

Thesis title: Choszczno garrison in XX century
SUMMARY

The main aim of this dissertation is to present the history of Choszczno garrison from its foundation in 1937 till the end of the 20th century. This thesis covers a variety of military aspects which have an influence not only on the urbanization of the city and adjacent areas but have also an impact on the qualitative and quantitative values of the units stationing here between 20th and 21st century. A very important dimension of this dissertation is to show how the changes in our country in second part of the XX century were reflected in our defense doctrine and what impact it had on the garrison's situation and its place in the Polish Armed Forces.

PhD thesis consists of five chapters:

Chapter I. Presumptions of the existence of Choszczno garrison;

Chapter II. Arnswalde Garrison from 1937 – 1945;

Chapter III. Choszczno Garrison from 1945 – 1962;

Chapter IV. Choszczno Garrison from 1963 – 2001;

Chapter V. Conditions of service for professional soldiers and the Choszczno Garrison's impact on Choszczno and adjacent areas.

Chapter I discusses geographic – military structure of the Choszczno area and its impact on the city from medieval to present times. It was partially an attempt to discover why Germans chose Choszczno as a good place for a garrison.

Chapter II tries to resolve problems related to the way the garrison was used under the German control and how important were the fights of the city in February 1945 for military situation for east front.

At the beginning of Chapter III another research problem was analyzed - how the Red Army was exploiting Choszczno in spring 1945 and few years later after the Second World War. The last part of this chapter as well as Chapter IV presents the history of Polish Armed Forces units stationed here and contains answers to the problems connected with the development and changes of the Choszczno Garrison. In Chapter III the artillery period in the Choszczno Garrison during the fifties of the 20th century is presented. The changes, as presented chronologically, have shown a close relation between the units stationed in Choszczno and the political-military and economic situation in our country during those days. In Chapter IV description of the units stationed in Choszczno was made based on their role in that time in the Polish Defense System. Therefore a description of the units stationed in Choszczno garrison at that time was made with a division into radio engineering troops and artillery missile troops. Doth troops stationed in one garrison realized their tasks which placed them among the most important in the Polish Army at that time. Highly specialized and technically advanced troops placed on their soldiers high standards which could be

met only by high skilled specialized soldiers.

Chapter V analyses the conditions of service for professional soldiers in the garrison and the impact of the military on the city and its region. It shows how big was the influence of the Polish Armed Forces on city restoration and development. The main conclusion can be drawn from the above-mentioned arguments that the existence of the Choszczno Garrison was one of the most important factors influencing the development of the city after the Second World War.

Assessing the contribution of the dissertation to the development of knowledge it should be emphasized that realizing the intended goal and research problems, the selected military garrison has been shown in the most comprehensive manner possible. The study used all achievable and suitable sources and Polish, German and Russian (Soviet) documents. They are specific in such way that they present the common fates of the German and Polish units stationed in the Choszczno barracks and show the role of the garrison during the Second World War and post-war history of the Polish Army.

The presented dissertation as a whole is a set of comprehensive content relating to the subject matter. A careful analysis of archival sources, the use of unarchived, unpublished documents, photographs and relations, the knowledge of literature allowed to create a coherent, full, complete, accurate and comprehensive thesis which answers the problems presented at the beginning.

Keywords: Choszczno, Arnswalde, military, garrison, Oflag II B, the operation "Sonnenwende", artillery, radio engineering troops and artillery missile troops