

## History Jerry Poore

The 7th Reserve Army was formed 28 May 1942 as part of the RVGK (Stavka Reserve). Within one month, this force had been designated the 62nd Rifle Army. From July 1942 until March 1943, the 62nd Army, under the command of General [Vasily Chuikov](#), fought in the Battle of Stalingrad. 62nd Army conducted an epic defense of the city's center that repelled repeated and desperate attacks by the German [6th Army](#) were unable to overcome. The Army, along with the 64th Army, was operating under the Soviet [Stalingrad Front](#). After the German assault at Stalingrad had come to utter disaster, the 62nd Army was uniquely awarded the Order of Lenin, and granted Guards status while also being renamed the [8th Guards Army](#).



On 1 November 1942 during the height of the Battle of Stalingrad, the 62nd Army commanded the [13th](#), 37th, and [39th Guards](#) Rifle Divisions, the [45th](#), 95th, 112th, 138th, [193rd](#), 284th and 308th Rifle Divisions, the 42nd, 92nd, 115th, 124th, 149th, and 160th Rifle Brigades, the 84th Tank and 2nd Motor Rifle Brigades, the 115th Fortified Region, and 20 regiments of howitzer, gun, antitank, mortar, rocket, and anti-aircraft artillery among other support units.<sup>[1]</sup> Many of these formations were burnt-out shells by the end of the Battle of Stalingrad, with many formations reduced to hundreds of men.<sup>[2]</sup>

Originally the **193rd Rifle Division** was established at [Korosten](#) in the [Ukrainian SSR](#) in May 1941. It comprised the 685th, 883rd, and 895th Rifle Regiments, 384th Light Artillery Regiment, and 393rd Howitzer Regiment on 22 June 1941.<sup>[1]</sup> Fighting with [5th Army](#) under [31st Rifle Corps](#) under Colonel A.K. Berestov, it took part in the counterstroke north from [Berdichev](#) in early July 1941. The division was destroyed at Kiev in September 1941 and disbanded.

The division was reformed at Sorotschinik during May 1942, and fought during the [Battle of Stalingrad](#) under [62nd Army](#), commanded by Colonel Smekhotvorov, where it was ferried from the east to the west bank of the Volga. On 22 September 1942 the first regiment was sent over and five nights later, on the 27th, the other two regiments went. The two reinforcing were deployed in the Red October factory complex. On 1 October, in a fierce German attack, the Division was mauled and pushed back. On 2 October 1942, the division, defending the western part of the Red October Factory - the kitchens, bath house and workers' flats - counter-attacked Hill 107.5<sup>[2]</sup>. The regiments, down to 200 men, were unequal to the task and were pushed back by German tanks and infantry. Chuikov, writing in 1963, said between 13 and 20 November all the survivors of the 193rd Rifle Division (Smekhotvorov) were consolidated into the 685th Rifle Regiment - the grand total was 250 men.<sup>[3]</sup> However John Erickson says that by 11 November 1942 the Division was reduced to 1,000 personnel.<sup>[4]</sup> Rebuilt again, the division fought in Belorussia and Poland. By May 1945 it was operating with the [105th Rifle Corps](#), [65th Army](#) of the [2nd Belorussian Front](#).<sup>[5]</sup>

