

  
**THE GERMAN  
REPLACEMENT ARMY  
(ERSATZHEER)**

APRIL 1944

*This document must not  
fall into enemy hands*

**MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION  
WAR DEPARTMENT  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.**



## FOREWORD

This book brings together for the first time the great amount of detailed information on the character, functions, composition, locations, and affiliations of all types of replacement units which are comprised in the German Replacement Army. This material is presented in such a form as to enable the user, after familiarizing himself with the general arrangement of the book, to look up any desired information with a minimum of delay.

The book is intended for use of intelligence personnel who are already well acquainted with the organization and mode of employment of the German Field Army as described in the *Order of Battle of the German Army*, to which it is the sequel. Its primary purpose is to enable Order of Battle specialists, document exploiters, and interrogators to trace connections between field and replacement units which may prove invaluable in their work. The military careers of prisoners of war can be traced much more accurately, many unexplained allusions in documents can be clarified, and even the identity of units in the field can be established by a proper use of this material. In addition, the Army of Invasion is provided with all details on the disposition of replacement units in the German Zone of the Interior, and the Army of Occupation will be aided in supervising the demobilization of the German Army.

Apart from the descriptive sections at the beginning and the indexes at the end, the book gives the same basic material, namely, detailed data on all specific replacement units, from three different aspects: geographically according to Wehrkreise (section III), in numerical tables of the replacement units themselves showing their locations and their affiliated field units (section IV), and in numerical tables of the field units showing their affiliated replacement units (section V). It also contains descriptions of the replacement system

of the Air Force ground organizations (section VI) and of the *Waffen-SS* (section VII).

It is emphasized that with this book even very incomplete and inaccurate information can be checked and evaluated by a liberal use of the two indexes and a thorough understanding of the interconnections of the different types of tables.

Place names usually are given only in their German form; other forms for localities in annexed or occupied territory will be found in the Index of Cities and Towns (section IX).

This text should be used in conjunction with the following other publications of the Military Intelligence Division:

- Order of Battle of the German Army* (February 1944)
- The Exploitation of German Documents*
- Military Headquarters and Installations in Germany* (March 1944)
- Staff Officers' Field Manual: Enemy Forces, Organization, Technical, and Logistical Data*, FM-E 101-10 (1942)
- German Military Abbreviations*, Special Series, No. 12 (April 12, 1943)

All comments on this publication, as well as corrections of factual detail, should be transmitted promptly and may be addressed direct to the **Dissemination Unit, Military Intelligence Division, War Department, Washington 25, D. C.**

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## Section I. INTRODUCTION

### 1. Scope of the Book

All units and all personnel in the German Army are assigned either to the Field Army (*Feldheer*) or to the Replacement Army (*Ersatzheer*). The *Order of Battle of the German Army* dealt primarily with the functions, composition, and disposition of Field Army units; the present volume, which is designed to supplement it, describes all known replacement units and lists their affiliations with units of the Field Army. It also includes sections on the replacement system and the known replacement units and affiliations of the ground organizations of the German Air Force (antiaircraft artillery and ground combat troops) and of the *Waffen-SS*.

Wherever possible, duplication of material already contained in the *Order of Battle of the German Army* is avoided. Thus it is assumed that users of this text are familiar with the regional military organization of Germany into Wehrkreise, the system of conscription, and the general principles of the replacement training system as outlined in section II of the *Order of Battle* and with the organization and functions of field units as described in section III of that book. Additional technical information on these subjects is included here only where it is believed essential to a proper utilization of the mass of tabular data which constitutes the main part of the book.

The Replacement Army is commanded by Generaloberst Fritz FROMM as the specially designated Deputy of the Commander in Chief of the Army (formerly BRAUCHITSCH, now HITLER) to take charge of all matters not directly concerned with operations in the field. It includes not only replacement units but also all permanent military installations in Germany and all training units, a

large proportion of which are now located in occupied territory. The permanent military installations are dealt with in the publication *Military Headquarters and Installations in Germany*. The training units are largely under the control of reserve divisions and as potential combat units are beyond the scope of this book. Their numbering and nomenclature are identical with those of the corresponding replacement units with the substitution of *Ausbildungs-* or *Reserve-* for *Ersatz-*. Throughout this book the following nomenclature is employed:

"Replacement training unit" is used only for an *Ersatzeinheit* before it was split into its replacement and its training elements in the autumn of 1942.

"Training unit" is used for an *Ausbildungseinheit* of any kind after it was separated from its parent replacement training unit.

"Reserve unit" is used for a training unit which is part of a reserve division.

"Combined replacement and training unit" is used for a unit containing both replacement and training elements, which were either not involved in the general separation in 1942 or were subsequently reunited under a single control.

"Replacement unit" is used for an *Ersatzeinheit* in its present sense, including the replacement function of a combined replacement and training unit.

## 2. Chain of Command of the Replacement Army

The full title of FROMM is Chief of Army Equipment and Commander of the Replacement Army (*Chef der Heeresrüstung und Befehlshaber des Ersatzheeres*). This book is concerned only with the functions which come under the second part of his title; in addition he is responsible for the design, procurement, storage, and supply to the Field Army of all the items of equipment that it needs.

Figure 2 shows the chain of command in the Replacement Army, classified according to its three principal functions of conscription, training, and replacement. The following details are relevant to this chart:

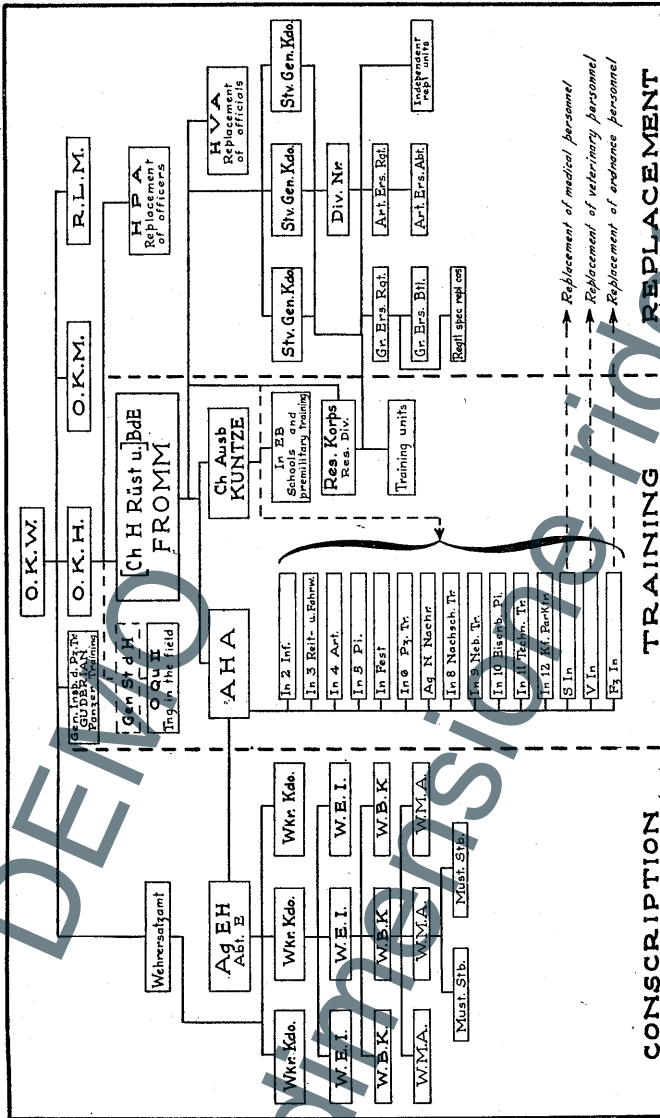


Figure 2.—Chain of Command of the Replacement Army.

*a. Conscription.*—This being a matter that concerns all three branches of the Armed Forces, it is supervised by the Military Replacement Office (*Wehrersatzamt*) of the Armed Forces High Command (*O.K.W.*). The interests of the Army are represented by the Replacement Branch (*Abteilung Ersatzwesen, Abt. E*) of the Group for Replacement and Army Matters (*Amtsgruppe Ersatz- und Heereswesen, Ag EH*) in the General Army Office (*Allgemeines Heeresamt, AHA*). Orders are issued through the various Wehrkreis headquarters (*Wehrkreiskommandos, Wkr. Kdo.*) to the Recruiting Area Inspectorates (*Wehrersatzinspektionen, W.E.I.*) and from there to the Recruiting Subarea Headquarters (*Wehrbezirkskommandos, W.B.K.*), which control the Reporting Offices (*Wehrmeldeämter, W.M.A.*) and set up from time to time in their districts the Mustering Staffs (*Musterungsstäbe, Must.Stb.*).

*b. Training.*—In the Replacement Army all training except that of the Panzer troops is supervised by General der Pioniere Walter KUNTZE as Chief of Training in the Replacement Army (*Chef des Ausbildungswesens im Ersatzheer, Ch Ausb.*). Training of the Panzer Troops is in the hands of Generaloberst Heinz GUDERIAN as Inspector General of Panzer Troops (*Generalinspekteur der Panzertruppe, Gen.Insp.d.Pz.Tr.*).

Subordinate to KUNTZE are the Inspectors of the various arms (*Waffeninspektoren*), who control the training of their respective arms through the Inspectorates of Arms (*Waffeninspektionen*), known collectively as the Arms Sections (*Waffenabteilungen*) of the General Army Office. The following are the names and authorized abbreviations of these inspectorates:

*Inspektion der Infanterie, In 2* (Inspectorate of Infantry).

*Inspektion des Reit- und Fahrwesens, In 3* (Inspectorate of Riding and Driving).

*Inspektion der Artillerie, In 4* (Inspectorate of Artillery).

*Inspektion der Pioniere, In 5* (Inspectorate of Engineers).

*Inspektion der Festungen. In Fest* (Inspectorate of Fortifications).

*Inspektion der Panzertruppe, In 6* (Inspectorate of Panzer Troops).

*Amtsgruppe Nachrichtenwesen, Ag N* (Signal Group). Formerly called *Inspektion der Nachrichtentruppen, In 7* (Inspectorate of Signal Troops).

*Inspektion der Nachschubtruppen, In 8* (Inspectorate of Supply Troops). Formerly called *Inspektion der Fahrtruppen*.

*Inspektion der Nebeltruppen, In 9* (Inspectorate of Chemical Warfare Troops).

*Inspektion der Eisenbahnpioniere, In 10* (Inspectorate of Railway Engineers).

*Inspektion der Technischen Truppen, In 11* (Inspectorate of Technical Troops).

*Inspektion der Kraftfahrparktruppen, In 12* (Inspectorate of Motor Maintenance Troops).

*Sanitätsinspektion, S In* (Medical Inspectorate).

*Veterinärinspektion, V In* (Veterinary Inspectorate).

*Feldzeuginspektion, Fz In* (Ordnance Inspectorate).

The former Inspectorate of Cadet Schools (*Inspektion der Kriegsschulen, In 1*) apparently suspended activities when the cadet schools themselves were superseded by special courses held at the special service schools (*Waffenschulen*) or by special wartime officer-candidate schools. These and all other Army schools are either under the direct control of KUNTZE or are supervised by the Inspector of Army Training and Education (*Inspekteur des Erziehungs- und Bildungswesens des Heeres, In EB*), who is responsible to him.

Training in the Replacement Army is conducted in training units, which take the form either of reserve units under reserve divisions and reserve corps subject to the direct command of FROMM (or for operational purposes of the field operational headquarters), or of combined replacement and training units (*Ersatz- und Ausbildungseinheiten*) in Germany, which are under the same command as replacement units.

Training in the Field Army is controlled by *Oberquartiermeister II—O Qu II*—in the Army General Staff (*Generalstab des Heeres, Gen St d H*), who naturally operates in close liaison with the training authorities in the Replacement Army.

*c. Replacement.*—Command of the replacement units as well as responsibility for meeting the replacement requests of the Field

Army is delegated by FROMM to the Wehrkreis headquarters in their capacity as Deputy Army Corps Commands (*Stellvertretende Generalkommandos, Stv.Gen.Kdo.*). Each of these now normally has one mobilization division (*Division Nummer . . . , Div.Nr. . . .*) to control the replacement units, either directly, as in the case of independent units of the supporting arms and services, or through the infantry and artillery regimental staffs (*Grenadier-Ersatz-Regiment, Gr.Ers.Rgt.* and *Artillerie-Ersatz-Regiment, Art.Ers.Rgt.*). It is these replacement units that are the main subject of this book.

Replacements of officers and of Armed Forces officials (*Wehrmachtsbeamte*) are the responsibility of the Army Personnel Office (*Heerespersonalamt, HPA*) and the Army Administration Office (*Heeresverwaltungsamt, HVA*), respectively.

### 3. Recent Development of the Replacement Army

The general functioning of replacement units and the manner of their affiliation with field units are explained in section II, paragraph 7, of the *Order of Battle of the German Army*, together with an outline of the stages in the development of the replacement training system since the beginning of the war. The following further details regarding the effects of the separation of replacement and training functions in 1942 will be of interest to the specialist studying the Replacement Army and will be of value in understanding the rest of this book:

*a. At corps level.*—To control the replacement functions (i.e., the dispatch of trained replacements to the Field Army) of reserve divisions a number of reserve corps (*Reservekorps*) and one or more reserve Panzer corps (*Reserve-Panzerkorps*) have been formed. Orders issued to Wehrkreis headquarters relating to these functions are now simultaneously addressed to the reserve corps, suggesting that they act as channels for replacement requisitions in the same way as Wehrkreis headquarters. On the other hand there is evidence that some of them, at least, control one or more defensive infantry divisions of the Field Army as well as their reserve divisions, and to this extent they seem to be similar to regular infantry corps or at least to corps commands (*Höhere Kommandos z.b.V.*).

*b. At division level.*—Every reserve division which has been identified so far was formerly a mobilization division. Each one controls a group of reserve regiments and supporting units from its own Wehrkreis, but the allotment of battalions within the regiment no longer necessarily follows the original pattern, which was based on the subordination of infantry regiments to the field division of the same number. Sometimes the battalions may even lose their original numbers altogether and be numbered simply I, II, and III. In other respects, also, the reserve divisions seem to have taken on the character of defensive field divisions to an increasing extent; several have gone into action on the eastern front, while others have firmly established themselves in coastal sectors in the west and are probably no longer concerned primarily with training.

In almost all cases there is now one, and only one, mobilization division in each Wehrkreis, except the four new Wehrkreise, to control the replacement units. New ones have been created either with numbers 300 or 310 higher than departed reserve divisions or by conversion of *z.b.V.* divisions.

*c. At regiment level.*—The separation of replacement and training functions occurred in the first instance at battalion level, since the former replacement training regiments were essentially only controlling staffs. A large proportion of these staffs became the staffs of reserve regiments in occupied territory and did not necessarily leave behind corresponding replacement regiment staffs. Thus there are now considerably fewer of the latter than previously, and they may control up to six or even more replacement battalions. The subordination of these battalions to infantry replacement regiments no longer necessarily corresponds to that of infantry regiments to field divisions of the same numbers. Several new infantry replacement regiments in the 500 series have been identified.

In view of these changes many of the identifications and affiliations of infantry replacement regiments listed in this book may no longer be valid.

*d. At battalion level.*—Under the original system each infantry replacement battalion normally contained a reception company (*Stammkompanie*), four training companies (*Ausbildungskompanien*)



of which the fourth was a machine-gun training company, and one or more convalescent and transfer companies (*Genesendenkompanien* and *Marschkompanien*). At the time of the split the training companies were withdrawn under the battalion staff and a new replacement battalion staff was created to control the remaining components having purely replacement functions. In some cases, apparently, the new training battalion established a *Marsch* company of its own as a pool for trained men awaiting transfer to the Field Army, while in other cases it seems to send them to the *Marsch* company of the replacement battalion.

Training units which were not physically separated from their corresponding replacement units were recombined with them, in order to save administrative personnel, under staffs known as *Grenadier-Ersatz- und -Ausbildungsbataillone* (combined infantry replacement and training battalions). These presumably have the same components as the original replacement training battalions.

The above remarks apply correspondingly to the arms other than infantry. In some of them all replacement and training units are now under combined staffs; this is true of the medical units, the armored reconnaissance units, and possibly other branches of the Panzer troops.

#### 4. Movements of Replacement and Training Units

Despite the fact that the original replacement training units were intended to remain at the home stations of their corresponding field units, acting more or less as the rear echelons of the latter, for varying reasons there have been numerous shifts of units in the Replacement Army from one part of Germany to another and from Germany into occupied territory and back again. In section III these moves are described in detail for the units of each Wehrkreis; they are summarized here for the whole of Germany according to the motives which impelled them.

*a. To make room for attacking field forces.*—In the early years of the war, when Germany still had neighbors to be attacked, the replacement training units were withdrawn from the border regions several months before an offensive was to commence in order to free


the barrack space and other military facilities for the assembling field forces. After the area was no longer being used for this purpose the replacement training units generally returned to their home stations. The following instances of such evacuations occurred:

(1) In November 1939, the replacement training units from the areas bordering France and the Low Countries, namely Wehrkreise VI, XII, and V, were moved to the extreme east of Germany and took up their stations in newly acquired territory. Those from Wehrkreis VI went to Wehrkreis XX (mostly former Polish territory), those from Wehrkreis XII to Wehrkreis XXI (western Poland), and those from Wehrkreis V to the Protectorate (Czechoslovakia). All these units were returned to their original home stations in September 1940, after the French campaign was over.

(2) The replacement training units from Wehrkreis I were transferred to the Protectorate in September 1940, just as those from Wehrkreis V were leaving that area. This made room for the initial preparations in East Prussia for the campaign against the Soviet Union, and also for the temporary housing of racial Germans repatriated from the Baltic states. The units returned to their home stations in July 1941, after the offensive had been successfully launched.

(3) In February 1941, the replacement training units of Wehrkreis VIII, the Silesian assembly area for the Russian campaign, were transferred to Alsace and Lorraine, which at that time were in process of being unofficially annexed from France and in which Wehrkreise V and XII were taking over the military administration. The units remained in these areas until after the split in the latter part of 1942, when the replacement elements returned to their home stations and the training elements were formed into reserve divisions and moved on to other parts of France.

During the absence of the replacement training units from their home Wehrkreise in the above cases, special machinery had to be set up to handle both the replacement requisitions of the field forces and the flow of conscripts into the units. Normally replacement requisitions are transmitted from a field division to the responsible Deputy Army Corps Command (Wehrkreis headquarters), which



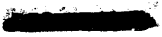
sends them on through the mobilization division to the appropriate replacement unit in the form of orders. When the units moved away from a Wehrkreis the mobilization division which went with them was designated as the direct recipient of requisitions from the field units, thus skipping the channel through the Deputy Army Corps Command. For all other administrative purposes as well as for the general supervision of their training the units came under the command of the Wehrkreis in which they were located. Contact with the home Wehrkreis was not, however, completely broken off.

New conscripts would normally be given orders by their local Reporting Office or Recruiting Subarea Headquarters to report to a replacement training unit not far from their home town. When the units moved far away it was necessary either to send these men individually or in small groups on long train journeys before induction or to assemble them in special collecting points known as *Wehrkreis-Ersatz-Depots*. The latter were also used for receiving men who returned from the field as convalescents or for any other reason, and these men sometimes then had to be transported to the appropriate replacement training units. After the units returned to the Wehrkreis these depots were dissolved.

*b. To garrison newly acquired territories.*—All the moves of replacement training units mentioned under *a*, above, and a number of other moves concurrent with or subsequent to them served the additional purpose of garrisoning the annexed or conquered areas adjacent to Germany proper and thus relieved the field forces of this responsibility. At the same time barracks and training grounds in Germany were freed for the formation of new units for the constantly expanding German Army, and the recruits were given training away from home and under conditions more like those in the field. The following moves of this category may be noted:

(1) The moves into the Protectorate, the annexed Polish areas, and Alsace and Lorraine which were described above.

(2) The move of replacement training units from Wehrkreis IV into the Protectorate (mostly Bohemia) and of units from Wehrkreis XVII into Moravia immediately following the departure of the



Wehrkreis I units from those areas. The Wehrkreis IV units left toward the end of 1942, and their place was taken by units from adjacent Wehrkreis XIII.

(3) In Wehrkreise XX and XXI, the annexed Polish areas, the units from Wehrkreise VI and XII which were mentioned under *a* above were replaced after September 1940 by units from adjacent Wehrkreise II and III, respectively.

(4) After the departure of the Wehrkreis VIII units from Alsace and Lorraine in 1942, these areas were occupied by units from the original parts of Wehrkreise V and XII, into which they were being incorporated.

(5) Wehrkreis XVIII units moved into Oberkrain (part of Slovenia) in 1942.

(6) Wehrkreis I units moved into the newly annexed areas of Zichenau and Bialystok in 1942.

(7) Wehrkreis XII units were stationed in Luxemburg in 1942.

(8) Between 1940 and 1942 a few replacement training units went into areas which were not annexed but which were close to the German frontiers and far from the theaters of operations. Thus certain units from Wehrkreis X moved into Denmark, from Wehrkreise VI and X into the Netherlands, from Wehrkreis VI into Belgium, and from Wehrkreis XII into eastern France.

It will be noted that all the above moves, except those whose primary motive was the evacuation of assembly areas, were by units in border Wehrkreise into adjacent occupied or annexed territory immediately across the border. The movements thus amounted to a slight extension of the German zone of the interior in all directions.

After the separation of replacement and training functions in the autumn of 1942 the replacement elements of the units which were still in newly acquired territories in some cases returned to their home stations to resume their normal induction and replacement functions, and the training elements were usually incorporated into reserve divisions and moved farther afield. In other cases both elements remained in the new areas and took the form of combined replacement and training units (*Ersatz- und Ausbildungseinheiten*); their present status is discussed under *d*, below.

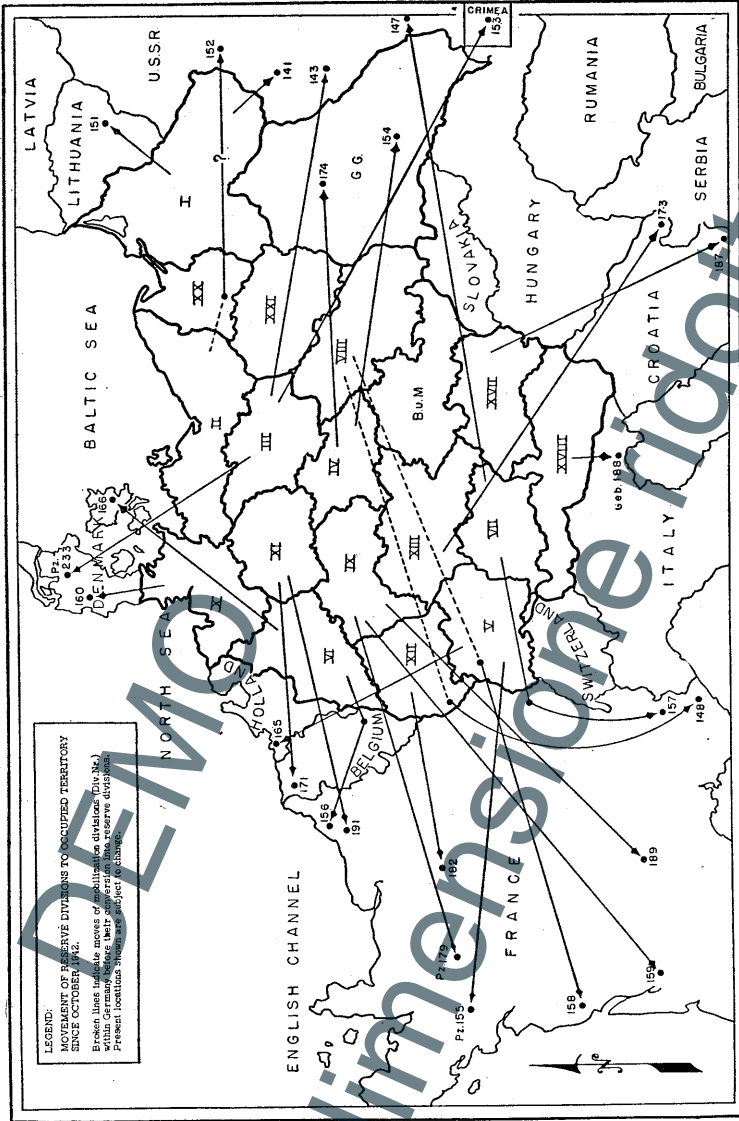


Figure 3.—Movements of reserve divisions.

*c. To garrison occupied countries with troops on a combat footing.*—The disadvantages of the removal of replacement training units from their home stations, from the administrative point of view, were almost sufficient to outweigh the advantages. For this reason, as has been shown, none of the moves except those dictated by military necessity were very far from home, and the practice of garrisoning more distant occupied territories with replacement training units was never resorted to under the old system. It was probably these considerations as much as it was the growing shortage of manpower which caused the German authorities, in September 1942, to break up all the basic replacement training units into their two elements, even though in some cases they were reunited under a new name. This made it possible for the replacement units to occupy their home stations and for the training units to enjoy complete freedom of movement. The latter were thenceforth used in large numbers to occupy different parts of France, the Low Countries, Denmark, Poland, Lithuania, the Soviet Union, Croatia, and northern Italy in the form of reserve divisions. Combined training could thus be carried on under more realistic conditions, and numerous fully organized field divisions were released for service on active fighting fronts.

The general direction of the movements of reserve divisions into occupied countries since 1942 is shown in figure 3. It will be noted that in virtually all cases the units from a given Wehrkreis went to the country nearest them, so that few of the lines of movement cross. This map will be useful in determining the approximate areas in which men from any section of Germany are now being trained.

*d. To continue the garrisoning of newly acquired areas.*—It has been shown that since 1942 some of the replacement training units stationed in areas immediately beyond the old borders of Germany have remained there as combined replacement and training units. In addition, other units of this category have been sent into these and similar areas. In Wehrkreise XX and XXI training units (*Ausbildungseinheiten*) from Wehrkreis II have appeared, and the corresponding replacement units are back at their home stations. All these units just beyond the old frontiers seem to come under the

control of mobilization division staffs, or possibly in some cases special administrative division staffs (*Div.Kdo.z.b.V.*), which are usually additional to the mobilization division (*Div.Nr.*) controlling replacement units back in the Wehrkreis proper. As they have not achieved the status of reserve divisions, these division staffs constitute a sort of intermediate stage between the system of replacement training in the Wehrkreis as originally conceived and the system of replacement in the Wehrkreis and training in occupied countries as now practiced in the majority of cases. This is in all respects parallel to the intermediate system which was applied in these same areas just before the split, and it appears to have the same advantages from the point of view of manpower and training efficiency and the same disadvantages in administrative complications.

Both the present locations and the home stations of these units are shown in the lists in sections III and IV of this book.

In the following instances belonging to this category, most of which are continuations of the moves described under *b*, above, it should be remembered that the character of this development is not yet entirely clear and that any of the units involved may turn into either reserve divisions or some new form of organization.

(1) Training units from Wehrkreis II are stationed in adjacent Wehrkreise XX and XXI under *Div.Nr.* 152. It is possible that this has turned into a reserve division and has been transferred, with its units, to White Russia.

(2) Combined replacement and training units from Wehrkreis XIII are stationed in adjacent Bohemia under *Div.Nr.* 193.

(3) Combined replacement and training units from Wehrkreis XVII are stationed in adjacent Moravia, possibly under *Div.Nr.* 177.

(4) Combined replacement and training units from Wehrkreis V are stationed in Alsace, and some may have moved into the adjacent Epinal area of eastern France, possibly under a newly formed *Div.Nr.* 465.

(5) Combined replacement and training units from Wehrkreis XII are stationed in Lorraine, and some may have moved into the

adjacent Nancy area of eastern France, possibly under a newly formed Div.Nr. 462.

(6) Combined replacement and training units, or possibly only training units, from Wehrkreis VI are believed to be in adjacent eastern Belgium.

## 5. Record-Keeping in the Replacement Army

The apparently cumbersome system of replacement affiliations can be operated efficiently only because of the traditional German fondness for complete and carefully kept records. By an elaborate array of forms and documents which are drawn up by the recruiting authorities, replacement units, training units, field units, and hospitals and which are passed back and forth among them under complicated and frequently changing regulations, it is intended that each agency concerned shall at all times have all necessary data concerning every soldier in its care and shall do its full share in keeping such records up to date and in properly advising the other agencies involved.<sup>1</sup> The following brief review of the record-keeping duties of each such agency may help users of this book in interpreting documents, prisoners' statements, and the like.

*a. Recruiting authorities.*—The competent recruiting authority (*Wehrersatzdienststelle*) is usually the reporting office (*Wehrmeldeamt*) near the man's place of residence. For officers and for Armed Forces officials, and in some localities for enlisted men as well, it is the Recruiting Subarea Headquarters (*Wehrbezirkskommando*), and for Germans residing abroad it is the *Wehrbezirkskommando Ausland* in Berlin, operating through the German consulates. At the man's first registration this authority issues to him his permanent military passport (*Wehrpass*), which remains in his possession while he is a civilian and in that of his unit while he is a soldier and follows him from unit to unit throughout his military career. It also starts a folder on the man known as the permanent military record book (*Wehrstammbuch*), to which are added all the papers subsequently sent in by all the units in which he serves. When the recruiting

<sup>1</sup> For further details concerning these forms and documents, see *The Exploitation of German Documents*, issued by the Military Intelligence Division in February 1944.




authority orders the man to report to a replacement unit it sends this document to that unit for temporary keeping, and it must also send it to the replacement unit at any future time that the man is serving there.

b. *Replacement unit.*—When the recruit arrives at his replacement unit he turns in his *Wehrpass* and receives in exchange a *Soldbuch* (literally a paybook, actually a service record and identification book). This document remains in his possession until his discharge from the Army, and every unit in which he serves is entered in it as in the *Wehrpass*, though in somewhat different form. The *Wehrpass* simply records the units in chronological sequence, with dates; the *Soldbuch* is an evidence of his responsible replacement unit at any given time, so that any reserve hospital, for example, which receives him will know what replacement unit to contact for instructions on his release. Both documents also contain much information regarding such matters as promotions, campaigns, decorations, hospitalization, equipment issue, pay, and personal data.

When a replacement unit sends a man to a training unit or to a field unit, it must enter itself in section B of page 4 of his *Soldbuch*, which is headed "sent to the Field Army by . . ." (*zum Feldheer abgesandt von . . .*). It must then forward the *Wehrpass* to the receiving unit and after a lapse of 3 weeks return the *Wehrstammbuch* to the recruiting authority.

c. *Training unit.*—The training unit, on arrival of the soldier, enters itself in his *Wehrpass* and in section C of page 4 of his *Soldbuch*, headed "Field Unit" (*Feldtruppenteil*), despite the fact that it does not belong to the Field Army. It starts a roster sheet (*Kriegsstammrollenblatt*) for him, on which are entered all significant facts concerning his previous career and his service in the present unit, including his training record. This roster sheet is sent back to the recruiting authority as soon as the man leaves the unit.

d. *Field unit.*—The field unit must go through the same operations as the training unit regarding the *Wehrpass*, *Soldbuch*, and *Kriegsstammrollenblatt*. In addition it must inform the replacement unit from which the man was sent of his joining the unit in the field. Under the original plan this was not necessary, as the replacement



unit knew automatically which field unit a man would join since it gave him orders to report to a field unit to which it was affiliated. At an early stage in the campaign in Russia, however, it was often found necessary to divert replacements to field units other than those for which they were intended, and since then the affiliation *from the replacement unit to the field unit* has been violated still more frequently in view of the interpolation of the training unit and in view of the increasingly stringent manpower shortage. The affiliation *from the field unit to the replacement unit*, on the other hand, is still carefully maintained and must always be entered by the field unit in section D of page 4 of the *Soldbuch*, headed "Present responsible replacement unit" (*jetzt zuständiger Ersatztruppenteil*). Oddly enough, this responsible replacement unit is *not* notified of the arrival of the man, and if it is different from the unit which sent him it will have no knowledge of his existence unless and until he is actually transferred back to it by the field unit or by a hospital.

*e. Hospital.*—When a man enters a hospital it must naturally notify his unit, giving particulars of his wound or illness and an estimate of the time required for cure. After 8 weeks—until recently 4 weeks—in a field hospital (half as long for Air Force personnel), or immediately upon acceptance into a reserve hospital, the institution notifies the responsible replacement unit, as seen from the *Soldbuch*, that the man is now a member of its convalescent company. It will then receive instructions from the replacement unit whether to give the man a furlough or to send him straight back to the convalescent company upon his discharge. The replacement unit requests the field unit to drop him from its rolls and to forward the *Wehrpass* and other documents.

Among the papers not mentioned in the above account but which are similarly forwarded from unit to unit under various circumstances are the health record (*Gesundheitsbuch*), the suitability card (*Verwendungskarte*, known as *V-Karte*), the roster kept by the replacement unit (*Truppenstammrolle*), and the record of punishment (*Strafbuchauszug*).

In view of the intricate nature of the rules and regulations governing the transfer of documents relating to personnel it is not surpris-



ing that German officers and noncommissioned officers frequently make mistakes in carrying them out.

## 6. Sample Case Histories of German Soldiers

The two case histories which are outlined below and illustrated in the accompanying maps and charts show how German soldiers are transferred to various units and places under different circum-

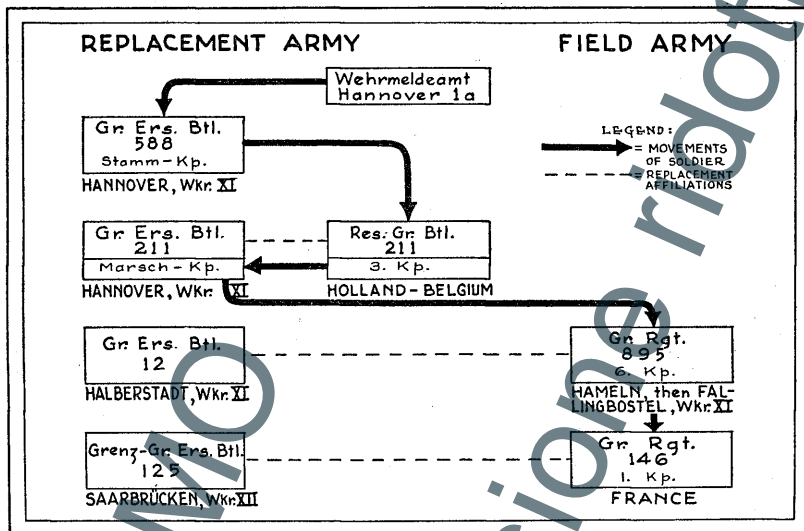


Figure 4.—Sample case history A: transfers.

stances and exemplify the system of replacement affiliations, the role of hospitals and furloughs, and other aspects of the relations between the Replacement and Field Armies. They also throw some light on the formation of new units during 1943 and the effect of Stalingrad on the mobilization program. Both are actual cases which are considered typical of the method of processing soldiers of their respective categories. It is recommended that they be studied carefully and that all units and affiliations be looked up in the appropriate tables.

a. *Sample Case History A.*—This is the brief career of a recent recruit who was inducted in January 1943 until he joined his regular field unit. (See figs. 4 and 5.) Born 1925 near Hannover. Called to the colors in January 1943 by his local reporting office (*Wehrmeldeamt*) and ordered to report to the reception company (*Stammkompanie*) of Infantry Replacement Battalion 588 at Hannover, Wkr. XI. Sent with nine other recruits immediately after induction

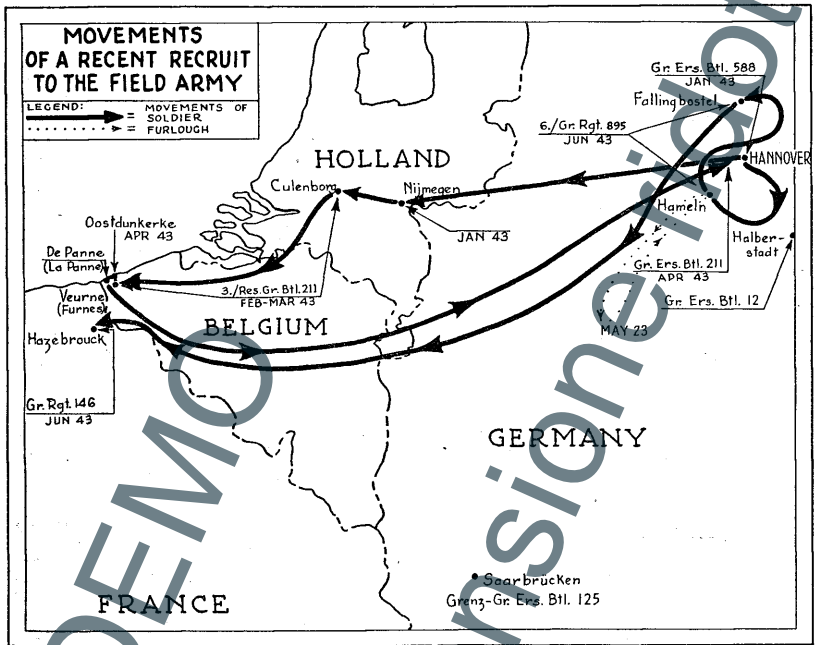



Figure 5.—Sample case history A: movements.

to a camp at Nijmegen, Netherlands, for a brief period of basic training. Transferred shortly thereafter to Culemborg, Netherlands, to join a training unit from his Wehrkreis, the 211th Reserve Infantry Battalion in the 171st Reserve Division. Its responsible replacement unit was the 211th Infantry Replacement Battalion at Hannover,

and it was to the transfer company (*Marschkompanie*) of this unit that he returned on completing his training. Sent to Hameln in June to join the 895th Infantry Regiment, a component of the 265th Infantry Division which was in process of being set up by Wehrkreis XI. He was now for the first time in the Field Army, although located in his home Wehrkreis. An existing Wehrkreis XI replacement unit, the 12th Infantry Replacement Battalion at Halberstadt, had been made responsible for the new regiment, and he would have been sent to this battalion if for any reason he had been transferred back to the Replacement Army.

The mobilization of the 265th Infantry Division was temporarily interrupted when it was decided to reconstitute the divisions destroyed at Stalingrad at the expense of the new units which had been planned. In the general redistribution of manpower inside Germany which followed on this decision it happened that this man's company (6.Gr.Rgt. 895) was sent to the Fallingbösel training area on the Lüneburger Heide (still in Wehrkreis XI) and there split up. He and some others were sent to the Channel coast to join the 146th Regiment of the 65th Infantry Division, a unit which had begun forming in 1942 but which had apparently had to give up some personnel to help re-form the Stalingrad divisions.

His present replacement unit as a member of the 146th Infantry Regiment is the 125th Frontier Infantry Replacement Battalion at Saarbrücken in Wehrkreis XII. This battalion was originally the replacement training unit left behind by the 125th Frontier Infantry Regiment, which operated as an independent GHQ unit until after the Balkan campaign in 1941. In Greece the 125th Regiment became a part of the 164th Division, which then belonged to Wehrkreis IV, and later it was motorized and sent to Africa; all this involved changes in its replacement affiliation. This meant that the 125th Infantry Replacement Battalion was relieved of its responsibility for the regiment whose number it bears, and it was eventually designated as the responsible replacement unit for a number of new units set up by Wehrkreis XII, including several fortress battalions and the 145th and 146th Infantry Regiments of the newly formed 65th Infantry Division. Thus this is the unit to which this



soldier will return if he is transferred back to the Replacement Army because of illness, wounds, demobilization, or any other circumstances.

b. *Sample Case History B.*—This case concerns a seasoned soldier who was wounded in the Soviet Union and returned to the Replacement Army for rehabilitation before being reassigned to a field unit.

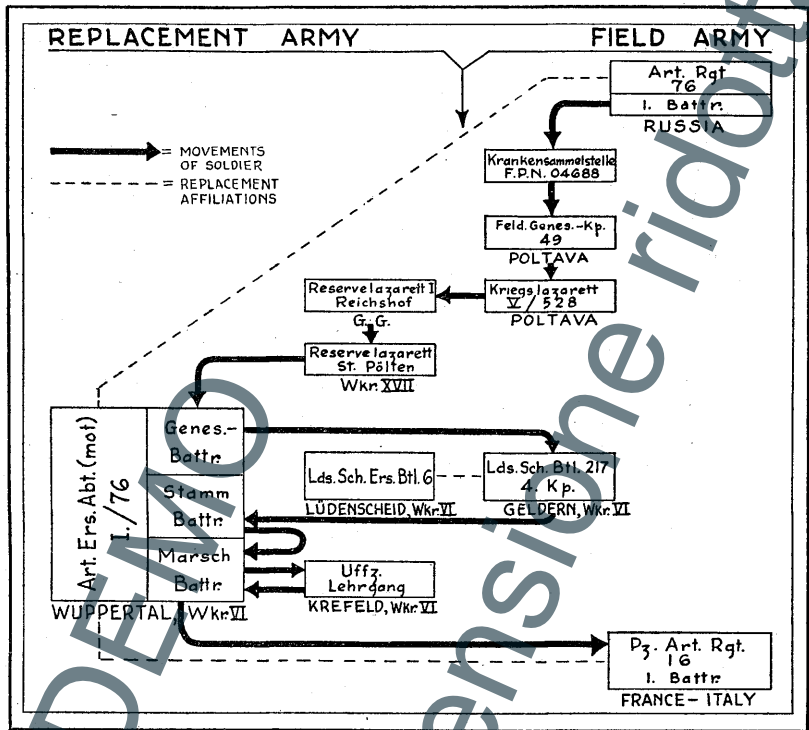


Figure 6.—Sample case history B: transfers.

(See figs. 6 and 7.) Born in 1917 and inducted in November 1938. Took part in the Polish and Western campaigns, and in 1941 went to the Soviet Union with the 1st Battery of the 76th Motorized Artillery Regiment in the 6th Panzer Division. The responsible re-



## Infantry replacement battalions (Gr.Ers.Btl.): (Continued)

- 44 Bartenstein
- 46 Goldap
- 151 Rastenburg (now at Bialystok)
- 162 Lyck
- 176 Heilsberg
- 301 Königsberg
- 311 Bischofsburg
- 312 Tilsit
- 346 Allenstein (now at Lomscha)
- 356 Allenstein (now at Praschnitz)
- 389 Sensburg
- 400 Lötzen (now at Augustow)
- Pz.Gr. 413 Insterburg
- 492 Schröttersburg
- 493 Modlin
- 494 Zegrze
- Jäg. A Arys
- Jäg. B Arys

## Anti-aircraft-machine-gun replacement battalion (Fla.Ers.Btl.):

- 31 Heiligenbeil

## Reconnaissance replacement battalions (Aufkl.Ers.Abt.):

- 1 Angerburg
- 206<sup>1</sup> Allenstein

## Panzer reconnaissance replacement battalion (Pz.Aufkl.Ers. Abt.):

- 24 Insterburg

## Antitank replacement battalion (Pz.Jäg.Ers.Abt.):

- 1 Allenstein

## Artillery replacement regimental staffs (Art.Ers.Rgt.):

- 1 Insterburg
- 11 Allenstein

<sup>1</sup> Identified only as reconnaissance replacement troop (*Schwadron*).



## Artillery replacement battalions (Art.Ers.Abt.):

- 1 Königsberg
- 11 Allenstein
- 21 Scharfenwiese
- s. (mot) 37 Mohrungen
- s. 47 Heilsberg
- le. 161 Insterburg
- 206 Gumbinnen
- 217 Allenstein
- le. (mot) 228 Pr.Eylau

## Observation replacement battalion (Beob.Ers.Abt.):

- 1 Königsberg

## Engineer replacement battalions (Pi.Ers.Btl.):

- 1 Königsberg
- 206 Lötzen
- 311 Modlin

## Construction-engineer replacement battalion (Baupi.Ers.Btl.):

- 1 Modlin

## Signal replacement battalion (Nachr.Ers.Abt.):

- 1 Königsberg

## Supply-troop replacement battalion (horse-drawn) (Fahr-Ers.Abt.):

- 1 Königsberg

## MT-supply-troop replacement battalion (Kf.Ers.Abt.):

- 1 Bartenstein

## Motor maintenance replacement company (Kf.Park-Ers.Kp.):

- 1 Königsberg

## Medical replacement battalion (San.Ers.Abt.):

- 1 Tapiau

Veterinary replacement battalion (Vet.Ers.Abt.):

1 Allenstein

Local-defense replacement battalion (Ldsch.Ers.Btl.):

1 Braunsberg

Special light infantry replacement regiment (Jäg.Ers.Rgt.):

1 Arys

Special penal battalion (Sonder-Abt.d.Ers.H.):

I Stablack training area

*i. Movements of replacement and training units.*—Beginning in September 1940 most of the replacement training units from this Wehrkreis were stationed in the Protectorate. They returned in July 1941.

Since the autumn of 1942 combined replacement and training units of Wehrkreis I have been stationed in the Zichenau and Bialystok areas, which are newly incorporated parts of the Wehrkreis.

Early in 1943 reserve units from this Wehrkreis were transferred to White Russia under 141.Res.Div.and to Lithuania under 151.Res.Div.



Figure 13.—Wehrkreis VI.

## g. Divisions mobilized:

## Infantry:

Div (inf regts)	Date	Present theater
6 (18, 37, 58)	pre-1939	East
16 (see 16th Pz and 16th Mtz)	pre-1939	
26 (39, 77, 78)	pre-1939	East
39 (113, 114)	summer 1942	East
69 (159, 193, 236)	summer 1939	
	(from reservists)	East
86 (167, 184, 216)	summer 1939	East
95 (278, 279, 280)	September 1939	
	(from reservists)	East
106 (239, 240, 241)	December 1940	East
126 (422, 424, 426)	October 1940	East
196 (340, 345, 362)	early 1940	
	(from Ersatz units)	Norway
199 (341, 357, 410)	late 1939	Norway
211 (306, 317, 365)	summer 1939	
	(from Landwehr personnel)	East
227 (328, 366, 412)	summer 1939	
	(from Landwehr personnel)	East
253 (453, 464, 473)	summer 1939	
	(from Ergänzungs units)	East
254 (454, 474, 484)	summer 1939	
	(from Ergänzungs units)	East
264 (891, 892, 893)	summer 1943	Balkans
306 (579, 580, 581)	late 1940	East
326 (751, 752, 753)	late 1942	West
329 (551, 552, 553?)	late 1941	East
371 (669, 670, 671)	May 1942	East
385 (537, 538, 539)	winter 1941-42	(considered disbanded)
716 (726, 736)	April 1941	West

## Motorized:

16 (60, 156)	summer 1940	
	(from elements 16th Inf)	East

## Light:

1 (see 6th Pz)	pre-1939	
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g. *Divisions mobilized* (Continued):

## Panzer:

6 (4, 114)	-----	autumn 1940	
		(from 1st L.)	----- East
16 (64, 79)	-----	summer 1940	
		(from 16th Inf)	----- East
25 (146, 147)	-----	early 1942	----- East

## Reserve:

156	-----	autumn 1942	
		(from Div.Nr.)	----- West
166	-----	early 1943	
		(from Div.Nr.)	----- Denmark

h. *Replacement units:*

## Mobilization divisions (Div.Nr.):

176 Bielefeld  
526 Wuppertal

## Special administrative division (Div.Kdo.z.b.V.):

406 Münster

## Infantry replacement regimental staffs (Gr.Ers.Rgt.):

6 Osnabrück  
(mot) 16 Rheine  
26 Düsseldorf  
Pz.Gr. 57 Wuppertal  
69 Soest  
86 Herford  
211 Köln  
227 Bonn?  
253 Aachen  
254 Lingen?  
536 Düsseldorf?

## Infantry howitzer replacement companies (Inf.Gesch.Ers.Kp.):

6 Osnabrück  
26 Düsseldorf  
(mot) 57 Wuppertal  
86 Herford  
211 Köln-Mülheim  
254  
536 Düsseldorf

*h. Replacement units (Continued):*

## Infantry antitank replacement companies (Inf.Pz.Jäg.Ers.Kp.):

6 Iserlohn  
 16 Rheine  
 26 Düsseldorf  
 69 Soest  
 211 Köln-Mülheim  
 227 Bonn  
 253 Aachen  
 254

## Infantry signal replacement companies (Inf.Nachr.Ers.Kp.):

26  
 (mot) 57 Werth b.Bocholt  
 211 Köln-Mülheim  
 253 Aachen  
 254  
 536 Düsseldorf

## Infantry engineer replacement companies (Inf.Pi.Ers.Kp.):

(mot) 57 Borken  
 69 Minden  
 211 Köln-Deutz

## Infantry replacement battalions (Gr.Ers.Btl.):

Pz.Gr. 4 Iserlohn  
 18 Bielefeld  
 37 Osnabrück  
 Füs. 39 Goch  
 58 Münster  
 (mot) 60 Rheine  
 Pz.Gr. 64 Wuppertal  
 77 Mülheim/Ruhr  
 78 Geldern  
 (mot) 156 Lingen  
 159 Minden  
 167 Herford  
 184 Herford  
 193 Detmold  
 216 Herford  
 236 Detmold  
 306 Köln-Mülheim  
 317 Köln-Riehl  
 328 Aachen

- WEISSENFELS, IV: 114, 115, 223, 232, 244
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- WELS, XVII: 182, 186, 187, 233, 240
- WENDORF, STETTIN-, II: 99, 248
- WERDER, III: 318
- WERSCHETZ (VRŠAC), Serbia: 336
- WERTH, Kreis Borken in Westfalen, VI: 130, 221
- WESEL, VI: 126, 131, 236
- WESERMÜNDE, X: 157
- WESTHOVEN, Köln-, VI: 132, 244
- WETZLAR, IX: 148, 153, 154, 240, 246
- WIELKAWIEŚ (GROSSENDORF), XX: 196
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- WIEN-EBERSDORF, XVII: 188, 248
- WIEN-KAGRAN, XVII: 252
- WIEN-LAXENBURG, XVII: 187, 236
- WIEN-STAMMERSDORF, XVII: 319
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- WIENER NEUSTADT, XVII: 27, 42, 182, 187, 240, 243
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- WIESBADEN, XII: 168, 171, 172, 212, 214, 217, 219, 221, 227, 327
- WIESBADEN-BIEBRICH, XII: 42
- WILDFLECKEN, XIII:\* 148, 336
- WINDISCH-FEISTRITZ, XVIII: 192, 219
- WISCHAU (VYŠKOV), B.u.M.: 51, 202
- WISMAR, II: 98, 230, 252
- WITTENBERG, IV: 110, 252
- WITTLICH, XII: 172, 228, 233
- WITTSTOCK, III: 321
- WŁOCŁAWEK (LES LAU), XXI: 42, 201
- WOCHEINER VELLACH (BOHINJSKA BELA), XVIII: 60, 193, 194, 243,
- WOHLAU, VIII: 140, 144, 231
- WOLDENBERG, Neumark, II: 94
- WOLFENBÜTTEL, XI: 251
- WÖRGL, XVIII: 43, 58
- WÖRMLITZ, HALLE-, IV: 319
- WORMS, XII: 168, 173, 245
- WÜNSDORF, III: 50, 51
- WUPPERTAL, VI: 126, 129, 130, 131, 132, 212, 214, 217, 227, 231, 240
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## Z

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- ZAMOSCH (ZAMOŚĆ), G.G.: 335
- ZEGRZE, I: 90, 233
- ZEITHAIN, IV: 110
- ZEITZ, IV: 114, 232
- ZERBST, XI: 69
- ZGIERZ, XXI: 77
- ZICHENAU (CIECHANÓW), I: 86, 88, 92, 212
- ZIRNDORF, XIII: 252
- ZITTAU, IV: 110, 114, 232
- ZNAIM (ZNOJMO), XVII: 182, 186, 187, 188, 228, 241, 247

\* WILDFLECKEN, located in Wehrkreis XIII, is the headquarters of a training area which is partly in Wehrkreis XIII and partly in Wehrkreis IX but is under the jurisdiction of the latter.