

SECRET

SECRET

.....  
: - S E C R E T - :  
: Auth: CG MTO :  
: Initials: :  
: Date: 17 Jan 1945 :  
:.....

HEADQUARTERS  
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE COMPS  
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
APO 512

17 January 1945

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings.

RE : Remnants of the 1st Sec. Bn. of the 2nd Sec. Regt. of Patras,  
and remnants of the 5/42nd Evzone Regt.

On special orders from Lt Col Nick Stepanovich, G-2(CI), AFHQ, Caserta, Italy, this Agent, after a preliminary investigation of the Greek situation at Transit Camp #1 at Bari, Italy at the request of Capt Simmonds, FCI, Bari, Italy, proceeded to Taranto, Italy, to interrogate officers and men, remnants of the 1st Sec. Bn. of the 2nd Sec. Regt. of Patras, Greece.

In cooperation with the Field Security Section, Lt Michael Brazil, Port Security Officer, Taranto, Italy, Commanding, this Agent spent 14 days personally interrogating over 180 officers and men of the above-named battalion, using as a basis of interrogation, the SI-6 Form (Port Interrogation Report).

The following information on the organization, displacement, aims, record and history of the Sec. Bns. has been compiled by this Agent from the personal interrogation or interview of over 500 persons, including members of the EDES forces of Gen. ZERVAS; Special Force 113 (Anglo-Hellenic Commandos); M.L. (Military Liaison in Greece); A.H.I.S. (Anglo-Hellenic Information Service); G.I.S. (Greek Information Service); Greek civilian refugees; members of the Greek Royal Navy (wounded while fighting the ELAS in the recent revolution in Greece and now convalescents at the 3rd Polish General Hospital at Palagiano, Italy); members of the Greek National Guard; members of the Greek "Gendarmerie" of Patras; police officials of Patras; ELAS prisoners of war, wounded in street fighting at Pireaus; and from the interrogation of officers and men of the 1st Sec. Bn., 2nd Sec. Regt. of Patras under Col Nicholas KOURKOULAKOS; and members of the remnants of the "EKKA" -- 5/42nd Regt. of Evzones of the late Colonel PSARROS, and presently under Major George KAPETSONIS.

In compound #4 of St. Andrew's Prisoner of War Camp A, are located 194 officers and men of the 1st Sec. Bn., 2nd Sec. Regt. of Patras, Greece; remnants of the 5/42nd Regt. of Evzones (an independent unit of the Security Battalions); 14 officers and men of the Gendarmerie of Patras; and 4 members of the Police Department of Patras.

The disposition of officers and men according to their organizations is as follows:

SECRET

SECRET



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

- 1. 1st Sec. Bn., 2nd Sec. Regt. - Patras .. 27 off & 70 men
  - 2. 5/42 Regt. of Evzones ..... 7 off & 72 men
  - 3. Gendarmerie ..... 9 off & 5 men
  - 4. Police ..... 3 off & 1 man
- Total ..... 46 off & 148 men
- Grand Total ..... 194 off & men

The following is a list of the officers and men of the 2nd Security Regiment of Patras; remnants of the 5/42nd Regiment of Evzones, and officers and men of the Gendarmerie and the Police Departments of Patras located at St. Andrew's Prisoner of War Camp A, Compound #4:

| <u>NO.</u> | <u>RANK</u> | <u>NAME</u>                     | <u>UNIT</u>    |
|------------|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1          | Col         | KOURKOULAKOS, Nicholas          | 2nd Sec. Regt. |
| 2          | Lt Col      | BALAMIS, Georgios               | "              |
| 3          | Lt Col      | HATZESTAMATIOU, Antonios        | "              |
| 4          | Lt Col      | GIANNAKOULOPOULOS, Constantinos | "              |
| 5          | Lt Col      | ZOLOKASTAS, Kratinos            | "              |
| 6          | Major       | KAPETSONIS, Georgios            | 5/42nd Regt.   |
| 7          | Major       | PSIHALINOS, Athanasios          | 2nd Sec. Regt. |
| 8          | Capt        | KARLOS, Dimitrios               | "              |
| 9          | Capt        | IADAKAKOS, Michael              | "              |
| 10         | Capt        | EPITHIMIOU, Nicholas            | "              |
| 11         | Capt        | MARIOLIS, Panagiotis            | "              |
| 12         | Capt        | FININIS, Georgios               | "              |
| 13         | Capt        | TSANIS, Georgios                | 5/42nd Regt.   |
| 14         | Capt        | PELEKIDIS, Georgios             | "              |
| 15         | Capt        | PAPA IOANOU, Demitrios          | "              |
| 16         | Capt        | PAHIS, Fotios                   | "              |
| 17         | 1st Lt      | DIMOULITSAS, Andreas            | "              |
| 18         | 1st Lt      | ELEFTHERIADES, Efstathios       | "              |
| 19         | 1st Lt      | KOROSSIS, Constantinos          | "              |
| 20         | 1st Lt      | BABOUKAS, Apostolos             | 2nd Sec. Regt. |
| 21         | 1st Lt      | KONTOS, Ioannis                 | "              |
| 22         | 1st Lt      | PAFADOI IORGOS, Elias           | "              |
| 23         | 1st Lt      | TSAGAPAKIS, Grigorios           | "              |
| 24         | 2nd Lt      | STAVRIANOS, Domenikos           | "              |
| 25         | 2nd Lt      | IVAGELATOS, Theocharis          | "              |
| 26         | 2nd Lt      | BALSANIS, Andreas               | "              |
| 27         | 2nd Lt      | KARAGIANIS, Ioannis             | "              |
| 28         | 2nd Lt      | IADAS, Dimitrios                | "              |
| 29         | 2nd Lt      | ASSINAKIDIS, Theodoros          | 5/42nd Regt.   |
| 30         | 2nd Lt      | STASSINOPOULOS, Georgios        | "              |
| 31         | 2nd Lt      | STAVROGIANOPOULOS, Constantinos | "              |
| 32         | 2nd Lt      | GIVAS, Themistocles             | "              |
| 33         | 2nd Lt      | LOUCOPOULOS, Ioannis            | "              |
| 34         | 2nd Lt      | KARAFESSINIS, Basilios          | "              |
| 35         | Adj         | ALBOUNIOTIS, Nicholas           | 2nd Sec. Regt. |
| 36         | Adj         | HAGIANIS, Dimitrios             | "              |
| 37         | Adj         | GEORGIAKOPOULOS, Constantinos   | "              |

SECRET

SECRET



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

| <u>NO.</u> | <u>RANK</u> | <u>NAME</u>                     | <u>UNIT</u>    |
|------------|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 38         | Adj         | PANAGOPOULOS, Panagiotis        | 2nd Sec. Regt. |
| 39         | Adj         | CHRISTIDIS, Pashadis            | "              |
| 40         | Adj         | MARRAKOS, Nicholas              | "              |
| 41         | Adj         | HATZIMIHALIS, Georgios          | "              |
| 42         | Adj         | ANASTASSOPOULOS, Theodoros      | 5/42nd Regt.   |
| 43         | Adj         | ZAFIRIS, Michael                | "              |
| 44         | Adj         | KOUISSOMANIS, Constantinos      | "              |
| 45         | Adj         | STAVROGIANOPOULOS, Constantinos | "              |
| 46         | Sgt Maj     | VAZAS, Fotios                   | "              |
| 47         | Sgt Maj     | BASIAS, Panagiotis              | "              |
| 48         | Sgt Maj     | IFANTIS, Apostolos              | "              |
| 49         | Sgt Maj     | KIRIAZIS, Kiriahos              | "              |
| 50         | Sgt Maj     | THEODOSCOPOULOS, Aristides      | "              |
| 51         | Sgt Maj     | XIHAS, Elios                    | "              |
| 52         | Sgt Maj     | PAPADOIANIS, Adam               | "              |
| 53         | Sgt Maj     | TSEREGOULIAS, Georgios          | 2nd Sec. Regt. |
| 54         | Sgt Maj     | KARFELAS, Christos              | "              |
| 55         | Sgt Maj     | KOKOTSIS, Georgios              | "              |
| 56         | Sgt Maj     | IANIS, Theodoros                | "              |
| 57         | Sgt         | MIHALIDIS, Emmanuel             | "              |
| 58         | Sgt         | CHRISTOPOULOS, Panagiotis       | "              |
| 59         | Sgt         | ZORBAS, Petros                  | "              |
| 60         | Sgt         | LACCOIANIS, Constantinos        | "              |
| 61         | Sgt         | ZARIFIS, Alexandros             | "              |
| 62         | Sgt         | BIRLIS, Andreas                 | "              |
| 63         | Sgt         | TSARAKIS, Constantinos          | "              |
| 64         | Sgt         | PEROUNIAS, Basilios             | "              |
| 65         | Sgt         | KALOISSIS, Andreas              | "              |
| 66         | Sgt         | THEOHANIS, Georgios             | "              |
| 67         | Sgt         | PRANDALOS, Georgios             | "              |
| 68         | Sgt         | PLIOTAS, Angelos                | "              |
| 69         | Sgt         | PITRIKAS, Georgios              | "              |
| 70         | Sgt         | ZOURIS, Demitrios               | "              |
| 71         | Sgt         | KALAITZAKIS, Demitrios          | "              |
| 72         | Sgt         | LAVRANOS, Spiros                | 5/42nd Regt.   |
| 73         | Sgt         | PAPANICOLAOU, Epaminoudas       | "              |
| 74         | Sgt         | KATSANDONIS, Christos           | "              |
| 75         | Sgt         | KOSTARIDIS, Efthemios           | "              |
| 76         | Sgt         | KONSTANDAKOPOULOS, Theodoros    | "              |
| 77         | Sgt         | PARASKEVAS, Haralambos          | "              |
| 78         | Sgt         | KONSTANDOPOULOS, Constantinos   | "              |
| 79         | Sgt         | ANAGNOSTOPOULOS, Nicholas       | "              |
| 80         | Sgt         | GLAVANOS, Ioannis               | "              |
| 81         | Sgt         | GLAVANOS, Athanasios            | "              |
| 82         | Sgt         | KOURSOUNIS, Vasilios            | "              |
| 83         | Sgt         | PALIVIDAS, Efsthathios          | "              |
| 84         | Sgt         | PALIVIDAS, Elios                | "              |
| 85         | Sgt         | TSIKOS, Ioannis                 | "              |
| 86         | Sgt         | ATHANASSIOU, Epaminoudas        | "              |

SECRET

SECRET



SECRET

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

| <u>NO.</u> | <u>RANK</u> | <u>NAME</u>                 | <u>UNIT</u>    |
|------------|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 87         | Sgt         | HOUSSAS, Elias              | 5/42nd Regt.   |
| 88         | Sgt         | STERGIOU, Basilios          | "              |
| 89         | Sgt         | ADAMOS, Demitrios           | "              |
| 90         | Sgt         | KIPRIOTIS, Nicholas         | "              |
| 91         | Sgt         | MASTROCIANOPOULOS, Georgios | "              |
| 92         | Sgt         | ANGELES, Nicholas           | "              |
| 93         | Sgt         | COTZES, Elias               | "              |
| 94         | Sgt         | KAMARAS, Christos           | "              |
| 95         | Sgt         | PLOUMAKIS, Athanasios       | "              |
| 96         | Sgt         | KOUNOUJAS, Efthimios        | "              |
| 97         | Sgt         | NIKOLOULIAS, Elias          | "              |
| 98         | Sgt         | KOSTARAS, Constantinos      | "              |
| 99         | Sgt         | TSONOS, Georgios            | "              |
| 100        | Sgt         | PAPANIKEOU, Ioannis         | "              |
| 101        | Sgt         | TSITSELIS, Gerasimos        | "              |
| 102        | Sgt         | ANTHIS, Demitrios           | "              |
| 103        | Cpl         | KOTINE, Haralambos          | "              |
| 104        | Cpl         | PALIVIDAS, Christos         | "              |
| 105        | Cpl         | LIATSOS, Demitrios          | "              |
| 106        | Cpl         | TSAMBOUKAS, Theodoros       | 2nd Sec. Regt. |
| 107        | Cpl         | GREVENIDES, Basilios        | "              |
| 108        | Pvt         | RIGAS, Constantinos         | "              |
| 109        | Pvt         | PAPPAS, Demitrios           | "              |
| 110        | Pvt         | EFTHEMIOU, Miltiades        | "              |
| 111        | Pvt         | LAPAS, Evangelos            | "              |
| 112        | Pvt         | PAPHTHEODOROU, Michael      | "              |
| 113        | Pvt         | MICHALOPOULOS, Christos     | "              |
| 114        | Pvt         | KOLOKAS, Georgios           | "              |
| 115        | Pvt         | KOLOKAS, Ioannis            | "              |
| 116        | Pvt         | PLASTOURGOS, Nicholas       | "              |
| 117        | Pvt         | DESKOUKIS, Christos         | "              |
| 118        | Pvt         | PITOURAS, Fotios            | "              |
| 119        | Pvt         | BASTAS, Ioannis             | "              |
| 120        | Pvt         | STEFANOPOULOS, Petros       | "              |
| 121        | Pvt         | POLIDIROPOULOS, Nicholas    | "              |
| 122        | Pvt         | LAMEROPOULOS, Constantinos  | "              |
| 123        | Pvt         | LAMEROPOULOS, Ioannis       | "              |
| 124        | Pvt         | KONTOCIANIS, Demitrios      | "              |
| 125        | Pvt         | LAFOS, Stephanos            | "              |
| 126        | Pvt         | KOTSIPOULOS, Georgios       | "              |
| 127        | Pvt         | ANASTASSOPOULOS, Ioannis    | "              |
| 128        | Pvt         | FOTOPOULOS, Georgios        | "              |
| 129        | Pvt         | ANAGNOSTOPOULOS, Nicholas   | "              |
| 130        | Pvt         | BADOURAS, Antonios          | "              |
| 131        | Pvt         | KATSARDIS, Demitrios        | "              |
| 132        | Pvt         | BOUTOS, Constantinos        | "              |
| 133        | Pvt         | DROMAZOS, Apostolos         | "              |
| 134        | Pvt         | ZARABIKOS, Demitrios        | 5/42nd Regt.   |
| 135        | Pvt         | LITRAS, Georgios            | "              |

SECRET

SECRET

CRYPTOME



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

| <u>NO.</u> | <u>RANK</u> | <u>NAME</u>                | <u>UNIT</u>  |
|------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| 136        | Pvt         | MOUCOLIAS, Theodoros       | 5/42nd Regt. |
| 137        | Pvt         | BARRAGLIANIS, Christos     | "            |
| 138        | Pvt         | PAPANIELIS, Ioannis        | "            |
| 139        | Pvt         | KARIBALIS, Achilles        | "            |
| 140        | Pvt         | KOURSOUNIS, Panaziotis     | "            |
| 141        | Pvt         | GOFTAS, Dimitrios          | "            |
| 142        | Pvt         | ALEXANDRIS, Elias          | "            |
| 143        | Pvt         | SIDERIS, Christos          | "            |
| 144        | Pvt         | KOLIAS, Ioannis            | "            |
| 145        | Pvt         | KOLIVAS, Apostolos         | "            |
| 146        | Pvt         | GEROSIDERIS, Efthimios     | "            |
| 147        | Pvt         | KARIOLILIS, Alexandros     | "            |
| 148        | Pvt         | ANAGNOSTOU, Panaziotis     | "            |
| 149        | Pvt         | TSINEKAS, Dimitrios        | "            |
| 150        | Pvt         | TSONIS, Constantinos       | "            |
| 151        | Pvt         | KOUTOUTSAS, Stavros        | "            |
| 152        | Pvt         | PETROPOULOS, Constantinos  | "            |
| 153        | Pvt         | KOKORIS, Dimitrios         | "            |
| 154        | Pvt         | GAZETOS, Elias             | "            |
| 155        | Pvt         | KIRKOS-DROSSOS, Panaziotis | "            |
| 156        | Pvt         | KALLAERIS, Georgios        | "            |
| 157        | Pvt         | KOKINOS, Efsthathios       | "            |
| 158        | Pvt         | NIKOLOULIAS, Georgios      | "            |
| 159        | Pvt         | KOTINIS, Michael           | "            |
| 160        | Pvt         | KOKINIS, Ioannis           | "            |
| 161        | Pvt         | HASSOURAS, Andreas         | "            |
| 162        | Pvt         | TSANIS, Georgios           | "            |
| 163        | Pvt         | MASTROKOSTAS, Ioannis      | "            |
| 164        | Pvt         | ANGELOS, Nicholas          | "            |
| 165        | Pvt         | CHRISTOU, Hercules         | "            |
| 166        | Pvt         | CHRISTOU, Antonios         | "            |
| 167        | Pvt         | RELACRAS, Markos           | "            |
| 168        | Pvt         | LIATSOS, Hercules          | "            |
| 169        | Pvt         | KANNELAS, Demetrios        | "            |
| 170        | Pvt         | TOURNARAS, Constantinos    | "            |
| 171        | Pvt         | TOURNARAS, Basilios        | "            |
| 172        | Pvt         | CHRISTOMASILES, Gregorios  | "            |
| 173        | Pvt         | KOBOGLANIS, Dimitrios      | "            |
| 174        | Pvt         | KOSTARAS, Efthimios        | "            |
| 175        | Pvt         | SKOULAS, Ioannis           | "            |

| <u>GENDARMERIE</u> |        |                          |             |
|--------------------|--------|--------------------------|-------------|
| 1                  | Col    | PAPANIKOLAOU, Gregorios  | Gendarmerie |
| 2                  | Maj    | LIRIS, Basilios          | "           |
| 3                  | Capt   | VENIERAKIS, Emmanuel     | "           |
| 4                  | Capt   | VRONDAKIS, Constantinos  | "           |
| 5                  | Capt   | FENEKOS, Basilios        | "           |
| 6                  | 1st Lt | ANASTASSOPOULOS, Ioannis | "           |
| 7                  | 2nd Lt | DIMITRAKOULIAS, Nicholas | "           |

SECRET

SECRET



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

GENDARMERIE - Continued.

| <u>NO.</u> | <u>RANK</u> | <u>NAME</u>               | <u>UNIT</u> |
|------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 8          | 2nd Lt      | NAVOULIS, Antonios        | Gendarmerie |
| 9          | Adj         | SKOUNDERIANOS, Demitrios  | "           |
| 10         | Sgt Maj     | VASSILOCHRISTOS, Basilios | "           |
| 11         | Sgt Maj     | MAROPAKIS, Matheos        | "           |
| 12         | Sgt Maj     | PETROU, Basilios          | "           |
| 13         | Sgt         | KALINIKOS, Haralambos     | "           |
| 14         | Sgt         | KAMPEROS, Basilios        | "           |

POLICE

|   |            |                          |        |
|---|------------|--------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Chief      | KONSTANDANAS, Alcibiades | Police |
| 2 | Asst Chief | YSAMIS, Christos         | "      |
| 3 | Asst Chief | KARABOULIS, Panaziotis   | "      |
| 4 | Policeman  | ZAHARAKIS, Vasilios      | "      |

This Agent will attempt to present as clear a picture as is possible of the organization, leaders, displacement, aims and record of each organization separately, so that the reader may obtain a true picture of the conditions which led to their tragic end in the late months of 1944. This Agent has succeeded in obtaining copies of correspondence carried between the Security Battalions of Patras and various organizations, including the Greek Government in Exile; Gen Zervas of the EDES forces; a threatening letter from an ELAS officer to Adj Nicholas ALBOUNOTIS of the 1st Sec. Bn. of Patras; propaganda leaflets from both National and the EAM organizations; warnings of the imminent and impending attack of the ELAS on British forces in Greece sent by Col Nicholas KOURKOULAKOS to Lt Col JELICOE (Commanding Officer of the British Forces in Northwestern Greece) before hostilities broke out between the ELAS and the Allied Forces in Greece; the declaration of Col KOURKOULAKOS to Allied Force Headquarters in Italy; the messages sent by the late Col PSARROS to the EAM headquarters and other supplementary documents. Translations from the Greek of copies of the original documents, and the copies thereof, are attached to this report, as is a statement by Prime Minister Churchill on the role played by the Security Battalions in Greece.

SITUATION:

With the arrival of the British invasion forces at Patras, Greece, on 1-4 October 1944, the Security Battalions of Patras formed under the PALLIS puppet government in the fall of 1943 to provide public security for the cities and towns of Greece against the terror campaign of the ELAS partisans of the EAM, were disbanded on orders from General Scobie, Commander of Allied Invasion Forces in Greece and the Greek Government-in-Exile, and placed for their own personal safety in British guarded barracks in KATO-ACHAIA and METSILOGLI near Patras. 150 officers and 1500 soldiers of the 2nd Sec. Bn. of Patras remained in relative safety at the above named places, when an impending attack on the barracks by ELAS forces to massacre the members of the Security Battalions was discovered and the above men were sent to ARAXOS on 2 December 1944 to escape



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

death. On 6 December 1944, another plot to attack the unit was uncovered, and under the cover of night, those officers and men who were not won over to the ELAS forces, were sent by truck to Patras. When fighting broke out in Athens between the Allied Forces and the EAM organizations, the remnants of the 2nd Sec. Bn. of Patras, remnants of the independent 5/42nd Regt. of Evzones, members of the Gendarmerie and police officials were placed on board a ship, and on 12 December 1944 sailed from Patras. On 20 December 1944, the above mentioned arrived at Taranto, Italy. All officers and men of the above organizations were sent to St. Andrew's Prisoner of War, A Camp, and placed in Compound #4, where they are at present located.

### SECURITY BATTALIONS

#### I. ORGANIZATION.

The Security Battalions in Greece were organized by General Basilios DERTELIS with the approval of the Greek Puppet Government of Premier John RALLIS in June 1943. The aim of the Security Battalions was to combat the ever increasing danger of Communism in Greece. German authorities, naturally, did nothing to prevent its organizations knowing that German personnel would thus be spared from being used against the ELAS partisans. However, German authorities made certain that the Security Battalions were lightly-armed, and poorly equipped to be of any potential danger to the German army of occupation. The armament of the Security Battalions was of an inferior quality. This armament was composed of Italian rifles, and a limited number of machine guns confiscated by the Germans after the fall of Italy. The uniform was that of the pre-war Greek Evzone (short, kilt-like skirts, fez, and spiked sandals). Officers and men for the organization were recruited from Nationalist organizations which had been dispersed by the ELAS, from citizens who had suffered at the hands of the ELAS, or who had families, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters or relatives murdered by the ELAS, or who had had their homes looted and burned by the ELAS, or persons who were living under the constant threat of death for their Nationalist affiliations or sentiments, or who refused to join the EAM and had thus been sentenced to death by EAM courts as traitors, and from public spirited citizens who believed in law and order and in the security of their homes and cities, as opposed to the reign of terror of the "quick-justice" courts and "strong-arm" methods of the EAM-ELAS.

The first Security Battalion was formed in Athens, Greece with Lt Col PLITZANOPOULOS as its Commanding Officer, in the fall of 1943. On 7 January 1944, Col KOURKOULAKOS was asked by the Greek War Ministry to take command and form a Security Regiment in Patras, Greece. Col KOURKOULAKOS, who was known for his Nationalist affiliations, and who was a leading figure of such organizations in the vicinity of Athens, consulted Mr. PAPANDEOU (later prime minister of the Greek Government -in-Exile), and with his approval, KOURKOULAKOS accepted the post as Commandant of the 2nd Security Regiment to be formed in Patras. (Yet the government of Mr. PAPANDEOU, in the summer of 1944 was to broadcast from Caserta, Italy and announce that the members of Security Battalions were collaborationists and traitors to the Greek nation.)

SECRET

SECRET



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

In the meantime, a second Security Battalion had been formed in Athens by December 1943, and placed under the command of Col George MORAITIS. By January 1944, the 3rd Security Battalion had been formed in Athens, and the three battalions thus formed became the 1st Security Regiment of the Greek Mainland. The decision was thus reached whereas Security Regiments were to be organized all over Greece with headquarters in Athens.

In mid-January 1944, the 2nd Security Battalion of Athens was sent to Patras and placed under the command of Col Nicholas KOURKOULAKOS, who was instructed to use the battalion as a nucleus for the 2nd Security Regiment with headquarters in Patras. As enlistments exceeded the 2nd Security Regimental quota, Col KOURKOULAKOS reassigned one of his battalions to Corinth to be used as a nucleus for a third Security Regiment. In the meantime, Nationalist officers began organizing independent Security Battalions, until by the Summer of 1944, there were over 50,000 officers and men in Security Battalions all over Greece.

In the Summer of 1944, the movement grew until there were over 15 battalions under a centralized command, and many more operating independently of the General Headquarters of Athens. An outline of the organizational set-up, commanding officers and displacement is given below:

I. 1st Service Command - Athens

| UNIT                   | HEADQUARTERS                     | COMMANDING OFFICER            |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a. <u>1st Sec Regt</u> | <u>ATHENS</u>                    | Col John PLETZANOPOULOS       |
| 1. 1st Sec Bn          | Athens                           | ?                             |
| 2. 2nd Sec Bn          | Athens                           | ?                             |
| 3. 3rd Sec Bn          | Athens                           | Maj ECSTOPOULOS               |
| b. <u>2nd Sec Regt</u> | <u>PATRAS</u>                    | Col Nicholas KOURKOULAKOS     |
| 1. 1st Sec Bn          | Patras                           | Maj MATSISTANATIOU            |
| 2. 2nd Sec Bn          | Pyrgos                           | Maj George KORONIS            |
| 3. 3rd Sec Bn          | Corinth                          | Maj George ECONOMOU           |
| c. <u>3rd Sec Regt</u> | <u>AGRINION</u>                  | Brig Gen Alexander ORPHANIDES |
| 1. 1st Sec Bn          | (1st Sec Bn was never organized) |                               |
| 2. 2nd Sec Bn          | Kaufpaktos                       | Maj George KAPETSONIS         |
| 3. 3rd Sec Bn          | Agrinion                         | Lt Col Angelos KENTROS        |

II. 2nd Service Command - Peloponnese

(The following were in the formative stage and were dissolved with the arrival of the Allied Invasion Forces. In the meantime, the battalions that had been organized operated as independent units. These battalions, their location, and the known commanding officers are given below:

| UNIT          | HEADQUARTERS | COMMANDING OFFICER         |
|---------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1. 1st Sec Bn | Tripolis     | Col Dionisios PAPANIKOLAOU |
| 2. One Sec Bn | Sparta       | ?                          |
| 3. One Sec Bn | Githion      | ?                          |
| 4. One Sec Bn | Kalamas      | Maj CHRISTOPHILOU          |
| 5. One Sec Bn | Meligala     | Maj Stephanos STUPAS       |

SECRET

SECRET

CRYPTOME



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

On the island of Evvoes there was organized the independent Security Regiment under the command of Col Charalambos PAPANATHANASOPOULOS, an EDES Nationalist guerilla officer, but the location and the commanding officers of the various Security Battalions are unknown. The same is true of the independent Security Battalions in Macedonia and Chalkis.

In short, all of the larger cities of the Peloponnesus, Attica, Beotia, Doridos and other departments of Greece were provided civil security against the EAM-ELAS, and were kept free until the Allied Invasion Forces arrived in Greece.

## II. AIMS.

By early 1943, the real aims of the EAM-ELAS became evident to the people of Greece. Instead of fighting the German, Italian and Bulgarian armies of occupation as they had been equipped to do by the British, the EAM-ELAS began a campaign to eliminate all police agencies, army officers, nationalist political leaders, and all organized nationalist guerilla bands. When this was accomplished, the EAM-ELAS would remain the undisputed political and military organization in Greece, and the Allies would then be forced to recognize these organizations as the government and army of Greece. (As has transpired in Yugoslavia where Marshal "Tito" has partly succeeded). In other words, everyone with nationalist sentiments was marked for liquidation by the ELAS. The ruthless, savage and violent attacks on the above mentioned peoples and organizations by the EAM-ELAS shook the very foundations of the Greek nation. Common people who did not show the political and idealistic aims of the EAM-ELAS to establish a dictatorship of the proletariat, were forced to join these organizations for the obvious reason of self-preservation. Thus the EAM-ELAS, through its terrorist campaign began to grow in size and strength, and the alarmed nationalist leaders and organizations worked frantically to find a proper solution to avert the impending danger of communism in Greece. An attempt to reach an agreement with the EAM-ELAS for joint collaboration against the enemy armies of occupation resulted in complete failure when the EAM-ELAS, which had signed such an accord on several occasions used its army to disperse the nationalists. The ELAS would agree to a joint attack against the common enemy, and when the nationalist guerrilla units made their appearance, the ELAS, always with superior forces, would turn around and attack the nationalists. In this way, the EAM-ELAS was able to eliminate organized nationalist groups and leaders, and at the same time capture valuable arms, munitions and supplies; for the EAM-ELAS worked on the theory that Russian and Allied power was too great for the Germans to withstand and that one day the Germans would be forced to leave Greece, and that the real threat to a dictatorship of the proletariat was not an army of occupation but the democratic nationalists. Toward this goal, the EAM-ELAS worked with savage vigor and not one nationalist town, man, woman or child escaped its fury. Whole towns were looted, property destroyed, crops confiscated, even olive trees were up-rooted, and men, women and children either killed or taken up into the mountains by the thousands as hostages. It took the British Liaison Mission in Greece and Nationalist guerilla groups two years to realize and understand the overall picture.

SECRET

SECRET



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

With the above situation prevailing, it became obvious that nationalist organizations, which were numerous but highly decentralized and could not thus offer organized resistance, had to decide on a plan where a nationalist front could be organized on the same basis as the EAM-ELAS, and to put forth a plan in operation which would become a stumbling-block to the EAM-ELAS aim of making Greece a communist state.

Thus in June 1943, General Basilios DERTELIS, hero of the Greek-Italian campaigns in Albania, in perfect agreement with all nationalist leaders of Greece and with the blessing of Mr. PAPANDEOU (who later escaped to Cairo to become Premier of Greece, and denounce the same men and plan he had approved), asked Premier John PALLIS of the Greek puppet government to be given permission to organize and arm Security Battalions in the larger cities and towns of Greece to combat the danger of communism. Pallas, in turn, asked and received German permission to put this plan in operation. No doubt, the Germans were delighted to have Greek fight Greek and escape the task of fighting the communists, using their own personnel which was badly needed on other fronts.

The plan of DERTELIS, however, was not simply to provide security for the cities of Greece, but to provide Greece with a well-organized (although poorly armed) nationalist army which at the proper time could be used against the German army of occupation, as well as to become the armed representative of the Greek Government-in-Exile, and thus insure for Greece a democratic form of government when the German Armies of Occupation would be forced to either capitulate or leave Greece. DERTELIS called upon all Nationalist army officers and citizens to rally to the aid of the Security Battalions. Many of the better known Nationalist leaders who had been fighting the Germans in the mountains of Greece, such as THEODOROPoulos, VRETAKOS, KOKONIS, KARACHALIOS, PAPAOLANIS, KAPETSONIS, DROSOPoulos and many others eventually joined in the movement.

### III. RECCED.

From the outset, the leaders of the movement made known their intentions and plans to the MACP (Allied Military Commission of Peloponnesus), and various meetings were held by leaders of both organizations to determine the actual role of the Security Battalions. In the Spring of 1944, ELAS partisans, or orders of the EAM-ELAS which was aware of the potential danger of the Security Battalions, denounced many leaders to the Germans. General DERTELIS was arrested by German Intelligence agents and sent into captivity to Germany. Other officers, namely Col Theos BABOUKIS, Lt George KFSYATHIOU, Lt John CHRISTODOULOU, Sgt Maj Panos KOUDIS, Sgt Constantine PHILOS, Lt Col Angelos KENIROS, Maj ANAGHOSTAKIS and many others were either executed or imprisoned by the German authorities for intelligence with the enemy.

The result of the above discovery by the Germans led to an attempt by the German authorities in the Summer of 1944 to place the Security Battalions under the direct command of the German High Command in Greece. Thus on 27 June

SECRET



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

1944, Col KOURKOULAKOS received from Premier John RALLIS a telegram, ordering him to send his Patras Security Battalions to Tripolis and place them under direct German command to fight the ELAS. Col KOURKOULAKOS refused to obey the order, and offered his resignation to RALLIS rather than collaborate with the Germans. A second telegram informed Col KOURKOULAKOS that failure to obey would result in military court-martial proceedings against him. On 2 July 1944, Col KOURKOULAKOS replied to the effect that, "I will only carry out the orders of the Greek Ministry of War. The Security Battalions were formed to defend the cities of Greece, and save Greece from communism. My men will fight only as Greek soldiers, and not as mercenary slaves. Impossible to carry out orders. I will also command the officers and men under my jurisdiction to refuse any similar orders." Copies of the above telegrams can be found either in the offices of the Ministry of War in Athens, or in the possession of Lt John KOURKOULAKOS, 50 Skoufa Avenue, Athens, Greece.

Between Sept 1943 - Oct 1944, the Security Battalions provided defensive, civil security for the larger cities of Greece. In that period, the Security Battalions were never used as offensive troops against the EAM-ELAS. The Security Battalions fought the ELAS only when attacked by the former. In the various skirmishes and clashes between the EAM-ELAS and the Security Battalions, not one of the ELAS partisans captured was ever put to death (over 2,000 ELAS prisoners were being held in prisons when the British arrived in Greece), unlike the bloody record of the ELAS against unfortunate Security Battalion officers and soldiers.

The Security Battalions under the command of Col KOURKOULAKOS always kept in close contact with the various British Intelligence Missions in Greece, as well as the Greek Government-in-Exile. On 27 September 1943, Col KOURKOULAKOS conferred with Maj "ANTHONY" of the MACP and informed him of the plans of the Security Battalions. With full approval, Col KOURKOULAKOS proceeded with his work. In January 1944, Col KOURKOULAKOS secretly met with Lt Takis FLOCDAS, alias "PERICHES", of the MACP, and requested that the Security Battalions of Patras be placed under the direct command of the Greek Government-in-Exile in Cairo. On behalf of the MACP, Lt FLOCDAS accepted the proposal of Col KOURKOULAKOS.

In February 1944 - April 1944, the Security Battalions aided the escape of members of the MACP who were in danger of German arrest after their location was denounced to the German authorities by EAM-ELAS hirings. Throughout this period, movement of the various members of the MACP was facilitated by the Security Battalions, who offered them refuge, food and information on German installations. All orders and requests of the MACP were faithfully followed and carried out by the Security Battalions of Patras, II Service Command. When the Germans began to leave Greece, the Security Battalions placed themselves at the disposal of the MACP, the Commanding Officer of the Allied Invasion Forces (before the landing) and of the Greek Government-in-Exile at Caserta, Italy.

On 4 September 1944, when the Germans left Pyrgos, the 2nd Security Battalion under Maj KOKONIS raised the Greek, British and American flags over



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

the city, and declared the city liberated from the Germans. It was announced in the Pyrgos daily newspapers that the Security Battalions were representatives of the Greek Army, and prepared to join the expected Allied invasion forces to drive the Germans out of Greece.

On 20 September 1944, Col KOURKOULAKOS, sent, through Mr. Hans ERINSTROL of the Swedish Red Cross, a letter to Lt Col JELlicoe, Commanding Officer of the Allied Invasion Forces in Northwestern Peloponnesus, placing himself, his officers and men under his command. This letter was printed in Patras newspapers several times between 20-30 September 1944 with the Germans still in the city.

On 1 October 1944, while German forces were still in the city, the Security Battalions, on orders from Lt Col JELlicoe, left under cover of darkness from the city of Patras, carrying their arms and ammunition without arousing German suspicion.

Although an agreement had been reached between the leaders of the Security Battalions and the British authorities to use the Battalions against the Germans, it was the Greek Government-in-Exile, under the influence of Vice-Premier KANELLOPOULOS and the EAM representatives in the Greek Coalition Government, which refused to recognize the Security Battalions as members of the Greek Army, and instead called them collaborationist forces of puppet-Minister RALLIS and insisted that they be disarmed and dissolved. The plan to disarm and disband the Security Battalions through official channels was conceived in the offices of the EAM-ELAS, and put into operation by ELAS representatives of the Greek Government-in-Exile to give it official color and present to the world the Security Battalions as collaborationists. As long as the Security Battalions remained organized, they could at a moment's notice be armed by the British in the event of hostilities. They, therefore, represented a potential danger to EAM-ELAS plans. The Security Battalions had already delivered the large Greek cities into the hands of the Allied Invasion Forces, and had therefore foiled the EAM-ELAS plan of operation. It is now a known fact that the EAM-ELAS had prepared in the past three years formidable forces, had collected arms and ammunition and supplies to be used against the Allied Invasion Forces. The main reason for not fighting the Germans was to preserve these men and material to be used at the right moment. Thus when the Security Battalions were disarmed, but refused to disband, the EAM-ELAS did everything within their power to dissolve them as a unit, and remove a major threat to their plans; for if the ELAS, when it attacked the Allied Forces, had not regular Greek troops fighting against it, it would present to the world a picture of the British Forces trying to force their will on a united Greek peoples. Thus EAM-ELAS leaders attempt to disband the Security Battalions everywhere in Greece, whether by force or empty promises. The record is one of savage and bloody torture and murder. From the first days in September 1944, when it became obvious that the Germans were evacuating Greece, the EAM-ELAS attempted with all their power to disband the Security Battalions.

- 12 -

SECRET

SECRET



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

September 1944 to November 1944

4 September 1944 - The Germans evacuated Pyrgos and the city was declared free by the 2nd Security Battalion, who were in control of the city (under Maj George KOKONIS). The British, Greek and American flags were raised over the city and 700 ELAS prisoners from the prison at Pyrgos were unfortunately released by an order from Maj KOKONIS, who was carried away by patriotic sentiments, and asked them to participate in the ceremonies turning over the first liberated Greek city to the MACF, which had been invited to accept the liberated city. On 5 September 1944, unarmed EAM-ELAS leaders entered the city and prepared to take part in the ceremonies. On 6 September 1944, an ELAS partisan dressed in the uniform of an American officer and sporting an American flag sewed on the left sleeve of his tunic spoke to the people and the soldiers of the Security Battalions (in the town square) who received him with great enthusiasm and cries of "Long Live Churchill", "Long Live Roosevelt", and "Long Live the Allies". This ELAS partisan (as he was recognized later by town people) who was in reality a middle-age Greek from an unidentified city of the Peloponnese and who had lived for several years in America, tried to persuade the people and the Security Battalions to come over into the ELAS camp, carrying all possible arms, munitions and supplies to prepare to throw back into the sea the "third invader" who was about to land on the shores of Greece. The ruse was discovered in time and he was asked to leave. On 7-8 September 1944, the ELAS prisoners who had been released, were armed by partisans who infiltrated into the city under the cover of darkness from the neighboring hills. On 8 September 1944, the city awoke to find itself surrounded by a formidable force of over 5,000 ELAS partisans including those who had infiltrated into the city during the night. Maj KOKONIS, received and refused an ultimatum to surrender the city, all arms and munitions, and to turn all officers and men of the 2nd Security Battalion over to the ELAS as prisoners, and hostilities broke out. The battle lasted until 9 September 1944. At the outset of the fighting, Maj KOKONIS was killed from machine gun fire, and the situation became hopeless. A break through was attempted and 350 officers and men of the original force of 600 managed to escape and retreat to Patras. 250 officers and men were either killed or captured in the two-day battle. All prisoners were actually butchered in the town square, and 60 officers and men who lay wounded in the hospital of Pyrgos were burned alive, when ELAS partisans barricaded all doors and windows and set fire to the building. The homes of all the Nationalists were looted and put to the torch until the town of Pyrgos was changed into a mass of rubble. All unfortunate citizens who did not escape this frightful and inhuman attack were either taken as hostages into the mountains or murdered.

8 September 1944 to 22 September 1944

It is estimated that during this period 14,000 people in MESSINIA, TRIFILIOS, KYPARISIOS, ELIAS and other sections of the Peloponnese were murdered by the ELAS.

SECRET



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

12 September 1944 to 16 September 1944

On this date, the ELAS attacked KALAMAS in the Peloponnese, the Independent Security Battalion of the city retreated to MELICALA. A force of 5,000 ELAS (some which captured Pyrgos) attacked and captured the city on 17 September 1944. Over 1,000 soldiers of the Security Battalion who had not been killed were massacred, 800 Nationalist civilians were butchered, and 17 Nationalist leaders of the city, including Gov. FEROTIS of the Dept. of Messinia, Maj CHRISTOPHILOU, Democratic Senator Pericles BOUROS were led to KALAMAS in chains, and at the market place were dismembered after suffering unbelievable torture at the hands of the EPOH (Communist Youth Organization) of the city.

18 September 1944

Remnants of the Security Battalions retreated to Gargaliazos and after a 3-day battle, the ELAS captured the city and 400 Security Battalion officers and men taken prisoner were murdered along with 650 Nationalists on orders from Ares BELOWNIOTIS, leader of the EAM, who personally witnessed the mass slaughter. Maj STUPA, Commanding Officer of the Security Battalion, escaped with 400 officers and men to the island fort of PYLOS. An officer-courier was sent to Caserta, Italy, to beg the Greek Government-in-Exile to send a destroyer and save the lives of the 400 Nationalist soldiers. Once more, the band of KANELLOPOULOS, the ELAS Vice-Premier, prevented any relief attempt in the name of the Greek Government. The garrison, which had very little ammunition left, was soon overpowered and before the horrified civilians, those who had not been killed in the fighting, were butchered to the last man. Maj STUPA, who was wounded during the battle, took his own life rather than fall prisoner into the hands of the ELAS.

22 September 1944

The 5/42nd Security Battalion of Evzones, serving as an independent unit of the Security Battalions at NANFPAKTOS, was attacked by a strong force of 5,000 ELAS. The Commanding Officer, Maj KAPETRONIS, who considered his situation hopeless, collected all men, women and children and with the Security Battalion, retreated to Patras to join the remnants of the other Security Battalions of the Peloponnese.

The fate of other Security Battalions in Greece is very similar to the above mentioned units. In CHALKIS, 3,000 Security Battalion officers and men were butchered by the ELAS during the last days before the arrival of the Allied Invasion Forces.

The situation had not changed when the British Forces arrived in Patras. The Security Battalions were in force there and the ELAS failed to attack the city because before the EAM-ELAS could act, the Security Battalions under Col Nicholas KOURKOULAKOS, under the very eyes of the Germans (who were still in the city) and the ELAS, negotiated with Lt Col JELLOGE, Commanding Officer, Allied Invasion Forces in Northwestern Peloponnese, and turned the



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

city over to British Commandos who had landed during the night of 1 October 1944. The Germans were also caught off guard, and the valuable port of Patras was saved from destruction, and used as a base of operations against the retreating Germans.

The Security Battalions which had been disbanded, not on orders from Allied Headquarters, but on the insistence of Mr. KANELLOPOULOS, ELAS Vice-Premier in the Greek Government-in-Exile, were placed in British guarded barracks when they refused to disband. During this period, thrice Col KOURKOULAKOS warned Allied Headquarters of the impending attack of ELAS forces on British troops (copies of letters attached to this report), but his warnings were not heeded. EAM-ELAS leaders, through the use of a loud-speaker, would call to the men of the Security Battalions to leave their barracks and come out and join forces with the ELAS to fight, as they put it, "the 'third invader'". As a guarantee for their lives, the ELAS printed amnesty leaflets, signed by the EAM Committee of Patras ~~and~~ containing the names of every officer and soldier living in the barracks. Many officers and soldiers of the Security Battalions succumbed to this propaganda and left their barracks to return to ~~their~~ homes. As the men left the barracks singly or in pairs or small groups, they were apprehended by ELAS partisans and after a mock trial, were sentenced to death and murdered. When a plot to attack the barracks was uncovered, the remaining officers and men were evacuated by boat to Taranto, Italy, and placed in St. Andrew's Prisoner of War Camp.

#### The 5/42nd Regiment of Evzones

Although the 5/42nd Regiment of Evzones was eventually to become an independent unit of the Security Battalions, this Agent will treat the unit separately so that the reader will be enabled to determine the actual fate of a nationalist organization, formed and armed by the British to fight the Germans, its destruction at the hands of the ELAS, and its reasons for joining the Security Battalions.

In several interviews with Maj KAPETSONIS, only surviving field officer of the 5/42nd Regiment of Evzones, this Agent has obtained statements voiced by all of his surviving officers and men, on the organization, battles, problems and history of the regiment. The story gives, without a doubt, a lucid picture of internal conditions in Greece during the past two years, leading to the outbreak of hostilities between the EAM-ELAS and the Allied Invasion Forces in Greece.

Major KAPETSONIS and his officers and men have given this Agent this first-hand information, which has been put in writing for the first time, and is given below:

#### Organization of the 5/42ND REGIMENT OF EVZONES

Commanding Officer: Colonel Dimitrios PSARROS

"In the fall of 1942, Col Dimitrios PSARROS, on orders from Allied Headquarters in the Middle East, began organizing the 5/42nd Regiment

SECRET

SECRET



SECRET

MEMORANDUM  
SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

of Evzones which was to be equipped by the British and be used as a guerilla army against the Italian and German armies of occupation. By February 1943, enough men had been recruited for the organization to enable it to organize in the mountains of GIONA and prepare for the parachuting of arms, ammunitions, and supplies by British planes. In March 1943 a British Military Mission headed by Captain "JEFF-PAT" (?) was parachuted with the first supplies to be dropped. Capt "JEFF" had as his mission the job of helping to organize the 5/42nd, and insure a proper flow of supplies to that organization, and to subsequently organize other similar units in other sections of Greece.

"In April 1943, the first units were organized by the late Colonel PSARROS, and on orders from Allied Headquarters, we undertook the building of an aerodrome where our supplies were to be parachuted or landed at the town of STROMI, north of GIONA.

"While awaiting the arrival of British planes and supplies, the Regiment on 12 May 1943 was suddenly attacked by the communist partisans of the ELIAS under 'Ares Belouchiotis' (Athanasios KIARAS), with the result that the Regiment was captured and disarmed. The units of the Regiment were in a position to dispute the unjust attack of the communist partisans, but to avoid the spilling of blood, the late Col PSARROS personally intervened and prevented the men from using their weapons. Col PSARROS was released and went to KARPENISION (town of Agia Triasos), and the remaining officers and men were released only through the intervention of the Chief of the British Mission in Greece, Chief of Staff "ENDY", who was located there. Col PSARROS was induced to undertake the reorganization of the Regiment. We returned to GIONA, where we again received parachuted supplies through the efforts of our contact-man, Capt "JEFF".

"Civilians and ex-soldiers hastened to enlist in the Regiment accepting the guerilla liberation struggle with enthusiasm. The enthusiasm and the complete faith of the men of the Regiment in this liberation movement was astounding, even at a time when there was danger from the ELIAS. Seeing this, the leaders of the ELIAS became alarmed and ordered the ELIAS to attack, for a second time, the 5/42nd Regiment on 18 June 1943. With this uncalled for attack by the ELIAS against the Regiment, the 5/42nd was forced to join in battle. With only 250 armed men the ELIAS forces were dispersed resulting in the rout of over 800 partisans. Later however, on the insistence of the British contact-man, Capt "JEFF", Col PSARROS ordered the dissolution of the Regiment. The officers went either to Athens or to their homes, and went into hiding to escape reprisals by the EAMS-ELIAS, and the men escaped to the mountains suffering all sort of rigors and hardships rather than give their arms up to the ELIAS as ordered.

"After the lapse of about a month, "ENDY", Chief of the British Mission sent out couriers to find Col PSARROS, with the instructions that he be persuaded, on orders from Allied Headquarters in the Middle East, to reorganize for the second time the 5/42nd Regiment.



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

"On 20 July 1943, a pact was signed by the ELAS, EDES and the 5/42nd with the British Mission, where the rapid reorganization of the Regiment was foreseen, and the creation of a joint-committee was realized where all differences and problems would be solved as they presented themselves.

"Presenting himself before Capt "JEFF", the contact-man, Col PSARROS began the second reorganization of the Regiment.

"From the first dissolution of the Regiment and of other Nationalist guerilla units (COSTOPOULOS, PAPAIOANOU - EDES) at the hands of the ELAS, it became evident to the Greek people, especially those on the Greek Mainland that the struggle which the EAM-ELAS was conducting had a selfish rather than a patriotic character, and for that reason the enthusiastic enlistment of Greek citizens became evident. The Regiment was organized into three battalions, one of which was at DORIDOS under Maj George KAPETSONIS, and the other two at PARNASIDA with over 600 well-armed men in each battalion. The liberation struggle began against the armies of occupation, and the organization consequently came under the direct command of Allied Headquarters in the Middle East, and whose orders it executed.

"On their instructions, the Regiment gave battle to the Germans and Italian armies of occupation, and emerged victorious at LIDORIKI, SCALOULI, TSAKOREMA, ANATHEMA, AGIA EPTHEMIA, ITEA, HIGHWAY 51, DADI, ARACHOVA, KOUKOUVISTIS and AMFISIS.

"Emerging victorious from the 4-day battle at LIDORIKI-SCALOULA, the Regiment sent a call to the ELAS to join the Regiment and help capture the bridge at STENO, and prevent the German mechanized columns of Naupaktos from moving against the Regiment. Not only did the ELAS fail to do this, but instead, because of the disadvantageous displacement of the units of the Regiment, it undertook to attack us. This became obvious to those commanding the units of the Regiment, referring the situation to the British contact-man "JEFF", and requesting that the operations of the Regiment be conducted personally by him to avoid any similar disturbance.

"Relations between the 5/42nd Regiment of Evzones and the ELAS since the second reorganization up to 10 October 1943 were more or less friendly, with all differences and problems arising being solved by General Headquarters.

"On 10 October 1943, wholly unexpected and without justification, the ELAS attacked the Nationalist units of General ZERVAS (EDES), which at the time were fighting the Germans. By far, the EDES was conducting the most effective guerilla campaign against the Germans.

"Because the 5/42nd did not accept the invitation of the ELAS to jointly attack the units of Gen ZERVAS on that day, relations between

SECRET

SECRET



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

the 5/42nd and the ELAS ceased to be of a friendly character. This straining of relations during the months of December 1943 and Jan-Feb-March 1944 increased when the EAM-ELAS began by offensive methods to create various incidents, such as the murder of chosen Nationalist officers, followers of the Regiment, with the final purpose of dissolving the Regiment.

"Moreover, the noble stand of Col PSARROS, who was always inspired by a spirit of national freedom prevented bloodshed. He conceded to many unreasonable demands of the ELAS, which were solved as much as possible in the spirit of justice. On top of all of our reversals and failure for the negotiation of a pact in February 1944, between ZERVAS, PSARROS and SERAPHIS and the British Major "CHRIS" for the creation of a permanent national liberation army, and a national liberation government, the ELAS attacked isolated units of the Regiment in the region of AMFISIS, whose mission at the time was to impede German units attempting to clean up the region of the guerilla danger.

"Other units of the ELAS, on 1 April 1944, with a strength of 300 well-armed men attacked an isolated unit of the Regiment stationed at the village of EFFALION, DORIDOS with the object of dispersing the unit and capturing its Commanding Officer, Capt Efthymios DEDOUSIS and also the DORIDOS battalion commander, Maj George KAPETSONIS, who was also stationed there. This came at a time when the inhabitants of the village were giving a patriotic pageant in honor of the unit.

"This criminal act of the ELAS enraged not only the officers and the guerillas of the unit, but also all the nationally-minded peoples of that section. Gathering its strength, the unit vigorously counterattacked the communist partisans. In this counter-attack the ELAS suffered 110 killed, wounded and prisoners. The unit, to avoid reprisals by the ELAS, dispersed. After this criminal action of the ELAS, and its determination to continue its attacks on the various isolated units of the Regiment with the purpose of annihilating the Regiment, Col PSARROS ordered the fusion of all units of the Regiment in the region of EFFALION - TRIKORFOU with the purpose of strengthening it against any offensive moves by the ELAS.

"For the uncalled for and unjust attack of the communists, the battalion DORIDOS, composed and dispatched the following telegram to:

1. The late Col PSARROS
2. Maj "JEFF", British Liaison
3. General Seraphis at the General Headquarters of the ELAS.

TELEGRAM

FROM: National Guerilla Units, 5/42nd Regiment of Evzones, Battalion Doridos.  
TO : Col Dimitrios PSARROS, Commanding Officer, 5/42nd Regiment of Evzones.

IMMEDIATE ACTION



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

Text of Message:

'Because of the cowardly, deceitful and criminal attack by units of the ELIAS against our units at EFPALION, and against non-combattant, rationally spirited population, I protest strongly, and I demand, in the name of Divine Justice and the just liberation struggle which we are conducting, an immediate intervention and their punishment.'

Efpalion, 2 April 1944

Signed: KAPETSONIS, George  
Major, Commanding Officer  
Doridos, Battalion

"On 5 April 1944, the negotiations between the EAM-ELIAS and our Regiment began to arrive at an amicable solution to the newly arisen differences. It became apparent that the ELIAS planned to attack us for their forces from Thessaly, Euboea, Macedonia, Western Greece, Attica and Boetia had collected in the region. What we had feared came to pass. Our 2,300 communist partisans attacked our units. 350 communists attacked the first Battalion in the mountainous region of TRIKORFOU. Fierce battles were fought for days. In spite of all this, however, many efforts were made on the part of the 5/42nd that the unjust attack of the EAM-ELIAS against us be called off. The late Col PSARROS announced that all our efforts for a settlement were being made in vain. He therefore composed and dispatched to the PEEA (Temporary Committee of National Liberation, the government of the EAM-ELIAS), the following historic telegram:

FROM: National Guerilla Forces  
5/42nd Regiment of Evzones  
TO : The PEEA, through the 5th Headquarters of the ELIAS.  
URGENT

'Through secret documents AP #208 and 209 of the 5th Headquarters, ELIAS, charges are made against the Regiment and Organization for murders and acts of violence against citizens and guerillas; for pillaging, abusing, and taking an inimical stand against the EAM-ELIAS. All these lies constitute a sinful excuse, since the ultimate purpose of the EAM-ELIAS is to dissolve the Regiment and alone, remain the undisputed master of the situation, so that it may impose its views and its dictatorship of the proletariat on the peoples of Greece. Toward this end, the entire attack against the Regiment had been carefully prepared and studied, immediately after the failure of the negotiations of the "PACT", and with the above, and other false charges, the EAM-ELIAS sought to give moral justification for this uncalled for attack; and on the basis of these justifications, it wanted us to surrender our arms and artillery, and our officers and guerillas surrender as prisoners to units of the ELIAS. The decision of the Regiment to dedicate itself to this difficult struggle which was forced upon it by the EAM-ELIAS, constitutes a manifestation of its most emphatic protest before history and the Greek people, and the charges of traitorous acts and our withdrawal from the struggle of



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

liberation. Because of all these, and for the maintenance of the honor of its arms and its glorious record, both the Organization and the Regiment have decided, with great sorrow for the fraternal blood being spilled, to struggle with all their means against these attacks of the EAM-ELAS.'

General Command Headquarters, 16 April 1944

Commanding Officer of the 5/42nd Regiment  
of Evzones

SIGNED: D. PSARROS.

"To the above document no answer was received. Instead, on the night of 16-17 April 1944, all the forces of the ELAS on the Greek Mainland attacked the 5/42nd Regiment. The Regiment defended itself valiantly, but not being able to withstand the terrific onslaught because it found itself surrounded from all sides by strong enemy forces, it attempted to break the encirclement of the ELAS. Some units fought their way out to ERATININ (Maj KAPETSONIS with 180 officers and men), others escaped to the mountainous region of TRIKORFOU, and still others were captured by the ELAS communist partisans. All of the officers and men captured (among whom was Col PSARROS and 16 officers and 127 men) were butchered ruthlessly by the anarchistic, atheistic communist hordes of the Nihilist Ares BELOUCHIOTES, and General Stephanos SERAPHIS. Col PSARROS was tortured, then skinned alive, and finally his throat was slit. After this violent dissolution of the 5/42nd Regiment by the ELAS, dark slavery without precedent in Greek history reigned in all the regions of the Greek Mainland and Thessaly. In all the villages, the communist partisans entered as conquerors. They violently beat and tortured Nationalists. They looted from their homes everything they possessed and then set fire to them. They divided these spoils and all property among the partisans of the EAM-ELAS. They captured or kidnapped the families of nationalists and drove them before them, in the most miserable state, to the mountains as hostages. Scenes of horror and pain were enacted with unimaginable frequency during these violent seizures and kidnappings, driving the members of the Nationalist families to unknown mountain hideouts of the ELAS. Old men, women, children and even children in arms were dragged by the thousands to their strongholds, and tortured and beaten. The victims of privation, maltreatment and torture at the hands of the communists mount into the thousands. No pity! No mercy! The land was made desolate and our country was transformed into a vast desert. Nowhere in the annals of history are written criminal acts of the type committed by the communists. Before all these horrors at the hands of the ELAS, and in the name of God and Divine Justice, the souls of Greek patriots are resurrected. Yes, they are resurrected. Although the inhuman organs of the international piratical communist comintern, EAM-ELAS-EPON, have laid waste everything in our beautiful fatherland, our oft and much tortured Greece, the real Greek people will never allow them to impose their proletariat dictatorship on our country."

Units of the 5/42nd which escaped to ERATININ with Maj KAPETSONIS were pursued by ELAS forces, and in desperation the 180 officers and men commandeered a fishing boat and went to Patras. There, Maj KAPETSONIS and



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

his men were sheltered and fed by the Patras Security Battalions under Col KOURKOULAKOS. In June 1944, the unit with their British arms and uniforms joined units of the Security Battalions at Naupaktos and acted as an independent unit of the Security Battalions. On 22 September 1944, the city was attacked by strong ELAS forces, and Maj KAPETSONIS, after collecting all Nationalist families and their belongings, made a withdrawal to Patras. From there on, the remnants of the 5/42nd Regiment of Evzones have shared the same trials and tribulations of the Security Battalions of Patras.

NOTE: All correspondence of the Military Governor of Patras, including all correspondence between the Security Battalions, the British Intelligence Mission in Greece, and the Greek Government-in-Exile can be found in the home of Lt GEORGIOS FOUNDAKOS, 45 HERMOU AVENUE, BIBLIOPOLION of Antonios MAVRAKOS, Patras, Greece or by contacting Andreas GIANAKOPOULOS, Patras, Greece.

"GENDARMERIE" AND POLICE OFFICIALS.

When the British arrived in Patras, all police agencies provided information to, and fought beside the Allied Invasion Forces. Soon after the Germans withdrew, all members of the various police agencies were assembled (over 500 persons) and told that trouble was expected in Athens with the ELAS, and that all police officers would be sent to Athens to maintain order and safeguard property. They were broke down into groups and sent in these small groups to Athens to avoid arousing suspicion. When fighting broke out in Athens, and the lives of all police officers were threatened by the impending ELAS attack against the Allied installations, the last group which was still in Patras was put on board a ship and sent to Taranto, Italy, with the officers and men of the Security Battalions of Patras. At present, 18 officers and men of the Gendarmerie and the Police Department of Patras are located at St. Andrew's Prisoner of War Camp A, Compound #4.

AGENT'S NOTES:

This Agent has attempted to present as lucid a picture of the organization, aims and record of the Security Battalions in Greece as was possible. There is no doubt in this Agent's mind that:

1. The Security Battalions were not German inspired, and never collaborated with the German authorities.
2. The German authorities, the Nationalists and the EAM-ELAS were aware of the fact that one day the army of occupation would leave Greece, and that the ultimate fight would involve internal politics.
3. The German authorities encouraged internal strife between the Nationalists and the EAM-ELAS for obvious reasons.

SECRET

SECRET



SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

4. The Security Battalions were the only salvation of the Nationalists in combatting the EAM-ELAS.

5. The Security Battalions were in constant liaison with the Allied Military Commission in Greece.

6. The Security Battalions did help and facilitate the work of the MACP.

7. The Security Battalions on three different occasions warned the Allied High Command of the impending EAM-ELAS attack.

8. The Security Battalions facilitated the Allied Invasion Forces during the landing and placed themselves at the disposal of the Allied High Command.

9. The Security Battalions were termed collaborationist only by the Greek Government-in-Exile, under the influence of the ELAS Vice-Premier KANELLOPOULOS.

10. Other Security Battalions in the Athens area, after being disarmed by the British, were rearmed and fought beside British forces against the EAM-ELAS in the battle for Athens.

11. With the present existing situation, the Security Battalions seem to be vindicated in their struggle against the EAM-ELAS.

12. The Security Battalions were never used offensively, but their actual role was to preserve free of EAM-ELAS destruction all large cities in Greece.

13. All members of the Security Battalions of Patras have fought against the German army of occupation with various guerilla groups.

14. That members of the Security Battalions have paid with their lives for cooperating with the British Intelligence Mission in Greece.

Other truths are evident and can be found in the above report. This Agent strongly recommends that immediate action be taken to rectify the situation. This Agent has visited the camps of Polish and Russian troops who were captured in France, bearing arms against the Allies as members of the German army, yet these same troops today have been armed and equipped and are considered faithful Allies. On the other hand, men who have fought the Germans in guerilla warfare for over three years, and have suffered terrible losses, torture and privation are today being treated as prisoners of war through the successful endeavors of ELAS policy and leaders. If one understands the Greek character and the love of liberty, it is highly impossible that the 50,000 members of the Security Battalions were collaborationist after all that they and their families suffered at the hands of the Germans.



SECRET

SECRET

SUBJECT: Interrogation and Findings - Continued.

This Agent recommends the following solution:

1. The members of the Security Battalions should be properly equipped and armed and merged with one of the Greek units in Italy, or
2. They should be placed in a separate camp until the day that they can be repatriated to their native land.
3. Members of the Gendarmerie and the Police be repatriated as soon as possible.

NICHOLAS A. NATSIOS  
Special Agent  
Counter Intelligence Corps

9 Inclosures:

1. Ltr fr Col KOURKOULAKOS to Allied Force Hq in Italy.
2. Extract translation of speech by CHURCHILL, 6 Dec 1944.
3. Order to lay down arms sent by Lt Col JELlicoe, CO, AFNP to Sec Bns.
4. Translation of telegram to the Greek Govt in Exile sent by KOURKOULAKOS.
5. Translation of telegram to the Greek Govt in Exile sent by Gen ZERVAS.
6. Translation of telegram to KOURKOULAKOS from ZERVAS.
7. Translation of three letters of warning from KOURKOULAKOS to JELlicoe.
8. Translation of a threatening ltr sent by ELIAS partisan to CSM ALBOUNIoTIS.
9. Translation of amnesty leaflets given to members of Sec Bns by EAM.

APPROVED:

RALPH W. POWERS  
Major, Cavalry  
Chief, CIC, AFHQ