

553. VOLKSGRENADIER-DIVISION - UNIT HISTORY

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1944/06/ca.	Berlin	Activation as the 553.Sperr-Div. (29.Welle) by order of OKH	
1944/07/10	Muensingen, Wehrkreis V	Formation, training	Subordinate to: Stellv.Gen.Kdo. V, 1944/07/10-1944/08/31 C.O.: Oberst Erich Loehr, mFb, 1944/07/15-1944/09/30
1944/07/20	Muensingen	Redesignation as the 553.Gren.Div.	
1944/08/30	Muensingen	Operational readiness, movement	
1944/09/01	Kaiserslautern, Metz, Nancy, France	Movement, defensive operations	Subordinate to: SSAK 13, 1944/09/01-1944/10/16
1944/09/23	Nomeny, Pont-a-Mousson	Movement, defensive operations	C.O.: Gen.Maj. Johannes Bruhn, 1944/09/30-1944/11/22 (POW)
1944/10/09	Nomeny	Redesignation as 553.VGrD	
1944/10/11	Delme, Nomeny	Defensive operations by remnants	
1944/10/18	Luneville, Efringen	Movement, defensive operations	Subordinate to: AK 58 Pz, 1944/10/17-1944/11/03
1944/10/23	Blamont	Movement, defensive operations	
1944/10/31	Blamont	Defensive operations, reorganization as a full strength div.	
1944/11/07	Saint-Georges	Defensive operations	AK 89, 1944/11/04-1944/11/21
1944/11/22	Saint-Georges, Sarrebourg	Breakthrough by enemy forces	SSAK 13, 1944/11/22-1944/12/05
1944/11/25	Truppenuebungsplatz Bitche	Withdrawal by Rest 553.VGrD	
1944/12/08	Karlsruhe, Pforzheim, Langenstein, Germany	Withdrawal, defensive operations, rehabilitation	Oberbefehlshaber Oberrhein, 1944/12/06-1945/01/31 C.O.: Gen.Maj. Gerhard Huether, 1944/12/18
1945/01/10 ca.	Lichtenau, Freistett, Rhine River	Movement, preparations for crossing	

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1945/01/20	Rhine River, Bischwiller, Bietlenheim, France	Attack across, advance	
1945/01/23	Bischwiller, Drusenheim, Gamsheim	Establishing a bridgehead, defense	
1945/01/27	Zorn River sector •	Attack, 553.VGrD and SS 10.PzD Frundsberg	
1945/02/01	Ludwigsburg, Pforzheim, Germany	Withdrawal, rehabilitation, reinforcement	Subordinate to: AK 64, 1945/02/01-1945/02/22
1945/03/02	Rastatt	Movement	
1945/03/08	Bischweier, Kuppenheim, Freistett, Achern	Movement, construction of defensive positions	
1945/03/24	Bensheim, Affolterbach, Wildenburg, Mudau, Bad Mergentheim, Crailsheim, Bieringen, Tuengental, Honhardt, Aalen, Leipheim, Ettenbeuren, Augsburg	Disengagement movements	
1945/04/28	Augsburg	Probably captured by American forces	

Record item 77535 of the 553.VGrD is reproduced on roll 2226 of NARS Microfilm Publication T315 and is described following the unit history.

Although only one record item of this division was available in the National Archives, which does not present operational activities of the unit, records of OKH/GenStdH/Org.Abt., H 1/38 (T78, roll 398) and H 1/131 (T78, roll 412), situation maps of Lage West and Frankreich, and manuscripts in the Foreign Military Studies series were used for the unit history.

Lorraine: MS A-999 (Army Group G Report of the Chief of Staff--Combat operations in Lorraine and the Vosges, 20 Sep-3 Dec 1944), by Gen.Maj. Friedrich-Wilhelm von Mellenthin

Vosges: MS B-379 (Engagements of the 553d Volks-Grenadier-Division in November 1944 on the Vosges Front), by Gen.Maj. Johannes Bruhn

Rhineland: MS B-177 (Commitment of the 553d Volks-Grenadier-Division, Dec 1944-Mar 1945), by Gen.Maj. Gerhard Huether.

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
Ia, Ic, Aufruf, Bericht und Anordnung. A proclamation by Generalfeldmarschall Kesselring, reminding each soldier of his responsibilities for a determined defense of Germany on the western front; a report relating to the alleged violation of the Geneva convention by American troops; and a directive for submitting various reports.	1944/10/19-1945/04/05	553.VGrD 77535	2226	1