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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

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CD NO. []

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SUBJECT The 12 Rifle Regiment

DATE OF INFO. 16 May to 24 November 1951

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1. The 12 Hadzhi Dimitur Rifle Regiment¹ (12 Hadzhi Dimitrovski Strelkovi Polk) had an approximate total of 550 men composed of 1929, 1930, and 1931 classes. It was activated sometime immediately prior to 16 May 1951 and was allegedly "two-thirds understrength" [] 25X1

2. [] the unit was actually a training regiment for training cadre personnel for service in other units of the Bulgarian army.

Breakdown (Refer Appendices A and B on pages 11 and 12)

3. The headquarters of 12 Rifle Regiment, [] stationed in Elkhovo, was composed of the following units: 25X1

a. Signal company, approximate strength 35 men, equipped with unidentified types of radio and telephone equipment; 25X1

b. Self-propelled gun battery, armed with two guns;

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- c. Reconnaissance platoon, approximate strength 15 men;
- d. Antiaircraft platoon, approximate strength 10-15 men, armed with one anti-aircraft machine gun;
- e. Sniper platoon, approximate strength 12 men;
- f. "Shapori" engineer platoon; and
- g. Music platoon, approximate strength 12 men.

4. The 1 Rifle Battalion, stationed approximately 2-3 kilometers west of Lesovo, had the following component parts:

- a. 1 Rifle Company, [redacted] approximate strength 30-45 men, composed of three platoons of three squads each, armed with two heavy and four light machine guns;
- b. 2 Rifle Company, [redacted] approximate strength 30-45 men, composed of three platoons of three squads each, armed with two heavy and four light machine guns;
- c. 3 Rifle Company, [redacted] approximate strength 30-45 men, composed of three platoons of three squads each, armed with two heavy and four light machine guns;
- d. 1 Heavy Machine Gun Company, [redacted] strength 30 men, composed of three platoons of three squads each, armed with nine heavy machine guns;
- e. 1 Mortar Battery, [redacted] armed with six mortars;
- f. 1 Antitank Battery, [redacted] armed with two antitank "rifles";
- g. Service Platoon, equipped with one horse-drawn mobile field kitchen and six horse-drawn wagons; and



25X1

25X1

5. The 2 Rifle Battalion, stationed in the immediate vicinity of Golyam Derwent, had the following

- a. 4 Rifle Company, approximate strength 30-45 men, composed of three platoons of three squads each, armed with two heavy and four light machine guns;
- b. 5 Rifle Company, approximate strength 30-45 men, composed of three platoons of three squads each, armed with two heavy and four light machine guns;
- c. 6 Rifle Company, approximate strength 30-45 men, composed of three platoons of three squads each, armed with two heavy and four light machine guns;
- d. 2 Heavy Machine Gun Company, approximate strength 30-45 men, composed of three platoons of three squads each, armed with nine heavy machine guns;

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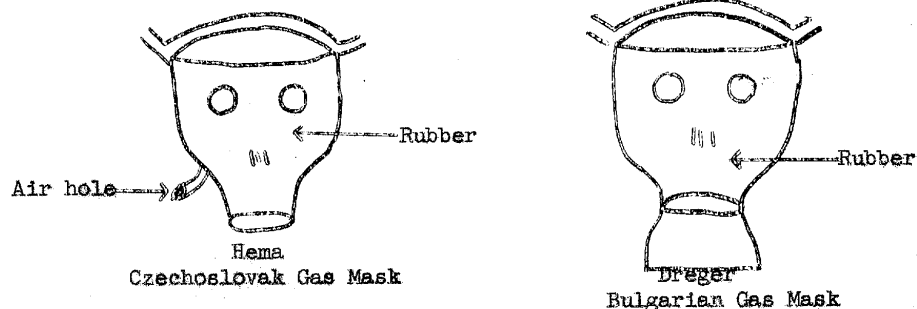
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- e. 2 Mortar Battery, armed with six mortars;
- f. 2 Antitank Battery, armed with two antitank "rifles";
- g. Service Platoon, equipped with one mobile field kitchen and six horse-drawn wagons; and

25X1

Equipment

- 6. Each soldier was issued one complete uniform, dark brown with red collar tabs and piping, and one set of fatigues which were not replaced until completely worn out.
- 7. Each soldier was issued individual engineer equipment consisting of shovel and pickaxe.
- 8. Each soldier and officer was issued a gas mask, of either the Dreger Bulgarian type or the Hema Czechoslovak type, which were carried each Monday and Thursday for a short while and later only during chemical warfare training and on guard duty. A sketch of the gas masks follows:



- 9. Unit equipment was as follows:
 - a. Three unidentified motor vehicles;
 - b. Vintovka rifle, 7.62 caliber, issued only to Rifle Company personnel;
 - c. Sudaev machine pistol, 7.62 caliber;
 - d. Degtyarev carbine, 1944 model, 7.62 caliber;
 - e. Sniper rifle with telescope attachment, issued only to Sniper Platoon;
 - f. Unidentified carbine, issued to Signal Company;
 - g. Zenichni antiaircraft machine gun, 7.62 caliber;
 - h. Degtyarev light machine gun, 7.62 caliber;

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25X1

- i. Maksim heavy machine gun, on 1944-model Sokolov mount, 7.62 caliber;
- j. Unidentified mortar;
- k. Unidentified self-propelled gun; and
- l. PTRS-41 antitank rifle, 14.5 caliber.

Basic Training

10. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] a basic indoctrination course [redacted] at the 25X1
Elkhovo garrison. This course consisted of:

- a. Daily close order drill;
- b. Calisthenics;
- c. Lectures on army rules and regulations;
- d. Barracks discipline; and
- e. Political training about socialism, communism, and the USSR.

11. The schedule [redacted] training period was as follows:

- a. 5:00 a.m., reveille;
- b. 5:00-5:20 a.m., calisthenics;
- c. 5:20-5:30 a.m., personal hygiene;
- d. 5:30-5:40 a.m., bed-making;
- e. 5:40-6:10 a.m., breakfast;
- f. 6:10-6:30 a.m., clean-up;
- g. 6:30-7:00 a.m., inspection by the company's commanding officer and briefing on the day's schedule;
- h. 7:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, lectures in class or drill ground (sic);
- i. 12:00 noon-2:00 p.m., dinner and rest period;
- j. 2:00-5:00 p.m., lectures in class or drill ground (sic);
- k. 5:00-7:00 p.m., free period;
- l. 7:00-8:00 p.m., supper;
- m. 8:00-9:00 p.m., rest period; and
- n. 9:00, roll call and lights out.

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25X1

12. On Sunday and holidays, reveille was at 6:00 a.m. and general clean-up of the barracks and barracks area was the only activity.

Unit or Post-Basic Training

13. [redacted] summer maneuvers at Chavdar camp site in a forest area approximately three kilometers east of Boyanovo village, Elkhovo district. The daily schedule during this period was as follows:
- a. 5:00 a.m., reveille;
 - b. 5:00-8:00 a.m., personal hygiene, breakfast, and briefing on the day's schedule;
 - c. 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., lectures in class or practical field training;
 - d. 1:00-3:00 p.m., dinner and rest period;
 - e. 3:00-6:00 p.m., lectures in class or practical field training;
 - f. 6:00-6:30 p.m., cleaning and inspection of weapons;
 - g. 6:30-7:00 p.m., calisthenics or political training;
 - h. 7:00-7:30 p.m., supper;
 - i. 7:30-9:00 p.m., rest period; and
 - j. 9:00 p.m., roll call and lights out.

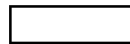
14. [redacted] the following training:

- a. Close order drill, one or two hours daily; 25X1
- b. Arms and weapons familiarization, both theoretical and practical, from one to three hours each or every other day; [redacted] the use and assembling-disassembling of the Degtyarev carbine, Degtyarev light machine gun, and Maxim heavy machine gun; teams of three soldiers each were supposed to field strip a heavy machine gun in eight seconds, but practically none of the teams was successful; instruction was also given concerning the use and effective fire power of the heavy 1930-model armor-piercing cartridge which has a maximum range of 5,000 meters and is effective up to 600 meters on land, 500 meters in the air, and 200 meters against armored targets, and the light, 1908-model 7.62 caliber ammunition which has a maximum range of 3,000 meters; the light cartridge is no longer in use by the Bulgarian army;
- c. Chemical warfare, two or three hours a week; each soldier and officer was issued a gas mask of either the Dreger Bulgarian type or the Hema Czechoslovak type, but no actual gas mask practice drills or defensive chemical warfare training was given; the entire chemical warfare training was very brief, [redacted] soldiers were uneducated and illiterate, and consisted mainly of basic history and uses of the Phosgene, Diphosgene, and Iperit poison gases; [redacted] the gas 25X1

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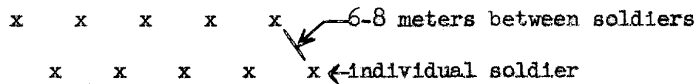
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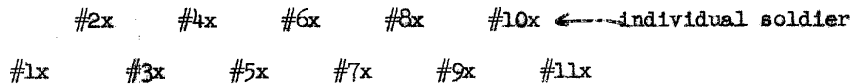
25X1

mask alone would be effective protection; [redacted]
 [redacted] poison gas would be the principal weapon used in the "next war";

- d. Tactical, 10 hours each week, consisting of both practical and theoretical attack and assault combat training but no defensive combat training; [redacted] two methods of attack, both beginning after "considerable" artillery fire against enemy positions; in the first method, shown below, the attack, once started, is continued in the same formation until enemy positions have been breached:



after the attack begins, unit support arms and heavy machine guns are brought forward to appropriate positions for maximum fire power and support, and each attacking group takes whatever cover is possible in case of heavy enemy mortar and machine gun fire and continues firing and advancing; on approaching within 10 meters of enemy lines, the attacking groups should make a bayonet charge; after breaching the enemy's first line of defense, the same method of attack is carried out against any additional lines; the second, or alternate, method of attack as shown below is continued in the same formation until the enemy positions have been breached:



in supposition that the attacking group is composed of 11 men, [redacted] #1 and #11, the two wing men, advance 10, 20, or 30 meters by the most suitable method, i.e., crawling, marching, or running, and #2 and #9, #3 and #10, etc., in succession, follow the first two men and advance 10, 20, or 30 meters until the enemy position is reached and a bayonet charge can be made by the attacking group;

- e. Marksmanship, actual firing during target practice only took place at Chavdar; after initial dry firing, sighting and range estimation, [redacted] fired four rounds with the Degtyarev 7.62 caliber carbine at 110 meters toward a head-to-waist stationary human silhouette target; the following table was used in judging fire results:

4 hits, excellent
 3 hits, very good
 2 hits, good
 1 hit, poor
 no hits, bad

during this exercise, only 10 soldiers [redacted] obtained poor results; [redacted] fired 20 rounds with the Maksim 7.62 caliber heavy machine gun at 100 and 200 meters, 10 rounds at each position, at full-size human silhouette targets; the following table was used in judging fire results:

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8-10 hits, excellent

5-8 hits, very good

4 hits, good

3 hits, fair

1-2 hits, poor

no hits, bad

during this exercise, only two soldiers [redacted] obtained very good ratings while the remainder received a poor rating; as a result of the poor showing, the deputy commanding officer of the division [redacted] inspected the company and stated his displeasure at the firing results and instructed them to continue training with the heavy machine gun at every available opportunity including their free time;

25X1
25X1

f. Medical, one to two hours each week; the training was entirely theoretical [redacted] action to take whenever no medical personnel were available during combat, how to administer first aid, artificial respiration, and how to dress wounds; thorough instructions were also given concerning personal hygiene; and

25X1

g. Political, one hour per week throughout the entire term of service; during the lectures given by the political officer of the battalion, [redacted] socialist and communist theory, the general advance and build-up of socialism, and spreading of the farm cooperative system; [redacted] dissemination of information learned during lectures to uneducated and illiterate soldiers [redacted] Communist Party leaders, their histories and backgrounds, [redacted] Soviet weapons are superior to all others and military secrets were not to be disclosed; there were discussions about communist theory and Party programs during free and/or rest periods, but these discussions were not voluntary or spontaneous.

25X1
25X1

25X1

Other Military Units at Chavdar

15. [redacted] 5-6 unidentified regiments at Chavdar, [redacted] All units were permanently garrisoned at Yambol, Sliven, and several other unknown locations. [redacted] divisional headquarters were also at Chavdar.

25X1
25X1

16. [redacted] light and heavy field artillery pieces, howitzers, anti-aircraft guns, and antitank guns in the Chavdar vicinity. All units were quartered in small 8-man personnel tents which were supplied with electricity from Yambol.

17. There were rumors that the unidentified unit permanently garrisoned at Yambol would remain at Chavdar throughout the winter of 1951-1952.

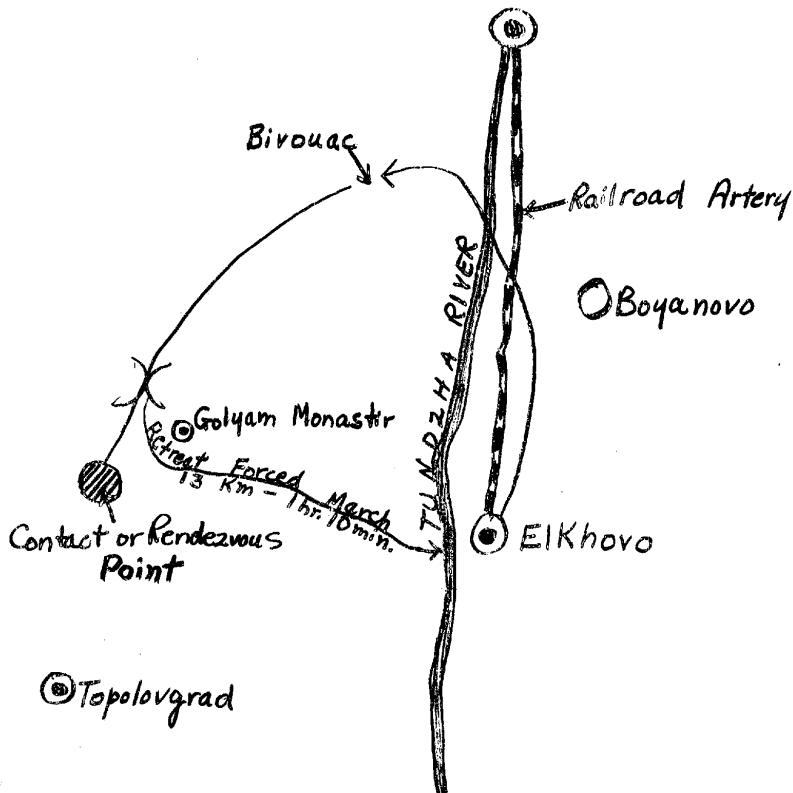
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Joint Field Maneuvers

- 25X1 18.
ordered to prepare for maneuvers to last one week. The men were told to clean their weapons, take two sets of underwear each, arrange their musette bags and equipment in proper order, and to carry out the forthcoming maneuvers and march in a well-disciplined manner.
- 19. On approximately 4-5 October 1951, the unit began marching toward a forest area immediately southwest of Yambol. The unit made a 2-day bivouac there, then met unidentified units for the maneuvers at a point approximately two kilometers south of Golyam Monastir and made practice attacks as described above in paragraph 14d.
- 25X1 20. At the contact point, support rifle and artillery units were
25X1 attacked by simulated enemy forces of rifle and infantry units. During the brief simulated engagement, was forced to retreat and made a 13 kilometer forced march to the Elkhovo garrison in 70 minutes. On arrival at the garrison on approximately 10-12 October 1951, commanding officer 25X1 made a critique of the maneuvers, complimenting the personnel on their discipline, success of the maneuver and the 70 minute march. The area covered by the 70 minute retreat march is as follows:



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[Redacted] 25X1

Garrison Duty

- 21. Guard duty was the only required garrison duty in addition to the above-mentioned training. This consisted of two 2-man teams patrolling the garrison area. The time schedule was undisclosed.
- 22. There were also three permanent guard posts at the garrison: (Refer Appendix C on pages 13 and 14)
 - a. Unit headquarters;
 - b. Entrance to the garrison area; and
 - c. At the fodder storage depot.

Specialist Training

- 23. [Redacted] 25X1
- 24. While at summer maneuver camp at Chavdar, an unspecified number of Communist and/or politically reliable personnel were chosen from the Signal Company and transferred to an undisclosed location for communications training.

Personnel

- 25. The following men were officers of 12 Rifle Regiment: 25X1
 - a. Lieutenant Colonel Kosta Raykov, Commanding Officer, [Redacted] 25X1
 - b. Captain Dinchev, Deputy Commanding Officer, [Redacted] 25X1
 - c. Major Tsonev, Political Officer, [Redacted] 25X1
 - d. Captain Drago Simeonov, Commanding Officer of informant's Headquarters Section, [Redacted] 25X1
 - e. Captain Ivanov, "Propaganda" Officer, [Redacted] 25X1
 - f. Captain Karaivanov, Supply Officer, [Redacted] 25X1
 - g. First Lieutenant Shilev, Secretary of the Communist Party [Redacted] 25X1
 - h. First Lieutenant Yanakiev, Secretary of the DSNM (Dimitrovski Suyuz na Narodnata Mladezh; Dimitrov's Union of the People's Youth) [Redacted] 25X1

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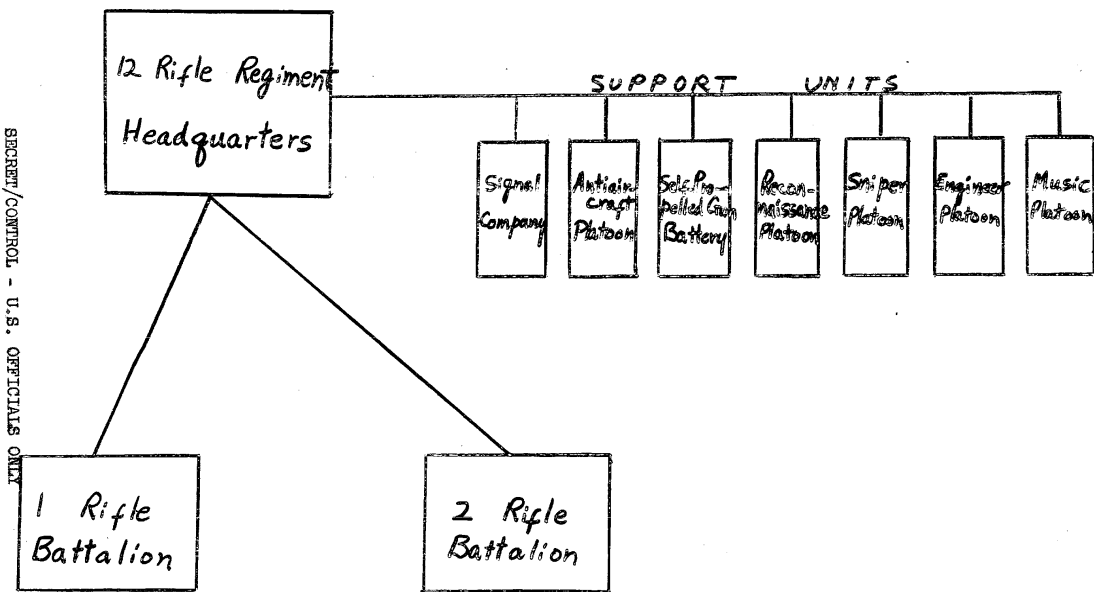
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25X1

- 25X1 i. Major Dolapchiev, Medical Officer and veterinary [redacted] 25X1
- j. Senior First Lieutenant Pavlov, Commanding Officer of 1 Rifle Battalion, from Lesovo, [redacted] 25X1
- 25X1 k. First Lieutenant Yordanov, Political and Deputy Commanding Officer of 1 Rifle Battalion, [redacted] 25X1
- l. First Lieutenant Georgiev, Deputy Commanding Officer of 1 Rifle Battalion Headquarters Section, [redacted]
- m. First Lieutenant Karadzhov, Intelligence Officer of 1 Rifle Battalion, [redacted] 25X1
- n. First Lieutenant Popov, Commanding Officer of 1 Rifle Company, from Lesovo, [redacted] 25X1
- 25X1 o. First Lieutenant Tuhlev, Commanding Officer of 2 Rifle Company, [redacted] 25X1
- 25X1 p. First Lieutenant Peteev, Commanding Officer of 1 Heavy Machine Gun Company, from Khaskovo, [redacted]
- 25X1 q. Second Lieutenant Petrov, Deputy Commanding Officer of 1 Heavy Machine Gun Company [redacted] 25X1
- 25X1 r. First Lieutenant Vatev, Commanding Officer of 1 Mortar Battery, [redacted]
- s. Senior First Lieutenant Nikolov, Commanding Officer of Signal Company, [redacted] 25X1
- 25X1 26. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] following personnel of superior units: 25X1
- a. Major General Dzhurov, Commanding General of the Army, reported to have been in the USSR, [redacted]
- b. Colonel Borachev, divisional Commanding Officer;
- c. Colonel Danchev, Commanding Officer of division Headquarters Section;
- 25X1 d. Colonel Papazov, divisional Deputy Commanding Officer, [redacted] 25X1
- e. Major Ganev, divisional Political Officer.
- 25X1 1. [redacted] Comment: This is [redacted] information regarding change in designation from Infantry to Rifle units. 25X1
- 25X1 2. [redacted] Comment: [redacted] Dzhurov is commanding general of the Third Army. The 12 Rifle Regiment is possibly subordinate to 3 Rifle Regiment at Yambol. 25X1

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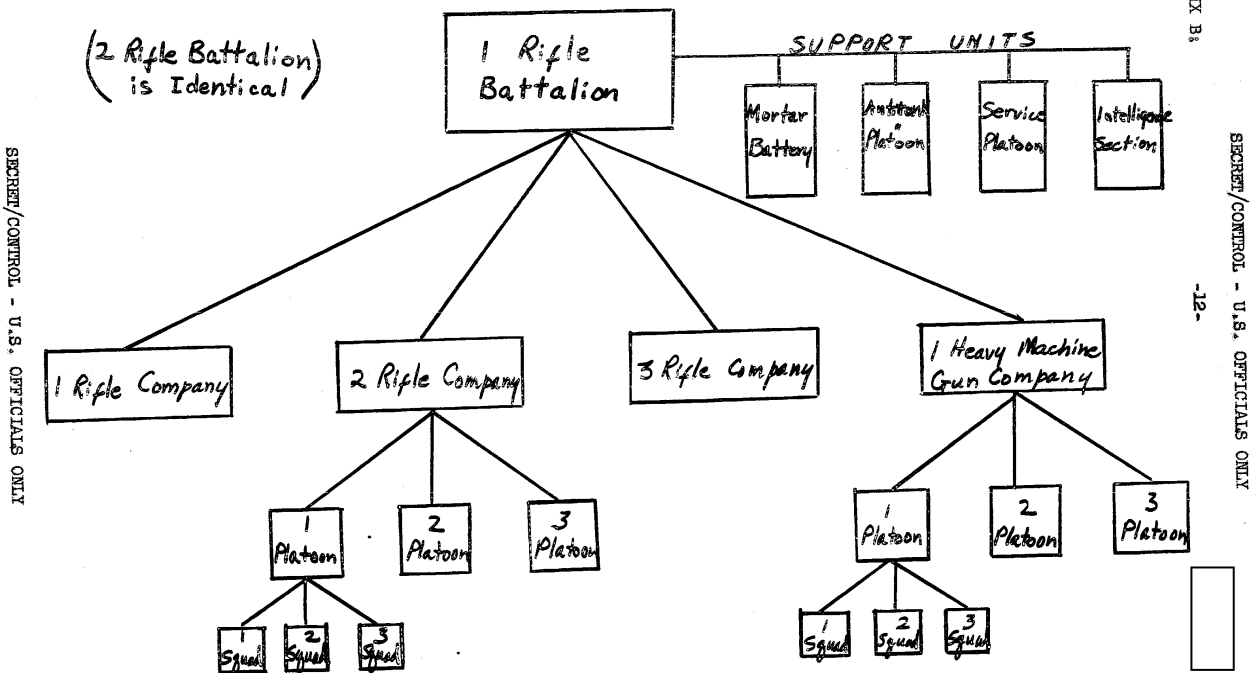


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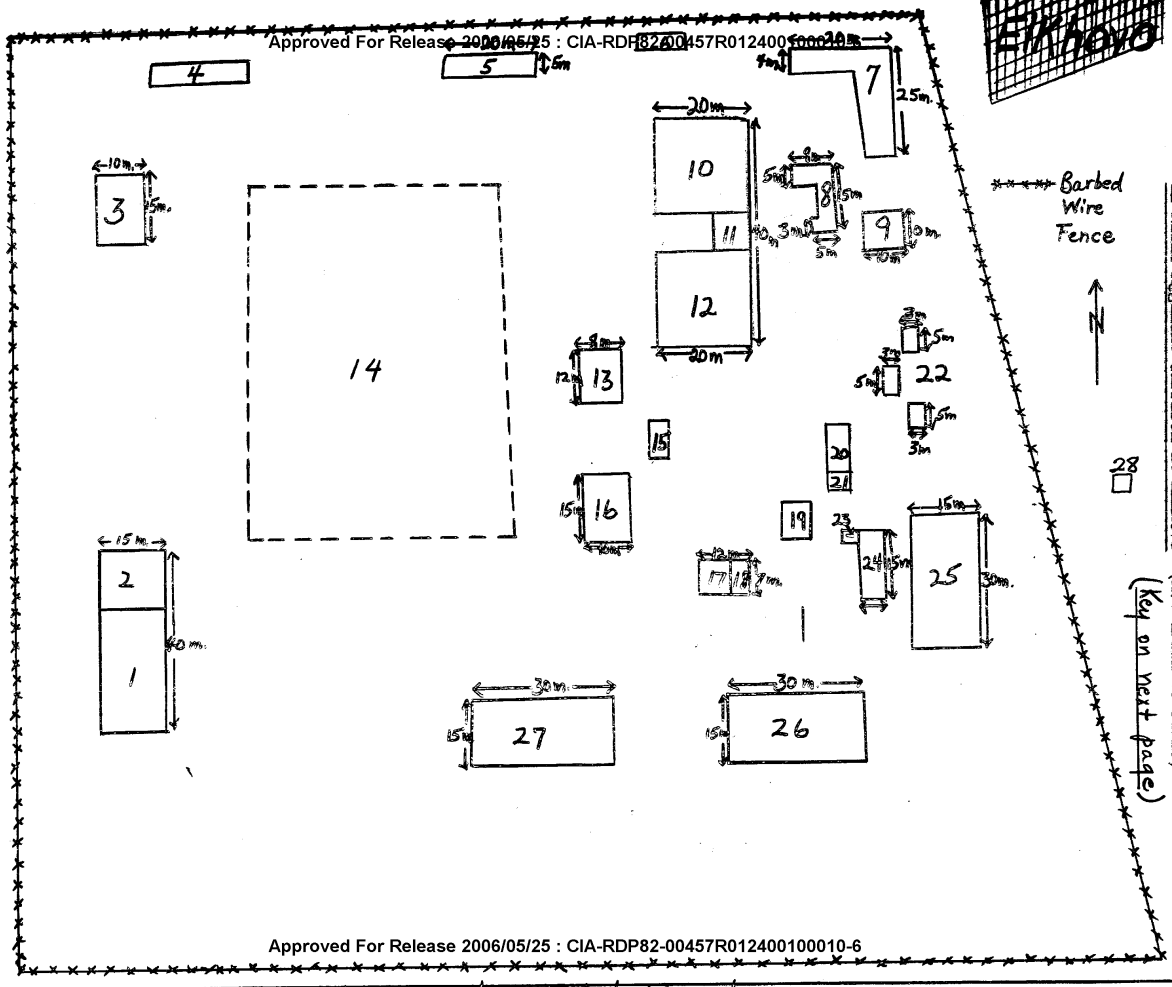
APPENDIX A:

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Highway to Yambol



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APPENDIX C:

12 Rifle Regiment Garrison at Hakhovo (not drawn to scale)

(Key on next page)

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KEY to preceding sketch of 12 Rifle Regiment Garrison at Elkhovo:

1. Storage depot.
2. Storage depot, wood.
3. Vacant barracks.
4. Water trough for animals.
5. Guard barracks.
6. Personnel water fountain.
7. Trudovak barracks, housing approximately 100 trudovaks.
8. Barracks and infirmary.
9. Old barracks.
10. 2 Rifle Battalion barracks, 2-story building.
11. Headquarters building.
12. 1 Rifle Battalion barracks, 2-story building, mess hall on first floor, sleeping quarters on second floor, constructed during 1949; also quarters for duty officers.
13. Kitchen.
14. Drill field.
15. Arms storage depot, permanent.
16. Supply depot, 2-story building.
17. Carpenter shop.
18. Blacksmith shop.
19. Bakery, 2-story building, baking approximately 800 loaves of bread per day.
20. Enlisted mens' lavatory.
21. Officers' lavatory.
22. Ammunition depot.
23. Blacksmith shop.
24. Garage, self-propelled guns.
25. Stable, constructed during 1949.
26. Stable.
27. Stable.
28. Antiaircraft observation post, 1-story small building.

NOTE: All barracks buildings are of stone construction and receive electricity from Elkhovo.

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