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REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 30 Oct. 53

SUBJECT 1. Training in the Polish Army  
2. Resistance Potential in Poland

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PLACE  
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS. 3  
(LISTED BELOW)DATE  
ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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DATE OF IN

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

10. Training and Maneuvers

## a. Training

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## (1) Infantry Training

Training plans and regulations for Polish military units were announced by the Ministry of National Defense. Training was based on a two-year plan, divided into four periods or phases. There were 48 hours of training each week. At various times, changes in training plans were disseminated to divisions and incorporated into the training schedules.

training plans published by the 18th Inf. Div. for compliance by subordinate units:

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First Period - November 1952 to May 1953: The first two months of this period were devoted to initial processing and indoctrination of recruits. This included issue of clothing, uniforms and equipment, demonstrations of close order and extended order drill, camouflage, and marksmanship. Training began in January 1953 and included political lectures, 76 hours; combat tactics, 148 hours; marksmanship training, 88 hours; close and extended order drill, 96 hours; physical training, 34 hours; bayonet drill, 40 hours; obstacle courses, 27 hours; disciplinary regulations, 11 hours; internal security, 16 hours; garrison duties, 18 hours; chemical training, 4 hours;

ARMY review completed.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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digging of trenches and foxholes, 8 hours; methods of observation, 8 hours; care of horses, 3 hours, first aid, 2 hours; and CO's time, 16 hours.

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Second Period - May 1953 to September 1953: Squad-level training, to be conducted at the maneuver area. It would include defensive and offensive tactics, outpost and security duties, reconnaissance, security marches, marksmanship, camouflage, digging trenches and foxholes, defense of wooded areas, villages, ambush patrols, night defensive and offensive tactics, and fording of streams, using either logs or lines.

Third Period - October 1953 to March 1954: Training would be conducted on a platoon level and would include offensive and defensive tactics in open and wooded areas, counter-attacks, security marches, outpost duties, street fighting and defense of cities, camouflage, fording of rivers, use of assault boats in coordination with engineer units, and marksmanship. About six hours per week were devoted to political lectures.

Fourth Period - April 1954 to September 1954: Training would be conducted on platoon and company levels. Each soldier and officer up to the regimental CO was to be orally examined by an officer board from the Ministry of National Defense, to determine the knowledge gained through training. These examinations usually took place at the maneuver area during the last weeks of training. All training conducted during the first three periods would be stressed, as the officer board from the Ministry of National Defense usually inspected the efficiency on the platoon rather than company, battalion or regimental level.

squads and platoons would be reshuffled prior to the fourth period examinations in order to group the best soldiers to demonstrate offensive and defensive tactics. Individuals would also be placed for the marksmanship exercises in order to achieve high results. As a result, platoon efficiency ratings did not reflect the over-all efficiency of the companies. There was also infrequent company, battalion, and regimental-level training during the fourth period.

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From September 1954 to November 1954, the soldiers would perform various garrison duties and prepare for demobilization. Training plans would be prepared for the new recruits due to arrive in November 1954.

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Demobilization had occurred in November 1952, and the 62nd Inf. Regt. was 20% below officer strength. In May 1953, the 62nd Inf. Regt. was still five per cent below officer strength.

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The officers relied heavily on the NCO's during individual training of recruits. [redacted]

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Equipment was old and practically unserviceable. Small arms were unserviceable, but were exchanged for new rifles in January 1953. During tactical training, each soldier expended about three rounds of blank ammunition. The yearly allocation of live ammunition to be expended in training was 300 rounds per rifle. Each soldier actually would expend approximately 35 rounds per year; HMG's, 500 rounds per year; snipers, 100 rounds per year; automatic pistols, 300 rounds per year. The regiment always maintained 100,000 rounds in the armory as a combat-readiness reserve. Due to [redacted] difficulties in requisitioning ammunition, occasionally less than 35 rounds was expended by each soldier. [redacted]

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During the first period of training, [redacted] recruits were clothed and equipped, and attended political and service regulations lectures on such subjects as courtesy, discipline and garrison duties. They also witnessed demonstrations by experienced soldiers of marching, offensive and defensive tactics, marksmanship firing of all small arms, and close order drill.

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The daily training schedule included a minimum of three hours for tactical subjects. The remainder of the day was reserved for lectures, care and cleaning of weapons, company formations, close order drill, or fatigue details. Tactical training was particularly stressed at all times and any failure to carry out the scheduled training had to be explained in writing. The following subjects were emphasized during the first period of training in terms of hours per week: defensive and offensive deployment of the individual soldier, 12 hours; use of dummy hand grenades, 1 hour; camouflage discipline and methods of observation, constant practice; close order drill, 3 hours; political and service regulations lectures, 6-10 hours; marksmanship training (positions, sighting and aiming), 4 hours; physical exercises, 4 hours. Care and cleaning of weapons and equipment, garrison duties and fatigue details were included daily. The number of training hours was sometimes extended and the subjects were changed daily. Sundays were devoted to calisthenics and organized athletics. [redacted] too few hours were devoted for tactics, marksmanship, ballistics and hand grenades; whereas too many hours were assigned for calisthenics, fatigue details and other garrison duties. The majority of the EM came from villages. Due to their low level of education, they were difficult to train and constantly hindered the progress of training.

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At the maneuver area a minimum of 20 hours weekly was devoted to tactical training. The daily training of individuals and squads included offensive and defensive tactics, combat patrols, security marches, ambush patrols, use of camouflage, digging of trenches, crossing of streams and construction of defenses in wooded areas. Political lectures were held daily after the training periods.

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Three 35 km. forced marches were made. During the marches, offensive and defensive tactics were practiced. About 12 rounds of live ammunition were fired at silhouette targets. Simulated tank and air attacks and gas alarms were also practiced. At the end of the forced march, which lasted eight hours, the soldiers ran an obstacle course of 300 m. which included the use of a bayonet and the tossing of three hand grenades into a trench. One night-training exercise by squads was conducted during May 1953. It consisted of a march, deployment in a wooded area and digging in for a defensive stand. Compasses were used by the platoon leaders during the march. Over-all purpose of the training was to accustom the soldiers to movement during darkness. This night training lasted six hours.

[redacted] three map training exercises held by the division and the regiment. Each exercise lasted three days. 25X1 Infantry defensive tactics were practiced on level terrain, wooded and swampy areas, and in forests. All officers down to platoon level attended the exercises. During the exercises officers were given situations in which the enemy was advancing over the above-described areas. The officers, in turn, plotted the enemy positions and defensive positions for their own units on the map. Critiques were given by the operation officers or the CO's.

Company, battalion or regimental training exercises [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] usually supervised by the battalion or regimental staff officers, or the CO's. There had been no Soviet supervision during the first period of training,

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## (2) Engineer Training

[redacted] schooling at the Inf. OCS [redacted] in Wroclaw /N 51-06, E 17-02/. The scope of the course included mine laying, sketches and use of the mine-spacing cord (30 hours), field fortifications (30 hours), and construction of foot bridges (16 hours). Construction of barbed wire obstacles, trenches, and use of camouflage, artificial and natural, was continuously practiced during training. Newest engineer manuals used were Engineer Training (Wyszkolenia Saparskie) and Engineer Instruction for Infantry Units (Instrukcja Saparska dla Pododdzialow Piechoty), published in 1952 by the Ministry of National Defense and translated from Soviet manuals. 25X1

The following types of mines (illustrated in current engineer reference manuals) were used:

Anti-personnel	-	POMZ-2, PMD-6 and 7
Anti-tank	-	TM 38, 41, 44 and TMSB

See Encls. A, B, and C for mine field sketches as prepared by the engineer mine-laying parties. Mine-spacing cords approximately 25 m. long were used. Attached side ropes were spaced either 5, 7, or 15 m., depending on the type of mines to be laid. To breach a mine field, engineer personnel were given a sketch of the field and furnished the

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base point orally. Passages were then selected and marked with small red or yellow pennants. [redacted] several plain mine prodders, to be used for detection of planted mines. [redacted]

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[redacted] the following information concerning various field fortifications:

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Three-row barbed wire fence: Approximately 130 cm. in height. Distance between poles measured five meters in width and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. in depth. One strand of barbed wire strung along the top and bottom of the poles, running parallel to the fence. Strands of barbed wire were then strung criss-cross and connected to each pole.

Concertinas: Barbed wire, measuring approximately 70 cm. in height.

Electrified wire fence: Two rows of metal rods sunk into the ground and placed approximately 30 cm. apart and 30 cm. in depth. The height of the rod from the ground measured approximately 30 cm. Metal or porcelain insulators were placed at the top of the rods to which the strung wire was attached. A gasoline power unit placed approximately 500 m. away, provided the electricity.

Spider: Metal bars placed in a triangular fashion into the ground, as a road block.

Knife rest, Spanish type: Crossed wooden poles and one wooden log placed horizontally between the crossed poles. Measured approximately four to six meters in length. Barbed wire was strung in several strands from one end to the other. About one meter in height. Transportable from one position to another.

Barbed wire fence: Wooden poles sunk into the ground, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. apart. Barbed wire strands connected to each pole. Approximately 120 cm. in height above the ground.

Barely-visible obstacle: Two rows of wooden poles, approximately 30 cm. in height,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. apart and one meter in depth. Strands of barbed wire fastened criss-cross to each pole.

Anti-tank spider: Metal bars forming a triangle and sunk into the road. Approximately two meters high from the ground.

Anti-tank road barricade: Consisted of wooden logs placed horizontally across a road and secured to two trees. Measured approximately one meter in height.

Anti-tank concealed pit: A pit dug in the road, approximately  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. long and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  m. deep. Width of the pit was equal to the width of the road. Thin wooden boards were used to cover the pit. Part of the removed soil was used to camouflage the wooden boards.

Anti-tank side hill cut: On roads having steep slopes, a section of soil was removed to form a cut in the road, sufficiently large to damage a falling vehicle or tank.

Foot suspension bridges, made of boards and laced with web straps, were used to cross streams and gulleys. This equipment could be rolled and transported by vehicles. Temporary wooden trestle bridges for vehicular traffic across streams were also constructed.

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Camouflage discipline was constantly observed and stressed. In wooded areas special measures were employed to camouflage vehicles. Near the road, a rectangular area of 15 to 20 m. was cleared of trees. Wire mesh nets were then suspended approximately four meters above the ground and secured to the trees. Eight to 12-year-old trees were then cut, placed upright into the mesh net, and wired into place. Vehicles were then parked underneath the mesh nets.

The following types of camouflage nets were used: 1) individual mesh net, about 1½ m. sq., green, Soviet-made; 2) trench camouflage mesh net, about 10 x 15 m., green, Soviet-made; 3) mesh camouflage nets for tanks and vehicles, green, about 10 x 15 m., Soviet-made; 4) garnished camouflage net, about 10 x 15 m., multi-colored, Soviet-made, used for vehicles, tanks and supplies.

The following types of maps were used by Polish units: tactical - 1:10,000, 1:25,000, 1:50,000 and 1:100,000; strategic - 1:250,000, 1:500,000 and 1:1,000,000. The maps were published by the General Staff of the Soviet Army and dated 1948. The legend indicated the year produced, declination diagram (indicating true, magnetic and grid north), contour intervals and scales. Longitude 0 was measured from Greenwich and Latitude 0 was from the equator. Map coordinates were obtained by reading up and right. Along the top margin of the map, the geographical coordinates were always indicated in smaller numbers and printed near the grid coordinates of the map. There were no shortages, but maps were available only to officers. 25X1

NCO's were not experienced in map reading.

the following heavy engineer equipment being used

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at the school:

Construction: concrete mixer, Jaeger-type, model, capacity and number unknown.

Earth working: sheeps-foot roller, D-130; shovel, excavator, TE-2.

Miscellaneous: snow plow, D-151.

Bridging and stream crossing: flotation suits, PK and MPL; small pneumatic boats, LMN; wooden assault boats, SDL; pneumatic boats, A-3; wooden boats, DLP; metal boats, N2P-45. 25X1

Ponton bridge parks: light ponton park, NLP; wooden ponton park, DLP.

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- b. [redacted] 25X1
- c. [redacted]
- d. [redacted]
- e. [redacted] the attitude of the people was that they were outwardly cooperative due to mutual distrust or fear of betrayal to the police. 25X1
- f. [redacted] five per cent of the people were Communists and worked conscientiously to impress the population that their ideologies were the best. Excluding the youth movements, [redacted] the Communists were having difficulty converting the populace to Communism. 25X1
- g. [redacted] 95% of the people would openly resist the regime if given an opportunity or assured of outside support. 25X1
- h. [redacted] 25X1
- i. [redacted] four desertions [redacted] in December 1952. Lack of leaves, family illness and dislike of military service prompted these desertions. 25X1
- [redacted] Major cause of dissatisfaction appeared to be the lack of passes and leaves. 25X1
- j. Civilian disaffection was attributed to the lack of food, meat, butter, lard and pepper. Quality of clothing and shoes was exceptionally poor. In the city of Elk, shoes were difficult to purchase. All the above items were exported to the USSR.
- k. The present regime appeared to be having some success in indoctrinating the youth of the country, but the effect of the program could not be estimated. Youth belonging to Communist organizations had priority in everything, especially employment. The Polish Youth Union (ZMP - Związek Młodzieży Polskiej) made many claims of progress, but these were often exaggerated to give more prestige to the ZMP, and encourage other youths to join. Youth from the villages appeared to be highly impressed by ZMP activities, and usually joined for personal gain.
- l. [redacted] 25X1
- m. Security forces were used against people who misbehaved politically. [redacted] the security forces [redacted] were presumed to be loyal to the government. 25X1
- n. [redacted] 95% of the population was non-Communist. 25X1
- o. [redacted] 25X1
- p. In Warsaw N 52-15, E 21-007 and Elk, at least 90% of the population would actively support and/or join allied forces if the following were disposed of:
- (1) Known Office of Public Security (UBP - Urząd Bezpieczeństwa Publicznego) low-level agents
  - (2) Local Communist Party leaders
  - (3) Local police officials

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The working classes would be the first to respond to allied appeals under the above conditions. The people [redacted] would fully cooperate and/or take immediate action to liquidate the security force personnel if allied forces were approaching, or if allied aid was given.

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Enclosures:

- A. Example of Anti-Tank Mine Field Sketch
- B. Example of Anti-Personnel Mine Field Sketch
- C. Example of Mixed Mine Field Sketch

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## Enclosure A

Example of Anti-Tank Mine Field Sketch

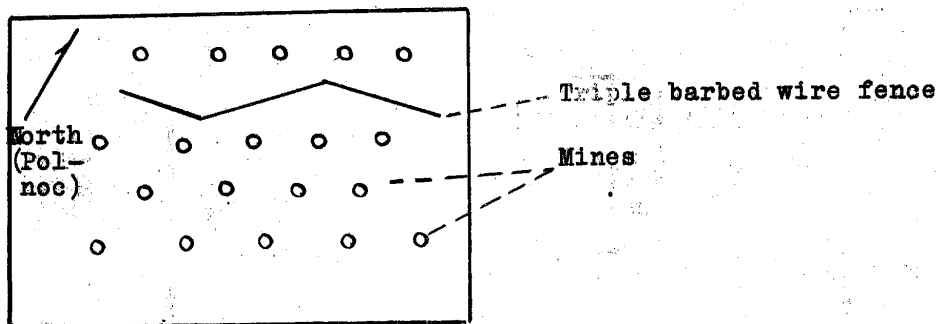
Note: Laying time by approximately 18 engineers was about one hour. The sketch and accompanying information were prepared by the laying party and forwarded to higher headquarters.

Azimuth (Azymuth)(Base point given orally)	- in degrees
Length of Field (Dlugosc Pola)	- 70 m
Width of Field (Szerokosc)	- 45 m
Number of Mines (Ilosc Min)	- 40 mines
Caliber (Kaliber)	- TM-38
Distance Between Mines in a Row (Po Szerokosci Mina od Min)	- 15 m
Distance Between Rows (Po Glebokosci Pas od Pasa)	- 15 m
Number of Rows (Ilosc Pasow)	- four rows

Date (Data) \_\_\_\_\_

Laying Party (Kto Stawil) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature and Rank (Podpis I Stopien) \_\_\_\_\_



Method of Mine Laying  
(Sposob Ustawienia Min)

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Enclosure B

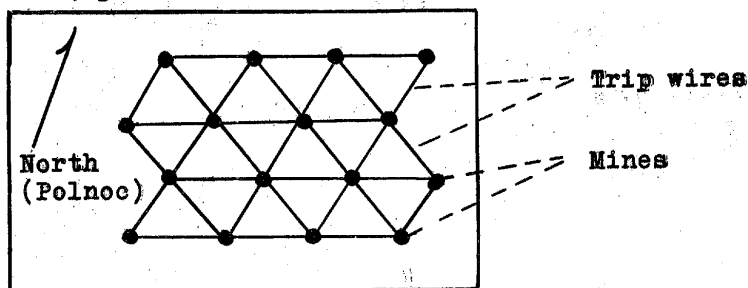
Example of Anti-Personnel Mine Field Sketch

Note: Laying time, about 1½ hours by eight to 12 engineers.  
The sketch and accompanying information were prepared by the laying party and forwarded to higher headquarters.

Azimuth (Azymuth)	- 48 degrees
Length of Field (Dlugosc Pola)	- 150 m
Width of Field (Szerokosc)	- 45 m
Number of Mines (Ilosc Min)	- 40 mines
Name of Mine (Nazwa Min)	- Pull-type fuse
Distance From Mine to Mine (Po Szerokosci Mina od Min)	- 15 m
Depth from Mine to Mine (Po Glebokosci Mina od Min)	- 15 m
Number of Rows (Ilosc Pasow)	- four rows

Date (Data) \_\_\_\_\_  
Laying Party  
(Kto Wykonal) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and Rank  
(Podpis i Stopien) \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Mine Laying  
(Sposob Ustawienia Min)



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## Enclosure C

Example of Mixed Mine Field Sketch

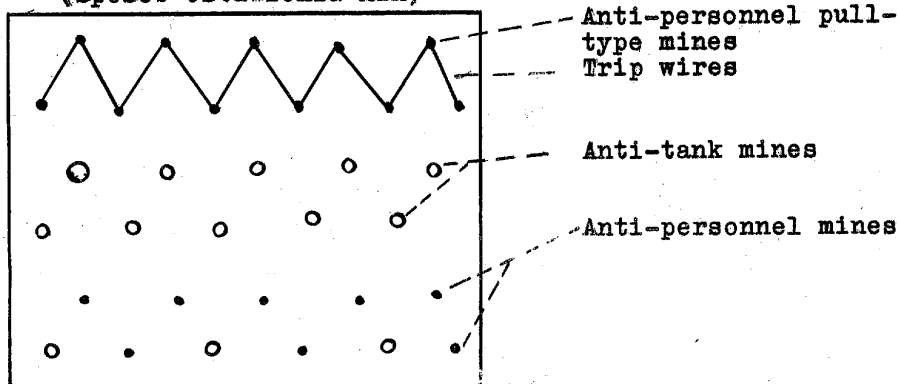
Note: Laying time was unknown. Sketch and accompanying information were prepared by the laying party and forwarded to higher headquarters.

Azimuth (Azymuth)	- 80 degrees
Length (Dlugosc)	- 77 m
Width (Szerokosc)	- 60 m
Number of Mines (Ilosc Min)	- 95 mines
Caliber (Kaliber)	- Anti-tank and anti-personnel
Number of Anti-tank Mines	- 46 mines
Number of Anti-personnel Mines	- 26 mines
Number of Anti-personnel Pull-Type Mines	- 23 mines

Date (Data) \_\_\_\_\_

Laying Party  
(Kto Wykonal) \_\_\_\_\_Rank, First and Last Name  
(Stopien, Imie i Nazwisko) \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Mine Laying  
(Sposob Ustawienia Min)



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