

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT- NWDCA

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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HELLENIC INFORMATION SERVICE
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INFORMATION BULLETIN (A)

Nos. 43 - 44

INFORMATION RECEIVED DURING
FEBRUARY - MARCH 1944 -

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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INFORMATION BULLETIN (A)

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FEBRUARY - MARCH 1944 -

The realisation of the second front in accordance with decisions taken in Moscow and Tehran is drawing daily closer. The Germans have been driven out of Russia which they invaded and are being hotly pursued by the Russian troops.....

Our small but heroic Country claims also its place in the fore, amongst the Nations who fight the Axis in this historical world wide struggle.

The people of Thrace must not allow themselves to be forgotten in this total war effort of our Country. Together with the rest of our Nation, they must also take their place bearing up with the miseries of slavery so as later to be worthy of enjoying the glory of final victory.- The sacrifices they endure the Guerillas and the efforts of the people of Thrace are proof to all that they are well conscious of their duty. Only the indifferent will try to keep out of this historical struggle against the invader and fascism. The proud people of Thrace will never allow themselves to be included in this category. All Patriots must now take up arms against the barbarous invader and together, united and in close collaboration with our gallant British, American and Russian Allies throw themselves with enthusiasm into the fight in order to bring yet closer the day of final victory.

B. GUERRILLA WARFARE

An engagement was fought on January 24th 1944 near Myrna-Ekaterini, between Guerillas and a German motorised column of 10 cars. 80 Germans were killed, 57 wounded and 2 taken prisoners. 3 cars as well as the car of the officer in charge of the convoy were destroyed. Booty:- 1 L.M.G., 10 rifles, several handgrenades and 7 pistols. Guerillas lost 1 killed.

COMMUNIQUE No. 47 Early morning on the 1/12/43, near Seliani and Skala (Paromythia) areas, german and moslem detachments equipped with M.G. and mortars attacked our detachments in order to occupy the positions of Derou and Koulia. After 2 hours, fierco fighting our detachments repulsed the enemy who was forced to beat a hasty retreat.

Enemy's losses :- 7 killed and 5 wounded
Our losses :- 1 killed and 2 wounded

The Germans have started a full scale campaign against the Guerillas of Macedonia with some 4,000 men, based in Salonica.

On the 20/12/43, they opened a front stretching from Varroia-Ekaterini to Litohoro, in order to clean up the Pieria and Olumpus areas.

Other German Units moved in from Elason and Serbia. This attack was solidly met by the 10th Guerilla Division which inflicted severe casualties to Germans and caused their plans to fail.

During December 1943, Guerillas fought 2 battles. The first took place in Giona in which the Commander of the Guerillas and a few men were killed. Severe casualties were inflicted upon the enemy.

The second engagement was fought near Sperhias (Gardiki) 80 Germans were killed.

During December 1943, Guerillas of the 34th Regiment wiped out strong German forces near Meghara (Attiki).

During November 1943, an engagement was fought near Saligaros (Attiki) between the 36th Guerilla Regiment and 1500 Germans equipped with tanks and armoured cars. The Germans managed to surround the Guerillas, but fortunately fresh reinforcement equipped with anti-tank guns under the leadership of a British Officer arrived on the scene and forced the enemy's hand. 700 Germans were killed and several wounded. Guerillas lost 40 killed and several wounded.

Two days later, the same Guerilla detachment attacked German troops near Hostia-Zeriki village. Guerillas were compelled to withdraw to high positions, after two hours fighting, as their ammunition was running short. Severe casualties were inflicted to the enemy. Guerillas lost 3 killed and 4 wounded.

During November 1943, a German force of 450 men with tanks and lorries approached Kyriaki (Elikon) village from 3 points where Guerillas had outposts. Reinforced with the men and women of the village, the Guerillas resisted the Germans who lost 4 killed and 23 wounded.

The Guerillas lost 8 killed and 6 wounded. Amongst the casualties is a young girl who distinguished herself during the battle. She was killed while throwing her 7th grenade at the Germans.

During December 1943, Guerilla groups attacked German detachments near Molaous, causing severe casualties to the enemy.

An engagement was fought on the 17/10/43 outside Pyli village between German detachments from Livadia and Guerilla groups.

This battle lasted all day long and both sides received reinforcements. 60 Germans were killed and several wounded. Guerillas lost 11 killed and several wounded.

In reprisal, Pyli, Sourti, Stefani and Panaktron villages were set on fire by the Germans.

On the 13/10/43, strong German forces attacked Guerilla detachments near Hryssomilia area using tanks and artillery. Guerillas resisted and caused severe casualties to the enemy. 150 Germans were taken prisoner, and a large quantity of war material was captured by the Guerillas.

Simultaneously, other Guerilla Units attacked German troops near Aspropetra causing severe casualties, Guerillas lost 4 killed and 15 wounded.

On the 21-1-44, a Guerilla detachment of 24 men attacked a German column of 35 men near Akovon village Peloponese. 7 Germans were killed, 20 wounded and three taken prisoners.

On the 15-1-44, a Guerilla group attacked a German motorised column of 44 cars moving towards Aliverton KIMI along the Vathia - Aliverton road. A fierce engagement followed but faced with the enemy's superiority the Guerillas withdrew losing 1 killed and 1 prisoner. The Germans lost 50 killed and approximately 20 wounded.

In reprisal Germans looted Aliverton and burnt down 25 of the houses.

An engagement was fought on the 11/1/44 outside Psathakia-Ghithion village between German detachments and Guerillas. The Germans lost 2 killed and 4 wounded and the Guerillas 30 killed and wounded.

On the 1/1/44 and at 17 hours, a German detachment near Sella (Patras) village attacked a Guerilla group. German losses were heavy. 18 Guerillas were killed in this engagement.

In reprisal, the German detachment executed 3 and arrested 41 of the inhabitants of Sella village. The entire village was looted and 46 houses set on fire.

O . S A B O T A G E

On the night of 22/2/44, Guerilla groups at Olympus derailed a German armoured train, near Pinios bridge, carrying a General with his staff and many senior and junior officers from Athens to Salónica. The railway line at this point had been mined for a length of 300 meters and the entire train was blown into the river. Over 400 were killed, mostly officers, including the General and his staff. All that stretch line was completely destroyed and all communications were thus cut for 80 hours.

On the 12/1/44, a Guerilla group tried to capture the Apidea-Molaoon bridge in order to destroy it. The German guard of 20 men received reinforcement and the Guerillas were forced to withdraw. 11 Germans were killed in this engagement.

On the 10-11/1/44, Guerilla groups dynamited a section of Nemea-Psari road delaying thus all German transports.

On the 9/1/44, a Guerilla group dynamited a bridge near Stefsis (Leontiou Community: Nemea area).

On the 8/1/44, Guerilla groups blew up many parts of the Kiatou-Soulion road and destroyed all bridges rendering the road impracticable.

On the 6/1/44 and at 7.30 a.m. Guerilla groups derailed goods train No. 307 near Aspropyrgchos station. The engine and a number of trucks were overturned.

On the 15/12/43, Guerilla groups destroyed the railway lines and road bridges between Kyperissia-Pyrgchos and Kyperissia-Kalamas.

2 Railway bridges and a train full of ammunition were blown up by Guerillas at Lithohori during the German's campaign against the Macedonian Guerilla groups on the 20/12/43.

A stone bridge between Arkadia and Lakonia prefectures, near Hani-Bakourou was destroyed by Guerillas on the 13/12/43, cutting thus all communications between Sparta and Tripoli.

During the same period, all telephone wires between Sparta and Tripoli were cut by Guerillas.

Train No. 77, from Athens was blown up at kilo 419 of the Athens-Salonica line, by Guerillas on the 21/12/43.

During November 1943, Guerillas blew up the Central arch of the Pireus-Athens-Peloponese line bridge, near Hrani village (Meghaloupolis). A train was derailed and communications cut for many days. Hrani village was set on fire by the Germans in reprisal during the second fortnight of November 1943.

During the second fortnight of November 1943, Guerillas from Routsis village (Meghaloupolis) attacked a train between Routsis-Leontarion, wounding several German soldiers.

On the following day, Routsis village was set on fire in reprisal by the Germans.

On the 6/11/43 and at 9.30 hours, Guerillas attacked a train carrying war material between Bornou and Psathopyrgchos (Achaia). During the engagement 3 German soldiers were taken prisoners and large quantity of war material captured. The train was destroyed by the Guerillas.

During the second fortnight of October 1943, a Guerilla detachment attacked a German motorised column of the Meghaloupolis-Kalamas highway, killing 3 German soldiers, taking 1 prisoner and destroying 1 car. All bridges between Meghaloupolis and Kalamas were blown up. In reprisal Germans arrested hostages from Diabolitsi village and set on fire to Skala-Kokalaika (Messinia) village.

D. R E P R I S A L S

The destruction of Kalavrita town and its surroundings constitutes one of the most monstrous crimes of the Germans in Greece.

During the second fortnight of December 1943, a number of Germans were killed during an engagement fought with Guerillas near Kerpini village. The Germans in reprisal entered the village, assembled all inhabitants in the square. Women and children up to 12 years of age were locked in the church and all the men and children over 12 taken to the village cemetery where they were executed. 54 innocent peasants, including 2 priests were thus killed in reprisal for the murder of a handful of German soldiers. The village, was also burnt to the ground.

Kalavrita, Aghia Lavra, Megha Spyleon, Ano and Kato Mahlorous, Roghi, Souvardo, Vaskokia, Platyteri and Ano Mezi villages were also burnt to the ground.

In Volos on the 17/12/43, a detachment of 17 years old German recruits moving towards Pylion was attacked by Guerillas. In the engagement that ensued 3 Germans were killed. In the after-noon, a German detachment arrested 160 inhabitants of Drakia village. On the 18/12/43, a number of inhabitants were executed in the village's square and their bodies left there for some time.

During November 1943, an engagement was fought in Adritsa village (Arghos area) between Germans and Guerillas. In reprisal, the Germans arrested many inhabitants of the village and hanged 30 of them. Many executions were carried out in Patras, Kalamas, Ghithion and Tripoli.

40 Greek citizens detained as hostages were executed by the Germans in Ghithion on the 17-18/12/43, in reprisal for the death of 10 German soldiers killed during an engagement fought on the 8/12/43 between Germans and Guerillas.

30 Greeks detained in Tripoli prisons were executed by the German authorities in Tripoli on the 12/12/43, in reprisal for the death of German soldiers killed during an engagement with Guerillas.

On the 1/1/44, a German company burnt down several houses of Lambreika village (Kato Achaia) in reprisal for Guerilla activity.

In reprisal for Guerilla activity, a German column 200 men strong with mules and artillery looted and set fire to Mezi village on the 8/12/43. Platynero, Valios and Asvoussa villages were also burnt to the ground.

The inhabitants of these villages have taken to the mountains where they are starving and without housing.

Pagrati village was set on fire by the Germans on the 8/12/43, in reprisal for Guerilla activity.

The Germans arrested and executed 51 persons of Milous in reprisal for an engagement fought between Germans and Guerillas during November 1943 near the village.

10 Greek civilians were arrested in Kalamas on the 22/10/43 and were executed by the Germans on the 24/10/43.

On the day of their execution and at 11 a.m. some 400 women manifested for the release of the 10 hostage. Instead, the Germans arrested a further 4 who were also executed.

During December 1943, German planes bombed Prokopion village (Evoia) in reprisal for Guerilla activity.

During the same month a German motorised column of 4 cars looted and set on fire many houses of Nea Artaki (Evoia) village in reprisal for Guerilla activity.

On the 3/10/43, German troops in reprisal for Guerilla activity set fire to Lyghiadis (Ioannina) village killing 105 inhabitants. On their way back to Ioannina, they set fire to Strouni village where many inhabitants unable to leave in time, were burnt alive.

From the 20/10/43, SS detachments moving from Trikala to Kalambaka eparchy destroyed the following villages in reprisal for Guerilla activity:- Kalambaka, Kastraki, Peveta, Vano, Koula, Vebtianta, Kastanea, Frissomilia, Kaloghriani, Kato Perkiaga, Lidonia, Pleshorion, Krania, Klivono, Karaga, Volistana, Tyrna, Kaloghirois. The inhabitants of these villages have mostly taken refuge in the mountains without food, proper shelter or housing.

Mass executions, acts of arson, arrests of innocent hostages in reprisal for Guerilla activity have turned the whole countryside into. The inhabitants have mostly taken refuge in woods or in the hills where their situation is tragic.

Entire villages and inhabited localities have been laid to waste. From trustworthy sources we learn that in Greece there are over 100,000-families (approx. One and half million persons) whose houses have been burnt down and who are now without food, clothes or shelter.

Herebelow, we give a numerical list of villages completely destroyed in every areas and the number of families who are the victims.

AREAS	NUMBER OF VILLAGES COMPLETELY DESTROYED	NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED.
: Trikala	: 65	: 10.000
: Larissis	: 60	: 14.000
: Magnissias (Volos)	: 25	: 2.000
: Amphissis	: 20	: 7.500
: Fthiotidos	: 32	: 14.000
: Kozanis	: 55	: 8.000
: Levadias	: 10	: 1.700
: Thivon	: 13	: 1.300
: Kastoria	: 40	: 3.000
: Etoloakarnanias	: 42	: 10.000
: Ioannina	: 45	: 3.500
: Artis	: 40	: 8.000
: Prevezis	: 25	: 300
: Lipis "Epirus"	: 25	: 2.000
: Ptolemaidos	: 2	: 2.000
: Ekaterini	: 2	: 8.500
: Peloponneso	: 50	: 15.200
T o t a l	551	109.000

The entire population exhausted from hardships, undernourishment and diseases expect with agony the worst unless help is rapidly sent to them.

Cairo, April 15th. 1944

Tho
H. I. S.
sgnd. THE COMMANDING OFFICER
N. TSANGARIS, Captain R.H.N.

To Certify True Copy
Dept. 71a
E. VOURLAKIS, Wing Commander

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