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Mission

4. At the beginning and during World War II, NKVD border and security troops were stationed 10-12 km. behind the front lines to:
 - a. Apprehend enemy paratroopers, terrorists, saboteurs, and spies operating behind Soviet lines.
 - b. Detain and hold fleeing Soviet troops. (These were usually sent in convoy to collection points and then organized into penal battalions.)

Operations

5. Security units were placed at strategic points: bridges, cross-roads, and railroad junctions. There was no prescribed size for units per army sector. Regiments were used in sectors as available.
6. In many cases, security troops covered the retreat of Red Army units and engaged in delaying actions. Because they had no weapons heavier than 14.5-mm. AT rifles, Maxim M-1910 HMG's and RGD-33 grenades, they suffered high casualties fighting German units equipped with planes, tanks, and heavy artillery. The 23rd Bor^{50X1} Regiment, engaged German armies in the Ukraine in 1941 and in the Crimea in 1942. In both encounters it suffered heavy losses.

ENCLOSURES:

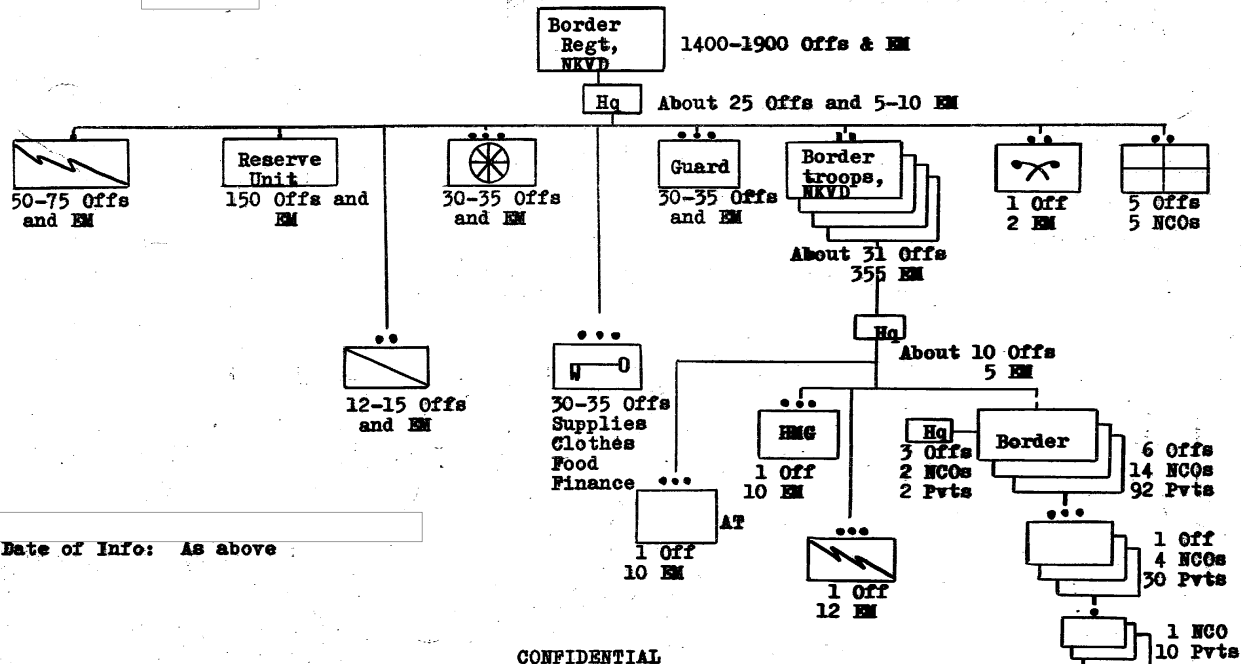
- 50X1 A. Estimate of the Organization of a Border Security Regiment in 1941
- 50X1 B. Estimate of the Actual Equipment of a Border Security Battalion in 1941

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Enclosure A

Estimate of the Organization of a Border Security Regiment in 1941



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Enclosure A (Cont'd)

Estimate of the Organization of a Border Security
Regiment in 1941

Headquarters of a NKVD Border Regiment in 1941 consisted of:

CO - Col

Chief Political officer (called Komissar) - Col, Lt Col

Chief of Staff - Lt Col

Deputy C/S for Personnel - Maj - Capt

Deputy C/S for Security - Maj - Capt

Deputy C/S for Operations - Maj - Capt

Deputy C/S for Cryptography - Maj - Capt

Five to seven Political officers (Party secretary, Party organizer, Komsomol officer, Propaganda officer, Club officer, Librarian) - Lt Col to Lt

Chief Supply officer - Maj

Three to four Supply officers (Food, Clothes, POL, Equipment)

One to two Medical officers - Maj - Capt

One Veterinary - Capt

One Chemical officer - Capt

One Signal officer - Capt

One Recon officer - Capt

One Engineer officer - Capt

One Finance officer - Capt

Five to ten EM in the orderly room - NCOs, Pvts

Headquarters of a border troops battalion consisted of:

CO - Lt Col - Maj

Political officer - Lt Col - Maj

Chief of staff (Senior adjutant) - Capt

Adjutant - Lt

Medical officer - Capt

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Enclosure A (Cont'd)

Veterinary officer - Capt

Supply officer - Capt

Signal officer - Capt

Three reconnaissance officers - Capt - Lt

Five to six orderly room clerks - NCOs

Some of the headquarters officers had political duties, such as Party organizer or Komsomol officer, in addition to their regular duties.

Headquarters of a border troop company consisted of:

CO - Capt

Political officer - Capt - Lt

Operations officer - Lt

1st Sgt - NCO

Supply Sgt - NCO

Two orderly room clerks - Pvts

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Enclosure B

Estimate of the Actual Equipment of a Border Security Battalion in 1941

	Officers	EN	Pistols	Rifles/SMGs	HMG, Maxim, 1910	AT Rifle, 14.5-mm Degtyarev	Trucks, ZIS-5 and GAZ-AA	Horses	Wagons	Grenades, RGD-33
Bn Total	31?	355	31	353	2	4	3-5	12-24	6-12	706
Bn Hq	10?	5	10	5			3-5	6-12	3-6	10
AT Plat	1	10	1	10		4				20
HMG Plat	1	10	1	8	2					16
Sig Plat	1	12	1	12						24
Border Co X 3	6	106	6	106				2-4	1-2	212
Co Hq	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)				(2-4)	(1-2)	(8)
Border Plat X 3	(1)	(34)	(1)	(34)						(68)
Sqd X 3		(11)		(11)						(22)

Date of Info: 1941

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