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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1A

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 8 June 1951 25X1

SUBJECT Military Information

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PLACE
ACQUIRED

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INFO.

Albanian Military Information

1. The Deputy Minister of War and Chief of the General Staff is General Beqir Balluku from Tirane.
2. The present total strength of the Albanian Army is estimated at 30,000 men. Together with the Security Corps (Police, Security Police, Border-Guards, Special Brigades), the number of the armed forces is at most 50,000 men.
3. [REDACTED] Parliament had discussed reducing the period of service to 18 months for the infantry and 24 months for the Border-Guard. This has not yet been applied.
4. The most recent release of men in the Border-Guard was made on 20 February 1950, when those who had completed 36 months of service were released. Their places were filled by new recruits taken from the Independent Brigade of Vlone.
5. Three infantry divisions are under the control of the Ministry of War (General Staff), and so are various independent units. These forces constitute the purely military forces of the country.
6. All (sic) the present officers of the Albanian Army are Communist Party members and ex-partisans. There are no officers remaining from the period prior to the Communist regime. The majority of the present officers graduated only from the elementary schools and were then trained in the Communist military schools. Young officer candidates not drawn from the ranks of former partisans are now studying in the "Kadet" Military School, but they have not yet graduated.
7. [REDACTED] 55 percent of the officers are fanatical followers of the Party; 40 percent are nominal followers of the Party without having been imbued with Communist ideology and without any significant Communist activity, while five percent are indifferent to the regime.
8. Only 15-20 percent of the enlisted men are fanatical Communists; the other 80-85 percent are opponents of the regime. [REDACTED]

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platoon of 25 men, only five were fanatical Communists.

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9. The majority of the dissatisfied soldiers talk about escaping as soon as a suitable opportunity offers itself. They are held back only by the thought of the fate of their families and by Communist propaganda which represents life in the neighboring countries as miserable in the extreme.
10. There are two military academies in Albania. One is the Enver School at Tirane, where from 1945 to 1948 officers of the partisans, as well as Political Commissars, were given training for a period of three months. In the year 1948 regular officers studied there. On 4 January 1949, 300 regular and 100 reserve officers graduated. Since 1949 the course of training has been based on a two-year period. Today the only students are officers from the rank of warrant officer up to captain, who are attending courses to further their knowledge of military science. All officers have to go through this school.
11. The instructors are Albanian officers who were trained during 1945 and 1946 in Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.
12. The subjects taught are:
 - a. Political instruction (History of the Soviet Communist Party, Internal and International Situation, Communist Theory in 12 chapters).
 - b. Military tactics (individual, squad, platoon, company).
 - c. Swedish gymnastics.
 - d. Technical training in modern weapons.
 - e. Topography
 - f. Military regulations.
 - g. Athletics
 - h. Communications (for officers of field grade)
 - i. Fortifications (for officers of the engineers)
 - j. Since 1950 the study of the Russian language has been obligatory, and is taught by a senior Soviet officer.
13. Officers from the rank of major and up are sent to the Soviet Union for further training. Only those who are trusted, relatively well educated (graduates of the intermediate school), absolutely healthy and able to stand the cold are selected. The selection in many cases was unsuccessful, particularly as regards trustworthiness, since a number of officers were sent back to Albania under guard before their period of training was completed. Some of them were imprisoned, and others were dismissed from the Army. Informants say that this happened because these officers found the situation different in the USSR from what had been described to them, and therefore changed their minds and deviated from the Party line.
14. The "Cadet" School is located in Tirane where it was established at the beginning of 1947. It has nine grades: four of the elementary school, three of the intermediate school, and two of the gymnasium. Subjects of elementary and intermediate education are taught during the morning hours, and military courses are given in the afternoon. The teachers are public school teachers, gymnasium professors, and officers trained in the Soviet Union. This school admits those boys who are going to follow a military career, preferably the children of war casualties, heroes, the poor, and officers. At present there are about 1200 students. The graduates are sent to military schools in the USSR and Rumania, and a very small number will stay at the Enver School. After this training they will be appointed officers. At the establishment of the school, young former partisans and graduates of the elementary and the intermediate school were admitted. They studied for two years in this school, during which time they went through the subjects of four grades: those who graduated from the school at the end of 1948

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were sent to military schools in Moscow from which they have not yet returned.

15. In Albania there are no special basic training centers for the Army. Recruits who are called up report to their local recruiting offices which immediately send them to the various units. Those selected as communications troops are sent directly to the Communications Regiment of Tirane; those selected for the heavy artillery are sent to the Heavy Artillery Regiment at Elbasan. As soon as they join the units their training begins, and it lasts about a year. At the end of the year new recruits join the unit and the same training starts all over again for both the old troops and the new recruits. Usually about the middle of the period of basic training a number of enlisted men are selected on the basis of ability or of the Party's confidence in them to become non-commissioned officer candidates, and they are sent to the training battalions for non-commissioned officers which are attached to the divisions; after six months' training, when the training of the less favored enlisted men has been completed, the candidates are appointed non-commissioned officers of infantry, mortars, or heavy machine-guns, and they return to their units.
16. The year's training course for enlisted men is divided into quarters as follows:
 - a. First three months: Swedish gymnastics, military courtesy, firing six cartridges from a distance of 100 meters.
 - b. Second three months: Battle exercises for the squad without artillery, firing six cartridges from a distance of 200 meters.
 - c. Third three months: Battle exercises for the platoon, firing six cartridges from a distance of 300 meters.
 - d. Fourth three months: Battle exercises for the company and battalion, firing six cartridges from a distance of 400 meters. Also during this three months' period, there are maneuvers of the whole regiment for two or three days.

During the battle exercises real fire or even blank cartridges are never used. The training continues regardless of weather conditions for eight hours a day. Three times a week for two hours there are political lectures by the Commissars of the battalions. Every day during the school hour there is compulsory teaching of reading and writing for two hours to the illiterate soldiers. The teaching is done by educated soldiers.

17. In February 1950, there was an increase in the salaries of government employees, workers, and soldiers, but at the same time the family allowances and the hardship allowance for officers of the Border-Guard were reduced. As a result they came to about the same level (sic). The present pay of the Border-Guard troops is as follows:

Private: 150 lek
 Sergeant: reserve—250 lek, regular—2500 lek
 First sergeant: 2700 lek
 First sergeant. Class A Marshal: 3790 lek
 Warrant Officer: 3900 leka
 Second Lieutenant: 4000 lek
 First Lieutenant: 4100 lek
 Captain: 4200 lek

the salaries of the senior officers. Whenever a junior officer holds a position higher than his rank (e.g. a second lieutenant commands a company), he receives a correspondingly higher pay.

18. the pay scale of the regular Army.

19. In December 1949 uniforms and shoes for the Army and Border-Guard arrived from the USSR and Czechoslovakia, and distribution of these began immediately. The clothing from Czechoslovakia included tunics and English-type trousers, which

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were issued to the Border-Guard. The shoes were generally of poor quality and now are worn out. At the same time overcoats of Soviet manufacture were distributed to the infantry. The Border-Guard received overcoats of Czechoslovak and American manufacture. The American coats had to have their insignia and buttons removed.

Composition, Strength and Armament of an Infantry Division

20. The infantry division has a Staff which consists of the Commanding Officer, Commissar, Chief of Staff, Director of the Political Office of the Communist Party of the Division, Director of Transport and Supply, Director of Training and Operations, Director of Personnel, Director of Press and Propaganda, Director of the Security Section of the Division, Director of Engineering, Director of Communications, Director of Hygiene, Army Physician and Director of Reconnaissance.
21. The division command includes the following:
- a. Headquarters Company (clerks, messengers, medical corpsmen, etc). A physician from the military hospital at the Division base is detached to the Headquarters Company.
 - b. Transport Company
 - c. Engineers Company, consisting of four platoons of about twenty-five men each (total 110 men).
 - d. Communications Company, divided into two sections: w/t operators and telephone operators. Each section has three platoons of about 20 men each (total 130 men). A Division has eight to ten wireless sets; in-
 - e. Reconnaissance Company, consisting of four platoons of about 25 men each (total 110 men). All of them carry Soviet sub-machine guns with a drum magazine holding 72 cartridges. Their mission is the reconnaissance of the terrain during the movement of the Division and also the penetration of the area behind the enemy for purposes of reconnaissance.
 - f. Infantry Company for the security of the Division. It consists of three platoons of 25 men each (total of 80 men, including administrative personnel).
 - g. Battery of A/T artillery, with a strength of about 70 men. It has four cannon of Soviet type, 45 mm., 1942 issue. This battery was added to the Divisional Command in 1949.
 - h. School for training select scouts, of unknown strength. They use rifles of Soviet Mosin (sic) type, 1891/30 issue, with a magazine holding five cartridges. One of these scouts is assigned to each infantry squad.
 - i. Battalion for training non-commissioned officers. This has four companies: two rifle companies, one heavy Maxim machine-gun company, one mortar company (82 mm. Soviet type mortars). The battalion also has one platoon of six anti-tank rifles of Simonov type. The total strength of the training battalion is about 360 men.
 - j. Band, with a strength of 40 men.
22. The division consists of three infantry regiments and one regiment of mountain artillery.
23. The infantry regiment has its own staff, which has the same composition as that of the Divisional Staff. The regimental staff has the following units:
- a. Headquarters Platoon
 - b. Transport Platoon. This has one truck, one ambulance, and six two-wheeled carts.

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- c. Engineers Platoon
 - d. Communications Platoon. The regiment has three wireless sets and an unknown number of telephones.
 - e. Reconnaissance Platoon, assigned in each case from the Reconnaissance Company of the Division.
 - f. Infantry Platoon for the security of the regiment.
 - g. Battery of mountain artillery, with four mountain guns of Italian type, 75/13.
 - h. Battery of mortars, with four mortars, 107 mm. of Soviet type.
 - i. Battery of anti-tank artillery with four guns of Soviet type, 45 mm., 1942 issue. This was added in 1949.
 - j. Platoon with six anti-tank rifles of Simonov type.
24. The infantry regiment has three infantry battalions.
25. Each infantry battalion has a staff composed of the Commanding Officer, Commissar, Chief of Staff, Secretary of the Political Office of the Communist Party of the Battalion, Officer for Transport and Supply, Officer of the Security Section, Communications Officer, and non-commissioned officer who is chief medical corpsman.
26. The infantry battalion command has the following units:
- a. Headquarters Platoon consisting of sub-machine gunners (Soviet type sub-machine guns with magazine holding 72 cartridges). They are used for the security of the battalion and also as messengers.
 - b. Transport platoon with two two-wheeled carts and seven pack animals.
 - c. Communications Platoon with one wireless set assigned by the regiment and several telephones.
 - d. Platoon with six anti-tank rifles of Simonov type.
27. The infantry battalion consists of five infantry companies, i.e., three companies of riflemen, one mortar company, one heavy (Maxim) machine-gun company.
28. Each rifle company consists of three platoons and each platoon of three squads.
29. The composition and armament of each squad is as follows:
- a. Sergeant (squad leader) armed with a rifle of Soviet type with a short barrel and a magazine holding five cartridges.
 - b. Private, observer armed with a rifle of Soviet type (same as a. above).
 - c. Private, sub-machine gunner, with a D.R. (sic) sub-machine gun of Soviet type with a drum holding 25 cartridges.
 - d. Private, sub-machine gun loader, carrying a rifle of Soviet type, with a short barrel and a magazine holding five cartridges.
 - e. Private, select scout, with a rifle of Soviet type, Mosin (sic), 1891-30 issue, with telescopic sights.
 - f. Private, carries supplies and ammunition; has a rifle of Soviet type, (like a. above).
 - g. Private, liaison, with rifle (like a. above)
 - h. Private, rifleman, with rifle (like a. above).

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In time of emergency each soldier carries 10 cartridges and two hand-grenades (one defensive and one offensive type); there are 12 drums for the sub-machine gun.

30. Including the commanding officer the platoon has a total strength of 25 men.
31. The command of the company includes the Commanding Officer, the Commissar, a non-commissioned officer who serves as aide, one enlisted man as aide, and one enlisted man as messenger.
32. The rifle company has a total strength of 80 men.
33. The mortar company consists of three platoons and each platoon consists of three "elements". The composition and armament of a mortar "element" is the following:
 - a. Sergeant (leader of mortar "element"), carrying a rifle of Soviet type, short barrel, magazine holding five cartridges; also carries binoculars.
 - b. Private, mortar aimer; carries barrel of mortar and a pistol of Soviet type.
 - c. Private, assistant aimer; carries bipod of mortar and a rifle of Soviet type (like a. above).
 - d. Private, supply a', carries base of mortar and a rifle of Soviet type (like a. above).
 - e. Private, supply b', carries box of ammunition and rifle of Soviet type (like a. above).
 - f. Private, supply c', carries box of ammunition and rifle of Soviet type (like a. above).
 - g. Private, supply d', carries box of ammunition and rifle of Soviet type (like a. above).
 - h. Private, mule driver, carries rifle of Soviet type (like a. above).

In time of emergency these men carry the same number of cartridges and hand-grenades as the men of the rifle squad.

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34. The mortar platoon has three mortars, 82 mm, Soviet type. The mortar company has a total of nine mortars and a total of nine mules. The mortar company has a total strength of 80 men.
35. The machine gun company consists of three platoons, and each platoon of three squads. The composition and armament of the machine gun squad is as follows:
 - a. Sergeant (squad leader), carrying rifle of Soviet type with short barrel and magazine holding five cartridges
 - b. Private, aimer of machine gun, carries barrel and pistol of Soviet type.
 - c. Private, assistant aimer, carries base with wheels and a rifle of Soviet type (like a. above).
 - d. Private, assistant aimer, carries shield and a rifle of Soviet type (like a. above).
 - e. Private, supply a', carries box of ammunition and rifle of Soviet type (like a. above).
 - f. Private, supply b', carries box of ammunition and rifle of Soviet type (like a. above).

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g. Private, supply c', carries box of ammunition and rifle of Soviet type (like a. above). 25X1A

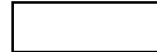
h. Private, mule driver, carries rifle of Soviet type (like a. above).

These men carry the same number of cartridges and hand-grenades (as mentioned above), and the machine gun has ten belts of 250 cartridges each. The platoon has three Soviet type Maxim machine guns, and the machine gun company has a total of nine machine guns and a total of nine mules. The machine gun company has a total strength of 80 men.

36. The total strength of an infantry battalion is 510 men, of an infantry regiment, 1940 men.
37. The regiment of mountain artillery has a staff with the same composition as that of the infantry regiment. The command of the mountain artillery regiment has the following units:
 - a. Battery Headquarters with two mountain guns and two 107 mm. mortars.
 - b. Transport Platoon with one truck and eight pack animals.
 - c. Communications Company with a strength of 50 men. It has two or three wireless sets and an unknown number of telephones.
 - d. Battery for training non-commissioned officers; this has two mountain guns and two 107 mm. mortars.
 - e. Platoon for training in direction finders (sic - direct plotting?)
38. The battalion of mountain artillery has three "Moiras" (units). One of these has mountain guns of Soviet type, 76.2 mm., 1938 issue, and there are two "Moiras" of 107 mm. mortars of Soviet type.
39. The artillery "Moiras" has a staff composed of the Commanding Officer, the Commissar, Chief of Staff, Supply and Transport Officer, Security Officer, and a non-commissioned officer who is chief medical corpsman. The "Moiras" headquarters consists of the following units:
 - a. Squad of ten men, for using direction finding instruments.
 - b. A communications platoon with one wireless set and a number of telephones.
40. The "Moiras" has three batteries. A battery has two "Oulamos", and the "Oulamos" consists of two "elements". The composition and armament of the "element" is as follows:
 - a. Non-commissioned officer (leader of "element"), carries a rifle of Soviet type and binoculars).
 - b. Private, aimer, carries rifle of Soviet type.
 - c. Private, operates breach, carries rifle of Soviet type.
 - d. Private, loader, carries rifle of Soviet type.
 - e. Private, handles projectile, carries rifle of Soviet type.
 - f. Private, supply, carries rifle of Soviet type.
 - g. Private, mule driver, carries rifle of Soviet type.
 - h. Private, mule driver, carries rifle of Soviet type.
 - i. Private, mule driver, carries rifle of Soviet type.
 - j. Private, mule driver, carries rifle of Soviet type.

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The "element" has four pack animals. The 107 mm. mortar is broken down and loaded on three pack animals. The fourth pack animal carries a number of shells, or the mortar may be drawn by the animals.

41. The mountain gun of 76.2 mm. is drawn by four animals. The shells are loaded on a small two-wheeled cart which is drawn behind the gun.
42. In case of emergency the artillerymen carry 100 cartridges and two hand-grenades (defensive-offensive).
43. The "Oulamos" including its commanding officer has a strength of 21 men; it has two guns or mortars and a total of eight pack animals.
44. The command of a battery includes the Commanding Officer, the Commissar, and a non-commissioned officer aide with a private for his assistant. The Command is followed by an "Oulamos" of 15 communications men (a small wireless set with a range of 25 kilometers and telephones) and 7 direction finders together with the officer commanding the "Oulamos".
45. The battery has a strength of 70 men; it has four guns or four mortars, and a total of 16 animals.
46. The total strength of a "Moir" is 250 men, twelve mountain guns or mortars, forty-eight animals. The total strength of a regiment of mountain artillery is 900 men, twelve mountain guns, twenty-four mortars, 152 animals.
47. The total strength of an infantry division is 7400 men under ordinary circumstances. In case of necessity it can be increased.

48. Battle Order

- a. The 1 Division is based in Tirane.
- b. The 5 Division is based in Gjinokaster. Its commanding officer is Vaako Gjini, a major from Korce. The 5 Division has its units located as follows:
 - (1) The 18 Infantry Regiment [] is based in Delvine. Its Chief of Staff is Teki Iazarasi, a Captain 1/c from Korce.
 - (2) The 7 Infantry Regiment is based in Permet with one battalion in Leskovik. From time to time it moves from Permet to Gjinokaster and back again.
 - (3) The 31 Infantry Regiment is based in Gjinokaster.
 - (4) An unknown Mountain Artillery Regiment is based in Gjinokaster.*
- c. The 8 Division is based in Korce. Its commanding officer is Petrit Dume, a colonel from Korce. Its units are located as follows:
 - (1) The 26 Infantry Regiment [] is based in Pogradec.
 - (2) The 14 Infantry Regiment is based in Korce.
 - (3) The 9 Infantry Regiment is based in Korce.
 - (4) The 7 Regiment of Mountain Artillery is based in Korce.
- d. An Independent Infantry Brigade is based in Vlone.
- e. Coast Defense Headquarters is located in Durres.
- f. A unit of automotive vehicles is based in Durres.
- g. The Naval Command is based in Durres.
- h. A unit of tanks is based in Kavaja. It has medium tanks of Soviet type T-34-43 and light tanks probably type S.Y. 76.

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1. A Communications Regiment is based in Tirane. It has two sections: Wireless Telegraph Operators and Telephone Operators. This regiment trains the enlisted men selected for communications work.
- j. A regiment of anti-aircraft artillery is based in Tirane.
- k. A company of the Governmental Guard is based in Tirane (strength of 100 men).
- l. A repair shop for automotive vehicles is based in Tirane.
- M. A regiment of heavy artillery is based in Elbasan.
- N. A brigade of engineers is based in Shkoder. It consists probably of the following battalions: Pioneers, Bridge-Builders, Mine Group.

Border-Guard

49. In October 1949 the "Directorate of the Border-Guard" was established with its base in Tirane. At the same time the Peoples Security Division was abolished.
50. The Directorate of the Border-Guard is not subordinate to the Albanian General Staff, but to the Ministry of Interior. It is the third Directorate of the Ministry of Defense (sic - presumably "Interior" is meant), because it is considered to be the Security Corps of the State.*
51. The reasons for the change were the following:
 - a. To speed up the transmission of service documents by getting rid of the bureaucracy (i.e., chain of command from battalion to regiment to People's Security Division to Albanian General Staff.)
 - b. Limitation of military expense by abolishing luxury (personnel of the Headquarters of the People's Security Division and of its Regiments).
 - c. Exclusive occupation of the Border-Guard Units to be on the border and not in the pursuit of guerrillas. Special units were organized for the latter purpose in the hope that they would be able to act more decisively and effectively.
52. Now there are only border-guard battalions communicating directly with the Headquarters of the Border-Guard. Troops assigned to the Border-Guard must have previous training in another unit for four months at least. The longer period of service in the Border-Guard is justified by the fact that it is regarded as a "Specialty", and the veteran soldiers are required to train the new soldiers for a long period of time. Great care is taken that "reactionaries" shall not be assigned to the Border-Guard.
53. The Commanding Officer of the Border-Guard is Maqo Como, a colonel from Korce. The Deputy Commander is Mohamet Prodani, a lieutenant colonel from Kolonja. Other senior officers are Sotir Filko, a lieutenant colonel from Korce, Baki Starjo, a lieutenant colonel from Staria near Kolonja, Sotir Mero, a major from Korce.
54. The Directorate of the Border-Guard is divided into three sectors:
 - a. Northern Sector - Inspector Sotir Filko
 - b. Western Sector - Inspector Baki Starjo
 - c. Southern Sector - Inspector Sotir Mero
55. The Northern Sector covers the Albanian-Yugoslav border with five or six battalions, of which one is based at Peshkopi, another at Prenjes, and a third at Kukes. Informant does not know the location of the other battalions.
56. The Western Sector covers the Albanian coast from the village of Pikerasi (P. 244-961) up to the Yugoslav border (at the coastline) with two battalions. One of these battalions is based at Fier and the other at Durres or Lesh.

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57. The Southern Sector covers the Greek-Albanian border from the tri-nation boundary point to Pikerasi (P. 244-961) with four battalions, as follows:

a. One battalion based at Bilishte. This is estimated to have a larger strength than usual because of the military importance of that locality.

b. Another battalion is based at Leskovik. [REDACTED]

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c. The sixth battalion is based in Gjorgucat. Its commanding officer is Capt. Qerim (fnu). [REDACTED]

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d. Another battalion is based in Sopik (P. 402-688). [REDACTED] this battalion, which was called 10 Battalion of the Border-Guard. [REDACTED]

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58. The Staff of 10 Battalion of the Border-Guard consisted of the following: Commanding Officer, Ali Shtina, Captain 2/c from Gjinokaster; Deputy Commander Haxhi Goro, lieutenant from Delvine; Commissar Shender Alinakaj, lieutenant from Tepelene; Assistant Commissar Vasil Tomoni, second lieutenant from Bilishte; a warrant officer [REDACTED]; Officer in charge of the Political Office of [REDACTED] Sukjo Pojani from Korce; Supply Officer, Lt. Birbilis; Communications Officer, Muharem Sate, second lieutenant from Luarash, near Kolonja; Warrant Officer in charge of the Youth Organization of the Battalion, Nezir Biba from Moker; Warrant Officer of the Health Squad, Haki Pashalari.

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59. The security agents of 10 Battalion of the Border-Guard are: Director of the Security Section of the Battalion, Lt. Kadri (fnu) from Vlome; Warrant Officer Koco from Mursi; a second lieutenant from Sarande who is occupied with the security of the company there; First Sgt. Niko Lufi from Deropolis, who is concerned with the company at Theologos; and another first sergeant who handles the company at Salce.

60. The Battalion Headquarters has the following units attached:

a. Protection platoon with a strength of 35 men.

b. Communications squad of 10 men, with one wireless set and telephone center for communication with the companies and platoons.

c. Health squad consisting of a warrant officer and two non-commissioned officer medical corpsmen. There is also a non-commissioned officer medical corpsman attached to each company.

61. 10 Battalion of the Border-Guard has the following units:

a. The 1 Company [REDACTED] based at Theologos (P. 483-703) with a strength of 135 men. The Commanding Officer was Kristo Besa, a second lieutenant from Pogoni near Gjinokaster; Commissar Abdi Senka, a second lieutenant from Bilishte; Commander of the protection platoon was a second lieutenant who had just arrived. There was also a first sergeant acting as sergeant major whose name is Rami Rushani.

62. The Company Headquarters has a security platoon with a strength of 30 men, including 8 communications men and the non-commissioned officer medical corpsman.

63. The 1 Company of the Border-Guard has four platoons as follows:

a. The 1 Platoon based at K. Leshnice (R. 55-75) with a strength of 17 men. The Commanding Officer is Enver Stropani, a warrant officer from Korce.

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- b. The 2 Platoon based at Smineci (R. 541-675) with a strength of 32 men; the Commanding Officer is Ibraim Rapushi, a warrant officer from Fier. One squad is at Smineci, another at Vertop, and a third squad at the Monastery of the Virgin (P. 552-643).

- c. The 3 Platoon based at Perdikari (P. 562-563) with a strength of 25 men

The platoon had two squads at Perdikari, and one squad at (P. 540-605). The security agents of this platoon were Sgt. Vesel Bali, Deputy Commander of the platoon who came from Lushnja; Sgt. Rexhep Zenun (squad leader) from Berat; Pvt. Abedin Zyka from Berat; Pvt. Fadil Bajram from Vlone; Pvt. Heikuran Shaban from Lushnja.

- d. The 4 Platoon based at Meranka (R. 562-632) with a strength of 25 men; the Commanding Officer is Sate Lanaj, a warrant officer from Kurvelesh. The platoon has two squads at Merankan, and one squad at Vullistra (R. 55-61).

64. The 2 Company is based at Salesi (R. 439-607) with a strength of 185 men. The Commanding Officer is Suraip Biba, a lieutenant from Korca. The Commissar is one Kaber, a second lieutenant. The Commander of the security platoon was Islan Alipaj, a warrant officer from Skrapari. There was a first sergeant acting as sergeant major. The protection platoon had a strength of 30 men. The company had six platoons as follows:

- a. The 1 Platoon based at Janjar (R. 528-584) with a strength of 25 men; the Commanding Officer was one Ibraim, a warrant officer. The platoon had two squads at Janjar and one squad at (R. 533-589).

- b. The 2 Platoon based at Verva (R. 480-465) with a strength of 22 men. The Commanding Officer was a first sergeant 1/c,

- c. The 3 Platoon based at Lykojani (R. 468-530) with a strength of 25 men; the Commanding Officer was Jani Rupi, a warrant officer.

- d. The 4 Platoon based at Qafa Botes (R. 429-545) with a strength of 22 men; the Commanding Officer was a warrant officer, but informant does not remember his name. The platoon had two squads at (R. 429-545) and one squad at (R. 410-546). The first sergeant of the platoon was Abdi Hyska, who was also secretary of the Communist Party of the company.

- e. The 5 Platoon based at Giflik (R. 402-576) with a strength of 25 men; the Commanding Officer was Maro Vangjeli, a warrant officer from Korca. The platoon had two squads at its base, and one squad at (R. 398-565).

- f. The 6 Platoon based at Cingel (R. 348-593) with a strength of 32 men; the Commanding Officer was Mamut Peza, a warrant officer from Peza near Tirane. The platoon had two squads at the base, and one squad at Orlia (R. 375-580).

65. The 3 Company is based at Sarande with a strength of 130 men. The Commanding Officer is Mufit Sinani, a second lieutenant from Gjinokaster. The Commissar is Bita, a second lieutenant from Vithkuq, near Korca. The Commander of the protection platoon is Islam Dervishi, a warrant officer.

66. The Headquarters of 3 Company has a platoon for protection with a strength of 30 men. The company has five platoons; three Commanders of these platoons are warrant officers, one a second lieutenant, and one a first sergeant. not know the locations and strength of these five platoons.

67. Total strength of 10 Battalion of the Border-Guard at Sopik is 515 men.

68. The armament, ammunition and supply of the Border-Guard are as follows:

- a. The platoon has one heavy machine gun of Italian Breda type at the platoon base; it has 1500 cartridges for immediate use and 3000 in reserve.

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It also has a sub-machine gun of German Dada type or a German light machine gun for each squad; there are 700 cartridges for immediate use and 1400 in reserve. It also has a German Steier sub-machine gun, which is carried by the commanding officer and the deputy commander, and there is one for each of the squad leaders; there are 120 cartridges for immediate use and 300 in reserve for each weapon. The soldiers carry rifles of German Mausers type with 120 cartridges for immediate use and 240 in reserve. Each man also carries four hand-grenades (two offensive and two defensive). The platoon also has two pistols of Soviet type and two Very pistols.

- b. The platoons for protecting battalions and companies have similar armament.
 - c. The officers of the battalion and company commands carry German sub-machine guns and pistols.
 - d. At battalion headquarters there are also two 82 mm. mortars and six anti-tank rifles of Simonov type in reserve.
 - e. Battalion headquarters has eight mules and two horses for the officers. Company headquarters has five mules and each platoon has one mule and one donkey. These are used for supplying units of the Border-Guard at intervals depending on their requirements.
69. The mission of the guard-post of the Border-Guard is as follows:

- a. Guarding the border area to prevent the entrance or exit of persons from Albania. The arrest of such persons is sought, and if this proves impossible they try to shoot them on the spot.
- b. Observation of the disposition and movements of Greek Army units.
- c. Sometimes the Company or Battalion Command issues special orders to the guard-posts providing for a close watch on certain points in a region, where there is information or definite suspicion that refugees from some Albanian village will pass or Greek agents will try to pass during their entrance into Albanian territory or their return to Greek territory. In this case the strength of the guard-posts may be increased.
- d. Sometimes special orders are issued to facilitate the movement of small groups of agents

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- e. In order to fulfill its principal mission the guard-post from 4 a.m. to 7 p.m. sends out two static observation parties of three soldiers each to high points where they use binoculars. If the terrain is suitable the observation team may be mobile, but if the country is bare and exposed the team stays absolutely stationary.
- f. During the night at 7:30 p.m. two mobile patrols of three men each go out until midnight, when they return and are relieved by two other mobile patrols until 4 a.m. During the changing the patrols meet and are recognized at a certain point half way between the guard-post and the border. The patrols which are out after midnight meet once at a specified point and exchange views on what they have observed. During the night the squad leaders are obliged to make rounds.
- g. During the entire day and night there is a roving sentry below the guard-post. This sentry is relieved every three hours.
- h. The static observation teams and the patrols at night may move to a distance of one or two kilometers at most from the guard-post. Whenever they see anything unusual they fire two Very lights.

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- i. In exceptional circumstances, such as a "Bloko" the entire strength of the guard-post goes out in three-member patrols and only two or three soldiers stay at the base. At 4 a.m. the patrols return, and the men of the guard-post go out to the observation post. The platoon commander makes rounds during the entire night.
- j. Once a month the company commanders are summoned to Battalion Headquarters, where for three days they are given instruction in military tactics with practical examples. The same thing is done for the platoon commanders but, they go on a different day. The non-commissioned officers of the platoons get their training at Company headquarters for one day every two weeks.

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* Comment: [] mentions the Special Brigade (also known as pursuit Brigade) as being the third branch or Directorate of the Security Corps which is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior (the Ordinary Police and the Security Police being the other two Directorates). It appears that the Ministry of Interior, in addition to exercising jurisdiction over the Security Corps, also has jurisdiction over the Border-Guard; but it is not clear whether the Special Brigades are a sub-division of the Border-Guard.

Comment: Probably refers to the surrounding of an area to prevent anyone from escaping or advancing, i.e., a "block."

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