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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR/Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

SUBJECT Chemical and Biological Warfare Training
in the 24th Mech. Regt. and the 10th Sep.
Gd. Bn.

DATE DISTR. 6 December 1954

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REQUIREMENT

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REFERENCES

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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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COUNTRY USSR /Germany (Soviet Zone)

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CHEMICAL WARFARE TRAINING

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During Basic Training (Early 1950)

1. [redacted] instruction in chemical warfare [redacted] training consisted of several [redacted] fare [redacted] lectures. [redacted] No gas masks were issued to the basic trainees and there was no practical work done in chemical warfare.

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In the Recon. Co. 24th Mech. Regt. (June 1950 - November 1951)

2. [redacted] instruction in chemical warfare. Instruction took place in the fall after the completion of summer maneuvers.

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3. The classes were attended by as many men of the Recon. Co. as could be gathered together (the total strength of the entire company was only 37).

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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4. [redacted] the instructors of the chemical training classes varied. Occasionally, the company CO was the instructor, but, ordinarily, the classes were conducted by one of the company officers or an NCO. [redacted] usually, the day before a class was to be held, the company CO would assign an instructor and give him the theme of his lecture. That evening, the instructor would do some research on the topic, and the following day he would present the lesson. [redacted] 25X1
5. During the lecture periods, various gases were mentioned. [redacted] mustard gas (yperite), which [redacted] was the gas used later in the gas chamber exercise. [redacted] 25X1
6. [redacted] one day [redacted] the entire regiment had to go through the gas chamber. About 20 men with their gas masks in pouches entered the chamber at a time. Prior to entering the chamber, the group was told [redacted] that masks were to be put on at the command "Gas!". At this time they were also told that the gas used in the chamber was mustard gas. When the men were in the building, the door was closed and after a few minutes the command "Gas!" was given. The men donned their masks, remained in the chamber for a few minutes, and then left. The entire exercise lasted 10 minutes and all commands were given by the instructor. [redacted] the men were given no instruction in testing for the presence of gas by "sniffing". 25X1
7. [redacted] the gas chamber was semi-excavated, or wood construction, with one door and one window. Its roof was thatched and it had a dirt floor. [redacted] 25X1
8. [redacted]
9. [redacted] all other men in the Recon. Co., were issued gas masks. [redacted] the mask as a ShM-1, [redacted] it was a World War II model because the canister appeared to have been repainted several times. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] on the mask itself. In the pouch where the mask was kept there was a "pencil" for cleaning the eyepieces of the gas mask. 25X1
10. [redacted] during one of the class sessions, the company was shown some socks, a cape, and a two-piece suit which were to be used as protection against gas. [redacted] 25X1
- [redacted] the socks and cape appeared to have an oily coating, and that the two-piece suit looked as if it had been made of the same type of material as a vehicle carburetor diaphragm. [redacted] 25X1
11. During another class, the company was shown a container of what was described by the instructor as a decontaminating agent. This agent was to be applied to the body surface if it had been exposed to gas. [redacted] 25X1

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In the 10th Sep. Gd. Bn. (November 1951 - November 1953)

12. [redacted] a chauffeur in the 10th Sep. Gd. Bn. [redacted] was instructed to do the following in case of a gas attack while driving in convoy: (1) On command of the convoy commander the vehicle would be halted and all personnel would don their masks. (2) The truck-bed of the vehicle would be covered with a regular canvas cover in order to protect the cargo. (3) The convoy would then resume movement with an increase of distance between vehicles and at a lower rate of speed.

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13. [redacted] in time of war the chemical corps had the responsibility of setting up decontamination units for the purpose of decontaminating vehicles.

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[redacted] If there were passengers in the vehicle it would have been the driver's duty to get them to some type of shelter after which he would be required to return to his vehicle and remain with it.

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14. [redacted] There was no chemical personnel in the battalion

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BIOLOGICAL WARFARE TRAINING

15. [redacted] lecture on biological warfare. The lecture was given by a battalion officer [redacted] and dealt with the various methods by which an area could be contaminated. It also covered the different types of biological reactions that could take place.

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