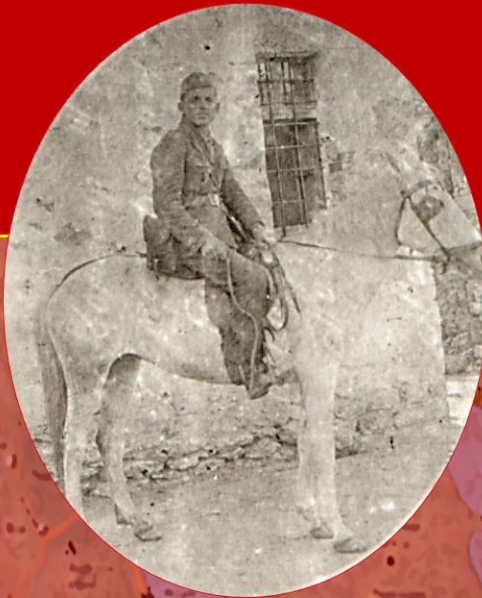


GEORGI HRISTOVSKI

DIARY

My fight in the Aegean part of
Macedonia (1946 – 1949)





Sotir (Sem) Ristovski was born on 11.6.1937 in Turje, Lerinsko, Aegean Macedonia. As a refugee child in 1948 he was taken to Bela Tsrkva on the Yugoslav-Hungarian border. During the Greek Civil War, his father was a Macedonian teacher in the liberated territories. In 1950 he left Bela Tsrkva and went home to his parents in Skopje, where he graduated from primary school. In 1954 he moved to Western Australia with his parents and two brothers Stojce and Stavre, and in 1960 moved to Melbourne, where he opened his own construction business after several years. Since 1965, he has been actively participating in the life of the Macedonian community in Australia, and above all in church organisations where he has significant functions, as well as in the organisations of refugee children. In 1992 he was elected delegate to the First World Macedonian Congress of Refugee Children. He was the holder of the first passport issued by the Republic of Macedonia in 1992. He participates as an organiser in numerous patriotic and humanitarian activities of Macedonians in Australia.

GEORGI HRISTOVSKI

DIARY

My fight in the Aegean part of Macedonia (1946 – 1949)

***AUTHENTIC TESTIMONY OF THE STRUGGLE OF THE
MACEDONIAN PEOPLE IN THE AEGEAN PART OF
MACEDONIA IN THE PERIOD OF 1946 – 1949. WRITTEN
BY THE PARTICIPANT IN THOSE FIGHTS
GEORGI HRISTOVSKI***

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DIARY

**My fight in the Aegean part of Macedonia
(1946 – 1949)**

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of his brother Georgi Hristovski**

Melbourne, 2022

A DIARY WITH AN INVALUABLE HISTORICAL VALUE

The diary of Georgi Hristovski represents a material of great historical value. It is one of the few diaries with such detailed authentic records of the events in the Aegean part of Macedonia during the Civil War in Greece, but also during a certain period before and after the war. Not only that, but it is a diary written by a witness and participant in those important historical events of that time. Georgi Hristovski, as the commander and commissar of the Macedonian units in the Aegean part of Macedonia, witnessed and personally participated in a large number of military clashes in Gramos, Vicho, Olimp, and other parts of Macedonia, where he was wounded several times. He also gave speeches in the Macedonian language at rallies, communicated with key officials from those villages and offered valuable information about the events and everyday life of the Macedonian and Greek fighters in the ranks of the DAG. Practically, these are testimonies from a Macedonian hero who was not sufficiently known in the Macedonian public until now. In his Diary, the most significant military clashes on Mount Vicho and in other places in which Georgi personally participated are described in detail, as well as information about the internal organization of the Macedonian units, their cooperation with the Greek democrats, the calvary after the defeat of the DAG, etc. We are sure that from now on this Diary will be indispensable historical literature for all future researchers of the period of the Civil War in Greece, when the last armed struggle of the

Macedonian people took place in the Aegean part of Macedonia in order to secure their basic national rights. This Diary was authentically written in Greek, and in 1988 it was translated into Macedonian by the author himself. One year before his death (1992), Georgi gave the manuscript to his brother and the editor of this book, Sotir Ristovski, who made it digital some time ago, and for the needs of this edition, small proofreading interventions were made in order to present the text in the Macedonian literary language without disturbing its content. Let's hope that this Diary will contribute to the well-deserved recognition of the role of the hero Georgi Hristovski in Macedonian history.

Aleksandar Donski

AUTHENTIC RECORDS AND TESTIMONIALS FROM THE MACEDONIAN FIGHTER GEORGI HRISTOVSKI

I was born in 1916 in the village of Turje in a poor working family. In 1937 I served in the army in the city of Kozhani for 22 months.

On July 10, 1940, by special invitation, I was mobilized to Solun in an artillery division where we practiced to be able to prevent the attack that was expected from the Italian fascist army.

On October 28, 1940 during the attack from Italy on Greece I was in Solun with 320 artillerymen with whom we were leaving for Athens.

In Athens, in the Royal Park, we were met by English commanders of anti-aircraft artillery type visor-88 with electronic control, and the commander was Vox Baitis.

After a month's training, 12 anti-aircraft batteries were formed, and I was in the 10th battery, which consisted of 4 cannons, as a horizontal gunner, while our commander was Captain Buas Pavlos.

After the exercises, all 12 batteries lined up near the port of Piraeus.

In the presence of Greek and English generals, we did a trial shooting of an airplane with a 300-400-meter-long wire bag tied to it.

After the trial of 12 batteries, 3 remained including myself, and the rest left for Northern Greece.

The three batteries were stationed in Piraeus, where we fought until the last moment against the Italian and German planes, i.e., until April 28, 1941, when Athens capitulated.

During this period of fighting, there were a lot of desertions, that is, out of 85 fighters, 28 of us remained, one lieutenant and the captain: Commander Pavlos. After covering the cannons and other equipment, we passed the harbor and entered Athens.

Here the Commander gave all the remaining fighters a certificate certified by the English colonel proving we had fought to the end and that we had been decorated.

After a short two-week rest, dressed in civilian clothes, I along with two other fighters from Lerin set off on foot to go home to Lerin. After some intrigues along the road, pretending to be anyone and anything, we arrived in Lerin on May 20, 1941.

When I arrived in the village I was greeted by my parents and my wife, who was donning black because my cousin Todor Lazarov had died on the Albanian front.

The mountains around the village were full of weapons left by the Greek army after the defeat of Italy. We collected those weapons and hid them in the huts and barns.

During this period, the economic position of our family was very bad, so we went around Bitola villages to find work.

While there, we were caught by the Bulgarians, who forced us to take out ID cards allowing free movement in Vardar Macedonia.

In 1942 partisan units of ELAS appeared in our village, among whom were Ilija Dimovski-Goche, Stavre Mangov, Vera Balova, and others.

With their arrival, all the young people from the village organized themselves in the reserve units of ELAS and took an active part in the fight against the occupier.

In May 1943, our village was surrounded by the Germans, because previously on Mount Chaulata, the fighters of ELAS had clashed with the Germans and found blood in the village. Thinking that there were wounded partisans in the village, they captured 14 villagers and set them up to shoot them if they didn't confess where the wounded partisans were.

However, with great difficulty, the villagers managed to explain to them that the blood they saw was from a wounded dog, and not from wounded partisans, and thus the villagers were freed.

With a well-organized activity headed by Ilija Dimovski-Goche, Micho Topurkovski, Tanas Korovoshev and others, we took an active part in the fights against the Germans.

In September 1944 there was a clash within ELAS regarding the Macedonian issue, so we moved to the village of Dragor (around Bitola), where a battalion was formed with fighters from Aegean Macedonia, after which we re-entered our villages.

During the clash with ELAS, our delegate Pero from Vardar Macedonia was killed. After these fights, our unit entered Albanian territory, and then went into Prespa and Resen, where we met other fighters.

The managers were Naum Pejov, Mihail Keramitchiev, and others. Here a reorganization of our brigade took place. I entered the special battalion where the commander was Krste Mangov, and I was the commissar of a company.

In Gostivarsko, Kichevsko, and Tetovsko, we fought with ballistic missiles. There I became the commander of a company, and my commissar was Kirjako Tsolev.

During this period, in several places in Gostivarsko, we disarmed many ballistic missiles and captured 28 people.

After the liberation of Bitola, Skopje and other cities in Macedonia and Yugoslavia, on May 9, I found myself in the Valandovo villages. It was in these villages that the brigades from Aegean Macedonia disbanded and joined the units of Vardar Macedonia.

I assumed the position of Commissar of the company, the commander remained Shalevski Blaze from Prilepsko, and the commander of the battalion Kirovski Risto.

We deployed along the border because during this period the Ustashi, Chetniks and ballisticians were fleeing to Greece.

In June, with a special invitation, I went to Strumica, where I was temporarily appointed commander of an infantry unit.

Here I met my commander Boro Koroveshov. Since I knew the artillery well, after the howitzers were brought from the USSR, I was appointed commander of the artillery in the 41st division.

We trained young artillerymen with Russian equipment, so I stayed in Strumica until January 1946.

From Strumica, together with 35 soldiers and officers, we were given an order and left for Shtip in the artillery units.

With the disbandment of the 41st Division, I joined the Skopje Artillery Unit.

In March 1946 I demobilized and got a job in the District Engineering, where I worked as a manager of material warehouses, that is, we built bridges in Bitola.

In May 1946 I crossed the Greek border without a permit and brought my family (wife and daughter) from Greece to Bitola.

On September 2, 1946, by directive, together with 120 fighters from Aegean Macedonia, we entered Greece through Albania.

In Greece, that is Aegean Macedonia near the village of Vmbeni, we armed ourselves completely.

The group that managed the weapons was led by the young Lazo Kovachev. Then we met with Mikhail Keramitchiev, who divided our 120 fighters into 2 squads with 60 fighters each. One was managed by Atanas Angelovski-Garefi, and the other by Hristovski Georgi Fotinos. Then I merged with the detachment of Kalkov Georgi from Visheni and formed a single detachment of partisans with commander Kalkov Georgi, and I remained the commissar. Then the Civil War in Greece began, during which Aegean Macedonia had the most victims.

The civil war ended in August 1949, and I survived and witnessed those events.

As I mentioned, in 1946 I was employed in Bitola in the Bitola District Engineering as the deputy head of supply. The director of this company was Georgi Mladenov.

At that time, the Board of the Aegeans operated and worked in the city, which was responsible for Stavro Mangov from the village of Dmbeni.

One day he informed me that he had had a conversation with Goche (Ilija Dimovski) and that they wanted to send a unit of Aegean Macedonians to Vicho Mountain, where bloody battles were fought, and the prisons and islands were full of members of our people.

On September 4, 1946, Goche came and gathered about 120 fighters, and he gave me a letter about Mihail Keramitchiev. Then they took us in trucks to the Albanian-Yugoslav border near Oteshevo. A control was carried out

there, during which we left all documents, military books, identity cards, etc.

When they saw that I was a JNA officer, they invited me separately, and then they advised us not to say where we came from in Greece. They told us that our documents would remain in Bitola and if we decided to return, we would be able to retrieve them.

I told the person in charge that I had a wife and an eight-year-old daughter who stayed in Bitola, and I gave him the address.

Other trucks from Albania arrived, loaded us all and took us to the Greek-Albanian border near the village of Dmbeni.

Lazo Kovachevski met us here with his group and asked us who was responsible. I answered that it was me, but that there were other officers, including Atanas Garefi, Atanas Kazev, and others. A squad was formed where every tenth fighter was given an Italian machine gun, and we were also given Schmeisser submachine guns. There was no weapon left for me and I said to them: "What will you give me? A shepherd's staff to herd sheep?" The person in charge said to me: "Don't worry, we have weapons elsewhere, we will find something for you too."

The next day we reached Malimadi above the village of Smrdesh. Mihail Keramitchiev met us there. I gave him the letter from Goche and asked him what he was talking about. He laughed and told me that it was written that there were

Yugoslav officers in the group. I told him that it was us, but that we were Aegean Macedonians. Then he divided us and formed two groups. I had 50 fighters. First, we slept and rested well. Then Goche gave me an Italian pistol, after which we left for Vicho.

As we walked through the mountain villages, people ran away from us and were afraid. We arrived above the Trsjan mountains where we rested. The villagers brought us food. Risto Baruta, Ilo Pejov Kiatipo, Ilo from Armenia, Pop Lazarov Lazo, and others were with us.

The next day we left and passed through the village of Trsje. They told us that the Greek gendarmerie had fled. We passed through the forests of Trsjana and came out on the Turjanska intersection, from where the village could be seen. I ordered the fighters to get ready because we didn't know what was in the village.

We started along the path by the monastery "St. Elijah." I heard dogs barking in Turje village, so I took precautions. I turned left and started approaching the village. I saw a woman, Stefanka Shishkova, waving a black scarf at me.

I turned left and took a position near the monastery "St. Thanas". I opened burst fire with the machine gun over the village.

Ten Greek gendarmes led by Captain Stati from Kolomnati fled in panic. I waited until it got dark, after which I sent a small group to check the situation in the village. They told me that there was no one and we entered the whole

squad. My mother, father and three minor brothers came out. My mother, crying through tears, said to me: "You took away your wife and child, what are you doing here now?" My grandfather Kole (my father's father) also came and said to me: "You damn dog, when are you going to liberate Macedonia?" They hugged me and cried. Many famous people came to see each other. After the fighters rested, we left for Vicho Mountain.

7.9.1946

In the evening we arrived at the foot of Vicho mountain. We met with Kalko Georgi from the village of Visheni with whom there were 40-45 Macedonian fighters. I also gave him a message from Mikhail Keramitchiev, after which we reorganized.

Here I also met Tsali from Dmbeni, as well as the young partisans Karotolev Lambre, Pop Iliev Stavre, Endriev Kole, and other fighters.

The squad had three German machine guns, one Czech, three English and three French, while the others were Italian. The commander of the detachment was Kalko Georgi, and the commissioner was Hristovski Georgi. We had couriers, cooks, saboteurs, and everyone got to know each other and were happy. We rested there for three days.

The Greek police found out about our formation. I asked the fighters to give me a nickname, i.e., a conspiratorial name. Lambro Karatolev from Visheni raised his hand, and proposed

they call me Fotinos. I agreed and thus became the "Greek of Tessonel". I did this because my father, mother and three brothers were in the village of Turje. The police came to the village every day, so if they found out I was there, I would put my family in danger.

With the formation of the detachment, the resistance of our Macedonian people came to life. Young partisans from many villages began to sign up. We were constantly on the move and controlled villages, set up ambushes on transit roads and intersections, such as at Rungel, Buf, Armenia. We also met the small detachments of Lefter, Gareffi, Kize and Carapera.

During this period, a small partisan unit was formed in Vicho exclusively from Greeks and some Macedonians. The leader was Pando the War of Silver. Some leaders from GKP in northern Greece also appeared, such as Todor Eftimiadis, Katsakos Lefteris, and others. I was constantly in contact with them and we held discussions on the unification of the detachments and political organizations.

25.9.1946

A gang of policemen attacked the village of Blatsa under the Vicho mountain and started harassing and beating the people. A shepherd told us about this while we were on Vicho and immediately our two squads (mine and Kalko Karapera's) surrounded the village.

The fight started around 12 o'clock. After the first bursts from our machine guns, the police started running down the road. We entered the village and found three overcoats hanging in a villager's room.

The two squads gathered in the village and held a small rally. For the first time I spoke in Macedonian. The young people were happy and immediately three of them from the village of Blatsa volunteered to join us as partisans.

11.10.1946

Our detachment fell into an ambush on the road from Višeni to Tiolishta. We clashed with the police and they captured 30 fighters and took them to Kostur. We were betrayed by a spy from the village of Visheni, who called the gendarmerie, after which the police from Kosturia villages came. The fight started early, we retreated and took a position above the village of Tiolishta.

The police returned again to the village of Visheni, where they set fire to nine huts, among them the house of Kalko Georgi. We watched smoke rising over the entire village. Georgi looked at me with teary eyes. Lambo Karatolev, Andriov Kole, and others were with us.

Note.

I took a break from writing in the diary, but from 16.10.1946 I wrote regularly every day until 17.10.1946.

16.10.1946

The units were stationed at the foot of Vicho Mountain. Another partisan detachment was formed here. We were 75 partisans in three platoons and one small group. The commander of the detachment was Atanas Kuzev from the village of Neret, and the commander was me, Hristovski Georgi "Fotinos" from the village of Turje.

18.10.1946

The two partisan detachments were stationed east of Mount Vicho. The monarcho-fascist army and gendarmerie were preparing for an attack.

At 10 o'clock in the morning, couriers arrived from the Bapchor-Lagen intersection from one side, from the western side, from the village of Prekopana, who informed us about the arrival of the gendarmerie from Kostur.

East of Vicho was me with Kize Atanas. The southwestern part was held by Georgi Kalkov and Tsali. The attack started from both sides, Mortars, machine guns, army, police, Pando Shipenko, Mihail Karamitjiev, and others were with me.

Offensive, counter-offensive, we were attacked by an army of 3-4 thousand as well as police. I took three partisans and a machine gun and we went down into a field behind a stone wall. The army arrived and a fierce fight began.

The enemy was 150-200 meters from me, but it was obvious that they were the army, not the gendarmerie. Another unit arrived and shouted: "Strike!" At that moment, a burst hit me in the left side with three bullets in the hip, but my bone remained unharmed.

We retaliated with machine guns. I sent a soldier to tell Atanas Kizev that I was wounded. He gave the order to retreat uphill and that's how I saved myself, went to Mikhail Keramitchiev, where they bandaged me up and, in the evening, I left Vicho on a horse. We arrived in Malimadi above Smrdesh village. In this clash we had four wounded, and the enemy, as we learned, had six killed and several wounded. A second lieutenant was also killed.

9.11.1946

I am wounded and I am in Georgi Kalkov's squad. A few days ago, I was in the Albanian territory for treatment, after which I returned. The hip bone is not injured. The weather is foggy and we are near the village of Besvena. At 12 o'clock, the police from Zhelevo attacked us. We had taken action with two tenths of our forces, but the foggy weather allowed the police to attack us just as we were lining up for lunch.

We had two deaths here: Kosta Branchev from the village of Armenovo, and Hristo Kalaputa from Nestram. Micho Ajiovski from the village of German, who we sent to Yugoslavia, was wounded.

We managed to capture one policeman alive, Aramiska Dupka. He was captured by Pando Eftov from my village Turje. We shot him in Besvinska.

15-16.11.1946

Kalkov's detachment was located in the Trsjan mountains. Goche, Karamitjiev, and Naum Pejov were there, and they discussed organizing N.O.F. These days, the police set fire to the house of Georgiev Minchev Stojan in the village of Turje.

17-19.11.1946

The detachments of Kalkov, Kize, and Lefter, and a partisan unit of 40 people with commander Angelovski Atanas Garefi, arrived in the village of Bapchor. Only the detachment of Karapera Siniacko remained in Prekopana Vicho as a guard on the southern part of Vicho.

These three days are historic for our Macedonian people from Aegean Macedonia. The reaction found out about this gathering late. They started slandering us in the newspapers, saying that we are bandits and Armenians. Delegates from political organizations and partisan detachments arrived first, all Macedonians. Some of them are:

1 Pascal Mitrovski

2 Keramitchiev Mikhail

- 3 Poplazarov Lazo
- 4 Vangel Kojchev, Banica village
- 5 Victor Kojchev, Banica village
- 6 Vera Balova ("Photeva"), Dmbeni village
- 7 Goche Dimovski Ilija, village of Statica
- 8 Histovski Georgi ("Fotinos") Turje village
- 9 Mihail Apostolski ("Granites")
- 10 Lefter, Banica village
- 11 Bocev Tasho village Ekshi su
- 12 Mangov Vangel village Županišča
- 13 The Duck ??? Asanovo village
- 14 Todor Nikolov village of Kotori
- 15 Botsev Andrea, Aytos village
- 16 Mati Bulev village Ekshi su
- 17 Mango Stavrev village Dmbeni
- 18 Kalko Filkov village Dmbeni
- 19 Naum Pejov village Gabresh
- 20 Pando Shepekov Smrdesh village
- 21 Kalko Georgi village Visheni
- 22 Angelovski Atanas Garefi village of Labanica

23 Dzugomanova Sofja	village Banica
24 Uranija Jurikova	village Izelabi
25 Rakovski Pavle	village Rakovo
26 Toali Tzalev	village Dmbeni
27 Cilangata ?	Zagoricheni village
28 Pop Iliev Stavre,	Ajtos village
29 Gjakida Lambr ("Travela")	Srebreni village
30 Kovachev Lazo	village Smrdesh
31 Kuzov Atanas,	Neret village

and other active Macedonian fighters, most of whom died heroically in that holy Civil War.

The following were present on the side of the Greeks:

- 1 Todor Eftimiadis
- 2 Kasandro Sloboda
- 3 Amindas Stanos Kuzmas
- 4 Katsakos Lefteris
- 5 Photi
- 6 Socrates

7 Makedona Nedelkov Georgi, doctor

8 Spartakos

9 Rigas

10 Strato

The meeting was a great success, a decision was made to establish a Headquarters of Vicho, which included the following comrades:

1) Pando Šeperkov (Commander of the Staff, Macedonian).

2) Amyndas Kozmas-Spanos (Greek).

3) Graniti Mihali Apostolev (intendant, Macedonian).

4) Makedona Nedelkov Georgi, diaphotistis (Greek doctor).

5) Hristovski Georgi “Fotinos” (in charge of agitation and propaganda, Macedonian).

6) Photi from Psoderi (secretary).

So, three Macedonians and three Greeks entered the Headquarters. The following were appointed as staff officers: Sokrati, Rigas and Katsakos Lefteri. Since then, the units began to act in an organized and united manner and began to clean the territories in Lerinsko, Kostursko and Vodensko.

20.11.1946

Reorganization of the Pando Vojnata detachment took place, which was filled and now had 70-75 fighters. Stojan Michov Dimitrov from the village of Buf was appointed Commissioner of the detachment.

Note

I was in the headquarters as a diafotistis (agit-prop) from 18.11.1946 to 1.1.1947. After the death of Stojan Michov Dimitrov, I took over the position of Commissioner of the Third Partisan Detachment of the Pando Vojnata (see the military book of the Headquarters Vicho DAG number 117).

21.11.1946

Two detachments are located in Prekopana. We are also here with Pando Shiperkov and Aminda. We organized a rally in the middle of the village, where I spoke about the success of our units. I spoke in Macedonian, but there was a group in the village who were engaged in espionage.

The next day, the Greek newspapers from Solun wrote that there were "bandits from Yugoslavia" on Vicho.

We made a plan to liquidate the commander of the Greek police in the village of Mokreni, a man named Delis, who was the murderer of many of our Macedonians in that area.

22.11.1946

I placed a squad of 15 people as an ambush in the locality of Daulo. We have received information that Delis and his group would go to Ekshi su. Fighters lined up from all sides. Me, Lefter, Tzavela, and Galani were near the jade bridge. Around ten o'clock the gendarmerie appeared in uniform.

We could not understand which of them was Delis the commander. They moved carefully, spaced 10-15 meters apart from each other. A policeman shouted: "Commander, look up in the forest, there is a man with a rifle." He took out his machine gun and started shooting at the partisan, but at that moment Galani shot him with the Schmeisser and the policeman fell into the dirt.

We also shot with Lefteri and wounded another policeman, who escaped into the fields and hid. Commander Galani ran after him and captured him alive, wounded. When we took him out on the jade, we saw that it was Delis. He started to shout, "I'm a democrat too," but Galani cut him down with one burst. The rest of the partisans also came, stripped him, took everything he had, and then we left.

Galani left a note over Delis's naked corpse that read: "Thus shall we curse all the murderers of our people." At that moment, a woman from the village arrived. She recognized the body and said to us: "Well, children, you cleaned up this dog. Come, let me give you a calf." We told her: "Run home, grandma, the army and the police will come now, so you don't get hurt too."

After an hour, the police and the army from Kostur arrived and the fight started, which lasted until the evening, but no one was wounded. The next day all the Greek newspapers wrote about the death of their dictator Delis.

25.11.1946

I am still in the Kalkovo detachment. Early in the morning we attacked the village of Neveska, where a police station and volunteer contras from other villages were stationed.

We struck with both anti-tank and small arms, but we had no success. Help arrived in the form of policemen and army from other villages. We retreated to the valleys of Prekopane and fought until the evening. Petre Cigulovski from the village of Bapchor and a young boy from the village of Zheleznik died here.

27.11.1946

Me, Pando Shiperkov, and Aminda are in the Pando Vojnata squad at Vicho's Headquarters. KPG secretary Teodor Eftimiadis (Lerinsko-Kosturska district) is also here.

After the report on our units, a discussion was opened by Secretary Todor about some schism and the actions of some Macedonians who did not agree with our unification, during which it was suggested that those units and groups should be disarmed and captured.

Pando Shiperko, Pando Vojnata, and I did not agree and said that this matter was not our responsibility, but one of the political and party authorities.

After the meeting, commander Pando Shiperkov set me a task, namely if such groups were found, to immediately transfer them to Yugoslavia.

Note:

I found one such group in the village of Prekopana. I warned them and we expelled them. But some met the Greeks at our headquarters, and it became known what I had done. From then, Todor behaved coldly towards me and Shiperkov.

30.11.1946

We arrived in the village of Turje with the Kalkov detachment. Shiperkov, Aminda, and Graniti are also with us. Here in the village are my mother and father and other villagers. For the first and last time, we held a rally in the village.

I spoke about the situation in Greece and about our struggle. I warned the villagers that in the village of Kolomnati someone was cooperating with the Greek police and I asked them not to engage in espionage. I told them: "I'm here for you, and if you find out anything, I'll be behind Kamenik Mountain."

Then I left the village and said goodbye to mother, father, grandfather, and other villagers. I warned my father: "If you see that you are in danger, flee to Bitola in Yugoslavia."

1-2.12.1946

Our detachment and the detachments of Olevski and Lefter (the Prespa detachment) are located in the village of Trsje. We are resting and making a plan to attack the area of Bigla Psoderi. In the evening we ambushed and attacked the police station.

The army immediately came to their aid from Lerin. We fought until the evening. Both squads captured four soldiers and wounded one soldier. We had one killed partisan from the village of Armensko, Lerin, and one seriously wounded named Mavro, from the village of Banitsa, who died of his wounds two days later.

17.12.1946

Until this date, I changed squads two or three times. Together with Pando Shiperkov, Graniti and others, we are constantly on the move in the mountain villages of Bapchor, Prekopana, Belkamen, and others.

We constantly maintain a connection with the background units. The weather is snowy. We plan to get some heavy weapons, mortars, tanks and more.

We also have new fighters, young people, and we constantly hold gatherings and rallies. I always speak Macedonian, but because of my pseudonym "Fotinos" some people were suspicious and thought I was Greek.

17.12.1946

We arrived in Prekopana. We have been informed by Lazo Kovachev (background partisan) about the movement of a battalion of soldiers and gendarmes from the villages of Tiolishta and Shestevo.

We immediately left the two squads of Kalkov Georgi and Atanas Kuzhev, and Pando Sheperkov and Aminda are with us.

At 12 o'clock, a fight began in the mountains above the village of Chereshnica. We attacked from all sides. The mountain was burning, and the enemy began to retreat.

We went on the offensive and captured one soldier and seized two officers' horses, but we had four wounded partisans.

In the evening we retreated to the village of Prekopana, where we rested. The partisans gave me the white horse, and Aminda took the red one. (There is a photo with me and the courier Kolche Edriov from the village of Visheni, who later died in the fighting).

10.1.1947

The headquarters is located in Prekopana. We have been informed by background fighters Todor, Kojchev Vangel, Viktor, and others, that English journalists have come, and wanted to meet with us. Pando Shiperkov (commander of Vicho) sent couriers to the detachments to prepare, clean the weapons, and shave the fighters.

Macedona doctor, Foti, Riga, Graniti, Lefter Olevski, Gakidas Haralambou, Garefi Atanas, Dimitrov's commissar of Pando Vojnov and other partisan fighters arrived.

The entire headquarters and detachments arrived in Belkamen and at night we took precautionary measures. Kalkov's detachment is located in the village of Lagen on the mountain and controls the road from Lerin.

11.1.1947

Early on, a company was formed with the commander Vojnata, and commissioner Dimitrov, armed exclusively with English weapons. We hid the Russian submachine guns, leaving only some German and Italian machine guns.

Around 12 o'clock, Pando Shiperkov and Doctor Makedona (Nedelkov Georgi) called me to welcome the guests who were coming with three horses from Gorno Kotori.

They approached the village, we asked them if they had weapons, and a woman translator answered us in Greek. "We are Englishmen come to see you, and we have no arms."

We welcomed them with respect and with a formed company. They saw the weapon and I heard them laughing. An Englishman saw the English machine guns and said to me: "These are made by my labor, we give an armament tax, who gave them to you?" Pando replied: "We took them from your allies."

At that the translator warned me to be careful what we say because they were correspondents for the Daily Mail News Chronicle.

After lunch, ten responsible commanders and commissars gathered in a room. The commissar began to speak of the aims of our warfare. One asked Shiperkov: "You are the commander of Vicho, after seizing the government, what will you be: a general or a minister?" Pando laughed and answered: "I am a Tersia and I did not go out into the mountains to become a general. Ask the Greek authorities how many of our people are in prisons, on the islands, and how many innocent civilians have been killed? We are all here to save ourselves from this dictatorship. You are an English journalist and you can check this yourself." The other correspondent asked me: "You are obviously not Greek, are you Serbian?" At that moment Doctor Nedelkov stepped on my leg. I answered: "Yes, I'm not Greek, I'm Macedonian." Northern Greece is Macedonia. Seventy percent are Macedonians, we don't even have the right to speak or sing in our language." Then I took out a topographical map and showed him the village of Turje: "My father, mother and brothers are there. I was a soldier in your English units in Piraeus and Athens in 1940 and 1941." Then I asked him not

to let the Greek gendarmerie know about what we were talking about. The conversation lasted two days and they were satisfied. They laughed and kept saying, "These are no bandits."

14.1.1947

A detachment of Pando Vojnata laid an ambush on the road near Silver. Granity and I were there. An army arrived from Lehovo, but we did not stop. We went on the attack and captured an English mortar with 40 shells. In the evening we retreated to Prekopana. We had two wounded, one of whom was seriously wounded, a platoon commander named Lijako from Besvina, who we transferred to Albania for treatment.

16.1.1947

The Pando Vojnata detachment, I, Šeperkov, and Aminda meet in Prekopana, where we learned that on 14.1.1947, the Commissar of War named Dimitrov Stojan Muchov from the village of Buf, Lerinsko, had died. That's how Hristovski Georgi "Fotinos" got the position of commissar of the detachment.

20.1.1947

In the evening we set out from Prekopana with the detachment headed by Pando Vojnata and myself as

commissar. We arrived and bypassed the village of Lehovo. There was a company of soldiers stationed in four houses. In one of them there were eight soldiers with a lieutenant officer.

We had a connection with two soldiers who were supposed to give us a signal when to approach to surrender, but we were too late. We arrived at 10.20 am. Their guards opened fire, but Pando and I stormed the two houses where the soldiers immediately surrendered. We captured 21 soldiers with weapons and transferred them to Prekopana. We also seized an English mortar with thirty shells, three Brand machine guns and two Thomson automatic rifles. The fight with the rest of the soldiers continued until morning. Sotir Urdov, from the village of Shestevo, died here.

3-6.2.1947

The detachment went to the Yugoslav border. Here at the village of Negochani, we took hidden weapons, grenades, and other things. We passed through the villages of Kalenik, Vrbeni, and Neokazi. The enemy is panicking, we are fighting everywhere after ambushes by the police.

5.2.1947

This day we arrived in the village of Pleshefica, inhabited by a Greek population. We consulted with Pando what to do. I did not agree to spend the night in this village because the reaction and the army would find out. We agreed

to have dinner, rest, and leave. We also agreed to send two villagers to inform the population that the partisans would spend the night there.

After two hours, we left Pleševica and arrived in the village of Gorno Kotori. We stationed ourselves on the nearby Negovan and Belkamen mountains. I sent a courier to the Headquarters to Pando Shiperkov and to the village of Lagen to Kalkov Georgi's detachment.

6.2.1947

The weather is clear. At 11 o'clock the army and the gendarmerie attacked us from all sides. In the village of Gorno Kotori, for the first time, aviation appeared and shot at the village. I was in the village on the right and I was being attacked by the police from Lerin. My partisans dug holes low near the end houses and operated over the entire field. An English mortar manned by the fighter Suljo (a good marksman) also arrived. Kalkov from the Lagen mountains also attacked.

Wounded policemen and soldiers started arriving in Lerin. The whole town went out onto the road thinking they would see captured partisans, but the soldiers started shouting to them: "Run away, these are korofilaks and the army."

Before dark, the army retreated from the battlefield, leaving two dead policemen in the fields of Gorno Kotori. During this fight we had no one killed, only one woman, Elena

Katsuta from Gorno Kotori, was wounded by aviation. In the village of Belkamen, Eftimiadis Petros was wounded by aviation.

12.3.1947

We met with the Headquarters of Vicho, where we received information that a mission from the United Nations Organization was supposed to pass along the Sorovic-Kostur road these days. We prepared material that we were supposed to submit to the committee, but we ran into an ambush. Our detachments took up position in the Jelenic-Srebreno mountains, but the enemy attacked us from all sides. Around 10:00 a.m., a column with a Russian flag passed from Lehovo to Kostur. We fired a volley over the column, the Russians came out and greeted us with their hands and the red flag.

23.3.1947

The detachment is located in the locality of Rados near the village of Aytos. Here is Pando Shiperkov, commander of the Vicho Headquarters, Aminda, doctor Makedona, and other managers.

We received information that a lieutenant colonel from the monarcho-fascist army will leave Lerin by train with two majors heading for Solun. We made a plan to mine the railway

near the town of Cerevo, but near Banica there was a bridge guarded by 15 soldiers and a lieutenant colonel officer.

At night we crossed the line and hid at a distance of 200 meters. Pando Vojnata and I disguised ourselves, but we were 300 meters apart from each other parallel to the railway.

24.3.1947

The morning dawned and we saw seven villagers who came to the mined place on the railway. They went and informed the army at the station from Cereovo. The soldiers arrived and sat down to rest in the sun.

Around 8 o'clock we received information that the train from Lerin had left. We attacked with a platoon of Petre Pop Georgiev and killed the officer with one volley, but Petre was also seriously wounded.

The train arrived in Banica, and we went on the attack. The train stopped at the mine site.

Pando Vojnata entered the train with his gun to catch the lieutenant colonel, but he ran away, leaving his overcoat in the field. We went back and captured 11 soldiers and 7 civilians. An army from Kožani arrived, but Galani and a group of partisans also came. Army and police arrived from Lerin, Banica and other places. Aviation and artillery also appeared. We fought and retreated. Garefy Atanas's squad also arrived and took up a position behind us. We gave the order to withdraw. In the evening we arrived at the foot of Neveska.

24.3.1947

The squad is in the same place, checking our losses. Someone suggested shooting the seven villagers, but Pando Vojnata and I disagreed. Early on, we changed the clothes of the eleven soldiers, took their military clothes and gave them civilian ones, after which we let all 18 prisoners go home.

Heroically died in this fight:

- 1) Petre Pop Georgiev, village of Oshchima
- 2) Betsov Andrea, village Aytos
- 3) Petre Roosevelt, village of Sregreni
- 4) Koujos Dimitrios, village Ekshi su
- 5) Lolios Andreas
- 6) Manolopoulos Petros

We also had two wounded, and one partisan from the village of Bapchor was captured.

Note:

Petre Pop Georiev from Oshchima was caught wounded by the monarcho-fascist army, his head was cut off and carried on a stake to Kylari, Kožani, and other places.

27.4.1947

The detachments of Pando Vojnata and Karapera were located in the village of Chereshnica. A reporter from Kostur came here and started taking pictures. Pando Vojnata told me that he was suspicious, and that when he finished, I should take his negatives.

In the evening, Pando Vojnata and I attacked the village of Zagorichini. The police hid in the church, where we could not break through, so we retreated. Pando Vojnata was seriously wounded here, so Lambo Javela was appointed commander.

29.4.1947

The headquarters and partisan detachments were located in the village of Prekopana. Here we reorganized and two companies were formed. The commander of one was Javela Lambro Gakidov, and the commissioner Hristovski Georgi Fotinos. The commander of the second company was Pezzo.

In the evening, we attacked the police and the army in the village of Neveska. We had no success the first night, but we received orders not to retreat.

During the day, the two companies of Pezzo and Javela stayed in the village. The enemy started an offensive from all sides of the village. In the mountains were the remaining units of Karapera, Garefi, Kize, and others.

It got dark. The second night we attacked again, but again we had no success. We operated with "Faus" panzer; we destroyed one bunker. Commando Spurgiti blew up the church, after which the army surrendered, but the police did not want to surrender. Some hid in the bell tower and started to defend themselves with hand grenades, but Spurgitis arrived and set fire to the bell tower, so they also surrendered due to the smoke. Here we captured five soldiers and four policemen, including the police commander Manoli Promokrat, and two people from the village of Rakovo, Lerinsko. We freed the mobilized "promocrats" from the village of Zelenich, and all 4 contras were shot. From our units, we had only one wounded, a man from the village of Žervení.

Note:

All four captured men were imprisoned in the village of Prekopana. Early on, they attacked the Selenes and beat them in a room. Pando and I were resting in a room, when the partisans came to ask us to expel the villagers. Pando woke up and said to me: "Go, Georgi, that's your job, you're dealing with politics." I go out, and the fighters say to me: "Captain, commissar, what should we do?" I went to the prisoners and they started begging me to release them. They said that they had children in the village. I said to them: "And who brought you here? You took guns, hide in the bell tower and throw hand grenades at us? However, I will not kill you, let the people you have sent to camps and prisons judge you." All four promocrats were shot on a slope east of the village of Prekopana.

1.5.1947

The Javela-Fotinos company was stationed in the mountain above the village of Neveska. The police from the neighboring villages attacked us, but we had one English mortar, so when we opened fire they fled, leaving one dead and four wounded. On the same day, the air force attacked the village of Prekopana with machine guns, but there were no casualties.

7.5.1947

At night we were in the village of Besvina, together with the Headquarters of Vicho, Pando Aminda and others. We were making a plan to attack Mikroliani (Lak). Gavela took up a position near the village of Psoderi and we ambushed Bigla. All units deployed, Olevski Lefter, the commander from Zhelevo, and others.

8.5.1947

At 11 o'clock in the morning we hit Mikroliani (Lak), with Lambro Javela, Lefter Olevski, Kalkov Georgi, and Pando from Zhelevo. There was panic in the army. The village was surrounded on all sides. The army started to flee by the lake, but we immediately captured all the soldiers.

In Lak, there was a major, Pavlos Tsamis from Psoderi, and we had information that in his army 90% of the troops

were democrats, so they quickly raised their hands and surrendered.

I took up position on the Zhelevo-Orovnik road with a company of 40-45 people. Fighting broke out on all sides: Bigla, Želevo, Orovnik, Lak...

In Bigla, we set fire to five trucks, seized a mortar, machine guns, and more. We captured eleven soldiers, among them a lieutenant, and killed seven corofillacs and soldiers in this fight.

Note:

On page 177 of the book "Ethniki Antistasi Emfilios polemos" by the author Aminda Kosmos, there are details of this fight and details of all the fallen fighters.

1-5.6.1947

We are located in Prekopana and in the village of Blatsa. In the village of Visheni, the units were reorganized. We also received new fighters, two companies were formed with commanders Javela and Pando from Želevo, and I remained at Vicho's Headquarters.

The other day we were in the village of Trsje, where the headquarters of Pando and Aminda was. We received information that the police and the army were preparing to evacuate the village of Zhelevo. We left Trsje at night and before dawn we took up position above Zhelevo.

We controlled all the roads, but when we didn't find anyone at dawn, the army and the police left for Kostur. We rested and at 12 o'clock we held a small rally in the middle of the village.

First, Aminda spoke in Greek, and then I spoke in Macedonian. Here I changed my duty and was again at Vicho's Headquarters as diaphotismis.

We opened a discussion and they showed me a letter from the Headquarters of Gramos from Giannouli, asking for partisan soldiers, officers, and non-commissioned officers to form artillery and go to Gramos.

From Želevo, about 300 partisans arrived in Psoderi and from here during the day we followed the mountains and reached the Yugoslav border.

Pando Shiperkov called me here and advised me to take ten soldiers and establish a connection with the border. I did not agree with that and took only my courier Kolche Andreev, so we both left.

The partisans turned right in the Rakovo mountain. I was walking ahead, and Kolche was following me with the machine gun. "Stop! Hands up!" shouted the border guards. I told them: "Don't shoot, we are partisans." They approached, an officer came, we stepped aside and I told him what our plan was. I told him: "Inform everyone at the border that we will attack Rakovo in the evening. There are police and army there and please take the wounded to Yugoslavia." I also told him that I am an artillery captain officer and I have a wife with two

children in Bitola, and I gave him two pictures to give to my wife Petra. Then we returned with my courier to the headquarters, and I informed my comrades that all the border units were ready. I told them that at first they thought we were a monarcho-fascist army, but then we arranged for them to receive our dead and wounded.

Around 12 o'clock at night, we attacked the village of Rakovo and the village of Opsirina. We fought until morning, an army arrived from Lerin and we had a lot of wounded. Suljo from Chereshnica and others were transferred to Yugoslavia. In the morning, we returned to the German mountains and from there we entered the village of German.

We held a rally there, during which both Aminda and I spoke. The villagers gladly listened to the speech in Macedonian. From this large village, 25 new partisans joined us that day, most of whom died heroically in the Civil War in the mountains of Gramos, Konica, Olymp, and others.

6-17.6.1947

The companies and headquarters passed through the villages of Rambi, Papli, Gabresh, Drenoveni, Pozdivišča, Brežnica, and others. A company set up an ambush in the village of Labanica, but we were unsuccessful because the army fled. Only two soldiers were captured and 15 British mortar shells were seized.

I entered the village of Kolomnati with a company, and from there we went to my village Turje. There I saw my father,

mother, and three little brothers for the last time. We said goodbye and everyone was crying. My mother asked me how I was with my wounds, and I advised them to go to Yugoslavia. We started back through the villages of Pozdivishca and Gabresh and reached the village of Smrdesh. (My mother and father all left for Bitola with my brothers in March 1948).

19-22.6.1947

The battalion, the companies and the headquarters were stationed in the village of Smrdesh. Here I received 14 fighting artillerymen and we prepared to leave for Gramos at Giannuli.

I asked Pando Shiperkov to give me the courier Kolche (there is a picture of me and Kolche with the white captive horse in Chereshnica village), but he did not agree. We left 14 fighters without rifles, only one fighter had one rifle.

We arrived in the village of Labanica and crossed the river Nestramska. There we fell into an ambush, but we quickly found our way and went out into the mountains near the villages of Ftelya and Omorfoklisya.

There, on a hill near a small church, we found a partisan sleeping on duty with a machine gun. The partisan got scared and someone suggested that we report him to the commander, but I did not agree. We gave him the machine gun and asked him to be more careful because the enemy was getting closer.

The next day we met Giannouli, commander of the Gramos Headquarters. I presented to him the 14 fighters and I as the 15th, and he welcomed me well. We rested, but there were no cannons, they had not arrived, so Vasil Karafo suggested that we go with these 14 artillerymen to the battalion of the Iliadi commissar Michos-Macedona to be temporarily appointed commissar of a company (1453 company commander Katsim Harris). With this company, I and my artillerymen participated in all the battles of Gramos, Grevena, and others until the artillery arrived.

4.7.1947

Iliadi's battalion is complete, the commander and I received heavy weapons and machine guns. We have received information that the enemy is moving outside the city. Our company set up an ambush. Valiaco's company attacked the enemy battalion around 12 o'clock, but without success. The artillery started bombarding us, so we retreated early into the mountains with five fighters wounded and no dead.

6.7.1947

In the early hours of the morning, the great offensive of the monarcho-fascist army of Gramos began. I and my company were above the village of Spileon. With the other company on the right was Commander Valiakos. The enemy appeared from the village of Skalhori and the fight with my units began. From Lakhanskipo, around 11 o'clock, the enemy

engaged my platoon with heavy weapons which was well camouflaged. The aviation also appeared, the artillery was pounding us, but we did not retreat even an inch. Manio's platoon was suppressed, we had wounded, one of my fighters, Vasil Gasev from Shestevo, stood up and shouted in Greek: "Wherever you go, dogs, you will be cursed."

7.7.1947

The whole company is on the Orlija hill, one of my platoons holds the place of Stavro-Kostanofito, and the other platoon holds Pasaskeo Potropoulaki. The fight started early from both directions: Orlija and Odria. Artillery and aviation bombarded us. Our positions are weak, we have been fighting all day, but we have not retreated even an inch. I was left alone and have no connection with the headquarters.

I have 35-40 partisans; I was ordered to hold this ridge so that the fighters behind me could be stationed and recuperated. I gave the order to retreat and we settled on the stone hill. At that moment, the enemy opened heavy fire with the artillery on our previous position.

I again gave the order to withdraw from the ridge and we stationed ourselves in the woods. We got away with the wounded. There I checked the ammunition levels of all the machine guns.

Not even 30 minutes passed, and the aviation arrived. They bombarded the hill in front of us, the fighters cheered and

laughed. They told me: "Well done Fotinos, you saved us all, let the planes fly away empty handed."

After the bombing, the Greek army launched an offensive and captured the hill. They moved like crazed beasts. We were hidden in the beech forest. We opened fire with the German machine guns, some wounded and killed soldiers fell, and the rest retreated.

I gave the order to return to the hill. We quickly climbed back into the mountains and joined the rest of the fighters. Food was sent to us, we rested, and at night we transferred the wounded to the hospital near the Albanian border.

8-15.7.1947

My company is stationed near Portes, low in the mountains, well equipped with weapons. We laid an ambush early to prepare for the enemy's arrival. One platoon was taken by Hari, the commander, and stationed in the town of Agios Konstantinos.

Artillery started firing early, aviation also appeared. The enemy started an offensive, but for the whole day there was no movement of the infantry.

We also have some casualties. The commander of the second company died heroically. A hard fight was going on, and we had no food and we were running out of ammunition. We stationed ourselves near the village of Gorusha, where the

enemy began an offensive. My courier, Atanas Tanasaki from the village of Lefki, died here.

16.7.1947

I am with the battalion headed by Commander Iliadi and Commissioner Makedona. Commander Harry took over the Tsafara company. We are being attacked by artillery and aviation. A dozen fighters from the second company remained isolated.

Behind them was a high rock and the heights of the village of Kotili. Around two o'clock, the aviation hit Major Iliadi in the head. I was three meters away from him. We immediately carried him to safety and to get medical attention, but he died on the way.

Around four o'clock, we commenced an offensive where the dozen men were isolated. Ten were wounded or killed, and two partisans threw themselves from the cliff, hugging each other, shouting: "Goodbye comrades, greet our mothers, long live the KPG!"

Note:

In my diary it is written that on 16.7.1947 the following men committed suicide by jumping from a cliff from a height of 100-120 meters:

- 1) Vane Dorovski (Dorov) from the village of Shestevo
- 2) Tanasaki from the village of Lefki.

From 1 to 17.7.1947, the following comrades died:

- 1) Kyros Konstandinou, son of Tome from the village of Kostanofito. He died on 15.7.1947 on Haru Hill.
- 2) Kitsidis Nikolaos Jordanis, village of Koromilia. He died on 15.7.1947 on Haru Hill.
- 3) Mihailidis Fote, son of Georgiou, village of Orovo Prespa. Died on July 16, 1947 on the Pirgo Koteli hill.
- 4) Tsanopoulos Nikos Constantino, from the village of Kalistrati. Died on July 15, 1947 on the Pirgo Koteli hill.
- 5) Mitogles Zitas, son of Christou, from the village of Trikhona, Lerin. Died on 12.7.1947 near Pirgo Koteli.
- 6) Theafaras Trajanos, village of Kristalopigi. Died on 12.7.1947 near Pirgo Koteli.
- 7) Lolios Pantelis Ioannis, from the village of Antirtiko. Died on 23.7.1947 near Kaliraho.
- 8) Paraskevopoulos Kostas Jordani, from the village of Asprogia. Died on 23.7.1947 near Kaliraho.

16.7.1947

My commander's courier also died (see picture)

Until 24.7.1947, we had 24 fighters wounded, 6 fighters deserted, and we knew nothing about 5 fighters.

Note:

In 1958, in the USSR, I read a Greek-language magazine published in Czechoslovakia by Greek politicians, where it was written that "Two Greek partisans died gloriously on the hill near the village of Kotoli, jumping from a 120-meter-high rock, so as not to be captured alive. They shouted: "Long live the Communist Party of Greece! Greetings to our fathers."

I wrote a reaction explaining that they were not Greeks, but Macedonians, and that I knew this because I kept a diary at the time.

17-23.7.1947

The battalion found itself in Livadotopi-Mirovliti. Karapera took over the fight, and we took the wounded to Albania. The Commander of the Staff from Gramos, Giannouli, also came.

We moved to another position. I sent a platoon to help Karapera. Around 4 o'clock, Karapera and I went on the offensive and pushed an enemy company from the hill, which retreated, leaving behind eight dead soldiers.

The companies gathered in the village of Oxia. Here we met the companies of Karavida and Bulguri. We carried out a reorganization in order to reinforce the companies. We had seized a lot of military weapons, mainly machine guns. I took over a company with my artillerymen, and Giannuli promised me that he would bring light anti-tank weapons.

We came to the Densko-Furka mountains, where we met Rizopoulos' battalion. Samarina also came, and here I met Atanas Kuzev, commander of a company, and Japona Risto from Preznica, commissar of a company.

I also met one of my fellow villagers from the village of Turje, named Pando Eftov. We rested in the mountains. We reorganized and received additional food and weapons.

I formed two small groups, got two small packages of anti-tank weapons, and four belts loaded with 37 mm grenades. The fighters are well prepared, brave, they rested in the forests, but the enemy was informed about our preparations, so every hour the aviation flew over our heads.

23.7.1947

On this day, the brigade from Gramos is stationed in the Anavrika area, here is the commander Giannouli, the regional secretary of the KPG and DAG, Eftimiadis Theodoros, and other leaders.

We organized a meeting in the forest with the presence of all battalion and company commanders. Around 12 o'clock, the enemy's aviation appeared and bombarded us from all sides where our fighters were.

Commander Giannuli gave us instructions and explained the situation in the city of Grevena.

The courier from my company came running and informed me about the casualties and wounded from the ranks of my and other fighters.

A girl from my company, Aspasiya (Zoya), was also wounded. She was bleeding but did not want to be treated. She asked me to come to her in person. I immediately went and placed her head in my lap. Then they bandaged her and immediately sent her to Albania. I ran to the other seriously wounded man, Pando from the village of Zhelevo. We picked him up, and he looked into my eyes and said, "Georgi, please, if you survive, visit my three children." Then his head drooped, and he died in my arms.

That day I had two killed and twelve wounded. Company commander Atanas Kuzev had two dead and nine wounded. Kosta from the village of Asprula also died here. From this bombing, we had four dead and 21 wounded.

24.7.1947

The units are stationed near the Kalirahi locality. We were ordered to take up a position near the town of Grevena. I was sent to the right of the city (seen from the aspect of the city). I also have two 37 mm light anti-tank guns and I stationed myself on the low hills near the road from the town of Koženi.

In front of me are masked fighters with Panzer-Fauss anti-tank grenades from Commander Vidra's units.

At three o'clock we launched an attack on the city of Grevena. Aviation and tanks from Kozani arrived immediately, attacking offensively. We opened fire, and the tanks were hit by our Panzer-Fauss fighters. There was panic among the tanks. It's getting dark, the units are attacking from all sides. A whole battalion of Barba Quicho entered. A bloody fight was fought.

There was one platoon with seven girls, but they all died. Commanders Otter, Rigas, and Atanas Kizev remained inside the city. About 200 seriously wounded and dead fighters were left in the city. In the evening, we took the wounded and retreated, but the aviation continued to bombard us. We retreated disappointed. We did not achieve any success; the enemy was well informed by their spies.

25-31.7.1947

In the evening, we retreated from Mount Kalirahi. We arrived in the villages of Dotsko and Samarina near the Albanian border. We sent all the wounded to Albania.

30.7.1947

We arrived in the Kalirahi area. General Markos also came here. We held a meeting and submitted a report on the failure of the attack on the city of Grevena. Correspondents from our newspaper were also present. We listened to the

radio from all over Greece about our victims and our commanders.

1-18.8.1947

From 1 to 18.8.1947, the companies and battalions were located on Mount Gramos near the villages of Vrbyani, Oxia, Asimochoris, Hionades, Gorgopotamos, Pilkadi, Lankados, Teotoku, and Prsovianni. We had some small skirmishes with enemy forces.

14.8.1947

I and two platoons of infantry joined with the units of Mavranji and Kosta Paleologi, near the area on the Prsovianni-Konica Road, where we attacked an encamped enemy unit. We captured six soldiers, killed several, and the rest escaped. We seized 2 mortars, 12 rifles, and a lot of ammunition. Then we retreated and reached the village of German. Here I met the battalion of the Pando Vojnata, which was returning from Hashgia, and we met my comrades from our Lerin and Kostur villages. I also met my fellow villagers from the village of Turje, Jani Pejov, Pando Eftov, and others.

18.8.1947

My infantry company was disbanded, so I took 12 artillerymen and started for Giannuli's headquarters, where I

arrived in the mountains. There we waited for the other artillerymen to arrive.

Commander Kychos Christos, who had deserted from the monarcho-fascist army, came from Athens. Before that, he had served in the English units.

Another 60 artillerymen arrived, we also supplied ourselves with vehicles, artillery donkeys, and more. We rested, drilled, and waited for the Albanian cannons to arrive in Gramos.

Vasil Batakojas Karafotias arrived. From 1937 to 1939, Vasil and I had served together in the Ninth Artillery Division in Kožani; I as a corporal, he as a second lieutenant. He was a good and capable fighter and officer, and now he was an artillery major.

10.9.1947

We received two Italian-made 75 mm cannons. An artillery battery was formed with Stephanopoulos Christos as its commander.

After three days we had some practice shooting with Commander Hristo using the Italian cannons and German shells. We had no success; they were dangerous to use. We returned the two cannons to Albania, from where we received four German-made 75 mm caliber cannons with all their attachments, and we began training. After a few days, we also received wagons to carry the cannons and donkeys for the

artillery. The exercise began and it lasted more than a month. We had a shortage of fighter gunners.

7.11.1947

We came with the First Artillery Battery to the village of Smiksi. Here we rested, practiced and prepared to strike with artillery against the monarcho-fascist army. In this village I met eight young fighters from the village of Turje:

1) Stojan T. Kochov, 2) Risto Atanas Eftov, 3) Vane P. Kotev, 4) Pavle Risto Popov, 5) Stojan File Bozinov, 6) Sotir Z. Spirov, 7) Stase A. Donev and 8) Stojan P. Kotev.

Only three of them remained alive: Risto Eftov, Stojan Kocov, and Sotir Spirov.

13.11.1947

We are located in Kalivia Deciko. The weather is good, so the aviation bombards the villages. At one o'clock, we left with the two 75 mm cannons. Commander Christos Kitchos and I came to the area of Panou-Pigadi-Pendalofos, where we took up a position, concealed the guns, and prepared to open fire.

The shooting started at five o'clock in the afternoon. I was on the phone with the Kitchos commander. The commander of the infantry brigade, Kosta Paleologu, was also here. Artillery was used for the first time on Gramos. After the

first barrages, the enemy fled in panic, leaving behind heavy weapons.

The next day, Radio Athens reported that the "bandits" used artillery obtained from the Communist camp. In the evening, we returned to the village of Zhuzheltsi. We were all happy, the fighters were also in a good mood.

17.11.1947

The entire battery is stationed in the village of Hrisi. Here we received eight more German-made 75mm cannons.

A division is being formed, but we do not have officers, non-commissioned officers, or artillery soldiers. We sent a courier to the village of Bapchor with my invitation to Kole Pejkov (non-commissioned officer Lohias from the 9th division in Kozani in 1937), and also to the units of Vicho and Gramos, from where I asked for the artillery to be called. In a short time, a division was formed, but there was a lack of livestock to pull the cannons.

We were informed by the commander of the Kosta Paleologu brigade that the enemy was advancing from the city of Grevena in the direction of Dotsko. Karapera's battalion fought there.

We also left with an artillery battery headed by the commander Kitchos, while I (Fotinos) was appointed as the commissar and commander for firing the battery. We arrived at Mount Nudrusa.

Kosta Paleologu ordered Karapera to withdraw and turn right towards the mountain. I informed him that we were ready for a 4-gun artillery barrage.

Around four o'clock in the afternoon, I went to the observation post on a hill, from where the entire area in which the monarcho-fascist army was advancing could be seen. Sofianoto from Giannuli's headquarters also came here.

About five o'clock we opened artillery fire with all our guns. The enemy was in disarray.

From the right side, the battalion of Karapera attacked, and from our side Kosta Paleologu attacked. I also left the cannons and we went to attack with one platoon.

The soldiers surrendered without resistance, we seized 40 donkeys, three mortars, and two radios. Four soldiers surrendered. We also seized their cauldron full of stew. An officer ran across the field in panic. Partisans and soldiers dined together. I asked, "Isn't there some poison in the bowl?" and they all laughed.

Note:

The song "Dushmano vo Nidruzi ne poprada" was sung for this successful fight in the Democratic Army.

27.11.1947

We retreated to Kolibiti Duciko, where they gave us all the seized horses, donkeys, and all the heavy weapons. Some infantry divisions were formed for mortar attacks.

Brigade commander Kosta Paleologou and other commanders are also here. The partisans were in high spirits. Food also arrived.

The first news on Radio Athens about the withdrawal of the army also appeared. They said that the "bandits" received weapons from Communist countries, etc.

23-24.12.1947

We started from Stratzoni and took up a position at Amirandes. There we met a platoon of artillerymen with 75 mm cannons. The weather was cloudy. In the evening, we crossed the bridge and took up a position with four cannons near the enemy at Konica.

On 24.12.1947, at two o'clock in the afternoon, we were informed by the Headquarters that a provisional government headed by President Markos Vafiadis was formed. The provisional government was formed with the hope of capturing the city of Konitsa and making it the center of the DAG.

In the evening, the fighters gathered. I am commissary and the firing officer of 4 guns. The battery commander is Stephanopoulos Christos Kychos (ex-Captain Lochogos) from Athens, an intelligent and capable officer who served in the English units from where he deserted and reached Gramos - I also have his book Gunnery Manual.

Note:

These days, I entered Albanian territory with two of my artillery soldiers. There we met Albanian officers who knew Greek. 200 meters away, some heavy artillery Russian cannons were stationed. They asked me if they could get out across the bridge. I suggested that they should not go there now but stay by the bridge where there was a place to camp and disguise themselves, and in the event the city was liberated, then they could move across the bridge.

We also informed the headquarters of our units and Commander Kitchos about this.

25-29.12.1947

The offensive of the DAG in the city of Konitsa has begun. We are stationed northwest of the city. After the first attacks, our infantry managed to conquer some heights near the city of Konitsa. The first captured soldiers also appeared.

The enemy artillery opened fire from the city. We also opened fire and suppressed their fire, but heavy artillery arrived south of the city and began pounding the heights where our soldiers were. Our wounded also appeared.

The next day we took an offensive from our side in the Marmaras area. There were heavy battles, and aviation also appeared, but by the evening our fighters managed to bypass the city of Konitsa.

27.12.1947

The fight continues. Our units are in the city. We are instructed to be careful not to injure them with our artillery. Heavy street fighting is taking place.

Aviation is circling outside the city; some checkpoints are not fully occupied. From the south comes the help of the monarcho-fascist army with their artillery.

The situation is difficult. Many fighters died this day. Our leadership is desperate. The first airdrops also appeared with food and medicine for the besieged army, but most of those supplies fell in our zone.

28.12.1947

The fight continues. Our units fight for every quarter. The enemy is occupying some important heights, so the situation is getting complicated. Apart from the city, the enemy holds a hill. We received information from our people that a brigade major from the monarcho-fascist army was seriously wounded.

Our radio station informs us that some of our comrades have escaped from prison, among them Paparigas and Partsalidis.

In the afternoon, I crossed the bridge with some of my fighters and the livestock to get shells and food from our headquarters. The comrades were demoralized because we had no success and we have many dead and wounded.

29.12.1947

The enemy approached with a battalion near our units. We moved east of the town of Konica and from here we opened fire on a hill. In the city, after an offensive, our units captured the enemy hill, but on the other side, the army captured the hill opposite the stone bridge, so we remained isolated with supplies. We moved our wounded east along the river. The situation became more complicated and we started retreating in all directions.

30.12.1947

The battery is stationed east of the city near the village of Ahion Nikavrov. Kichos and I went to the observation post where we were informed about the position of our partisans.

There we learned about the success of one of our partisans. Her brother was in a bunker as a member of the monarcho-fascist army. Our people could not win it. She came closer and shouted in Greek: "Brother, don't shoot because you will kill me, your sister." The brother got confused and at that moment our men attacked and captured him, but they did not shoot him, even though he had killed and wounded our partisans.

This village was bombed by aviation and we were in danger, so we retreated back from the front.

Note:

Here I saw my friend Goce (Ilia Dimovski) for the last time. He asked my fighters: "Whose artillery is this?" They answered him: "To Kichos and Fotinos."

They called me from the observation post, we met and hugged. His eyes filled with tears and he left with the horse and the courier with the following words: "Take care of Georgi, our Macedonians. We won't succeed, the headquarters and the government kicked me out and I'm going back to Yugoslavia." I never saw Goche again. I left for the USSR in 1949.

1.1.1948 to 15.2.1948

We are located in the villages of Kastanjani, Pefkofito, Hrisi and others. We hold meetings with all the managing officers. The fighters are disappointed and saddened.

15.1.1948

I am in the village of Germain where I met with my fellow villagers who informed me about the death of our fighters from the village of Turje:

- 1 Mitre Markov (my first cousin)
- 2 Christ Konstantinov Pavle (died on Gramos)
- 3 Andoni Shishkov, son of Dime (died on Gramos)
- 4 Lazor Pavle Konstantinov (died on Gramos)

5 Mitre Trajkov Novachkov at the age of only 16 years. (died on Gramos)

6 Pavle Risto Popov at the age of 17. (died on Gramos)

7 Kole Kosta Filipov at the age of 17. (died on Gramos)

These young men laid down their lives in the battles of Grevena and Gramos from my burnt village of Tourje.

16-2-1948

The battery is located in the village of Aelija, the headquarters of Gramos Giannouli, Kosta Paleologou and others is also here.

We carried out a reorganization of units, brigades, battalions and companies. An artillery platoon with 75-millimeter cannon and an infantry platoon with three German machine guns, 20 donkeys for the transfer of cannons and grenades, two horses and more were formed.

Artil Floros (former artillery officer from the Greek army) was appointed commander of the newly formed unit. The commissar of the infantry platoons is Logodeli (Greek), and the commissar of the complete artillery is me Fotinos.

Note:

Commander Floros had a small defense unit of good fighters that became part of the 16th Brigade. Kalkov Georgi is also in an infantry battalion here as assistant battalion commander.

17.2.1948

The brigade sets out from the village of Aelios complete with all means: three battalions, one youth company of 120 fighters, one artillery platoon with infantry and cattle of 18 donkeys. There were 1,200 partisans in total, and the commander of the 16th brigade is Kosta Paleologos. There was also Himaros Arianos of Gramos Headquarters and others.

The purpose of this journey filled with fighting, wounded, and dead was to welcome 450 unarmed youths who wanted to arrive to their fathers and relatives in the free territory of Gramos. The weather is cold with 50 centimeters of snow in the mountains.

From the village of Aepija we passed through the villages of Spileon, Amigdalia, Kritsodeli and Kritsopades. We are constantly attacking here. During the night we captured twenty Contras, and three surrendered.

We leave early and arrive in the village of Sinokeraso. Here we ran into an ambush and from Paleologu's company there were two wounded partisans and two dead. The youth group captured two contras.

The next day we met with Kosta Paleologou, Floros and Logodeli and we made a plan to cross the road, where the enemy was waiting for us. We unloaded the donkeys and took position with the artillery. The air force appeared and bombed us twice. I was well disguised. We lost three donkeys here.

Three partisans were killed and five wounded from the infantry.

26.2.1948

In the morning we withdrew and moved to a position opposite the road. After our retreat the army attacked and captured the hill. But then the air force arrived and started bombing their own army. Panic arose among them. They started shooting flares in the air. Our fighters laughed at their new position.

Here we were surprised by a camouflaged enemy machine gun, but had no casualties. Only one of my donkeys was killed.

The next day we moved to another place. Our infantry moved in two directions. The fight started from both sides.

An army arrived from Kožani and Larisa. I placed one cannon on the road opposite Olympus and the other cannon to the southwest. My fighters, commander Pando Kojchev from the village of German and others defended me and myself.

The tanks appeared. I opened fire with the cannons. One tank was hit and remained in place, while the other retreated. We fight all day long. Aviation also came. By the evening, the entire brigade, artillery and youth passed the road at the foot of Mount Olympus.

We reached a small river; the weather is cold. I ordered the fighters to take off their clothes and take off their shoes and socks, so they could cross the river either in underpants or naked. We also had a partisan girl, whom I put on a horse and that's how we crossed the river. After us, the infantry entered the river with their clothes. Kosta Paleologu and the other comrades found out about our crossing and started laughing, but still my fighters were left with dry clothes, and theirs were shivering from the cold with wet clothes.

1-8.3.1948

The brigade passed through the villages of Lokovo, Morno, Ritini, Milia, Skorterna, Ano Milija, Sanatorija and others. The fighters are good and we have no casualties. Aviation is constantly flying over our heads. In the morning, a plane appeared - the fighters called it Galata. As we found out, one of our midshipmen informed the enemy about our position.

One morning a plane arrived early on the other side east of Olympus. The battalion commander fired at him with one rifle and hit him, after which the plane crashed into the rocks and no one was found alive.

We came to the village of Karakachoni Olympos with my two cannons. The mountains are filled with snow up to 80 centimeters. The fighters are tired. One of my corporals asked me: "Georgi, where are we going in this snow?" I told him that we are rushing until dawn and the air force called.

The donkeys are hungry and have begun to fall. The fighters are pressed by the storm and the hunger that cannot be sustained.

9-14.3.1948

My complete unit is located at the foot of Pieria at the Olympus headquarters with its staff officers Avgerinos and Kosta Paleologou. Here I also met the group that arrived from Thessaly with about 400 young men.

Fighters from the watersheds and Lerinsko also arrived. He had formed a company that constantly participated in the fighting east of the village of Svikija. A battalion of Paleologu fought with the enemy.

I loaded one 75 mm cannon and took up a position northwest of our partisans' position. From the observation post, I watched wounded civilians and soldiers being dragged into the village of Svikija.

I opened fire, spent 15 shells. I also reached the village on a hill. For the first time, the enemy received artillery shells from DAG. From our army in Olympus, Floro the commander arrives after two days with a cannon that we hid the other day in an underground hut west of the Aliakmon River.

13.3.1948

We reorganized my unit, I took a cannon with 100 grenades, donkeys and more.

We travelled for 12 hours and arrived early in the village of Katafigi in western Olympus. Here I met Kalkov Georgi from Visheni, my first commander of Vicho in 1946, who offered me a piece of bread, hugged me and wiped the tears from his eyes. He told me: "There is no hope, brother. "We will have to return to Vicho."

14.3.1948

One battalion made an attack in the evening on the Sarandaporo road, but they were unsuccessful, the enemy received help from Kozani.

During the day, my friends and I fight all day long. To the east of my unit, the enemy appeared from the town of Servia near the Aliakmon River.

Here 15 partisans from Kalkov's battalion died of cold. Battalion commander Kalkov Georgi and other partisans died here and remained on the hill.

I have a frozen fighter, Micho Vasilopoulos, who surrendered in the battle for Lehovovo from the ranks of the monarcho-fascist army, and I also lost 4 donkeys to grenades. This fight was a disaster for the Olympus units, ie. for the 16th Brigade, so we were forced back. We are hungry and the spirit has fallen among the fighters.

I, Fotinos Christos Georgi, am also responsible for 40 young fighters without weapons, excluding those who took weapons from our dead. We are going back again, the aviation is spinning over our heads, the partisans are freezing. I mounted one of them on the donkey, but he died while riding.

15-20.3.1948

Olymp locality. Units retreat along the same path. The weather is cold. Every 50 meters someone freezes, and I can't do anything. We have no food, I have loaded a cannon that I took to a small village, where I hid it in a cellar with grenades. But after two days a partisan from Prespa named Savas Ivanis defected to the monarcho-fascist army and handed over the hidden cannon.

I later learned that that cannon was transported to the city of Kozani and placed in the 9th Greek Artillery Division.

My active sergeant Pando Kojchev from the village of German and Zijoska Vasilis were wounded here.

We arrived at another place near a slope where a company is stationed with its wounded and cooks. I stationed myself on the hill.

A Galatas plane flew in. A Greek commander fired and hit the plane. The pilot parachuted down, but we caught him alive. Here we have infantry dead in the slope. Aviation bombarded the snowdrifts and many fighters died.

18.3.1948

At night I again went forward to the Sarandaporo road with the whole company of infantry, while Floros remained on the Piermata. We reached the town of Furnos, but we fell into an ambush and the fight started around 4 am.

Two boys died here: Hambos and Lingas, as well as an 18-year-old girl from Thessaly.

Note:

The partisans told me that not far away in the trees there were two wounded partisan women without weapons. I sent a dozen fighters to rescue them, one was rescued and the other was seriously wounded. Then they also wounded my partisan Hadziov Dimitar from the village of Gornichevo. Fighting was going on on all sides.

The girl we couldn't save somehow rose to her feet and called out in Greek, "Good afternoon, brothers, and say hello my father."

At that moment, a burst from a machine gun cut her down and she fell into the snow. She was a beautiful girl with long hair that spread when she fell.

During the day we retreated and took up a position high in the mountain. In the evening we gathered and lit a fire in the slopes to rest, feed ourselves, then set off. Dinner was 5 tablespoons of cornmeal. At one point, two girls came to me and asked me if they could ask me something? I asked them: "Have you eaten"? They laughed. My courier Kosta boiled some flour with snow in a box and we sat down to dinner four

of us with a spoon. After eating, I asked them: "Now tell me what you want to ask?". One of them said to me: "Captain, what is this language that the partisans speak?"

I told them: "In northern Greece, 70% are Macedonians and that is their language." If you stay alive and go to your fathers in Gramos, there you will sing me a song in Macedonian, it is called Eleno mome".

20.3.1948

We reached another slope, where I handed over the donkeys, after which we slaughtered them all, and hid the heads so that the fighters would not be disgusted. Here I left the youths of Thessaly.

A complete company was formed, of which I was appointed as the commander, and Logodeli Georgi as the commissar. We rested and set out at night to avoid the ring around us. But in the mountain, we lost Micho Cholaki, who died of cold, along with two young men without weapons.

21.3.1948

Early on, we arrived at a small mountain where we took up a position on two sides. Behind me is the headquarters of Olympos Himaros and the commander of the 16th brigade, Kostas Paleologou, along with other officials from Athens.

The fight started early. I'm on the front line with three German machine guns. I have ammunition, but I ordered not to spend much.

Offensives and counter-offensives alternated. The enemy retreated, but continued to shoot occasionally. The weather is cold, the Galatas plane appeared and saw us and dropped a smoke grenade as a signal. Three more planes arrived and circled and fired at my position. I have dead and wounded men. I jumped to see what Logodelli was doing with the other tens, he saw me and shouted: "Georgi watch out, other planes are coming."

I hid behind a rock, but they noticed me and threw a grenade, which started smoking in the snow in front of me, giving a signal to other planes about our position. I tried to turn it off but failed.

I heard a voice again: "Georgi be careful!". I heard the planes dive again. I jumped behind the rock, but at that moment another plane hit me with a bullet in the right leg below the knee. Somehow, I managed to hide behind the beech where a medic immediately arrived and bandaged me up.

Here I had five wounded, Zutis, Vlahos, Lefteris, Liakopoulos and myself, Hristovski Fotinos.

We also have two dead (whose names I have not recorded in the diary). It got dark, so we retreated. We left the dead on the hill, and all the wounded we took to the headquarters.

Commissioner Logodeli also arrived who also had a dead person in his area.

I approached Commanders Kosta and Himaros and heard that they wanted to leave all the seriously wounded here in place. In the evening we retired.

The army came and separated the Macedonians from the Greeks, asking where the badly wounded Slavo-Macedonians were from.

Note:

A Macedonian was asked where he was from, and he answered that he was from Thessaly. They told him to step aside. He ran away at night and informs us that some commanders and some Macedonians shot.

In the evening we reached Sarandaporo Road. I just passed it, I fainted, and before that I said, "Take the bag, but leave the gun."

In a panic, I shouted "Ulica Trgovska 136. Ulica Trgovska 136"... That was the street in Bitola where my wife lived with her two little daughters whom I transferred to Bitola on May 20, 1946. When a person dies, he remembers his loved ones. Fighters circled around me and no one killed me. Those were my fighters Hristo Matev from the village of Lagen, Lerinsko, Hristo Biolchev from the village of Neret, Spase from Prespa and Andreas Stavropoulos from Kozheni.

The next day, an activist from Athens named Phokas Petros came and told them, "Leave the wounded man and run.

Tanks are coming." I recognized his voice and said, "Phocas, I am Fotinos."

He immediately got off the donkey and gave me a piece of bread. Then he gave me the donkey and told us to flee to Mount Amarbey where we would be met by Ipoilanti.

Thus ended this tragic campaign on Olympus, and General Markos later published a book about it. Of the 80 fighters with whom I entered Olympus, only 34 remained alive, all hungry and sick.

The names of some of those killed are: 1) Athanasios, 2) Ligas, 3) Hampos, 4) Papanau, 5) Lambadas Kostas, 6) Skondas Christos, 7) Dimitrios Cholaki.

The names of some of the wounded are: 1) Pando Ioannis, 2) Zakas Athanasios, 3) Hadjis Dimitrios, 4) Savas Ioannis, 5) Argyris Ilias, 6) Hristovski Georgios (Fotinos, I), 7) Vlahos Dimitrios, 8) Zdapis Lefteris, 9) Lazaros Steriadis, 10) Ioannis Diakopoulos, 11) Grivas, 12) Alekos Papanikolaou, 13) Christos Matis, 14) Pando Kajchev, 15) Paraskevopoulos Georgi.

The names of some of those captured are: 1) Chukas Andreas, 2) Koulis Christos, 3) Konstandinidis Kostas, 4) Karalazos Boris, 5) Karanikolas Pandelis, 6) Fotis Sanopoulos, 7) Nikopoulos Dimitrios, 8) Vorsoukis Georgios, 9) Stavros Karafilidis, 10) Giannis Pavlidis, 11) Sotiropoulos Alexandrou, 12) Lingas Konstandinis, 13) Kanaris, 14) Michalidis Ivanis.

The following fighters deserted in the fighting: 1) Savas Ioannis, 2) Andruchos, 3) Dektidis Dimitios, 4) Khojafotis Ioannis, 5) Delianis, 6) Delios Thomas.

Died of cold: 1) Roybanis Dimitrios 2) Tsitalis Ioannis 3) Morba Georgis

28-31.3.1948

All of us, alive and wounded, are in the village of Kipurgio. We also have sick people and they give us light food, because we are careful not to die from overeating. Doctors from Gramos also arrived.

Airplanes are bombing the village and the surrounding mountains.

We left the village of Kipurgio and arrived at the village of Spileon. I move with great effort and pain. There I met my 1946 fighters from Vicho.

Some rejoiced, some had wet eyes and wiped their tears. They found out about our losses on Olympus and about their first commander Georgi Kalkov from Visheni.

Someone joked with me, telling me that I, as the commander on a white horse, had dismounted off a gray naked donkey. Risto Motev from Lagen and Risto Biolchev said: "We will find him a horse from Lerinsko, here in Ipiro only wolves howl."

We spent the night in this village.

30.3.1948

Early on we moved to a forested mountain, the hill is guarded by our soldiers from the 16th brigade.

I am also on the slope with my courier Kosta.

After 12 o'clock, the aviation appeared, they shoot, throw grenades. Here they wounded a head of the Central Committee of the KPG from Athens. A paramedic came and took my naked donkey to carry the wounded man over the mountain. When I saw him, I jumped up, gun in hand, to take his donkey. But at that moment the courier grabbed my hand. The wounded Greek did not want to get on the donkey and asked for Kosta Paleologu's horse.

After five days we arrived at the hospital near the Albanian border. Meanwhile we met and became good friends. The next day we stayed in the villages of Spileon Dzaka, Elatopetra-Prozvorom.

1.4.1948

We leave from the village of Prozvorom, we arrive in the village of Dociko. Here I met with my young partisans from my village Turje: 1) Ilo Stojkov 2) Lazor Karamicov, 3) Pavle Manchov, 4) Vasil Uzunov 5) Sotir Kole Kotev.

The next day I leave with a horse (I left the donkey) and in the evening we arrived in the village of Hrien. Here I found my fellow villagers who informed me about the death of Pavle Risto Popov.

In the morning, we all left wounded and arrived at the central hospital in the village of Gjanohori.

Here we met with the artillery commander Georgi Gapkov from the village of Vmbel. We changed into hospital clothes. Here I found many of my fighters wounded from the battles of Gramos. I was housed in Sotir's house in a room specially for officers. There was also a good surgeon taken from the city of Naousa.

From 7/4/1948 to 23/5/1948 I was being treated at the central hospital. They didn't do surgery on me. My fighters of whom I was commissar and commander are coming to see me.

One day I went outside with my crutch. Two Greek girls saw me and ran to me. It was the two girls from Olympus. They shouted: "Here is Commander Fotinos!" They hugged me and kissed me. Others around did not know why. Then a Greek partisan who was the father of one of the girls came, hugged me and through tears said: "You saved my child." I jokingly asked them if they had learned the song: Eleno mome?

My fellow villagers also came to see me: Vasil Novachkov, Lazor Pavlov Sotirin, Vasil Bojin, Pavle na Georgi Temov, Pavle Bozhinov, Pando Eftov, Hristo Eftov and Sotir Kotev.

On April 12, 1948, they performed an operation on me and removed an iron piece, but the bone was slightly injured. My temperature dropped.

These days I learned about the death of my first cousin Mitre Markov, who in 1947 defected from the monarcho-fascist army.

On May 4, 1948, the political commissar of the DAG Headquarters arrived at the hospital.

These days, the airspace was violated by the monarcho-fascist aviation with Albania, and the hospital was close to the Albanian border.

A surgeon from Thessaly named Kolovos Stephanos arrived.

16.5.1948

It's Sunday, we held a meeting at the hospital with an agenda:

- The situation in Greece and the civil war after the support from the USA and Truman's speech.

- The proposal from the Soviet Union to the Greek government to stop the murders of Chaldaris. Present at the meeting are: Kostas Pournaras, Karadimos Orestis, Kostas Dimitris, Sumadis, Psalidas Dimitrios and Papas Panagiotis.

On May 23, 1948, I arrived in the village of Pefkofito, where I rested. I have other fighters with me. The next day we arrived in the village of Kipseli. The fighters welcomed me with joy. Among them is my friend, a major from the Greek army artillery in Kozani from 1937 to 1939. All the artillerymen

gathered. Kosta spoke, I spoke too. I told them about the death of my warriors on Olympus. Some of my old fellow Macedonians from Vicho hugged me and cried for their friends and fellow villagers. I also explained to Vicho about the death of commander Georgi Kalkov.

24-31.5.1948

I arrived at the village of Kipseli, where I met my fighters and the commander Yesufidis Kostas. I also met other officers; artillerymen newly arrived from old Greece.

We also received other German 75 mm cannons. An artillery unit named 220 was formed. Democratic and progressive correspondents from Athens also came. We have our own newspaper - newsletter. We read of the fighting at Vicho and in Thrace, and of the overthrow of a freight train of arms near the cities of Drama and Seres.

29.5.1948

We are located in Likorahi locality. Eight planes appeared, bombing and shooting in all directions. We have no defense; we have wounded and dead from our and infantry units.

The next day, an aviator, Micho, who defected from the Greek air force, arrived in Solun.

31.5.1948

We changed position in Mount Likorahi. We have carried out a reorganization in which I take over as Commissar of a Battery and Gunnery Officer.

The commander was Major Kitchos, a former Greek officer of the monarcho-fascist army, who brought us several shooting manuals (I still have this book).

Note:

Greek Artillery Major Christos Stephanopoulos Kitchos defected from the Monarcho-Fascist Army in Athens. He also had a connection with the English. He was a very capable officer, educated and expert in trigonometry and higher mathematics. He deserted from Athens disagreeing with the Greek dictatorship. He had an uncle, his father's brother, a communist.

1 - 17.6.1948

The artillery units and the headquarters are located near the village near the village of Kipseli. We held a meeting to reorganize the artillery. Kosta Josifidis, Stephanopoulos Christos, Karafotiu Vasil, Hristovski Georgi, Pejkov Kole, Andrushos Odisea and others are present. The situation is critical, fighting is going on all around Gramos.

Aviation is constantly over our heads; we have a shortage of heavy weapons. We read General Markos' statement proposing an end to the civil war. There are victims on both sides. The enemy leaves many dead soldiers on the

battlefield. Our partisans collect their documents and send them to our radio station in Gramos, through which the names of the dead soldiers are read so that their parents can hear them.

New Greek fighters have arrived who are deploying to the infantry units, but as we were informed already after the first clash with the army, 85 new fighters deserted in an organized manner and surrendered their weapons. It was a big blow for us.

General Markos found out about this and issued an order that all new fighters should not be sent immediately to the first battle line.

Among the deserters there were also some reactionaries who organized this betrayal.

14.6.1948

We are located in the same place Kipseli. Here is also Josifidis Kosta the commander of the artillery and another. I am placed at the disposal of headquarters.

The wound on my right leg is healed, but it is difficult for me to move.

Our newspaper informs us about the struggles in Lerinsko and Kaymakchalan, as well as about the solidarity and help given by other socialist countries to the Greek people and their struggle.

17.6.1948

We are still in Kipseli. We read in our newspaper about the battles in Lerinsko, Vicho and Kleshtina. The enemy is coming from Nestram, a new offensive begins, aviation bombards the village of Pefkorito.

I and a small unit of artillerymen move and reach the village of Krusha. Here there is a platoon of artillerymen with 75 mm mountain cannons led by Commander Strato. A difficult struggle is unfolding before us. Our units persistently keep the loans.

18.6.1948

The big offensive has started, I am the commander of an infantry unit. Strato has only two German 75 mm cannons. We are located in Krusha.

The enemy holds the height of Orlia. A tough fight is going on. The aviation and artillery get involved and bombard the Kopanche area. The mountain of gasoline bombs is burning here. We have seriously and lightly wounded and we are transferring them to the military hospital. They informed us that some died on the way. In the evening I moved with 25 fighters and set up an ambush on a slope below the village of Pirgo.

19-20.6.1948

We took a position near Mount Orlia. Half of the mountain is held by us and the other half by the enemy. Here

came Cole Pey's commander of artillery. We opened fire with 4 cannons. A fierce fight began, but we did not retreat and stayed until morning. During the day, the front calmed down for a while, and we were dug in and waiting for ammunition, shells for the cannons.

From June 21-30, 1948, we were in the Portes area, I am on the left of the Archilea battalion. The enemy constantly opens fire with artillery, the weather is rainy, the aviation does not appear.

Around 2 o'clock we took the offensive with Achillea and a platoon of mine with Giatas Dimitrios and corporals Arvanitis Christos and Sarandis Kyriadopoulos. The enemy retreated, we seized one machine gun, one English-made mortar and other weapons with ammunition. We have wounded. The next day the weather cleared, so the enemy opened fire with all means. The air force is constantly bombing, but we only have one wounded.

In the evening I received orders to retreat with my 45 artillerymen. We left for Alevica, but spent the night in the village of Pefkorito.

23.6.1948

We left the village of Pefkorito early and passed through the village of Gianochori. We arrived at Alevica mountain. I took a position to the left of Achillea. I sent a courier to Achillea and joined a company of Colocotrons. Later Commander

Strato arrived with two 75 mm hill cannons. We all disguised ourselves and waited for the enemy to come.

24.6.1948

The enemy's offensive began early. We defend ourselves by all means, but only with light weapons, because we have no mortars. I'm close to Strato's artillery, but it doesn't open fire, that's the order, and the infantry with the machine guns has also remained stationary. In the evening we carried out a counter-offensive with all our units. The enemy retreated only from one ridge, but we did not take it, but returned to the same position. Early on, the air force bombed that ridge, but there was not a single fighter of ours there.

25.6.1948

The enemy started bombing our position early, we have wounded and dead. One of my fighters named Amparcis Konstandinos from the village of Lichishcha died here. In the area of Kopanche, a big fight is taking place with artillery, aviation, special LOK units, loyal to the royal army.

In the evening we read a newspaper from the Democratic Army. We saw that the Eighth Division took part in the fighting with 70 thousand selected soldiers, 8 brigades and about 100 cannons. We have a lot of wounded and dead partisans from all units, who were transported to the hospitals on the Albanian border at night.

26.6.1948

Early on I made a tour of all my partisans. They complained of lack of food, and among them there were sick people. I was also with my friend, the artilleryman Strato, who told me that there were no shells.

Around 3 o'clock, a major offensive began on the southern part of Alevica, and the army managed to capture a hill of strategic importance for observation. Here we had a lot of wounded and dead partisans from the infantry. Two of my comrades from Vicho's detachment from 1946-1947 died heroically here: Saridis Atanas from the village of Rulja and Spiro Prespakos. In a newspaper, we read Molotov's speech from the Central Committee of the USSR regarding the German Question (East Germany).

27 - 30.6.1948 The fighting continues. We also got weapons for the artillery. We read in the bulletin about the heavy fighting taking place in Gramos, Gorusha, Ajlia, Konica, Grevena. In the background of my area is calm. All units are preparing to meet the enemy. We dug new defense lines and made shelters out of logs.

The food arrived on time and the fighters respect me. My commissioner Andruchos Odisea also came.

Aviation bombed the village of Livadotopi. The houses are destroyed, but the village is empty.

We read letters from captured soldiers to their parents. They are desperate because of the fratricidal war.

On June 29, 1948, I was called to the brigade headquarters with Major Kole. We held a short meeting about the situation at the front. Our radio station is heard all over Greece. It informs about the dead soldiers whose identity cards and documents were confiscated. Panic is being created throughout Greece.

On June 30, 1948, I received an invitation to call the Headquarters of Gramos near Giannouli, where I was informed that new Russian-made mortars would arrive. The commander knew that I came from Yugoslavia and that I had practiced artillery with heavy weapons, and precisely with a Russian-made mortar.

Note:

These days I have quite a few wounded fighters, but no journal entries.

1.7.1948

We are on Mount Elevica with a company made up of artillerymen and some infantry partisans.

I (Fotinos) Christos Georgi am the commander and Odisea Andrucho is the commissar. We are informed that the enemy is preparing on all sides of Gramos for a major offensive.

Greece received \$100 million in aid from America. Truman also gives Greece a new type of aircraft.

On the first day, they started bombarding our area with artillery and aviation. Enemy planes dived on the front line where my fighters were, but I only have two wounded. Heavy fighting is taking place near the locality of Kopanche. The mountain is burning from the petrol bombs.

2.7.1948

We are in the same place. Early the commissioner left for the headquarters. Artillery and aviation are pounding the entire area, and we have a shortage of weapons, namely grenades, bullets and ammunition.

The radio station informs us about the fighting in other regions. We learned about the withdrawal of our units and the capture of the Profiti Ilia locality by the enemy, but in the evening our units made a counter-offensive and we drove the enemy out of Profiti Ilia again.

3.7.1948

We are in the same place. The enemy is using a large amount of artillery, the Alevica mountain is burning with bombs and shells.

I was reading a bulletin from our headquarters that the enemy was leaving wounded and dead soldiers on the battlefield.

The radio station reads the names of the killed soldiers and their towns and villages. Ours are holding up well. In the evening we held a meeting to inform our partisans.

The commissar of the division also arrived and told us that he had a conversation with Kostas Pournaras from the Central Committee of the KPG regarding the misunderstandings with Yugoslavia.

Here I also met one of our young boys from the village of Turje named Hristo Pando Eftov, whose father is also a partisan Pando Eftov who participated in the battle of Grevena as a corporal, where he was wounded, but survived.

4 - 8.7.1948

We are in the same place, Alevica. Heavy fighting is taking place in the entire region. I am well disguised with my company. The bunkers are solid, and we managers visit them at night. The fighters are happy and good. Our newsletter informs us about the evacuation of our Macedonian children to Yugoslavia.

Heavy fighting is going on behind us in the area of Gorusha and Klefti and we have a lot of victims and wounded.

Newspapers report that the Greek government has brought in military officers from West Germany.

Our newsletter informs about the decommissioning of the power station in the city of Patras.

On July 8, 1948, I received an order to leave the company and report to the artillery headquarters at Commander Kosta Iosifidis.

9.7.1948

I am in the village of Mirovliti, where I found other familiar artillerymen. Early aviation carried out reconnaissance flights. I took 10 Italian-made mortars with a range of 4.1 to 4.2 km. I, Fotinos, am the commander of this department, and the commissioner is Odisea Andrucho.

Here I met the commander (artillery captain) and Stephanopoulos Christos, who informed me about the damaged German-made 75 mm cannons of the Commander Strato.

The bulletin told us about the arrival of American Vice President Harriman.

Note:

As it became known after the retreat of DAG, Commander Strato deliberately damaged his cannons and fled to the city of Grevena, where he was immediately accepted into the headquarters of the monarcho-fascist army.

10.7.1948

The enemy's offensive began early with aviation, artillery, mortars and petrol bombs. Mount Gorusa is burning, I have wounded and dead men.

I change the position with my mortars, I reach the first line between Kotili and Kypselis. I order the mortars to be masked. I established a telephone connection with Commander Kostos Iosifidis and with Major Barba Kitchos.

In the evening I opened a hurricane of fire with ten mortars.

The infantry launched a counteroffensive. The monarcho-fascist army began to flee in panic, leaving wounded and dead soldiers behind.

Our fighters came and collected the thrown and left weapons.

In the newsletter we read about a strike among bank workers in Greece. We also read that "Pravda" from the USSR published a denial of the news about the offensive of the Greek army, according to which we were "bandits" and were completely destroyed.

11 - 15.7.1948

We are in the same places Kotili-Kipseli, we are preparing for defense, the enemy does not constantly open fire, but the aviation bombards and drops gasoline bombs. Here we joined the artillery with the commander Pejkov Kole from the village of Bapchor who had two 75 mm cannons of German production, but we had a shortage of cannon and mortar shells. The food is regular.

On July 13, 1948, the enemy started an offensive from all sides of Gramos, but we are not retreating. Heavy fighting took place at Kipseli. Deserters from our ranks also appeared. We hold meetings, we give explanations about the whole situation in the socialist countries and about the transfer of children to Yugoslavia.

We regularly receive newspapers and are informed about the struggles of DAG in other regions of Greece.

15 - 25.7.1948 We are in the same place, Kipseli. Hard battles are being fought. The enemy is using petrol bombs, burning the mountain. We defend ourselves by all means, we are short of ammunition and many wounded.

In the evening we stocked up on ammunition and grenades and immediately launched a counter-offensive.

The soldiers fled in panic, leaving the dead and seriously wounded on the battlefield. We sent a dozen partisans to take their documents from the headquarters and the radio station that they left behind.

We read newspapers from DAG about the wounding of the secretary of the Communist Party of Italy Togliatti.

24 -25. 7. 1948 Heavy fighting takes place on Kipseli. Pejko Georgi and I are on the front line. We connected by telephone and acted in coordination with four German-made

75 mm cannons and 6 Italian mortars with a range of 4.2 km. We had good success.

In the evening, our telephone operator from the village of Zhelevo deserted, so the connection was cut. Partisans from the infantry also deserted. We held a meeting with Allervas Gianuli Stati and other chiefs of staff.

We read a bulletin about the struggles of the Peloponnese, Sterea Hellas, Thrace and Macedonia. We have received a report of desertions in Commander Alevrata's brigade chiefly among the returnees from Bulkes.

26-31.7.1948

We are in the same area, I as the commander and Commissioner Odisea. We have damaged one mortar. We were bombed by six planes with petrol bombs, I have three partisans wounded. We are constantly informed by headquarters about the situation with the Gramos fights. I read in the newsletter that the Russians solved the Berlin issue by closing the borders with West Germany. I also read about the statement of the Central Committee of the CPJ about the disagreement with Stalin and the USSR, about strikes in America and other things.

1-3.8.1948

On the first day, I am at the artillery headquarters of Commander Kosta Iosifidis. We held a meeting of all managers and carried out a small reorganization. Fights are

fought in the same place. The next day I moved in the afternoon to Gupata locality. I gave explanations regarding the party plenum. Heavy fighting is taking place in the locality of Volia Furka Tamburi. Aviation bombards our position and nearby infantry units.

5 - 15.8.1948

We are in the same place, Gupata, heavy fighting is going on in our area, we have a shortage of ammunition, shells for the cannons and mortars that we are waiting for to arrive from the USSR via Yugoslavia. We reorganized again, comrades from the artillery headquarters also arrived. We received eight Italian-made mortars with a range of 4.2 km, quite accurate weapons. I am the commander, and Odysseus is the commissar.

8/6/1948

We retreated and took a position on Mount Gorusha. Enemy artillery is opening fire on my fighters. I am at the observation post, and in front of me is our infantry with heavy machine guns.

Around 6 o'clock in the evening I opened mortar fire at three thousand meters. Panic was created among the enemy. They noticed us and opened fire with the artillery. I have wounded men, among them Arvanitov Hristo from Prespa, Pascalis Panagioti and others. I am reading a newsletter about

the success of our DAG units. The train was derailed in Seres and Drama.

On August 9, 1948, I was invited to the artillery headquarters of Kosta Iosifidis (artillery captain in the Greek Army from 1935 to 1940).

We held a meeting, I was informed about the situation regarding the supply of heavy weapons, cannons and grenades. Eighty weapons wagons were detained on the Hungarian-Yugoslav border, along with 105 mm mortars. I returned from the headquarters and came to the locality in the Alevica region.

Note:

Here I found out that 2 75 mm cannons were destroyed. after the desertions in Grevena.

10.8.1948

The enemy launched an offensive with all means, artillery and aviation, and occupied the Alevica mountain east of Livadotopi village.

Our infantry units have taken up a position west of the village, we are separated only by a small river. I stationed myself with eight Italian-made mortars.

We disguised ourselves in the beeches, I gave the order for everyone to disguise themselves away from the front line. I maintain telephone contact with artillery and infantry

headquarters. Commanders Josifidis, Mitarba Ilia and others also came to me. I was informed that Commander Giannulli had retreated and that the enemy was close behind us. Some of our infantry units entered Albanian territory.

I located myself at the observation post, along with the telephone near Achillea's infantry battalion. I have 500 shells for the Italian mortars.

Kosta Iosifidis briefed me in detail on the whole situation on Gramos and told me that we would probably retreat eastward to Malimadi, Vicho.

Note:

For this failure and for the withdrawal of Commander Giannouli, he was condemned and shot by the Provisional Government and the Secretary of the Central Committee Zachariadis.

13-14.8.1948

We are stationed at Alivadotopi. Fighters dig in trenches and place protective stones. But there is no movement on that side. I, with the courier Petre, are at the front with Stadi's battalion and Achillea with the heavy weapons. The battery commander escaped with a damaged cannon, causing some artillery units to disband.

15.8.1948

I am on the front line in Achillea's battalion in a bunker with my courier Kosta. Early on, the enemy began to fire artillery in our area, and aviation also appeared. We remain calm and do not open fire.

Around one o'clock my courier brought me food and we were preparing to have lunch. Kosta entered the bunker and asked me to enter too, but I refused. At that moment, the artillery started firing, I jumped and entered Kosta's bunker. Just then a shell hit my pot destroying all the food and water but we were both unharmed.

16.8.1948

From early on, the enemy attacked from Alevica along the path to the village of Livadotopi. The infantry that was hiding behind the houses also arrived. We are all in the same place. I telephoned Sergeant Dimitriadis and Commissioner Odyssea to hide the cattle behind the mountains.

We have the mortars ready to open fire when I give the order. We just take care not to overheat the cuds. I have binoculars and watched the enemy move. At one point, the courier informed me that Commander Josifidis Kosta was looking for me on the phone, who told me to wait for everyone to enter the village, and then to open fire.

Then our infantry opened fire with heavy machine guns. The enemy crossed the river and continued to move up towards the battalion.

I gave the order for all 8 mortars to open fire, but to be careful not to overheat their tubes. I told them to leave only 150 shells.

Then the enemy artillery opened fire. Aviation circled over our heads, but the enemy began to retreat to the left. The infantry also appeared and they opened fire. I continued to pound the enemy's positions. The commander said to me on the phone: "Well done Fotine, strike while you have grenades."

The enemy continued to advance behind our positions. Giavolis retreated and heavy fighting took place there.

In the evening I returned to the base, all the fighters were fine. I also have two girls who have learned how to operate mortars: Aspasiya Zoga and Elisaveta Papadopoulou, both Greek.

17.8.1948

Fighting is taking place near Pefko. The enemy is also operating near Achelona near the Albanian border.

Achillea and Iosifidis Kosta called me. Apparently, to my left were two infantry mortars. I also took two with grenades and organized a counterattack.

The army launched an offensive to capture Achelona from the south and west. I also opened fire with Italian-made mortars with a range of 4.2 km. Panic was created in the monarcho-fascist army. They started to run away and take shelter in the forest, but I continued shooting there as well.

They ran away and hid in the forest east of Alevica, but I also bombarded them there with the mortars, so they retreated again. Then they spotted me and opened artillery fire at me, but they didn't hit me.

I went back to my other 6 mortars. Commander Iosifidis telephoned me and said: "Well done Photine, you had great success with those precision Italian mortars."

18.8.1948

The enemy is operating on the right of our units. Achillea's battalion is also here, heavy fighting is going on. I was ordered to open fire with the mortars, but to be careful not to run out of ammunition. The border north of me has been closed, and our supply through Albania is dangerous. In the afternoon we were bombarded by the artillery and we have two wounded: the cook and my courier Vasil.

19.8.1948

The enemy again took the offensive in our direction. We opened fire with all means, our infantry is holding on heroically, but we have wounded and dead men. Achillea, Kosta Josifidis,

Barba Ilia and other executives arrived. He informs me about the situation that Giannuli retreated to the Albanian border.

They inspected my army. I gave them my donkeys to pass on to the wounded, and we buried the dead with tearful eyes.

The fighters are desperate. There is only aviation in the sky. The commanders left and asked me to be careful with the grenades for the mortars. In the evening I loaded and took up a new position, east of 52.

20.8.1948

I am in the second western bastion. Our infantry is not backing down. To my left the enemy managed to break through. I contacted Kosta Iosifidis the artillery commander and asked him what to do. He told me to strike while we have grenades and they will send us food. I held a short meeting. There were two young girls looking at me with teary eyes. I explained to them that the enemy wants to surround us.

Around 4 o'clock the courier came and brought me an order from the headquarters to hit with all the mortars while we have grenades, and then to take out the diopters to measure the angle and retreat to Achelono in the evening because the road was open.

Note:

When I received the order to leave the eight mortars on the battlefield, I gathered all the fighters and explained to them

what the situation was, that the enemy was tightening the ring from all sides, but that the Achelono border post was free and our partisans were there. I told them that we would break through at night and ordered them to take only the light weapons, machine guns and everything else they could. Commissioner Odysseus took a tenth and went to the fighters to greet them. I went too. Here my two girls started crying, they both hugged me and asked me not to leave them and go to another unit. They were Elisaveta Papadopoulou and Aspasija Zoya. I don't know how their suffering ended and whether they survived.

21-25.8.1948

At night we broke through the perimeter of the Achelono area, the Achillea Battalion is stationed near the Albanian border. Our partisans entered the Kostur region near the village of Kalevishcha. I was the last one.

We went one by one, but they noticed us and the army from Alevica started shooting at us. At one point I jumped into a pit and hurt my ankle. I barely made it near the Albanian border east of the village of Kalevishcha. At dawn, the monarcho-fascist army saw me and opened artillery fire in the field after me. I took refuge in a field, and later my commissar Odissea came and pulled me out with the horse and they took me to the village of Breznica. They fixed my ankle here, but I stayed until August 25, 1948 in Risto Panov's house with one of my friends, Stavro Pascali.

26 - 31.8.1948

I left the village of Brezhnica and arrived in the Prespa villages of Mikrolimni, Lik, Bukovik and Orovnik. There was also the headquarters of the artillery with the commander Kosta Iosifidis.

I met with my fellow officers Georgi Kalkov from the village of Vmbel and Vasil Karafotias. We held a meeting about the situation in our military.

We got 75mm anti-tank cannons. Iosifidis knew that by 1945 I was the commander of a battery of Russian cannons in Strumica and Shtip. Cannons with a small diameter of 37 mm also arrived, of German production.

On August 30, 1948, I went to the Albanian border with a group of artillerymen. We got donkeys and horses to carry the cannons and other weapons. We were stationed in the area of Mikrolimni. After a few days we returned to the headquarters. I'm not good with my leg and I'm in pain. I read DAG bulletins about the fighting in Trikala, Peloponnese, Drama and other areas.

1 - 10.9.1948

We are about 25 artillerymen at Mikrolimni, we have donkeys for loading light cannons and weapons. I met my famous friends here. In the evening we loaded wagons and horses to take up a position against the enemy. I contacted the artillery headquarters from where they informed me that

the enemy had taken an offensive from Lerin and from Kostusko near the village of Kosinec. One battery 75 mm cannons marched to Bigla to meet the army from Lerin. The bulletin informs us about the fighting in eastern Greece near Drama.

Here we also formed an anti-aircraft unit with four 20mm cannons. which were easily loaded and transferred to the front line of battle.

4.9.1948

I was invited to the headquarters of Kosta Iosifidis, the commander of the artillery, where I was kept for several days because of my leg injury. There are quite a few artillerymen that I am training and preparing for the first battle line.

In the bulletin we read about the death of the Soviet leader Zhdanov, about his funeral, about the speech of Stalin and other leaders.

5.9.1948

We leave and arrive with loads in cars and cannons to Smrdesh. Fighting is taking place near Kosinec Malimadi. An infantry brigade under the command of Alevras, a battalion of Pappas and other units is being organized and preparations are being made for a counter-offensive. A 37 mm anti-tank unit was also formed. with Commander Ilanidis. I, with the heavy

guns, moved to Besvina with the task of meeting the enemy tanks from Kostur - Gabresh.

7.9.1948

I change the position and reach the Vmbel Mountains with the anti-tank guns. Heavy fighting is taking place on all sides, and I was tasked to prevent the attack of the Breznica-Smrdesht-Albanian border tank units.

9-9-1948

The enemy takes up a position on the mountain near Smrdesht Malimadi and controls the road, while the artillery is pounding all those positions.

East of Vicho on Bigla, our men are holding well, our artillery has reached there.

10.9.1948

The units of Alevrata Brigatatos and Pappas broke through to the north near Kosinec and hit Malimadi. On the other side, the monarcho-fascist army retreats in panic, leaving Malimadi dead and wounded. Some surrendered and some were captured. The fighting continued and during the day Malimadi fell into the hands of DAG with the two villages of Kosinec and Labanica near the Albanian border.

10 - 20.9.1948

I arrived in the locality near Mikrolimni where the artillery headquarters is. There they proposed to me to take over and form a new battery, but the cannons have not yet arrived.

I moved to the area of Nivica. There is a division of hill guns here with which we are practicing and preparing to take a new position. Fighting continues throughout the region.

Note:

After the retreat from Gramos, the Democratic Army suffered heavy losses of heavy weapons, artillery, mortars and others. This territory was favorable for the enemy, heavy weapons could easily be transferred from Lerin to Kostur and other places. We found ourselves in a difficult situation with cadres and artillerymen, so I moved from one battery to another in various places.

I remind you that from 1937 to 1939 I served in the 9th Artillery Division, and from 1940 to 1941 I served in the anti-aircraft artillery unit in Athens, while from 1944 to 1946 I served in Yugoslavia in the artillery unit of the 41st Division. In Yugoslavia, we officers were trained in Strumica, Shtip, Vranje and Skopje in evening schools with lectures from Serbian and Soviet artillery instructors. There I received the title of Commander-Captain-Artillery from the Yugoslav Army and from the DAG.

14-9-1848

We are in the same position; the weather is foggy. I held a meeting with other artillery leaders: Pejkov Kole, Margas and others and we are doing a little reorganization. Other 75 mm anti-tank cannons also arrived.

In the bulletin I read about the fighting at Malimadi Vicho, where a whole division was disbanded. There we captured 35 soldiers and seized 43 small mortars and 150 machine guns. The enemy panicked and left their dead and wounded.

17.9.1948

I was invited to the artillery headquarters, here we made a plan to organize anti-aircraft defense. We have no artillery personnel, and there is also a lack of means of transport,

We have a hard time getting supplies from abroad, the situation is critical, especially for heavy weapons and ammunition.

20 - 25.9.1948

For three days we practiced with the 75 mm anti-tank cannons. We sent two cannons to Bigla where I went as well, and we contacted the headquarters where the Pando Vojnata, Margas Georgi Gapkov from Vmbel (who was an artillery

commander in the Greek army 1937-1940) were. There we surrendered two guns, after which I returned to Prespa where we formed another battery with 4 guns. Then I left for Malimadi and stationed myself above the village of Yeropigi. We dug in trenches and made bunkers. We are not far from enemy artillery.

28 - 30.9.1948

Behind us is a heavy battery of 105mm Russian howitzers led by Pagonas Maratopoulos.

1 - 10.10.1948. On 1.10.1948, my commissar Odysia Andruchos arrived and assumed the position of commander of my anti-tank battery. In the afternoon I went to the heavy 105 mm guns. in the mountain above Smrdesh-Kristalopigi. Other leading officers also arrived there.

We plan to strike with a heavy battery at the enemy near the village of Tikveni whom we noticed by the fire when he fired.

Our 105 battery is behind the mountain at 1,224 meters high. From there we opened fire and watched where our shells fell. In a panic, the enemy moved to another place the next day and from there fired at our cannons, but we had no casualties. In the newspaper we read about Vishinsky's speech in the USSR about the situation in Greece and the proposal to stop the Civil War.

I went back to my friends. Odyssey informs me about the proposal of the commander of 107 brigade and the lack of 4 guns for defense.

I am talking to Kosta Iosifidis who sent me two more 75 mm and three 37 mm easily movable cannons with the donkeys. I made a new layout with six 75 mm cannons taking up position from the Dmben mountains to the Albanian border.

7-10.10.1948

Karanjas Alevrata and Mihail Karamitchiev from the DAG Headquarters came to the front line and we all saw each other. Mikhail introduced me to Karanjas and introduced him to my activity from all wars from 1940 onwards. They had lunch with the infantry.

Mikhail informs me about the situation in DAG with Zachariadis, the situation in Yugoslavia, the shooting of Giannouli and more. We bid each other farewell and hugged and he asked me to look after our fighters.

11.10.1948

The enemy took an offensive on the mountains near Kosinec and captured a ridge of our infantry. One of my 37mm anti-tank guns. is to the right of the village and opened fire against a truck and hit it. The truck remained in place, but a tank noticed us from the right side and hit the bunker, injuring corporal Popovski Nikola from Vodensko.

In the afternoon our infantry undertook a counter-offensive from which the enemy retreated in panic, and we occupied a new position.

In the evening we transfer the truck to Prespa. We replaced one cannon that had malfunctioned with another and positioned ourselves in another place near Kosinec.

12 - 20.10.1948

It is peaceful in our area. After several times, the aviation makes reconnaissance actions. I go from the positions of all the guns individually and give them firing training. The bunkers are masked and we repair them during the night.

The enemy took the height of Mount Alevica. Our every move is being watched. At some cannons, we bring food only in the evening and in the morning.

I sent a dozen to the village of Kosinec. An armored dilapidated truck from the monarcho-fascist army was left there. We transferred it to the village of Smrdesh, and from here to Prespa, where it was overhauled. We read newspapers every day and the fighters are well informed.

On October 14, 1948, we read about Vishinski's speech from the USSR with a proposal to Western governments for help to Greece.

On 16.10.1948 I performed a small overhaul of some of my 75 mm cannons. I asked Kosta Iosifidis to replace them with others. I am reading a newspaper from the DAG that I have been promoted from the Artillery Staff to Artillery Lieutenant. (After retreating to Albania DAG promoted me to Artillery captain).

17.10.1948

I got 12 young fighters, some as young as 16 years old. I keep them at my place for twenty days and we practice with all means of shooting machine guns, artillery, but also protection from the enemy, etc.

21 - 31.10.1948 We made changes to the defense line. We got another anti-tank gun and placed it near the headquarters of 107 Brigade.

And some lower places near the Kostursko-Malimadi road are occupied by the enemy.

The weather is clear and all of us artillerymen who are on the front line are digging additional defensive trenches in a zig-zag pattern.

The enemy is well informed, so there are constantly flying planes that shoot at our line.

I am in constant contact with Alevrata, the commander of the brigade 107, and with Pappas' battalion on the front line.

Our newspapers constantly inform us about the situation in Greece, about the speech of General Markos and more. We are celebrating the anniversary of the interim government. One evening I called Vasil Karafotia, who had a battery of German-made cannons. We made a plan to defend our area.

The enemy began preparing a new offensive. At Mount Falcata, a heavy battery was deployed against us. Every day we are on guard against the enemy. The battery went into action, but we have no casualties, except that some donkeys were lost in the mountain.

1-11.11.1948

We are still in the same area, practicing and digging in. The situation is tense, the enemy is bombarding us with artillery. Airplanes are constantly above us and make flights to Prespa.

We read a newspaper about the fighting in Halkidiki and around Drama, where 112 soldiers were captured with weapons.

We listen to Vishinski's speech on the radio. Fighters dig trenches and make bunkers. The weather is cold. We have no firewood on the front line, except in the bunkers. We collect rugs for covering from the villages. We also have sick people and we transfer them to the hospital in Prespa.

12 - 30.11.1948

There are no changes. The situation with the partisans is difficult. It is very cold. We read about the resignation of President Sofuli.

13.11.1948

Heavy battles are taking place on Shestevska buka. I sent one 75 mm anti-tank cannon. I went to see what was happening in that field and here I was wounded in the right hand by an artillery shell. (Later, while in the USSR I got surgery on both fingers). I went back through Breznica with one cannon and bandaged my arm there, but I stayed two days in the medical center in Smrdesh. My commissar was summoned to Prespa to headquarters. He took another 75 mm cannon which we replaced at the Albanian border.

We are reading a newspaper about the fighting in Ipiro where 68 soldiers from the monarcho-fascist army were captured.

We continue digging in the defensive lines and bunkers with a wooden roof. I gave them my donkeys to carry wood from the mountain through the night.

Five girls also arrived to help our units dig and bring wood through the night. They were: Sultana Michu from Chereshnica, Antula Kirova Kumoniceva, Afroditi Damianu, Hrisanti Mangu and Olga Panagioti.

The situation is difficult, the snow has covered every point.

My comrades from the headquarters found out that I was wounded and wanted to move me to the headquarters until I recovered, but I did not agree because the wound was not threatening.

29.11.1948

I received a list from headquarters and a decoration in recognition of Gramos's hard fighting. The newspapers wrote about the French government, the situation in Greece and more.

1 - 31-12-1948

We are in the same place, Malimadi. The weather is versatile, the artillery periodically hits us. Aviation is constantly over our area and observes our defense preparations and changes in the snowy area.

On December 7, 1948, I was called to the headquarters of the artillery in Prespa by the commander Iosifidis Kostas, where I was informed about the situation in Greece.

They replaced my commissioner Odysseus Andruchos, and Melanidis Ilias (Greek) took this post in his place. I stayed

a few days at the headquarters in Prespa. We held a meeting with all the artillery officers and a lecture on artillery firing.

On December 10, 1948, I was near Beznica with an anti-tank battery. We train for two days and I train the gunners. (Everyone found out that I was in the Yugoslav army as a commander of anti-tank guns).

I opened fire on the bunkers with 75 mm artillery near the village of Smrdesh where we fired 30 grenades.

There I saw many of my comrades from 1946. We read a newspaper about US President Truman's speech and the Greek government's \$100 million bailout, as well as the resignation of some Greek government officials.

12.12.1948

I am once again going to the same place Malimadi. I am now the commissar of an anti-tank unit (6 75 mm cannons and 3 37 mm guns). The commander is Milanidis. We held a meeting with the corporals and soldiers of the artillery.

The condition of the fighters is difficult, the weather is cold, it is difficult without fire in the bunkers, the enemy artillery is constantly firing.

The bulletin informs us about the fighting in old Greece. In the fighting in Karditsa, 80 soldiers from the monarcho-fascist army were captured.

23.12.1948

We are marking the first anniversary of our DAG interim government. Other artillery fighters have arrived and new anti-tank units with 37 mm are being formed. cannons.

25.12.1948

We celebrate Christmas. We are sending fighters to the villages of Gabresh and Breznica. We load feed for the livestock, blankets and rugs for the fighters. At night, we also transfer heating wood to the bunkers. The weather is cold.

30.12.1948

A car appeared from the side of the monarcho-fascist army in the direction of the village of Tikveni. We opened fire with 37 mm anti-tank light weapons. They fled in panic and then opened fire with artillery on my positions and the infantry. We have two lightly wounded. I sent two 37mm cannons as an aid to our infantry in the battles near Bukovik-Sestevka buka, Kostursko

Note:

This 1948 it was especially difficult for our artillery. We are short of weapons, grenades and artillery.

The headquarters informs us that 85 wagons were stopped at the Czechoslovak border.

1.1.1949

We welcomed the New Year above the village of Kosinec. We held a meeting with the commanders and free fighters from the artillery. The weather is sharp and cold. I also went to the battalion where I met with Major Pappas of 107 Brigade. In the afternoon I left with the horse and arrived in the village of Zelevec. All my fellow villagers from the village of Turje were moved there (Turje and Neret were the border of the front with the monarcho-fascist army).

I went to the family of Pavle Nedelko Kotev and informed them about the circumstances in which their son Sotir died. I also met my aunt Petra (my mother's sister). I spent the night there, and early the next day I saw other leaders from DAG: Tane from the village of Kotori, Velaki and others.

Note:

My aunt Petra informed me what had happened to her and her friend when they decided to cross the border with Yugoslavia to see their children. The women were captured by our vigilant patriots and returned to our border guards. When asked who told them to run, she answered: "Fotinos (Hristovski Georgi), who is my sister's son." So, they released them. But now they were looking for me to catch and shoot me as a Yugoslav agent.

But when they discussed that topic at headquarters, Commander Pando Vojnata was also there, who opposed the statements against me and told them that I was at Gramos in the hospital.

3 - 10.1.1949

I went back to the same place Malimadi and checked all my fighters on the front line. The weather is cold, the situation is difficult. I also visited Commander K. Aletras from 107 brigade, who informs me about the situation in our area.

The enemy began to concentrate with the intention of striking our units. They asked me to take the six women volunteers, shelter them and make bunkers as protection from the artillery of the monarcho-fascist army.

8 - 9.1.1949

We hold exercises with the light cannons, i.e., we shoot with 37 mm. grenades (bullets) sheltered behind the mountains so that the enemy does not notice us.

10.1.1949

We are sending two cannons with the infantry to hit a ridge occupied by the monarcho-fascist army near the village of Dmbeni. We struck but had no success. The enemy noticed us and opened fire with the artillery. Two of our infantrymen were wounded.

11-15.1.1949

I am in the same area; the situation is the same. The weather is bothering us. We replaced one 75 mm cannon due to a defect in the pipe.

13.1.1849

In the evening I sent one cannon 37 mm with one infantry company. We struck the enemy near Gianni Kefali, but we had no success and we have wounded again, so we retreated to our old positions.

15-31.1.1949

We are in the same place. The weather is changeable with sun and fog. We are constantly in contact with Alevras the commander and Pappas the battalion commander. Aviation is constantly circling over our units. Artillery is firing at our defensive lines, but we have no casualties. Melanidi and I are constantly with the sergeants and corporals.

These days we also got a telephone connection with the brigade and the battalion. We read in the newspaper and in the bulletin about the fighting in Naoussa, where tanks and trucks were destroyed and 16 American machine guns, 3 cannons and other military materials were seized.

21.1.1949

An American reconnaissance plane was shot down in the fighting in the town of Karpenisi.

24.1.1949

In the same territory, Karpenisi captured an American pilot who parachuted down after his plane was shot down. Our newspaper publishes data about his investigation. He excused himself that he had no intention of filming, but our men shot him down. We read in the newspaper about the proposal of the United Nations to end the Civil War in Greece. The situation of the fighters on the front line is difficult. The weather is cold, it is difficult for them to move, we make some replacements, we shelter the fighters at night behind the mountains and there they warm up.

Note:

On January 29, 1949, one of my artillery soldiers and a girl from the infantry were guarding the front line above the village of Kosinec. An infantry corporal and two soldiers found them huddled behind a tree and immediately changed them. The next day they proposed to try my soldier and shoot him.

I did not agree, I withdrew him from the front line and sent him a letter to the artillery headquarters in Prespa.

That soldier Nikolakis at the age of 18 survived the war and in 1958, he came to the USSR in Tashkent with his wife and two small children.

He saw me at a Greek-Macedonian gathering and started shouting: "There he is!" Here is Fotinos!". He hugged me and wept with joy that I was alive. His Greek wife laughed and told me that her husband kept mentioning me. I asked him in front of his wife: "Okay, what were you doing with the girl then?", and he answered: "We didn't do anything, we just hugged each other because we were cold."

1-15.2.1949

We are in the same place as the 107 Brigade of Alervas and the 1st Battalion Papas (Pope). We maintain constant contacts with the artillery and infantry headquarters. The weather is cold and the number of sick people is increasing. At night, we bring wood and blankets from the villages east of us Smrdesht and Breznica and others.

Newspapers inform us about the situation with Yugoslavia. They closed the border, so I'm very disappointed because my whole family is there: father, mother, three brothers, my wife and two daughters, one of whom I haven't seen yet.

I took my wife from the village of Turje on May 20, 1946, and I took her on September 4, 1946. I left for DAG. It is difficult for me, but there is no other solution, I cannot leave my Macedonian and Greek fighters. We also read about Smith's question to Stalin and the answer, as well as the offensives and success of the Chinese army and more.

8.2.1949

Two 105 mm cannons reached the east of the village of Kosinec and opened fire on enemy positions. The enemy spotted our position and counter-attacked our 105 mm howitzers. of Russian production.

Shells were falling near my background volunteers, but we have no casualties. Our artillery has only two wounded. In the evening, the commissioner from the division, Dimos Koftaris, came over. We read in the newspaper about the fighting in Karpenisi.

10.2.1949

I sent a group of 15 of my soldiers and a sergeant to familiarize themselves with the anti-tank guns at Mount Pisederi (Psoderi) above the village of Armensko, Lerinsko.

11.2.1949

I made a tour of all my anti-tank guns with my courier Slave from Banica, but we were spotted and the enemy opened artillery fire on us. We quickly took shelter and were both unharmed.

In the evening, the bulletin informs us about the fighting in Lerin. Three thousand DAG partisans attacked Lerin. At first, they had good success, but the enemy was well informed by our radio communications which were intercepted, so this

fight ended without success with a large number of casualties among our units.

In my district Malimadi it is calm, except for some bombing by the aviation and artillery.

16 - 20.2.1949

We are reading the information about the Fifth Plenum of the KPG. The newspapers inform us of the fighting in Lerins, the casualties and the failure of our attack. In the river Lerinska, many Macedonian women and girls voluntarily participated in the transport of the wounded. Many fighters defected to Yugoslavia. Vane Trendov from the village of Konomlati, who was a company commander in the JNA 1944-1946, died there.

18.2.1949

There are fights and clashes in the entire region of Vicho and Malimadi. A van appeared in our area near Mount Faltsa with some officers inside. One of our 75 mm anti-tank cannons. opened fire, but did not hit him, and fled back after our shots. Enemy artillery bombards our position. The newspapers write that two Americans landed at the Lerin airport by plane.

20 – 30.2.1949

I have been with my heavy 75 mm cannons for two days. We have political meetings and training. Airplanes drop leaflets with propaganda material. An enemy column appeared near the village of Tikveni. Our artillery opened fire with the heavy 105 mm guns from Malimadi. The column took shelter behind the mountain.

22.2.1949

I left early alone with one horse for Prespa to the artillery headquarters. I passed through the village of Breznica, where I met many of my fellow fighters from the background. I arrived in the village of Zhelevo, where I met my fellow villagers who were evacuated from the village of Turje with my aunt Petra, my aunt Borizica, my uncle Pavle and others. I also met Todor from Kotori, who was responsible for the background. In the evening I arrived in Mikrolimni at the artillery headquarters.

There I met the commanders Georgi Gankov from the village of Vmbel, Kole Pejkov from the village of Bapchor and others. We held a meeting where Kosta Josifidis informed us about the position of our defense units and the situation in Zhelevo. I met my fellow villagers again, who were scared because their children had been sent to the socialist countries.

In the evening I arrived in Breznica, where I spent the night. The next day I left early and arrived at my units.

The next day we held a meeting at 107 Brigade, all commanders and commissars. The meeting was chaired by Alevras Kostas, who informed us about the situation in Greece.

The enemy received military aid from new American aircraft and artillery and concentrated armored and infantry units. Planes were being unloaded at the Lerin airport. It is being discussed to attack the airfield with our artillery, but it is not possible because it is at a great distance.

1-15.3.1949

We are in the same place. The weather is cold and it is snowing. New fighters have arrived in my anti-tank battery. I start by training the young fighters. We are temporarily holding them at the headquarters, where there is also a medical service with seven women from Prespa to carry the wounded fighters.

These days we also received 20 mm light anti-tank cannons. We tried to adapt them to act against aircraft.

We are often bombarded. Heavy planes fly low, but I fail to hit them, so I take these cannons back up into the mountains to Alevros' brigade headquarters. We have defects in the heavy 75 mm cannons. At night, we heat them with hot water.

11.3.1949

One platoon arrives with two 75 mm cannons from headquarters and we replaced them with the two non-functioning cannons. The commander of these two cannons was Kaidis Petros (Greek) whom I sent back to overhaul the damaged cannons.

We read newspapers about the struggles of the DAG in Karpenisi old Greece and about the help that the Balkan countries give us, about the crisis in the Greek government and more.

15 - 31.3.1949

The weather is unbearable, I have sick people, and there are no doctors or medicine. New fighters from the artillery headquarters arrived and asked about me. My commander Melanidis also got sick and sent him to Prespa.

An artillery battery with heavy weapons arrived behind me in the Malimadi mountains. We held a meeting with all the management of our area. Our interim government has been criticized because of the arguments and clashes between the leadership cadres Zachariadis and Markos and others.

The establishment of a telephone connection between the brigade and my artillery was also discussed.

On March 22, 1949, I sent the courier to the headquarters in Prespa and that's how I got a phone for my area, that is, liaison between my artillery and the brigade.

23.3.1949

I received an invitation to a meeting at the artillery headquarters at Josifidis Kostas. I spend the night in the village of Orovo.

24.3.1949

I arrived in the village of Popli, Prespa where I met my fellow villagers Boris Lazorov and Georgi Lazorov. In the evening I reached the village of Shtrkovo where I met many of my old partisans. Then I arrived in the village of Nivici by truck, where I also met with my fellow villagers, who asked me what would happen if we retreated? I told them to be careful, not to try to run because if they were caught, they would be shot. I also spoke with my fellow villager Lambrovica Doneva, who lost her 18-year-old son in the fighting in Naoussa.

25.3.1949

In the evening, the General Secretary of the KPG, Nikos Zachariadis, arrived from the DAG headquarters. We had lunch and dinner outside the village. During the day, the aviation bombed us, but we had no casualties. At 6 o'clock in the evening we gathered in the church in the village of Nivitsi together with all the managers from the headquarters of Nikos Zachariadis. Here I met my friends Vane, Lefter from Banica, Vera, Pop Lazarov Lazar and others. I also spoke in the evening. We have gathered about 500 fighters and leaders,

and there were loudspeakers in the church. They announced me with the words: "Comrades, now Comrade Fotinos will speak." I stood up and heard someone comment: "Will a Greek speak to us again?".

I did not answer, but stood up and gave my speech in Macedonian. I didn't have any notes or a reminder, I said what I thought in Macedonian. There were also delegates present from the Republic of Bulgaria, namely Hristo Klyashev, grandson of Pando Klyashev, and seven others, including Doran Angelov from Pirin Macedonia, Petrichko Krsto Stojchev, Solunka Elena and other delegates. At the end of my speech, there was a great applause. Everyone looked at me with joy. There were also delegates from Vodensko.

Early we all gathered in the mountains near the village, where we had lunch and danced.

Here I had a conversation with the delegates from NRB sent by Georgi Dimitrov. When we left the church, two of them approached me, greeted me and said: "Thank you for speaking in Macedonian. But please, we will tell you one thing, but don't spread it among the other fighters. Georgi Dimitrov does not agree with your General Secretary Zachariadis. You should not have started this civil war because there is no one to help you. The Russians do not interfere, so now this is the zone of the English and the Americans, i.e. of Greece. Please keep the Macedonians, and you will retreat to the socialist states. At the Yalta meeting, Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt agreed that Greece would remain in the Anglo-American zone.

This NOF congress was a success, but it will only last a short time.

27 - 31.3.1949

In the morning we gathered 70 staff of DAG Macedonians. KPG Secretary Zachariadis is also here. The chairman is Pando Vojnov, lieutenant colonel of DAG and commander of the Vicho division. For the first time we are holding such a meeting of the Communist Organization of Aegean Macedonia. Zachariadis spoke, who set new tasks at this meeting, and new bodies were elected.

This meeting was also evaluated in the DAG newspaper as extremely successful for our national minority in Greece. The Greek government was enraged and in the newspapers all over Greece they described it as a betrayal of Zachariadis. In the evening I arrived in the village of Zhelevo where I spent the night.

28.3.1949

I leave the village of Zhelevo, I am led by my Turian relatives, including my mother's aunt Petra, my sister, my aunt and others. Around 12 o'clock I arrived at Malimadi at the brigade headquarters. Here I met all the leaders from our Malimadi units. We read in our newspaper about the success of the DAG and KKM Plenum and Congress. In the evening I arrived at my units and informed the fighters about the

recognition of KEM (Communist Party of Aegean Macedonia) and other things. I continue the tour along the entire defensive line. At night, I hold a meeting with the frontline fighters. The weather is a little better. We also got our paper on the success of the meeting with Zachariadis, Truman's proposals to help the Greek government and more.

1.4.1949

The weather is good, the fighters are in a good mood, we have food regularly, we dig new trenches in a zig-zag shape and cover them with three rows of wooden and stone roofs. In the afternoon, enemy planes appeared and violated the Albanian airspace. The army and anti-aircraft artillery opened fire near the border. We also opened with 20 mm. after aviation near the village of Labanica. The newsletter informs us about the fighting in Thessaly and Truman's aid to the Greek Army.

Until April 10, 1949, we are preparing our infantry and anti-tank units. It snowed today, but it's not dangerous. We were invited to the brigade headquarters by Commander Alevras, where we were informed that the enemy was preparing for an offensive.

The slogan was announced: "Vicho's enemy will not pass." It was a fantasy, a delusion of Zachariadis. In the quarrels between General Markos and Zachariadis, some of our leaders, Mikhail Keramitchiev, Mitrovski Pascal, Pop-

Lazarov, Lazo, the commissioner of the artillery division, and others participated in the talks.

On April 15, 1949, the enemy opened fire early with artillery on my positions. Ours also opened fire with the heavy 105 mm howitzers with commander Gapkov Georgi from Vmbel.

Vangel Kojchev from Banica has also arrived and we are discussing the slogans of Zachariadis. Around two o'clock the artillery bombarded me and wounded my soldier Mochos Andonis whom we sent to the hospital in Prespa.

16.30.4.1949

We continue to build the bunkers in each place where the cannons are stationed. Often the enemy opens fire with artillery. We maintain telephone contact with the brigade and the battalion.

A new commissar of Pappas' battalion arrived, viz. Gennady Tomevski (Macedonian). We have established a relationship and work well together. I often tour the gunners on the front line.

On April 20, 1949, we climb the mountain with my courier Slave from Banica. The enemy noticed us and opened fire with the artillery. A shell fell between the two of them, but we jumped into a canal and were unhurt.

These days I received a letter from my wife with a picture of her and her two daughters Maria and Vera.

On April 23, 1949, an enemy car appeared again on the road in the direction of Kosinece. We opened fire with one 75 mm cannon, but we didn't hit it. In retaliation, the enemy opened fire on us with artillery, but we had no casualties.

Our newspaper informs about the Congress in Prague, where Vera Foteva and Pavle Rakovski, members of the DAG Staff, attended.

24.4.1949

I set out again for the headquarters of the artillery in Prespa to Josifidis Kosta, Margas and others, and in the evening, I returned and spent the night in Zhelevo. I met my Turian relatives and we celebrated Easter. Here is uncle Pavle and his family dressed in black. They hugged me and cried for the loss of the eldest son Lazor Pejov. The wife and two daughters of the fallen fighter are also here.

Note:

The aforementioned artillery officers from the former Greek army: Lt. Col. Iosifidis Kostas and Major Margas Dimitar survived the war and found themselves in the USSR.

In March 1951 there I was called by a commission of Greek and Soviet officers to decide whether I could go to military schools as an artillery officer. In front of the committee, someone read that I worked as Tito's officer and therefore I have no right to study.

Then Kostas stood up, pounded his fist on the table and began to shout: "What is this statement? I have known Georgi

since 1937 when he was a non-commissioned officer in Kozani. He was an artilleryman back in 1940-1941 during the Greco-Italian war. Then he was an artilleryman in the Yugoslav Army, then he was also an artilleryman in the DAG. Where did such slander against him come from? Shame on you!"

Then a Soviet officer asked me when I was in the Yugoslav army, and I told him that it was from 1944 to 1946. He advised me to file a complaint with the Soviet authorities and the secretary of the KPG Zachariadis. So, I did. After the appeal, I was sent to study for 4 years at the Technical School of Mechanical Engineering and 6 years at the Mechanical Institute. That's how I obtained two diplomas: technician and engineer.

4.27.1949

I returned to my units. I held a meeting with all the fighters in the area who were on the front line. We read in a newspaper about the success of the Chinese Army.

1 - 15.5.1949 Holiday May 1st. On the entire front line, the fighters are in high spirits. We are taking precautionary measures. The enemy's artillery periodically opened fire on my positions.

The scout plane (galatas) is circling above us, on which I opened fire with 20 mm. anti-aircraft balls.

I visited the brigade and battalion headquarters. The situation is critical, the enemy is concentrating large forces on the front from all sides.

These days, the minister of the government, DAG Parzolidis, also appeared, and Pascal Mitrovski is also here. We toured some of my anti-tank guns together. We talked about our defense and protection of fighters. To the east of our line is stationed a battery with howitzers commanded by Gjapkov Georgi (a Macedonian from the village of Vmbel).

5.5.1949

I left early for the artillery headquarters at Malimadi. We held a meeting chaired by Division Commander Strato. It was about some desertions from our fighters in Yugoslavia and in the Greek army.

6.5.1949

The weather is clear and around 12 o'clock three planes appeared and bombarded the positions above Kosinec. A bomb fell there and injured two partisans and wounded one just as they were having lunch in front of the bunkers. We immediately sent the wounded to Prespa, and the dead were buried by the infantry fighters of the battalion.

7.5.1949

In the evening, saboteurs arrived with loaded bombs to detonate the road. Here every morning the army sent 15-20 soldiers with light weapons who were careful not to attack them.

Our saboteurs successfully returned and the next day around 9 o'clock we heard explosions from the bombs. We understood that the enemy had dead and wounded. 16 young Macedonians from socialist countries also arrived, among them Georgi Gurzhanov from the village of Stensko. We immediately deployed them on the front line after the heavy guns. We have taken all precautions for those young fighters, with whom I am constantly in contact and help them with everything, hand weapons, machine guns, all types of cannons, protection from artillery shells, shooting with our anti-tank guns and more.

Note:

These 16 young soldiers of mine survived the war and were educated in the socialist countries. Now most of them are in Yugoslavia (Macedonia).

16 - 31.5.1949

We are in the same place and intensively preparing to meet the enemy. Two more 75 mm cannons arrived as a replacement for the broken ones.

Commander Malanidis Ilija deals with exercise and training especially with the youth. He had not served in the

army in Greece, but he was good and brave. It was often sent with the infantry and the two 37 mm cannons with which he carried out attacks against enemy bunkers.

Note:

One such cannon was carried with two donkeys, then unloaded and dragged to the place of action.

18.5.1949

I have been invited to the headquarters in Prespa by Kosta Iosifidis and others. We discussed the state of our defense lines at Malimadis.

The enemy is attacking on the eastern front of Vichorungel near my village Turje where a heavy fight is taking place with the company of our heroine Cveta from Mokreni. She was seriously wounded there and died a few days later.

Note:

There is a picture of me from 1946 in the hall of the History Museum. In front is me Hristovski Georgi Fotinos, to my right is Pando the war commander, to Pando's left is Cveta with the machine gun at the age of 18, behind us are lined up 130 partisan fighters, few of whom survived the war.

23.5.1949

12 more young fighters have arrived, but we have a problem how to distribute them. It was sad to see those 16–17-year-old kids who hadn't picked up a rifle.

I telephoned the brigade to Commander Alevras to consult. He suggested that I keep them behind the mountain digging trenches, making bunkers and carrying trees with the donkeys. He also told me to put them in as a replacement for some sick fighters from the front line.

Heavy fighting takes place on Gramos, our units occupy the area of Patomata, and the enemy retreats leaving dead and wounded. Our newspaper informs about captured 78 soldiers and confiscated weapons and ammunition. We also read about the German issue, the situation in Greece and more.

Note:

As I was informed by my comrades who died heroically in the battles of Vicho Patomata and the Battle of Lerin:

1. Apostle Vasil from the village of Krushoradi, Lerinsko
2. Trajkov Kole from the village of Krushoradi, Lerinsko
3. Bogoev Stefo from the village of Statica, Kostursko
4. Jančov Nase from the village of Trsje, Kostursko
5. Andreova Katina Cveta born in 1928 in the village of Mokreni, Kostursko
6. Vane Trendov, commander of a company from the village of Konomlati

1-15.6.1949

The situation in our area behind the infantry in the Malimadi mountains is quite tense. A battery of hill howitzers with a range of up to 10 km has arrived. The commander of this battery is the former Greek artilleryman Zervas.

On June 2, 1949, I was invited to the commander of the 107th Alevras Brigade, to whom I was supposed to send 37 mm cannons. I decided to go alone. There I also met other artillery commanders, among them Strato Georgi Gapkov.

We plan to hit a small hill south of the village of Dmbeni, not far from the village of Tikveni, Kostursko. At night we reached the front line. I was in front with the company commander and battalion commander Gennady.

I approached within 600-700 meters of the enemy's bunker, and our infantry was also there. I opened fire with the cannons, and the enemy began to flee in panic. Not long after, the enemy took a counter-offensive, so our infantry began to retreat. He opened fire with our Strato cannons, but the shells fell on top of us. We had no success and I gave the order for the company commander and I to withdraw immediately. Here we had two dead and five wounded fighters who moved into the background.

The next day, all the commanders and commissars were summoned to the brigade headquarters. The failure of that attack was criticized. The artillerymen of the 75 mm hill cannons were especially criticized. We were also informed about the movement of the enemy from all sides in our area

8.6.1949

I am at the Division Headquarters in Prespa. Here I met the division commander, my former commander of the Third Partisan Detachment of Vicho, Pando Vojnata. The chief secretary of the KPG, Nikos Zachariadis, arrives here with the members of the interim government, including Michos Vlandas and others.

We were informed about the situation in Greece, about the American aid and the disagreements in the socialist countries.

I was reading a bulletin about the fighting in the Peloponnese and Thessaly. I returned and passed through the village of Zhelevo. My fellow villagers saw me there, hugged me and asked me to tell them what to do and where to go. Heavy fighting is taking place over the village of Turje, the wounded pass through the village of Zhelevo. We also learned about those shot from our village in Lerin.

14 - 15.6.1949

I received 4 Italian-made mortars that we stationed in my area and are under my command. These mortars are the best and most accurate and have a range of up to 4.2 and even more kilometers.

16.6.1949

Scout planes appeared early in our area. The Albanian border has been violated. The aviation was met by the

Albanian anti-aircraft artillery, but we did not notice any success on the part of the Albanians.

We received information about the battles of Bigla, Vicho and Polenata.

18.6.1949

Early on, the enemy opened fire with cannons near Kosinec and demolished the bridge with a 37 mm cannon. After the first blow, the fighters moved into underground trenches in a zig-zag shape, which were covered with trees, stones and earth. There were three fighters here and they were not injured. In the evening I pulled them and moved them to another spare place.

22.6.1949

One partisan of our infantrymen deserted and the next day night shouted at us from the enemy ranks: "Surrender, patriots, you are fighting in vain!" Don't be afraid, no one will do anything to you!"

23.6.1949

Enemy artillery opened fire near my bunker, killing three fighters, whom we buried there. The enemy fired several times accurately. Surely the infantry deserter told them our positions and the time when lunch is served to our units. We continue

to replace the damaged cannons. We change positions and disguise ourselves, but the enemy is very close. Aviation is bombing our cooks. I almost died too when a grenade fell 5 meters from me, but luckily it didn't explode. I am constantly taking newspapers from our headquarters and reading about the Provisional Government. The fighters are also informed about the situation in Greece, about the prisons, about disagreements in the government and more.

1 - 16.7.1949

We are in the same place Malimadi on the first line. The situation is complex, the enemy is preparing to attack our area. We are preparing by all means to welcome him.

Aviation is constantly in our area. The border between Greece and Albania is often violated.

I get extra heavy anti-tank weapons, heavy and light mortars and more.

2.7.1949

In the newsletter, we read about the death of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgi Dimitrov (born on June 18, 1882).

We held a meeting with the fighters at night together with several fighters from the bunkers. We read in the newspaper that the General Secretary of the KPG accuses

Ilija Dimovski Goce and Mihail Karamitchiev as dishonest factionalists and nationalists. We also read about the situation in Yugoslavia, the closing of the borders and more.

A jeep with two officers and a driver appeared from the front line on the road from Tikveni to Faltsa. We opened fire with the 75 mm cannon, but did not hit him. In response, the enemy opened artillery fire on my guns, but we have no casualties. These days, the Albanian border has been violated again by aviation. The Albanians opened heavy anti-aircraft fire.

16 - 31.7.1949

We do not have any special changes and we are preparing for defense. Pappas' battalion sent a small unit and saboteurs to Kostursko field in order to mine the surrounding roads and nearby places.

Our artillery operates from the mountains at the brigade headquarters. Commander Josifidis Kostas, artilleryman Strato, Margas and others are also here.

Near the village of Tikveni, Kostursko, our heavy artillery successfully bombarded the enemy's positions, due to which they changed their position and stationed themselves behind Faltsa, from where they constantly bombarded us.

The situation is also tense on the eastern front near Lerinsko, Vicho, Polenata, Kukul-Turje and other places.

We received information about the evacuation of the border villages and about new desertions from our side.

An incident happened these days. One of our girls was sent by our commanders to surrender near the road from Kosinec. She came out and started shouting in Greek: "I surrender!" Two enemy soldiers came out, but ours fired at them with machine guns and killed them. Then the enemy opened a hurricane of artillery fire against us.

1.8.1949

I left early with the horse and arrived in Prespa in the village of Robi. A conference of KOEM (Komatiki organosi Aegean Macedonia) was held there.

At this meeting, the situation in Greece, the preparations of the enemy for an attack on our region, the evacuation of the population and other things were discussed.

All commissars and commanders of infantry and artillery were present as well as from the background political organizations. I met many fighters here.

On the evening of August 3, 1949, I arrived in Zhelevo, where I held a meeting with my villagers from Turje, who I informed about the situation at the front and other things.

Note:

Mite Angelev's Stase and Petre Boyni's Sotir were caught from the village of Turje in the village of Zhelevo, tried in Lerin and shot.

I went back passing through the village of Breznica, where I met my friends Risto Zhapona, company commander, and Urania Pirovska, responsible for the background.

5.8.1949

We held a meeting with the Brigade Headquarters Alevras Pappas, Ioannidis Gennadis, Melanidi and others. The situation is difficult, we distributed ourselves by regions. The enemy is concentrated with additional artillery. In the evening I reached my front-line units. We did a detailed analysis with the commanders, corporals and sergeants. I told them that in case of a collision with the tank units, the wounded should be evacuated behind the mountain. I ordered them not to evacuate during the withdrawal of the heavy weapons.

10.8.1949

On the eastern front, the offensive of the monarcho-fascist army began. Our units are fighting heroically in the mountains of Vicho, Kukul-Turje, Polenata Runzel, Psoderi and other areas near the Yugoslav border.

The population of the villages is being evacuated from the nearby villages. Enemy artillery is operating in my area. Aviation is constantly over our heads; planes violate the Albanian border. Albanian anti-aircraft defense opens fire. The situation is difficult. At night, Commander Alevras came to the

front line. My fighters are in danger. Tanks and other heavy weapons also appeared in Kostursko pole.

11.8.1949

The enemy managed to enter the village of Gabresh. Commander Pando Vojnata undertook a counteroffensive on Mount Lisiche near the village of Trna Oshchima. Hard battles are being fought. Motorized units appeared from the skeleton road.

Artillery and aviation operate in our area. I am in a difficult situation. In the lower positions I have 4 75 mm cannons. I can't move during the day. New desertions of our infantry have taken place. I maintain telephone contact with the brigade with Commander Alevros. We are on the same page with the battalion commander. The situation is complex.

12.8.1949

Today was a decisive day. Aviation came early. Enemy artillery opened fire on the entire area. Our artillerymen also returned fire with the heavy guns, but without much success.

The first three tanks appeared, masked by tree branches. They opened fire on our infantry in the area of Agios Athanasios (Saint Thanas). A tenth of my direction retreated and took shelter on the right in the slopes. My artillerymen also retreated with one 37 mm cannon.

Enemy infantry advance and are beaten from all sides. The second cannon 75 mm did not open fire with anti-tank ammunition. I'm at the observation post with Battalion Commander Pappas. A difficult situation hung over our units.

I sent a courier to see what was happening to the company commander on the right, but he was wounded and transferred back. I sent another courier named Slave from Banica, but he was also wounded. My 75 mm cannon is stationed 300 meters from me, so I decided to go myself. Commander Pappas wouldn't let me go, but I wanted to know what was going on with my fighters. I went to the fighters who were hidden in the trenches. All three were alive, and the cannon was in good condition, only the front part of the bunker was destroyed. I ordered that we take out 16 grenades. The tank was seen as an arrow after the infantry, we began to act with our anti-tank gun. Five camouflaged tanks retreated, and so did the enemy army. I ordered all three to hide in the bunker. Those fighters were: Foti Robev from Ajtos, one from Naoussa and one from Kosturia villages. Everyone survived the war and together we retreated to Albania. I returned to the observation post, but the artillery spotted me and started shooting at me and my fighters. I opened fire with the Italian mortars that had a range of up to 4 km. The enemy army retreated to Falcata mountain. There was a lull, the enemy had no success and retreated.

Note:

When we retreated to Albania on 15.9.1949 by Alevras and Josifidis Kosta, commander of the DAG artillery, a discussion was started about this defense with our guns and

my actions. I was promoted to Captain of Artillery (by then I was Lieutenant of Artillery).

14.8.1949

We took a new offensive from our side. The enemy is moving in the direction of the border village of Labanica (Agios Dimitias). Near the village I have one 75 mm cannon, and two more 37 mm cannons behind. I opened fire with mortars and anti-tank guns, but without success.

The enemy is advancing in two directions, one straight along the border, and the other to the right in the slopes between the village of Kosinec and Labanica.

I gave the order with the courier to blow up or destroy the guns and withdraw the skirmishers in the direction of the brigade. I agreed with Pappas to go back to the front of the brigade where I had one 75 mm cannon. and one on the right 37 mm. which were not damaged, and he to command the mortars until Melanidis appeared.

By the time I reached the brigade, the enemy had arrived above Labanica and started moving in the direction of the Albanian border. I had three young fighters with me, including Georgi Gurzhanov (now in Skopje). I opened fire with a 75 mm. cannon and hit the enemy before he got over the border. The enemy is panicking. I couriered up to the 37mm cannon with orders to open fire on the infantry. I sent another courier to tell the fighters at the other 37 mm cannon that behind the slope the army is moving towards them and they

can capture them, but by the time my courier arrived the army captured the cannon and the three partisans. I watched them sitting down with my binoculars.

I opened fire with the 75 mm cannon in front of the bunker, the army retreated, and my captured fighters escaped and jumped into the canal. All three and the courier were saved.

At 5 o'clock we received an order to mine and leave the heavy weapons and cross into Albanian territory. We were informed that the enemy entered the villages of Oshchima and Rulja and across the Bistrica River, from Gabres, was moving towards Breznica. In the village of Besvina, a heavy battle was fought.

From our side, the enemy conquered the mountain on the Albanian border. I am passing between Smrdesh and the village of Vmbel, and the Greek artillery is beating against us and shells are falling near the road on the Albanian border.

Here an Albanian officer asked to speak with our officers. I called. He asked me where the Greek cannons were stationed. I had a topographical map and showed it to him, and he ordered to open fire with heavy artillery, Russian howitzers. We continued in the Albanian field.

I checked and saw three fighters thanking me, but later they appeared. We are resting in a village; I called my fighters who were captured and asked them what the soldiers told them. One of them answered me: "Nothing special, they just

told us: Don't be afraid, we won't shoot you. And we don't want to kill each other."

15.8.1949

We left early and arrived near a Macedonian village on Albanian territory. The fighters are in good spirits and well fed. Albanian officers and soldiers came, we greeted each other and started to put down our weapons and disarm one by one. I approached an Albanian commander and asked him to leave my gun. He agreed but told me to hide it so others wouldn't see me.

16.8.1949

We continue and arrive near Bilishta on a mountain, where we rest. The fighters are good, but they are not happy with our planned retreat. They no longer believe in the slogans of General Secretary Zachariadis that Vicho's enemy will never pass. We also learned about the sacrifices that DAG gave at the crossing in Prespa Lake for Albania.

17.8.1949

We are close to the Yugoslav border. We rest, we eat, but we don't know where we will go. At night, many of our fighters crossed the border and entered Yugoslavia. At 12 o'clock we held a meeting at the artillery and infantry

headquarters. I was appointed as the commander of a company, and Kurkoutas Petridis Dimitios as the commissar. The company was formed with about 120 fighters, but without weapons.

Note:

In the evening my fighters lit a fire and roasted meat. At that moment, one of my partisans informed me that someone was looking for me and wanted to see me. It was my uncle Boris, my father's brother, a fighter from 1947 and disabled. He asked me if I had the gun, and after I answered in the affirmative, he said to me: "Let's run away to Yugoslavia, your wife and two daughters are there." To this I replied: "Uncle, I can't, we're going to Gramos again soon. You go and take care. I have been fighting with these fighters for three years and I am sorry to leave them in the most difficult moments."

My uncle obeyed me, but he also stayed until the end. From Albania he went to Poland, from there to Bulgaria, and then to Australia.

18.8.1949

We are leaving Albania. At the border, we arm ourselves again and enter the village of Plgadi. There I took heavy weapons 4 mortars and 4 machine guns. I met my comrades: Pezzo the battalion commander, Kole Peykov the commander of the heavy Russian 105 mm mortars. and other fighters.

My unit is completely formed again. I also have cattle and I am going to the first battle line.

19.8.1949

I am located in the village of Pilkadi on Gramos near the headquarters. Artillery and aviation are constantly above us. Heavy fighting is also taking place at Charnso Mountain. In Pilkadi, I held a meeting with the chiefs of staff, who explained the situation to me. We are waiting for our units to arrive from Hasia.

20.8.1949

I am with my company in the village of Asimoho. Here I am complete with 130 fighters. I also have soldiers who surrendered from the monarcho-fascist army.

I was assigned to occupy a position near the villages of Vrbeni and Prsogeni. We were supposed to defend that territory east of Mount Kamenik Golio where Pezzo was stationed.

In the afternoon, we were noticed by the enemy artillery from the city of Konitsa, which hit our area, but we have no casualties.

In the evening, I gathered all the corporals and soldiers and told them about the assigned task, about the position of our units and other things. I sent them to get tools, digging shovels, axes, and other things for digging in and masking my company.

21.8.1949

Early on, commanders came from the headquarters of Gramos and we checked my stationing in this area. They informed me about the situation in this region, that the enemy is moving from all sides, from Konica and Cherno Gramos, and that the situation is difficult.

One of the headquarters pointed out to me how difficult my task was: "You will be attacked from all sides. Guard the fighters. And we can't hold out either. There is a great force north of Gramos.'

In the evening, east of Gramos, commander Pejkov Kole opened fire with heavy 105 mm mortars.

22.8.1949

A courier from the Headquarters came early to inform me about the situation in the entire area. The Greek king came to the city of Kostur with an American commission and the General Staff of the Greek Army. I informed the fighters and leaders of my unit about the situation in Gramos. In the evening I sent people to the Headquarters to bring food and other things.

23.8.1949

Early on we did a test firing with the mortars. Enemy artillery bombards Pezzo's battalion.

We are at rest. We dug in all along our line. Some fighters' health is broken, and I tried to help them. A fighter asked me where I was from. I answered that I am from Macedonia. He asked me why my name is Fotinos, and I explained to him and told him that my fighters gave me that name in 1946. I told him to calm down and not to be afraid.

24.8.1949

Fighting continues all over Gramos. Artillery and aviation are circling everywhere. We are informed about the evacuation of the DAG Headquarters, where there were also representatives from the provisional government of General Markos. I got extra weapons and ammo. At my position, artillery shells only periodically fall behind us.

25-8-1949

The offensive on eastern Gramos has begun. Three offensives have been repulsed by our units. To the west of me, artillery is bombing, and new types of American-made aircraft have also appeared.

We have wounded and dead. To the north of us, the HQ is detonating the remaining weapons. The mountains are thundering from explosions, the situation is dire. At night I walk along the entire line, I give courage to the fighters. To the east of us we can see where the enemy is. There is a danger of a siege on our unit.

26.8.1949

We are still in the same place. On our side there is nothing, only the artillery from Konitsa is beating Pezzo's battalion, so some shells are falling to Pirsogeni near my right flank. In the eastern part of Gramos near the place of Charno, a heavy battle is taking place. Two divisions of the monarcho-fascist army are making an offensive here.

The king of Greece Pavlos also arrived there. The enemy captured Charno and captured our wounded. We also have fallen heroes. My uncle Boris also participated in this fight, but he survived. He carried the wounded and took refuge west of Charno. The enemy also took an offensive in the area of Christofor, but was repulsed by our units of the Main Headquarters.

27.8.1949

Aviation appeared early, bombing the eastern part of Gramos. Heavy battling is taking place in the eastern part of Gramos. Offensives and counter-offensives alternate, but the enemy has no success. The wounded are transferred to Albania.

The offensive continues in the western part of Pezzo's battalion. A new type of American planes, which dive vertically, also appeared here.

The situation in the whole area is critical, but it is calm in my position. I am constantly in contact with the fighters, I am

afraid that some of them will desert and hand over my units to the enemy.

28.8.1949

Heavy fighting is taking place to the north-east of Gramos. The mountains are burning from the artillery and aviation. Our fighters heroically fight for every meter.

In the afternoon, explosions are heard, our warehouses are on fire. The headquarters crossed the Albanian border. I have no relationship with anyone, but it's still peaceful with me, only every now and then a grenade falls behind me.

In the evening, our units near the village of Plkadi retreated and occupied a small hill.

At night I sent a dozen to headquarters to see what was going on. They brought food and informed me to take precautions because the enemy was approaching me from the east.

29.8.1949

DAG's final battle on Gramos. Aviation appeared early from the northeast and northwest and bombarded Peco's battalion over Kamenik Goljo mountain.

I made some changes at night and now my area was wider to the left and to the right. I also sent a guard over the

village of Prsogani, I was afraid that the enemy would attack me from the side above the village.

At around 12 o'clock, 12 planes appeared and began bombing Pezzo's positions. They hit a bunker where seven fighters died. Peco Romev from the village of Gornichevo, a fighter since 1946, died here. He was a platoon commander in the Third Partisan Squad. The bodies of his six friends also remained here. Around 1:00 p.m., an entire Greek brigade advanced east of me, along the path in the direction of the village of Oxia. After the infantry came the artillery with four hill guns.

It became clear to us that the enemy wants to capture us alive. To the left and to the right of us, the last battles were being fought.

The enemy cannons were unloaded under the trees. I use an old pair of binoculars that were broken. I sent my courier to convey to the commanders that no one should open fire without my approval.

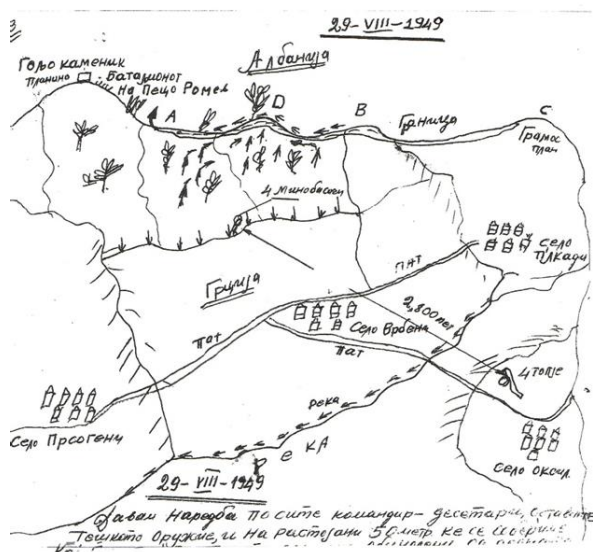
Ours noticed a soldier hiding in the walls of the village of Vrbeni. They captured him and called to shoot him, but I did not allow it. I told them that it might be our man whom they had purposely sent us to shoot in order to reveal our position by firing.

Around 5 o'clock a courier arrived and gave me a letter from an adjutant hidden in a bunker on the Albanian border informing me that the enemy was in my mortar range and that

I should open fire. I replied that if he wanted to command the mortars, he should come to the front line.

Heavy fighting is going on north of me. Our armies are retreating from Gramos. The situation is dangerous. From Konica, the enemy is advancing en masse. An hour before dark, another courier arrived with a written order to immediately leave the heavy weapons and enter Albania as soon as possible.

There were difficult moments for me and for my fighters. I am among the fighters, 70% of whom are Macedonians, some of them since 1946. I am thinking how to save them from



A small map sketched out with a pencil

this situation. To my left, a 45–50-year-old Greek soldier. looks at the enemy and shakes with fear, moves uncontrollably left and right. One of my fighters suggested to me: "Shoot him, he will betray us with his movement!" I said "No!". I came to the soldier and asked him not to move like that and not to be afraid because we were going to retreat. He survived and when we arrived in Albania, he hugged me and cried with joy. He said to me, "You are a good man."

29.8.1949

I give an order to all commanders of corporals to leave their heavy weapons and gather at the beech tree at a distance of 50 meters. I told them to be careful because we were surrounded on the right.

We started moving. The enemy opened fire with artillery from the village of Oksia towards the village of Vrbeni.

As it began to get dark, Pezzo's battalion withdrew and headed for Albania (point A on the map). Artillery from Konica beats. There is a path that one can follow and turn towards Albania. We approached near the beech (point C on the map), where I ordered a sergeant with about 20 fighters to hit the enemy with machine guns and rifles.

They opened fire in the dark night, which created panic among the monarcho-fascist army. We took the hill (point D on the map). At that moment we saw a red rocket that flew high and fell at point A on the map.

The artillery from Konica ceased to operate. I gave the order to go along the path (the border) and turn right into Albania.

The first fighters arrived near Goljo Kamenik mountain. There an officer (Greek, lawyer) named Epiteles with five of his fighters asked them: "Whose unit is this?" My fighters answered him: "To Fotinos.", and he said to them: "Let him come here at once to stop them to enter Albanian territory!"

I saw that the column stopped, I immediately ran forward because I was afraid that the artillery from Konica would open fire and beat us all on this slope. I came to the staff adjutant and asked him why he stopped the column? He answered me: "Gather your fighters and go on the offensive to conquer Kamenik Goljo." I look at it and wonder. A literate lawyer, but no idea of frontline combat. I asked him where Pezzo was, and he replied that he died with six other comrades in a bunker. I said to him: "You also run away from here because the enemy is behind me and advancing. I have a written order from the headquarters to leave the heavy weapons and retreat to Albania."

An Albanian officer came 10 meters from the bunker and asked me what was happening to our units? I explained to him that we had orders to withdraw to Albania. He said to me, "Okay, go in and immediately climb over the other mountain."

The Greek artillery continued to pound behind this mountain. They also fired machine guns and threw red rockets vertically.

We arrived at an Albanian meadow and lined up. My fighters began to hug me and rejoice because we remained alive. The Greek also came who was shaking and whom our men wanted to shoot, crying for joy. He told me that his son was also a partisan. We counted ourselves and saw that only one partisan praised us. He was a soldier in the monarcho-fascist army, but in May 1949 he deserted from the army and brought me the binoculars.

30.8.1949

Early on, the entire front is blocked. We stayed in a valley on Albanian territory until noon. We went one way; I have a horse that my fighters found for me.

On the way, a fellow Macedonian staff officer caught up with me and asked me where my family was. I told him he was in Yugoslavia.

We learned that Gramos, the last stronghold of the partisans, also fell on August 27, 1949. On August 28, 1949, the Greek army blocked the two most important roads to Albania: Staria and Baruka. On August 30, around 5:00 a.m., the last place held by the Kamenik partisans fell, with eight thousand fighters, who managed to cross into Albania before the borders were closed forever. And so the body of commander Peco Romev Macedonian from the village of Gornichevo, Lerinsko remained on the battlefield. Next to him, six more fighters were left in pieces by the American bomb.

31.8.1949

We are on Albanian territory in the second holiday camp. Here I met many of my friends from the 18th Macedonian and Greek brigade. In the evening we left for another resort. Albanians gave us good food. I am the commander of the same company; the partisans are in high spirits and happy to be alive.

1.9.1949

We depart from this resort and arrive at the third place in the evening. We stationed ourselves near a village. The weather is a bit rainy. The villagers received some of our fighters, lit a fire. The fighters sing, make merry and rest. A head of staff came to me (I forgot his name) and asked me where I was from and where I had served as a soldier. I told him all about my actions, and he said: "Everyone at headquarters is pleased with you because you saved the fighters."

2 - 5.9.1949

Early on, all the units went in two directions, I was with the horse that we took at the foot of Gramos in Albanian territory. We arrived at a fourth resort near two villages. Ambulances came there, because we have sick fighters. The Albanians transferred the wounded with trucks.

6 - 7.9.1949

We are located at a military post and we reformed here. I have been appointed as a staff commander (epithelis), I have met many commanding officers from all branches of the army: artillery, infantry, saboteurs and others. We also read a newspaper from which we learned about our victims from the fierce fighting, who died in Charno, Gramos, Kamenik Golio and other places.

8-16.9.1949

We came to Elbasan and camped near the river. Here I met Russian workers and engineers looking for oil.

We got new clothes and organized a camp with tents. We have made a new reorganization of the infantry and artillery. I took over an artillery battery (without weapons) as a commander, and the commander of the division is Karafotia Vasil.

Fighters from other units also came. We also have a nurse. We received information from our headquarters about the situation in Greece that there was still fighting in old Greece.

17 - 29.9.1949

We are in the same garrison in Elbasan, where we rest. We also have sick fighters. The sick and wounded are sent to

other camps. We exercise, hold meetings, read newspapers about the situation in Greece, about Truman's support of the Greek government, about American economic aid, and about the trials in Athens and Solun against members of the DAG.

30.9.1949

We held a gathering of all the fighters. KPG secretary Nikos Zachariadis is also here. We are celebrating EAM's eighth anniversary. We read "Pravda" from the USSR about the atomic bomb testing and about minor clashes in Greece with the rest of our units.

1-6.10.1949

I am in the same place as the commander of the Second Battery, and the commander of the division is Vasil Karafotias. In the newspaper, we read about the Peace Congress (ONE), about the statement of Vishinski from the USSR, about the problem in Greece and the proposal to calm the parties, about the trials in Hungary, about the situation in Yugoslavia...

7-10.10.1949

We are in the same place, where we read newspapers. We held a meeting with the management authorities of the headquarters. Pascali, Mitrovski, Minatos and others are

being criticized these days. There are proposals from the headquarters for the promotion of some DAG officers. There were six commanders from the artillery, among whom I was promoted from lieutenant to captain. The list was sent by the interim government and Secretary Zachariadis.

11-15.10.1949

We are located in the same place Elbasan by the river. We are constantly in contact with Albanian officers. Fighters are good. There is talk of moving our units. The invalids have been removed from the units, so now we are left with one battery of 80 fighting men mixed with the infantry.

16 - 17.10.1949

We are preparing to leave Elbasan. Some rejoice, some cry, but no one knows where we are going. We took new clothes - overcoats and underwear, and the women military trousers. I met the paramedics who participated in the transfer of the wounded. They were crying and asking me where are we going? Lena from Papli asked me why I didn't go to my family in Yugoslavia (father, mother, three brothers and wife with two girls)?

Around 5 o'clock we started in formation, and then some on foot and some with trucks, we arrived at the port.

We saw a Soviet cargo ship "Vladivostok", where we climbed the stairs 4 by 4 fighters. "Bistrie, Bistrie!" (Hurry!

Hurry!) shouted the Russian soldiers. We entered the lower rooms about 3 to 4 thousand fighters in one ship. The fighters asked me where are we going? I answered them that I don't know.

18 - 22.10.1949

We left the port early. The weather is clear, the sea is calm, and the fighters keep asking me where we are going. I answer them that I don't know. They gave us dry food, and the sick fighters were taken care of by Soviet doctors, who often came to visit us.

At night we go out and see the lights of the Mediterranean cities. One of my fighters had an Albanian newspaper with Stalin's picture on it. He cut it and hung it vertically on the scaffolding. An officer saw her and said to us, "Take that one away, I'll bring you another." He brought her a portrait of the ship.

23-24.10.1949

We sail near the Greek-Turkish border near the islands of Chios, Thassos and others. Some fighters got sick and vomited because of the ship. There is little water, and we are plenty. With us were also members from our leadership Himaros, Iosifidis Kosta, Margas and others. They are constantly in contact with me, they found out that I know a little Russian, I studied it in Yugoslavia.

We arrive at the Dardanelles Straits near Istanbul in Turkey. The ship stopped, three Russian officers and our managers got in and asked if there was anyone who knew Russian. I answered that I know. I was told to pick three healthy men to close the lid on us. We were told that no one should go outside until the Turkish control was carried out. They told us that the control would not last long and again they told us to stay calm. Not even 30 minutes passed when we heard people walking above us. They checked and went around the ship, but no one entered the lower part. As we found out, the Russians told them that there was wheat there. At one point I lifted the lid to see the city, but there was a Russian standing over the lid who told me to go back.

25.10.1949

We crossed the Dardanelles Strait. After the control was over, the Russian opened the lid for us, but told us not to go outside. Then we left the city and entered the Black Sea. The hatches opened and all the fighters went on deck.

It rained at night and there was water. The fighters started to draw from that water, but the Russians told us not to drink it because it was contaminated by metals. They told us that we will get clean water soon.

We entered Russian waters. Two ships appeared that unloaded food, water and other things.

They pulled out a dead partisan from the lower room. We all gathered to pay our respects to him. Himaros told us to take

off our hats. The Russians wrapped him in a blanket. The ship whistled three times and was thrown into the water. We all had tears in our eyes. I have not written down his name.

26 - 27.10.1949

We are sailing on the Black Sea. We arrived at the port of Poti town. Here we were welcomed by officers, soldiers, nurses and other Soviet citizens. We were lined up 30 by 30 fighters, translators and officers who knew Greek also appeared.

A Russian major asked me in Greek, is there anyone who knows Russian? I answered him that I know a little. Then he gave me thirty of my fighters and three nurses.

We entered a large hall, lined up again 30 by 30. The Russian told us: "Undress naked as the day you were born, leave your upper clothes as you are lined up, that is. overcoat, coat, trousers, shoes, leave the documents too. Don't be afraid, you won't lose anything."

The upper clothes were put in washing machines, and the lower ones were thrown in piles outside the hall. Nurses came and told us to raise our hands, then they started spraying us all over our naked bodies. We are embarrassed, but we also laugh. One of my soldiers said to me: "Fotine, how beautiful these nurses are."

They gave us new underwear, shirts, socks, undershirts... We went in to take a bath. We dressed in the

lower clothes, and then we went to the place where we were lined up and put on the upper clothes there.

I lined up my group again and the Russian and I entered the restaurant, where we had lunch, drank vodka, beer and more.

Right after lunch we entered another large hall where we watched a film about the battle for Stalingrad. Then I led my group with the Russian to a train. We entered 40-45 people in one wagon. Sleeping arrangements were made there, and there were also musical instruments.

The wagons were loaded and we set off, but there was an accident. The train ran over one of our partisans. We also went out to see. Many Soviet officers were gathered. I understood what they were saying. One shouted: "Woe to us if the Central Committee finds out about this case. They will imprison us for liability. He fought for so many years, and he died here."

28 - 31.10.1949

We pass through various cities and industrial centers. We passed through the Urals and the Caspian Sea, as well as the cities of Batumi and Baku. There we were put on ships again and we arrived in Ashgabat in the Turkmen SSR, and then in Bukhara, Samarkand and finally in the center of the city of Tashkent.

1 - 3.11.1949

We are located in the city of Tashkent. The people welcomed us hospitably.

4.11.1949

We arrived in the town of Chirchik and settled in the artillery barracks, tired and sick. Some had open wounds, so specialist doctors from the military hospital were called. I was appointed as a translator. There were 350-400 fighters here. The food was good, but some fighters did not want to eat. I can't rest, I run everywhere to help.

One day a military pilot came to see us. Someone asked me how I know Russian? I answered him that from 1944 to 1946 I served in the Yugoslav army where we artillerymen learned Russian in evening school. Then he took out a German camera and gave it to me. I told him that I don't have money to pay him, and he replied: "I don't need money, just take it. You deserve it." He told me he got it from a German soldier he captured.

- End of diary -

Dear friends,

I apologize if I was wrong somewhere. I edited the diary now that I am over 70 years old. You know yourselves what torments and sufferings our Aegean Macedonian people experienced in that fire. A few days ago, my daughter Marika came back from Australia. I have three brothers there born in 1933, 1936 and 1941. My mother and father died there.

In March 1948 I transferred them to Yugoslavia, and in 1954 they left for Australia.

I also have two sisters of my mother there and they are alive. I also have my father's brother there who is 78 years old. He was also a fighter from 1947-1949, and now he is disabled.

I was born in the village of Turje, Lerinsko, which does not exist now, it is abandoned and wolves howl there, but the tap still has water. I cannot see the rest of my fellow villagers who live evacuated near the Lerin field.

I finish and bow to all my young fighters who laid down their lives for our people. I do not differentiate between a Macedonian and a Greek. I mention them all with tears in my eyes.

In 1941 I was a soldier in an anti-aircraft unit in Athens. I needed to find civilian clothes. A woman said to me, "Come to my house, soldier." She took me up to the second floor and let me wear the suit of her son, who died heroically on Albanian territory by the Italians. When I came out dressed in his clothes, she fainted. Tears came to my eyes too.

I returned with my family in 1955. In the USSR, thank God we were good. Everyone was working, but I was not well and I was operated on four times, twice for the kidneys and twice for the wounds.

In 1966, I returned from the USSR to Skopje. In two months, I got an apartment and got a job at MZT as a chief technologist in FAM installations. My two daughters graduated from medical school and are now doctors.

9.3.1988

ADDITION

Third partisan detachment of DAG for the territory of Vicho:

- 1 Pando Vajnovski, detachment commander, Macedonian
- 2 Georgi Hristovski, commissar of a detachment, Macedonian
- 3 Stylianos Kevrekidis intendant, Greek
- 4 Constantinides Flotos Assistant Intendant, Greek
- 5 Christos Moisidis, corporal, Greek
- 6 Theodoros Marantidis Greek
- 7 Mihaly Tilkeribi chef, Greek
- 8 Cyprus Nouribis Secretary of the detachment, Greece
- 9 Anastasios Styliadis Courier of Pando, Greek
died in Prespa.
- 10 Andrea Nikolov, courier of Fotinos, Macedonian
died on Vicho
- 11 Trifun Michov Macedonian fighter
- 12 Atasinopoulos Andreas courier, Greek
- 13 Hristo Nikolovski saboteur, Macedonian

First Platoon:

1 Lambro Gakidov (Cavela) sergeant, Macedonian 2 Lazaros Loidis platoon courier, Greek

3 Mallios Thomas Corporal, Greek

4 Kosta Markov soldier, Macedonian

5 Pop Vancho Panayot soldier, Macedonian

6 Vasov Vasili, soldier, Macedonian

7 Kole Gogov Macedonian, died in Grevena in 1947

8 Georgios Ambartzis, a Macedonian soldier,
died on Gramos

9 Achilles Zaphyris a soldier, a Greek perished on Gramos

10 Pando Sarov soldier, Macedonian
died in Lérin 1949

11 Mihali Stassinopoulos Macedonian soldier 12 Damianos Styliadis Macedonian soldier

13 Stavre Popiliev, Macedonian corporal

14 Pando Sekulov, a Macedonian soldier

15 Ziki Teodora soldier Greek from Belkamen

16 Tsikas Konstandinos soldier Greek

17 Lazor Popvanchev, a Macedonian soldier

18 Pando Anastasov, a Macedonian soldier

19 Vuliotis Anastasis soldier Greek

20 Hristo Popovski, a Macedonian soldier

21 Efstatios Stazogelos, a Greek soldier

22 Georgi Atanasov soldier, Macedonian
died on Gramos in 1948

23 Vane Ramovski soldier, Macedonian
died on Gramos in 1948

24 Nike Nikev Macedonian soldier
died in Malimadi 1948

Second platoon:

1 Athanasios Akirias commander Greek

2 Karatolev Lambro commissar Macedonian 3 Hukis
Haralambos corporal Greek

4 Milosus Christos a Macedonian soldier 5 Murius Dimiter a
Greek soldier

6 Andreova Katina-Csveta soldier Macedonian

7 Tringas Petros soldier Greek

- 8 Seraphim Lazenis soldier Greek
- 9 Stefanovski Risto, a Macedonian soldier
- 10 Nase Karapetkov, a Macedonian soldier
died on Gramos
- 11 Mitoshev Vane, a Macedonian soldier
perished
- 12 Mitre, a Macedonian soldier of God
died on Gramos in 1948
- 13 Trajan Urdov, a Macedonian soldier
died on Gramos in 1948
- 14 Alexandridis Sotirios corporal Greek
- 15 Christophoros Tsorlakibis soldier Greek
- 16 Evlambios Gevrekis soldier Greek
- 17 Pop Hristov Atanas Vonik Macedonian 18 Pop Dimitrov
Vasil Macedonian soldier 19 Nake Nakevski Macedonian
soldier
died on Malimadi in 1948
- 20 Petre Ristanchev, a Macedonian soldier
died on Gramos
- 21 Vangel Tsitsulov, a Macedonian soldier

died on Gramos
22 Vencharov Laza, a Macedonian soldier
died on Siniacko
23 Utovski Nume, a Macedonian soldier
died in Mechovo
24 Giamov Spiro, a Macedonian soldier
died in Mechovo

An infantry company formed on 24.6.1947 on Gramos at the headquarters of Gianoulis in the battalion of Iliadis from DAG:

- 1 Katsimas Efthimios Harris commander
- 2 Georgi Hristovski Fotinos Commissioner
- 3 Atanas Petrevski courier, died on 10.6.1947 Pyrgos
- 4 Micho Vasilevski courier, died on 5.6.1947 Pyrgos
- 5 Dimitar Giatas commander died on 17.6.1947 Pyrgos
- 6 Arvanito Hristo, commander of the platoon
- 7 Mitre Konstantinov Corporal
- 8 Paris Evangelical soldier

- 9 Pavlidis Thomas Courier of Platoon
- 10 Kiro Konstantinov - Tome a soldier from the village
Kostanofito died on Mount Haru on July 15, 1947
- 11 Nikolaos Kitsidis Jordanian soldier from the village
Koromilia, died on 15.7.1947 near Pyrgos
- 12 Photos of Mikhailov Georgi, a soldier in the village of Orovo
died on 16.7.1947 near Pyrgos
- 13 Nikos Gogos Timio, a soldier from the village of Licishchi
died in Grevena
- 14 Georgios Ambarvis Kosta soldier from Licishchi
died on Gramos in 1948
- 15 Sarandis Kyriazopoulos Corporal
- 16 Sterios Gallopoulos soldier
- 17 Andonis Papasteriadis soldier from the village of
Asproklise
died on Gramos
- 18 Grigori Damian's soldier died on Gramos
- 19 Atanas Mango's soldier died near Skalochori
- 20 Georgi Xoridis soldier died on Vicho near
Digging through

- 21 Atanas Sarevski soldier died on Gramos in 1948
- 22 Kosta Yugov soldier from Kolomnati village captured
and slaughtered with Gramos's knife
- 23 Tane Gribov, a soldier from the village of Kolomnati,
captured
and slaughtered with Gramos's knife
- 24 Lipo Popovski soldier from the village of Kolomnati
captured and slaughtered with a knife on Gramos
- 25 Andreas Papadopoulos Corporal
- 26 Gogos Nikos soldier
- 27 Saridis Nahum Petros soldier
- 28 Zaphyris Achilles soldier
- 29 Lazo Vangelov, a soldier from the village of Trnovo
died on Gramos in 1947
- 30 Georgi Benderov, a soldier from the village of Trnovo, died
of Gramos
- 31 Achilles Zaphyris soldier
- 32 Vasilios Ljuminakis soldier
- 33 Aspasija Zaga partisan
- 34 Nikos Gzanopoulos soldier village Callistratio

He died on 15.7.1947 in Gramos

35 Niboglev Spase from father Hristo, a soldier from the village

Oshchima, died on Gramos on July 12, 1947

36 Risto Dimovski Pando, platoon commander from the village

Oshchima, died on 13.7.1947

37 Iraklis Zambonidis, a soldier died on Gramos

38 Vasev Vasil Damjan soldier

39 Pop Wangev Panoyot commissar of the platoon

40 Sarov Atanas soldier, died on Gramos in 1948

41 Christ Christopoulos soldier

42 Pandelis Tsavela soldier

43 Filip Popovski, a soldier from the village of Trna
died on Gramos in 1947

44 Lambro Duchet's soldier from the village of Trna
died in Grevena

45 Don Popov soldier, died on Gramos

46 Mite Ničov soldier, died in Naoussa

47 Nase Jančov, a soldier from the village of Trsje, died on Bigla

48 Koce Pandov, a soldier from the village of Trsje, died on Gramos

49 Vangelis Papadopoulos soldier, died in the village of Poria

50 Skakas Pascali corporal, died in the village. Asprogia

51 Hristo Zdravkov soldier. died in the village Gabresh

52 Pando Lolev Jovan warak v. Jelly. died on Kalirahi in 1947

53 Kosta Paraskevopoulos Jordanis soldier He died on 24.7.1947

54 Georgi Georgiev soldier in the village of Statica,
shot at Lerin

55 Manios Nedelkos soldier survived

56 Gapkov Ilia soldier remained alive

57 Risto Ničov, a soldier from the village of Statica, shot in Kostur

58 Spiro Prespak's soldier died on Gramos in 1948

59 Done Dimitrov soldier, died in Prespa in 1947

60 Vangel Papadopoulos Corporal

61 Konstantinos Stavropoulos fighter

62 Kosta Kirov soldier

63 Zisis Vlahos soldier

64 Apostolis Vlaho soldier

- 65 Save a soldier of Christ
- 66 Trajche Jankulov soldier village. Statica shot in Lerin
- 67 Cile Vasil Trajko, soldier died in Prekopana
- 68 Aristidis Theoipebidis soldier
- 69 Stavre Popov, a soldier from the village of Trnaa,
died in Lerin
- 70 Ilo Duket's soldier from Trnaa, died on Gramos
- 71 Jane Popov, a soldier, died in Smrdesh in 1946
- 72 Georgios Papadopoulos Corporal
- 73 Tsakmakidis Isaac the fighter
- 74 Christidis Vrazas soldier
- 75 Elisaveta Papadopoulou soldier
- 76 Petros Ahtaridis soldier
- 77 Giaphatsas Athanasius soldier
- 78 Zisis Vlahos soldier
- 79 Lucas Argyriadis soldier
- 80 Grigorios Dramantsis soldier
- 81 Thomas Myropoulos Private

List of killed fighters from the village of Turje, Lerinsko:

- 1 Todor Nedelko Lazorov, Greek-Italian. war 1940-1941
- 2 Don Lazo Stefov, Greco-Italian War 1940-1941
- 3 Blaze Niko Filev, Greek-Italian War 1940-1941
- 4 Philip Kole Temov, Greek-Italian War 1940-1941
- 5 Nume Stojan Lazorov Elas 1942--1943
- 6 Vasil Kole Kochov Elas 1942--1943
- 7 Pavle KoleDonev NOV-JNA 1944--1946
- 8 Vasil Kole Filevicin NOV-JNA 1944--1946
- 9 Lazor Pavle Konstandinov DAG 1945—1949
- 10 Lazor Todor Stoychev
- 11 Risto Gligor Kalchunov
- 12 Jovan Petre Kotev, Stojan's brother
- 13 Stojan Petre Kotev, brother of Jovan
- 14 Stase Lambro Peov
- 15 Kole Kosta Filipov
- 16 Sotir Kosta Angelo brother of Lazarus
- 17 Lazor Kosta Angelo's brother of Sotir
- 18 Pavle Georgi Temov
- 19 Ilo Lazor Petrov

- 20 Mitre Trajko Novachkov
- 21 Mitre Jovan Markov
- 22 Vasil Risto Uzunov
- 23 Done Dime Anastasov
- 24 Stojan Atanas Robev
- 25 Stjan File Bozinov
- 26 Risto Georgi Stojkov
- 27 Ilo Dimitria Stoychev
- 28 Georgi Jovan Stojchev
- 29 Stase Mite Angelov, shot in Lerin with Sotir
- 30 Sotir Petre Bojan, shot in Lerin with Stase
- 31 Pavle Risto Popov
- 32 Bozin Bozinov (from a cannon shell in the village of Turje)
- 33 Eleftheria Atanas Doneva (from a cannonball in
Turje village)
- 34 Cila Pavle Lazorova (died by a mine)
- 35 Georgi Ilo Manchev died at the front

3-III-1988
/Димитрие Трајко/

3.3.1988



The hero Georgi Hristovski (1916 – 1993)



Georgi Hristovski as an artillery commander during the fighting in the Aegean part of Macedonia



An old photo from the village of Turje, the birthplace of Georgi Hristovski



Remains of the church in the village of Turje



Georgi Hristovski (second from the right with a machine gun in his hands) pictured with his fighters in Kostursko (11.7.1947)



From left to right: Georgi's courier named Atanas, Georgi Hristovski (commissioner), Katsimis Harris (commander), Harris's courier. Both couriers died in the fighting on Gramos. The photo is from 1947



Katsimis Harris and Georgi Hristovski at the front (1.7.1947)



Georgi Hristovski (Commissioner of the Third Partisan Detachment) with the courier Kole from the village. Visheni (died 1948). The photo is from March 1947 under Mount Vicho



The company of Georgi Hristovski (1947)



Georgi Hristovski (in the middle) with his comrades,
photographed in Tashkent (USSR) on November 7, 1949



Georgi Hristovski with his wife Petra and daughters Marika (right) and Vera, pictured in Tashkent



Georgi Hristovski's parents: Risto and Jana with his three brothers (from left to right): Stojce, Stavre and Sotir (the editor of this book)



Georgi with his wife Petra, brother Sotir and their mother Jana (Skopje, 1973)



Georgi Hristovski

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA RECORDED BY GEORGI HRISTOVSKI

I was born on December 31, 1916. in the village of Turje, Lerinsko, Aegean Macedonia. I come from a poor proletarian family, my father Risto and mother Jana.

The village of Turje is located 750 meters above sea level above the mountains Vicho, Kamenik and Polenota. I finished primary school (6th grade) in the village of Turje. At the age of 16, I went looking for work in the villages of Mount Athos, Halkidiki.

From 1937 to 1939 I served in the artillery unit in the city of Kozhani.

From 1940-1941 I participated in the Greco-Italian War in the city of Piraeus near Athens in the English armies.

From 1.3.1943 to 4.9.1946 I served in ELAS, and then in the Yugoslav Army as a non-commissioned officer and as an officer captain.

From 4.9.1946 to 20.10.1949 I was a participant in DAG in Greece in various positions. I have military card no. 117 as a DAG Artillery Captain.

From November 4, 1949 to August 1966, I lived in the USSR. There I completed four years of the Industrial Technical College and six years of the Mechanical Institute, thus becoming a mechanical engineer.

From 1966 to 1971 I was employed at MZT (Tito Metal Works) at the FAM machine tool factory.

DISTINCTIONS:

1. 1941 Greco-Italian War, Anti-Aircraft Defense 88 Wiggers by Major General Sean Baitis of the British Army.
2. Order of Courage from the JNA
3. DAG about the fights of Gramos, Grevena, Olymp and others.

I am a military invalid from the seventh group.

28.12.1987

28-XII 1987

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Baitis', written in a cursive style.

ADDRESS ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF GEORGI HRISTOVSKI BY HIS SURVIVING COMMUNITIES ON 2/3/1993.

РОСНИНА. 3-2-1993

Со неизмерна тага и болка се простуваме од нашиот почитуван и сакан соборец и другар ГЕОРГИ ХРИСТОВСКИ, роден во 1916 год. во легендарното село Турје-леринско Егејска Македонија.

Веста за смртта на нашиот ГЕОРГИ, длабоко не потресе и во овој миг се уште не можеме да поверуваме, дека престана да чука срцето на нашиот ведар и насмеан командант, соборец и другар, полн со разбирање и секогаш спремен да помогне.

ГЕОРГИ, човек израснат и задоен со револуционерен слободарски дух, кој сите нишки од животот ги беше вткал во борбата на нашиот народ за својата посакувана слобода и со својата одданост беше спремен да го положи животот за македонското дело. Беше човек кој зрачеше се неисцрпна енергија, како примерен и неустрашив борец во првите редови на одредот "Вичо", одред кој претставуваше еден од нукулците на македонската војска за извојување на националната и социјалната слобода на Македонскиот народ.

ГЕОРГИ, во таа најсурова војна на Вичо, на Грамос и на сите фронтови се истакна како воен стратег, како достоин командант, длабоко уверен дека еден ден ќе се остварат вековните желби за слобода на Македонскиот народ. Во таа долгогодишна војна, Георѓи беше неколку пати тешко рануван, но тој храбро и стоички ги поднесуваше кобните последици и живееше се до последниот миг со нарушено здравје.

ГЕОРГИ, уште како млад се најде во беспаката, со сета тага и болка за опстанок и достоин живот. Секогаш горд и поносен како Македонец, ^{ни}нокогаш не се предаде на суровата судбина, на неукомизите патила што ~~кака~~ беа како судбински за Македонскиот народ. Беше решителен и во најтешките услови и затоа никогаш не потклекна, туку беше и остана примерен другар меѓу нас соборците.

Пonosни бевме со тебе наш ГЕОРГИ! Ти беше пример за сите нас, голем и искрен другар, човек со големо срце, човек што го разбираше настраданиот и напатен човек, а и самиот се бореше за човечките права и достоинство.

Во нашите срца вечно ќе живееш зашто смртта не е крај за благодарност и почитување за ~~се~~ што ~~хтри~~ стори како примерен син на Македонскиот народ, нашите спомени се исполнети со љубов, почит и благодарност.

Драги ГЕОРГИ !

Сите ние твои другари се секаваме на тој мачен животен емигрантски пат во далечниот Ташкент, далеку од своите родни огништа. Тагуваме за своите најблиски и за својот дом, а судбината и таму беше немилосрдна со сите нас, фрлајќи не на тие крстопати. Но, Ти и во тие тешки услови го заврши факултетот и се стекна со висока диплома на машински инженер, само со една цел - да се вратиме пак во нашите огништа и еднаш за вечно се ослободиме, но за нас остана само една вечна неосостварена желба.

ГЕОРГИ, Ти и во тие тешки емигрантски услови, беше наш командант и водач. Ти беше човек кој водеше грижа за Македонецот, за човекот, за војникот, за сочувување на нашето единство и идентитет.

Драги ГЕОРГИ !

Не само што покажа храброст како борец, Ти беше и остана како примерен сопруг и татко, кој со своите високи морални квалитети создаде примерно семејство. Со својата примерна родителска грижа ги посочи твоите деца на патот да станат образовани и угледни луѓе за што денес и тие се гордеат со тебе, со твојот незаборавен лик.

Горди сме што те имавме и со голема болка се делиме од тебе.

Драги ГЕОРГИ, твојот благороден лик вечно ќе го носиме во нашите срца. Со неизмерна тага и болка сите плачеме што неумоливата смрт те откина од нас, но сите ние со гордост ќе те споменуваме.

Драги Георги !

Сакан наш команданте !

Нека Ти е вечна слава !