

DAVYD-GARADOK BATTLES OF 1943

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Battles between partisans of the “Savietskaja Belarus” (lit. Soviet Belarus) Detachment (see [Partisan Brigade “Savietskaja Belarus”](#) of Pinsk Voblast), the A. M. Saburov’s Formation of Zhytomyr Oblast (Ukrainian SSR) on the one part and German Nazi invaders on the other part in the town of Davyd-Garadok, Stolin Rajon, in July and October 1943. The defeat of a large enemy garrison in Davyd-Garadok (about 300 Hitlerites) was preceded by partisan reconnaissance. Underground members provided information about the garrison location and defence system to partisans. 5 partisan combat groups (400 people) participated in the operation. The one group advanced along the Alshany — Turaw road to divert the attention of the enemy, the other group blocked the road in the village of Haromsk to prevent the approach of enemy reinforcements from Stolin.

On the night of July 25, three partisan groups broke into Davyd-Garadok from different sides and took complete control of the town by 1:00 a.m. As a result of the battle, the town’s gendarmerie and police were mostly eliminated (up to 20 Hitlerites were killed, the rest ran away in panic); all of the buildings where the institutions and enterprises of the invaders were located were demolished; the bridge across the Garyn River, warehouses and fortifications, 3 motor vehicles, 4 motorcycles were burnt; arms were commandeered. German manor Vysokaje near Davyd-Garadok was burned; 20 horses, 120 heads of cattle, more than 200 sheep were commandeered. The fire of partisan artillery paralysed the enemy’s military unit which was located 1 km from the town beyond the Garyn that was widely spread. The partisans left Davyd-Garadok without losses.

On the night of October 14, 1943, the partisans made a second raid on the garrison in Davyd-Garadok. The enemy did not accept the battle and left the fortified positions. The partisans destroyed all the buildings and enterprises of the invaders, exploded the bridges across the Garyn, motor boat, seized warehouses with food and ammunition and left without losses.