

FD-264

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Poland

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Reply to 

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POLISH UNIFORMS, CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

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POLISH UNIFORMS, CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

1. Summer and Winter Uniforms For Officers and EM

a. New Type Officers' Dress Uniform

Source stated that during the fall of 1953, the Ministry of National Defense (MON-Ministerstwo Obrony Narodowej) published regulations prescribing a new type of dress uniform called the "Mundur Galowy". This new uniform was to be worn by all Polish Army officers on such occasions as national and army holidays, social functions and leaves. The MON also anticipated that all officers would have one such uniform by 1 May 54. However, due to tailoring difficulties, the effective date was extended to 22 Jul 54, which was a national holiday.

Source stated that during Feb 54, the officers assigned to the Military Technical Academy (WAT - Wojskowa Akademia Techniczna) in Warsaw, received an appropriate quantity of material for tailoring of one blouse and one pair of trousers. In addition, each officer received a monetary allowance of 450.00 Zlotys to defray tailoring expenses.

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[REDACTED] However, he was able to describe the new type officers' dress uniform as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Description</u>
Blouse	Woolen	Dark green color with stand-up collar. Two or possibly four patch pockets. One row of dark colored metal buttons, which turned to a silver color after a period of wear. Buttoned at the throat.
Trousers	Woolen	Dark blue w/red seam about 2mm wide sewn along outer seams of pant legs. Ankle length. No cuffs.
Belt, dress	Hard-finish cloth	White color with one or two lines of red thread sewn near the outer edges. About 5 cm wide with silver colored metal buckle on which was imprinted an uncrowned eagle.

The wear-out period for this dress uniform was five years. Source had no knowledge concerning the type of dress cap to be worn with the dress uniform. All officers were to receive a gabardine type of dark green overcoat and black issue dress shoes during the latter part of 1954, which was to be worn with the uniform. Source did not believe that career NCO's would be issued this new uniform.

As additional information, Source heard rumors that this dress uniform was not considered to be practical because the blouse buttoned at the throat. Consequently, a change was anticipated during 1954, in that the blouse would have a rolled type of collar and that a shirt and tie would be worn.

Source stated this new officer dress uniform was only beginning to be worn by a few officers [REDACTED] They wore it normally only on leave and on other very special occasions, such as national holidays.

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Meanwhile for parades, ceremonies and other social functions, officers and career NCO's continued to wear the old gabardine dress uniforms described in section 2 below. Conscripted enlisted personnel wore the regular service uniform for training and all other occasions.

b. Summer and Winter Service Uniforms

50X1 Source stated that summer and winter service uniforms, as described in section 2 below, were worn by officers and enlisted personnel during training [redacted] all of which were armored units. [redacted] the majority of this equipment would also be issued to personnel of other branches except in cases of special issue clothing for tank crews. 50X1

50X1 c. Female Officers or Enlisted Women

Source had no knowledge concerning uniforms worn by female officers or EW.

2. General Issues of Uniform Items to Officers and EM

a. Clothing

(1) Officers and Career NCO's

Source stated that officers and career NCO's received the following one gratuitous issue:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
1	Overcoat	Wool	Dark green with rolled collar, calf length. One row of silver-colored metal buttons. Two side pockets with buttons. Approx 3 mm wide red stripe sewn near cuff of both sleeves. Issued for three years wear, both service and dress.
1	Blouse	Cheviot	Dark green with roll collar. Four patch pockets. One row of black or silver-colored metal buttons. Winter service blouse for officers was issued for two year wear-out period. Worn by career NCO's as a dress uniform blouse.
1	Blouse	Twill	Dark green with stand-up collar. Four patch pockets. One row of black or silver metal buttons. Was buttoned at the throat. For summer service. Was issued for one year.
1	Blouse	Gabardine	Dark green with rolled collar. Four patch pockets. One row of silver or black colored metal buttons. For officers' dress and service wear. Issued for three years. (Career NCO's wore the cheviot blouses. The issue of this blouse to career NCO's had ceased [redacted] The older NCO's still wore theirs, however.)

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<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
1	Breeches	Cheviot	Dark green with side and back pockets. Red stripe, approx 3 mm wide, along outer seams. Worn with black leather boots. For winter service. Issued for two years.
1	Breeches	Twill	Dark green with side and back pockets. Red stripe, approx 3 mm wide, along outer seams. Worn with black boots. For summer service. Issued for one year.
1	Trousers	Gabardine	Dark green with side and back pockets. Red stripe, approx 3 mm wide, along outer seams. Full length. For officer's dress wear. Career NCO's wore full-length trousers of cheviot material for dress wear. Issued for three years.
5	Shirts	Cotton	Dark green. Issued for one year.
3	Ties	Wool	Dark green. Issued for one year.
(2)	<u>Conscripted EM¹</u>		

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
1	Overcoat	Wool	Dark green, buttoned at the throat. Calf length. Two side pockets. Two rows of zinc-colored metal buttons. For dress and winter service.
2	Blouses	Cheviot	Green with stand-up collar. Four patch pockets. One row of zinc-colored metal buttons. For winter service and dress wear. Exchanged for twill blouse during April of each year.
2	Blouses	Twill	Green with stand-up collar, which was usually worn unbuttoned at the throat. One row of zinc-colored metal buttons. For summer service and dress wear. Exchanged for cheviot blouse during October of each year.
2	Trousers	Cheviot	Dark green with side and back pockets. For winter service and dress wear. Exchanged for twill trousers during April of each year.
2	Trousers	Twill	Dark green with side and back pockets. For summer service and dress wear. Exchanged for cheviot trousers during October of each year.
1	Shirt	Cotton	White, collarless, worn under blouse. Exchanged weekly for laundering.

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b. Headgear

Although they were not issued to any military personnel, Source believed that unidentified metal helmets were stored in unit supply rooms and would be issued if necessary. He described the following other types of headgear issued to male military personnel [redacted]

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(1) Officers and Career NCO's ¹.

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
1	Cap, service	Gabardine	Dark green with black cap band and visor. Red piping, about 2mm wide, sewn around crown. Round top. Dark or silver colored metal eagle emblem. For dress wear. Issued for three years. Career NCO's wore service caps made of cheviot material.
1	Cap, garrison	Twill	Green. Summer service. Issued for one year.
1	Cap, field	Gabardine	Green with hard cloth visor. For winter service. Issued for two years.

(2) Conscripted EM

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
1	Cap, service	Wool	Dark green with black cap band and visor. For dress wear. Issued for length of service.
1	Cap, field	Twill	Green. For summer service. Issued for summer wear and exchanged for cheviot type cap in October of each year.
1	Cap, field	Cheviot	Green. For winter service. Issued for winter wear and exchanged for twill-type cap in April of each year.

c. Footwear ¹.

The following types of footwear were issued [redacted]

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(1) Officers and Career NCO's

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
1 pr	Shoes	Finished leather	Black with laces. Ankle length. For winter and summer service. Issued for about two year.
1 pr	Boots	Finished leather	Black, calf length. Worn with breeches. For winter and summer service. Issued for about 18 months.

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<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
1 pr	Leggings	Winter-Cheviot Summer-Twill	Dark green, approx 10 x 30 cm. Worn with full-length trousers. Buttoned on the outside of ankles. Two vertical rows of buttons, three buttons per row. Twill for summer wear and cheviot for winter wear. Issued for two years to career NCO's.
2 pr	Shoes	Unfinished leather	Brown colored. Hob nailed. Ankle length. For service and dress wear. Issued for term of conscripted service but could be exchanged if un-serviceable.
2 pr	Leggings	Summer-Twill Winter-Cheviot	Dark green, approx 10 x 30 cm. Worn with full length trousers. Buttoned on the outside of ankles. Two vertical rows of buttons, three buttons per row. Twill for summer wear and cheviot for winter wear.

d. Accessories ^{1.}

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The following uniform accessories were issued to

units:

(1) Officers and Career NCO's

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
1	Belt, dress (officers)	Finished leather	Sam Browne type. Tan. Dress and service wear, optional after duty hours. Issued for 5 years to officers.
1	Belt, dress (NCO's)	Finished leather	Career NCO's wore a plain leather garrison belt without a shoulder strap.
1	Belt, trouser	Leather	Brown with metal buckle.
1 pr	Gloves	Woolen Cloth	Green, finger type.
1	Undershirt	Cotton	White. Used for physical training only.
2 pr	Drawers	Cotton	White. For summer service. Issued for six months.
3 pr	Drawers	Cotton	White, ankle length. For winter service. Issued for six months.
4 pr	Socks	Cotton	Green. Issued for six months.
2 pr	Footwraps	Cotton	White, approx 25 x 60 cm. Worn in lieu of socks. Issued for six months but could be exchanged when un-serviceable.

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<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
2	Towels	Cotton	White. Was an initial issue.
1	Sweater	Wool	Green with sleeves. For winter service. Issued for 3 years.

(2) Conscripted EM¹.

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
2 pr	Drawers	Cotton	White. Summer wear, knee length. Turned in weekly for organizational laundering, at which time two clean drawers were issued. (Officers and career NCO's were responsible for their own laundry.)
2 pr	Drawers	Cotton	White. Winter service, ankle length. Turned in weekly for organizational laundering.
1	Undershirt	Cotton	Issued for wear during physical training.
2 pr	Footwraps	Flannel	White, approx 30 x 60 cm. Worn in lieu of socks. Issued for length of service but could be exchanged when unserviceable.
2	Collars	Cotton	Green. Worn under blouse to simulate white shirt. For winter service.
2	Collars	Cotton	White. For dress wear.
3	Handkerchiefs	Cotton	White. Issued for length of service.
2	Towels	Cotton	White. One towel sent weekly to the laundry.
1 pr	Gloves	Woolen mixture	Green, wrist length, finger type. Winter service.
1	Toothbrush		Issued for length of service.
1	Brush, shoe		Issued for length of service.
1	Brush, clothes		Issued for length of service.
1	Dauber, shoe		Issued for length of service.

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e. Organizational Equipment

(1) Officers and Career NCO's

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
1	Map Case	Leather	Tan, approx 25 x 35 cm. Worn on left hip. Held by narrow strap. Issued to officers only.
1	Field Case	Web Cloth	Tan, approx 25 x 30 cm. Carried on either hip by means of a leather strap. Used for carrying of regulations and orders.
1	Compass	-	"Adrianov" Magnetic type, Soviet mfg. Not issued to NCO's.
1	Binoculars	-	Soviet type. Believed to be 6 power. Not issued to NCO's.
2	Sheets		White, exchanged weekly.
1	Pillow Case		White, exchanged weekly.
1	Gas Mask		Shlem-1
2	Blankets	Wool	Dark green, Polish made.
1	Poncho	Water-proof Cloth	Green, Polish made.
1	Suitcase	Fibre	Black or brown color, approx 100 x 35 x 60 cm. Used for personal clothing and uniforms during alerts or field training. Issued to officers only.
1	Pistol		Tokarev 7.62 mm, TT 1933.
1	Holster, pistol	Leather	Tan. Attached to belt by means of loops.
1	Brush, pistol	-	

(2) Conscripted EM

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
1	Gas Mask	-	Shlem M-1, Soviet made.
1	Knapsack	Web Cloth	Green.
1	Mess Kit	Aluminum	Polish made. Oval shape, approx 15 cm high, with lid and metal handle.
1	Spoon	Unknown	Polish made.
1	Cup	Aluminum	Polish made.

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<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
1	Individual First Aid Packet	Unknown	Wrapped with water-proof cloth, carried inside of blouse. Contained bandage, compress and safety pin.
1	Poncho	Water-proof cloth	Dark green. Polish made.
2	Blankets	Wool	Dark green. Polish made.
2	Sheets	Linen	White. Exchanged weekly when turned in to the laundry.
1	Pillow case	Linen	White. Exchanged weekly when turned in to the laundry.
1	Mattress, straw filled	-	
1	Pistol		Soviet 7.62 mm TT Tokarev M-33. For tank crews.

3. Issues of Additional Winter Uniform Items to Armored Personnel

Source stated that the following organizational uniform items were issued specifically to officers and EM of the armored branch of service. So far as Source could determine these were issued to armored troops only.

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Description and Remarks</u>
1	Jacket	Twill	Green colored and quilted. Two side pockets. One row of metal buttons. Buttoned at the throat. For winter service wear.
1	Trousers	Twill	Dark green and quilted. Full length. For winter service.
1	Helmet	Leather and cloth	Fleece lined. Ear flaps. Worn when operating tanks.
1 pr	Boots	Unfinished leather	Brown. Hob-nailed. Ankle length. For service and dress wear. Could be exchanged if unserviceable.

4. Additional Information Concerning Uniforms

Source could not furnish any details on materials, weights, designs and construction details and regulations other than that given in section 2 above. [] descriptions of colors of uniforms for various branches of service agreed with the information in DA Pamphlet No 30-50-2, Part II, The Satellite Armies. 50X1

Officers and EM received a gratuitous clothing issue as explained in section 2 above. However, EM frequently received used clothing and shoes, since new clothing and shoes were issued only when serviceable used clothing was not available for issue. Unserviceable clothing and shoes would be exchanged when approved by unit commanders.

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Each person was responsible for his clothing and misuse or loss could result in disciplinary action. Initial issues seldom fitted a person, but such items of clothing could be exchanged with other EM.

Source had no knowledge of clothing sizes.

5. Description of Insignia

Source stated that there had been no recent changes in officers' rank insignia worn on the shoulder loops and caps.¹ Branch of service was indicated by the color of piping on the cap crown, color of cap band, piping on the overcoat, trousers and shoulder loops.

Metal buttons on officers' uniforms were usually dark colored when issued but changed to silver after a period of wear. An uncrowned eagle was imprinted on the face of the button.

See Annex A concerning metal branch insignia worn by Polish troops.^{2,3} Source had no knowledge concerning individual identification tags.

6. Changes in Uniform

50X1 Source stated that the style and color of uniforms worn by officers and EM had not changed [redacted] However, [redacted] heard rumors that by 1955 all service uniforms worn by officers and EM would be of the same color, dark green.

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7. Shortages

Source was not aware of any shortages of clothing, uniforms or footwear in the Polish Army.

8. Changes from Winter to Summer Uniforms

Source stated that the exchange of winter for summer uniforms for conscripts occurred in April and the exchange of summer for winter uniforms occurred in September each year. This was in accordance with regulations issued by the Ministry of National Defense.

9. Wearing of Uniforms by Civilians

Demobilized officers and career NCO's Source believed, retained their uniform clothing. However, all items of clothing and equipment issued to conscripted EM were turned in to supply rooms upon discharge. EM received civilian clothing from home prior to discharge. Items of army clothing were worn by some civilians. Source had no further information.

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[redacted] Comment 1: Source gave the same descriptions of rank insignia as that given in Figure 99, p 107 of DA Pamphlet 30-50-2. [redacted]

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[redacted] as listed on p 107 of the same pamphlet.

[redacted] Comment 2: Concerning metallic branch-of-service insignia, the insignia sketched and described in Annex A are not mentioned in DA Pamphlet 30-50-2, either in metallic or cloth form. In this latter pamphlet, no information is listed as to these insignia. Source stated that [redacted] metallic insignia was worn mostly by officers. Some EM wore them also.

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[redacted] Comment 3: See [redacted] on metallic insignia worn by Polish Army officers.

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Annex A

Metallic Insignia Currently Worn by Polish Officers and Enlisted Men

1. From personal observations

Source was able to give the following descriptions and memory sketches of metallic insignia being worn by Polish officers and EM

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a. Infantry Branch

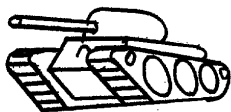


b. Artillery Branch

Source observed both insignia but could not define their meanings other than that both represented the artillery branch.



c. Armored Branch



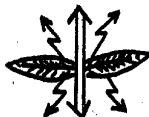
d. Quartermaster Branch



e. Motor Transport Branch



f. Signal Branch



g. Engineer (Sapper) Branch

Source observed some troops also wearing the insignia without the arrows.



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h. Medical Branch



i. Justice

(Similar to Judge Advocate Section)
considered by Source as a "Service."



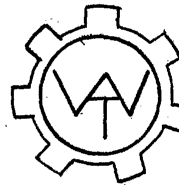
j. Administrative

Worn by some officers in WARSAW,
who were believed to be performing admini-
strative duties on various levels and in
staff offices of the Polish Army.



k. Military Technical Academy Insignia

"WAT" - translated as "Wojskowa
Akademia Techniczna" - Military Technical
Academy. Worn on the shoulder loops by
various officers and students of the Academy.



Note:

Officers assigned to duties as physical training, Politi-
cal, information, administration, etc, officers wore metallic
insignia of the unit to which they were assigned.

2. Source described all metallic insignia as measuring
approximately 3 cm in size and silver colored. Officers and
EM wore the same type of insignia. The metal was considered
to be soft and easily breakable.

3. Source stated that the metallic insignia was pinned
on top of the collar flashes when wearing rolled-type collar
blouses. The collar flash was described as a piece of cloth,
which was sewn to each collar. Source stated that the color
of the collar flash indicated the branch of service. Hence,
members of tank units wore black color collar flashes whereas
other branches of the Army wore red color collar flashes.



4. When wearing overcoats, a rectangular piece of cloth
measuring approximately 1.5 cm was sewn on to each collar,
and the metallic insignia was attached to the collar just
above the cloth collar flash.



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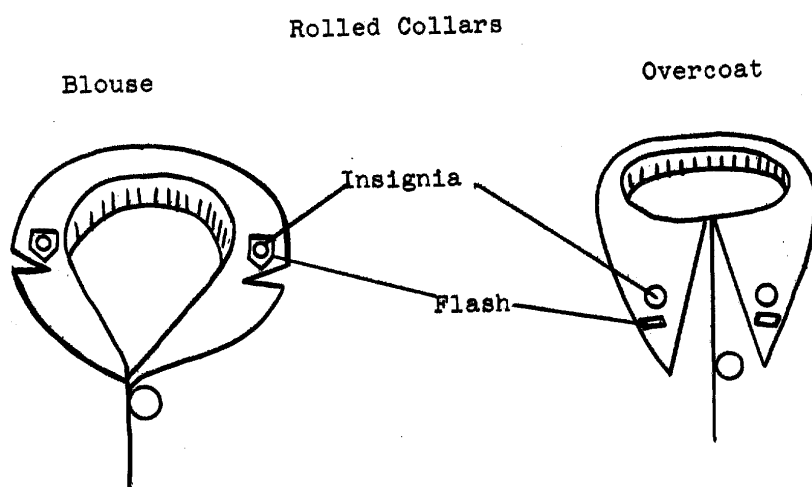
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5. Source gave the following examples on wearing of collar flashes and metallic insignia on the blouse and overcoat.



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