BULGARIA

Area 103,000 sq. km
Population (VI. 1932) 5,912,000
Density per sq. km 57.4
Total land frontiers 1,765 km.
Total seaboard 267 km.
Length of railway system (III. 1931) 2,990 km.

I. Army.

ORGANS OF MILITARY COMMAND AND ADMINISTRATION

I. MINISTRY OF WAR.

The Ministry of War consists of the following:

Department of the Minister;
Army Staff (2 sections, each divided into 3 sub-sections):
Inspectorate of Artillery;
Inspectorate of Engineers;
Inspectorate of Cavalry;
Intendance and Administrative Services;
Budget and Accountancy Department;
Military Justice;
Topographical Section;
Geodesic Section;
Cartographical Section;
War Council;
Military Academy;
Medical Service;
Remount Service;
Geographical Institute.

1 See military, naval and air clauses of the Treaty of Neuilly (Annex I).
Staff of the Army.

The Staff deals with:

(a) The organisation of the army, the formation of units, recruiting, military training, etc.;
(b) Army supplies;
(c) The military situation in Bulgaria and the neighbouring countries;
(d) The organisation of the Military School and preparation of officers’ cadres.


The Higher War Council, which is an advisory body, is convened by the Minister of War whenever the need arises.

Composition of the Army.

Infantry: 8 regiments of 3 battalions each.

A battalion consists of 1 staff, 3 infantry companies and 1 machine-gun company.

The infantry also includes 8 accountancy units, 1 for each regiment; each of these units consists of a staff and 3 groups.

Cavalry: 3 regiments.

Each regiment consists of 4 squadrons and 1 machine-gun group.

There are also 3 reserve groups, 1 for each regiment.

Artillery:

3 mixed groups with 9 batteries.
2 field-artillery groups with 6 batteries.
3 unarmed groups with 9 batteries.

The unarmed groups guard fortified positions. Bulgaria possesses 5 fortified positions, 3 of which are situated in the interior of the country (Sofia, Choumen and Vidin) and 2 on the coast (Varna and Burgas). Three of the armed groups are equipped with 2 field batteries and 1 mountain battery each. The other two are field groups.

Engineers:

3 battalions of pioneers.
2 cyclist battalions.
There are also 3 reserve groups, 1 for each battalion.

A battalion of pioneers consists of 1 staff, 2 companies of pioneers, 1 searchlight section and 1 bridging group.

A cyclist battalion includes 1 staff and 3 companies.

Intendance: 8 depots and 8 companies.
Army Medical Service: 3 medical depots, 7 hospitals.

**SUMMARY TABLE OF UNITS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regiments</th>
<th>Battalions</th>
<th>Squadrons</th>
<th>Companies or groups</th>
<th>Batteries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>96(^1)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavalry</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3(^2)</td>
<td>3(^3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artillery:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fortress</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers</td>
<td></td>
<td>5(^4)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12(^5)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intendance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) Including 24 machine-gun companies.
\(^2\) Three machine-gun groups.
\(^3\) Groups.
\(^4\) Including 2 cyclist battalions.
\(^5\) Including 6 cyclist companies.

**GENDARMERIE, FRONTIER GUARD, POLICE, ETC.**

**Gendarmerie.**

The gendarmerie, which consists of mounted and unmounted gendarmes, is under the Ministry of War so far as its organisation, command, recruiting, administration, etc., are concerned; but it may not be used for military operations.

The distribution of gendarmerie forces over the various districts is arranged by agreement between the Ministries of War and of the Interior.

The number of officers must not exceed one-twentieth of the total strength of the gendarmerie, and that of non-commissioned officers and sergeants one-fifteenth of the strength.

It is recruited from:

- (a) Cadets who, after completing their course at the Military School and taking a special course in the gendarmerie class, have obtained commissioned rank and have served in the army for at least a year;
- (b) Officers of any arm of the active or reserve forces;
- (c) Non-commissioned officers who are ex-gendarmes;
- (d) Men between 18 and 30 years of age who have completed their military service and have received primary or, in certain cases, elementary education.

Persons desiring to enter the gendarmerie must undertake to serve for six years. The training in the use of individual arms is given by their immediate superiors. The arms are exclusively individual and consist of 6,300 rifles and 500 sabres and revolvers.

The gendarmerie consists of 1 staff, 16 unmounted departmental gendarmeries and 7 mounted gendarmerie groups composed of 4 squadrons.

**Frontier Guard.**

The frontier guard is a body composed of dismounted men.

It is controlled by an inspectorate, attached to the Ministry of War. It is divided into 8 frontier sectors, to each of which 1 staff, 3 frontier detachments and a machine-gun platoon are allotted. Each frontier detachment is subdivided into 3 frontier sub-detachments.
Recruiting is effected on the voluntary system. Volunteers must enrol for a period of twelve years. They must have had at least one year’s military training and have served for a year in the infantry.

The training in the handling of arms is given by the troops of the infantry regiments depots, before the transfer of volunteers to the frontier, and subsequently by their immediate superiors.

The individual arms are: 3,450 rifles and carbines (including those in depots), 280 pistols and sabres (including those in depots); the collective arms are: 45 machine-guns (including those in depots).

Effectives (see the chapter on effectives).

**Police.**

The police consist of the *State police* and the *municipal police*. The latter is controlled by the communal authorities under the supervision of the sub-prefects.

The State police organisation comprises the Directorate of the Police at the Ministry of the Interior, the district and sub-district police services, and those of towns having a prefecture of police.

A Government police-inspector is attached to the prefect of each district, and commissaries of police are attached to the sub-prefect.

The recruiting is based on voluntary engagement for twenty years. For 1933-34 the budgetary strength of the State police (including 112 commissaries) is 6,622.

Arms are exclusively individual and consist of 2,335 rifles and 3,685 revolvers and sabres.

The training in the handling of arms is given in the Central Police School at Sofia and police courses in the departmental headquarters.

There are also: (1) 510 *Forest Guards* armed with rifles; (2) 870 men of the *Customs service* armed with rifles, sabres and revolvers; (3) 560 agents of the *Excise service* armed with rifles, sabres and revolvers. The recruiting is based on voluntary engagement for ten years; (4) 345 men belonging to the *Danubian and Maritime Police*. The individual arms consist of 100 rifles and 10 revolvers; the collective arms consist of 10 guns of 10.5 cm., and 10 machine-guns. The recruiting is based on voluntary engagement for twelve years.

The training in the handling of arms is given by immediate superiors.

**RECRUITING SYSTEM AND PERIOD OF SERVICE.**

Recruiting is based on the voluntary system. Enlistment is for twelve years. This period may be extended, but not beyond the volunteer’s fortieth year of age. Volunteers may only enlist between the ages of 18 and 28.

There are 16 recruiting offices.

**Recruiting of Non-Commissioned Officers.**

Any private who has attended a special course for non-commissioned officers may be promoted to non-commissioned rank; men may also obtain the rank of non-commissioned officer after serving as non-commissioned officers on probation for one year.

**Recruiting of Officers.**

Officers are recruited from the cadets who have completed their course at the military school and are at least 20 years of age. The age-limits for officers are as follows:
45 for captains;
50 for majors and lieutenant-colonels;
55 for colonels;
60 for generals.

Officers and non-commissioned officers are engaged for twenty years. The proportion of officers and non-commissioned officers leaving the service before the expiry of their term of engagement may not exceed one-twentieth and one-fifteenth of the total number authorised each year. The proportion of men discharged may also not exceed each year one-twentieth of the total strength of non-commissioned officers and men with the colours in the corresponding category.

**Military Tax.**

The military tax is paid by all Bulgarians of 20 years of age who do not enlist voluntarily for personal service in the army.

**EFFECTIVES.**

**I. AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER OF EFFECTIVES REACHED DURING THE YEAR 1930-31.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total establishment authorised</th>
<th>Average daily number of effectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Officers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land armed forces</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gendarmerie¹</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontier guard</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ See chapter: Gendarmerie, Frontier Guard, Police, etc.

The number discharged during the period August 15th, 1930, to August 15th, 1931, was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>N.C.O.s</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land armed forces</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gendarmerie</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontier guard</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The officers, non-commissioned officers and men leaving the service between August 15th, 1930, and August 15th, 1931, were replaced by newly enlisted men at different times of the year.

In addition, Bulgaria possesses a corps of 3,200 men armed with rifles who perform various duties (police, Customs officers, forest guards). This corps has not been included in calculating the average daily effectives during the year, since it cannot be regarded as an armed force or a formation organised on a military basis.
No militiamen or reservists were called up by Bulgaria during the year.

2. **Budgetary Effectives.**

The figures in the following tables differ in character from the figures in the preceding table. These two kinds of returns are not comparable with each other.

(a) **Effectives in 1933-34.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Army</th>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Non-commissioned officers</th>
<th>Other ranks</th>
<th>Officials and employees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infantry</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>11,884</td>
<td>586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavalry</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>1,260</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artillery</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>2,837</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineers</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>1,449</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various services</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>1,493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>999</td>
<td>1,290</td>
<td>17,667</td>
<td>2,375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gendarmerie and frontier guard</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>8,651</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General total</strong></td>
<td>1,493</td>
<td>1,943</td>
<td>26,318</td>
<td>2,656</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Military School.

(b) **Summary Table of Budgetary Effectives.**

1. **Army.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1924-25</th>
<th>1925-26</th>
<th>1926-27</th>
<th>1927-28</th>
<th>1928-29 to 1933-34</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,007</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N C.O.s and men</td>
<td>19,291</td>
<td>19,302</td>
<td>18,915</td>
<td>18,971</td>
<td>18,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>20,291</td>
<td>20,302</td>
<td>19,922</td>
<td>19,970</td>
<td>19,956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Gendarmerie and Frontier Guard.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smyeli</td>
<td>4 patrol boats</td>
<td>9,284</td>
<td>9,800</td>
<td>9,495</td>
<td>9,798</td>
<td>9,512</td>
<td>9,800</td>
<td>9,800</td>
<td>9,798</td>
<td>9,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khrabry</td>
<td>4 patrol boats</td>
<td>9,284</td>
<td>9,800</td>
<td>9,495</td>
<td>9,798</td>
<td>9,512</td>
<td>9,800</td>
<td>9,800</td>
<td>9,798</td>
<td>9,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derzki</td>
<td>4 patrol boats</td>
<td>9,284</td>
<td>9,800</td>
<td>9,495</td>
<td>9,798</td>
<td>9,512</td>
<td>9,800</td>
<td>9,800</td>
<td>9,798</td>
<td>9,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strogi</td>
<td>4 patrol boats</td>
<td>9,284</td>
<td>9,800</td>
<td>9,495</td>
<td>9,798</td>
<td>9,512</td>
<td>9,800</td>
<td>9,800</td>
<td>9,798</td>
<td>9,798</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. **Navy.**

(Danube Flotilla.)

4 patrol boats: Smyeli, Khrabry, Derzki, Strogi. 100 tons. 10 other units.
### III. Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

The financial year covers the period from April 1st to March 31st.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1928-29</th>
<th>1929-30</th>
<th>1930-31</th>
<th>1931-32</th>
<th>1932-33</th>
<th>1933-34</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of War</td>
<td>1,038.9</td>
<td>1,077.7</td>
<td>1,033.1</td>
<td>988.4</td>
<td>981.7</td>
<td>916.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index numbers of:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale prices (1914 = 100)</td>
<td>3,293</td>
<td>3,347</td>
<td>2,627</td>
<td>2,293</td>
<td>1,959</td>
<td>1,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail prices: cost of living (1914 = 100)</td>
<td>2,829</td>
<td>2,865</td>
<td>2,259</td>
<td>1,935</td>
<td>2,142</td>
<td>1,971</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Average, April to November 1933.

**Notes.**—
1. The figures in the table above include, in addition to expenditure relating to the army, the expenditure on the gendarmerie, the frontier guard and the coast guard.
2. In accordance with the terms of the Peace Treaty of Neuilly, Bulgaria has no navy and no air force.
3. A special credit for the Ministry of War was voted on March 31st, 1930, amounting to 22.8 million leva, which remains open until its complete exhaustion. Actual expenditure out of this credit in 1930-31 amounted to 13.6 million leva.
4. Military pensions are charged, together with civil pensions, to a special pensions fund.
   A special fund for assistance of war victims has been incorporated in the budget of the Ministry of War as from 1928-29. The figures above do not include the expenditure of this fund, which has amounted to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1928-29</th>
<th>1929-30</th>
<th>1930-31</th>
<th>1931-32</th>
<th>1932-33</th>
<th>1933-34</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistance to war victims</td>
<td>63.3</td>
<td>56.8</td>
<td>49.5</td>
<td>43.2</td>
<td>48.7</td>
<td>43.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to these charges, war pensions are shown in the general budget under the department of the public debt. The expenditure on war pensions has amounted to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1928-29</th>
<th>1929-30</th>
<th>1930-31</th>
<th>1931-32</th>
<th>1932-33</th>
<th>1933-34</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>War pensions</td>
<td>370.0</td>
<td>389.4</td>
<td>390.2</td>
<td>387.0</td>
<td>348.0</td>
<td>347.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>