



## 79th Rifle Division

**File Number: 51110079**

**Last Updated: 8 November 2005**

The Division was formed in April 1940 by the People's Commissariat of Defense Order No 0/2/104056 dated 10 April 1940 ordering the reorganization of the 79th Mountain Rifle Division, then located on Sakhalin Island. During the war with Germany, it never left the island, but instead kept an eye on the Japanese. On 18 August 1945, it assisted in the destruction of the Japanese 88th Infantry Division and helped the 56th Rifle Corps to take the southern half of the island from the Japanese by the 25th of August, thereby earning its honorific title, "Sakhalinskaya". If Soviet forces conducted an amphibious assault, or were permitted an occupation force on Hokkaido, the heavy forces would most likely come from this Corps. After the war, it received the Headquarters, 644th Divisional Artillery Brigade to control all of the divisional artillery assets. It remained on the island until 1957 when it was reorganized into the 79th Motorized Rifle Division.

### Active Dates for the Great Patriotic War:

9 August 1945 – 3 September 1945

### Division Commanders:

27 January 1939 – 14 May 19421 (promoted to General-Major on 4 June 1940)	KomBrig Ivan Alekseevich MAKARENKO
15 May 1942 – 27 June 1942	General-Major Aleksandr Mikhailovich MAKSIMOV
28 June 1942 – 3 September 1945 (promoted to General-Major 16 October 1943)	Colonel Ivan Pavlovich BATUROV

### Honors and Awards:

14 September 1945                      Awarded the honorific title "Sakhalinskaya"

### Division Honorific Title:

*79th Sakhalinskaya Rifle Division*

### Divisional Units:

157th Rifle Regiment  
165th Rifle Regiment  
179th Rifle Regiment  
Headquarters, 644th Divisional Artillery Brigade (added in 1945)  
284th Artillery Regiment  
487th Howitzer Artillery Regiment  
251st Independent Anti-Tank Battalion (renamed to the 163rd Independent Anti-Tank Battalion in 1940/41)  
251st Independent Anti-Aircraft Battalion  
788th Mortar Battalion (added in 1941/42)  
360th Independent Tank Battalion  
9th Reconnaissance Battalion  
43rd Sapper Battalion  
187th Independent Signals Battalion (first reorganized into the 134th Independent Signals Company in 1942, then to the 931st Independent Signals Battalion in 1944)

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<sup>1</sup> As you can see, KomBrig Makarenko was appointed Division Commander when it was still the 79th Mountain Rifle Division.

211th Medical-Sanitation Battalion  
 180th Auto-Transport Company (reorganized into 376th Auto-Transport Battalion, then 805th Auto-Transport Company)  
 138th Repair-Reconstruction Company  
 121st Field Bakery  
 32nd Divisional Hospital (re-designated 79th Mobile Field Hospital)  
 177th Divisional Veterinary Clinic  
 32nd Divisional Artillery Repair Workshop  
 58th Field Postal Station  
 1043rd Field Cash Office of State Bank

### Operations:

Western Byelorussian and Western Ukraine Campaign

### Assignments during the Great Patriotic War:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Front</i>	<i>Army</i>	<i>Corps</i>
<b>1941</b>			
22 June 1941	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 July 1941	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 August 1941	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 September 1941	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 October 1941	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 November 1941	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 December 1941	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
<b>1942</b>			
1 January 1942	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 February 1942	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 March 1942	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 April 1942	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 May 1942	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 June 1942	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 July 1942	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 August 1942	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 September 1942	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 October 1942	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 November 1942	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 December 1942	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
<b>1943</b>			
1 January 1943	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 February 1943	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 March 1943	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 April 1943	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 May 1943	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 June 1943	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 July 1943	Far Eastern Front	-	Special Rifle Corps
1 August 1943	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 September 1943	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 October 1943	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps

<i>Date</i>	<i>Front</i>	<i>Army</i>	<i>Corps</i>
<b>1943</b>			
1 November 1943	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 December 1943	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
<b>1944</b>			
1 January 1944	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 February 1944	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 March 1944	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 April 1944	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 May 1944	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 June 1944	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 July 1944	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 August 1944	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 September 1944	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 October 1944	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 November 1944	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 December 1944	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
<b>1945</b>			
1 January 1945	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 February 1945	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 March 1945	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 April 1945	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 May 1945	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 June 1945	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 July 1945	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
1 August 1945	Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
9 August 1945	2nd Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps
3 September 1945	2nd Far Eastern Front	16th Army	56th Rifle Corps