

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1

FLD 626

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 2 Oct 50

SUBJECT Information on the Albanian Army

NO. OF PAGES 10

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



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25X1

Organization of the Albanian Army

1. Ministry of War. The Minister of War and Commander-in-Chief of the Army is Enver Hoxha. Under Secretary of War and Chief of the Albanian General Staff is Beqir Balluku. The Deputy Chief of the General Staff is Colonel Hoxhip Vincani. The Ministry of War and the General Staff are practically identical.
2. The Ministry of War (General Staff) has the following Directorates:
 - a. Directorate of the Politburo of the Party: Director, General Hysni Kapo; Deputy Director, Colonel Beqir Kdou from Shkoder; officer responsible for the youth, Major Liuto Haxhi from Libohovo; officer responsible for press and propaganda; officer responsible for training; officer responsible for organization; officer responsible for political education; officer responsible for financial conduct of the Army.
 - b. Directorate of Military Organization of Officers, or Directorate of Personnel: personnel, "successive notes" (sic-evidently some kind of files), secretariat.
 - c. Directorate of Recruiting: Director, Colonel Teqi Koloneci from Korce; Deputy Director, Major Suat Leshoviku from Leskoviki. This Directorate has the following sections: organization (non-commissioned officers) under Captain Class A' Rejzo Dalipi from Mivica, near Kurvelesh; organization (enlisted men).
 - d. Directorate of the Home Front and Supply: Director, Colonel Cazim Kondi from Kuci, near Kurvelesh. This Directorate has the following sections: clothing and shoes under Lieutenant Revliut Kuci; financial services, food under Captain Class A' Etem Nane from Kuci; technical operations under Major Andrea Nasis, a cabinet-maker from Korce; and transport under Captain Class B' Meitas Beis, from Premeti.

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Next Review Approved For Release 2005/12/14

Document No. 12

Reclassified

Class. Changed To: TS S C

Auth: HR 12-2

Date: 10/12/78

Approved For Release 2005/12/14 : CIA-RDP82-00457R005400550012-3

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1

- 2 -

- e. Directorate of Artillery: Director, General Tahir Kadarea from Gjinokaster. This Directorate has the following sections: heavy artillery, mountain artillery, anti-aircraft artillery, anti-tank artillery, coast artillery, tanks. The independent units of artillery are directly subordinate to the Directorate of Artillery, while the units attached to Divisions are subordinate to the command of the Division.
- f. Directorate of Training: Director, General Gjin Maraku, from Northern Albania.
- g. Directorate of Engineers: This Directorate has no sections.
- h. Directorate of Communications: This Directorate has no sections.
- i. Security Section: Section takes orders from the Directorate of Security (Sigurimi) of the Ministry of the Interior. In this section there are officers and enlisted men who, under cover, maintain a surveillance of the movements of all the personnel of the Ministry.
- j. Directorate of Operations: Director General Spiro Musi (sic-Mojsius?) from Kavaje.
- k. Directorate of Intelligence.
3. All the above Directorates of the Ministry of War (Albanian General Staff) have corresponding echelons in the Divisions, Regiments, and Brigades. Special Security Sections exist in the Divisions, Regiments, Brigades, and Battalions. Their strength is unknown. They do not take orders from the Security Section of the Albanian General Staff, but through the chief of the Security Section of the Division they receive all orders from the Directorate of Security (Sigurimi) in the Ministry of the Interior.
4. The total strength of the Army is estimated at 35,000 to 40,000 men. If the Security Corps (police and Sigurimi) are added, then the number of armed men reaches 80,000.
5. Men born between 1915 and 1929 are now serving in the Albanian Army, and also half of those born in 1930. The only entire class serving at present is that of 1929. On 19 February 1950, all those who had completed 27 months of service were released, and of those born in 1928 all who had completed 24 months of service were demobilized. There was no demobilization in the border units, but informant heard that such releases were expected soon. By 10 March 1950, all men in all parts of the country who had been granted a delay in induction had to report to the recruiting offices for re-examination.
6. Composition of the Albanian Army:
- a. A Division has three infantry regiments, one regiment of mountain artillery, and one battalion for training non-commissioned officers, who are trained for ten months.
- b. Each infantry regiment has 30 to 50 pack-animals; a mountain artillery regiment has 100 to 120 pack-animals.
- c. The Staff of the Division includes the Division Commander, the Commissar, the Chief of Staff, the Operations Officer, the Transport and Supply Officer and the Director of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of the Division. There are also the echelons of the Directorates of the Albanian General Staff (mentioned in paragraph 2 above). The following also belong to the headquarters

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1

- 3 -

of the Division: the headquarters company composed of auxiliary services (clerks, messengers, nurses, etc.); a company of engineers, composed of two platoons of 25 men each; a communications company, composed of two platoons of 30 men each (the Division has three or four wireless telegraph sets and a number of field telephones); and a reconnaissance company, composed of two platoons of 30 men each (these men carry sub-machine guns).

- d. An Infantry Regiment has three infantry battalions. Its staff has the same composition as that of the Division. The Headquarters of the Regiment has corresponding companies, but in addition it has a battery of artillery and a platoon with three anti-tank guns. At the regimental base there are two wireless sets, and there is one at the base of each battalion.

Order of Battle and Personalities

7. 1 Division is based at Tirana. Its commander is Colonel Mito Caku, from Kurvelesh. The Commissar is Major Zekir Lero from Korce. The Transport and Supply Officer is Captain Dervish Daco. The Personnel Officer is Captain Xhemal Urani. The commander of the Security Section is Captain Class A' Ali Cune, and his assistant is Captain Class B' Mysni Benka. The director of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of the Division is Captain Class A' Sami Anderi.
8. 29 Regiment, T.T. [redacted] is based at Tirana in the Ali Riza barracks. The Commanding Officer is Major Hajdar Aranitasi from Malakstra. The Commissar is Captain Class A' Theofan Haci from Leskovicki. The Chief of Staff is Captain Class A' Abaz Mane from Malakstra. The Operations Officer is Second Lieutenant Kaso Kurti from Gjinokaster. The Transport and Supply Officer is Lieutenant Pandi Kroj from Devoli, near Korce. The director of the Political Bureau is Captain Class B' Enver Rexha. The Press and Propaganda Officer is Second Lieutenant Selaudin Inani from Premeti. The Director for Youth is Second Lieutenant Josif Vaso from Delvine. Recruiting Officer is Second Lieutenant Kosta Bucuti from Delvine. Mess Officer is Lufit Kaci, a first sergeant from Lundjaria. First Sergeant Islam Kalonis is in charge of clothing. The Director of the Security Section is Captain Class B' Mysni Benka, from Mivica (near Kurvelesh).
- a. 14 Battalion is based at Tirana. Its commanding officer is Captain Idaet Hinda(sic) from Tatizat, near Delvine.
- b. 45 Battalion is based in Tirana. Its commanding officer is Captain Aleu Caku, from Kapariel (near Kurvelesh). Its Commissar is Captain Class B' Enver Rexha.
- c. 36 Battalion is based at Tirana. Its commanding officer is Captain Petro Kita from Deropclis. Its Commissar is Lieutenant Abdul Bizga from Vlone.
9. 23 Regiment is based at Kavaje. Its commanding officer is Major Lufar Bolona, from Bolona. The Commissar is Captain Class A' Bajram Zeneli from Tepeleni. Chief of Staff is Shefki Gjonliko from Kuci (near Kurvelesh). The three battalions of this regiment are located in Kavaje.
10. 20 Regiment is based in Shkoder, where its three battalions are also located.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1

- 4 -

11. A mountain artillery regiment is based in Tirana at the Ali Riza barracks.
12. A battalion for training non-commissioned officers is based in Tirana at the Ali Riza barracks.
13. 5 Division is based in Gjinokaster. Its Commanding Officer is Major Vasil Gjini from Korco. The Commissar is Major Pejzo Ismajli from Tepoloni. Chief of Staff is Major Thomas Khizho from Suka. The "officer in charge of affairs behind the lines" is Major Sejfidin Vecchia from Kuci (near Kurvelesh). The officer in charge of the Political Bureau is Major Ilias Ameti, from Sasai (near Sarande). The Transport Officer is Captain Class A' Gjorgj Seras from Zagoria, and his assistant is Captain Elio Busi from Kuci.
14. The three infantry regiments have their base at Gjinokaster, Delvine and Premeti, respectively.
15. The mountain artillery regiment is based at Gjinokaster but it has one unit at Delvine.
16. The battalion for training non-commissioned officers is based at Gjinokaster.
17. People's Security Division M.R. (sic) is based at Tirana. Its Commanding Officer is Lieutenant Colonel Teme Sejko from Konispolis. This Division guards the Greek-Albanian and Albanian-Yugoslav borders. It has four regiments, whose strength is double that of the regular infantry regiments, i.e., about 1,500 to 2,000 men. This Division does not have a mountain artillery regiment or a battalion for training non-commissioned officers. The personnel of this Division are selected so far as possible from the faithful members of the Communist Party. Discharge from this Division is slow, because service in the border guard is regarded as a "specialty." This Division is directly subordinate to the Albanian General Staff and cooperates with the Security Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior.
18. 8 Division is based in Korco. Its Commanding Officer is Colonel Petrit Dume from Korco. The Commissar is Lieutenant Colonel Gafur Cuci, from Delvine. Informant says that units of this division are in Dilisht, Erseke, and Pogradec, but he does not know any details of its organization or location.
19. The Albanian Army has the following independent units which are directly subordinate to the General Staff:
 - a. Coast artillery brigade based in Durres. Its Commanding Officer is Lieutenant Colonel Mlusi Spahiu from Gjinokaster. The Commissar is Major Xhule Ciraku, from Vermik (near Kurvelesh). This Brigade is divided into four units and one is based at each of the following points: Durres, Saseno Island, Fier and Shengjin. Each unit of coast artillery is composed of three batteries with a total of 150 men. Informant heard that at Saseno work was being done for the improvement of the old fortifications, and that new fortifications were being constructed.
 - b. Anti-aircraft artillery regiment based in Tirana (at the Ali Riza barracks). The Commissar is Captain Class A' Simo Labi, from Stegopolis (near Gjinokaster). The Operations Officer is Captain Spiro Liaska from Himare. This Regiment probably has six

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1

- 5 -

or seven units. Four of these units are based in Tirana, and the rest are located in the following cities with one battery in each: Durres, Manine (near Vlone), Saseno Island, Sarande, Gjinokaster, Lucove, Berat and Patos. The Regiment also has a battery in Tirana for the purpose of training non-commissioned officers.

- c. Anti-aircraft artillery unit based in Korco with one battery in Elbasan. Other parts of this unit are in Leskovik and Pogradec.
- d. Heavy artillery regiment based in Libasan.
- e. Anti-tank artillery unit based in Berat. This unit has both anti-tank cannon and anti-tank machine guns.
- f. Armored vehicle regiment based in Tirana. This regiment has 40 to 50 tanks of the Soviet type (sic). This regiment, like the above-named independent units of artillery, comes immediately under the Directorate of Artillery of the Albanian General Staff.
- g. Communications regiment based at Tirana. It has a strength of 300 to 400 men. It is a training center for non-commissioned officers in communications. The course of training lasts ten months, and afterwards the trained men can be assigned to any other unit.
- h. Engineers brigade based in Shkoder. Parts of it are now located in Burel.
- i. Infantry brigade based in Vlone. Its Commanding Officer is Lieutenant Colonel Mehmet Drodani, from Korco. The Commissar is Major Sejdim Abdis from Shkoder. The Director of the Political Bureau is Captain Class A' Mustafa Kilimi from Delvine. The Press and Propaganda Officer is Captain George Drosos from Delvine. This brigade has two infantry regiments and one mountain artillery unit based at Vlone and Durres. It also has a battery at Sarande.
- j. Special pursuit brigade based in Tirana. Its Commanding Officer is Colonel Gjon Banushi from Vlone. This brigade is under orders from the Security Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior. Its mission is to pursue nationalist guerrilla bands. Informant knows nothing about its composition or strength, except that parts of it are located in Tepeleni and Shkoder. All members of the brigade wear British military uniform without insignia. They receive a high pay, i.e., 3,500 lek or more per month. All men are non-commissioned officers with a grade of sergeant or higher, and they receive exceptionally good food. They wear shoes of Hungarian manufacture and overseas caps without insignia. They are recruited from the more trusted discharged soldiers and members of the Party; old-time partisans are preferred. The majority of them carry sub-machine guns of the Soviet type. They also have rifles of Soviet type with short barrels.

Training

- 20. Soldiers are trained within the Divisions in accordance with their assignment to the different arms by the recruiting offices in the Komitet. The basic training lasts three months and is under the immediate supervision of the Soviet Military Mission, which issues the training programs.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1

- 6 -

21. The training consists chiefly of battle exercises from 4:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The afternoon is devoted to political instruction. During the period of training each soldier fires five or six times and uses six cartridges each time, at a distance of 200 to 400 meters.
22. In each Division there is a training battalion for non-commissioned officers and for soldier specialists such as mortar-handlers and machine-gunners. The older and more experienced non-commissioned officers and soldiers act as instructors in their special branches.

Military Schools

23. In Tirana are located the Enver Hoxha School for Officers and the Shkolla e Dakos, for officer candidates. Both are under the constant supervision of the Soviet Military Mission.
24. The Enver Hoxha School gives a ten months' training course to regular non-commissioned officers who desire promotion, drafted or reserve non-commissioned officers who want to become regular NCOs or be promoted to commissioned officers, and officers who are deficient in military science. The teachers are Albanian officers who have received training in the Soviet Union. This school has departments for the various arms, a political department, and a department for training quartermasters, mess officers, etc. The students are organized in battalions, but informant does not know any further details.
25. The Shkolla e Dakos (Officer Candidate School) began functioning in 1945. Elementary school graduates are admitted to a course of studies which lasts for seven years, and graduates of the Enike to a course lasting four years. Candidates are preferred from families of members of the Party, wounded heroes, and the poor. The students are given all the courses of intermediate education and in addition three hours of military studies daily. The graduates are sent to military schools in the Soviet Union. When they return, they are made warrant officers or second lieutenants. At present there are 1,500 students in the school. The teachers are Gymnasium professors and officers trained in the U.S.S.R.

Discipline and Morale

26. Tremendous importance is ascribed to discipline in the Albanian Army, and the army regulations on it are rigid and very strict, even to the smallest detail. Full compliance is demanded in everything from smartness of appearance and of the salute to the most important order. The soldiers are told that "Democracy" has no place in the Army, and that obedience to the orders even of the corporal must be unquestioning and absolute.
27. Penalties for breaches of discipline are about as follows (in ascending scale of severity):
- Detention over night in the guard-house.
 - Three days' continuous hard labor.
 - Two weeks' restriction.
 - Light imprisonment.
 - Heavy imprisonment.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1

- 7 -

28. A company commander has the right to issue punishment up to and including five days' light or five days' heavy imprisonment. A battalion commander has the right to issue ten days, a regimental commander fifteen days, and a divisional commander thirty days. When "heavy" imprisonment is imposed, food is issued to the prisoner at the discretion of the officer imposing the sentence. Pay is not withheld during the period of detention.
29. It should be noted that if a soldier receives continual punishments he is regarded as suspect and is put under the surveillance of the Sigurini of his unit; a special dossier on him is kept in case he should be transferred to another unit.
30. The morale of the Albanian soldier is very low, because of his wretched condition as to food and clothing, the autocratic deportment of the officers, suspicion and mutual distrust, the shadow of the Sigurini hanging over everything, the misery and unhappiness of the soldiers' families, and the complete lack of liberty.
31. When soldiers in desperation complain to their officers, the latter's only answer is to draw their pistols.
32. The only entertainment offered the troops is a moving picture show every ten days and a pass once a week. Because of the frequency of penalties very few soldiers receive these passes. Regular passes are issued very infrequently and as a rule only to trusted Communists among the soldiers.

Insignia

33.
- a. Infantry: red piping on the shoulder-boards.
 - b. Artillery: steel-blue piping on the shoulder-boards.
 - c. Communications: red piping on the shoulder-boards with some kind of mark in the middle which informant does not remember accurately.
 - d. Engineers: red piping on the shoulder-boards with a crossed pick and shovel in the middle.
 - e. Medical corps: yellow piping on the shoulder-boards.

Barracks-Permanent Installations

34. All the barracks were constructed by the Italians. They are now in good condition, for all the destruction caused by the Germans on their withdrawal has been repaired.
35. In Vlone there are the following barracks:
- a. Between the city and the harbor there are Italian barracks consisting of five buildings in the form of the Greek letter Pi. They have a capacity of 2,500 men.
 - b. Near the airdrome there are Italian barracks with a capacity of 500 men.
 - c. In Kr Monero (Cljè i Ptohtë) there are Italian barracks with a capacity of 1,000 men.
 - d. At the harbor, about 500 meters from the customs house, there are Italian barracks with a capacity of 500 men, where the units of the Autonomous Brigade of Vlone are stationed.
36. At Durres, on the road to Tirana 1,000 meters from the junction of the road to Kavaje, there are barracks with a capacity of 5,000 men. These barracks now house the units of the brigade of coast artillery.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1

- 0 -

37. On Saseno Island, 300 meters east of the harbor, there are seven buildings with a capacity of 3,000 men. They now house the units of the coast (sic) Brigade of Durres.
38. In Tepeleni, on the road to Vlone 500 meters outside the city, there are barracks with a capacity of 500 men. They now house one battalion of 1 Division of Gjinokaster and a company of a Special Brigade.
39. In Dukaj (sic-near Tepeleni) there are barracks with a capacity of 500 men. They now serve as a concentration camp for suspects.
40. In Grehoti (near Gjinokaster) there are barracks with a capacity of 4,000 to 5,000 men. They now serve as a base for units and an artillery regiment of 5 Division.
41. In Dervicani there are barracks with a capacity of 5,000 men. At present there are only a few men of the People's Security Division located there.
42. In Gjorgjeat there are barracks with a capacity of 1,000 men, but only a few men of the People's Security Division are located there.
43. Near Delvine, on the road to Gjinokaster 5,000 to 6,000 meters from the city, there are barracks with a capacity of 7,000 men. Now one regiment of 5 Division of Gjinokaster is housed there.
44. At Banatat (sic-between Sarande and Delvine), there are barracks with a capacity of 500 men. There is now a unit from the artillery regiment of 5 Division located in them.
45. Kiate e Gast (sic) has barracks with a capacity of 300 to 400 men.
46. Sarande has barracks with a capacity of 5,000 to 7,000 men.
47. Between Freneti and Mleusa there are barracks with a capacity of 5,000 men, now housing units of 5 Division of Gjinokaster.
48. At Berat (on the road to Pogradec and 3,000 to 4,000 meters outside the city) are barracks now housing a unit of the regiment of heavy artillery of Elbasan.
49. At Korçe are barracks with a capacity of 3,000 men, now serving as a base for units of 8 Division.
50. At Elbasan are barracks with a capacity of 3,000 men, now serving as a base for a regiment of artillery.
51. At Shkoder, outside the city, in the direction of the river, towards the harbor, there are barracks in poor condition. They now house a regiment of 1 Division and a brigade of engineers.
52. There are also small barracks in Kavaje, Lushnja, Fier, and other small cities and towns.
- Military Hospitals
53. There is an army hospital at Tirana with 1,000 beds, one at Shkoder with 200 beds, one at Gjinokaster with 50 to 60 beds, and one at Korçe with 50 to 60 beds.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1

- 9 -

Arsenals and Dumps

54. [redacted] the following arsenals and dumps of military materiel:

- a. Tirana: general stores of food and clothing near the Duvër Hoxha machine shops.
- b. Grehoti (near Gjinokaster): stores of military materiel within the barracks.
- c. Tirana: (1500 meters outside the city on the road to Kavaje): underground store-chambers made of reinforced concrete to hold war materiel.
- d. Tirana: (near the airdrome on the road to Kavaje): dumps belonging to the engineers of 1 Division and containing mines, mine-detectors, explosives, etc.
- e. Krionere (Gjës i Ptohtë) (near Vlone): ammunition dump.
- f. Durres: large stores of materiel brought from the Soviet Union.

Fortifications

55. [redacted] fortifications is very sketchy, but [redacted] that work has been done at the following places:

- a. Saseno Island.
- b. Vlone area (Logara, Manine Cape, Maraburun).
- c. Sarande.
- d. Lukovo.
- e. Likornesi.
- f. Cape Palermo.
- g. In the Himara region there have been repairs and completion of fortifications started by the Italians and also new works including artillery and machine-gun positions.
- h. Northern Albania: Kukës, Peskligje (sic-Pesklop-?), Milet, and Librazhd.
- i. Creek-Albanian border: Selts, Skoriades, Sopiki, Çatiste, Lakrikambo, Monispolis, Malabar, Labovo, Libohovo, Gline, Piskoli (sic), Nemercke, Kavaje, Gjorgucat, and on the heights of Buzina.

Anti-Aircraft Defenses

56. There are two or three anti-aircraft guns with a searchlight in the following places:

- a. Tirana area: (1) Agio Prokopios (in New Tirana).
(2) Kashar (on the road to Durres 2,000 to 3,000 meters outside of Tirana).
(3) Mt. Dajti (on the road from Tirana to the mountain and at the end of the road).
(4) Above the barracks in Tirana.
- b. Durres: on the road to Kavaje at a place called White Rock (1,000 meters outside the city).
- c. Vlone: at Manine.
- d. Saseno Island.
- e. Kucova: at the Hasan Bey Bridge at the fork of the roads from Kucova to Berati and Lushnja.
- f. Gjinokaster: at Grehoti.
- g. Korco, Elbasan, Berati and Sarande, but [redacted] not know the exact location.
- h. [redacted] there are units of the anti-aircraft artillery of Korco located in Leskoviki and Pogradec.

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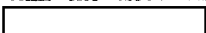
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1

- 10 -



57. All the anti-aircraft guns are of the Soviet type.   thirty-seven 25 mm. and forty-five 77 mm. guns.

25X1

Airfields

58. The only airdrome in use at the present time is that in Tirana. It is in good condition. Albania has only one small mail plane of Yugoslav type which flies twice a week to the Soviet Union.
59. The airdromes of Korce, Gjinokaster, Vlone, and Peshkop are not in good condition and are not being used. No work is being done to improve them.

Soviet Military Mission

60. There are no Soviet troops in Albania except the Soviet Military Mission and the technical mission. These number 100 to 150 men who have brought their families with them. The chief of the military mission is Colonel Sokolovsky, and the chief of the civilian mission is the Soviet Ambassador. A number of senior Soviet officers are located in the Ministry of War and one or two are assigned to the infantry and one to the artillery in each division. There is also a senior Soviet officer assigned to each independent unit.

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