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Uniforms Of The East German Military: 1949-1990



Synopsis

This book is the most complete study in English on East German (DDR) military and police service, parade and combat uniforms. With over 1,000 images -- hundreds in full colour -- the uniforms, headgear, and insignia of all military service branches as well as police and border forces are covered in superb detail. Also presented are official regulations, dress codes, women's uniforms, accessories, and a wide selection of period images covering the entire DDR period from 1949-1990.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This appears to be a translation of Kuebke and Kunz's 2005 "Militär- und paramilitärische Uniformen in der DDR 1949-1989", itself an expanded version of Kuebke's 1990 "Uniformen der Nationalen Volksarmee 1956-1989" (the latter actually written while the German Democratic Republic was still in existence for the state military publishing house but released after the fall of the Berlin Wall). If you cannot read German this is a fairly good book which will provide you with some insight into the regulations and history of the development of the uniforms of the East German Army (NVA - Nationale Volksarmee) and its predecessor the barracks police (KVP - Kasernierte Volkspolizei). It is somewhat compromised, however, by poor translation and the stilted sentences frequently read as if they were generated by a computer program translating the German word for word - though this could also stem from the fact that a) much of this book was originally written as East German propaganda and b) much of the text is taken directly from military regulations. Ultimately there seems to also be an overall coherence lacking at times, particularly with the first part of the book feeling "tacked on" to the original. Much worse is the fact that who- or what-ever translated this seems to have not known some important military terminology, "Schirmmuetze" - the German for

"peaked cap" - is consistently mis-translated, for example, as "hooded cap". It's really a shame that publishers have simply given up on paying the human proof readers required to make books even moderately literary. The majority of the images are somewhat smaller versions of those from the original 1990 book, covering uniforms from 1959 onwards.

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