

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Soviet Maritime Border Guard (MPO)

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Wherever the territory of the USSR was bordered by water (White Sea, Barents Sea, Arctic Ocean, Bering Sea, Sea of Okhotsk, Caspian Sea, Baltic Sea) there was a Maritime Border Guard (Morskaya Pogranichnaya Okhrana -- MPO) unit. in Kalvaria N 54-25, E 23-137 MPO units in the Lithuanian Border District. See page 9, para. 10b 50X1
2. On the Staff of the Main Administration (Main Directorate) of Border Troops, there was a naval officer, whose rank I did not know, who was the ranking officer of the MPO.
3. Wherever the territory of a border district touched the sea, a "division" (naval equivalent of a battalion) of the MPO was assigned to, and subordinate to the border district CG. The border district CG could attach parts of the MPO division to detachments. There were no MPO units attached to battalions.
4. In the Lithuanian SSR Border District (which included also parts of Latvian SSR and parts of what was formerly East Prussia), an MPO division, numerical designation and FPN unknown to me, was attached to the 8th Border Detachment stationed in Ventpils N 57-24, E 21-327. Either another MPO division, or part of the same MPO division was attached to the 23rd Border Detachment stationed in Klaipeda N 55-43, E 21-077. These MPO units patrolled the entire Baltic coast, from the Polish Border up to Estonia. Date of information, 1951.

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5. In Estonia there were MPO units attached to the Leningrad Border District.
6. I have no knowledge of MPO T/O & E, other than that I know from hearsay that a division was the highest unit of the MPO and had 300-400 officers and EM. I cannot give further strength or unit breakdown of an MPO division.
7. An MPO division had cutters of the MO type (Morskoy Okhotnik) (Naval speedboat). I believe, but am not sure, that they were the Malyy Morskoy Okhotnik (Small Naval Speedboat) type. I do not know how many boats were in a division and have no knowledge of the crew, individual weapons, or the weapons aboard the speedboats.
8. MPO officers and EM wore naval uniforms and had naval ranks. I can not describe their uniforms and shoulder boards except to state that shoulder boards of officers and EM had green piping. I know of no Border Troop schools for MPO officers or EM and presume that MPO naval officers were sent to regular Border Guard schools to train in border guard duties, in addition to previous naval training.
9. The function of the MPO was to protect USSR territory. They had to see that no enemy agents, or saboteurs landed in USSR, and that no traitors from the USSR defected to other countries via the seas.
10. As far as any evidence of extent of cooperation between MPO and Pogranichnykh Voysk, the MPO was subordinate to the Border District CG and cooperated fully with local border troops. Wherever USSR territory bordered on water, tall wooden towers (up to 50 m. in height) were erected at locations with a good field of vision. Land (regular border guards) personnel manned these towers and observed the seas. Whenever they noticed a suspicious or alien fishing boat, military naval craft, wreckage of an airplane, a raft, etc., the border guard in the tower called his company CO or OD, who then contacted the MPO headquarters. A cutter was dispatched to investigate and to escort the craft to port for further investigation. Wherever MPO guards were utilized, fewer Border Guards were used in the same area; that is, no foot or mounted patrols were sent out. The USSR territory along the seacoast was guarded by Border Guards in towers, and by units of the MPO. I do not know to what distance from the coast the sea was considered to be off limits territory.
[No further information.]

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