

broken up as replacements for other units in May (but not officially dissolved until July)

### **-52 Cavalry Division**

Formed on 8 July 1941 at Novocherkassk, North Caucasus District; dissolved (as remnants) on 13 March 1942

- \* **ASSIGNED:** North Cauc Dist in early 7/41; 13 Army, 7-9/41; Group Yermakov (of Bryansk Front), 9-10/41; 13 Army, 10-11/41; 3 Army, 11-12/41; Kostenko's Group (of Bryansk Front), 12/41-1/42; VIII Cav Corps, 1-3/42 (this corps was also assigned to Bryansk Front)
- \* **UNITS:** 81, 105, 117 Cav Regts
- \* **COMMANDER:** N.P. Yakunin
- \* **CAREER:** Entered the line in mid-July 1941 for Battle of Smolensk [\*], July through 10 Sept then retreated east; Defense of Moscow [\*], 30 Sept-10 Nov; in Oct was in Bryansk pocket, but escaped and in Nov fought near Tula; Moscow Counterattack [\*], 6 Dec 1941 to 7 Jan 1942; by 1942 the Div was practically worn out; nonetheless it saw a little more action in the Bolkhov offensive [\*], 8 Jan through March, when the remnants of the Div were dissolved.

### **-53 Cavalry Division**

Formed on 6 July 1941 at Stavropol, North Caucasus District; on 27 Nov 1941 became 4 Guard Cav Div

- \* **COMPOSITION:** Most of the personnel were Don Cossacks
- \* **ASSIGNED:** North Cauc Dist in early 7/41; Dovator's Cav Group, 7-11/41 (became III Cav, then II Guard Cav Corps). Dovator was subordinate to 29 Army, 7-8/41; to West Front, 8-10/41; to 16 Army, 10-11/41.
- \* **UNITS:** 12, 50, 74 Cav Regts
- \* **COMMANDER:** K.S. Melnik (he stayed on with 4 Gd CD)
- \* **CAREER:** Entered the line for the first time on 20 July; fought in Battle of Smolensk [\*], 20 July to 10 Sept - raided 9 German Army near Rzhev (NE of Smolensk) in Aug; retreated toward Moscow in Oct (by Volokalamsk); Defense of Moscow [\*], 1 Oct-19 Nov - fought well and therefore was promoted

### **-54 Cavalry Division**

Formed on 8 July 1941 in Moscow District; destroyed on 18 June 1942

- \* **ASSIGNED:** Moscow Dist, early 7/41; 34 Army, 7-8/41; Northwest Front, 8-10/41; 29 Army, 10-11/41; Kalinin Front, 11-12/41; 31 Army, 1-2/42; 39 Army, 2-5/42; Kalinin Front, 5-6/42
- \* **COMMANDER:** Yu.N. Valitz
- \* **UNITS:** 83, 89, 119 Cav Regts
- \* **CAREER:** Entered the line in early Aug 1941 near Staraya Rossiya for Battle of Smolensk [\*], Aug through 10 Sept (in counterattack against the flank of German