

## 353. INFANTERIE-DIVISION - UNIT HISTORY

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DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1943/11/20	Brittany, France	Activation and formation with Kampfgruppe Bretagne and cadres of the 328.ID and replacements of Wehrkreis II, training	Subordinate to: AK 25 C.O.: Gen.Lt. Paul Mahlmann, 1943/11/20-1945/02/21

Record items 77363/2 and 77607 of the 353.ID are reproduced on roll 2149 of NARS Microfilm Publication T315 and are described following the unit history.

Although only two record items of this division were available in the National Archives, covering the periods 1943/11/14-1943/11/29 and 1945/03/10-1945/04/09, the following sources give additional information pertaining to the 353.ID:

Records of OKH/GenStdH/Org.Abt., H 1/131 (T78, roll 412):

1943/09/22	Activation (21.Welle) by HGr. D with replacements of Wehrkreis II and Div.Rahmen 328.ID
1944/02/15	Operational readiness

Situation maps of Lage West:

1944/01/04	East of Brest	
1944/03/26	East of Brest, north of Quimper (elements)	
1944/04/14	Brest	
1944/07/03	South of Carentan, Periers	Subordinate to: AK 84
1944/07/31	West of Villedieu	
1944/08/06	Southwest of Vire	AK 81
1944/08/29	Falaise, La Feuillie, Lyons-la-Forêt	Virtually destroyed, became Kpf.Gr. 353, planned rehabilitation by AOK 7 source: records of OKH/GenStdH/Org.Abt., H 1/38 (T78, roll 398, p. 145)
1944/09/28	West of Euskirchen, Huertgen Forest, Zuelpich, Germany (remnants)	
1944/10/11	North of Trier (remnants)	
1944/11/25	Trier	
1944/12/01	South of Dueren	C.O.: Obst. Karl Koppenwallner, mstFb, 1944/12/16-1945/02/21
1945/03/04	West of Siegburg, Siegen	

Record item 77607:

1945/03/10-1945/04/09	Siegburg, Rondorf, Sieg River, Overath, Rosbach, Buisdorf, Hennef	Defensive operations
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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 353.ID as follows:

Normandy, Nov 1943-24 Jul 1944: MS A-983 (353d Inf Div organization in Brittany 1943; move to Normandy, late June 1944; combat against American forces, Jul 1944), by Gen.Lt. Paul Mahlmann

Northern France, 24 Jul-14 Sep 1944: MSS A-984-A-987 (Report of the commander, Chapter I: Avranches, Chapter II: Falaise, Chapter III: From the Seine to the Meuse, Chapter IV: From the Meuse to the Westwall), by Gen.Lt. Paul Mahlmann

Aachen area: MS A-988 (Order of battle of the LXXXI Corps from Sep 1944 to Apr 1945), and

MS A-998 (Combat operations in the Aachen sector, Sep-Nov 1944), by Gen.d.Inf. Friedrich Koechling

Rhineland, Huertgen Forest: MS B-232, 9-18 Sep 1944, and MS B-411, 19 Sep-1 Oct 1944 (Fighting in the forest west of Huertgen), by Gen.Lt. Paul Mahlmann

MS B-502 (Employment west of Bitburg, reorganization of the division, 3 Oct-25 Nov 1944), and

MS B-503 (Commitment southwest of Dueren, 26 Nov-16 Dec 1944), by Gen.Lt. Paul Mahlmann

MS B-098 (Report on combat operations of the 353d Inf Div west and east of the Rhine, south of Cologne, 2-22 Mar 1945), and

MS B-109 (Report on combat operations of the 353d Inf Div at the Sieg River front, 23 Mar-8 Apr 1945), by Oberst Kurt Hummel.

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CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
Ia, Anweisungen. Directives and orders by Kampfgruppe Bretagne concerning activation, its redesignation as, and formation of the 353.ID, 20 Nov 1943, with cadres of the 328.ID transferred from the eastern front and replacements of Wehrkreis II; and an order by AOK 7 regarding activation and formation of the 352. and 353.ID and planned operational readiness by 1 Feb 1944. Tables of organization, strength, and training.	1943/11/14-1943/11/29	353.ID 77363/2	2149	1
Ia, Befehle und Verschiedenes. Division orders, daily reports of subordinate units, reconnaissance reports, and bulletins concerning defensive operations in the Siegburg, Rondorf, Overath, Rosbach, Buisdorf, and Hennef areas of Germany; special supply orders; court-martial procedures and reports; strength reports; forms and instructions for awarding the Iron Cross 2d class; warning on treatment of German deserters in U.S. and British custody; report of the staff officer for National Socialist Indoctrination, 13 Mar 1945; order of the death penalty for defeatism, desertion, surrender, etc., 18 Mar 1945; an order by the Kreisleiter for evacuating the civilian population from the Sieg River sector; and orders and reports of the intelligence, supply, and personnel branches.	1945/03/10-1945/04/09	353.ID 77607	2149	19