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### **Abstract**

In the years 1945 – 1954 the role of the guardian of the people's power was serviced by the Ministry of Public Security which was managed by Stanisław Radkiewicz. Service subordination in the UB was based on a three-tier system of security organs. Voivodship public safety facilities were field representatives of the Ministry of Public Security at the voivodship level. On the other hand, the county and municipal offices were divided into sections, forming the regional agendas of voivodeship institutions of public safety.

The County Department of Public Security in Tuchola was established on February 17, 1945 after Germans left Tuchola. It was led by a chief and his deputy. During discussed period the County Department of Public Security in Tuchola went through numerous organizational changes. In August of 1947, the organizational structure was unified. This model introduced following organizational divisions: Administration, Secretariat, Department I (counterintelligence), Department II (Records and Operational Techniques), Department III (Fighting against reactionary underground), Department IV (economic), Department V (socio-political), Investigation Department, Economic Apparatus, Security and Infirmary.

In March of 1952, further organizational changes in field structures of the security apparatus were conducted. The County Department of Public Safety in Tuchola was led by a chief and his deputy, as it was before. As the result of organizational changes, the competences of the Operational Department were transferred to officials, now concentrated in two organizational units: the county and the field team of officials. The Infirmary was managed by a doctor, who was supported by a nurse. The building was protected by a commander and seven officers.

In 1945 – 1954 the County Department of Public Safety in Tuchola had young personnel of Polish nationality, declared as Roman Catholics, mainly from working – class and peasant environment. They were marked by the lack of experience in politics and their poor education.

The County Department of Public Security in Tuchola had a major personnel turnover in the years 1945-1954. It was caused by many factors. The layoffs took place when employees committed a crime or they violated the rules.

The vast majority of the personnel came from Kuyavia, Pałuki in Pomeranian, Cracovian and Poznań provinces. Autochthons, excluding staff management, represented 22% of all workers. Women in the Security Service in Tuchola constituted 9,1% and mostly worked as typists, secretaries, nurses and cleaners.

The activities of Department of Security officers were measured and rewarded based on the statistics provided by confidential informants and the results of cases they conducted. They officers were recruited based on Soviet model. The recruiters preferred the people who displayed traits such as: willingness, intelligence, cleverness, energetic, knowledgeable and trustworthy amongst the locals.

Three methods of obtaining a secret informer were distinguished such as: „on compromising materials”, „on patriotic feelings” and „for money”. The research of this paper allows us to draw conclusions that in the initial period of people’s power, the informers were mostly obtained on the basis of compromising materials. At a later date, the Security Service in Tuchola recruited more and more delegates on patriotic feelings, whereas only a small percentage worked for money.

During discussed period of time three types of agents were distinguished: resident, agent and secret collaborator. Besides the „SC” the Security Service in Tuchola used other sources of information, for example, civil and operational contacts. The largest increase of espionage network in the Tuchola County took place in the last quarter of 1946.

In August 1948, the County Department of Public Security commenced the operation of cleansing the informational and espionage network by eliminating of useless and unnecessary units.

The 1950s had a characteristic of the new trend in recruitment, where the core of the strategy in obtaining new informers focused on the quality and not on the quantity of people persuaded to collaborate. Regardless of this fact, the number of the informants and residents had been gently increasing until it collapsed in late 1954 in connection with the initiated thaw.