



13th Tank Corps, 64th Army



During the battles around Kiev in the late summer of 1941 the 13th Tank Corps, as well as many other units, was destroyed. The corps was reconstituted in early 1942 and Major General of Tank Forces P.E. Shurov was appointed its commander. On 2 June 1942 the corps was in the city of Kupiansk, east of the Donets River, and came under control of the Southwestern Front's 28th Army. Operation Blue, the German 1942 southern offensive, began and the 13th Tank Corps was tasked with liquidating enemy forces that crossed the northern Donets. Between 9-15 June 1942 the corps was involved in intense combat and suffered very heavy casualties. To off-set these losses the 158th and 167th Tank Brigades joined the corps, and the severely depleted 88th Tank Brigade was transferred to another corps. From 16-20 June 1942 the corps defended between the Donets and the Don rivers, again suffering heavy casualties. The corps then conducted a fighting withdraw toward the Don River between 21 June and 1 July. General Shurov was killed on 1 July and was succeeded by his chief of staff, LTC Zhdanov. On 5 July 1942 the corps was withdrawn to refit and resupply and was transferred to the 64th Army under Lt General Shumilov.

The corps received the 6th Guards, 13th, and 254th Tank Brigades and transferred the remnants of the 158th and 167th to other tank corps. During the battles in and around Stalingrad the corps was heavily engaged. The 133rd Tank Brigade (separate), consisting of heavy KV-1 tanks, was often tasked with supporting the corps. While conducting operations in September and October 1942 the corps lost most of its tanks. Beginning in November 1942 the corps received several mechanized brigades to make up for the losses. At this time the corps should have been designated a Mechanized Corps but, instead, retained its number "13." Even Soviet sources offer conflicting views of what the corps was at this time. In December 1942 the corps fought with the 51st, 57th, and 2nd Guards Armies in the battles south of Stalingrad. On 9 January 1943, in recognition of its actions, the 13th Tank/Mechanized Corps was redesignated as the 4th Guards Mechanized Corps.

References: Armchairgeneral.com, Wikipedia.

