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2. The Peoples Military Academy

- a. The Military Academy of King Boris III [hereafter referred to as the Peoples Military Academy] is located in the southwestern section of Sofia. The facilities including dormitories are adequate to house approximately 1500 junkers [pre-Communist name for cadets] and instructors.
- b. Up to 1948 (as in former years) the Bulgarian Government admitted 160 students to the Academy yearly. At no time were over 120 of these students retained. Approximately 40 aspirants fell by the wayside each year. Elimination took place on the basis of health, and failure to meet the academic requirements. The curriculum at the Peoples Military Academy for many years was set up on a five year basis. During World War II, however, when Bulgaria desired more than the normal peacetime number of career officers, the program was shortened to four years. No instruction or courses were sacrificed during this period (four years of study), rather the program was intensified. Vacations were shortened and the day of study lengthened. Once World War II terminated, the curriculum was again returned to five years.
- c. The first three years of military education were devoted largely to military subjects with considerable emphasis placed on Infantry training. Once officer candidates [junkers] had successfully completed the first three years of study they were assigned to various specialties such as Artillery, Communications, Engineering, etc.

3. Grading

Students were graded on a scale which ranged from the numeral one to numeral 12. If any student received a mark of six or less in three subjects he was dismissed from the Academy. The top three students (scholastically) at the end of the third year were permitted to choose their specialty. Every student whose grade was 10.33 or greater was automatically granted the privilege of applying for either the Artillery or the Engineers. In reality there were always more students in the 10.33 (grade average) group than there were vacancies in the Artillery or Engineers. Consequently, such students drew lots for the existing vacancies. Special examinations were convened for students who desired to make a career of either the Air Corps or the Cavalry.

4. Curriculum - First Year

- a. Emphasis for the first year stresses comprehensive theory of small arms such as the rifle, pistol, and light machine guns.
- b. Platoon function and training was given. The philosophy underlying such training was to teach "small units in combat." The Bulgarian field platoon varied from seven to 11 men. In 1943 our instructors were trying to adopt the [redacted] platoon system. [redacted] for Eastern European warfare seven men were more adaptable. By 1943 the Bulgarian instructors in emphasizing troop development in the field insisted that instead of spacing Infantry personnel 12 meters apart, it would be more advantageous to space its Infantry in teams (two men) at 12 meter intervals. This system was adopted by the Bulgarian Army in 1943. It was taught at the Peoples Academy as late as 1948.
- c. The school year begins in September and ends in June. One month of vacation is given. For two months cadets are assigned to summer camps. At the summer camps cadets are trained in applying the theory which they acquired during the school year.
- d. Daily routine for a military student is as follows: He arises at 6:00 AM and breakfasts at 6:30. From 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM he sits in a classroom where he may engage in independent study. From 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon the cadet is taught small arms, mathematics and military history.

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- (1) His math courses for the first year consist of algebra, trigonometry, solid and plane geometry and mathematical projects [various problems assigned by individual instructors].
 - (2) History. During the first year he takes a course in world history. In this course (a general survey) the world by and large is covered in rapid fashion. However, history of the peripheral countries (Bulgaria's neighbors) is given extensive coverage. Military elements are stressed.
 - (3) Maps. The first year course in maps is intended to teach the student in map reading.
- e. Lunch is available from 12:00 to 12:30 PM. Cadets have a free period from 1:00 to 2:00 PM. It is referred to as the "relaxation period".
 - f. The dinner hour begins at 6:00 PM and ends at 6:30 PM.
 - g. Supervised study begins at 7:00 PM and ends at 9:00 PM. However, students desirous of additional study are permitted to burn the oil until 11:00 PM.
 - h. Classes convene until Saturday noon.
 - i. Inspection is held every morning.
 - j. Up to 1948 first year students were given a pass on Sunday [from 10:00 AM Sunday until 6:00 PM Sunday].
 - k. Junkers (cadets) upper classmen were given a Sunday pass which permitted them to leave the campus at 8:00 AM and return by 10:00 PM.
5. Curriculum and Training - Second Year
- a. The theory of small arms and training given during the first year is put into actual practice. Field practice in the use of these arms continues for the entire academic year. Due to the nature of the terrain, special emphasis is placed on the use of the rifle. As a result, most Bulgarian officers are outstanding riflemen.
 - b. Relative to formations, three platoon combinations up to a company drill together for purposes of teaching the cadets larger unit tactics. This training takes place every afternoon and covers a period of three hours [from 2:00 to 5:00 PM]. On two of these days the hours from 4:00 to 5:00 PM are spent in knife combat training.
6. Curriculum and Training - Third Year
- a. We began to study A/A particularly small bore such as 20 mm. Heavy guns such as maxims, M34 German guns, etc.
 - b. Grenade training was taught every year, but during the third year it was intensified. Our grenade training consisted of the following:
 - (1) Dummy buildings were set up (fronts or sides). Windows were spaced at various heights. In order to successfully complete the course we were expected to toss a grenade into any window while on the run. At a given signal we ran past the building. In the meantime an instructor would call out by number the window into which we were expected to toss the grenade.
 - (2) The reasoning behind such grenade training was that it would develop our reflexes and further train us to use a grenade effectively in very short time and with no advance warning.

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- c. Demolition training was introduced during the third year. This course was not intensive but only basic in nature. Demolition training was considered a specialized field and as a result special commands and selected students participated in the full gamut of "demo" instruction. Within the framework of the general course all students were taught how to make an emergency cocktail from powder and silicate - a compressed emergency type. 50X1-HUM
- d. With reference to mortars, during the summer after [] third school year, [] given field instructions in one inch mortars and 6 CM field pieces. 50X1-HUM
- e. By the end of the third year [] completed the general math curriculum which also included integrals, differentials and equations. 50X1-HUM
- f. History. The entire year was devoted to a thorough study of Bulgarian history with considerable emphasis upon military history, etc.
7. Artillery Training - Fourth and Fifth Years
- a. At the end of the third summer [] specialized courses in Artillery [] 50X1-HUM
- b. For the following one and one half years [] Artillery courses consisted of: 50X1-HUM
- (1) Study and operations of cannons ranging from 7 1/2 CM to 10 1/2 CM. This course covered one calendar year of study. During this year [] a comprehensive study of foreign ordnance in order to learn its potential. Such foreign ordnance at that time consisted of Czechoslovak, [] and some USSR. 50X1-HUM
- (2) Classroom (text book and theory) included: 50X1-HUM
- (a) The use of the horse in warfare
 (b) The elements of sentry duty
 (c) The theory of firing and fire power
 (d) Artillery tactics, strategy
 (e) Military geography
 (f) Map study and map making
- (3) Field Artillery drills three days a week, horseback riding every day, and motorized ordnance training every day.
8. Communist Influence
- a. When forces of the USSR occupied Bulgaria in September 1944 there was a large contingent of students and instructors at the Academy - approximately 1200. They were, collectively speaking, well trained and well armed. As previously stated, the Communists were afraid that this contingent would offer serious resistance. Consequently, the Soviets issued an ultimatum [] on 10 Sep 44 which stopped all military training. Between 10 and 15 September, various members of the staff advised against resistance. On 13 September [] the Soviet forces were strategically situated - they had surrounded the Academy! 18 Sep 44 a new commandant was assigned to the Academy - General []. 50X1-HUM
- b. In early 1945, 400 Bulgarian partisans (Communists) were assigned to the Academy for officer training. [] 10 per cent of this group had the equivalent of a high school education. Many of the remainder could neither read nor write. [] this group could not shoot. In the realization that they lacked the necessary academic background most of them studied like mad. (Of the 400 Communist students mentioned above, 88 were known to have criminal records.) Up to 1948 there was no radical change in the training program or curriculum at the Peoples Military Academy. 50X1-HUM

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c. Two Communist procedures were introduced. Political advisers were assigned to each staff officer at the Academy. Secondly, in order to impress the staff that they meant business, one of the political advisers, General Bulgaranov was removed from the staff

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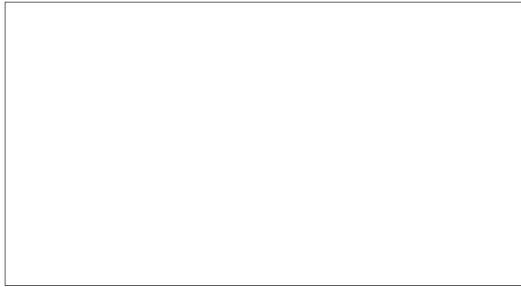


The following changes took place:

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- (1) Russian language instruction was intensified. It was made compulsory throughout the school rather than an elective course. Subsequently, it became a four hour course. Courses and text books were not changed as late as mid-1947.
- (2) In conclusion there are now (1954) three military schools in Bulgaria, at Sofia, Razvalik and Lovech.

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