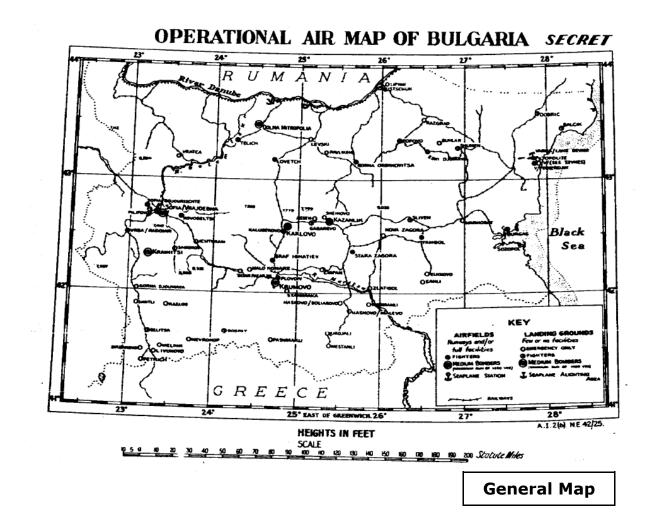
Luftwaffe Airfields 1935-45 Bulgaria

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Airfields Bulgaria

Introduction

Conventions

- 1. For the purpose of this reference work, "Bulgaria" generally means the territory belonging to the country on 6 April 1941, the date of the German invasion and occupation of Yugoslavia and Greece. The territory occupied and acquired by Bulgaria after that date is not included.
- 2. All spellings are as they appear in wartime German documents with the addition of alternate spellings where known. Place names in the Cyrillic alphabet as used in the Bulgarian language have been transliterated into the English equivalent as they appear on Google Earth.
- 3. It is strongly recommended that researchers use the search function because each airfield and place name has alternate spellings, sometimes 3 or 4.
- 4. See the General Introduction for matters concerning other conventions such as format, limitations of data, abbreviations, glossary, sources, etc.

Preface

Bulgarian military aviation was born on 24 April 1906 with a few observation balloons, but its practical beginning dates from the 1912-13 First Balkan War against Turkey, in which it participated with some 30 reconnaissance and observation aircraft, and did not increase much past 82 combat planes until the expansion of 1936-40. By April 1940, the Bulgarian Air Force had grown to approximately 476 combat, training and reserve aircraft and to 561 about a year later. This relatively large increase in aircraft was accompanied by the construction of additional airfields to accommodate and support them so that by 1940-41 the aircraft were deployed on about 20 primary airfields and 1 seaplane base. In addition, some 8 secondary landing grounds and 37 emergency landing grounds had been set up and were available as needed.

Allied victories in North Africa and the Mediterranean prompted a January 1943 agreement between Germany and Bulgaria that they would immediately embark on an airfield building and improvement program in the latter. Germany promised to provide extensive material and technical assistance for this joint undertaking and work soon began on 8 airfields in Bulgaria proper (a.k.a. Old Bulgaria) and 4 more in occupied Thrace (not covered in this monograph: see Airfields – Greece). The construction work was carried out by the Bulgarian Labor Service with German supervision and the airfields selected were those the Luftwaffe intended to occupy and operate from should that be necessary. The 8 airfields are identified below by an entry in the Remarks section.

As a final note, many of the landing grounds in Bulgaria were never discovered by Allied intelligence during the war, mainly due to inadequate intelligence and the absence of use. Accordingly, there were only a few targeted Allied air attacks on Bulgarian airfields, notably Karlovo and Sofia-Vrazhdebna.

Airfields Listed

A total of 75 airfields, landing grounds, emergency landing grounds and seaplane stations are listed below.

Assen (BULG) (a.k.a. Asen) (c. 42 39 19 N – 25 11 52 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground (Notlandeplatz) in C Bulgaria 17 km W of Kazanlik (Kazanluk). Exact location in the vicinity of Asen not determined. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1594 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Baltschik (BULG) (a.k.a. Balcik; today Balchik) (43 25 40 N – 28 10 40 E) General: landing ground in the former South Dobrudja region of NE Bulgaria 31 km NE of Varna and 2.5 km NE of Balchik. Rated for fighters. History: built in 1932-38 as a Romanian civil airport but then destroyed when the Romanians gave up South Dobrudja in 1940. The Germans rebuilt it in 1941 and thereafter it was used by both the Luftwaffe and the Bulgarian Air Force. Surface and Dimensions: grass surface measuring approx. 870 x 825 meters (950 x 900 yards). Had a hardened runway built by the Germans made of concrete mixed with topsoil, watered and rolled. Fuel and Ammunition: both available. Infrastructure: 1 medium hangar with a concrete apron was at the SW corner, and 1 large workshop-type hut with a concrete apron was just W of the hangar. Admin offices, accommodations and stores were located in 2 or 3 buildings and several huts near the hangar. Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities. Defenses: 2 Flak positions were in the vicinity of the landing ground.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1554 (7 Apr 43 updated to 14 Apr 44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Belitsa (BULG) (a.k.a. Belica) (c. 41 39 05 N - 23 15 05 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in SW Bulgaria c. 87 km SSE of Sofia. Exact position of the landing ground not determined. <u>History</u>: existence first reported in 1940 and intensely developed by the Germans during the first 3 months of 1941 in preparation for the 6 April invasion of Yugoslavia and Greece. By March, there were two airstrips: Belica and Belica/North. Said to have been used by Luftwaffe fighters and dive-bombers during the campaign. Abandoned in summer 1941 and no evidence of use after that date found. Not shown on Luftwaffe airfield maps of July 1944. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information found. Infrastructure: none reported.

Operational Units: I./St.G. 3 (Feb-Apr 41); Stab, III./JG 27 (Mar-Apr 41); Stab, I., III./St.G. 2 (Mar-Apr 41); II.(Schlacht)/LG 2 (Apr 41).

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates - not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1555 (7 Apr 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Blagojevgrad (BULG): see Gorna Djumaya.

Boljarsko (BULG) (today Bolyarsko) (42 25 53 N – 26 21 23 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in E Bulgaria 14 km WSW of Yambol and almost certainly 2.5 km N of Bolyarsko. Rated for fighters. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information.

Infrastructure: no information.

[Sources: chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Botewgrad (BULG) (a.k.a. Orhanije, today: Botevgrad) (42 54 N – 23 46 E) General: landing ground in NW Bulgaria 43.5 km NE of Sofia and 2.25 km WSW of Botevgrad. History: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: no information. Infrastructure: no information. [Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1596 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Breznitsa (BULG) (a.k.a. Breznica) (41 40 17 N - 23 39 42 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in SW Bulgaria 106 km SW of Plovdiv. Exact location of landing ground not determined, but possibly 1-2 km WSW of the town. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information found. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information found.

[Sources: chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Buhlar (BULG) (a.k.a. Buhovtsi, Bukhovtsi, Targovishte) (43 18 45 N – 26 42 30 E) <u>General</u>: emergency landing ground (Notlandeplatz) in NE Bulgaria 98 km W of Varna. Exact location in the vicinity of Buhovtsi not determined but probably 1 km SW of the village. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information. [Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1594 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Burgas (BULG) (a.k.a. Bourgas, Burgas-Atanasovo) (42 33 40 N – 27 30 25 E) General: airfield on the Black Sea coast of Bulgaria 86 km SSW of Varna and 8.25 km NNE of this port city. Rated for fighters.

<u>History</u>: a pre-war airport belonging to the French company C.I.D.N.A. and used for flights between Burgas and Turkey. In 1941 Bulgarian fighter pilots were trained here by German instructors and the airfield was used by Bulgarian and Luftwaffe aircraft until mid-1942 when it was temporarily closed for runway construction.

<u>Dimensions</u>: approx. 825 x 595 meters (900 x 650 yards) before the war but enlarged thereafter to 1095×670 meters (1200×730 yards).

<u>Surface and Runways</u>: leveled grass on clay soil. Several paved runways were reportedly under construction in April 1943.

<u>Fuel and Ammunition</u>: there were underground fuel storage tanks and several ammunition bunkers were dispersed around the perimeter of the airfield.

<u>Infrastructure</u>: in early Apr 43 there was 1 concrete hangar on the E boundary along with 8 canvas hangars with a capacity for 4 aircraft each. But no hangars were noted in March 1944. Instead, a group of huts were on the S boundary and these may have been used as workshops. Admin offices were in a brick building while accommodations were in 4 barrack-type huts at the S corner and off the W boundary.

Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

<u>Defenses</u>: no information found regarding the airfield, but the adjacent city of Burgas was protected by an estimated 35-40 AA guns.

Remarks:

1943-44: construction and improvement work by the Bulgarian Labor Service under German supervision.

<u>Operational Units</u>: none identified. <u>Station Commands</u>: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates - not complete): Bauleitung d.Lw. Burgas (May 44).

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 pp.1556-58 (8 Apr 43 updated to 31 Mar 44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Cirpan (BULG) (a.k.a. Chirpan, Tsirpan) (42 11 47 N – 25 19 25 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground (Notlandeplatz) in C Bulgaria 50 km ENE of Plovdiv. Exact location in the vicinity of Chirpan not determined. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1594 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Din. Mitropolia (BULG) (a.k.a. Dolna Mitropolia; today Dolna Mitropoliya) (43 27 30 N – 24 31 00 E)

<u>General</u>: airfield in N Bulgaria 130 km NE of Sofia, 9 km NW of Pleven and c. 4 km SW of the town. Rated for bombers.

<u>History</u>: built 1939-41 as a base for bombers but used instead to train fighter pilots. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here.

<u>Dimensions</u>: approx. 1465 x 1095 meters (1600 x 1200 yards) with a rectangular shape. <u>Surface and Runways</u>: dry turf subject to unserviceability during the March and April thaw. No paved runway.

<u>Fuel and Ammunition</u>: bulk fuel was reportedly stored at the NE corner or the landing area. <u>Infrastructure</u>: had 4 large hangars, one of which had a paved apron. Several small buildings just N of the hangars may have been workshops. The flight control building was between the hangars on the N boundary. There were few billeting facilities at the airfield. The nearest rail connection was 2.5 km NE of the airfield.

<u>Dispersal</u>: there was a Northwest dispersal area off the NW corner with 7 small open aircraft shelters. However, aircraft usually parked in front of the hangars.

<u>Defenses</u>: none at the airfield, but Pleven was protected by a Flak battery.

Remarks: none. Operational Units:

Bulgarian: Bulgarian Fighter Pilot School here (1942-44).

Luftwaffe: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

<u>Station Units</u> (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 pp.1560-61 (14 Feb 44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Dobrisch (BULG) (a.k.a. Dobric, Bazargic; today Dobrich) (43 34 00 N - 27 49 55 E) General: landing ground in NE Bulgaria 45 km N of Varna and c. 4 km NNE of the town of the same name. Rated for fighters. <u>History</u>: a pre-war civil airport that was destroyed by the Romanians when they departed S Dobrudja in 1940. Made serviceable again by the Germans in Feb 41 and thereafter used occasionally by Bulgarian and Luftwaffe aircraft. No record found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: grass surface measuring approx. 1095 x 825 meters (1200 x 900 yards). No paved runway. <u>Fuel and Ammunition</u>: had underground fuel storage. <u>Infrastructure</u>: none noted. The nearest rail connection was in Dobrich.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1559 (8 Apr 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Dolna Mitropoliya (BULG): see Din. Mitropolia.

Dospat (BULG) (a.k.a. Orlino?) (41 42 35 N - 24 02 35 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in SW Bulgaria 65 km SW of Plovdiv and 12 km NW of the town of Dospat. <u>History</u>: in existence since at least 1939. No record found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: grass or pastureland surface with as estimated take-off/landing run of 915 meters (1000 yards). No paved runway. <u>Fuel and Ammunition</u>: made available when needed. <u>Infrastructure</u>: had 1 small hangar. There

were several small buildings in a wood behind the hangar that were used for admin and billeting. <u>Dispersal</u>: no organized dispersal facilities.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1561-62 (3 Jul 44 and updated 5 Feb 45); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Dranovo (BULG) (a.k.a. Dryanovo) (42 59 00 N - 25 29 30 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in C Bulgaria 177 km E of Sofia and 62 km NNW of Stara Zagora. Exact location of the landing ground not determined, but possibly 2-3 km WSW of Dryanovo. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information. [Sources: chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Elkhovo (BULG) (a.k.a. Elhovo, Kizilagac) (42 10 25 N - 26 34 00 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground (Notlandeplatz) in SE Bulgaria 37 km S of Yambol. Exact location in the vicinity of Elhovo not determined but probably 2.5 km NW of the center of the town. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information. [Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1594 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Eski Dzumaya (BULG) (a.k.a. Kadikevy, Koukoviste, Turgovishte, today: Targoviste) (43 14 55 N – 26 34 00 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground (Notlandeplatz) in NE Bulgaria 29 km W of Shumen. Exact location in the vicinity of Targoviste not determined but possibly 3.75 km NE of the center of the town. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1594 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Gabarevo (BULG) (42 37 30 N - 25 09 30 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in C Bulgaria c. 29-30 km E of Karlovo and19 km W of Kazanluk. Exact location not determined. <u>History</u>: existed pre-war when it was only used during the summer. After 1940, it served as a satellite of Karlovo airfield and some 80 aircraft were seen here at one time during the war. No record found of Luftwaffe use. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: grass or pastureland surface measuring approx. 1000 x 1000 meters (1100 x 1100 yards). No paved runway. <u>Infrastructure</u>: tents erected when in use. [Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1562 (14 Apr 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Gorna Djumaya (BULG) (a.k.a. Blagojevgrad) (42 01 05 N – 23 05 45 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground (Notlandeplatz) in SW Bulgaria 78 km W of Shumen. Exact location in respect to Blagojevgrad not determined. <u>History</u>: already in existence in 1933. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. Infrastructure: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1598 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Gorna Orechowiza (BULG) (a.k.a. Orekhovitsa; today Gorna Oryahovitsa and/or Gorna Oryakhovitsa) (43 09 10 N - 25 42 40 E)

<u>General</u>: airfield in N Bulgaria 77 km N of Stara Zagora and 2.25 km W of Gorna Oryahovitsa. Rated for fighters.

<u>History</u>: Built around 1928, it was taken over by the Bulgarian military in 1935 and became a base for fighters, light bombers and reconnaissance aircraft. It was enlarged and improved in 1940 and the number of units here increased to 4 squadrons. The Luftwaffe used it during the spring 1941 campaign in the Balkans. About 30 Bulgarian aircraft were based at Gorna Oryahovitsa in early 1943. No record found of Luftwaffe units being based here.

Dimensions: approx. 1190 x 825 meters (1300 x 900 yards).

<u>Surface and Runways</u>: artificially drained high-quality turf surface. Had a single paved runway.

<u>Fuel and Ammunition</u>: bulk fuel was stored in underground tanks with a capacity of 800 tons and reportedly located off the SE side of the airfield. Ammunition storage, including bombs, was said to be NW of the hangars.

<u>Infrastructure</u>: had at least 4 hangars by early 1943, several of which were concrete, and these were on the SW side of the field. A single old hangar was on the E side.

Additionally, there were 3 canvas hangars and several workshops. A number of other buildings housed the admin offices, officer's quarters, barracks and stores. The nearest rail connection was 3 km NW of Gorna Oryahovitsa.

Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities in spring 1943.

<u>Defenses</u>: none reported.

<u>Remarks</u>: none. <u>Operational Units</u>:

Bulgarian: 4th Group (Orlek) (1940-43); HQ 1st Reconnaissance Rgt. and IV Tactical Reconnaissance Gp. (1943-44).

Luftwaffe: none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 pp.1563-64 (15 Apr 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Gorni Dubnik (BULG) (a.k.a. Gorni Debnik?) (43 22 05 N – 24 20 00 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in N Bulgaria 24 km WSW of Pleven and 1 km WSW of Gorni Dubnik. <u>History</u>: early history not known, but in summer 1944 it was being used as a satellite of Telish (Telisch) airfield 8.5 km to the SW of Gorni Dubnik. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: grass surface measuring approx. 1100 x 410 meters (1200 x 450 yards). No paved runway. <u>Infrastructure</u>: none reported or observed. <u>Dispersal</u>: no organized dispersal facilities. Aircraft parked in the open.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1565 (10 Aug 44 updated to 4 Feb 45); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Graf Ignatievo (BULG) (a.k.a. Graf Ignatiev; today Graf Ignatievo) (42 17 45 N – 24 43 30 E)

<u>General</u>: airfield in C Bulgaria 14.5 km N of Plovdiv and 2 km NW of Graf Ignatievo. Rated for fighters.

<u>History</u>: construction began in summer 1939 and it was operational as a bomber base by 1940. The Luftwaffe moved in for the campaign in the Balkans in early 1941 and used the airfield as a logistics hub for transport aircraft, although none appear to have been based here.

Dimensions: approx. 1830 x 1370 meters (2000 x 1500 yards).

<u>Surface and Runways</u>: sandy surface serviceable in all weather. No paved runway. <u>Fuel and Ammunition</u>: there were 6 to 8 medium-size underground fuel tanks SE of the hangars. Ammunition was stored alongside the railway line.

<u>Infrastructure</u>: had 4 hangars plus separate workshops spaced along the length of the S boundary, along with the HQ building, admin offices, officers' quarters, 3 barracks and stores buildings. The main rail line Karlovo – Plovdiv ran along the E boundary of the airfield.

<u>Dispersal</u>: no organized dispersal facilities.

Defenses: no information found.

<u>Remarks</u>: none. Operational Units:

Bulgarian: wartime bombardier and gunnery school here; 2d Ground-Attack Group (Orlek)

(1942-43); I and II Groups/2d Ground-Attack Rgt. (1943-44).

Luftwaffe: none identified.

<u>Station Commands</u>: Flugplatzkdo. Graf Ignatievo of Fl.H.Kdtr. E(v) 217/XVII (Jul-Sep 44); <u>Station Units</u> (on various dates – not complete): 2.(*Raubvogel 2*)/Ln.-Flugmelde-Abt. (E) z.b.V. 22 (Jul 44).

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 pp.1566-67 (15 Apr 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Harmanli (BULG) (a.k.a. Kharmanli) (41 55 30 N - 25 53 45 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground (Notlandeplatz) in south-central Bulgaria 98 km ESE of Plovdiv. Exact location in the vicinity of Harmanli not determined. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information but reportedly enlarged and improved during the war. Infrastructure: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1594 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Haskovo-Boijarovo (BULG) (a.k.a. Haskovo-Bolyarovo) (41 55 50 N - 25 33 05 E) <u>General</u>: emergency landing ground (Notlandeplatz) in south-central Bulgaria 69 km ESE of Plovdiv and in the vicinity of the village of Bolyarovo just W of Haskovo. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information but reportedly enlarged and improved during the war. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1594 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Haskovo-Malevo (BULG) (a.k.a. Malevo) (41 51 20 N - 25 37 46 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground (Notlandeplatz) in south-central Bulgaria 8 km SE of Haskovo and 2.25 km NW of the village of Malevo. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here although a station command detachment was set up here in February 1944. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information but reportedly enlarged and improved during the war. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information. Remarks:

1943-44: construction and improvement work by the Bulgarian Labor Service under German supervision.

<u>Station Commands</u>: Teilkdtr. of Fl.H.Kdtr. E 33/VI (Feb-Mar 44); Teilkdtr. of Fl.H.Kdtr. E(v) 219/XVII Yambol (Apr-Aug 44).

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1594 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Ichtiman (BULG) (a.k.a. Ikhtiman, Ihtiman) (42 26 18 N - 23 48 57 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground (Notlandeplatz) in W Bulgaria 49.5 km SE of Sofia and probably 2 km S of the town of Ihtiman. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. Infrastructure: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1594 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Ivanovo (BULG) (41 51 11 N - 25 52 44 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in SE Bulgaria 99 km ESE of Plovdiv, 29 km ESE of Haskovo and some 30-40 km from where the borders of Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey meet. Exact location of the landing ground not determined, but possibly 1.75 km S of the village of Ivanovo or 1 km WSW of it. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. Infrastructure: no information.

[Sources: chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Kalugerovo (BULG) (a.k.a. Banja, Banya) (42 34 00 N – 24 48 25 E)

General: emergency landing ground (Notlandeplatz) in C Bulgaria 49 km N of Plovdiv, 8.25 km S of Karlovo and just NWof the village of Banya. History: believed to have been a

satellite of Karlovo airfield. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here.

<u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1595 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Karlowo (BULG) (a.k.a. Karlovo; Karlovo-Levsky) (c. 42 35 00 N – 24 52 30 E)

<u>General</u>: airfield in C Bulgaria c. 121 km E of Sofia, 54 km N of Plovdiv, 8.5 km SE of Karlovo and 1 km NNW of the village of Vedrare. Rated for bombers.

<u>History</u>: a pre-war Bulgarian Air Force training center. During 1943-44 it was the main Bulgarian fighter airfield.

<u>Dimensions</u>: approx. 1445×1005 meters (1580×1100 yards) with an irregular shape. <u>Surface and Runways</u>: good grass on a chalky subsoil, but not always serviceable during the snowy months of December through March. No paved runway.

<u>Fuel and Ammunition</u>: underground fuel storage tanks were on the SE boundary and near the hangars on the N boundary. A large ammunition dump and issuing station was at Sopot, 13 km NW of the airfield.

<u>Infrastructure</u>: had 4 large hangars on the N boundary and 2 large double-bay hangars with attached workshops and the S corner. In front of the 2 hangars at the S corner were 4 short concrete strips that were used as servicing hardstands, take-off platforms or both. The flight control building was located between the hangars on the N boundary, and the airfield motor pool and garages may have been in 2 large sheds at the E end of the N boundary. A group of admin buildings and barracks was off the N boundary and a smaller group of barracks and stores buildings off the S corner.

<u>Dispersal</u>: no information found.

Defenses: no information found.

Remarks:

11 Jun 44: bombed - 14 Bulgarian a/c destroyed, 9 Bulgarian and 1 German a/c damaged, 20 killed and 60 wounded. (German report)

28 Jun 44: bombed again – 138 B-24 Liberators bombed the airfield with heavy damage to aircraft (USAAF claimed 22 destroyed and 16 damaged on the ground but this is probably overstated), hangars, workshops, admin buildings, barracks and the destruction of aviation fuel storage tanks.

Operational Units:

Bulgarian: pre-war fighter training school and wartime ground-attack flight school here. 2d Fighter Group (Orlek) (1940); 6th Fighter Group (1942); I and IV Groups/6th Fighter Rgt. (1944).

Luftwaffe: none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1568 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Karnobat (BULG) (42 39 04 N - 26 58 46 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in E Bulgaria 43 km WNW Burgas. Exact location in the vicinity of the town of Karnobat not determined. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1595 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Kazanlak (BULG) (a.k.a. Kazanlik, Kazanluk) (42 37 50 N - 25 22 45 E)

<u>General</u>: factory and training airfield in C Bulgaria 29 km NW of Stara Zagora and 1.75 km NW of Kazanlak. Rated for bombers.

<u>History</u>: an aviation school was established here in 1926 and by 1930 a Caproni-owned aircraft factory with hangars and workshops was in operation at the airfield as Kaproni Bulgarski. The flying school used obsolete single-engine planes. Shortly after the war

began, the Caproni plant ceased manufacturing and switched to the repair of aircraft and trucks under German supervision.

<u>Dimensions</u>: approx. 1190 x 960 meters (1300 x 1050 yards) and roughly square in shape. <u>Surface and Runways</u>: artificially drained turf. Had a single reinforced concrete runway built in 1939. Equipped with boundary lighting, a beacon and a searchlight for night landings.

<u>Fuel and Ammunition</u>: there were underground tanks for bulk fuel storage and underground bunkers for ammunition storage.

<u>Infrastructure</u>: had 4 large hangars with concrete aprons on the S boundary. Fronting the hangars were 6 short concrete hardstands that were believed to be used for aircraft servicing and parking. Off the E boundary were 4 large and 1 small workshop buildings. The base HQ and admin building, control tower, classroom training buildings, base dispensary, stores warehouses and barracks were all off the S boundary. The nearest rail connection was in Kazanlak.

Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities.

Defenses: no information found.

Remarks:

1930: Pre-war and wartime basic flight training school here and a navigator school for NCO pilots.

22 Jan 44: no aircraft visible on or adjacent to the airfield.

Operational Units:

Bulgarian: 6th Training Group (Orlek) (c. 1940-43).

Luftwaffe: none identified.

Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates - not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 pp.1569-70 (17 Apr 43 updated to 22 Jan 44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Kirdjali (BULG) (a.k.a. Kardzali, Kardjali) (41 37 20 N - 25 21 25 E) <u>or</u> (41 37 00 N - 25 19 59 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in south-central Bulgaria 36 km SSW of Haskovo. Exact location in the vicinity of the town of Kardzali not determined, but possibly 4 km SW of it. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information. [Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1595 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Kraynitsi (BULG) (a.k.a. Krainitsi, Krainici, Krainizi) (42 18 30 N – 23 14 20 E) General: landing ground in W Bulgaria 44 km SSW of Sofia and 3.5 km ESE of Kraynitsi. Rated for bombers. History: played an important role as a forward airfield during the German invasion of Greece and Yugoslavia in spring 1941 and then inactivated not long after that. Not shown on Luftwaffe airfield maps for 1944. Surface and Dimensions: probably grass or pastureland. Dimensions not found. Fuel and Ammunition: fuel was available and ammunition was brought in from a large dump in Kraynitsi. Infrastructure: reportedly had 1 hangar.

Operational Units:

Bulgarian: none identified.

Luftwaffe: I./St.G. 2 (Jan-Mar 41); Stab, III./St.G. 2 (Mar 41); IV./KG z.b.V. 1 (Mar 41); II./ZG 26 (Mar-Apr 41); 10.(Schlacht)/LG 2 (Mar-Apr 41); I./St.G. 1 (Apr 41); KGr. z.b.V. 101 (Apr-May 41).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 6/IV (Mar-Apr 41).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1571 (10 Apr 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Krumovo (BULG) (c. 42 04 N - 24 50 E)

<u>General</u>: airfield in C Bulgaria 12 km SE of Plovdiv and 2 to 3 km SE of Krumovo. Rated for bombers.

<u>History</u>: early history not found. Used by the Luftwaffe during the spring 1941 campaign in the Balkans as a major and very active bomber base and then fell into relative disuse after the campaign until it became active again in fall 1943 as a base for night fighters. <u>Dimensions</u>: approx. 1465 x 685 meters (1600 x 750 yards) but reportedly enlarged during the war.

<u>Surface and Runways</u>: initially had a poor quality surface but this was improved during the war years.

Fuel and Ammunition: both available.

<u>Infrastructure</u>: had 3 canvas hangars and a few huts for personnel in 1941. The nearest rail connection was in Krumovo.

Dispersal: no organized dispersal facilities in 1941.

<u>Defenses</u>: no information found.

Remarks:

1943-44: construction and improvement work by the Bulgarian Labor Service under German supervision.

2 Sep 44: reported total Luftwaffe airfield personnel strength as 13 officers, 13 officials and 294 NCOs and men.

Operational Units: Transportstaffel VIII. Fliegerkorps (Mar-Apr 41); 7.(H)/LG 2 (Mar 41); I., III./KG 2 (Apr 41); III./KG 3 (Apr 41); IV./KG z.b.V. 1 (Apr 41); I./LG 1 (Apr-May 41); I./KG 51 (Apr-May 41); 4.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 121 (Apr-May 41); 6./NJG 100 (May-Aug 44); 4./NJG 200 (Jun 44).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 64/XI (Mar 41); Fl.H.Kdtr. E 18/XII (c.Sep 43 – Mar 44); Fl.H.Kdtr. E(v) 220/XVII (Apr-Aug 44).

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Koflug 8/XVII (Aug-Sep 44); elements of 11.(Flum.Funk)/Luftgau-Nachr.Rgt. 25 (fall 43 – Mar 44); elements of Flugmelde-Funk-Kp. z.b.V. 38 (Mar-Sep 44); Flieger-Geräteausgabe- und Sammelstelle 6/XVII (2 Sep 44); Munitionsausgabestelle 3/XVII (2 Sep 44); m.Fl.Betr.St.Kol. 2/III (Mar 41); Flug-Betr.St.Kol 504/VIII (2 Sep 44); Verwaltungslager d.Lw. Krumovo (2 Sep 44).

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1571 (18 Apr 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Levski (BULG) (43 21 40 N - 25 08 05 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in north-central Bulgaria 45 km ESE of Pleven. Exact location in the vicinity of the town of Levski not determined but almost certainly 1.25 km N of it. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information. [Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1595 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Lipnik (BULG) (a.k.a. Nikolovo?, Ruse?) (43 51 30 N - 26 05 25 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in NE Bulgaria 95 km NW of Shumen and 10.5 km ENE of Ruse. Exact location in the vicinity of the town of Nikolovo not determined. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here.

Surface and Dimensions: no information. Infrastructure: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1595 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Livunovo (BULG) (a.k.a. Levun, Levunovo) (41 29 15 N - 23 17 30 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in SW Bulgaria 13 km NNE of Petrich and 7 km SE of Struma. Exact location in the vicinity of the town of Levunovo not determined. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1595 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Lowetsch (BULG) (a.k.a. Lovetch; today Lovech) (43 09 10 N - 24 42 23 E)

<u>General</u>: airfield in north-central Bulgaria 123 km NE of Sofia and 2.5 km NNW of Lovech. Rated for fighters.

<u>History</u>: 1939-40: DSF (Bulgarian State Aircraft Factory) established here to assemble aircraft purchased from Poland and to assemble and license-build Czech aircraft. No record found of Luftwaffe use.

Dimensions: approx. 1050×1005 meters (1150 x 1100 yards).

<u>Surface and Runways</u>: leveled and rolled dirt and grass surface, this work being done in 1940. No paved runway.

Fuel and Ammunition: underground bulk fuel storage.

<u>Infrastructure</u>: had 2 medium flight hangars with adjacent workshops, 2 large workshoptype buildings and 1 very large factory assembly-type building off the E boundary, with wide concrete taxiways connecting most of the hangars and buildings. The airfield admin buildings, barracks and stores buildings were also off the E boundary. The nearest rail connection was in Lovech.

<u>Dispersal</u>: no organized dispersal facilities.

<u>Defenses</u>: no information found.

Remarks:

14 Jan 44: photo reconnaissance showed no aircraft on or around the airfield.

Operational Units:

Bulgarian: none identified. Luftwaffe: none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 pp.1572-73 (20 Apr 43 updated to 14 Jan 44); chronologies; BA-

MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk] **Malevo** (BULG): see Haskovo-Malevo.

Malo Konare (BULG) (42 12 35 N - 24 26 30 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in C Bulgaria 27.5 km W of Plovdiv and 1.5 km N of the town of Malo Konare. <u>History</u>: early history not found, but it was used by Luftwaffe transport aircraft during the Balkan campaign in spring 1941. Inactive after that until August 1944 when the Stab of II. Fliegerkorps was here for a few days before continuing on to Niš/Serbia. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information found. <u>Infrastructure</u>: none reported.

Operational Units: Stab/KG z.b.V. 1 (Mar-Apr 41); I./KG z.b.V. 1 (Mar-Apr 41).

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1595 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Melnik (BULG) (41 31 29 N - 23 23 29 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in SW Bulgaria 21.5 km NE of Petrich and 13 km E of Struma. Exact location in the vicinity of the town of Melnik not determined. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1595 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Mestanli (BULG) (a.k.a. Momchilograd, Momchilgrad) (41 31 39 N - 25 24 33 E) General: emergency landing ground in south-central Bulgaria 47 km SSW of Haskovo and 12 km S of Kardzali. Exact location in the vicinity of the town of Momchilgrad not determined. History: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: no information. Infrastructure: no information. [Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1595 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Nevrokop (BULG) (a.k.a. Gotse Delchev) (41 34 25 N - 23 44 45 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in SW Bulgaria 133 km SSE of Sofia and 49 km NE of Petrich. Exact location in the vicinity of the town of Gotse Delchev not determined.

History: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here.

<u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1595 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Nova Zagora (BULG) (a.k.a. Nowa Zagora) (42 29 38 N – 26 00 29 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in east central Bulgaria 41 km W of Yambol and 32.5 km ENE of Stara Zagora. Exact location in the vicinity of the town of Nova Zagora not determined, but possibly on the SW outskirts. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1596 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Nowi Pazar (BULG) (a.k.a. Novi Pazar) (43 20 51 N - 27 11 48 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in NE Bulgaria 60 km WNW of Varna. Exact location of the landing ground not determined, but almost certainly 3.75 km NNW of Novi Pazar. Rated for fighters. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information. [Sources: chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Novoseltsi (BULG) (a.k.a. today: Elin Pelin) (42 40 50 N – 23 35 20 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in W Bulgaria 22 km E of Sofia city center and 1.5 km N of Novoseltsi (Elin Pelin). <u>History</u>: built 1939-40 and by 1942 was being used as a practice field for a Bulgarian flight training school with German instructors. No evidence found of use by Luftwaffe units. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information found. <u>Infrastructure</u>: 1 hangar was under construction in 1942-43.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1574 (21 Apr 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Orhanije (BULG): see Botewgrad.

Orlino (BULG): see Dospat.

Pashmakli (BULG) (a.k.a. Smolyan) (41 34 45 N - 24 42 20 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in south-central Bulgaria 62 km S of Plovdiv and 13 km NE of the border with Greece. Exact location in the vicinity of the town of Smolyan not determined. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information. [Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1596 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Pavlikeni (BULG) (43 14 20 N - 25 18 23 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in north-central Bulgaria 60 km ESE of Pleven. Exact location in the vicinity of the town of Pavlikeni not determined. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1596 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Pernik (BULG) (42 36 19 N - 23 02 15 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in W Bulgaria 24.5 km WSW of Sofia. Exact location of the landing ground in the vicinity of Pernik not determined. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Petritsch (BULG) (a.k.a. Petrich) (41 23 53 N - 23 12 23 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in SW Bulgaria 153 km SW of Plovdiv and almost certainly 5.75 km N of the town of Petrich. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. Shown in Luftwaffe airfield maps for 1944 which suggests that it was active and maintained. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1596 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Plovdiv (BULG) (42 07 30 N - 24 46 00 E)

<u>General</u>: airfield in C Bulgaria on the SE outskirts of Plovdiv c. 2 to 3 km SE of the city center. Rated for fighters.

<u>History</u>: built about 1928 as a civil airport serving Plovdiv and Central Bulgaria but was taken over by the military when the war started. It became one of the Luftwaffe's key airfields for the campaign in the Balkans in spring 1941, especially for transports used in the airborne operations at the Corinth Canal and Crete. Luftwaffe flying units were not based here after June 1941.

<u>Dimensions</u>: approx. 1370 x 1005 meters (1500 x 1100 yards) with an irregular shape. <u>Surface and Runways</u>: rough grass surface. No paved runway.

<u>Fuel and Ammunition</u>: bulk fuel was stored off the NE corner and connected to the hangars by a pipeline. Ammunition storage was reportedly 3.25 km NE of the airfield.

<u>Infrastructure</u>: had 4 large hangars with paved aprons and adjacent workshops on the NW boundary, and 1 large repair hangar with numerous adjacent workshop buildings and garages. The numerous station buildings – HQ, admin offices, officers' mess and quarters, barracks, classrooms, meteorological office – were on the NW boundary behind the hangars. Another group of buildings, these being heavily camouflaged, was off the SE boundary and thought to include stores buildings and more barracks. A branch rail line served the NW boundary of the airfield.

<u>Dispersal</u>: there were 6 open aircraft parking bays with earthen walls at the S corner, but most aircraft parked along the perimeter near the hangars.

Defenses: none reported or observed in Nov 43.

<u>Remarks</u>: none. <u>Operational Units</u>:

Bulgarian: 5th Bomber Group (Orlek) (1940-43); HQ Air Division; 5th Bomber Rgt. (1944). Luftwaffe: II./KG z.b.V. 1 (Mar-Apr 41); II.(Schlacht)/LG 2 (Apr 41); KGr. z.b.V. 102 (Apr 41); Stab/KG z.b.V. 3 (Apr-May 41); Stab/KG z.b.V. 2 (Apr-May 41); KGr. z.b.V. 40 (Apr-May 41); KGr. z.b.V. 60 (Apr-May 41).

Station Commands: none identified

<u>Station Units</u> (on various dates – not complete): 5. Flugh.Betr.Kp. Res. VIII (May-Jun 41); 1./Ln.-Betr.Abt. z.b.V. 11 (Apr 41); elements of 4.(Tel.Bau)/Ln.-Rgt. 24 (May 44);

Sanitätsbereitschaft d.Lw. 1/XVII (May 41); Forschungsstelle d.Deutschen Luftwaffenmission Bulgarien (May 44); Fallschirmjäger-Rgt. 2 (Mar-Apr 41).

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 pp.1575-76 (15 Feb 44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Polikreischte (BULG) (today Polikraishte) (43 11 09 N - 25 37 16 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in N Bulgaria 84 km N of Stara Zagora. Exact location of the landing ground not determined, but probably 1.75 km W of Polikraishte. Rated for fighters. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Popovo (BULG) (c. 43 22 09 N – 26 14 30 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in NE Bulgaria c. 138 km WNW of Varna. The landing ground was believed to be 2.5 km NNE of the large town of Popovo. <u>History</u>: existed since 1929 as an emergency landing ground. In 1940 it was developed and upgraded with an improved

landing area and the construction of a few buildings, the work being done under German supervision. No record found of use by the Luftwaffe nor does it appear on 1943-44 Luftwaffe airfield maps for Bulgaria. Surface and Dimensions: set up and surface leveled in 1941. Measured approx. 795 x 795 meters (870 x 870 yards). No paved runway. Fuel and Ammunition: underground fuel storage tanks were installed in 1941. Infrastructure: no hangars or workshops reported but there were several buildings probably used for accommodations. The nearest rail connection was in Popovo. Dispersal: none.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1577 (22 Apr 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Radomir (BULG) (a.k.a. Radomir-Vrba, Vrba, Varba, Sofia-Vrba, Sofia-Varba) (42 30 25 N - 22 57 05 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in W Bulgaria 33 km WSW of Sofia and possibly 3.5 km SE of Radomir or just S of Varba. <u>History</u>: no information found regarding the history of the landing ground. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

Operational Units: I.(Jagd)/LG 2 (Apr 41); II./JG 51 (Jun 44).

Station Commands: none identified.

<u>Station Units</u> (on various dates – not complete): Sanitätsbereitschaft (mot) d.Lw. 4/I (Apr 41).

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1597 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Razgrad (BULG) (43 30 40 N – 26 33 15 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in NE Bulgaria 41 km NW of Shumen and 2 km SE of Razgrad. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information. [Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1596 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Razlog (BULG) (41 51 45 N - 23 29 45 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in SW Bulgaria c. 95 km SSE of Sofia and 5.25 km NNW of Bansko. The landing ground was 3.25 km SE of Razlog. <u>History</u>: in existence since at least 1926 and used occasionally for refueling as well as emergency landings. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: grass surface measuring approx. 870 x 455 meters (950 x 500 yards). No paved runway. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1596 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Retschiza (BULG) (today Rechitsa, Rechitza) (42 37 42 N - 26 16 32 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in east-central Bulgaria 7 km SW of Sliven. Exact location in the vicinity of Rechitza not determined, but possibly 1 km NW of the town center. Rated for fighters. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information. [Sources: chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Rustschuk (BULG) (a.k.a. Rustchuk, Ruse, Russe, Rousse) (43 51 20 N – 25 59 00 E) General: emergency landing ground in north-central Bulgaria 100 km NW of Shumen and 2.5 km NE of Ruse. Landing ground was on the S bank of the Danube across from Giurgiu/Romania. History: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. Surface and Dimensions: no information. Infrastructure: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1596 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Sahli (BULG) (a.k.a. Knyazhevo) (42 06 25 N – 26 30 00 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in SE Bulgaria 42 km S of Yambol and 8.5 km SW of Elhovo. Exact location in the vicinity of Knyazhevo not determined. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1596 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Samokov (BULG) (42 20 00 N - 23 33 05 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in W Bulgaria 44 km SSE of Sofia and probably on the SW side of Samokov. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1596 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Schumen (BULG) (a.k.a. Shumen) (43 16 20 N – 26 54 15 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in NE Bulgaria 79 km W of Varna. The landing ground was believed to be located either 1 to 2 km N of Shumen or 7.25 km S of the town. Rated for fighters. <u>History</u>: being used occasionally in 1931 as a secondary civil airport. The Germans carried out considerable improvements in 1941 and converted it into a military landing ground. Thereafter it was used infrequently by both Bulgarian and Luftwaffe aircraft but no units are known to have been based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Fuel and Ammunition</u>: fuel was stored in underground tanks. <u>Infrastructure</u>: none reported.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1578 (24 Apr 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Sheinovo (BULG) (a.k.a. Sheynovo) (42 41 55 N – 25 19 00 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in C Bulgaria 10 km NW of Kazanluk and probably on the N side of Sheynovo. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1596 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Simitli (BULG) (41 53 23 N - 23 06 21 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in SW Bulgaria 93-94 km SSW of Sofia, on the SW side of Simitli just W of the Railway line. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. Infrastructure: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1597 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Sirbanovo (BULG) (41 27 00 N - 23 14 55 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in SW Bulgaria 7.25 km NNE of Petrich. Either the same as Petrich landing ground or a satellite airstrip off the E end of it. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. Infrastructure: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1597 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Sliven (BULG) (42 39 25 N - 26 21 40 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in E Bulgaria 64 km NE of Stara Zagora and c. 4 km SE of Sliven town center. Rated for fighters. <u>History</u>: existed in 1940 as an emergency landing ground. The Germans began improvement work on the landing ground in early 1943 and brought in a detachment of an airfield command in Feb 44, but no Luftwaffe flying units are known to have been based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: leveled grass surface with initial dimensions of 455 x 365 meters but greatly enlarged during the war to 2560 x 1100

meters (2800 x 1200 yards) with an irregular shape. <u>Fuel and Ammunition</u>: believed to have underground fuel storage tanks. An ammunition dump with at least 4 bunkers was under construction SE of the South dispersal in early 1944. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no hangars but there were a number of huts off the S boundary that may have been used as workshops. A large barracks complex was located N of the landing area. <u>Dispersal</u>: a dispersal area with 14 blast bays was built in 1943-44 at the S end of the landing area and more bays were under construction in Mar 44.

Remarks:

1943-44: construction and improvement work by the Bulgarian Labor Service under German supervision.

31 Mar 44: a U.S. photo reconnaissance plane observed no aircraft on or near the airfield. Operational Units:

Bulgarian: none identified. Luftwaffe: none identified.

<u>Station Commands</u>: Flugplatzkdo. of Fl.H.Kdtr. E 33/VI (Feb-Mar 44); Teilkdtr. of Fl.H.Kdtr. E(v) 219/XVII Yambol (Apr-Aug 44).

Station Units (on various dates - not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 pp.1579-80 (26 Apr 43 updated to 31 Mar 44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Sofia (BULG) (42 42 N - 23 19 E)

<u>General</u>: not an airfield but rather Lw. units stationed in and around the capital of Bulgaria on a specific date.

Lw. Garrison (on various dates): Sonderstab Bulgarien (Lw.) (Sep 39 – mid-42); Deutschen Luftwaffenmission Bulgarien with Ln.-Zug and Flak-Lehrkdo. (mid-42 – Aug 44); Jagdabschnittsführer Bulgarien (Jan-Aug 44); I./Flak-Rgt. 6 (gem. mot.) (Mar 41); I./Flak-Rgt. 501 (gem. mot.) (Apr-May 41); Res.Flakscheinwerfer-Abt. 509 (Apr-May 41); 9. (Flus.)/Ln.-Rgt. 4 (Mar 41); 7.(Tel.Bau)/Ln.-Rgt. 24 (mot) (Feb-Aug 44); 4.(Tel.Bau)/Ln.-Betr.Abt. (mot) z.b.V. 14 (Jun 44); Ln.-Abt. 83 (c.May 43 – Sep 44); Stab, Flum.Ausw.Kp. and Flum.Verb.Kp./Ln.-Flugmelde-Abt. Jagdabschnittsführer Bulgarien (S-Bojana, May-Aug 44); Flugmeldeverbindungs-Zug (May 44); Ln.-Gerätelager (May 44); Ln.-Ausbauleitung 9 Bulgarien (May 44); Ln.-Auswerte-Kp. Bulgarien (May 44); Ln.-Funküberwachungs-Kp. z.b.V. 2 (c.Oct 43 – Aug 44); Ln.-RV-Betr.Personal-Kp. z.b.V. 7 (elements) (May 44); Flieger-Geräteausgabestelle (Eis.) 52/XVII (c.Apr-Sep 44); Flak-Sondergerätewerkstatt (mot) 5/VI (May 44); Trsp.Kol. d.Lw. 130/IV (May, Aug 44); Flugsicherungshauptstelle (May 44); Wetterberatungszentrale (May 44); LS-Warnkdo. (May 44); Verbindungsstelle GL Bulgarien (Mar 42); Luftattaché Sofia (1930s – Sep 44);

Sofia-Busherischte (BULG) (a.k.a. Sofia-Bozhurishta, Sofia-Bojurishte, Sofia-Bojurischte, Sofia/West, Sofiya, today: Sofia-Bozhurishche) (42 45 05 N – 23 12 00 E) General: airfield 12 km NW of the Bulgarian capital's city center.

<u>History</u>: dates from World War I. Used almost exclusively by the Bulgarian Air Force after April 1941.

<u>Dimensions</u>: approx. 1145×960 meters (1250×1050 yards) with an irregular shape. <u>Surface and Runways</u>: grass surface that was usually unserviceable when wet. No paved runway. Equipped with landing area illumination.

<u>Fuel and Ammunition</u>: underground fuel storage tanks were located just E of the hangars on the NE boundary and near the very large hangar. Two unused ammunition dumps were off the W and NW side of the airfield and another that was in use 1.6 km SSW of the landing area along the railway toward the village of Bankya.

<u>Infrastructure</u>: had 1 very large and 4 large hangars with paved aprons on the NE boundary. Separate workshops were on the W side of the hangars near the N corner. A control tower, terminal, admin buildings, barracks, stores buildings and other permanent

infrastructure were all on the N and NE sides of the airfield near the hangars. The nearest rail connection was in Sofia.

<u>Dispersal</u>: no information found. <u>Defenses</u>: no information found.

Remarks:

1924 (1917?): DAR (Bulgarian State Aircraft Workshop) established here to design, build and license-build aircraft.

1943-44: construction and improvement work by the Bulgarian Labor Service under German supervision.

Operational Units:

Bulgarian: pre-war primary flight training and navigator schools here; 1st Composite Group (Orlek) (1940-43); III Group/6th Fighter Rgt. (1943-44); Long-Range Reconnaissance Sqdn. (c. 1940-44); I Tactical Reconnaissance Gp. (1943-44).

Luftwaffe: 7.(F)/LG 2 (Mar-Apr 41); II.(Schlacht)/LG 2 (Apr 41).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E(v) 221/VIII (Aug-Sep 44).

<u>Station Units</u> (on various dates – not complete): Lw. Flugsicherungshauptstelle (May 44). [<u>Sources</u>: AFHRA A5258 pp.1581-? (Apr 43?); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Sofia-Filipovci (BULG) (a.k.a. Sofia-Filipovtsi) (c. 42 40 N – 23 13 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground in W Bulgaria c. 8.5 km WSW of the Bulgarian capital of Sofia. Exact location in the vicinity of Sofia-Filipovtsi not determined. <u>History</u>: no information found. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information. Operational Units:

Bulgarian: none identified.

Luftwaffe: 2.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 11 (Apr 41). Station Commands: none identified.

Station Units (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1594 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Sofia-Wrasdebna (BULG) (a.k.a. Sofia-Vrajdebna, Sofia-Vrazhdebna, Sofia/Ost, Sofiya) (42 41 40 N - 23 23 10 E)

General: airfield 7 km E of Sofia city center.

<u>History</u>: completed and opened as a military airfield in 1939. The Luftwaffe began using it extensively at the beginning of 1941, considered it the main airfield in Bulgaria, especially for aircraft in transit to and from the Balkans, and carried out continuous improvements from 1941 to mid-1944. Luftwaffe fighter units were based here from Jan 44 to intercept Allied bombers flying to and from targets in Romania.

<u>Dimensions</u>: approx. 1555 x 1280 meters (1700 x 1400 yards) with an irregular shape. <u>Surface and Runways</u>: level, rolled, firm grassy surface, but unserviceable during the spring thaw. A (paved?) runway was built during 1943 and was nearing completion by mid-October 1943.

Fuel and Ammunition: underground fuel tanks were being installed in Oct 43.

<u>Infrastructure</u>: 4 large hangars were under construction in Oct 43 and there was a small repair hangar and workshops at the NE corner. Flight control, admin offices and some accommodations were in 15 barrack-type huts that had been erected.

<u>Dispersal</u>: no information found. Defenses: no information found.

Remarks:

1943-44: construction and improvement work by the Bulgarian Labor Service under German supervision.

17 Oct 43: 5 twin-engine and 13 single-engine aircraft were observed on the airfield, virtually all of them transports, courier and liaison planes of German make.

14 Nov 43: attacked for first time during a raid on Sofia by B-25s and P-38s. Operational Units:

Bulgarian: pre-war navigator school and wartime flight school; HQ Aviation Training Rgt. (1943-44); 1st Group (Orlek) (1942-43); II Group/6th Fighter Rgt. (1944).

Luftwaffe: 7.(F)/LG 2 (Mar-Apr 41); I.(Jagd)/LG 2 (Apr 41); 1.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 23 (May 41); I./JG 5 (Jan-Apr 44); elements of II./JG 51 (Jun 44); II./JG 301 (Jun-Aug 44).

Reserve Training & Replacement Units: II./SG 151 (Jul 44).

<u>Station Commands</u>: Flughafen-Stützpunktkdo. Wrasdebna (c.Mar 41 – mid-43); Fl.Pl.Kdo. A 33/XVII (mid-43 – Mar 44); Flugplatzkdo. Sofia/Ost of Fl.H.Kdtr. E(v) 220/XVII Krumovo (Apr-Aug 44).

<u>Station Units</u> (on various dates – not complete): Wetterbeobachtungszentrale (May 44); Werft-Kp. d.Lw. 28/III (Sep 42); 9.(le.)/Feldwerftverband d.Lw. (mot) 10 (Dec 43, May 44); Flieger-Wintersondergerätezug 55 (1944); Flugzeug-Bergetrupp 3/XII (Dec 43, May 44); Flugzeug-Bergungstrupp z.b.V. 3/32 (May 44).

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1582 (27 Apr 43 updated to 17 Oct 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Stanimaka (BULG) (a.k.a. Assenovgrad, Asenovgrad) (42 00 20 N – 24 52 15 E) General: emergency landing ground in C Bulgaria 19.5 km SSE of Plovdiv and 10.25 km SSE of Krumovo. Believed to be between Asenovgrad and Krumovo airfield and probably served as a satellite or alternate landing ground for Krumovo. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1597 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Stara Zagora (BULG) (42 22 55 N - 25 39 25 E)

<u>General</u>: airfield in C Bulgaria c. 79 km ENE of Plovdiv and 5.25 km SSE of Stara Zagora. Rated for fighters.

<u>History</u>: existed since at least 1929, improved in 1938 with hangar and workshop construction beginning in 1940. Used mainly by Bulgarian bombers sent here for bombing practice. The Germans arrived in 1941 and did some further work on the airfield. Dimensions: approx. 915×715 meters $(1000 \times 780 \text{ yards})$.

<u>Surface and Runways</u>: poorly drained grass or farmland surface that remained soft for a long time after heavy rain or melting snow. Had a short 375 meter (410 yard) runway made out of crushed stone.

<u>Fuel and Ammunition</u>: there were 6 fuel tanks on the S boundary.

<u>Infrastructure</u>: had 4 medium hangars at the NE corner with the flight control building in the middle and several barrack buildings in the same general location. There were also some small workshops for minor repairs. The nearest rail connection was in Stara Zagora. <u>Dispersal</u>: none reported.

<u>Defenses</u>: no information found.

Remarks:

27 Feb 44: no aircraft were visible when photographed by a reconnaissance plane.

Operational Units:

Bulgarian: none identified.

Luftwaffe: 3.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 21 (Mar-Apr 41)?; 4.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 22 (Mar-Apr 41)?

Station Commands none identified.

<u>Station Units</u> (on various dates – not complete): 1.(Fernverbindungs-)/Ln.-Betriebs-Abt. z.b.V. (mot) 14 (May 44); Koflug 8/XVII (Jul-Aug 44).

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 pp.1584-85 (29 Apr 43 updated to 27 Feb 44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Tatar Pazarjik (BULG) (a.k.a. Pazardzhik) (42 11 30 N - 24 19 40 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in C Bulgaria 34 km WNW of Plovdiv and thought to be just W of Pazardzhik. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1597 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Telisch (BULG) (a.k.a. Telich; today Telish) (43 20 25 N - 24 15 35 E)

<u>General</u>: airfield in NW Bulgaria 31 km SW of Pleven and 1.5 km NW of the village of Telish. Rated for fighters.

<u>History</u>: built in 1939. The Luftwaffe used Telish during the spring 1941 invasion of the Balkans, and in 1942 it was being used as a training field for dive-bombers.

Dimensions: approx. 1550 x 505 meters (1700 x 550 yards).

<u>Surface and Runways</u>: good quality all-weather turf surface. No paved runway, but had a prepared earth airstrip.

<u>Fuel and Ammunition</u>: there were several underground fuel tanks E of the hangars with a pipeline running between the tanks and hangars.

<u>Infrastructure</u>: had 1 medium and 2 large concrete hangars off the S boundary with nearby workshop buildings. The station HQ and admin building, several barracks, 2 stores buildings and several huts were S and W of the large hangars. The nearest rail connection was in Telish.

<u>Dispersal</u>: no organized dispersal facilities.

Defenses: no information found.

Remarks:

2 Mar 44: photo reconnaissance film identified 1 twin-engine bomber of transport, 2 fighters and 5 small aircraft on the airfield.

Operational Units:

Bulgarian: pre-war Bulgarian Air Force instrument flight school and wartime flight school here; 7th Reserve Group (Orlek) (1940).

Luftwaffe: detachment of IV./NJG 6 ((1943-44).

<u>Station Commands</u>: Fl.Pl.Kdo. B 10/I (c. Jan-Mar 44); Flugplatzkdo. Telisch of Fl.H.Kdtr. E(v) 220/XVII Krumovo (Apr-Aug 44).

Station Units (on various dates - not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 pp.1586-87 (29 Apr 43 updated to 2 Mar 44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Topolite (BULG) (a.k.a. Topoli) (43 12 15 N - 27 50 20 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in NE Bulgaria 8 km NW of Varna and on the N shore of Lake Varna (Varnensko Ezero). <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. <u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1597 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Varna-Peinerdjik (BULG) (a.k.a. Varna-Peinerdzik?, Varna – Ses Sevnes?) (43 11 20 N – 27 52 30 E)

<u>General</u>: landing ground on the S shore of Lake Varna on the Black Sea coast of Bulgaria approx. 3.25 km WSW of Varna city center and just E of the Varna seaplane station. <u>History</u>: possibly used by the Bulgarians for training in 1938-39 but then no information found until 1942 when it was being used occasionally by both Bulgarian and Luftwaffe aircraft. No record found of units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: leveled farmland with good quality turf on sandy soil measuring approx. 550 x 365 meters (600 x 400 yards) and roughly rectangular in shape. <u>Fuel and Ammunition</u>: provided by the seaplane station. <u>Infrastructure</u>: used the facilities of the seaplane station.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1590 (31 May 43); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Varna (See) (BULG) (a.k.a. Lake Devna, Lake Varna, Peinerdiyk?) (43 11 00 N – 27 51 00 E)

<u>General</u>: seaplane station on the Black Sea coast of Bulgaria. The station was on the S shore of Lake Varna approx. 5 km WSW of Varna city center.

<u>History</u>: dates from at least 1916 when the Germans erected the hangars and a naval flying station was established here in 1927. Enlarged, modernized and generally improved 1939-41 under German supervision to accommodate 120 seaplanes. Resumed operations in 1942.

<u>Dimensions</u>: the entire 8 km long lake was available for take-offs and landings.

<u>Anchorage</u>: the lake was well-sheltered and seldom frozen over. A floating dock and a mooring buoy were available. There was 1 large, wide concrete slipway and possibly 2 narrow slipways for launching and removing seaplanes. Two jetties were in the vicinity of the large slipway and in front of the large hangar.

<u>Fuel and Ammunition</u>: there were 2 or 3 underground fuel storage tanks E of the hangars. Ammunition was available from 2 dumps located within 1.6 km of the station.

<u>Infrastructure</u>: had 1 large, 1 medium and 2 small hangars connected by a wide concrete apron. Additional workshop buildings were near the hangars. Billeting was available in numerous barrack-type huts grouped near the hangars. A light rail line connected the seaplane station with the main line in Varna.

Defenses: existed but no details found.

Remarks:

1943-44: construction and improvement work by the Bulgarian Labor Service under German supervision.

14 Apr 44: photo reconnaissance film identified 1 x 3-engine Ju 52 floatplane, 9 x BV 138 seaplanes, 2 x Do 24 flying boats and 1 x small seaplane.

Operational Units:

Bulgarian: 161st Seaplane Reconnaissance Sqdn. (c. 1942-44).

Luftwaffe: Seenotstaffel 7 (Apr 41); 2.(F)/Aufkl.Gr. 125 (Dec 41 – Jan 42); elements of 3./Minensuchgruppe 1 (Oct 42 – Aug 44); 3.(F)/SAGr. 125 (Jan 42 – Feb 44); 1.(F)/SAGr. 125 (May-Jun 44); 1.(F)/SAGr. 131 (Apr-May 44); elements of 8. Seenotstaffel (Aug 41 – Aug 44).

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E 120/XI (See) (Nov 41 – Mar 44); Fl.Pl.Kdo. B Varna (? – Mar 44); Fl.H.Kdtr. E(v) 227/XVII (Apr-Aug 44); Fl.H.Kdtr. E (See) 126/XI (Apr-Aug 44). Station Units (on various dates – not complete): Seenotbezirksstelle (L) z.b.V. 3 (Aug 41 – May 42); Seenotkdo. 18 (May 42, Apr-Jul 44)); Seenotbereichskdo. XII (Aug 44); Frontreparaturbetrieb GL 2861 (Blohm & Voss airframes) (1943-44); Frontreparaturbetrieb GL 2862 (Blohm & Voss airframes) (? – 1943); elements of 3. Flugh.Betr.Kp. (S) (Rauchstart) (May 44); 9.(Tel.Bau)/Ln.-Rgt. 24 (mot) (1943-44); schw.Flugmelde-Kp. z.b.V. 3 (Nov 42); Flugmeldeverbindungs-Zug Varna (May 44); Bezirksbauleitung d.Lw. Varna (May 44); Lw.-Sanitätsstaffel (May 44).

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 pp.1588-89 (31 May 43 updated to 14 Apr 44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Varna – Ses Sevnes (BULG) (43 11 35 N – 27 52 50 E): same as Varna-Peinerdzik? **Vratca** (BULG) (a.k.a. Vraca) (43 12 10 N – 23 33 00 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in NW Bulgaria 59 km NNE of Sofia and believed to be 5.5 km NNW of Vraca near the railway line and the village of Nefela. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information. Infrastructure: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1597 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Vrba (BULG): see Radomir.

Yambol (BULG) (42 30 30 N - 26 29 30 E)

<u>General</u>: airfield in E Bulgaria 72 km E of Stara Zagora and 3.25 km NNW of Yambol town center. Rated for fighters.

<u>History</u>: built by the Germans during World War I and equipped with a Zeppelin hangar. The hangar was removed and the airfield modernized during the mid-1930's, including the construction of new hangars. It was one of the main bases for the Bulgarian Air Force during the war years but there was very little Luftwaffe activity here.

<u>Dimensions</u>: approx. 1370 x 620 meters (1500 x 680 yards) and roughly rectangular in shape.

<u>Surface and Runways</u>: grass surface. No paved runway but there was a concrete starting platform 275 meters (300 yards) in length in the S part of the landing area.

<u>Fuel and Ammunition</u>: bulk fuel was stored in underground tanks off the SE corner of the airfield.

<u>Infrastructure</u>: had 4 medium hangars with paved aprons and adjoining workshop buildings off the W boundary, and 1 medium hangar with a paved apron and adjoining workshop at the SW corner. Admin buildings and a group of barrack huts were immediately W of the hangars on the W boundary. The flight control building was located between the two central hangars on the W boundary. The airfield was served by a branch rail line.

<u>Dispersal</u>: no dispersal facilities as such, but there were 4 small open aircraft shelters off the W boundary to the N of the hangars. Most aircraft parked in the open on the S half of the landing area.

Defenses: none reported.

Remarks:

1943-44: construction and improvement work by the Bulgarian Labor Service under German supervision.

Operational Units:

Bulgarian: pre-war training center for reservists; 3d Reconnaissance Group (Orlek) (1940-43); III Tactical Reconnaissance Gp. (1943-44).

Luftwaffe: 3.(H)/Aufkl.Gr. 21 (Mar 41)?

Station Commands: Fl.H.Kdtr. E(v) 219/XVII (Apr-Aug 44).

<u>Station Units</u> (on various dates – not complete): none identified.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 pp.1592-93 (8 Mar 44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]

Zlatidol (BULG) (a.k.a. Seimen, Simeonovgrad) (42 02 00 N - 25 49 55 E)

<u>General</u>: emergency landing ground in south-central Bulgaria 25 km NE of Haskovo and possibly 5 km E of Simeonovgrad. <u>History</u>: no information found. No evidence found of Luftwaffe units being based here. <u>Surface and Dimensions</u>: no information.

<u>Infrastructure</u>: no information.

[Sources: AFHRA A5258 p.1597 (1943-44); chronologies; BA-MA; NARA; PRO/NA; web site ww2.dk]