

lights and the illuminated legend *Zito O Vasileus* (Hurrah for the King!) At Didymotikon the walls of the officers' mess are plastered with portraits of George. In Komotini I saw pictures of the Greek monarch and Winston Churchill nailed to the pillars of the barracks' neo-classic facade. I started photographing the scene when an officer rushed up. I thought he was going to assault my camera. But all he wanted was for me to wait a minute while he put up a picture of Roosevelt. I passed through Komotini again a few days later. The Roosevelt picture was gone.

Illegal Man-Hunts

I promised in the beginning I would refrain from examining corpses, and I have. But I feel bound to report that, in Salonika on VE-day at least three Leftists were killed and an undisclosed number wounded when Guardsmen and armed royalists opened fire on EAM marchers celebrating the Allied victory. An official inquiry was under way when I returned to Salonika. A top-ranking British officer told me candidly that preliminary evidence indicated the blame fell on the National Guard. If this were confirmed, he added, he would court-martial those responsible. He also admitted that Rightists were conducting an illegal man-hunt against the Left in many districts. He pointed out that British troops were too thinly scattered over a large and turbulent area. He expressed hope that new National Guard battalions, recruited from regular age-classes instead of from volunteers, would soon replace the units which were formed specifically against ELAS during the civil war.

These developments will undoubtedly improve the situation, but not by very much. There will still be volunteer battalions, transferred from one region to another, perhaps, but retaining their nervous trigger-fingers and their weapons. More important, the new age-class units will be predominantly Rightist, because of official discrimination against conscripts from EAM. Many ex-members of the left-wing resistance movement continue to be rejected for "medical" reasons. By the most generous of estimates recruitment of anti-royalists, even at this late date, does not exceed 20 per cent. of the Guard's strength.

The British Are Doing Something—

It is not quite correct to say that this is a purely internal affair. The British are training the Greek army. They are supplying the material, much of it American. Thus they obviously have the wherewithal to exert pressure towards the remedy of manifold evils. And actually in some areas the British are doing a great deal, with very good effect.

In Kozani, for example, no arrests may be made by the Greeks without specific British authorisation. Two other Americans and I were jeeping back to Kozani one evening when the frantic villagers of Vethilakos blocked the road to tell us that the National Guard had just seized eight men, including the local priest. We raced into town and reported this to the British, who went into action instantly. They located the prisoners huddled in the cellar of the gendarmerie, with no light, no air, no food, no blankets. A British major, after telling the Greek officers precisely what he thought of them, demanded a swift hearing for the prisoners. The priest was called and confronted with his accuser, a nationalist ex-guerrilla. Your uneasy correspondent

was pressed into service as interpreter, while the British held summary military court. It soon became apparent that the bearded little priest, charged by the nationalist with all kinds of murders, had committed nothing beyond the unspeakable crime of storing a few jars of honey in his home for an ELAS partisan who was making a quick getaway into the mountains. This revelation at once terminated the court proceedings.

—But Not Enough

How comes it about, then, that at Larissa gendarmes and Guardsmen are knocking people's heads together with impunity? The British commander at Larissa has his headquarters a discreet 10 miles out of town, amid scenes of idyllic tranquility. It is also permissible

to express surprise that the C.O. of a British tank unit at Didymotikon had never heard, until I told him, about instructions to the National Guard to refrain from politics.

If all the British everywhere in Greece really got down to their job of pacification—and if the Greek Government in Athens were representative of the country and capable of giving and enforcing proper orders—then the Greek people would have a chance to emerge from their present political jungle.

It remains only to report that things were fairly quiet in Athens while I was away. The only untoward incident occurred on Victory Day, when the happy crowd, recognising an EAM man, beat him to death.

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