



NUMBER 1 – summer 2019

MISSING EUROPA

What is this?

My personal pastime. I have been working for a while on the Bulgaria's order of battle in the Second World War and, after finishing it, when I have thought on the best way to make it accessible to all Europa fans who are still around and have interest, I have decided to do it like a zine, similar to those that proliferated in the golden age of the series, long time ago. A glory days' tribute, if you want. Anyway, it is for free and you should feel obligated to get it to anyone who might be interested.

I still remember when I discovered Europa. It was about thirty years ago. Was winter and we went to a secluded country house. As soon as I saw it I knew because those who were playing had chosen that place: a very large table in the middle of the living room showed us a *FitE/Scorched Earth* game in all its splendor. There was a *Fall of France* game at another table a little apart. I remember perfectly that two panzergruppen were attacking Moscow by north and south trying to surround it just as the mud arrived. I was shocked by the impressive magnitude of that uproar: the huge map and countless counters.

Since then the amazing level of detail of the series has moved me and continues to make me spend delicious hours researching each and every one of units represented, knowing about their history and checking how they are have been brought to the OBs. Apart from playing the games, naturally. I have played less than I would have liked but studying Europa gives me a lot of happy entertainment mixing history and wargames. More than any other wargame. Not in vain, the Europa OBs may be the most valuable in the series. And probably this is why the OBs are the last component left to publish in Total War. Anyway, here is my own study on Bulgaria's armed forces and her Europa OB.

Final request. I am not fluent in English so I appeal to your clemency when you find in my writings those errors, misunderstandings, kicks to the grammar or undiscovered traps that the corrector has set to me. I have done (all) my best.

EUROPA ORDER OF BATTLE BULGARIA, 1939-1944

INITIAL FORCES, SEP 1 39

All forces are Bulgarian unless indicated.

CORPS MARKERS

5x Inf XXX HQ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

INITIAL CONDITIONS

Capital: Place in Sofiya (14A:3606).

Forts: None.

Rail Capacity: 10 REs

Airfields: Place a 3-capacity permanent airfield at Sofiya (14A:3606).

Intrinsic AA: 1 point per dot and major city hex.

Supply Source: Sofiya (14A:3606).

NEUTRALITY WATCH

BULGARIAN ARMY

Place as indicated:

Pleven (14A:3400):

1x 2-6* Inf Cadre (5-6) 9

1x 1-2-5* Bdr X 4

Sofiya (14A:3606):

1x 2-8* Cav Cadre (5-8) 1

1x 2-6* Inf Cadre (5-6) 1

1x 1-8 Cav II Gd

1x 1-8 Inf II Gd

1x 1-2-5* Bdr X 1

1x 0-8 Lt Tank II 1

[Dupnitsa] (14A:3807):

1x 2-6* Inf Cadre (5-6) 7

Plovdiv (14A:4002):

1x 2-6* Inf Cadre (5-6) 2

1x 1-2-5* Bdr X 2

Shumen (TW105:3728):

1x 2-6* Inf Cadre (5-6) 4

Russe (3B:3427):

1x 2-6* Inf Cadre (5-6) 5

Varna (3C:3923):

1x 1-2-5* Bdr X 3

Yambol (3C:4027):

1x 2-8* Cav Cadre (5-8) 2

BULGARIAN AIR FORCE

Place in any airfield on Bulgaria:

1x B.534 2F3 0/6
 1x Mixed 2B2 1-2/11

BULGARIAN NAVY

Place in any port on Bulgaria:

1x 1-pt TB TF VB

Intrinsic Coast Defenses:

Level 1:

Varna (3C:3923)
 Burgas (3C:4125)

PRODUCTION

GROUND REPLACEMENTS

Armor Replacement Points:

Bulgaria produces no arm RPs and depends upon foreign aid (if any).

Infantry Replacement Points:

Bulgaria receives 1 inf RP on the first turn of each month, beginning no sooner than the sixth turn of general mobilization.

Replacement uses:

A combination of arm and inf RPs are used for the following unit:

| Replacing unit at full strength | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Unit | Arm RPs | Inf RPs |
| 9-7-10 Arm XX | 6 | 3 |

| Replacing unit at cadre strength | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Unit | Arm RPs | Inf RPs |
| 4-8* Arm XX | 3 | 1 |

| Rebuilding cadre to full strength | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Unit | Arm RPs | Inf RPs |
| 9-7-10 Arm XX | 3 | 2 |

AIR REPLACEMENTS

Air Replacement Points:

Beginning no sooner than the second turn of mobilization, Bulgaria receives 1 ARP on the first turn of each air cycle.

NAVAL REPLACEMENTS

Naval Replacement Points:

Bulgaria produces no NRPs and depends upon foreign aid (if any).

RESOURCE POINTS

Bulgaria produces 1 resource point on the Jan I and Jul I turns of each year, beginning no sooner than the sixth turn of general mobilization.

MOBILIZATION FORCES

Bulgaria starts as neutral at passive participation but may join the Axis. Historically Bulgaria started the World War II as neutral until Mar I 41 when becoming a pro-Axis neutral after signing the

Tripartite Pact. The operational area is defined by Bulgaria's participation. Bulgaria may join the Axis at either of three levels of participation:

- **Passive Participation:** the operational area consists of Bulgaria.
- **Partial Participation:** the operational area consists of Bulgaria, Thrace (in Greece) and Macedonia (in Yugoslavia).
- **Active Participation:** the operational area consists of Bulgaria, Mainland Greece, and Mainland Yugoslavia.

Bulgaria may be called for active participation once per game in any turn after Nov 40 and prior to German intervention in the Balkans. Two dice must be rolled to check it. On a modified roll of 15 or greater, Bulgaria immediately joins the Axis at active participation. On a roll of 14 or less, Bulgaria remains neutral. Modify the dice roll as follows:

- +1 for each city (including point cities) the Axis player owns in Yugoslavia (if Yugoslavia is an Allied nation) and Mainland Greece.
- +2 for each RE missing from the required garrison of the Metaxas Line.
- 3 for each city (including point cities) the Allied player owns in Albania.

With a result of success Bulgaria joins the Axis at active participation. However, if Bulgaria is neutral on the game turn Germany intervenes, immediately joins the Axis. During this game turn is at passive participation and thereafter is at partial participation. That is what historically happened but Bulgaria acquired a greater commitment with her ally Germany and in Jan 42 she turned into active participation. Finally declared war on USA and GB in Dec 41.

Mobilizing a unit consists of either converting a neutrality watch cadre to full strength or bringing the unit into play as indicated.

Mobilizing a unit in the Turkish Border Garrison consists in bringing directly the unit into play in or adjacent to any hexes on Turkish border. A neutrality watch cadre must be mobilized first.

Demobilizing a unit consists in removing directly the unit from play and placing it on the Mobilization Forces' pool or in its neutrality watch hex at cadre strength.

General mobilization may occur in up two stages: partial mobilization and full mobilization. Partial mobilization consists of mobilization turns 1 and 2. Full mobilization consists of mobilization turns 1 through 4. Should Bulgaria be partially mobilized and subsequently have full mobilization triggered, mobilization resumes with mobilization turn 3.

TURN 1

Place as indicated:

Vratsa (14A:3204):

1x 4-6 Inf XX 6

Pleven (14A:3400):

1x 3-2-8 Art III 4 A

1x 1-8 AT II 4 A

1x 1-6 Eng III 4 A

Sofiya (14A:3606):

1x 2-8 Art III 1 A

1x 1-8 AT II 1 A

1x 1-6 Eng III 1 A

1x 0-6 RR Eng III GHQ

Plovdiv (14A:4002):

1x 2-8 Art III 2 A

1x 1-8 AT II 2 A

1x 1-6 Eng III 2 A

Varna (3C:3923):

1x 3-2-8 Art III 3 A

1x 1-8 AT II 3 A

1x 1-6 Eng III 3 A

Kirdzhali (14A:4301):

1x 4-6 Inf XX 10

Sliven (3C:3928):

1x 4-6 Inf XX 3

Stara Zagora (3C:3931):

1x 4-6 Inf XX 8

Mobilize: 1x 2-6 Inf Cadre (5-6) 1 to:*

1x 5-6 Inf XX 1

Mobilize: 1x 2-6 Inf Cadre (5-6) 2 to:*

1x 5-6 Inf XX 2

Mobilize: 1x 2-6 Inf Cadre (5-6) 4 to:*

1x 5-6 Inf XX 4

Mobilize: 1x 2-6 Inf Cadre (5-6) 5 to:*

1x 5-6 Inf XX 5

Mobilize: 1x 2-6 Inf Cadre (5-6) 7 to:*

1x 5-6 Inf XX 7

Mobilize: 1x 2-6 Inf Cadre (5-6) 9 to:*

1x 5-6 Inf XX 9

Mobilize: 1x 2-8 Cav Cadre (5-8) 1 to:*

1x 5-8 Cav XX 1

Mobilize: 1x 2-8 Cav Cadre (5-8) 2 to:*

1x 5-8 Cav XX 2

TURN 2

Place as indicated:

Pleven (14A:3400):

1x 2-5 Repl X 4 A

1x 1-5 Police III 4 Gen

1x 0-5 Cons III 4 A

Sofiya (14A:3606):

1x 2-5 Repl X 1 A

1x 1-5 Police III 1 Gen

1x 0-5 Cons III 1 A

Plovdiv (14A:4002):

1x 2-5 Repl X 2 A

1x 1-5 Police III 2 Gen

1x 0-5 Cons III 2 A

Varna (3C:3923):

1x 2-5 Repl X 3 A

1x 1-5 Police III 3 Gen

1x 0-5 Cons III 3 A

TURN 3

For each of the following units, roll one die and consult the Success Table. A result of success means the unit appears in this mobilization turn; failure means the unit appears in mobilization turn 4. Place appearing units in any cities (including point cities) in Bulgaria; however, no more than one divisional and one non-divisional unit may appear in the same city in the same turn. The units are:

6x 3-4-6 Inf XX 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17

5x 2-3-6* Inf XX 21, 22, 24, 25, 27

1x 4-5-5 Static XX 16

2x 2-3-5* Static XX 28, 29

TURN 4

Units which failed their mobilization die roll on mobilization turn 3 appear this turn. Place appearing units in any cities (including point cities) in Bulgaria; however, no more than one divisional and one non-divisional unit may appear in the same city in the same turn.

REINFORCEMENTS

Conditional Reinforcements

INTERVENTION FORCES

If Bulgaria joins the Axis at active participation after Nov 40 and prior to German intervention in the Balkans these units are mobilized. Place appearing units in any cities (including point cities) in Bulgaria; however, no more than one divisional and one non-divisional unit may appear in the same city. Place the air units at any airbases in Bulgaria.

3x 5-6 Inf XX 1, 2, 7

4x 4-6 Inf XX 3, 6, 8, 10

1x 3-4-6 Inf XX 11

2x 1-2-5* Border X 1, 2

2x 2-8* Cav X 1, 2

2x 2-8 Art III 1 A, 2 A

2x 1-6 Eng III 1 A, 2 A

1x 1-8 Tank II 1

1x B.534 2F3 0/6

1x Mxd B 2B2 1-2/11

Intervention forces are immediately demobilized after pro-Allied Yugoslavian and Greek governments had surrendered or had been evacuated.

REINFORCEMENTS

Regular Reinforcements

SEP I 39

Turkish Border Garrison, Mobilize:

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| 1x 5-8 Cav XX | 2 |
| 2x 5-6 Inf XX | 2, 3 |
| 2x 4-6 Inf XX | 8, 10 |
| 1x 3-4-6 Inf XX | 11 |
| 1x 1-2-5* Bdr X | 2 |
| 1x 2-8 Art III | 2 A |
| 1x 1-8 AT II | 2 A |
| 1x 1-6 Eng III | 2 A |
| 1x 0-5 Cons III | 2 A |

OCT I 39

Turkish Border Garrison, Demobilize:

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| 2x 5-6 Inf XX | 2, 3 |
| 2x 4-6 Inf XX | 8, 10 |
| 1x 3-4-6 Inf XX | 11 |
| 1x 2-8 Art III | 2 A |
| 1x 1-8 AT II | 2 A |
| 1x 1-6 Eng III | 2 A |
| 1x 0-5 Cons III | 2 A |

Turkish Border Garrison, Mobilize:

| | |
|------------------|------|
| 2x 5-6 Inf XX | 1, 7 |
| 1x 4-6 Inf XX | 6 |
| 1x 3-2-8 Art III | 4 A |
| 1x 2-8 Art III | 1 A |
| 1x 1-8 AT II | 1 A |
| 1x 1-6 Eng III | 1 A |
| 1x 0-5 Cons III | 1 A |

DEC I 39

Turkish Border Garrison, Demobilize:

| | |
|------------------|------|
| 1x 5-8 Cav XX | 2 |
| 2x 5-6 Inf XX | 1, 7 |
| 1x 4-6 Inf XX | 6 |
| 1x 3-2-8 Art III | 4 A |
| 1x 2-8 Art III | 1 A |
| 1x 1-8 AT II | 1 A |
| 1x 1-6 Eng III | 1 A |
| 1x 0-5 Cons III | 1 A |

APR I 40

Turkish Border Garrison, Mobilize:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 5-6 Inf XX | 9 |
|---------------|---|

MAY I 40

Turkish Border Garrison, Mobilize:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 5-8 Cav XX | 2 |
|---------------|---|

JUN I 40

Convert: 1x 0-8 Lt Tank II 1 to:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 1x 1-8 Tank II | 1 |
|----------------|---|

Turkish Border Garrison, Mobilize:

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| 1x 5-6 Inf XX | 2 |
| 1x 3-2-8 Art III | 4 A |
| 1x 1-8 AT II | 4 A |
| 1x 1-6 Eng III | 4 A |

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1x 0-5 Cons III | 4 A |
|-----------------|-----|

SEP I 40

Bulgaria, Mobilize:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 5-8 Cav XX | 1 |
| 1x 4-6 Inf XX | 4 |

Turkish Border Garrison, Demobilize:

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| 1x 5-8 Cav XX | 2 |
| 1x 3-2-8 Art III | 4 A |
| 1x 1-8 AT II | 4 A |
| 1x 1-6 Eng III | 4 A |
| 1x 0-5 Cons III | 4 A |

Turkish Border Garrison, Mobilize:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1x 5-6 Inf XX | 5 |
| 1x 2-8 Art III | 2 A |
| 1x 1-8 AT II | 2 A |
| 1x 1-6 Eng III | 2 A |
| 1x 0-5 Cons III | 2 A |

OCT I 40

Add to Mobilization Forces (turn 1): Dobrich (TW105:3624):

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1x 3-4-6 Inf XX | 12 |
|-----------------|----|

Turkish Border Garrison, Demobilize:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 5-6 Inf XX | 2 |
|---------------|---|

Turkish Border, Add to Garrison:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 5-6 Inf XX | 4 |
|---------------|---|

Demobilize:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 5-8 Cav XX | 1 |
|---------------|---|

NOV I 40

Turkish Border Garrison, Demobilize:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 5-6 Inf XX | 5 |
|---------------|---|

Turkish Border Garrison, Mobilize:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1x 3-4-6 Inf XX | 11 |
|-----------------|----|

DEC I 40

Bulgaria, Mobilize:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1x 3-4-6 Inf XX | 14 |
|-----------------|----|

Turkish Border Garrison, Demobilize:

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| 2x 5-6 Inf XX | 4, 9 |
| 1x 3-4-6 Inf XX | 11 |
| 1x 2-8 Art III | 2 A |
| 1x 1-8 AT II | 2 A |
| 1x 1-6 Eng III | 2 A |
| 1x 0-5 Cons III | 2 A |

FEB I 41

Turkish Border Garrison, Mobilize:

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| 3x 5-6 Inf XX | 1, 5, 9 |
| 2x 4-6 Inf XX | 3, 8 |
| 1x 3-4-6 Inf XX | 12 |
| 1x 3-2-8 Art III | 4 A |
| 1x 2-8 Art III | 1 A |
| 2x 1-8 AT II | 1 A, 4 A |
| 2x 1-6 Eng III | 1 A, 4 A |
| 2x 0-5 Cons III | 1 A, 4 A |

APR II 41

Note: Bulgaria is at partial participation thereafter.

Bulgaria, Mobilize:

| | |
|-----------------|-------|
| 1x 5-8 Cav XX | 1 |
| 1x 5-6 Inf XX | 7 |
| 2x 4-6 Inf XX | 6, 10 |
| 1x 3-4-6 Inf XX | 11 |

MAY I 41

Macedonia, Add to Garrison:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 4-6 Inf XX | 6 |
|---------------|---|

Thrace, Add to Garrison:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1x 4-6 Inf XX | 10 |
| 1x 3-4-6 Inf XX | 11 |

Demobilize:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 5-6 Inf XX | 7 |
|---------------|---|

JUN I 41

Bulgaria:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1x 1-5 Static III | 50 |
|-------------------|----|

Convert: 1x 1-8 Tank II 1 to:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 1x 3-2-8 Arm III | 1 |
|------------------|---|

Convert: 1x 5-8 Cav XX 1 to:

| | |
|---------------|------|
| 2x 2-8* Cav X | 1, 2 |
|---------------|------|

Macedonia, Add to Garrison:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1x 2-8* Cav X | 1 |
| 1x 1-5 Static III | 50 |

Thrace, Add to Garrison:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 2-8* Cav X | 2 |
|---------------|---|

JUL I 41

Bulgaria:

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1x 1-2-5 Static III | 58 |
|---------------------|----|

Thrace, Add to Garrison:

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1x 1-2-5 Static III | 58 |
|---------------------|----|

Thrace Garrison, Forming:

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1x 4-5-5 Static XX | 16 |
|--------------------|----|

Thrace, Release from Garrison:

| | |
|---------------|----|
| 1x 4-6 Inf XX | 10 |
|---------------|----|

Demobilize:

| | |
|---------------|----|
| 1x 4-6 Inf XX | 10 |
|---------------|----|

Turkish Border Garrison, Demobilize:

| | |
|------------------|------|
| 2x 4-6 Inf XX | 3, 8 |
| 1x 3-2-8 Art III | 4 A |
| 1x 1-8 AT II | 4 A |
| 1x 1-6 Eng III | 4 A |
| 1x 0-5 Cons III | 4 A |

Turkish Border Garrison, Mobilize:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1x 5-8 Cav XX | 2 |
| 1x 5-6 Inf XX | 2 |
| 1x 1-2-5* Bdr X | 4 |

AUG I 41

Macedonia, Add to Garrison:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1x 3-4-6 Inf XX | 14 |
|-----------------|----|

Macedonia Garrison, Convert: 1x 3-4-6 Inf XX 14

to: Forming:

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| 2x 3-4-6 Inf XX | 14, 15 |
|-----------------|--------|

Turkish Border Garrison, Demobilize:

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| 3x 5-6 Inf XX | 1, 5, 9 |
|---------------|---------|

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1x 3-4-6 Inf XX | 12 |
|-----------------|----|

Turkish Border Garrison, Mobilize:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1x 1-2-5* Bdr X | 3 |
|-----------------|---|

NOV I 41

Thrace Garrison, Full:

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1x 4-5-5 Static XX | 16 |
|--------------------|----|

DEC I 41

Turkish Border Garrison, Demobilize:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 5-8 Cav XX | 2 |
|---------------|---|

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 5-6 Inf XX | 2 |
|---------------|---|

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1x 1-2-5* Bdr X | 4 |
|-----------------|---|

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| 1x 2-8 Art III | 1 A |
|----------------|-----|

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| 1x 1-8 AT II | 1 A |
|--------------|-----|

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| 1x 1-6 Eng III | 1 A |
|----------------|-----|

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1x 0-5 Cons III | 1 A |
|-----------------|-----|

JAN I 42

Note: Bulgaria is at active participation thereafter.

Bulgaria, Mobilize:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 4-6 Inf XX | 4 |
|---------------|---|

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1x 2-3-6* Inf XX | 21 |
|------------------|----|

Macedonia, Release from Garrison:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 4-6 Inf XX | 6 |
|---------------|---|

Serbia, Add to Garrison:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 4-6 Inf XX | 6 |
|---------------|---|

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1x 2-3-6* Inf XX | 21 |
|------------------|----|

MAR I 42

Thrace Garrison, Convert: 1x 3-4-6 Inf XX 11 to:

| | |
|------------------|----|
| 1x 2-3-6* Inf XX | 11 |
|------------------|----|

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| 1x 1-2-5 Static III | 22 |
|---------------------|----|

MAY I 42

Turkish Border Garrison, Demobilize:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 1-2-5* Bdr | 3 |
|---------------|---|

Turkish Border Garrison, Mobilize:

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| 3x 4-6 Inf XX | 3, 8, 10 |
|---------------|----------|

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| 1x 2-8 Art III | 2 A |
|----------------|-----|

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| 1x 1-8 AT II | 2 A |
|--------------|-----|

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| 1x 1-6 Eng III | 2 A |
|----------------|-----|

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1x 0-5 Cons III | 2 A |
|-----------------|-----|

JUN I 42

Bulgaria, Mobilize:

| | |
|---------------|------|
| 2x 5-6 Inf XX | 7, 9 |
|---------------|------|

Serbia, Release from Garrison:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 4-6 Inf XX | 6 |
|---------------|---|

Serbia, Add to Garrison:

| | |
|---------------|------|
| 2x 5-6 Inf XX | 7, 9 |
|---------------|------|

Demobilize:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 1x 4-6 Inf XX | 6 |
|---------------|---|

JUL I 42

Macedonia Garrison, Skoplje (14A:3713), Full:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1x 3-4-6 Inf XX | 14 |
|-----------------|----|

Macedonia Garrison, Bitolj (14A:4214), Full:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1x 3-4-6 Inf XX | 15 |
|-----------------|----|

AUG I 42

Thrace Garrison, Demobilize:
 1x 2-3-6* Inf XX 11

SEP I 42

Turkish Border Garrison, Demobilize:
 3x 4-6 Inf XX 3, 8, 10
 1x 2-8 Art III 2 A
 1x 1-8 AT II 2 A
 1x 1-6 Eng III 2 A
 1x 0-5 Cons III 2 A
Turkish Border Garrison, Mobilize:
 1x 2-3-6* Inf XX 25

OCT I 42

Demobilize:
 1x 4-6 Inf XX 4

MAR I 43

Bulgaria, Mobilize:
 2x 2-3-6* Inf XX 24, 27
Bulgaria, Forming:
 1x 1-5 Para II PDrz
Serbia, Release from Garrison:
 2x 5-6 Inf XX 7, 9
Serbia, Add to Garrison:
 2x 2-3-6* Inf XX 24, 27
Demobilize:
 1x 5-6 Inf XX 9

APR I 43

Bulgaria, Mobilize:
 1x 2-3-6* Inf XX 22
Serbia, Add to Garrison:
 1x 2-3-6* Inf XX 22
Serbia, Release from Garrison:
 1x 2-3-6* Inf XX 21
Demobilize:
 1x 2-3-6* Inf XX 21

MAY I 43

Turkish Border Garrison, Demobilize:
 1x 2-3-6* Inf XX 25
Turkish Border Garrison, Mobilize:
 2x 5-6 Inf XX 2, 5
 1x 2-3-6* Inf XX 11
 1x 3-2-8 Art III 4 A
 1x 1-8 AT II 4 A
 1x 1-6 Eng III 4 A
 1x 0-5 Cons III 4 A

JUN I 43

Special: Deploy Level-1 CDs at hexes:
 Alexandroupolis (3C:4732), 14A:4603, 14A:4604,
 Kavalla (14A:4605), 14A:4606
Arrive from Germany:
 2 arm RPs
Convert: 2 arm RPs to:
 1x 2-1-10 Aslt Gun II 1

JUL I 43

Bulgaria, Mobilize:
 1x 2-3-6* Inf XX 25
Serbia, Add to Garrison:
 1x 2-3-6* Inf XX 25
Thrace, Add to Garrison:
 1x 5-6 Inf XX 7
Arrive from Germany:
 1x Me109G2 7F6 2/9

AUG I 43

Bulgaria:
 1x 1-6 Inf III 13

SEP I 43

Bulgaria, Mobilize:
 1x 3-4-6 Inf XX 17
Macedonia, Add to Garrison:
 1x 3-4-6 Inf XX 17

OCT I 43

Arrive from Germany:
 4 arm RPs
Upgrade: 1x 3-2-8 Tank III 1 (4 arm RPs) to:
Forming:
 1x 9-7-10 Arm XX 1 Bda

NOV I 43

Thrace Garrison, Upgrade: 1x 1-2-5 Static III 58 (1 inf RP) to:
 1x 2-3-5* Static XX 28
Arrive from Germany:
 1x De.520 6F5 0/11

DEC I 43

Arrive from Germany:
 2 arm RPs
Convert: 2 arm RPs to:
 1x 2-1-10 Aslt Gun II 2
Turkish Border Garrison, Demobilize:
 2x 5-6 Inf XX 2, 5
 1x 2-3-6* Inf XX 11
 1x 3-2-8 Art III 4 A
 1x 1-8 AT II 4 A
 1x 1-6 Eng III 4 A
 1x 0-5 Cons III 4 A
Turkish Border Garrison, Mobilize:
 1x 5-8 Cav XX 2

JAN I 44

Pleven (14A:3400), Full:
 1x 1-5 Para II PDrz

MAR I 44

Thrace:
 1x 1-2-4 Fort X Bm
Thrace, Add to Garrison:
 1x 1-2-4 Fort X Bm
Arrive from Germany: Convert: 1x Me 109G2 7F6 2/9 to:
 1x Me 109G6 8F6 2/9

APR I 44

Macedonia Garrison: Convert: 1x 1-5 Static III 50 to:

1x 2-3-5* Static XX 29

MAY I 44

Bulgaria, Mobilize:

1x 4-6 Inf XX 6

1x 0-1-5 Inf III 65

Serbia, Add to Garrison:

1x 0-1-5 Inf III 65

Turkish Border, Release from Garrison:

1x 5-8 Cav XX 2

Turkish Border Garrison, Mobilize:

2x 5-6 Inf XX 1, 5

1x 3-4-6 Inf XX 12

Arrive from Germany: Convert: 1x Mixed 2B2 1-2/11 to:

1x Ju 87D 3D4 5-1/10

AUG I 44

Bulgaria, Full:

1x 9-7-10 Arm XX 1 Bda

Serbia, Add to Garrison:

1x 4-6 Inf XX 6

NAMES AND ABBREVIATIONS

Capital:

Bul. Bulgaria

Armed Forces:

Bda Brigada. [Brigade]

Bm Belomorski. [From Aegean Sea]. Aegean Sea for Bulgarians is "White Sea".

Gd Negovo Velichestvo Guardiia. [His Majesty's Guard]

Gen Gendarmerie

GHQ Great Headquarters

PDRz Parashut Druzhdina. [Parachute Battalion]

VB Voennomorski Sili na Bulgariya. [Naval Forces of Bulgaria]



"WE BOTH OFFICIALLY DENY THIS IS HAPPENING" (Copyright by All Countries.)

OVERVIEW

Between the Wars

After World War I, the **Treaty of Neuilly-sur-Seine** limited the size of the Bulgarian Army to 20,000 men or one division. This army was established at 8 infantry regiments, 3 cavalry regiments, 5 field artillery and 3 fortress artillery groups (battalions), and 5 engineer battalions (2 of them were cyclist battalions).

An infantry regiment had 3 battalions (each of 3 rifle companies and 1 machinegun company). Each cavalry regiment had 4 cavalry squadrons and 1 machinegun group, plus one reserve group. The 3 fortress artillery battalions were the garrison of fortifications equipped with old weapons. Three of the five artillery battalions were mixed, with two field batteries and one mountain battery; the other two had only field guns. No artillery pieces over 105mm were permitted except for fixed weapons in old fortresses (in 1937, Bulgaria possessed 5 fortified positions in Sofia, Shumen, Vidin, Varna y Burgas) and construction of new fortifications was also prohibited. Besides the army were allowed no more than 10,000 gendarmes (militarized police) and 3,000 frontier-guards. The Gendarmerie consisted of 16 unmounted departmental groups (battalions) and 8 mounted groups composed of 4 squadrons. The Frontier Guard was divided in eight sectors, each with 3 detachments. Enlisted men were all volunteers because there was no conscription. In 1937 there were 1,711 officers, 2,137 non-commissioned officers and 26,475 other ranks.

This was the Bulgarian official army until 1938, as it appears in publications of the League of Nations, despite is known that Bulgarian authorities secretly expanded it during the 1930s. Only one year after, in 1939, the League of Nations confirmed that Bulgaria had adopted the compulsory service and undertaken the reorganization of her army. So, at the outbreak of World War II there were 4 army inspectorates, 10 infantry divisions, one mountain brigade and 2 cavalry divisions. There were 36 regiments of about 2,500 men in cadre; 44 cavalry squadrons; 13 artillery regiments (one of them motorized) that comprised, in all, 78 batteries; 4 heavy artillery regiments with 24 batteries equipped with 120mm and 150mm howitzers, and 48 engineers companies (36 of them pioneers companies). Total effectives were 85,000 to 90,000 men and military service lasted for 27 years: eighteen months with the colors, 21 and a half years in the

reserve and further 4 years in the second-reserve (Landwehr).

The Treaty of Neuilly also called for destruction of all Bulgarian military aircraft but, like other countries, this decree was evaded by using military-capable aircraft in civilian roles. Even a national aircraft factory began turning out new airplanes in 1924 and a clandestine air branch of Armed Forces was established. The Bulgarian navy had then just four patrol boats.

Border incidents with neighbors, specially with Greece happened since 1925, required action by the League of Nations and spurred Bulgaria to increase more attention to her military defenses; a second aircraft factory was built. After an unsuccessful government by Zveno movement in 1934, king (tsar) Boris III organized a royal dictatorship in November 1935. Under this new rule were secretly developed the armed forces despite limits imposed by the Treaty of Neuilly: the army was expanded and the air force reformed.

On 31 July 1938 was signed the **Salonika Agreement** between Bulgaria and the Balkan Entente (Greece, Rumania, Turkey and Yugoslavia) which officially removed the army restrictions placed on Bulgaria after World War I. Also, demilitarized zones bordering Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey were abandoned. As conclusion, all the parties committed to a policy of non-aggression despite Bulgaria was not forced to abandon her territorial revisionism. Since then, Bulgaria was able to openly continue modernizing and reorganizing her armed forces.

But in preceding years Bulgaria had begun the expansion of her regiments into infantry divisions and cavalry brigades, and her artillery groups into regiments. She had also purchased weapons from Italy, Germany, Czechoslovakia, France and Poland. The 1923 Act established at the same time the organization of the army according to the Treaty's conditions and plans for its expansion when necessary. Each of the eight infantry regiments would be expanded into one infantry division and each battalion into a regiment at peacetime strength. Immediately after the Salonika Agreement these plans were implemented and followed quickly by the creation of divisions 9th and 10th in 1939.

By the time mobilization occurred, there were plans for these regular divisions to spin off cadres to create new reserve divisions. Plans were also drawn up for the 16 Gendarmerie battalions to be used as cadres to form new regiments; and for the 8 frontier-guards regiments to be grouped into 4

brigades with its own artillery support when mobilization was ordered.

After departure of the Allied control commission in 1927 the territory of the Kingdom of Bulgaria was divided into four inspectorates (Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna and Pleven), each inspectorate in divisional districts and these ones in regimental zones. Recruitment of Bulgarian units was, as a result of this system, regional. By 1 December 1940 were combat-ready 13 infantry divisions (1st through 12th, plus 14th) and two rapid divisions. The 13th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 21st were in the process of organizing. To the ten regular divisions had been added the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 21th mobilized divisional HQs.

The Second World War

When World War II began Bulgaria declared neutrality. Because she had carefully avoided alliances during peacetime years in 1939 was largely isolated. This situation changed in 1940 when Bogdan Filov's new government steered Bulgaria towards Germany. Thanks to this new foreign policy approachment she gained the Southern Dobrudja after the Craiova Agreement of 21 August 1940, ending her dispute with Rumania.

By early 1941, Bulgarian army was principally an old infantry army. Most weapons were models left over from Great War and artillery was light and old-fashioned. Uniforms had changed little since then despite in 1936 was introduced a characteristic Czech-made M36 helmet, similar to the old M16 but with more flare, less cutaway and a spherical crown. It was organized into four armies (army corps in practice), with a fifth being created in August 1941 for Macedonia. During the war were mobilized other three army-sized units: the Covering Front to watch the Turkish border, and the 1st and 2nd Occupation Corps in Serbia and Thrace in January 1942 and November 1941, respectively.

Each regular army consisted of 2-4 infantry divisions, one heavy artillery regiment, one mountain artillery battalion, one machinegun battalion, one antiaircraft battalion, one engineer regiment, one or two replacement and training regiments, and some other units. Infantry divisions had, initially, 3-4 regiments but were standardized to 3 regiments soon. Nearly all infantry regiments had 3 battalions despite some new raised had 4 battalions due to their defensive deployment in the Thrace's coast. Throughout the war regiments were successively mobilized and demobilized according to the High Command demands. Also,

each infantry division had one artillery regiment (with a 75mm guns battalion, one light mountain battalion and one 105mm howitzer battalion), one machinegun battalion, one anti-aircraft battery with 12x 20mm AA guns and one engineer battalion. Later in the war was created an anti-tank battalion but these early divisions had only one anti-tank company of 12x 20mm AT rifles or 37mm AT guns in each infantry regiment. Bulgarian infantry was hindered by their obsolete equipment but performed adequately when fought against the even more poorly equipped partisans in the Bulgarian and Yugoslavian mountains.

Tsar Boris III signed the **Tripartite Pact** on 1 March 1941 and shortly after German troops entered the country in preparation for the invasion of Greece. When Yugoslavia (17 April 41) and Greece (30 April 41) were defeated, Bulgaria was allowed to occupy the Greek Thrace (between Struma/Strymonas river and Turkish frontier plus Thasos and Samothrace islands) and most of Macedonia. Bulgaria did not declare war on the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941 despite the Bulgarian Navy and Air Force were involved through the war in some skirmishes with Soviet forces. Germany's pressure forced the Bulgarian government to declare war on the United Kingdom and United States on 13 December 1941. Besides this, Bulgarian forces garrisoned German-occupied zones in Serbia and North Greece against Yugoslavian and Greek partisans.

When **Operation Marita** began on 6 April 1941 the Bulgarian army was organized as follows: the First Army (in Sofia) with 1st and 7th divisions; the Second Army (Plovdiv) with 2nd, 8th and 10th divisions; the Third Army (in Varna) with 3rd, 4th and 12th divisions; and Fourth Army (Pleven) with 5th, 6th and 9th divisions. A Fifth Army was mobilized on 19 April 1941 to occupy Macedonia with divisions 6th and 7th, plus 1st Rapid Division. Soon after, in August, was qualified as a regular army based in Skopje with two divisions: the 14th in Skopje and the 15th in Bitola. This army had its own recruitment districts within Macedonia but despite the efforts of Bulgarian High Command, it never achieved a level of combat efficiency similar to that of the other four regular armies. In addition, it lacked most of army level support units (for example it did not have the heavy artillery regiment) that other regular armies had.

The Soviet Union declared war on Bulgaria on 5 September 1944 and invaded the country. After few days, on 9 September a new government signed the peace and declared war on Germany. Since then Bulgarian troops fought along with the

Soviets against their former allies.



Bulgaria in WW2

The Infantry Divisions

The first premise to elaborate this order of battle has been to use all existing Bulgarian counters in *Balkan Front*. (Counters from *Wavell's War* are different because cadres of 5-6 divisions are rated as 1-6, not 2-6* like in *BF*.) Bulgarian pre-war divisions are of two types: 5-6 and 4-6. I do not know what is the reason. Early in the war some divisions had four infantry regiments and other had three regiments, so maybe the 5-6s were believed to be those with initially 4 regiments. Anyway, not all divisions match according to this assumption.

Another consideration is that in the sources used are not listed the operational history of each division, so it must be reconstructed like a puzzle from fragmentary information available. As all the sources used are in English, surely, if someone could access other sources in Bulgarian language, he would solve this problem.

Information about composition of initial infantry divisions by VICTOR MADEJ in «Southern Eastern Europe Axis Armies. Orders of Battle» (1982) has been completed with that provided by GEORGE NAFZIGER in «Bulgarian Order of Battle. World War II» (1995) referring to Bulgarian army in February 1942 and July 1944. First book is forshortened reproduction of compiled information known about Bulgarian army as late of 1944 published by the US Department of War in 1945. Second book is based on German captured documents. The information provided by DIMITAR BOYKOV in «AxisHistory.com» and «forum.boinaslava.net» has been especially valuable, although not being complete. Other information has been founded in RONALD TARNSTROM'S «Balkan Battles» (1998), IVAN BAJLO'S «Vojska.net» and DR. LEO NIEHORSTER'S «Niehorster.net». Information on Bulgarian armored forces is provided by H. L. DE ZENG IV'S «Employment of Armored Fighting

Vehicles by Bulgaria» (1986) and KALOYAN MATEV 's «The Armored Forces of the Bulgarian Army, 1936-1945» (2014). Information on Bulgarian air forces is available in «The Bulgarian Air Force in the Second World War» (2018) by A. MLADENOV, E. ANDONOV and K. GROZEV.

Bulgarian infantry divisions were of two types: regular and mobilized or reserve. Regular divisions were 1st-10th, 14th-15th and 16th-17th. Mobilized divisions were 11th-12th, 17th, 21st-22nd, 24th-25th and 27th-29th. (The 17th Division was mobilized in 1941 and became a regular division in 1943.) While the former had a permanent character with their own recruitment districts, the latter were created and disbanded according to needs of the High Command. Unlike the World War I when Bulgaria mobilized all her available human resources, in World War II this did not happen. Divisions and regiments were mobilized according to demands of each moment. Units were mobilized from time to time, from months to years, and when demobilized they returned to their home depots at peacetime strength while the new-raised units were disbanded. Finally, on 22 Apr 44 was ordered an ambitious mobilization to wartime strengths of First and Fourth armies with divisions 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 17th.

The **5-6 Inf XX 1** (named Sofia or Iron), with home depot in Sofia, had regiments 1st, 6th and 25th in 1939. Mobilized the 16th Regiment early in the war but was probably deactivated soon after and again mobilized later. In Feb 42 had regiments 1st, 6th, 41st and in Jul 44 had regiments 1st, 6th, 16th. It was an stable unit during the war. The 25th Regiment was transferred to the 11th Division in 1940 and either spent the rest of the war in the Thacian coast or was demobilized. The 41st Regiment was in the 10th Division in Jul 44 after having returned the 16th Regiment to the division.

The Europa Magazine published in #14 (1990) an article by Michael Parker on the "First Bulgarian Infantry Division" which is, as far I know, the only reference published in all 87 issues of the official Europa™ magazine about the Bulgarian army. I have not checked all Europa-related zines made by fans so it is possible there is some information out there. Below the Parker's article:

«The First Bulgarian Infantry Division was formed in 1935 from the First Infantry Brigade as part of the general program of rearmament in violation of the Treaty of Neuilly. The home station of the division was Sofiya. This unit was considered elite and was nicknamed the "Iron

Division". It was composed of the 1st, 6th and 25th Regiment of infantry and the 4th Regiment of artillery. The 16th Infantry Regiment was also attached for a time. It was mobilized for the Balkan campaign in 1941, but saw no action. After a short tour in Yugoslavia, the unit was sent to the Turkish border until late 1942. At least some portion of the division, probably just a reinforced battle group but possibly the entire division, was on anti-partisan duty in Macedonia –the records are unclear on this point. The division was back in Sofiya by March 43, except for the 25th Regiment which was in Thrace on occupation duty. Upon the Bulgarian defection from the Axis, the First Infantry Division joined with Soviet forces in driving Nazis out of Macedonia and later, Yugoslavia.»

The **5-6 Inf XX 2** (named Thrace), with home depot in Plovdiv, had regiments 9th, 21st and 27th in 1939. Mobilized the 28th Regiment early in the war but was probably demobilized soon after because this regiment did not reappear until Sep 44, after Bulgaria joined the Soviets. In Feb 42 and Jul 44 had regiments 9th, 21st, 27th. It was an stable unit during the war too.

The **4-6 Inf XX 3** (named Balkan), with home depot in Sliven, had regiments 11th, 24th and 29th in 1939. Mobilized the 32th Regiment early in the war which joined the 12th Division for all the war. In Feb 42 and Jul 44 had regiments 11th, 24th, 29th. It was an stable unit during the war too.

The **5-6 Inf XX 4** (named Preslav), with home depot in Shumen, had regiments 7th, 8th and 19th all along the war, with no changes.

The **5-6 Inf XX 5** (named Danube), with home depot in Russe, had regiments 2nd, 5th and 18th throughout the war, with no changes except that 2nd Regiment was renamed as 33rd sometime before Feb 42. Mobilized the 20th Regiment early in the war and was transferred to the 12th Division in 1940.

The **5-6 Inf XX 6** (named Vidin), with home depot in Vratsa, had regiments 3rd, 4th and 15th in 1939. Mobilized regiments 35th, 36th early in the war. Soon after regiments 4th and 36th joined the 9th Division for the rest of the war. In Feb 42 and Jul 44 had regiments 3th, 15th, 35th. It was another stable unit during the war. The 6th Division entered in Macedonia in Apr 41 and remained in garrison duties in Yugoslavia until Jun 42, first in Macedonia between May 41 and Jan 42 then in Serbia as a unit of the 1st Occupation Corps. Activated again in May 44, returned to Serbia in Aug 44 until Sep 44. The 6th Division

was disbanded in Dec 44.

The **5-6 Inf XX 7** (named Rila), with home depot in Dupnitsa, had regiments 13th, 14th and 22nd in 1939 and mobilized the 39th Regiment early in the war. The 22nd Regiment was transferred to the 11th Division in 1940 and spent the rest of the war attached to the 16th Division in Thrace. In Feb 42 had regiments 13th, 14th, 39th. In Apr-May 44 this division had a strength of 18,236 officers and men with regiments 14th, 39th, 68th, plus two militia battalions and one cavalry regiment attached. The 68th Regiment had been mobilized in Jul 43 and had replaced the 13th Regiment, that became an independent unit (reinforced with an AT company by Feb 44). The 7th Division was the other infantry division that entered in Macedonia in Apr 41 even though was quickly withdrawn to Bulgaria. In Jun 42 was destined to the 1st Occupation Corps until Mar 43, when returned to Bulgaria. In Jul 43 was redeployed to Salonika-Chalkidiki zone, where remained until the end of the war, after this area was incorporated into the 2nd Bulgarian Occupation Corps' zone.

The **4-6 Inf XX 8** (named Tundzha), with home depot in Stara Zagora, had regiments 10th, 12th and 23rd in 1939. Mobilized the 30th early in the war and the 10th Regiment was transferred to the 10th Division. In Feb 42 and Jul 44 had regiments 12th, 23rd, 30th. It was a stable unit during the war too.

The **5-6 Inf XX 9** (named Pleven), with home depot in Pleven, was formed in 1939 with regiments 4th, 17th and 34th. The 4th Regiment came from the 6th Division, the 34th Regiment was created in 1938 and the 17th Regiment was mobilized early in the war but probably disbanded soon after because it did not appear anymore. In Feb 42 and Jul 44 had regiments 4th, 34th, 36th. The 36th Regiment came from the 6th Division too. It was a stable unit during the war. The 9th Division was assigned to the 1st Occupation Corps in Jun 42 and returned to Bulgaria in Mar 43.

The **4-6 Inf XX 10** (named Rodopi), with home depot in Kirdzhali, was formed in 1939 with regiments 10th, 44th and 47th. The 10th Regiment came from the 8th Division and regiments 44th and 47th were mobilized in Jan 40 and Apr 41, respectively. Was an stable division along the war as in Feb 42 had regiments 10th, 44th, 47th and in Jul 44 had regiments 10th, 41st, 47th. The 41st Regiment was mobilized and demobilized several times throughout the war, so was part of the 1st Division in Feb 42. The 44th Regiment was probably disbanded sometime after Feb 42. This

division invaded the Greek Thrace in April 1941.

The **3-4-6 Inf XX 11** was mobilized in 1939, then in 1940 and disbanded in 1942, then rebuilt again in 1943 but demobilized before Jul 44. In 1940 was formed with regiments 22nd, 25th and 42nd: the 22nd came from 7th Division, the 25th came from 1st Division and the 42th Regiment was raised several times throughout the war. Deployed in Thrace in May 41, was disbanded sometime after Feb 42: the 22nd Regiment was attached to the 16th Division and the 25th Regiment was probably demobilized. Was mobilized again in 1943 with regiments 42nd, 70th and 80th but disbanded some months after.

The **3-4-6 Inf XX 12** (named Dobrudzha), with home depot in Dobrich, was activated in 1940 in Southern Dobrudja with mobilized regiments 20th, 31st, 32nd and 46th. The 20th Regiment was raised from the 18th Regiment cadre and probably disbanded shortly after, the 32nd Regiment came from the 3rd Division, and regiments 31st and 46th were raised at Silistra and Dobrich, respectively, in Southern Dobrudja. In Feb 42 had regiments 31st, 32nd, 46th and in Jul 44 had regiments 31st, 32nd, 60th.

The 13th Division was never brought up to strength and was subsequently disbanded.

The **3-4-6 Inf XX 14** (named Vardar) was formed in 1940 with mobilized regiments 51st, 52nd, 54th and 55th. Rushed to Skopje (Macedonia) in Jul 41 was reorganized to spin off regiments 54th, 55th which formed the 15th Division. The 53rd Regiment was probably formed in Mar 43 from II/52 Regiment. This division remained in Macedonia in garrison duties under the Fifth Army command until Sep 44, when was disbanded.

The **3-4-6 Inf XX 15** (named Ohrid) was formed in Bitola (Macedonia) in Jul 41 with regiments 54th and 55th. A third regiment, the 45th was mobilized in 1942 and deployed in Prilep, into the 15th Division. This division also remained in Macedonia in garrison duties under the Fifth Army until Sep 44, when was disbanded.

The **4-5-5 Static XX 16** had its origins in a divisional-sized unit named "Belomorski Otryad" created in Jul 41 to defend the Thrace's coast between Struma/Strymonas river and Dedeagach (Alexandroupolis) city and directly subordinated to the High Command. This unit was located in Xanthi with two ad-hoc regiments, named Kavala and Gyumyurdzhina (Komotini), raised from local Bulgarian conscripts. This unit was renamed as 16th Division in Nov 41 when was created one army corps to garrison Thrace. On that date had

regiments Kavala, Gyumyurdzhina, and the 67th, plus a reserve (militia) regiment (8th) and two cavalry regiments (3rd, 6th). The Kavala regiment was renamed as 57th Regiment in Feb 42 and the Gyumyurdzhina regiment was renamed as 58th Regiment in Mar 42. During 1943 was upgraded to a regular division, reorganized and equipped for coastal defense since Feb 43 by the German Oberbefehlshaber Südost, and brought up to wartime strength in Aug 43. By Nov 43 it had regiments 57th, 59th, 62nd, and attached the 22nd Regiment from the 11th Division and the 3rd Cavalry Regiment. The 58th Regiment was transferred to the new mobilized 28th Division. The regiments 59th and 62nd had been raised in Mar 43. It should be noted that all three 57th, 58th and 59th regiments had four battalions. In Apr 44 the 16th Division had 18,018 officers and men.

The 17th Division first incarnation was mobilized in 1940 with battalions of already existing regiments, was assigned to the 1st Occupation Corps in Serbia in Jan 42 and was demobilized in Jun 42. A new 17th Division was rebuilt as a regular **3-4-6 Inf XX 17** (named Stip) in Sep 43. Located in Stipe (Macedonia) with regiments 48th, 49th and 56th. The first two regiments were formed in Sep 43 and the last one had already been mobilized in Sep 42 being transferred to the 17th Division in Oct 43. In Jul 44 had regiments 49th, 56th, 63rd: the 48th Regiment was probably disbanded and the 63rd Regiment was detached from the 22th Division. This division remained in garrison duties under the command of the Fifth Army and was demobilized in Oct 44.

The HQ of the **2-3-6* Inf XX 21** was mobilized in 1940 and deployed in Pirot (Serbia) in Nov 41 to control units present in this area. Headed to Nis (Serbia) as a unit of the 1st Occupation Corps in Jan 42, received the 2nd Motorized Infantry Regiment and I/50 Infantry Regiment. The 69th Regiment was in this division between March and October 42, when disbanded. By Jun 42 the 2nd Motorized Regiment had left the division. The 21st Division continued to control some units until it was finally disbanded on 30 Mar 43 and its staff used to form the 22nd Division.

The **2-3-6* Inf XX 22** was formed on 30 March 43 with infantry regiments, 63rd, 66th and 103th. The 63rd Regiment was formed as a militia unit in Nov 41 and deployed along the Turkish frontier until May 42 when was disbanded. It was rebuilt in Feb 43 for the 22nd Division but was detached to the 17th Division by Jul 44. The 66th Regiment had been mobilized in Sep 42 and deployed in Nis (Serbia) under the 6th Division. The 103th

Regiment was formed in Yambol in Mar 43 as a Third Army's replacement regiment but renamed in Dec 43. The 22nd Division was disbanded in Dec 44.

The **2-3-6* Inf XX 24** was formed on 11 Mar 43 as a unit of the 1st Occupation Corps in Uzice (Serbia) with only two regiments, 61st and 64th, both mobilized in that month. This division was disbanded in Dec 44.

The **2-3-6* Inf XX 25** was initially formed in Sep 42 in Ruse with regiments 71st, 72nd, 75th, 76th and disbanded in May 43. It was rebuilt on 1 Jul 43 as a unit of the 1st Occupation Corps in Pozarevac (Serbia) with only two regiments, 69th and 70th. The 69th Regiment had been previously formed in Mar 42 and headed to Nis to be under the 21st Division HQ command. Disbanded in Oct 42 was rebuilt for the 25th Division in Jun 43. The 70th Regiment had been formed in 1942 and deployed in Thrace until Dec 42, when was disbanded. It was rebuilt in Jul 43 for the new 25th Division too. This division was disbanded in Oct 44.

The **2-3-6* Inf XX 27** was formed on 11 Mar 43 as a unit of the 1st Occupation Corps in Prokuplje (Yugoslavia) with regiments 65th and 67th. Both regiments were mobilized in Mar 43 for this division and deployed at Krusevac and Leskovac (Serbia). The 67th Regiment had been previously raised in Nov 41 and deployed at Alexandroupolis until Jun 42 when was disbanded. In Dec 43 both units were demobilized but regiments 122nd and 123rd took their place. The 65th regiment would be again mobilized in May 44 in Prokuplje. The 123rd Regiment had been formed in May 41 as a Third Army's replacement regiment and renamed as 123rd in Dec 43. The 122nd Regiment had been a Second Army's replacement regiment. The 27th Division was disbanded in Sep 44.

The **2-3-5* Static XX 28** was formed on 22 Nov 43 at Gyumyurdzhina/Komotini (Thrace) as a unit of the 2nd Occupation Corps with regiments 10th and 58th. The 10th Regiment had already been in Thrace in 1941 despite belonging to the 10th Division and was headed again to this region in Sep 43. The 58th Regiment was formed in Jul 41 as Gyumyurdzhina Regiment, renamed in Mar 42 and had four battalions. In Apr 44 the 28th Division had a total strength of 12,475 men and in May 44 had attached the 6th Cavalry Regiment. This division was demobilized in Oct 44.

The **2-3-5* Static XX 29** was formed on 12 Apr 44 as a unit of the 1st Occupation Corps in Vranje (Serbia) with already existing regiments 3rd, 36th

and 42th. The 3rd Regiment belonged to the 6th Division and the 36th to the 9th Division. The 42nd Regiment had been part of the 11th Division but by 1944 this division should no longer existed. In Jul 44 had regiments 3rd, 50th, 52th, plus two security battalions attached. It still had only one artillery group. The 42nd Regiment was demobilized after Apr 44, the 52th Regiment was detached from the 14th Division and the 50th was an independent regiment. The 29th Division was demobilized in Oct 44.

We know the organization structure (TOE) of each infantry division at two dates, Feb 42 and Jul 44, according to German captured documents. They had in common the triangular structure, three infantry regiments supported by one artillery regiment. Main difference rested in the number of machineguns and anti-tank pieces: 273x LMGs, 138x HMGs and 18x AT 20mm guns in the 1942 division against 342x LMGs, 163x HMGs and 39x AT guns in the 1944 division. The division had a total strength of about 16,000 men.

Each infantry regiment was formed by three infantry battalions, a mortar company and an anti-tank company. A regiment had a total strength of 3,100 men, a battalion had 816 men and a company had 158 effectives. Changes in the regiments between these TOEs are found in anti-tank weapons: in 1944 each battalion's machinegun company had two AT rifles and the anti-tank company's six AT guns were upgraded from 20mm to 37mm.

The artillery regiment had four groups (battalions) with 12x 75mm mountain guns, 24x 75mm field guns and 12x 105mm howitzers in the 1942 division and 12x 75mm mountain guns, 12x 75mm field guns and 24x 105mm howitzers in the 1944 division.

Other combat units were a machinegun battalion with two heavy companies and one light company, a reconnaissance group with two cavalry squadrons and one heavy company, an anti-aircraft battery with 15x 20mm AA guns, plus an engineer battalion with three pioneer companies and a bridging column. In early 1942 the machinegun battalions were reorganized as motorized. Anyway, the shortage of vehicles slowed down this process even if did not made it impossible to complete it.

A new combat unit in the 1944 division was the anti-tank battalion with three companies equipped with 12x 50mm AT guns and 6x 75mm AT guns. In March 1944 Germans transferred a large number on anti-tank guns to the Bulgarians. They gave

them 110x 37mm AT guns (Czech), 10x 47mm AT guns (Czech), 150x 50mm PaK 38, 50x 75mm PaK 97/38, and 35x 75mm PaK 40.

The *BF/WW* OBs list the pre-war divisions as 3x 5-6 Inf XX (1, 2, 7) and 4x 4-6 Inf XX (3, 6, 8, 10), so I have added the other three pre-war divisions as 5-6 (4, 5, 9). Without the self-imposed obligation to use the already printed counters, I would rate the first eight divisions as 5-6 and the remaining two as 4-6. The reserve divisions mobilized throughout the war has been rated as 3-4-6 and 2-3-6* depending on whether they had three or two regiments. The 16th Division has been qualified as static due its coastal defensive training in 1943, and divisions 28th and 29th are static too due to the types of regiments that are used for their creation.

The Infantry

Those first twenty-four regular infantry regiments are listed below, with their home depots:

| Regt | Depot | Regt | Depot |
|------|--------------|------|----------------|
| 1st | Sofia | 13th | Kyustendil |
| 2nd* | Svishtov | 14th | Blagoevgrad |
| 3rd | Vidin | 15th | Belogradchik |
| 4th | Pleven | 18th | Veliko Tarnovo |
| 5th | Ruse | 19th | Razgrad |
| 6th | Sofia | 21st | Smolyan |
| 7th | Shumen | 22nd | Samokov |
| 8th | Varna | 23rd | Simeonovgrad |
| 9th | Plovdiv | 24th | Burgas |
| 10th | Kirdzhali | 25th | Slivnitsa |
| 11th | Sliven | 27th | Pazardjik |
| 12th | Stara Zagora | 29th | Yambol |

* 2nd Regiment was renamed later as 33th.

Four other regiments were formed before 1939:

| Regt | Depot | Regt | Depot |
|------|--------|------|---------------|
| 34th | Lovech | 36th | Oryahovo |
| 35th | Vratza | 39th | Gotse Delchev |

Between 1939 and 1944 were raised more regular regiments: 31st, 44th-46th, 48th-49th, 51st-59th. For a total in Sep 44 of 45 regular regiments.

Besides regular regiments were raised a series of mobilized regiments on demand: 16th-17th, 20th, 28th, 30th, 32th, 41st, 42nd, 47th, 50th, 61st-70th, 71st-72nd, 75th-77th, 80th, 103rd, 122nd-123rd. Those 61st-70th regiments were raised in 1940 as militia (second-reserve) regiments but renamed later. All of these units were mobilized and demobilized several times along the war.

I would have rated one regiment of each of the eight first divisions as **2-6 Inf III** representing the

veteran and professional troops core. However, I have kept the number of regiment counters down as much as possible due to their low combat capacity. The **1-2-5 Static III 22, 58** were units which remained in Thrace as reinforced coastal units, the **1-6 Inf III 13** was an independent unit as late as Feb 44, and the **0-1-5 Inf III 65** was a late reinforcement headed to Serbia in 1944.

The **1-5 Static III 50** was formed in Dragoman as Pirot Battalion in Jun 41 to garrison Pirot's region that had been annexed to Bulgaria. In Jan 42 was renamed as 50th Regiment but its second battalion was organized in Mar 43 and the third as late as 1944.

Three motorized regiments were also raised: the first two for both rapid/cavalry divisions were named light regiments. The 1st Light Regiment seems to be disbanded in 1941 at the same time as 1st Cavalry Division and probably was used to organize the Armored Brigade's motorized infantry regiment. The 2nd Light Regiment remained as a nearly independent unit and was deployed in Serbia in 1942 and at the Turkish border garrison in 1943.

Plans for wartime established that each army would have one or two training regiments and one or two replacements (depot) regiments. There were altogether 4 training regiments (1st-4th) and 8 replacement regiments (1st-8th) for first four armies because Fifth Army did not have any. In wartime the training regiments had to train the conscripts and the replacement regiments were army's rear-units to depot personnel and continue training until draftees were assigned to units in the front. Training was territorial, by units located in each divisional and regimental districts. From each district, draftees were assigned to units when ready but specialized troops were assigned at national level. As Bulgaria was not deeply involved in the war, the system of recruitment and training continued to be the same of peacetime. These related units are represented with four **2-5 Repl X**. In some cases were used as field regiments or transformed into mobilized regiments.

The Armored Forces

Following the plans of rearmament of the interwar period, the War Ministry decided to buy from Italy 14 Ansaldo CV33 tankettes, Pavesi artillery tractors, anti-aircraft guns and other military equipment. The "carri veloci" arrived in the first months of 1935, were armed with a Schwarzlose 8mm machinegun and used to form a first tank company at Sofia. In early 1938 were

delivered 8 Vickers Mk.E, single turret type, armed with one Vickers 47mm gun. They had been purchased two years before and formed a second tank company. These two companies were grouped in a tank battalion in Jan 39. That is what represents the **0-8 Lt Tank II**.

In 1940, the Bulgarian army obtained from Germany 36 Skoda LT vz.35, armed with a 37mm gun, to reinforce the tank battalion up to **1-8 Tank II**. An agreement with Germany dated on 23 Apr 41 provided 40 Renault R-35 tanks, armed with a 37mm gun, which were judged to be in poor technical condition. The French tanks were used to form a second battalion, and on 25 Jun 41 was officially formed the 1st Armored Regiment at Sofia. This is the **3-2-8 Tank III** of the *BF/WW* OBs, maybe a little overrated. Anyway, it is another printed counter.

According to the Mar 42 TOE, the Armored Regiment was a brigade-sized unit due to its support units: a reconnaissance battalion (with two companies), a motorized infantry regiment (two battalions), a motorized artillery regiment (two battalions), an anti-tank battalion, and an engineer battalion. It was located about 10km west of Sofia and had a total strength of 1,802 young and eager men. First manoeuvres developed in Oct 41 evidenced the regiment to be not ready: there was a critical shortage in radio and communications equipment and suffered many mechanical breakdowns. An anti-aircraft battery with 15x 20mm AA guns was added. New manoeuvres exercises in May 42 showed few improvements, especially in support units. In Jul 42 arrived to Bulgaria the first German advisers with the task of training the regiment. By the end of 1942 the strength had grown up to 3,809 officers and men.

In January 1943 a plan was worked out between Bulgarian High Command and the German OKW to supply ten infantry divisions, one cavalry division and two modern armored brigades with modern weapons. Germans were to supply PzKw IV and StuG III with the objective that the brigade was ready for action in Jul 43. Colonel Gäde, chief of German training mission, suggested the formation of assault guns batteries as army troops to improve the infantrymen's morale. Training was intensified during the spring of 1943 when German personnel came from Wünsdorf panzer school and in Jun 43 was created the first Bulgarian **2-1-10 Aslt Gun II** under German advising. However, the armored regiment's training problems were still evident in Aug 43.

In Oct 43 the armored regiment was officially renamed as 1st Armored Brigade. As the German

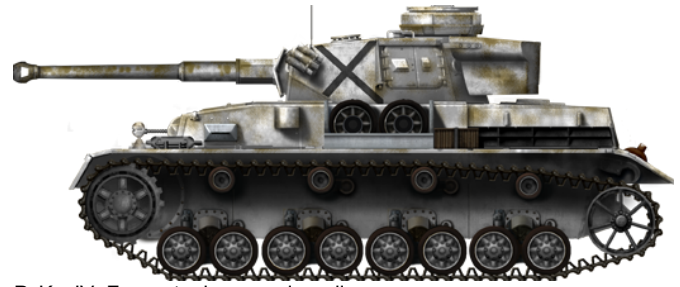
tanks arrived, Renaults and Vickers were removed and attached to infantry divisions which were fighting partisans. The Brigade was to include three battalions, each with two PzKw IV companies and one LT vz.35 company. Still in Jan-Feb 44 the armored brigade had to take 400 draftees to fill up its under-strength armored regiment.

A second assault gun battalion was formed in Dec 43. Each assault gun battalion consisted of an HQ battery and three batteries with 6 StuGs each one, for a total of 23 StuGs. In Feb 44 the Germans delivered to Bulgaria 19 Hotchkiss H-35 M.39 and 6 Somua S-35 which were turned over to Gendarmerie and Frontier Guard units.

Despite the general decree of Apr 44 for all Bulgarian units to bring up to the wartime strength, the Armored Brigade could not do it. The armored regiment was at 70-75% of its authorized wartime strength, all other units were at 80-90% and the training level was judged by colonel Gäde to be weak to passable. Only two of the three motorized infantry battalions were formed. Finally, on 12 Aug 44 the Brigade's armored regiment was declared ready for combat. German advisors rated the unit as well trained as can be reasonably expected. Germany had delivered 91 PzKw IV and 55 StuG III in total between 1943 and 1944.

The Jul 44 TOE established the following structure: an armored regiment with three battalions, each with 16 LT vz.35 and 30 PzKw IV; a motorized infantry regiment with three battalions; a reconnaissance battalion with two motorcycle companies, one armored car company and a heavy weapons company; a motorized artillery regiment with two battalions equipped with 12x 105mm leFH18 and 8x 150mm sFH18; a motorized anti-tank battalion with three companies equipped with 12x 50mm PaK 38 and 6x 75mm PaK 40; a motorized anti-aircraft battalion with 12x 20mm AA guns, 9x 37mm AA guns, 6x 88mm guns; and a motorized engineer battalion with two companies and a bridging train. The total strength was 9,340 men and about 140 tanks.

I have rated the Armored Brigade as a **9-7-10 Arm XX**, which is the result of adding 1x 6-4-10 Tank III (3x 2-1-10 Tank II) and 1x 2-10 mot Inf III.



PzKw IV. From «tanks-encyclopedia.com»

Other Units

After the Treaty of Neuilly cavalry regiments chosen to continue were the 3rd, 10th and Guards. Remaining were used to form the Gendarmerie mounted groups allowed. Later, as established by the expansion plans, these mounted groups were transformed into eight new cavalry regiments: 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th. All these regiments existed until 1944 except for the 5th and 9th, which were disbanded in 1935. In Feb 42 certain changes were made: the Guards regiment became a battalion, the 5th Regiment was raised again, and a training unit was formed at the cavalry school in Sliven.

Cavalry regiments were paired into four **2-8* Cav X**: 1st (with regiments 1st, 2nd), 2nd (3rd, 6th), 3rd (4th, 5th), 4th (8th, 10th). Each cavalry regiment had two battalions (with four sabres squadrons and one support squadron with HMGs, mortars and AT guns). In 1942 each cavalry brigade had a 75mm horse battery attached.

In 1939 the Bulgarian High Command organized two rapid (fast) divisions, a type of mobile unit which was popular in other European armies. Both rapid divisions had 2 cavalry brigades (with 2 regiments each one), one motorized infantry regiment and a horse artillery regiment (with two battalions, one of them motorized). In 1941 were reformed into two more classic (and effective) cavalry divisions.

The 1st Division was finally disbanded that summer and its brigades and regiments became independent units, which were deployed in Macedonia and Thrace. However, the **5-8 Cav XX 2** remained until 1945. By Feb 42 the 2nd Cavalry Division was organized in two brigades (3rd and 4th), the 2nd Horse Artillery Regiment (with two 75mm guns battalions, one 105mm howitzers group and one anti-aircraft battery with 15x 20mm AA guns), the 2nd Motorized Infantry Regiment (with two infantry battalions, one mortar company and one anti-tank company), and a horse engineer battalion (with one pioneer company and bridging train). The 3rd Cavalry Brigade was located at Shumen and the 4th Cavalry Brigade was located

at Sofia. In Jul 44 the 2nd Cavalry Division had the same units with some changes (the artillery regiment had four battalions and the motorized infantry regiment had three battalions) and new units as one machinegun battalion (with three companies) and one anti-tank battalion (with two 50mm PaK companies and one 75mm PaK company).

The main difference in the organization structure of the cavalry division between Feb 42 and Jul 44, rested in the number of weapons: 197 LMGs, 60 HMGs, 47 mortars, 15x 20mm AA guns, 45x 37mm AT guns, and 44 guns and howitzers in the 1942 TOE against 290 LMGs, 140 HMGs, 81 mortars, 15x 20mm AA guns, 50x 37mm/50mm/75mm anti-tank guns, and 48 guns and howitzers in the 1944 TOE. The division had a total strength of about 15,500 men.

The cavalry division rating as 5-8 is a Europa feature as consequence of having adequately rated the cavalry brigades as 2-8* in *BF/WW*.

As the Treaty of Neuilly expressly prohibited the army troops they were all formed after Allied control commission departure in 1927. Was a very slow process because they were specialized units that required adequate training and equipment. Each army (except the Fifth) was outfitted with a heavy motorized artillery regiment, a partially motorized anti-tank regiment, an engineer battalion and some construction troops.

The heavy artillery regiments were formed after 1927 from Sofia, Vidin and Shumen fortress artillery battalions allowed by the Treaty of Neuilly, and a fourth raised in the Second Army district. One regiment for each of the four armies since the Fifth Army never had its own heavy artillery regiment.

The **2-8 Art III** and **3-2-8 Art III** were organized into four battalions. The first had 12x 75mm mountain guns, the second had 12x 120mm guns, the 3rd had 12x 150mm guns, the fourth had 8x 105 mm guns. The Artillery arm was improved throughout the war as the Germans were transferring modern German and captured French and Soviet pieces to Bulgaria. By Jul 44 each heavy regiment had been expanded into six battalions: one horse drawn battalion with 12x 75mm mountain guns, one horse drawn battalion with 12x 105mm guns, one motorized battalion with 12x 122mm guns, one motorized battalion with 8x 150mm howitzers, and two motorized battalions with 24x 105mm guns in total. Shortly after the TOE of these heavy artillery battalions were changed to two 105mm guns battalions,

three 155mm guns battalions and one 122mm guns battalion.

Two of these units had counters so I have rated the other two as **3-2-8 Art III** to represent their improvement during the war.

During the war were organized new artillery regiments. Were created for almost all new infantry divisions and the armored brigade. Generally each division and its artillery regiment had the same number:

| Divisio n | Art regt | Divisio n | Art regt |
|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| 1st | 4th | 10th | 10th |
| 2nd | 3rd | 11th | 11th |
| 3rd | 6th | 12th | 12th |
| 4th | 5th | 14th | 14th |
| 5th | 1st | 15th | 15h |
| 6th | 2nd | 16th | 16th |
| 7th | 7th | 17th | 17th |
| 8th | 8th | 21st | 34th |
| 9th | 9th | 22nd | 22nd |

The **2-3-6* Inf XX** and **2-3-5* Static XX** had just one or two artillery battalions. The 21st Division had an ad-hoc regiment (no more info about it), 22nd had one artillery battalion, 24th had two, 25th had one, 27th had one, 28th had two, and 29th had one.

It seems as rapid divisions had only one artillery battalion which was expanded into a three-battalion regiment when were transformed into cavalry divisions.

Anti-aircraft regiments were raised late in the war to protect airfields: 1st (at Sofia) and 2nd (Kazanlak) in 1943, 3rd (Yambol) and 4th (Gorna Oryahovitza) in 1944. A fifth was planned in 1945 for Skopje.

Coastal defenses were grouped in 1944 forming four artillery regiments at Varna, Burgas, Kavala and Dedeagach. Those in Thrace were favored by the Germany's need to protect its coast as well as possible. With the deployment of captured guns, a total of five battalions with German and Bulgarian batteries were organized. Total pieces were:

Kavala Regiment

Orfani battalion 8x 105, 4x 122, 4x 152, 4x 155
 Kavala bn 4x 105, 8x 155, 4x 220
 Keramouti bn 12x 105

Dedeagach Regiment

Porto Lagos bn 12x 105, 8x 122
 Dedeagach bn 12x 105, 8x 155, 4x 220

Each battalion, except for the Keramouti battalion, may be rated as a level-1 CD.

The **1-8 AT II** were regiments, not battalions, motorized in theory but it does not seem that this

was ever achieved. By 1942 only the first battalion was motorized. Each regiment had three battalions and each battalion had 12x 37mm AT guns. I have rated these units as battalions because as regiments they provide to each bulgarian stack a -1 ATEC modification, something that according to the poor anti-tank capacity of the Bulgarian army during the war is ahistorical.

The **1-6 Eng III** had three battalions and each battalion had three engineer companies (one motorized), a bridge construction company, and a bridging train. By 1942 these regiments were equipped with a detachment of three modern German bridging columns.

Each army had its own labor battalion for a total of 4 in 1939 and 5 in 1941. Any **0-5 Cons III** comprised a variable number of construction companies. Besides these army units were more construction troops, part of a paramilitary organization existing since the 1920s. During the war were placed under the orders of the Ministry of War and considered as part of the Army. The «trudovi voiski» were 8 construction battalions in 1939 and 12 between 1941 and 1944. One of his main tasks was the construction of the defensive line on the border with Turkey.

The peacetime structure of frontier-guards units could change upon mobilization: the eight regiments would be paired into four brigades. Brigades 1st-4th were mobilized several times along the war but it seems that only brigades 3rd and 4th were mobilized after 1941. Each **1-2-5* Bdr X** was organized as follows: 2 frontier-guards regiments, one artillery battalion, one engineer battalion, one cavalry squadron, one anti-aircraft battery, and one anti-tank company with 9x 75mm AT guns. Each regiment was composed by 3 battalions, an AT company (6x 37mm AT guns) and a mortar company. The total strength was 10,360 officers and men, with 206 LMGs, 86 HMGs, 108 mortars, 18 AT guns, 9 AA guns, 12x 75mm field guns, and 12x 105mm howitzers.

The **1-2-4 Fort X Bm** was a fortress unit formed in Feb 44 with forces from divisions 16th and 28th deployed in the 2nd Occupation Corps' area. It had a regimental staff with one cycling company and one anti-aircraft battery, plus three fortress battalions, each with three machinegun companies, a heavy company and a support company.

The origins of the **1-5 Para II PDrz** went back to 1942 when about 300 candidates were selected for the first parachute company and headed to Germany to train at the Luftwaffe's Paratroops

School in Dec 42. The Parachute Battalion was officially formed in Mar 43 with only 287 men but in Nov 43 was expanded into a reinforced battalion with a total strength of 1,251 men organized in three parachute companies, one heavy company and one combat engineers company. Its home depot was established in Pleven since Jan 44.

References to the existence of a mountain brigade hardly appear in the documents consulted. It only appears in the public notice on the Bulgarian army by the League of Nations of 1939, and in the Nafziger's book as an unit formed in 1941 with six mountain battalions and a pack artillery battalion. Without further references I have preferred not to include it in this order of battle.

Operational History

The role of Bulgaria in the war was limited to the occupation of different territories and their garrison against partisans. She did not fight in the Eastern front and the war against the Allies was limited to fighting in the skies of Bulgaria because Allied bombings. In Bulgaria there was no general mobilization during the war. Her operational land scenarios were the Turkish border, Thrace, Macedonia and Serbia. Thrace and Macedonia because were historical claimed territories that could be occupied after Yugoslavia and Greece defeats, and Serbia because Bulgaria had to help her ally Germany as the war progressed. *Note*: all next information on Bulgarian operational history is due to DIMITAR BOYKOV in «forum.boinaslava.net».

Turkey

Turkey was considered a major threat throughout the war so important military defenses were needed in the frontier. A "Covering Army" was formed in Jul 39 that was renamed as "**Covering Front**" after 1941. Its HQ was early located at Nova Zagora and later moved to Simeonovgrad, where the staffs of the four regular existing armies rotated in his command. This HQ, besides the "Krali Marko" fortification border line (gradually expanded throught the years), controlled all those units which were mobilized into the Turkish border area for months.

In Jun 39 were mobilized to wartime strengths divisions 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 10th, 11th; the 2nd Rapid Division, and three frontier-guards regiments. All these units were deployed in the Turkish border and most of them were replaced in Oct 39 with divisions 1st, 6th, 7th and three infantry regiments. In Nov 39 most of units were withdrawn to their home depots because the winter was coming. Only remained nine mixed battalions from 1st, 6th

and 7th divisions. After winter the 9th Division was mobilized in Apr 40 replacing all the mixed battalions and was reinforced with the 2nd Rapid Division one month after. In Jun 40 the 2nd Division joined the "Covering Army". In Sep 40 the rapid division was replaced by the 5th Division, in Oct 40 was the 2nd Division replaced by the 4th Division, in Nov 40 the 5th Division by the 11th Division and in Dec 40 all these infantry divisions were replaced by three frontier-guards regiments.

In Feb 41 were mobilized into the border area divisions 1st, 9th, 3rd, 5th, 8th and 12th. In Jul 41 were withdrawn divisions 3rd and 8th and replaced by the 2nd Division, 3rd Cavalry Brigade and the frontier-guards brigades 3rd and 4th. In Aug 41 divisions 1st, 5th, 9th and 12th were ordered to conduct large training exercise in Thrace. For the coming winter remained the two frontier-guards brigades, a mixed brigade from 2nd Division and the cavalry brigade.

In Apr 42 new forces arrived: divisions 3rd, 8th and 10th. These units were replaced in the Autumn of 1942 by the 25th Division. In Apr 43, again, returned troops. The 25th Division was replaced by divisions 2nd, 5th and 11th. It was not until Dec 43 that these units were replaced by the 2nd Cavalry Division. In May 44 arrived divisions 2nd and 5th while the cavalry division was placed in reserve at Yambol.

Yugoslavia

In Feb 41 the frontier-guards units in the Yugoslavian border were mobilized to wartime strength and were deployed divisions 6th and 7th and the 1st Rapid Division as High Command's reserves. These units formed the Fifth Army that invaded Macedonia in Apr 41.

The **1st Occupation Corps** was formed on 31 Dec 41 after Germany's request of three divisions that could replace some German divisions going to be transferred to the Eastern front. Initially were assigned one regular division (the 6th) and two mobilized divisional HQs (the 17th and 21st) which received existing battalions. In Jun 42 this (first) 17th Division was demobilized, the 6th Division returned to Bulgaria and the 21st Division remained with new subordinated units. To replace those missing arrived divisions 7th and 9th. In Jan 43 the Bulgarian occupation zone was expanded to the line Drina, Kraljevo, Arandjelovac, Topola in order to replace two more Germans divisions and on next months divisions 7th and 9th returned to Bulgaria and 21st Division was disbanded being all replaced by mobilized divisions 22nd, 24th and 27th. In Jul 43, as the Bulgarian occupation zone

in Serbia was expanded to the Danube, arrived the mobilized 25th Division. Finally, the mobilized 29th Division arrived in Apr 44, the 65th Regiment in May 44, and the 6th Division, again, in Aug 44.

Greece

The Greek border was defended by Nov 40 with divisions 2nd and 10th and by Feb 41 with divisions 7th and 10th. In Apr 41 the Second Army staff was choice to lead the occupation of Greek Thrace with the 10th Division, the 2nd Frontier Guard Brigade and a First Army's replacement regiment. These forces were reinforced in May 41 with the 11th Division that remained in Thrace until the next winter. In Jul 41 was raised the "Belomorski" unit which turned into the 16th Division by Nov 41. Due to the communist-lead uprising of Greek population at Drama, in Oct 41 regiments 14th and 39th were rushed to suppress the riots.

This occupation zone was expanded beyond the Struma/Strymonas river into Chalkidiki region in Jul 43 and occupied by the 7th Division. As this division had recently returned from occupation duties in Serbia, its units were replaced by others, becoming a mixed division with regiments 13th and 41st, First Army's replacement regiment, 7th Replacement Regiment, 12th Division's machinegun and engineers battalions, and a composite artillery regiment.

The **2nd Occupation Corps** was officially formed in Nov 43 in Thrace despite being existed since Nov 41. It was composed by divisions 7th and 16th, with the 7th Division deployed at Chalkidiki region. The 28th Division was also mobilized on that date.

Black Sea

Other units were also mobilized at specific moments and corresponding with certain events. In the Black Sea coast were mobilized in Sep 40 the 4th Division, the 1st Rapid Division and the 4th Frontier Guard Regiment to occupy Southern Dobrudja. Later, in Dec 40 were mobilized three militia regiments (4th, 5th, 9th) to be deployed in Burgas. The 4th Division was deployed in Jun 41 at Varna. In Jan 42 were mobilized to wartime strength the 4th Division and the 24th Regiment (from 3rd Division) and formed the **Black Sea Defense Command** until Oct 42 when were demobilized and replaced by regiments 62nd and 63rd. In May 43, the 63rd Regiment was replaced by 3rd and 4th Frontier Guard regiments. In Apr 44 arrived to the Black Sea Defense Command the 4th Frontier Guard Brigade (regiments 5th and 6th).

The Air Forces

Bulgaria's air arm steadily matured during the war into a small but capable force. The Treaty of Neuilly meant almost complete destruction of her World War I air force and prohibition to establish any military aviation. Bulgaria was restricted to buy civil aircraft from the Allies and her personnel was banned from training abroad. However, some airplanes were hidden and later used clandestinely for training with the first foreign-made aircraft been purchased in 1924-1926. During the last 20's and 30's, some light airplanes were built by local factories like Caproni Bulgarski. After Allied control commission departure in 1927, the Air Directorate was organized as a civil-disguised military structure and the first expansion plan was set up in 1929.

The re-establishment of the Bulgaria's Air Force was issued officially in June 1934 as «Vazдушni Voiski» (VV). When Bulgarian authorities took first steps towards a combat-capable air force in 1936, the VV fleet had only 54 airplanes so the first modern German-made aircraft were ordered: Heinkel He 45, He 51, Arado Ar 65 and Dornier Do 11. Air schools were deployed in Sofia and Kazanlak and on 27 June 1937 Tsar Boris ceremonially handed over the flags to the new four air groups. In 1937 were received Polish-made PZL P.24, P.43, P.37 and LWS-3. Finally, in 1939-1940 were delivered Czech-made Letov S.328, Avia B.71, Aero MB.200 and Avia B.534. Even the Soviet Union offered I-16 fighters and SB-2 bombers in 1940. Between 1939 and 1941 Bulgarian VV growth from 212 to 550 aircraft. They were all from a wide variety of types and pilots training was a serious problem in this process.

In mid-1940, the Bulgarian Air Force turned into an independent Armed Forces' branch and a new structure was introduced which remained unchanged until 1944: air units earmarked for independent operations and air units for army cooperation. The Army's four anti-aircraft regiments were grouped into a dedicated VV service: were 8x 20mm AA batteries and 4x 88mm AA batteries. Their deployment in Sofia and main towns started in early 1941. In Jul 40 existed the 5th Bomber Regiment (in Plovdiv) and 6th Fighter Regiment (Karlovo). The army cooperation units were four regiments: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Bulgaria's territory was divided into five fighter zones with airfields in Sofia (Bozhurishte), Plovdiv (Graf Ignatievo), Yambol, Gorna Oryakhovista and Karlovo.

On Jan 40 the VV's order of battle included 36

PZL.43 light bombers, 60 Avia B.534 biplane fighters, 48 Letov S.328 reconnaissance airplanes, 24 Avia B.71 (under-license Czech-made Tupolev SB2) bombers, 12 Dornier Do 11 bombers and 12 Czech-made MB.200. All of them are represented by **1x B.534 2F3 0/6** and **1x Mixed 2B2 1-2/11**, as BF's OB shows. In total, at late 1940 were 118 fighters, 72 reconnaissance aircraft, 67 bombers and 40 multi-role aircraft.

Being obsolete the aircraft inventory, Air Force's modernization started in Jun 40 when were delivered ten German Bf 109E. These first airplanes were followed by other nine Bf 109E arrived in Aug 41. These aircraft were among the best that came into service in the Bulgarian air force during the war despite between 1941 and 1943 six of them were lost in training flights. Bulgarian troops captured in Macedonia fifteen licensed-built Dornier Do 17 after Yugoslavia's defeat. Were ferried to Bulgaria but only six were brought up to operational readiness. In the summer of 1941 Germany deployed a FuM 39 Freya radar at Galata, near Varna, to watch the Bulgarian coast against Soviet air raids but it soon ceased to be necessary.

In Mar 42 Tsar Boris visited Berlin to discuss the necessary improvements of Bulgarian armed forces but as his country was not strategically important enough for Germany the only aircraft delivered in 1942 by Germany were 12 Arado Ar 196 floatplanes needed for patrol missions over the Black Sea. Anyway, as reorganization was needed all front-line fighters and bombers were grouped into 2nd "Shtuka" Regiment (equipped with PZL P.43), 5th Bomber Regiment (Do 17 and B.71) and 6th Fighter Regiment (Bf 109E and B.534). In Dec 42, Bulgarian air force had a total strength of 7,691 men and 609 almost completely obsolete airplanes.

By early 1943, the Eastern and North Africa fronts had dramatically changed. Bulgaria's importance suddenly raised up for Germany. Modern aircraft were asked to Berlin but only answered with promises of as much new armament as possible. And by then a lot was not possible. On Feb 43 were delivered 16 brand new Bf 109G fighters and Bulgarian government looked for other solutions in Vichy France: one hundred of Dewoitine D.520 were purchased.

The Bf 109G air group (3/6th) was ready for combat in Jul 43, the first D.520 air group (2/6th) started its conversion into new fighters in Sep 43, and the remaining D.520 air group (1/6th) in Dec 43. Obsolete B.534 fighters were handed over to the 2nd Regiment. Deliveries of 2B Bf 109Gs

continued in the second half of 1943 for another 30 airplanes. In total, during 1943 Bulgaria received 96 D.520 and 46 Bf 109G fighters.

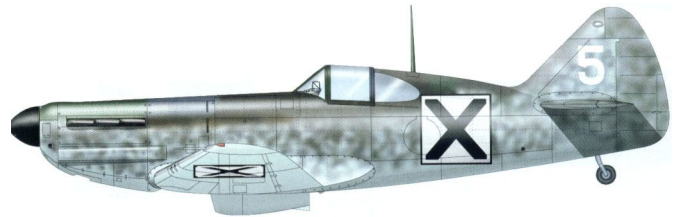
Referring bombers, in Aug 43 were delivered 12 Stukas Ju 87R and 12 Do 17M in Sep 43.

In mid-1943 USAAF Ninth Air Force launched an strategic bombing campaign against Bulgaria. The air defenses deployed in 1943 comprised eight Freya early warning radar systems delivered by Germany at early 1943, the 1st Position Air Defense Artillery Regiment at Sofia with 11x 88mm FlaK batteries (increased to 14 by late-43), and those 6th Regiment's arriving Bf 109G fighters. First air combats took place on 1 Aug 43 against Operation Tidal Wave bombers. After nine air raids against Sofia and other cities as Skopje, in 1944 Allied bombers changed their objective to Rumania, especially Ploesti's oil facilities. The 6th Regiment's fighters did what they could against massive waves of Allied bombers and fighters. Due to those air combats, between Aug 43 and Sep 44 were shoot down at least 30 Bulgarian fighters.

Germany's deliveries in 1944 to Bulgarian air force began with 28 Bf 109G6 and 13 Ju 87D in Jan 44. More Bf 109s and Ju 87s continued arriving during this last year for a total of no less than 110 Bf 109G and 46 Ju 87D. By Sep 44 Bulgaria had 59 Shtukas in service after receiving 18 Ju 87D in May 44 and 15 Ju 87D in Aug 44. However, the Bulgarian air force was never able to launch more than 39 Bf 109 against the incursions of Allied bombers because there were never enough pilots due to deficiencies in the training system. In total, no less than 27 Bf 109 were lost or suffered serious damage due to accidents. In Aug 44 a new delivery of 60 Bf 109G6 and 24 Bf 109G2 was agreed but it did not happen.

Despite having enough airplanes for more air units, due to limits on pilots availability I have chosen to add only two fighters counters (**1x Me 109G2 7F6 2/9** and **1x De 520 6F5 0/11**) in 1943 and two conversions in 1944 (**1x Me 109G6 8F6 2/9** and **1x Ju 87D 5-1/10**).

By 9 Sep 44 the VV had an aircraft fleet of 323 combat airplanes but only 186 of these were service-ready: among others, 43 Bf 109G2/6 (100 in total), 16 D.520 (32 in total) 38 Ju 87D (59 in total), 14 Do 17M (20 in total), and 12 B.71 (20 in total).



Dewoitine D.520. From «soldadosyuniformes.wordpress.com»

The Navy

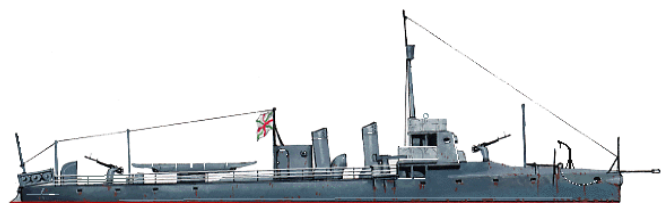
By 1939, the Bulgarian navy may be defined as nearly non-existent. After the Treaty of Neuilly, Bulgaria was only allowed to keep some small coastal defense ships: four French-built torpedo boats from 1908 and two former French mine-sweepers from 1917. At the eve of the war Bulgarian navy would received four German modern motor torpedo boats (type S-Boot) and in 1942 three modern Dutch motor torpedo boats (type MBT) equipped with captured British airplanes engines.

The Drzki class torpedo boats (98 tons) saw action in the First Balkan War and World War I. Were modernized after 1934 and armed with 47mm guns. "Drzki" sank at Varna in Oct 42, "Smeli" capsized in May 43, and "Hrabri" and "Strogi" were sized by Soviet troops in Sep 44.

The four German motor torpedo boats (57 tons) were delivered by Germany on the eve of the war, patrolled Bulgarian coast during the war and were sized by the Soviets in 1944. The three former Dutch TM-51 motor torpedo boats class (57 tons) were also captured by the Soviets.

The "Belomoretz" and "Chernomoretz" submarine chasers (87 tons) were old American boats, built in wood and launched in 1917. Purchased from France in 1921, were modernized in 1941 with a 47mm gun and a 20mm AA gun.

Main naval action took place in Oct 41. Operation Varna consisted in minelaying Bulgarian coast by Rumanian and Bulgarian vessels to open a navigation channel for shipping safe from Soviet submarines. The operation was successful: five minefields were laid, and four Soviet submarines and one Rumanian minelayer were sunken.



Drzki torpedo boat class. From «naval-encyclopedia.com»

BALKAN FRONT BULGARIAN OB INITIAL CONDITIONS

Restricted Full Supply Source: Sofiya (14A:3606).
3-Capacity Permanent Airfield: Sofiya (14A:3606).
1-Capacity Permanent Airfield: Samokov (14A:3806).

No Bulgarian units are deployed on the map until Bulgaria joins the Axis.

APR 1 41

When Bulgaria joins the Axis, place one ground unit in each town in Bulgaria, and place all other ground units in Sofiya (14A:3606) and Plovdiv (14A:4002). Place the air units at any airbases in Bulgaria.

REINFORCEMENTS

Conditional Reinforcements

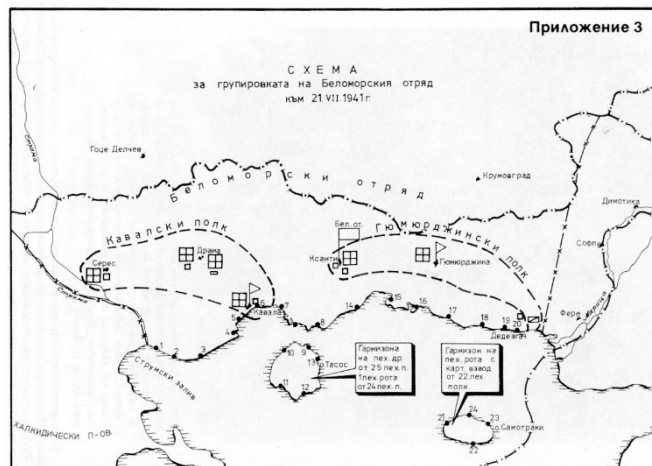
Intervention Forces.

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| 3x 5-6 Inf XX | 1, 2, 7 |
| 4x 4-6 Inf XX | 3, 6, 8, 10 |
| 1x 2-3-6* Inf XX | 11 |
| 2x 1-2-5* Border X | 1, 2 |
| 2x 2-8* Cav X | 1, 2 |
| 2x 2-8 Art III | 1, 2 |
| 2x 1-6 Eng III | 1, 2 |
| 1x 1-8 Tank II | 1 |
| 3x 4 pos hv AA | |
| 1x B.534 | 2F3 0/6 |
| 1x Mxd B | 2B2 1-2/11 |

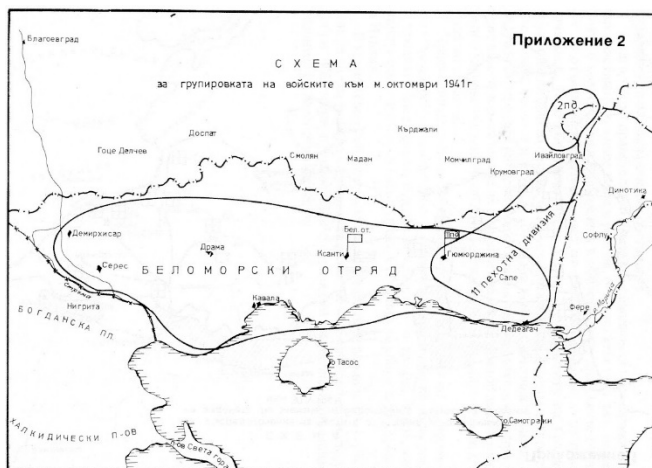
Regular Reinforcements

JUN 1 41

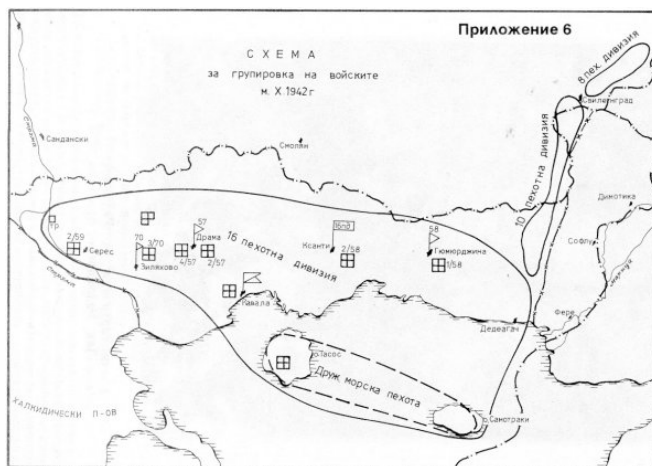
Convert: 1x 1-8 Tank II 1 to:
 1x 3-2-8 Tank III 1



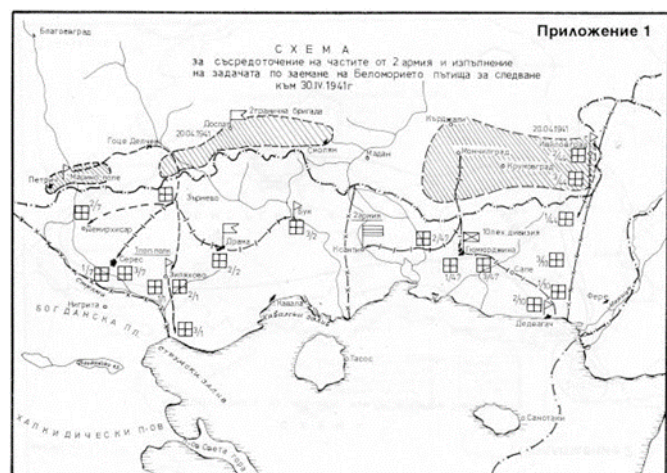
Thrace, 21 July 1941



Thrace, October 1941



Thrace, October 1942



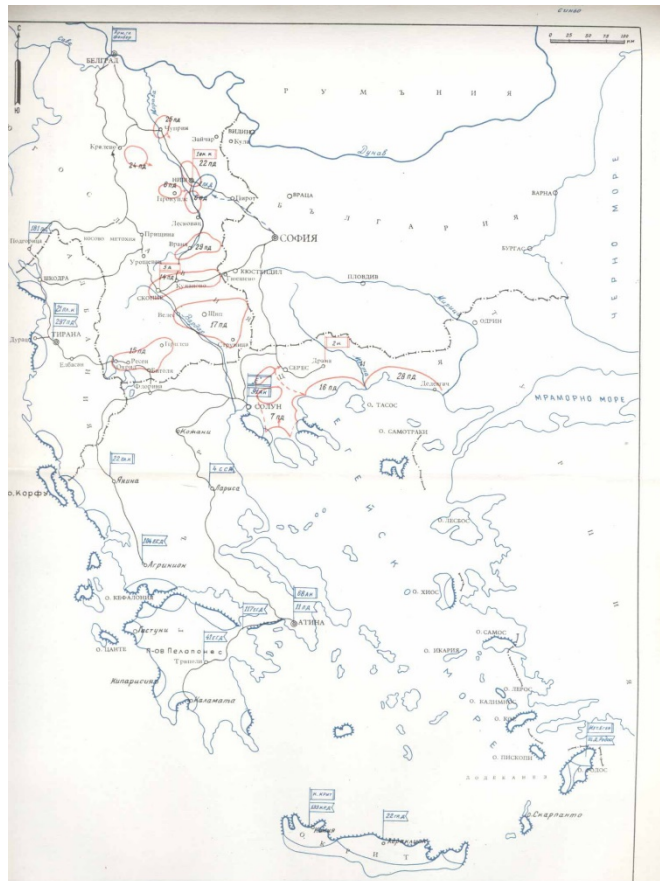
Thrace, 30 April 1941



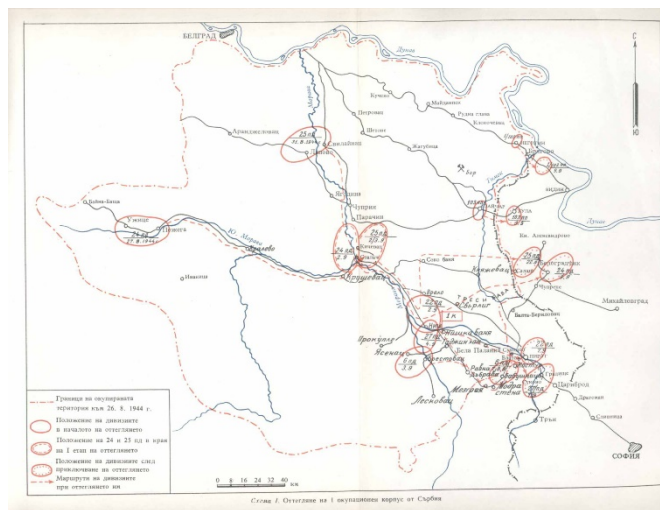
Thrace, November 1943



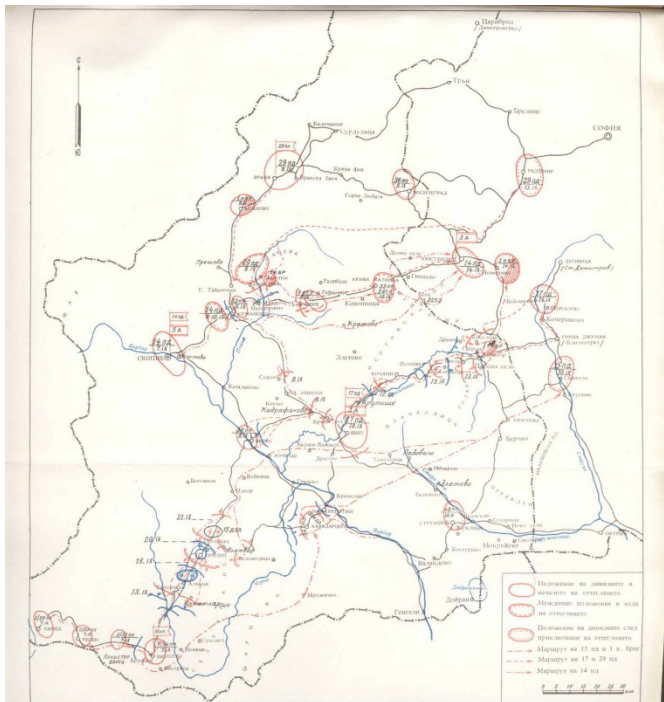
Thrace, January 1944



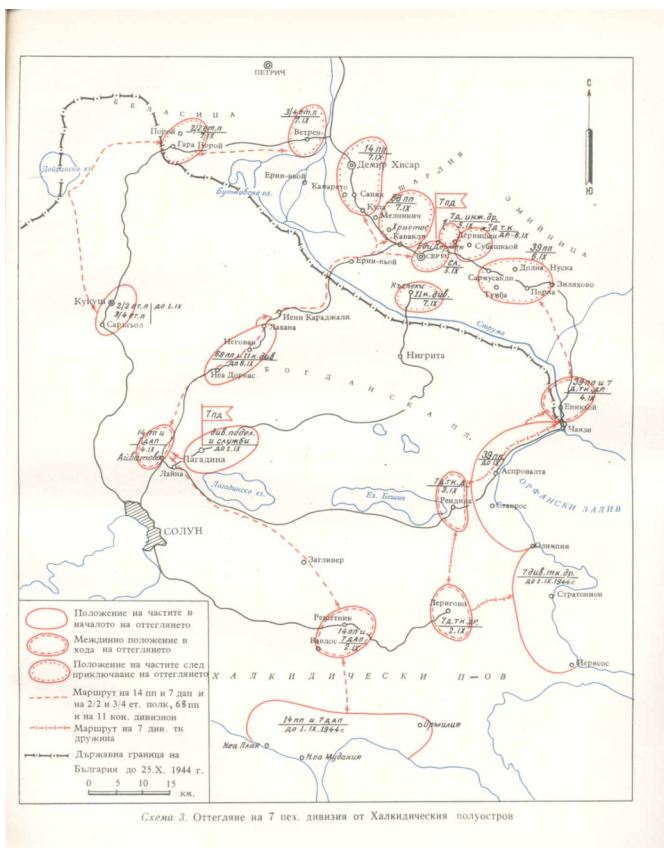
Occupation corps, 1944



1st Occupation Corps



Macedonia



Chalkidiki, 7th Division

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