

Ireneusz Bieniecki

Pomeranian University

in Słupsk

bieniecki.ireneusz@vp.pl

ORCID: 0000-0002-0021-8742

Izabela Szkurlat

Pomeranian University

in Słupsk

izabela.szkurlat@apsl.edu.pl

ORCID:0000-0001-6320-8421

THE EASTERN BORDER SECURITY SUBSYSTEM OF THE PRL BY BORDER PROTECTION FORCES AND ITS IMPACT ON STATE SECURITY IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY. SELECTED ISSUES. Part 1

PODSYSTEM ZABEZPIECZENIA GRANICY WSCHODNIEJ PRL PRZEZ WOJSKA OCHRONY POGRANICZA I JEGO WPŁYW NA BEZPIECZEŃSTWO PAŃSTWA W DRUGIEJ POŁOWIE XX WIEKU. WYBRANE PROBLEMY. CZ. 1

Abstract: The eastern border protection subsystem of the People's Republic of Poland (with the USSR) was one of the four subsystems protecting the Polish state border, which in the years from the end of World War II until the dissolution of the Border Protection Forces (WOP-15 May 1991) secured the protection of this section. The first part of the article discusses such issues as: tasks performed by WOP, organisation and changes in the system of border protection of the People's Republic of Poland in the years 1945–1991, forces and means of WOP participating in the protection of the border of the People's Republic of Poland until the mid-1980s and the division of the borderland, as well as crimes committed on the borderland and the border between the People's Republic of Poland and the USSR.

Zarys treści: Podsystem ochrony granicy wschodniej PRL (z ZSRR) był jednym z czterech podsystemów ochrony polskiej granicy państwowej, który w latach od zakończenia II wojny światowej do rozwiązania Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza (WOP-15 maja 1991 r.) zabezpieczał ochronę tego odcinka. W części pierwszej artykułu omówiono takie zagadnienia jak: zadania realizowane przez WOP, organizacje i zmiany w systemie ochrony granicy PRL w latach 1945–1991, siły i środki WOP uczestniczące w ochronie granicy PRL do połowy lat 80. XX w. oraz podział pogranicza a także przestępstwa popełniane na pograniczu i granicy PRL–ZSRR.

Keywords: protection of the border between the People's Republic of Poland and the USSR, protection of the eastern border of the People's Republic of Poland until 1991, securing the eastern border

Słowa kluczowe: ochrona granicy PRL–ZSRR, ochrona granicy wschodniej PRL do roku 1991

Introduction

Shortly after the end of the Second World War, in the People's Republic of Poland, a military formation was established to protect the state border. Wojska Ochrony Pogranicza (WOP) was created on 13 September 1945 by the order of the Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Armed Forces (WP) No. 0245. Initially, the organisational structure of the new formation consisted of a chief institution, which was the WOP Department, WOP Departments were established at the military district commands, and units protecting the border directly at the border: divisions, section commands and watchtowers. This first order did not yet take into account the functioning of the Transition Checkpoints (TPCs).

By 1991, the formation had undergone numerous reorganisations, with which the system and sub-systems (in individual sections) of border protection of the People's Republic of Poland had changed¹.

WOP was reformed after more than 45 years of service on the border on 15 May 1991, and the documents, property and posts of the formation were handed over to the Border Guard (SG) on the order of the Minister of Internal Affairs (no. 47/91) of 16 May 1991 on the organisation of the Border Guard and the reformation of WOP, and on 16 May 1991 a new formation, the Border Guard, was organised.²

Tasks of the Border Protection Forces

Throughout the life of this formation, its core tasks have been concentrated in a few basic levels such as:

- State border protection³ and border traffic control;

¹ Bieniecki, I., *Wojska Ochrony Pogranicza w systemie ochrony i obrony granicy morskiej Polski w latach 1965–1991*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Akademii Pomorskiej w Słupsku, Słupsk 2015, pp. 1–480; Prochwicz, J., *Wojska Ochrony Pogranicza 1945–1965. Wybrane problemy*, Naukowe Wydawnictwo Piotrkowskie, Piotrków Trybunalski 2011, pp. 1–563; Wasilewski, A., *Granica lorda Curzona. Wschodnia granica Polski od Wersalu do Schengen (traktaty, umowy, przejścia graniczne, podróżni, wizy)*, Adam Marszałek Publishing House, Toruń 2003, pp. 1–210.

² Kancelaria Morskiego Oddziału Straży Granicznej (MOSG) w Gdańsku, Rozkazy i Zarządzenia Komendanta Głównego SG z lat 1991–1992, vol. 3, Order no. 47 of the Minister of Internal Affairs H. Majewski of 16.05.1991 on the organisation of the Border Guard and the standing down of WOP, p. 1.

³ State borders are the boundary lines defining the territorial extent of the sovereignty of the respective states signifying the exclusive sovereignty of a state over that territory

- Performing border state administration functions;
- Socio-political activities in the borderlands;
- Training, education and preparation of soldiers of the border subdivisions and the retreats to carry out their tasks;
- as well as the specialised and material-technical safeguarding of the service process.⁴

Protecting the national border came down to:

- direct protection of the border with the forces of border guard sub-units and WOP posts, using ships and aircraft;⁵
- direct border protection through counter-intelligence control of the hinterland;
- performing tasks for the Ministry of the Interior (MIA) on border traffic control (KRG) at commercial ports, fishing ports and border crossings;
- conducting pursuits of border criminals on land and sea;
- implementing investigative functions in relation to border offenders;
- active management of the border surveillance process, collection of experience, research, development of essential documents and rules of procedure for border surveillance;
- close cooperation with the Border Traffic Control Service, the Citizen's Militia (MO), the Military Internal Service (WSW) and the Navy (MW) in the sphere of border protection;
- close cooperation with the border protection authorities of neighbouring countries at specific sections of the border.

and the impermissibility of the authority and rights of the other states to act in that territory. The total length of the state borders of the People's Republic of Poland was 3,538 km, including with: CSRS-1 310 km, USSR-1 244 km, maritime 524 km and GDR-460 km. See: also the entry "State borders", *Lexicon of military knowledge*, collective compilation dir. M. Laprus, MON Publishing House, Warsaw 1979, p. 132.

⁴ Archiwum Straży Granicznej (hereinafter ASG) w Szczecinie, Akta DWOP, sygn. no. 1839, vol. 2, Zadania Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza w okresie pokoju (zał. no. 1 do pisma no. 02314 z 1969 r.), pp. 1–3.

⁵ Bieniecki, I., *The Border Protection Forces' Floating Units and Their Use for the Security of the Maritime Border of the People's Republic of Poland in the Second Half of the 20th Century*, „Studia Nad Bezpieczeństwem” 2019, no. 4, pp. 77–93; Bieniecki, I., The vessels of the *Morska Brygada Okrętów Pogranicza w latach 1966–1991*, „Biuletyn Historyczny” Muzeum Marynarki Wojennej w Gdyni, Gdynia 2009, no. 24, pp. 172–191; Bieniecki, I., *Wykorzystanie jednostek pływających Morskiej Brygady Okrętów Pogranicza w ochronie polskiej granicy morskiej w latach 1965–1971*, „Komunikaty Instytutu Bałtyckiego”, Wydawnictwo „Marpress”, Gdańsk 2008, z. 47, pp. 54–67; Bieniecki, I., *Jednostki pływające Morskiej Brygady Okrętów Pogranicza i ich wykorzystanie w ochronie granicy morskiej w latach 1966–1991*, [in:] *Militarne i gospodarcze aspekty polityki morskiej Polski XX wieku* (materiały z konferencji naukowej zorganizowanej przez AMW w Gdyni 11–12.05.2000 r.), J. Przybyłski, B. Zalewski (eds.), Gdynia 2001, pp. 177–188; Bieniecki, I., *Eskadra lotnictwa rozpoznawczego Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza (1958–1970)*, part 1, „Przegląd Wojsk Lotniczych i Obrony Powietrznej” 1999, no. 4, pp. 93–97; Bieniecki, I., *Reconnaissance Aviation Squadron of the Frontier Protection Forces (1958–1970)*, part 2, „Przegląd Wojsk Lotniczych i Obrony Powietrznej” 1999, no. 6, pp. 81–85.

Border traffic control included:

- control of local border traffic at category II and III border crossing points;
- control of fishing traffic from coastal harbours;
- organisation and control of simplified border traffic with the USSR;
- organising and controlling the movement of troops across the border.

The exercise of border state administration functions was related to:

- maintaining the border, border signs⁶ and marking the borderland;
- keeping and updating of delimitation and other state border demarcation documents;
- organising and conducting periodic joint inspections of boundary surveying;
- current regulation of administrative regulations at the border and the borderland on the basis of the Border Protection Act in close consultation with the field authorities;
- border businesses and institutions, particularly in the fields of tourism and leisure, water management, shipping, communication agriculture and forestry, and legal relations;
- cooperation with local authorities of neighbouring countries with regard to matters and interests of border residents, matters of institutions and enterprises operating in the border area and border issues within the framework of the institution of a border plenipotentiary.⁷

Socio-political activities in the borderlands concerned:

- organising border population, youth, paramilitary and social organisations and Territorial Self-Defence Squads (TOS) to assist WOP in border protection;⁸
- conducting border crime prevention activities;
- close cooperation with political and prosecutorial authorities in the sphere of penitentiary policy;
- cultural and educational activities in the border region.

The training, education and preparation of the personnel of the border subdivisions and retreats to perform their tasks included:

- training of young soldiers in retreats for border subdivisions;
- training of soldiers in watchtowers;
- training of non-commissioned officer and ensign cadres;
- border training of professional staff;
- training of personnel reserves.

⁶ See: entry 'Boundary signs', *Lexicon of military knowledge...*, op. cit., p. 525.

⁷ See: the entry 'Border Commissioner of the People's Republic of Poland, *ibidem*, p. 299.

⁸ Bieniecki, I., *Koncepcja wykorzystania granicznych oddziałów samoobrony Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza w ochronie i obronie polskich granic*, [in:] 7. *Łużycka Dywizja Desantowa 1963—1986. Miejsce, rola i zadania Wojsk Obrony Wybrzeża w systemie obronnym Polski*, B. Pacek, A. Polak, W. Mazurek (eds.), Materials from a conference organised at the Central Maritime Museum in Gdańsk, Wydawnictwo AON-BELLONA, Warszawa 2014, pp. 152–157.

Specialised and material and technical security for the use of the service was related to:

- construction of observation towers and their equipment;
- provision of resources to maintain the control lane;
- provision of boundary signs and plaques;
- provision of radar (r./loc.) and infrared equipment used in the service.⁹

On the other hand, for the war period ('W'), the tasks of the WOP were as follows:

- Direct protection of the border with the forces of guards and outposts (according to "W" time rules);
- Strengthened and intensified traffic control in the border area;
- Indirect border protection by counter-intelligence control of the hinterland to the depth of the border districts;
- Protection and defence of special facilities in the borderlands;
- Conduct counter-insurgency operations in the border district belt and participate in securing order and security in the border districts, in close coordination with the internal operations of the District Defence Committees (PKOs) and the Provincial Defence Committees (WKO);
- Securing the march of the armies of the then allied countries through the borderlands of the People's Republic of Poland and carrying out tasks for their benefit, under a unified system of directing the movement of troops;
- Participate in combating air and sea landings according to Military Districts (OW) action plans;
- Assisting in dealing with the effects of WMD strikes on the civilian population of the border region;
- Regulation of policing issues in the borderlands under special laws;
- Collaborating with neighbouring countries on border protection,¹⁰ fighting diversion and securing the movement of troops;
- Border traffic control.¹¹

Organisation and changes in the border protection system of the People's Republic of Poland between 1945 and 1991

Until 1991, the subordination of state border protection in Poland varied and changed frequently. At various times it was the responsibility of the Ministry

⁹ ASG in Szczecin, Akta DWOP, ref. no. 1839, vol. 2, Tasks of the Border Protection Forces in peacetime (appendix no. 1 to letter no. 02314 of 1969).

¹⁰ Bieniecki, I., *Współpraca Sił Ochrony Pogranicza PRL z formacjami ochrony granicy ZSRR i NRD na południowym Bałtyku w latach 1960–1991*, [in:] *Morze nasze nie nasze. Zbiór badań*, P. Kurpiewski, T. Stegner (eds.), (materials from the All-Polish Scientific Conference entitled "Our sea not ours". "Morze nasze i nie nasze" zorganizowanej przez Muzeum Miasta Gdyni w dniach 18–19.10.2010), Publishing House of the University of Gdańsk, Gdańsk 2011, pp. 419–441.

¹¹ ASG in Szczecin, Akta DWOP, ref. no. 1839, t. 2, Tasks of the Border..., op. cit., p. 3.

of Internal Affairs or the Ministry of Defence. The tasks of this protection were carried out directly on the border by WOP. Until the dissolution of this formation (in 1991), its structure included WOP Command (DWOP) in Warsaw and tactical units on the border in the form of WOP Brigades (BWOP) and WOP Divisions (OWOP). Also, the organisation of WOP units in particular years was different due to the intensity and character of border crime, the distinctiveness of particular border sections and the principles of economy of forces.¹² For example, in mid-1962 WOP protected the state border of the People's Republic of Poland of a total length of 3,481 km (100%) including:

- 1,310 km (38%) with the CSRS;
- 1,250 km (36%) with the USSR;
- 461 km (13%) maritime border;
- 460 km (13%) with the GDR.¹³

At that time, the personnel of the entire WOP formation numbered 25,019 (100%) soldiers, including:

- soldiers of basic military service (zsw)-20,253 (81%);
- officers-3,339 (13%);
- professional non-commissioned officers-1,427 (6%).¹⁴

In this formation, its personnel represented various services and subdivisions. The following numbers of WOP soldiers were on duty in the various cells and types of subdivisions:

- border subdivisions-10,629 (42%);
- school divisions-3,846 (15%);
- technical subdivisions-3,141 (13%);
- recoveries-2,189 (9%);
- command and staff-1,390 (6%);
- supply organs-1,223 (5%);
- service subdivisions-1,085 (4%);
- Maritime Service (excluding the Head of Maritime Service and the WOP School of Maritime Specialists)-1,240 (5%);¹⁵
- flight-276 (1%).

The distribution of the above-mentioned forces for the protection of individual

¹² *Operation of WOP in the system of protecting the country's borders during peace and war*, "Biuletyn Informacyjny" of the Academy of General Staff, Warsaw 1971, no. 1 (101), p. 15; See: also *Scope of action of the Brygady Brygsk Ochrony Pogranicza command* (in the authors' collection), Warsaw–January 1985.

¹³ ASG in Szczecin, DWOP files, ref. no. 1608, vol. 4, Staff note on issues proposed for inclusion in WOP commander's notebook no. 01528a of 18.08.1962 prepared by maj. Kocybała, p. 1.

¹⁴ *Ibidem*, p. 2.

¹⁵ Bieniecki, I., *School of Marine Specialists of the Border Protection Forces (1950–1967)*, "Historical Bulletin" of the Naval Museum in Gdynia, Gdynia 2001, no. 17, pp. 95–102.

sections of the state border of the People's Republic of Poland varied, but the largest percentage of the personnel of this formation was involved in the protection of the western border (with the GDR) and the southern border (with the CSRS):

- Western border-44% (4,083 soldiers);
- Southern border-40% (3,756);
- sea border-13% (1,217);
- Eastern border-3% (318).

WOP detachments were also engaged in border operations, with a total of 2,189 (100%) soldiers at the time. Again, the most numerous detachments operated on the western and southern borders:

- Western border-36% (791);
- Southern border-28% (617);
- Eastern border-23% (493);
- sea border-13% (288).¹⁶

In mid-1962, the intensity of border crime on individual sections of the PRL state border varied considerably, ranging from 68% on the southern border (with the CSRS) to 3% on the maritime border. On individual sections of the PRL border it amounted to:

- 68% of total border crime at the southern border;
- 22% on the western border (with East Germany);
- 7% on the eastern border (with the USSR);
- 3% on the maritime border.¹⁷

Therefore, two basic types of border subdivisions, guards and outposts, were used to protect the PRL border.

Watchtowers functioned within BWOP structures, while outposts functioned within OWOP structures.

The sections of service responsibility protected by BWOP had an average length of 240 km, and the sections of the border protected by WOP watchtowers varied and were:

- 17 km at the maritime border;
- 12 km at the southern border;
- 8 km on the western border.

The average length of the section protected by the watchtower depended on the level of border crime threat and was 5 km in the main threat direction and 7 km in other directions.

Each BWOP had an average of about 17 watchtowers, which fell into four basic categories (types) with varying staffing levels:

¹⁶ ASG in Szczecin, DWOP files, ref. no. 1608, vol. 4, Staff note on issues..., op. cit., p. 2.

¹⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 3.

- Cat I guards-84 men (command, 2 infantry platoons and service team);
- cat II guardhouse -66 men (command, 2 infantry platoons and service team);
- Cat III guardhouse -47 men (command, 4 infantry teams and a service team);
- Cat IV guardhouse -26 men (command, 2 infantry teams and a service team).

On the other hand, OWOP protected a section of service responsibility with a length of 306 km, and the average length of a WOP outpost section was 45 km. Each division had an average of 7 outposts, whose staffing varied from 10 people on the southern border to 5–7 people on the eastern border.

At that time, various technical devices such as traffic lights, acoustic signalling, infrared signalling, radar surveillance (r./local)¹⁸ and checking the border lane¹⁹ were used to protect the border in the various sections.

A section of the eastern border was protected by the personnel of WOP outposts, based on reconnaissance and work with the civilian population of the border area.²⁰

In the mid-1960s, the next, in the opinion of the authors of this article, most significant changes in the organisational structure of WOP were made, which affected their activity until the end of the formation's functioning. The former DWOP and its subordinate units were subordinated to the General Inspector of Territorial Defence (GIOT) of the Ministry of Defence, Lieutenant General Grzegorz Korczyński, by a decision of the Committee for National Defence (KOK) of 6 March 1965. From 1 July 1965, the formation was subordinated to the Ministry of Defence in terms of command. Together with WOP, the Internal Security Corps (KBW) was incorporated into the Ministry of the Interior. Border crossings were still left in the Ministry of the Interior.²¹ A new system of command of WOP units was created, through the General Staff of the Polish Army, the Inspectorate of Territorial Defence (IOT) and the WOP Headquarters. At the same time, the entire supply of WOP units was taken over by Military Districts.²² At that time (1965), the WOP force had a total of 24,695

¹⁸ Bieniecki, I., *Obserwacja i radiolokacyjny dozór Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza na polskim wybrzeżu morskim w latach 1960–1991 (powstanie – rozwój – organizacja)*, cz. 1, „Biuletyn COS SG” 2011, no. 3 (58), pp. 73–90; Bieniecki, I., *Obserwacja i radiolokacyjny dozór Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza na polskim wybrzeżu morskim w latach 1960–1991 (powstanie – rozwój – organizacja)*, cz. 2, „Biuletyn COS SG” 2011, no. 4 (59), pp. 71–87; Bieniecki, I., *Obserwacja i radiolokacyjny dozór Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza na polskim wybrzeżu morskim w latach 1960–1991 (powstanie – rozwój – organizacja)*, cz. 3, „Biuletyn COS SG” 2012, no. 1–2 (60–61), pp. 99–118.

¹⁹ ASG in Szczecin, DWOP files, ref. no. 1608, vol. 4, Staff note on issues..., op. cit., pp. 3–4.

²⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 4.

²¹ A border crossing point in the PRL was defined as a place designated for crossing the state border. It could include a fixed section of road crossing the state border, the area of a border railway station, an airport or part thereof, a specific part of a sea or river port. The territorial scope of a border crossing in the PRL was determined by the Minister of Internal Affairs. Border crossing points were distinguished: road, rail, air, sea and river. See entry “Border crossing”, *Lexicon of military knowledge*, collective compilation dir. M. Laprus, op. cit., p. 340.

²² Dominiczak, H., *Establishment and organisational development of the Border Guard Troops in 1945–1983 (Studies in the history of the internal affairs department)*, z. 5, ASW Publishing House in Warsaw, Warsaw 1984, pp. 69–70.

professional and basic military service (zsw) soldiers. Pursuant to an order of the Ministry of Defence (No. 017/MON of 27 July 1965 on temporary terms of reference), the post of Chief Inspector of National Defence (GIOT) was created. It was directly subordinate to the Minister of National Defence and directed preparations for the land defence of the country's territory, the activities of the Internal Forces (WW) and Territorial Defence (OT) units, the preparation of field command posts of the chief state bodies, as well as coordinated undertakings in the field of general defence preparation of society. The WW comprised the Internal Defence Forces (WOWewn.) – subordinate to the GIOT directly or through the commanders of the OW and the WOP – subordinate directly to the GIOT.²³

In view of the organisational integration of the WWE into the composition of the unified OTK system and in accordance with the orders and orders of the Ministry of Defence and the Chief of the Gen. Staff Nos. 054/Org. of 26 June, 057/Org. of 28 June, 053/Org., 052/Org. and 060/Org. of 14 July 1965:

- On 26 June 1965, the post of GIOT was introduced and placed under the direct authority of the Ministry of Defence;
- On 1 July 1965, the position of Head of IOT was introduced at the same time as the Deputy of GIOT, creating the OT Inspectorate;
- as of 1 July 1965, the commanders of KBW and WOP were subordinated to MON by GIOT, maintaining the existing command system in WW until the competence of the OT Inspectorate was defined.

At the same time, a commission of the Polish Army General Staff under the chairmanship of the Deputy Chief of the General Staff for org./ mob. Maj. gen. A. Czaplewski had until 1 November 1965 to develop a project for the organisational structure of the WW units and their positioning in the composition of the unified OTK system, which was the core of the land forces of the system.

Archives of the Land Forces (hereafter AWL) in Toruń, DPOW Files, ref. no. 115/68, vol. 17, Order of the Chief of Staff of the POW No. 031/Org. of 21.07.1965, p. 1.

²³ ASG in Szczecin, Akta Szefostwa WOP, ref. no. 1841, vol. 3, Order of the Ministry of Defence no. 017/MON of 27.07.1965 on the temporary scope of competence of GIOT, p. 1.

The OTK troops were mainly intended for combat tasks within the internal defence front and in particular for:

- the country's air defence;
- land defence and sea coast defence (especially to combat enemy air and sea landings, special and diversionary groups);
- the protection of land and sea borders and the protection and defence of key facilities;
- securing the needs of operational troops in terms of their regrouping, development and replenishment;
- to participate in operations carried out mainly through the militarised and self-defence forces, aimed at preventing and removing the effects of enemy attacks on the country's territory.

The OTK troops included: the OPK troops, land troops, part of the air force and the MW. In the organisational system of the OTK ground troops, the following were distinguished: branches of the Internal Defence Forces, WOP, engineering-technical units (pontoon, bridge, railway, road-operational), OT units and others. OT units were intended to operate in the system of defence of provinces and districts, i.e. within the OT in conjunction with the general self-defence of society.

Archives of the Institutions of the Ministry of Defence (hereafter AIMON) in Modlin, GIOT Files, ref. no. 21/91, vol.147, Paper of the Deputy GIOT-Head of the Inspectorate of General

The next significant changes in the organisational structure of BWOP and forms of border protection took place after 1975, in connection with the reform of state administration and the new administrative division of the country. The directions for the improvement of border protection, adopted in 1975 by the management of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in the activities of WOP until 1980, envisaged adjustment of BWOP's service sections to the new administrative division of the country and a transition to a two-tier structure of command and management (WOP brigade – WOP watchtower, WOP brigade – WOP Border Control Post). At the same time, from 1 June 1976 the level of border battalions (bg) was eliminated and a new organisational structure of WOP was introduced, which was in force in the 1980s.²⁴

Forces and means of WOP in the protection of the eastern border of the People's Republic of Poland until the mid-1980s

In 1983, the total length of the Polish borders protected by WOP was 3,397.758 km (100%). The longest was the border with the CSRR-38.55% (1,309.900 km), the border with the USSR accounted for 36.17% (1,228.958 km), the border with the GDR-13.55% (400 km) and the maritime border-398.500 km (11.73%).²⁵

At the time, the formation had 24,188 full-time personnel, including 23,147 military personnel (95.7%) and 1,041 (4.3%) full-time civilian employees.

The cadre group of 7,375 consisted of: 2,933 officers (39.8%, including 18 general posts), 1,876 ensigns (25.4%) and 2,566 NCOs (34.8%). In addition, there were 15,772 (68.1%) zsw soldiers. Within this group, privates 13,644 (86.5%) and zsw non-commissioned officers 2,128 (13.5%) accounted for the largest proportion.

In the WOP formation in 1983 the following units, centres and subdivisions were in operation, with soldiers and civilian employees on duty:

- 11th WOP Brigade (BWOP);
- 1. WOP Training Centre (CSWOP) in Kętrzyn;
- 73. land guards (developed);
- 72. land (staff) guards;
- 19. coastal watchtowers;
- 9. port watchtowers (Szczecin, Gdynia, Gdańsk);
- 57. Border Inspection Posts (BIPs);
- 2. border battalions (bg);
- 3. Port battalions (bport);
- 12. de-escalation battalions (bo);

Self-Defence by Brig. Gen. A. Cesarski on the subject "Development of the defence of the People's Republic of Poland with particular reference to the territorial defence of the country" of 19.11.1969, pp. 9–10.

²⁴ ASG in Szczecin, Akta DWOP, ref. no. 2519, vol. 82, Order concerning organisational and staff changes in BWOP until 1985 (draft) of 20.07.1983, p. 1.

²⁵ ASG in Szczecin, Akta DWOP, ref. no. 2519, vol. 82, List of WOP units and subdivisions from 1983, p. 5.

- 9. independent retreat companies (sko);
- 30th Operational Groups (GOs);
- 8. training centres.²⁶

BWOPs at the time protected sections of the state border of varying lengths—from 5.2% (Baltic BWOP) to 13.0% (Nadbuzhanska BWOP) of the total length of the state border of the People's Republic of Poland. In individual BWOPs on the eastern border of the People's Republic of Poland, the following forces and resources were assigned for this purpose.

Podlasko-Mazurska BWOP-mp. Białystok

This protected a section of the border of 421.700 km (12.4%). In its structure it had the following frontier and retreat subdivisions:

- I) 10. land (staff) guards;
- II) 4. GPK;
- III) 1. sko;
- IV) 1. GO.

Nadbużańska BWOP-mp. Chelm Lubelski

This protected a section of the border of 442.472 km (13.0%). In its structure it had the following border and retreat subdivisions:

- 8 land (staff) guards,
- 3. GPK.

Bieszczady BWOP-mp. Przemyśl

This protected a section of the border of 372.122 km (10.9%). In its structure it had the following frontier and retreat subdivisions:

- 13. land (staff) guards;
- 4. GPK;
- 1. sko;
- 1. GO.²⁷

As mentioned above, the number of WOP forces and resources engaged to protect particular sections of the state border of the People's Republic of Poland depended, among other things, on the border crime occurring there.

Border division and crime on the communist-USSR border

According to the views held in the People's Republic of Poland, the protection of the state border did not just boil down to securing the border in a narrow sense.

²⁶ *Ibidem*, p. 5. See e.g.: Dominiczak, H., *Centrum Szkolenia Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza w Kętrzynie 1946–1986*, DWOP Publishing House, Warsaw 1986, pp. 1–268.

²⁷ ASG in Szczecin, DWOP, ref. no. 2519, vol. 82, List of WOP units..., op. cit., pp. 1–4.

It required the creation of a number of conditions and the carrying out of numerous organisational undertakings in the area adjacent to the border, known as the borderland.²⁸ The border area was divided into the following zones, starting from the state border and extending inwards into the country: the *border road strip*, the *border zone* and the *border strip*.

The *border road strip* was an area 15 m wide, starting from the state border line on land or from the water protection devices of the border waters (dykes, dams, sluices, etc.) and the seashore inland. This strip of land was used by WOP authorities to carry out activities related to the protection of the state border (a by-pass road) and the construction of border facilities, and it was forbidden to enter this strip or carry out any activities on it without the permission of WOP authorities. In situations where the characteristics of the terrain or the course of the border line required it, the Presidium of the Voivodeship National Council (WRN) could, at the request of the WOP authorities, extend the border road strip to 100 m.²⁹

The *border zone* comprised an area from 2 to 6 km wide, starting from the border line on land or from the shore of border waters or the seashore inland. Its width (within these limits) was defined by the presidencies of the WRN in agreement with the WOP authorities. It could be narrowed to less than 2 km by the Council of Ministers or in special cases extended to 10 km by the Ministry of the Interior.³⁰ On land located in the border zone, activities related to the marking and protection of the border and the construction of border facilities could be carried out without the consent of the owners or users of the land. Residence in the border zone required a permit from the District National Council (PRN) or the Municipal National Council (MRN) with jurisdiction over the place of residence. Also, temporary residence in the zone required a permit from the Citizens' Militia Headquarters competent for the residence of the person who intended to go to the border zone. The Presidium of the PRN or the MRN could prohibit a person permanently residing there from continuing to live and stay in the zone if security reasons or the protection of state borders required it.³¹ The border area also had specific and rigorous regulations for those residing there. Temporary residence in the border area required a permit from the authorities of the MO (police station, commissariat, post) having jurisdiction

²⁸ A borderland is an area adjacent to a state border, which was subject to legal provisions introducing certain rigours and restrictions aimed at ensuring the security and inviolability of the state border. In the People's Republic of Poland the following parts of the borderland were distinguished, starting from the state border and extending inwards into the country: the border road strip, the border zone and the border strip. See the entry "Borderland", *Lexicon of military knowledge...*, op. cit., p. 315.

²⁹ *Border Service Regulations. Part 1 – General principles*, MON Publishing House, Warsaw 1968, pp. 6–7; and the entry "Belt of the border road", *Lexicon of military knowledge...*, op. cit., p. 296.

³⁰ ASG in Szczecin, Akta DWOP, sygn. no. 1841, vol. 8, Opracowanie pt. "Organisation of activities of WOP forces and means in the system of protecting the country's borders and cooperation in this field with other forces and means OTK of 15.10.1970, p. 3.

³¹ *Border Service Regulations. Part 1...*, op. cit., pp. 8–9, and the entry "Border Zone", *Lexicon of military knowledge...*, op. cit., p. 418.

over the place of residence of the person who intended to go to the border area. A residence permit for the border zone entitled the person to stay in the locality that was listed on the permit. Permits were not required for juveniles under 14 years of age.³² The need to hold a temporary residence permit in the border area was suspended only in the coastal provinces during the summer season (1 May to 30 September) each year. In addition, the possession of a temporary residence permit in the border area was not valid for certain groups of people. Any person staying in the border area individually or as part of an organised group was obliged, when requested by the WOP or MO authorities, to present a document confirming his/her right to stay in the border area, together with an identity card. People under the age of 18 were not required to have an identity card and could instead present a school ID card, a temporary identity certificate or another personal document. Such a document was not required as long as they were staying in the border area together with the people whose identity card they were registered with. People arriving in the border area were required to register at the office of the local territorial state administration of the basic level, within 24 hours of their arrival, regardless of the length of time they intended to stay in the border area. Those staying in the border area were obliged to comply with regulations issued by the local provincial offices. In particular, these regulations regulated the use of bathing and beach areas as well as tourist facilities and trails. These regulations were published in the form of notices. Managers of organised groups travelling on tourist routes in the border area were obliged to have a list of participants by name. In order to maintain the safety of the participants of these groups, it was recommended that their managers (organisers) should each time notify the local WOP guards of the date and route of the planned marches, rallies and hiking camps.³³

*The border strip included the area of the counties adjacent to the state border line and from the shore of the border waters and the seashore. Those towns and counties whose area lay wholly or partly within 30 km of the border were also included in the border strip. The Council of Ministers could, by means of a decree, extend the area of the border strip to all or certain districts or localities adjacent to the districts of the border strip, as well as extend all or certain provisions in force for the protection of borders in the border zone, to the area of the border strip or certain parts thereof.*³⁴ The above-mentioned terms were linked to the concept of a border offence, which was a judicially prohibited act directed against the inviolability and security of state borders. This category of offences included, inter alia, crossing or attempting to cross the state border without permission, on the basis of forged documents or documents belonging to another person, providing assistance in the illegal crossing of the state border or violating border signs and equipment.³⁵ For example, in the period from 1 January 1965 to 30 September 1968, a total of 1,651

³² Regulations in force in the border area, "Granica" (WOP magazine), no. 7 of 1986, p. 3.

³³ *Ibidem*, p. 3.

³⁴ *Border Service Regulations. Part I...*, op. cit., pp. 8–9; and the entry "Border Belt", *Lexicon of military knowledge...*, op. cit., p. 296.

³⁵ See the entry 'Borderline crime', *Lexicon of military knowledge...*, op. cit., p. 343.

people (100%) were detained at the PRL-Soviet border for border crossings or attempted and for committing other border crimes and offences, as shown in the table below.

Table 1. Persons apprehended at the border of the People’s Republic of Poland and the USSR in the years 1965–1968

Nature of the act committed	Year				Total on the border of COMMUNIST PARTY–USSR
	1965	1966	1967	1 January – 30 September 1968	
Illegal border crossing or attempted illegal border crossing	224	309	357	310	1 200
Other offences	1	3	11	10	25
Border offences	52	91	148	135	426
Total	277	403	516	455	1 651
Percentage of total	16,8	24,4	31,3	27,5	100

Source: ASG in Szczecin, DWOP files, sygn. no. 1839, vol. 2, Information on the activities of the Border Protection Forces in the field of PRL border protection of December 1968, p. 25.

On the basis of the data presented above, an upward trend in each of the categories listed in the table (other offences, border offences) can be observed at this section of the state border during this period. Also, according to the assessment of the USSR side, the threat to this border increased in these years, with a particularly noticeable increase in incidents of attempted in the direction towards Poland. An assessment of the state of border crime on the eastern border was the subject of a meeting with the then head of the WOP. It was conducted on the initiative of the Russian side in January 1968. There was also a written submission on this issue from the USSR, delivered in February 1968, by the head of the KGB representation of the USSR to the Interior Ministry of the People’s Republic of Poland. At the time, of particular interest and concern to the neighbour beyond the River Bug was the phenomenon of a marked increase in border crime on the USSR’s western border, where around 50% of all border crime with the USSR was concentrated.³⁶ In their information, the Russians also signalled the phenomenon of an increase in the smuggling of hostile literature at border crossings. In 1967 alone, 27,000 copies of so-called hostile publications smuggled into the USSR from Poland were revealed. Due to the increase in crime and the increased penetration of the border areas by tourists from the Western countries at the time, the Russian side expressed concern that, under these conditions, there was the possibility of the smuggling into the USSR of agents of foreign intelligence “*and emissaries of bourgeois-nationalist*

³⁶ ASG in Szczecin, Akta DWOP, ref. no. 1839, vol. 2, *Informacja o działalności Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza w zakresie ochrony granic PRL of December 1968*, p. 25.

centres operating in the West."³⁷ Also, operational analyses carried out by the Polish side confirmed the facts of increased penetration of communication routes crossing the borders, bridges over the River Bug, military facilities, etc. by diplomats of Western countries accredited in Poland (in particular the USA, the UK and France). On the eastern border of the People's Republic of Poland, in the zone of operation of WOP subunits, the organs of Zwiadu³⁸ of this formation operationally controlled approximately 700 people who, in their opinion, posed a threat to the security and inviolability of the state border at that time. On this section of the state border, there were population centres of Ukrainian origin in the northern and southern parts of the border area. In these communities, a resurgence of nationalist sentiment was observed, fuelled by centres in what was then West Germany and Canada. The activation of contacts of local Ukrainian population groups with the mentioned centres was also noted. Cases were found where the eastern and southern borderlands were used as a meeting place for people of Ukrainian origin residing in the USSR to meet representatives of Ukrainian circles from West Germany, the USA and Canada. Such meetings were arranged in advance by correspondence. Similar trends also occurred in centres of Lithuanian origin in the districts of Sejny and Suwałki.³⁹ In 1966, an organised smuggling operation across the border into Poland was uncovered and dismantled in the town of Bereźniki in the Suwałki district, with the involvement of Soviet border residents of Lithuanian origin. In the above mentioned case 7 citizens of the People's Republic of Poland were detained. In addition, numerous violations of border order, most often by border residents, such as damage to USSR border signs, unconscious border violations and numerous incidents of cattle crossing over the border line, were found on the PRL-Soviet border at this time. The perpetration of these offences was greatly facilitated by the lack of a direct border (line) service. At the time, it was assessed that such incidents constituted

³⁷ *Ibidem*, p. 26.

³⁸ Bieniecki, I., Szkuřlat, I., *Zwiad Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza w zabezpieczeniu polskiej granicy morskiej w latach 1960–1991*, [in:] *W cieniu słuźb. Ze studiów nad bezpieczeństwem państwa*, P. Kořakowski, B. Sprengel, M. Stefański, J. Zawadzki (eds.), Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek w Toruniu, Toruń 2016, pp. 387–411; Bieniecki, I., Szkuřlat, I., *Zwiad Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza w latach 1960–1991 (tasks, organisation, personnel and its activity in protecting the border of the People's Republic of Poland)*, [in:] *Słuźby wywiadowcze jako element polskiej polityki bezpieczeństwa. History and contemporaneity*, M. Góřka (ed.), Adam Marszałek Publishing House in Toruń, Toruń 2016, pp. 299–335; Bieniecki, I., *Operacyjno-rozpoznawcza działalność Zwiadu Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza na polskim wybrzeżu morskim w latach 1960–1991*, [in:] *Słuźby specjalne w systemie bezpieczeństwa państwa. Przeszłość–Terażniejszość–Przyszłość*, „Materials and Studies”, vol. 1, A. Krzak, D. Gibas-Krzak (eds.) (materials from the International Scientific Conference entitled Special Services in the State Security System. „Przeszłość–Terażniejszość–Przyszłość” organised by the University of Szczecin on 24–25.04.2012 in Szczecin), Publishing House of the University of Szczecin and the Military Centre for Civic Education, Szczecin–Warsaw 2012, pp. 457–482; Bieniecki, I., *Zwiad Nadmorskich Brygad Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza w latach 1965–1991. Zadania – struktura – działalność*, [in:] *Edukacja dla bezpieczeństwa. Special Services in the State Security System. Practical aspects of security*, vol. 1, M. Ilnicki, A. Piotrowski (eds.), (materials from a conference organised by WSB), WSB Publishing House in Poznań, Poznań 2012, pp. 147–178.

³⁹ ASG in Szczecin, Akta DWOP, ref. no. 1839, vol. 2, Information..., op. cit., p. 26.

a significant nuisance in the process of border protection and were treated by the Russian side as a serious violation of order at the state border. In 1967 alone, a total of 232 such incidents were recorded and 242 people were detained for unknowingly crossing this border. On this border there was also a simplified border traffic,⁴⁰ which was used by citizens of the Polish People's Republic and the USSR permanently residing in border towns. All activities related to the simplified border traffic, including the issuing of passes and control of this traffic, were performed by the border protection authorities of both countries. The second part of the article will be published in the next issue of Security Studies.

Bibliography

Collective publications

- Bieniecki, I., *Współpraca Sił Ochrony Pogranicza PRL z formacjami ochrony granicy ZSRR i NRD na południowym Bałtyku w latach 1960–1991*, [in:] *Morze nasze nie nasze. Zbiór studiów*, P. Kurpiewski, T. Stegner (eds.), materiały z Ogólnopolskiej Konferencji Naukowej pt. „Nasze morze nie nasze” organizowany przez Muzeum Miasta Gdyni w dniach 18–19.10.2010, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Gdańsk 2011.
- Bieniecki, I., *Jednostki pływające Morskiej Brygady Okrętów Pogranicza i ich wykorzystanie w ochronie granicy morskiej w latach 1966–1991*, [in:] *Militarne i gospodarcze aspekty polityki morskiej Polski XX wieku* (materiały z konferencji naukowej zorganizowanej przez AMW w Gdyni 11–12.05.2000 r.), J. Przybylski, B. Zalewski (eds.), Gdynia 2001.
- Bieniecki, I., *Koncepcja wykorzystania granicznych oddziałów samoobrony Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza w ochronie i obronie polskich granic*, [in:] *7. Łużycka Dywizja Desantowa 1963–1986. Miejsce, rola i zadania Wojsk Obrony Wybrzeża w systemie obronnym Polski*, B. Pacek, A. Polak, W. Mazurek (eds.), materials from a conference organised at the Central Maritime Museum in Gdańsk, AON-BELLONA Publishing House, Warsaw 2014.
- Bieniecki, I., *Operacyjno-rozpoznawcza działalność Zwiadu Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza na polskim wybrzeżu morskim w latach 1960–1991*, [in:] *Służby specjalne w systemie bezpieczeństwa państwa. Przeszłość–Teraźniejszość–Przyszłość. Materials and Studies*, vol. 1, A. Krzak, D. Gibas-Krzak (eds.), materials from the International Scientific Conference entitled Special Services in the State Security System. Przeszłość–Teraźniejszość–Przyszłość' organised by the University of Szczecin on 24–25.04.2012 in Szczecin), University of Szczecin Publishing House and Military Centre for Civic Education, Szczecin–Warsaw 2012.
- Bieniecki, I., *Wojska Ochrony Pogranicza w systemie ochrony i obrony granicy morskiej Polski w latach 1965–1991*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Akademii Pomorskiej w Słupsku, Słupsk 2015.

⁴⁰ Until 1991, border traffic was defined as the crossing of the state border by people and means of transport on the basis of proper documents at a border crossing point designated for this purpose. Depending on the place and method of border crossing, border traffic was distinguished between road, rail, air, sea and river. On the other hand, with regard to the purpose, conditions and basis for crossing the border, border traffic was classified as: passport traffic, transit traffic, minor traffic, tourist traffic, fishing traffic and sporting/boating traffic. See: the entry „Border traffic”, *Lexicon of military knowledge...*, op. cit., p. 381.

- Bieniecki, I., Szkurlat I., *Zwiad Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza w zabezpieczeniu polskiej granicy morskiej w latach 1960–1991*, [in:] *W cieniu służb. Ze studiów nad bezpieczeństwem państwa*, P. Kołakowski, B. Sprengel, M. Stefański, J. Zawadzki (eds.), Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek w Toruni u, Toruń 2016.
- Bieniecki, I., Szkurlat, I., *Zwiad Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza w latach 1960–1991 (tasks, organisation, personnel and its activity in protecting the border of the People's Republic of Poland)*, [in:] *Służby wywiadowcze jako element polskiej polityki bezpieczeństwa. History and contemporaneity*, M. Górka (ed.), Adam Marszałek Publishing House in Toruń, Toruń 2016.
- Bieniecki, I., *Zwiad Nadmorskich Brygad Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza w latach 1965–1991. Zadania – struktura – działalność*, [in:] *Edukacja dla bezpieczeństwa. Special Services in the State Security System. Praktyczne aspekty bezpieczeństwa, vol. 1*, M. Ilnicki, A. Piotrowski (eds.), materials from a conference organised by WSB, WSB Publishing House in Poznań, Poznań 2012.
- Dominiczak, H., *Centrum Szkolenia Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza w Kętrzynie 1946–1986*, DWOP Publishing House, Warszawa 1986.
- Dominiczak, H., *Powstanie i rozwój organizacyjny Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza w latach 1945–1983 (Studia z dziejów resortu spraw wewnętrznych)*, Wydawnictwo Akademii Spraw Wewnętrznych w Warszawie, Warszawa 1984.
- Lexicon of military knowledge*, M. Laprus (ed. collective), MON Publishing House, Warszawa 1979.
- Prochwicz, J., *Wojska Ochrony Pogranicza 1945–1965. Wybrane problemy*, Naukowe Wydawnictwo Piotrkowskie, Piotrków Trybunalski 2011.
- Regulamin Służby Granicznej. Część I: Zasady ogólne*, Wydawnictwo MON, Warszawa 1968.
- Wasilewski, A., *Granica lorda Curzona. Polska granica wschodnia od Wersalu do Schengen (treaties, agreements, border crossings, travellers, visas)*, Adam Marszałek Publishing House, Toruń 2003.
- Zakres działania Komendy Brygady Straży Granicznej (w zbiorach autorów)*, Warszawa 1985.

Press and newsletters

- Bieniecki, I., *Border Protection Forces vessels and their use for the security of the maritime border of the People's Republic of Poland in the second half of the 20th century*, "Studies on Security" 2019, no. 4.
- Bieniecki, I., *Jednostki pływające Morskiej Brygady Okrętów Pogranicza w latach 1966–1991*, „Biuletyn Historyczny” Muzeum Marynarki Wojennej w Gdyni, Gdynia 2009, no. 24.
- Bieniecki, I., *Wykorzystanie jednostek pływających Morskiej Brygady Okrętów Pogranicza w ochronie polskiej granicy morskiej w latach 1965–1971*, „Komunikaty Instytutu Bałtyckiego”, Wydawnictwo „Marpress”, Gdańsk 2008.
- Bieniecki, I., *Szkoła Specjalistów Morskich Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza (1950–1967)*, „Biuletyn Historyczny” Muzeum Marynarki Wojennej w Gdyni, Gdynia 2001, no. 17.
- Bieniecki, I., *Obserwacja i radiolokacyjny dozór Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza na polskim wybrzeżu morskim w latach 1960–1991 (powstanie–rozwój–organizacja), cz. 1*, „Biuletyn COS SG” 2011, no. 3 (58).

- Bieniecki, I., *Obserwacja i radiolokacyjny dozór Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza na polskim wybrzeżu morskim w latach 1960–1991 (powstanie–rozwój–organizacja)*, cz. 2, „Biuletyn COS SG” 2011, no. 4 (59).
- Bieniecki, I., *Obserwacja i radiolokacyjny dozór Wojsk Ochrony Pogranicza na polskim wybrzeżu morskim w latach 1960–1991 (Observation and radiolocation surveillance of Border Protection Forces on the Polish sea coast in the years 1960–1991) (powstanie–rozwój–organizacja)*, cz. 3, „Biuletyn COS SG” 2012, no. 1–2 (60–61).
- Bieniecki, I., *Reconnaissance Aviation Squadron of the Border Protection Forces (1958–1970)*, part 1, “Przegląd Wojsk Lotniczych i Obrony Powietrznej” 1999, no. 4.
- Bieniecki, I., *Reconnaissance Aviation Squadron of the Border Protection Forces (1958–1970)*, part 2, “Przegląd Wojsk Lotniczych i Obrony Powietrznej” 1999, no. 6.
- Operation of WOP in the system of protecting the country’s borders during peace and war*, “Biuletyn Informacyjny” of the Academy of General Staff, Warsaw 1971, no. 1 (101).
- Regulations in force in the border area*, “Granica” (WOP magazine), no. 7 of 1986.

Archives

Border Guard Archive in Szczecin

- DWOP files, ref. no. 1839, vol. 2, Tasks of the Border Protection Forces in peacetime (appendix no. 1 to letter no. 02314 of 1969).
- DWOP files, ref. no. 1608, vol. 4, Staff note on issues proposed for inclusion in WOP commander’s notebook no. 01528a of 18.08.1962 prepared by Maj. Kocybała.
- DWOP files, ref. no. 2519, vol. 82, Order concerning organisational and staff changes in BWOP until 1985 (draft) of 20.07.1983.
- DWOP files, ref. no. 2519, vol. 82, List of WOP units and subdivisions of 1983.
- Akta Szefostwa WOP, ref. no. 1841, vol. 3, Order of the Ministry of Defence no. 017/MON of 27.07.1965 on the temporary scope of competence of the GIOT.
- Akta DWOP, sygn. no. 1841, vol. 8, Opracowanie pt. “Organisation of activities of WOP forces and means in the system of protection of the country’s borders and co-operation in this field with other forces and means OTK of 15.10.1970”.
- Akta DWOP, ref. no. 1839, vol. 2, Information on the activities of the Border Protection Forces in protecting the borders of the People’s Republic of Poland of December 1968.

Land Forces Archive in Toruń

- DPOW files, ref. no. 115/68, vol. 17, Order of the Chief of Staff of the DPOW no. 031/Org. of 21.07.1965.

Archive of the Defence Ministry institutions in Modlin

- GIOT files, ref. no. 21/91, vol. 147, Paper by GIOT Deputy-Secretary of the Inspectorate of General Self-Defence Brig. Gen. A. Cesarski on “Development of the defence of the People’s Republic of Poland with particular reference to the territorial defence of the country”, 19.11.1969.

Archive of the Marine Unit of the Border Guard in Gdańsk Nowy Port

- Kancelaria Morskiego Oddziału Straży Granicznej (MOSG) w Gdańsku, Rozkazy i Zarządzenia Komendanta Głównego SG z lat 1991–1992, vol. 3, Order No. 47 of the Minister of Internal Affairs H. Majewski of 16.05.1991 concerning the organisation of the Border Guard and the standing down of WOP.

Summary

The eastern border protection subsystem of the People's Republic of Poland provided protection for one of the four sections of the state border in the years 1945–1991. The first part of the article (below) presents such issues as the tasks carried out by the Border Protection Forces (WOP), the organisation and changes in the border protection system of the People's Republic of Poland in the years 1945–1991, the forces and means of the WOP in protecting the border of the People's Republic of Poland until the mid-1980s, and the division of the borderland and crimes on the People's Republic of Poland-Soviet Union border.