

73. Infanterie-Division (73d Infantry Division)

The 73. Infanterie-Division (2. Welle) was formed from reservists in Würzburg, Wehrkreis XIII, in the summer of 1939. In September of that year it was engaged in the campaign in Poland. In May 1940 it took part in the western campaign, and after the cessation of hostilities it participated in occupation duties in the Besancon area. Early in December 1940 the division was transferred to the Vosges Mountains for mountain training, and on February 20, 1941, it moved to Bucharest, Rumania. In March 1941 the division marched through Bulgaria to the Bulgarian-Yugoslav border for the Balkan campaign. On April 6, 1941, the division took part in the invasion of Yugoslavia, advancing through southern Yugoslavia into northern Greece as far as Kozani. It remained in Greece for occupation duties in May and June 1941, when it returned to Yugoslavia. In July the division marched from Belgrade through Bucharest, Focsani, Bacau, and Kishinev to an area northwest of Odessa for combat operations against Russia on July 15, 1941, advancing through the southern Ukraine into the Crimea and participating in the capture of Kerch. In November 1941 the

division was transferred to the Melitopol areas, took part in the battle of Rostov, and advanced south to Novorossisk where it engaged in position defense until June 1943. Although there are no records of the division available dated later than June 30, 1943, the situation maps of Lage Ost and Heeresgruppen A, Süd, Mitte, and Weichsel show that on July 1, 1943, the division was north of Novorossisk as part of Kampfgruppe von Büнау (with the Rumanian 1st Mountain Division). It was in the eastern Crimea north of Feodosiya on October 1, moving to the Melitopol area later in the month with part of the division defending the north-eastern coastal area of the Crimea. The division was in the Lower Dnieper area between Kherson and Zaporozhe in early November 1943, remaining in the Lower Dnieper area until early 1944. It returned to the Kerch Peninsula in February, withdrawing to Sevastopol for evacuation in late April and early May 1944. From July to October 1944 the division defended Warsaw, then retreated westward to Gabin. It was at Torun for rehabilitation in January 1945, withdrawing to the area west of Stargard in early March 1945.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Tätigkeitsbericht. Transfer of the division from Besancon to the Vosges Mountains for mountain training and billeting in the Colmar and Mulhouse areas, division orders and directives on training, and orders for movement from Mulhouse to Bucharest, Rumania, on Feb 20, 1941. The division was subordinate to Höh.Kdo. LX and the XI. A.K. during this period, under the command of Gen. Maj. Bruno Bieler.	Dec 1, 1940 - Feb 6, 1941	W 6749	1063	1
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 6 "Südost". The arrival of the division in Bucharest on Feb 25, 1941; march through Bulgaria via Giurgiu and the Sipka Pass to the Gorna-Dzhumaya area on the Bulgarian-Yugoslav border in March in preparation for the Balkan campaign; and offensives across the border to Carevo Selo, Stip, and Prilep, Yugoslavia, and to Florina, Kastoria, and Kozani, Greece. Lists of officers' duty assignments and casualties and combat and ration strength reports. The division was subordinate to the XXX. A.K., AOK 12, XL. A.K., and AOK 12 again, successively.	Feb 15 - May 5, 1941	11587/1	1063	52

73. Infanterie-Division

43

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>1st Frame</u>
Ia, Anlagenband z. KTB 6. Orders, directives, reports, messages, and an overlay.	Feb 15 - May 5, 1941	11587/2	1063	261
Ia, Kriegstagebuch des Kommandos der deutschen Truppen im Epirus. The capitulation of the Greek Epirus and Macedonian Armies, establishment of a demarcation line between the Italian and German occupation areas of Greece and Albania in Joanina, and formation of a new Greek Government under General Tsolakoglou.	Apr 21 - May 11, 1941	11587/3	1063	625
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB des Kommandos der deutschen Truppen im Epirus. Orders, directives, reports, and messages.	Apr 21 - May 11, 1941	11587/4	1063	660
Ic, Anlagenband z. TB. Intelligence reports concerning the strength of military forces in the Balkan States of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, and Yugoslavia, and in Russia, the Middle East, and North Africa. Intelligence bulletins, situation reports, and reports on road conditions in Yugoslavia before the Balkan campaign.	Jan 29 - Apr 4, 1941	11524/2	1063	781
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 7 "Ost". Movement of the division from Belgrade through Bucharest, Focsani, Bacau, and Kishinev; the crossing of the Dniester River between Dubosary and Grigoriopol; offensives northwest of Odessa to Kommissarovka; crossing of the Bug River at Nikolaev; advance toward Berislav; crossing of the Dnieper River; advance south to Perekop and Armyansk in the northern Crimea, to Dzhankoi and to Kerch. Lists of officers' duty assignments and casualties, order of battle charts, and combat and ration strength reports. The division was subordinate to AOK 11 and to the LIV. and XLII. A.K. during this period.	Jul 4 - Nov 16, 1941	16026/1	1063	879
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 7, Band 2. Corps and division orders, and afteraction reports and messages from subordinate units.	Aug 10 - Sep 9, 1941	16026/3	1063	1438
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 7, Band 3. Corps and division orders, afteraction reports and messages from subordinate units, and artillery fire plans and charts.	Sep 9 - Oct 4, 1941	16026/4	1064	1
Ia, Ic, Anlagen z. KTB 7, Band 4. Corps and division orders, afteraction reports and messages from subordinate units, artillery fire plans, overlays, intelligence bulletins, and translations of enemy situation reports.	Oct 5 - 31, 1941	16026/5	1064	459

73. Infanterie-Division

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Ia Anlagen z. KTB 7, Band 5. Corps and division orders, and afteraction reports and messages from subordinate units.	Nov 1 - 17, 1941	16026/6	1064	971
Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht. Enemy activities from the Bug River to Kerch, number and disposition of captured equipment and prisoners of war, and information on enemy units and strength.	Jul 17 - Nov 16, 1941	18564/1	1065	1
Ic, Anlagenband z. TB, Feldebefestigungen bei Perekop (Krim) b. Koluft 11. Reports and aerial photographs, with overlays, of field fortifications between Perekop and Armyansk; reports on the enemy situation and summaries of interrogations on prisoners of war; Russian order of battle charts; and sketches of Russian bunkers.	Jul 16 - Nov 16, 1941	18564/2	1065	68
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 8, Band 1. Corps and division orders concerning the capture of Kerch, afteraction reports of subordinate units on the battle of Feodosiya, and reports and messages on the transfer to the Melitopol and Mariupol areas. The division was subordinate to the XLIII. and XI. A.K. during this period, under the command of Gen.Maj. Rudolf von Binau from Jan 1, 1942.	Nov 16, 1941 - Jan 24, 1942	21394/2	1065	214
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 8, Band 2. Corps and division orders concerning combat operations along the Mius River north of Taganrog and preparations for the thaw period, antitank defense measures, reports and messages from subordinate units, order of battle charts, and afteraction and situation reports. The division was subordinate to the III. Pz.K. and the XIV. A.K. during this period.	Jan 25 - Jun 16, 1942	21394/3	1065	483
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 9. Offensives along the Mius River north of Taganrog in the Pokroskoye area, and advance east to Rostov, south to Kushchevskaya and Krimskaya, and to the Black Sea coast in the Novorossisk and Gelendzhik areas. Lists of officers' duty assignments and casualties and combat and ration strength reports. The division was subordinate to Gruppe Wietersheim, Wetzels, and Kirchner, and the XLIX. Geb.K. and V. A.K. during this period.	Jul 7 - Dec 31, 1942	27963/1	1065	861
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 9, Band 1. Army group, corps, and division orders, and reports and messages from subordinate units.	Jul 9 - Aug 4, 1942	27963/2	1066	1

73. Infanterie-Division

45

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Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 9, Band 2. Corps and division orders, afteraction reports and messages from subordinate units, and a map.	Aug 5 - 23, 1942	27963/3	1066	334
Ia, Ic, Anlagen z. KTB 9, Band 3. Corps and division orders, reports and messages from subordinate units, and afteraction reports on Operation "Xenophon" (landing operation on the Black Sea coast south of Novorossisk), translations of reports of the Rumanian 10th Infantry Division, a map, and order of battle charts. Includes intelligence bulletins and Wehrmachtnachrichtenblätter.	Aug 25 - Oct 31, 1942	27963/4	1066	718
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 9, Band 4. Army group and division orders, reports on coastal security, afteraction reports from subordinate units, reports and messages concerning training, order of battle charts, overlays, artillery fire plans, and sketches of communication lines.	Oct 26 - Dec 31, 1942	27963/5	1067	1
Ia, Kriegstagebuch 10. Regrouping and counterattacks south of Novorossisk in the Kabardinka area, and increased Russian air and naval activities in the area. Lists of officers duty assignments and casualties, combat and ration strength reports, and order of battle charts. The division was subordinate to the V. A.K. during this period.	Jan 1 - Jun 30, 1943	36612/1	1067	338
Ia, Anlagen z. KTB 10, Band 1. Division orders, reports and messages from subordinate units, artillery orders and fire plans, sketches of communication lines, reports on Russian landing operations, order of battle charts, and overlays.	Jan 1 - Feb 15, 1943	36612/2	1067	731
Ia, Ic, Anlagen z. KTB 10, Band 2. Army group, corps, and division orders, afteraction reports and messages of subordinate units, artillery orders concerning reorganization, order of battle charts, and maps and overlays; and intelligence bulletins.	Feb 15 - Apr 30, 1943	36612/3	1068	1
Ia, Ic, Anlagen z. KTB 10, Band 3. Army group and division orders, reports and messages from subordinate units, translations of reports of the Rumanian 1st Mountain Division, order of battle charts, sketches of communication lines, and overlays; and intelligence bulletins.	May 1 - Jun 30, 1943	36612/4	1068	344

73. Infanterie-Division

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Ic, Tätigkeitsbericht. Enemy activities, defense operations and fortifications, air activity, ship traffic along the coast of the Black Sea in the Novorossisk area, propaganda, overlays showing enemy units and positions, summaries of interrogations, and intelligence bulletins.	Apr 1 - Jun 30, 1943	38849	1068	685
Ia, Gefechtsberichte, Infanterie-Regiment 213. Engagements in the southern Ukraine and northern Crimea and a report of AOK 11 on the fall of Sevastopol on Jul 1, 1942.	Jul 1941 - Oct 1942	77136/1	1068	774