

## **4<sup>th</sup> Kuban Guard Cossack Regiment**

**By**  
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Most Cossack regiments were named for the area that they lived in. The Kuban Cossack came into being when many Don Cossacks face direct Russian rule and moved east to the Kuban River near Caucasus under the protection of the Turks in the 1600's.

The 12th Cavalry Division had the honorific title of "Kuban Cossack Division", it was formed in January 1942 at Krasnodor as part of the 17th Cavalry Corps under the command of general Nikolay Kirichenko. It first saw combat in June 1942. It became the 9th Guard Cavalry Division in August 1942 and the Corps became the 4th Guard Cavalry Corps. The 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Division consisted of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Kuban Cossack Cavalry Regiment.

During the opening phase of the Battle of Stalingrad, when the Germans overran the Kuban, the majority of the Cossack population, long before the Germans began their agitation with Krasnov and Shkuro, became involved in Partisan activity. Raids on the German positions in the Caucasus mountains became commonplace. After the German defeat at Stalingrad, the 4th Guards Kuban Cossack Corps, strengthened by tanks and artillery, broke through the German lines and liberated Mineralnye Vody, and Stavropol.

For the latter part of the war, although the Cossacks did prove especially useful in reconnaissance and rear guards, the war showed that the age of horse cavalry had come to an end. The famous IVth Guards Kuban Cossack Regiment which took part in heavy fighting in the course of the liberation of Southern Ukraine and Romania was allowed to proudly march on the Red Square in the famous Victory parade of 1945.

