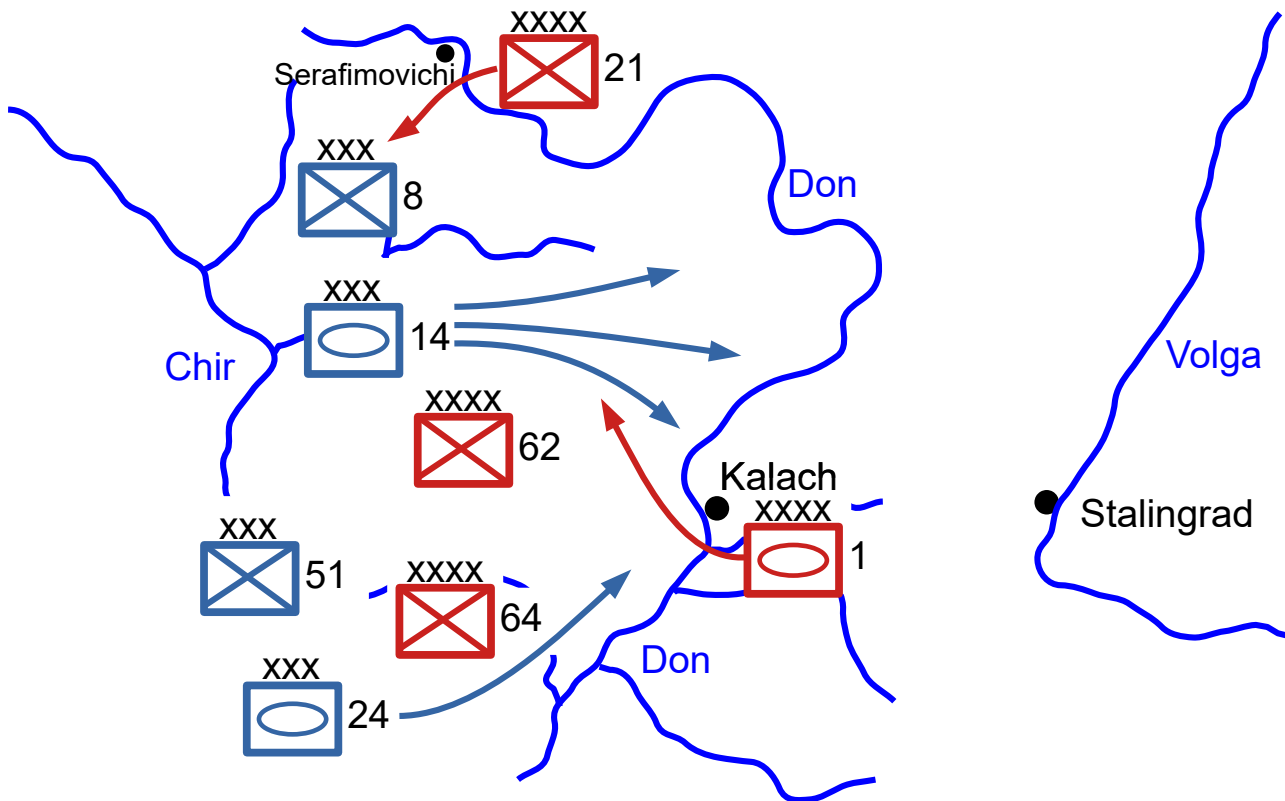


## Battle of Kalach

July 25-27, 1942

German 14TAC (16TD, 3, 60MIDs) received an order to advance to the east, across the Liska river to the Don river, then turn right and move south in the gap between rivers. 24TAC (24TD and 297ID) is moving towards 14TAC from the bridgehead near Ryzhov (from south to north). Both strike groups are meet west of Kalach. Infantry divisions from 8AC: 100LID, 376, 305, 113 and 44IDs are advancing from the west, putting pressure on Soviet positions. The Germans broke through the front of 192RD 62A in the area: Kletskeya, Manoilin and developing their actions in cooperation with the southern group of 51AC operating in the Nizhne-Chirskaya area (pic.1).



Pic.1 - General operation map

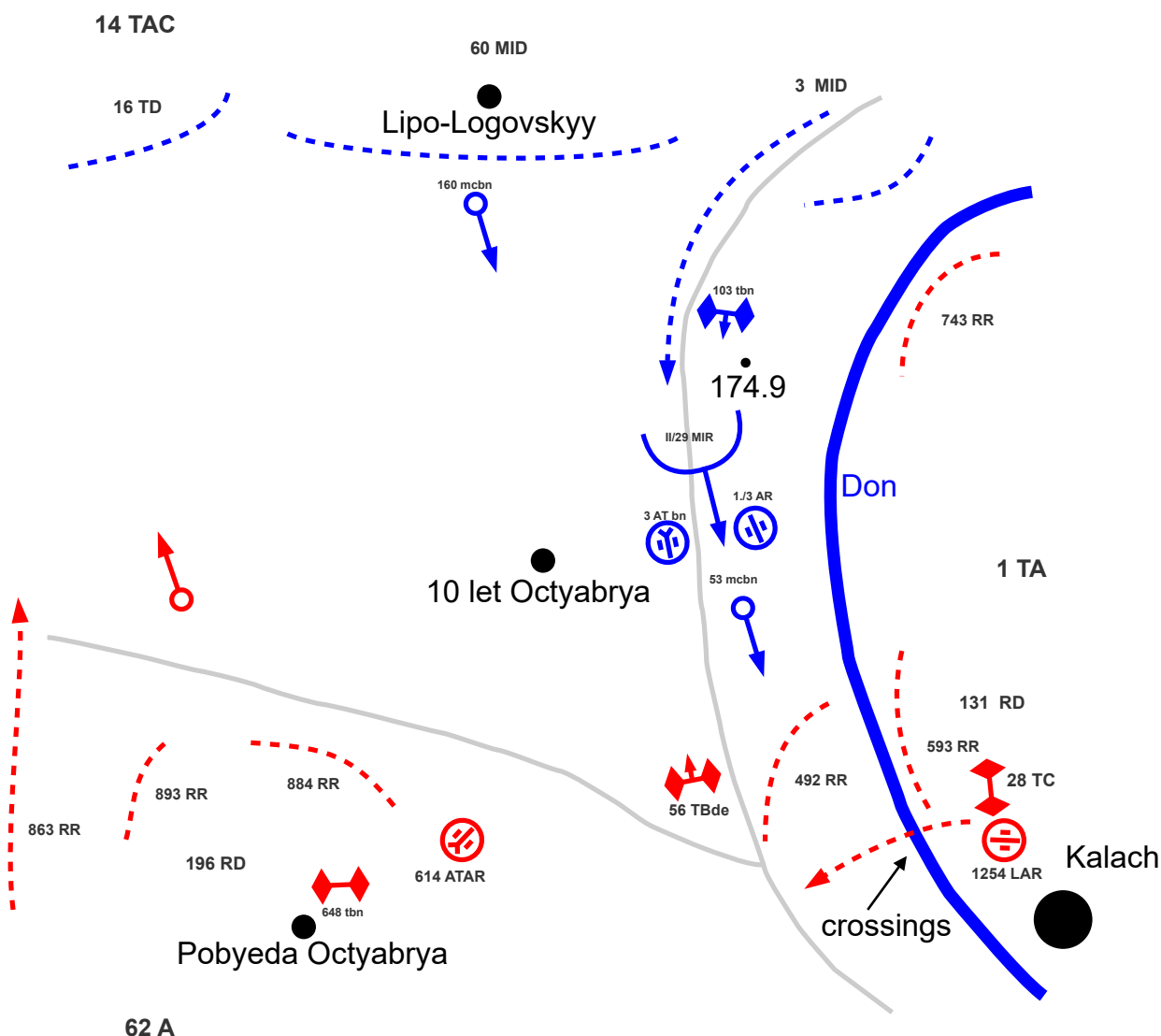
At 12:00 July 24, up to 40 German tanks attacks positions of 192 and 184RDs, and dispersed it, after which, using the gap formed in the Kletskeya, Evstratovskyy sector, with forces of 2 TDs and 1-2 MIDs reached the Sukhanov area. As result the right-flank elements of 62A got into a semicircle. The 33gds RD, together with the Krasnodar Infantry School, restored the front line on the south.

After a rapid breakthrough, elements of 14TAC advance behind enemy lines and preparing to repel a counteroffensive from Kalach direction. Parts of 3 and 60MIDs reached the Don River at 15km north of Kalach and formed a front line to the south along the Lipa-Lebedevskyy, Yeruslanovskyy line between the Don and Liska rivers. The battle groups from 16TD turned to the west and formed a front line near Yeruslanovskyy and Sukhanov.

The Soviet troops was determined to hold on the western bank of the Don river at any cost, the strong tank forces retained the ability to move freely in the large bend of the river. The commander of Stalingrad Front ordered 21A, consisting of three RDs with reinforcements, to cross the Don river in the Serafimovich area on July 26, go on the offensive to the south, and in cooperation with 62A troops, defeat the enemy that had broken through. Freshly formed 1TA

(former 38A) consisting of: 13TC (163, 166, 169TBdes) is subordinate to 62A and is fighting in the area of svfm Pervomaiskyy.

28TC (39, 55, 56TBdes and 32MRBde) has the task to concentrate by the end of July 25 in the Lipo-Logovskyy area, svfm Pobeda Ocityabrya on the west bank of the Don river (pic.2). A large number of tanks attacked German positions from the south and southwest, and also prevented the connection with the 24TD moving from the south. The Soviet tanks, which were crossing non-stop at Kalach and Kletskaya, made attempts to cut off the 14TAC supply routes from the east and north, to encircle and destroy its units.



Pic.2 - Situational map

On July 25, advance detachment of 3MID (53mcbn, 1./103tbn, 3AT bn and a battery from 312AA bn), was planned to capture the crossings at Kalach (pic.2). At 3:00 53mcbn was supposed to suppress a small bridgehead on the right bank of the Don river and then take the bridges.

28TC from noon began crossing the Don river with 91-T34 and 60-T60 in service. 56TBde conducted reconnaissance and by the middle of the day went on the offensive against German infantry and tanks.