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Neisse Garrison as an element of the security system of the Republic of Poland in the years 1946-2001

(Abstract of doctoral dissertation)

The main aim of this doctoral dissertation is to present the history of the Neisse Garrison in the years 1946-2001 from a broad perspective of administrative and structural changes of the Land Forces, consequences of its closing and the conclusions concerning restructuring of the garrisons in the Polish Armed Forces in the future.

The dissertation has been divided into five chapters, introduction and conclusion. The first chapter describes the history of the town from the military angle starting with its establishment in the Middle Ages until the end of the World War II. The detailed examination of various publications and legislative acts provided the groundwork for the specification of administrative and geographic location of the Neisse and the military aspects of the town until 1945. At the end of the chapter special attention was given to the changes of the Garrison in years 1946-2001 in the context of the most crucial changes taking place in the Polish Army Forces.

The second chapter, built upon the reviews of publications in the field of research, introduces dislocation of the military units in the Neisse Garrison in the Polish Army organizational structures in the years 1945-2001. An important section of the chapter is devoted to the direction of the structural changes in tactical formations, units and subunits located in the Neisse Garrison between the end of World War II and 2001 when the garrison was closed down. In particular the following structures have been presented: the 7th Lusatian Infantry Division, the 2nd Warsaw Mechanised Division and the 22nd Carpathian Brigade of Mountain Infantry.

The third chapter provides the analysis of the archival sources and the contemporary works devoted to the modernisation process of the equipment used by the Land Forces, which took place in the years 1945-2001. The later part of this chapter depicts meticulous description of equipment and infrastructure used in the Neisse Garrison.

The investigation and the study of the literature subject, archival sources and the interviews with the former soldiers serving in the Neisse Garrison have been the

essentials of the forth chapter. It includes the conception of the usage of military units located in the Neisse Garrison, their military training course and their role in the peacekeeping missions or the military conflicts.

The fifth chapter describes the non-military assignments and missions performed by the soldiers in the years 1945-2001, both for the nation and the society. What is more, based on the archival publications, the role of the solders from the Neisse Garrison for a daily life of the local community has been introduced . The last part of the chapter deals with the extensive description of Garrison's disbanding and the subsequent consequences of its closure for the region. A significant segment of this chapter is devoted to presenting the conclusions concerning the potential restructuring of the garrisons in the Polish Armed Forces in the future.

Over the centuries Neisse and its region have been related to the military. The history of Neisse proves that this town has always played one of the most important roles in the defence strategy of the state it was subordinated to. In the years 1946-2001 the military units in the town underwent the process of transformation within the organization, equipment, training and their employment. Over the years the significance of the Neisse Garrison for the Polish Armed Forces has been consistently decreasing and as a consequence a decision was made to disband the garrison.

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