defense and security of the German-Russian demarcation line. A billeting survey with maps, an order-of-battle chart, a register of officers, special directives concerning supply and supply troops, and a report on troop entertainment.	1941/02/15-1941/04/20	121.ID 23294/2	1303	41
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders, reports, and maps pertaining to training; combat readiness; road construction; security of the German-Russian demarcation line; defense of fortified positions in the Gumbinnen (Gusev), Ebenrode, Goldap and Eydtkau (Chernyshevskoye) areas; takeover of the 217.ID sector, and preparations for Fall Berta. Strength and status reports and a road map of the Gumbinnen area.	1941/04/21-1941/06/04	121.ID 23294/3	1303	244
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB I. Orders, reports, overlays, and maps pertaining to combat readiness, training, security of the German-Russian demarcation line, planned attack	1941/02/15-1941/06/21	121.ID 23294/4	1303	388

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on 22 June and combat mission, and Map Exercise Barbara (for possible action in the Alvitass area of Lithuania). Billeting surveys; order-of-battle charts; and special directives concerning reconnaissance, air defense, cooperation with the Air Force and railway troops, march and traffic control, engineering, and signal communication.				
Ia, KTB II. War journal concerning the invasion of Lithuania near Ebenrode; the advance across Lithuania and Latvia via the Kaunas, Ukmerge, and Daugavpils areas; the crossing of the Russian border at Osveya; and advance through the Loknya, Chikhachevo, Porkhov, Soltsy, Lyuban, Pavlovsk, Kolpino, and Pushkin areas. An afteraction report of Inf. Rgt. 405, 19-25 Aug 1941.	1941/06/22-1941/09/26	121.ID 23294/6	1303	625
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB II. Attack on 22 June and subsequent action, execution of Unternehmen Rukla (offensive action in the Rukla area of Lithuania), and crossing the Western Dvina River. Data on enemy operations and tactical situation; instructional pamphlet regarding battle conduct; special directives concerning the attack on 22 June; and an afteraction report of Nebelwerferabteilung 9, 2-3 Jul 1941.	1941/06/22-1941/07/06	121.ID 23294/7	1303	776
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB II. Orders and reports pertaining to offensive operations from the Western Dvina River sector to Porkhov via Nevel and Pustoshka. Order-of-battle charts, special directives concerning supply troops, and data on enemy operations and tactical situation.	1941/07/07-1941/07/29	121.ID 23294/8	1303	978
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB II. Offensive operations and movement from Porkhov to Lyuban via Soltsy and Chudovo and defensive engagements in the Chudovo area. Order-of-battle chart; special supply directives; afteraction critique relating to Russian battle conduct; a translation of a Russian leaflet urging the civilian population to resist German troops; and an	1941/07/30-1941/08/25	121.ID 23294/9	1304	1

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intelligence bulletin regarding enemy operations, losses, unit identification, and tactical situation.				
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB II. Offensive operations and movements from Lyuban to Pavlovsk; crossing the Izhora River; encirclement of Leningrad; and defensive operations, including the division's mission, boundaries, organization, and reconnaissance activity. Order-of-battle charts of German and Russian units, overlays showing the tactical disposition of enemy forces, a translation of a Russian critique on German combat methods, and data on enemy operations, losses, and unit identification.	1941/08/26-1941/09/26	121.ID 23294/10	1304	327
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB II. Reports from subordinate units.	1941/06/22-1941/07/31	121.ID 23294/11	1304	575
Ic, Anlagen zum KTB II. Intelligence and interrogation reports and maps pertaining to enemy operations, losses, morale, fortifications, movements, and strength. Translations of Molotov's speech of 22 Jun 1941, an order of the Red Army Hqs., 16 Aug 1941, and combat orders.	1941/06/22-1941/08/16	121.ID 23294/14	1305	1
Ic, Anlagen zum KTB II. Intelligence and interrogation reports, charts, and overlays pertaining to enemy operations; losses; morale; organization; order of battle; tactical situation; and unit identification, movements, and strength. Reports regarding the situation and conditions in Leningrad; overlays showing road conditions in the Leningrad area; and translations of an order of the Soviet 55th Army, 9 Sep 1941, a Soviet battle plan for a breakthrough of the Leningrad encirclement, and combat orders.	1941/08/16-1941/09/26	121.ID 23294/15	1305	223
Ia, KTB IV. Defensive operations in the Lyuban and Chudovo areas and transfer in July to the Pavlovsk area to relieve the 5.GebD. (KTB III and Anlagen, 27 Sep 1941-30 Apr 1942, see document numbers 24289/1-6,9-12, roll numbers 1307-1309.)	1942/05/01-1942/07/16	121.ID 23876/1	1305	397

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Ia, Anlagen zum KTB IV. Orders, overlays, and maps pertaining to attacks, defensive operations, formation of alert units, rehabilitation, and reorganization; order-of-battle charts; combat strength reports; and an afteraction report concerning the battles in the Volkhov pocket. Intelligence reports, bulletins, and overlays regarding enemy offensive operations, unit identification and strength, and tactical disposition, and a translation of a battle plan of the Soviet 374th Division and the Soviet 29th Panzer Brigade, 16 Jun 1942.	1942/05/01-1942/07/17	121.ID 23876/2	1305	464
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB IV. Daily reports from subordinate units.	1942/05/10-1942/07/16	121.ID 23876/3	1305	916
Ic, Anlagen zum KTB IV, Feindlagemeldungen und Feindpropaganda. Intelligence and interrogation reports and maps pertaining to enemy operations, losses, unit identification and strength, intentions, and tactical disposition; and the military situation on all fronts. Enemy propaganda leaflets and newspaper reports relating to Molotov's visits to Washington and London to negotiate agreements with the United States and Great Britain for speeding up delivery of war materiel to the Soviet Union and to assure cooperation and aid after the war; and a translation of an order by the People's Commissariat for Defense, 1 May 1942.	1942/05/01-1942/07/16	121.ID 23876/5	1306	1
Ia, KTB V. War journal concerning defensive operations in the Pavlovsk area, south of Chudovo, later around Pushkin, and in October in the area between Kolpino and Mga. On 20 Oct 1942 the division was withdrawn to Novolisino for training and rehabilitation.	1942/07/17-1942/10/21	121.ID 24168/1	1306	205
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB V. Orders, messages, and reports pertaining to defensive engagements, assault troop operations, counterattacks, artillery activity, relief of the division by the 250. spanische Division and transfer to the Krasny Bor, Pushkin and Tosna River	1942/07/17-1942/10/06	121.ID 24168/2	1306	264

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areas, 5-15 Sep 1942, and the battle for Gaytologo which ended, 6 Oct 1942. An afteraction report concerning a counterattack at Putrolovo, 21-25 Jul 1942.				
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB V. Orders, messages, and reports pertaining to reorganization after the battle at Gaytologo, defensive operations, winter preparations, construction of defensive positions and winter shelters, relief by the 227.ID, and transfer to Novolisino for training and rehabilitation.	1942/07/17-1942/10/21	121.ID 24168/3	1306	622
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB V. Reports from subordinate units.	1942/07/17-1942/08/31	121.ID 24168/4	1306	778
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB V. Tagesmeldungen.	1942/09/01-1942/10/20	121.ID 24168/5	1307	1
Ia, KTB III. War journal pertaining to defensive engagements and assault operations in the Pavlovsk, Pushkin, Kolpino, Krasny Bor, and Gatchina areas and transfer to the Chudovo area, 21-25 Apr 1942. Information on enemy operations and unit identification.	1941/09/27-1942/04/30	121.ID 24289/1	1307	270
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB III. Orders, reports, and overlays pertaining to defensive operations, artillery activity, regrouping, battle conduct, road conditions, propaganda, tactical situation, relief and transfer of the division to the Izhora River area, 3-6 Dec 1941, antitank defense north of Krasny Bor, 25 December, and training.	1941/09/29-1942/01/02	121.ID 24289/2	1307	448
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB III. Orders, reports, and overlays pertaining to defensive operations, organization, construction of defensive positions, antitank defense, and the tactical situation. Afteraction reports concerning assault troop operations and critiques relating to the eastern campaign. Intelligence reports concerning enemy operations, unit identification and strength, partisan activity, battle conduct, and tactical situation.	1942/01/03-1942/03/01	121.ID 24289/3	1307	691
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB III. Ein- und ausgehende Befehle.	1942/03/01-1942/04/11	121.ID 24289/4	1307	995

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Ia, Anlagen zum KTB III. Orders, reports, and maps pertaining to defensive operations, movements, training, road conditions and construction, and the tactical situation in the Kolpino, Krasny Bor, and Gatchina areas; relief of the division by the 5.GebD. and its transfer to the Chudovo area, 21-25 Apr 1942. Entraining and detraining schedules, special directives concerning supply troops, and intelligence reports regarding enemy operations and artillery activity.	1942/04/08-1942/04/27	121.ID 24289/5	1308	1
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB III. Schneetruppen, Schneeschmelze und Schlammperiode. Reports on training and assignment of special units as ski troops and construction of rear positions during the thaw period.	1941/10/29-1942/04/17	121.ID 24289/6	1308	224
Ic, Anlagen zum KTB III. Intelligence and interrogation reports, overlays, lists, and charts pertaining to enemy operations, movements, losses, unit identification and strength, propaganda, order of battle, tactical dispositions, and duty assignments for the supreme command, armies, and lower echelons. Reports concerning the defense and supply situation in Leningrad and translations of Stalin's telegram of 22 Sep 1941, answering German demands for the surrender of Leningrad and of Soviet combat orders.	1941/09/27-1941/11/29	121.ID 24289/9	1308	443
Ic, Anlagen zum KTB III. Intelligence bulletins and reports, charts, overlays, and interrogation reports pertaining to enemy operations, movements, losses, unit identification, morale, organization, and tactical disposition. Reports on conditions in Leningrad and on the organization and activities of the Politruk (Soviet education and information officer) and enemy propaganda leaflets and newspapers.	1941/11/30-1942/01/16	121.ID 24289/10	1308	766
Ic, Anlagen zum KTB III. Intelligence bulletins and reports, interrogation reports, charts, and maps pertaining to enemy operations, movements, losses, morale, unit identification and strength, and tactical	1942/01/17-1942/02/28	121.ID 24289/11	1309	1

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disposition. Reports on conditions in Leningrad, a translation of guidelines for commissars and political leaders of Leningrad in 1941, a Soviet order relating to supply economy, an enemy artillery coordinate fire plan and firing schedule, and combat orders.				
Ic, Anlagen zum KTB III. Intelligence reports and bulletins, interrogation reports, and overlays pertaining to enemy operations, movements, losses, morale, unit identification and strength, and tactical disposition and conditions in Leningrad. A report regarding Russian radio and telephone communications during March 1942.	1942/03/01-1942/04/30	121.ID 24289/12	1309	254
Ia, KTB VI. War journal concerning operations during the division's rehabilitation; railroad security in the Tosno and Sablino areas; and defensive engagements and combat against partisan units in the Kolpino, Mga, Chudovo, and Kirishi areas.	1942/10/22-1943/04/03	121.ID 32337/1	1309	624
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB VI. Orders, directives, messages, and overlays pertaining to training and rehabilitation, artillery activity, formation of raiding detachments; security of war plants and the Novolisino, Tosno, Sablino, and Stekolnyy railroad lines; and the transfer to Shapki, 4 Nov 1942. Tables of organization for the subordinate units.	1942/10/22-1942/11/13	121.ID 32337/2	1309	680
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB VI. Orders, reports, overlays, and maps concerning defensive and assault troop operations, combat against partisan units, training, and road and railroad maintenance during winter; and special supply directives and tables of organization.	1942/11/13-1943/01/17	121.ID 32337/3	1309	930
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB VI. Orders, reports, and overlays pertaining to defensive and assault troop operations, training, organization, reorganization, takeover of the Gruzino sector on 25 Jan 1943, and construction of defensive positions. Afteraction reports regarding defensive battle at Smerdynya, 10-22 Feb 1943, and the	1943/01/20-1943/03/08	121.ID 32337/4	1310	1

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attack northeast of Ramtsy, 22 February, and a critique relating to defensive combat.				
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB VI. Orders and messages concerning defensive operations and training. An order-of-battle chart; status, casualty, and strength reports; and special directives on chemical warfare.	1943/03/08-1943/04/03	121.ID 32337/5	1310	269
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB VI. Tagesmeldungen.	1942/11/07-1943/04/03	121.ID 32337/6	1310	433
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB VI. Zustandsberichte und Kriegsgliederungen.	1942/10/01-1943/04/01	121.ID 32337/7	1310	798
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB VI. Gliederung der Division.	1942/12/07-1943/04/03	121.ID 32337/8	1310	851
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB VI. Gefechtsstaerken und einsatzbereite Waffen.	1942/10/22-1943/04/03	121.ID 32337/9	1311	1
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB VI. Verlustmeldungen.	1942/10/17-1943/04/02	121.ID 32337/10	1311	78
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB VI. Aufzeichnungen ueber Ferngespraeche und sonstige Notizen.	1942/11/28-1943/03/02	121.ID 32337/11	1311	268
Ia, KTB VII. War journal concerning defensive operations and assault action in the Lyuban and Mga areas.	1943/04/04-1943/08/07	121.ID 37825/1	1311	322
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB VII. Gefechtsstaerken und einsatzbereite Waffen.	1943/04/10-1943/08/02	121.ID 37825/2	1311	355
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB VII. Gliederung der Division.	1943/04/04-1943/08/07	121.ID 37825/3	1311	455
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB VII. Taegliche Verlustmeldungen.	1943/04/04-1943/08/07	121.ID 37825/4	1311	506
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB VII. Tagesmeldungen.	1943/04/04-1943/08/07	121.ID 37825/5	1311	646
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB VII. Orders, directives, reports, and overlays pertaining to defensive and assault troop operations, artillery activity, antitank defense, battle conduct, security of rear areas, construction of defensive positions, formation of Alarm-Btl. 121, and the relief of the division by the 132.ID in June 1943. Afteraction critiques relating to combat during the winter of 1943, training of German military personnel, and Soviet attack tactics and night combat.	1943/04/04-1943/06/27	121.ID 37825/6	1311	895
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB VII. Orders, reports, and overlays pertaining to defensive and assault troop operations, training, reorganization, and execution of Operation	1943/06/27-1943/08/07	121.ID 37825/7	1312	1

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Blattschuss (feint attack in the division's sector) and Operation Wasserkante (counteroffensive in the Neva River sector). An afteraction critique relating to the defensive battle south of Lake Ladoga, 22 Jul-5 Aug 1943.				
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB VII. Aufzeichnungen von Ferngesprächen. (There is no indication that Ia KTB VIII and Anlagen, 8 Aug 1943-19 Jul 1944, record items 50171/1-11 and 55178; Ic TB and Anlagen, 8 Aug 1943-19 Jul 1944, record items 50171/13-14 and 55179, as listed in the Potsdam catalog, were ever in the custody of the National Archives.)	1943/07/22-1943/08/04	121.ID 37825/9	1312	384