

361. INFANTERIE-DIVISION (VOLKSGRENADIER) - UNIT HISTORY

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1943/11/08	Kolding, Denmark	Activation (21.Welle), formation from remnants of the 86.ID, training	Subordinate to: Wehrmachtbefehlshaber Daenemark C.O.: Gen.Lt. Siegmund Frhr. von Schleinitz, 1943/11/20-1944/08/03
1944/02/00	Bramminge, south Denmark south Jutland, western islands of Denmark	Training, security	
1944/03/00	Brody, Ternopol, Radzivilov, Krupiec, Soviet Union	Transfer, security, defense against enemy penetration	Subordinate to: AK 13 (Heeresgruppe Nordukraine)
1944/04/00	Brody	Battle for	
1944/05/00	Kolpin, Koltow	Construction and defense of positions	C.O.: Gen.Maj. Gerhard Lindemann, mstFb., 1944/05/25-1944/07/15
1944/07/13	Olechow, Sydonowka, Zolochew (Zloczow), Olesko, Sasov	Defense against major Russian offensive	
1944/07/17	Koltow, Toporow, Sokolowka, Wolnica, Lasowa, Bialy Kamien, Poland	Withdrawal, defensive operations, encirclement	
1944/07/22	Kniazycze, Lakie	Breakthrough	
1944/07/24	Chodorow, Podberezye, Stry, Kruszelnica, Mukachevo	Withdrawal of remnants, assembly	
1944/08/13	Mukachevo, Soviet Union	Disbandment (source: Potsdam catalog)	
1944/08/17	Mukachevo Neustadt, Upper Silesia	Assignment of personnel to PzAOK 1, formation of Abwicklungsstab and transfer	
1944/09/00	Koeln-Wahn, Wehrkreis VI	Arrival of Ib staff, reformation as the 361. Volksgrenadier-Div. with elements of the 569.VGrD	Gen.Maj. Alfred Philippi, mFb, 1944/09/01-1945/01/01

Although only one record item of this division was available in the National Archives which is reproduced on roll 2152 of NARS Microfilm Publication T315 and described following the unit history. The following sources give additional information pertaining to the 361.ID(VGrD):

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
<u>Order of Battle of the German Army</u> (Washington, Mar 1945) and situation maps of Lage West:			
1944/autum	Netherlands, Arnhem	Completion of training as 361.VGrD, subsequently engaged	
1944/10/31	Marsal, France	Transfer	Subordinate to: AK 89
1944/11/29	Sarre-Union		
1944/12/00	Northern Alsace		
1944/12/17	Ludwigswinkel, Germany		
1945/01/23	Waldhausen to Wilgartswiesen	Movement, partially absorbed by the 559.ID(VGr)	
1945/02/01	Geinsheim to Schwetzingen	Movement	
1945/02/11	Heidelberg	Rehabilitation	

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

1943/09/24	Denmark	Activation (21.Welle) with Div.Rahmen 86.ID and replacements from Wehrkreis VI, operational readiness
1944/02/15		Disbandment, remnants assigned to home area
1944/08/05		Re-activation as 361.VGrD (32.Welle) with units of the 569.VGrD
1944/08/22	Wahn, Wehrkreis VI	Planned re-activation as 569.VGrD, operational readiness 1944/10/10
1944/09/14		Planned re-activation again as the 361.ID (33.Welle)
1944/12/00	Zwolle, Netherlands	

Records of OKH/AHA/Abw.Stab, H 41/2 (T78, roll 139) "Gefechts- und Erlebnisberichte, Jul-Aug 1944" and H 41/57 (T78, roll 142) "Meldungen ueber den Stand der Abwicklung."

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 361.ID(VGrD) as follows:

Lorraine: MS B-626 (Commitment of the 361st Volks-Grenadier-Division in Lorraine and the northern Vosges Mountains, 25 Oct-31 Dec 1944), by Gen.Maj. Alfred Philippi

MS A-999 (Army Group G Report of the Chief of Staff, 20 Sep-3 Dec 44, Chapter 1: Preparations for a defensive stand in Lorraine and the Vosges; Chapter 2: Strengthening the defensive front), by Gen.Maj. Friedrich-Wilhelm von Mellenthin

Alsace: MS C-003 (Defensive combat of the LXXXIX Inf Corps in Lower Alsace and the Westwall, 6-31 Dec 1944), by Obst. Kurt Reschke

MS B-428 (Attack by the 361st Volks-Gren-Div in Northern Alsace, Jan 1945), by Gen.Maj. Alfred Philippi.

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
<p>Ia, Gefechtsferichte. Afteraction reports of the division and of subordinate units, with maps, relating to activation in south Denmark, 8 Nov 1943; formation with the division staff of the 86.ID and units of the 21., 76., and 251.ID and replacements of Wehrkreis VI in Kolding and beginning Feb 1944 in the Bramminge area; training and security of south Jutland and the western islands of Denmark; transfer to the Ternopol, Radzivilov, and Prody areas of the Soviet Union, Mar 1944; security of Brody and the border of the Generalgouvernement; defense against enemy penetration in the Krupiec area, 18 Mar; fierce battle for Brody in April; position defense in the Kclpin and Koltow areas, April-July; defense against a major Russian offensive in the Olechow, Sydonowka, Zolochew (Zlcczow), Olesko, Sasov, and Wydra areas, 13-17 Jul 1944.</p> <p>Afteraction reports concerning withdrawal to the Prinz Eugen Stellung, defensive operations, and encirclement in the Koltow, Toporcw, Sokolowka, Wolnica, Lasowa, and Bialy Kamien (Weiss-Stein) areas, 17-21 Jul; breakthrough in the Kniazyce and Lakie areas at tremendous losses (6,310 officers and men during 16-22 Jul); withdrawal of remnants to the Chodorow, Podberezye, and Stry areas, assembly, and further withdrawal to the Kruszelnica area in the Carpathian foothills, 23-30 Jul, and to the Mukachevo area on the Hungarian border, 31 Jul-1 Aug, for disbandment of the division as of 13 Aug 1944 (according to Potsdam catalog).</p> <p>Afteraction reports pertaining to assignment of personnel to various divisions of PzAOK 1, 17 Aug; transfer of the Ib staff of the division, which had escaped the encircled Prinz Eugen Stellung almost intact, to Truppenuebungsplatz Kceln-Wahn</p>	1943/11/08-1944/08/20	361.ID 77854	2152	1

CONTENTS

DATES

ITEM NO.

ROLL 1ST FRAME

in mid-September for reformation as the 361. Volksgrenadier-Division; and establishment of an Abwicklungsstab and its movement to Neustadt, Upper Silesia for administration of formal disbandment of the division, 20 Aug, and its final assignment to OKH/Chef H Ruest u BdE for reporting and clarification of the losses of the division.