

26. Panzer-Division (26th Panzer Division)

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The 26. Panzer-Division was formed on September 15, 1942, in Mons, Belgium, from the 26. Panzergrenadier-Brigade, whose staff was activated on July 27, 1942, by order of OKH, from personnel of Infanterie-Regimente 9 and 67 of the 23. Infanterie-Division. The division was transferred in October 1942 to Amiens, France, for training and coastal defense, and in August and September 1943 to southern Italy to defend the Salerno and Cassino areas. Although no records

of this division dated later than April 16, 1944, are available, situation maps of Lage Italien show that it took part in defensive engagements in the Orsogna, Frosinone, Lucca, Marino, Rimini, Cesena, Ravenna, and Bologna areas from April to December 1944 and in position defense in the Ferrara area in January and February 1945 and in the Imola area in March and April 1945.

| <u>Item</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Item No.</u> | <u>Roll</u> | <u>1st Frame</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| Ia, Ia/Mess., Ia/Gabo., Tätigkeitsberichte mit Anlagen, 26. Pz.Gren.-Brigade. Formation of the division on Sep 15, 1942, in Mons, Belgium, from units of the 23. Inf.Div.; training and maneuvers in the area of Amiens, France; and coastal defense between the Somme and Seine Rivers. Also, activity reports for the period Jul 7 to Nov 10, 1942, of the 26. Pz.Gren.-Brigade, which became the division staff; of the Map and Survey Officer, Jul 1, 1942 - Jul 3, 1943; and of the Chemical Warfare Officer, Jul 1, 1942 - Jun 30, 1943. The division commander was Gen.Maj. Smilo Freiherr von Lüttwitz during this period. | Jul 1, 1942 - Jul 3, 1943 | 33147/1 | 826 | 1 |
| Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht. Information on attempted British landing operations in Sep and Oct 1942, sabotage and counterintelligence activities in the Amiens area, and courts-martial. | Sep 15, 1942 - Jun 30, 1943 | 33147/3 | 826 | 70 |
| Ia, Kriegstagebuch 1, Teil I u. II. Preparations for movement of the division from Amiens, France, via Paris, Turin, Florence, and Rome, to Frascati, Italy, between Jul 9 and Aug 22, 1943; march to Atena in the Salerno area; transfer to Catanzaro; heavy enemy air attacks on railroad installations and bridges in the Catanzaro area; orders to defend the Gulf of Taranto against enemy landing operations in the Straits of Messina near Bova Marina; and retreat north toward Salerno. The division was subordinate to AOK 15, and the LXXVI. and XIV. Pz.K. at various times during this period. | Jul 1 - Nov 28, 1943 | 43873/1-2 | 826 | 105 |
| Ia, Anlagenband 1 z. KTB 1, Operationsakten, Korps- und Divisionsbefehle. | Jun 26 - Nov 29, 1943 | 43873/3-4 | 826 | 774 |
| Ia, Anlagenbände 2-3 z. KTB 1, Operationsakten, Eingegangene Meldungen, Funk- und Fernsprüche. | Jul 20 - Nov 19, 1943 | 43873/5-6 | 827 | 1 |

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|--|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| Ia, Anlagenband 6 z. KTB 1, Gefechts-, Erfahrungs- und Zustandsberichte, besondere Gefechtsberichte. | Jul 4 - Nov 15, 1943 | 43873/10-11 | 827 | 135 |
| Ia, Anlagenband 7 z. KTB 1, Sonstige Anlagen. Orders, directives, reports, maps, and charts. | Jul 10 - Nov 23, 1943 | 43873/12 | 827 | 454 |
| Ia, Kriegstagebuch 2. Retreat from one defense position to the next across southern Italy toward Orsogna, Lanciano, and Chieti on the Adriatic Sea. The division was subordinate to the LXXVI. Pz.K. during this period. | Nov 29, 1943 - Jan 27, 1944 | 43873/13 | 827 | 738 |
| Ia, Anlagenband 1 z. KTB 2, Operationsakten, Korps- und Divisionsbefehle. | Nov 22, 1943 - Jan 27, 1944 | 43873/14 | 827 | 1040 |
| Ia, Anlagenband 3 z. KTB 2, Operationsakten, abgegangene Meldungen. | Dec 2, 1943 - Jan 22, 1944 | 43873/16 | 827 | 1237 |
| Ia, Anlagenband 6 z. KTB 2, Gefechts-, Erfahrungs- und Zustandsberichte. | Dec 2, 1943 - Jan 21, 1944 | 43873/19b | 828 | 1 |
| Ia, Anlagenband 7 z. KTB 2, Sonstige Anlagen. Orders, overlays, messages, directives, and reports. | Dec 1, 1943 - Jan 19, 1944 | 43873/20 | 828 | 116 |
| Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht. Transfer of the division from France to Italy, information on enemy landing operations in Sicily and southern Italy, friction between German and Italian troops after the capitulation of Italy, and number of prisoners of war and amount of equipment captured. | Jul 1 - Nov 28, 1943 | 43873/21 | 828 | 166 |
| Ic, Anlagenband z. TB. Report concerning the change of government in Italy, intelligence bulletins, directives, text of a speech by the Duce to the Italian people, prisoner-of-war interrogation summaries, and maps and overlays of the area east of Naples. | Jul 1 - Nov 28, 1943 | 43873/22 | 828 | 201 |
| Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht. Transfer from Cassino to Orsogna and Chieti, number of prisoners of war by nationality, amount of equipment captured, and identification of enemy divisions. | Nov 29, 1943 - Jan 27, 1944 | 43873/23 | 828 | 327 |

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|---|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| Ic, Anlagenband z. TB. Directives, orders, intelligence bulletins, maps, and overlays. | Nov 29, 1943 - Jan 27, 1944 | 43873/24 | 828 | 381 |
| Ia, Anlagen z. KTB. Division orders, directives, reports, and an order of battle chart. | Feb 10, 1943 - Apr 16, 1944 | 77596 | 828 | 436 |
| Ia, Gefechtsberichte. Afteraction reports on operations in the Cisterna area in Italy. | Jan 25 - Feb 1, 1944 | 77597 | 828 | 518 |