

159. RESERVE-DIVISION - UNIT HISTORY

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DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1939/autumn	Frankfurt/a.M., Wehrkreis IX	Formation of Ers.Tr. IX, redesignation as Div.Nr. 159	Subordinate to: Stellv.Gen.Kdo. IX, 1939-1942/10/03
1942/09/21	Frankfurt/a.M.	Reorganization as the 159.ResD (source: <u>Order of Battle of the German Army</u> (Washington, March 1945))	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Hermann Meyer-Rabingen, 1942/09/20-1944/06/20
1942/09/27	Chaumont, Bar-le-Duc, Troyes, Auxerre, France	Transfer, securing the demarkation line, training	Subordinate to: AK 66 Res, 1942/10/04-1943/03/31
1942/11/03	Moulins, Digoin, Decize	Formation of Eingreifgruppe Faerber (159.ResD), assignment to the 158.ID	
1942/11/13	Nimes, Marseilles	Movement, coastal defense (Eingreifgruppe Faerber/158.ID)	
1942/12/04	Vichy, Riom, Clermont-Ferrand, Saint-Etienne	Transfer, demobilization of the French Army, security, training	

Records of the 159.ResD are reproduced on roll 1442 of Microfilm Publication T315 and are described following the unit history.

Although only a few record items of the 159.ResD were available in the National Archives for the period 1942/09/27-1943/03/31, situation maps of Lage West and Frankreich and the general officer personnel files show:

1943/04/01	Clermont-Ferrand	Security, training	
1943/07/01	Le Puy	Movement, security, training	
1943/09/24	Poitiers, Bourg	Movement, security, training	
1944/01/24	Bordeaux	Transfer, coastal defense, security, training	
1944/09/04	Poitiers, Besancon, Villersexel	Withdrawal, defensive engagements	C.O.: Gen.Lt. Albin Nake, 1944/07/01-1944/10/18 Gen.Maj. Otto Kohl mFb., 1944/09/05-1944/09/14
1944/10/09	Belfort	Reorganization as the 159.ID	Gen.Maj. Friedrich-Wilhelm Dernen, 1944/10/19-1944/12/11

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY	CHAIN OF COMMAND
1944/11/27	Mulhouse	Offensive and defensive operations	Gen.Maj. Heinrich Buercky, 1944/12/01
1945/03/19	Bad Kreuznach, Germany	Withdrawal, probably disbanded	

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 159.ResD as follows:

Belfort Gap: MS B-591 (The 159th Infantry Division, 16 Sep-1 Dec 1944), by Gen.Maj. Friedrich-Wilhelm Dernen

Besancon, Villersexel: MS B-248 (Kampfgruppe Degener, 12-14 Sep 1944), by Gen.Maj. Joachim Degener.

MS B-517 (The American Campaign on the Western Front) by Gen.Lt. Otto Kohl

MS B-530 (The 159th Infantry Division, 1939-15 Sep 1944), by Gen.Maj. Friedrich-Wilhelm Dernen

Bordeaux, Aug 1944: MS B-423 (Withdrawal of Rear Guard, 159th Division from Bordeaux to Poitiers) by Gen.Maj. Gustav Seiz

Central Germany: MS B-356 (Report on participation of the 159th Infantry Division in the Central German Campaign, 22 Mar-4 Apr 1945), by Gen.Maj. Heinrich Buercky

Lorraine: 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

Rhineland: MS B-150 (Report on participation of the 159th Infantry Division in the Rhineland campaign, 1 Dec 1944-21 Mar 1945), by Gen.Maj. Heinrich Buercky

Southern France: MS A-960 (Report concerning the retreat of the 159th Division) by Gen.Maj. Gustav Seiz.

CONTENTS	DATES	ITEM NO.	ROLL	1ST FRAME
Ia, TB. Reorganization of Div.Nr. 159 as the 159.ResD in Frankfurt/a.M., Wehrkreis IX, 21-26 Sep; transfer to the Chaumont, Bar-le-Duc, Troyes, and Auxerre areas; securing the demarkation line and the division sector, defense against enemy parachutists, and training; formation of Eingreifgruppe Faerber from division units and its incorporation into the 158.ID, 3-11 Nov 1942, for the occupation of unoccupied France; movement to the Vichy, Riom, Clermont-Ferrand, and Saint Etienne areas, 4-7 Dec; disarming the French Army; security of French Government personnel.	1942/09/27-1943/03/31	159.ResD 32658/1	1442	1
Ic, TB mit Anlagen. Counterintelligence activities, military security, attitude and morale of the French population, and troop indoctrination and entertainment.	1942/10/01-1943/03/31	159.ResD 32658/3	1442	11
IIa/IIb, TB.	1942/09/29-1943/03/30	159.ResD 32658/4	1442	23
Ib/WuG, TB.	1942/10/01-1943/03/31	159.ResD 32658/5	1442	36
IVa, TB.	1942/10/01-1943/03/31	159.ResD 32658/6	1442	42
IVb, TB.	1942/10/01-1943/03/31	159.ResD 32658/7	1442	44
IVc, TB. (There is no indication that the TBS and KTBS mit Anlagen for the period 1 Apr 1943-20 May 1944, record items 47406/1-3 and 51582/1-5 as listed in the Potsdam catalog, were ever in National Archives custody.)	1942/12/15-1943/03/31	159.ResD 32658/8	1442	46
Ia, Anlagen zum TB, Heimat, Frankreich. Orders and reports relating to reorganization, movements, billeting, training, securing of the division sector, demobilization of the French Army, command conferences, inspection trips, and the equipping and training of Eingreifverbaende; order-of-battle charts; special supply directives.	1942/10/17-1943/03/11	159.ResD 32658/2	1442	49