

83. Infanterie-Division (83d Infantry Division)

The 83. Infanterie-Division (6. Welle) was formed from reservists on December 22, 1939, in Wehrkreis XI, and received its training at the Truppenübungsplatz Bergen near Celle. In January 1940 it was transferred to Fallingbostal, on February 15, to Uelzen, and in March of the same year, to Einbeck on the Weser River for training. On May 14, 1940, it moved to the Dutch border, crossing the border on May 18 through southern Holland, Belgium, and northern France, and participated in offensive operations from the Seine to the Loire Rivers. In July 1940, after the western campaign, the division returned to its home station in Fallingbostal for rehabilitation and reorganization and went to the Harz Mountain area for training. In February 1941 the division was again stationed in France, at Rennes in Brittany, where it participated in coastal security activities, after which it was sent to Valognes for coastal security duties in Normandy and on the Island of Alderney. In December 1941 and January 1942 it

was transferred to the central sector of the eastern front, and fought continuously in the Velikiye Luki and Nevel areas until January 1943 when it moved to Vitebsk and participated in defensive operations in the Velizh area. In July 1943 it was ordered to Novosokolniki for defensive operations to protect the important railroad junction. Although no records of this division dated later than December 31, 1943, are available, situation maps of Heeresgruppe Mitte and Nord show that it took part in defensive engagements in the area west of Velikiye Luki from January to March 1944. The division was transferred to the northern sector in early April, participating in defensive actions in the area south of Ostrov until May, in the Gulbene area from June to September, east of Riga in October, in the Frauenburg and Skrunnda areas, East Prussia, from November to December 1944, and in the area northeast of Stettin in January 1945, when it was probably disbanded.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 1. Formation of the division on Dec 22, 1939, in Wehrkreis XI and training at the Truppenübungsplatz Bergen near Celle; transfer to Fallingbostal in Jan 1940 and Uelzen on Feb 15, 1940; march to Bielefeld, Lemgo, and Minden for training in Einbeck on the Weser River; entraining in Hanover for movement via Cologne to Jilich, Erkelenz, and Geilenkirchen; march across the Dutch border on May 18 and through southern Holland and Belgium to Valenciennes, St.Quentin, and Moulin; offensive operations on the Seine River near Laval, and the Loire River near Gien, to the Cher River when hostilities ceased on Jun 25; march to Laon, St.Quentin, and Amiens; and entraining for movement to the division's home station in Fallingbostal, where it arrived on Jul 21, 1940. The division was subordinate to the XI., XVII., VI., and VIII. A.K., AOK 9, 6, and 4, the XLIV., V., XXIX., and XI. A.K., successively, under the command of Gen. Maj. Kurt von der Chevallerie from Dec 22, 1939, to Dec 9, 1940.	Dec 22, 1939 - Jul 21, 1940	W 4668	1126	1
Ia, Anlagenheft 1 z. KTB 1. Regulations, orders, reports, order of battle charts, and maps concerning the formation of the division and training in the Truppenübungsplatz Bergen, and transfer to Fallingbostal and Uelzen.	Nov 17, 1939 - Apr 30, 1940	W 4668b	1126	49

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Anlagenheft 2 z. KTB 1. Corps and division orders, reports, and messages.	May 14 - Jun 21, 1940	W 4668c	1126	224
Ia, Anlagenheft 3 z. KTB 1. Corps and division orders, reports, march and entraining orders, and messages.	Jun 22 - Jul 21, 1940	W 4668d	1126	531
Ia, Gefechtsberichte z. KTB 1. Daily combat, activity, and enemy situation reports.	Jun 6 - 21, 1940	W 4668e	1126	624
Ia, Tätigkeitsbericht. Daily activity and afteraction reports in the St.Quentin and Soissons area.	Jun 6 - 21, 1940	7391/1	1126	649
Ia, Stimmungsberichte z. KTB. Travel experience reports of war correspondents, and reports concerning refugees in France.	Jul 3 - Sep 11, 1940	7391/7	1126	672
Ia, Tätigkeitsbericht, Heimat. Rehabilitation and reorganization in Fallingbommel, and transfer to Halberstadt in the Harz Mountains for training. Gen.Maj. Alexander von Zilow commanded the division from Dec 10, 1940, to Feb 3, 1942.	Jul 18, 1940 - Feb 8, 1941	11840/1	1126	684
Ia, Anlagen z. TB. Division orders, reports, and messages.	Jul 18, 1940 - Feb 6, 1941	11840/3	1126	694
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 2. Transfer of the division from the Harz Mountains to the Rennes area in Brittany to relieve the 293. Inf.Div. in Feb 1941, transfer to Dinard to relieve the 212. Inf.Div. of coastal security duties, relief by the 709. Inf.Div. and transfer to Valognes near Cherbourg to participate in "Unternehmen Haifisch" (sea-transport practice in landing on the Island of Alderney) and construction of fortifications on Alderney, and enemy air activity over Cherbourg. The division was subordinate to the XI., XXVIII., XXV., and XLIII. A.K., and Höh.Kdo. LX during this period.	Feb 8 - Dec 17, 1941	13609/1	1126	937
Ia, Anlage 1 z. KTB 2; Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte. Corps directives, division orders, reports, and messages; activity reports of the Intelligence Branch for November and December 1941, and of the Personnel Branch from Aug 1, 1940, to Dec 31, 1941.	Aug 1, 1940 - Dec 31, 1941	13609/2	1126	998
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 3, Teil I. Entraining in Caen and Falaise for movement between Dec 27, 1941, and Jan 4, 1942, to the central sector of the eastern				

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front, in the Vitebsk area, and offensive operations between Nevel and Velikiye Luki and partisan warfare in the rear area. The division was subordinate to OKH, Befehlshaber rückw. Heeresgebiet Mitte, LIX. A.K., Pz.AOK 3, and the LIX. A.K., successively, during this period, under the command of Gen.Maj. Fritz Georg von Rappard who became division commander on Feb 1, 1942.	Dec 17, 1941 - Aug 13, 1942	24230/1	1127	1
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 3, Teil II (Fortsetzung). Partisan warfare in the rear area between Gorodok, Nevel, and Velikiye Luki, and offensive operations east of Velikiye Luki.	Aug 14 - Oct 20, 1942	24230/2	1127	109
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 3, Gefechts- und Verpflegungsstärken.	Feb 7 - Oct 14, 1942	24230/3	1127	162
Ia, Ic, Anlagen z. KTB 3. Army, corps, and division orders, reports, and messages and order of battle charts. Intelligence bulletins and an overlay showing location of enemy units.	Dec 17, 1941 - Aug 13, 1942	24230/4- 24230/6	1127- 1128	398, 1
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 3. Corps and division orders, reports and messages, maps, and overlays; including a Führer order and an OKH report concerning increase of combat troops within units.	Aug 14 - Oct 20, 1942	24230/7	1128	210
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 3, "Schnepfenstrich". Corps and division orders, reports, and messages concerning Operation "Schnepfenstrich" (the clearing of the area between Nevel and Velikiye Luki of partisans) May 13, 1942, with maps, overlays, and aerial photographs.	Apr 26 - May 20, 1942	24230/9	1128	423
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 3, Rückhaltstellung Newel. Activity report of the Kommandeur der Bautruppen 9 concerning construction of fortifications around Nevel, with overlays showing location of fortifications, maps, and a city plan of Nevel.	Apr 14 - Nov 4, 1942	24230/10	1128	530
Ia, Anlagenband 1 z. KTB 4. Division directives, orders, reports, messages, and overlays. <u>For Kriegstagebuch 4 see Item No. 77818, roll 1131, frame 1678.</u>	Oct 20 - Dec 8, 1942	27947/2	1128	810
Ia, Anlagenband 2 z. KTB 4. Division orders, reports, messages, daily combat strength and casualty reports, and overlays.	Dec 8, 1942 - Jan 1, 1943	27947/3	1129	1

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Ia, Anlagenbände 4-7 z. KTB 4, Aus- und eingehende Funkmeldungen und Fernschreiben.	Nov 24 - Dec 30, 1942	27947/5-8	1129	200
Ia, Anlagenbände 8-9 z. KTB 4, Aufgenommene Funksprüche und Beförderte Klartexte.	Dec 30, 1942 - Jan 16, 1943	27947/9-10	1130	1
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 5. Arrival of part of the division in Vitebsk, defensive operations in the Velizh area, and "Unternehmen Pfingstregen u. Wolfsjagd" (antipartisan action in Jun 1943 in the area east of Vitebsk). The division was subordinate to the VI. A.K. during this period.	Jan 1 - Jun 30, 1943	32932/1	1130	632
Ia, Anlagenbände 1-3 z. KTB 5. Division orders, reports, messages, order of battle charts, afteraction reports of subordinate units, and afteraction critiques on "Unternehmen Pfingstregen" with overlays.	Jan 1 - Jun 30, 1943	32932/2- 32932/4	1130- 1131	979, 1
Ia, Anlagenband 5 z. KTB 5, Gefechtsbericht zum Unternehmen "Iltis". Afteraction reports and messages of Kampfgruppe Welish concerning "Unternehmen Iltis" (defensive operations in the Velizh area east of Vitebsk).	May 30 - Jun 5, 1943	32932/6	1131	351
Ic, IIa, Tätigkeitsberichte mit Anlagen z. KTB 5. Monthly activity reports of the Intelligence Branch concerning the enemy situation, partisans, civilian population, counterintelligence, and troop indoctrination; and intelligence bulletins; interrogation summaries of prisoners of war and deserters; and overlays. Monthly activity reports of the Personnel Branch pertaining to leave, promotions, awards and decorations, casualties, and lists of officers' duty assignments.	Jan 1 - Jun 30, 1943	32932/7	1131	612
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 5. Corps and division orders, reports, and messages concerning reorganization and changing the frontline from the Velizh area to the Disna River.	May 18 - Jun 6, 1943	33918	1131	768
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 6. Transfer to Novosokolniki and defensive operations. The division was subordinate to Pz,AOK 3 and the XLIII. A.K. during this period.	Jul 1 - Dec 31, 1943	42802/1	1131	832
Ia, Anlagenband 1 z. KTB 6. Division orders, reports, messages, alert plans, and overlays.	Jul 2 - Dec 30, 1943	42802/2	1131	1078

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Ia, Kriegstagebuch 4. Defensive operations and antipartisan warfare in the Velikiye Luki area, and the transfer of part of the division to Vitebsk. Gen.Lt. Theodor Scherer assumed command of the division from Nov 2, 1942, until Apr 1, 1944.	Oct 21 - Dec 31, 1942	77818	1131	1678