

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT- NWDCA

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2000

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HELLENIC INFORMATION SERVICE
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INFORMATION BULLETIN (A)

No. 39 & 40

~ OCTOBER ~ NOVEMBER 1943 ~

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

23
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HELLENIC INFORMATION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT II a

INFORMATION BULLETIN (A) No. 39 & 40

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OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1943

SECRET PRESS :- The circulation of secret newspapers in Greece has to a great extent replaced the German censored official Greek press which nobody now bothers to read.

The evolution of military operations in the Mediterranean and the increasingly active Guerrillas are subjects constantly treated in the secret press.

The collapse of Fascism with Italy's unconditional surrender, the occupation of the Islands Samos, Leros & Cos by the Allies, not only gave rise to an intense feeling of satisfaction at the outcome of military operations, but also raised hopes of an early liberation of Greece.

Special attention is paid in the secret press to the evolution of the Guerilla movement which has now developed into a regular army composed of well organised divisions, brigades, Battalions properly equipped and disposing also of artillery.

A special officers training unit turns out officers so as to fill up vacancies in the new army. The press is full of the exploits of these heroic fighters for liberty who have occupied and freed so many areas in Greece.

The Greek people now wait with anxiety the day of Allied invasion so as to be able to give a final blow to the enemy.

We reproduce herebelow certain extracts of the secret press :-

On the 1st. of August 1943, the paper "EMANOUËLI ELLAS" commenting the Italian situation, writes:-

" The Iron axis is since the 25th of July a thing of the past. An intoxicated tyrant who for 21 years revelled in the blood and crimes he committed in Europe has now been thrown out in the gutter.

A regime which hoped to create a new period in history as an enemy of liberty and progress lies now amongst the sorrowfull ruins of Italy. The people who had the treachery to attack our Country without excuse have been completely destroyed and are forced to fall back on to their victors' mercy.

The unconditional surrender of Italy is now an accomplished fact which brings us very near to attaining our own end.

London warned us to avoid precocious manifestations. We must however, realize that we are at the most critical stage of our slavery. We must unite and be ready for everything.

On the 10th of September 1943, the paper "EMANOUËLI ELLAS" writes the following:-

" Fascist Italy has fallen, the weak link in the ring of universal opposition has been broken, the wind of liberty once more sweeps towards us

The tumultuous events characterising the beginning of the axis fall caused a colossal wave of satisfaction amongst the popular classes. The populations are more than ever united in order to give the final blow to Hitlerism. We must now stand together against Hitler !! ...

Similar articles were published in all secret papers as well as warnings to the people to avoid precipitous moves until the signal of revolt is given.

" The paper "EPIKRATEIA" published on the 12/10/43 a commentary on the swearing in ceremony of officers, who graduated from the Guerilla officers school which functions since June 1943. The ceremony took place on the 3/10/43, somewhere in Pindos, in the presence of all Guerilla delegates to the common H.Q., Chiefs of Allied missions and Kozani's Archbishop IOAKIM.

The Archbishop IOAKIM, addressed the new officers, pointed out the importance of their role and the hopes fighting men had in them. " VICTORY is now with us, because we believe in it. Faith conquers everything and we have faith, and don't forget that Britain with her 500,000,000, the U.S.A. with the flying fortresses and Russia are our Allied. Our ranks increase daily for, the men of Greece take to the mountains in order to fight for the liberation of our Country and prove to the enemy that it is not iron that will win this war, but faith for human freedom."

Mr. KRITS, Chief of the Allied mission, also made a speech ending with the following :-

" Every army needs officers, you now have learned your duties, you also know what their fulfilment means to your Country and I am sure that you will never fail."

Delegates of the Common H.Q. also made speeches .

PROCLAMATIONS :- A large number of proclamations are circulated by Patriotic organisations in Athens and Piraeus, in protest to the extension of the Bulgarian occupation on the 22/7/41.

To the youth of GREECE On the morning of July the 5th, the German authorities asked the Bulgarians to occupy the German occupied areas of Macedonia up to the Axios river. The German tyrant has again thrown a piece of Greece's body to the Bulgarian jackal, who will try with his weapons and his fire to suffocate and drown in the blood of the inhabitants all Greek Nationalism.

G R E E K S

We must all rise together to save Macedonia from a certain death and from the desert into which the Bulgarians want to plunge these areas."

Proclamation of invalids & reservists

The Bulgarian butchers have come down the Axios river, the danger threatening the life honour and private property of our people, has assumed terrifying proportions. GREECE, bleeds to death under the triple occupation.

GREEK PATRIOTS :-

DEATH TO THE GERMANS
DEATH TO THE ITALIANS
DEATH TO THE BULGARIANS

Proclamation to the Population of Athens

" The conquerors after putting into effect their barbarous system of hostages and mass executions and after handing Eastern Macedonia and Thrace to the Bulgarians now, allow them to take central and Western Macedonia together with Salonica cutting thus, Greece into two. The conquerors intend to exterminate us.

MEN and WOMEN OF ATHENS :- The situation is critical, we are passing through the greatest danger of our history, both as a nation and as a people. We must act immediately. United under the flag of liberty, we must fight the German, Bulgarian and Italian invaders with all our strength, for our bread and liberty and for the protection of the populations of Macedonia and Thrace.

ON WITH THE FIGHT :- The general Pan-Hellenic and Pan-Athenian manifestation, on June 25th in which some 250,000 persons partook show us the true path of honour and duty. The moment is now sacred. With mass struggles, manifestations, strikes, we must and shall put an end to the invaders crimes.

Every day proclamations are posted up by Patriotic organisations in the streets, during September a large illuminated inscription suddenly flared up at night from the Acropolis, lighting up the whole of Athens.

STRIKES - MANIFESTATIONS :- Strikes and manifestations in protest for the extension of Bulgarian occupation, broke out throughout Greece. In Volos, in July, a general strike was called in the Mazangou-Glavani and Papageorgios Factories. Hundreds of strikers, flooded the streets, protesting for the new Bulgarian occupation. Besides the strikes at these factories, another strike in which Bank employees and civil servants partook was called, lasting up to the end of August, demanding an increase of the food ration and of salaries. Strikes also occurred at Patras, Aeghion etc.

In Verria, Edessa, Florina, Kilkis, Langkada, Polyghiros and in the whole Halkidiki, the inhabitants marched through the streets of the town carrying black flags as a sign of protest against the new occupation. The inhabitants of Salonica, during the passage of Bulgarian troops on their way to Halkidiki, remained in their homes on order of the Patriotic organisations and in sign of mourning. All shops remained closed that day and no one was seen in the streets.

In August, in Salonica, students assembled in front of the general directorate, demanding an increase of the daily food ration as well as a number of privileges for their studies. The manifestation was so important that the Germans were compelled to fire on the crowd so as to disperse them.

A 24 hours strike was called during the same month by civil servants in Salonica and some of their demands were finally met.

The tram strikes in Athens continued up to the 24th of August 1943. A delay was granted by the Germans up to the 31/8/43, for the discovery of the guilty parties who set fire to 90 trams, in Kallithea station.

50 tram employees arrested as hostages would otherwise be executed. After the strike, the Germans demanded 10 billion Drs. for the trams destroyed and for the liberation of the hostages. A collection was started amongst the population and in 3 days (and 1/2 (one and half) billion Drs. were collected and the hostages released.

On the 7/9/43, a strike of civil servants and employees was called in Athens and Piraeus. Senior civil servants also partook, all shops were closed during the strike.

G U E R I L L A W A R F A R E

As we reported earlier in this bulletin, in the secret press paragraph, Guerilla activity is everywhere taking on a more definite and systematic form. Old regiments and Divisions are being reformed and the movement has now taken the form of a regular army. The Guerillas inflict severe damage to the enemy continuously cutting communications, creating difficulties for transports and upsetting all the axis' military plans.

The titanic struggle which has been undertaken by the Greek people, shatters the very foundations of the enemy's stronghold, who now goes through some very uncomfortable days.

In August, an engagement lasting four days was fought between Guerillas and 5,000 Italians of the Bronerro division moving to IOANNINA from Aghia PARASKEVI, on the main ARTA-IOANNINA highway. In spite of the fact that the Guerillas were outnumbered four to one, they compelled the Italians to withdraw to ARTA, leaving behind them 250 dead and a large war booty.

Before the destruction of the AGELOU bridge, on the 3/7/43, mentioned in our previous bulletin, the Guerillas fought an engagement with the Italians guarding the bridge. In spite of the fact that the enemy was reinforced with troops and artillery from Agrinion, the Guerillas managed in beating him off and capturing a large number of prisoners. Part of the bridge was then destroyed.

The Bronerro division then on the move from Aghia Paraskevi to Epirus was cut in two, enabling the Guerillas to harass the troops inflicting many casualties on the enemy.

On the 14/7/43, the Guerillas attempted another attack on the bridge which was now guarded by Germans so as to complete its destruction but were repulsed with losses.

On the 13/8/43, the 13th Guerilla Division, reinforced by a squadron of cavalry belonging to the first Division, fought an engagement with the Germans in Almyra. After stiff house to house fighting, the Guerillas succeeded in throwing the Germans out of the village. Some 400 Germans were killed and wounded. Casualties amongst the guerillas were very light. Only 7 were killed and 40 wounded.

On the 13th of August 1943, Guerillas near KAZA-SALINGAROS, between VILLION and KINEROUKION villages, stopped an Italian motorised detachment carrying military equipment and three hostages to Athens. The Guerillas called to the hostages to jump out, but the Italians shot them during their attempt to escape. An engagement followed. The Italians were reinforced by a German detachment, informed of the presence of Guerillas by an Italian motorcyclist who managed to escape. 10 Germans and Italians were killed, 13 wounded and 10 taken prisoners amongst whom was also an Italian major, 5 cars with all military equipment they carried were destroyed. The Guerillas lost 3 men killed.

During August, a strong German force of 22 cars, attempted to occupy KEPALOVRESO, (Aetoloakarna), an engagement with Guerillas followed in which all the Germans numbering some 150 were killed and all cars destroyed.

In February 1943, an engagement was fought between Guerillas and Italians near PELA VILLAGE. 30 Italians were killed. The Guerilla leader of this group, Col. AVERRINS, was killed.

DOVRENA BATTLE On the 26/3/43, 4,000 Germans with tanks and artillery attacked the Guerillas position in DOVRENA (Viotia), after previously bombing them. The engagement lasted for 4 days. The Guerillas effected a surprise attack at 4 a.m. with anti-tank weapons, forcing the Germans to remain in their positions. Later, the Guerillas received reinforcements and the Germans were beaten back, losing some 50 killed, 250 wounded, a tank and 4 cars. Guerilla losses were very light, only 1 man being killed and 4 wounded.

Guerillas attacked a convoy of 25 Italian cars at PLISSI RAFOULIA MAIRI, destroying 15 amongst them. All over Macedonia, Bulgarian convoys are being attacked by Guerillas who also systematically destroy roads and bridges.

During August 1943, an engagement was fought between Guerillas and Italians, at kilo 51 of the GRAVIA-TOPOIRA road. Italian casualties amounted to 200 dead and 250 taken prisoners.

Communiqués 5, 6, 7 of the Guerilla General H.Q., show that during the month of August, 28 engagements were fought with Guerillas, causing some 607 confirmed casualties, killed and wounded, to the enemy. Guerilla losses amounted to 5 killed and 4 wounded. These engagements were fought at ASPONERI (Arkos Orestikon), at PEDAVERISSO in the XIROVOUNIO heights, in MAKELITSA, at TSOTILI near SALONORI, at LAKOMATA KRANERA and the villages of PANORITA, KHIDI, PITSIKO, TAXIARCHIS, MOLLI and ANILA KATA, near the Atiakon river and the TAKIMONPON Monastery. Everywhere, the enemy was forced to withdraw with losses. During the first fortnight of September 1943, the Guerillas attacked 700 Germans encamped at kilo 306 of the Athens-Salonica road, near Kristouki village. 200 Germans were killed, 150 taken prisoners and remainder fled abandoning all their equipment. 2 light tanks were also amongst the booty captured by the Guerillas.

COMMUNIQUE No. 2 - GUERRILLA GROUP CENTRAL H.Q.

"A" DIVISION SECTOR

21/9/43 At noon a German motorised column with artillery moved from Trikala to Porta escorted by a reconnaissance plane. The plane owing to mechanical damage made a force landing and was destroyed by the Germans. The German column was fired on by our infantry and artillery and forced to withdraw towards CORCSI, after a 4 hour engagement.

During the engagement, 5 enemy planes, machine gunned the Guerillas positions. 2 Italian armoured cars used by the enemy took some Guerilla prisoners. 2-5 Germans were killed and a number wounded. The Guerillas captured a motorcycle and 20 artillery shells.

25/9/43 At 14.00 hours, a German motorised column, composed of 30 cars and with 2 guns, arrived at Kalambaka from Trikala. The first cars ran over mines and blew up. The whole column was fired on by our infantry and artillery and withdrew to Trikala at 19.00 hrs. after a 4 hour engagement. During their withdrawal, they were subjected to flanking attacks by Guerilla units. Losses inflicted on the Germans were serious.

23/9/43 - Two enemy planes flying over Forta Mozaki, machine gunned an Italian detachment, another plane machine gunned a Guerilla transport column.

29/9/43 - A German motorised column composed of 10 cars and 7 motorcycles, passed through Karditsa on their way to Paleokastro. Detachments of this column were attacked by Guerillas North of Vlazdos.

8th DIVISION SECTOR

25/9/43 - A German detachment 100 men strong, sent to plunder Maxi village, near kille 15, on the Yarina-Mettravon road, was attacked by Guerilla detachment and was forced to withdraw. The Germans lost 15 killed and a large number wounded. The Guerillas suffered no casualties.

13th DIVISION SECTOR

28/9/43 - 3 German army vehicles carrying troops and equipment and moving to Molos (Iokris) were attacked by Guerillas and compelled to return to Lamia.

On the following day a column of 24 cars with 500 Germans, set out on the Moskohori-Loutron (Thermopili).

Guerilla detachment informed of the move and reinforced reserve units, took up positions during the night and lay in ambush. The Germans appeared at 9.00 p.m. Battle was joined at 10.00 a.m. and the fight lasted up to night fall, when the Germans availing themselves of the darkness withdrew. The Germans lost 50 killed apart from 12 abandoned on the scene of the engagement. 2 Germans were taken prisoner. The Guerillas also captured 2 heavy platoon mortars, 2 machine guns and 8 rifles. 2 German cars were destroyed. Guerilla casualties numbered 5 dead and 4 wounded.

9th DIVISION SECTOR

13/9/43 - At 6.00 hours, Guerilla forces attempted a surprise attack on the guard of IMAPOLIS-SEAFIESTA bridge, who were entrenched, enemy reinforcements arrived on the scene and the Guerillas were compelled to withdraw. The enemy lost 2 killed and 2 wounded. The Guerillas suffered no casualties.

At about the same time, other Guerilla detachments effected a surprise attack on the guard of YACOVO bridge. Results of this action are yet unknown.

14/9/43 - Group of 40 Commitadjis (x) put in an appearance on Makrohorion heights, light Guerilla units compelled them to flee.

17/9/43 - 50 Germans and 20 Commitadjis were moving from Kalohori to Eklassia, they were compelled to return to Kalohori by the Guerillas. From there they withdrew by cars to Kastoria.

COMMITADJIS (x) Irregular band of Bulgarian Guerillas, acting as official organs of the Bulgarian Government, to try and act against and exterminate all non-Bulgarian subjects.

THE HEROIC DEFENSE OF ARAHOVA

- Three savage German attacks repulsed
- 280 Germans killed -

After Italy's collapse, two Guerilla companies commanded by Major PAPAZISSIS and Cavalry Captain NIKIFOROS, moved to Arachova, in order to negotiate the surrender of the Italians.

On the 11/5/43, a delegation composed of civilians together with 8 Guerillas entered Arachova and later on the same day, Battalion H.Q. with Major PAPAZISSIS and Captain NIKIFOROS, who were met with enthusiasm by the population. The negotiations ended with the promise of the Italian Commander not to deliver their arms to the Germans.

On the 12th of September 1943, 50 Guerillas followed 500 Italians to Desfina, where they took possession of all armament and equipment. Two Patriots from Arachova are reported to have played an outstanding part in the surrender of the Italians.

THE BATTLE : While negotiations were going on, a German motorised column of 13 cars and 180 Germans, moved from Delifous towards Arachova. On the way they were attacked by Guerillas with mortars and machine guns and were compelled to stop. After an engagement lasting 5 hours in the Delifous olive groves, the Guerillas managed by attacking from the rear with detachments from Desfina, to route the Germans completely. Only 30 escaped. 12 cars were captured in good condition loaded with material, arms, food stocks, ammunition and clothing. The Guerillas carried all their booty to a safe place.

While the fight was raging, another 15 cars from Arachova were sent to reinforce the remaining Germans. A Guerilla platoon alone killed 30 Germans, destroyed a car and captured another one in good condition.

At night, the Guerilla battalion engineers, blew up all the bridges around Arachova and a fresh German force which had been sent from Levidia was compelled to withdraw.

On the 13/9/43, a fresh German column with 100 cars, tried to smash their way to Arachova, using artillery. Guerillas fought back heroically and annihilated them. The Germans were surprised only at one place at Krokon, where they effected a breach, but a Guerilla company was rapidly thrown in, and the Germans were pushed back. During these engagements the Guerillas killed 280 Germans, captured 12 cars in working order, 8 heavy machine guns, 15 platoon portars, 45 L.M.G., 600 rifles, a large quantity of pharmaceuticals and clothing and food and 80 transport animals. It was estimated that 65-70 motor trucks would be needed for the transport of the booty taken.

THE BATTLE OF THERMOPIA : On the 20/9/43, 2 German cars with 30 men travelling to Molo, entered Thermopoli pass and were fired upon by a Guerilla patrol. The cars withdrew, leaving the Germans who immediately took up battle positions and attacked, forcing the Guerillas to withdraw. A Guerilla advanced detachment, about a company in strength, rushed to the spot from Dracospilia and dispersed the Germans, killing one and wounding one.

During that night a further 2 Guerilla platoons together with a machine gun section, 3 small mortars and 2 large ones advanced to Anavire and together with the Company from Irakospinia, took up positions early in the morning on Thermopilas pass. The next morning at 8.00 a.m. a german force 300 strong, was seen advancing towards the pass. At 9.00 a.m. the germans reached the Guerillas lines and battle was joined. The Germans attacked at many points, reaching up to distances of 30 meters from the defensive line. The Guerillas used rifles, machine guns and hand grenades with great effect and the enemy was thrown back through the Lamia plain.

At noon, 11 cars arrived from Lamia, bringing fresh reinforcements and artillery. The new german force was estimated to be 750-800 men strong. The Germans pressed in an attack at 14.00hrs. and the battle lasted up to 23.30 hours, without the germans managing to break down the Guerilla's defense, or to approach more than 300 meters from their lines.

At 23.00 hours, the enemy threw in a terrific barrage, so as to cover their withdrawal which was so rapid that it look more like a complete rout. The enemy did not even succeed in taking their dead with them.

CASUALTIES :- GERMANS Apart from the large number left on the battlefield, the germans in Lamia ordered 92 coffins, not counting from those they made themselves. Over 300 were wounded, some of which were taken prisoners by the Guerillas. Guerilla casualties were very light, numbering 7 killed (3 of which were killed from a mortar which exploded) and 7 wounded.

The Guerillas captured 2 mortars with 300 bombs, 2 M.G. with a large supply of ammunition, 14 rifles with ammunition and a very light pistol with a large number of flares.

On the afternoon of the 22/9/48, a tank with 3 armoured vehicles, tried to enter the pass, but were fired on and were compelled to return to Lamia.

It is not so easy, apparently, for the barbarians to capture the pass of Thermopilas which was so heroically defended by Leonidas and his 300 Spartans.

PELOPONNESE During August, a detachment of 177 Italian carabinieri, commanded by Captain Frikoli, were attacked by Guerillas between Herakly and Kosma (Kinouria). 22 Italians including the officer in charge were killed. All the remainder were taken prisoners and carried to Padova. The Guerillas released them after first making them swear that they would never pursue or molest Greek civilians or Guerillas.

80 Italians were also killed during August, in an engagement with Guerillas at Pilia village (Calavrita).

During August 1948, a group of 7 Guerillas of the BANTOUNA UNIT, attacked a force of 120 germans, near Kato Simi village. The engagement lasted 5 hours. 111 germans were killed, 42 wounded and 12 taken prisoners.

Guerillas lost 1 killed and 2 wounded.

On the same day, 2000 germans arrived on the scene and set fire to Kato Simi.

During September 1948, a group of Guerillas moving to Eastern Crete towards Sfakia, attacked a german detachment near Kalissikia village (Agriou Vassiliou).

The Germans lost 50 killed and the Guerrillas 2 men. Prior to the attack, a german outpost of 5 men was wiped out and the above german detachment which was completely annihilated, was sent to the pursuit of the Guerrillas. This victory was due of the excellent battle position which the Guerrillas had occupied previously.

S A B O T A G E 2 Italian soldiers were killed on the 7/7/43 in a fully loaded rail truck which was blown up.

An ammunition train composed of 2 waggons, was blown up at ~~PIRYETOU~~ Station -kilo 258-. 4 Greeks and a large number of Germans were killed.

On the 14/7/43, a Guerrilla cavalry unit, destroyed a sector of rails between SIRINGIOU and TERESES, they also cut all telephono and telegraph wires.

On the 7/5/43, Guerrillas destroyed many sections of the railway line in the PAPAPOULIOU-PIRYETOU district, the Guerrillas after first attacking the german guard of PIRYETOU Station blew up all the points connecting the station with the Salonica line.

From kilo 390 to kilo 392, 15 rails were blown up. From kilo 392 up to PAPAPOULIOU, 4 rails, 13 fish plates and 2 sleepers were removed and a 5 meter bridge blown up, near kilo meter 392.

On the 30/6/43, a german plane made a forced landing between KAPODRI and SVADO. The Guerrillas after capturing the pilot, set fire to the plane.

During the night of the 13-14/4/43, Guerrillas tore up a number of rails between DETROUSA and DAI ON. A goods train on that line was derailed as result and the Guerrillas set it on fire taking all the german passengers as prisoners. The Guerrillas then laid an ambush fired at a goods train which was coming up in the rear, causing many damages and casualties amongst the Italians travelling on it. A german repair train was sent on to the spot of the accident together with a guard of 300 men. The Guerrillas attacked and dispersed the guard, destroyed the repair train and a further 2 waggons. They then attacked and captured DAI ON station and blew up the workshops and the water tanks and also derailed 7 trains which were in the station.

On the 23/2/43, 40 Guerrillas attacked workers of the TERRAS Company, working for the germans at kilo 20- on the EKATERINILAGHIOU DEITRIOU (Elasson) road. They wounded 2 workers of the TODT and took 2 german soldiers prisoners. They then set fire to all the stocks destroying all fuel stored in them.

On the 18/8/43, a group of 200 armed Guerrillas entered the Chromium mine of AGHIOU DEITRIOU (Elasson), disarmed the gendarmes and destroyed all the existing installations. They also took a german officer prisoner and carried off all existing food supplies.

During the second fortnight of August, the Greek auxiliary naval ship ORION, was sunk in Pireaus harbour, by magnetic mines, just as it was coming off the Vassiliadi dock yards.

The Greek auxiliary 400 ton ship THEAN, was sunk in the same way and place, in August 29th. Later in the day, another mine caused important damages to a floating crane.

On September the 2nd. 1943, an attempt was made at ELEFSSIS to sink the 8,000 ton german cargo SANTA FE, with 3 time-bombs which were placed in the hold.

In June, a group of Guerillas set fire to 120 drums of air plane petrol in PETSIA village (Crete).

During the first fortnight of August 1943, severe damages was caused in Pireaus harbour, to a 200 ton requisitioned Greek tug.

In July 1943, severe damage was caused to a 3000 ton german cargo loaded with explosive and petrol in ELEFSSIS harbour.

In June 1943, in Pireaus harbour, severe damage was caused to the requisition Greek S/S ARTINA, which was ready to sail for MILOS.

Severe damage was caused in AGHIOS GIORGIOS, KERASTILNIA, to an 8,000 ton german fighter, partly loaded with petrol.

A 500 ton caique, loaded with ammunition was sunk in May 1943, in Perama (Pireaus). Severe damage was caused to a 3,000 ton tanker in Perama (Pireaus).

An attempt to sabotage in the naval arsenal dock installations was made in April-May. A magnetic bomb exploded, destroying all the electrical installations.

REPRISALS BY THE OCCUPATION AUTHORITIES

Germans unable to react decisively against the Guerrillas carry out mass reprisals against the civilian populations of areas in which Guerrilla activity was noted. Whole villages are burnt down and looted or bombed. Their populations are arrested and held as hostages and executed and everything is prey to the guerrilla's fury.

In August, NOSTILO and XILOHORI villages were set on fire.

In October, DOUSIKO and LESSIANO villages who had previously been set on fire were bombed with 1,500 pound bombs. The villages of MOUSAKI and POITA were machine gunned, both had been previously set on fire. The inhabitants however, had evacuated the villages and fled to the mountains together with all their live-stock and no casualties were therefore caused.

During the DVRAWA (Viotin) fight, on the 26/8/43, mentioned in previous bulletin, DVREMA, MOTZKA and all villages and forests of the surrounding were burnt down by the Germans. Some 10,000 villagers were rendered homeless. All inhabitants of these areas live in constant terror and fear. Most of them have fled to the mountains.

All the young men of THEBES evacuated the town in order to seek a refuge either in the mountains or in Athens and Piraeus.

10/9/43, 10 inhabitants of HOMZIA village, chosen at random were hung at LEVADIA and 12 civilians were shot.

In CRUMI, during September 1943, the Germans set fire to KALI SIKIA, ALOHIS, ROBAKINON and KALIKRATI villages. 36 civilians were killed. 20 men and 8 women amongst them were from KALIKRATI village.

Italian planes set fire to the forest between KALIKRATI and VIRRION, in reprisal for an engagement with Guerrillas on the 10th of August. The axis also arrested 14 hostages from KALIKRATI, 10 from LLAZI and 25 from VILLIA. The inhabitants of these areas are completely terrorised and most of them seek a refuge in KALIKRATI forests.

The housing problem in these areas is really acute.

DISTEMON village, LEVADIA, was once more raided by the Italians who burnt down 15 houses. The President of the Community and 5 others were arrested as hostages.

Up to the 26/8/43, 4 Communities of PARASSILOS area (PROSA, LION, AGHIA PEFTERIA, VOUNOIRO and ELEMI) and 3 Communities of DORIDOS area, KAROLIS, AMISIMIA and TOLOFTI were burnt down by the Italians.

On the 25/7/43, Guerrillas set fire to BERUSA village (Parmentida) and arrested 400 women and children as hostages.

At GRAVIA, 3,000 women and children were taken as hostages.

On the 14/8/43, Italian troops from LEVADIA, raided THEBES and AGHNATA (Lokris) villages and after murdering a number of the inhabitants, plundered and set fire to all the houses.

In ACRITION area, the evacuation of 20 villages was ordered and the inhabitants were not allowed to take even the slightest thing with them. The Germans then, plundered the villages.

7 villages situated between MESSOLONGUI and ANFILLIHION, were set on fire by the Germans and a number of others in this area were looted.

In EPIRUS, Italians reinforced with Albanians, raided ELEFTOHORI and AGHIA KYRIAKI villages in wild. Guerillas have been reported. ELEFTOHORI was set on fire and 2 shepherds killed.

PEDDINI village, between PREVESSA and YOANNI (120 houses), was set on fire, because the Guerillas had sabotaged the telephone lines. A number of houses from KOSKIRA village were also burnt down. The Italians besides, looted the villages and carried off to YOANNINA, 100 oxen, 2,000 sheep and horses belonging to the inhabitants.

3 German divisions now operate between Western Macedonia and Epirus. Several villages amongst which BALYAN and ZAGORIOU were set on fire and 180 women and children were killed. 250 hostages were taken from the villages of ZAGORIOU and KORISSA at KATSENOHORI and other villages of KONITSA area, 40 men were burnt alive on the charge of brigandry. They were placed in groups of 10- in small huts which were then set alight. Some 70,000- inhabitants of these areas are now homeless.

THESSALY In June 1943, 23 villages of ELASSONA eparchy (Larissa prefecture) were set on fire. Out of a total of 4,625 houses in this area, 1702 were destroyed. Also, 13 schools, 10 communal buildings, 6 police stations, 59-shops, 39 stations, 900 barns and 11 straw houses were burnt down.

On the 13/6/43, 3 civilians implicated in the KARITSA Guerilla organisation, were executed by the Italians in TRIKKALA.

KORFOVOUNI village of Trikala area, was set on fire. 48 houses avoided complete destruction. Only 17 of them are absolutely intact. All the inhabitants found in the village were executed and houses plundered. The Italians also carried off all live-stock they found.

7 houses of KARITSA, 4 at PALIOKASTRON and 3 at VLATSON villages, including the school house were burnt down by the Italians.

On the 26/4/43, Italian troops from LARISSA set fire to TSOTSI and ZARKO villages (Trikala) in reprisal for the destruction of a bridge and Telegraph wires by the Guerillas.

TSOTIOU village was completely destroyed and apart from the 300 houses burnt down, all the wheat crop which was ready for grinding was also destroyed.

100 houses of ZARKOU village were completely destroyed together with all wheat supplies, both these 2 villages were plundered previously.

Some 4,000 inhabitants of TSOTI and 1,500- of ZARKO are now homeless.

A large number of houses and the existing corn supplies of PANAYITSA villages were completely destroyed by the Italians. These villages were evacuated by the inhabitants. The International Red Cross representatives visited and reported on all these areas.

On the 2/7/43, in reprisal for a german plane which had made a forced landing between KAKONOUKI and SOFIDIS and which had been set on fire by Guerrillas, a squadron of Italian cavalry raided and plundered SOFIDIS (the town had been previously partly evacuated). At 11 a.m. 30 german planes from TRIESTE bombed the town with incendiaries and high explosives, 21 civilians were killed and 16 wounded. 30 Italians were also killed, as the germans mistook them for Guerrillas owing to the fact that no previous arrangements existed between the german raiders and the Italians. German planes also bombed and destroyed KAKONOUKI and KASA KASOUMA villages.

PASKI LITSA village of SOFIDIS area was set on fire a few days previously because telephone wires had been cut down.

In reprisal for a german convoy from PORTA which was attacked by Guerrillas and annihilated some 2,500 German and Italian troops including cavalry and artillery, shelled an attack TSARITSANI, LIVADIA, ZOUHLITSA, KALLIMERA, KLIKOVOS and other villages.

GREVENA AREA Complementary information gives us the following picture of atrocities committed by the Germans in the town of GREVENA and surroundings from the 15th of February up to the end of April 1943, in reprisal for Guerrilla activities in that area.

| Names of villages | Houses plundered | Houses raped | Houses set on fire | Animals carried off | Stamps |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Eleftherohori | 15 | " | 54 | 240 | 1 |
| Melissi | 60 | " | 110 | 580 | 1 |
| Karpero | 120 | " | 240 | 560 | 1 |
| Elafi | 35 | " | 70 | 230 | 2 |
| Ghria | 30 | " | 30 | 180 | 3 |
| Despectis | 17 | " | 14 | 170 | " |
| Diakos | " | " | 7 | 65 | 5 |
| Rlydendron | 63 | yes | 134 | 615 | 1 |
| Taxiarchia | 83 | yes | 157 | 195 | 1 |
| Koldinia | 108 | yes | 133 | 2300 | 2 |
| Kivotos | 300 | yes | 310 | 1050 | 4 |
| Batolacos | 85 | " | 55 | 203 | 2 |
| Agh.Giorgios | " | " | 13 | 74 | 3 |
| Grevena | 100 | yes | " | 560 | 3 |
| Milia | 30 | " | " | 404 | " |

KALIBAKI (Neserou) and SKALITIS (Skatzerini) Communities were completely destroyed by the Germans, the inhabitants were chased out of their homes and 350 women and children taken by the Germans to EKAMMERINI.

THE DISARMING OF THE ITALIANS

After Italy's collapse, the Italians unable to resist, delivered their armaments and equipments to the Germans. Owing to the energetic activity of the Guerillas, an important part of this equipment was handed over to them.

Previously in our bulletin, we mentioned how the Germans were kept at bay and a large part of the Italian equipment at ARAKVA handed over to the Guerillas. The same thing happened in AEFHISSA with the Italian battalion stationed there and in the areas of PILION, LARISSIS, TRIFLIA, ALEROU, ANTILOKARAWANIAS, IPEROU, PELOPONNES, and Western Macedonia.

FOOD SUPPLIES and HELP TO THE MOUNTAINOUS AREAS OCCUPIED BY THE GUERRILLAS and TO REFUGEES WHO HAVE SOUGHT A REFUGE THERE

The food supply situation in the Country, especially in areas where military operations and reprisals against Guerillas have taken place is tragic. The occupying forces hoping to repress the Guerillas, destroy one after another all Greek cultivations and rob existing food supplies.

The crop was diminished and destroyed in many areas owing to the drought, military operations and the lack of working hands. In some areas, it was even impossible to gather the crop in, owing to the lack of necessary agricultural tools which had been carried off by the Germans. Under these circumstances, all previous arrangements by the Guerillas for the feeding of refugees such as the imposition of a tithe (10% tax in kind) on the farmers and a supplementary 1% tax have now become impracticable. A big effort is made by the Guerillas to help the people, but the situation grows daily worse.

The same applies to Cities and Country-towns, who are just as badly off as no more supplies flow in from the country. The most touched of all areas are SPHIS and the MEGALOPOLIS Prefecture.

Lack of proper housing clothes, surgical, clinical and pharmaceutical supplies increase the miseries of the population.

LIBERATED AREAS

All the country of FOKIS Prefecture is now occupied by Guerillas. KEMALOVREISSON (Karpenision) and all surrounding villages are occupied by regular Guerilla Battalions.

VATHI (Sinatirion) has been occupied by the Guerillas. Another force of 200 Guerillas occupied KOMEONI.

In all liberated areas proper jurisdiction and courts with Judges have been re-established.

Athens, December 5th 1943

The
H. L. S.

Genl. The Commanding Officer
M. SCARFLOS, Captain R.H.H.

To certify true copy
Dept. III



E. VOULAKIS, Sq dr/Adm.