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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 21 September 1950

SUBJECT Military Organization of Border Units in Bulgaria

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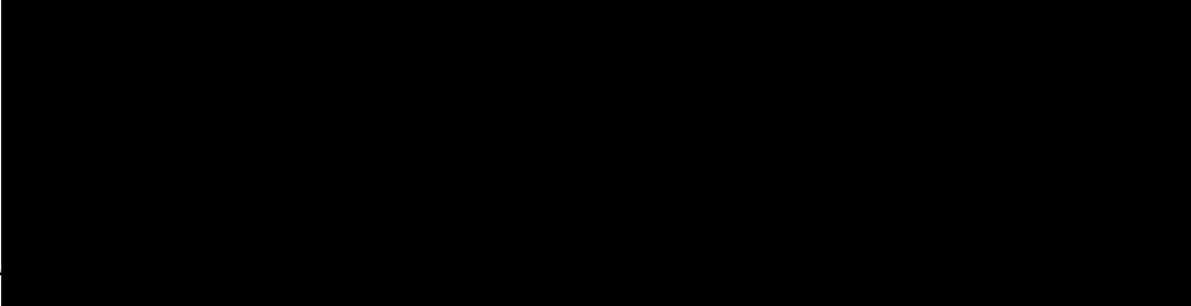
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1. The 8 Military Post is an independent border patrol battalion stationed in the town of Zishtovi at the barracks of 33 Infantry Regiment. This battalion is composed of five companies, four of which are border patrol companies, and the fifth a Militia company. Each of the four border patrol companies is composed of from 110 to 120 men. Each company is subdivided into three detachments. Each detachment is further divided into three squads. Each squad comprises 12 men, armed with one "Dikterio" light machine gun of Soviet manufacture, one Spagen sub-machine gun and Mannlicher infantry rifles. The squad leader carries the sub-machine gun.
2. The Non-Commissioned Officers Candidate School in Sofia is called "Poddelinie Haci Dimitir." It has two companies with a total of 750 men, who are chosen from various border patrol battalions from all parts of the country. The course lasts seven months. The commanding officer is Colonel Ginov, who came from the Soviet Union and who does not know Bulgarian well. The deputy commander is Lt. Col. Davidov, and the political commissar, Major Marinov.
3. The General Headquarters of the Border Defense, commanded by Major General Yomen Panov, is subordinate to the Ministry of Interior. The deputy commander is Colonel Stefan Markov. The General Headquarters commands nine Border Sectors (Regiments). Each Sector is divided into four Border Uchastiki (Battalions). Each Uchastik is divided into four Zastava (Companies). In reality, the cadres of the personnel in the units are far short of being at full strength. It would be more correct to call the strength of a Sector that of a battalion, that of a battalion the strength of a company, et cetera. The companies along the borders of Turkey, Greece and Yugoslavia rank first in priority and are commanded by officers of the rank of lieutenant and higher. The companies along the Black Sea are commanded either by a staff sergeant or other non-commissioned officers. The companies along the Rumanian border are small and are commanded by non-commissioned officer candidates.
4. The 5 Border Regiment known as Military Post Chavdar, is located at Elhovo. The commanding officer is Lt. Col. Arabaciyev, the deputy commander is Major Vasilev, and the political commissar is Captain Yanakiev. One of 5 Regiment's four companies is named Military Post Ruen, with headquarters at Voden. It is commanded by Captain Bayraktarski; the deputy commander is First Lieutenant Elenkov, and the chief of staff is Lieutenant Stachev. It is composed of

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four platoons, one of which is called 25 Lineyna Zastava. Another platoon is 23 Zastava, which is a unit of Military Post Kikitse and is based between the village of Gola Musharkovo and the Turkish frontier. West of 25 Zastava is 24 Lineyna Zastava of Military Post Bor, and east of it is 24 Zastava of Military Post Lipa. These Zastava were approximately four kilometers apart.

5. The typical armament of a zastava is as follows: three light machine guns; five German sub-machine guns; three parabellum pistols; 28 Soviet rifles; 15 Mannlicher rifles, as well as a variety of bombs of unknown quality. The zastava are connected by a telephone system of the German type.

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[REDACTED] Comment: This report is based on the preliminary interrogation of a Bulgarian soldier who fled [REDACTED] in November 1949.

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