

**INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT**

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

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**1. Deployment of Tank Units**

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Polish armored units are deployed almost entirely along Poland's western frontier. The following tank units have been identified:

Trzebiatow A battalion of medium tanks, a unit of the 35th (Treptow an der Rega) Mechanized Regiment.

A battalion of heavy tanks.

A rocket artillery battalion which has eight to ten trucks equipped with rocket launchers.

A heavy tank battalion, quartered in a former insane asylum two kilometers from Trzebiatow in 1952.

Slupsk (Stolp): 9th Medium Tank Regiment, including a unit of heavy tanks.

Gubin (Guben): A battalion of heavy tanks.

Zagan (Sagan) or Zary: 6th Heavy Tank Regiment. (Sorau in Nieder-Lausitz)

Czarne (Hammerstein) near Szczecinek (Neustettin): A large concentration of armored units in the surrounding woods; the following units are stationed in this area:

41st Tank Artillery Regiment equipped with 122-mm guns. The following officers of this regiment are known:  
Major Suminski (fnu)  
Captain Kulesza (fnu)  
Captain Baranowski (fnu)  
Soviet Major Mazurkiewicz (fnu), who was assigned to this this post from the Moscow Military Academy; speaks poor Polish.

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Wroclaw (Breslau): A heavy tank regiment.  
 Opole (Oppeln): A heavy tank regiment.  
 Gliwice (Gleiwitz): A small tank detachment; not further identified.  
 Szczecin (Stettin): A tank reconnaissance regiment.  
 Bydgoszcz: A tank artillery and a reconnaissance group.  
 Poznan: Two tank battalions, one of which is a training battalion using all types of tanks and tank artillery of various calibers, namely SU-122mm, SU-100mm, SU-85mm, and SU-75mm.  
 Warsaw-Bemowo: Two training companies using all types of tanks.  
 Swietochlowice,  
 Upper Silesia: Large military renovating and repair shops for armored equipment.

## 2. Organization of Armored Units - Medium Tanks

Detachment: Three tanks.  
 Company: Three detachments; nine tanks plus the tank of the commanding officer.  
 Battalion: Three companies plus one tank of the commanding officer.  
 Regiment: Three battalions plus a tank each for the commanding officer and his representative for political affairs.  
 Division: Three regiments of medium tanks and one battalion of heavy tanks, JS-2 type, plus the remaining services.

## 3. Components of a Medium Tank Regiment

Three battalions, each having a total of 31 tanks.  
 Two infantry battalions of tank infantrymen.  
 One technical maintenance company.  
 One telephone communications company.  
 One antitank artillery detachment.  
 One antiaircraft artillery detachment.  
 A medical company.  
 One company or battalion of combat engineers.  
 A chemical warfare company.

## 4. Personnel of a T-34 Tank Crew

Tank commander  
 Gun commander  
 Gun loader  
 Mechanic  
 Assistant mechanic or rifleman

## 5. Equipment

Polish armored units are outfitted primarily with T-34 medium tanks and heavy JS-2 tanks. All are well known Soviet types, some of which have been recently improved. With the exception of the motors, the origin of which is not known, the production of component parts and the assembling of the tanks is done in Poland, for the most part at the Josef Stalin Works, former Labedy (Laband) Foundry. Component parts and armor plates are delivered by the Zabrze (Hindenburg) and Bobrek foundries; artillery equipment by the Stalowa Wola Foundry and a plant in Poznan.

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## 6. T-34 Tank Equipment

85-mm or 100-mm gun.  
Three machine guns, KMDTM type, two of which are coupled.  
25 hand grenades.  
Rocket pistols.  
TSZ-15 or 17 target device; the latter model has been improved so that it can be set from the turret by the tank commander and thereby relieves the gun commander.  
Target device for the front, coupled TPU-8T machine guns.  
Field glasses B-6/6x binoculars (sic).  
Ammunition for each exercise and a set of rockets.  
An improved radio unit.  
An improved mechanism for mounting an auxiliary caterpillar drive by an estimated 15 cm. After mounting this auxiliary caterpillar drive the tank can be used in marsh lands.<sup>1</sup>

## 7. Personnel

- a. Recruits for the armored forces are drawn from the industrial areas, primarily from Upper Silesia, for a three-year tour of duty. A majority of the recruits complete training at a non-commissioned officers' school.
- b. The officer corps of the armored service is comprised of Poles up to the level of regimental commander. Regimental commanders are, with few exceptions, Russian graduates of the Moscow Military Academy. They have Polish names and uniforms, but in most cases speak poor Polish.

## 8. Morale

Professional officers must adapt themselves to conditions in order to have some semblance of a normal career. Promotions depend to a considerable degree on membership in the Party. In reality, a majority are not sympathetic to the Party. As proof, the fact may be cited that, among other things, officers do listen to Western radio broadcasts insofar as the local situation permits. Reserve officers and soldiers may be considered a mirror of the Polish people, which can scarcely be considered Communist. Regular Army officers, except for unit commanders and political officers, are not allowed to carry firearms off duty.

## 9. Other troop Units

- a. In 1953, Polish infantry units were completely mechanized. There are now in use a variety of trucks, primarily GAS-50 and GAS-51, which are manufactured in Lublin. These trucks have a capacity for 20 men or four heavy Maxim machine guns including the men required to service these weapons. One exception is an infantry division stationed in Tarnow or Krakow, which at present is in training at the training grounds in Lipie on the San.<sup>2</sup> This division is scheduled for operations in woods and marshes.
- b. The Polish Air Force is almost completely equipped with jet aircraft. Jet pursuit squadrons are stationed in Slupsk, Modlin, and Bydgoszcz.

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2.  Comment: Probably Lipie (N 49-18, E 22-42).

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