

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT- NWDCA

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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Washington

HELLENIC INFORMATION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT II A

INFORMATION BULLETIN (A)

- No. 38 -

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OSS ARCHIVE

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

CIA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
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HELLENIC INFORMATION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT II A.

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S E P T E M B E R 1943-

A .- SECRET PRESS

The circulation of secret papers by the various Guerilla organisations is carried out with an ever increasing intensity.

The latest news given regarding the Russian and Middle East Fronts encourages the Greek people's National instincts as well as their belief that the day of final victory is near.

All Allied and Guerilla victories are fully exploited in the secretly circulating press in their call to enslaved Hellenism to continue resistance and unify themselves against the common Foe so as to be fully prepared for the days of Allied invasions.

The secretly circulating press constantly attacks the invader inviting the Greek nation to continue sabotage, strikes, manifestations and to fill up the ranks of the Guerillas to form the vanguard of the Allied troops in the Middle East.

B .- PROCLAMATIONS

Apart from proclamations circulated by Guerilla organisations, several proclamations are dropped by air containing articles against the occupying forces and advising the Greek people to join the Guerillas:-

On the night of the 22/4/43, many proclamations were dropped from an allied plane in ARGHOS (Kalama area) encouraging the Guerillas.

On the night of the 19-20/5/43, a proclamation was dropped from an allied plane in many areas of the Peloponese, advising the Guerillas to refuse the proposed amnesty by the enemy as this was only a trap.

On the night of the 29-30/5/43, Allied planes dropped proclamations in various areas of the Peloponese against the occupying forces.

C .- STRIKES - MANIFESTATIONS

A general strike of all employees was called at Kalama on the 15th. of June 1943.

On the 17/6/43, in protest for the execution of hostages and as a show of sympathy to their families, a strike of civil servants was called in Salonica and on the 19/6/43 in Athens and Pireaus.

Herebelow, we are able to give further details on the general strike which took place from the 20th up to the 26th of June 1943.-

All these strikes were called against the Quisling Government and the occupation forces in protest to the harshness of measures taken by them.

The Archbishop of Athens came out as a leading nationalist figure protecting all strikes, manifestations and Guerilla activities. - His interest for the families of the victims, the courage inspired to all Patriotic organisations and his obvious power against the conquerors brought him out as a National Popular Efigy.

During the manifestations a Memoranda was sent to ALTEMBOURG, GIGGY, VEGHIARELLI and RALLI.

This was drafted by a common Committee in which a representative of Athens' Archbishop took part. It is interesting to note the following demands from the text of this Memoranda.

- "That, executions of innocent Greek hostages by the occupation Authorities must cease henceforth.

- That, the mining of Pireaus port, Electric power-house and other large factories and installations should cease henceforth.

- That, the breach in the Marathon dam should be repaired as soon as possible and that this should not be mined any longer.

- That, the compulsory blood donation imposed by the Germans on Greek workers must not be repeated .

- That, the plunder and terrorism of the provincial must cease.

- That, the occupying forces must not effect fictitious sabotage in order to find an excuse for arrests and executions.

- That, detained must be left free.

- That, the military Courts must be abolished. etc. etc.....

This memoranda particularly protested against the students arrests, and demanded their liberation & their protection in future for the continuation of University studies.

These Nationalist manifestations made such a deep impression, that German and Italian soldiers were compelled to shoot from windows and roofs of houses at the crowd and even against solitary pedestrians.

The behaviour of Germans was by far harsher than that of the Italians.

On the 10/7/43, a general strike was called in Salonica in order to protest against the extension of the Bulgarian occupation.

For the same reason a general strike was called in Athens and Pireaus on the 13/7/43.- The strike was repeated on the 22/7/43 and a colossal number of persons poured into the streets & squares singing patriotic songs and cheering Allied victories in protest to the extension of the Bulgarian occupation in Central Macedonia.

Several clashes between occupation troops and the manifestants took place in an attempt to disperse the crowd assembled in Kolonaki square. The Germans made use of hand grenades and machine guns and 84 civilians were killed, 256 wounded and some 300 arrested, and taken as hostages.

Again, on the 25/7/43, a pan-Hellenic strike was called for the same reasons as previously and on the 22/8/43, another general strike was called in Athens in protest for the execution of hostages and as a show of sympathy for the families of the victims.

The strike lasted 24 hours, all shops were closed and no one ventured out all day. In the streets only German patrols were seen and during the whole 24 hours all the trams stopped circulating.

D .- GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES

a) Agreement of the 8th of July 1943 between the delegate of Allied Headquarters Middle East and the Guerilla groups.

N.B. In our last bulletin we gave the text of a similar agreement signed on the 14/3/43.- Herebelow, we give the text of a new agreement signed on the 15/7/43 and according to which all Guerilla groups in occupied Greece come directly under the order of Allied Headquarters M.E.F. forming thus, advanced detachments of the regular Greek Army :-

" Allied General Headquarters Middle East " through the medium of its representative Colonel "EDDY" on the one hand and the plenipotentiary representative of the Military groups and Patriotic organisations on the other hand, reached the following agreement :-

- 1) For military reasons all Guerilla groups must be known as " NATIONAL GUERRILLA GROUPS OF GREECE " and this will be the only title used by ALLIED HEAD QUARTERS MIDDLE EAST. However, in Greece every Guerilla group will keep its organisation, name and command.
- 2) Greece will be divided into independent military areas. If Guerilla groups of only one organisation exist in such an area, then all military decision will be taken by the Headquarters of this organisation and in accordance to orders issued by the common Guerilla G.H.Q. - If two or more organisations exist, then, the various Guerilla groups will collaborate in military operation either under a common command elected by the collaborating groups or under the Commander appointed by the common Guerilla G.H.Q. which will take in consideration for this, the advice of the collaborating chiefs and of the British liaison officer.- The Common G.H.Q. has the right in special cases to appoint the Commander of an operation for the execution of an order given by the Allied G.H.Q.M.E.F.
- 3) Groups of one area must not enter any other area but only :-
 - a) In case of extreme necessity
 - b) following a previous agreement
 - c) following order given by the Common G.H.Q.

This paragraph aims at the security of Unity of the whole organisation for all military purposes and needs.

- 4) All Guerillas belonging to a National Organisation must recognise Guerillas belonging to other National Organisations. Every Guerilla is free to view his principles and ideals under the condition that he will not accuse or talk against other Guerilla groups, their principles, their ideals or against any member belonging to other organisations.
- 5) Any organisation and persons are free to create Guerilla groups in any area they wish. They must however, accept the conditions of the present agreement and must submit to the orders of the common G.H.Q. - Guerilla of one area will all have the same rights. All differences arising between the groups, will be settled by common agreement of the superior Command or should the need arise, by the common G.H.Q.

- 6) The Guerilla groups stationed in the plains must facilitate the supply of food to the Guerilla and to the population in the mountains. The common G.H.Q. has the right to intervene in order to regulate this in case of insufficiency of food, so as to attain a mutual agreement among the various organisations.
- 7) Guerilla groups of an area must, in the case of fighting against the invader offer every help possible either when asked by the Chief of the Group involved or on their own accord, should such an intervention be necessary. - In case of larger scale of operation ordered by the Common G.H.Q. then, the operation order will also determine the degree of help to be given.
- 8) No Guerilla will be allowed to commit atrocities. No regular imprisonment will be allowed without a fair and just trial with a complete proof of the events.
- 9) Up to the day of signature of the present agreement, any Guerilla who abandoned his Group to join another will benefit of a full pardon by his ex-Chiefs. - All Greeks were and are still free to choose the group in which they would like to serve.
- 10) All military supplies sent to Greece must be accepted and considered as a testimony of the United Nations recognition, of the heroic efforts made by Greek Allies to resist against and destroy the Axis. - The distribution of these supplies will be carried out by the Common G.H.Q. - All areas who do not comply with the present agreement will be excluded from the distribution.
- 11) In order to obtain a better Command and Direction of the whole struggle and the concentration of all activities, a General Headquarter will be formed, composed of representatives of all Guerilla groups with important areas and the delegate of Allied General Headquarters M.E.F., similar common Headquarters can be formed in every district or area, according to the strength of the Guerilla there. - Smaller Guerilla groups can send military liaisons to the Common G.H.Q.
- 12) British Officers attached to Common H.Q.'s, will act as liaison Officers of G.H.Q. M.E.F. In case of differences arising between the different groups which are liable to affect and hamper military operations, the nearest British liaison Officer must be informed. 5th. July 1943

(signatures)

N.B. These conditions must be made public by the press, broadcast from Cairo and London Stations and must be read to all Guerilla.

b) Attacks against the occupying forces :-

In April 1943, many engagements between German detachments and Guerillas took place in Ekaterini Olympos area. The most important engagement took place in MYLIA village on the 8/4/43. - 30 Guerillas were killed and 27 wounded; whilst the Germans lost 22 killed and 37 wounded. -

On the 4/5/43, a Guerilla group attacked a Bulgarian armed band near the villages of AGH. Paraskevi and NIKI (Grevena) and dispersed it.

In May, Guerillas attacked an Italian convoy between Hrisovitsi and Astakos, carrying ammunitions.- 8 Italians were killed and 17 wounded and all cars seized with their loads.

As soon as the amnesty for all Guerillas expired on the 20/5/43, Many engagements between the Guerillas and the occupying forces began, ending in a major fight on the 30/5/43 in BRALLOU area. An Italian detachment was completely annihilated, leaving on the battlefield 600 killed, 190 wounded were transferred to Amphissa's Hospital.-

On the 21/5/43, Guerillas attacked a German detachment in VEVIS Station (Florina).- 7 Germans were killed and 22 were wounded.- successfully

In June 1943, a Guerilla group/attacked an Italian convoy outside ATALANTI.- This motor convoy consisted of an Italian detachment returning from patrol of the ATALANTI area, which they had plundered and looted, executing also 9 hostages from ATALANTI.- In reprisal the Guerillas killed every one of the 190 men of this detachment.

During the first decade of June 1943, a Guerilla group, 50 men in strength attacked a far superior German force escorting 55 hostage on their way to be executed in reprisal for an act of sabotage in KOURNOVON.- The Guerilla group was however, entirely annihilated, later on, a very large Guerilla force arrived on the scene engaged and completely annihilated an Italian Regiment of Infantry who lost 642 men killed and 1480 prisoners.- The Guerillas also captured all the material and war equipment of this Regiment, which together with the prisoners they carried off to their quarters.

On the 16/8/43 an engagement took place in Boriza village (Psiloritis)-mountain Crete) between German detachments and Guerilla group. 2 Germans were killed and 6 wounded.

c) Sabotage :- On the 11/3/43, Guerillas dynamited the iron line. bridge of STEFANOUSEON on the TRIKALA-KARDITSA

On the 5/5/43, many bridges were blown up on the Volos-Kalambaka railway line and communications were cut for several days.

On the 25/5/43, the wooden bridge over the LASSON river on the KLISTORIA-TRIPOLIS road was destroyed by the Guerillas.

On the 27/5/43, the 5th centrifugal compartment of the floating dock in the Naval arsenal was destroyed by sabotage.

On the 30/5/43, Guerillas blew up the bridge near Kilo 7.300 on the Kalavritos-Diakoftou railway line.

On the 4/6/43, Guerilla blew up a whole train in the big tunnel near Kournovon. This train was transporting troops (Italian detachments), ammunition and some Italian families. 312 were killed.

On the 12/6/43, Greek saboteur blew up in Pireaus harbour, the S/S CITA DI SAVOIA, 6000 tons which consequently sank remaining half out of the water as it settled on a wreck. This ship was ready to sail carrying horses, Italian and German detachments. 20 horses and 45 of the troops carried were lost.

On the night of the 20-21/6/43, Guerillas blew up near kilometer 202 the bridge over the ASOPOS river.- This bridge was a very important. Technical achievement as it was a three arch suspension bridge supported by the perpendicular cliffs of the ravine.- Height:- from the river 105m. Width:- 80m.-

On the 26/6/43, Guerillas blew up the german ammunition depot at ELLINIKON (suburb of Athens).- The building and the ammunition were completely destroyed.

On the 4/7/43, Guerillas destroyed the road bridge of ARAHOVA.

On the 6/7/43, Greek Patriots blew up a fully loaded Italian Oil tanker outside Pireaus harbour.

On the 8/7/43, Guerillas blew up a big road bridge over the AHELOU River.

On the 8/7/43, Greek Patriots blew up the German requisitioned 165 ton Caique P3 which was loaded up with ammunition. The Caique was sunk at the Aghios Giorgios Jetty (Keratsini-Pireaus).

On the 15/7/43, Greek Patriots sunk the Italian Oil tanker "SELLENO" in KERATSINI Bay.

Greek Patriots near HERAKLION (Crete) blew up the occupying forces petrol dumps.

On the 22/8/43, Greek Patriots set fire to 80 trams in the KALITHEA trams depot (Athens).

On the 25/8/43, Greek Patriots blew up the trams depot in KALITHEA, destroying all the materials and stores in it.

d) R e p r i s a l s :-

On the 3/5/43, two Battalions of the Aghias Italian Regiment plundered and pillaged the village of GERAKARI and which they completely destroyed.- They executed 5 of the inhabitants and took a further 26 to Aghia as hostages.

On the 5/6/43, an Italian detachment plundered and burnt the village of DELIA. This village had been bombed by air sometime ago, and the inhabitants had evacuated it and had all joined the Guerillas.

In May 1943, an Italian detachment set fire to the village of MAHAIRA, PROLOMOS, TAGHIANA and HRISTOVITSA and executed 20 of their inhabitants as hostages as well as a further 2 from ASTAKOS. Mitika was shelled by a destroyer and 29- inhabitants were killed.

In May 1943, the Germans arrested 123- inhabitants of LITHOHORI, STOUPE, KOUNTOURIOTISSA etc.... villages (OLYMPUS AREA) and sent them to Salonica as hostages.

In May 1943, The Italian regiment of Levadia raided the ATALANTI area, plundering and murdering and arrested many hostages. Part of ATALANTI town was plundered and set on fire. The villages of KALPODI, LINARATIS, XELIS, ALINASTRO and SFAKA were entirely plundered and burnt down. Another Italian force from Amfissa plundered and completely set fire to the villages of KASTRI and HRISSE and partly set fire to ARAHOVA.

On the 29/5/43, 15 hostages were executed by the Germans in Athens.

On the 31/5/43, a Bulgarian plane machine-gunned a number of Greek Caiques anchored in TSAGESI BAY.- These were afterwards siezed by a BULGARIAN detachment and taken to the Bulgaro occupied Port of PORTO LAGHOS.

On the 8/6/43, the Italians plundered and set fire to ELATIA. On the 13/6/43, the Italian plundered and burnt the villages of MORFOVOUNI (Karditsa). They also looted the Church there and executed 16 of the inhabitants.

On the 14/6/43, Italians plundered MESSENIKOLA (Nevropolis) and ill-treated the inhabitants.

On the 27/6/43, Germans executed 10 hostages in Athens, and the Italians executed 9 others in NIKEA (Nea Kokinia).-

On the 5/7/43, 2 Italian Battalions entered VAGHIA village (Thebes) plundered it, ill-treated the inhabitants and executed 15 of them.

e) Areas liberated

The whole area of Arachova is under Guerilla Command. On the 26/4/43, a postal car passing through LIDORIKIOU area, was searched by the Guerillas who censured the Italian correspondence carried. They stamped the envelopes with their stamps " DORIDOS H.Q. - FREE GREECE " and then they allowed it to continue its route.

In July 1943, the Guerillas liberated XIROHORIOU area (EUVOEA) abolishing the existant military and political authorities.-

f) Aid rendered to starving population

On the 22/5/43, Guerillas forced open the depots (K.Y.D.E.S.) of DEKATIS in STERNA (Messinia) and siezed all the existing cereals which they distributed to the inhabitants of the surroundings.- A similar action was taken by the Guerillas in FLAKA (Gheorghaliani), ARFARA, VIAHOPOULON (Kalamas) and on the 24/5/43 in KREMMIDIA, FOURTZI (Kalamas), ANDRITIEMAN, GHLENA, MYRSINHORI, PLATANOS, KARAMANOLION (Pylia) and in the A.S.O. depots in TRIFILLIA, MAKRISSIA, KATO SAMIKON and GREKA, and on the 2/6/43 in PYRGHOS (TRIFILLIA).

On the 11/6/43, Guerillas distributed maize to the inhabitants of AHLADA.-

g) Executions - Punishments :-

On the 26/5/43, the traitor SP. KOU-
TROUMANI from MIKRO BOTIA (Kalavrita) was executed.

On the 23/5/43, the Guerillas exterminated near POURKAPOS (Ardeos) an armed band which used to plunder and terrorize ALMOPIA area.

On the 29/5/43, the Guerillas arrested the Quisling prefect of PHTHIOTIDOS.-

On the 6/5/43, the traitor Ag. DEDIN, was executed by the Guerillas in STOMION (Olympia).

On the 7/6/43, the Guerillas executed the Quisling prefect KALAGHORITIN DAOULIN near ANO BOUDENA village.

On the 4/7/43, the traitor ATHANASSIOU was executed by the Guerillas.

h) Preventive measures taken by the

occupying forces :-

On the 7/6/43, date of the expiration of the amnesty granted by the occupation authorities, 3 strong Italian columns moved in pursuit of the Guerillas. One moved to PORTO MOUZAKI (Trikala), the second to SMOKOVON, and the third (a cavalry Reg.) towards ASLANARI.- These movements aimed at the total destruction and extermination of the Guerillas.

On the 7/6/43, the Bulgarian liaison Office, attached to the German H.Q., Salonica, equipped 300 Bulgarians who were sent to Southern Macedonia to be mixed up with the inhabitants in order to create an anarchy.-

Since July, the traffic of cars beyond LEVADIA is prohibited owing to the fact that the area is occupied by the Guerillas.

From the 5/7/43, the Bulgarians in accordance to German orders have started occupying the rest of Macedonia (Central & South).
-On the same date Bulgarian detachments crossed the AXIOS river.

Cairo, the 30th September 1943

The
H. I. S.

To Certify true copy
DEPT. II A.

sgnd. The Commanding Officer
N. TSANGARIS, Commander R.H.N.



E. VOURLAKIS, sq/Leader