

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL 25X1A2g

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 18 APR 1949

SUBJECT Recruiting, Airdromes, Fortification and Soviet Officers in Bulgaria 25X1A6a

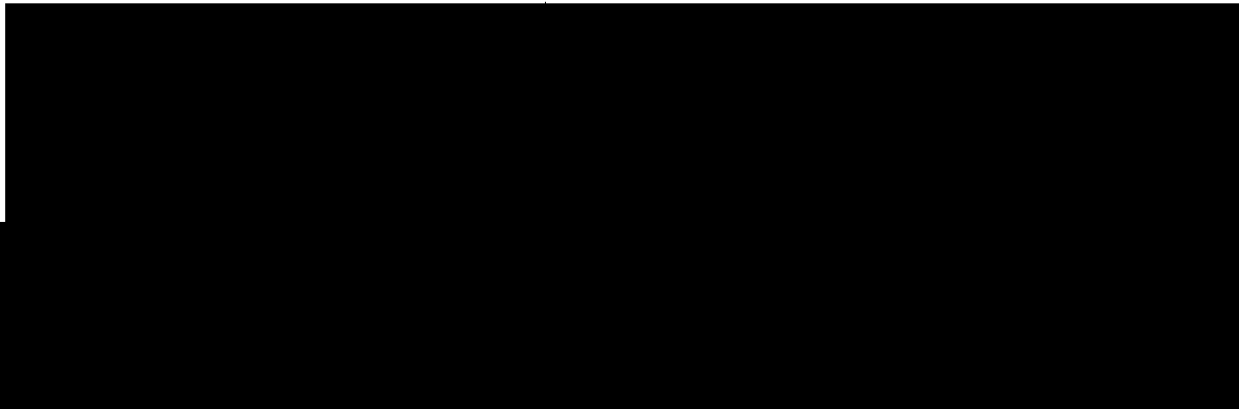
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I. Army Recruiting

- At present the classes of 1927 and 1928 are in service. The class of 1928 was called to the colors in November 1948. The class of 1927 began demobilization in November 1948. The selection of recruits for the different arms is made six months before their induction by the commission.
- The weeding out of recruits on the basis of their political views is made after their induction. Moreover the intelligence officer asks the Party for information regarding each recruit. After two months' training those who inspire confidence are sent to the Trudovak battalions, whose officers are always Communists.
- In the spring of 1948 all the reserve officers and troops were called up for registration at the local recruiting offices. During this registration each reserve officer and soldier submitted a detailed biographical statement and an affidavit stating how and with whom he corresponded in foreign countries, and whether he or any member of his family had been convicted of any crime since 1923. Then a week later they were summoned to appear at the same recruiting office. At this second appearance they were given a physical examination, and the officers were provided with a kind of identity card colored red, the non-commissioned officers with one of rose color, and the soldiers with white identity cards. On these cards was written the unit to which they had to report in case of mobilization.
- It is estimated that the Bulgarian Army at present numbers 100,000 men. This does not include the Security Corps, Trudovaks, etc. There are 80,000 to 100,000 Trudovaks, and 50,000 men in the Security Corps.

II. Ammunition Dumps and Barracks

- In Sofia and on the right near the Hristo-Botev School there are dumps of artillery ammunition.
- In Sofia behind the King's Park there is a huge ammunition dump.

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7. At the right of the highway from Burgas to Aitos (sic) and at a distance of five kilometers from Burgas there is a dump of ammunition for the infantry.
8. In Atiya near Burgas and on the top of Agios Nikolaos (sic) there is a dump of artillery ammunition.
9. Between Burgas and Pomoria in Paporos (sic) there is a dump of artillery ammunition.
10. On the lower slopes of Mt. Yambol (Karkambey) there are barracks of 4 Cavalry Regiment and 29 Infantry Regiment. At a considerable distance above them on the mountain there is a dump of ammunition large enough to supply a whole army.
11. Outside Yambol about 8 or 10 kilometers on the road to Elhovo, there is a military airdrome, and in it there is a large fuel dump.

III. Airdromes

12. In Sofia there are two airdromes, one in Vrazhdebna (civilian airdrome) and the other (military) in Bozhurishte.

IV. Airplane Factories

13. In Yambol only fuselages and wings are made. This factory is located exactly opposite the railroad station at a distance of four kilometers from it.
14. In Kazanlik airplane motors are manufactured.
15. In Karlovo both motors and fuselages and wings are manufactured.

V. Other Factories

16. In Sofia, on 9 September Street near the headquarters of the Transportation Regiment, there is a factory manufacturing military telephones, batteries, and oxygen tanks.
17. The central electric power plant for Sofia is located outside the city at a place called Vtsia (sic).

VI. Fortifications

18. There is a line of fortifications towards the Turkish border from Strendetch to Fakiya to Momina Tcherka to Strandja. The construction of this line of fortifications was begun in 1941 and was completed in 1944. It consists of bunkers (which are connected by underground passages), anti-tank barriers, and trenches. Since 1946 they have begun making various technical changes in these fortifications. At present the bunkers are camouflaged to look like houses. Recently barbed wire entanglements according to the Soviet system (i.e., about 0.50 m. high and 10 m. wide) have been added to this fortification line.
19. Along the shore from Mesimvria (sic) to Burgas and from Burgas to the Turkish border there are fortification works built by the Germans. At present these are abandoned, except for some units of Trudovaks engaged in maintenance of them.

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VII. Other Military Information

20. At present there are no units of the Soviet Army in Bulgaria, There are only Soviet officers. From the beginning of 1948 Soviet officers have been assigned to the various units of the Bulgarian Army down to regiments. These officers supervise the training and make recommendations.
21. Soviet generals have been assigned to the armies; colonels or lieutenant colonels to the divisions, and captains to the regiments.
22. The pay of the Soviet officers is four times as high as that of Bulgarian officers of the same rank.
23. In March 1948 most of the officers of the old Bulgarian Army were retired.
24. In Stara Zagora a division of tanks has been formed. A unit of this regiment left Sofia in June 1948.

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