



81st Rifle Division (I Formation)

File Number: 51110081A

Last Updated: 8 November 2005

1st Formation:

The Division was formed in 1923 in Kaluga in the Moscow Military District initially as a territorial Rifle Division. It remained there until 1924/25 when it was transferred to the Byelorussian Military District. In September 1939, it was mobilized and transferred to the Kiev Special Military District where it was assigned to the 8th Rifle Corps, 5th Army to take part in the invasion of Poland. It remained in the western Ukraine until January 1940 when by order of the People's Commissariat for Defense (Order No. 4/2/103005 dated 31 December 1939) it was ordered to reorganize into a Motorized Division.

Active Dates for the Great Patriotic War:

17 September 1939 – 28 September 1939

Division Commanders:

Unknown

Honors and Awards:

None

Division Honorific Title:

81st Rifle Division

Divisional Units:

202nd Rifle Regiment (I Formation)(formerly 241st Rifle Regiment)
253rd Rifle Regiment (I Formation)(formerly 242nd Rifle Regiment) (disbanded in January 1940)
323rd Rifle Regiment (I Formation)(formerly 243rd Rifle Regiment)
125th Artillery Regiment (I Formation) (formerly 81st Artillery Regiment)
142nd Howitzer Artillery Regiment (disbanded in January 1940)
58th Reconnaissance Battalion
66th Sapper Battalion
102nd Independent Signals Battalion
90th Medical-Sanitation Battalion
98th Auto-Transport Battalion

Operations:

Western Byelorussian and Western Ukraine Campaign

Assignments during the Great Patriotic War:

Not Applicable



81st Rifle Division (II Formation)

File Number: 51110081B

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2nd Formation:

The Division was formed on 29 July 1941 by the official re-designation of the 81st Motorized Division into the 81st Rifle Division, although this had been a reality for a few weeks. At this time, it was in Front Reserves, trying to get its act together through its reorganization. It was finally sent to the front line at the end of September 1941. But by this time it was to rebuild what was left of the Southwestern Front after being encircled at Kiev. It remained with the 21st Army until the Spring of 1942 when it was transferred to the 38th Army. It remained there until June when it was further south to help rebuild the 9th Army after Khar'kov. The 9th Army took the full force of the German summer offensive. It retreated all the way back to the southern part of the Don River. There Stavka decided that the 9th Army was too weak to be much good so it decided to reorganize it. First, it ordered that all of its forces be transferred to the 37th Army, then moved the headquarters to Vladikavkaz in the Caucasus. Unfortunately it was determined, probably by the 37th Army commander, that the 81st Division was too weak to rebuild, so he ordered it disbanded. It took over a month for the paperwork get to the General Staff and gain their approval. The Division was officially disbanded on 27 September 1942.

Active Dates for the Great Patriotic War:

29 July 1941 – 27 September 1942

Division Commanders:

29 July 1941 – 1 January 1942	Colonel Andrei Pavlovich NIKOLAEV
2 January 1942 – 15 February 1942	General-Major Vasilii Stepanovich SMIRNOV
17 February 1942 – 27 February 1942	General-Major Kuz'ma Il'ich GORYUNOV
28 February 1942 – 16 April 1942	Colonel Vladimir Ivanovich DRIVEN
17 April 1942 – 9 July 1942	Colonel Fedor Alekseevich PIMENOV
10 July 1942 – 14 August 1942	Lieutenant Colonel Grigorii Georgievich ZAV'YALOV
15 August 1942 – 27 September 1942	Lieutenant Colonel Aleksandr Grigor'evich SOKOLOV

Honors and Awards:

None

Division Honorific Title:

*(Carried over from the 81st Motorized Division)
81st Rifle Division*

Divisional Units:

53rd Rifle Regiment (new)
202nd Rifle Regiment (reorganized from 202nd Motorized Rifle Regiment)
323rd Rifle Regiment (reorganized from 323rd Motorized Rifle Regiment)
125th Artillery Regiment (from 125th Howitzer Artillery Regiment)(renamed 667th Artillery Regiment in 1942)
84th Independent Anti-Tank Artillery Battalion
79th Independent Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion
58th Reconnaissance Company (reorganized from 58th Reconnaissance Company)
66th Sapper Battalion

102nd Independent Signals Battalion
 90th Medical-Sanitation Battalion
 98th Auto-Transport Battalion
 74th Mobile Field Bakery (renamed from 74th Field Bakery)
 177th Divisional Artillery Repair Workshop
 242nd Field Postal Station (renamed from 166th Field Postal Station)
 358th Field Cash Office of State Bank

Operations:

Donbass-Rostov Strategic Defensive Operation
 (Sumy-Khar'kov Front Defensive Operation)
 Battle of Khar'kov
 Voronezh' -Voroshilovgrad Strategic Defensive Operation
 (Valuiki-Rossosh Front Defensive Operation)

Assignments during the Great Patriotic War:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Front</i>	<i>Army</i>	<i>Corps</i>
1941			
1 August 1941	Southwestern Front	-	-
1 September 1941	Southwestern Front	-	-
1 October 1941	Southwestern Front	21st Army	-
1 November 1941	Southwestern Front	21st Army	Oper. Group Nedvigina
1 December 1941	Southwestern Front	21st Army	Oper. Group Nedvigina
1942			
1 January 1942	Southwestern Front	21st Army	-
1 February 1942	Southwestern Front	21st Army	-
1 March 1942	Southwestern Front	21st Army	-
1 April 1942	Southwestern Front	38th Army	-
1 May 1942	Southwestern Front	38th Army	-
1 June 1942	Southwestern Front	38th Army	-
1 July 1942	Southwestern Front	9th Army	-
1 August 1942	North Caucasus Front	9th Army	-
1 September 1942	INACTIVE	-	-



81st Rifle Division (III Formation)

File Number: 51110081C

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3rd Formation:

The Division was formed on 13 October 1942 by the reorganization and expansion of the 135th Rifle Brigade (I Formation), which at the time was assigned to the Bryansk Front's 48th Army. It took part in the Soviet winter offensives of 1942/43, pushing the Germans back to west of Orel. It then moved south and participated in the formation of the Kursk bulge in the late winter and its defense during the summer. After helping in the elimination of the Orel bulge, it spent some time in Stavka Reserves where it rested and regrouped. In the winter of 1943/44, it took part in the first offensives into Byelorussia, which failed. After resting again in Stavka Reserves, in the summer of 1944 it took part in the offensives in the western Ukraine and southeastern Poland. It then was transferred south to help in clearing the Carpathian mountain range and eastern Czechoslovakia. As the war was ending, it took part in the final destruction of German forces on the Eastern Front. After the war, it was ordered to disband as part of the order establishing the Northern Group of Forces (Stavka VGK Order No. 11097 dated 29 May 1945). It faded out of existence a few months later. The number was not used again for a Rifle Division.

Active Dates for the Great Patriotic War:

13 October 1942 – 20 February 1944

18 April 1944 – 11 May 1945

Division Commanders:

13 October 1942 – 24 December 1943 Colonel Aleksandr Borisovich BARINOV
(promoted to General-Major 31 March 1943)

25 December 1943 – 10 August 1944 Colonel Ivan Pavlovich KHORIKOV

11 August 1944 – 9 May 1945 Colonel Iosif Ivanovich MATUSEVICH

Honors and Awards:

15 January 1944

Awarded the honorific title "Kalinkovichskaya"

5 April 1945

Awarded the Order of Red Banner

4 June 1945

Awarded the Order of Suvorov II Class

Division Honorific Title:

81st Kalinkovichskaya Red Banner Order of Suvorov Rifle Division

Divisional Units:

410th Rifle Regiment
467th Rifle Regiment
519th Rifle Regiment
346th Artillery Regiment
240th Independent Anti-Tank Artillery Battalion
154th Reconnaissance Company
196th Sapper Battalion
625th Independent Signals Company (reorganized to 582nd Independent Signals Battalion on 23 November 1944)
163rd Medical-Sanitation Battalion
15th Independent Chemical-Defense Company
185th Auto-Transport Company
926th Divisional Veterinary Clinic
1780th Field Postal Station
1737th Field Cash Office of State Bank

Operations:

Voronexh-Khar'kov Strategic Offensive Operation
(Voronezh-Kastornoye Front Offensive Operation)
(Orel-Maloarkhangel'sk Front Offensive Operation)
Khar'kov Strategic Defensive Operation
Kursk Strategic Defensive Operation
(Orel-Kursk Front Defensive Operation)
Orel Strategic Offensive Operation 'Operation Kutuzov'
(Kromyv-Orel Front Offensive Operation)
Byelorussian Strategic Offensive Operation
(Gomel-Rechitsk Front Offensive Operation (I))
(Gomel-Rechitsk Front Offensive Operation (II))
(Kalinkovichi Front Offensive Operation (I))
(Kalinkovichi Front Offensive Operation (II))
L'vov-Sandomiers Strategic Offensive Operation
(L'vov Front Offensive Operation)
(Sandomierz Front Offensive Operation)
West Carpathian Strategic Offensive Operation
(Kosice-Poprad Front Offensive Operation)
(Bel'sk Front Offensive Operation)
Moravia-Ostrava Front Offensive Operation
Prague Strategic Offensive Operation
(Glomout Front Offensive Operation)

Assignments during the Great Patriotic War:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Front</i>	<i>Army</i>	<i>Corps</i>
1942			
1 November 1942	Bryansk Front	48th Army	-
1 December 1942	Bryansk Front	48th Army	-
1943			
1 January 1943	Bryansk Front	48th Army	-
1 February 1943	Bryansk Front	13th Army	-
1 March 1943	Bryansk Front	13th Army	-
1 April 1943	Central Front	13th Army	-
1 May 1943	Central Front	13th Army	-
1 June 1943	Central Front	13th Army	-

<i>Date</i>	<i>Front</i>	<i>Army</i>	<i>Corps</i>
1943			
1 July 1943	Central Front	13th Army	29th Rifle Corps
1 August 1943	Central Front	70th Army	-
1 September 1943	Stavka Reserves	61st Army	29th Rifle Corps
1 October 1943	Central Front	61st Army	29th Rifle Corps
1 November 1943	Byelorussian	61st Army	29th Rifle Corps
1 December 1943	Byelorussian	61st Army	89th Rifle Corps
1944			
1 January 1944	Byelorussian	61st Army	89th Rifle Corps
1 February 1944	Byelorussian	61st Army	89th Rifle Corps
1 March 1944	Stavka Reserves	-	-
1 April 1944	Stavka Reserves	3rd Guards Army-	21st Rifle Corps
1 May 1944	1st Ukrainian Front	3rd Guards Army	-
1 June 1944	1st Ukrainian Front	3rd Guards Army	21st Rifle Corps
1 July 1944	1st Ukrainian Front	3rd Guards Army	21st Rifle Corps
1 August 1944	1st Ukrainian Front	3rd Guards Army	21st Rifle Corps
1 September 1944	1st Ukrainian Front	3rd Guards Army	76th Rifle Corps
1 October 1944	1st Ukrainian Front	3rd Guards Army	76th Rifle Corps
1 November 1944	1st Ukrainian Front	38th Army	101st Rifle Corps
1 December 1944	4th Ukrainian Front	38th Army	101st Rifle Corps
1945			
1 January 1945	4th Ukrainian Front	38th Army	52nd Rifle Corps
1 February 1945	4th Ukrainian Front	38th Army	67th Rifle Corps
1 March 1945	4th Ukrainian Front	38th Army	67th Rifle Corps
1 April 1945	4th Ukrainian Front	1st Guards Army	67th Rifle Corps
1 May 1945	4th Ukrainian Front	1st Guards Army	67th Rifle Corps