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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]	50X1
SUBJECT	Army T/O & Eeand Supply	DATE DISTR.	17 November 1955	
		NO. OF PAGES	12	
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	REQUIREMENT NO.	[REDACTED]	50X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		50X1
DATE ACQUIRED				50X1

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 28 Oct 1955

SUBJECT Bulgarian Army T/O & E and Supply

NO. OF PAGES 11

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DATE OF INFORMATION

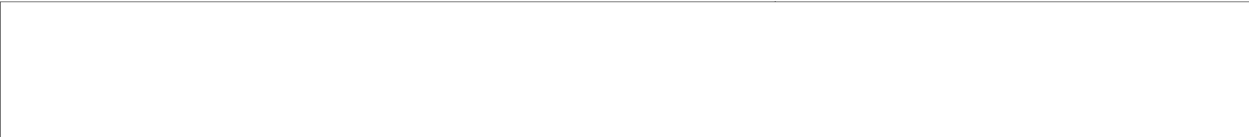
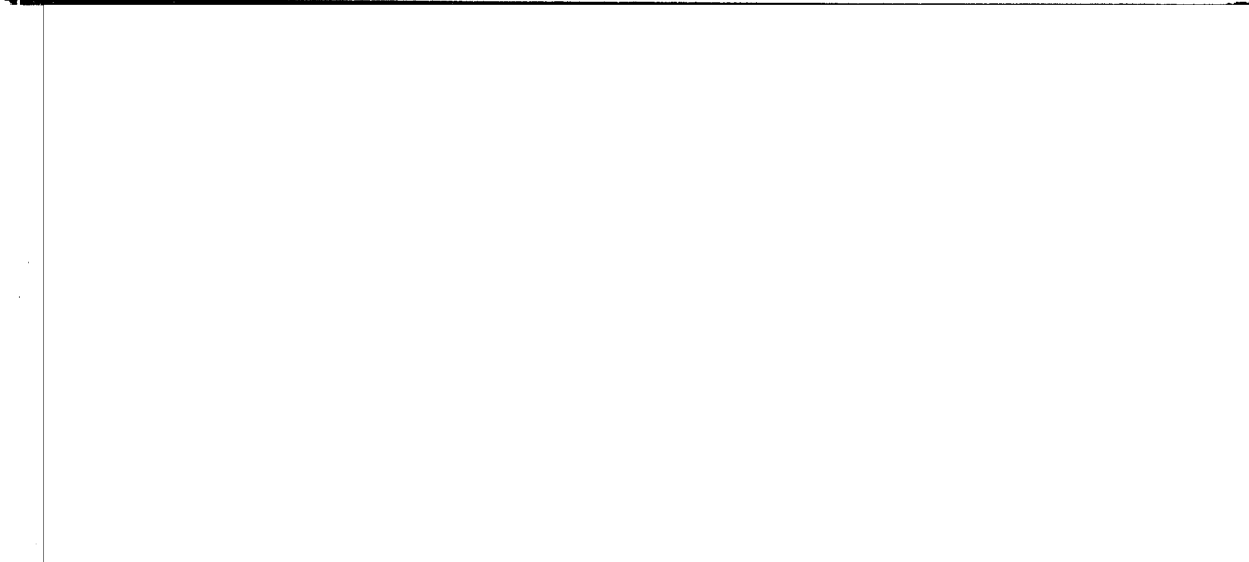
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A. HISTORY AND T/O & E OF 83D HMG-ARTY BN

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1. Activation

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[redacted] the 83d HMG-Arty Bn had been formed about Feb or Mar 52 at ZVEZDETS (4207N-2724E) upon an order which [redacted] name from Third Army Hq.

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[redacted] this was a permanent-type unit because of its mission.

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About Apr 53 when it had been completely formed (see Annex B for its organization [redacted] the battalion marched to FAKIYA (4212N-2703E), a distance of about 30 km. The battalion headquarters were established there.

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2. Deployment

[redacted] the subordinate units of the battalion were deployed at the Turkish border along a sector which extended from about three kilometers east of FAKIYA to about three kilometers west of GORSKA POLYANA (coordinates not available). This sector covered about 25 to 30 km. Each company was assigned a sector of about five to six kilometers within the battalion sector.¹

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3. Mission

[redacted] the mission of the battalion was to occupy German WW II-constructed concrete bunkers along the sector described above; to construct, if necessary, new wooden-type MG bunkers about 1,000 m apart (the exact distance depended upon the terrain) and in front of the permanent concrete bunkers; to defend the borders against any invasion force; and to hold these gun positions until support arrived from the interior.

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4. Personnel

[redacted] the battalion officers came from the 46th Inf Regt, 22d Inf Div; from other unidentified units of the 22d Inf Div; and from the 7th Inf Div.¹ The EM, all of whom had a minimum of eight months of service, were transferred to the battalion from the unidentified (14th?) Mountain Inf Brig located at ZVEZDETS.

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During 1952, however, the battalion lacked personnel for the 4th and 5th Co's of the battalion. These two companies were in the process of being fully formed from Jan to Mar 53, at which time personnel (believed [redacted] to be only EM) came from unidentified units located at ZVEZDETS and YAMBOL (4228N-2631E).

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[redacted] frequently additional EM replacements were transferred to the battalion as needed and in small groups. All such personnel had previously had from eight to twelve months of military experience with another unit. New inductees were never transferred directly to the battalion. Source had no explanation for this except that the unit had numerous crew-served weapons requiring trained men.

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5. T/O & E

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See Annexes A and B for the T/O & E's of the 83d HMG-Arty Bn and of one of its subordinate companies [redacted]

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[redacted] the remaining four companies of the battalion were similarly organized and, in general, had the same number of personnel, weapons and equipment [redacted]

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a. AT Guns and AA Machine Guns

[redacted] during Mar or Apr 53 the 83d HMG-Arty Bn received 20 50 mm anti-tank guns of German WW II manufacture (Rhein-metal). Each of the five subordinate companies received four of these guns (as indicated in Annex A-II [redacted] although these anti-tank guns were "used", they were an entirely new type of weapon for his battalion. [redacted]

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Upon receipt of these 50 mm anti-tank guns, the five subordinate companies turned in a total of 20 37.2 mm anti-tank guns, WW II Skoda.

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These were subsequently shipped by trucks to the 18th Inf Div at KOLAR-OVGRAD.

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[redacted] the AA Machine Gun Plat, 83d HMG-Arty Bn in Aug 53 [redacted] did not yet have any AA machine guns. This was despite the fact that this platoon had been activated in 1952. Members of the platoon only had their own carbines. Three Soviet 12.7 mm DShK HMG's, M1938, were expected from an unknown source of supply.

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b. Battalion Ammunition Supply

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[redacted] the following amounts of ammunition were available at each gun position for each individual weapon:

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<u>Weapon</u>	<u>Rounds for Each</u>
Pistol, 7.62 mm or 9 mm	16 rounds
Carbines, 8 mm, Manlicher	100 rounds
SMG, 7.62 mm Soviet PPSH	300 rounds
HMC 8 mm, Schwarzloze	3,000 rounds
AT Rifle 14.5 mm, PTRS	90 or 150 rounds
AT Gun 50 mm, Rheinmetal	450 rounds
AT Gun 75 mm, PAK-40, German	450 rounds, of which 200 were anti-personnel and 250 armor-piercing.

B. SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE AT 83D HMG-ARTY BN

1. Initial Supply of Weapons and Equipment at Battalion

The initial supply of weapons, individual equipment, clothing and food required to equip the battalion were drawn from the unidentified mountain infantry brigade at ZVEZDETS, for the first three months. Subsequent supplies, equipment and weapons were drawn from the 7th Inf Div at YAMBOL.

2. Battalion-Level Supply and Maintenance

[redacted] the 83d HMG-Arty Bn Hq located at FAKIYA (4212N-2703E) had one small building designated as a supply warehouse in addition to the mobilization warehouse. In this supply warehouse were stored small quantities of unidentified spare parts for individual small arms, items of individual equipment, and miscellaneous company property plus clothing, uniforms and food.

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Weapons and spare parts were covered with a protective type of lubricant. All equipment and clothing in the warehouse were placed on shelves or in bins.

The battalion commander usually inspected the contents of the warehouse whenever he desired. [redacted] the battalion requisitioned supplies and equipment from the 7th Inf Div at YAMBOL, except for one order for about 500 gas masks. This was in the first half of 1953 and

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came from the Third Army and authorized [redacted] the masks from the unidentified Mountain Inf Brig at ZVEZDETS.

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[redacted] weapons were usually classified into several categories such as new, used and unserviceable according to their condition and/or serviceability.

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[redacted] since the majority of the weapons assigned to the battalion were of German and/or Austrian WW II vintage, these weapons were used and in good-to-poor condition. Soviet-type weapons in the battalion were estimated to be somewhat new and in good condition.

[redacted] simple ordnance repairs of weapons and small arms were normally accomplished by battalion ordnance personnel at FAKIYA. Ordnance repairs that could not be accomplished on battalion level were performed at the ordnance workshops of the 7th Inf Div at YAMBOL. For major type of repairs, the weapons were shipped by vehicle to ordnance workshops of the Third Army [redacted]

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[redacted] tools such as wrenches had been in use since 1945 and were considered to be in poor condition. Replacements for various types of hand tools could not be obtained. Hence [redacted] hand tools for the repair of various types of equipment were inadequate.

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3. Supply at 5th Co

[redacted] company, like others of the battalion, had one large supply room in which were stored very small quantities of supplies. These consisted of spare parts for individual weapons; individual equipment such as packs and belts, used uniforms and clothing; and miscellaneous company property such as desks, chairs, cabinets, shovels, picks and horse harness. These supplies were normally kept on shelves, in boxes or in bins.

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oil and preserving oil. There was no automatic issue of expendable supplies; the first sergeant went to battalion supply when his company had run out of these items. He always went to the same battalion supply officer. If the supplies requested were justified and available, they were issued to the company immediately. However, [redacted] cases where [redacted] company had waited for various unidentified items from six to ten days; and there were instances where from three to six months had elapsed before the issue was made by the battalion.

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The company commander was accountable for all weapons, individual equipment and company property issued to his company. EM were individually responsible for their own individual weapons, equipment, clothing and uniforms. A record of company property was maintained by the unit first sergeant.

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C. SUPPLY OF 46TH INF REGT IN DOBRICH¹.

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[redacted] the 46th Inf Regt, 18th Inf Div at DOBRICH (4201N-2530E) had various types of supply and repair shops at the regimental caserne. These shops were capable of making minor repairs on individual weapons and guns; uniforms, clothing and shoes; vehicles; and horse harness.

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D. GENERAL STORAGE DATA

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[redacted] all supplies and equipment on battalion level and higher in the Bulgarian Army were stored in two types of warehouses: peacetime (mirno vremeni sklakhovay) and mobilization (mobilizahtsioni sklakhovay). This was common knowledge. Peacetime warehouses contained an unknown quantity of supplies, ammunition, small arms and possibly field artillery, clothing and food. These supplies were normally issued to subordinate units when requisitioned through channels. Mobilization warehouses [redacted] contain generally large quantities of the same type of supplies. These were to be issued to troops recalled to active duty in the event of a general mobilization.²

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Mobilization warehouses were always located within the vicinity of the unit, which was a battalion or higher level unit, and usually within the caserne of the unit. Larger peacetime warehouses or depots that were known to Source were located within the vicinity of the 7th Inf Div Hq located at YAMBOL.

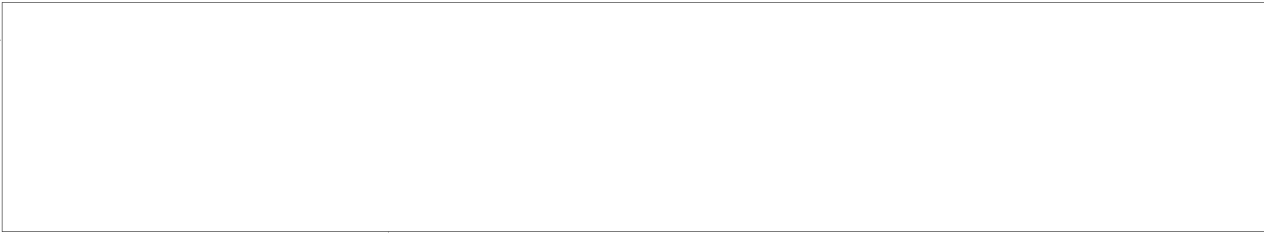
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Annexes:

Annex A - I:

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[Redacted] Breakdown of the Combat (Boenshtaht and Actual Strength of the 5th HMG-Arty Co, 83d HMG-Arty Bn, at GORSKA-POLYANA (Coordinates not available) Bulgaria.

Annex A - II:

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[Redacted] Estimate of the Combat (Boenshtaht and Actual Strength, and Weapons of the 5th HMG-Arty Company.

Annex B - I:

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[Redacted] Breakdown of the Actual T/O and E of the 83d HMG-Arty Bn at FAKIYA (4212N-2703E).

Annex B - II:

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[Redacted] Estimate of Actual Weapons and Vehicles assigned to the 83d HMG-Arty Bn.

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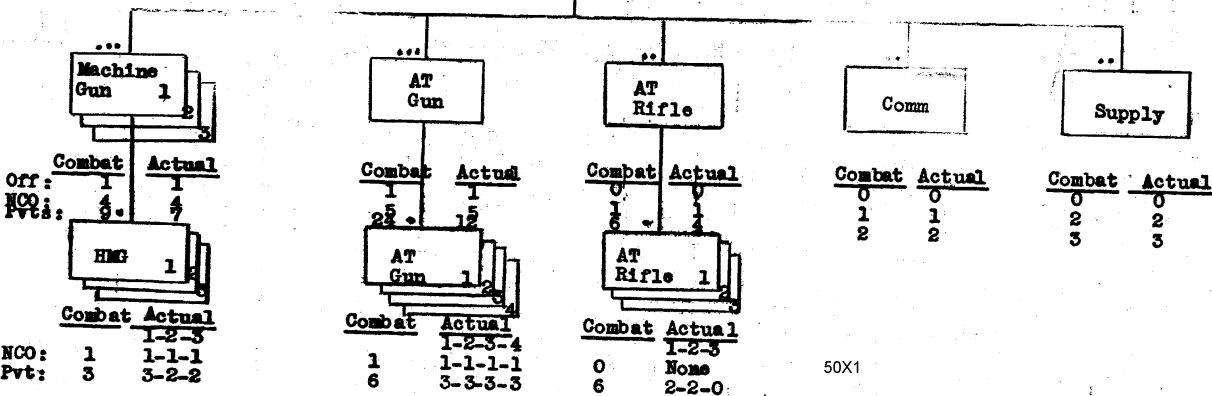
ANNEX A--I

Breakdown of the Combat (Boenshtaht) and Actual Strength of the 5th HMG-Arty Co, 83d HMG-Arty Bn. at GOHKA-POLYANA (Coordinates not available) Bulgaria

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	Strength	
	Combat	Actual
Off:	6	6
NCO:	21	21
Pvt:	62	42
Total	89	69

5th HMG Arty	
Combat Off:	2
Actual	2



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Annex A - II

Estimate of the Combat (Boenshtakt) and Actual
Strength, and Weapons of the 5th HMG-Arty
Company

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	Lieutenants	MCOs	PFCs or Pvts	Total Personnel	Pistol 7.62or 9-mm Czech and/or German	Soviet 7.62-mm SMG PPSh-1941	Carbines 8-mm, Manlicher	AT Gun 50-mm, German "The metal"	AT Rifle 14.5-mm Soviet, PTRS-1941	HMG 8-mm "Schwarzloze"	Horses	Wagons	Telephones	Switchboard
Company Headquarters	2			2	2									
CO	(1)			(1)										
Asst CO	(1)			(1)										
Three MG Platoons:	3	12	27	42	9	12	15			9				
Platoon Leaders	(3)			(3)										
Asst Plat Leaders		(3)		(3)										
Squad Leaders		(9)		(9)										
Gunners			(9)	(9)										
Crewmen			(18)	(18)										
Anti-Tank Gun Plat:	1	5	24	30	4	1	13	4			8			
Platoon Leader	(1)			(1)										
ASST Plat Leaders		(1)		(1)										
Gun Crew Chief		(4)		(4)										
Gunners			(4)	(4)				(4)						
Crewmen			(20)	(20)										
Anti-Tank Rifle Sect.:	1	6	7	14	5	1	4	3						
Section Chief	(1)			(1)										
AT Rifle- men			(3)	(3)				(3)						
ASST AT Rifleman			(2)	(2)				(2)						
Communica- tion Section	1	2	3	6			3						4	1

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ANNEX A - II (cont'd)

Estimate of the Authorized Combat (Boenshtaht) and Actual Strength, and Actual Weapons of the 5th HMG-Arty Company

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	Lieutenants	NCOs	PFCs or Pvts	Total Personnel	Pistol 7.62 or 9-mm Czech and/or German	Soviet 7.62-mm SMG PPSh-1941	Carbines 8-mm Manlicher	AT Gun 50-mm German "Rheinmetal"	Soviet AT Rifle 14.5-mm PTRS-1941	HMG 8-mm "Schwarzloze"	Horses	Wagons	Telephones	Switchboard
Section Chief		(1) (1)					(1)							
Wiremen			(2) (2)				(2)							
Supply Section		2 (1)	3 (1)	5 (1)			5				4	2		
Admin NCO		(1)					(1)							
Aidsman		(1) (1)					(1)							
Water Carrier			(3)											
Cook														
Driver			(3)				(3)							
Total Company	6 6	21 21	62 42	89 69	15	14	40	4	3	9	12	4	* 4	* 1

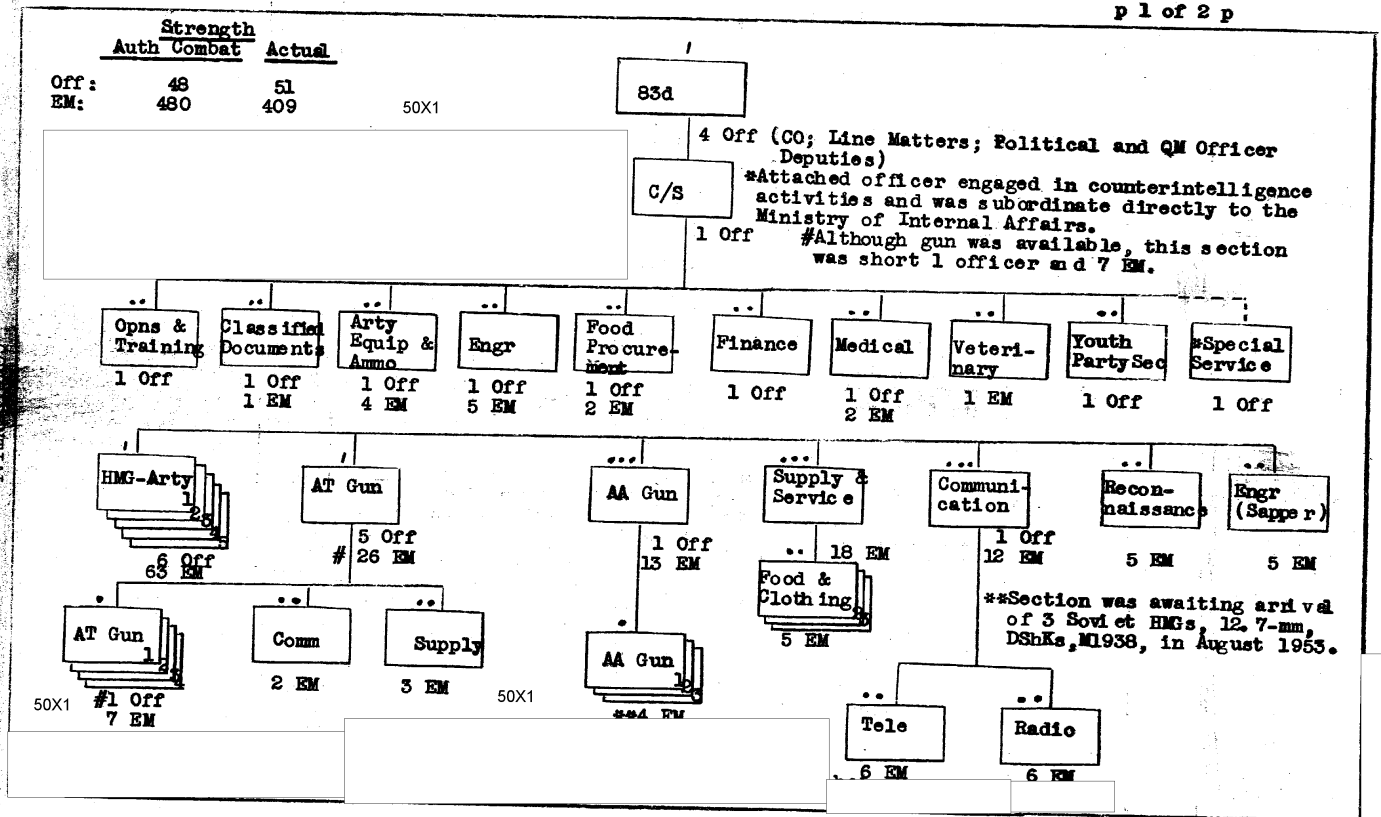
* [redacted] the telephone equipment [redacted] was manufactured in Bulgaria. [redacted] some switchboards had 10 drop lines whereas others had 5 drop lines.

Upper left hand corner indicates authorized
Lower right hand corner indicates actual strength

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Breakdown of the Actual T/O & E of the 83d HMG-Arty Bn at FAKIYA (4212N-2703E)



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ANNEX B - II

Source's Estimate of Actual Weapons and Vehicles Assigned to the 83d HMG-Arty Battalion

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Pistols, 7.62 or 9-mm Czech and/or German	Soviet 7.62-mm SMG PPSH-1941	Carbines 8-mm Manliche F	AT Gun 50-mm, German "Re in metal"	Soviet 12.7-mm HMG DShK, M1938	Soviet 14.5-mm AT Rifle, PTRS-1941	8-mm HMG, Schwarzlose	German 75-mm AT Gun PAK-40, Horse-drawn	Horses	Wagons	Telephones	Switchboards	Transmitter, type unknown	Trucks, OPEL-BLITZ, German	Motorcycles, BMW	Ambulance, German
Battalion Headquarters	14		15													1
HMG-Arty Cos (5)	15	14	40	4		3	9		12	2	4	1				
AT Gun Battery	5	6	20					4	21	2	4	1				
AA Gun Platoon	3	4	7	*3				4								
Supply & Service Plat		4	14										3	1		
Communication Platoon		3	10							7	1	1				
Reconnaissance Section		5														
Engr (Sapper) Section		1	4													
Total Battalion	97	93	270	20	*3	15	45	4	85	12	#31	#7	#1	3	1	1

FOOTNOTE:

* Were not available but shipment expected in August 1953.

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Types of signal equipment were not known other than that they were of Bulgarian manufacture.

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