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SUBJECT Chemical Warfare Training in the Polish Air Force

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PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Chemical Warfare Training Phase

25X1X a. [REDACTED] was given 40 hours of chemical warfare (CW) instruction while attending the NCO Instrument Panel Technician Course, from [REDACTED] which was under the AF Officer and NCO Technical School at Zamosc N 53-02, E 21-417, [REDACTED]. The 40-hour CW phase was broken down into two 100-minute classes weekly. A 200-minute examination was given at the completion of the 40 hours. No instruction was given on radiological or biological warfare.

25X1X [REDACTED] received the same instruction while attending the NCO Electrical Technician Course during the same period at the school.

25X1X Neither [REDACTED] received CW training while stationed with the [REDACTED]. Their work-load in their special fields did not leave time for such training.

b. The instructor for the CW phase was an unidentified Polish AF administrative first lieutenant, who lectured in Polish. He seemed to be well qualified.

c. No text books were used for the CW classes; the students took notes from the lectures. No mention was made of security classification. The school was well equipped with graphic training aids, samples of equipment and mannequins. There were no demonstrations of CW equipment. All training took place in the classroom; no

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practical training was given and no gas chamber was used. On one occasion a brief smoke exercise was held, during which a group of students fired a few smoke candles and grenades.

2. Breakdown of CW Training

To the best of their knowledge, the following subjects were covered in the CW training phase:

a. Decontamination

Four types of decontamination were depicted on a large chart. [REDACTED] remembered only the information mentioned below.

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- (1) Decontamination of vehicles (tank, truck, etc.) was by means of a portable, pack-type sprayer. On other charts were shown steps in decontaminating aircraft, using the portable sprayer. [REDACTED] recalled only that the process was begun at the nose of the aircraft and continued back to the cockpit and tail assembly. (Men shown in the charts wore ordinary duty uniforms and not special clothing.) The students were also shown a wooden chest (1 x 1 x 1.5 m. in size and 100 kg. in weight) which contained portable decontamination apparatus. There were one or two portable, pack-type sprayers, a number of rubber hoses, suits of light-weight protective clothing and other articles they couldn't recall. They didn't remember any nomenclature or markings. (Note: Their description of the chest is almost identical to the Soviet DK-1; that of the sprayer matched the Soviet RDP-3 exactly.)
 - (2) Individual -- by means of the IPP-5 and IPP-6 kits. See subpar 2 c for description.
 - (3) Armament (weapons, artillery pieces) -- by means of portable sprayers.
 - (4) Clothing -- by boiling.

They were taught nothing about terrain decontamination.

b. War Gases

- (1) They could recall only a few details on gases. They remembered the names of only two types of gases, which were classified with the others according to physical effects. They knew Mustard and Lewisite of the Blister gases, and Adamsite, Phosgene, Di-phosgene and Chloracetophenone from the Choking gas group. They definitely never heard of gases with effects differing from those given above, such as nerve gases.

A wooden cabinet in one of the class halls contained several small, amber-colored bottles (about 75-cc. capacity), filled with liquid gases. Each bottle was labeled; they remembered only Mustard and Lewisite. The students were given a sniff from each of the bottles. This was the only time [REDACTED] were exposed to any gas.

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- (2) They were told that artillery shells, bombs and aircraft spray tanks could be used to disseminate gases. They never saw any sort of gas-filled ammunition.

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A graphic training aid was shown them depicting an aircraft spray tank in detail. Also illustrated was a two-engined, propeller-driven monoplane in flight having one of these tanks under each wing, with dense, white smoke billowing out behind. The tank was attachable to any aircraft capable of carrying bombs. The liquid filling in the tank was called S-4. They designated the tank by the number -250, and recalled a similar, but larger, spray tank called -500. (Note: Their description of the smaller tank was identical to the Soviet UKhAP-250.)

c. Individual Protective Equipment

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- (1) Gas Masks -- Each student was issued a gas mask for his exclusive use which was kept on a shelf in one of the training halls with his nameplate attached. [REDACTED] described the mask accurately enough for it to be identified as a Shlem type. They didn't know if it was of Polish or Soviet manufacture. (An instructor once told them that the CW equipment at the school was largely of Soviet make or was made in Poland from Soviet design.) All of the masks were old and in poor condition. Some of the facepieces needed repair. The breakable, glass eyepieces continuously fogged up when the mask was worn; there was no anti-dim to correct this condition. The mask size was designated by the numerals "1", "2", or "3", molded on the lower right portion of the facepiece jaw.

The carrier was made of green canvas and was divided into three compartments: one for the facepiece, one for the canister which was set on two small blocks of wood, and one for the protective cape (see subpar c (2)). They never saw any spare parts or repair kits for the masks.

They were told the mask would protect its wearers against all known war gases. The norm for donning the mask was eight seconds.

They described the canister as green colored and did not remember it having swages. A six or seven-digit number, meaning unknown, was located on one side. The canister life was about eight hours.

- (2) Protective Cape -- They described it as a large, envelope-shaped paper bag, which was coated with some greasy substance. They put it on only once or twice. No time was set; they were to don it as quickly as possible. The cape was folded and kept in a compartment of the gas mask carrier.
- (3) Individual Protective Kits, IPP-5 and IPP-6 -- These kits, which were to be used as blister gas decontaminants, were shown the students once in class. They handled the kits but did not recall having practical training with them. They were told the kits would be issued to individual air- 25X1A men only in case of war. (Note: The descriptions of these kits exactly matched the IPP-5 and IPP-6 in the secret manual "Soviet CW Weapons and Equipment", [REDACTED])
- (4) Protective Clothing -- They were told about only two types of protective clothing, both of which were displayed on mannequins. They never wore either. The clothing, which was for the use of decontamination personnel, was to give protection against all war gases. The clothing had numerical designations, which they didn't remember. They didn't remember any details concerning the instruction given on this clothing.

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- (a) The heavy-weight, all rubber clothing consisted only of an apron, five-fingered gloves and knee-length boots. The boots had a pair of strings at the top. They had no idea as to what other clothes the wearer might have on, and were positive that the special clothing consisted only of these items.
 - (b) The light-weight clothing of oilskin-like material consisted only of an apron, mitten-type two-fingered gloves and a pair of boots with tie strings at the top and bottom. (Note: This is similar to the Soviet long, oilskin, anti-gas overboot.) These items were to be worn by front-line troops.
- (5) Protective Mat -- They were shown a chart depicting a Polish soldier advancing by means of a straw mat over an area contaminated with liquid gas. The mat was wide enough for him to fire from the prone position.

d. Smoke

They were given very little instruction on smoke but did see the following smoke munitions on one or two occasions:

- (1) Smoke Grenade (see Encl. A) -- Several of these were thrown to simulate gas. One type emitted white smoke and another, black. They burned for about four minutes. The smoke was not toxic. All the grenades were identical in appearance and without markings.
- (2) Smoke Candle (see Encl. A) -- They only saw a picture of this candle which had an estimated burning time of 15 minutes and gave off a very dense, yellowish-white smoke.

e. Gas Detection

Although taught little about this topic, they were shown a chart which illustrated an opened kit used by a CW reconnaissance squad to detect gases and mark off contaminated areas. They were also shown several small glass vials and litmus papers which were to be used to detect gases. They were told about, but not shown, a large quantity of small yellow flags, having a black skull and crossbone design, for marking contaminated areas. (Note: This is a fairly good description of the Soviet SkhR-3 kit.)

f. Flame Throwers

Two types of flamethrowers were on display at the school. They never used them or saw them used. The designations were given by the instructor.

- (1) FOG type -- To be placed in a defensive position. No further information. (Note: The description matched the Soviet FO static flamethrower illustrated in the above-mentioned manual.)
- (2) ROKS type -- This was portable with a range of 25-30 m. The igniter cylinder contained seven or eight cartridges. They knew nothing about a pressure regulator. (Note: It seemed exactly the same as the Soviet ROK-2 model, described in the same manual.)

ENCLOSURE:

- A. Polish Smoke Grenade and Smoke Candle

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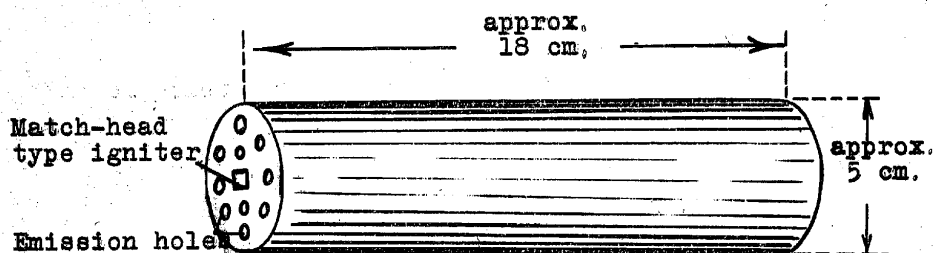
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Enclosure A

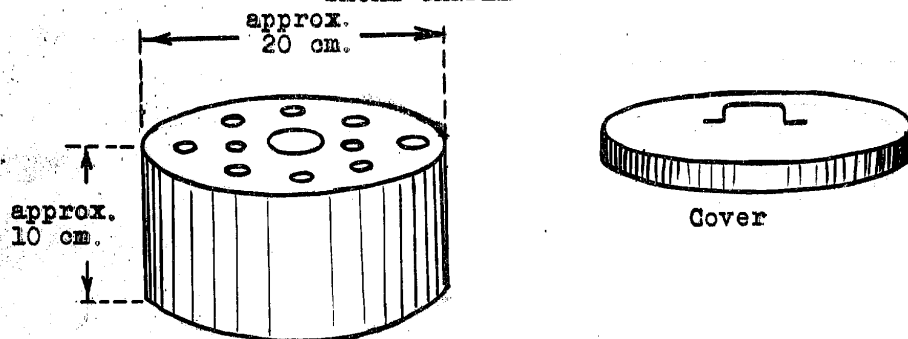
Polish Smoke Grenade and Smoke Candle

SMOKE GRENADE



Body made of yellowish colored paraffined cardboard.

SMOKE CANDLE



Body made of dark green metal



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