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General

1. At the present time, not including auxiliary forces, Bulgaria has approximately 160,000-170,000 men in its Armed Forces. These are divided as follows: Army, 150,000; Navy, 4,000; and Air, 8,000. In addition, Bulgaria has the following auxiliary forces:
  - a. Border Guards - 20,000;
  - b. Military Militia - 70,000;
  - c. Peoples Militia - 120,000;
  - d. Trudovaks - 42,000; and
  - e. Womens Auxiliary Corps.

The total force available for mobilization is approximately 800,000 men. The number of trained reserves is approximately 25,000 men.
2. Bulgaria is divided into four Army regions, which in turn are subdivided into divisional regions. Subordinate to the divisional regions are 57 military districts. Army regional commands direct and coordinate the work of the divisional regional commands and of the military districts, which are considered as administrative units and have the following responsibilities:
  - a. Recruiting of personnel;
  - b. Distribution of recruits;

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- c. Maintaining records of Army and Militia reserves;
- d. Maintaining records of animals, means of transport, accounts, etc.; and
- e. Mobilization of the Armed Forces.

Composition of the Army

3. The Bulgarian Army is comprised as follows:
  - a. The 1 Army - Sofia;
  - b. The 2 Army - Plovdiv;
  - c. The 3 Army - Shumen;
  - d. The 4 Army - Pleven;
  - e. An armored division - Kazanlık;
  - f. An autonomous armored brigade - Sofia (being transformed into an armored division);
  - g. A cavalry division - Dobrich; and
  - h. A cavalry brigade - Sofia.
4. In addition to two or three infantry divisions, each Army command has at its disposition the following smaller units:
  - a. One regiment of heavy field artillery;
  - b. One regiment of mountain artillery;
  - c. One regiment of antiaircraft artillery;
  - d. One regiment of antitank artillery;
  - e. One regiment of combat engineers;
  - f. One regiment of communication engineers;
  - g. One heavy machine gun battalion; and
  - h. One Militia battalion.
5. The Bulgarian Army is made up of the following units:
  - a. Eleven or twelve infantry divisions, each having three infantry regiments and one field artillery regiment;
  - b. One armored division, with three brigades, each of which includes one tank regiment, one motorized infantry regiment, and one semi-mobile artillery regiment;
  - c. One autonomous armored brigade, made up as (b) above, possibly being transformed into a division;
  - d. One cavalry division, composed of three cavalry regiment and one horse-drawn artillery regiment;

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- e. One cavalry brigade, including two cavalry regiments;
- f. Two coastal artillery regiments;
- g. One regiment of communication engineers, subordinate to the Army General Staff;
- h. One regiment of railroad engineers, subordinate to the Army General Staff;
- i. One motor transport regiment, subordinate to the Army General Staff; and
- j. Smaller units described above, subordinate to each Army Command.

Weapons

- 6. Most Bulgarian war materiel has been replaced by Soviet materiel. The infantry uses the following weapons:
  - a. Rifle, model 24/27;
  - b. Mossier Magant rifle, 7.62 mm., Soviet;
  - c. Mannlicher rifle, Austrian;
  - d. PPD submachine gun, 7.62 mm., Soviet;
  - e. Degtyarev DF submachine gun, Soviet;
  - f. Schwerzlose machine gun;
  - g. Maxim machine gun, 7.62 mm.;
  - h. Light mortar, 37 mm.;
  - i. Brandt mortar, 81 mm.;
  - j. Model 36/37 and model 41 mortar, 82 mm.; and
  - k. Model 38 mortar, 120 mm.
- 7. The artillery uses the following weapons:
  - a. Skoda cannon, 75 mm.;
  - b. Model 42 "Zia" horse-drawn field artillery piece, 7.62 mm.;
  - c. Krupp-type howitzer, 105 mm.;
  - d. Self-propelled field artillery piece, 122 mm.;
  - e. Horse-drawn field howitzer, 122 mm.;
  - f. German antitank artillery piece, 37 mm.;
  - g. Soviet howitzer, 152 mm.;
  - h. German antiaircraft machine gun, 20 mm.;
  - i. Bofors antiaircraft artillery piece, 37 mm.;
  - j. Self-propelled antiaircraft artillery piece, 85 mm.; and
  - k. German antiaircraft artillery piece, 88 mm.

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8. The armored units use the following types of tanks:

- a. T-34, medium, tank;
- b. T-34-85 tank;
- c. Mark 4 tank (only a few units); and
- d. Renault, light tank (only a few units).

Approximately 500 tanks are ready for service.

#### Motorization

- 9. The motorization of the Bulgarian Army is still deficient; however, notable progress has recently been made. The Army allegedly has a total of 6,400 trucks, cars, etc. but the smaller units still rely on horse-drawn vehicles.
- 10. Heavy field artillery is motorized. However, a few batteries of 122 mm. howitzers are horse-drawn. Antiaircraft and antitank artillery are motorized. Artillery of armored units is semi-mobile. Nearly all light field artillery is horse-drawn. Trucks are available for engineer units; however, many units are still on foot and use horse-drawn vehicles.

#### Recruiting and Training

- 11. Each class of recruits in Bulgaria consists of approximately 55,000 men and, in general, three classes are under arms at the same time. Recruiting is done in various ways; each division recruits within the territory under its jurisdiction, while units directly subordinate to the General Staff, such as armored units, and special units are recruited nationally. In peacetime, upon completion of service, men are assigned to the reserves.
- 12. The Bulgarian Armed Forces are trained according to Soviet directives and are under the control of Soviet military advisers. Political education is an integral part of military instruction, and discipline is very strict. The Commandant of Bulgarian military schools is Lieutenant General Ivan Kinov.
- 13. The Armed Forces have the following schools:
  - a. Vasil Levski Military Academy in Sofia, (junior course);
  - b. C. S. Rakovski Senior War College, in Sofia; and
  - c. Joseph Stalin Peoples Military Political School, in Sofia.
- 14. The following are Army schools:
  - a. Vasil Levski Military Academy (advanced course);
  - b. Engineer and Communication School, in Sofia;
  - c. Trudovak Officers School, in Gorna Banya;
  - d. Peoples Military Medical School, in Sofia; and
  - e. Border Guards Schools in Tŭrnovo, Vidin, and Kŭrdzhali.

#### Border Guards and Paramilitary

- 15. The Border Guards are technically subordinate to the Ministry of Interior, but in practice they are subordinate to the Ministry of Defense. Border Guards are divided into nine regiments located along the frontier. The troops are responsible for border surveillance and for construction of fortifications.

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16. In general, party organizations can be considered paramilitary because of their work in the field of pre-military and post-military instruction such as physical, technical, and particularly political education.
17. The main paramilitary organizations are as follows:
- Trudovaks (labor troops), which are divided into eight regiments and are commanded by officers who are graduates of the Trudovak Officers School in Sofia; the Trudovaks number 42,000; the military nature of this organization is proven by its adoption of recruiting, enrolling, and training systems analogous to those of the Army; their normal duties consist of public construction; in the event of mobilization, the Trudovaks would act as workmen and would be a valuable source of specialized and trained personnel for engineer units;
  - DSNM (Dimitrovski Sŭyuz na Narodnata Mladezh; Dimitrov Union of the People's Youth); the task of this organization is to train youths from 14 to 26 both physically and mentally so they may "overcome all hindrances to the victory of Socialism and Communism," and to consider the defense of Bulgaria their sacred duty and chief obligation;
  - DOSO (Dobrovolna Organizatsiya za Sudeystvie na Otbranata; Voluntary Organization to Facilitate the Defense); president is Major General Stoyev;
  - Supreme Committee for Physical Education and for Sports.

Soviet Forces in Bulgaria

18. There is no evidence of the presence of organic Soviet units in Bulgaria. However, an undetermined number of Soviet troops is reported to have arrived in the Burgas, Varna, and Vidin areas. Many Soviet military men are attached to various units of the Bulgarian Armed Forces to control, supervise, and train the personnel, especially in the use of Soviet materiel.
19. At present, Soviet personnel in Bulgaria consists of the following:
- Officers - 400;
  - Non-commissioned officers - 700; and
  - Troops - 1,200.
20. [redacted] Soviet Air Force units are in Bulgaria and have a total of 200 planes of various types. 50X1-HUM

General Observations

21. The Army, Navy, and Air Force of Bulgaria are being moulded into efficient fighting forces. All the Armed Forces are undergoing an intense and methodical training period which should produce concrete results. The morale of the troops, the efficiency of the training, and the help of the Soviet Union are such that the units of the Bulgarian Armed Forces may be considered to be decidedly superior to those of the bordering countries, notably Yugoslavia, [redacted] 50X1-HUM
22. By standardizing methods and materiel along the Soviet lines, Bulgarian units will gradually become interchangeable with Soviet units and will be capable of operating efficiently with them under a unified Command. The plans and programs of the Bulgarian General Staff are very closely integrated with those of the General Staff of the Soviet Union.

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Police Forces

23. The Peoples Militia is a police organization which is distinctly political in character. It was created to give the State all instruments necessary for the defense of the new political, social, and economic institutions, and to fulfill those tasks which are normally entrusted to the police forces of a country. The Peoples Militia is subordinate to the Ministry of Interior and includes a total of approximately 120,000 men. It is made up of personnel in uniform and in civilian clothes. The uniform is similar to that of the Army but has special insignia.
24. The General Directorate of the Peoples Militia has the following Sections:
- a. State Security;
  - b. Criminal Police;
  - c. Economic Affairs;
  - d. Administrative Affairs;
  - e. Uniformed Militia;
  - f. Sofia Militia;
  - g. Horse-mounted Militia;
  - h. Armored Militia; and
  - i. Regional Militia.

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