

Barry Forrest

1 Sturm Kompanie, 1/14 Abteilung, 14 Infantry Regiment, 78th Sturm Division

The 78th Infantry Division's home location was Tübingen. It was first mobilized in 1939 in Stuttgart. The division consisted of the 195th, 215th, and the 238th Infantry regiments. The division was supported by a field artillery regiment, a reconnaissance battalion, an anti tank battalion, an engineer battalion, a signal battalion, field replacement battalion, and divisional support troops.

The OKH held the division in reserve during the fighting in Northern France in May 1940. The 798th conducted occupation duty in France until April 1941. The division was sent to Poland in April 1941. The 78th division was assigned to Army Group Center for operations in the Soviet Union.

The 238th regiment was withdrawn from the division and the 14th Infantry Regiment was assigned. The division participated in all Army group Centers major campaigns on the Eastern Front. The division achieved such a good record that it was renamed the 78th Sturm (Assault) Division.

The division received additional anti-tank resources in the form of AT guns, panzer fausts, and panzerschrecks. The division became a major force in the defense of Orsha. The division was given the town of Orsha to defend and hold in June 1944. 5th Panzer Division and the 505th Schwere Panzer Abteilung (Tiger) supported the 78th in the defense. The division withdrew from Orsha by late June 1944 and began a long retreat with the remnants of Army Group Center. The division covered 200 kms losing all its heavy equipment and the division commander, MG Traut along the way.

The division continued to fight through Poland, Silesia, and Czechoslovakia until surrendering.