

168. INFANTERIE-DIVISION - UNIT HISTORY

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DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1939/12/01	Breslau, Gleiwitz, Wehrkreis VIII	Activation, formation	C.O.: Gen.Maj. Wolf Boysen, 1939/12/01-1940/01/10 Gen.Lt. Hans Mundt, 1940/01/10-1941/07/02
1940/01/30	Truppenuebungsplatz Doellersheim, Wehrkreis XVII, Allensteig	Transfer, training	Subordinate to: Stellv.Gen.Kdo. VIII, 1939/12/01-1940/01/31 Stellv.Gen.Kdo. XVII, 1940/02/01-1940/05/31
1940/04/19	Nikolsburg (Mikulov), Bruck a.d. Leitha, Poysdorf, Austria	Movements, training	AOK 1, 1940/05/31-1940/06/15 AK 24, 1940/06/15-1940/07/03 AK 34 Hoeh.Kdo., 1940/07/03-1940/07/19
1940/05/30	Kaiserslautern, Saarburg, Sulzbach	Transfer	AK 44, 1940/07/20-1940/09/17 AK 17, 1940/09/18-1941/03/22
1940/06/15	Sarre-Union, Lixheim, Dabo, Saverne, France	Advance, as a reserve unit	AK 17, 1941/03/23-1941/04/14 (nur territorial)
1940/07/03	Kielce, Poland Radomsko, Radom, Tomaszow	Transfer billeting, training	AK 29, 1941/03/23-1941/03/26 AK 44 (ausbildungsmaessig), 1941/03/27-1941/04/14 AK 17, 1941/04/15-1941/05/02
1941/05/15	Kazimierz, Ostrowiec, Wierzbnik, Lublin, Zamosc	Movement, training	AK 29 (territorial AK 17), 1941/05/02-1941/05/15 AK 17, 1941/05/15-1941/05/21 AK 29, 1941/05/22-1941/06/09
1941/06/22	Hrubieszow, Poritsk, Brody, Dubno, Ostrog, Shepetovka, Zhitomir	Invasion of Russia, advance, offensive operations	AOK 6, 1941/06/10-1941/06/23 AK 55, 1941/06/24-1941/06/26 AK 51, 1941/06/27-1941/07/10
1941/08/21	Kiev, Makarov, Gornostaypol, Kozelets	Offensive operations, movement	AK 34 Hoeh.Kdo., 1941/07/11-1941/07/18 AK 55, 1941/07/19-1941/08/05 AK 34 Hoeh.Kdo., 1941/08/06-1941/08/28
1941/09/25	Priluki, Romny, Sumy, Belgorod	Advance, offensive operations	C.O.: Gen.Maj. Gerhard Steinbauer, 1941/07/03-1941/07/07 Gen.Lt. Dietrich Kraiss, 1941/07/08-1943/03/10 Subordinate to: AK 17, 1941/08/28-1941/09/01
1941/10/15	Donets River, Kharkov, Oboyan	Defensive engagements	AOK 6, 1941/09/02-1941/09/21 AK 51, 1941/09/22-1941/09/30 AK 29, 1941/10/01-1941/10/22
1941/12/29	Kursk, Belgorod, Oboyan	Defensive operations, counterattacks, expansion of 168.ID as Gruppe Kraiss	AK 51, 1941/10/22-1941/11/30 AK 29, 1941/12/01-1941/12/08 AOK 6, 1941/12/08-1941/12/22
1942/04/01	Belgorod, Oboyan	Reversion of Gr.Kraiss to the 168.ID	AK 29, 1941/12/23-1942/07/06
1942/07/07	Voronezh, Kastornoye, Svoboda	Movement, offensive operations	

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1943/01/12	Novy Oskol, Chernyanka, Korocha, Belgorod, Graivoron, Akhtyrka	Disengagement movements	Gen.Kdo.zbV Cramer, 1943/01/12-1943/02/20 AAbt. Kempf, 1943/02/21-1943/02/23
1943/02/24	Mirgorod	Defensive operations, rehabilitation	Gen.Kdo.zbV Raus, 1943/02/24-1943/03/17 AAbt. Kempf, 1943/03/17-1943/04/23
1943/04/23	Poltava, Kharkov, Belgorod Tomarovka	Transfer, position defense	Gen.Kdo.zbV Raus, 1943/04/24-1943/06/30 C.O.: Gen.Maj. Walter Chales de Beaulieu, 1943/03/10-1943/11/10

Records of the 168.ID are reproduced on rolls 1485-1492 of Microfilm Publication T315 and are described following the unit history.

1943/09/04	Poltava, Cherkassy, Kanev, Belaya Tserkov	Reorganization as Kampfgruppe 168, disengagement movements	
1943/11/04	Rzhishchev	Re-formation, incorporation of elements of 223.ID	Gen.Lt. Werner Schmidt-Hammer, 1943/11/15-1945/04/15
1944/01/01	Kazatin, Vinnitsa, Chortkov	Withdrawal, defensive engagements	Obst. Carl Anders, mstFb., 1944/09/08-1944/12/10 Obst. Maximilian Rosskopf, mstFb., 1945/01/06-1945/02/21
1944/08/07	Rzeszow, Poland	Disengagement movements, defensive operations	
1944/09/02	Presov, Slovakia	Withdrawal, defense	
1944/12/01	Nowy Sacz, Kielce, Poland	Withdrawal, defensive engagements	
1945/01/20	Glucholazy, Oppeln, Neisse, Upper Silesia	Disengagement movements, defensive operations	
1945/04/25	Otmuchow, Upper Silesia	Withdrawal, defense	

Although no records of this division were available in the National Archives for 1942/04/01-1943/01/11 and after 1943/06/30, situation maps of Lage Ost and records of OKH/GenStdH/Org.Abt., H1/38 (T78, roll 398) were used for the unit history covering those periods.

Manuscripts in the Foreign Military Studies series, prepared by former German officers for the Historical Division, Headquarters U.S. Army, Europe, between 1945 and 1959, contain references to the 168.ID as follows:

Belgorod, Aug 1943: MS P-060g, Part IV (Small Unit Tactics - Unusual Situations) by Gen.Obst. Erhard Raus

Kharkov, 1943: MS T-010 German: (Abwehrtaktik bei Durchbruechen - Osten), by Gen.Obst. Erhard Raus;

English: see DA Pamphlet No. 20.233 (German Defense Tactics Against Russian Breakthroughs)

MS D-258 (Breakthrough of the III Panzer Corps through deeply echeloned Russian defenses during the battle of Kharkov in July 1943)
by Gen.d.Pztr. Hermann Breith.

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
Ia, KTB 1. Formation by 20 Jan 1940, of the 168.ID (7. Welle) in Breslau, Wehrkreis VIII, from units of the Ersatzheer; movements to the Truppenuebungsplatz Doellersheim, Wehrkreis XVII, Lager Kaufholz, and the Allensteig area, Austria, 30 Jan-4 Feb, to the area between Vienna and Nikolsburg, 19-22 Apr, and to the Parndorf and Bruck a.d. Leitha area, 25-27 May; training, march, map, and signal exercises; maneuvers; movement to and transfer from Poysdorf to Kaiserslautern, 30 May-2 Jun 1940. A register of officers and a ration strength report.	1940/01/20-1940/06/02	168.ID W662/a	1485	1
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 1, Ic, TB. Orders and reports pertaining to movements to and in Austria; training; march, map, and signal exercises; maneuvers; and command inspections. Entraining tables, 29 May 1940, order-of-battle charts, and status reports. An activity report of the intelligence branch, 1 Dec 1939-29 May 1940, concerning the activation of the 168.ID in Silesia, 1 Dec 1939, with headquarters in Gleiwitz, 1-14 Dec, and Breslau, 15 Dec 1939-31 Jan 1940; and troop welfare, indoctrination, and entertainment.	1940/01/20-1940/06/02	168.ID W662/b	1485	36
Ic, TB. Transfer from Poysdorf to the Truppenuebungsplatz Baumholder in the Saarpfalz, 31 May-2 Jun, enemy strength in the sector south of Saarbruecken, movement to Sulzbach, 13 Jun, as a reserve unit, movement across the Saar River to the Saverne area via Sarre-Union and Lixheim to Dabo, and transfer to Kielce, Poland, on 3 Jul 1940.	1940/05/31-1940/07/01	168.ID W6925	1485	216
Ia, KTB 2. Transfer from Poysdorf to Kaiserslautern, 31 May-2 Jun, movements to Saarburg, 3 Jun, and Sulzbach, 13 Jun, advance to the Saverne area of France, via Sarre-Union and Lixheim, 15-22 Jun,	1940/05/31-1940/07/08	168.ID W3147	1485	221

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movement to Dabo, France, 23 Jun, and transfer to Poland, 3 Jul 1940. (Damaged by fire).				
Ia, Ic, IIa, TB 1 und Anlagen. Transfer from Dabo, France, to Kielce, Poland, 3-18 Jul 1940; billeting in Radomsko, Piotrkow, Radom, Tomaszow, Konskie, Kielce, and Jedrzejow; training, map exercises, and maneuvers; and movement from Kielce to Skarzysko-Kamienna, 12 Apr 1941. An activity report of the intelligence branch concerning counterintelligence activity, military security, and troop indoctrination and entertainment; an activity report of the personnel branch; orders relating to the fulfillment of replacement commitments and the formation of a Bewaehrungsbataillon; a survey of the composition of the 168.ID; strength reports; a register of officers.	1940/07/03-1941/05/15	168.ID 11360/1	1485	306
Ia, Anlagen zum TB 1 Band 1. Orders, directives, and reports pertaining to the transfer from the Saar to Poland, movements, training, maneuvers, map exercises, occupation duty, release of replacement units, reorganization, military security, and troop entertainment; an order-of-battle chart; billeting, entraining, and detraining surveys.	1940/07/03-1940/11/13	168.ID 11360/2	1485	390
Ia, Anlagen zum TB 1 Band 2. Orders, directives, and reports pertaining to training, maneuvers, movements, billeting, and the release of replacement units; order-of-battle charts.	1940/11/16-1941/04/30	168.ID 11360/3	1485	707
Ia, KTB 2. Billeting in the Ostrowiec and Skarzysko-Kamienna areas; preparations for Achtung Berta (defense in case of a Russian attack) and Operation Barbarossa (invasion of Russia); movement to the Lublin and Zamosc areas; attack near Hrubieszow, 22 Jun 1941; offensive engagements from Poritsk to west of Kiev via Brody, Ostrog, Shepetovka, and Zhitomir, 23 Jun-22 Jul; defensive operations in the	1941/05/15-1941/12/28	168.ID 16505/1	1485	947

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Irpen area, 23 Jul-20 Aug; offensive action against the enemy bridgehead at Kiev; movements from Makarov to counterattack the encircled enemy in the Baryshevka areas; offensive engagements in the Priluki, Romny, Sumy, and Belgorod areas; defense of the Oboyan and Kharkov areas.				
Ia, Anlagenband 1 zum KTB 2. Orders, directives, and reports pertaining to preparations for Achtung Berta and Operation Barbarossa, movement to the Lublin and Zamosc areas, 31 May-19 Jun, billeting surveys, and the opening of hostilities in the Hrubieszow area, 22 Jun 1941.	1941/05/02-1941/06/22	168.ID 16505/3	1486	1
Ia, Anlagenband 2 zum KTB 2. Daily reports, messages, orders, and overlays pertaining to the advance in the area southwest of Dubno via Poritsk, Berestechko, and Brody; table of organization of AOK 6; casualty reports; an afteraction critique relating to the opening battles.	1941/06/23-1941/07/04	168.ID 16505/4	1486	225
Ia, Anlagenband 3 zum KTB 2. Daily reports, messages, orders, and overlays pertaining to offensive engagements in the Dubno, Verba, and Ostrog areas.	1941/07/05-1941/07/10	168.ID 16505/5	1486	477
Ia, Anlagenband 4 zum KTB 2. Daily reports, messages, orders, and overlays pertaining to offensive engagements during the advance from Ostrog to the area west of Kiev via Slavuta, Shepetovka, Zhitomir, and Radomyshl.	1941/07/11-1941/07/23	168.ID 16505/6	1486	739
Ia, Anlagenband 5 zum KTB 2. Daily reports, messages, orders, and overlays pertaining to defensive operations in the Irpen area west of Kiev.	1941/07/23-1941/08/05	168.ID 16505/7	1487	1
Ia, Anlagenband 6 zum KTB 2. Daily reports, messages, orders, and overlays pertaining to defensive operations in the Irpen area; offensive engagements in the Irpen, Gostomel, and Bucha areas to enclose the Kiev bridgehead; and the relief of the division by the 296.ID.	1941/08/06-1941/08/31	168.ID 16505/8	1487	246

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Ia, Anlagenband 7 zum KTB 2. Daily reports, messages, orders, and overlays pertaining to the relief of the division by the 296.ID, 3 Sep, movement toward Zhitomir via Makarov for rehabilitation, 4-10 Sep, and movement from Radomyshl to Baryshevka via Gornostaypol and Kozelets, 11-20 Sep, due to the combat situation east of Kiev.	1941/09/01-1941/09/20	168.ID 16505/9	1487	487
Ia, Anlagenband 8 zum KTB 2. Daily reports, messages, and orders pertaining to defensive engagements and counterattacks against the encircled enemy in the Baryshevka and Dernovka areas.	1941/09/21-1941/09/24	168.ID 16505/10	1487	758
Ia, Anlagenband 9 zum KTB 2. Daily reports, messages, and overlays pertaining to offensive engagements during the advance from Dernovka and Priluki to the area east of Romny.	1941/09/25-1941/10/06	168.ID 16505/11	1488	1
Ia, Anlagenband 10 zum KTB 2. Daily reports, messages, and orders pertaining to offensive engagements during the advance from Olshana east of Romny to the area southeast of Sumy.	1941/10/07-1941/10/14	168.ID 16505/12	1488	292
Ia, Anlagenband 11 zum KTB 2. Daily reports, messages, and orders pertaining to pursuit operations, the defense of the Belgorod area and the Donets River sector northeast of Belgorod, reprisals for killing Wehrmacht members, and the handling of captured partisans.	1941/10/15-1941/11/12	168.ID 16505/13	1488	643
Ia, Anlagenband 12 zum KTB 2. Daily reports, messages, and orders pertaining to defensive operations north of Belgorod, 13 Nov-9 Dec, movement to and defense of the Kharkov area, 10-19 Dec, defensive engagements in the Belgorod and Oboyan areas, 20-28 Dec 1941, combat against partisans, and the increasing of combat strength. A proclamation by von Brauchitsch and Reichenau on Hitler's assumption of supreme command.	1941/11/13-1941/12/28	168.ID 16505/14	1489	1

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Ia, Anlagenband 13 zum KTB 2. Erfahrungs-, Gefechts- und Zustandsberichte und Kriegsgliederungen.	1941/06/22-1941/12/28	168.ID 16505/15	1489	190
Ia, Anlagenband 14 zum KTB 2, Ic, IIa/b, TB. Enemy operations, propaganda, unit identification, partisan warfare, and tactical situation; combat against partisan units; military security; counterintelligence activity; personnel matters; alleged atrocities committed against German prisoners of war; and troop indoctrination and entertainment. An activity report of the personnel branch, 15 May-31 Dec 1941, casualty reports, and a register of officers.	1941/05/16-1941/12/29	168.ID 16505/16	1489	424
Ia, KTB 3. Defensive operations and counterattacks in the Belgorod, Oboyan, and Kursk areas. On 10 Feb 1942 the 168.ID was expanded and became Gruppe Kraiss to counter the main Russian attack in the Oboyan area. (KTB 4 is not listed in the Potsdam catalog nor was it ever in the custody of the National Archives.)	1941/12/29-1942/03/31	168.ID 38745/1	1489	523
Ia, Anlagenband 1 zum KTB 3. Daily reports, messages, and orders pertaining to movement to and defense of the Yakovlevo, Teterevino, Leski, Oktyabrski, and Belenikhino areas.	1941/12/29-1942/01/09	168.ID 38745/2	1489	725
Ia, Anlagenband 2 zum KTB 3. Daily reports, messages, and orders pertaining to defensive operations and counterattacks in the Verkhne-Provorotskiy, Storozhevoye, Leski, Aleksandrovski, Bol'shiye Mayachki, Bogoroditskoye, and Kusty areas. Strength reports, order-of-battle charts, and reports on enemy losses.	1942/01/10-1942/02/17	168.ID 38745/3	1490	1
Ia, Anlagenband 3 zum KTB 3. Reports, messages, orders, directives, and overlays pertaining to defensive operations in the Belenikhino, Aleksandrovski, Teterevino, Storozhevoye, Leski, and Kusty areas, withdrawal from Kusty north of Kursk to the Krivtsovo and Bol'shaya Psinka areas; combat	1942/02/18-1942/03/05	168.ID 38745/4	1490	288

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against partisan units; and preparations for the thaw period. Strength reports and a report concerning enemy artillery activity.				
Ia, Anlagenband 4 zum KTB 3. Reports, messages, orders, and directives pertaining to defensive operations in the Storozhevoye, Teterovino, Leski, Aleksandrovski, Razumnoye, and Chursino areas and training. An afteraction critique relating to the training of antitank troops.	1942/03/06-1942/03/31	168.ID 38745/5	1490	542
Ia, Anlagenband 7 zum KTB 3, Gefechts- und Erfahrungsberichte.	1942/02/02-1942/03/12	168.ID 38745/7	1490	759
Ic, TB, Anlagenband 6 zum KTB 3. Enemy operations and unit identification, combat against partisan units, counterintelligence activity, and troop entertainment. Activity report of the personnel branch, 20 Jan-31 Mar 1942, and casualty reports.	1941/12/30-1942/03/31	168.ID 38745/8	1490	844
Ia, KTB 5. Defense against the Russian offensive and penetration in the Ostrogozhsk area, 13-21 Jan; disengagement movements from Ostrogozhsk to Mirgorod via Novy Oskol, Chernyanka, Korocha, Belgorod, Graivoron, Bogodukhov, Akhtyrka, and Ogultsy, 23 Jan-23 Feb; defense of the Mirgorod area, 24 Feb-12 Mar; rehabilitation in the Mirgorod area, 13 Mar-18 Apr; transfer from Poltava to Kharkov, 23-28 Apr; and defense of the Belgorod and Tomarovka area, 29 Apr-30 Jun 1943.	1943/01/12-1943/06/30	168.ID 38745/9	1490	883
Ia, Anlagenband 1 zum KTB 5. Daily reports, messages, orders, directives, and overlays pertaining to defense against Russian offensive and disengagement movements from Ostrogozhsk to Mirgorod, rehabilitation, transfer to and defense of the Belgorod area, and training. Strength and status reports; afteraction reports; a critique concerning Unternehmen Koralle and Koralle II (offensive actions in the Chernaya Polyana area, 2 and	1943/01/23-1943/06/28	168.ID 38745/10	1491	1

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18 Jun 1943): entraining and detraining surveys. Ia, Anlagenband 2 zum KTB 5, Morgen- und Tagesmeldungen.	1943/02/16-1943/06/30	168.ID 38745/11	1491	352
Ia, Anlagenband 3 zum KTB 5, Offene Befehle und Funksprueche.	1943/01/21-1943/04/21	168.ID 38745/12	1491	516
Ia, Anlagenband 6 zum KTB 5, Funksprueche. Radio messages about the tactical situation during the Russian breakthrough.	1943/01/19-1943/02/14	168.ID 38745/15	1491	660
Ia, Anlagenband 7 zum KTB 5, Eingegangene Funksprueche. Incoming messages relating to the tactical situation during the Russian offensive.	1943/02/15-1943/03/27	168.ID 38745/16	1492	1
Ia, Anlagenband 8 zum KTB 5, Abgegangene Funksprueche. Outgoing radio messages concerning the tactical situation.	1943/02/15-1943/03/27	168.ID 38745/17	1492	482
Ic, TB. Activity report with intelligence and interrogation reports, intelligence bulletins, and a map pertaining to enemy operations, losses, replacements, unit identification, organization, propaganda, and tactical situation; troop entertainment; and German propaganda and artillery activity.	1943/05/01-1943/05/31	168.ID 38745/18	1492	715
Ic, TB. Activity report with intelligence reports and bulletins and a map pertaining to enemy operations, losses, unit identification, and tactical situation; troop entertainment; counterintelligence activity; control of the civilian population; and German propaganda. A translation of a combat directive for Russian infantry troops.	1943/06/01-1943/06/30	168.ID 38745/19	1492	795