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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

The Bulgarian Army

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1. The Bulgarian Army is composed of three armies. A fourth one is in the process of being created. The four armies are located as follows:
  - a. I Army, in Sofia;
  - b. II Army, in Plovdiv;
  - c. III Army, in Kolarovgrad; and
  - d. IV Army, at present with headquarters in Sliven.

Each army is composed of three rifle or guard divisions<sup>1</sup>, which are located in Sofia, Plovdiv, Sliven, Kolarovgrad, Ruse, Vratsa, Blagoevgrad, Stara Zagora, Pleven, Khaskovo, and Stalin. One division is being formed, but its location is not known.

2. Each rifle division is composed of three regiments, each regiment of three battalions, each battalion of three companies, each company of three platoons, and each platoon of three squads. A rifle division has a total of 18,000 to 18,500 men; a regiment, 3,500 men; a battalion, 750 men; a company, 160 men. A platoon is composed of 38 men, including 30 enlisted men, one officer, one sergeant, three other noncommissioned officers, and three specialized men for the platoon command.
3. Rifle troops are armed with the following weapons:
  - a. Walther 9-mm. pistol;
  - b. Barabellum 9-mm. pistol;
  - c. Vintovka 8-mm. semiautomatic rifle;
  - d. German Mauser 8-mm. carbine;
  - e. Schmeisser 7.62-mm. submachine gun;
  - f. Bren 8-mm. light machine gun;
  - g. Zbroyovka 8-mm. light machine gun;
  - h. Maxim 8-mm. light machine gun;
  - i. Degtyarev 28-mm. heavy machine gun;

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

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- j. Degtyarev 43-mm. heavy machine gun (1,000 rounds per minute);
- k. Maxim 10-mm. heavy machine gun (400 rounds per minute);
- l. Gorgonov 43-mm. heavy machine gun (800 rounds per minute);
- m. 12.7-mm Model 1938, antiaircraft machine gun (600 rounds per minute);
- n. 82-mm. and 122-mm. Soviet mortars;
- o. 80-mm. mortar; and
- p. Rocket-launchers<sup>2</sup>.

4. The Bulgarian Army includes two tank divisions<sup>3</sup>, as follows:

- a. One in Sofia, equipped with 150 T-34-1940 model tanks manufactured in Kharkov, with 85-mm. guns.
- b. One in Kazanluk, equipped with 150 tanks, of which 80 are T-34 models with 100-mm. guns.

The 2 Armored Division uses also 60 to 70 German "Tiger" and "Maibach" tanks for training. On many occasions, Soviet heavy tanks have been observed in various parts of Bulgaria. These were KBI 43-ton tanks and Stalin 52-ton tanks with 105-mm. and 122-mm. guns (respectively ?) According to available information, however, these tanks belong to the Soviet units based in Rumania.

5. The standard-type of artillery regiment of the Bulgarian Army has remained unchanged. The only change is that artillery brigades and artillery regiments have been formed which are independent of the rifle divisions and are directly subordinate to the Army General Staff. At present there are two artillery brigades and three special regiments. Each brigade is composed of a howitzer regiment and a field artillery regiment. The three special regiments are a howitzer regiment, a mountain (artillery ?) regiment and an airborne regiment. A third artillery brigade and another howitzer regiment are now in the process of being formed.

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6. The guns of the Bulgarian artillery, which are of German, Soviet,  and Czech make, include the following models:

- a. ZIS 76.2-mm. field and antitank gun;
- b. ZIS 76.2-mm. mountain (artillery) gun;
- c. 122-mm. Howitzer, model 193<sup>P</sup>, for mountain artillery;
- d. 122-mm. Howitzer, model 1932, for mountain artillery;
- e. 152-mm. Howitzer, model 1937, for mountain artillery;
- f. 105-mm. German Howitzer;
- g. 150-mm. German Howitzer;
- h. 60-mm.  field gun;
- i. 75-mm. Czech Skoda field gun;
- j. 12.5-mm. German Krupp long gun;
- k. 210-mm. German Krupp long gun;
- l. 88-mm. German antiaircraft gun;
- m. 20-mm. German antiaircraft gun;
- n. 57-mm. Soviet antiaircraft gun;
- o. 85-mm. model 1939 Soviet antiaircraft gun;
- p. 50-mm. German "Reichmetal" antitank gun;
- q. 45-mm. model 1937 Soviet antitank gun; and
- r. 85-mm. Soviet antitank gun.

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#### The Bulgarian Air Force

7. The Bulgarian Air Force has a total of over 500 aircraft, including the following:

- a. 240 fighters (120 FALCONS, 80 LA-17s, and 40 YAK-2s and YAK-3s);
- b. 150 bombers (50 Petlyakovs, 40 BATS, and 60 Ilyushins);
- c. 70 Infantry support aircraft (Stormoviks); and
- d. 50 Transport aircraft (18 IL-2s, 12 CLAMS, and 20 CORKS).

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Recently a group of Bulgarian pilots went to the USSR for training on MIG-16s and YAK-21s.

8. The Bulgarian Air Force is composed of five divisions, located as follows:
  - a. The I Fighter Division in Bozhurishte and Vrazhdebna (for the Sofia area);
  - b. The II Bomber Division in Graf Ignatievo and Krumovo (for the Plovdiv area);
  - c. The III Mixed Division (bomber, reconnaissance, and Infantry support) in Stara Zagora and Yambol;
  - d. The IV Fighter Division in Levskigrad and Kazanluk; and
  - e. The V Mixed Division (bomber, reconnaissance, and infantry support) in Gorna Oryakhovitsa and Tolbukhin.
9. The Bulgarian Air Force has an underground airfield in the vicinity of Kumaritsa. Furthermore, two large strategic airfields are under construction: one near the Yugoslav frontier, in the vicinity of Mikhaylovgrad, and the other near the Greek frontier in the vicinity of Rudozem, Madan Okoliya. Both of these airfields are to handle jet aircraft and heavy bombers.

General

10. Bulgarian military industry, at present badly behind, is in the process of being developed. A munitions and light weapons factory is located in Kazanluk, a torpedo and mines factory in Ruse, and a small factory for training aircraft in Lovech.
11. The following are inspectorates and chief of services of the Ministry of People's Defense in addition to those listed 
  - a. Antiaircraft Inspectorate;
  - b. Antitank Inspectorate;
  - c. Chemical Warfare Inspectorate;
  - d. Civilian Paramilitary Organizations Inspectorate;
  - e. Military Production Inspectorate;
  - f. Parachutists and Airborne Troops Inspectorate;
  - g. Chief of Military Education (school, plans, publications);
  - h. Chief of the Topographic Office; and
  - i. Chief of the Military Publications.
12. Neither the reorganization of the Bulgarian Army nor the replacement of modern weapons has yet been completed. It may be said that at present five rifle divisions, two tank divisions; two artillery brigades, seven artillery regiments (in addition to three special regiments), and the Air Force are completely equipped with modern weapons. In the next two years, the entire Bulgarian Armed Forces (excluding the fleet) could be equipped with modern Soviet materiel.
13. The modernization of the Bulgarian Armed Services has been based on the following principals:
  - a. Unification of tactics, education, organization and weapons with those of the USSR;
  - b. Emphasis on aviation, artillery and tank units;
  - c. Preparations aimed at war on two fronts

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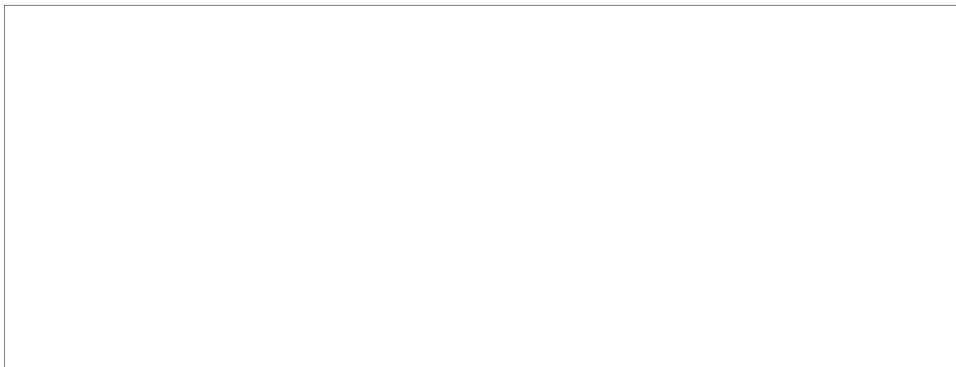
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- d. Formation of a small mobile army with the fire power and morale necessary for attack, supported by a tactical air force and the maneuver of rapid assault groups;
- e. Preparation aimed at joint action with the commands of the Soviet and other Satellite troops; and
- f. Formation of cadres on the basis of Communist doctrine, loyalty to the regime, and hatred of the Capitalist countries.

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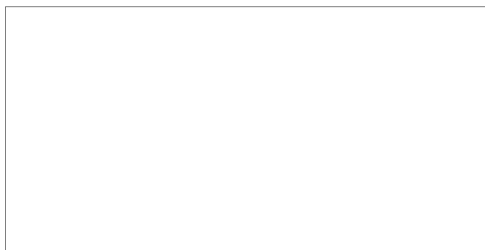
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- 1. The numbers assigned to each division changes every two to three months.

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- 2. Rocket launchers are in tank brigades and not in rifle divisions.
- 3. Other reports state that there are now three tank brigades and no tank divisions.



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