

GDR CLEARING MINES ON LOWER SAXONY FRONTIER

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[Text] Hannover/Braunschweig--Clearance of the old and by now largely ineffectual box mines is continuing on the GDR side of the Lower Saxony section of the inter-German border. According to information from the Border Customs Service today, GDR tanks fitted with special shields have also now begun clearing mines in the central section of the Lower Saxony border. GDR Pioneers are using detectors in conjunction with the tanks to look for mines they then dig out.

According to the Federal Border Guard, mine clearance has been going on for 3 months on other sections of the border, mainly using tracked vehicles and rollers. In the Harz, north of Stapelberg, GDR Pioneers are for the first time fitting the newly erected metal lattice fences there with SM-70 self-firing devices on the eastern side of the two rows of fences. The Border Customs Service takes this to be an attempt to prevent passers-by on nearby roads in Lower Saxony from being hit by splinters when the devices are fired. It has also been established that the installation of self-firing devices has been completely dispensed with along the "international road" running right next to the border between the observation points of Eckertal near Bad Harzburg and Lochtum in Goslar Kreis.