

197. INFANTERIE-DIVISION - UNIT HISTORY

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DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1939/11/26	Wehrkreis XXI, Posen (Poznan) Kalisch (Kalisz), Leslau (Wloclawek), Lissa (Leszno)	Activation formation, training	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Hermann Meyer-Rabingen, 1939/12/01-1942/04/01 Subordinate to: Stellv.Gen.Kdo. XXI, 1939/12/01-1940/03/15
1940/03/16	Schneidemuehl, Jastrow (Jastrowie) Flatow (Zlotow)	Reorganization, training	Stellv.Gen.Kdo. II, Stettin, 1940/03/16-1940/05/24
1940/07/18	Utrecht, Holland The Hague, Rotterdam, Leiden	Transfer training, coastal defense	AK 37 Hoeh.Kdo zbV, 1940/07/22-1941/02/23
1940/09/03	Breda, Dordrecht, Tilburg, Amsterdam, Moerdijk, Haarlem, Groningen, The Hague	Regrouping, coastal defense, training	
1941/02/17	Karlsruhe, Germany	Transfer	
1941/02/24	Mannheim, Ludwigshafen	Reorganization, training	AK 50, 1941/02/24-1941/03/07 AK 55, 1941/03/08-1941/04/25 AOK 11, 1941/04/26-1941/05/19 AOK 2, 1941/05/20-1941/06/19 AK 35, 1941/06/20-1941/06/24
1941/06/21	Warsaw, Bialystok, Poland	Transfer, assembly	
1941/06/25	Bransk, Bielsk Podlaski, Slonim, Baranovichi, Minsk, Borisov, Tolochin, Orsha	Movement, offensive operations, advance into Russia	AK 7, 1941/06/24-1941/06/29 AK 35, 1941/06/30-1941/07/02 AK 43, 1941/07/03-1941/07/11 AK 7, 1941/07/12-1941/07/21 AOK 2, 1941/07/22-1941/07/25 AK 7, 1941/07/26-1942/02/19
1941/07/25	Orsha, Gorki, Desna River, Vyazma, Spas- Demensk	Offensive operations, advance	
1941/10/13	Vyazma, Mozhaisk	Advance, defensive operations	
1942/01/20	Gzhatsk	Withdrawal, defensive operations	
1942/05/12	Spas- Demensk, Vyazma	Movement, defensive operations	AK 9, 1942/02/20-1942/03/16 AK 7, 1942/03/17-1942/04/19 AK 9, 1942/04/20-1942/05/09 AK 46 Pz, 1942/05/10-1942/05/31 AK 43, 1942/06/01-1942/06/15

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1942/06/15	Yelnya, Smolensk, Dorogobuzh	Defensive operations	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Ehrenfried Boege, 1942/04/01-1943/11/05
1942/06/20	Yartsevo, Prechistoye, Bely	Movement, position defense	Subordinate to: Ak 46 Pz, 1942/06/16-1942/06/19 Gruppe von Esebeck, 1942/06/20-1942/07/06
1942/07/01	Prechistoye, Bely, Vyazma	Preparations for and execution of Unternehmen Seydlitz	AK Harpe Pz, 1942/07/07-1942/07/14 AK 23, 1942/07/15-1942/10/15
1942/12/07	Prechistoye, Bely	Encirclement of enemy forces	AK 6, 1942/10/16-1943/03/11
1943/01/01	Lomonosovo, Dukhovshchina	Position defense, assault troop action	
1943/03/14	Bely	Bueffel Bewegung (withdrawal movement)	AK 41 Pz, 1943/03/12-1943/03/16
1943/04/30	Ostrya, Teterino, Dukhovshchina	Withdrawal, construction of fortified positions	AK 23, 1943/03/17-1943/03/20 AK 27, 1943/03/21-1943/12/15

Records of the 197.ID are reproduced on rolls 1560-1566 of Microfilm Publication T315 and are described following the unit history.

Item Nos. 11462/1-3, 5-15, and 17 for the period 5 Jul 1940-3 Mar 1941, which relate to the operations and activities of the 197.ID, were incorporated and filmed with records of the 82.ID and are described in Guide No. 65, pp. 85-86, rolls 1122-1123.

Although no records of this division dated later than 1943/06/30 were available at the National Archives, situation maps of Lage Ost and records of OKH/GenStdH/Org.Abt., H 1/38 (T78, roll 398), OKH/AHA/Abwicklungsstab, H 41/7 (T78, roll 139), H 41/24 (T78, roll 141), H 41/57 (T78, roll 142), and manuscript in the Foreign Military Studies series, MS T-10 (Orsha, winter 1943-44), by Gen.Obst Erhard Raus, contain references to the 197.ID as follows:

1943/07/01	Dukhovshchina	Position defense	
1943/09/26	Dubrovno	Movement, defensive operations	
1943/11/01	Orsha	Absorption of Division Gruppe 52.ID	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Eugen Woessner, 1943/11/15-1944/07/01
1943/12/17	Orsha, Vitebsk	Defensive operations	
1944/06/27	Vitebsk	Encircled by the enemy	
1944/07/14	Marijampole, Lithuania	Remnants of 197.ID incorporated into Korps Abteilung H	

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
Ib, KTB 1 mit Anlagen. War journal of the supply branch concerning the activation of the 197.ID in Posen (Poznan), Wehrkreis XXI, 26 Nov 1939; formation, equipping, and training in the Posen, Kalisch (Kalisz), Leslau (Wloclawek), and Lissa (Leszno) areas, 1 Dec 1939; and reorganization and training in the Schneidemuehl (Pila), Jastrow (Jastrowie) and Flatow (Zlotow) areas, Wehrkreis II, 16 Mar 1940. Status reports on the combat readiness of the division, order-of-battle charts; and notes on supply branch conferences.	1939/11/25-1940/05/24	197.ID W1678/2	1550	1
Ia, KTB 3 mit Anlagen. War journal with orders, directives, and reports pertaining to the transfer to Utrecht, Netherlands, 18 Jul 1940; coastal defense, security, and training in The Hague, Rotterdam, and Leiden areas, 24 Jul-2 Sep 1940; regrouping, coastal defense, and training in the Breda, Dordrecht, Tilburg, Amsterdam, Bergen op Zoom, Moerdijk, Haarlem, Groningen and The Hague areas, 3 Sep-12 Dec 1940; defense of the entire Dutch coast by 197.ID; relief from coastal defense by the 82.ID and transfer from Holland to Karlsruhe, Germany, 17 Feb 1941. Order-of-battle charts and special supply directives.	1940/07/05-1941/02/23	197.ID 7670/1	1550	146
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Coastal defense and security of canals and rear areas in Holland. (Item Nos. 11462/1-3, 5-15, and 17 for the period 5 Jul 1940-3 Mar 1941, which relate to the operations and activities of the 197.ID, were incorporated and filmed with records of the 82.ID and are described in Guide No. 65, pp. 85-86, rolls 1122-1123.)	1940/07/21-1941/01/31	197.ID 11452/4	1550	500
Ia, KTB 4. Movement to the Mannheim and Ludwigshafen area, 24 Feb-3 Mar 1941; training and reorganization; transfer to the area between Warsaw and Bialystok in Jun 1941 for the Russian campaign; offensive engagements from Bransk to Orsha via Bielsk Podlaski,	1941/02/24-1941/12/08	197.ID 24795/1	1550	883

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Slonim, Baranovichi, Minsk, Borisov, and Tolochin, 23 Jun-23 Jul 1941; offensive operations from Orsha to the area south of Vyazma via Gorki, crossing the Desna River northeast of Roslavl, and Spas-Demensk, 25 Jul-11 Oct 1941; advance to and defensive operations in the Mozhaisk area, 13 Oct-8 Dec 1941.				
Ia, KTB 5. Defensive engagements in the Mozhaisk area, 9 Dec 1941-19 Jan 1942, and withdrawal to and defensive operations in the Gzhatsk area, 20 Jan-30 Apr 1942.	1941/12/09-1942/04/30	197.ID 24795/2	1560	1017
Ia, KTB 6. Defensive operations south of Gzhatsk, 1-11 May, between Spas-Demensk and Vyazna, 12 May-8 Jun 1942, northeast of Yelnya and east of Smolensk, 9-14 Jun, and between Yelnya and Dorogobuzh; preparations for and execution of Unternehmen Hannover (operations against partisan units in the Vyazma-Yelnya area, 15-19 Jun 1942); movement to Prechistoye via Yartsevo, 20-21 Jun, for position defense; and preparations for Unternehmen Seydlitz (destruction of Soviet 39th Army in the Vyazma and Bely areas).	1942/05/01-1942/06/30	197.ID 24795/3	1560	1127
Ia, KTB 7. Position defense in the Prechistoye area and execution of Unternehmen Seydlitz (destruction of the Soviet 39th Army in the Vyazma and Bely areas).	1942/07/01-1942/08/31	197.ID 24795/4	1560	1207
Ia, KTB 8. Position defense in the Prechistoye area, preparations for and execution of Unternehmen Spaetlese (closing the gap between AK 23 and AK 59), and mopping-up action in the Demidov, Rudnya, and Dukhovshchina areas.	1942/09/01-1942/09/30	197.ID 24795/5	1560	1305
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 4. Orders and reports pertaining to the transfer from Holland to Mannheim in February and to the Warsaw area in June and the advance to the Mozhaisk area near Moscow via Bielsk Podlaski, Baranovichi, Minsk, Orsha, Roslavl, Spas Demensk, and Vyazma. Order-of-battle charts.	1941/02/24-1941/12/09	197.ID 24795/6	1561	1
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 5. Division orders and messages concerning position defense on the south banks of the	1941/12/09-1942/04/30	197.ID 24795/7	1561	562

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Moskva River.				
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 6. Orders and reports concerning rehabilitation, assembly south of Vyazma, and preparations for Unternehmen Hannover. Instruction on battle conduct and intelligence bulletins.	1942/05/01-1942/05/31	197.ID 24795/8	1561	952
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 6. Orders and reports concerning the execution of Unternehmen Hannover and preparations for Unternehmen Seydlitz, rehabilitation, regrouping, and mopping-up action. Intelligence bulletins, order-of-battle charts, strength reports, and a list of officers duty assignments.	1942/06/01-1942/06/29	197.ID 24795/10	1562	1
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 7. Orders and reports pertaining to Unternehmen Seydlitz, position defense in the Prechistoye area, mopping-up action, construction of defensive positions, training, and security of supply routes. Status and strength reports, order-of-battle charts, interrogation reports, and a map showing the location of partisan activities.	1942/07/02-1942/07/31	197.ID 24795/11	1562	221
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 7. Orders, reports, and overlays pertaining to position defense and operations against partisans in the Prechistoye area, security of supply routes, and training, including activity report of Feldgendarmerietrupp 229a (mot), 15-31 Jul 1942; status, strength, casualty, and artillery reports; order-of-battle charts; and special directives concerning winter warfare.	1942/08/01-1942/08/31	197.ID 24795/12	1562	433
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 8. Orders and reports pertaining to position defense and combatting partisan units in the Prechistoye area, preparations for and execution of Unternehmen Spaetlese, and training; artillery, status, and strength reports; a list of officers duty assignments; special directives concerning winter warfare; and intelligence bulletins.	1942/09/01-1942/09/30	197.ID 24795/13	1562	553
Ia, KTB der Vorausabteilung. Concise reports on the division's advance detachment into Russia.	1941/06/25-1941/08/09	197.ID 24795/22	1562	962

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Ia, KTB. War journal concerning position defense, operations against partisans, assault troop action in the Prechistoye area, encirclement of the Soviet 1st Armored Corps with 17 "Stalinbrigaden" south of Bely, 7-18 Dec 1942, construction of fortified positions, regrouping, reorganization, and training.	1942/10/01-1942/12/31	197.ID 29190/1	1553	1
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders, directives, reports, and maps pertaining to position defense and operations against partisans in the Prechistoye area, construction of fortified positions, and training. Artillery, status, strength, and casualty reports, a list of officers duty assignments, interrogation reports, and intelligence bulletins.	1942/10/01-1942/10/31	197.ID 29190/2	1553	156
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders and reports pertaining to position defense and operations against partisans in the Prechistoye area, construction of fortified positions, formation of winter mobile units, regrouping, reorganization, training, and a map exercise. Status, strength, and artillery reports; special signal communications directives; afteraction reports on combat operations of Gruppe Zeindl, 10-20 Nov, assault troop operations in the Torchilovo area, 18-19 Nov, and counterattack near Selishche, 25-26 Nov; interrogation reports; and information on enemy artillery.	1942/11/01-1942/11/30	197.ID 29190/3	1563	539
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders and reports pertaining to defensive operations in the Prechistoye area, reorganization of division supply troops, and training; status and artillery reports; special directives concerning defense; afteraction reports regarding the encirclement of the Soviet 1st Armored Corps with 17 "Stalinbrigaden" south of Bely, 7-18 Dec 1942; afteraction critique on combat action of Gren.Rgt. 347 southwest of Bely, 8-18 Dec; interrogation reports; data on enemy artillery.	1942/12/01-1942/12/31	197.ID 29190/4	1563	731

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1c, TB Textband und Anlagenband I. Activity report with orders, reports, leaflets, and maps pertaining to enemy operations, unit identification, losses, new weapons, and tactical situation; military security; German propaganda; counterintelligence activity; reconnaissance results; antipartisan operations; and troop entertainment and indoctrination. Interrogation reports and a translation of a Politruk's diary.	1942/08/15-1942/12/31	197.ID 29190/9	1564	1
1c, Anlagenband II zum TB. Gefangenenvernehmungen.	1942/08/15-1942/12/31	197.ID 29190/10	1564	245
1a, KTB. War journal concerning position defense, operations against partisans, assault troop action, construction of the Barbarossa and Bueffelstellungen, reorganization, and training in the Prechistoye, Bely, Lomonosovo, and Dukhovshchina areas, and execution of the Bueffel Bewegung (withdrawal movement to shorten the main line of resistance south of Bely, 14-31 Mar 1943).	1943/01/01-1943/06/30	197.ID 33519/1	1564	466
1a, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders, directives, reports, and maps pertaining to defensive engagements and operations against partisans in the Prechistoye, Bely, and Lomonosovo areas, regrouping, reorganization, and training. Artillery, status, and strength reports; order-of-battle charts; tables of organization; a list of officers duty assignments; special directives concerning defense; afteraction critiques relating to combat action of I./Gren.Rgt. 321, 14 Jan, and the main Russian attack against AOK 9, 25 Nov-16 Dec 1942; and intelligence bulletins.	1943/01/01-1943/01/31	197.ID 33519/2	1564	674
1a, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders and reports pertaining to defensive and assault troop operations in the Prechistoye and Lomonosovo areas, security of rear areas, and training. Artillery, status, and strength reports; order-of-battle charts; an afteraction critique relating to the main Russian attack in Heeresgruppe Mitte sector; interrogation reports; and	1943/02/01-1943/02/28	197.ID 33519/3	1565	1

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intelligence bulletins.				
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders, directives, reports, and a map pertaining to defensive operations, construction of Bueffelstellungen, execution of Bueffel Bewegung (withdrawal movement to shorten the main line of resistance south of Bely, 14-31 Mar 1943), and training in the Prechistoye, Dukhovshchina, Starina, and Teterino areas. Artillery, status, and strength reports; a list of officers duty assignments; an order-of-battle chart; special supply directives; interrogation reports; and intelligence bulletins.	1943/03/01-1943/03/31	197.ID 33519/4	1565	264
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders, reports, and overlays pertaining to defense of the Bueffelstellungen, assault troop operations, construction of fortified positions, reorganization, and training in the Dukhovshchina area. Tables of organization, artillery and strength reports, order-of-battle charts, an afteraction report regarding combat action of Gren.Rgt. 321 in the Lomonosovo area, an afteraction critique relating to reconnaissance activity by Aufklaerungszug/Gren.Rgt. 321 and the Bueffel Bewegung, intelligence bulletins, and interrogation reports.	1943/04/01-1943/04/30	197.ID 33519/5	1565	553
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders, reports, and overlays pertaining to defensive and assault troop operations in the Dukhovshchina area, construction of fortified positions, formation of alert units, training, and map exercises, 10 and 28 May 1943. Artillery and status reports, order-of-battle charts, a list of officers duty assignments, afteraction reports regarding assault troop action of II./Gren.Rgt. 321, 30 Apr 1943, intelligence bulletins, and interrogation reports.	1943/05/01-1943/05/31	197.ID 33519/6	1565	919
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB. Orders, reports, and overlays pertaining to position defense, occupation of Bueffelstellungen, and construction of Barbarossastellungen in the Dukhovshchina area; battle	1943/06/01-1943/06/30	197.ID 33519/7	1566	1

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directives for positions of advanced forces covering combat outpost and close-range antitank combat; and training. Artillery, status, and strength reports; an order-of-battle chart; an afteraction report regarding combat operations of Ost-Bataillon 229, 12-26 Jun 1943; and intelligence bulletins.				
[a, Unternehmen Bueffel. Daily reports concerning preparations for the Bueffel Bewegung.	1943/02/11-1943/03/13	197.ID 33519/9	1555	321
[a, Text und Anlagen "Bueffel Bewegung". Orders, reports, messages, and overlays concerning preparations for the Bueffel Bewegung (planned withdrawal from the Zubtsy, Vereshkovichi, and Starina areas to the Ostrya and Teterino area), 14 Mar 1943.	1943/02/13-1943/03/13	197.ID 33519/10	1556	342