

**GEORGI STOYKOV RAKOVSKI – THE FOREFATHER  
OF THE BULGARIAN ARMY AND PATRON  
OF THE NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE**

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**Abstract:** *For more than three decades after its establishment in 1912 the Bulgarian National Defence College had no patron. It was in 1946 when this situation changed. By Decree № 5 dated 5 March the following alteration in the name of the National Defence College was introduced: “From National Defence College to Rakovski National Defence College”. The amendment was a part of the overall transformation process that marked the development of the Bulgarian armed forces after the Second World War and which final goal was the establishment of a new image of the Bulgarian army. It was also an element of the policy of the new party called Otechestven Front towards eliminating the monarchic traditions in the army. More important, however, is the question why Georgi Rakovski was chosen to become the patron of the National Defence College. The answer can be found in the deeds and heritage of the prominent Bulgarian related to the military aspects of the development of Bulgarian self-consciousness during the Bulgarian Enlightenment.*

**Key words:** *Bulgarian national spirit, statehood, forefather, national revolutionary movement.*