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Report No. 31347
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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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From M A ATHENS, GREECE Date 30 July 1947
AGENCY OR OFFICER STATION

Source GCS Eval. B-2

Area Reported On (GREECE) Subject Greek Regular Army Officer

Strength Increased

Reference Reports No. 162-47, 9 April 1947; 182-47, 5 May 1947; 225-47,
(DIRECTIVE CORRESPONDENCE, PREVIOUS REPORT, ETC., IF APPLICABLE.) 4 June 1947

SUMMARY: ENTER CAREFUL SUMMARY OF REPORT, CONTAINING SUBSTANCE SUCCINCTLY STATED. ANSWER QUESTIONS WHERE, WHEN, WHAT, HOW, HOW MANY, AND GIVE DATE OF EVENT. IN A FINAL ONE SENTENCE PARAGRAPH GIVE SIGNIFICANCE. BEGIN TEXT OF PAGE 2.

1. A Greek Army General Order of July 1946 authorized the commissioning of 500 Reserve Officers in the Regular Army.

2. A General Order of 7 July 1947 authorized an additional 300 Reserve Officers to be commissioned in the Regular Army.

3. As of 1 July 1947, 9503 officers were on duty with the Regular Army, as follows:

Regular Army Officers.....	6,005
Reserve Officers	3,498
Total	9,503

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4. The overall strength of the Greek Army is at present approximately 140,000, including approximately 20,000 recently conscripted recruits, who will off-set some 20,000 veterans schedule to be released/late in September.
NA COMMENT:

1. Such provisions for increased Regular Army officer strength may indicate that the Greek General Staff is considering long-range plans for a permanent Army establishment of 100,000-150,000 men to provide for the contingency that GREECE's northern neighbors constitute a threat to Greek territorial integrity or internal security.

2. This information is supplementary to that contained in VID-GREECE, Chapter 6, Section II, Par. 1. A suggested revision of this paragraph is included.

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1. GCS reports that as of 1 July 1947, there were 6,005 Regular Army officers and 3,498 Reserve officers, or a total of 9,503 officers, on active duty with the Army. There are in addition 1,050 Regular Warrant Officers and 65 Reserve Warrant Officers. This latter figure does not include Reserve Warrant Officers presently in schools.

2. A Greek Army General Order of July 1946 contained provisions for 500 Reserve Officers to receive Regular Army commissions. The age limits for 1st Lieutenants was 38 years and for 2nd Lieutenants 32, except for some 2nd Lieutenants who had been previously recommended for promotion for bravery in the field. The age limit for the latter was 34 years. Qualifications for these categories are:

- a. Suitable military character and bearing,
- b. Active war service,
- c. Gallantry in the field,
- d. General military qualities.

3. A Selection Board, composed of a Major General (President) and four Colonels, prepares lists and submits them to Selection Board No. 2, part of the Military Council, which examines the lists and submits within ten days, to the General Directorate of the Greek War Ministry, the names finally recommended. (See Reports No. 182-47, 5 May, "Strength of Greek Ground Forces"; No. 162-47, 9 April, "Organization of Higher Control of the GMA and the HEM to GHEEC"; and No. 225-47, 4 June 1947, "Organization and Establishment of Directorate General of Greek War Ministry"). When appointment orders are issued they are signed by the King. The proportion of selected officers posted to each arm is a Greek General Staff decision. Included in this same order of July 1946, another article refers to Reserve Officers who served with guerrilla forces during the occupation. These are given an examination in the Cadet School, and if found proficient, may be admitted to the Regular Army. If, on examination, they are found deficient, they are still permitted to enter the Cadet School as surplus officers. To date, about 514 Reserve Officers have accepted Regular Army commissions.

4. A General Order of 7 July 1947 increased by 300 the original number of 500 provided for in the General Order of 1 July 1946, bringing the total of Reserve Officers to be included in the Regular Army to 800. Of this 300 increase, 10% must be Warrant Officers. Another modification of the original law states that Reserve Officers may obtain Regular Army commissions if they became Reserve Officers after the War of 1940-1941, or if after the liberation they offered their services to the National Army. Age limits for this latter group have been increased to 37 for 2nd Lieutenants and 39 for 1st Lieutenants.

5. A rigorous screening of each Reserve Officer is reportedly undertaken prior to submission of his name to the Selection Board, to prevent the entry of unloyal or subversive personnel into the National Army.

6. The overall strength of the Greek Army at present is approximately 140,000 officers and men, including some 20,000 men called up in late June and early July. These recently-conscripted men are now in Basic Training Centers and are scheduled to be assigned to units about 1 October 1947, when an equivalent number of veterans in the older-age brackets are to be released; thus the Army will then be approximately

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120,000, unless authorization is received for a subsequent call-up. Such subsequent call-up, comprising approximately 20,000 men, is desired by the Greek General Staff and this appears militarily desirable in order to cope with the present guerrilla situation, with young men replacing the veterans who have served continuously from three to seven years. However, authorization for any subsequent call-ups is dependent upon the receipt of supplies and funds from outside sources. While sufficient manpower is available there are insufficient trained reserves in the younger-age brackets. Conscription of the trained reserves in the older-age brackets, not already in the Army, would place undue service obligations upon them and give the resulting non-conscripted younger-age groups an undue advantage in establishing civilian careers.

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1 Incl.
Suggested Revision Par. 1,
Pg. 9, Sect. II, Ch. 6,
SID GRUNCE, 18 Apr 47

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Suggested Revision of Par. 1 (Page 2), Section II, Chapter 6,
 SID GREECE, 16 April 1947.

II. GROUND FORCES

1. Current Appreciation and Trends

When GREECE recovered her national independence in the early 19th century after a lapse of some eighteen centuries, there was an almost complete lack of the type of national consciousness required for the healthy development of a true national Army. The lack of a native military tradition on the one hand has facilitated the infiltration of the Armed Forces by party politics, and on the other has led to reliance on foreign military traditions and concepts. After World War I, the Greek Ground Forces relied largely on French military tradition, doctrine, and tactics. With the arrival of the British Military Mission, after World War II, this French influence has been largely supplanted by British concepts. Thus the development of doctrine and tactics consciously adapted to Greek psychology and Greek terrain, has been slow and sporadic.

The strength of the Greek Army, as of 1 August, is approximately 140,000, including some 9,500 officers. Of the 140,000 total strength, some 20,000 men are in Basic Training Centers and therefore unavailable for combat operations. It appears that this temporary strength of 140,000 is necessary in order to furnish trained replacements for older troops who have been in service for some three to seven years. While sufficient manpower is available, there are insufficient trained reserves in the younger-age groups.

Organization of the Greek Army has been along standard British lines, but the present trend is toward a more mobile force specifically designed to cope with the mountainous terrain and the tactics of the dissident armed bands within Greece.

With the continued arrival of supplies furnished by the U. S. Aid Program, equipment eventually available will be sufficient to provide all of the seven divisions with minimum essentials. However, a large portion of existing equipment is from British or Greek war stocks and has seen considerable prior use. Any equipment required in addition to these war stocks must come from outside sources.

The Greek Army at present has the capability of dispersing the armed bands but lacks the capability of destroying them. With adequate assistance in financial support and materiel, in conjunction with present efforts toward improved training, organization and employment, the Army should be able to cope with internal security threats, providing the guerrillas are not aided from sources outside GREECE.

Future policies are not readily discernible, but once the internal situation is under control, it appears logical that the Greek Army will be organized on the old territorial basis, with unit organization designed to meet Greek requirements based on operational experience gained in present operations as well as operations against the Italians in World War II. The Greek Army High Command is presently preoccupied with the internal situation and plans for the future size of the Greek peacetime Army appear to be held in abeyance pending the outcome of the struggle against the guerrillas as well as the outcome of discussions concerning control measures to be affected along GREECE's northern frontiers. The attitude

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of GREECE's northern neighbors, the strength and composition of their Armed Forces, as well as the amount of aid forthcoming from outside sources, will be important factors in determining the future size of the Greek peacetime Army.

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