

132

344. INFANTERIE-DIVISION - UNIT HISTORY

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1942/09/24	Stuttgart, Wehrkreis V	Activation of the 344.ID (bodenst.) (18.Welle)	Subordinate to: Wehrbezirkskommando II Stuttgart, 1942/09/24-1942/09/27
1942/09/26	Bordeaux, Dax, France	Formation	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Felix Schwalbe, 1942/09/27-1944/10/16 Subordinate to: AOK 1 Bordeaux, 1942/09/28-1942/10/31
1942/10/16	Truppenuebungsplatz Champ de Souge	Training	
1942/11/23	Kuestenverteidigungsabschnitt Arcachon, Andernos-les-Bains, Le Verdon-sur-Mer, Mimizan	Coastal defense, occupation duty	AK 80 Poitiers, 1942/11/01-1942/11/30 AK 86 Dax, 1942/12/01-1942/12/31

Records of the 344.ID (bodenst.) are reproduced on roll 2141 of NARS Microfilm Publication T315 and are described following the unit history.

Although only a few record items of this division were available in the National Archives, situation maps of Lage West and Ost, the general officer personnel files, and manuscripts in the Foreign Military Studies series, show:

1943/01/01	Kuestenverteidigungsabschnitt Arcachon	Coastal defense, occupation duty
1944/01/01	Somme sector (Abschnitt Berck)	Transfer, coastal defense, construction of strong points, launching of V-1
1944/08/04	Barentin, St.Pierre-de-Varengeville	Relief by the 49. and 348.ID, movement, defensive operations
1944/08/09	Bernay, Laigle, Verneuil, Breteuil, Conches, Le Neubourg	Movement, defensive operations, transfer of combat troops to the 331.ID
1944/08/25	Barentin	Assembly of division remnants
1944/08/27	Serqueux, Amiens, Autheux, Fruges, Beaumont, Aire, Hazebrouck, France; Dixmuiden, Bruges, Lembeke, Overpelt, Belgium	Withdrawal, defensive operations

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1944/09/06	Ijzendijke, Breskens, Meuse and Scheldt Rivers, Venlo, Netherlands	Ferrying AOK 15 across river, defensive operations,	
1944/09/23	Dordrecht, Gorinchem	Withdrawal, position defense	
1944/10/01	Lintfort, Germany	Withdrawal, defensive operations, disbandment, div. remnants assigned to the 331. and 346.ID	C.O.: Obst. Rudolf Goltzsch, mFb, 1944/10/16-1944/11/07 Gen.Maj. Eugen Koenig, 1944/11/07-1944/12/16 Gen.Maj. Georg Kossmala, 1944/12/16-1945/03/15
1945/01/20		Official disbandment, subsequent reconstitution (source: records of OKH/AHA/Abwicklungsstab, H 41/57 (T78, roll 142)	
1945/01/03	Tarnow, Poland	Transfer, formation	
1945/01/13	Dzialoszyce, Brzeszcze, Gross Neukirch, Mechnitz, Oberglougau	Withdrawal, defensive operations, Kampfgruppe 344.ID	Gen.Maj. Erwin Jollasse, mstFb, 1945/03/15
1945/03/26	Neustadt	Withdrawal, position defense	
1945/04/15	Ziegenhals (Glucholazy)	Withdrawal, position defense	

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 344.ID as follows:

MS P-181 (Einsatz der 344.ID im Juli-Oktober 1944) by Gen.d.Inf. Felix Schwalbe

MS P-188 (Erster Teil: Die Kaempfe der Gruppe "Walther" vom 13.9. bis 12.10.1944 in Sued-Holland; Zweiter Teil: Die Kaempfe der Kampfgruppe Goltzsch (am 16.10. in Kampfgruppe 344.ID umbenannt) im Maas-Brueckenkopf Venlo vom 12.10. bis zum Ende November 1944) by Maj. Gerhard Schacht and Gen.Lt. Friedrich Sixt.

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
Ia, KTB 1. War journal concerning activation of the 344.ID (bodenst.) in Wehrbezirkskommando II Stuttgart, Wehrkreis V, 24 Sep; formation in the Bordeaux and Dax areas of France from units of the 15., 17., 327., and 333.ID, 26 Sep-15 Oct; training at Truppenuebungsplatz Champ de Tir de Souge, 16 Oct-22 Nov; and occupation duty and coastal defense in the Arcachon area between Le Verdon-sur-Mer and Mimizan, formerly occupied by the 715.ID, with headquarters at Andernos-les-Bains, 23 Nov-31 Dec 1942.	1942/09/24-1942/12/31	344.ID 31478/1	2141	1
Ia, Besondere Anlagen zum KTB 1. Personnel strength reports for the periods 11 Oct-21 Dec 1942 and 11 Apr 1943, and a register of officers.	1942/09/24-1942/12/31	344.ID 31478/2	2141	108
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 1. Orders, reports, messages, and conference minutes concerning formation of the division in the Bordeaux and Dax areas of France, 29 Sep-15 Oct; training at Truppenuebungsplatz Champ de Tir de Souge, 16 Oct-22 Nov; construction of strong points for the Atlantic Wall; formation and training of alert units, and coastal defense and occupation duty in the Arcachon area between Le Verdon-sur-Mer and Mimizan, 23 Nov-31 Dec 1942; and disarmament of the French Army in Toulouse, 29 Nov 1942. Includes training directives.	1942/09/29-1942/12/30	344.ID 31478/3	2141	126
Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 1, Karten. Maps of troop distribution and gun emplacements within the coastal defense sector of Arcachon, status reports, and data concerning weapons strength.	1942/11/29-1943/02/01	344.ID 31478/4	2141	467
Ic, TB. Monthly activity reports concerning the psychological effect on the French population regarding the assassination of French Admiral Darlan and the Allied landing in North Africa, defense against Communist activities, black market, sabotage within the coastal defense sector of Arcachon, and troop indoctrination.	1942/10/01-1942/12/31	344.ID 31478/5	2141	508