

COMBAT OPERATIONS OF THE 1st AND 5th GUARDS MECHANIZED CORPS IN THE NOVA
PRAGA-NOVOSTARODUB DISTRICT 22-29.10.1943

One of the regional centers of Ukraine, the city of Kirovograd (now Kropyvnytskyi) was liberated in January 1944. However, the first opportunity to liberate Kirovograd arose at the end of October 1943.

On October 15, 1943, the troops of the 2nd Urkain Front launched an offensive operation to liberate the city of Krivoy Rog. On the night of 10/18/1943, the 5th Guards Mechanized Corps of the 5th Guards Tank Army crossed to the right bank. The commander of the 2nd Ukrainian Front, General of the Army Ivan Konev ordered to concentrate the corps near the village. Stout in the reserve of the front.

On 10/22/1943, the mechanized corps received an order to destroy the enemy grouping in the area of the villages of Novo-Starodub, Petrovo, Zelenoe and to advance on the city of Znamenka. At the end of the day they started a battle for the village of Novo-Starodub. 10/24/1943 in the morning the corps crossed the Ingulets River and captured the village of Novostarodub. Further parts of the corps attacked New Prague.

The successful advance of the corps continued until the afternoon of 10/26/1943. The corps captured Pavlovka, Mitrofanovka and began a battle for the Mederovo station. At the end of the day, attacks by German tanks began in the area of the village of Golovkovka and the Sharovka station.

On 10/26/1943, the 1st Guards Mechanized Corps approached the combat area. He received an order to develop the offensive in the direction of Kirovograd. The tank group of the corps moved ahead, followed by motorized infantry and artillery.

10/27/1943 against the 5th Guards. the mechanized corps, the enemy threw the 24th Panzer Division, which had arrived from Italy the day before. All day, Soviet troops fought for New Prague, the village of Zarudny Bayrak and the Mederovo station.

10/28/1944 enemy attacks against units of the 5th Guards. MK have intensified. The Germans used up to 150 aircraft against the hull. The corps stopped advancing completely. From 12.00 the radio and telephone communication with the building was interrupted.

At that time, the tank group of the 1st Guards Mechanized Corps managed to reach the Sharovka and Chabanka stations. However, soon parts of the 1st Guards. MK also found themselves under the blows of enemy aircraft, artillery and tanks. The tank group of the corps was cut off and communication with it was interrupted. Motorized riflemen repulsed 4 attacks on the village of Dubovoy.

Also, 30 tanks with infantry attacked from the Kutsovka station to Camelyuzhki. 20 tanks attacked from Chechelevka to Chabanka. 8 "tigers" advanced to the Olympics. The corps tankers fought surrounded in the area of the village of Plavni, 25-30 km from the southwestern outskirts of Kirovograd. The corps motorized riflemen fought in the Petrokorbovka and Cameljuzhka areas.

Also, on 10/28/1943, the infantry of the 13th Guards Rifle Division entered the combat area. The division did not clash with the enemy until 11:00 and carried out a normal march. The division headquarters was in Camel.

On October 29, after the bombardment by aviation and artillery preparation, the enemy threw a mass of tanks into battle, including "tigers". The 5th Guards Mechanized Corps were forced to retreat from the village of Zarudny Bayrak, Mederovo, Art. Sharovka and New Prague. Divisions

of the 13th Guards. SD from 10.30 the division, together with the remnants of the 1st Guards Mechanized Corps in scattered groups, began a spontaneous retreat to the left bank of the river. Ingulets. 5th Guards. mechanized corps at 15.00 began to withdraw to the eastern bank of the river. Ingulets. Thus, the first attempt to liberate the city of Kirovograd failed.

Sources: combat logs of the 2nd Ukrainian Front, 5th Guards Tank Army, 1st and 5th Mechanized Corps, 13th Guards Rifle Division; R. Forczyk. *The Dnepr 1943: Hitler's eastern rampart crumbles (Campaign)* Paperback - March 22, 2016.