
Summaries

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.



THE ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE OF THE HISTORY MEETING HOUSE AND THE KARTA CENTRE FOUNDATION

The purpose of this article is to present the resources of the Oral History Archive, run jointly by the History Meeting House and the KARTA Centre Foundation. The archive includes over 5300 audio recordings and more than 100 video recordings. The text presents the oldest collections in the resources, i.e. the Eastern Archive and the Opposition Archive, which include more than 1700 recordings. Later recordings were also described, collected under documentation projects conducted since 2001, for example, the Mauthausen Survivors Documentation Project and the International Slave and Forced Labourers Documentation Project. The projects used a biographical narrative interview method, which henceforth became the primary tool of work in the Archives. The next recordings, implemented under the project Poles in the East (over 1000 recordings), documentation projects carried out in small homelands or outside specific projects, are now consistently implemented with the use of this tool. The article also informs about publications issued on the basis of materials from the Archive, about the access to the Visual History Archive and the possibilities of using the materials collected in the Archives in the multimedia reading room of the History Meeting House and via the following website www.audiohistoria.pl.

RECORDS OF THE BOARD OF THE II GENERAL STAFF OF THE POLISH ARMY IN THE YEARS 1944–1956 IN THE ARCHIVES OF THE INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE IN WARSAW

Documents of the Board of the II General Staff of the Polish Army, along with other materials of the PRL (People's Republic of Poland) security authorities, were transferred to the Institute of National Remembrance under the Act of 18 December 1998. The most varied documents include the operational records, with materials from Attaches and residencies, personal files of military and civilian employees, personal records and work documents of agents and informants, object cases, records of clandestine premises, intelligence reports and the characteristics of intelligence tasks. Information materials and general files are much less varied. The former include studies and publications concerning foreign armies, the characteristics of the intelligence situation and manuals, and the latter include orders and internal and external directives, annual work plans, training plans, financial materials, correspondence, descriptions of office affairs, as well as logs of incoming and outgoing letters. Given the diversity of these documents, it can be said that they are very valuable historical sources. They enable to reproduce the organizational structure of military intelligence in PRL, the scope of its duties, as well as the level of education or the mentality of the officers serving there.

THE SOUND LIBRARY OF THE ARCHIVES OF THE INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE AND ITS ARCHIVING USING THE ZEUS PROGRAM

The sound library of BUiAD IPN currently has 664 archive units of audio materials stored on various media. With regard to those creating the records, we divide them into two groups: recordings created as a result of the activities of the civil and military state security bodies and the judiciary, and those derived from private donations. The text gives examples of recordings representing each group, and then discusses the specifics of the formation and archival processes of the sound documentation produced by the technical operation divisions of the Security Service. The parameters and processes of digitization of the sound library have been described, which is intended to protect the recordings against further degradation of their media and provide access to digital recordings without the need of constant referral to their analogue counterparts. Recognizing the similarities between the development of digitized audio-visual materials and the development of film and photographic materials, the management of the IPN archive has decided to adapt the "ZEUS" archive system, previously used to describe photographs and videos, for the development of sound recordings. The advantage of this system is the complete management of the digital collection and information about it, as well as flexibility that allowed us to solve problems concerning the development, resulting from the specific nature of the audio materials stored in the resources of IPN.

ELECTRONIC DATABASES OF THE SECURITY SERVICE

The article describes several years of efforts of IPN archives department employees aimed at copying the databases of Security Service recorded on magnetic tapes onto contemporary digital media. The main obstacle in the implementation of the above is the deposit place of these media. Namely, they are stored in a separate, secret archive, referred to in Art. 39 of the Law on IPN. Restricted access to these materials, imposed by the Chief of the Internal Security Agency, not only prevents us to learn about the information on the tapes, but also does not allow for the use of preventive measures against their destruction. The article also discusses the history of the computerization of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It describes the most significant database systems used by the secret police and the computer equipment that ministry specialists used not only for the surveillance of their political enemies, but also of the entire Polish society.

THE PRINCIPLES OF OPERATIONAL RECORDS OF "POLITICALLY UNRELIABLE ELEMENTS" IN THE SOVIET ORGANS OF WUCZK-GPU-OGPU IN THE YEARS 1918-1934

One of the attributes of the state, the essential elements of its impact on society, are the prosecution authorities guaranteeing law enforcement, including national security authorities. In the sphere of combating crime, they perform the role of state policy leaders. Authorities that protect the law and conduct operational and investigative activities always use special methods and measures of obtaining information. Operational records play an important role among these measures, as it would be impossible to conduct operational and investigation activities without them. In contrast to state registration, the essence of operational records is to collect, systematize and analyse data on organizations and individuals in order to implement preventive measures prior to the crime. With respect to specific persons, operational records are usually conducted in cases based on criminal grounds. Operational records should not depend on citizenship, nationality, social origin, financial status, membership in particular political parties and social organizations,

attitude to religion, etc. Whereas in Soviet practice, these principles were not always applied. The article presents the place of operating records (classified) of Soviet special services among other state records (non-classified) and the issue of people's registration and their role in the state management system of the Soviet organs of WUCzK-GPU-OGPU in the years 1918-1934.

NAME RECORDS OF MEMBERS OF THE POLISH WORKERS' PARTY (PPR) KEPT BY THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY

The archive of the Institute of National Remembrance includes a document entitled "Members of PPR in the Ministry of Public Security PKWN and MBP. Name record No. 1-942 with personal information". Although it does not contain the date of preparation, the arrangement of individual records, sometimes providing the exact date of entering the PPR, indicates that the records had been kept since mid-1945 (June). Based on the analysis of the same elements it was found that the last entries were made in November 1946. The relevant document is an excerpt from the register of party members, useful in the study of individual officers of the Ministry of Public Security.

"THE CHARACTERISTICS" OF INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATIONS CREATED BY DEPARTMENT "C" OF KW MO/WUSW IN BIAŁYSTOK IN THE YEARS 1972-1990

"Characteristics" of independence organizations are specific monographs of these organizations drawn up by officers of the archives of the Ministry of Security in the 1970s and 1980s. They were created on the basis of operational and administrative records of security offices. Therefore, these studies perform the role of secondary documents, originally intended for internal use only. The purpose of these publications was to show the origins, personnel, structures, operations, the process of examining and methods of eliminating underground organizations. Materials produced in this form were then used by officers of security authorities for operational purposes, research and propaganda (anniversary albums, chronicles, exhibitions). The article is an attempt to present the structure of those documents, their informational content and research value.

CHARACTERISTICS OF OPERATIONAL RECORDS WITH THE ARCHIVAL SIGNATURE "II" PRODUCED BY THE III DIVISION OF KW MO/WUSW IN SUWAŁKI IN THE YEARS 1975-1989

Cases of operational verification, operational examination and record questionnaires, described in this article, are the result of the operational activities of the III Division of KW MO/WUSW in Suwałki and their local units in 1975-1989. The presented mechanisms of the functioning of MSW archives show the various stages of the registration of cases and the rules for the collection of documentation. From the beginning of the case, until it was archived, it was necessary for an officer to take a number of actions that ultimately completed the multi-step process of preparing operating records. Learning the rules of documenting operational cases enables the correct reading of the information contained therein. The article discusses the source contents of the records, which should facilitate the identification of documentation by researchers, and the access to archive materials on particular issues by users. The described archives are undoubtedly a valuable source of information about the recent history of the North-Eastern region of Poland, and in particular, the mechanisms of operation of state security authorities.

OBJECT CASE "PARLIAMENT". DOCUMENTATION OF OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE ELECTIONS TO THE CONTRACT SEJM IN THE SUWAŁKI PROVINCE

The maintained records of the object case under the code name "Parliament" reveals the scope of interest and attempts to influence the most important political event of 1989 in the Suwałki province, namely the election on the 4th of June, by the communist apparatus of repression. The main objective of the initiated case was to ensure the flow of information about the feelings, opinions and comments related to the elections to the Sejm and the Senate, which was possible, among other things, through the use of personal sources of information, operational contacts and external observation. The directions of operational activities were determined in the instructions and letters sent by the head office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The monitoring activities carried out within the framework of the "Parliament" case were to serve the surveillance of not only opposition parties' candidates, but also representatives of the government coalition parties, and the information from the operating activities of the Security Service was designed to "maximize" the results of the Communist Party and its coalition partners.

MICROFILMING OF THE RECORDS OF KW MO/WUSW IN POZNAŃ

On the example of KW MO/WUSW in Poznań, the article discusses the history of microfilming the records by the Security Service. On the basis of the found guidelines and regulations concerning microfilming, the evolution of the process of selecting the files for microfilming and which documents in each category were selected for microfilming has been presented. The first decisions concerning the microfilming of documentation produced by the communist security authorities were made already in the 1960s. The next step took place from the mid-1970s, and reached its peak in 1983-1989. The following records were qualified for microfilming: records of operational value, mainly personal sources of information and operational cases, and to a lesser extent, investigative records and object cases. Statistical data on the microfilmed records in WUSW Poznań for the years 1983-1989 were found. They give an interesting picture of what categories of cases and what quantities were microfilmed. On the basis of the presented statements and the current content of the archives of IPN in Poznań, it is possible to determine the collection of microfiche for WUSW in Poznań.

WOMEN – OFFICERS OF THE PROVINCIAL PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU (WUBP) IN BIAŁYSTOK IN THE FIRST YEARS OF ACTIVITY (OUTLINE OF ISSUES)

In order to carry out the tasks provided for by the foreign Stalinist regime in Poland, the public security apparatus tried to reach all levels of society. In the vast majority, women employed in the WUBP in Białystok, as well as across the country, occupied the positions of secretaries, typists or switchboard operators. Some of them were often involved in operational projects, and conducted training preparing other officers for operations. Many of them participated in the referendum and the so-called securing of the elections in 1947, in amnesty actions, and even in the fight with the resistance movement. Thanks to their commitment, some of the women were quickly promoted and performed managerial positions in the Białystok office. In the early years of WUBP, there were also cases that deviate from the above image. Among the analysed group of officers employed in the Ministry, there were women who decided to cooperate with the resistance movement. Thanks to the information provided by them to the AK (Home Army) command many people avoided murderous hearings, persecution and even death.

**“THE ENEMY OF THE REGIME”. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OPPOSITION
IN THE 1980S AND REPRESSIONS OF THE AUTHORITIES
AGAINST EWA KUBERNA**

Among the employees of major industrial plants, who decided to resist the communist authorities in the 1980s, the majority were men. However, it should be noted that political changes that were taking place in the country at that time, were also a consequence of the brave and decisive actions taken by women. One of the leading activists of the opposition in the region was Ewa Kuberna. This article presents her opposition activity in Stalowa Wola, starting with her joining NSZZ “Solidarity”, and finishing with the assistance provided to trade unionists and their families. Numerous repressions and harassments, to which Ewa Kuberna was subjected by the communist authorities have also been described. Despite the arrests, home searches and financial penalties imposed by the courts, she did not resign from her opposition activity.

**“ROTMISTRZ”, “WUJ”, “HRABIA LOLO”.
ANDRZEJ RZESZOTARSKI IN THE DOCUMENTS OF THE REPRESSION
APPARATUS**

Andrzej Rzeszotarski is a character essentially absent from the pages of Polish historiography. This is not surprising, as he was not famous for any heroic or criminal acts during the Second World War; he did not hold any positions in the party-state system of the People’s Republic of Poland, he was not active in political opposition, did not succeed in science, art or sport. Rzeszotarski was not engaged in anything that would be in the interest of historians of modern Polish history. Is it then worth the trouble to make historical considerations about a character who – at first glance – is ahistorical? Thanks to the article, we learn about the career of a PRL bon vivant and “businessman”, whose activities covered almost any kind of trade, anything that gave hope of profit – from gold, diamonds, limousines and currency to plastic gallantry and white Kiwi shoe paste. This text is an attempt to present a picture of a person who formed the unofficial image of Warsaw in the 1960s and was part of the dark side of the city, condemned by the authorities.

**THE SPECIAL CRIMINAL COURT IN GDAŃSK (1945–1946).
CONTRIBUTION TO THE MONOGRAPH**

The Special Criminal Court (SSK) in Gdańsk was organized at the end of June 1945 as the last institution of its kind in Poland. The first indictment was submitted to the SSK in Gdańsk on 4 August 1945, and the first hearing was held on 6 September 1945. Out of the 1345 cases on Nazi crimes submitted to the SSK in Gdańsk, 1431 people were charged. Out of this group, the cases of 534 persons were examined, of which 293 persons were convicted, and 69 were sentenced to the death penalty. After the end of the war and the first wave of processes, which sentenced those accused of war crimes and cooperation with the occupier, the status of the special courts began to be opposed by an increasing group of lawyers. Finally, on 17 October 1946, a decree on the abolition of special criminal courts was announced, and cases carried out by these courts came under the jurisdiction of competent district courts. Polish historiography still lacks a monograph on the institutions established for the punishment of Nazi war criminals. This article aims to, at least partially, fill this gap by describing the organization and functioning of one such institution, which covered a considerable part of the area included after the war in the Recovered Territories.

NEW LEGISLATION AND POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CRIMES IN THE YEARS 1944–1947 ON THE EXAMPLE OF KRAKÓW

The article presents the complicated situation of post-war Poland, destroyed by years of occupation. Upon the example of four cases concerning the “black market”, currency and gold trading, money exchange and falsification in the period 1944-1947, the changes introduced into Polish law were confronted with social attitudes and the impact of these changes on daily life. Issues concerning the province of Kraków were led by WUBP in Kraków and PUBP in Limanowa. All the cases seek to provide a brief biography of those involved in the cases.

SECURITY SERVICE IN THE LAND OF SNOW

In February 1977 the Henryk Arctowski PAN polar station began its operation. It would seem that biological studies should not become a subject of increased interest of the security police, especially that that they were carried out at the other end of the world. Nothing could be further from the truth. The program of Polish polar research was covered by the operational supervision of the Security Services since the day it was launched. In August 1985 the III Division of the III MSW Department decided to launch the object case under the code name “Polarnik”, which covered PAN polar stations at King George Island and Spitsbergen. The operational activities of the security services can be divided into two stages: supervision of the preparations for the expedition, and then its proper course. In the first case, the key issue was the proper selection of the participants of the expedition, primarily in political terms. The actions taken before the expedition were continued during its course, as the summer groups were accompanied by security services officers. After returning home, they drew up a comprehensive report which informed about the observed irregularities and described the steps taken to remove them.

LECH BĄDKOWSKI IN THE LIGHT OF THE MATERIALS OF THE COMMUNIST SECURITY APPARATUS

Lech Bądkowski (1920-1984) was a soldier in World War II, a journalist, a writer, an activist of the Kashubian-Pomeranian region, a rebel against the communist regime, the spokesman of the Inter-Enterprise Strike Committee in Gdańsk in August 1980. By the mid-1970s, the local structures of the Communist Party in Gdańsk perceived him as the main “opposition centre” on the Coast. For this reason, Lech Bądkowski, until his death, remained the subject of intense operational interest of the PRL security authorities. Under surveillance in the years 1968-1984, as the subject of operational action under the code name “Inspirator”, whose records were destroyed by the Security Service in 1990. Nevertheless, meticulous query into the materials of the communist security apparatus transferred to the archives of the Institute of National Remembrance allowed to reproduce the methods used to combat his activities, the operational techniques and the scope of surveillance of the writer from Gdańsk. We managed to find numerous references relating to Lech Bądkowski in the reports and summaries of the Gdańsk security services, as well as access valuable documents about him in the various documents of operational cases.

**THE LOCATION OF COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENTS IN THE STRUCTURES OF
THE SECURITY SERVICE IN THE 1980S IN THE LIGHT OF THE LETTER
BY GENERAL KONRAD STRASZEWSKI OF 2 JANUARY 1984
AND DECISION NO 04 OF THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
GENERAL CZESŁAW KISZCZAK OF 6 APRIL 1989**

Upon the decision of the Minister of Internal Affairs of 8 December 1983, communication departments in the provincial offices of internal affairs (and in the Metropolitan Office of Internal Affairs) were included in the structures of the Security Service and remained there until the dissolution of the services. Although the decision of the Minister of 8 December 1983 has not been found in the archives of the Institute of National Remembrance, it is confirmed by other documents found primarily in the resources of OBUiAD IPN in Kraków. Two of these documents: a letter of 2 January 1984 by general Konrad Straszewski and Decision no 04 of the Minister of Internal Affairs general Czesław Kiszczak of 6 April 1989, were published in full in the presented text.