

## THE 29<sup>TH</sup> RIFLE DIVISION

### Formation and military studies.

December 1941. A small city Akmolinsk seemed calm and outlandish. Grey houses grimly drooped among snow banks, steeped by cold Siberian winds and snowstorm. Here the artillery shooting, heavy explosions of air bombs were not heard.

The Red Army after heavy defense battles began to counterattack and drove fast the Germans to the west. Over Rostov, Kalinin, Tikhvin, Klin, (unclear), Narofominsk and other cities of the country the Red flags were risen up again. The enemy got harsh strikes but still was strong.

The front required new reserves. By the order of the Comrade Stalin in December 1941 the 29<sup>th</sup> rifle division which entered the first reserve army was created. Into the division 106, 128, 299 rifle regiments, 77 artillery regiment, a separate anti-tank battalion, separate battalions of combat engineers, connection and other special subdivisions entered.

The personal composition of the division mainly was comprised out of the military ages of population of Akmola, Karaganda, North-Kazakhstan regions and some young people of temporarily occupied regions of Ukraine and Belarus. They were physically healthy people. Each of them was eager to master the military art and go to the front. The days of the combat training began. The classes were stressful, under the conditions of severe Siberian winter. The tactical trainings were conducted, continuous marches and no one of wrestlers and commanders offended all these hardships and deprivations. Each one knew that the war itself is even harder and harsher.

### **Defense of Stalingrad**

The occupation of the new defensive frontier coincided with the issue of the order to the Armies of Stalingrad front as of 1 September 1942, in which it was said: “No step back! Do not let the

enemy to the Volga, defend the city of Stalingrad. It was the demand of our people, our Motherland. The Military Council demanded resilience and courage from all the warriors, commanders and political workers, from all the defenders of Stalingrad in the fight with the presumptuous enemy.

The warriors did not have time really to entrench, and the rival began to undertake the harsh attacks for the defensive areas of division. Germans hurried. They had to conquer Stalingrad as soon as possible to deploy the onset to Moscow.

For the small group of fighters of the troop of the lieutenant Kalyada Germans undertook psychological attacks. German automatic riflemen went without the head-dresses, cried. But the soldiers knew the nature of the enemy. Not for the first time they repulsed the psychological attacks. A group of cowards met Germans with the aimed fire, dissipated them, and partially eliminated, put to flight. At the same day the troop of the lieutenant Kalyada reflected three more harsh German attacks. Germans lost the killed till 300 soldiers and officers.

Ten automatic riflemen headed by the political chief Ryazanov started to fight with the whole battalion of the enemy infantry. Being surrounded by Germans the courageous automatic riflemen did not stagger. They ran to the enemy and with the fire of the automat they cleared the way out from the circle, and eliminated tens of Hitler soldiers and officers. With the unusual courage our soldiers fought by defending the legendary town which had the name of our leader Stalin.

The warriors will never forget the commissar of the division of the senior battalion commissar Shursh and head of the political department of the battalion commissar Kiselyev. They have always been the warriors and they have always been there where it was hot and difficult. They were limitless loved by the warriors.

In one of the hot fights on 4 September 1942 the commissars Shursha and Kiselyev died a hero's death. At the big square in Beketovka near the unmarked grave of the heroes of the civil war the

warriors and commissars buried their favorite ones. At the grave they swore to revenge to the enemy for their death.

During Stalingrad defense in the units the movement of shooters was widely spread. The shooter of the rifle troop (text illegible) political instructor Saenko, when he went to hunt, was lying in ambush daylong and without a miss defeated the fascists. He had one especially lucky day when he “discarded” 12 heinies.

### **Defeat of Germans near Stalingrad**

Since the moment of the start of the general attack on 10 January, the division was at the second serial of the 64th army. On 14 January the division with the assigned and supporting units got the task and started the battle. By breaking the resistance of the enemy, since 15 January the division conducted a ceaseless attack.

For three days of the battle alone the units of the division eliminated hundreds of Hitler's forces and seized the trophies: 10 tanks, 550 cars, 150 tractors, 130 motor-cycles, 8 canons and much other military equipment.

In these battles from the sphere of fighters, commanders and political workers tens of names glorious for the courage were put forward. Many warriors and commanders died in a blaze of glory, many were wounded and evacuated in the hospital, but their heroism inspired warriors for new deeds.

The troop executive on the political issue lieutenant Mikheev from the 128<sup>th</sup> rifle regiment for the night from 15 to 16 January with the group of 12 automate gunners, by forwarding met the huge concentration of the rivals. By assessing the setting he decided to turn aside and come from backside. Here they annihilated 20 Hitler's forces and captured 30 ones. By sending the captives

to the rear area Mikheev continued to fulfill the task. They killed 40 more Germans and took captive 100 people. Besides, they captured huge trophies.

In this operation the Red Army men became distinguished, among whom: (surname is text illegible), Kosenko, Vorobyev, and sergeant (surname is text illegible).

The sergeant major Suryachenko from (text illegible) rifle division revealed great courage. Together with the cook Korzhov they took captive 18 soldiers of the rival. It was at night. By following his forwarding subdivisions the sergeant major Siryachenko and the cook (surname is text illegible) were carrying the supper for the warriors in the field kitchen. In front of them they noticed the enemy soldier jumped into the blindage. Siryachenko took the rifle and flung there. In the blindage there were four Rumanians. "Put your hands in the air!", ordered Siryachenko. Because of the shock of seeing the Russian soldier the Rumanians immediately yielded themselves prisoner without resistance. Thus, two bold spirits took captive 14 Rumanians and Germans.

The fearlessness in the battle the medical instructor of the battalion aid station of the medical care of the troop Taisiya Dubrovnenco showed. In the heat of battle on 15 January, under strong artillery fire of the adversary Dubrovnenco took out from the field of war 32 (the figure is not exact, text illegible) wounded and rendered first aid.

After six-day battles the situation at the front of the army was still tensional. The adversary by using the heights of the south-eastern and north-eastern village Peschanka, the settlements Starodubovka and Peschanka made a stout resistance. During following four days the units of the division fulfilled the private tasks, arranged themselves and carried out training to the offensive actions on the breakthrough of the defensive zone of the adversary.

In the units the delegation, party and Komsomol meetings on the conclusions of the offensive battles. At these meetings the communists and Komsomols discussed the results of the previous battles and marked the specific events on the elimination of the shortages. At the meetings the

great attention was paid to the avant-garde role of the communists and Komsomols, the examples of the self-sacrificing actions of the members and candidates of the party and Komsomols who even unto death fought with the enemy, conducted battle of the non-party warriors.

The past battles were abound with the majority of critical shortage when under the intense fire of the enemy one had to hit the ground, the critical situation occurred. In such cases the communists and Komsomols revealed the initiative and by the personal example they led the warriors forward.

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В 14

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