



*The 8<sup>th</sup> Guards Rifle Corps race toward Minsk.*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Guards Rifle Regiment Tom Kearny

*First Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Guards Rifle Regiment was assigned to the 8<sup>th</sup> Guards Rifle Corps. The 8<sup>th</sup> Rifle Corps was reformed in 1942 and had received its Guards honorific title, becoming the 8<sup>th</sup> Guards Rifle Corps. The corps took part in Operation Mars in November 1942 and then, as part of the 11<sup>th</sup> Guards Army, led the way during the great battle of Kursk in July 1943. In the spring of 1944, the 8<sup>th</sup> Guards Rifle Corps found itself as a special assault corps in the newly formed 3<sup>rd</sup> Byelorussian Front under General Colonel Chernyakhovskiy.*

*On June 24<sup>th</sup> 1944, the 11<sup>th</sup> Guards Army, with its 8<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 36<sup>th</sup> Guards Rifle Corps, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Guards Tank Corps attacked into the teeth of the Germans defenses as a part of the great Operation Bragratiun.*

*A combined force of the 8<sup>th</sup> Guards Rifle Corps and 2<sup>nd</sup> Guards Tank Corps liberated Orsha on the morning of 27 June. The 11<sup>th</sup> Guards Army and the 8<sup>th</sup> Guards Rifle Corps were crucial in opening the Road to Minsk for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Byelorussian Front.*

*After liberating Orsha, the 8<sup>th</sup> Guards Rifle Corps forced crossings of the Berezina River, south of Borisov. Together with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Guards Tank Corps, they crossed the Berezina River and raced on to Minsk, capturing the city by the end of the first week in July, accomplishing the Fronts objective for the first stage of Bagration.*

**Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Guards Rifle Regiment:** Aleksandr Bardinov

**Komissar, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Guards Rifle Regiment:** Pytor Dobrinski

**Attachments:** 4<sup>th</sup> Company, 517<sup>th</sup> Mine-roller and Flame Tank Regiment.

**Detachments:** None