

556. INFANERIE-DIVISION - UNIT HISTORY

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1940/01/29	Berlin	Activation of Stellungs-Divisionen by OKH/Chef HRuest. u. BdE/AHA	
1940/02/05		Assignment of Div.Kdo. z.b.V. 426 and Ldsch.Btl. II/XVII for the formation of the 556.Stellungs-Division	
1940/02/11	Naklo, Wehrkreis XX	Formation of the 556.ID	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Kurt von Berg, 1940/02/12-1940/08/15 Subordinate to: Wehrkreiskommando XX, 1940/02/11-1940/03/03
1940/02/20	Wehrkreise V, VI, IX, X, XI, XII, XVII, XXI	Formation of Inf.Rgt. 628, 629, and 630, Art.Rgt. 556, and Nachr.Abt. 556	
1940/03/03	Freudenstadt, Wehrkreis V	Transfer	AOK 1, 1940/03/03-1940/03/09
1940/03/09	Istein, Muellheim, Neuenburg, Haltingen	Formation, training, air raid protection, assignment of replacements from WK XXI	Hoeh.Kdo. 33, 1940/03/09-1940/06/25
1940/04/19	Badenweiler, Loerrach, Istein, Efringen, Muellheim, Neuenburg, Huttingen, Maerk, Germany; Saint-Louis, Sierentz, Rumersheim, Huningue, France	Border security, defensive and reconnaissance operations, construction of roads and positions, air raid protection, training	
1940/06/14	Biesheim, Reppe, Dietwiller, Bessoncourt, Foussemagne, Perouse, Altkirch, Moulhouse, Blodelsheim, Hericourt, Tretudans, Belfort	Advance into France, offensive engagements, Gen.Kdo. z.b.V. (Belfort), 1940/06/26-1940/07/22 assembly and control of prisoners of war, collection and control of captured booty, control of refugees and the French population, securing the harvest	
1940/07/23	Mainz, Wehrkreis XII	Withdrawal	Hoeh.Kdo. 33, 1940/07/23-1940/08/05
1940/09/25- 1940/09/30	Mainz, Wiesbaden	Release of weapons, vehicles, equipment, documents, etc. to the demobilization center	Stellv.Gen.Kdo. XII, 1940/08/05-1940/09/30
1940/10/01	Mainz	Disbandment	

Records of the 556.ID are reproduced on rolls 2228-2231 of NARS Microfilm Publication T315 and are described following the unit history,
however, they do not include activities for the period 6 Aug-24 Sep 1940.

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ITEM NO.

ROLL 1ST FRAME

Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1, Aufstellung I. Orders and reports pertaining to the formation and mobilization of the 556. Stellungs-Division; directives relating to securing troop transports and movement of replacements; instruction pamphlet for combat training; and a list of officers duty assignments. (Damaged by fire.)	1940/01/01-1940/03/30	556.ID W2017/7	2228	1
Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1, Aufstellung II. Activation of bodenstaendige Organisationen im Fereich der Heeresgruppe C (Stellungs-Divisionen-a deceptive designation, later redesignated as an ID) under the code name "Bereitstellung Muenchen" by order of OKH/Chef HRuest. u. Bfh. d. Ersatzheeres/Allgemeines Heeresamt, 29 Jan 1940, in the areas of Wehrkreiskommandos I-XIII, XVII, XVIII, XX, and XXI, and Wehrm.Bevollm. Praq; and assignment of Div.Kdo. zbV. 426 and Landesschuetzen-Btl. II/XVII for the formation of the 556. Stellungs-Div. in Wehrkreis XX, and Div.Kdo. zbV. 443 and one battalion of the 216.ID for the formation of the 555. Stellungs-Div. in Wehrkreis XI, 19 Feb. Orders relating to the movement of Div.Kdo. zbV. 426 to Naklo, Wehrkreis XX, 10 Feb; formation of 556.ID from Stab Div.Kdo. zbV. 426 and Ldsch.Btl. II/XVII in Naklo, 11-18 Feb; Nachr.Kp. 556 in Haqen, Wehrkreis VI; Inf.Rgt. 628 in Strebersdorf, Woellersdorf, and Linz, Wehrkreis XVII in Austria; Inf.Rgt. 629 in Posen, Wehrkreis XXI; Inf.Rgt. 630 in Ulm, Wehrkreis V and in Fulda, Wehrkreis IX; Art.Rgt. 556 in Mainz, Wehrkreis XII, Hildesheim, Wehrkreis XI, and Oldenburg, Wehrkreis X, 20-28 Feb; transfer of the 556.ID to Freudenstadt, Wehrkreis V, 3-8 Mar; and continuation of formation and training of the division in Wehrkreis V with replacements from Wehrkreis XXI, 9 Mar-23 Apr.	1940/01/29-1940/04/23	556.ID W2017/8	2228	179

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Lists of staffs and units of the 555. and 556. Stellung-Div. and their location and order-of-battle charts of the 554., 555., 556., and 557. Stellung-Div. (Damaged by fire.)				
Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1, Kriegsstaerke- und Kriegsausruestungsnachweisungen (K.St.N. u. K.A.N.) mit Vorschlaege. Tables of organization and basic allowances of weapons and equipment (wartime) for units of the 556.ID and changes and proposed changes due to reorganization of units or the severe shortage in personnel, weapons, and equipment. Order-of-battle charts and afteraction critiques relating to changes in tables of organization and basic allowances.	1940/05/05-1940/05/17	556.ID W2017/13	2228	440
Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1 u. 2, Zustandserichte und Meldungen ueber Gefechtswert. Status and evaluation reports concerning training efficiency and fighting qualities of division units and directives concerning to how to report the fighting qualities of a unit. An order for movement of the 556.ID from Belfort, France to Mainz, Wehrkreis XII in Germany, 23 Jul-5 Aug 1940. (Damaged by fire.)	1940/03/18-1940/08/01	556.ID W2017/17	2228	787
Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1, Taegliche Meldungen an Hoeh.Kdo. 33. Daily reports concerning movement of division headquarters to Badenweiler, closing the border in the Istein, Efringen, and Haltingen areas, defensive and reconnaissance operations and air raid protection in the Weil, Rheinweiler, and Laufelberg areas of Germany and in the Saint-Louis, Sierentz, Rumersheim, Haberhaeuser, and Huningue areas of France, 10-31 May 1940; arrival of replacements, 1 Jun; and defensive operations and air raid protection in the Seefelden, Muellheim, Bamlach, Neuenburg, Haltingen, Huttingen, and Blansingen areas of Germany, and in the Sierentz and Rumersheim areas of France, 1-14 Jun. Data relating to enemy operations and propaganda.	1940/05/10-1940/06/14	556.ID W2017/18	2229	1

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Ia, Anlage zum KTB 2, Taegliche Meldungen des Inf.Rgt. 628. Daily reports concerning defensive operations and air raid protection in the Neuenburg, Bremgarten, and Steinenstadt areas of Germany, 10-14 Jun 1940; movement to and from the Menken, Biengen, and Offnadingen areas to the Biesheim area of France, 15-17 Jun; collection of captured booty, securing supplies, control of refugees and the French civilian population, discipline and order, guarding industrial installations, cooperation with civilian officials and the police, and assignment of battalions of Inf.Rgt. 628 to Forts and Standorten in the Dietwiller, Bessoncourt, Foussemagne, Perouse, and Belfort areas, France, 20 Jun-2 Jul.	1940/06/10-1940/07/02	556.ID W2017/19	2229	163
Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1 u. 2, Taegliche Meldungen des Inf.Rgt. 629. Daily reports concerning defensive and reconnaissance operations and air raid protection in the Loerrach, Haltingen, Eimeldingen, Maerk, Kirchen, and Weil areas of Germany, 29 May-12 Jun 1940; assembly in the Sulzburg area, 13-15 Jun; offensive engagements in the Kunheim and Hirtzfelden areas of France, 16-18 Jun; march movements from Bettendorf to Durmenach and Altkirch to Knoerinde, 19-21 Jun; quartering in Retzwiller, Wolfersdorf, and Ballersdorf, 22 Jun; and securing the Aibre, Hericourt, Coisevaux, Tremoins, Laire, Tavey, Couthenans, and Banvillars areas, France, 23-29 Jun.	1940/03/29-1940/06/29	556.ID W2017/20	2229	240
Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1 u. 2, Taegliche Meldungen des Inf.Rgt. 630. Daily reports concerning reconnaissance and defensive operations and air raid protection in the Istein, Muellheim, Efringen, Kirchen, Weil, and Kleinkems areas of Germany, and Hombourg and Sierentz, France, 26 Apr-12 Jun 1940; advance into France and offensive engagements in the Feldbach, Koestlach, Liebsdorf, Durlinsdorf, Rechesy, Delle, Grandvillars, Montbeliard, Vyans, Grand-Charmont, and Bethoncourt	1940/04/26-1940/06/30	556.ID W2017/21	2229	292

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areas, 14-25 Jun; and quartering and occupation duty in the Grand-Charmont, Bethoncourt, Bussurel, and Chatenois areas, 26-30 Jun.

Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1 u. 2, Taegliche Meldungen des Art.Rgt. 556. Daily reports concerning division and French artillery activity, giving source and goal, in the Istein, Eimeldingen, Muellheim, Rheinweiler, Schafberg, Neuenburg, Heitersheim, Neudorf, Efringen, Schliengen, Blansingen, Huttingen, Haltingen, and Weil areas of Germany, and in the Blotzheim, Hombourg, Klein-Landau, Bartenheim, Attenschwiller, and Rosenau areas of France, 10 May-10 Jun 1940, and quartering of Art.Rgt. 556 and subordinate units in Belfort, Vieux-Charmont, Chatenois-les-Forges, Bussurel, Brevilliers, Byans, Hericourt, and Danjoutin, France, 30 Jun. (The date span of this record item does not include the period 11-29 Jun 1940.)

Ia, Anlage zum KTB 2, Taegliche Meldungen des Pi.Btl. 308. Daily reports concerning engineer activities in the Kunheim, Biesheim, Neuf-Brisach, Delle, Durlinsdorf, Moos, and Belfort areas of France.

Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1 u. 2, Taegliche und acht Tage Wettermeldungen. Daily and 8-day weather reports.

Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1 u. 2, Gefechts- und Verpflegungsstaerken und Verlustlisten. Combat and ration strength reports, 11 Mar-1 Aug 1940, and casualty lists, 24 Apr-18 Jun.

Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1 u. 2, Scheinunternehmen. Orders and reports pertaining to mock operations to prepare for patrol operations across the Rhine River, including artillery commitment, in the Schliengen, Welmlingen, and Eimeldingen areas.

Ia, Anlage zum KTB 2, Unternehmen D1: Neuenburg. Orders, reports, maps, and sketches pertaining to Unternehmen D1 (preparations for movement of

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reconnaissance patrols across the Rhine River from the Neuenburg area of Germany to the Bantzenheim area of France) and an actual reconnaissance patrol planned for 15-16 Jun 1940.

Ia, Anlage zum KTB 2, Unternehmen D2: Istein-Kleinkems. Orders, reports, maps, and sketches pertaining to preparations for and execution of Unternehmen D2 (assault troop operations across the Rhine River in the area west of Istein, Kleinkems, and Bellingen, Germany, 15 Jun 1940); strength reports, a list of casualties, and an afteraction report concerning Unternehmen D2 Istein-Kleinkems.

Ia, 4 Anlagen zum KTB 1 u. 2, W2017/31:
 Spaehtruppunternehmen D3, 3 Apr-14 Jun 1940; W2017/35:
 Panzerjaeger-Komp. 306, 13 Mar-24 Jun; W2017/36:
 Panzerjaeger-Komp. 307, 6 Apr-2 Jul; W2017/38:
 Bau-Bataillone, 21 Mar-30 May. Orders, reports, and sketches pertaining to preparations for and execution of Spaehtruppunternehmen D3 (reconnaissance patrol operations in the area west of Kirchen and Maerkt, Germany, 14 Jun 1940); formation and training of Pz-Jaeg.Kp. 306 and Pz.Abw.Kp. 306 and securing roads and railroads in the Streitberg, Bleichheim, Loerrach, Friedlingen, Nolingen, and Rheinfelden areas of Germany, 12 Mar-2 Jun, and movement to Belfort, France, 24 Jun; and formation and training of Pz-Jaeg.Kp. 307 and Pz.Abw.Kp. 307 in the Neuenburg, Bellingen, Istein, Donaueschingen, and Maerkt areas, Germany, 6 Apr-10 May, offensive engagements in the Reppe area of France, 19 Jun, and movement to Belfort and Dammerkirch, 28 Jun-2 Jul.
 Training, construction of roads, obstacles, road blocks, antiaircraft positions, and fortifications, and maintenance of roads and bridges by Bau-Truppen, Bau-Btl. 58 with Inf.Rgt.

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628, Bau-Btl. 59 with Inf.Rgt. 630, and Bau-Btl. 63 with Inf.Rgt. 629 in the Loerrach, Binzen, Blansingen, Efringen, Kleinkems, Rheinweiler, Maulburg, Badenweiler, Halingen, Kirchen, Muellheim, Steinenthal, Schliengen, Brumbach, Haagen, Wittlingen, and Fischingen areas of Germany, 21 Mar-30 May. Includes strength reports.

Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 1 u. 2, W2017/32: Stauwehr, Stauwerk u. Kraftwerk, 19 Apr-30 May 1940; W2017/33: Nachrichten-Abteilung 556, 20 Mar-12 Aug; W2017/37: Festungsstamm-Btl. 6, 24 Apr-5 Jun. Orders, reports, and sketches pertaining to division defense of and enemy action to destroy dams across the Rhine River, used to control water for irrigation and to form reservoirs or hydro-electric power in the Maerkt area and bridges across the Rhone-Rhine Canal in the Huningue area; and formation of, assignment of personnel and equipment, and signal communications by Nachr.Abt. 556 and its disbandment, 12 Aug. Training and commitment of Fest.Stamm-Btl. 6, 5 Jun, and a duty roster for the fortified towers (Schartentuerme) in the Laufen and Huttingen areas.
 A list of German units in the Belfort and Colmar areas of France; a division telephone directory of the Belfort area, use of coded messages, and the setting up of modulated lightray communications between Belfort and Fort de Roppe; a list of passwords; circuit diagrams; a register of officers; and a name list of enlisted personnel of Nachr.Abt. 556.

Ia, Anlage zum KTR 1 u. 2, Festungs-Pi.Btl. 308. Orders and reports concerning formation of Fest.Pi.Btl. 308 in the Hammerstein and Mappach areas of Wehrkreis V and later an engineer detachment for each regiment,

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training in obstacle construction service (Sperrdienst) and construction of temporary river crossings (Wasserdienst), and takeover of command and the clearing away of technical installations and equipment in the entire enemy battlefield by Fest.Pi. Stab 11, 15, and 18, 18 Jun 1940.

Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1 u. 2, R.A.D. (Reichsarbeitsdienst). Orders and reports concerning organization, commitment, and regrouping of Reichsarbeitsdienst-Abteilungen in the Riedlingen, Tannenkirch, Loerrach, Badenweiler, Waldkirch, Kander, Ettenheim, Walldau, Emmendingen, and Hauingen areas of Germany.

Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 1 u. 2, W2017/40: Flugabwehr, 9 Mar-14 Jun 1940; W2017/41: Gasabwehr, 30 Jan-18 Jul; W2017/42: Schutzschilder, 25-27 May; W2017/43: Panzerabwehrbuechsen, 3-20 May; W2017/44: Granatwerfer, 20 Apr-12 Jun.

Orders, directives, reports, instruction pamphlets, and sketches pertaining to training in air raid protection and defense against airborne troops in the Wintersweiler, Schliengen, and Auggen areas, cooperation between the army and air force, and data relating to enemy bombs; training in the use of and defense against chemical warfare; description, use, and requisition of protective gun shields; requisition, assignment, and commitment of antitank rifles, and data on and location of fortified positions in the Steinenstadt, Istein, Neuenburg, Zienken, and Haltingen areas; and maintenance and training in the use of mortars assigned as permanent weapons.

Ia, Anlagen zum KTB 1, Reserve-Bataillone, Bautruppen und Alarm im Abschnitt D. Orders, reports, and maps pertaining to preparations for an enemy attack,

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commitment of reserve battalions and construction
troops, and action to be taken in case of an alert in
sector D, the Badenweiler, Lipburg, Oberweiler, Laufen,
Bamlach, Loerrach, Huttingen, Tannenkirch, Haagen,
Mappach, and Wollbach areas of Germany.

Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1, Besuche im Abschnitt D. Reports
and radio messages relating to command inspections of
division units by the commanding officers of Hoeh.Kdo.
33 and the 556.ID in the Emmendingen, Badenweiler,
Grissheim, Maerkte, Neuenburg, and Muellheim areas.

Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1, Stellungsbau. Orders, reports,
drawings, and sketches pertaining to construction of
tunnels, positions, command posts, gun platforms and
positions, type of construction (temporary or
permanent), supplying construction material, tools, and
equipment, and location of engineer depots in the
Badenweiler, Döttingen, Oberweiler, Schliengen,
Efringen, Forchheim, Egringen, Huttingen, and Merdingen
areas of Germany.

Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1 u. 2, Kartenstelle. Orders,
reports, and sketches pertaining to the activity of the
division's Kartenstelle, 23 Apr-2 Jul 1940; a list of
topographical maps by name and number, 1 Apr; and the
release of all maps held by division units to
Stellv.Gen.Kdo. XII in Wiesbaden, Germany, 19-23 Aug.

Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1 u. 2, Durchfuehrung der
Abwicklungs geschaefte. Orders and reports regarding
the release of documents, equipment, etc. from
Ortskommandantur Naklo, Hoeh.Kdo. 33, and AOK 7 to the
556.ID and from the division to the 260.ID; activities
of the demobilization center for the staff and units of
the 556.ID in regard to release of weapons, motor
vehicles, equipment, materials, documents, etc. to
Heereszeugamt Mainz, Ersatz-Depot and Truppenteile
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Wiesbaden, 27-30 Sep 1940; and disbandment of the 556.ID, 1 Oct.				
Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1 u. 2, Decknamen, Kennworte und Leuchterkennungssignale. Orders and directives regarding release, use of, and changes in code names, passwords, identification signal flares, ground panels, and light and visual signals; lists of code names, passwords, and identification signal flares; instruction pamphlets concerning visual communications between army and air force units and light and visual signals; and directives governing liaison service between the army and air force.	1939/09/20-1940/07/15	556.ID W2017/52	2230	403
Ia, Ic, Anlagen zum KTB 1 u. 2, Tagesmeldungen der 260.ID und Beobachtungsabteilung der 556.ID, 25. Maerz-18. April 1940, und Feindnachrichtenabteilung d. 556.ID, 19. April-14. Juni 1940. Daily reports concerning enemy military operations on land and in the air, construction activity, traffic situation, propaganda, and losses; relief and regrouping of enemy units and personnel; division defensive and reconnaissance operations, construction activity, border security, and rail traffic; the water level (Pegelstand) of the Rhine River; and weather conditions in the Muellheim, Efringen, Haltingen, Badenweiler, Huttingen, Maerkte, Loerrach, Istein, Neueuburg, and Kembs areas of Germany, and in the Sierentz, Neudorf, Saint-Louis, Rosenau, Ottmarsheim, and Klein-Landau areas of France.	1940/03/25-1940/06/14	556.ID W2017/53	2230	499
Ic, Anlage um KTB 1, Wochenberichte. Weekly reports and evaluations concerning enemy fire activity; condition, status, and activity of French troops; construction activity; relief and regrouping of enemy units and personnel; traffic situation; border security on the Swiss side; and enemy air activity.	1940/04/19-1940/05/23	556.ID W2017/54	2230	777
Ia, Anlage zum KTB 1, Brieftagebuch. Correspondence	1940/02/23-1940/09/27	556.ID W2017/58	2230	792

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register of classified matters.
Ic, TB, I. Teil mit Anlagen. Activity report concerning enemy artillery, construction, military organization, traffic situation, the laying of minefields, and the condition of enemy utility installations; counterintelligence; military security; postal censorship; propaganda; troop indoctrination and entertainment; and civilian morale in Wehrkreis V. Weekly intelligence reports, 19 Apr-6 Jun 1940, and daily intelligence reports, 9-19 May, presenting enemy fire and construction activity, attack by the enemy on Istein and retaliation on Sierentz, 15 May, relief and regrouping of enemy units and personnel, enemy traffic and air situation, and weather conditions; enemy propaganda, 21 Mar-9 May; and maps showing the location of enemy units in the Mulhouse area of France. A brief account of the activities of the intelligence branch, 19 Feb-5 Aug, during formation and preparations for commitment, 19 Feb-18 Apr; Teil I: operations in Abschnitt Badenweiler, 19 Apr-10 Jun, Teil II: attack on the Kaiserstuhl; the conquest of Upper Alsace and advance to Belfort, France, 11-25 Jun; and withdrawal to Mainz, Wehrkreis XII via Muellheim, 5 Aug.
Ic, TB, II. Teil mit Anlagen. Activity report concerning capture, assembly, control, and interrogation of 9,000 prisoners of war in the Colmar, Altkirch, and Mulhouse areas of France; cooperation with local officials; control and morale of the civilian population; counterintelligence; German and French propaganda; and the collecting and securing of captured booty. Periodic intelligence reports, 19 Apr-14 Jul, pertaining to enemy operations, firing and construction activity, relief and regrouping of French

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forces, the capture, assembly, and control of prisoners of war and booty, and securing the harvest in the Altkirch, Mulhouse, Blodelsheim, Bessoncourt, Hericourt, Tretudans, and Belfort areas of France. An overlay showing the tactical disposition of division units in Wehrkreis V and French forces in Altkirch, Mulhouse, and Blodelsheim, France.

Ic, Anlagen zum TB. Lists of classified documents, maps, and aerial photographs received, transferred, or released by Hoeh.Kdo. 33 and by the division to the 260.ID; reports, tables, explanations, and schematic representations relating to British and French military forces, army organization, training, personnel, weapons, aircraft, artillery, fortifications, order of battle, and installations along the west bank of the Rhine River and Swiss fortifications and signal corps organization.

Ic, Anlage zum TB, Uebergabe- u. Vernichtungsverhandlungen, Aktenverzeichnis. List of documents of the intelligence branch released to and accepted by the demobilization center of the 556.ID, 25 Sep 1940, and a list of classified documents destroyed.

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