

## 161. INFANTERIE-DIVISION - UNIT HISTORY

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1939/11/01	Allenstein, Goldap, Wehrkreis I	Formation, training (source: Potsdam catalog)	Subordinate to: Wehrkr.Kdo. I, 1939/11/01-1940/04/29 C.O.: Gen.Maj. Hermann Wilck, 1939/12/01-1941/09/17
1940/01/26	Zinten, Landsberg, Kaiserslautern	Transfer, training	Subordinate to: AK 23, 1940/05/04-1940/06/03
1940/05/25	Luxembourg, Holland, Verdun, Metz, France	Invasion, offensive engagements	AK 31, 1940/06/05-1940/07/05
1940/07/05	Elk, Olecko, Suwalki, Wehrkreis I	Transfer, training	AK 26, 1940/07/06-1941/04/10 AK 6, 1941/04/11-1941/04/19
1941/06/22	Grodno, Lida, Volozhin, Borisov, Orsha, Soviet Union	Invasion of Russia, offensive operations	AK 8, 1941/04/20-1941/06/26 AK 5, 1941/06/27-1941/07/06 AK 8, 1941/07/06-1941/07/15 AOK 9, 1941/07/16-1941/08/03 AK 8, 1941/08/04-1941/09/18
1941/08/20	Smolensk, Yartsevo, Nikitinka, Rzhev	Offensive engagements	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Heinrich Recke, 1941/09/17-1943/08/15 Subordinate to: AK 5, 1941/09/19-1941/10/01 AOK 9, 1941/10/02-1941/10/07 AK 6, 1941/10/07-1941/10/13 AK 27, 1941/10/14-1941/10/23 AK 41, 1941/10/24-1941/11/20 AK 27, 1941/11/21-1941/12/15
1941/11/01	Kalinin	Defensive operations	AK 6, 1941/12/16-1942/01/18
1941/12/23	Rzhev, Volga River	Withdrawal, formation of Gruppe Recke, counterattack	AK 6, 1941/12/16-1942/01/18
1942/01/31	Rzhev, Zubtsov	Disbandment of Gruppe Recke, position defense as 161.ID	AK 27, 1942/02/01-1942/03/08
1942/03/10	Volga River, Rzhev	Re-formation of Gruppe Recke, defense of the corps sector	AOK 9, 1942/03/09-1942/05/09
1942/05/09	Rzhev	Disbandment of Gruppe Recke, position defense as 161.ID	AK 41, 1942/05/10-1942/07/30
1942/09/09	Dorogobuzh	Withdrawal	

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1942/10/05	Combours, Fougères, Avranches, Rennes, Dinan, France	Transfer, reorganization	AK 25, 1942/10/05-1942/11/23
1942/11/27	Montreuil	Movement, training, coastal defense	AK 82, 1942/11/23-1943/04/14
1943/04/08	Montreuil, Etaples, Hesdin	Coastal defense, training, relief by the 191.ResD	
1943/04/15	Merefa, Kharkov, Soviet Union	Transfer, offensive and defensive engagements	HGr. Sued, 1943/04/15-1943/04/19 AK 48 Pz, 1943/04/20-1943/04/26 AK 42, 1943/04/27-1943/09/13
1943/09/14	Krasnograd	Withdrawal, rehabilitation	C.O.: Obst. Otto Schell, 1943/08/16-1943/08/27 Gen.Lt. Paul Drekmann, 1943/08/28-1944/09/04 Subordinate to: AK 52, 1943/09/14-1943/09/15
1943/09/18	Kremenchug	Formation of Kampfkommandant von Krementschug, disbandment 1943/09/29	AOK 8, 1943/09/16-1943/09/25 AK 11, 1943/09/26-1943/09/28 AOK 8, 1943/09/29-1943/09/30

Records of the 161.ID are reproduced on rolls 1443-1453 of Microfilm Publication T315 and are described following the unit history.

Although no records of this division dated later than 1943/09/30 were available in the National Archives, situation maps of Lage Ost and records of OKH/AHA/Abwicklungsstab, H41/13 (T78, roll 140) and H41/57 (T78, roll 142) and OKH/GenStdH/Org.Abt., H1/38 (T78, roll 398) show:

1943/10/01	Krasnograd, Dnepropetrovsk Verkhne-Dneprovsk, Zaporozhe	Disengagement movements, reorganized Kampfgruppe 161
1943/11/15	Krivoi Rog	Incorporation of remnants into Korpsabt. A
1943/12/06	Krivoi Rog	Redesignation of Korpsabt. A as 161.ID
1944/07/28	Grigoriopol, Moldavia	Movement, defensive operations
1944/08/27	Husi, Rumania	Encircled
1944/10/23	Dej, Rumania	Incorporation of remnants into other units, disbandment

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Formation and training in the Allenstein, Goldap, and Loetzen areas; movement to the Zinten, Kreuzburg, and Landsberg areas for training, 26 Jan-4 Feb 1940; transfer to the Birkenfeld and Kaiserslautern area, 29 Apr-19 May 1940; invasion of Luxembourg and Holland, 25 May-3 Jun 1940; offensive engagements in France to the Verdun and Metz area, 5 Jun-5 Jul 1940; and transfer to Wehrkreis I, 5-12 Jul 1940. Order-of-battle charts; casualty, strength, and status reports; and lists of officers duty assignments. (There is no indication that the KTB for the period 1 Nov 1939-11 Aug 1940, record item W 2688 as listed in the Potsdam catalog, was ever in National Archives custody.)	1939/12/04-1940/08/20	161.ID W2688a	1443	1
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders and surveys relating to formation and training, movement from Allenstein, Goldap, and Loetzen to the Zinten, Kreuzburg, and Landsberg areas, 26 Jan-4 Feb, transfer to the Birkenfeld and Kaiserslautern area, 29 Apr-19 May 1940, invasion of Luxembourg and Holland, 25 May-3 Jun, offensive engagements in France to the Verdun and Metz areas, 5 Jun-5 Jul, and transfer to Elk, Olecko, and Suwalki, Wehrkreis I, 5-12 Jul 1940; an afteraction critique of the western campaign.	1939/12/28-1940/07/24	161.ID W2688a1	1443	272
Ic, TB mit Anlagen, Feindmeldungen. Enemy operations and tactical situation. (Due to enemy action the TB for the period 15 Aug 1940-5 May 1941, record item 10652, was destroyed.)	1940/05/26-1940/06/27	161.ID 7623	1444	1
Ia, TB. Billeting and training in the Gizycko, Elk, Orzysz, and Suwalki areas.	1940/08/15-1941/05/25	161.ID 10652/1	1444	13
Ia, Anlagen zum TB. OKH orders separating certain units from the command of the field forces.	1940/09/23-1940/09/23	161.ID 10652/2	1444	25
Ia, KTB 2. Training in the Suwalki area; the invasion	1941/05/25-1942/01/18	161.ID 18173/1	1444	41

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
of Russia, 22 Jun 1941; movement to and offensive engagements in the Grodno, Lida, Volozhin, Borisov, Orsha, Smolensk, Yartsevo, Nikitinka, Rzhev, and Kalinin areas, 23 Jun-1 Nov; position defense in the Kalinin area, 2 Nov-23 Dec; withdrawal to the Rzhev area, 24 Dec 1941-18 Jan 1942.				
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 2. Orders, reports, messages, and maps pertaining to Achtung Berta (defense in case of a Russian attack) and to the invasion of and offensive engagements in Russia. Order-of-battle charts and intelligence bulletins.	1941/06/04-1941/08/03	161.ID 18173/2	1444	187
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 2. Orders, reports, and messages pertaining to offensive operations in the Loynya River sector; order-of-battle charts; strength reports; intelligence bulletins; afteraction reports.	1941/08/04-1941/08/24	161.ID 18173/3	1444	568
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 2. Orders, reports, messages, and maps pertaining to offensive engagements from the Nikitinka area to Kalinin via Rzhev; order-of-battle charts; afteraction reports; lists of officers duty assignments; and casualty and strength reports.	1941/08/24-1941/10/31	161.ID 18173/4	1444	923
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 2. Orders, reports, and messages pertaining to position defense in the Kalinin area; order-of-battle charts; intelligence bulletins; and afteraction reports.	1941/11/01-1941/11/30	161.ID 18173/5	1445	1
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 2. Orders, reports, and messages pertaining to defensive operations in and disengagement movements from the Kalinin area.	1941/12/01-1941/12/31	161.ID 18173/6	1445	223
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 2. Orders, reports, and messages regarding withdrawal to and defense of the Rzhev area and the text of Hitler's New Year proclamation to the armed forces.	1942/01/01-1942/01/17	161.ID 18173/7	1445	703
Ic, TB mit Anlagen. Activity report with interrogation summaries and intelligence bulletins concerning enemy operations, fortifications, losses, morale, order of	1941/06/22-1942/01/19	161.ID 18173/13	1445	887

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
battle, unit identification, and tactical situation. Translations of enemy combat orders and reports on reorganization of the division as Gruppe Recke, 19 Jan 1942.				
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 2. Orders, reports, and messages pertaining to the counterattack by Gruppe Recke to seal off enemy penetration west of Rzhev; casualty and strength reports, order-of-battle charts; and intelligence bulletins.	1942/01/18-1942/01/30	161.ID 18173/15	1446	1
Ia, Operationsakten, Abschnittskommandant von Kalinin. Orders and reports concerning the responsibility of Generalleutnant Recke, Commanding General of the 161.ID, for coordinating the defense of Kalinin and the subordination of parts of several divisions, including the 161.ID for this purpose.	1941/11/19-1942/12/08	161.ID 18173/17	1446	135
Ia, KTB (Gruppe Recke). Formation of Gruppe Recke by expansion of the 161.ID in order to carry out Unternehmen Recke (counterattack to seal off enemy forces which had crossed the Volga River west of Rzhev).	1942/01/19-1942/01/30	161.ID 20389/1	1446	209
Ia, KTB. Disbandment of Gruppe Recke, 31 Jan 1942, position defense in the Zubtsov and Rzhev area, 1 Feb-9 Mar and 10 May-29 Jul 1942, the re-formation of Gruppe Recke on 10 Mar 1942, to take over and defend the AK 27 sector along the Volga River near Rzhev in conjunction with the 129.ID, and the disbandment once more of Gruppe Recke on 9 May 1942.	1942/02/01-1942/07/29	161.ID 29159/1	1446	230
Ia, KTB. Position defense in the Rzhev area and taking over of the division sector by the 72.ID, 10 Sep 1942.	1942/07/30-1942/09/10	161.ID 29159/2	1446	306
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders, reports, and messages relating to organizational changes, personnel and weapons strength, rehabilitation, reorganization, and mobility. Order-of-battle charts.	1942/03/01-1942/07/24	161.ID 29159/3	1446	412
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Combat and ration strength	1942/03/07-1942/07/28	161.ID 29159/4	1446	604

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
reports and order-of-battle charts.				
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders, reports, and messages pertaining to defensive operations in the Rzhev area, reorganization, battle conduct, training, and movement to rehabilitation area in the AK 27 sector, 19 Sep 1942; interrogation summaries concerning enemy operations and unit identification in the Zubtsov area.	1942/06/29-1942/09/19	161.ID 29159/5	1446	708
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders and messages concerning defensive operations in the Rzhev area and the relief of the division by the 72.ID, 9 Sep 1942, combat and ration strength reports.	1942/08/23-1942/09/09	161.ID 29159/6	1446	807
Ia, Allgemeiner Schriftverkehr. Orders, reports, and messages relating to defensive and assault troop operations in the Rzhev area, rail security of the Vyazma and Rzhev and Rzhev and Olenino lines, training and billeting in the AK 27 rear area; strength reports; special directives concerning supply, supply troops, and administration of rear areas; intelligence bulletins.	1942/07/01-1942/09/18	161.ID 29159/7	1447	1
Ia, Gefechts- und Erfahrungsberichte.	1941/12/09-1942/10/26	161.ID 29159/8	1447	181
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB (Gruppe Recke). Orders, directives, reports, and messages pertaining to defensive operations and training in the Zubtsov and Rzhev areas. Intelligence bulletins and interrogation summaries concerning enemy operations.	1942/03/10-1942/05/08	161.ID 29407/1	1447	413
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders, reports, and messages pertaining to defensive and assault troop operations in the Rzhev and Zubtsov area and Operation Seydlitz (destruction of the Soviet 39th Army in the Vyazma, Rzhev, and Bely areas); instruction pamphlet for the Futtermeister; afteraction report on the winter battle for Rzhev, 21 Jan-19 Feb 1942; interrogation summaries and intelligence bulletins concerning enemy operations, unit identification, and training and formation of	1942/05/08-1942/07/20	161.ID 29407/2	1447	887

## CONTENTS

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
Fallschirmagentengruppe Baklanow. Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders and messages concerning the defense of Zubtsov and disengagement movements in the Volga River sector near Rzhev; combat strength reports; an afteraction critique relating to the defensive battle against Russian tanks, 30 Jul-3 Aug 1942.	1942/07/30-1942/08/22	161.ID 29407/3	1448	1
Ic, KTB mit Anlagen. War journal with interrogation summaries and intelligence bulletins concerning the disbandment of Gruppe Recke on 31 Jan 1942; enemy operations, movements, losses, morale, unit identification, and tactical situation; counterintelligence activity; and troop entertainment. Translations of enemy combat orders and an afteraction report of operations, 5-15 Feb 1942.	1942/01/31-1942/03/10	161.ID 29407/4	1448	402
Ic, TB mit Anlagen, Gruppe Recke. Activity report with interrogation summaries and intelligence bulletins pertaining to the re-formation of Gruppe Recke, 10 Mar 1942, to defend the AK 27 sector; enemy operations, losses, morale, unit identification, and tactical situation on the eastern front; combat against partisans and espionage; troop entertainment; and the disbanding of Gruppe Recke, 9 May 1942.	1942/03/11-1942/05/08	161.ID 29407/5	1448	464
Ic, TB mit Anlagen, Vernehmungen. Activity report with interrogation summaries and intelligence bulletins pertaining to the disbanding of Gruppe Recke, 9 May 1942, and its redesignation as the 161.ID; enemy operations, losses, morale, unit identification, and tactical situation on the eastern front; control of the civilian population; combat against partisans; and troop entertainment.	1942/05/09-1942/08/03	161.ID 29407/6	1448	630
Ic, TB mit Anlagen. Activity report with intelligence bulletins, radio messages, interrogation summaries, and intelligence reports to AK 41, 6 Jul-3 Aug 1942,	1942/08/04-1942/12/10	161.ID 29407/7	1448	806

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
regarding enemy offensive operations in the Rzhev area; withdrawal from the front to Dorogobuzh, 9-10 Sep; transfer to Dinan, France, 7 Oct; movement to the Montreuil area, 27 Nov; enemy losses, unit identification, and tactical situation on the eastern front; control of the civilian population; and combat against partisan units. A strength report of subordinate units.				
Ic, TB mit Anlagen. Counterintelligence activity, control of the civilian population, disciplinary matters, troop indoctrination and entertainment, and planned return to the eastern front.	1942/12/11-1943/04/15	161.ID 29407/8	1448	898
Ia, KTB. Transfer to Combourg, France; billeting in the Rennes and Dinan areas, 21 Oct; reorganization as a two-regiment division; movement to the Montreuil area to relieve the 321.ID; alerts, training, and coastal defense; relief by the 191.ResD; transfer of the advance echelon to the eastern theater, 12 Apr; and preparations for transfer of the division.	1942/10/15-1943/04/14	161.ID 32078/1	1448	944
Ia, Anlagenband 1 zum KTB. Orders, reports, and messages pertaining to the transfer from Dorogobuzh, 5-6 Oct, to Combourg, Fougères, Dol-de-Bretagne, and Avranches, 15 Oct; movement to the Rennes and Dinan area, 21 Oct; reorganization; movement to the Montreuil and Boulogne-sur-Mer area, 27 Nov-1 Dec 1942; alerts, training, and coastal defense; relief by the 191.ResD, 8-12 Apr; and transfer from Montreuil, Etaples, Hesdin, and Neufchatel to the eastern front, 15-19 Apr 1943. Status and strength reports; and order-of-battle charts.	1942/09/29-1943/04/15	161.ID 32078/2	1449	1
Ia, Anlagenband 2 zum KTB, Küstenverteidigungs-Abschnitt D, Teil A. Map (1:200,000) showing disposition of units in the Pas-de-Calais area.	1943/04/01-1943/04/01	161.ID 32078/3	1449	434



CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
Ia, Anlagenband 3 zum KTB, Kuestenverteidigungs-Abschnitt D, Teil B. Map (1:50,000) showing the location of the division's main defense lines on the French coast.	1943/04/01-1943/04/01	161.ID 32078/4	1449	439
Ia, Anlagenband 4 zum KTB, Kriegsgliederungen. Order-of-battle charts and a billeting survey for the Montreuil and Boulogne-sur-Mer areas.	1942/12/10-1942/12/10	161.ID 32078/5	1449	446
Ia, Anlagenband 5 zum KTB, Kriegsgliederungen.	1943/02/04-1943/02/04	161.ID 32078/6	1449	462
Ia, Anlagenband 6 zum KTB, Kriegsgliederungen. Order-of-battle charts of the division and of artillery units and strength reports on troops in the coastal defense area.	1943/04/01-1943/04/01	161.ID 32078/7	1449	472
Ia, KTB. Transfer from Montreuil, France, to Merefa, Russia, 15-27 Apr, relief of the 106.ID, defensive and assault troop operations along the Donets River south of Kharkov, 28 Apr-12 Sep 1943, movement to the Vlasovka and Beresovka area near Krasnograd for rehabilitation, 14-15 Sep, and transfer of the division's commanding officer and staff to Kremenchug on the Dnieper River for the formation of Kampfkommandant von Krementschug, 18 Sep, to strengthen the bridgehead in this area.	1943/04/15-1943/09/30	161.ID 40772/1	1449	487
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders, reports, messages, surveys, and overlays pertaining to the transfer from Montreuil, France, to Merefa, Russia, relief of the 106.ID, defensive and assault troop operations, combat against partisan units, and training along the Donets River south of Kharkov; status reports; an afteraction report concerning the execution of Inselunternehmen (capture of an island in the Donets River near Kharkov and its defense by Kampfgruppe Insel, 27 Apr-16 May 1943).	1943/04/15-1943/06/14	161.ID 40772/2	1450	1
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders, reports, messages, and maps pertaining to defensive and assault troop	1943/06/15-1943/08/03	161.ID 40772/3	1450	587

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
operations and training along the Donets River south of Kharkov; afteraction reports concerning assault troop action; an afteraction critique relating to defense against enemy attacks; status reports.				
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders, telegraph messages, and reports regarding defensive operations, counterattacks, and disengagement movements along the Donets River south of Kharkov; status reports; order-of-battle charts.	1943/08/04-1943/08/26	161.ID 40772/4	1451	1
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders, reports, and messages concerning defensive operations south of Kharkov, relief by the 106.ID, and withdrawal of the division for rehabilitation; status reports; order-of-battle charts.	1943/08/27-1943/09/12	161.ID 40772/5	1451	540
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders, reports, messages, and an afteraction critique pertaining to operations of the Kampfkommandant von Kremenschug under the command of the commanding officer of the 161.ID.	1943/09/13-1943/09/30	161.ID 40772/6	1452	1
Ic, TB mit Anlagen. Activity report of the 161.ID, 27 Apr-10 Sep 1943, regarding the transfer from France to Russia, relief of the 106.ID, enemy assault troop operations in May and June, and enemy offensive engagements from July to September; an activity report of the Kampfkommandant von Kremenschug, 18-28 Sep 1943 (disbandment, 29 Sep 1943); a report on enemy unit identification; appraisals of the enemy tactical situation; German propaganda leaflets.	1943/04/27-1943/09/30	161.ID 40772/7	1452	468
Ic, Anlagenband 2 zum TB, Ic Meldungen an das Generalkommando.	1943/04/24-1943/09/10	161.ID 40772/9	1452	582
Ic, Anlagenband 3 zum TB, Vernehmungen.	1943/04/28-1943/09/10	161.ID 40772/10	1452	765
Ic, Anlagenband 4, Teil I, zum TB, Feindfunksprueche.	1943/08/15-1943/08/31	161.ID 40772/11	1453	1
Ic, Anlagenband 4, Teil II, zum TB, Feindfunksprueche.	1943/09/01-1943/09/11	161.ID 40772/12	1453	348
Ic, Anlagenband 4, Teil III, zum TB, Russische Funksprueche. Intercepted enemy messages.	1943/08/12-1943/09/05	161.ID 40772/13	1453	514
Ic, Anlagenband 5 zum T, Feindnachrichtenblaetter.	1943/04/25-1943/07/31	161.ID 40772/14	1453	656