

G
7 January 1952
V-534

BULGARIA

ARMED FORCES

Personalities, Military labor units
Communists

COMMUNICATIONS

Highways, Railways

PERSECUTION & PURGES

Moral, Political and Economic

The Dangers Of Talking To A Member Of The Opposition.

SOURCE ISTANBUL: A Bulgarian escapee, former inhabitant of KARAVELOVO near ELHOVO, who escaped to Turkey on 22 September 1951.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1947 to 1951.

"I enlisted in the regular army on 18 April 1947 and joined the 3rd Infantry Division stationed near ORHANEVO, district Karnobat, which was employed in construction work on the MALINAJITOSVIAT road. On 3 May, I received a three-day furlough. On 5 May, I went to JITOSVIAT and met RUSEV Peter, a member of parliament for KARNOBAT and a staunch upholder of the then existing Agrarian Party. While I was talking to RUSEV, the commander of my battalion, Captain LAZOV (fnu) my unit commander POTEV Fotju and our political officer lieutenant PETROV Peter, drove by in a jeep. Within the hour I was under arrest because I had talked with RUSEV. This arrest was taken up by RUSEV before the Bulgarian National Assembly, but it did not affect my sort. I was sent to the disciplinary battalion (which at that time did not yet exist officially) at YAMBOL and had to break stones for the road constructed between TIRNAVA and IRECHEKOVO. We were guarded by fully armed military guards, under the command of the famous guerilla leader lieutenant PENEV (fnu). PENEV treated us as political prisoners at concentration camps, and beatings were a daily routine. After two months, I was returned to my former unit and sent to YASNA POLIANA near BURGAS. Once in YASNA POLIANA, I was made a Trudovak as a punishment for my "opposition" activities. I worked as a laborer along the BOSNA VIZITSA-YASNA POLIANA highway, and was sent to BALGAROVO for the winter. On 15 March 1948, I was transferred to TIMNA REKA near MALKO TIRNOVO to work on the narrow-gauge railroad line linking AHTOPOL-BURGAS-MALKO TIRNOVO. In late March, a youth brigade arrived to take over our work, and we were sent to work on the highway running parallel to the railroad. The railroad and highway junction between KONAK and TIMNA REKA, 1.5 kilometers from KONAK and two kilometers from TIMNA REKA. After finishing

BULGARIA
(cont'd)

the construction of the road, I received a two-week leave and went home to KARAVELOVO, where I learned of my father's arrest. Five of our neighbors were also arrested together with my father, for being "sympathizers" of the opposition. My father was sentenced to six years in prison, because he was the father of an "active oppose r of the nation's will." The others, DIMITROV Kolio, KRISTEV Radi Yonchev, STOEY Stoyan Iliev, DASKALOV Ivan Trifonov and my uncle GENOV Kuno Ivanov were sentenced to five years each.

Upon the arrest of these villagers, we decided to start a secret campaign for funds to help the families of the deported persons. However, with the arrival of ZHECHEV Kolio, who at one time had acted as a Bulgarian agent in Turkey, our organization had to cease its activities, because we were sure that ZHECHEV had come to KARAVELOVO as a provocateur. As a matter of fact, within a week of ZHECHEV's arrival, BOEV Boyu, KAMBUROV Veliko Stoyanov and IVANCHOV (fnu) were arrested. I, who was a "people's enemy" had to make use of the night to escape."

EVAL. COMMENT: unconfirmed