

INFORMATION REPORT

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REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Uniforms of the Polish Armed Forces and the Security Troops

DATE OF INFO. July - August 1951

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. All uniforms of the army, the AAA, the air force and the security troops were cut along the same pattern. The army, excluding the tank troops and the AAA, as well as the security troops wore khaki uniforms; the tank troops and the air force had gray blue uniforms with the blue predominating in the fabric of the air force uniforms and the gray in the cloth of those worn by the tank troops. (1) There was no difference between the uniforms of officers and EM. A number of officers and NCOs were still observed to wear the old-style uniform with patches of the old shape. (2) Once a year, a coupon entitling the bearer to have an extra uniform and an overcoat made to order was issued to every officer. When off duty, NCOs also wore extra uniforms.
2. The new style khaki and blue uniforms were seen being worn both as field and dress uniforms.
3. The headgear was either a round visor type service cap or a field cap. The visor type service cap had a cap band, piping around the crown, a chin strap of brown leather and the Polish eagle emblem above the cap band. The eagle emblem worn on the caps of the air force personnel was bounded by a gold sheet metal device, whose top was open. The field cap had piping around the crown and the Polish eagle emblem in the front. EM and NCOs on duty wore the field cap; on guard duty a visor-type service cap or the steel helmet was worn. The visor type service cap was commonly worn with the dress uniform. Officers were observed wearing only visor type service caps on and off duty. (3)
4. The blouse had an open collar, four large patch pockets with button flap pockets, sleeve cuffs and epaulets made of the same material as the uniform. The epaulets tapered towards the collar and were rounded at their upper ends. Five-cornered collar patches were worn above the lapels, and piping was worn along the edge of the sleeve cuffs. In summer, the EM usually wore shirts without ties; in winter, EM wore shirts with ties. Officers were observed wearing shirts and ties at all times. Khaki shirts and grayish green ties were worn with the khaki uniforms, and gray shirts with black ties with the blue uniforms. The belt was made of brown leather.
5. Combat-type trousers were worn; those worn with the dress uniform had piping on the outside seams. Lace shoes were worn, and low puttees fastening with buckles were worn with the field uniform. Officers on duty were frequently observed wearing breeches and riding boots.

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6. The ranks of EM and NCOs were shown by stripes and chevrons mounted on the visor type service cap below the eagle emblem, on the left side of the field cap and on the epaulets. Sergeants first class and master sergeants wore a U-shaped border around their epaulets.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Insignia</u>
Private first class	1 stripe
Corporal	2 stripes
Sergeant	3 stripes
Sergeant first class	1 chevron
Master sergeant	2 chevrons

7. Officers wore silver stars mounted on the caps and the epaulets as a distinctive insignia. Besides, one narrow silver stripe along the upper edge of the cap band of officers up to the rank of captain, two narrow silver stripes on the caps of officers holding ranks from major up to colonel and one wide silver purl on those of generals. Officers holding ranks from major up to and including colonel wore two silver bars, and generals one wide silver purl, on their epaulets.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Insignia</u>
Officer candidate (equivalent to staff sergeant)	1 silver star mounted on a short, longitudinal bar
Lieutenant	1 silver star
Senior Lieutenant	2 silver stars
Captain	3 silver stars
Major	1 silver star with 2 bars
Lieutenant colonel	2 silver stars with 2 bars
Colonel	3 silver stars with 2 bars
Brigadier general	1 silver star with a wide purl
Division general	2 silver stars with a wide purl
General of combat forces	3 silver stars with a wide purl
Marshal	2 crossed batons with a wide purl

8. Most army units wore red service color; only the tank troops wore black service color. All members of the Kosciuszki Division wore yellow service color for reasons of tradition. AAA units wore red, air force units light blue, Internal Security (KBW) units dark blue, and Border Guard (WOP) units green, service color. The cap band and the piping on the cap, the sleeve cuffs and along the outside seams of the trousers of the dress uniforms were of the respective color.
9. The air force personnel wore a silver propeller flanked by two wings on their patches. At the center of the propeller where the wings originated, was a small square in the national colors. In August 1951, source saw small tank insignia, made from sheet silver, on the epaulets of the Polish tank troops in Breslau-Rosenthal. (u)
10. Members of officer candidate schools wore colored epaulets in the appropriate service color with the silver letters OS intertwined. A multipartite silver oak leaf with a sword was worn on the patches. Stripes of the appropriate service color, 5 cm wide, were worn on the outside seams of the dark blue trousers. Trainees of tank officer candidate schools wore steel blue trousers without stripes. Narrow, silver stripes mounted on the sleeve cuffs served to identify the individual classes.
11. Members of the NCO candidate schools wore insignia, punched from white sheet metal, on their collar patches; infantry trainees had crossed-rifle insignia surrounded by an ivy wreath; and artillery trainees, crossed-gun-barrel insignia surrounded by an ivy wreath. No other details on the uniforms of the NCO candidate schools were identified.

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12. At driving practices, the tank troops wore blue overalls without insignia. Belts and padded caps made of linen were worn.
13. The personnel of the UB who usually wore civilian clothes could not be distinguished from members of the army when wearing their khaki uniforms with red service color.
14. The militia wore bluish gray uniforms with closed collars. Their blue service color appeared on their large, rhombic collar patches and on their blue bordered epaulets as well as on the stripe and the piping on their caps and their sleeve cuffs. Members of the militia on duty wore a metal plate with the eagle emblem and a number on their left breast.
15. The personnel of the labor service wore olive drab uniforms with field caps mounting the Polish eagle emblem at the front, the letters SP below and at the side, a red and white ribbon. The red and white patches were triangular and pointed upwards.

25X1 Comments.

- (1) It is still not determined whether only the members of the tank units or the members of all units assigned to a mechanized or tank division wear the bluish gray uniforms.
- (2) Pictures in the press frequently show officers and NCOs wearing blouses with closed collars and differently shaped silver braid along the front and lower edges of their large velvet collar patches. The blouse may belong to the old style uniform, which may be worn until late 1952.
- (3) According to pictures in the press, officers on duty also wear the field cap occasionally.
- (4) The model soldier insignia introduced in the summer of 1951 includes the insignia of 19 different branches of service; it is worn on the right breast pocket. Pictures of these insignia frequently appeared in Polish newspapers.

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Polish Army Ranks



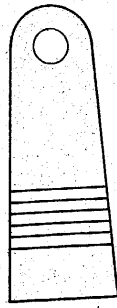
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Strzelec



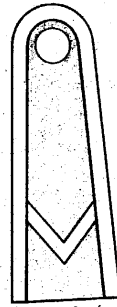
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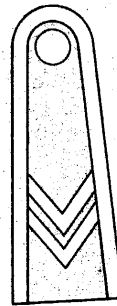
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Kapral



sergeant
Plutonowy



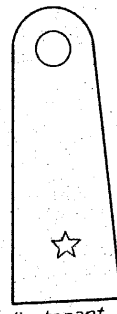
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Sierzant



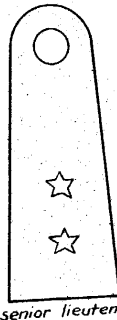
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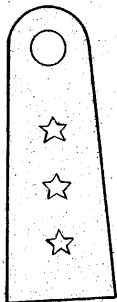
officer candidate
Chorazy



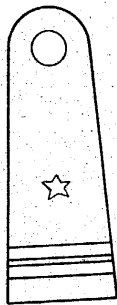
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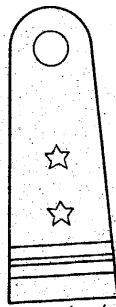
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Porucznik



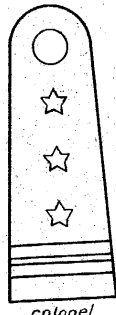
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Capitan



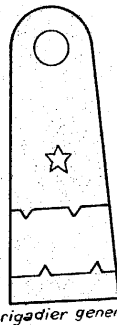
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Major



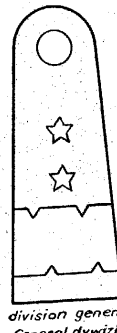
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Pporucznik



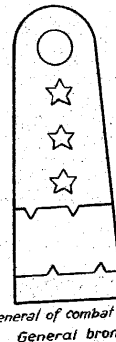
colonel
Pulkownik



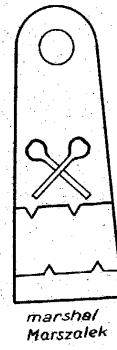
brigadier general
General brigady



division general
General dywizji



general of combat forces
General broni



marshal
Marszalek

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Annex 2

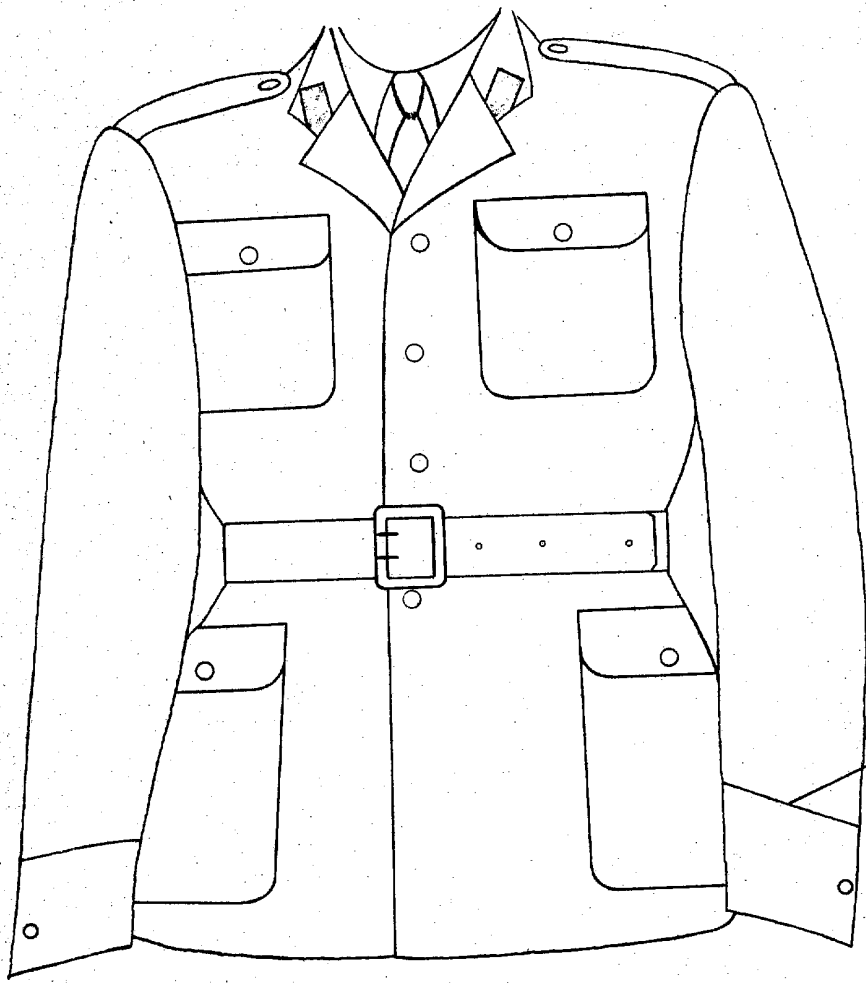
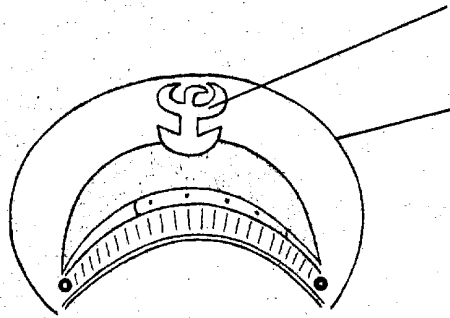
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Polish Army Uniform

Polish eagle

colored piping



colored cuff piping

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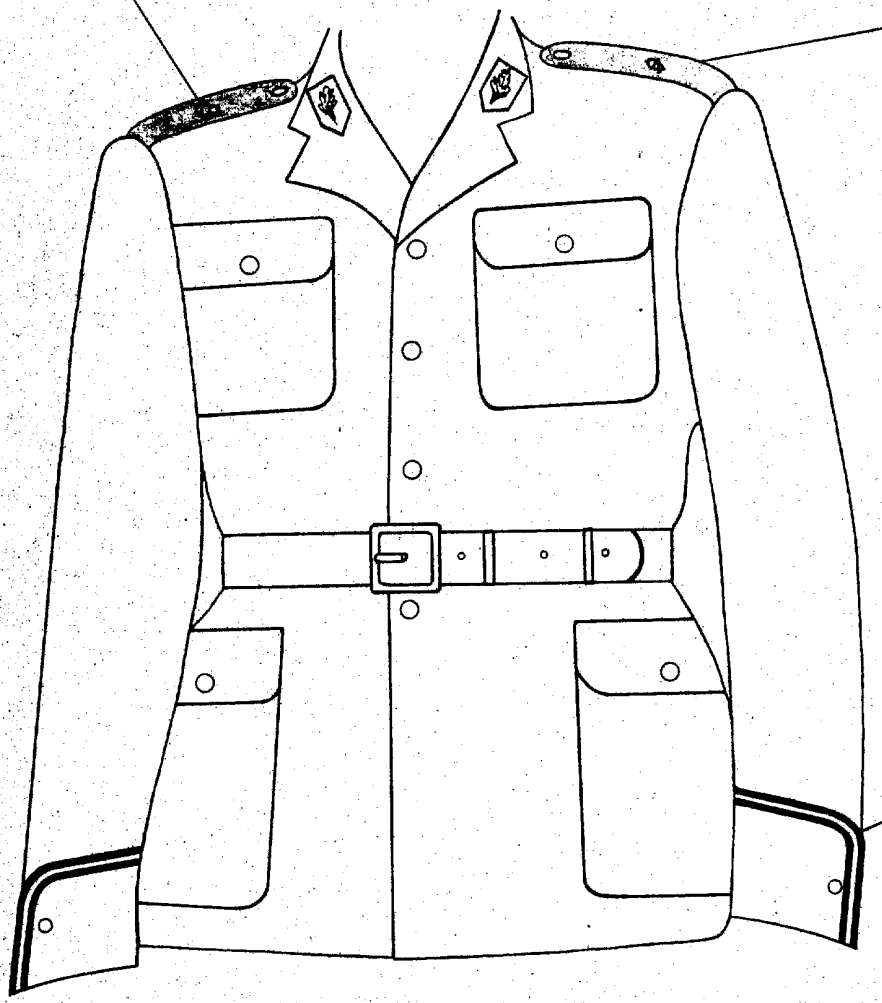
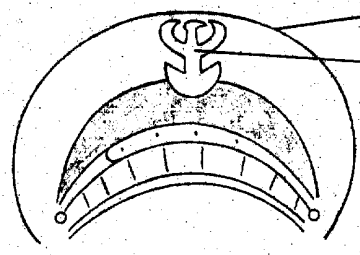
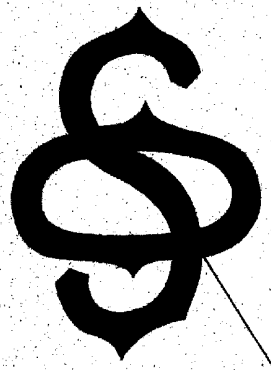
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Uniform of Polish Officers

colored piping

Polish eagle



silver piping

silver piping

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