

# BULGARIAN ARMY LIST

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This unofficial list expands on the Bulgarian Army list in *Armies of Italy and the Axis* to allow players to field a full range of historical Bulgarian units in Bolt Action, as well as enable players to play Bulgarians as Axis or Allied. To use this list players will need the Bolt Action Version 2 Core Rulebook from Warlord Games, and the books *Armies of Italy and the Axis*, *Armies of Germany 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*, and *Armies of France and the Allies*.

Author's Note: This list is intended to add to, not replace, the Bulgarian Army list in *Armies of Italy and the Axis*. However, based on the historical information I was able to find, when using this army list I recommend players make the following changes to the Bulgarian Army List in *Armies of Italy and the Axis*.

- Remove the Panzerschrek option.
- Remove the Somua S35. While Germany offered these tanks, it is not clear any were ultimately delivered.
- Remove the Semovente 47/32 from the Assault Gun list (although it remains a Soviet Support option).



## Road to War

In WWI Bulgaria fought alongside Germany, Austro-Hungary and Turkey. Following Bulgaria's defeat it lost Aegean coastline territory to Greece and nearly all Macedonian territory to the new state of Yugoslavia. It also had to give the Dobruja Black Sea coastal region to Romania. In addition to territorial losses, under the Treaty of Neuilly the Bulgarian Army was limited to 20,000 personnel, not allowed to undertake conscription, and denied the use of tanks, bombers and heavy artillery. In the 1930's Bulgaria begun to evade these restrictions and rebuild its forces, but economic limitations meant that by the outbreak of World War II only limited progress had been made and the Army still largely lacked modern equipment.

Bulgaria's situation was complicated by social divisions between a pro-German military and social elites, and an often pro-Russian/Slavic population (as well as an active communist movement). While the Tsar Boris III had held total power since a military coup in 1934, he could not totally ignore public opinion. As European tensions grew the Tsar dreaded being forced to pick between Germany and Russia, which he feared would cost him the throne.

The German-Soviet nonaggression pact was a great relief for Bulgaria. But still wishing to avoid being drawn into a war, Bulgaria declared neutrality on 16 September 1939. Despite this, German victories in France, and economic reliance on Germany (especially for rearmament) drew Bulgaria ever closer to Germany. This was reinforced in September 1940 when Bulgaria

conspired with Germany to force Romania to return the Dobruja region.

The final step came in March 1941 when, following the failed Italian Invasion of Greece and the overthrow of the pro-Axis Government in Yugoslavia, German troops massed at Bulgaria's border for an invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece. Hitler demanded Bulgaria join the Axis. Realising that Germany would move through Bulgaria regardless, on 1 March 1941 the Government joined the Axis.



### **The Axis Years**

Bulgarian forces took no part in the invasions of Yugoslavia or Greece. However, the Bulgarians were happy to accede to a German request to occupy those parts of Yugoslavia and Greece lost in 1919. Between 1940 and 1944 the Bulgarian occupation zones grew as Berlin pressured Bulgaria to provide more troops to free up German units for the Russian front and to replace Italian units after the surrender of Italy. In close cooperation with the Germans and other local Axis partners, the Bulgarians ran ruthless anti-partisan and 'Bulgarianization' campaigns in their occupied territories.

### **Exiting the Axis**

Following the German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, the Bulgarians had refused to declare war on Russia, and allowed the Soviets to maintain an embassy in Sofia. To mollify the Germans, Bulgaria emphasize its role in protecting the Axis from an increasingly pro-Allied Turkey and in pacifying the occupied territories, but by 1944 it was clear that the Soviet Union posed a greater threat than Germany.

With Soviet forces crossing into Romania, on 20 August 1944, Bulgaria announced its withdrawal from the Axis and expelled German forces. Although not at war, a number of clashes took place between Germans retreating from Bulgaria and Bulgarian units returning from occupied territories. This culminated in the capture of the Bulgarian 5<sup>th</sup> Army in Macedonia on 4 September. Unimpressed by Bulgaria's withdrawal from the Axis the Soviet Union declared war on Bulgaria on 5 September and, despite Bulgaria declaring War on Germany on the 7<sup>th</sup>, invaded Bulgaria on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Bulgarian Government was overthrown on 8 September by the Communist lead Fatherland Front. The military, which had done little fighting up to this point, was now turned on their former Axis partners. Poor equipment, morale, and Soviet disregard for casualties saw Bulgaria suffer heavy losses in the brief 9 month campaign against Germany through the Balkans and Hungary, and into Austria.

## **AXIS ARMY SPECIAL RULES**

### **AXIS ALLIES**

As per Bulgarian army list in Bolt Action *Armies of Italy and the Axis*.

### **COUNTER-PARTISAN EXPERTS**

As per Bulgarian army list in Bolt Action *Armies of Italy and the Axis*.

## **ALLIED ARMY SPECIAL RULES**

When playing an Allied Bulgarian force it is recommended that you substitute the new Special Rules below for the Bulgarian Army Special Rules in Bolt Action *Armies of Italy and the Axis*.

### **SOVIET FRIENDS (NEW)**

Following their switch to the allied side the Bulgarian armed forces were reorganised by the Soviets and integrated into the Soviet Third Ukrainian Front.

*To represent this an Allied Bulgarian force may include one extra unit from the Armies of the Soviet Union book or the Soviet Support entries in this Army list. This unit does not count toward the normal platoon maximum, but cannot be a Veteran unit and cannot be a vehicle with a damage value of 10+ or greater unless it is a Soviet Support option from this Army list.*



### **POLITICAL RELIABILITY (NEW)**

Despite supporting the coup, Bulgaria's Government and their Soviet mentors deeply distrusted the armed forces given their previous close association with the Germans. Large numbers of Officers were purged and commissars were installed at all levels of the military.

*An Allied Bulgarian force includes a free Commissar with two men as per the Commissar entry from the Armies of the Soviet Union book (Bulgarian Commissars apply the "Not One Step Back" special rule).*

## **INFANTRY**

### **HEADQUARTERS UNITS**



**Officer:** An Officer's commission carried significant prestige and attracted many from Bulgaria's educated middle class. As a result, Bulgaria developed a well-trained and professional officer corps. This was somewhat diluted by the Army's rapid expansion of the 1940s, but by 1943, seeking to prepare Bulgaria for war with the Soviets, the Germans established a Combat School in Nis in Serbia to train Bulgarian officers and NCOs, and pass on combat experience.

See **Officer** entry for Bulgaria in Bolt Action *Armies of Italy and the Axis*.

### **Medic:**

See **medic** entry for Bulgaria in Bolt Action *Armies of Italy and the Axis*.

**Forward Observer:** Artillery service was a respected technical career, particularly given the treaty limitations on other arms of the military, and although Bulgarian guns were outdated, their crews were well trained. These high standards were generally maintained during the war (with German assistance) as artillery was seen as a vital part of Bulgaria's border defences against Turkey, and coastal defences along the Aegean and Black Sea coasts.



See **forward observer** entry for Bulgaria in Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis.

**Inexperienced Infantry Section:** As Bulgaria was drawn into war in 1941 the Army began a massive expansion program, eventually reaching 21 Divisions by 1944. The new Divisions were primarily intended for occupation and policing duties, and were often given outdated equipment and reduced training. These problems were exacerbated in 1944 as the Communist Government initiated a hasty new 'total mobilisation' as well as bringing former partisans into the Army.

## INFANTRY SECTIONS & TEAMS

**Infantry Section:** Bulgaria began rebuilding its Army in defiance of the Treaty of Neuilly in 1934. Facing a coordinated threat from its neighbours Greece, Yugoslavia, Romania and Turkey, between 1935 and 1939 Bulgaria built a professional force of 10 infantry division. While they had little combat experience prior to 1944, working under the Germans the troops had benefited from German experience, training and assistance.



See **Infantry Section** entry for Bulgaria in Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis.

See **Inexperienced Infantry Section** entry for Bulgaria in Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis.

Special Rules	<i>For us, the war is over (Allied only):</i> After almost 4 years as allies many soldiers bore no great animosity towards the Germans and had little interest in dying to hasten Germany's inevitable defeat. All Allied sections have the shirkers Special Rule for -3pts per man.
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**Mounted Section:** In the inter-war period Bulgaria's Cavalry divisions had been transformed into 'Fast' Divisions by adding motorised infantry regiments as part of efforts to modernise the Cavalry. While cavalry still outnumbered motorised infantry they were not expected to fight from the saddle and were primarily mounted infantry. Infantry companies also had mounted infantry reconnaissance battalions.



See **Mounted Section** entry for *Bulgaria in Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis*.

**Paratrooper Section:** A parachute battalion was formed in December 1942 with recruits sent for training to Germany. The paratroopers returned to Bulgaria in February 1943. During the war against Germany the parachute battalion was used as an assault unit as it was one of the best trained units in the Army. The Bulgarian paratroopers proved their mettle in the capture of Ridge of Stražin in October 1944 when, as part of an offensive to cut off German forces in Greece, the Battalion defeated a force of Fallschirmjäger in heavy fighting in which over a quarter became casualties.

Cost	Veteran Infantry 85pts
Composition	1 NCO and 4 men
Weapons	SMG
Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Add up to 4 additional men with SMGs for +17pts each.</li> <li>- Up to 2 men can have a light machine gun for +17pts each. For each lmg another man becomes a loader.</li> <li>- Arm one man with a panzerfaust for +5pts.</li> </ul>
Special Rules	- Tough as boots: For every 3 men fighting in close quarters combat roll one extra dice.

**Reconnaissance Section:** In 1943, facing the threat of allied landings on the Mediterranean coast, the Bulgarian army initiated a major modernisation program with German cooperation. The cornerstone of this effort was the upgrade of Bulgaria's only armoured regiment to a brigade. This included the addition of a Reconnaissance Battalion with 2 motorcycle companies. The brigade was given intense training by the Germans and saw themselves as an elite.



Cost	Regular Infantry 85pts
Composition	1 NCO and 4 men mounted upon motorcycles
Weapons	Rifles
Options	- Add up to 3 additional men for +15pts each. - Up to 1 man can have a light machine gun for +20pts. Another man becomes a loader.
Special Rules	- Motorbikes: A mounted section uses the motorbikes rules (see core rulebook).

**Partisan Section (Allied only):** Almost as soon as Bulgaria joined the Axis in 1941, partisan forces began forming in Bulgaria. Primarily led by the Communist Bulgarian Workers Party, by 1944 these forces had grown to become the Army of National Liberation with several thousand fighters spread across Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Greece. These forces led the overthrow of the Government in September 1944, and continued to harass Axis forces across the region following Bulgaria's declaration of war on Germany. As the new Bulgarian Government began to rapidly expand the Army for war with Germany most partisan forces were incorporated into the army.



You may add **Partisan Squads (Late War)**, **Inexperienced Partisan Squads** or **Guerrilla Squads** from the *Bolt Action Armies of France and the Allies* book to any Allied Bulgarian Force.

**Politsia (Police):** Facing a communist threat from the 1920s, Bulgaria developed a strong and independent National Police force in the inter-war years. Following Bulgaria's entry into the War the Police increasingly took on occupation and anti-Partisan roles, including establishing collaborationist combat units. In addition to the police, in 1944 a separate anti-Partisan Gendarmerie force was created to combat communist partisans inside Bulgaria. These units were well equipped, independently purchasing supplies from Germany and seizing many weapons after Italy's surrender. These men had experience in fighting partisans, but lacked the training and support required for conventional combat.



Cost	Inexperienced Infantry 41pts
Composition	1 NCO and 5 men
Weapons	The NCO is armed with a pistol, all others with rifles.
Options	- Add up to Up to 5 men with pistols for +6pts each. - The NCO and up to 2 men can replace pistols with SMGs for +3pts.
Special Rules	- Shirkers (Axis only): Collaborationist units can be represented as shirkers for a reduction of -3pts per man.

**Flamethrower Team:** Germany supplied Bulgaria with 210 flamethrowers in 1943-1944 for use by Pioneer/Engineers units.

See **Flamethrower Team** entry for in Bolt Action Armies of Germany.

**Machine Gun Team:** Throughout the war the Bulgarian Army was primarily equipped with WWI vintage machine guns such as the Austrian Schwarzlose and German Maxim. Germany provided a number of MG34s in 1943-44, but there were never enough of these weapons to replace the older models.



See **Machine Gun Team** entry for Bulgaria in Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis.

**Panzerschreck Team:** There is no clear evidence Germany supplied Panzerschrecks to Bulgaria, but it is likely that Bulgaria was passed (or captured) some German examples, or was given captured stocks by the Soviets.

See **Panzerschreck Team** entry for Bulgaria in Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis.

**Anti-Tank Rifle (ATR) Team:** Under the strict armistice conditions imposed on Bulgaria, anti-tank rifles were one of the few anti-tank weapons Bulgaria could legally acquire, and between 1936 and 1938 Bulgaria purchased approximately

300 of the Solothurn S-18 20mm ATRs. This supply was later supplemented by a further 300 German Panzerbusche 39 rifles in 1943.

See **Anti-Tank Rifle Team** entry for Bulgaria in Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis.



**Sniper Team:**

See **Sniper Team** entry for Bulgaria in Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis.

**Light Mortar Team:** Under various arms deals across 1943-45 Germany supplied Bulgaria with several hundred 5cm light mortars. These light mortars proved useful in anti-partisan operations, but were largely obsolete by 1943 and mainly provided because they were considered excess by the Germans.

See **Light Mortar Team** entry for Bulgaria in Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis.

**Medium Mortar Team:** Bulgaria's access to mortars was curtailed by the Neuilly Treaty. As Bulgaria began to test the limits of the treaty in the 1930s obtaining mortars was a priority. Bulgaria purchased 8cm Granatwerfer mortars from Germany in 1936, which was the start of ongoing purchases that continued up until 1944. Aside from a few French Brandt mortars acquired from France and later Germany, and a small number of Soviet 82mm mortars supplied in 1945, the 8cm Granatwerfer made up the bulk of Bulgarian mortars.



See **Medium Mortar Team** entry for Bulgaria in Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis.

### Heavy Mortar Team (Allied only):

Following Bulgaria's switch to the Allies the Soviets provided a small number of 120mm PM-43 mortars.

See **Heavy Mortar Team** entry in Bolt Action Armies of Soviet Union.

Special Rules	<i>Because of the small numbers supplied and the rushed introduction only the inexperienced option may be selected.</i>
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## ARTILLERY

### FIELD ARTILLERY

**Light Artillery:** Bulgaria Army artillery was largely comprised of 75-77mm WWI era field guns. Bulgaria had been prevented from acquiring heavy guns after WWI, but even once Bulgaria had abrogated these restrictions priority was given to the acquisition of medium and heavy guns. Some efforts were made to modernise stocks of field guns with improved carriages and new barrels, but throughout the war Bulgarian forces remained dependent on vintage guns, some of which had first seen action in the Balkans War in 1912.

See **Light Artillery** entry for Bulgaria in Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis.

**Medium Artillery:** Bulgaria had been permitted to retain guns up to 105mm under the armistice, but a ban on the import of new weapons meant that those guns that had been retained were outdated and in limited supply. Starting in 1938 Germany sold Bulgaria several tranches of the 10.5cm leFH18. These were supplemented in 1943 by a stock of captured Belgian 105mm guns. But Germany was never able to fully meet Bulgarian demands, leaving the Army reliant on lighter field guns for support.

See **Medium Artillery** entry for Bulgaria in Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis.

**Heavy Artillery:** The Treaty of Neuilly left Bulgaria with only a small number of fortress based heavy guns. Due to cost and competing demands on their sole supplier, Germany, Bulgaria was only able to acquire a small number of heavy guns. Aside from 50 modern 15cm Krupp sFH18 guns, the heavy guns acquired from Germany were WWI vintage and/or captured French and Soviet stocks.



See **Heavy Artillery** entry for Bulgaria in Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis.

### ANTI-TANK GUNS

**Light Anti-Tank Gun:** At the outbreak of war, Bulgaria possessed no anti-tank guns. Although not facing immediate



armoured threats, the Bulgarians recognised this gap and in 1940 obtained 100 3.7cm PaK36 guns from Germany.

Use **Bofors 37mm Anti-Tank Gun** entry for Bulgaria in *Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis*.

### **SKODA 37MM/70MM Hybrid Gun:**

Following the purchase of PaK36 guns, Bulgaria continued to press Germany for more anti-tank guns. To meet this need Germany provided Bulgaria with 450 captured ex-Yugoslav/Czech Skoda 37mm guns. Some models could fire as a light howitzer by changing the barrel, but there is no evidence Bulgaria used these guns in any role other than anti-tank.

See **SKODA 37MM/70MM Hybrid Gun** anti-tank gun entry for Bulgaria in *Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis*.

Special Rules	Bulgarian guns cannot use the 'Hybrid Weapon' special rule.
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**Medium Anti-Tank Gun:** By 1943 it had become clear that if Bulgaria was to be a credible military partner that could protect Germany's Southern flank from possible Allied landings in the Balkans and deter Turkey, significant upgrades in capability, particularly anti-tank capability, would be required. In 1943 Germany began supplying Bulgaria with the 5cm PaK38 gun, sending approx 400 before Bulgaria switched sides.

See **Medium Anti-Tank Gun** entry in *Bolt Action Armies of Germany*.

**Heavy Anti-Tank Gun:** As Germany's fortunes continued to turn in 1943-44 Germany sought to use advanced arms sales to bind the Bulgarian armed forces ever closer and strengthen their capability for coming battles with the Allies. Despite Germany's own pressing

need for anti-tank guns on the Eastern front, between 1943 and 1944 Germany transferred between 280 and 320 7.5cm PaK 97/38 and PaK40 guns to Bulgaria.

See **Heavy Anti-Tank Gun** entry in *Bolt Action Armies of Germany*.

## **ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS**

**20MM FLAK 38:** As a result of Armistice restrictions, by 1935 Bulgaria had only 5 anti-aircraft guns. This made anti-aircraft guns a priority as Bulgaria reequipped. Bulgaria placed an initial order for 250 2cm Flak 30/38 guns from Germany in 1936 with a further order for 162 in 1938. Additional guns were procured throughout the war to provide each division with a battery of 15 guns. In addition to the Flak 30/38 Bulgaria also bought 50 Oerlikon 20mm cannons.

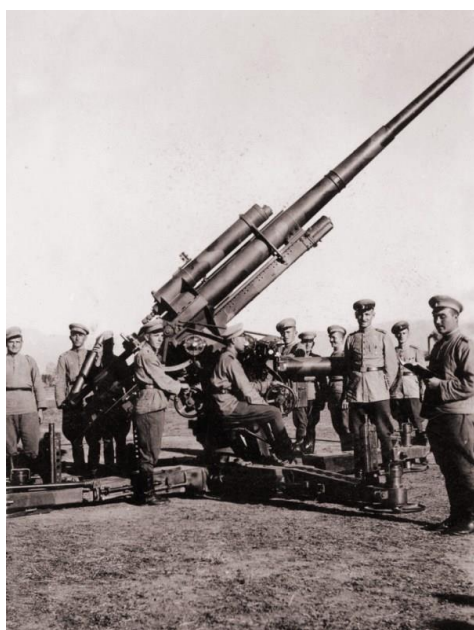
See **20mm Flak 38** entry for Bulgaria in *Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis*.



**Heavy autocannon:** In 1943 Germany sold Bulgaria a small number of 3.7cm Flak36 autocannons to provide anti-air defence for Bulgaria's new armoured brigade. Following Bulgaria's switch to the Allies these were supplemented by 153 Soviet 37mm M1939 guns.

See **Heavy autocannon** entry for *Armies of Germany*.

**88mm FLAK:** Recognising the increasing threat posed by bombers, in 1936 Bulgaria ordered 20 8.8cm Flak guns from Krupp in Germany for the defence of Sofia. Bulgaria was not initially a priority for allied bombing, but following the surrender of Italy and the build-up of Allied air forces in Southern Italy, Bulgaria urgently acquired further guns throughout 1943 and 1944 to counter allied bombing. Ultimately Germany provided almost 200 88mm Flak guns of various models, as well as some captured 8cm and 7.5cm models. Following Bulgaria's defection some of these guns were deployed to the front as a Soviet Army Heavy AA Unit.



See **88mm FLAK36** entry for *Armies of Germany*.

## **VEHICLES**

### **TANKS & TANK DESTROYERS**

**CV33 Tankette:** One of Bulgaria's first steps toward rearmament was the secret purchase of 14 Italian CV.33 light tanks in 1935. These were Bulgaria's first tanks, and were modified to fit a single

schwarzlose machine gun in place of the Italian twin mount. These tanks officially remained in service until 1945.



Cost	48pts (inexperienced), 60pts (Regular)
Weapons	1 forward facing hull mmg.
Damage Value	7+ (tankette)
Special Rules	- Occupation Duty: Due to Bulgaria's lack of combat experience these units cannot be taken as veteran.

**Vickers 6-Ton Mark E:** Soon after the purchase of CV.33 tanks, Bulgaria sought heavier tanks from Vickers in the UK. In another secret deal, in 1936 Bulgaria acquired 8 Vickers 6-Ton tanks, replacing the standard Vickers coax machine gun with the Maxim. While these tanks still show up in Bulgarian Army records as late as 1945, the tanks riveted armor, short 47mm gun and mechanical unreliability meant that they were already outdated by the outbreak war.

See **Vickers E Type Light Tank** entry for *Poland in Armies of France and the Allies: Poland*.

Special Rules	- Occupation Duty: Due to Bulgaria's lack of combat experience these units cannot be taken as veteran.
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**LT-35, T11, 38(t):** Bulgaria was in discussions with Skoda in Czechoslovakia for the purchase of LT-35 light tanks when the country was overrun by

Germany in March 1939. Despite strong declarations of neutrality in the crisis, Bulgaria was quick to request the same tanks from Berlin. Seeing arms sales as a means to keep Bulgaria in Germany's orbit, Berlin agreed to sell 26 captured LT35 tanks to Bulgaria as part of a broader arms deal in April 1939. These were supplemented in May 1940 by the sale of 10 up-gunned LT-35 tanks, (designated T-11s) which had been built for Afghanistan, and 10 Panzer 38ts (designated Praga P38s) in May 1943.



See <b>Panzer 38(t) and 35(t)</b> entry for <i>Armies of Germany</i> .	
Special Rules	- Occupation Duty: Due to Bulgaria's lack of combat experience these units cannot be taken as veteran.



**Renault R35:** With entry into the war on the Axis side in March 1941, Bulgaria may have hoped Germany would provide the modern arms and armour the Bulgarian army desperately needed. But Germany, already building up for its invasion of the Soviet Union, was unwilling to divert precious stocks of new tanks to a minor ally. Germany instead offered 40 captured Renault R35 tanks. While better armoured than the LT-35s the low velocity gun and one-man turret meant these tanks were a step-backwards.

Cost	96pts (inexperienced), 120pts (Regular)
Weapons	1 turret mounted low-velocity anti-tank gun with coaxial MMG*.
Damage Value	8+ (light tank)
Special Rules	- 1-man turret, Armoured all around, Low velocity light anti-tank gun, Slow: See <i>Captured Renault R35 entry for Italy, Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis</i> . - Occupation Duty: Due to Bulgaria's lack of combat experience these units cannot be taken as veteran.

\* This erratas the hull MMG to a Coaxial MMG reflecting the actual R35 design.

**Boyna Kola Maybach T-IV (Panzer IV, Ausf G, H, J):** After years of fobbing off Bulgarian requests for modern tanks in 1943 Germany, concerned about the prospect of allied landings in the Mediterranean, agreed to two large arms deals known as Plan43 and Plan44. Under these deals Bulgaria received 88 Panzer IVs over 1943 and 1944. Within months of the last delivery, these tanks were in action against German forces as part of the Third Ukrainian Front. To replace losses a further 51 captured Panzer IV Js were passed to Bulgaria by the Soviets.



See **Panzer IV Ausf G, H, J** entry for *Armies of Germany*.

Special Rules	- Élan: The men of Bulgaria's new armoured brigade considered themselves the elite of the army and were aggressive in taking the fight to the Germans. Units cannot be taken as inexperienced.
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**Hotchkiss H39 (Axis only):** Under Plan 43 Bulgaria contracted for 25 Panzer I tanks. Germany could not supply these tanks and instead offered 19 H39 and 6 Somua S35 tanks. Based on their R35 experience the army rejected these tanks, but the newly formed Gendarmerie was willing to take even obsolete tanks and received the H39s in March 1944, briefly using them in anti-partisan roles until the September Coup after which the Gendarmerie was disbanded.

See **Hotchkiss H39** entry for *France in Armies of France and the Allies*.

Special Rules	<i>Because of the age of these tanks and the short period of use, only inexperienced may be selected.</i>
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**Somua S35 (Axis only):** Bulgaria was offered 6 captured French Somua S35s as part of package with 19 Hotchkiss H39 tanks to replace an order for 25 Panzer Is. The obsolete French tanks were rejected by the Army but the Gendarmerie accepted the H39s. However, there is no clear evidence that any S35 tanks were delivered or used.

See **Somua S35** entry for *France in Armies of France and the Allies*.

Special Rules	<i>Because of the age of these tanks and the short period of use, only inexperienced may be selected.</i>
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**Soviet Support (Allied only):** Russia was reluctant to take on the burden of supplying Bulgaria, preferring to provide captured axis equipment and vehicles. From the end of 1944 to the end of the war the Soviets passed Bulgaria an assortment of captured axis armour. This included examples of some of Germany's best armour, but without supplies or training the value of these weapons was reduced. A Bulgarian Allied Force can include any vehicles listed in the Soviet Support entry below as *Tank or Tank Destroyer* option in a Bulgarian reinforced platoon. These vehicles use the relevant entry from the *Armies of Germany, Armies of Italy and the Axis*, or *Fortress Budapest* books. As *Captured Vehicles* they must be purchased as *Inexperienced* and (in addition) have the *Unreliable* rule.

**Panzer V Panther  
Panzer III Ausf H, J  
Turan I**

Special Rules	- Unreliable: If a captured vehicles suffers one or more pins markers as a result of an enemy attack it automatically suffers one further pin marker in addition.
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**T34/85:** A number of sources include T34/85 tanks in Bulgarian armour lists. It is likely that Bulgaria acquired a small number (possibly 2) of T34/85 tanks in 1945, but they were probably 'field replacements' rather than formal transfers. As such, the tank is not included in this army list, although it can still be selected under the *Soviet Friends* special rule.



## ASSAULT GUNS & SELF PROPELLED ARTILLERY

**Semovente L40 da 47/32:** The 47/32 program was initiated in 1941 by the Italians as a stopgap measure to create a tank destroyer to support their otherwise outclassed light tanks. However, by the time of its introduction in 1942 it was obsolete and unable to cope with the new generation of allied medium tanks. When Italy surrendered Germany seized many of these guns. Unfit for front-line service they were largely used in anti-partisan roles. While Bulgaria did not receive any, they were used extensively alongside Bulgarian forces by friendly German and axis forces in the Balkans.

See **Semovente 47/32** entry for Bulgaria in *Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis*.

**Stormovo Orvdie Maybach T-III (STuG III):** Under the Plans 43&44 Bulgaria received 55 STuG IIIG's, designated as SO-75s. Five of the new guns were sent to the German training school in Nis and were lost when Bulgaria switched sides. The remainder, supplemented by 3 captured examples provided by the Soviets, continued in Bulgarian service until the end of the war.

See **STuG III Ausf F, G and H** entry for *Armies of Germany*.

Special Rules	- Élan: The men of Bulgaria's new armoured brigade considered themselves the elite of the army and were aggressive in taking the fight to the Germans. Units cannot be taken as inexperienced.
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**Soviet Support (Allied only):** A Bulgarian Allied Force can include any vehicles listed in the Soviet Support entry below as *Tank or Tank Destroyer* option in a Bulgarian reinforced platoon. These vehicles use the relevant entry from the *Armies of Germany*, *Armies of Italy* and *the Axis*, or *Fortress Budapest* books. As *Captured Vehicles* they must be purchased as *Inexperienced* and (in addition) have the *Unreliable* rule.

STuG IV  
 StuH 42  
 Hetzer  
 Jagdpanzer IV  
 Jagdpanzer IV (L70)  
 Hummel  
 Wespe  
 Semovente 47/32  
 40M Nimrod

Special Rules	- Unreliable: If a captured vehicles suffers one or more pins markers as a result of an enemy attack it automatically suffers one further pin marker in addition.
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Bulgaria large numbers of German made trucks, Berlin also provided over 1000 Renault trucks.

See **Trucks** entry for *Bulgaria in Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis*.



## ARMoured CARS

**M.222 and M.223 (SdKfz 222 and 223):** The Germans included 20 SdKfz 222 and 223 armored cars as part of Plan 43 to provide reconnaissance support to the new Armoured Brigade.

See **SdKfz 222 and 223** entry for *Armies of Germany*.

Special Rules	- Élan: The men of Bulgaria's new armoured brigade considered themselves the elite of the army and were aggressive in taking the fight to the Germans. Units cannot be taken as inexperienced.
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**Command and Utility Cars:** The Bulgarian military had relatively few military support vehicles at the start of the war, possessing almost twice as many civilian passenger vehicles as military command cars. Bulgaria purchased several hundred light vehicles from Germany between 1940 and 1944, the most numerous type being Volkswagen Kubelwagens, designated KDL, which were attached to mobile formations and infantry regiment HQs.

See **Kubelwagen** entry for *Armies of Germany*.



## TRANSPORTS & TOWS

**Truck:** Bulgaria used a hodgepodge of trucks including French and US vehicles acquired in the 1930s, German supplied trucks, and civilian vehicles taken into service during the 1944 'total mobilization'. In addition to selling

**Artillery Tractors:** As part of rearmament Bulgaria purchased several tranches of Italian Pavesi P4 tractors between 1930-1938. Further German prime movers were obtained as part of

artillery and anti-aircraft sales, including the Sd.Kfz.6, Sd.Kfz.7, Maultier and RSO. Additionally, Bulgaria used at least 1 captured Renault tractor.

See **Artillery Tractors** entry for *Bulgaria in Bolt Action Armies of Italy and the Axis*.



**Horse Drawn Limber:** Throughout the war Bulgaria used horses extensively for transport and towing.

Cost	8pts (Inexperienced), 10pts (Regular)
Weapons	None
Damage Value	3+
Tow	Any gun or howitzer
Special Rules	- Slow (only when towing)

## ***BUILDING BULGARIANS***

**Enlisted:** The service and field coat of the enlisted man was a tobacco brown single-breasted jacket with two large pockets. Trousers were of the same color cut in breaches style. Black leather knee boots and a Sam Brown or plain leather belt was also worn. The garrison cap and overcoat was the same color as the uniform. Motorized infantry and tank units wore long trousers and high shoes. Tank crews uniforms were black with Italian type 'crash helmets'.



**Officers:** The Officer's field uniform was similar to the enlisted uniform, but with a tobacco brown service cap with a black visor and black chin strap.



**Service Colors:** All ranks wore colored collar patches, epaulets and cap bands to denote their arm of service. For enlisted infantry these were all red. For officers the collar patch was grey with a red strip. Officers also had a red trouser stripe. Artillery enlisted used the color black. Officers still had a grey collar patch, but no trouser stripe.

**M36 Helmet:** Bulgarian soldiers were usually easily distinguished by their distinctive M36 helmet. Bulgaria had continued to use the WWI German M1916 Stahlhelm helmet until 1935 when, as part of the Army's modernisation, a new helmet was ordered. The new design opened wider

than the Stahlhem, but retained key features of the German design, including high depth, narrow brim, and side air vents. To better deflect bullets the angle of the helmet sides was increased. The helmet also had an iconic 'ridge' running back-to-front across the top of the helmet. Introduced in 1936, the helmet was initially produced in a dark green colour with a small Bulgarian flag shield on the right side. This was later replaced by a brighter 'pea-green' version with no shield, although red stars were often later added to the front of helmets following Bulgaria's defection to the Soviets.



**Paratroopers:** Paratroopers wore Bulgarian M40 aviation uniforms and German Fallschirmjäger helmets. The uniforms used the German Luftwaffe-Splittermuster 41 camouflage pattern throughout the war.

