

BRIEF CHARACTERISTICS OF THE 72D GUARD KRASNOGRAD INFANTRY DIVISION

The formation of the Division started on December 15, 1941 relying on the order № 00121 dated December 4, 1941 to the troops of the Central Asian military district.

The Division was formed in the Central Asian military district in AKMOLINSK city of the Kazakh SSR.

The Division was sent to the theatre of military operations on July 10, 1942 by the order № 07 OII 64 of the Army.

The Division arrived to the place of destination, station ZHUTOVO of Stalingrad railway, on July 17, 1942. Since that time the Division took part in the Patriotic War.

Initially the Division was formed under № 459, and then by the order № 004 dated January 18, 1942 the Division obtained № 29, finally by the order of the People's Commissar of Defence of the USSR № 104 dated March 1, 1943 the Division, distinguished itself in the Stalingrad battle, transformed into the 72d Guard Division.

By the order of the Supreme Commander dated September 19, 1943 to celebrate Krasnograd taking the Division was given the name KRASNOGRAD.

During the Patriotic War with German-Nazi invaders the Division took part in the following operations:

1. The battle at STALINGRAD / July 1942 – February 1943
2. Liquidation of Belgorod-Kharkiv bridgehead of German troops / March – August 1943
3. Battles for the liberation of Ukraine from German-Nazi invaders / since August 1943

Participation in the battles at STALINGRAD is divided into the following stages:

a/ defensive battles on the far side of STALINGRAD on the Eastern bank of the Don river and the South-Western side of STALINGRAD on the Northern bank of Aksay river from July 19 to August 11 1942 with the aim to retain the territory and to save time for the concentration of operational reserves in the region of Western STALINGRAD.

b/ defensive battles on the near side of STALINGRAD at the region of the station ABGONEREVO during August 18-29, 1942 with the aim to protect STALINGRAD from enemy.

c/ defensive battles at STALINGRAD near Yelkhi city from September 2 till December 28 of 1942 with the aim, first of all, to prevent enemy's break to the Volga river to the South from STALINGRAD, and then – to cover troops, accomplishing mission to surround STALINGRAD group of enemies, from the South

d/ operation on destruction of encircled at STALINGRAD German-Nazi troops from January 15 to February 2 of 1943

As a result of the battles on destruction of encircled German-Nazi troops near STALINGRAD, the Division destroyed 5245 and captured 13147 enemy soldiers and officers. Three general was among captives. Military trophies are:

armored trains – 1, steam locomotives - 2,coaches – 320,
tanks - 19, prime movers - 190, automobiles – 1390,
motorcycles – 699, bicycles – 718, pieces of ordnance – 182,
machine-guns – 268, rifles - 4175, submachine guns – 1866,
pistols – 410, radio sets - 19 carts - 2317, and
a lot of other military equipment

By the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR for the excellent accomplishing of assigned tasks 1,544 persons were awarded orders and medals.

Material was provided by the State Archive of Astana