

LL
Nov 27
XI-1996/A

BULGARIA

BORDER ZONES (0400)
Military (0401)
Escapes (0406)

PERSONAL STORY

SOURCE ATHENS: A 19-year-old Bulgarian border guard refugee.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until April 1956.

EVALUATION COMMENT: The information given on the dislocation of Bulgarian border guard units cannot be confirmed here owing to lack of details. This report is one more proof of the well-established fact that children of many important Bulgarian Communists oppose Communism and the present regime in the country.

+ + +

Source was born in 1937 in the village of VELINO, District KOLAROVGRAD. His father, a Communist, has held various public posts in KOLAROVGRAD and neighboring villages and his anti-Communist mother was an elementary school teacher in VELINO. His mother's family are all fanatic anti-Communists. Relations between them and source's father are very bad. From them source learned to hate Communism.

Source's grandfather had approximately 300 decares of land in the village of BELINO. He refused to join the TKZS, and in 1949 the authorities began taking away the best part of his land. By 1953 they had taken the entire estate. His grandfather was offered in exchange some barren, rocky land. He refused the offer and now raises some wheat and corn in his courtyard. He works either as a laborer or carrying stones in his horse-drawn cart. The family members refuse to accept any help or assistance from their Communist son-in-law.

Source's father, a graduate of the Commercial Academy of VARNA has held the following posts:

1940-1946 Successively, mayor of the village of LOMTSI, mayor of the village of VELINO, and mayor of the village of DIV-DEDOVO.

(over)

1946-1949 Chief of the Financial Department and later Chief of the Pensions Department of the Town Council of KOLAROVGRAD.

1950 to date Member of the Town Committee of the BCP in KOLAROVGRAD and Head of the Party School of the Town Committee of the Party, where he teaches the history and biographies of prominent Communists.

Source was never interested in his father's occupations. All he knows is that from 1954 his father was responsible for the collection of material issuance and distribution of the "Information Bulletin." These stenciled bulletins include a summary of the political events in the country and abroad, news and comments taken from the press. They are issued weekly and distributed to the Party groups in the districts.

From birth until 1949 source resided in VELINO with his mother and younger brother. His father was not with them. Source attended the local elementary school for five years.

From 1949 to 1955 he lived with his family in KOLAROVGRAD. He graduated from the local gymnasium and applied for admission to the University of SOFIA, but failed to be admitted.

In November 1955 source was drafted and sent to LYUBIMETS, which is in the District SVILENGRAD and 15 kilometers from the Greek frontier. He underwent primary training until February 1956 at the "Primary Training Battalion of the 13th Detachment of the Frontier Guard, 6340-M (Outcheben Battalion na 13 Granitchen Otriad, 6340-M.)

In February 1956 he was transferred to the 14th Granitchna (Lineyina) Zastava "Kozovsky," which is located two kilometers from the frontier and four kilometers from the village of VELCHE-SELO.

The 14th Granitchna Zastava "Kozovsky" is under the orders of the "2nd Komandatura" (Code 6342) located in the village of IVAILOVGRAD, and the "2nd Komandatura" is a part of the 13th Granitchen Otriad (Code 6340-M) located in LYUBIMETS.

Source decided to flee Bulgaria owing to his dislike for Communism and his constant conflicts with his Communist father. He escaped across the 14th post's frontier where he was serving as a border guard and entered Greece in April 1956.

End