

Polish Cavalry in World War II

About Polish cavalry on the Russian side

1. Independent Cavalry Brigade "Warsaw"

From June 1944, the brigade was part of the 1st Polish Army, which fought as part of the 1st Belorussian Front, and participated in the operations: Bagration, Vistula-Oder, Pomerania and Berlin.

Units

1st Cavalry Regiment [1\)](#)

2nd Lancer Regiment [2\)](#)

3rd Lancer Regiment

4. Mounted Artillery Division (with 12 pcs. 76 mm cannon)

12. Engineer squadron

History

The brigade was formed on 29 April 1944 at Zhitomir (in the Kiev Military District). The brigade had the 1st Cavalry Regiment set up in the autumn of 1943 as its basic unit. The organization followed the Polish 1939 organization, albeit with a greater number of heavy weapons. 1st Cavalry Brigade continued - perhaps to an even greater extent than other Polish units - the pre-war traditions; among other things, several of the unit designations correspond to Cavalry Brigade Suwalska.

After the end of the war, the 1st Polish Cavalry Division was formed, with the 1st Cavalry Brigade as the foundation. From 15 May 1945, the 4th Mounted Artillery Division was transformed into the 4th Mounted Artillery Regiment.

57. Anti-tank division was formed in 1945 by bringing together the anti-tank squadrons of the regiments. It is not known whether it is before or after the war.

Organization - cavalry regiment

- Regimental staff
- Staff squadron
- Signal platoon
- Three squadrons
- Each with 3 platoons (each squadron had a total of 18 light machine guns)
- Machine gun squadron
- 12 pcs. medium heavy machine gun
- Anti-tank squadron 4
- pcs. 45 mm anti-tank gun Mortar
- squadron 6 pcs.
- 82 mm mortar Cannon
- squadron 4 pcs.
- 76 mm "infantry gun"

In total: 1,165 men.

Sources

1. *Red Death, Soviet Mountain, Naval, NKVD, and Allied Divisions and Brigades 1941-1945* af Charles Sharp, Bind VII i serien *Soviet Order of Battle World War II - An Organizational History of the Major Combat Units of the Soviet Army*, George F. Nafziger 1995.
 2. *Seelow 1945 - The decisive battle on the Oder* af Richard Lakowski, Brandenburg Publishing House, 1999, ISBN 5894880848.
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To note

- 1) In Source 2's list of units participating in the Berlin operations, only the 2nd and 3rd are mentioned. Lancers Regiment; the reason for this is not known. Other sources I have access to only mention the 1st Polish Cavalry Brigade, but do not specify which units are included in it.
- 2) Despite the designation "lancer regiment", the two units were not, as far as is known, equipped with lances.