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BULGARIA

ARMED FORCES

Army
Training
Personalities
Political Education
Communists

SOURCE ISTANBUL: A 21-year-old Bulgarian escapee in Turkey from DOBRELEVO, near OREHOVO, who joined the Podelenie "Yantra 2" at STALIN.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: November 1950 to April 1951

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"I enlisted in the regular army on 29 November 1950 and was sent to STALIN (ex-VARNA) to receive my initial training. We were quartered with Podelenie "Yantra 2" at the barracks of the 8th Infantry Regiment, and had both theoretical and practical training with modern equipment. Podelenie "Yantra 2," which in 1950 was called Podelenie "Batova," consisted of two battalions. The commanding officer of the Podelenie was Captain MIHAILOV (fnu), 30, blond with blue eyes, of medium height, rather thin, born and married in STALIN. He is a strict vegetarian and teetotaler and lives near the barracks with his family. His assistant and political officer of the Podelenie is 28-year-old Starshi Leytnant (senior 1st lieutenant) IVANOV (fnu). A native of NOVA ZAGORA, IVANOV went through the lyceum and then became a teacher. He enlisted in the army in 1946 as a political officer and is now giving lectures on the Soviet "Five-Year-Plan," comparing the situation of the Russian soldier before and after World War II. The last I know of him is that he was visiting the Michurin area giving political indoctrination speeches to the border troops. IVANOV is married, father of a son, and lived in a requisitioned villa at MICHURIN.

"Commanding officer of Battalion 1 of the "Yantra 2" podelenie, was Starshi Leytnant DOCHEV (fnu), 33, very fat, dark-eyed and black-haired; does not drink but is a steady smoker. DOCHEV was promoted to the rank of a captain after I left STALIN.

"Starshi Leytnant STEFANOV (fnu) was commanding the 2nd Battalion. A frail, blond man of 28, STEFANOV, who suffers from digestive troubles, prefers butter and honey for all his meals.

"At Podelenie "Yantra 2" our commanders treated us very badly and no arguments of any kind were allowed. The smallest breach of discipline was punished by 15 days of confinement, with bread and water as the only food. Smoking was strictly forbidden, and the cigarette rations of the confined soldiers were confiscated by the officers.

"I left STALIN on 21 March 1951, and was transferred to BURGAS, where I stayed until 8 April 1951, at which date I was ordered to report for border troop duty at MICHURIN. As I was suffering from rheumatism I stayed behind in the hospital and left for MICHURIN on 27 April 1951."

EVAL. COMMENT: Unconfirmed.