

338. INFANTERIE-DIVISION - UNIT HISTORY

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DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1942/11/08	Gnesen (Gniezno), Wehrkreis XXI	Activation of the 338.ID under code name "Kriemhilde" (18.Welle)	Subordinate to: Stellv.Gen.Kdo. XXI, 1942/11/08-1942/12/04
1942/11/09	Posen, Tr.Ueb.Pl. Warthelager, Wehrkreis XXI	Arrival of reserve units from various Wehrkreise and Div.Nr. 192, formation, training	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Josef Folttmann, 1942/11/09-1944/01/05
1942/12/02	Donk, Antwerp, Belgium, Turnhout, Herentals	Transfer, security, training	Subordinate to: AK 89, 1942/12/05-1943/01/04
1943/01/02	Avignon, southern France	Transfer	Armeegruppe Felber, 1943/01/04-1943/12/31
1943/01/08-1944/02/15	Arles, Montpellier, Martigues, Lunel, Rhone River sector	Coastal defense, security, training, reorganization as a bodenstaendige division, regrouping	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Rene de l'Homme de Courbiere, 1944/01/10-1944/09/18

Records of the 338.ID are reproduced on rolls 2113-2115 of NARS Microfilm Publication T315 and are described following the unit history.

Although no records of this division dated later than 1944/02/15 were available in the National Archives, situation maps of Lage West, the general officer personnel files, records of OKH/GenStdH/Org.Abt., H 1/38 (T78, roll 398, p. 96, 101, and 124), Order of Battle of the German Army (Washington, March 1945), and manuscripts in the Foreign Military Studies series, show:

1944/02/16	Arles, Vauvert, Bellegarde, Montpellier	Coastal defense, training, regrouping	
1944/08/15	Arles, Montelimar, Valence, Lyon, Macon, Dole, Lure	Defensive engagements, withdrawal (Allied invasion of southern France)	
1944/09/21	Servance, Le Thillot, Saint-Amarin	Disengagement movements	Gen.Lt. Hans Oschmann, 1944/09/18-1944/11/14 (killed in action)
1944/10/09	Wildenstein, Bussang	Withdrawal, reorganization to a mobile division, defensive operations	
1944/10/31	Belfort	Movement, reorganization to full strength	
1944/11/08	Montbeliard	Defensive operations	

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1944/11/17	Sentheim, Cernay, Mulhouse, Vosges, Alsace	Defensive operations, movement	Gen.Maj. Heinrich Buercky, 1944/11/23-1944/11/30 Obst. Konrad Barde, mFb., 1944/12/29-1945/01/18
1945/01/23	Wildenstein, Lautenbach, Neuenburg	Defensive operations, movement	Gen.Maj. Wolf Ewert, 1945/01/18-1945/03/01
1945/02/09	Sulzburg, Freiburg to Muenchen-Gladbach, Germany	Transfer to northern sector	
1945/02/25	Erkelenz, Rheydt, Muenchen-Gladbach	Defensive operations	
1945/03/03	Leverkusen, Hilden, Duesseldorf	Defensive operations	
1945/04/03- 1945/04/15	Fredeburg, Berghausen, Serkenrode, Wildewiese, Ohle, Altena, Ruhrkessel	Counterattack (by Hitler order)	

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 338.ID as follows:

MS A-000 (The battle in Alsace-Lorraine and the Vosges, 8-16 Nov 1944), by Gen.Maj. Friedrich-Wilhelm von Mellenthin.

MS B-074 (The 338th Infantry Division in the bridgehead of Alsace, 1 Jan-9 Feb 1945);

MS B-531 (Engagements of the 338th Infantry Division in the Rhineland, 11 Feb-3 Mar 1945); and

MS B-817 (East of the Rhine, 3 Mar-16 Apr 1945), by Gen.Maj. Wolf Ewert.

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CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
Ia, KTB 1; Ic, IIa, TB. War journal concerning the activation of the 338.ID under code name "Kriemhilde" in Gnesen (Gniezno), Wehrkreis XXI in Poland, 8 Nov 1942; release of reserve units by various Wehrkreiskommandos (corps areas) and by Division Nr. 192 (replacement division staff 192) and arrival for the formation of the 338.ID and training in Truppenuebungsplatz Warthelager and Posen, 9 Nov-1 Dec 1942; transfer to, security activity, training, and construction of bases in the Donk and Antwerp areas of Belgium, 2-30 Dec; and preparations for transfer to southern France, 31 Dec 1942. Activity report of the personnel branch, 8 Nov-31 Dec, and the intelligence branch, 12 Nov-31 Dec 1942.	1942/11/08-1942/12/31	338.ID 28377/1	2113	1
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 1. Orders, directives, messages, and maps pertaining to formation of divisions by order of OKH/Chef HRuest. u. Bfh. d. Ersatzheeres (replacement army) under the code name "Kriemhilde," 15-20 Oct 1942; activation of the 338.ID in Gnesen, Wehrkreis XXI, 8 Nov; formation with replacement units of various Wehrkreise and Division Nr. 192 and training in Truppenuebungsplatz Warthelager and Posen, 9 Nov-1 Dec; transfer to Antwerp, Belgium, 2-5 Dec; security activity and training in the Antwerp, Herentals, and Turnhout areas, 6-30 Dec 1942; and preparations for transfer to southern France, 31 Dec 1942-5 Jan 1943. Strength, casualty, and weather reports; order-of-battle charts; special supply directives; a register of officers; and an instruction pamphlet regarding Belgian partisans.	1942/11/08-1942/12/31	338.ID 28377/2	2113	30
Ia, KTB 2. War journal concerning the transfer of the advance party, 29 Dec 1942, and the division, 2-7 Jan, to Avignon, France; quartering, coastal defense, security activity, construction of fortifications, and training in Arles and the Rhone River sector, 8 Jan-15	1942/12/29-1943/06/15	338.ID 37406/1	2113	259

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
Jun 1943. A register of officers and strength and casualty reports.				
Ia, Anlagenband 1 zum KTB 2; Ic, IIa, TB. Orders, directives, messages, and maps pertaining to transfer of the division to Arles, southern France, to relieve the 327.ID, 1-7 Jan; quartering, coastal defense, security and counterintelligence activity, formation and operations of alert units, commitment of coastal artillery, training, and regrouping in Arles, Mauquio, Martiques, and Saint-Gilles in the Rhone River sector. Status and weather reports; activity reports of the intelligence and personnel branches, 1 Jan-28 Feb 1943; special directives concerning supply troops and air raid protection; and notes on command conferences and inspections.	1943/01/01-1943/02/28	338.ID 37406/2	2113	425
Ia, Anlagenband 2 zum KTB 2; Ic, IIa, TB. Orders, messages, and maps pertaining to coastal defense, security activity, and training in Arles and Port-de-Bouc in the Rhone River sector. Activity reports of the intelligence branch, 1 Mar-30 Apr, and the personnel branch, 1 Mar-31 May 1943; status, strength, and weather reports; directives concerning counterintelligence and military security; and notes on command conferences and inspections.	1943/03/01-1943/04/30	338.ID 37406/3	2113	720
Ia, Anlagenband 3 zum KTB 2; Ic, TB. Orders, reports, and maps pertaining to coastal defense, security activity, alert exercises, air raid protection, reorganization as a bodenstaendige division, 12 May, training, and regrouping in Arles, Montpellier, and Lunel in the Rhone River sector. Activity report of the intelligence branch, 1-31 May 1943; status reports; inventories of weapons, motor vehicles, horses, and equipment; and notes on command inspections and conferences.	1943/05/01-1943/06/15	338.ID 37406/4	2113	917
Ia, KTB 3. War journal concerning coastal defense,	1943/06/15-1943/12/31	338.ID 43885/1	2114	1

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construction of fortifications, defense against air landings, security activity, training, reorganization, and regrouping in the Arles area of the Rhone River sector. A register of officers and casualty and strength reports.				
Ia, Anlagenband 1 zum KTB 3; Ic, IIa, TB. Orders, reports, and maps pertaining to coastal defense, training, reorganization, regrouping, and defense against air landings in Arles, Montpellier, and Martiques in the Rhone River sector. Activity reports of the intelligence and personnel branches, 1 Jun-31 Jul 1943; a register of officers; strength, status, and weather reports; and notes on command inspections of the defense along the Mediterranean coast and a conference on 30 Jun 1943.	1943/06/17-1943/07/15	338.ID 43885/2	2114	175
Ia, Anlagenband 2 zum KTB 3; Ic, IIa, TB. Orders, reports, and maps pertaining to coastal defense, alert exercises, personnel replacements, defense against air landings and air raids, control of the French population and labor force, relationship to Italian troops, preparations for code name "Kornblume" (movement of division headquarters in case of an invasion), reorganization, and training in the Arles, Montpellier, and Martiques areas of the Rhone River sector. Activity reports of the intelligence and personnel branches, status and strength reports, lists of officers duty assignments, and notes on command inspections and conferences on 4 and 16 Aug 1943.	1943/08/01-1943/09/30	338.ID 43885/3	2114	499
Ia, Anlagenband 3 zum KTB 3; Ic, IIa, TB. Orders and reports pertaining to defense against enemy landing attempts, construction of coastal defense in depth, formation of march battalions, attachment of Italian troops to the division, reorganization, and regrouping in the Arles, Montpellier, and Martiques areas of the Rhone River sector; and preparations for the release of	1943/10/01-1943/11/15	338.ID 43885/4	2115	1

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
the division from Kuestenverteidigungsabschnitt (K.V.A.) Mitte (coastal defense sector center). Activity reports of the intelligence and personnel branches, 1 Oct-30 Nov 1943; lists of officers duty assignments; status, strength, and weather reports; and notes on command inspections and a conference on 9 Oct 1943.				
Ia, Anlagenband 4 zum KTB 3; Ic, IIa, TB. Orders and reports pertaining to coastal defense, securing railroads, control of the civilian population, training, and regrouping in the Arles and Montpellier areas. Activity reports of the intelligence and personnel branches; lists of officers duty assignments; strength and status reports; notes on command inspections and a conference on 2 Dec 1943; and a report of the NSFO (staff officer for national socialist indoctrination).	1943/12/01-1943/12/31	338.ID 43885/5	2115	389
Ia, Anlagenband 5 zum KTB 3, Befehl fuer Verteidigung des K.V.A. Mitte. Orders and maps relating to the defense of Kuestenverteidigungsabschnitt Mitte (the sector along the Mediterranean coast from east of Sete to west of Marseilles) and commitment of coastal artillery in this sector, 29 Sep 1943-6 Jan 1944; and an order concerning the redesignation of K.V.A. Mitte to K.V.A. B, 15 Feb 1944.	1943/09/29-1944/02/15	338.ID 43885/6	2115	589