FOR SACRED NATIONAL FREEDOM

Portraits of Fallen Freedom Fighters

Translated By

Elizabeth Kolupacev Stewart
FOR SACRED NATIONAL FREEDOM

Portraits of Fallen Freedom Fighters

Translated By

Elizabeth Kolupacev Stewart
FOR SACRED NATIONAL FREEDOM

Portraits of Fallen Freedom Fighters
PUBLISHER’S INTRODUCTION

370 Macedonians Who Died For Freedom

The Greek Civil War of 1946-49 was really two wars: a Civil War between Greece's right wing monarcho-fascists and left wing communists, and a second, less well known Liberation War, a Macedonian Freedom War by a significant portion of the native Macedonian population. These Macedonians lived in a part of geographic Macedonia that only 30 years earlier in the Balkan Wars of 1912-13 was conquered by Greece and become first the "occupied territories" then the "new territories", then "northern Greece" and "Greek Macedonia".

Whether we call this Liberation War the Macedonian Freedom War, the Macedonian Freedom Uprising, the Macedonian Freedom Struggle or similar, its history is still being written. This is happening slowly, as the Macedonians in Greece remain under Greek control. But it is happening surely, as new sources of information come to light, new accounts are written by participants and others caught up in the events, and new generations of Macedonians are educated and, because they were born or live outside of Greece, are free to pursue and publish research on this subject.

Sacred National Freedom - Portraits of Fallen Freedom Fighters will be a new source of information for many people, as this translation makes the book available for the first time in English. Readers will quickly see that the book is a cornucopia of information and first hand accounts about both the Macedonian Freedom War and the Greek Civil War.

But first, the book is a literary memorial - an act of love and respect - for 370 Macedonians who lost their lives fighting for the freedom of the Macedonian people, some against the German, Italian and Bulgarian occupiers during
World War Two, most against the monarcho-fascist Greek Government during the Civil War.

In their Preface, the authors say: "The publication of this book is the fruit of the collective effort of a number of comrades who have written recollections on the life and activities of the fallen national fighters... The publication of this book forms a small expression of respect, not only for the 370 fighters named in this book, but also for all of the other known and unknown heroes and martyrs who died in the battle."

Fortunately, most of the authors who wrote the pen portraits give their names or initials, as does the artist who drew the 32 excellent pencil portraits. Unfortunately, little else is known about the book except that it was written in the Macedonian language as spoken by the native Macedonians in what since 1912 has been northern Greece, it was published in August 1962, 13 years after the end of the Civil War and Freedom Struggle, and that the print run was 3,000 copies. The book appears to have been distributed to other Macedonian partisans and to families of the fallen.

Despite the authors' modest description of it as "a small expression of respect", I believe the book, and this translation, will make an enormous contribution to many people.

For Macedonians, the giving of the names of 370 men and women who died for Macedonian freedom is an act of honour that is of immeasurable value to the families of the fallen and to their fellow freedom fighters then and now.

For Macedonians everywhere, receiving their names and their stories means they can start to honour these people and their families for their struggle, their sacrifice, and their ideal of freedom for Macedonians.

For later generations it can offer a window, perhaps in some cases the only window, on their close relatives or more distant forebears in their extended families.

Because the Macedonian and Greek communists lost the war, the contribution of the Macedonians has been written out
of or never written in to many histories of the Greek Civil War. The Macedonians are simply ignored, or cast euphemistically as "locals" or "communists" fighting for communism. Such representations are mainly by Greek writers and their sympathetic western academic cohorts. This book is an antidote to such misleading or partial histories.

This book clearly shows that where Macedonians were communists or fought alongside the communists, their overarching motive was freedom for the Macedonian people, whether through independence from Greece, autonomy within Greece, or official recognition of the Macedonians as a separate people.

Communism was not the only ideology among Macedonians of this period. There were also Macedonian partisans who wanted freedom but did not ally themselves with the communists or the Greeks, and there were many Macedonians who did not play an active role or sought to stay outside the war. In giving us new insights into those Macedonians who fought with the communists, this book also begs many questions about these non-communist and non-combative Macedonians; it highlights how much still remains to be researched and written about the Freedom War.

For historians and general readers, this book contains a wealth of information about military and political events, skirmishes and battles, torture, executions, and possible war crimes. It names many of the Greek government's prisons and islands where communists and Macedonians were tortured and died. It also gives accounts of several Macedonian villages where it says Nazi forces committed mass killings.

But there are also many wonderful moments. We see the fighters as children, as idealistic youths, as poor Macedonian villagers struggling to improve their lives and the lives of their families, friends and countrymen.

The book also offers something positive for the usually strained political relations between Macedonians and Greeks evident in both the ancient and modern eras. In the decades
leading up to the Macedonian Freedom War, Greek government forces killed many thousands of Macedonians in conquest. In this book we glimpse a rare and short period in history when a part of the Macedonian people and a part of the Greek people fought on the same side, together as comrades in arms. The Macedonian fighters were aware of this historical achievement, even if their idealism was later shown to be naive and their trust misplaced.

To conclude, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mr Bill Vlashev, who made available the original copy of the book that has been translated here. Mr Vlashev received the book from his cousin, a Macedonian partisan of the period who died in the Czech Republic in 1995. Mr Vlashev was himself a Macedonian child refugee of the Civil War and is now president of the Child Refugees in Sydney.

I also express my sincere thanks to the translator, Ms Elizabeth Kolupacev Stewart. Ms Stewart has made an outstanding translation, despite numerous difficulties such as the text being based on the language spoken at the time, dialectical influences including the dialects of the various authors, and many political and military terms relating to the events, organizations, roles, weaponry and ideology of the period. Although the translation has taken much time and labor, she has done it pro bono as a contribution to the Macedonian cause.

Thanks to the thoughtfulness of Mr Vlashev and the skill and generosity of Ms Stewart, Pollitecon Publications is proud to make this book available in full on the internet. I am confident Macedonians and many others will agree with me that Sacred National Freedom - Portraits of Fallen Freedom Fighters deserves to be read as widely as possible.

Victor Bivell
June 2009
The cover of the original book
FOR SACRED NATIONAL FREEDOM

Portraits of Fallen Freedom Fighters

1962
Political and Literary Editions
“We fight so that, in our land, better days will come, without hunger and war. With this aim we fight and, if it is needed, we sacrifice our lives.”

N. Belojanis
CONTENTS

Preface 17
1. Lazo Trpovski 19
2. Mirka Ginova 25
3. Adzhiev, Blagoja – M Adzhikov 31
4. Adzhikirov, Gigo – M A 32
5. Adzhinev, Trifon – V Ashikis 33
6. Kiro from Aitos – A Hadzhitashkov 36
7. Aleksovski, Vasil – H E 38
8. Angelovski, Lazo 40
9. Andreeva, Evantija 43
10. Andreeva, Katina (Cveta) 45
11. Andreopulos, Hristo – P Gecho 50
12. Antonovski, Kosta 51
13. Apostolov, Mihal (Graniti) 52
14. Apchev, Vangel – G Molrov 54
15. Arabadzhiev, Dimitri (Kolarov) – K Korikafa 56
16. Banichotov, Georgi (Perikli) 57
17. Barkov, Vangel 60
18. The 15 Killed from the Village Bahovo – N Tanuri 64
20. Belja, Hristo 67
21. Belcho, Hristo (Taki) - M Raptis 68
22. Berea, Metodi (Todorche) – G Dishkov 72
23. Bochev, Nikola – P Dumkov 75
24. Bulev, Mati – K Hrisafov 76
25. Vlahov, Pando – L Gercho 79
27. Vivkov, Naum – D Vlahov 83
28. Georgiadis, Georgi – M Petridi 85
29. Georgiovski, Anton 86
30. Georgiovski, Kosta and Kirko  
31. The Thirteen Executed from the Village German  
32. Giza Tanas – *G Nedelkov*  
33. Grozdanovski, *Kiro – M Cholakovski*  
34. The Fifty two Executed from Gumenichko – *Hr Menchev*  
35. Dzhikov, Vangel (*Dzhikata*)  
36. Dimchev, Gorche – *F Urumov*  
37. Dinka, Niki – *N Karapandov*  
38. Dojchinov, Todor (Morava) - *Hr Mishov*  
39. Dorovski, Vane (one of the three)  
40. Duvalovska, Afrodita (Flora) – *M Charas*  
41. Duvalovski, Pando – *N Karapandov, P Gecho*  
42. Dumkova, Katina  
43. Dumov, Kosta – *K Purnaras*  
44. The Six Executed from Dmbeni  
45. Evangelov, Spiro  
46. The Four Heroines from the Village of Ekshisovo – *G Pilaev*  
47. The Eleven Shot from the Village Ekshisovo – *M Adzhikirev*  
48. Efremidu, Gjora (Todorova) – *P Todorov*  
49. Zhogov, Petre – *P Kollov*  
50. Zaikov, Peno – *P Galubov*  
51. Kazov, Petar – *G Iliadis*  
52. Kalaputi, Jani – *P Gecho*  
53. Kalimanov, Trpo – *L Moshov*  
54. Kalojanovski, Petre  
55. Kalojani, Kozma – *N Karapandov, P Gecho*  
56. Kalojani, Tanas – *H Skronu*  
57. Kalkov, Georgi  
58. Kalkovski, Risto – *M Cholakovski*  
59. Kalchov, Stefo – *G Kalchov*  
60. Kamburov, Koljo – *T Karameshev*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name 1</th>
<th>Name 2</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Kapitanchova, Mara</td>
<td>A H</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Karadzha, Tasho</td>
<td>V Karadzha</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>Kacharov, Petre</td>
<td></td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>Keramidzhiev, Petre</td>
<td>(Petrepavle)</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>Kirijaku, Evgenija</td>
<td>O Kutruki</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Kirici, Pipi</td>
<td></td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>Kljanev, Mijale</td>
<td>St Kochev</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>Kodzhomanov, Sotir</td>
<td>F Urumov</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>Kolashkov, Jane</td>
<td></td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Koljov, Iljo and Hristo</td>
<td>L Koljov</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>Konsolov Georgi</td>
<td>V Shamanovski</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>Koroveshi, Tanas</td>
<td>H Papadopulos</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>Konstandinov, Kosta</td>
<td>L Koljov</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Kostovski, Jane (Georgiadi)</td>
<td></td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>Sotir from Krapeshina</td>
<td>A Hadzhitashkov</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>Lokrov, Jani</td>
<td>T Koramahev</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>Made, Vane</td>
<td></td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Mangov, Vangel</td>
<td></td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>Mangov, Krsto</td>
<td></td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Markov, Jordan</td>
<td></td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>Mechkarovski, Hristo</td>
<td>M Petridi</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>Miloshev, Panajot</td>
<td></td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>Minovski, Kosta</td>
<td></td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84</td>
<td>Minopulos, Jordan</td>
<td>V Naskopulos</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>Miovski, Sotir</td>
<td></td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>Miovski, Hristo</td>
<td>Tr. Miovski</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>Mirkovski, Vangel</td>
<td>P Mirkovski</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>Mirchev, Alekso</td>
<td>A Vasilevski</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>Mijalovski, Pando</td>
<td>M Petridi</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>Muchov, Stojan (Dimitrov)</td>
<td></td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>Nedelkov, Micho</td>
<td>K Purnaras</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Nikezov, Georgi</td>
<td>Hr Mishov</td>
<td>206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>Nikolov, Josif</td>
<td></td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>Nikolush, Dimitri</td>
<td>A Hadzhitashkov</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>Nichov, Ilija</td>
<td>– <em>A Kalojani</em></td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>Pavlev, Pavle (Dimko)</td>
<td>– <em>SK</em></td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>Pajkova, Germanija</td>
<td>– <em>P Pashalevski</em></td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>The Twenty Two Killed</td>
<td>from the Village of Palior</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– <em>S Teodosiadu</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>Papa, Pando</td>
<td></td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Papadimitriu, Toma</td>
<td>(Choljas) – <em>G Gopa</em></td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Pashov, Aleko</td>
<td>(Filipidi) – <em>N Karapandov</em></td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Pashov, Tanas</td>
<td>– <em>NK</em></td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Pacha, Eftimija</td>
<td>(Gusheva) – <em>K Halivopulu</em></td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>Pejov, Vane</td>
<td>– <em>M Velaki</em></td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>Pejov, Georgi</td>
<td></td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Pejov, Micho</td>
<td>– <em>A Hadzhitashkov</em></td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Pena, Petro</td>
<td>– <em>G Muljarov</em></td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>Petsinari, Hari</td>
<td></td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>Petsov, Blagoja</td>
<td>– <em>SK</em></td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Pechkovi, Hristo and</td>
<td>Tome – <em>G Shipakov</em></td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Peshovi – the Three</td>
<td>Brothers – <em>K Fotopulu-Kontogeorgi</em></td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brothers –</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Piljaeva, Gija</td>
<td></td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>Piskachov, Miki</td>
<td></td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>Popiliev, Petre</td>
<td>– <em>M Fotiadis</em></td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>Popkonstandinov, Vangel</td>
<td>– <em>A Hadzhitashkov</em></td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>Popnikolov, Dimitar</td>
<td>– <em>K Lebendov</em></td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Popov, Zhivko</td>
<td></td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>Popov, Iljo</td>
<td>– <em>M Adzhikirov</em></td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td>Popovska, Angelina</td>
<td></td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Proshov, Koljo (Gjoro)</td>
<td>– <em>V Venecanopulos</em></td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>Raikov, Lazar</td>
<td></td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>Roikov, Kosta (Evrripidi)</td>
<td>– <em>K Korikafa</em></td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td>Ribov, Blazhe</td>
<td>– <em>K Lebendov</em></td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>Robev, Georgi</td>
<td>– <em>M Adzhikirev</em></td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>Robev, Kocho</td>
<td></td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>Romev, Peco</td>
<td>– <em>V Shamanovski</em></td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
127. Samara, Georgi – *A H*
128. Saiovski, Jani – *M Petridi*
129. Skornu, Teodora – *H Skornu*
130. Slavkov, Tomo – *P Galubov*
131. Slatnikova, Jordana
132. Stavridi, Pavle – *T Pejkov*
133. Stavrov, Iljo – *K Levendov*
134. Stavropulos, Ilija – *V Naskopulos*
135. Stambuli, Meni – *A H*
136. Sterijovski, Niki and Stoja
137. Stergiovski, Kole – *S K*
138. Suljov, Kosta – *S Papageorgiu*
139. Sarbinov, Mihal (Goce) – *P Popovski*
140. Tashov, Jani
141. Tashovski, Metodi – *A Hadzhitashkov*
142. Tashominovski, Kocho
143. Terziev, Georgi
144. Trajchev, Stojan (Stefo) - *S Kochev*
145. Trkalov, Tanas – *M Caras*
146. Trpovski, Kosta – *D Vlahov*
147. Urdov, Kosta (Dzhodzho)
148. Urumov, Kosta – *Hr Mishos*
149. Fotevski – the Three Brothers – *V Fotevska*
150. The Sixty Two Killed from the Village Frangoch – *T Rizov*
151. Hadzhi, Georgi – *G Muljarov*
152. Harizani, Rusalim – *V Ashikis*
153. Hristopulos, Vasil – *Z Vlahos*
154. Calev, Anton
155. Capov, Apostol – *V Capov*
156. Cvetkov, Stavro
157. Cigulevski, Vasil – *K Levendov*
158. Crnakov, Ilija (Lazaridi) – *G Dishkov*
159. Charka, Vangel – *A H*
160. Charov, Risto – *P Kuljanov*
161. Chobanov, Sotir
162. Cholakovski, Georgi – *M Cholakovski*
163. Chochov, Jane (Stojan) – *G Nedelkov*
164. Chuli, Micho – *F Mazuras*
165. Shadrov, Stefo – *G Shipakov*
166. Shipakov, Gele - *G Shipakov*
167. Shipakov, Pando - *G Shipakov*
168. Shiparkev, Pando – *N Kitopulos*
169. Shumbashev, Dimitri
170. Shijarka, Shuli
171. Jamovski, Anton
172. Janovski, Sotir
PREFACE

The Macedonian people from Greece, fighting side by side with their Greek brothers, made countless sacrifices during the many years of fighting for liberation, in the battles for national equality, for democracy.

In the last 25 years alone, in the war against the Nazi and Italian fascist occupiers, in the battle against the American-British imperialism and Greek reactionaries, in the prisons and on the islands, in the face of execution squads, hundreds and thousands of Macedonian fighters fell: dirt-poor villagers and labourers, old and young, men and women, mothers and daughters, all of them being of the people. They fell along side their brothers, the Greek fighters, in the battle against the foreign aggressors and local exploiters, in the battle for freedom, democracy and peace, for a better life, a happy life. They soaked the sacred land of our beloved birthplace with their own blood and they filled renowned pages in the story of the struggle of the two peoples.

They fell, but their heroic deeds will live forever in the memory of their comrades, in the memories of future generations. Their names have passed into the pantheon of heroes and martyrs.

The publication of this book forms a small expression of respect, not only for the 370 fighters named in this book, but also for all of the other known and unknown heroes and martyrs who died in the battle.

The publication of this book is the fruit of the collective effort of a number of comrades who have written recollections on the life and activities of the fallen national fighters. However, it is nonetheless incomplete in that it does not cover every hero. Many more portraits of heroes and martyrs could have been included in the book, better monographs of their lives, recollections and other moments of their lives could be
written. The omissions may be addressed, to some extent, by the publication of another part to this book.

Every fighter owes a sacred debt to the comrades who fell fighting in the same trenches, a debt that every patriot owes, to write about the fallen freedom fighters so that they may be known among the people, so they can serve as an example to today’s and future generations.

We owe eternal gratitude to those freedom fighters who fell for the ideals of liberty, democracy and peace, for the happiness of the people.

The sketched portraits in this book were done by the artist G Dimu from photographs of the fallen fighters.
Lazo Trpovski

Lazo Trpovski was born in 1901 in the village D’mbeni, Kostur region, in the heroic and revolutionary village of the legendary Macedonian fighters Lazar Moschov and Lazar P. Trajkov. His parents were impoverished rural workers and he, from childhood, was aware of the difficulties of such a life and the sufferings and the brutal struggle in the fields to make a living. He felt the double oppression of the Macedonian people – national and social – and from a very young age he studied the sacred revolutionary traditions of the Macedonian people, in the spirit of love for his birthplace and a hatred for tyranny.

In the village, Lazo was closely acquainted with poverty and the miserable life of the villager, while in the distant foreign land, Canada, where he had been given the opportunity to go, he saw close up the life of the worker who works day and night but is still hungry. It was in Canada that he saw the struggle of the worker, with the strikes and demonstrations against the capitalist exploiters. He got to know progressive workers, leaders of the workers’ movement and quickly adapted himself and became a member of the Communist party.

From then a new life began for Trpovski. He undertook an active role in the struggle for the rights of the workers, in organising and leadership roles. He would explain to the workers that only with the destruction of the capitalist regime, with the overthrow of the government by the proletariat would the workers be liberated, and he led them toward achieving that goal. It was here, among workers from different countries, that Trpovski was trained in the spirit of the proletariat internationalism.

Persecuted by the law enforcement agencies of Canada for his activities, Trpovski found refuge and welcome in the
Soviet Union. There, in the Great country of socialism, he became closely acquainted with the life of soviet people, who, filled with optimism and faith in their happy future, showed him their new and splendid way of life.

There Trpovski became better acquainted with the Marxist-Leninist revolutionary theory and, filled with faith in the victory of the workers’ struggle, he returned to his homeland in 1934. After his return home, Lazo gave himself over completely to the Greek Communist Party and worked as an activist in its ranks to the end of his life. Under the pseudonym “Blackman” he ranged across western Macedonia and developed brave but underground operations against the Metaxas fascist tyranny and the capitalist slavery, working toward the victory of democracy and socialism for national equality of the Macedonian people.

Lazo was particularly expert at disguising his underground operations under the cover of some legitimate activity. In the time of the fascist dictatorship of Metaxas, as in the time of the Nazi occupation, he entered unfamiliar villages presenting himself at different times as a relative, a friend or a trader.

Trpovski was a modest, brave and decisive national fighter. However, the most significant trait of his character was his limitless faith and dedication to the CPG, in the people from whom he took great strength for the difficult and brutal struggle.

One old communist, a comrade of Lazo’s, expressed his recollections about Lazo: “What I recall that was most characteristic about the way Lazo Trpovski approached the struggle was his boundless enthusiasm. Even in the prisons of Akronafilija you could see in his face his enthusiasm and faith in the struggle.”

Because of his strong record of revolutionary activism, Lazo was pursued by the monarcho-fascist forces of Metaxas
and was arrested in 1939. In the Kostur prison, where he was first thrown, he was put on a brutal torturing device but the brave communist did not give in. Before the special regional commission for the persecution of communists, before the torturer of the people, Tsaktsiras, Trpovski exposed the anti-national, anti-peoples politics of the monarcho-fascists and bravely defended the politics of the CPG and the rights of the Macedonian people.

In the prisons of Akronafilija, where Trpovski was exiled, he made an effort to complete his Marxist preparation, to organise his thinking for future struggles.

In 1941 Trpovski was again among the people. He had become a member of the executive committee of the CPG in the Macedonian region and worked in Western Macedonia among Macedonians and Greeks. He worked with fervent enthusiasm in the struggle against the Nazi occupation and was active as an organiser. He would go on foot from town to town, from village to village, throughout western Macedonia, so that he could re-establish the former party branches, form new ones and mobilise the people in EAM, in the struggle against the Nazi fascism and his local collaborators. He was always among the people, among the partisans of ELAS and became a leading and beloved fighter leader and comrade of the Greeks and Macedonians in western Macedonia. Trpovski’s name is closely tied with the first partisan ranks in western Macedonia, with the establishment of a free territory in Voion-Grevena, with the massive participation of the Greek and Macedonian populations of western Macedonian in the peoples struggle against fascism.

Trained in the spirit of patriotism and proletarian internationalism he was involved in a decisive struggle against all kinds of chauvinistic and national matters arising in the Macedonian movement, whatever the source. With party fervour he fought against the Greater Bulgarian chauvinist
propaganda and operations, against all the foreign propaganda that surged in Macedonia during the time of the Nazi occupation. He explained to the Macedonians about the danger of all of these appeals and propaganda, which would not bring anything good to the people, but rather would only bring harm and fragmentation to the national people’s movement. He informed the people about the need for, and meaning of, a united battle with the Greek comrades. His aim was to ensure the effective united struggle of the two peoples because that was the correct path, the path to complete freedom, to national and social freedom for the Macedonians. Lazo said to the Macedonians: “As our enemies are many, so our battle alongside the Greeks is great; if we fight together, we will achieve freedom together.”

Lazo Trpovski became a communist, he was a brave fighter who entered the ranks of the working class and the workers revolutionary movement. Under the influence of the Canadian communist party, under the influence of Lenin’s famous party, of the great Soviet Union which he loved with all his heart, he returned to his homeland and tied his life to the activities of the CPG.

This valued son of our people dedicated his life to the achievement of the ideals of the CPG, for freedom, democracy and peace in Greece, for the national and social equality of the Macedonians. Lazo Trpovski was killed by Nazi agents in April 1943 near the village of Imera in the Kozhani region. He fell with the brave Kerasidis and seven other activists of CPG.

The death of Lazo Trpovski was a heavy loss for the party and the national liberation movement, a big loss for the Macedonians, all working people of Greece in the struggle against fascism. The face of the Macedonian national hero, Lazo Trpovski shines as one of the thousands of sacrifices of CPG in the struggle against fascism.
The people of the towns and villages sing songs about him and his name is spoken with great affection by young and old; he inspired bravery and faith in new struggles for democracy, peace and progress.
Mirka Ginova

Mirka was born close to the Ostrovsko Lake in Rosilovo, a village of 60 families. Her parents were poor villagers. Mirka tasted the bitterness and hardships of life at a very young age. She lost her mother and grew up with great difficulties and hardships. When she completed her primary schooling in the village, her father noticed young Mirka’s aptitude for education and, even though he had so little money, sent her to teacher’s college in Kostur.

In 1939 Mirka completed her teacher’s college course, emerging as a primary school teacher. However, further bitter disappointments awaited her. The fascist regime of Metaxas would not appoint her to a position – it imposed many obstacles on her. Mirka lost an entire year going from one office to another seeking to gain an appointment.

In 1940, she was temporarily appointed a teacher in a village in Voden. From her first day she threw herself into her profession with love and passion. She was at last able to share with the young pupils the maternal love and gentleness which she herself did not experience as a child. For the children, she was a mother figure and a friend. Everyone got into the habit of treating her as their own mother. And the whole village respected the young woman and held her in high regard as an impressive teacher.

However, she did not manage to enjoy her modest though responsible job for long. Mussolini’s fascist regime and the Nazi hordes were trampling Greece. Then the hangings started, the concentration camps, the prisons, the mass shooting, hunger, rape and destruction.

Mirka could not bear the drama that was unfolding in her country. The occupiers destroyed the few remaining traces of dignity in her birthplace. This gave rise to a desire in her for freedom and independence for her birthplace. She also
МИРКА ГИНОВА
developed a passionate hatred for the Nazi sympathizers and local traitors. She became persuaded that only through battle, only through armed battle by all the people against the occupiers, would her birthplace be saved from catastrophe. It is for this reason that she joined the ranks of OKNE.

At first she worked underground. She organized girls from the local area and brought them into battle for freedom. She sent partisans – men and women – into the ELAS, and in 1943 she herself joined the partisan units of ELAS in Kajmackalan.

Mirka worked as an activist of EPON among the Macedonian youth.

The appearance of the Soviet army in the Balkan and the attacks by ELAS caused the Nazi sympathizers to leave Greece.

The ELAS sympathizers-freedom fighters entered the villages and towns. The people rejoiced in the freedom.

However, the people did not enjoy the joy of freedom for long. New occupiers came – the Americo-English ‘allies’. A new occupation, more oppressive than the first. The members of the national resistance were persecuted. Massive arrests, torture and imprisonments. The same traitors, who, along with the Nazis, had tortured people, were now persecuting imprisoning and torturing the fighters of ELAS and every democrat. The Anglo-Americans tried, using torture and force, to strangle the democratic convictions of the people and impose their own laws.

The persecution of the Macedonian people was especially brutal. Mirka was pursued and was forced to hide from one village to another, and later to escape to the mountains. Together with the other persecuted fighters she helped the people and gave them courage in the battle against the new occupiers. She organized battles by the villagers against the torturers of the people.
In the summer of 1946, in the Pocep forest, Voden region, a small partisan group formed - Mirka’s group.

One morning 200 gendarmes and soldiers surrounded the area. Mirka was with six of her comrades, who were all unarmed. Only she was armed. The position was extremely difficult. The gendarmes pushed further and further forward and the small group feared that they would fall into the hands of the gendarmes at any moment. The burning line closed in on them, it tightened and pressed them threateningly.

They got closer…

However, the brave Macedonian woman did not lose her courage. She lifted the scope and took aim. One gendarme fell dead. She shot again. Another one fell. She aimed well. Each one of her bullets hit flesh and planted death in the slaves of the new occupiers. But there were too few bullets and too many of them. And that is why she fell into their hands along with her comrades.

The gendarmes threw themselves at her and brutally tore her clothes, her body, tore out her hair, and with blood all over her they led her through the streets of Voden.

But the Macedonian woman Mirka held her head up high and proudly. She smiled at the people who gathered to see her, to take courage from her; she smiled at the people who she loved so much and for whom she gave her life.

The government security forces tortured her brutally. They beat her with wood, with rifle butts, with metal wire. They stuck needles under her nails. They connected electrical cables to her body. They buried her alive, to the neck, and shot above her. Mirka proudly withstood all the torture. She found strength in herself to encourage her comrades too.

On 25 July 1946, together with the six comrades, she appeared before a specially convened military court and was sentenced to death. The event took place in the primary school in Greek Enidzhe Vardar. Many people, especially young men
and women, went to watch. The gendarmes kicked at the people to try to stop them from entering the school. But they did not succeed.

In the court, Mirka raised herself up and turned the dock into a platform, from where she now spoke, not to small children as she had as a teacher, but instead to the prosecutors she bravely accused the Greek reactionaries and proudly defended the people. To the judge’s question:

“What are you?” she proudly answered:

“I am a Macedonian and I believe in the Communist Party of Greece, because only that party represents all of the peoples of Greece, and guarantees to the Macedonians equal rights with all others. I fought in the occupation against the Nazi occupiers. With a particular hatred I fought against the Bulgarian fascists, who sought to throw the Macedonians into the clutches of the security guards.”

To the question: “Who do you work with?” she answered, “The people! Greeks and Macedonians who are fighting together for liberation.”

And when the death sentence was read out, with a smile on her lips Mirka said, “I am not afraid that you will kill me! There stand behind me a thousand Macedonian women and Greek women, who will keep the battle going. I am proud to die fighting for the freedom of the people.”

On 27 July 1946 at 5 o’clock in the morning, three days after the sentence, she was led to the Enidzhe-Vardar cemetery to the execution wall. Mirka stood tall and proud and greeted the execution with the anthem, the Internationale. She did not permit them to blindfold her.

“The seven people sent for execution met the execution and did not accept blindfolds. The teacher Irina Ginis showed even more sang froid by singing the “Internationale” and shouted “Hurrah” for the Communist Party of Greece.” This
is the way in which the Ministry for Internal Affairs reported Mirka’s execution.

“The good teacher” gave her life so that good days would come for our children, for the people.

Mirka – the national heroine of the Macedonian people lives in the hearts of the many in the army who passed through her “classes” for a free, happy homeland.
Blagoja Adzhiev in born in 1923 in the village Ekshisovo, Lerin, to a poor family of rural workers. Even though he only completed primary school, he was very smart and energetic. From as early as 1943 he joined the ranks of EPON and actively participated in the national struggle, fighting bravely against the Nazi occupation. With his active work organizing and with the influence he had not only among the young but also with the older villagers, he became secretary of EPON in his home village and later he was elected to the Surovichki regional council of EPON. In 1944 he became a member of the Greek Communist Party.

After the Varkiza agreement he continued to work underground for EPON and in 1946 he joined the ranks of DAG. He participated in many battles of DAG where he distinguished himself. Blagoja served for a long time in the groups of the unattached shooters in Surovichko and Kajlarsko. He fought tirelessly and decisively to complete the missions set by the party.

In December 1948 he was surrounded by the large monarcho-fascist army and MAI in Kajlarsko. After a heroic battle that went for many hours, just before his bullets were finally going to run out, he killed himself. Blagoja fell heroically as a dignified and devoted son of CPG and the people.

M Adzhikirov
Adzhikirov Gigo

Gigo Adzhikirov was born in 1912 in the village Ekshisovo in Lerin. As early as 1934 he became a member of the Communist Party of Greece and worked actively to achieve party aims. He participated in the campaign of the parliamentary elections in January 1936 and together with the other communists from Ekshisovo fought for the opening of an electoral office of the People’s Front in his own village. In the pre-election campaign, a group of villagers – among them Gigo – joined the candidates of the People’s Front in their visit to villages and protected them from attacks by the police.

From 1943 to 1945 Gigo was secretary of the Party organization in Ekshisovo and a member of the Surovichko regional committee of CPG. In this period he developed a greater importance in the party and fought bravely against the Nazi occupation and their agents Kalchev and others.

After Varkiza he was followed by the monarcho-fascist government forces, who burned down his house. Regardless, he continued to work underground for the large freedom fighting organizations.

In 1948 he was one of the leaders of the unattached shooters in Surovichko. On 6 December 1948 close to the mills of Gorsko, he fell into an enemy ambush and was heavily wounded. He died on the same day and his comrades buried him in the village of Zeleniche. Three days later, the monarcho-fascists exhumed his body and dragged it through the villages to terrorise the people. Gigo had reached the rank of captain in DAG.

M.A.
Adzhiev Trifon

Trifon Adzhiev, or the American, as we knew him, was born in the town Voden to a poor Macedonian family. From the age of 18 he was compelled to leave his beautiful birthplace and go to America, to search for work.

In America Trifon worked hard as did all the Macedonians and other foreign migrant workers. It was there that, for the first time, he saw the harsh exploitation of the workers that took place so that the various Rockefellers and other capitalists could become wealthy.

Once he had “earned” a few dollars with hard work and privations Trifon returned to his homeland.

Along with his dollars, Trifon also brought to his birthplace some new ideas – socialist ideas. He was no longer the earlier Trifon, he returned a different man. In America he had associated with progressive workers, revolutionaries and socialists and from them he learned about the exploitation by capitalists of the working class, of all working people. It was there that he saw the great contradiction in life: on the one side, the millionaires with their fortunes, huge multinational monopolies and on the other side, the poorest people.

With the small amount of money that he brought back with him, he opened a cinema. But it was not opened so that it could entertain the rich of Voden, but rather to serve the workers, the people. For that reason he showed progressive films, as far as it was possible at that time.

But he was not just the cinema owner, Trifon also spread communist ideas and stood with the workers. He fought for their every day rights, for democracy and socialism. He returned from America in 1922, just when after the First World War and the Asia Minor Catastrophe there was an economic crisis and great misery abounded. As a communist he joined the party organizations of CPG and became an
active member of the party. He participated actively in the veteran movement in Voden and fought for the establishment of a veteran organization. He helped the textile and agriculture workers of the town to organize; the organization of their battles and for bread and a better life. In this battle Trifon became a local official of CPG.

The reactionary forces of Voden were alarmed by the development of the movements of the veterans and the workers of the town. The various industrialists (Kirchi and others) sought that the local powers take strong measures against the communists and specifically against Adzhiev who was the local leader and a man with authority among the local population. Accordingly, as early as 1926, persecutions against Adzhiev commenced. From then, he often found himself in the prisons and exile.

I met Trifon for the first time in 1929. We were together in exile on the island Anafi. He was of medium build, dark complexioned, with thick black hair, but lively and always smiling. In the collective of 21 exiles in 1929 Adzhiev was one of the happiest comrades and with relish told us adventures and anecdotes from his own life. He also told us about the American way of life, about the millionaires, the gangsters, the hard work done by the Greeks and Macedonians in America. He told us about the workers of Voden and their battles and he was more than ready to carry out any of the work required of the collective. He helped the comrades to tie up the bales of thorns and to lift them onto their backs, while he himself would lift the heaviest bales. We used the thorns to bake bread and for other cooking.

After 1929 Trifon suffered more; he was again exiled. In the time of the Metaxas dictatorship he was arrested and sent to the island Folegandros. In 1944 he was transferred to the Athenian camp Haidari. It was there that we saw each other for the second and last time. His black hair had turned grey
from the passage of years but also from the sufferings in prisons and exiles. But Trifon was still the same. Always happy and with a smile on his face. That is how I remember him; and on 1 May 1944 when he, along with 200 communists, was executed by the Nazi followers. Trifon fell but until the last moment of his life he fulfilled his obligation to the working class, to his homeland and the people.

*B Ashikis*
Kiro from Aitos

Kiro from Aitos. That is how the brave partisan from the village of Aitos is known in the partisan movement in Vich and in the region of Surovichko.

Kiro was born in 1924 and did not get to enjoy his youth. He was 17 when our homeland was overshadowed by the black clouds of the Nazi occupation and from a young age he got to know the harsh battle for the national and socialist rights of the people. He joined the ranks of ELAS and bravely fought against the Nazi fascist occupation. After the negotiations in Varkiza, Kiro, along with the other national fighters, was followed by the reactionary forces. New struggles awaited him. He farewelled his family, left his beloved village and joined DAG as early as 1946. Kiro was an outstanding fighter, so he was given the leading gun, which the partisans had christened “Turtura”. In the Vich detachment he carried out the most important and most dangerous missions. He was familiar with the villages – Macedonian and Greek – from the time of ELAS; he was also familiar with the people involved in organizing. In the time when the fascist bands criss-crossed the plains, he fearlessly entered his village for information and to carry out other tasks. His partisan life was rich with brave and dangerous missions which he successfully completed.

One day he was sent into the village Ekshisovo. Disguised as a Saraskachan he passed along Radosh and fell into an ambush set by a police group there. His wit and bravery saved him. He threw himself at once in a gully and vanished in the forest. However, the enemy bullet found its target and he was wounded. He was nursed for a long time in a nearby village and then returned to the ranks. The partisans greeted him with such joy as they had considered him lost!
On another occasion he went down to the village of Dolno Nevojani (Valtonero), which was populated by Greeks. The same day two fascist bands (MAI), one from Kailarsko and the other from Surovichko, had set off on separate courses with the aim of meeting in Nevoljani which was claimed to be a hideaway for the partisans. The bands opened fire before they entered the village. So Kiro set off to the Vrapcheski farm. But the band from Kailarsko had reached there and began to shoot at him. He replied with the Turtura. But the enemy was powerful and he was forced to go down to the marsh. He stayed there until nightfall. The enemy turned the area upside down to find him but they did not succeed. When night fell, they pulled out of the village. At the same time, Kiro also left the marsh, went to the village and joined the partisans, fulfilling his mission.

He also participated in many brutal battles. In 1949 in the battles near the village of Tserovo he was seriously wounded. He was killed at Vich in September 1949 with the Turtura in his arms.

Kiro was very talented. His greatest attribute was his love for and dedication to his people for whom he gave his life. His bravery and self-sacrifice came from his faith in the peoples work. These attributes place him in the front ranks of the people’s heroes.

All of his battle comrades speak with great respect for the prowess of Kiro.

_A. Hadzhitashkov_
Aleksovski Vasil

On 4 March 1944 the Macedonian people lost one of the best of their sons, the unforgettable Vasil Aleksovski.

Aleksovski dedicated all his young years and the rest of his life to the united struggle of the Macedonian and Greek comrades for democracy, independence and freedom, against the fascist regime of Metaxas, against the Nazi and Italian [Axis] fascism and its local servants.

Vasil Aleksovski was born in the village Drenoveni, Kostur in 1911. He spent his childhood in his own village. At the age of 10 or 11 he moved to Kostur with his parents. In the Kostur high school where he studied he was an excellent student, he was a man of the people and was progressive. For that reason, he was liked by the other progressive students and teachers. Vasil became a member of the Greek communist youth organisation – OKNE - while still a high school student.

In the period 1930-36 in collaboration with the unforgettable hero Tasho Karadzhata and other Macedonian and Greek comrades, on behalf of CPG, he worked tirelessly to form a branch of the CPG in Kostur. When the parliamentary elections were held on 25 January 1936 they motivated the people of the region to vote for the candidates of the CPG with their decisive operations and they succeeded in getting a representative of the CPG (Popular Front) elected for the Kostur and Lerin regions.

The black days of the Metaxas regime arrived. Vasil and his co-workers Tasho Karadzha and others, under the leadership of the CPG and personally, Lazo Trpovski, who at that time was underground, extended the struggle against the fascist regime of Metaxas.

He fought bravely for the establishment of the patriotic line of the CPG against the Italo-fascist aggression of 1940-41 and as a soldier of the 32nd regiment.
During the Nazi and Italian fascist occupation, Vasil found himself among the first in the ranks of EAM. As a member of the Kostur committee of EAM he fought decisively without regard for his own safety against the Bulgarian fascists.

The influence of Aleksovski on the Macedonian and Greek populations in Kostur region helped to strengthen the units of EAM and ELAS and to liquidate the bands of Kalchev, Kolara and others.

Aleksovski also struggled against the new nationalists and separatists of the battle unity of the Macedonians and the Greek people.

On 4 March 1944 Vasil had gone to Chereshnichki huts above the village of Kondorobi to speak with those who continued to serve the occupiers. After the betrayal however, he was surrounded by the leading band of the villain Temo, and there he was killed.

The last words of Vasil to his killers were “Consider who you are fighting for.”

On 4 March at dawn, the heart of Vasil Aleksovski stopped beating. The mournful news was carried from village to village, from one unit of the famous ELAS to another. The people and ELAS sing the new tragic folk song about Vasil: “Rise up comrade Aleksovski.”

Aleksovski’s life was extinguished but his name grew greater. Thousands of Macedonian men and women in struggle united with the Greek people in the ranks of ELAS and CPG, they fought to revenge the death of Aleksovski.

The immortal hero Aleksovski has entered into the pantheon of our heroes, who have given their lives for freedom, democracy and independence of our homeland. The young generation is inspired by the example of Aleksovski and will follow him into battle until the final victory.

H. E.
Angelovski Lazo

Lazo Angelovski was born in Grazhdeno, Prespa region, to the family of a poor farm worker. His father, like many Macedonian people, was forced to go to America as a migrant worker to secure food for his family.

As a result of the careful financial measures taken by his mother and father, Angelovski managed to complete his high school qualification in the Lerin high school.

While still a student in the high school, he suffered many put-downs on the part of the teachers – agents of the Metaxas dictatorship who called him “Bulgarian” or “Neznamis” [“Mr I Don’t know”].

But because he was still young, he could not understand the reason for that discrimination against the Macedonian students. Later on, when he entered the ranks of the youth organisation EPON, he understood the substance of the discrimination and what it sought to achieve.

In the time of the Nazi occupation, he worked as a member of the committee of EPON in the village in which he was born, and actively participated in organizing the youth.

After the Varkiza Agreement, he joined the ranks of DAG. He was a modest but at the same time passionate and tireless worker for the struggle for liberation.

When in 1937 there were elections for the organs of the peoples’ government in the territories liberated by DAG, Lazo was elected a member of the Lerin Regional Peoples Council. In this post he actively worked for the development of people’s councils for the liberation of the homeland.

Lazo was responsible for the national education sector for the Macedonian schools that are formed in the liberated territories. He went from village to village and with youthful glow he worked to eradicate the darkness of illiteracy. “All Macedonian children must be able to learn to read and write
ЛАЗО АНГЕЛОВСКИ
in their own mother tongue!” was the catch cry of the CPG, of the people’s government. Lazo was one of the first trainers of the Macedonian teachers’ courses that were offered in the liberated territories in the period 1947-48.

He also worked in other sectors of the people’s government. However he was not satisfied with that. He sought other tasks, which appealed more to his youthful soul and the needs of DAG.

In the summer of 1948 he set off to the Lerin villages to organize. Near the village Buf, he fell into the hands of the enemy. In Lerin he was subjected to dreadful torture but Lazo endured it heroically. Then he was taken to Athens where he was shot dead.
Andreeva Evantija

Evanka Andreeva was a young girl from the village Novoselanu in Kostur. Unable to bear the slavery of her poverty, she became a partisan. She was always happy. Wherever she was, whether in the company or in the battalion, her singing could be heard: battle songs and traditional folk songs from her birthplace. With her goodness and bravery, she created a happy atmosphere around herself and in the whole unit regardless of the circumstances she found herself in – whether marching or in lines, under fire in battle or when resting.

She fought on Gramos, Vich and later participated in the march of X division to Kajmachkalan-Vermio. Her stamina in all the marches was an example to others. As a shooter of the submachine gun she carried her weapon the whole way from Vich to Vermion, changing only a few times with her squad leader.

In the battle at Voden, she was the first to cross the enemy line of barbed wire on Karaman. For a short time the hill fell into the hands of the partisans. After that she fought bravely against the enemy near the houses at the edge of Voden and near the railway station.

She fought in the battle of Sabatsko and in all the marches that lead to the battle at Negush. At Negush, her company undertook the task of taking Dalamari, which looks over the town. The enemy set off from Ber with a military unit and tanks. Evantija, without regard for the danger, stood upright and met the enemy attacks with the submachine gun in her hand, singing.

She was standing strong when the enemy shot her, the bullet hitting her in the head before she fell.
Her company had a meeting and out of respect for her strength and self-sacrifice proposed to promote her to a higher rank and to award her a medal for bravery.

On 25 February 1949 Evantija was lieutenant deceased hero. With the same announcement she was awarded a bravery medal. In the announcement it says, “In the battles at Voden-Negush she was outstanding in her brave and decisive actions, which raised her in the eyes of her comrades as a chosen one among the chosen ones who have the honour to participate in the popular democratic struggle for Greece.”
Andreeva Katina (Cveta)

Katina was the daughter of Kuzman Andreev and the grand daughter of Nikola commander from the village of Mokreni, Lerin region. She grew up in the dark days of the Metaxas dictatorship. At that time the great persecution of the Macedonians had reached a position of no exit. “Either become a Greek or you die,” shouted the gendarme cracking the whip. The old grandmothers would communicate with signals to their children.

Katina was about 11 at that time. However, one day she too experienced the gendarme’s whip. An appeal was stuck on the door of the local council, “Long live mother land Bulgaria – long live King Boris.” The gendarmes arrested Katina’s father and 5 or 6 others and they tortured them severely.

A friend of Katina’s witnessed the mayor and the chief of the police sticking up the appeals¹. The girl told Katina who then went from house to house to spread the news. The gendarmes caught her and, as she was, barefoot and in her patched and mended dress, dragged her to the council building and they began to interrogate her…

“Tell us who told you that we stuck up the appeals.”
“I will not tell.”
“Tell us or we will beat you like we beat your father...
“I will not tell.”

The gendarmes went mad at the unexpected resistance and began to beat her. But she did not permit even one word to leave her lips.

*  

¹ Similar provocations were carried out by the Greek government in many Macedonian villages in Popozhani, Vrbeni, and other villages of the Lerin region, for example, Bulgarian newspapers were sent to certain people so as to justify the arrest and torture of Macedonian patriots.
КАТИНА АНДРЕЕВА (ЦВЕТА)
September 1944… the Nazi occupation is in its last days. The villages, one after the other, are liberated… on the footpaths and in the squares the ELAS-ists, Macedonians and Greeks, arm in arm are singing

“For liberation of the people…”

In the villages the festivities began. The Macedonian villages began to open up to the partisans. It was a time when the name ‘communist’ opened boundaries of the racial hatred, it spoke of the happiness of the Macedonian people, of all...

One day in the Kailar village of Empori, the whole population and that of the surrounding villages had gathered. The EPON members from the village Mokreni were for the first time in the life of the Macedonians to present the drama, “Macedonian Blood Wedding.” The drama, as advertised, would show the cruelty of the Ottoman Turks and the heroism of the Macedonian woman, who in the role of Cveta battles the Turks and prevails in the end.

The curtain went up. The old, the young and children sit open-mouthed, many with tears in their eyes from happiness, and follow the Macedonian drama. The biggest impression was made by the young girl who played the role of Cveta…

“Wow! Who is this girl who is acting so well?”

The villagers from Mokreni who were there explained.

“It is young Kate. The youngest daughter of Kusman Andreev. The granddaughter of Kole the commander.”

From one to another they told who she was. And when the drama was at an end, the whole crowd called her Cveta. Cveta from here, Cveta from there, two or three more presentations of that drama in the surrounding villages and Kate’s name was now changed to that of the role.

From then even her grandmother did not call her Kate. She called her “Cveta” as did the others.
Her grandmother was very happy at that time. She dug out the photo that had belonged to Nikola and hung it up in the living room.

Everything indicated that the troubles had come to an end. But unexpectedly dark times came again. And Nikola’s photo, a symbol of the changing times, was hidden again. Delie, the notorious terrorist, came to Mokreni. The men and women hid; the old went along the road with their heads bowed and when they met, they whispered “Good day” in Macedonian.

Cveta continued her dedicated work for CPG, for the ideals of EPON. She handed out appeals for CPG, she wrote battle cries on the walls of the local council… she gathered the young people and left the village and there in the free air they sang about the beauty and happiness of the world, the new battles.

The police arrested her and tortured her cruelly. But Cveta that same night got the young people of the village together and continued her revolutionary activities. The police aimed to arrest her again. But the young Cveta did not fall into the hands of the police. Along with the other young people, they took the honest road and headed off to Vich.

Cveta joined DAG and quickly became a leading commissar. She participated in more than 90 battles in Vich, Gramos, Sinichko, Konica and elsewhere. She distinguished herself many times for her extraordinary bravery, daring, decisiveness, and self sacrifice. She became a sub-lieutenant because of her bravery. She was among the top women of DAG and her chest was covered with bravery medals.

In 1949 Cveta’s battalion set off for Kulketurja, a mountain between Neret and Trsie. Filled with happiness and enthusiasm she was among the leaders. “We will decimate them,” she would say. And they did take the mountain. That was the power of our fighters. And in the fire of the battle,
Cveta, without concern for the danger, threw herself into the battle fire and was heavily wounded. And when they moved her from the battlefield she asked: “Did we take the mountain? Are we holding it?” From Kulkuturija to the place where her soul finally departed her body, she thought only of the battle, the mountain, her comrades.

Cveta fought heroically, fell heroically, teaching the others – men and women – how one should fulfil one’s debt to the homeland, to one’s people. She was twice honoured with a decoration for bravery and entered the pantheon of the heroes.
Andreopulos Hristo

Hristo was born in the Kostur village of Nestram. He was a long time member of CPG and in the time of the Nazi occupation he participated in the national resistance and because of that he was arrested by the Italian fascists. They tortured him inhumanely and then took him to the monastery Chuka, where witnesses had told them weapons were hidden. Hristo led them to a cliff that was 150 metres high. Then he turned to the fascists said “Well, here are the rifles,” and he threw himself off the cliff. The brave communist killed himself, taking the secret about the location of the weapons with him.

P Gecho
Antonovski Kosta

Kosta Antonovski was born in the village Krchishta, Kostur region in 1912. He was the son of a poor family and as a child lost his father. That required him to work for others, so that he could live.

During the German occupation, he joined CPG and in his own village and the surrounding villages he actively organized the people into the ranks of EAM. In 1943, he entered the ranks of ELAS and in 1946 was among the first fighters of DAG.

He took part in many battles by DAG against the monarcho-fascist armies and on 1 November 1947 he fell heroically on the heights of Prekopan as the commander of his company. Kosta fell in the front line of the people’s struggle for a better future.

As a mark of recognition, by decree dated from 4 June 1948 Kosta was promoted to captain deceased hero.
Apostolov Mihal (Graniti)

Mihal Apostolov was born in the Kostur village Krchishta in 1923. At the age of 20 he became a member of the CPG and in 1943 he joined the ranks of ELAS where he fought heroically for the liberation of the motherland from Hitler’s fascism. In ELAS, he became a leading commander.

After the Varkiza agreement, he became an activist in the struggle for independence and democracy. At the start, he worked in political organizations but later, after the establishment of DAG, he was a member of headquarters of Vich, responsible for supply.

Mihal, as with all of his family, was wholly committed to the people’s struggle. His sister Elefteria served as a people’s polies officer working in the heart of the enemy armies and because of the difficult conditions, her health was seriously compromised. His 19 year-old brother Apostol, a DAG fighter, was killed in 1948 shortly after the heroic death of Mihal.

Graniti demonstrated military capabilities and quickly became an officer of DAG, a battalion commissar.

In the archives of the 14th brigade of DAG, where he served as a battalion commissar, his talents are described as follows – “he was an honest, disciplined, dedicated fighter”. At one briefing of cadres of DAG in February 1948, taking his turn to speak, he said “We will meet the debt to our motherland to the last drop of our blood”.

Graniti fulfilled that promise with dignity. On 31 March 1948 leading the battalion into an unequal battle he fell, fighting heroically.
МИХАЛ АПОСТОЛОВ (ГРАНИТИ)
Apchev Vangel

Vangel Apchev was born in 1930 in the village Banica, Lerin region. As a young boy he began to work in the Banica mine and so he experienced exploitation from a very early age.

During the Nazi occupation, he was one of the founders of EPON in his own village and he entered the ranks of the DAG right from the start in 1947 at the age of 17.

He participated in many battles in Vich and became an outstanding fighter. When he finished school he was sent as an officer to a unit of DAG in Eastern Macedonia.

Apchev was the example and instructor of the 132nd brigade. The fighters treated him as the commander of the brigade as well. He fulfilled all the commands for the brigade without regard for the difficulties that may have been involved.

As the company commander he always tried to avoid loss of life. The following event in the battle near the village Novo-Petrich, Ser region, is characteristic.

Apchev had orders to strike and take a hill of about 1000 metres distance from the village, which was heavily defended.

He valued collective effort highly. I say that because when we were preparing to strike Novo-Petrich, we discussed together how we should approach it so that we could take the hill without loss of life.

Once he examined the issue he spoke with the other comrades and then promised that we would take the hill at any price.

The enemy was struck with great mastery.

But one of the enemy bunkers still held and it was difficult to take the hill without lives being lost.

Apchev then asked me, “Gjorgi, do you know what sort of machine gun is shooting at us from over there?”
I answered him, “Bren”

Apchev then said to me, “Take a machine gun and watch, As soon as the enemy’s shooter starts changing his round, without losing any time, start shooting at him so that he cannot change the round and start shooting us again. With five or six comrades, I will attack the hill and take it.”

And that is what happened. The hill was taken without a single life being lost. It was only after we took it that some fighters died, under attack from the bombers.

In July 1949 Apchev set up an ambush between the villages of Trakiko and Mandradzhik, Ser region. And when the enemy reached there, the shooting started and Apchev stood up and ran at the commander of the enemy unit. Just then, an enemy bullet hit him and he fell, killed a hero faithful to the people’s struggle.

G Moljarov
Arabadzhiev Dimitri (Kolarov)

Dimitri Arabadzhiev was born in 1914 in the historic Macedonian town Dolno Dzhumaja, Ser region. The town was destroyed in the wars of 1912-13 and was rebuilt in 1930 at a distance 1000 metres north of the old village. Dimitri’s father (bai-Ivan Kolarov) was an impoverished wheelwright and because of his poverty was not able to rebuild his house after the war. Dimitri’s family felt the burden of the war very strongly on their own backs. He was orphaned at a young age; he had no protectors, no roof over his head. He got pleurisy and was forced as a young boy to start working at a café, just to get a crust to eat.

The development of the workers’ struggle and the communist movement in Eastern Macedonia had a deep impact on the young worker.

He entered the ranks of OKNE and afterwards the CPG and he turned the café into a hub for the underground revolutionary organizations, even before the time of the Metaxas dictatorship.

At the time of the Nazi occupation he was active, he developed serious revolutionary activism and rose to become the secretary of the party in the town where he was born.

After the Varkiza agreement he continued to work for the CPG, for the people’s struggle. And because of the CPG’s perseverance he was arrested and brutally tortured by the government security forces. He withstood all of the tortures and provocations by the police heroically and bravely. In 1947 in the town square, watched by all the townspeople, the beloved Dimitri Arabadzhiev was hanged.

K Korikafa
Banichotov Georgi (Perikli)

Georgi Banichotov was born in the village Boreshtnica, Lerin region. At the time of the German occupation, he was a youth. In 1942 he became a member of the CPG and worked to propagate the party line among the people of the village where he was born. He fought against the foreign propaganda, against the efforts of the Greater Bulgarian fascism to arm the village and to create a battle of brother against brother. In 1944 Georgi was elected a member of the Banica regional committee of CPG and now, under the pseudonym “Pericles” worked with great enthusiasm in the development of the people’s liberation movement of the region. He fought with party fervour against every type of chauvinism and nationalism, against those who would sever the popular battle and he invited the Macedonian people to strengthen their unity with the Greek people as the only guarantee for the liberation of the Macedonian people.

After Varkiza, Georgi continued along the party road, despite the dreadful conditions. The terrorist fascist bands who were carrying out a terrorist campaign in Lerin hounded him from village to village.

From 1945 to 1947 Georgi was arrested and imprisoned in the Lerin and other prisons many times. He became even more determined and after each release he would throw himself with renewed strength into party operations against the surveillance by the police and the fascist bands, to achieve the party’s aims.

In 1946 when the United Nations investigative commission arrived in Lerin, many people’s commissions were organized which took the lead, along with the Lerin regional EAN commission, to protest before the United Nations investigative commission against the terrorist activities of the government forces and to seek an end to the
abnormal situation. They also sought the recognition of the equal national rights of the Macedonian people.

After the departure of the commission, there were mass arrests in the Lerin region. Hundreds of Macedonian and Greek democrats were imprisoned and were sent to exile. The fascist forces, with particular brutality, threw themselves at the brave cadres of the CPG and EAM, who had sought equal national rights and exposed the fascist terror campaign to the Macedonian people before the United Nations investigative commission.

It was at that time the mass military courts began. Eftimios Ioanidis, a veteran fighter of the CPG and the secretary of the Lerin regional commission of EAM, Georgi Banichitov and about 10 other Macedonian and Greek patriots were summoned to the military court with a charge of ‘betrayal of the motherland’. The Greek reactionary forces regarded the pursuit of human rights for the Macedonian people to live freely in their own place of birth, to enjoy equal rights with the Greek people, rights which all people have, every person in his own place on earth, as amounting to ‘betrayal of the motherland’.

Before the military court the Macedonian and Greek communists bravely denounced the anti peoples, anti national politics of the government and bravely defended the policies of the CPG, the policy of democracy and pursuit of the aims of the party, the policies of ethnic equality of the Macedonian people.

The court’s ruling was an order for execution. And on 2 June 1947, in Lerin, along with Dr Ioanidis 20 Macedonian and Greek patriots were executed. On 25 June of the same year, again in the town of Lerin, 20 other patriots were executed; among them Georgi Banichotov.
The blood of the Macedonian and Greek fighters, which flowed in the same trench, commands us to treat the unity of struggle of the two brother peoples as the “apple of our eyes”.
Barkov Vangel

On 22 December 1949 the detachments of the 18th brigade of DAG, of which a large number were Macedonian, carried out a diversionary manoeuvre and entered Negosh once they cut the telephone lines, destroyed some machine gun stations on the north side of the town and took the hill Ajlia. All that was achieved by two battalions, because the third one had become lost and did not arrive until the following night. Even though the enemy had the substantial forces of the regular army, the police and MAI, it lost the threads because of the surprise. But toward the afternoon it gained confidence and decided to move so that it could shut down and destroy the battalion, which had already taken over the town.

A major at the head of one of the ‘elite’ groups (commandos) attacked our weaker posts. For a short while, our side moved to new positions. The positions were difficult for us. They were just short of closing our only road that linked us to the other detachments. A special messenger arrived to inform us about the difficult position we were in. Apart from three to four messengers, we had no other reserves.

“Comrades,” the encouraging voice of the commander, “the fascists are trying to close our road. All to the tanks!”

They launched themselves, one by one. Vangel was at the lead. A modest, poor village boy from Crebreno. At first glance Vangel would not make a big impression; you would not notice him, as is usual about people who you do not recognize well. Quiet – he would not harm a fly. But you had to see him at a critical moment to understand the heart of this young man. In the battles, he was a real hero. With full knowledge of his mission as a fighter of an army fighting to free its people, he was always where he felt there was a
danger for the unit. He had already been in DAG for three years. In those three years he gave a large number of examples of self sacrifice and heroism. Now as a lieutenant and a special messenger for the commander of the brigade, he treated every word of the commander as law that had to be complied with. Once he heard that we were in danger of isolation, and he set off. Four other fighters set off after him quietly and cautiously. They got to the river. The water was up to their knees.

“Be careful that the grenades and automatic weapons do not get wet,” commanded Vangel.

“We are already close,” says one of the comrades and points with his finger, “You see the bend in the road; that is where the position is, the position they took. They wounded one of our comrades.”

“Prepare your automatics,” commanded Vangel. Once I throw the first grenade, everyone attack.”

The monarcho-fascist officer did not manage to finish giving the orders when he heard the whistle of the first grenade… and then a second followed… a third… the enemy post was lost in black clouds of smoke. The light machine guns penetrated their midst. The post was taken with an assault. The penetration widened. Our position in the town improved. Our group returned to the position that it had been forced to leave. Our fighters with Vangel at the head counted their trophies. Among the dead monarcho-fascists there was a major from the march. Vangel with a new Thompson [submachine gun] on his shoulder and a heavy machine gun returned to the brigade.

“We gave them a few knocks, comrade commander,” he reported. They planned to imprison us and that is why the major himself came. If they liked that, they should come back for more. I can see that I will not be carrying a Stajger light
machine gun, a Thompson is all I need and they fall in our hands.

“Bravo Vangel!” answered his commander. “Go get changed. You are all wet.”

“No comrade commander, first I will go to the high school, to major Pero to see what he is doing and then I will take care of myself.

That is what Vangel was like. He did not fight just by following commands; he did not know what fear is.

The battle continued all day. It was very late into the night before we left the town. Vangel was one of the last. He wanted to make sure everyone did as they should.

It was 2am. The December night was icy. Our detachments pulled out; one by one they took their position in line and started to march. The command left last but last of all was Vangel.

“I am reporting, comrade commander, that all detachments left as ordered. We are the last.”

That was the way that Vangel operated in all the battles of the 18th Brigade of DAG. In one battle in May 1949 he gave his life. He fell heroically. He was awarded a bravery medal for his bravery and abilities. The fighters and the officers of the 18th Brigade will never forget the hero messenger Vangel.

All of Vangel’s family was involved in the fight for freedom. His old father, Naum, lay in prison for many many years. His mother, baba Marija, was persecuted by the monarch-fascist forces. His older brother Kuzma fell as a lieutenant of DAG in 1947 – and his sister, Athina, died in the big battles of Maki-Madi on 21 September 1948.
The Fifteen Killed from the Village Bahovo

In 1943 everyone in the Karadzhovska region was up on their feet. Macedonians and Greeks were fighting together heroically against the German-Italian occupiers for the liberation of the motherland.

In the village of Bahovo all of the adult males and females were organized in the ranks of EAM and the youth in EPON. Many of the youth had joined the ranks of ELAS while the others served in the ELAS reserve and were available to the 30th regiment of ELAS, very ready to help wherever they were needed. The youth from Bahovo participated in many attacks against the German occupiers. They participated in the attack by ELAS against the German column that was marching from Voden to Sabasko in November 1943. Four enemy trucks were set alight and there were 10 German soldiers killed or injured. On 26 December 1943 they participated in the attack on the mine in Gumendzhansko and on 6 January of the following year in the attack on Sabasko. On that occasion the German commander of the town was killed.

All of that activity in Bahovo was a thorn in the eye of the occupying forces so, late into the night of the 19th, toward the 20th of January 1944, a large German army surrounded the village and arrested 25 people. Three of them: Hristo Veshkov, Alekso Poshinov and Petro Adzhiev were shot the same day in Sabasko. The remaining ones were sent to Solun and imprisoned in the concentration camp “Pavlos Melas”. Ten of them were shot on 3 March 1944 in the Solun-Kukush highway: Perikli Tanurovski, Georgi Salamanov, Niko Tuba, Kosta Veshkov, Zaharija Veshkov, Dimitri Kukuli, Niko Ikonomu (teacher), Hristo Heruli, Spiro Heruli and Hristo from Sabasko. Four others were sent to the concentration
camp in Germany. Two of them, Jani Kalojanov and Dimitri Dzhambazov, did not return.

N Tanuri
Beglenche Dimitri

Dimitri Beglenche was born in the village Pochip – Karadzhovsko in 1925. In 1946 he joined the ranks of the DAG and was involved in significant operations. He participated in many operations in Macedonia, Epirus, Thessaly and Roumeila.

Even though he was illiterate and started out as a lowly private, he became the commander of a company, passing through all of the ranks on his way.

At the age of 23 he became the commander of the EPON company in Roumeila. Wise and brave in battle, the respected commander was overcome by youthful passion. Both fighters and officers praised him. Beglenche demonstrated capabilities as a commander as well as being a master tactician. As the commander of a company he played a decisive role in the battle at Greek Karpenis in January 1949. In that battle he showed such bravery and capability, initiative and decisiveness that his contribution ensured the success of the operation. After the battle he was promoted to the rank of captain. However his authority was even further enhanced. He was in the hearts of all of the fighters of Roumeila. One of the higher-ranking officers of DAG when he met other officers spoke only of the bravery and talents of Beglenche. He said “We, the Greek fighters, in the face of Beglenche, of Gjoro and of the other brave Macedonian fighters and officers of DAG recognize our brother Macedonian people, with whom we have been tied by close ties for many long years.”

Beglenche was killed on 21 March 1949 near Panagija, close to the village of Dimari in Epirus.

A Rahutis
Beljo Hristo

Hristo Beljo was born in Bresnica, Kostur region, in 1934. At the time of the Nazi occupation he was among the first from the village to join the ranks of the EPON. At the start he was the secretary of the EPON organization in his own village and later on he was elected a member of the Kostur regional council of EPON.

After the Varkiza agreement he continued bravely to work illegally in the regional council of EPON.

In 1947 he joined the ranks of DAG and participated in many battles in Gramos, Voion, Vich and other places. On 20 September 1948 he was wounded. After he got better, he was able to continue his battle operations. On 2 January 1949 he was sent to the officer school in the headquarters of DAG. And after that he served as a 2nd Lieutenant leading commander in various units of DAG.

He died in a battle near Vrba on 14 August 1949.
Belcho Hristo (Taki)

Hristo Belcho – Taki, as is told about him, was born on 19 October 1921 in the village of Pilkati, Kostur region to a poor and large family.

His father, chicho-Pando, an ordinary and hard working man, from his earliest years became fully aware of the hard battle for a crust of bread, the back breaking work of the farm worker and the timber getter. He traveled overseas, to America, to France and Argentina so that he could ensure that his family could eat but he returned as poor as he was when he left.

The progressive ideas of his father who had traveled a lot and seen many things were deeply received by then 10 year old Taki, who was hungry to learn other histories than the stories told by his mother and his grandmother.

Taki completed his primary school in 1935. His teacher was Sanida Georgo a young man from Lamija with progressive ideas and democratic convictions. Even though he had strict orders not to permit the children to speak Macedonian, he learned the Macedonian language from the old grandmothers – even better than he could from the students. Sanida planted into the enthusiastic soul of his student a love of learning, his motherland and the people. He liked Taki a lot for the wisdom with which he thought. He often said to chich-Pando that he should be sent to Kostur to high school. That was Taki’s wish. However poverty forced him to enter a different school more difficult than the ordinary schools - the school of the harsh battle for a crust of bread to eat. His parents sent him to Athens to work in his uncle’s shop. Taki took with him a few things and a stale loaf of bread, slung his bag over his shoulder and set off on the big journey.
“May God and Mary, Mother of God, be with you son! Look after your health, work honestly and be careful of bad people. Don’t spend your money because you have many sisters to be married off,” said his bitter mother with tears in her eyes, as she saw him off.

Taki worked in Athens for two years or so from 1935 to 1937 in his uncle Sotir’s shop. It was during this time that he saw how difficult it was to earn a crust even in Athens. He met many working youth, and became friends with them. He was amazed at the way they thought. He walked around Athens with those youths and was not slow to learn that in essence there were two Athens: the Athens of the rich and the Athens of the poor. For the first time he read newspapers and magazines. For the first time he read, in secret, a strange newspaper that his friends gave him. It was not very big, not like the other newspapers in Athens with large letters and eye-catching headlines, with cartoons and thousands of photographs. It was a small newspaper with light headlines in a small font. From the headlines and the content he learned that it was the organ of the CPG, the voice of the worker, of the working class of Greece.

When he returned to his village, to his parents, Taki was a different person, mature and experienced.

After the fall of the Albanian front, the great epic story of the national struggle began. The youth of Greece answered the call to the struggle. This was the start of the battle operations and the stirring of passion in the youth.

In April 1943, two months later, EPON was founded. He joined its ranks and became one of its most active members and cadres. Because of his organizational abilities he was elected secretary of the regional committee of EPON in the village of Gramos, Kostur region.

In October 1943 he became a member of CPG and was elected a member of the Kostur regional committee of EPON
and worked as an EPON activist. In November 1044 he was elected the secretary of the regional committee of CPG in Nestramsko, where he worked tirelessly until he was killed.

There is no village in the western part of Kostur that would not know Taki, the warrior of Gramos with broad shoulders and big eyes. A popular face, a real son of the people. He was so well liked by the people that the grandmothers and grandfathers called him ”son” while the younger people called him ”brother”. Mothers would go to him to seek comfort about when the plunderers, the fascists, those who killed the children and destroyed the villages would be wiped out.

He was always happy, smiling and he knew how to speak to each mother who was handing her son over to ELAS, to fathers who had heard the bitter news of the death of a son. With simple but persuasive words he attracted the youth to join the struggle to eliminate the conqueror.

After the Varkiza agreement a terror campaign began: arrests, exile to the barren islands, killings. The traitors and collaborators of the occupiers with the support of the British continued their operations, they rained terror on the people, they burned villages to the ground, they persecuted the honourable patriots. The reaction from Kostur was a plan to destroy the best sons of the people. Accordingly on 14 September 1945 a police detachment arrested Taki, tortured him inhumanely and left him half dead. However, even after that, Taki continued to work tirelessly. He went from village to village to give courage to the people.

On 22 December 1945, in the early morning he was caught together with the brave communist of ELAS, Pando Vlahov, who was from the same village. About 40 gendarmes descended into Kalevishta. And after they put them to inhuman torture, they rounded them into the village square of Kalevishta, where, in the night, on 23 December 1945,
because of the terrible torture they had endured, the two fearless communists died.

*M Ranti*
Berea Metodi (Todorche)

Metodi Berea was born in 1912 in the village Patele, Lerin region. As a young boy he worked for others and at the age of 18 he joined OKNE (the Communist Organisation of the Youth of Greece). His work for OKNE was exemplary and quickly he becomes the organisational secretary of OKNE for his village, which had a large number of members.

In 1933 he was a soldier in the 28th infantry, battalion in Lerin. In the army, where the rules were very strict, he maintained serious revolutionary work. For that reason he was carefully watched. In 1934 after his discharge from the army he became a member of CPG. He now continued his revolutionary work with greater activism and in a short time became the secretary of one party cell in his village. It has to be acknowledged that the party organisation in Patele was, at that time, very strong and was comprised of a number of cells.

In March 1935 in the days of the Venizelos military fascist coup after a provocation operation by the local reactionary forces and the police, five party officials from Patele were arrested with Mijale Klanev at the head. The organisation in Patele and the wider Surovichko area suffered a terrible blow. At that time, after a resolution of the Regional Committee of the Party in Lerin, among the others, Metodi was nominated as a member of the regional committee of the party in Surovichko. And there Metodi worked intensely on the reorganisation of the party cells in Surovichko.

In all of the posts he occupied, Metodi showed himself to be a capable leader. He, together with his comrades in the campaign for the First of May holiday and other revolutionary activities put up posters and appeals on the walls. In the pre-election campaigns in 1935 and 1936 he worked tirelessly to disseminate policies of the party for the equal rights for the
Macedonian people. He read “Rizospastis” and other revolutionary papers and was one of those who was most dedicated to self-education and ideological advancement.

From the very first days of the German occupation Metodi joined the illegal activists of the CPG, who managed to evade prison and exile and began even more intensive work for the reorganisation of the party organs in the Lerin region. Hounded by the occupier forces he worked illegally as an instructor in the regional committee in the most dangerous region, which included most of the villages in the Lerin plain. Under the pseudonym Todorche he covered the villages, he reorganised the old party organs and created new ones. Todorche was intoxicated by the success of the liberation movement in the region, and did not always take the necessary measures of secrecy. And so, one day in the summer of 1943 he was arrested by the Germans in the village Kleshtina and taken to the Lerin prison. And after a short time, on 9 August 1943, together with other patriots, he was hanged in the village of Kabasnica, on the road Lerin-Bitola.

Metodi faced death as he had faced battle and showed himself to be a hero. As he approached the executioner to allow the noose to be placed around his neck, he punched him and then raised his fist to the sky to send a message to his comrades and the travelers who were passing along the road.

The fighters of ELAS sang him a song. Together with Berea, the others who were hanged were Popstambul from the village Nevoljani, Bai Naum Kodshibanov from the village Voshtareni, Tanas Keomdzhirov from Dramsko, M Drambi from Lerin and 10 other Greek and Macedonian patriots.

With the blood of the 15 Macedonian and Greek patriots who died with a noose around their necks, with the death of
thousands of patriots who fell in the people’s struggle, the two brother peoples were unified.

G Dishkov
Bochev Nikola

Nikola Bochev was born in the village Ekshisovo, Lerin region in 1920 to a poor village family. He completed his primary education in the village of his birth and then he went to work in the fields. Because his father’s orchards were not enough to feed the family, he had to go to work for others.

From a young age he was a sympathiser of CPG and in 1944 he became a member. In 1946 he joined he ranks of DAG and became a military commander. In 1948 he moved to the People’s Police and served in Vich, Prespa region. In July 1948 when the forces of DAG were engaged in Gramos and DAG did not have an army at Prespa, one fascist battalion set off from Lerin with the intention of taking Prespa, which was at that time free. It managed to reach Bela-Voda and then moved toward the villages German and Rudari. The danger for Prespa was manifest. Fifteen to twenty police fought bravely all day against the fascist battalion and managed to hold the fascists until a company of DAG arrived. In that hard unequal battle Nikola was injured. However, despite the heavy wound he continued to fight and fell heroically. For his bravery he was made a lieutenant, deceased hero.

P Dumkov
Bulev Mati

Mati Bulev was born in 1904 in the exquisite and heroic village Ekshisovo, Lerin region. From a young age he was known in Surovichko for his revolutionary activism. Conferences of the village party organization of the CPG, VMRO as well as briefings of the party organisation of the Surovichko region were held in his house. The CPG activists found a hiding place in his home along with members of other organisations.

At the time of the parliamentary elections in January 1936 Mati together with a group of about 30 party and unaffiliated residents of Ekshisevo, joining the candidates of the People’s Front, visited many villages in Surovichko and helped to distribute the CPG program, that of the People’s Front. Thanks to the decisive and persistent operations of the communists from Ekshisovo, at the time of the elections an election office was established in the village and the People’s Front had a significant win - it got 188 votes and was the first among a number of parties in the village.

In the time of DAG, Mati was older than the others. However, his age did not get in his way. Despite his 45 years bai-Mati Bulev from Ekshisovo could not tolerate the new occupiers. He grabbed his pistol and set off for Radosh. He made his base there. From the time of the German occupation he was familiar with the natural surroundings of Radosh – roads, caves, hills; every branch. When he had been very young he had been there often, taken the oxen to pasture and cut wood.

He met others there who were like-minded and with them he formed his group. He quickly showed the monarcho-fascists of Surovichko that they could not torture the people quite so easily. With the first attacks he armed his group well with Bren, Thompsons, pistols, hand grenades that he took
from the American mercenaries. Sabotage, ambush, surprise attacks on their trenches were all a part of the plan of Bai-Mati. His eye was not afraid of anything. He encouraged his comrades. With his strength, cunning, cleverness, quick implementation of decisions, he impressed his comrades and becomes their leader. The hits he makes on the fascists made them quake in fear. Their attempts to destroy him had the opposite effect. Mati moved and acted in accordance with careful plans. He had a network of helpers because the people had a deep affection for him. He appeared where he was not expected.

In the Surovo plain, the village Elevish was frightened. A number of armed fascist mercenaries terrorised the whole region. Mati ruined their plans many times, but he did not have enough forces to render them harmless. At the end he thought of a plan to penalise the terrorists. He knew that at night all of the fascists kept guard over the village to ensure that the partisans did not enter. Mati took a donkey and loaded it with saddlebags in which he placed two Telermain mines, lit the fuse and turned the donkey toward the MAI trenches. The American “tough guys” opened fire as soon as they heard a sound. One of the many bullets hit the donkey and it fell, dead, within their trenches. Amazed, they ran to see the victim of their shooting. This was the time at which the mines came into play. The explosions destroyed a wide area. “Six brave fighters” were killed and some others who were injured were crying – they cried for the destiny that awaited them.

That is the penalty that Mati imposed on those who tortured the people. From that point on, the remaining forces could not leave the boundaries of the village.

Mati fell on 19 April 1949 fighting heroically above the village Zeleniche. For his services to the people’s movement, after his death he was made a captain commissar and honoured with a medal for his selfless saboteur operations.
Vlahov Pando

From his youngest years Pando Vlahov became familiar with poverty, hunger, doing without, exploitation and injustice.

He was born in the village Pilkati, Kostur region in 1903 to a very poor family. All he owned was an axe and a saw, a plane and a drill. With those tools he made a barrel or two, skipping from one village to another from the age of 14. He had a surfeit of poverty but he never had enough bread to eat his whole life, even though he was skilled at his work.

The black years of the Metaxas regime made his life even harder. The unbearable levies and persecution forced him to change his trade. Eventually he became a shepherd and kept the villagers’ sheep. He thought he would be able to improve the life of his four children and that a coin or two would remain for clothing – so he could buy shoes.

The war saved him from that job. Six months Pando protected the motherland fighting against the Italian fascists in the Albanian mountains. With the aggression of the Nazis and the destruction of the front he returned to his family to see his children. Then he entered the army of the unfortunates, the hungry of the period 1941-44. He went from one bad thing to something even worse.

When the epic story of the national struggle started, whose soul was CPG, Pando was among the first to enter the ranks, joining wholeheartedly.

On 21 September 1943 he was a partisan in ELAS. And he was not too old to be a partisan; he had just turned 40. He was just the right age to hold a rifle. He had good shoulders for the machine guns and cartridges. So, bit-by-bit he became the commander of the group, then leading commander and in the middle of 1944 company commissar.
After the Varkiza agreement, he returned to his village. However, he regarded his work as incomplete. We eliminated one occupier but another one had taken his spot. Our lives were no better. The work of ELAS was incomplete. So he set to work in the party organisations. He was elected a member of the party committee in the primary party organisation in the village. Everyone in the village liked him and respected him, men and women, young and old. In a short while he became well known to all in the villages in the region, for his dedication and being fearless in battle for the rights of the people.

There were others who did not like him, who hated him. They were the “nationalists” – traitors and collaborators of the enemies of the people. To them, he was an irritating speck in the eye. There was nothing they did not try to make him their tool. But none of it worked. Pando was tightly tied to the party, with the people. He was not for sale; no one could buy him off. They threatened him that they would stop the food from UNRAA [United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration], they threatened him that they would take his identity papers. They used many other threats to persuade him to give in. But to no avail.

“You can take away all of my rights,” he said, “but there is one thing you cannot do: you cannot take away my right to be a communist.”

Despite all of their efforts, the reactionaries achieved nothing. Pando remained an unrelenting rock, a true son of the people and the party.

And so the reactionaries put their apparatus into action to eliminate him. On 14 September 1945 at 4 am, the agent brought the gendarmes to the village. They surrounded the village and Pando was arrested together with four others. But he craftily managed to escape from their hands. He now understood the plans of the enemy and he took his measures –
by day in the village he made sure his family had enough to eat and at night he was in the mountains with the wolves and the bears. On 21 December he decided to stay home. That was the cursed night. The persecutors from Kalevishta found out that he was home and surrounded the village. Pando was arrested again together with his colleague Take Belchev.

Who can tell about the beastly and satanic methods of the executioners? The neighbours of the police station followed the process of the frightening inquisitors with bated breath and unrestrained wrath.

“Long live CPG! We fought for it and we will die for it!” They were their last words and they closed their eyes with a smile on their faces.

_L Gercho_
Vlahov Todor

Todor Vlahov was born in the village Dobrolishta, Kostur region in 1913. He was a member of OKNE from 1932 and of CPG from 1935. In 1935-36 he was a member of the party committee of the primary party organisation in the village. He was totally given over to the party and the people. He worked tirelessly, night and day, risking his life with all sorts of danger in the time of the uncivilised terror of the Metaxas regime. In 1939 he was arrested, put to beastly inquisitions about his activities and at the end he was sent into exile on the island Anafi.

In 1941 in the Nazi occupation he was one of the first organisers of EAM in Kostur and one of the first armed party groups. He fought for unity between the Macedonians and the Greeks in the general struggle against the occupier. In November 1941 he was arrested by Italian fascists. They tortured him for days but with his belief in the people and the party, with his head high he withstood all the torture. He was sentenced to three years in prison in Volos. Hunger and the sufferings failed to destroy him. He got through every single part of it strongly. In 1943 he left prison and immediately joined the ranks of ELAS. He became a training officer and took part in many battles. His health was badly affected by the tortures in prison but that did not stop him from joining many battles. After Varkiza he was again persecuted but he continued to work illegally until his last days.

He died in 1946 after a heavy illness.

P Mirkovski
Vivkov Naum

Naum M. Vivkov was born in 1916 in the village Dmbeni, Kostursko. Together with many other youths from his village he was among the first to join the ranks of the partisan movement. Brave and fearless, talented with military skills he became a military commander and after that a commander of the troop. He was an exemplary fighter and comrade in his troop. He was wounded many times but the last time he was wounded was fatal and he died in 1948 when the military operations started in Gramos. He distinguished himself in the battles in Gramos. He, with the brave example he set, acted in a way that no one in his troop relinquished the Kleftis hill.

D Vlahov
Georgiadis Georgi

Georgie Georgiadis was born in the village Shtrkovo, Lerin region. At the time of the Nazi occupation, he worked in EPON. In 1947 he became a partisan in the ranks of DAG. He participated in many battles and because of his strength and bravery he was sent to officer school in the headquarters of DAG, where he was an exemplary student-fighter. In the battles in Vich in 1949 he fell, killed.

Georgi’s father, bai-Traiko, also fell in the battle for freedom of their motherland. He had fought during Ilinden; he was an Ilindenec, and despite his older age, he undertook a number of different services for DAG. Along with the others from Prespa, he dug the trenches in Bela-Voda, Bigla Lunzer and elsewhere. He said “We will dig trenches so that our children can defend themselves and so that our children are better able to fight.” And there, where he was working - in Bigla – an enemy grenade found him and he was killed. When Georgi learned of his father’s death, threw himself into battle against fascism with even greater passion.

M Petridi
Georgievski Anton

Anton Georgievski is born in the village Bukovnik, Lerin region, in 1921. He joined the ranks of DAG in the summer of 1947. He served in the units in Gramos, Vich, Vojon. In the battle in Lerin in February 1949 he was wounded. On 3 April 1949 near Jamata, Vich, he encountered an enemy post and was fatally wounded.

On 26 May 1949 he was promoted to first lieutenant, a hero.
Georgiovski Kosta and Kirko

Kosta Georgiovski was born in the village Breshteni, Kostur region in 1916. Kosta was a powerful youth and very early on he joined a progressive movement. In 1938 at the time of the Metaxas dictatorship, he was arrested and imprisoned in Rupishta, Kostur.

In the time of the Nazi occupation, he was among the first to join the ranks of the national struggle and became a good organiser and an activist in EAM. In 1943 he joined the ranks of ELAS and fought as a leading commander with bravery and a patriotic enthusiasm against the occupiers for a free motherland. Because of his works, and also because of the involvement of his whole family in the national liberation struggle, after the Varkiza agreement, he and his family were followed and inhumanely tortured by the government forces and armed bandits.

For that reason, he was forced to take up a rifle once more and to fight in the ranks of DAG. He participated in many battles in Macedonia, Thrace, Roumelia and he fought heroically. On 26 July 1947 he fell, an officer of DAG, on Kafki hill in Agrafa.

After a year in the month of July 1948 his younger brother, Kirko, was also killed.

Kirko was born in 1921. Following the example of his older brother Kosta, he also joined the revolutionary movement at the age of 17. In 1938 at the time of the dark dictatorship of Metaxas, he was arrested and lay in prison for three months. At the time of the German occupation he was one of the first members of EAM and worked as an organiser of the people in the national struggle. After a betrayal, Kirko was arrested by the occupying forces and sentenced to 20 years in prison. He lay in Athenian prisons for a long time and later was sent to Italy and from there to the German camps.
Kirko had joined the revolutionary movement at a young age, and bore many burdens on his shoulders so that he could see his motherland free and to see it enjoy democracy. However, when he returned from the German camps, he found things different in Greece to what he expected. In the place of the German occupiers now there were the English (later the Americans) and the Greek government was again in the hands of those who had fought together with the Germans. In Kostur as in the whole of Greece various terrorist bands were carrying out a terror campaign. Filled with hate for the new occupiers and their servants, Kirko threw himself afresh into the struggle for freedom, independence and democracy. In 1946 he entered the ranks of DAG and fought bravely in the mountains and villages of western Macedonia.

In 1948, Kirko served in the intelligence service of the 14\textsuperscript{th} infantry brigade and in this post he fell heroically in July 1948 in the village Zhelin, Kostur region.
The Thirteen Executed from the Village German

On 17 April 1946 at 1 am, the gendarmerie excised the village German to rebellion. More than 50 police and soldiers raised their voices, swore and broke down doors and in a brutal manner stormed into the houses. On that dreadful night more than 40 souls, men and women, were arrested and imprisoned in the police lock up for three whole months, and were subjected to beastly torture. After that some were imprisoned in Lerin while others were sent to Solun prisons. Thirteen of them – Belev Vasil, Babinkostov German, Boglev German, Damovski Joshe, Ivanov Johdrich, Mladenov German, Mechkarov Fote, Nushev Vangel, Pandeov Stojan, Rusev Lazo, Torkov Metodija, Cetelev Vangel and Jankov Stojan in 1947 were imprisoned in the bloody camps of Ura.

For more than a year the thirteen patriots from the village of German, together with thousands of other fighters from villages in Greece, felt the horrors of Ura. Despite the beastly tortures they did not resile one bit from their position on the people’s struggle and remained loyal to their beloved party – CPG – and the people.

That which was not achieved by the best of Ura the reactionary forces thought they would manage by the military court. In October 1948 the thirteen German villagers were taken to Lerin where they appeared before the military court and were sentenced to death. On 29 October they were all shot.

The history of the thirteen German villagers is the same as that of many villagers and their motherlands – Macedonia and Greece. They were all honourable patriots and brave fighters for freedom, members of EAM and CPG, who participated actively in the struggle against the Nazi and Italian occupation for the liberation of the motherland.
When the news of the death of the thirteen precious sons reached German, the local people’s council in honour of the killed fighters arranged a people’s festival, which the whole village joined. At the festival the presidents of the People’s Government, DAG, and the Lerin Regional People’s Council were present, as well as delegates from other Prespa villages and others.

The DAG philharmonic played mournful marches, while a guard formed of fighters showed respect to the lost fighters.
Giza Tanas

It was autumn 1946. After extensive travel along the bare rocky mountain, we entered into forest. From the time of the ELAS partisan movement, I had yet to enter into such a forest. What amazing moments! It was as if I had met an old, loyal friend and protector… we traveled along a narrow path among the trees. A tall, broad and thriving pine forest, with a soft carpet below of fallen yellow pine needles. The air was clear and moist. All of that made us feel deeply moved. I relived all the ELAS memories of gatherings, comrades, friends…

I was in a happy frame of mind when we entered the partisan camp of one of the local units. The campfires were abandoned and the partisans were up and getting ready to go. The commander was giving them their final orders. Tall, broad shouldered, with a wide forehead, a decisive look in his eyes, lips pressed together. Put briefly, this was a man with power and a strong will. The commander inspired trust and respect.

“Giza!” I called and ran toward him. He greeted me happily. It was our first meeting since the time of ELAS. In our short discussion, unexpectedly, as though he wanted to get something off his chest that had been strangling his soul, he told me about some new divisive actions carried out by certain elements and, concerned, he finished by saying, “We have to bring an end to such actions. Without brotherhood and unity with the Greek people, we will not succeed in our harsh battle.” That was the moral fibre of Giza, who had a clear political orientation.

On 22 December 1946, through the efforts of the CPG, and under the strong pressure of the people, the local partisan groups and groupings were unified and reorganised under the flag of DAG. Giza set off with one of the groups for Voion.
The stormy meetings came one after the other. DAG took control of whole regions and in the conditions of the war the people with enthusiasm and energy that had not been seen before built the foundations of a people’s government. “For the first time you live as a free person, owner of your own land, you keep the results of your own effort. Girls and boys, men and women, enter the ranks of DAG.”

Our forces grew. The groups of between 77-88 fighters became divisions of 150-200 fighters.

I encountered him as commander of a division in the summer of 1947. He was respected by the partisans of his division, and well known to the partisans and the people from Vich to Hasija. The leadership of DAG in Voion – Gramos rated Giza very highly and intended shortly to promote him to the position of battalion commander.

However, the work of the people’s fighter was cut short at the “Battle of Grevena” because the brave patriot from the village of Neret, Lerin, the brave protector of unity in struggle between the Macedonian and Greek people fell heroically, for a just cause, freedom and democracy for our motherland.

G Nedelko
Grozdanovski Kiro

Kiro Grozdanovski was from the village Besfina, Lerin region. He did not manage to know his father, who, because of great poverty, escaped to America with the aim of helping his family.

So, Kiro’s suffering mother raised him and two other sons.

From the age of 17 Kiro entered ELAS and, armed with a rifle, fought against the Nazi occupiers.

In the second phase of the armed struggle he joined the DAG. He was an exemplary and decisive fighter. He sang while he fought. The headquarters of DAG wrote about his courage in its bulletin.

With these talents, Kiro earned the respect and trust of the fighters and officers. In the great battle at Gramos in 1948 he was the unit commander and defended Kopanche hill, near Nestram. Only those who participated in the frightening battles at Gramos, on Kopanche hill, Haros know how dreadful that fight was. Not a single tree remained standing. Even the rocks were crushed. Gore was spread all around and there was the smell of gunpowder, fuel and scorched human flesh.

It was in this frightening battle that Kiro was killed, just at the moment his unit had beaten the enemy and forced them to back off.

In the archives of the 589 battalion of the 14th brigade of DAG, is written – “Kiro Grozdanovski in the battle at Kopanche showed bravery and courage and fell a hero.”

*M Chokalovski*
The Fifty Two Executed from Gumenichko

In May 1944 the German occupying armies began military operations against the units of ELAS on Pajak mountain. The military operations were unsuccessful and the German forces suffered about 10 fatalities, among whom was the commander of the Greek Boemitsa. They then threw themselves with viciousness against the peaceful population. They set fire to the village Livada, plundered and looted other villages and arrested more than 100 patriots – Macedonians and Greeks from the Gumendzha and surrounds. They were all members of CPG and EAM, while Gono Maslinchev and Tanasis Aleksandropoulos were cadres of CPG in Gumenichko. On 8 May they hanged one of the arrested people, G Georgopulos, while the others were sent to the Solun camp “Pavlos Melas.”

After a month 52 of those arrested were transferred again to Gumendzha and they were shot at the area known as “Chkrchishta”, one kilometre from the town. They shot them five at a time and dropped them into a single unmarked grave.

All 52 patriots bravely greeted their deaths and their last words –
“Long live ELAS.”
“Long live CPG.”
“Long live freedom.”

Hr Menchev
Dzhikov Vangel (Dzhikata)

Vangel Dzhikov grew up and went to school in the little town Surovichovo. His parents came from the poor mountain village Chegan near Kajmachkalan mountain, which they left after the Balkan wars.

Vangel was a slim man, but muscular and full of life and energy. He was around 25 years of age when the German plague flooded our motherland. With the help of the Lerin CPG regional committee, the party organisation in Surovichovo reorganised and some of the older communists joined along with new members. Among the new members of the Surovichovo party organisation was Vangel Dzhikov. His decisiveness and activitism were such that he quickly advanced and was allocated responsible tasks. He was elected a member of the committee of the party organisation in Surovichko and was responsible for military operations. That job was not easy especially in Surovichovo which is in a central spot between the mountains Vich-Sinjachko-Vermio-Kajmachkilan. Vangel kept in contact with the party units of ELAS, which were active in all four mountains. He collected provisions - wheat, money, goods, arms, and anything else that was required, by various channels, and took care that it was delivered to the partisan units. Vangel carried a great burden. However, he carried it well. He worked day and night to meet the party commands, the commands of the people’s liberation movement and was forced to abandon his own affairs, although that was dangerous.

Surovichovo is a small town and the smallest suspicion of movement is exaggerated. The regional office of the Greek police is located there and it had a German commander. Vangel was in the jaws of the lion. However, as the police and the commander collected witness statements about his work, so too did he, with his own people, collect witness statements
about the intentions of the enemy. He knew how serious and responsible the work that he did in Surovichovo was and took all possible measures so that he could continue his work without harm. And when he learnt he could no longer stay in Surovichovo, the party found him other work to do.

He then worked as an illegal activist, as a member of the Surovichovo regional committee of CPG. He was dangerous; carrying bombs on his belt, with a schmajzer light machine gun over his shoulder and with his pistol in his hand, he went from village to village to carry out the party’s work. Vangel’s work was excellent in this post too. However the place was dangerous. It was on the road to Lerin, to Kostur, to Kajlari. All of the villages are on the road. On 28 March 1944 close to the village Ailos he encountered a German truck. An unequal battle began. Vangel fought bravely. The Germans got within a few steps of him. Then, realising that he would be killed, he grabbed the bomb from his belt and threw it at the Germans. A few of them died. They died from the damage done by the bomb thrown by the brave people’s fighter.

Vangel Dzhikata.
Dimchev Georche

He was born in the town Enidzhe-Vardar. He was a wheelwright. From 1934 he sympathised with the communist movement and helped it materially. During the occupation he actively participated in the anti-fascist battle and in 1943 he became a member of the party. After a few months he became a member of the head office of the party organisation. He showed himself to be a good organiser and honourably completed all orders given to him by the party.

His work was noticed by the local forces and that is why they searched for him, leaving no stone unturned. After the Varkiza agreement he continued to fight in pursuit of the party’s objectives and those of the people. In 1947 he was arrested and appeared before a military court. He was sentenced to death and was shot by an execution squad.

F Urumov
Dinga Niki

Niki Dinga was born in the village Nestram, Kostur region. She was a member of CPG from 1944. At the time of the Nazi occupation she worked in the EPON organisation. Niki’s whole family also participated in the people’s struggle and because of that after the Varkiza agreement she was interned in the village Chetirok. But the brave communist found the means and escaped from Chetirok and joined DAG. In 1947, 1948, 1949 as a leading commander in many battles in different places in Macedonia she fought courageously. In the battles in Lerin in February 1949 she took part as an officer. She was surrounded by the enemy forces and so that she would not fall into the hands of the enemy, she took her own life.

N Karapandov
Doichinov Todor (Morava)

He was born in Enidzhe-Vardar in 1919 in a struggling craftsman’s family. During the time of the Nazi occupation, he actively participated in the people’s struggle for liberation. From a young age he kept company with progressive people. He was a member of OKNE and from 1942 a member of CPG. The enemy regarded him with terror. The fascists in the area trembled with fear when they heard the name Morava – his pseudonym. A notice was published in the newspapers stating that the person who would bring the head of Morava to the government forces would get a monetary award.

In January 1946 Morava was again among the first partisans. He entered the town Enidzhe-Vardar itself to fulfill orders specifically given to him by the Party. Not concerned about the effort required, and not thinking of himself, he went around the whole area to organise the people against the monarcho-fascist forces. In 1947 he was discovered by the local agents in the village Krushara. The traitors were Petar Kurtelev – mayor of the village and Ivan Rabushev. Many gendarmes arrived and surrounded the village. Then Morava, along with Kicho Krstev, cut through the enemy line surrounding the house they were in and set off to leave the village. But in the effort to make their way they hit the second line surrounding the village. Krstev fell and Morava was wounded in the leg. Then he gathered together his remaining strength and scrambled to a safer spot, burned his documents and kept watch alone against hundreds of enemy fighters. Realising that he will either be taken alive or die at the hand of the enemy he took his last hand bomb, dropped it on the ground and lay down on top of it.

The monarcho-fascists took his body and threw it in the village square in Enidzhe-Vardar as a warning to the people
but instead of them becoming afraid, the sight fortified their hatred against the enemy.

*Hr Mishov*
Dorovski Vane

One of the three

The name Vane Dorovski has an outstanding heroic association to it. In the horrendous battles on Gramos in the summer of 1947 a military unit of DAG comprising both Greek and Macedonians youths was ordered to protect the Kotelska tower (Pirgos Kotilis). The Kotelska tower played a decisive role in the battle and the enemy sent large numbers of troops there.

The airplanes droned above the heads of the brave fighters and the place was on fire. Machine guns, mine launchers, artillery and planes all hit the hill aiming for the brave protectors, who fought heroically for many days in a row.

On 16 July the tower collapsed. Most of the courageous freedom fighters were killed. Only three were left alive. Countless enemy fighters lay dead. The heroes shot almost all their bullets at the enemy but kept some for themselves. Arm in arm they threw themselves into the fire so that they would not fall into the hands of the enemy alive. Two of them were Greeks and one was a Macedonian – Vane Dorovski from the village Sheshtevo, Kostur region.

Dorovski fought and died an honourable descendent of the fearless 54 heroes of the “Nozhot”\(^2\) who exactly 40 years earlier on 16 July 1907 under the leadership of the brave Sheshtevo resident – Atanas Popov, bravely fought against a large Turkish army contingent and bravely died. And so that they would not be captured alive by the Turks, they lay on their bombs and, with the battle song “Whoever falls in a battle for freedom, never dies!” they blew themselves up.

\(^2\) Nozhot – the peak of Babuna Mountain.
The courageous fighters of the Kotelska hill fell for the sacred ideals of democracy, independence and peace, for the equal rights of all peoples.

Kotelska hill is a symbol of the brotherhood and equality between Greeks and Macedonians in their struggle, a symbol that is etched in the blood of the brave Greek and Macedonian youth who will serve as a sacred example for the struggle of our people.

The three eagles of Kotelska hill with their heroism created new pages in the long history of the Greek and Macedonian people. Pages that read like those of the brave women of Zalongo who with a song on their lips threw themselves into their deaths so that they would not fall into the hands of the Turks; of the courageous fighters of Meoloni in the revolution of 1821, of the immortal Ilinden heroes, of the famous creators and protectors of the Krushevo Republic, of the fearless fighters of “Sliva” and “Mechkin Kamen” of the eagles of the epic story “Nozhot.”

“In many places, countless places, people with other names, with strange names, far from our borders, far from us, are a part of the struggle, from distant centuries until today, they sacrificed for human rights and freedom. The old are bound to the young, we are bound to strangers, all humankind, and they light our struggle, the harsh road of our fight.”

---

3 From the book “We will win” by K Purnaras.
Duvalovska Afrodita (Floga)

Afrodita Duvalovska is born in 1922 in the village Nestram, Kostur region. In the Nazi occupation she was among the first and best members of EPON in the village. At the beginning of 1944 she joined the ranks of ELAS and fought heroically against the occupiers.

After the Varkiza agreement she was followed. She joined DAG as early as September 1046. She completed officer school at the DAG headquarters. She was one of the best students at the school and courageously faced the enemy operations in Agrafa as well as all of the trials of battle – hunger, cold. She participated in the great march of the headquarters from Roumelia – Gramos – Vich. She was a tireless fighter and was regularly in battle, usually in the front lines.

She took part in the great battles of Gramos in 1948 as a sub-lieutenant, unit commander and defended the Gorusa-Haros hills. Her unit fought courageously and successfully handled the attacks from the numerous enemy. She was often in the front line and with a machine gun in her hands. She was cool-headed and decisive. She liked and respected the fighters and her authority was highly regarded by them.

She was wounded in the leg at the great attack in Haros. The commander of the unit allocated her a comrade to take her to the station for first aid. She would not agree to go.

“Why are you still here?” the captain asked her. She answered, “How can I escape? What will happen with the leadership?”

And only when the captain persuaded her that the leadership would be taken care of and would continue the battle, did she set off to the station for first aid.

Afrodita fought in all battles passionately with her youthful fire. She was promoted to unit commissar and it was
АФРОДИТА ДУВАЛОВСКА (ФЛОГА)
in that post that she was killed on 11 November 1948 at the battle of Bikovik – Vich.

M Charas
Duvalovski Pando

He was born in 1924 in the village Nestram, Kostur region. As early as 1940 he threw himself, with youthful fire, into the battle against the fascist occupation. In 1941 at the age of 17 he became a member of DAG and in 1942 was arrested by the Italian occupation forces and thrown into prison. After the capitulation of the fascist regime in Italy, Pando was freed and immediately joined the ranks of ELAS. Because of his activism he was sent to the ELAS officer school and graduated as an officer. He fought heroically against the occupiers for the liberation of our motherland. After Varkiza he continued to work actively in the ranks of EPON and in July 1946 he was among the first to join the ranks of DAG. At the start, he served as a company commander in Gramos where he was wounded. He was killed on 3 September 1948 at Bela Voda.

Pando Duvalovski was one of the selected and brave fighters of ELAS and DAG and fought bravely for the people. He was promoted to major, deceased hero.

N Karapandov

P Gecho
Dumkova Katina

Twenty-year-old Katina Dumkova, heroic girl, fighter for DAG, does not live among us today. She died in the area of Vulgara-Kotelsko (Gramos) fighting courageously in the front line for freedom, independence and democracy.

Katina was born in the beautiful and heroic village Ekshisovo in the Lerin region, to a poor farming family. She grew up with the burden of poverty and hard work. She was short in stature, full of life and active.

When our motherland was subjected to Nazi fascism and the voice of the doubly enslaved people called us to fight for freedom, this young girl joined the ranks of EPON. As a member of EPON, an “eponitka”, she was tireless in her work. Her fiery heart was full of hate for the tyrants and desire for the emancipation of the people steered her to revolution. These were the reasons she gave her all in battle.

After Varkiza, Katina felt her people had again been enslaved. Her life was hard. She could not bear the disgrace imposed on her family or her beloved EPON by the monarcho-fascists. Before her very eyes, two of her neighbours, sisters Vesa and Niki Srezhovi were burned alive in the village square.

Despite seeing that brutal terror and torture the young revolutionary was not afraid, she did not bow her head for even a moment but rather continued to work tirelessly, she worked illegally in the ranks of EPON. In 1947 her revolutionary heart led her to the free mountain where she joined the ranks of DAG. She put a rifle over her shoulder and vowed revenge against the people’s tyrants. In the harshest battles Katina distinguished herself and was an example of bravery.

She was ready for anything and always happy, spreading cheer, smiles and faith in revolution. In the campaign she was
an outstanding fighter, a mother and sister, a leader, an example for her comrades and revolutionaries in the battalion. They all spoke about her golden heart, her strength. Fear was unknown to her. Her words and works repeated and strengthened the men and women fighters. She became a sergeant and was responsible for the women in her unit. She was like a mother to the young girls in the unit and all of them loved and respected her. The fighters in the unit treated her with the respect they would have shown their own sister and all of them called her “pride of our unit.”

On 2 April 1949 on the march from Vich to Gramos, in the midst of the enemy lines, the small DAG fighter was tireless. She ran around and helped the young girls with a motherly manner. And on the mountain pass at Alevica, when her unit was cutting the barbed wire set up by the enemy, Katina showed real courage.

Early in the morning 5 April 1949 Katina’s unit was pressed against a cliff, near the Kotelska hill (Pirgos Kotilis) from which two years earlier, three DAG warriors threw themselves to avoid being captured by the enemy. Katina remembered those three brave DAG members and took courage from their brave example. The intense battle started very early. Two enemy battalions attacked the unit. Specially selected people’s fighters tore the enemy battalion apart and together with the other DAG units freed Gramos again. Katina fought bravely and fearlessly on the Vulgara hill as always. With the sub machine gun and bombs in her hands she aimed the people’s wrath and vengeance at the enemy. And standing upright she went from one place to another, from one young woman to another and gave words of encouragement to the young women fighters – “Do not be afraid, we will eat them alive,” she called fearlessly. “They are fighting for foreigners, for the American interests.” Then she turned to the honourable solders and officers of the fascist battalion and
with her words she sowed love and accord. She invited them to stop the battle in which brother was killing brother.

It was 11 in the morning and Katina was fighting with a song on her lips. For a moment she stood up to see, to help another young woman who was close to her. And just at that moment an enemy grenade wounded her in the stomach, the leg and arm. Katina realised she was hit but did not shed even a tear at the pain and sadness, and continued with the same belief and calm, to ensure that the others were not worried, and gathering her last strengths, she called: “Comrades! I am dying for the people, for the party, for democracy. You keep fighting.”

The comrades lifted her up and took her to the rear and bandaged her wounds. Katina was half dead but still she could not stay at the rear. She made an effort to lift her head, to see the battle, but she could not manage, and, with all her remaining strength she said, “Men, shoot.” And she lost consciousness, her body slackened and she fell off the cliff. She fell in that holy place below the Kotelska hill where the three heroes had fallen two years before.

Katina died but her example, the example of heroism and self-sacrifice remained forever strong in the memories of her comrades and led them in the battle for Freedom, Democracy, Peace. And tomorrow when our motherland is liberated, the people will erect a tall memorial on the Kotelska hill as a mark of recognition in honour and eternal fame of the immortal heroes of the Liberation.
Dumov Kosta

At the start of 1938 and exactly in the month January on one unusually cold night, the boat Ai-Stratis did not unload. The next day Duma, an old prisoner of 1936, took us and we went to the gully near the monastery to cut branches to make beds for ourselves. As we went along the road, I watched him and wondered. He was a huge man with very broad shoulders. He wore a long coat and woolen, home made pants. He did not own any other things. He got by with those things the whole of the period of the exile.

In one corner where the winter sun baked, we sat and he told us about life in exile.

“To beat the difficulties,” – he spoke simply and softly – “you need faith and work…”

“And what sort of work can exiles do?” asked one of us.

“It turns up. You have to want to. I work with the group that cuts timber. The collective buys timber from the villagers in Avlakjata, in the village Dimitar - where there is interest – and we go and cut it. We make it into small pieces ready for transporting. With Hristo Antoniu we also make lime. Many of us from my village Vladovo know this sort of work. Those of us who are from villages work in the fields from spring onwards. We give half of our pay to the shared account and that way we help the collective and also cover our own costs a little. And the most important thing is that we are not sitting and thinking all the time about the “endless exile”.

Harder days came. The war started. The world war reached the dry island and took a dramatic form. On the one side Gestapo and the Greek police, our collective on the other. There were fewer and fewer in our rows. Some were dying, some withdrew. All of this time Duma was at the forefront, as always, calm, upstanding.
Later on we continued on. He did not escape alone. If my
memory does not mislead me, with him were old Fahantidi
from the village Rudnik – Surovichko, Micho Asteriu and
others. Their families made an effort to pull them from the
mouth of death. We sat on the hard cliffs of the island’s shore
both happy and saddened – because the others were going to
freedom while we remained bound to the island. And those in
the boat were also both happy and saddened. They waved to
us for the last time. As the boat disappeared so did the white
handkerchiefs they were waving and then finally their outlines
could no longer be seen. We did not want to leave. We stayed
until the boat became a black dot and then even that
disappeared. That is when we set off for the camp and were
envious that they had saved themselves, while we …

Later the newspapers arrived. Instead of letting them go
free, as they had promised, they had imprisoned them in the
prison camp “Pavlos Melas.” And one early morning in 1943
when the sun had already started to redden the blood of
approaching freedom, they were taken out and executed. On
the road, as they were getting out of the truck “cage” they
pulled them aside for execution, one of the police who was
known to him suggested – “Kosta, mate! Won’t you sign a
declaration to save yourself?”

Maybe it was the first time that Duma was afraid. His
face became sickly pale. His lips, his eyelids trembled quietly.
He turned to the mountains as they heard the rat-a-tat of the
Hellenic gun. He looked to the north … he straightened his
body, which was bowed by all its sufferings, to its full height.
He cleared his throat so that his voice would be clearer. And
with the Internationale he stood calmly before the
executioners, because right up to the end, he fulfilled his debt
to the people and to the party.

*K Purnaras*
The Six Executed from Dmbeni

In 1941 when they joined the side of the German-Italian occupiers, the government left the homeland and set off for England and elsewhere while the people rose up against the occupiers under the battle flag and patriotic flag of the Communist Party of Greece and wrote the famous epic story of EAM-ELAS.

The Macedonian people, together with the Greek people, became active in that struggle and sacrificed many lives to free their country. One of the Macedonian villages that contributed a great deal to the struggle for liberation is the village of Dmbeni – Kostur region. The people who lived there, well schooled in the patriotic and revolutionary spirit, began to get ready for the national struggle from the first days of the occupation. As soon as they got back from the Albanian front the youths of Dmbeni, answering the call of the Party for a national struggle to be organised, started immediately to gather the weapons which had been left behind after the Greek-Italian war. In a short time they had gathered a large number of weapons. This activity reached the ears of the Italian occupying forces. A special Italian investigative battalion reached Dmbeni and created terror in the village and tortured the people. Twenty people were arrested, most of them youths, members of OKNE and CPG.

K Vlahov, one of the arrested youths, wrote about this situation:

“In the month of October 1941 we were arrested by the fascist Italian forces which at that time occupied our village Dmbeni. We were dragged to the Kostur prison. After some time had passed we were taken to the prisons on Volos and at the start of 1943 they took us to the Athens prison “Averof”. Twenty of us from Dmbeni appeared before a military court there.
“I cannot describe in detail the heroism of the accused during the prosecution process. All of the accused, who were seated on the bench before the court, were young and capable but did not get to enjoy the joys of life. The judge Kondakis Mortos read the serious convictions followed by death sentences for the following comrades:

- Naum Dzhurkov, born in 1921, member of OKNE
- Nikola L. Shekrov, born 1921, member of OKNE
- Naum L Moskov, born 1914, member of OKNE
- Zhivko A Kenkov, born 1914, member of OKNE
- Hristo A Andriovski, born 1914, member of OKNE
- Anastas T. Skevidov, born 1916, member of the Greek Communist Party

“On the day when they took them from the depths of the prison to be executed, those of us who remained in the prison heard the voices, “Comrades… we wish you good health and hope you enjoy dear freedom…”
Evangelov Spiro

Spiro was born in the Prespa village of Rudari, in 1921. He completed second grade in the Lerin school. However, because of the poverty of his family he stopped his studies and as a young boy started to work as a labourer.

At the time of the Nazi occupation he was among the first youths of Prespa to join the ranks of EPON. He was a modest, quiet and disciplined youth. At the start he worked in his own village and later in 1944 was selected a member of the Prespa Regional Council of EPON.

Spiro was fully committed to the communist party of Greece and worked toward the unity in struggle of the Greek and Macedonian peoples. He worked tirelessly against the chauvinistic and divisive demonstrations.

In October 1946 he joined the ranks of DAG and participated in many battles – on Vich, Gramos and elsewhere, and fought bravely at each place. He was made a sub-lieutenant, commissar.

He was killed and fell on 3 April 1949 in the battle near the village Pirsojani – Gramos.
The Four Heroines from the Village Ekshisovo

In 1947 four villagers from Ekshisovo were brutally killed – Aspasija, Vesa and Niki Streshovi (sisters) and Matka Popova.

Aspasija was born in 1908, and Vesa in 1912, to a poor family. After they completed their primary school education they joined life’s struggle. They were both seamstresses and Aspasija was renowned in the whole of the Surovichko region. They had a younger sister Niki, who was born in 1917. Niki, with the help of her two sisters, managed to complete teacher’s college in Lerin to become a teacher. From a young age, all three sisters had deep sympathy for the CPG and helped the democratic movement. It was the same for Matka Popova.

In 1943 the three sisters and Matka became members of CPG and actively fought against the Nazi occupiers to free their country. Aspasija in 1944 was elected a member of the Surovichko regional committee and bravely worked organising women in the liberation struggle. She fought hard for the brotherly unity of the Greeks and Macedonians and against all chauvinism and divisive actions.

After Varkiza, the four women continued to fight passionately for the democratic movement to prevail. Because of that activity they were arrested and taken to the Surovichko Police station. There they were subjected day and night to brutal torture but they did not make any concession. Aspasija was tortured the most. The Police head, Dzhelatot-Baburis, when he saw that she was prepared to die, cut her throat. The other two sisters, Vesa and Niki, along with Matka Popova were transferred to the Ekshisovo Police prison where they were further tortured. And when the police saw that nothing was going to come out of the mouths of the three heroines, they thought up even more brutal tortures. They dragged the
women into the yard of Matka Popova, gathered together many people from Matka’s neighbourhood, called out Matka’s four children – aged 8 to 16 as well as Vesa and Niki’s mother. They lit a fire in the yard and with heated irons they poked the women. But nothing, not even the medieval tortures, were enough to make the women give in. They died as real heroines of the people.

G Pilaev
The Eleven Shot from the Village Ekshisovo

After Varkiza the Greek monarcho-fascist forces persecuted the Macedonian people with frenzy. Thousands of Macedonians were arrested and exiled to the islands, camps and prisons. Hundreds were sentenced to death and shot. Mass shootings took place in all corners of Macedonia: Lerin, Kostur, Voden, Enidzhe-Vardarsko, Gumenichko and others.

In 1947 more than 20 people were arrested in one day – men and women from the village of Ekshisovo. The torture that took place in the police cells could not be described. In the Surovichko police cells Aspasija Streshova had her throat cut. In Ekshisovo her two sisters were burned to death – Vesa and Niki, as well as Matka Popova. Eleven others were dragged to the Lerin prison. There they remained for a long period and later, after a military court process, were sentenced to death. In November of the same year the following patriots were shot –

1. Adzhikirev Trifon
2. Adzhikirev Frosa
3. Vasov Mihal
4. Velashkov Anastas
5. Dimulkov Mihal
6. Durdanova Marika
7. Masev Stefo
8. Masev Tasho (son of Stefo)
9. Robev Vasil
10. Romanov Pando
11. Trajkov Stojan

All patriots, while they were in the police cells and the prisons and while they were before the military courts and before being executed, never gave any concession. Characteristic of the group were the two 20-year-old EPON
members Frosa Adzhikireva and Durdanova. The whole time they were in prison, even though they knew they were to be killed, they were not afraid. They sang revolutionary songs and gave courage to their fellow prisoners. On 20 November 1947 they were informed that they were to be executed, so they got up very early, got dressed, combed their hair carefully, and beautiful as they were, they walked with their heads held high to their executioners. As they walked along the streets of Lerin, they sang partisan songs and revolutionary songs with their lovely voices and called “Long live the partisans, CPG, Freedom.” Many Lerin citizens, surprised by the revolutionary songs, came out onto the streets and were impressed by the bravery and self sacrifice of the young heroines. And none of them accepted a blindfold at the moment of being shot.

*M Adzhikirev*
Efremidu Gjora (Todorova)

She was born in 1915 in the village Matnica, Ser region to a poor village family. She lost her father at a very young age. She grew up with one sister and two brothers in extreme poverty.

In 1943 she became a member of CPG and organised the youth of the village Shugovo (Platanaki) into the EPON ranks. Fulfilling the task given her by the party she went over the border between Greece and Bulgaria (which was newly established at that time) to organise the youth in her own village of Matnica which at that time was under Bulgarian occupation. Her bravery and thirst for freedom made her increasing fearless.

She was arrested by the Bulgarian fascist forces and taken to the command centre at the Poroj train station. Even though they tortured her, they did not manage to extract even a word from her. After five intensive days of torture they freed her and sent her back to her village where, to the end, she worked against the occupier. She did not reduce her activity in the new environment that arose after the Varkiza agreement.

In 1946 she was arrested by the Greek monarcho-fascists for the reason that her husband was alleged to be a partisan. She was held for a month in the police cells where she withstood all the torture. They tried to frighten her by saying they would shoot her two children if she did not tell where her husband was hiding. They beat her head in the village square with a club. She fell into unconsciousness and the other women picked her up. She had just barely managed to heal a month later. Her life was made impossible and she was forced to emigrate to Bulkes.

In 1947 as the armed struggle was gaining momentum, she went back to Greece to join DAG.
In 1949 she fell, a heroine shot by a fascist bullet on the Gramos mountain. Her husband fell in the same battle, comrades in life and in battle, leaving two young orphans.

*P Todorov*
Zhogov Petre

Petre Zhogov was born in Breznica, Kostur region in 1921. He was a well-developed youth and during the Nazi occupation was among the first to join the military units of CPG. Petre was committed to CPG. As a secretary of the village party organisation he achieved a serious level of activity in organising his neighbours into CPG and EAM.

After the Varkiza agreement, because of his party activity he was followed by the reactionary forces, and because of that he went overseas. However, at the start of 1947 he returned to voluntarily join the ranks of DAG. He completed officer school at the DAG headquarters and as an officer took part in many battles.

He was killed on 22 July 1948 in the great battles on Gramos.

L Koljov
Zaikov Peno

“He who goes into battle for freedom never dies...”
H. Botev

Peno Zaikov was one of those youths who, from the first years of the occupation, dedicated their lives to the service of the people. A strong youth, of medium height, with upright bearing, with rock hard muscles, a full life, happy, quick – he was one of the organisers of EPON in the town of Gumendzha and its surrounds. When a protest meeting had to be arranged, to collect food and clothing for the partisans, to transport weapons, he was always among the first to volunteer.

His will was strong as steel, his dedication to good works and his faith in victory made him the most authoritative and well-regarded youth in the town. He went from street to street, house to house, to the farms and orchards – he organised, he provided leadership. He knew how to inspire the youth, to give them hope, and to give courage to the older people and the women with stories of the triumphant procession of the Soviet army and with stories of the attacks by the EPON units against the occupier.

“Only a little more, comrades. Don’t worry. The day of our freedom is not far off!” he would say.

* * *

December 1943. The Regional Council of EPON arranged conferences. The young delegates from Kukush and distant Belasica walked barefoot over the frozen surface of the Vardar River and rushed to get to the scheduled day of the conference. Despite the harsh terror, the cold and other hardships from being outlawed, the delegates gathered from all corners of the Kukush region in the village Livada – situated in the valley between two peaks of Pajak. The village,
being far from the German military bases, ensured the work of the conference could progress normally.

However, as soon as the second day of the conference, when resolutions were starting to be made, army groups, led by local traitors, reached the village from all sides – from Gumendzha, Pazar, Voden, Cabosko. They surrounded the whole mountain. The few partisan groups fought and went toward Dzhena. The conference delegates scattered. Those who reached the partisans, left with them. Those who did not formed a detachment and fought bravely and opened a path for the remaining ones to escape.

In that harsh and unequal battle, near a thick forest, from which he shot at the Hitler supporters, Peno fell with the other EPON members. His young body was covered by the sharp mountain sleet and then he was covered by a white blanket of snow. A few days later, at night, in the light of a bright moon, the youths took him and buried him in his own village.

He did not live to see the elimination of Nazi occupation. However, his example and dedication to the struggle inspired other youths to work for democracy and peace in his country, the ideals to which the brave youth Peno Zaikov dedicated his young life.

_P Galubov_
Kazov Petar

He was born in 1909 in the town of Enidzhe-Vardar. He was from a farming family.
In 1934 he became a member of the Greek Communist Party. During the German occupation he was arrested by traitors from Pulos and handed over to the Germans. After that he was taken to Germany to the Esei camp. He became sick and there was no one to look after him. In his ill state, he lived through all the hardships and torture imposed by the Hitler fascists. However, in being transferred to the Mindezh camp, Kazov died of starvation and brutal torture.

G Ilijadis
Kalaputi Jani

Jani Kalaputi was born in the village Nestram, Kostur region. He was a member of the CPG and at the time of the Hitler occupation participated actively in the national liberation struggle. He rose up the ranks of the CPG in the Kostur region and worked in Kostur. His revolutionary patriotic activity led to his arrest by the German Gestapo and he was brutally tortured to betray the organisation. They cut pieces of his flesh from his body. They poured salt into his wounds and finally hanged him.

Jani died calling out “Long live CPG!”

P Gecho
Kalimanov Trpo

Trpo Kalimanov was born in the village of Dobrolishta, Kostur region. He was an intelligent man and even though he did not have much education, from a young age he felt it unfair that not all people had the same rights. He saw that some worked day and night and did not have enough bread, while others, without working, had money, houses, a good life and everything they could want. He saw the double slavery of the Macedonian people, who did not even have the right to speak their own language. Trpo listened and read that only in the Soviet Union where socialism had prevailed, was there freedom from exploitation by one person of another person, that nationalistic oppression was eliminated and all people, without regard to their nationality or religion, worked freely together as brothers for a fair life.

In 1928 Trpo became a member of the Communist Party of Greece. He dedicated his whole life to achieve its policies, to achieve democracy and to introduce socialism to his country. He worked not only in his own village but, pursuing his trade of tinsmith, he became an active worker of the party in Rupishko and Nestram villages. He started off working legally but later, in the dark years of the Metaxas dictatorship, illegally until August 1938. Then he was arrested and sent to the Akronafplija concentration camp.

In Akronafplija, Trpo withstood all the interrogations. The violence of the monarcho-fascist forces which aimed to eliminate the spirit of the imprisoned fighters strengthened Trpo’s belief and that of all the communists of CPG in the immortal Marxist-Leninist ideals.

In the month of November 1939 Trpo together with 200 other communists was taken to Pilos and imprisoned in an old fortress established at the time of the Venetians. The fascist regime used even more brutal techniques there, considering
that he would force the communists to surrender their ideologies and to sign declarations. But they did not succeed. At this place, Trpo held high the CPG flag, the flag of the people’s struggle.

In the summer of 1941, he managed to escape from the concentration camp and threw himself into the fire of the battle against the German and Italian occupiers. He was an active member of CPG and worked tirelessly in the well-known villages of Kostur among the Macedonian and Greek population. He reorganised the old party organisations and set up new ones. He organised the people into EAM and sent hundreds of partisans into the units of ELAS.

Trpo, who joined the CPG in 1928, completed the tasks allocated to him by the party without interruption and with dedication until 1943, until the day of his heroic death. He was killed by a bullet from the gun of an Italian carabinieri in February 1943 in the village of Selca, region of Grevena.

*L Moshov*
Kalojanovski Petre

Petre Kalojanovski was born in the village Bahovo, Karadzhovsko region in 1925. After he completed primary school in his own village, he worked as a tailor.

In the dark years of the German occupation Petre joined the ranks of the OKNE. Once EPON was formed, he became the secretary of the local committee. On 19 January 1944 together with 26 other EPON members from Bahovo, he was arrested by the fascists and taken to the Solun camp “Pavlos Melas”. On 3 March 1944, 10 of the arrested youths were executed by the Germans while Petre together with four others managed to escape from the prison. He immediately became involved in organising and joined the ranks of ELAS where he fought until the Varkiza agreement was made.

Petre was among the first fighters who joined the ranks of DAG and fought heroically.

On 28 December 1948 he was in the attack by DAG on the village S’bachko and was killed there as a company commander.
ПЕТРЕ КАЛОЯНОВСКИ
Kalojani Kozma

He was born in 1917 in the village of Nestram, Kostur region. From the beginning he participated bravely in the battle against the fascist occupation. In 1941 he became a member of CPG and in 1942 he was arrested by the Italian forces. He lay in prisons of Kostur and Athens for more than a year. After the surrender by Mussolini he was freed and immediately joined the ranks of ELAS where he fought bravely. Later he was moved to the political organisations and for a long time worked as a member of the Nestram regional committee of CPG, and that is how Kozma expanded his activity. After the Varkiza agreement he continued his revolutionary activity again in the mass national liberation organisations in the Nestram region.

In the month of April 1947 he fell into an enemy trap near the village of Chuka, Gramos region and was heavily wounded. Dragging himself, he managed to get away and reach the village and to enter a barn. The fascists followed the trail of blood and found him but they could not enter the barn to arrest him so they set fire to the barn and burned him alive. Then they took his scorched body and paraded it through the neighbouring villages, the streets of his own village and before his own mother.

N Karapandov
P Gecho
Kalojani Tanas

Tanas Kalojani was born in 1918 in the village of Nestram, Kostur region to a poor labourer family. His father was a bricklayer and, as soon as Tanas completed his primary school education, Tanas followed the same path. He passed his childhood years as did all other young workers in Greece. Heavy workload and very little pay. Even as a young boy, Tanas set himself apart with his bravery, stoicm and the way he got on with the others.

He joined battle from a young age. From 1936 he was organised into the Union of Bricklayers in the town of Kavala. During the Greek-Italian war he served as a cavalry sergeant and fought braily against the fascist aggressors. After discharge he returned to his own village and from then dedicated himself to the liberation struggle until the moment of his death.

In 1942 he was arrested by the Italian occupying forces and forced to the Kostur prison and from there to the Athens prison “Averof.” In 1943, as soon as he was freed, he joined the ranks of ELAS. His war experience and his bravery, which distinguished him, led to him being promoted as captain.

After Varkisa, he was followed by the monarcho-fascist forces. In the summer of 1946 he became one of the founders of the first military groups of DAG in the region of Gramos. He served as captain in the 16th brigade of DAG and participated in many battles. He died heroically on 16 November 1947 in the battle near Kopanche near to his own village. He was promoted to Major, first hero.

Before Tanas died, his sister Polikseni Kalojani, one of the first partisan women in DAG, fell at Vich in May 1947. A short time later his nephew died. When the dreadful news reached his village, the women went to his old mother to
support her when she heard the news. She did not cry. She
met them with a cool gaze and said, “Yes! They were killed
but we will win!” Stood as a mother and a real heroine.

H Skornu
Georgi Kalkov was born in 1915 in the village of Visheni, Kostur region. In the time of the Nazi occupation with the passion of youth he joined the ranks of the national liberation movement and became a military commander of ELAS.

He was among the first to join the ranks of DAG. He participated in many battles and fought heroically. He was promoted to company commander.

At the start of 1948 he served in the 670 unit of DAG. His battalion was among the units that went to meet the unarmed fighters from Rumeli, who were on the road to Gramos. This operation was known by the name “Heroic march of the column of unarmed from Rumeli.” On 16 March 1948 near “Kundzhupija” at the pl. Pierija, Georgi and a few other fighters from his battalion were surprised by the enemy. In those difficult moments Georgi fought with his revolver in his hand until his last bullet.

The archive of his unit records that "Georgi Kalkov made a large contribution to breaking the hold that the enemy and to uniting the fighters with remaining units. He was an example of a capable fighter and personal courage. His last words were 'I am dying; the victory is ours and democracy will prevail'."
Kalkovski Risto

Risto Kalkovski was born in the mountain village Besfina, Lerin region. His parents were poor and so, at a young age, he worked as a bricklayer to earn bread for his family.

During the Hitler occupation he joined CPG and worked in the national liberation organisations in his village.

After the Varkiza agreement, because he was followed by the monarcho-fascist forces, he was forced to flee and live in the mountains. Risto was among the first self defence groups of the national liberation combatants and from 1946 he was in the ranks of DAG, in the Vich region.

He participated in many battles where he fought heroically. In battle, he was always the first to charge in and was renowned as a barve fighter. He was wounded on two occasions: once in May 1947 and once in June 1949.

In 1948-9 he served in the peoples police, in the Prespa region. In this post he demonstrated himself to be a real son of the people. He was a powerful guard of their rights and his conduct toward the people was exemplary. With a smile on his face he was ready to serve young and old. He was an outstanding example of a police officer, a servant of the people. The people of Prespa called him “Risto from Besfina” and he was their beloved police officer.

Later he was sent to officer school at the DAG headquarters. In the final battles on Gramos in 1949 he was burned alive by the napalm spread by the enemy airplanes.

M Cholakovski
Kalchov Stefo

Stefo Kalchov was born in the village Zhuzelci, Kostur region. He was one of the first partisans in ELAS in Kostur. He participated in many battles, in all of which he showed great heroism. His last battle saw him alone in the hours before he fought single-handedly against the German army on a hill near the village of Nestram. At the end he was surrounded on all sides and when his cartridges were finished they captured him alive. Enraged by Stefo’s bravery, the Germans savaged him. They cut off his ears and his nose, they gouged out his eyes, and beheaded him with knives.

G. Kalchov
Kamburov Koljo

He was born about 1924 in the village of Dmbel, Kostur region, to a poor family and that is why, as soon as he completed primary school, he joined the battle for bread to eat. Even as a small child he had to work for himself while, at the same time, helping his family, because his father Hristo, crippled in one hand, could do no job other than shepherd or cowherd. Little Koljo too became the village shepherd and cowherd and worked close to his father. His hard work and enthusiasm set him apart in his primary school years. He was an outstanding student and always won the playground fights.

Working as a shepherd and cowherd satisfied Koljo less and less as the years went by. It was limited work for a person of his energy and enthusiasm. He needed to become involved in other work. He did not lack spirituality and desire. At the very start of the occupation, he learned woodworking, alongside an uncle in Tirana.

In 1943 when the partisan movement was taking big strides, and EPON was inviting youths to gather under her flag to fight against the fascist occupation, Koljo with a cousin escaped from Tirana and with the help of the Albanian partisans reached his own village on foot! Later, at the first EPON meeting in the village, he was elected the secretary of the EPON organization.

And the woodwork? Well, as soon as he arrived to install the doors and windows on the newly constructed single storey house which had gone up in 1939, it was unthinkable that he would occupy himself with his trade alone.

“After the liberation,” he would respond to orders he was given. Let’s see if even then he agrees to shut himself into a shop – he would reply to his parents.

“We will put the mills and the factories to the fore,” he would always say to his friends, the youths. “And then, dear, I
expect we will have time to think a little about us, our life together,” he would say to a young woman he was in love with.

He himself completed the hardest and most dangerous missions that the EPON village committee had to complete. In 1943 in Biglishta (Albania) the Albanian fascists arrested him and handed him over to the fascists. He lay in the Lerin gaol but was saved through the effort of his village.

*    *

It was one of the first summer weeks of 1944. Boys and girls were gathered in a hall at the school. Whenever the Germans appeared, it was easy to change the gathering into a dance, a party. No one could imagine that this gathering would be the last. Koljo did not even get to finish his report when from the village a song was heard. The partisans of ELAS had started an oro [dance].

“I, comrades, have finished. The most important mission for us now is to join the partisans. Until now, our organization helped the struggle for national liberation in every single way we could. Now we must pick up our guns and join the battle that will strike the final blow against fascism.”

That is how this last gathering ended and 30 EPON members joined the partisan’s oro dance and set off on the great journey to liberation.

Koljo joined the ranks of DAG from 1946. He participated in many battles on Pajak mountain and elsewhere. He was promoted to captain for his bravery, daring and military capability. As a company commander his detachment led him from success to success. He was wounded in 1947 in the battle of Sabasko. He was killed in the same year by a bomber in the village Notia, Karadzhovsko.

A sincere young man and a passionate communist, Koljo Kamburov will forever remain alive in the hearts of those
from his village and will serve as an example for future generations.

T Karameshev
Kapitanchova Mara

Mara the partisan. Maca Kapitanchova of the village Chegan, Voden region, was given that name in the partisan ranks and villages of Kajmachkalan.

Chegan is the last village in the western end of the Voden region. It is near Kajmachkalan mountain and at the time of the liberation battle of 1941–1944, it became known as a partisan village. The partisan ranks from Voden and Lerin met there. They rested there and gathered food supplies. All of the villages were organized into EAM and EPON. The strong warrior spirit of the Chegan villagers was expressed in Maca Kapitanchova, the first woman partisan from the region of Kajmachkalan.

At that time she was a 30-year old woman. She was tall with a smiling face, full of life and optimism. She inspired bravery and decisiveness among men and women. She was a committed member of CPG and a loyal fighter for ELAS. She treated party orders and ELAS orders as law. We saw her holding a gun in the ELAS units and in the white nurse’s blouse in her own home which was turned into a hospital for ELAS, working tirelessly, day and night with the wounded and sick partisans. Even though Maca was the mother of two little children, she was one of the most active women of the national liberation movement in the region.

* *

End of 1943. On the eastern front the initiative is in the hands of the famous Soviet army which is pounding the Nazi sympathizers from Zhitomir to the Polish border. The Second World War in the deciding phase.
The people in the occupied areas became hopeful as a result of the victories of the Soviet army. Their will for liberation is strengthened.

In the Voden and Lerin regions, the ELAS partisans had liberated great sweeps of areas. They even controlled some of the villages on the plains. The Macedonian and Greek patriots are convinced that the end of the Nazi occupation is near. The ranks of CPG and EAM, of ELAS and EPON, are growing. The Nazi forces are not able to operate in confidence and cannot make strikes against the partisans on their own. In January 1944 with the aid of one of the Bulgarian fascist regiments, which was transferred there from Bitola, operations began in the whole area – from Prespa to Karadzhova. With a mania that had not yet been witnessed, the fascists threw themselves viciously against the innocent villages and villagers.

On 19 January they surrounded the village of Chegan. When they entered the village, they met some women and their first question was –

“Do you know where Maca Kapitanchova is?”

Maca was among those women. One comrade who was beside her squeezed her hand gently. That day, 180 people from Chegan were arrested. Young men, old men and one woman, Maca. She and 18 comrades were selected to head the column. The weather was very bad; knee high snow. A terrible storm whipped up, gusting from the north. They were forced to go on foot along the Solun footpath. No one knew where they were being taken. They reached the village Banica. There 19 of the oldest ones were loaded onto an uncovered truck. The others were forced to walk to Lerin. And the path from Chegan to Lerin is not a short one. It takes 12 hours on foot in summer weather. Many were unable to walk and they were mercilessly beaten. In Lerin they were locked into the high school building, which had been adapted
for use as a concentration camp. They were locked up there with villagers from the villages of Papadija, Setina, Krushoradi and others. There were some Vlachs – sarakachani from the huts of Papadija and Farmaki. More than 400 people were jammed in together. They were there more than a month without heating and without a proper roof. That winter was extremely bad. The temperature reached 28 degrees below zero. The food – if you could call it that – was handed out into their cupped hands. The soup flowed between the fingers. The “national solidarity” (Etniki alilengii) went to the camp and distributed cans and some other foods.

In Lerin, Mara, along with the village priest, suffered harsh torture. She was swollen all over from the beatings. After a month, about 25 people were freed and all of the others were sent to Solun, Domokos and other camps. In Solun, Mara appeared before a court and was sentenced to death. It was there that they shot her.

Maca Kapitanchova remained loyal to our people and to the CPG to the last moment of her life. She is one of the most brave of our people’s heroines in the time of the Nazi occupation, a symbol of the united battle of the Macedonians and Greeks

A H
Karadzha Tasho  
(14.04.1914-23.05.1942)

Tasho Karadzha was one of the most prominent of the communist fighters in our homeland, who dedicated his whole life to the struggle of the people and the party.

He was born in 1914 in the village of Dmbeni, Kostur region. His father – Naso – was a labourer. After completing his primary schooling in Dmbeni, Tasho went to the city Lerin and joined the Lerin Agricultural College. As a student in this school in 1929 he joined the ranks of OKNE and actively fought alongside the youth at the school. He was expelled from the school for his revolutionary activities. He continued his organizational work in his own village and in Koreshta. With his youthful energy and revolutionary passion he spread the communist ideas and established a youth organization of POKNE.

He was arrested in 1931 at the moment when he was making a speech to assembled youths and other villagers in the village of Drenoveni. Young, at the age of 18, he was sentenced in the Kostur court to three months in prison and three months exile in Larisa. In Larisa he became closely familiar with the struggle of the proletariat. His great will to gain knowledge was met by the systematic study of Marxist-Leninism. Tasho became a man with a broad circle and knowledge.

After his exile he returned to his village and with even greater energy as a member of CPG he developed broader revolutionary activity in Kostur – establishment of organizations, spreading of the party’s publications, leading the struggle of the villagers against the despotism of the government, and the active political work, involvement in the local press etc. That was how he occupied himself everyday.
In 1934 Lazo Trpovski returned to Dmbeni from the Soviet Union. Tasho Karadzha’s subsequent work was closely tied to that of Lazo’s. They worked together, advised each other and went through Kostur together.

Tasho was arrested in October 1936, tortured at the police station in Dmbeni, then in Kostur; from there he was sent to exile on the island Ai-Stratis. From this island in 1938 he was sent to the prisons of Akronafplija. But nothing could break his will and he withstood all of the sufferings like a man, in Akronafpolija and in Pilos.

In the summer of 1941 Tasho, together with Trpovski and other leading activists of CPG, were in the first ranks of the liberation struggle against the fascist occupiers. He worked in Athens and from September 1941 he was the secretary of the regional committee of CPG in Katerinsko. His work there was tied to the establishment of the first partisan ranks of ELAS in the legendary Olympus. In 1941, near the beginning of 1942, Tasho Kardzha was nominated to carry out leading party work in the city of Solun. He led the youth and student organizations.

In April 1942 he was arrested by the Gestapo and their collaborator-traitors. He was savagely tortured for a month and a half with the aim that he would betray the partisan network and the national liberation struggle, but Tasho, loyal son of the Party and the people, diligently defended their interests. In May 1942 in Solun, before the German fascist military tribunal he told off the Nazi executioners and predicted their end, and with dignity he protected CPG and its work and the honourable war of the Soviet Union. The military tribunal sentenced him to death. Armed youths made three separate attempts to save the beloved Tasho but they did not succeed.

Sentenced to death and finding himself in Gedi-Kule, Tasho managed to send a telegram to his mother in Dmbeni.
When his mother reached Solun and after many hardships she was allocated five minutes visit with her son in Gedi-Kule. Tasho managed only to tell her “The communists will bring freedom and happiness.” That was on 19 May. After three days, the morning of 23 May 1942, Tasho Karadzha was shot at “Pavlos Melas” in Solun, refusing to wear a blindfold. He proudly shouted, “Long live the Communist Party!”

The name Tasho Karadzha is widely known among the Macedonian people in the homeland. The people made up songs about the time of the national liberation struggle. His life and his work, his call to the struggle became an example for all the young Macedonian and Greek fighters, in the name of the free and happy future of our Homeland.

V. Karadzha
Kacharov Petre

Petre Kacharov was born in the Lerin village of Ovchareni in 1924. He joined DAG in May 1947. He participated in many battles in Lerin and because of his strength and his military capabilities he was able to rise to the rank of lieutenant. Petre served for a long time in the sabotage unit in the headquarters of DAG and was recognized among his peers for his bravery and decisiveness. He died in February 1949 in the battle for Lerin. He was awarded a bravery medal and a medal for his outstanding sabotage work.
Keramdzhiiev Petre (Petrepavle)

Petre Keramidzhiev was born in Voden to a labourer family. He was short, with lively eyes, and scars on his forehead from a carefree childhood. Petre was the wise thinker of the family and they spoiled him as much as their resources allowed. But the household purse was thin. So, at the age of 12, Petre had to start working. First at home but soon he was forced to work for others. He felt the full bitterness of exploitation. He was the last to go to bed and the first to rise in the morning. He could not sit to eat until the master had finished. Petre’s growth was stunted.

The years passed. As Petre grew older, he felt more and more exploited.

“Why do they pay me so little, mum, when the master makes so much? Why do they feed me dry stale bread but the master’s family eat all sorts of things? These were the questions he asked his mother and himself. In 1936 he became a member of OKNE and later of CPG.

The occupation started. The Nazis and their supporters came to Voden. The agents of the monarcho fascist forces of King Boris arrived at the same time.

Petre was a Macedonian. He remembered the torture, the castor oil forcibly thrown down the throat and racks from the time of the Metaxas dictatorship and in his soul raged a hatred against the greedy plutocrats. The new struggle began. The occupier on one side with his servants Kalchev and others who promised paradise and wheat, and on the other side tireless fighters who spent a big part of their lives in the dungeons, the prisons and the rocky islands of Metaxas and Maniadaksis. Before they could draw the breath of freedom after being released from the concentration camps of death, they joined new battles.
They did not waste time: they organized the struggle. The battle for life and freedom started. EAM, which set a path for the people to fight against the oppressors and their local lackeys, was established. Petre was among the first in its ranks.

The interests of the people and the interests of the struggle created a goal in Petre’s life. Petre was at all the outlawed gatherings. He had little education and little experience but this was no obstacle to him giving help decisively. He joined wherever he could, he learned many secrets of the oppressors and he informed the organization – “Hide. They are going to make arrests.” “Take measures. They are going to mobilize workers from Germany.” He continued that way until the summer of 1944. He saved the organization from catastrophe many times. And when he was identified and steps were being taken to capture him, after sending many fighters to the mountains, he himself escaped and proudly took up arms to fight for ELAS.

New battles awaited him there. He put his soul into the fight for Kajmachkalan, loved by the Macedonian and Greek villages in Voden and Karadzhovsko.

“Everything for ELAS; everything for its army,” said Petre and he gathered everything together: food, weapons, clothing, shoes etc. “If the English will not give them to us, the people will,” said Petre. It was true. He found rifles hidden away at the time of the Ilinden Uprising.

He found shoes, slippers and anything else.

Petre was not satisfied with this. He wanted to join the battles. “Comrades, let’s not have these. I will do my other work when the units are resting. I will not miss the battle,” joked Petre. And so he joined the battle for the Vladovska station, for the Voden and Karadzhovski posts.

In the summer of 1947 Petre was in the ranks of DAG under the pseudonym Petrepavle and operated in a unit in
Kajmachkalan. He spread happiness wherever he went; he was loved by the Macedonians and the Greeks. He fought the battle of the armed fighter as well as the battle of the outlawed fighter.

One day he descended with important missions in hand to the village Vladovo that was occupied by the enemy. A police officer stopped him and asked him for personal identification papers. Instead of his identification papers, he took out his revolver. His cool headedness saved him from being arrested. He managed to complete his mission that time too.

As a unit quartermaster, a fighter, a corporal, leading commander and courier, he was tireless. He participated in many battles. However, his bravery, self sacrifice and faith in the struggle made him put himself in the way of danger. In an operation in Vladovo, after the police station was destroyed and his mission completed, when the units withdrew, Petrepavle who always withdrew last, was killed. His death was a huge loss to our unit. His funeral was carried out with all honours. He was buried beneath his beloved trees close to a spring where he would rest and drink water. The spring was named “Petrepavle’s Spring” by the partisans because his grave was near there.
Kirijaku Evgenija

Evgenija Kirijaku was born in 1932 in the village Nestram, Kostur. Her father died in the Asia Minor war, and from her youngest years she felt all the hardships and bitterness of being without a father and of poverty.

She was very young when she met and became engaged to one of her neighbours, a good young man, a people’s fighter. The fascist occupiers arrested her fiancé and shot him. That was a terrible blow for Evgenija but she nonetheless gave herself over completely to the national liberation struggle, continuing the work of her beloved. In 1941 she became a member of CPG. She was arrested in 1942 because of her support for the struggle and taken to the Athens jails. After her release she left her village and gave herself completely to the national liberation struggle. Evgenija was a member of the Kostur regional Council of EPON and worked in organizing the young men and women into the ranks of EPON. All the EPON members of the region of Dobrolishta, Poleto who knew Evgenija and her activities spoke with great respect about her. Until the liberation of our homeland Evgenija worked tirelessly.

After the Varkiza agreement, she was arrested by the monarcho fascist forces, tortured and imprisoned in the Kostur prisons. At the start of 1948 she was released and returned to her village. A passionate fighter, Evgenija knew what her mission was and, even though her village was occupied by the fascist army, she found a way to go out to the mountain and to join the battle with a rifle in hand alongside her sisters. Evgenija completed all the missions that were given to her. She participated in many battles – in Gramos, Vich, Lerin, Negush, Voden and elsewhere. She was killed in the battle of Odria in 1949 as a sub lieutenant, commissar. Evgenija distinguished herself with her goodness and stamina.
ЕВГЕНИЯ КИРИАКУ
Those who knew her and her work will never forget that modest and single-minded young woman.

_O Kutruki_
Kirici Pipi

Pipi was born in Enidzhe-Vardarsko to a poor family. At the time of the German occupation she was very young but that did not prevent her from helping the struggle - at the start, as a pioneer, then as a member of EPON, later with a rifle in hand and as a partisan.

Inspired by the fire of the national liberation struggle, she joined the ranks of DAG at the age of 17 and from the first she set off before the experienced fighters. She distinguished herself with her extraordinary fighting spirit and fearlessness. She was the pride of her unit. In the battles and the marches she was always first. At the battle of Grevena she fought heroically. She cut herself off from the unit and the others thought something bad had happened to her. But after a little time had passed, she joined the battalion with another, wounded fighter and she was happy.

In the epic story of Gramos on the heights of Kleftis and Golio she demonstrated great bravery. She was praised three times for her bravery and daring. She was heavily wounded there but she did not want to leave her comrades. Before the wounds could be treated she returned to her unit.

In the battles at Kula-Glavata, as a commissar commander with two groups she set off at the lead. She ran from fighter to fighter giving encouragement to the comrades who were standing among an enemy battalion. Because of her bravery the DAG headquarters promoted her to lieutenant, commissar.

When she was wounded, knowing there was no hope of surviving, she said, “I have never been afraid of death. What I am sad about is that I am going to die before I see my homeland free. I wanted a free and democratic Homeland.”
Kljanev Mijale

Mijale Kljanev was born in 1907 in the progressive and revolutionary Lerin village of Patele. The progressiveness and revolutionary spirit of Patele dates from olden times. From the time of the birth of the battle for national education about the struggle, Archimandrit Panaret Mishajkov, from the village of Patele, was one of the passionate fighters for Slavic education and culture in Macedonia. Patele was among the first villages in Lerin where a VMRO committee was formed, and its brave son, Dine Abdurmanov, was one of the first chetniks in the area, who in 1902 died heroically in his own village together with the legendary commander Marko Lerinski fighting for the liberation of Macedonia from the Turkish yoke. Mijale was the son of Aleksandar Kljanev, an Ilinden fighter.

The national liberation traditions of Patele are closely tied to the modern revolutionary movement of the Greek and Macedonian people for democracy and socialism under the direction of CPG. Patele again was the first Macedonian village in Lerin where as early as 1924 a healthy party organization of CPG was formed, which played a decisive role in spreading the communist ideology in the Lerin region. Patele is a good host for the creation of revolutionary fighters. In one such environment Mijale grew and developed.

From a young age he was sensitive to the double slavery under which the Macedonian people lived – he was disgusted by the barbaric forces of the Greek government, which banned the Macedonians from speaking their own mother tongue, banned them from identifying themselves as Macedonians. But at the same time he could see that, in Patele, with a population comprised entirely of Macedonians, not all were the same. Some were rich – a very small number - while others, the much greater number, were poor. Mijale’s family was very poor. His father died when Mijale was very
young. He could not afford to go to school and was compelled from a young age to throw himself into the battle to earn a crust. He worked as a cleaner in other people’s homes, a fisherman, and later as a labourer-stone worker.

Mijale did not go to school, did not sit at a pupil’s desk, but studied in the school of life; he was educated by CPG whose member he was from 1928. He grew more mature each day, always learning something new. He saw that not only the Macedonian workers but also the Greek workers lived the same hard life, because they too carried the same burden as he did, they too were poor.

The revolutionary traditions of his own village, his hard working life and the education he received from CPG helped Mijale to become an outstanding patriot and passionate partisan, an internationalist. Mijale was remote from every kind of nationalism and chauvinism. He treated as brothers all of the democratic and patriotic Greeks and was a peerless fighter against the faction in the Macedonian liberation movement which divided people along the lines of nationality. He was hard as granite, like the rocks he dug up, against the enemies of the people and the Party. But he had a humane and passionate heart and was full of love for the people. He spoke softly, quietly, persuasively. He was totally committed to the people and the Party. There was no life for him outside the Party. Thanks to those qualities he grew into one of the best Macedonian cadres of CPG in Lerin.

In 1932 Mijale became secretary of the Surovichko regional committee of CPG. His activity was tireless and extensive. Despite the terrible terror that was surrounding the villages, he formed party organizations and spread the policies of the CPG into the Macedonian as well as the Greek villages of Surovichko. All of the progressive people in Surovichko – Macedonians and Greeks – respected him and praised him.
МИЯЛЕ КЛЯНЕВ
In the month of July 1932 he participated in a board advising cadres of CPG in Macedonia. But leaving the meeting, he was betrayed and arrested. He was imprisoned for five months in the Lerin prison.

In March 1933 he participated actively in the pre-election campaign, before the elections for the people’s representatives. In July 1934 he participated as the delegate from Lerin to the Greek Anti fascist Congress in Athens.

All of that activity was closely followed by the local reactionaries and police. They were waiting for a suitable time to deal with the brave people’s fighter. In March 1935, during the days of the Venizelos fascist coup after a local provocation by the local reactionaries and police, Mijale was arrested together with four of his friends. All of them were removed to brutal exile in the Surovichko police cells and from there to the military prison in Larisa. Mijale lay imprisoned for six months in Larisa, then for six months in the Dramski prison, and a full four years in the Egina concentration camp. And from Egina he was sent to exile on the barren little island Gavdos, close to Crete.

Mijale’s life in the prison was exemplary. One of his comrades, a Greek, expressed himself as follows in his memoirs –

“In our beautiful collective, in the Larisa prison, the name of Mijale Kljanev, the avant-garde fighter from the historical village of Patele, will remain impressive as though written with the most beautiful ever lasting script, and beloved by us, we who lived together with him there. We saw his faith and his qualities and we tied ourselves to his honourable recollection of the prison and exile. An activist of the Party outside and a driving force in his own village, he rose up and became one of the most active founders of the collective. He was a proud defender of unity and discipline and set an example in all of the sectors of the collective life.
He valued political education particularly and he wanted to pass it on to all... when we met again in the Egina prison, Mijale was again an exemplary prisoner in every way.”

And the comrades he lived with in the island Gavdos spoke with the highest praise about Mijale. He was always happy and worked day and night for the collective. He was an outstanding gardener and there, on that barren and stony island where nothing would grow, he managed to grow tomatoes, capsicums and other vegetables that the exiled men could eat during those difficult years.

In Gavdos he was upset by the German occupation. But from 1941 Mijale managed to escape and get over to Crete, where, under the pseudonym Mavridis, along with the heroic people of Crete, he fought for four years in the ranks of ELAS for the liberation of Greece from the Nazi occupation. In a battle that took place there his hand was badly wounded. Mijale’s family knew nothing of him, whether he was alive or dead. It was the same with his friends. Most thought he was dead. And totally unexpectedly, one February day in 1945 after 10 years, Mijale returned to his own village, to his own family. But he was only with his family for one day. The next day he went to the Lerin Regional Committee of CPG and threw himself again into the battle.

In 1946 he was again arrested and thrown into the Lerin prison. From there he was taken to the Solun prison and later to the hell of Makronisos.

Five to ten days went by and Mijale did not return from Makronisos. This time he did not return to his nearest, to his own people. They all asked:

“Where is he? What happened to Mijale. Is he alive, will he return?”

But he did not return this time.

“One day, in 1949, they took him from us,” wrote the author Kostas Anafiotis, “and we did not see him again. They
took him to convey him to Crete to face some kind of “charge”. He left us smiling and saying good bye, relaxed, even though we all felt – and he himself knew this – that taking him to that dark climate in those dark days of the Civil War, meant a thousand unknown dangers for him. We shook his hand with dark foreboding that we would soon hear bad news about him. And our hearts did not deceive us. One day the dreadful news reached us: Mijale Kljanev is no longer among the living. He was killed, gangster style, while taken from one police holding cell to another, without any court conviction, without any proper law. By the law of the jungle. He escaped the living hell of Makronisos but did not escape death... Dark years, filled with hatred and bloodletting. May they never be forgotten and may they never return. May the blood of Mijale Kljanev, the blood of thousands of brothers, nourish the tree of forgiveness, love and peace for our tortured homeland. Not a different hatred; not another war. PEACE!"

Mijale’s life was rich with revolutionary activity, activity for democracy and socialism on our side. He met all the hardships and storms with his head held high, and it was with real heroism that he endured all the interrogations he was subjected to.

Mijale Kljanev lived for 42 years. But half of his life, 21 years, the best years of his youth, his hard working years, he spent without rest, without reservation for the party, for the people, for a happy and carefree life for the Macedonian and Greek people. It is with full justification that the Patele villagers were proud of him and that all Macedonian people are proud of their dignified son and his exemplary fighting life.

*St. Kochev*
Kodzhomanov Sotir

He was born in 1918 in the city of Enidzhe-Vardar to a poor artisan family. As a student of the High School in Cotili he became familiar with progressive literature and under the influence of the other progressive students he began to pursue progressive ideals and because of that he was expelled from high school. At the time of the occupation, he participated in the armed anti-fascist struggle. In the battle defending the village of Bubakovo in 1944 he was killed in the battlefield. He dedicated his life to the work of the people and the Party.

F Urumov
Kolashkov Jane

Jane Kolashkov was born in the Prespa village of German.

Followed by the monarcho-fascist forces he was forced to leave his village as early as the summer of 1946. He lived in the mountains and with the establishment of DAG he was among the first to join its ranks. In the beginning he served in Vich and participated in the battles for the liberation of Prespa and Koreshhta. He was sent to the second intake of officer school at the headquarters of DAG and in March 1948 he was promoted to lieutenant. As an officer, he participated in many struggles in Vich, Gramos, Voion, Epir and was injured many times. On the 4th of July 1949 he fell heroically in Vich.

With an announcement on 2-8-1949 he was promoted to captain, deceased hero.
Koljovi Iljo and Hristo

Iljo Koljov was born in Breznica, Kostur region in 1925. At the time of the Nazi occupation he organized himself into EPON and in 1944 he joined the ranks of ELAS. He participated in many battles against the Germans – in Lerin, near Trnaa, on the street in Lerin-Korcha and others.

Iljo believed that our people would succeed in being liberated only if the Greek people and Macedonian people fought together under the leadership of CPG and that is why he fought against the divisive streams in the movement which sought a split along lines of ethnicity.

After the Varkiza agreement he worked in the EPON committee in his own village and in 1947 he joined the ranks of DAG. He fought in many battles in Vich, Gramos and elsewhere as a leading commander. In the battle near Kalugericë, above Lerin, he was wounded.

At the beginning of 1948 he served in the 16th brigade of DAG, which was going to meet and join the column of the Rumeli unarmed fighters. He fought in battles on Olympus and elsewhere.

In a difficult and unequal battle on 23 March 1948 near Amarbei he was badly injured. He fell into the clutches of the enemy and died.

Six months after the death of Iljo, his younger brother Hristo also died.

Hristo was born in 1929. During the Nazi occupation, at the age of 14, he carried out many missions for the liberation movement – courier etc. At the age of 18 he joined the ranks of DAG and on 9 October 1948 he died in the battle near Falcata.

L Koljov
ХРИСТО КОЛЬОВ
Konsolov Georgi

Among the other heroes in the village of Bapchor who joined the ranks of DAG and whose blood ran for the liberation of his homeland is also Georgi Konsolov, company commander.

Georgi was raised in very difficult circumstances and his back was truly tested by the miserable village life he led.

When the first partisan groups appeared in Vich, his heart filled with revolutionary zeal and with the hope for a better life; so he helped those groups with everything he had.

At the start of 1947 he entered the ranks of DAG. From that day, Konsolov’s life was a series of battles and hatred for the enemy. He endured the hardships of battle with his personal strengths, with song and high spirits. He gave optimism to his fellow fighters with his humour. Vich, Lerin field, Kajmachkalan, Sinjachk and Hasja were his fighting locations.

Because of his qualities as a horseman, he was made commanding officer. His unit was an iron fist under his experienced leadership. At every battle with the enemy he managed to complete all of his orders.

The difficult and uneven battles of DAG taught him, steeled him, and made a real fighter out of him, a fearless fighter.

In 1949 when the enemy operations started on Vich – Gramos, he with his detachment were on Kajmachkalan and fought many battles so that he could draw the attention of the enemy and ease the ferocity of the battles on Vich-Gramos.

In his final attack by his detachment trying to break the enemy line and join the other units, he fell into an enemy trap and began an unequal hand-to-hand battle. In that bloody battle Konsolov was wounded badly. But even in the last minutes of his life, he did not lose his courage and with a
smile on his lips he gave courage to his comrades, concealing the dreadful pain of the wound.

The hot firing of the automatics, the whinnying of the horses and the fighters’ shouts of “hurrah” were the last farewell of the beloved commander.

In that August night in 1949 the legendary mountain Kajmachkalan took back into her lap the hero Konsolov.

V Shamanovski
Koroveshi Tanas

Tanas was born in the village of Smrdesh – Kostursko in 1920 to a farming family. He was one of the first who were organized into the ranks of the national liberation front of Greece – EAM. He worked with faith and dedication for the people and the party and was among the first to join the partisans of ELAS and through his work became leading commander.

He was killed together with three comrades on 2 September 1945 in Enidzhe-Vardarska region surrounded by a unit of monarcho-fascists. The body of Tanas was taken to Enidzhe-Vardar.

_H Papadopulos_
Kostandinov Kosta

Kosta was born in the village Breznica- Kostursko in 1922. He was among the first villagers who joined the CPG and EAM in the time of the German-Italian occupation. He worked decisively in the organization of the population into the ranks of the national liberation struggle. He was the village party leader from 1943 until 1945.

After Varkiza he was followed and unlawfully he continued his revolutionary work.

As soon as DAG was formed he joined its ranks and fought bravely as a leading commander in Vich, Voion, Grevena, Epir and elsewhere.

He was killed and fell a hero on 8 August 1947 at the battle of Grevena.

L Koljov
Kostovski Jane (Georgiadi)

Jane Kostovski was born in 1930 in the village of Shtrkovo, Prespa region. During the time of the Nazi occupation he and his family joined in the struggle for national liberation. As a result of that, after Varkiza, his father and uncles were arrested and stayed in prison for a long while.

Despite the difficult conditions for his family, Jane kept working for the national struggle. His father Pando, after the liberation of Prespa, was elected president of the people’s council of his village and Jane actively worked in the ranks of EPON. When the first Macedonian language teacher courses were offered in Prespa Jane enrolled in them and became a teacher. But just after finishing his course in 1948 he applied to join the ranks of DAG, thinking that in that way he could contribute more to the liberation of his homeland. He fought in many battles and in the summer of 1948 he fell in Mali-Madi at the age of 18.

When his father learned the news of the death of his son, he contacted the Lerin Regional Council and said, “Comrades, until today I worked and fought. From now on I must fight doubly – on my own behalf, and on behalf of my son Jane, whose place is now empty.” The promise given by Pando was fully met. As the president of the people’s council, he gathered all his strengths and worked day and night for the struggle. Sending food to Gramos, building supports on Vich, transporting injured fighters, and everything that DAG asked of him. He was a capable leader, but also a strong man. He not only guided others but participated himself in actions. In building the supports he would hoist the biggest logs onto his shoulder and carry them. In the support actions for DAG, especially on the great battles on Gramos in 1948, he gave the most wheat, meat etc. With these actions Shtrkovo was outstanding compared to the other villages on Vich. Out of
respect for the services of Shtrkovo for the struggle, PDV awarded the village and its president Pando Kostovski personally with a diploma.

Pando continued the struggle with increased enthusiasm and, loyal to his post given to him by the people, gave everything he valued most dearly, eventually his own life. He was killed in December 1948 while carrying out his mission.
Sotir from Krapeshtina

In the autumn of 1946 he was in the Lerin prisons near to the river Sekulova, which divides the town into two. In the yard of the courthouse there are two old and low buildings. One of them is the old Lerin prison and the stables of the horse unit of the Lerin police. At that time the stable was being used as a prison. At that time the prosecutor and the police had a lot of work, persecuting the fighters who fought in the national liberation struggle. They arrested them, they beat them, they tortured them, and they shot them at their own homes, in front of those close to them, and they shoved them into the prisons, in the camps. The old Lerin prison was very narrow. And it was not just the stable but other buildings too were turned into prisons – Tole’s tavern, Mangov’s tavern, the old tobacco storehouse called “Redzhijata”, the yard of the police station and others. But the prisoners had to spend time in all of these prisons before they appeared in any court or were exiled.

One day, when the sun set, when the rays of the sun caressed the peaks of Bigla mountain, the gendarmes set up a 17 year old boy and threw him into our cell from the door. We greeted him as a friend. He had a dark complexion and was a pleasant boy. He told us he had been a partisan with DAG, that he went to work in a village and had been caught. He spoke softly and even though he knew what he faced, he was calm and did not show any anxiety.

In my mind I can still see the silhouette of young Sotir from the village of Krapeshtina, which is on an eastern valley of Vich mountain, south of the town Lerin, and about an hour and half from it.

One day the prison warden sent Sotir outside to throw out the garbage. When he returned he said to me – “I decided to escape. To get over the bridge and to climb up Kalugerica,
but I did not manage it. I did not think there was a chance I would succeed.”

After a few days the court date was set. On that day his grandmother came from his village. In front of the main gate of the barbed wire enclosed yard he was making a bargain with his lawyer, how many lira it would cost to defend Sotir. His grandmother looked at the courthouse and heaved a sigh and said,

“Eh! Damn you! In Turkish times you devastated us and again we are being devastated.”

Three or four days passed and Sotir was upright before the military court. The procedure was short and Sotir was sentenced to death.

That day, after dinner, we waited for him to return. At 9.30 the warden opened the door and Sotir appeared together with a gendarme. He came to get his things and to ask our forgiveness⁴. And before he left, he calmly said to us –

“Okay comrades, goodbye, we will not see each other again.”

He took his things under his arm and we all said goodbye to him and shook his hand.

The gendarme was furious and cursed him but he, with a calm demeanor and holding his head high, walked with firm steps away from us. The door closed. But he, Sotir, a Macedonian aged 17, stayed in our memories more strongly than death. He left a strong example in the broad boulevard of the struggle for a free, carefree and happy life.

A Hadzhitashkov

---

⁴ Asking forgiveness, ie before his death
The blond haired Jane Lokrov grew strong and powerful. He was an outstanding student at school and had a great spirit of solidarity with his fellow students. The teachers respected him and he was respected by his fellow students.

What would the future prospects be for the strong and spirited hero? Whatever the future held for the young man, in Bmbel, Kostur region, he had to start with one or two years as a shepherd. Some sent their sons out of need, others to toughen their children. And it was true that in one or two years the small yellow haired boy grew into a real man, with broad shoulders. The Bmbel mountains do not have many trees and little water but even without that they have their own beauty which only those born in Bmbel can feel.

Jane Lokrov was one of the most passionate admirers of our mountain and not just for its nature and beauty but before all for its historic places that recalled the shouts of the fearless Ilinden fighters. Passing with his sheep the cave where 18 heroes from Bmbel who fought in Ilinden and killed themselves to avoid being captured by the Turkish army that had surrounded them, Jane carved into the rock with his knife, “We will continue your fight.” And he truly kept this promise.

Later he learned the cobbler trade, completed all his apprentice obligations to his master, and became a master himself. He opened a shop in the village square. The people tell that in those times, some gained while others lost. An even-tempered man could, in those hard times, look after his shop and nothing else. But Jane did not take such a path. He joined the powerful storm of the great national liberation struggle. In 1944 after he completed a number of services and missions for the national liberation and party organizations in his village and the region, he set off with the rest of the youth from the village and joined the ranks of ELAS.
ЯНЯ ЛЮКРОВ
He was an active and fiery defender of unity between the Greek and Macedonian people, loyal to the policies of the party, Jane had a deep understanding that being united was the proper path for the national and socialistic liberation of the Macedonians, and fighting together with the Greek people under the leadership of CPG against the general enemy.

A fearless fighter for DAG from 1946 and with outstanding capabilities as a commander, Lokrov quickly became captain. He participated in many struggles on Vermion, Kajmachkalan and Vich.

In 1947 in the heat of battle on Vermion he was deafened by the terrible enemy artillery and air bombardments. He sought permission for a time and returned to his village. He went with a great pain in his soul. He did not remain long. He did not enjoy the various jobs he had to do while in the village. So, before he got better, with his perseverance, he managed to join the fighting units in Vich as a company commander machine gunners.

He was killed on 20 April 1948 on the street in Kostur-Bogachko by enemy fire. After his death he was made major, deceased hero.

_T Karameshev_
Made Vane

He was born in the city of Voden. He was from a working family and from a young age worked mending pots. In 1928 he became a member of CPG and carried out serious revolutionary work both lawfully and unlawfully. His house was used for CPG’s outlawed work.

At the time of the German occupation he was increasingly active in the organizing of the population against the German occupiers and their lackeys in Kalchev. In 1942 he was arrested and savagely tortured. But Vane did not say a word; he took his secrets with him to his grave. When they shot him dead he shouted out “Long Live CPG!”
Mangov Vangel

Vangel Mangov was born in the village Zhupanishta – Kostursko in 1912. In 1926 he completed his primary school education and later continued his high school studies at the Kostur high school and then later at the one at Cotil. As a high school student he was under the influence of the communist youth organization and because of his revolutionary ideas, he was expelled from the high school.

He actively participated in the pre-election campaign for the parliamentary elections in 1933 and 1936. He passionately disseminated CPG’s policies. Because of this activity he was arrested and sentenced to four months imprisonment.

In 1939 at the time of the Metaxas dictatorship Vangel was again arrested, brutally tortured and sentenced to nine months imprisonment.

After his release from jail, he joined the battle against the Italian fascists and when the front disbanded he threw himself wholeheartedly into preparations for the national liberation struggle. He worked actively in collecting weapons and organizing the population into EAM and the national struggle. In 1942 he is arrested by the occupying forces and sentenced to 11 months jail. His female comrade was also thrown into jail along with her little baby, who died as a result of the hardship it endured.

After his release from jail Vangel worked tirelessly in various parts of the revolutionary movement – as a leader of political organizations, as a commissar in the ELAS unit. He was a passionate propagandist and educated the Macedonian population about the danger of the Bulgarian fascist propaganda that sought to pit the Macedonians against the Greeks in a war of brother against brother. Spreading the CPG propaganda for unity between the Macedonian and Greek people he exposed the motivation of the occupying forces to
ВАНГЕЛ МАНГОВ
divide the people. The Macedonian people massively joined the battle under the flag of EAM-ELAS for the liberation of both the Greek and Macedonian people. The results of a united battle could be seen in the heat of battle. In many Macedonian villages, the first Macedonian schools were opened, Macedonian theatre groups were formed and the people felt liberated. After liberation, they put in place measures to form the first Macedonian language teacher course in Kostur and elsewhere. But the liberation did not last long. New occupiers arrived – the English and then after them, the American imperialists. Vangel was followed and persecuted. In 1946 the fascist forces offered a monetary reward of 25 million drachmas for him to be killed. But again, he was among the first to join for battle.

In 1946, he was commissar of the partisan unit and later worked in the political organizations in Kostur. In the army and in the political organizations, he developed an impressive record of activity. To complete his missions, he moved around readily, even behind enemy lines. One day, 26 March 1947, he was heading to the Sliveni monastery where the enemy army was. After being betrayed he was arrested by the army. But without losing any time he threw himself from a cliff into the river Bistrica and tried to swim away to save himself. But one bullet hit him and he died shortly after. The next day, the Sliveni villagers found his body at the edge of the river. Policemen took him by truck to the police cells at Chetirok and there they cut off his head. They put it in a box and gave it to a small boy to carry - Paskal from Chetirok – to Kostur.

Vangel Mangov dedicated all of his efforts and his life to the liberation of the people and died a hero of the people.
Mangov Krsto

Krsto Mangov was born in the Kostur village of Dmbeni. Following the life effort of Lazo Poptrajkov, Lazo Trpovski and other revolutionary heroes from Dmbeni, he joined the Greek revolutionary movement and fought for the liberation of the Greek and Macedonian peoples.

In 1946 Krsto was in the groups of people’s fighters being followed on Vich and Mali-Madi and actively helped to establish DAG in the Kostur region.

At the start of 1948 he was elected the president of the Kostur regional people’s council where he showed particular activism. He went from village to village and worked tirelessly for the first Macedonian schools to be opened, for the establishment of the first village people’s councils and people’s courts, agricultural cooperatives, people’s hospitals, the development and support of the youth groups, for the realization of CPG’s policies for full and equal rights for the Macedonian people.

He was a good agitator on behalf of the people and spoke with enthusiasm among the people about the rights that Macedonians have won in the general struggle with their brothers, the Greek people under the leadership of the CPG, for the need for brotherhood and unity between the two peoples in the battle for liberation for all.

Krsto worked tirelessly for the mobilization of the people in the Kostur region in the aid actions for DAG – help with wheat, meat, wool, and other aid in transporting the wounded fighters, work on the trenches; everything that was needed in battle.

As a result of Mangov's tireless work, in October 1948 he was made an assistant president of the people’s government in Western Macedonia. He continued the fight from that post until his death.
He was killed by an enemy grenade on 13 August 1949 in the village of Breznica, Kostur.
КЪРСТО МАНГОВ
Markov Jordan

Jordan Markov was born in the village of Zhelevo, Lerin, to a poor family. At the time of the German-Italian occupation, Jordan was among the first from Zhelevo to move to the path of the national liberation struggle. He joined the ranks of the CPG and worked actively in his own village, organising the population in the struggle against the occupier. Because of his capabilities and activism, he was elected a member of the Prespa regional committee of EAM. Jordan was an illiterate youth. But that did not stop him from employing his forces in the service of the national liberation struggle. He went from one village to the next and informed the population about the struggle against the occupier. Later, when the ethnically based divisive elements appeared in our movement, Jordan fought against the divisive elements; he fought for unity between the Macedonian and Greek people. Because of his patriotic activity and participation in the struggle, after the Varkiza agreement he was placed under surveillance by the reactionary forces.

In the second phase of the armed battle Jordan was among the first fighters of DAG. He took part in many battles. In the month of August 1948, in the great battles of Gramos, he fell on the peak Haros.
Mechkarovski Hristo

He was born in the village of Bukovik, Prespa region. His father Pando Mechkarov was a progressive man and, as a result, always had problems with the police. Hristo at the time of the German occupation joined the ranks of the liberation movement and worked as an officer of EPON in his own village. After the Varkiza agreement he did not cease his work for EPON and because of that he was arrested and sent to jail. After his release in 1947 he joined the ranks of DAG at the headquarters in Vich. He took part in all of the battles of the 18th brigade, and in the battle near the village of Leshtina in 1948 he died a hero.

M Petridi
Miloshev Panajot

Panajot was born in 1927 in the village Visheni, Kostur region. In 1947 at the age of 20 he joined the ranks of DAG. Despite his young age he carried out serious and rich activism within DAG. He took part in numerous battles – in Vich, Sinjachko, Karadzhovsko and elsewhere. In May 1948 in a battle on Vich he was badly wounded. After his return from hospital he threw himself with greater passion into the battle. He demonstrated military capabilities and because of that rose to the position of company commander with the rank of captain.

In the battles on S’basko on 23 December 1948 he fought heroically with his company and was killed.

By a decree on 2 February 1949 he was promoted to major, deceased hero. By the same decree he was awarded a bravery medal.
Minovski Kosta

Kosta Minovski was born in the beautiful Lerin village Buf in 1920. His father was forced to look for work in far away foreign lands. And there, in a foreign land, he was tragically killed. He was burned to death in a factory leaving three small children fatherless.

Kosta’s older brother was a member of the CPG in Buf during the Metaxas dictatorship. Kosta learned the revolutionary ideas from his older brother and joined the ranks of the communist youth organization OKNE. Despite the brutal terror of those years he worked for the development of a revolutionary movement in his own village.

At the time of the Nazi occupation Kosta was a member of the CPG and in the summer of 1944 was elected president of the local village council and a member of the Lerin regional people’s council.

Because of his active participation in the liberation struggle, after the Varkiza agreement he was arrested and sent to jail. As soon as he was released he joined the ranks of DAG. He took part in many battles in Gramos, Smolikas and others. In 1947 he suffered a serious head injury and was sent to hospital at the headquarters. After his recuperation, he returned to the units and continued the fight. In 1948 he took part in the great battles on Vich. In 1949 he is responsible for the Macedonian fighters in the 108th brigade. In this post he was killed on the peak Oksja-Konica on 11 April 1949.

He was promoted to lieutenant, commissar, deceased hero for his activism and heroism.
Minopulos Jordan

Jordan was born in 1929 in the village of Ezerce, Kostur region. His family was very poor. His father served in the Asia Minor conflict and was wounded during that service. Because of that wound and illness he died young and left four fatherless children. His devastated mother sent Jordan to study in the Lerin government pension. There he became angry at the Nazi occupation and Jordan was compelled to return to his own village. He found his family in dire poverty. There was not even a crust of bread. The hardship and the suffering made Jordan hate fascism and capitalism to the death and from a young age he threw himself into the struggle for freedom and a better life. Although he was a small boy at the time of the German occupation he organized the pioneer organization (Aetopula) and helped as a courier and in other roles. In 1947 at the age of 18 he became a member of the CPG and that same year he joined the ranks of DAG.

He served as courier in the 14th brigade of DAG and in the terrible battles on Gramos in 1948 he fell in Gorusija, peak 1632.

V Naskopulos
Miovski Sotir

Sotir Miovski was born in the village Orovo, Prespa region. At the beginning of 1947 he joined the ranks of DAG and participated in many battles in Vich and Gramos. Sotir demonstrated many military capabilities and because of that he was sent to officer school at the Headquarters of DAG. On 23-1-49 he was made sub lieutenant and on 29-7-48 he was promoted to lieutenant. In officer school Sotir demonstrated capacity to learn military skills and for that reason was retained at the school as an officer.

On 11 August 1949 he was killed on the peak Lisec. He fell at the place where in 1903 fell the well-known Macedonian fighter Lazar Poptrajkov.

By announcement made on 2-9-49 he was promoted to captain deceased hero.
Miovski Hristo

Hristo Miovski was born in the village of Popli, Prespa region, in 1899. At the time of the Nazi occupation he joined the ranks of the CPG and actively fought the foreign occupiers.

After the liberation of our side, he continued to work for the establishment of democracy and peace in Greece. Because of his activism in the democratic movement, after the Varkiza agreement he was arrested many times and tortured by the monarcho-fascist forces. On 23 April 1947 he was again arrested and thrown into the Lerin jail. Then his daughter was arrested along with several others from his village.

On 27 May of the same year, after the UN commission had left Lerin, a group of 40 of us fighters – Macedonians and Greeks – appeared before the Lerin military court. Most of the fighters were sentenced to death, including Hristo, his neighbour Jane Dimanovski, the doctor Ioanidis – secretary of the Lerin regional committee of EAM, and others. All of those sentenced to death received their sentence in a cool-headed way and with their courage they inspired us, the other prisoners, who were to remain alive. The courage of the old doctor Ioanidis made a particular impression on us and the 18 year old Pavle Apchev, a representative of EPON in the village Banica. They were always smiling.

On 27 July 1947 a group of 12 of those sentenced to death were taken to the Lerin execution ground. All of the condemned men proudly raised their heads and faced the executioners and bravely awaited death. Both of the villagers from Popli died then – Hristo Miovski and Jane Dimanovski.

Tr. Miovski
Mirkovski Vangel

Vangel Markovski was born in the village Dobrolishta, Kostur region, in 1915. He was a member of the party from 1934. From a young age he was dedicated to the struggle for a crust and freedom. He worked tirelessly among the youth and gained their respect and affection.

During the period 1936-9 he did not stop working against the dreadful terror. In 1939 he was arrested and sentenced to two years exile and sent to the island Ahafi. In 1941 he was among the first fighters of the national struggle in Kostur. He joined the head of the five member armed patriotic group and in November the same year he was arrested again by the Italians. He was subjected to brutal torture and sentenced to three years prison.

In 1943 he was released from prison and joined the ranks of ELAS and as an officer he participated in many battles. In 1945 he was followed and worked unlawfully. In 1946 he entered the ranks of DAG and took part in many battles. In the battle for Lerin in February 1949 he was killed, still loyal to the party and to the people.

P Mirkovski
Mirchev Alekso

Alekso Mirchev was born in 1912 in the village of Nivic, Prespa region. Before the Second World War exploded he married in the village Peshosnica, Lerin region and settled there. He participated in the battle against the German occupiers and because of that, after the Varkiza agreement, he as followed by the monarcho-fascist forces. So that he would not fall into their hands, he went to Prespa. He became one of the most effective activists of the political organizations. He worked tirelessly as a political leader organizing the population into the patriotic and democratic struggle. He was energetic, brave, of the people, and pro active and so he became one of the most beloved cadres of Prespa. They still remember him and will always remember him.

In 1948 he joined the ranks of DAG where he demonstrated his talents. He participated in many struggles and fought heroically against the enemy. In one battle he was injured. Even before he healed, he returned to his unit. On 28 October 1948 he completed military school at the Headquarters of DAG and after that he was promoted to company commissar in the 16th brigade.

He died heroically on 12 February 1949 above the Nevoljanovska peak in the battle for Lerin.

A Vasilevski
Mijalovski Pando

Pando Mijalovski was born in the village of Rudari, Prespa region, in 1919. At the time of the German occupation he worked actively in EPON and later in the ELAS reserve in his village. After the Varkiza agreement he worked with the same youthful passion. In the monarcho-fascist army where he was mobilized, he worked toward the ideals of EPON and CPG. In the company he performed responsible party work. Finally he was discovered and put before a military court in Janina. He was sentenced to death and in 1946 he was executed. Before they shot him he stood before the executing squad and called – “You are killing me but you cannot kill the whole population. Long live CPG! I am dying for a free homeland.”

M Petridi
Muchov Stojan (Dimitrov)

Stojan Muchov was born in the village of Buf, Lerin region, in 1920. His father, Ilija Muchov, because of the consequences of the Second World War and the Asia Minor conflict, died very young and so Stojan was without a father.

In July 1943 the German occupiers mobilized some villagers along with some of the livestock to transport some of their weapons and food for their units, which were heading to Gramos and the Albanian mountains for clean up operations against the ELAS units and the Albanian partisans. Among them was Stojan. When the column reached the village Zhelevo he escaped and joined the ranks of ELAS in Vich under the pseudonym Dimitrov. He took part in many battles in Western Macedonia and developed a significant battle record. The most courageous action in which Dimitrov took part was the battle against the Italian occupiers in Rupisha on 18 July 1943. In that battle the partisans forced an entire company to turn itself in to ELAS. During the battle Dimitrov was wounded.

In 1944 after the liberation of some territory in Prespa, Dimitrov was nominated as assistant chief of the People’s Police in Prespa at the rank of sub lieutenant.

In this post he served as a real defender of people’s rights and became a beloved policeman for the Prespa villagers.

After the Varkiza agreement the forces tried to get him to withdraw from the people’s struggle. They suggested he resign from the CPG but he refused all of their proposals categorically.

In June 1946 three gendarmes secretly surrounded his house so that they could arrest him but they did not manage to do so.

Dimitrov was not captured by them but was forced to leave his village and take the road again to the partisans.
There, in the ranks of DAG he met old comrades from the time of ELAS. He took part in many battles as a company commissar in Western Macedonia, Epir, and became popular with his own company. At the start of 1947 he fought for two days straight against an enemy column on the road to Samarina-Donciko.

In November 1947, during a bloody battle near Geroplatanos near Kalpaki (in Epir), he was hit by an enemy grenade. So died a brave and courageous fighter, faithful to the last moment of his own short life to the party and the people.
Nedelkov Micho

I heard about the life of Micho Nedelkov before I had met him. He was born in the village Banica, Lerin region in 1917. He worked in the fields as a young boy as was the situation with all young village children. At the time of the German occupation he fought for liberation of the Macedonian and Greek people. He became a member of the CPG and rose to the position of a local party activist. After the Varkiza agreement he was elected secretary of the Buf regional committee of CPG. When the second armed struggle began, he was among the first to step into the ranks of DAG.

I saw him for the first time in the summer of 1948 during the great battles on Gramos. At the time he was a battalion commissar for the 14th brigade, which was holding the front at Alevica. On the second day of the operation the enemy bombarded the positions of the battalion with artillery fire and airplanes and his march began to move along all of our line, throwing the baggage to the left side. He climbed the pyramid above Grlen and began to attack one after another so that we could re-take the peak Nikoleri. Our side burst out with some attacks but because of the great press – the enemy had a great advantage – we were forced to withdraw. With two counter attacks they made ground against us. The position was more than critical. The major called the courier.

“Run to Amuda. Tell the commissar to come here straight away.”

He entered the best observation point. A sinewy, tall and muscular man – without much flesh on him. His liveliness made the biggest impression. He was all movement and nervous energy, his eyes shone and he had a pleasant, happy expression, which filled you with trust.
“Micho! Listen to me so that you can understand the position. If they take Nikoleri and get out at Livadite… it is finished. The front is gone.”

Micho cast a look. It was as though the enemy had gone berserk and was bombing the pass close to the peak to stop us moving people and surging forward toward the pyramid of Grlen. It was clear that the enemy was preparing for another attack. The face of the commissar darkened. But that did not last long; just a moment. It was as though clouds were clearing from his face and he smiled -

“It is bad. But we will not let them pass.”
“Take the reserves and go to Alevica.”
“No, no, I will not be able to get through there, I will go through the pass.”
“If we do not, it will not succeed.”

We saw them go through the enemy fire. When they heard the gunfire at a distance, they crawled along the ground. When there were explosions, we could not see them for the flames. And when the air cleared, we saw them run, he was at the front and the others after him in a military chain.

At dark, when the hum of the battle stopped and all around an uneasy silence settled, he crossed the meadow. Happy. And even though the major was not a demonstrative man, the major hugged him and kissed him on the cheek.

For that action on 1 August 1948 he was promoted to captain.

I met him one more time. It was when the Cominform had published its decision about Tito. He had met the unit so that he could help resolve a disagreement between a Greek and a Macedonian.

Turning to the Macedonian, he said -
“What you are saying Trajko and more importantly, what you are doing, helps the deceivers because “Tito will liberate
us... the Yugoslav Party is better…” these "theories" inflame chauvinism and will lead to our battle being lost.”

And later he turned to the Greek.

“And you, Georgi, you have to know that the Macedonian people suffered a lot under the Greek reactionaries and you should expect that there are some who really can see the difference between the Greek people and the Greek reactionaries. We have to be very careful so that we do not destroy their national sentiment. Just calling out, ”Hey, you slavo Macedonian,” shows that you have not understood that. You turn upside down the theories that I spoke to Trajko about.

The discussion went for quite a while. At the end, Georgi asked him –

“Good, what are you? I thought you were a Macedonian.”

“I am, above all, a communist. And a communist has to put the revolution above everything else. Because only the revolution will solve the national social and other problems.

Micho took part in all the battles in that sector. The penultimate day he was injured in Pampuri, if my memory does not deceive, he went to hospital and returned for the operations on Vich.

On the peak “Nichova Cheshma” near the mountain Mali-Madi on 23 September 1948, he was badly wounded.

“Leave me here in the guard so that I can observe from on high,” he told the stretcher-bearers who arrived to collect him.

And when one, wiping tears from her eyes, tried to persuade him that the wound was not bad, he told her –

“Do not cry, comrade. That is how life is today. If some are not killed, if others do not suffer and cry, there will be no progress. And tell my mother, my wife and my child to be brave and to help better days come.
When they lifted him up to put him in the stretcher, his head dropped to the side and he died quietly, in a dignified way, like a man who had honourably met his obligation to the people.

*K Purnaras*
Nikezov Georgi

A labourer, he was born in 1915 in Enidzhe-Vardar to a poor family. As a young boy he was aware of the hardships of the people and that caused him to join our movement and to mix with progressive people. In the occupation he was active in the battle against the fascists and in 1943 he became a member of the Party. After the Varkiza agreement he worked for the Party and was engaged in outlawed activity. Because of his wealth of revolutionary activism he was arrested and convicted by a military court to death. In 1947 he was shot by an execution squad.

Hr Mishov
Nikolov Josif

Josif Nikolov was born in the Prespa village of Luk in 1922. From the first days of the founding of DAG he joined its ranks. In December 1946 he served in the headquarters in Vich. He participated in many battles in Lerin and Kostur and became a brave fighter. He completed officer school at the headquarters and continued to fight as an officer. He served in Vich, Thessaly, and Roumeli.

In September 1948 in the battle near the town of Tiranovo (Thessaly) he was badly wounded and died. At the suggestion of the headquarters for southern Greece, he was promoted to captain, deceased hero.
When I think of the battles we fought in the past, I think of my father.

On 10 October 1941 the first partisan shot was fired in Western Macedonia. The First Partisan group, a group of 11 people’s fighters from the village of Krmsko (Mesovuno) – Kajlaraska killed the village president, an agent of the Nazi occupiers. After 13 days, on 23 October, the tragic gatherings at Mesovuno had taken place. The Nazis with artillery fire and all of the other military capabilities from Kozhani surrounded the village at dawn and fired from all sides, killing 153 men aged between 15 and 65. They banished all of the children and the women and set fire to the village, burning it down.

During that time, the Greek police arrested my father because I was a part of the group of fighters at Mesovuno. My father was aged 70. In the Register of Births he was recorded under two surnames – Dimitri Nikolush and Hadzhitashkos. The first surname was after his father who was called Nikolush and the other was from his grandfather who had been in adzhilak. In Kajlarasko all of the market stall-holders knew the old dried hot chilli maker [piperdzhija] from Karadzhovsko. He was a hard worker. On Sundays and holidays, he would not rest. If he did not have work to do in his fields, he would travel around selling ground dried chilli powder. With that work he was able to care for a family of six and send me to the Voden high school and later to the Kozhani teachers college.

After the events at Mesovuno my sister was arrested along with my father. The authorities decided that my father was too old so they should arrest someone younger from the family so that could persuade the teacher – me – to give himself up. And so they arrested my sister too. The two ‘dangerous’ arrested people were sent to Kajlari and after 3-4
days to Kozhani. After that they released my sister but sent my father into exile to the town Livadija in southern Greece. We hoped he would return so that we could see each other again. But our hopes were not fulfilled. In the month of April 1942 sad news arrived – my father had died on 30 March 1942. He had a serious illness and his life was taken while he was far from his wife, his children and the village where he was born. He was the last victim of the Mesovuno events and the first victim of Katranica in the battle against the occupier.

One April day I was informed in Kajlari of the sad news. Dark clouds covered the horizon and from morning to night a heavy rain fell. I had never thought that my father could die in such a way. Shut in a room, I thought of him for the whole day about his care for our family, for me. We were also good friends. He understood that the battle against the occupier and the fascists was righteous. He knew how bad an enslaved life was and how bad life was for the very poor people.

I sought to find out about his life in Livadija. “National Solidarity” (Ethnic Alilengi residents) helped the old Macedonian exile during the hardest days. A Greek teacher and her family stayed with him during the last moments of his life and closed his eyelids after his passing.

Greeks who were collaborators and servants to the Nazi occupiers arrested an old Macedonian man and sent him into exile because his son fought for the liberation of Greece. Other Greeks – the patriotic Greek people – took him in their arms and stayed with him during the most difficult and last days of his life. The roots of the two peoples are connected from long in the past and are deep and that is why that connection cannot be destroyed.

A Hadzhitashkov
Nichov Ilija

He was born in 1919 in the village of Mangila, Kostur region, to a poor family. From a young age he experienced suffering and deprivations working as a labourer in other houses.

At the time of the Nazi war in 1940-1 he fought against the fascist aggressors for the independence of our homeland.

From his early years he spent time with the CPG and in 1942 he became a member, taking an active part in the battle against the fascist occupation. Ilija made a great contribution in the Kastanerija region in organizing the national struggle and especially in the security units of ELAS. In 1943 he finished the ELAS officer school. He took part in the battles on Vatilakos and elsewhere he fought bravely against the German occupiers and their local collaborators.

At the time of the parliamentary elections in March 1946 he was arrested by the police and put to brutal torture because he spread the propaganda of the CPG.

In 1946 he became a partisan in the ranks of DAG and because of his tireless work and self sacrifice, always fighting in the front line, he became commander of a battalion.

With his courage in battle Ilija was a personal example to his comrades. But he had another talent – a talent of a people’s fighter and leader. In his spare time he read Marxist literature and took care to educate himself and to teach his comrades about ideology.

Ilija threw himself into battle first and was wounded many times. At the commencement of the great operations on Gramos in 1948 at the locality Nidruzi with enthusiasm he threw himself into the first battle and with his example he lifted the spirit of the battalion’s youthful fighters who repelled the enemy attack. He was badly wounded in the stomach. Despite the terrible pains he continued to attack and
to encourage his fighters. He showed them where they should pay attention and told them not to step back even one step.

The heart of the courageous hero could not bear to be in the hospital when he thought of his comrades still fighting on Gramos. And even before he was fully healed he returned to the battle site in the Haros region and there, in battle, he died heroically.

A Kalojani
Pavlev Pavle (Dimko)

In the Surovichko region Pavle Pavlev was well known under the name Dimko.

He was born in the village of Banica, Lerin region. He was a modest, blond haired, thin young man. He did not know many letters. He had only completed the local primary school. However he was clever and brave.

From a young age before he completed his primary school studies he became familiar with hard work. He took cattle out to pasture, he herded sheep, and performed all the chores at home that he could. He worked in the fields and in the Banica mine, as did all the Banica villagers. He thoroughly learned of the hardships of life up close and about the inequalities that existed in society. He saw the exploitation of workers with his own eyes. He and his fellow workers were paid just 37 drachmas for a full day’s work. There were no measures for safety or making the work easier. The exploiters only looked after their own pockets. All of this helped Pavle to orient himself politically and to select the correct path to the struggle, the path to the revolutionary workers’ movement.

In the first years of the Nazi occupation Pavle was not quite 17 years old. Then, in 1941 he joined the ranks of OKNE (Organization of the Communist Youth of Greece). Later he worked as the secretary of the village organization of EPON. In that role he developed an active record and succeeded with his young collaborators to organize the Banica youth into the ranks of EPON. He was tireless, working day and night, always on the run. He collected weapons, clothing, food and everything that he could for the partisan ranks that operated in Vich and Kajmachkalan. He kept connections with the Germans.
At the start of 1943 the Germans blocked off many villages in Lerin with the aim of mobilizing the people and sought volunteers to fight the Albanian partisans. They got 50 from Banica including Pavle. They shut them in a camp surrounded by barbed wire near the Banica train station and from there they took them to Albania the next day.

The local party organization decided to free them from the camp and that decision was successfully carried out because of the courage and personal strength of the EPON member Pavle. During the night they cut the wire and all but three escaped with their livestock.

The next day before the Germans could surround the village all of the men together with the livestock left the village for the mountain where they remained until the danger had passed.

The example set by the Banica villagers was followed by other villages and so the Germans did not manage to mobilize people to fight against the Albanian partisans. A very small number was mobilized but most of those escaped while on the road to Albania and joined the partisans.

After this event, the people’s liberation movement in the Lerin region got stronger; new partisans joined the ranks of ELAS and together with them was Pavle under the pseudonym Dimko.

In the autumn of the same year Pavle was elected as a member of the regional committee of EPON in Surovichko. There, at his new post Pavle demonstrated himself worthy of the trust that the youth organization and the movement had placed in him. A fearless man, with a pistol in his waistband and crossed cartridge belts across his chest he traveled the Surovichko villages and educated the youth about the ideals of EPON. He spoke little but worked hard. In the Surovichko villages, Macedonian and Greek, the youth already knew Dimko. In Srebreno, Ajtos, Ekshisovo and other villages
Dimko taught the young Macedonians partisan songs and the party line of the CPG on national rights etc.

With his work, with all of his capabilities Dimko became an activist of EPON. Later he was elected a member of the Lerin Regional Council of EPON. Taking on the bigger roles that were now allocated to him by the organization with a new élan and powers, he threw himself into his work in the struggle for the liberation of our homeland. Educated in the spirit of unity and solidarity between the two people – Greek and Macedonian – he gave everything that he had so that the ideals of EPON could be brought to life, for liberation to be achieved.

Faithful to his post Dimko fell a hero of EPON, of our people, on 3 April 1944, shot by a German bullet. He fell into the Srebrenskata River when he was returning to his own region from Belkamen where he had been for organizational work.

SK
Pajkova Germanija

Small village houses rise up on the south west of the Bela Voda mountain and surround the narrow streets of the village German, which rise up from the fields to the peak Stogo.

In 1931 in the Pajkovski family a girl was born – Germanija. The impoverished family was happy at the birth of the girl because she would be able to help her parents when they were old. From a young age, Germanija showed signs that she would be a good, obedient, and wise young woman.

With the slow passage of time, Germanija grew within the poor family, she grew stronger.

She grew up and went to school. In her eyes there was a desire for education. She was one of the good students but she was not fortunate enough to complete even primary school. Her father, because of their poverty, was forced to remove her from school so she could help him with work, as a blacksmith.

It was so sad! A young girl enters the workforce. She did not taste the free life of a child. She did not get to play like a child. With her small, calloused hands she picked up the heavy hammer to help her father and her whole family. She got to know the grown up world even better.

In 1946 with the formation of DAG Germanija organized herself into the youth organization EPON. She was still small but she helped significantly. Her skill that she learned at such a young age was now helpful not just to her own family but to the bigger, more important family that was called the homeland.

DAG put her to work as a blacksmith. She worked day and night making shoes for the horses, metal plates for the bunkers and other things. With her wiry little hands she held the hammer firmly and hit strongly on the red-hot iron, in the same way that her comrades hit the enemy on the front line.
She did not know what it was to feel tired. Her eyes shone brightly and every blow was a knife in the heart of the enemy.

In the hands of Germanija the hammer sang and the sparks flew like rain, and then various pieces and tools were produced that would eliminate the enemy.

Her skills grew with her work but her hatred for the enemy grew even more.

“I will work as much as I can,” she would say, and smiling she would continue her work. “I know that only with mass participation, some working, some fighting at the front, will we win sooner.”

She also wanted to go to the front, to fight and land a huge blow on the enemy. Her wish was fulfilled. One morning from the nearby mountains a young girly voice was heard, along with other youthful voices, “I want, mother dear, I want to become a young partisan.”

The sweet melody of that song was carried to the liberated and enslaved villages and gave hope and faith in victory; it gave news that a new partisan girl had emerged…

Germanija’s unit also took part in the Lerin battles in February 1949. Holding her rifle tight she shot. She ran, she fought heroically. An enemy bullet hit her and she dropped, badly wounded. She continued to shoot. But because of the heavy bleeding she lost consciousness, and she fell into the hands of the murderers who threw themselves on Germanija like hungry wolves, to force her to withdraw, to give herself up. They tortured her a great deal. She did not utter a word. She steeled her heart and gathered together her last strengths and stood once more, for the last time, among her persecutors, and called, ”Long live CPP! Long live democracy!”

*P Pashalevski*
**The Twenty Two Killed from the Village of Palior**

Dawn. Wild voices destroyed the silence of the prison. Cars, planes, soldiers, all in operation. All of us, the prisoners, were awake. All of the noise did not make an impression on us any more; we had become accustomed to it. We knew – either some comrades were to appear before a military court or were to be shot.

That morning in 1947 there was a lot of confusion because the 72 Macedonians from the village of Paljor Kajlarsko, were to appear before a military court. And the crows knew that there would be flesh to peck and so they were crowing loudly too.

The charge was not against the 72 Macedonians but also against the Ilinden uprising in 1903, against the Ilinden fighters, and in the military court they were hearing charges against their sons and daughters.

The military court went for five days. It sentenced 22 brave Macedonian villagers to death. The news that 22 were sentenced to death froze us, but on the other hand, the bravery of the comrades in the way they addressed the military court made us proud of our people. All of the prisoners had family connections; three brothers, two brothers, a grandfather and grandson. They kept them all in prison and later separated them. The condemned were taken to the central prison. We could see them from a northern window. The women who knew them cried. They walked with their heads held high. A teacher and I along with other EPON members greeted them. We looked at the 80 year old man standing next to his 16 year old grandson who tried to support him with a smile on his face. And the son of the grandfather, the father of the boy, was sentenced to four years jail. They had sentenced him two years previously and held him at the central prison in Kozhani and now they took the condemned to that prison; his father
and son were to join him. They locked them in a huge room. They took us women out to the yard to take some air. I ran to the window immediately despite knowing the consequences could arise, if the jailers were to see me. With a smile on my face I said to them – “Free people! Hold your head high so that they do not think that with death sentences they can force us to withdraw. Our slogan is: freedom or death! Even when we die we are winning; they are afraid of us and so they kill us.”

“Hooray!” they called, smiling and they raised their glasses of water.

My words appealed to the old man. He asked me who I was; I told him and he came to the window, he squeezed my hand and told me “That is why you speak so bravely.” I told him that he was a well-built old man.

The women prisoners wished them good freedom and then they were locked up again.

In the evening, when they took us out again to the yard, we saw a number of lawyers searching for the condemned. It was not enough that they had sucked up their blood; they wanted to drink it up to the last drop. They sought from the condemned five lira [currency] each to make an appeal for mercy. One tall man spoke to them, a man named Georgi. He told them “You stripped our houses and now you want to leave our children fatherless on the street, but let’s make the last injection of tonic.”

Once the lawyers left, the execution squad arrived. The guards told the brave soldiers that they would take them to another camp. They took them into the yard. The old man was the last to come out. In one hand he held a blanket and in the other a basket. The wind blew a dried magazine page from the basket and blew it around. The old man followed it and wanted to take it. Noticing that sad scene, a guard approached me and said “Tell them to take a blanket and to leave their
other clothes to their poor wives. It is sad. They have new blankets and they will lose them. Because this lot is going to the barracks and tomorrow morning early they will be shot.”

I ran to the old man and said to him: “Old man, let the page go; do not take all your clothes with you. You may return and if you do, tomorrow your daughter in law is coming and she will bring them to you. Just take one blanket so that you can pass the night.”

“Why should we not take all of our clothes?” he said to me. I looked at him but did not answer him. “Oh. I see!” he said to me then, “I understand; they are going to kill us.”

Speaking with the grandfather I saw his son locked in a cell. From the window he was watching his father and his son, who were being led to be shot. He was crying and sang, ”Today it is sad to see…”

I ran and said to the guards, “You are taking the old man and his grandson to be shot and you have locked up the son so that he cannot say his goodbyes to them for the last time, his dear ones!” Just then, there awoke in them a humane feeling. They took the old man and the son, they opened the door and the three of them hugged.

Until that moment the woman teacher and I kept our tears in check. From the moment they brought the condemned, we were cool headed but watching that sad scene we could no longer hold back. And the vicious Cerberus-like guards and the soldiers from the execution squad shed a tear.

When Vasilaki hugged his father he leapt like a deer; he looked as though he was going to a festival. He kissed us and said smiling, “I say thank you to you in the place of my mother. We are going to give our bones to make the foundations of the People’s Republic.” They took them from the yard and put chains on their wrists. They tied them two by two. We called out in Macedonian as they went, “Hold your heads high!”
I parted from the comrades in the darkness. Two brothers, one 17 and the other 20, were last. They were very poor. The slipper of one of them was untied, and they were bound together, both of them bent down so that he could tie up his lace on his slipper. They were getting further from the prison and the melody of a Macedonian march could be heard from afar. They approached their deaths singing.

The next day their wives came early and we gave them the clothes that had been left. On the third day at dawn, we heard car motors and dogs barking. We ran to the windows to see the graveyards. We saw them take the dead bodies of the brave people. It was as though the carriers were greeting us as they went behind the trees and then showed themselves again.

At the shooting there was present a guard who told us about the courage of the executed. He was impressed by the cool-headedness of the old man. He stood first in line and spoke to the youths. His grandson Vasilaki stood next to him. He gave him courage and said to him “Do not be afraid Vasilaki. You are the son of the Macedonian people.” The others all said “Hurrah” for a free homeland and died with a song on their lips. The song was drowned out by the fire of the guns.

_S Teodosiadiu_
Papa Pando

Pando Papa was born in the village of Neret, Lerin in 1909. In 1929 he completed Lerin high school. He worked for a few years as the village postman. At that time he associated with the CPG. Two or three years before the Second World War he became a clerk for the Atinon Bank in Lerin.

Pando was a tall man, healthy and strong. On the Albanian front he served as a lieutenant of the Greek army and fought heroically against Mussolini’s fascist hordes.

During the time of the Nazi occupation he was among the first bank clerks who organized into EAM. He was also a member of the committee of the EAM organization of the citizens and other servants of Greek Lerin. He worked decisively and with passion for the development of EAM in the town, but his wish was to join the ranks of ELAS.

One morning in May 1944 the Gestapo surrounded Pando’s house. Leaping from wall to wall, he managed to escape and got to the village of his birth, Neret, and from there to the village Lageni where sat the seat of the regional committee of CPG and EAM. Pando arrived wearing his officer uniform and looking dangerous with a pistol in his hand. The next day he was in the 28th infantry regiment of ELAS and was made a battalion commander. The battalion commissar was the Macedonian Jane Chochov (Stojan) from Lerin, an old acquaintance of Pando’s. The two Macedonian officers took part in many battles against the German occupiers. They fought courageously and they fell, one next to the other, in the big operations of the Germans against the IX division of ELAS in Western Macedonia.
Papadimitriu Toma (Choljas)

Toma Papadimitriu was born in 1921 in the village of Nestram - Kostursko to a poor working family and even as a young boy he started to work as a builder and carpenter.

In 1941 he joined the CPG and in 1943 he was a partisan in the ranks of ELAS. He participated in many battles against the occupying forces where he impressed with his courage and self sacrifice.

After the Varkiza agreement he was secretary to the party organization in his village and was a serious activist. He was at the head at demonstrations and meetings opposed to the English intervention and the monarcho-fascist terror.

In 1946 he was among the first to join DAG. Toma began as a soldier in DAG and because of his capabilities and talents in a short time he became the commander of group, then leading commander, to captain. He participated in many battles, in Catelli, Persia and elsewhere, where he distinguished himself. He bravely completed all the missions allocated by DAG and the Party and was twice wounded. In the big battles on Gramos in 1948 he distinguished himself as the commander of a unit and was awarded a medal. He died heroically on 21-4-49 on Gramos near “Automata”.

He was promoted posthumously to major.

G Goya
Pashov Aleko (Filipide)

Aleko Pashov was born in the village of Nestram, Kostur region, to a labourer family. He was a carpenter. He became a member of the CPG in 1943. He participated in ELAS and fought against the fascist occupiers and their local servants. After the Varkiza agreement he was followed by the monarcho-fascist forces. He joined the ranks of DAG in 1946 and participated in many battles with the 14th brigade as a leading commander. In 1948 he was badly wounded and after he healed he served in the units at Epir. In April 1949 as an officer of the officer school at the headquarters he participated in the taking back of Gramos, and in the battle of Kanaka he showed outstanding heroism. He entered the enemy trenches and began hand-to-hand combat. He was captured and held for 12 hours; after DAG attacked, he was released and fought until Kanaka was liberated.

He participated in the battle at Patoka where he died on 11 April 1949. He was promoted to captain, deceased hero.

N Karapandov
Pashov Tanas

Tanas Pashov was born in the village Nestram, Kostur, in 1924. He was a member of the CPG since 1942. He was among the first fighters of ELAS and participated in many operations against the German-Italian fascists. He was made captain of ELAS because of his outstanding service.

After the Varkiza agreement he was followed and then tortured by the monarcho-fascist forces, by the Nestram police force.

In 1946 he joined the ranks of DAG. At the start he served as a leading commander. Later as a captain of the 14th brigade, he was an active fighter and participated in many battles where he fought heroically. Tanas as a company commander died on 17 April 1948 at the locality called Gorica. He was promoted to major, deceased hero because of his bravery.

HK
Pacha Eftimija (Gusheva)

She was a young girl, thin but full of life. Here large expressive blue eyes stood out in her thin face. She experienced a lot of hardships in her childhood.

Eftimija was born in 1924 in the village of Dolno Gramatikovo, Voden region. Her father was a teacher and with a single income he managed to raise seven girls. She was attracted to the national-patriotic movement by the poverty and misery, the democratic convictions of her family and her whole village and the jackboot of the occupier, which trampled on the head of the people. From 1942 she worked in the ranks of EAM and from 1943 she was a member of the CPG and fought bravely for the liberation of our homeland.

A first glance at her would not fill your eye. However, she concealed in her a great patriotism – love of her homeland and the people. She was happy and jolly; an active girl, a girl of the people.

I recall now the first meeting of the women villagers of the Voden region, at Easter in 1946. It was the period when the blockades against the location of the democratic organisations became more and more common. In the evening of the gathering, the police blocked the relocation of EAM in the town of Voden and did not leave anything standing. But despite that, things were prepared and had to take place. The villagers started to arrive. Eftimija was a member of the Voden regional committee of AKE and was responsible for the work among the women. She, with the help of the other organisers, took care so that she managed not just to get by but to dress it up as well. Eftimija managed to achieve cooperation among the women delegates, to personally organise them, to prepare herself as well for her speech and to leave some free time to sit with the delegates too, to make jokes with them, to tell them some histories, to chat. She
knew all of the women. She was closely tied to them: some from 1943, from the time of the struggle against the Nazis, with others after Varkiza, and she had much to talk about with them.

It was then that I met Eftimija for the first time. From then we saw each other frequently and exchanged correspondence. Later on she was elected a delegate for the congress of PDET (Pan Greek Federation of Women) and on that occasion we met in Athens.

I feel I can still see her before me at the tribune with her cheerful dress. Eftimija was not one of those girls who do not like to speak. Even though she was a Macedonian girl, she spoke Greek really well, and she knew how to put issues to the women and to the organisation.

At the start of 1947 I met her by chance in Solun. The prisons, the islands, and the camps were fill of fighters of the national struggle. With great surprise, I asked her “Why are you here?”

“I want to speak to you,” she said, “come by the house at the following address…”

After a few days I decided to go and see her. When I got close to her house, it was blockaded. Eftimija had been arrested at dawn and taken to the state security facility… and from there to the prison “Neas Filakes.” She appeared before the military court and sentenced to death.

There was nothing that could make Eftimija promise to resign – not torture in the damp cellars of the state security, nor the hardships of the prison, not the death sentence.

After a few months in DAG I met a girl who was in the prison with Eftimija. “In the evening before her execution,” she told me, “we were all gathered around her and she told us histories and we laughed together. We were impressed at where she found such strength, such coolheadedness, such courage. She was passing her psychology onto us…” before
they executed her, her husband came to the prison and begged her to sign the declaration, to save herself. “I do not want to know you as my comrade!” was her answer to her man, about whom she had spoken to me the first time I met her with so much love and affection. “He is very good,” she would say to me, “I will help him and he will become a member of the Party.”

In June 1947 on a hot day in the yard of “Gedi-Kule” 20 people’s fighters were executed and Eftimija was among them. Before the execution, the condemned joined together in a dance and with the last oro dance they said their good byes to life, to their close ones and their comrades, the people and the party. Eftimija led the dance.

*K Halivopulu*
Pejov Vane

The spring of 1946 arrived with quick steps. Leaving the green fields and the blossoming trees of the plain, it climbed the peaks of Vich and as though by magic dressed the grey hills and yellow forests with beautiful green. The birds sang of the beauty of nature with their lovely melodies.

The first partisans crept up the mountain along with spring – fighters persecuted by the monarcho-fascist police and the English occupying army.

If I remember correctly, it was 21 May when a small group of former ELAS fighters from the Lerin villages of the plain moved toward Vich mountain and through the thick forests climbed the Trsjanski slopes.

Our arrival at this place was unexpected and would have had dreadful consequences if the comrades from Trsjanka group had not been cool-headed. But they quickly recognized us and after we had embraced we joined with them and began to talk, happy that we had become one large group.

In the group, most of the people we met were from Trsjani – mostly young people with only a small number of older ones. Vane Pejov made the biggest impression on me – a 45 year old worker – sawyer was how he described himself. He was modest but an experienced and intelligent man. It was pleasant to hear him talk about life and even about the sufferings of the people who lived in those mountain villages. When he spoke, the others were quiet. They knew he spoke for all because they all had the same pain and the same destiny.

“Our village,” Vane began to tell, “is one of the poorest in Vich. Our life is very poor. Five to six sheep, some barren mountain fields and a crooked pen. That is why the men roam around the villages, near and far – they go to Sveta Gora and even as far as the Peloponnese – looking for work as sawyers so as to earn enough for a loaf of bread for their families. The
life of the villagers is bleak and cursed; previously under the yoke of the Ottoman Turks’ chiflik land system and later under that of the Greek reactionary forces. Ilinden passed through our village like a glittering ray full of hope. It set a fire in the hearts of the Macedonians but soon faded to ash…”

It was not enough that we had to endure poverty; we also had to pay heavy taxes to the government and to also endure, standing over our heads every day, the gendarmes, the tax collectors, the mountain guards. Even darker days arrived. They banned us speaking our mother tongue.

That is what it was like when the Second World War exploded. When the German fascists came the situation in Tasjani became even worse. No one was building any more so no one needed a sawyer. Once you are without work… hunger. The knife reaches bone. What will happen in the future?

It was just then that the voice of the Party was heard and showed the correct path to the Trsjani, the whole people of Greece. The path of struggle toward liberation and life. The men grabbed rifles and set off in the footsteps of their fathers and grandfathers – the Ilinden fighters. This struggle was different. With the help of the renowned Soviet army we were liberated. But we did not enjoy for long the freedom we got with the Greek people. It was grabbed by foreigners - the English imperialists and the domestic janissaries. That was not enough for them; on top of that they persecuted us like rabid dogs…

“It was hard to join the partisans afresh,” Vane said, making a heavy sigh, “but it is even harder to accept them beating you like a dog on the road, or for them to lock you up like a bird in a cage.” With a decisiveness that spread throughout like a current, he completed his life story. “It is better to die free in Vich defending our honour, than to give in to the enemy or to die in jail…”

230
The group was quickly transformed and with a few old rifles that group began its defense operations. As a member of that group, I often had reason to test the wisdom and the courage of Vane Pejov.

The next day an enemy company attacked us. Some in the group expressed the view that we should pull back. But Vane did not agree for us to let the burandari (which is what we called the Greek police patrols) pass by. And that is what happened. We repelled them heroically, despite our inadequate weapons. For the first time they experienced a defense effort and drew back, embarrassed.

After a few days, the group had to get some food. A part of the group took on that task and we set off to one of the closer villages – Statica. It was in the evening.

When we got close to the village we heard strong, ceaseless shooting. They seemed to be quite close and it was dangerous for a person to enter the village. Some in the group said we should go back. But again Vane, along with the man in charge of our mission, encouraged the comrades, “Do not be afraid. We have to get food. We cannot manage otherwise.”

Many times when the group could not get down into the village, Vane’s wife brought us provisions and food. And finally, when the movement widened, the whole of Vane’s family – his wife, his daughter-in-law became partisans, fighters for the people. His son had become a partisan in the group right at the start and later became an officer of DAG. Vane, until the last moment, with all his 48 years of suffering, fought bravely, faithful to the party and to his own people and died as a revolutionary worker in the front line in Negush in the winter of 1949.

M Velaki
Pejov Georgi

He was born in 1920 in the town of Lerin to a poor farming family. His father – Kire Pejov, was an old Macedonian revolutionary and he raised his children in that spirit.

During the Nazi occupation Georgi and his sister were organized into the CPG and actively helped the national liberation movement on the side. After liberation, they again worked actively for the people in Lerin. Georgi’s sister was a member of the people’s court in the mid region of the town.

After the Varkiza agreement the two brothers were followed by the reactionary forces because of their dedication to the Party and the people’s struggle. Georgi’s sister was arrested and after two years in jail in Edi-Kule and elsewhere, she was executed.

Georgi did not fall into the hands of the enemy. He operated illegally in the ranks of the CPG and in other patriotic organizations of the people. Despite his age and his great sorrow at the loss of his daughter, his father did not worry. Georgi worked in the people’s struggle motivated by an inextinguishable hatred for the persecutors of the people and optimism in an eventual victory. Unlawful gatherings were arranged in his home and he covered for the outlawed activity with permitted operations.

One night they had gone to Georgi’s home with the secretary of the town committee of the CPG. Before they set off Georgi told his parents that he would go away to work and might not return home for a long time. Kire hugged him and said “Go in good health, my son! Make sure that you do not let the enemy capture you alive and do not embarrass me. I do not want you to come home at all if you are hanging your head in shame…!”
So Georgi set off. He joined the ranks of DAG and as a unit commander commissar he fought heroically. In one particularly intense battle near the village of Kleshtima-Lerinsko he fell on 25 October 1947. In recognition of his efforts he was promoted to captain, posthumous hero.

Georgi fulfilled the wish of his old father and did not let himself be captured alive by the enemy. He was an exemplary fighter in the outlawed operations, fearless in battle with his gun in his hand. He will live in the memory of all of his comrades.
Micho Pejov was born in the village of Krtunishta, Kajlarsko where the Macedonians and Greeks live together in a brotherly way. The small village has few families and its little white houses are spread out on the western slopes of the Kajlarsko plain. The mountain Sinjachko starts on those slopes. The road to Blaca passes through there. It is a village that is set at a high altitude and well known as a summer place and also for its beautiful white cheese.

After completing high school Micho became a soldier, and as he had completed high school he was ranked sub lieutenant in the reserves. Under this rank he served at the Albanian front and fought against the Italian fascists. After their capitulation, at the time of the German occupation, he returned to the village and worked his father’s fields.

In the autumn of 1941 he joined the ranks of EAM and quickly became active in the youth organization.

He had a great character and was a modest and disciplined youth. He would go wherever the organization sent him and with hope and youthful passion he would complete all of the tasks that were allocated to him.

In a short time he became a member of the CPG which, thanks to his correct line, joined the Greeks and Macedonians in the general struggle against the fascist occupiers.

In January 1942 Micho participated in a regional party conference that took place in the village Trepishta. The conference discussed the party’s work in the Kajlarsko region and new tasks. When Micho’s turn came he expressed himself with few words but succinctly and in the correct ideology. He spoke little but worked a great deal and worked intelligently.

In the Kajlarsko region where the Macedonians and Greeks lived together, in local villages he was particularly
concerned for the establishment of brotherly interaction between the two peoples.

At the start of 1943, Micho left his family and his village and dedicated himself completely to revolutionary operations. He was happy to receive the suggestion of the regional party committee for him to work as an activist in the regional committee of EPON.

In the summer of 1943 I met him for the last time in the village of Rimino near the river of Bistrica. He was happy with a high fighter’s spirit, with an optimistic perspective about the people’s struggle and the future of the youth. He deeply believed that the joint struggle of the Macedonian and Greek people under the leadership of the CPG would lead to victory. Micho passed that belief on to all of the youth of the region – Greeks and Macedonians – and because of that the youth and the population of the area loved him. He confirmed his belief in the eventual victory of the struggle with his own sacrifice. At the massacre in 1943 after a betrayal Micho was arrested along with other Greek cadres of the people’s movement. Paodzhiiite – conspirators of the occupiers, tortured them brutally and finally cut their throats with a knife. Among those killed were – Micho Pejov, a Macedonian and Eli Kajlarchenkata – a Greek woman.

With his short though heroic life, with his death Micho Pejov left us an example – that the Macedonians joined with the Greeks, under the leadership of the CPG, must fight to achieve social and national rights.

A Hadshitashkov
Pena Petro

He was born in the village of Zhuma-Demirhisarsko to a poor village family. Seeing the hardships of his parents and those on his own shoulders, he joined the progressive movement of Greece and became a member of the CPG and a partisan. Because of his bravery and cleverness he became an officer of DAG. He worked as a commissar in the villages and towns and he completed all of the missions allocated to him by the party with decisiveness and bravery.

He was sent with a special mission to the village of Haznatar (Hrisi Korifi) and was uncovered by the monarcho-fascist forces and was surrounded in a house. The shooting started. Two of his comrades managed to get out of the line of fire. In trying to leap out of a window, Pena aimed at the monarcho-fascists with hand grenades and his machine gun; he was riddled with enemy bullets. He fell as a loyal son and brave hero of the people.

G Muljarov
**Petsinari Hari**

The summer of 1944. The Greek and Macedonian masses were fighting under the flag EAM-ELAS. They gathered together all of their forces and were grinding chilli on the heads of the Nazis who were suffering great losses on the eastern front. Under the Germans’ nose an all-peoples organization was being organized which strengthened their ranks to weed out the occupiers. Tens and hundreds of Macedonian cadres rose up to lead the liberation movement. One of them was Hari Petsinari from Greek Voden. He was a youth who was hard working and outstanding. From 1941 he was organized in the CPG and actively worked to organize patriots he knew into EAM.

Hari became one of the most popular people’s fighters in the town and quickly became a people’s leader. The more that Kalchev and the other agents of fascist Bulgaria tried to persuade the Macedonians into a fight against their brothers, the Greek people, the more angry the Macedonians became. Few of the armed bands from the region were taken to Voden for security. The Germans and the traitors were tightening the noose more and more around the throats of the people. The members of the organization followed people, arrested them and continued their frightening tortures; they executed people, they disappeared and as the end approached for the occupiers, their repressions got stronger.

Hari was followed but he was saved by the self-defence of Varosh.

The party organizations followed him to the villages where the movement was developing. There, as a leader of the regional national organization he led the ELAS reservists. Hari was not one of those who were afraid. He popped up at the places you did not expect him – even in the villages with armed occupiers. He spoke to the misguided people, he told
them to throw down their rifles, to return to their jobs or to join the ranks of ELAS. In many villages he managed to dismantle the Kalchev bands. And Kalchev went wild. He had Hari in his sights. He proposed to the Nazis that a reward of a few million drachmas be given for the elimination of Hari.

One day Hari was arrested in the village of Nish by the occupying forces. The torture started. They demanded that he resign from his work and join the enemy side. “The revolution will not stop with the death of one Hari. The hour of the pay off is close by,” was his answer.

The Hitler agents were furious. The torture continued for the whole day. But Hari did not give in. He replied to every bit of torture with his deep faith as a people’s fighter in the eventual victory of the people – “Long live EAM! Long live the CPG! Death to fascism!” They pierced him with knives and the blood of the tortured hero dripped out drop by drop. His last words were “Long live the struggle! Death to fascism!”
Petsov Blagoja

Blagoja Petsov was born in the village Aitos, Lerin region in 1909. From a young age he took part in the revolutionary movement led by the CPG. In his own village a party organization was formed in 1930. Blagoja and his comrades were decisive activists in the pre-election campaign in 1932, 1933 and 1936. And not just in Aitos but also in the surrounding villages. Thanks to their activism, the Peoples Front had significant success in those villages. In Aitos, apart from the party organization, there was also the Macedonian organization VMRO (united) in which a large number of Aitos villages were members.

During the Metaxas dictatorship Blagoja was arrested and subjected to torture. During the German occupation he took active part in the struggle against the occupier. He decisively defended the ideologically correct policies of the CPG in the Macedonian issue and fought against those seeking to divide the unity between the Macedonian and Greek peoples. He said, ”Without military unity between the two brotherly peoples, there is no liberation.”

After the Varkiza agreement he was followed and for a long time lay in prison.

In the second phase of the armed struggle Blagoja against took an active part. He worked in DAG in the political organizations, in the groups of free shooters and wherever the party sent him. Blagoja joined the battle with his whole family. His 16-year-old son – Vasil Petsov – served as a courier in the 18th brigade and in October 1948 he died heroically.

Blagoja fell as a free shooter on 16 April 1949 in the Ajtosh peaks. An announcement made on 2 May 1949 said “Blagoja Petsov completed his mission with dignity, perseverance and heroism. His energy has become an example
for his comrades in battle.” With the same announcement, Blagoja was awarded a medal for outstanding intelligence record.

S K
Pechkovi Hristo and Tome

Both of them were born in the village of Ostrovo, Voden. Hristo was actively involved in ELAS. Again in the second phase of the partisan movement he joined the ranks of DAG and later his brother Tome joined. Both of them were in the detachments at Pajak-Kajmachkalan.

The monarcho-fascist forces were lined up on the peak Kajmachkalan with the aim of preventing the partisan detachment from Vich contacting that of Kajmachkalan. At that time they initiated fighter operations and at that time you could not get from Dzhena to the Lerin plain near Kajmachkalan. The detachment was forced to go that way: Papdija – Chegan – Ostrovsko plain. Going that way, the detachment fell into a trap. Hristo was a courier at that time and his brother Tome had the machine gun. The two brothers were sacrificed during that battle. They fell but the detachment succeeded in getting through and completing its mission.

G Shipakov
Peshovi - the Three Brothers

In the whole of the city of Voden one old Macedonian family is well known. The Peshovs. One of the Peshov family, Dimitri Peshov or Cironkata, as he was called, had four sons – Stati, Kosta, Anastas and Georgi. The sons of Dimitri were hard working and progressive and were loved by all of the townspeople.

As young boys they joined the revolutionary movement on the side, in the ranks of OKNE and CPG and fought against the dictatorship of Metaxas, against the persecution of the Macedonian people, and for their social and national rights.

In the time of the Nazi occupation they were among the first to join the battle against the occupier for the liberation and independence of the Homeland.

The Peshov brothers distinguished themselves for their dedication to the CPG and were unmatched defenders of the united struggle of the Macedonian and Greek peoples.

Stati, who was known by the pseudonym Georgostati, worked from 1938 as a labourer for others – in textile factories, in manufacturing factories and others. In 1939 he became a member of OKNE. He developed serious operations and was always first in the battle for the workers’ rights. In the same year he was elected a member of the council of the united unions in Voden. At the time of the Nazi occupation he worked as an activist of the CPG in Voden. After the Varkiza agreement he continued his revolutionary operations. In the VII congress of the CPG he took part as a delegate of the party organizations from Voden. He was arrested by the monarcho-fascist forces and tortured. He lay in the Lerin and Solun prisons for a long time. After his release he joined the ranks of DAG and rose to the rank of unit commissar and on 13 November 1948 he was killed in Voden.
As a mark of recognition, he was promoted to major commissar posthumously, a hero.

Anastas too, because of poverty and the large family, was forced at a young age to work. Later he entered the Voden high school but did not cease working. He studied during the winter and in the summer he worked for others. In the summer he was organized into OKNE. When he completed high school he was given the job of postal worker. In the German occupation, he took active part in the national liberation struggle. After liberation he continued his revolutionary operations and because of that was arrested and sent to the camp Ai-Stratis, where he was brutally tortured.

After his release, he joined DAG. At the start he served at the rank of sub lieutenant commissar in Kajmachkalan and later in Vich and was killed in Vermion on 12 November 1948.

Georgi, the youngest brother, also worked in factories. At the time of the German occupation he was a secretary of EPON and a member of the council of the united unions of his home town. He took an active part in the first ranks of all the strikes and events held by the workers of Voden.

When he was forced to move into illegal operations, he continued to work as a secretary of the regional council of EPON in Enidzhevardar. He was active, strong and beloved among the youth.

He was among the first to join the ranks of DAG. Many in Kajmachkalan knew Pafsanias (Georgi’s pseudonym). He fulfilled all of the missions and tasks allocated to him by the party with faith and strength. Georgi (Pafsanias) fell heroically on 30 November 1949 at the Muharem Han locality, between Ostrovo and Vladovo.

The three Peshov brothers, who took the path of the liberation struggle from a young age, followed that path and
generously gave their lives for the sweet freedom of the people.

*K Fotopulu-Kontogeorgi*
“Why are you crying for your plaits? So what if they cut them? They will grow again. They cannot cut your strength, which they can see. Not being able to do anything else, they take out their anger on your hair, your nails. Let them cut; let them pull out your hair. Do you see Marija? Every day she gave her blood. Katina is being melted by a high temperature and when they come, they say: “Make a declaration so that we can take you to hospital.” But the girls cut them off with one look. That is how we conduct ourselves here; that is how we fight. Head high. Do not be afraid of them and not of death. Let’s sing a Macedonian song from our village. It softens the pain; it makes us forget hunger and the cold in the prison.”

And that is how Gia Pilaeva’s song started – Gija from the village of Ekshisovo, Lerin region. She spoke like that to the fighter women who were newly arrived to the prison, to encourage them.

“We, sisters, will sing our song and for them, that song is death. When they prosecuted me, they were waiting for me to burst into tears and to beg them to release me. But they did not hear that from me, and they did not hear it from any of the fighters…”

They asked me “Hey, did you take bread to the partisans?”

“Yes I did.” I answered them because I have children.

“Why are you spreading propaganda?”

“I am not spreading propaganda,” I said, “I am telling the truth.”

Following that I was sentenced to seven years in jail. But I was not afraid. “You,” I said to them, “cannot take my years. Someone else will do that account.”

I remember that in 1945 a group of women had gone to protest to the government because the hiti [a local
Macedonian name for the members of the right wing military group X ("Khi") from Surovichko had arrived and were beating Ilija Valjagata. The brigadier shook with anger but he could not detain us. When we left he sent the hiti to capture us.

Gija hid her pain and told about 1941 when she joined the party. She worked illegally as an informant, for the illegal cadres that she was watching over…

One day just as she started her song she choked and stopped. She tried to smile and said, “I do not know, today I don’t feel well, but it will pass. Will you sing and it will pass…”

Gija Pilaeva fought that way in the prison for three years. She gave her all and died in Gedi-Kule. She died from the torture and hardships in February 1950. She died to bring Liberation a bit closer.
Piskachov Miki

Miki Piskachov was born in the village Setina, Lerin region. He was passionate and progressive. He watched and understood that the situation was bad but at the start he could not orientate himself to work out what he could do for the liberation of the homeland.

The Krushoradski mine is near Setina. The workers who work there are from Krushoradi and Setina but also from other places as far as Lavrion. In the mine before the war there was a CPG organization and then later something new arose there. The workers gathered at night in certain houses and sat until late into the night. The words of the EAM Struggle were often repeated. The tasks allocated to the gathered mine workers were – to help to establish party and EAM organizations including in the surrounding villages. The leader of the party organization of the mine – the late Vangel Koichev, was first to set off for the surrounding villages.

In Setina preparations were made to establish a party organization from the Setina villagers who worked in the Krushoradski mine. Two Greeks from Epir worked as steel workers in the village: Anton Harisis and Mihal Harisis who were from a communist family. So, at the start of 1942 a party organization was formed in Setina. Miki Piskachov was among the first to join. He gave himself entirely to organizing the Setina villagers into the national liberation struggle.

In 1943 the western plains of Kajmachkalan, along with the villages Papdija, Setina, Krushoradite, Voshtareni and even Neokazi, which is in the plain, just one hour from Lerin, were under the control of ELAS. Miki was at his post and developed an extraordinary activism. He went from house to house. He collected wheat, flour, wool for the partisans. He went to other villages, even as far as Lerin as a courier and doing other tasks for the organization. In that time Miki was
Miki was arrested during those days.
Popiliev Petre

Petre Popiliev was born in Armensko, Lerin region. He was one of the selected and brave fighters of DAG. In 1948 he served at the officer school at the Main Headquarters of DAG as a sergeant – corporal. He gave close attention to the military studies of those in his unit. In battle too he was a courageous fighter. In a battle near Grevena in April 1948 he fought bravely. In June of the same year in the attack on the officer school in Kamenik Petre Popiliev fell heroically. He was badly wounded and before he died, turning to the others he said, “Comrades, I am dying and I do not grieve for the loss of my life, but I do grieve because I cannot continue the battle against fascism. You must continue the fight...” Those are the words we last heard from the dying Petre. He said a few more words but because of the loud noise of the weapons and the airplanes, which flew above us, we did not understand him. Then the unforgettable fighter died in our arms.

He was posthumously promoted to sub lieutenant commissar.

M Fotiadis
Popkostandinov Vangel

Vangel was one of the modest Macedonian fighters killed during the German occupation.

He worked in his own shop as a shoemaker. His shop was in a wide street of Lerin, near to the market. The yard with some trees separated his shop from his house. An old fashioned house with verandah.

At the end of 1943 I spent two nights at his home and I recall how I was shown such friendly hospitality by his family. His mother, his father and his two sisters lived principally from Vangel’s work and they had a few vines, which were worked by his old father.

When I met him he was 25 years old. He took part in the Albanian front and once he returned from there he quickly oriented himself because he had to fight against the German occupier. Because of his active revolutionary record he was elected a member of the Lerin town council of EAM and was responsible for the work among the Macedonians in the town.

In the shop he had a spot set aside for old shoes that had been brought in for repair. The villagers also left their bags there on market days. It was there he also collected shoes for the partisans.

In January 1944 a partisan had come from Kajmachkalan and with Vangel’s help he bought new shoes and things ended well.

Vangel’s shop was one of the cells where outlawed activists of the CPG met, and of the liberating organizations EAM, EPON. They also left banned newspapers there for them to be spread to the villages and the town.

Vangel was a dear man. He had many different clients and a wide circle of acquaintances and friends – Greeks ad Macedonians – who respected him.
In January 1944 in Lerin the Bulgarian fascist army arrived and together with the German armies began operations against the ELAS units. Vangel, as a member of the party, together with his Greek friends actively took part in the battle against both the Germans and the Bulgarian fascists.

On 24 March 1944 in the evening, at the celebration of the Greek national holiday, a heavy snow fell and covered the streets of Lerin. The town slept but Vangel did not. He and his Macedonian friends stuck bills on the walls in Lerin inviting the people to come out against the Nazi occupation and to bring the battle for liberation of our side.

That night other groups of Macedonians and Greeks, members of the CPG, of EAM and EPON, were doing the same thing.

***

On the eastern front in the spring of 1944 under the heavy attack of the Soviet army, the Germans left Hitomir and went westwards. It was clear that the Soviet Army along with those in union with it would eliminate the Nazi plague from Europe.

Under the influence of the victory of the Soviet Army, the struggle of the Greeks and Macedonians in the Lerin region widened and got stronger. But the enemy felt its fate was in danger and redoubled its terror. As it was unable to split the Macedonians and the Greeks in their united struggle, it began to torture and shoot them both.

Toward the end of the month of May and the beginning of June 1944 the enemy began mass arrests of Greeks and Macedonian patriots. Vangel was among those arrested along with Nikola Muratidi and Kozma Sehidi, cadres of the illegal patriotic organizations in the town.
Vangel, when the Gestapo asked him for the names of those working with him in the outlawed organizations, kept quiet. They tortured him so that he would reply but still he kept quiet. He gave up no one to the enemy. When they took him to be hanged he was calm and peaceful.

On the street in Bilga mountain above the village Armesko around July 1944 the furious occupiers hanged Vangel with barbed wire along with the friends from whom he was never separated and with whom he worked closely – Kosma Sehidi and Nikola Muratidi together with Mechkarov from the village of Neret and another comrade, a Greek patriot. The day was beautiful. The sun shone and it was warm, the spring was turning into summer. Nature was full of flowers and greenery. The birds sang happily. The friends and relatives of the five hanged men sang mournful songs but at the same time they made a promise to strengthen the battle against the occupiers.

Vangel correctly understood the party line of the CPG for the equal rights of Macedonians and under that watchword he fought and poured his own blood. He fell as a dignified son of the people, a faithful fighter of the CPG giving expression to the unity between the two brother peoples.

A Hadzhitashkov
Popnikolov Dimitar

Dimitar Lambov Popnikolov was born in the village of Bombuki, Kostur region, to a poor village family.

Although he was young, none of his friends could beat him for energy, nor for his effectiveness in getting things done. Leaving his mother and sisters behind he was among the first partisans in 1946.

He was killed in the village of Konomladi – Kostur region, when the partisans were hit by the police. He fell holding firmly on to his machine gun.

K Levendov
Popov Zhivko

On the 5th January 1947 a group of five cadres of the CPG and other people’s democratic organizations entered the village Patele, Lerin region, for an organizing matter. After the betrayal, early on 6 January, the village was surrounded by many soldiers and police. Particular houses were surrounded too; the houses where the fighters were. Each one of them was forced to fight the soldiers and the police and they fought bravely for two days. Ilija Crnakov born in Patele was surrounded by police but without losing time threw a hand grenade from the window. The police followed him step by step and shot him. But Ilija continued to fight house to house and street to street and managed to save himself. In the same way three other comrades also managed to get out of the village. Only one, Zhivko Popov from the village Popazheni, was not saved. His corpse was burned in the house where he was surrounded and from where for two days he fought heroically against the police and the soldiers. Zhivko was wounded badly and not being able to continue the battle he killed himself. The soldiers could not get into the house even after Zhivko killed himself and that is why they set fire to the house.

The heroic death of Zhivko Popov was similar to the death of another Macedonian revolutionary fighter who died in Patele 45 years before. Dine Adburmanov born in the village of Patele in May 1902, for a full three days and nights with unheard of bravery fought from his house against a many numbered Turkish army and he then fell heroically.

Zhivko Popov fell as a dignified son of the famous Ilinden fighters for the liberation of our people.

Zhivko’s name and the names of the countless victims, named and nameless heroes will live forever in the soul of the people. And one day the places where they fell – the houses,
the countless holy places where all of them fell, will be museums commemorating them where the people of every corner of our homeland will come to visit and pay respect to the famous heroes.
Popov Iljo

Iljo Popov was born in 1915 in the village of Ekshisovo, Lerin region. His family was very poor and from a young age he worked as a labourer. His big brother Vangel was one of the best activists of the CPG in his own village and the Surovichko region. His brother became very ill and was unable to complete the decision of the regional committee and so was relieved of obligation to carry out any party task until he got completely better. He continued to work and died remaining loyal to his post until the very end. Following the path of his brother, Iljo in 1933 became a member of OKNE and in 1935 a member of CPG and participated actively in the completion of various party actions.

In the years of the Metaxas regime he was arrested and tortured many times.

In 1941 Iljo was one of the first activists of the national liberation movement in Surovichko. He was a fighter of ELAS and DAG and as such took part in many battles on Vich, Gramos and elsewhere. He died in 1948 in Sarantoporos.

M Adzhikirov
Popovska Angelina

She was born in 1926 in the village Dolno Kleshtina, Lerin region. She joined the ranks of EAM in 1943. In 1944 she became a member of the CPG. In August 1948 she left her three-year-old child with her parents and set off to fight for the liberation of our homeland.

On the very first day she joined the armed struggle, in a meeting of the women fighters of her company she said, “I will try to try to reach and then go beyond the older partisan women. I give my pledge that I will fully meet my obligation.” And Angelina did meet her pledge. Before little time had passed, the whole company was speaking of her bravery. They all knew that Angelina would be the first to join the charge; she would be first to climb the slopes and enter the enemy trenches. There was no turning back for her.

On 17 September 1948 in the battle near the locality “Glavata na Evrejot” (Head of the Jew) on Vich she distinguished herself with her bravery. The women fighters of her company elected her as their representative. And she was beloved by all. They saw her going from one trench to another under a rain of fire and to encourage them. On 10 October 1948 the enemy applied all its powers to take back the hill “Sv. Tanas” on Mali-Madi, near the village Kosinets. Angelina’s company was defending the hill. The entire enemy brigade was on the attack. The hill was burning on all sides from the fire and steel. Thousands of bombs exploded; there were mine launchers and airplanes. Her company withdrew for a bit; Angelina remained on the mountain and continued to shoot ceaselessly so that she could secure the withdrawal of her company. The enemy surrounded her but she did not capitulate – she fought until the last bullet despite being almost fatally wounded.
When, after the counter-attack, the partisan detachments took the hill back on the evening of the same day, they found the body of Angelina in the bunker. Her hands still gripped the machine gun.
Proshov Koljo (Gjoro)

Koljo Proshov was born in the village Bahovo, Karadzhovsko in 1921 to a poor village family.

In the years of the German occupation Gjoro and the whole of Bahovo’s youth were organized into EPON. Later he joined the CPG and ELAS and rose to the rank of leading commander. After the Varkiza agreement, Gjoro was followed by the monarcho-fascist forces and from the start of 1946 he was with the groups of escaped fighters in Kajmachkalan mountain.

After the formation of the CPG Gjoro was in all areas of Greece – in Kajmachkalan, Pajak, Vermion, Vich, Hasja, Olimp, Kozjak, Agraфа and elsewhere. He was a leading fighter of DAG and everyone respected him – Greeks and Macedonians.

In the southern areas of Greece he served as company commander. In this post he joined battles against the enemy where he showed strength, wisdom, tactical understanding and capabilities as a commander. With the tests of army, with his constant participation in the military operations, from the time of ELAS, he became an experienced fighter, capable of leading into battle and commanding a whole company.

Gjoro was a commander in the southern areas of Greece, where I met him. He distinguished himself with his modesty and single mindedness, with the easy way he gained new territory and conditions. He distinguished himself with the speed and cool headedness with which he operated, his bravery which he expressed with the greatest military capability of his unit. For all of that, Gjoro was respected and from the most senior commanders and by those who fought alongside him. The missions given to his company were mostly very serious because his capabilities were trusted.
Gjoro took part in the operations in the area Agrafa-Kardica in the spring of 1947, in the operations of Smokovo-Bulgara-Furna, in the battles around Karpenisi. He took part in the attack operations of the Thessaly headquarters of DAG in the summer of 1947 in the area of Rovaljari-Furna. His company distinguished itself in operations against the enemy line in Aj-Lija of Paljohori (region of Kardica). It attacked from the peak of Maroa and after the terrible battle along with other military units they took back the point from the enemy unit. They got more than 110 captives and trophies of all of the weapons and other materials.

He took part in many local battles in the region of Agrafa. In the locality “Triasina” on Smokovo, in May 1947 Gjoro’s company launched an attack on an entire enemy battalion. The company not only held its own position and in doing so completed its mission, but then also carried out a counter attack and pushed out the enemy military units. Gjoro’s hand was wounded in that battle. But he treated the wound as a most minor thing. He tied his hand a little and because he could still walk he continued to lead the battle and to command the company. It was only at night when the military units were resting that we noticed that Gjoro had been wounded.

Gjoro’s company, which was comprised mostly of Macedonians, during rest times was often in contact with local Thessaly units. Gjoro by nature was serious and spoke little and here he was at the head of his fighters. Often in Vulgara (Agrafa) in the evenings around the fires, Greek and Macedonian fighters would dance arm in arm; sometimes “Eleno Mome,” other times “Sirto” and later sing Macedonian and then Greek songs and joke. Even in these moments Gjoro was not found wanting and played the main role.
During operations in the difficult moments, Gjoro encouraged the fighters with his optimism and was an endless source of bravery and endurance, of fighting spirit.

In the face of Gjoro and the other brave and outstanding Macedonian fighters, the fighters of DAG from southern Greece recognized the heroic traditions of the Macedonian people. In the flame of general battle indestructible bonds and a great respect were formed between the Macedonian and Greek fighters. And Gjoro with his example was one of the first workers creating those brotherly relationships.

He was promoted to the rank of major because of his military capabilities. As a major he took part in the battle on Bikovik – Vich in November 1948. He fought bravely as always and died a hero.

Gjoro became a hero in the struggle of the Macedonian and Greek people for their liberation and he remains forever a sacred example of a military fighter in the memories of all of his military comrades – Macedonians and Greeks.

*V Venetsanopoulos*
Raikov Lazar

Lazar Raikov was born in the village of Oshtima, Lerin region. His family was very poor and as a result he was forced to mind other people’s sheep.

During the German occupation he joined the ranks of EPON and helped the national liberation movement as a courier and in other roles. After the Varkiza agreement he became a representative of EPON in his own village.

In the second phase of the armed struggle he was one of the first partisans. In the month of April 1946 he joined the ranks of DAG. Lazar served in various areas of Greece – Epir, Gramos, Voion, Vich and elsewhere. He took part in many battles and was twice wounded.

Because of his demonstrated bravery and military capabilities he was promoted to sub lieutenant and sent to the officer school at the Main Headquarters of DAG. He was killed on 12 February 1949 on Vilga mountain.
Roikov Kosta (Evripidi)

Kosta Roikov was born in the Ser town Dolno Dzhumaja in 1915 to a poor family. His father was a labourer and died very young, leaving Kosta fatherless at a very young age. His mother was compelled to work for others so that she could ensure she and her son had bread to eat. And Kosta as a young boy began to work in a gas factory and elsewhere. He worked under the most difficult conditions – in the water and he received a paltry wage.

From his young years Kosta joined the ranks of OKNE and worked in the organization “Ergatiki Voitija”, which is like a good mother of political prisoners and their families. He worked on the anti dictator front against Metaxas and in other progressive revolutionary organizations in the years of the Metaxas dictatorship.

In the years of the Nazi occupation he was among the first fighters to join the ranks of ELAS. He fought heroically against the occupier and its servants.

In DAG he was an exemplary fighter of the 132nd brigade. He took part in many battles. On 17 November 1948 he fell on the mountain Chengel.

In the archives of the 132nd brigade here is what was written about his death: “He died while being the first to go ahead on reconnaissance. He fell while fighting the enemy head to head.”

K Korikafa
Blazhe Petrov was born in the village of Bobica, Kostur region.

He had a rebellious spirit; he could not tolerate injustice and it caused him to leave his old mother and father, his fiancé, and join the ranks of DAG. He was a decisive and fearless partisan. In the battle on Grevena his comrades had stepped back because of the pressure of the enemy but not Blazhe. He knew what it would mean to give up that location and so he waged battle alone and heroically struggled against several enemy fighters. In that battle he was killed, meeting his obligation to his people.

K Leventov
Robev Georgi

Georgi Robev was born in 1915 in the village of Ekshisovo, Lerin region. His occupation was labouring. From a young age he became familiar with the workers’ movement and developed into a serious revolutionary activist and because of that he was arrested and tortured by the fascist forces. In the Metaxas years he was sent into exile to the island of Anafi. When he was released he threw himself, with the passion of youth, into the liberation struggle against the monarcho-fascist occupiers. Georgi was a passionate defender of the policies of the CPG for the equal rights of the Macedonian people and fought against all chauvinistic elements in the Macedonian movement.

He took part in many struggles of DAG and died in September 1949 in the great battles on Mali-Madi.

M Adzhikirev
Robev Kocho

Kocho Robev was born in Banica, Lerin region in 1915. His parents – Trifon and aunt Sirma were poor people, farm labourers their whole lives. Trifon from his young years until he was old was a migrant worker overseas and died there. Kocho’s four sisters did farm work until they were married. Kocho and his older brother were servants from a young age and from the age of 14 worked in the Banica and other nearby mines.

It was also from a young age that he set off on the difficult path of a revolutionary. He was sympathetic to the workers’ movement and its avant-garde – the Communist Party of Greece. From 1932 he was a member of the organization of Worker Assistance (Ergatiki Voitia) and in 1933-4 he took active part in the movement for the formation of an organization of miners. In the same years, he took part in the strikes and other actions of the miners. Kocho was an intelligent and courageous man. Despite his youthful age, his thoughts on professional issues were listened to even by the older workers.

The police took note of all that and Kocho was noted with a red pencil in the books of the state security.

In 1936 Kocho served as a soldier in Gr Lerin. At Easter he was in the village on leave and was celebrating in the village square with his friends. After a pre-arranged provocation by the police and the commander of the border units, there was a conflict between the Banica villagers and the soldiers that ended in a fight. The aim of the provocation was to give a reason to hit the democratic movement in the village of Banica, which at that time was quite well developed.

Even though Kocho was wearing a uniform with sergeant’s stripes, he took the part of the villagers and did not
obey the orders of the commander. For that reason he was demoted and four Banica villagers were sent into exile on the islands of Ai-Stratis and Folegandros.

On 29 October 1940 one day after the declaration of the Italian-Greek war, Kocho along with about 20 Banica villagers was sent into exile on the island of Hios. Hundreds of Macedonian patriots from Lerin, Kostur, Kajlarsko, Voden and other places were sent into exile on the Pelopponese and the Aegean Islands. The fascist rulers of Metaxas were afraid of the democratic forces and wanted to hold them far from the front. That is why it kept the communists in the prisons and islands, despite that they wanted to go and fight on the front against Mussolini’s fascist aggressors.

In the month of May 1941 the Banica villagers returned from exile. Macedonians also returned from other areas. The situation was hard and things were bad. The politics of the Greek reactionary and fascists forces, which among other things had the aim of creating hatred between the Greek and Macedonian people, the politics of ‘divide and conquer’, managed to succeed to some extent. At that critical time when the Greeks and the Macedonians should have been united in battle against the occupier, there appeared in some Macedonians a hesitation, indecisiveness and even pulling back. Those Macedonians who were helping the Greek rulers were used by the foreign demagogues for propaganda with the aim of splitting the Greek and Macedonian people, in opposition to the people’s liberation movement. However as a result of the correct politics of the CPG in the Macedonian issue for full and equal ethnic rights of the Macedonian people, the situation began to improve. Hundreds of communists – Greeks and Macedonians – managed to escape the prisons and islands and got close to the people. As a result of the tireless work of Trpovski and other party cadres the old
party organizations were reorganized and new ones were formed, most in the Macedonian villages.

Kocho Robev quickly orientated himself and set off on the correct path. In 1942 he became a member of the CPG and carried out a lot of work in the organizing of his neighbours in the ranks of EAM. With his authority and influence among the workers he helped to spread the politics of the CPG. However he was now being followed by the local reactionary forces and was handed over to the Gestapo. On 18 January 1944 he was arrested along with Lazo Lochev and was taken to the Solun camp, “Pavlos Melas”. During those same days hundreds of Macedonians were arrested from the villages of Chegan, Papdija, Krushoradi, Setina, Voshtaerni and taken to the camps “Pavlos Melas”, “Domokos” and others.

After some months Kocho was released. He then worked as an illegal activist of the party. He was a member of the Banica regional committee of the CPG where he developed a significant activist record.

In 1946 Kocho was a 30-year-old man and politically mature. Thanks to his limitless faith in the party and the people’s work, he was elected a member of the Lerin town committee of the CPG. And in this post Kocho showed himself to be committed to his trust in the party. He criss-crossed all of the villages and mountains near Lerin from Prekopana to Papadija, from Prespa to Patele; his work was exemplary in spreading the party line, in eliminating all divisive propaganda and actions, in the general struggle of the Greek people, as the only guarantee for the national and social liberation of the Macedonian people.

Kocho did not know what fear or exhaustion were. With decisiveness and fearlessness he completed all of his missions, he wanted everyone everywhere to learn the politics of the party, for the authority of the party to grow in every village. Meeting his obligation to the party and the people
with passion and revolutionary enthusiasm, Kocho was killed in the village of Popozheni, Lerin region.

The monarcho-fascist forces acted brutally toward the corpse of the fearless people’s fighter. Tied to the back of a truck they dragged it all the way from Popozheni to Lerin and along all of the main roads of the town. But their brutality backfired on them. Their brutal action fired the people’s fury at the fascist regime, and strengthened the people’s determination to fight until victory for democracy and peace.
Romev Peco

Even in the smallest group of the 18th brigade of DAG, the name of Peco was well known. The fighters had lived close to each other during the most difficult moments of battle. They were proud of him because he was an excellent shooter and commander of the group, a leading commander, a company commander. They always followed him even in the harshest battles on Vich and Sinjachko and later they would go out with him, stronger and more intent. And because of his fighting prowess, his heroism in battle as a fighter and responsible officer of DAG, Peco became a battalion commander. The fighters regarded him as a dedicated friend and fighting comrade; he was their beloved commander with a brave and passionate heart that knew how to respect others.

Every battle, every operation of the 18th brigade was tied to the strength and military experience of Peco. His modesty was apparent and he was embarrassed by praise heaped on him by his comrades.

Battle was not for him just a component of his mission as a commander, which had to be led and completed; he lived with the whole power of his soul. All of his activism was expressed in the fire of battle, all of his revolutionary passion. He distinguished himself with his capability during battle, which he followed to the smallest detail, ready to apply himself decisively where he was needed; and that feature was one that even the most senior officer would envy.

The exemplary battles of his battalion in Negush, in Sinjachko in 1948, in Kula-Plati on Vich in 1949, manoeuvres of his battalion from Vich to Gramos, these were the most dangerous missions, which he completed successfully.

He set off on a hard and difficult path. The path of honesty and liberation, because that is what he wanted for his life. A child in the harsh battle for a crust to eat, he felt the burden
from a young age of brutal exploitation and the truncheon of the gendarmes, the persecution and put-downs of our enslaved people. Working hard with his father in his village of Gornichovo as a shepherd and in the barren fields, where they could not even make enough to feed the family for a year.

Taught in the best traditions of the renowned Ilinden and our Party, living the whole tragedy of our people, he dreamt one day of a liberated fatherland, of work and peaceful effort, a people’s homeland where both peoples, the Greek and the Macedonians, could be happy and sing.

* * *

Dawn, 25 August 1949. The machine guns had just cooled from the previous day’s battle; they were starting the loud shooting again. The slopes of Gramos seemed to tighten the heart as they were drowned by fire and steel.

A frightening pressure was being applied to Peco’s battalion, which was defending the left flanks of Arina, as though all the American military material was being unloaded at that spot. Every enemy effort was drowned in blood.

During the evening hours when darkness forced the battle to wind down Peco and his commissar Mihalakis Roidis did not return to our camp. They died loyal to the people and the homeland.

The night was very dark. Our bitterness was very great.

V Shamanovski
Samara Georgi

Georgi Samara was born in 1915 in the village of Katranica to a poor farming family. He went to high school for two years and because of poverty he could not complete his schooling.

In 1942 he became a member of the CPG and joined the ranks of ELAS. He took part in many battles against the occupier and became a captain.

After the Varkiza agreement, the monarcho-fascist forces followed him and, as a result, he lived in the mountains. There, together with Vangel Charka and others, he made charcoal. He was among the first to join DAG after its formation and fought bravely. He was killed in the month of May in the battle on Ckra. Georgi Samara was a courageous fighter and a capable commander. A loyal soldier of the Party.

A H
Saiovski Jani

He was born in Luk, Prespa region. His father died when Jani was very young and as the oldest boy he was the protector of the family. During the time of the Nazi occupation he was responsible to EPON in his village. After the Varkiza agreement he continued to work with the same enthusiasm for the ideals of EPON, for the liberation of the people. Because of that activism he was followed by the fascist forces and forced to take the path to the mountains.

With bitterness he left his devastated mother and little brothers. Leaving the house, he told his mother “Do not worry mother, the day of liberation will come quickly.” And true enough, the DAG fighters from Vich closed down the police station after a short time and liberated Luk and Prespa. Jani’s mother, along with all of the people of Prespa, believed that liberation for all would not be far away.

Jani served in the EPON company of the 18th brigade and took part in many battles as a corporal. In one battle he was wounded and did not want to go to the hospital. Finally he did go but even before his wound healed over he returned to the 18th brigade and was killed as a military commander of the EPON company in 1948

M Petridi
Teodora Skornu was born in 1922 in the village of Nestram, Kostur to a poor labouring family. She became a member of the CPG in 1941 and dedicated herself entirely to the national effort. Her political and organizational abilities raised her to the level of activist of the party and from 1942 she worked professionally in the women’s section of the Kostur Regional Council of EPON and developed a serious reputation as a fighter among the youth of Kostur. In October 1945 as a delegate of the Kostur youth she took part in the pan Greek conference of EPON.

After the Varkiza agreement she was arrested many times and thrown into the Kostur, Kozhani and other jails.

In July 1946 she joined the ranks of DAG and quickly rose to the rank of company commissar. She took part in many battles on Epir, Gramos and Vich. In the month of August 1948 in the great battle on Gramos she died on the peak Zhuzheli, not far from her village.

She was promoted to commissar captain.

H Skornu
Slavkov Tomo

Tomo Slavkov was born in 1920 in the town of Gumendzha. In the pretty town that was her birthplace, with plentiful waters and beautiful gardens, with the old brick houses and crooked streets – characteristic of older provincial towns – he completed his primary school and passed his young years digging in the fields and vines of the landowners. He was tall with broad shoulders, big dark eyes that had a sweet expressiveness; he was fine boned, modest and quiet. Working in fields owned by others he felt exploitation weighing on him, and he forged himself as a fighter for social rights of the people from a very young age. He was one of those youths who took part in the battle from the beginning of the Nazi occupation. He organized himself into EPON and worked tirelessly going from village to village, from house to house to organise the youth. After that he joined the ranks of ELAS and took part in numerous battles. He distinguished himself with his bravery and decisiveness in the great battle at Kukush in 1944. In December 1944 with the 30th regiment of ELAS Tomo cut across almost the whole length of mainland Greece to defend the seat, embattled Athens, from the English imperialists.

More difficult years came. The neo-fascist forces began to imprison, persecute and kill on the street those fighters who took part in the national liberation struggle. The whole land was being controlled by various armed bands of people who, for the most part, were cooperating with the occupier.

The fearless fighters to save themselves set off along old paths, along the places where they had fought against the German fascist hordes. Tomo Slavkov was among the first. In 1946 in Pajak the first partisan groups were formed so that the people could defend themselves from attacks by the irregular
troops. The partisan detachments on Pajak cleaned up the villages from the terrorist bands.

At the end of 1946 after a strong wind and ice, after a frightening storm, the partisan groups set off from Pajak. It was only with faith that the battle was ideologically correct and dedication to the high minded ideals of the party that these young people from the northernmost parts of the country could beat the frightening hardships of this “march” – walking hundreds of kilometres along frozen rivers and valleys, along high barren peaks of Pind, Papingo and Dzhumerka and after a few months, exhausted from the battle and hunger, arriving at the southernmost part of mainland Greece. In February 1947 Tomo and his friends from Pajak met with the partisan units from Western Roumelia. Along the whole road of his heroic march, the dedicated fighter showed a high moral stamina and self possession that only the true people’s fighters have. Even though he was ill, he never once left the front line. His qualities as a communist fighter, a person who has no higher ideal in life than to serve with all his might for the work of the Party, could be seen during the most difficult moments of the battle. Tomo in 1948 participated in the detachments securing the headquarters of DAG.

In March 1949 the young Gumendzhija villager was among the students of the officer school at the Headquarters of DAG. He applied all of his powers to gain military experience and to become a real commander of the people’s army, dignified in the trust that the Party showed him. As well as everyday lessons he, together with the other students of the school, took part in many battles and he did so with the same élan, with the same bravery and decisiveness.

In the great battles of 1949 in the summer morning of 11 August when the sun’s rays had not yet caressed the burned pine trees and the destroyed clay cliffs, when the blackened faces of the heroic defenders of Lisec were for the 10th time
pushing back the offensive by the enemy, one fighter called with a trembling voice: “Our comrade, the commander, died.” Under a fire of bullets the political commissioner jumped up to the place from where the voice came and threw himself with his heavy body on the fallen hero. There lay the commander Tomor Slavkov riddled with bullet holes made by enemy bullets.

The passionate heart of the fighter who so much loved life stopped in the middle of the battle, leaving as advice for his comrades that they should not withdraw from the battle until eventual victory by the people.

*P Galubov*
Slatnikova Jordana

There were many Macedonians from Enidzhe Vardar region who dedicated their lives to the joint struggle of the brotherly Greek people, for liberation and democracy of our homeland, for socialism. Among them was Dana Slatnikova from the village of Postol.

Even as a young girl Dana never lowered her head and was not submissive. At the age of 17 she joined the ranks of heroic EPON and in 1943 was the organizer of EPON in Postol and in the surrounding villages, where she developed tireless activism. The occupying forces and the traitors followed her everywhere – trace by trace but she was shrewd and did not fall into their traps.

In 1944 she joined the ELAS units and took part in many struggles against the occupier.

After the Varkiza agreement Dana like the other fighters in the struggle was persecuted by the terrorist bands but she managed not to be captured by them. When DAG was formed she joined its ranks and fought heroically on Pajak, Kajmachaškalan, Vich, Gramos, and distinguished herself with her courage and bravery. Dana was wounded a number of times but her fighting spirit was great and she did not withdraw from the difficulties. In the great battles on Gramos in 1948 Dana died at the age of 24. Her short life and her heroic death were an example of a youth who gave her all to the struggle of the Macedonian and Greek people, for a better and happy future.
ПОРДАНА СЛЯТНИКОВА
Stavridi Pavle

On 30 August 1937 the bloody fascist dictatorship of Gligsburg-Metaxas freshened the prison camp of Akronafilia with the blood of one unforgettable son of the Macedonian people – of the communist Pavle Stavridi.

Pavle’s life was short and ordinary but sufficient to leave his influence on the general struggle of the Greek and Macedonian people against social enslavement and national oppression.

Pavle Stavridi was born in 1915 in the village of Lageni, Lerin region, a son of Macedonian villagers. He completed his primary schooling in his village and continued his education in the Lerin teacher’s college, which he completed in 1934. While still a student he joined the ranks of OKNE where he worked actively. As a result of his revolutionary operations he was arrested many times by state security and this put many obstacles in his way to becoming a teacher. He is compelled to return to his village and to work the small fields owned by his father. But he did not resist from the struggle. In the village he was beloved by the progressive youth. He organized, led and educated the youth.

Apart from his revolutionary activities in the village he did not forget his aim: to work in his profession, so that he could more easily and more faithfully fight for the social liberation of Greece from the bourgeois feudal traps, to lead to the national liberation of the Macedonian people. And he won. In 1935 he managed to become a teacher in the village Klabuchishta, Lerin region. But even here they do not leave him in peace. A new odyssey began for the young teacher. They transferred him from village to village. But this life increased his desire for the struggle, it armed him in an even greater faith in the struggle, it made him a mature revolutionary armed with theory and practice. Finally, during
the dictatorship of Gligsburg-Metaxas, he ended up on the path to exile with hundreds of other Greeks and Macedonian people’s fighters.

After some months, Maniadakis – the Minister for Internal Security at the time – said he was dangerous and took him from the Cyclades islands and sent him to the hard labour camps of Akronafplija, where he was interned with about 500 communists. The young Macedonian teacher continued to build his revolutionary character and readiness and continued the struggle even while inside the camp. He was among the first to organize and run schools for the illiterate and became the beloved teacher of Greek and Macedonian illiterate fighters. He was Veniamin of the Macedonian “colony” in the camp, which loved him and respected him as a fully matured revolutionary.

On 30 August 1937 at night, the executioners of Maniadakis organized an attack on the camp. One heart stopped beating – the passionate heart of a dignified son of the Macedonian people – Pavle Stavridi.

With the death of the Macedonian hero the unity between the Greeks and Macedonians became stronger and we saw it in the epic story of EAM and DAG, in Gramos and Vich, to do miracles out of heroism and self sacrifice and which continued and will continue for the triumph of ideals for which Pavle Stavridis gave his life.

Out of respect for the dignified fighter who died there, the collective on Akronafplija named dormitory B in the camp “Talamos Stavridi.”

The poet prisoner N Papaperiklis farewelled him with the following inspiring verses:

You were felled by a bullet bringing evil
And when the sun was in the east
In the full bloom of your youth
It shone on fast flowing rivers.  
Your face burst into a smile.

The battle receded. To you  
A grammar, verses  
Beloved songs, two-three books…  
In a current the still-warm blood  
Meditated on holy Akronafplija.

And here are your students  
They step slowly and silently  
With their book, pencil and paper:  
“Where is our teacher?”  
Their faces search.

Macedonian mountains, wondrous panoramas, military hiding places  
Your broad winged eagle  
Will not be near you any more.

He fell in a terrible battle.  
Above him thick grasses grow  
The people’s river waits  
For a day to come with songs  
Of the battle march to take him.

Shed tears for the hero  
And if it pains you  
Sharpen your ears – in countless hearts  
His heart beats  
And smoothes the path and leads.

_T Pejkov_
**Stavrov Iljo**

He was born in the village of Bobishta, Kostur region to a poor family. In his village he worked for others – he herded sheep.

As an activist of the organization in the village he ensured all of the tasks allocated to him were completed. Many times he was mistreated by the Greek police who were berserk in Kostur. In July 1947 he joined the ranks of DAG. In the battle at Mechovo in 1948 he was killed. Wounded in both legs, he did not leave his post as company commander while his comrades remained. He continued to fight to the last moment.

He met his obligation to the people honourably, the people he respected more than everything.

*K Levendov*
Stavropulos Ilija

He was born in the village of Sniceno, Kostur region in 1911 to a poor, progressive and revolutionary family. He took part in the battle against the Italian fascist aggressors to defend his homeland. In 1942 he was organized into the CPG and took part in the ranks of the reserve units of ELAS. Ilija served in DAG as well, in the 14th brigade in the automatic weapon company and took part in many battles – in Odrija, Orlik, Gupata, on Haros, Kotelsko and elsewhere and withstood bravely all of the trials, hardships and inconveniences of the partisan war.

On 17 July 1948 in the operations on Gramos Ilija was surrounded in Aj-Lija on Langa. There together with his comrades he fought the whole day against the countless enemy forces and was killed along with other Greek fighters. They were courageous and deserving of respect.

V Naskopulos
Stambuli Meni

Meni Stamuli was born in the village of Katranica-Kajlarsko. At the time of the Nazi occupation he was among the first to join EPON and rose to the role of its leader in his village.

Meni was killed by the Germans in Katranica, in the fields owned by the Kapitanov family. He died loyal to his post. A little later, on 23 April 1944 when the Nazis attacked the village, they killed his sister and one of his brothers. At the time, 390 people were killed or had their throats cut.

A H
Sterjovska Niki and Stoja

Summer 1947. Prespa is liberated. Young boys and girls join DAG with songs and oro dances. One day on the headquarters of Vich an old man appeared – Bogoja Sterjovski. Thin, hunched, if you blew hard on him, he would fall over. He stood quietly for a little and then he spoke to the chief of the headquarters.

“Comrade chief, I am an old man and I am not well enough to take up a gun. My sons are not yet old enough to take up guns; they are little. Permit my two daughters to join DAG. Here they are – Niki is 18 years old and the other is Stoja, 19.

Impressed, the chief shook his hand and commanded the assistant to sign up the two girls in the headquarters’ register. Saying good bye to his two daughters the old man told his daughters “Make sure you do not embarrass me.” And then, satisfied, he set off for his village, Medovo.

Niki Sterjovski served a long time as a hospital worker in the hospital in the headquarters. She took care of the wounded and sick fighters with readiness and real brotherly love. She was praised many times for her exemplary services. But she was not pleased with the work she was doing. She rated the work of a hospital worker lowly and wanted to join the front line, to fight with a gun in her hands. And then her wish was fulfilled. She went to the front line and took part in many battles. In the battle of Lerin on 12 February 1949, Niki died.

In the announcement of PDV of 23 March 1949 it says: “Niki Sterjovski showed courage and self sacrifice in battle.” With the same announcement she was awarded the decoration “Elektra”.

The work by the other daughter of Bogoja – Stoja – was different from that of Niki. From the start Stoja asked to work in the areas occupied by the enemy. She undermined the
enemy for a long time in Lerin, and as far as Surivichko plain. She collected information and worked with the population who lived on the plain. Stoja’s work was dangerous but despite the great efforts involved in her illegal operations, she completed the tasks allocated to her. As a result she was sent to the officer school at the headquarters. As soon as she finished officer school, she continued the same work with a group of free shooters. Her health suffered from the hardships and deprivations and Stoja died from an infection in 1951.
Kole Stergiovski was born in 1911 in the village Orovnik, Prespa region to a poor village family. In 1923 his parents sent him to the state “pansion” in Lerin to learn to write. The state “pansions”, or “nationals” as they were officially named, in 1922 were opened in almost every town in Macedonia. With them, the government aimed to cultivate Greater Greek chauvinist spirit among the young Macedonian generation and to pursue assimilationist policies. For that reason, education, food, clothing and other needs were provided for free.

Kole studied well at the high school and completed his course with outstanding marks. Kole was happy and his family celebrated. Kole could not hope to pursue his studies at a higher level. Such opportunities were not available in Greece for poor youths, especially not for Macedonian ones. It was also the policy of the Greek reactionary rulers – “the sons of the villagers have to remain villagers”. All the same Kole hoped to get a government job of some sort. But that did not happen because Kole was a Macedonian and a progressive youth.

With bitterness he returned to his village and was occupied with farm work and other labouring. He made tables, chairs, wheat stores, doors, cupboards, ploughs, wheels and other farming tools. Despite his thin build and his crippled hand, Kole became an excellent woodworker and blacksmith. He worked for a short time as a scribe in the council. And so, that is the worked he did during the dark years of the German occupation. Then he joined the ranks of the national liberation organization and quickly rose among the cadres of the CPG in Prespa.

In 1944 he was secretary of the Prespa regional committee of the CPG and he worked in that post until his
tragic death. After the Varkiza agreement he was followed by the government and he was constantly in danger from the bands of bandits. But Kole remained faithful to the party positions; he agitated among the population with passion and spread the party line for reconciliation and democracy.

One night the bands captured him from home and killed him close to the village. All of Prespa wept at the loss of its beloved son and vowed to continue the struggle with greater decisiveness so that better days would dawn in our homeland.

S K
Suljov Kosta
(As I knew him among the fighters)

It was September 1947 when the monarcho-fascists with the help of the Americans carried out military operations on Gramos. A few detachments of DAG were operating in Sinjachko so that they could draw the attention of the enemy army. On 12 September the enemy was compelled to hit Sinjachko and after a battle which lasted a whole day, 12 of us partisans moved to Vich. I had the good fortune there to meet Suljo. Until then I had only heard his name but I had not met him.

The enemy held Shestevskata forest, Portata, Glavata and Kalugerica. We had to hold the Bishenska crossing, Bapchor and Lunzer. In precisely these days, the Greek police patrols emerged from the Shestevskata forest, passed along Zherveni and tried to climb Konomladska slope so they could hit us front on. We had to stop them from taking the slope. Suljo took a decision in a minute and explained to us:

"Comrades, if we let them climb the slope they will do us damage and our task is to make sure they do not take even a step forward." And with a pistol in his hand, like an eagle, he set off. With three light machine guns and one light mine launchers he climbed the slope. The enemy fire began to thunder. But Suljo knew what he was doing. We saw him run to the mine launchers and put in a mines. We had only 15 mines, which lasted a few minutes, and that was it. It was not necessary to deceive the enemy. Then with continuous shouts of “Ura!” Suljo reached the top of the slope first. At this point he fought with grenades of which we had only a few. Suljo ordered us to withdraw, while he was the last to stay so that he could look after us while withdrawing. We gathered at the agreed spot. We had none killed; none wounded.
The next day the Greek police patrols set off from Kalugerica and Kula for Turie. They thought they would not find a living soul. They did not know that Suljo during the day is like the eagle and at night time like the wolf. He did not sleep but just thought where the enemy might appear. The companies were arranged so that one could keep an eye on the other. He went from one company to another even though it was still day time and he was as easy to see as a fly in milk. It was as if the cannon ball from the village Maala had been warned; they thundered. Not a second passed without a grenade landing. They were rushing to try and scorch the land to make a place where a partisan would have to be watchful.

Suljo got so close to the Greek police patrols that they began to hop away like hares. They left behind weapons, killed and wounded soldiers and escaped toward Kalugerica. From the nearby hills they heard voices – “Suljo, give them what they are asking for.”

The next and last battle was in spring when Gorenci was hit. Yes! That is when it was. The partisans fought in Chereshnica in Suljo’s own village. In the street partisan songs were being sung and partisan dances danced. The place bubbled. Suljo danced and sang along with them the song:

“On that Vich mountain
On the Prekopanska plateau…”

That oro was his last. The same day, in the evening, he got closer to the enemy in the Olishkiot monastery. It was preparation – information, couriers, handing out of munitions, stock take of the weapons. Before the sun set, the column was ready for the command to march. Suljo did not stand still – one moment he was at the front, the next he was at the tail; making jokes and smiling he encouraged all the fighters. The march lasted for about two hours. Then we were at the edge of the village and strict measures were put in place. The first ones stopped and the command of the headquarters was
passed by whisper from one person to the next, “Comrade Suljo to lead!” not a full minute passed and Suljo was in place. That was it. We entered the village. The fighters neared the schoolhouse, the church and the mosque where the Greek police patrols, MAI and soldiers were entrenched. It was as if the village dogs were also prepared; not one barked. Suljo was between the church and the school. A narrow road was between him and the enemy bunker. In the house he saw a gap and jumped to the enemy bunker and from the window of the school house he shot with his bereta while the Greek police patrol hand bombs fell like a rain from the first and second floors. At once, just as he was ready to throw a hand bomb, they saw him and shot him. He did not manage to throw it. His last words were: “Go on, boys…” Suljo’s comrades continued the battle.

The next night enemy bombs did not fall from the school house; instead Greek police patrols were jumping out to save themselves from fire and bullets. Some saved themselves and escaped to Kostur to tell what happened in Gorenci. After that they did not return there.

For his courage and operations Suljo was promoted to the rank of major, posthumous hero.

S Papageorgiu
Srbinov Mihal (Goce)

Mihal Srbinov (Goce) was born in the village, Sv. Petka, Lerin region in 1920. His father Pavle was a poor farm worker and because he could not ensure his family had enough to eat he was compelled from a young age to roam around America. “As a young boy,” Pavle’s mother baba Velika would tell, “he could not bear enslavement. All of the children of his age escaped from the Turks to Dautovci while little Pavle made them go a long way around our house.” Pavle gave this revolutionary spirit to his son Mihal. Mihal spent his early years in his village. Later on he was a student in the Lerin high school, which he completed with great success and after that continued in the Lerin teachers’ college. In his student years the young Mihal lived through all the hardships and sufferings of the people. His character grafted boundless love for the exploited enslaved people with hatred of the fascist regime of the Metaxas dictatorship. Mihal quickly matured politically and got ready for the future battles.

The German occupiers found him in the ranks of OKNE. He worked actively in the academy, in the centre of Lerin, in his own village, against the occupiers. He took part in the heroic act on 21 March 1943 when a group of armed patriots stopped the train at the Banica station and freed the national peoples’ fighters.

The Nazis went wild – they shot and hanged patriots, they set fire to villages and they turned the whole home land into a cemetery. Mihal, even though he needed to spend only a few more months at the academy to complete his studies and achieve his degree, could no longer bear to wait. He left the academy in 1942 and dedicated himself completely to the activity of OKNE, to the national liberation movement. In this period he was an instructor in the Lerin regional committee of the CPG in Surovichko under the pseudonym Goce. Goce
developed a serious revolutionary record of activism. He worked tirelessly with enthusiasm and self sacrifice but also with great intelligence. Together with his comrades they criss-crossed the villages from Patele to Prekopana and established party and EAM organizations in all the villages, Greek and Macedonian. As a result of his activism the Surovichko region stood out. Young Goce became a mature and capable party leader. In this period and to the end of his life he was strict in the fulfillment of the party line. He was a passionate defender of unity in the struggle between the Macedonians and the Greeks, as the one path and the correct path for achieving the aims of the CPG for the Macedonians to achieve equal rights. He was tireless in the battle against chauvinism and the movements that were pushing for division on the basis of ethnicity. As a result of Goce’s fighting record he gained great respect among the population in Surovichko. And not only among the Macedonians but among the Greeks as well.

After the Varkiza agreement, he was elected a member of the Lerin town committee of the CPG. In the new and difficult conditions of the brutal terror, he again worked with courage for the party agenda to be met.

In 1946 Goce was arrested by the reactionary forces and imprisoned in the Lerin prison and from there he was taken to the Kasandra prisons. In the month of May 1947 along with four other Greeks, cadres of the CPG, he was put before a military court in Solun. In the military court proceedings Goce and his comrades bravely defended the the CPG policies for equal rights for the Macedonians, and accused the politics of the reactionary rulers toward the Macedonians and sought recognition of their right to live free in their homeland and own country, enjoying equal rights with the Greek people. Goce and his comrades courageously defended the party line. Addressing the judges, Goce said:
“You are telling us to resign from the CPG. But if we did, what would we believe in? Which party in the hard years of the Nazi occupation stood with the people and fought until the end against the occupier, for the liberation of the homeland? The CPG was first to raise the battle flag and carried the heaviest burden of the struggle and made thousands of sacrifices for liberation of the homeland, of the people.”

The court determination was death for Goce and his four comrades. All five communists were cool headed when they received the death sentence and stood bravely before the execution squad.

In the last moments of his short life his old parents visited him in jail. And in these moving moments, Mihal was at peace, unemotional. His last words were the following:

“Mother and father, do not grieve for me. When you return to the village tell all my comrades that only one path remains, and that they should take it – the path of the struggle until eventual victory.”

P Popovski
Jani Tashov was born in the village of Marina, Voden region in 1919. He took part in the national liberation struggle against the German occupiers and because of that was followed by the reactionary forces. Jani was forced along with other national fighters who were being followed to escape to the mountains. When DAG was formed he joined its ranks and served in a range of areas – Vermion, Kajmachkalan, Vich and others. He took part in many battles and in the fire of battle he rose to the rank of leading commissar. So that he could add to his military knowledge he was sent to officer school at the Headquarters of DAG.

Jani fell on Vich at the locality “Glavata” on 17 October 1948. At the suggestion of the 103 brigade where he served, he was promoted to lieutenant, posthumous hero.
Tashovski Metodi

August 1946. He woke early in the Solun prison. Along with another comrade they loaded us into a truck and took us to the Lerin prisons. When we reached Lerin it was late afternoon. A warm sun was shining.

In the yard of the prison old comrades with whom he had fought against the German occupiers in Lerin greeted us. In the wide yard prisoners were walking back and forth; groups of two or three until the guard blew his whistle for them to go back into the prison.

An old comrade from Ekshisovo walked toward us and greeted us. He met the comrade who was next to me. “He is Metodi who in the EAM period was a people’s prosecutor in the people’s court in our village. He spoke in the court like a real lawyer and made correct determinations. Everyone was happy with the people’s prosecutor.”

We spoke with the comrade Metodi. He asked “Where have you come from today?”
“From the Solun prisons.”
“Why?”
“For prosecution.”
“I was released a few days ago but the same night, as soon as I arrived home they caught me and brought me here. That was because the partisans killed two gendarmes on the Ekshisovo hills.”

The guard’s whistle blew and the conversation was cut off.

They all knew Metodi. He was one optimistic fighter. He had a limitless faith in the people’s power and in the people’s victory.

He greeted us with the words – “The people will win,” and he took his fist up to his head.
His wife came from the village every Saturday and brought him food. One night they took him to another prison known by the name “Redzhi”. Once the English arrived, they opened two more prisons in Lerin. One was the old prison next to the courthouse and the other in the Toli inn and the bigger one in “Redzhi” – an old tobacco store next to the train station. About five hundred comrades (men and women) from Lerin were jammed into those prisons. A huge pogrom was carried out against the Greek and Macedonian anti fascists in that region and in the whole of Greece.

After a few days Metodi returned to our prison. He had been put to dreadful torture.

He had black marks on his face and he had a bruised eye. As soon as he entered the yard, walking carefully, he greeted us with his fist and with the words “The people will win!”

We took him into our cell and he lay down. He was critically ill. Our orderly looked after him. The doctor came to see him. He was in a critical condition and so we asked the doctor to take him to the hospital. He agreed but he needed the approval of the warden and the director of the prison.

We sent a request to the warden to send the sick man to the hospital. After two days he came to the prison personally. We told him that he would be guilty and responsible if he left the ill man to die in prison.

Toward evening they gave an order to take Metodi to the hospital. Four comrades and one strong man lifted him and took him to the hospital. The doctor foresaw that Metodi would not live for many days. He was looked after by an excellent nurse, and he was guarded by two angry policemen.

With careful attention Metodi straightened up a little and got up one day for a walk. The police were not there at that time. He went into the corridor and walked away from the ward.
When the police returned and they did not see him, they were furious. As soon as they found him, they began to beat him with their belts.

“Bulgar! You are trying to escape…?”

Metodi did not make any reply. He went quietly back to the ward. When they got there, the police began to beat him again – with fists and kicks, with their belts.

“Bulgar, we will kill you here. A court is not needed for you.”

Metodi fell on the floor. When the nurse entered one of the police jumped on him. Metodi was groaning.

At midnight Metodi closed his eyes. They found him clenching both his fists. With one fist he greeted his comrades while with the other fist he showed his hate for fascism.

_A Hadzhitashkov_
Tashominovski Kocho

The family of Vane Tashominovski lived in the village Zabrdeni, Lerin region. He had no property and his whole life he worked as the village cowherd. His wife, aunty Nuna, was a farm day labourer. In 1922 the first boy - Kocho - was born to the family of Vane and Nuna. Later on, Aspasija and Jane. The fate of the three children was the same as theirs. Kocho and Jane cowherds and Aspasija farm labourer.

When he reached the age of 13-14 Kocho began to work as a free worker on the streets and later in the mines of Banica and Krushorad.

At the time of the Nazi occupation, Kocho and his mother worked as couriers for the CPG and the other people’s liberation organizations in the Banica region. He continued the same work after the Varkiza agreement and because of that they were arrested many times and tortured by the monarcho-fascist forces. But they ceaselessly and fearlessly continued the dangerous but honest work as couriers.

Later the whole Tashominovski family was in the ranks of DAG. Father, mother, brothers and sister. Who could fail to recall aunty Nuna as a carrier in the great battles on Gramos in 1948? Who could fail to recall her tireless work at the emplacements, in the furnaces on Gramos, on Smrdesh and elsewhere? Her daughter Aspasija, who was known under the pseudonym Sloboda, fought heroically in Western and Eastern Macedonia and rose to an officer rank in DAG. Her youngest son Jane fought bravely too and on 28 -7-49 he died as an officer in Tambura on Gramos.

And Kocho continued to work for DAG as a courier as he had before. He was a courier in the headquarters of DAG for Western Macedonia. He carried out difficult and dangerous missions. He took letters from Vich to Kajmachkalan. He had to go through many dangerous places.
He had to cross the Lerin plain. He had to cross the railway line Lerin-Solun, the road Lerin-Solun, Lerin-Kozhani and others. Kocho knew the places, the roads and, most importantly, the people in that region and all of that enabled him to carry out his difficult and serious mission successfully.

Many times in summer and winter weather he crossed the Lerin plain going to Kajmachkalan and returning to Vich. However, one spring day in 1948, returning from Kajmachkalan he did not reach the headquarters. Near Vortolomsko he fell to an enemy trap and was badly wounded. In those hard moments Kocho did not think of his wound, or that he was suffering terribly, nor that he was dying so young, nor about his death which was approaching. There was only one thought that troubled him; how could he gather his strength together to get to the headquarters or to the closest DAG unit so that he could hand over the post. So that the letter would not fall into the hands of the enemy, he put it into his mouth. With great effort, he dragged himself and reached almost all the way to Kotori. His last strength left him there and the DAG partisans found him there half-dead. His first task was to hand to them the part-chewed letter. Then he closed his eyes and died with a sweet smile on his lips.
Terziev Georgi

He was born in the town of Enidzhe Vardar in 1913 to a poor farming family. His father was arrested as early as 1913 by the Greek forces and died in Trkala.

Georgi was sympathetic to the progressive movement and during the occupation he took part in the anti-fascist struggle. In 1943 he became a member of the CPG and in 1945 a member of the bureau of the original party organization. He continued to work after Varkiza. In 1946 he joined outlawed party activists for the renewal of the destroyed party in the town of Enidzhe Vardar. In July 1947 he was arrested and handed over to a military court where he was sentenced to death and shot.
Trajchev Stojan (Stefo)

He was born in the village of Nevoljani, Lerin region. He took part in the democratic movement on our side from a young age and in 1941 he became a member of the CPG. He developed an active revolutionary record in his village and because of that he was followed and persecuted by the occupying forces.

In 1943 he was forced to leave his village, to separate from his family, to give himself to the national liberation struggle, to liberate our side from the German fascist occupiers.

At the start he worked as a member of the Balkan regional committee of the CPG and later as the first secretary of the same committee with the pseudonym “Stefo”. In this important and demanding post Stojan was responsible for carrying out missions for the liberation movement.

He was filled with faith that the people would ultimately win and criss-crossed the region from Cherovo to Asanovo village, from Papadija to Petoraci, establishing new party organizations, spreading the party line, teaching the population – Macedonian and Greek about the battles against the occupier.

And covering that region was not an easy matter. He had to get through the roads of Lerin-Solun, Lerin-Kozhani, over the railway lines, bridges and crossings, over many unfamiliar villages where he did not know anyone, where there were no party organizations, where in those dark years at any moment you could meet an enemy ready to betray you to the occupying forces, so that you would be shot.

In all of these hardships Stefo fought bravely and thanks to his self sacrifice, he prevailed. There was, for him, one other hardship. He was an illiterate man and for the first time he was obliged to speak before 10-15 or more people. And not
СТОЯН ТРАЧЕВ (СТЕФО)
just to speak but to persuasively put the party line, to defend the party line and to prepare the population for a battle, which was not expected by most of the people.

Stefo overcame this difficulty too, thanks to self education, the help of his comrades and fellow workers, his unending love for the CPG, and the goals that he contributed to - not just because he was dedicated to it, but also because he adopted the party’s line and policy.

Stefo became an effective agitator. He spoke simply and persuasively.

One night, I remember it like it was now, after a party meeting in a mill near the village of Krushoradi, kneeling among about 10 villagers from that village, he spoke, he informed the villagers in a way that the most exacting teacher would envy. He spoke so well that all of those present listened to him with undivided attention.

*

In 1943 the whole Banichki region was liberated or under the control of the ELAS units. Prespa, Karadzhova and Vich too. The occupying forces in Lerin and Voden were not in a position to act against the partisan units on their own. So, during the night of 16 January 1944 one Bulgarian fascist division transferred from Bitola to Prespa, the Lerin plain, then to Kajmachkalan.

The Bulgarian fascists’ army under the command of the German Gestapo in Lerin made a brutal attack on the peaceful population. They torched whole villages and plundered them, they arrested and shot patriots and carried out horrible brutal acts. In those dark days, in the village of Voshtareni, Stefo was arrested. At once he was taken to the Lerin based Gestapo and was subjected to indescribable torture day and night.
But they could not break the man who had endured many hardships, a man who was dedicated to the party. After a few days he was taken to Solun to the polyclinic in Vaena that was taken over for the purpose of torturing fighters of the struggle. And there Stefo was brutally tortured and in the summer of 1944 – it is not known on what day – he died as a result of the non-stop brutal torture.

He died for the party, for the people.

*S Kochev*
Trkalov Tanas

“Tanas from Zhelevo” was the way that Tanas Trkalov, the beloved officer from the village of Zhelevo, was known among the DAG fighters.

Tanas was healthy, with a strong body, a modest and average type, a national fighter and because of that he was loved by all, Macedonians and Greeks.

He served in the 107th brigade of DAG until June 1948. He was wounded before the great battles on Gramos in 1948. He got well as quickly as he could and took part in the operations on Gramos and Vich in 1948 – in another battalion.

As a leading commander he was respected by his military comrades and by the command. He educated his comrades in the spirit of self sacrifice and particularly in the spirit of the completion of orders and commands. He was an excellent shot; everyone was amazed with him, and he helped all of the fighters under his command become excellent shooters. He took part in many battles in the area of Kastanarijata, Kopanche, Gorica, Sveti Ilija, Paprasko, Piramida, Drenichovo and others. He also took part in the battles on Gramos-Vich in 1948.

Because of his capabilities, he quickly rose to the rank of company commissar.

His most noteworthy action took place in a battle on Mali-Madi in the month of October 1948 where with his company he contributed a great deal to the success of the battle. It was in that battle that Tanas fell a hero.

M Tsaras
Trpovski Kosta

He was born in the village of Dmbeni, Kostur in 1914. He was from a revolutionary family – his brother was the Macedonian hero Lazo Trpovski. He was a member of the CPG during the Metaxas dictatorship and led the party organization in the village. During the occupation in 1941 the Italian fascists and their local lackeys followed him, and so he began illegal activity. However in 1943 he was betrayed, arrested and taken to the Kostur prison and then the Athens prison “Averof”. He was twice given the death sentence but thanks to the events of 1944 he was released before the sentence could be carried out. Straight after his release he threw himself with even greater passion into the national struggle. The imperial intervention by the English in December 1944 found him in the ranks of ELAS in the heroic Kesariani in Athens and there he died a hero. In Kesariani the event is notified that Kosta Trpovski, at the head of a group, with one heavy gun in his hand, defended the attacks of the English. Kosta fell in the post to which he was loyal, certain that his sacrifice would not be for nothing. He fell in the general battle with the brother Greek people for the liberation of both peoples.

D Vlahov
Urdov Georgi (Dzhodzho)

Georgi was born in 1912 in Voden. From a young age he worked as a gardener, a labourer. His own social development led him to the path of the struggle – the path to the national and social liberation struggle. From 1934 he joined the ranks of the CPG and worked actively in the spreading of its policies. In the time of the Metaxas dictatorship Dzhodzho continued to work in the ranks of the CPG, in a variety of posts.

During the time of the Nazi occupation he was among the first to work even harder in reorganizing the party organizations, in establishing patriotic organizations of the masses. He fought passionately against the Greater Bulgarian chauvinism, against Kalchev and the other representatives of fascist Bulgaria. Because of his activism he was promoted to the role of party activist and was elected a member of the Voden regional committee of the CPG.

During the years 1946-47 Dzhodzho was in the ranks of DAG. He was a member of the Headquarters for Central and Western Macedonia and with the rank of major he worked as supply officer at the headquarters. In the big operations on Peierija-Olympus in the summer of 1947 he was killed.

In a mark of recognition, Dzhodzho was promoted to colonel, posthumous hero.
Urumov Kosta

He was born to a poor and revolutionary working family in 1920 in the town of Enidzhe Vardar. As a young boy he became familiar with the progressive movement. From a young age he was forced to work and at the same time he served as a courier for the progressive organizations.

In 1941 he became an official member of OKNE and worked actively against fascism. Until the Varkiza agreement he was an instructor of the regional organization in the village of Kufalovo and later he was a member of the Voden Regional Committee of EPON and worked as an instructor in Enidzhe Vardar. In 1945 he was mobilized into the army and sent to Ber. But the monarcho-fascists did not trust him with weapons and they had him watch the livestock as though that was all he could do. And there he continued to think and fight for the people’s work. He organized other young fighters around him and together they planned to abandon the army for the partisan ranks. They were betrayed about the plan they were making and 19 people were arrested. They were referred to the military court and seven were sentenced to death, among them Kosta Foti Urumov. The death sentence was carried out in 1947.

Kosta was an active and significant fighter with full faith that there would be victory for the people and it was to that idea that he dedicated his life.

Hr. Mishos
Summer 1947. It was a hot summer day; the rocks were cracking in the heat. The green grass in the Rudarci meadows was as high as the waist. Rudarci villagers – like the other villagers of Prespa – were cutting the grass. They were gathering the hay, one of the most important foods for the livestock in winter. In “Gradnata Livada” near the street was the meadow belonging to the deceased Simo Fotevski. His two fatherless boys Joshe and Spiro, who had known the struggle for a crust from a young age, were cutting the grass there.

The first son of baba Simo jca – Joshe, born in 1918 was dark, with dark eyes, tall, with broad shoulders, a fit and well-developed man. He firmly held the blade in his calloused hands and, a little bent over, cut the grass and did not stand until he had finished. After him went his younger brother Spiro. He rushed to try and reach his brother. Spiro was a thin, tall and wiry boy, quick witted and shrewd. He always wanted things to be done well and on time.

From time to time they lifted their heads and carefully listened. From Vigla and Vich thunder could be heard.

“A terrible battle is being fought,” said Joshe, “As you can see, our side is putting in a great effort.”

“Yes!” answered Spiro and continuing, told his brother that that night more Rudarci villagers had left to join the partisans. “When will we go?”

Next to the village in the locality “Lajshta” was their brother Fote with the sheep. He was the third brother in line, born in 1925. He was shorter, rounder, fat, with a red shepherd’s face. Fote sat on a rock with his bag over his shoulder and whistled one of his favourite old Macedonian songs:
Old grandpa is herding sheep
Herding sheep, playing the kaval flute
Playing the kaval flute and speaking
Where is Dame, Where is Goce
Where are the old freedom fighters?

***

Around him are the sheep that are peacefully grazing. Near him, a bit to the side, sits his loyal helper Sharko. Along the wide road “Sv. Nikola” which leads to the wide meadows there hurried a woman with a baking tray on her head with a wooden buckle on her shoulder and with a distaff at her waistband. She was wearing a wide Prespa-style shegun (“sleeveless coat”) and as she hurried she was sweating and redening from the great heat. She was hurrying to get the warm zelnik [large pie with vegetable filling] as soon as possible to her sons who were tired from the heavy work.

The embittered mother arrived. Exhausted from her hurried walk – over half an hour – she went straight to the shade of a walnut tree where she left the things for the grass cutters. Even before she sat she called to them with motherly gentleness: “Come on sons, come on and have a bit of lunch; I have brought you some warm zelnik and fresh water.”

The two brothers joined her, smiling and wiping the sweat from their faces with a colourful hankie. They sat down to rest and eat under the walnut tree’s shade. They ate and spoke for a while with their mother. They spoke about the noise that was coming from Vich, about the partisans, the struggle…

Once they finished eating and rested, they stood and continued their work. The meadow was big and they had to come back another day. But another job waited for them the
next day... That is why they rushed and worked until late into the night and finished the whole meadow. They cut the grass, they said goodbye to the meadow and set off for home.

The next day they did not go to the meadow to gather the hay. They left for Vich, the place from where the noise reached them.

All three brothers – Joshe, Spiro and Fote - joined the ranks of DAG. They fought bravely and all three fell on the altar of liberation – Fotevski, the three sons of baba Simojca, the dear old mother from Prespa. With thousands of pains and suffering that bitter widow raised them and when the time came for them to help her in her old years, she gave them up to the great mother – the land of our birth.

V Fotevska
The Sixty Two Killed from the Village Frangoch

In the western plains of the Vermion mountain is the Kajlarsko village Frangoch. Before the Second World War it had about 325 houses with 2,500 residents.

In the years of the Nazi occupation the whole village took part and sacrificed itself in the battle for the liberation of our homeland. All of the villagers were organized in the ranks of EAM and EPON and more than 200 youths fought with the famous liberation army of ELAS. This attracted the hatred of the German occupiers and their collaborators. On 8 March 1944, the village was attacked by bands of the regiment leader Pulos. They entered the village and set fire to some houses immediately and killed a villager. They shamefully assaulted a large number of women and girls and arrested 25 villagers, whom they transferred to the village Dzhuma (Kozhani region) and kept them there like prisoners. Many of the villagers with sheep and other livestock managed to save themselves, escaping to the mountain, which was covered in snow.

Among the captured villagers, they killed Georgi Toshev the very first night while the others were brutally tortured. They sent one of them to the village to tell them to take up arms and to fight against ELAS. But the answer was “No!” On 9 March they shot the captured villagers in the Kozhani prisons where they had been kept for seven days, hungry and tortured. That was the first attack against the village.

The second attack was on 16 March the same year, at 2 o’clock. This time the bands did not come alone. With them they had 30 Germans with five tanks. The villagers found out that the Germans were coming but they did not manage to escape in time. The bands and Germans surrounded the village and had captured the roads that led to the mountains. At the same time they began to shoot from the tanks against
the people who were escaping, and so not many managed to escape and rather fell into the hands of the bands and the Germans. They arrested many villagers and took them to the village square where brutal killing orgies took place. They burned down more than 200 houses and 300 barns. They shamed many women and girls and cut the throats of 56 people. The first whose throat was cut was the Kozhani representative Saris. The others whose throats were cut were:

1. Andrea Stefan
2. Antonev Mihal
3. Antoneva Gjorga
4. Bojchev Anastas
5. Bojchev Ilija
6. Bojari Trifon
7. Gajtadzhiev Dimitri
8. Genga Miltiadi
9. Dala Ahilea
10. Dala Anton
11. Dala Anastas
12. Ichkov Nikola
13. Karatashi Teodos
14. Karatashi Sana
15. Karatashi Olga
16. Karajani Anastas
17. Kapetanov Vangel
18. Kapetanova Done
19. Karapeov Nake
20. Karapeov Nikola
21. Kote Stojan
22. Kote Hristo
23. Kote Kosta
24. Kote Vangel
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Kote Gligor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Mingov Georgi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Mingov Dimitri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Mingova Velika</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Manchov Vangel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>Manchova Dota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>Manolaki Niko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>Niko Anton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>Papa Kosta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>Papa Nikola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>Papa Ipokrati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>Pejov Kozma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>Pejov Stojan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>Pejov Pejo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.</td>
<td>Pejov Apostol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.</td>
<td>Ruskov Nikola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.</td>
<td>Sekilaru Kata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.</td>
<td>Svrtini Hristo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43.</td>
<td>Svrtini Nikola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.</td>
<td>Tashov Georgi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45.</td>
<td>Tuni Aristoteli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.</td>
<td>Chuara Dimitri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47.</td>
<td>Chuara Trandafil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48.</td>
<td>Chuara Sokrati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.</td>
<td>Chuara Panagi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.</td>
<td>Chuara Kosta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51.</td>
<td>Chuara Zlata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52.</td>
<td>Chavdari Nikola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53.</td>
<td>Janka Jani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54.</td>
<td>Janka Vangel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55.</td>
<td>Janchev Vasili</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56.</td>
<td>Jancheva Stojna</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After the massive and terrible killing the villagers who remained alive left the village and sought refuge in the surrounding villages: Komano, Ineli and elsewhere. Some went to Negush and other villages further away. Then the bands found time to destroy the village entirely and even take stones and building blocks from Frangoch to their own villages. They were in a fury and surrounded the nearby villages where the surviving villagers had escaped to and searched under trees and rocks to find them and killed whoever they found. In Komano they killed the young son of Eftim Manchov and took four Frangoch villagers to Kozhani and killed them there.

The massive participation of the Frangoch villagers in the battles against the Nazi occupiers and the sacrifice of the whole village was a great contribution of the Macedonian people to the general struggle with the brotherly Greek people against fascism, for liberation and democracy.

_T Rizov_
Hadzhi Georgi

Georgi Hadzhi was born in Krushevo, Ser region, in 1909. At the time of the Nazi occupation he took an active part in the struggle against the occupier. After the Varkiza agreement he was followed and sent to jail. When he was released he joined the ranks of DAG and fought heroically. He rose through the ranks to the role of company commander and was killed on 28 December 1948 in Pozdam, Ser region.

Georgi’s whole family was dedicated to the fight for liberation of the homeland. His wife and his two children all joined DAG. His son was captured by the enemy and lay in prison for many long years. His daughter Ana, who served in the 132nd brigade of DAG, was killed in Belasica at the age of 18.

G Muljarov
Harizani Rusalim

Rusalim was a heroic son of the Macedonian people and the Greek working class; one of the cadres of the tobacco gathers on our side.

He was born in Sersko to a poor farming family. As a young boy, because of poverty he set off on the path of struggling for a crust of bread. From a very young age he went to Demir-Hisar and became a tobacco worker. It was there that for the first time he experienced exploitation. In parallel with that he understood that only with a decisive and ongoing struggle could the position of the workers and the working masses and ethnic minorities be improved. His struggle commenced in the harsh battles of the tobacco workers. Rusalim set off on that path from a young age and with his revolutionary following he continued it to the end of his life.

Rusalim’s participation in the every day battles of the tobacco workers from Demir-Hisar, Seres and Solun, in the political and economic battles, which were organized and led by the CPG, led him to become a strong character, a loyal fighter for the proletariat, for the working people.

Because of his qualities Rusalim became a member of the CPG at a young age and gained respect from the workers and he was elected to various committees, including the representative of the tobacco workers. Later he reached the highest posts of the workers’ movement. Many times he was elected a member of the General Greek Federation of the Tobacco Workers and as a member of the compliance committee of the federation he worked tirelessly for many years. He worked in every role with enthusiasm, without being concerned about hardships, dangers and deprivations. Many times he ended up without bread, hungry, but he would not leave the work allocated to him. Under the most difficult
conditions he was concerned to complete the tasks given to him by the Party. He felt proud when the Party gave him difficult or dangerous missions. For that reason he was liked by all those who worked with him and it was pleasing to us when we worked with him. I felt very happy when I worked with him.

However, as the regard of the workers and the Party toward Harizani grew, the hatred of the enemy of the people also grew. He was arrested many times and sent to the cellars, prisons and barren islands. But nothing was able to make him give up. On the contrary, while in prison he became hardened and as soon as he was released, he threw himself with greater passion into the people’s struggle. He was an immovable mountain.

The fascist dictatorship of Metaxas sent him to the camps on Akronafplija where 500 communists were imprisoned. In the jail Rusalim always had a smile on his face; he was liked by all the comrades; he always carried out the tasks given to him by those in charge of the prisons.

In 1941 he succeeded in getting himself released and in a few days reached Solun where he threw himself into the struggle again. He worked with all his strengths for the Party tasks to be completed, for the development of the people’s liberation struggle, for our liberation from the Nazi occupiers. However he was caught again by the government security, which was working for the occupier, and was imprisoned in the camp “Pavlos Melas.”

He knew he would not get out of there alive. But he was not afraid of death. He awaited it with faith in the victory of the people who fought under the leadership of the Party.

In the last days of his life Rusalim did not forget his comrades on Akronafplija. He sent a letter to them in which he wrote, among other things, “Perhaps when you get this letter, I will no longer be among the living. That should not
sadden you. There are sacrifices in the struggle. Sending my final greetings to you I shout with all my might “Long live the CPG! May the people overcome! Long live the people’s victory!”

And when the letter reached us the unforgettable hero was no longer alive. He was executed by the Nazis in May 1942.

The last words that Harizani was heard by witnesses to say were “I feel I have met my obligation; you make sure you meet yours too, as did Papaflesas.”

Harizani stood before the executioners with his head held high and a smile on his face. Before he fell he cried out, “Down with fascism! Long live the CPG! May the people overcome! Long live the Red Army!”

V Ashikis
Hristopulos Vasil

Vasil was born in the village Kalevishta, Kostur region in 1912. He was among the first to join the ELAS fighters and he fought bravely and decisively against the German and Italian fascists as well as against their servants.

In DAG he was again among the first to join and took part in many battles on Vich and Gramos and rose to the rank of captain. In 1948 in the great battles on Gramos and in a battle in Gupata, near to Kotel peak, when his unit was attacking the enemy, he threw himself with self-sacrifice into the enemy machine gun fire, taking it on himself. The attack was successful but the captain was lost.

Z Vlahov
Calev Anton

Anton Calev was born in Dmbeni, Kostur region, in 1915. He joined the ranks of OKNE as early as 1932 and was one of the most active and beloved youths in the village. In 1934 he became a member of the Kostur regional committee of OKNE and distinguished himself with his readiness to carry out his work. At the time of the Metaxas dictatorship and later during the German-Italian occupation he took an active part in the struggle against fascism for the liberation of his homeland. In DAG he was among the first to join and thanks to his talents and capabilities he rose to the rank of company commissar.

Anton fought bravely on Vich, Gramos and elsewhere and in the great battles on Gramos in 1948 he fell at Ai-Lija on Oksija on 13 August 1948. He was posthumously promoted to the rank of captain commissar for his bravery.
Apostol Capov was born in the village Manjak, Kostur region in 1927. From the age of 15 he joined the ranks of EPON and ELAS and took part in many battles against the foreign occupiers in Epir and Macedonia. He died fighting heroically against the German army on 12 June 1944 in the village of Dmbeni, Kostur region. His last words were – “Vengeance! Long live EPON!”

V Capov
Cvetkov Stavro

Stavro Cvetkov was born in the village of Elsjani, Ser region in 1912. From as early as 1933 he joined the revolutionary movement and at the time of the Nazi occupation he developed active operations in the battle against the German and Bulgarian fascist occupiers and against their local servants. Thanks to his capabilities and operations, his whole village joined the ranks of EAM-ELAS and rose up in the battle against the occupier. After the liberation of our homeland, he continued the struggle as an instructor of the political organizations of the masses in the region.

In the second phase of the armed struggle he worked so well that he succeeded in getting more than 45 people in his village to become partisans with DAG even though his village was located in the middle of the plains.

Stavro showed particular heroism in the ranks of DAG and self sacrifice and died for the party and the people.
Cigulevski Vasil

He was born in the village of Bapchor, Kostur region, to a poor village family. He left his wife and small children and joined the partisan movement as early as 1946. In that movement he was one of the most active and responsible partisans and operated as group political commissar in all of the struggles.

In 1947 a decision was made by the Headquarters of the partisan units in Vich to attack the village of Neveska. The battle succeeded and when the partisans were pulling out, a small group had to stay behind to assist the pull out operation. Vasil Cigulevski took on that task with honour. But in that battle he was badly wounded and died in the arms of one of his comrades.

K Levendov
Crnakov Ilija (Lazaridi)

Ilija Crnakov was born in the village of Patele, Lerin region in 1909. From a young age he began to work as a blacksmith in Surovichko. In 1932 he became a member of the CPG.

Ilija had a very good character; he was modest, clever and well regarded by the population in Surovichko.

From 1934-39 in the most difficult years of the Metaxas dictatorship Ilija’s steel works was the cell of the regional committee of the CPG in the Surovichko area. From there he gave out copies of “Rizospastis” and the other party publications and from there it made its way to the surrounding villages. Various letters and notes passed through his workshop of the regional CPG committee from Lerin to the party organizations in the villages. Through his workshop also went the party instructors not just for Lerin and Surovichko but also for Kostur, Kajlarsko, Kozhansko and Grevena. All of this work was done by Ilija with careful attention to secrecy. Because of his revolutionary activity, at the time of the Metaxas regime he was arrested and put to brutal torture.

In the time of the German occupation Ilija, educated in the spirit of patriotism and the proletariat internationalism, led a fight against the German occupiers, against the chauvinistic propaganda of the Greater Bulgarian fascists and because of his actions, and the actions of his comrades, not a single soul from Patele or Surovichko took a rifle to fight for Kalchev. In 1943 he was forced to undertake his activities illegally and worked as a member of the regional committee of EAM in Surovichko. There he was exemplary against those seeking to divide the brotherhood and unity of the Greek and Macedonian population and to protect the correct line of the CPG for the equal national rights of the Macedonians.
After the Varkiza agreement Ilija worked as a party instructor, for EAM, at the start legally and after 1946, illegally in Surovichko.

He worked wherever the party put him – in the political organizations, in DAG, and in other services of the people’s movement. In March 1948 in Klisura, Kostur region in the battle of the 18th brigade he was killed while fighting heroically.

G Dishkov
Charka Vangel

Vangel Charka was born in 1917 in the village of Katranica to a very poor family. In 1942 he became a member of the CPG and the same year he joined the ranks of ELAS. He was well known as an outstanding courier.

After the Varkiza agreement he was followed and forced to live in the mountain. As soon as the first DAG groups appeared, he joined them and took part in many struggles, rising to the rank of leading commander.

He was killed in the battle on Konica together with Nonda Joro from the same village.

A H
Charov Risto

He was born in 1927 in the village of Mokrni. In 1945 he was arrested by the police and forced to the Kostur prisons where he remained until 1946. After his release he joined the partisan ranks. In the major operations of the monarcho-fascists in Nitruzi he, fighting to the last grenade, enabled the unit to save itself, but he was captured. His holding out in the face of the monarcho-fascist enemy was outstanding for a fighter-communist. For that reason he was shot in Megara after being subjected to brutal torture.

P Kuljanov
Chobanov Sotir

Sotir was born in Lerin in 1912. As a youth he threw himself into the battle for a crust and worked as a printer, steel worker etc. At the age of 20 he was organized into OKNE and because of that he was monitored by the officers and under-officers of the 28th infantry battalion, where he served as a soldier in 1933. After his discharge from the army he continued to work even more passionately for OKNE and the CPG. He worked actively to spread the party line, and in his home he held illegal and legal meetings.

During the time of the Nazi occupation, first of all, he worked illegally in the town and then joined the ranks of ELAS.

In the years 1946-49 he serves in DAG. At the start he worked in publications as a printer for the Headquarters of DAG, but even that work failed to satisfy him. At his insistence he managed to join the groups of unattached shooters where he served at the rank of lieutenant. He worked right in the face of the enemy, entered Lerin, gathered witness statements etc. In the battle of Lerin in February 1949 he was killed in his own town. He died faithful to the ideals of the CPG.
Cholakovski Georgi

Georgi Cholakovski from the village of Besfina, Lerinsko was born to a poor village family and from his young years he was a shepherd. At the start of the armed struggle in 1946 he was among the first to join the ranks of DAG and fought heroically and with fanaticism against monarcho-fascism and foreign occupiers.

In 1948 in the great battles on Gramos, in one battle he and three comrades entered the fire to save one of their comrades who had been wounded and there an enemy grenade found him.

M Cholakovski
ГЕОРГИ ЧОЛАКОВСКИ
Chochov Jane (Stojan)

Stojan was known among the people of Lerin and Kostur as the beloved and respected Jane Chochov from the village of Armensko.

Fair haired, tall with broad shoulders, modest and smiling, well dressed, with a rifle in his strong hands; that is how he was remembered by those who knew him from his time in ELAS.

Jane was one of the first partisans who got together –

“On that mountain Vicho
On the Prekopanska plateau”

so they could make the traditional Ilinden promise – to fight the tyrants.

It was not by chance that he was among the first to take the path of armed struggle against the Nazi occupiers. That was the natural path for someone who had had an earlier revolutionary life.

In his childhood years - when a person can get strong impressions fixed in their mind - the earlier barbarianism of the Turkish tyrants against the rebellious Armensko villagers in the famous Ilinden Uprising was still fresh.

When the old men and women told of that time Stojan listened carefully, following their stories word for word, his child-like heart beating fast. From that time he was in a position to know the meaning of slavery, struggle and freedom. Even then he was developing a fighter’s spirit and was growing stronger. Stojan at age 15 lived in the town of Lerin. From that point his views broadened. The social and national persecution under the bourgeois–chiflik government troubled him more. He sought a path on which he could develop his youthful activism. This aim led him to oppose the
inequality he saw. So he joined the ranks of OKNE. From its ranks, in brotherly unity with the Greek youths, he fought for human ideals for the youth, regardless of ethnicity or language.

Later, at the time of the Metaxas dictatorship he, like thousands of other Greek and Macedonian patriots, was followed.

He fought bravely in 1940-41 with weapons in his hands against the Mussolini-fascist aggressors.

Without making a break in his struggle for the people, he joined the ranks of ELAS in the month of April 1943. In ELAS because of his capabilities, he was soon given very responsible tasks. In June he was promoted to the position of member of a three-commander detachment, and a little later company commissar.

* * *

In the winter of 1943-44 in Lerin and Kostur the hand picked “Vich Battalion” was operational. It carried out military operations against the Nazis and at the same time political propaganda work among the people. Stojan was one of the most active partisans of “Vich Battalion”.

People from Koreshani, Prespa and elsewhere recall how he spoke to them, how he supported their good spirits, setting alight in their hearts the flame of the revolution and helping the confused regain the correct path.

With his manly body upright, with his feet slightly turned out and a rifle between them, Stojan spoke with a strong, powerful voice and he invited the people to rise up. He spoke about the Ilinden uprising and had so much to tell using the stories from his childhood – he spoke about unity and the goals of that struggle, about the defeat of that epic story. The people listened carefully. Then he would move onto the new
uprising – against the Nazi occupiers and he would give them a task – united with the brotherly Greek people, to fight against the enemy until victory could be achieved. Only in that way could the Macedonian people then achieve their own ethnic and social rights.

Stojan is also remembered from the play performed by the partisans in the villages. Stojan played the main role in that play, the role of the exploited villager “Grandpa Trajko”. He is also remembered for the successful military operations he took part in against the enemy.

* * *

Summer 1944. Thirty thousand soldiers shook the mountains Voion-Gramos. They were carrying out a serious military operation with the aim of surrounding and destroying the 9th division of ELAS. Stojan was in one unit as a battalion commissar. He fought courageously. But the end came. He was badly wounded in the legs and he could not move. He gave an order to his comrades to leave him and to continue the battle. Stojan fixed himself to a spot and shot at the Nazis while he still had the strength and bullets. One bullet – the last – he kept for himself. He did not do the favour to the enemy of letting them capture him alive.

G Nedelkov
Chuli Micho

Micho Chuli was born in the village of Bobishta, Kostur region. He joined the ranks of DAG as early as 1946 and participated in many battles in Vich and Gramos. In the numerous battles he rose to the rank of leading commander and later to company commissar.

Micho was a courageous fighter and with his example he encouraged the others. In the great battles on Gramos in 1948 with his company he defended the peak Alevica. There in a moment when the battle had reached a most critical position Micho raised his machine gun and standing he began to shoot at the enemy. At that moment came a death-bringing enemy bullet and the beloved soldier fell heroically.

F Mazuras
Shadrov Stefo

Stefo was an old communist from the village Ostrovo-Vodensko. He took part in the ELAS units and fought against the German occupation. At the violent December battle in 1944 Stefo was persecuted afresh. He was forced to leave his family and along with the heroine Mirka Ginova moved into illegal operations and continued his operations in organizing the people in the struggle against the English imperialists and their local servants. In 1945 Stefo and his comrades in the Gluvsko cell, after being betrayed, were attacked by a group of gendarmes. He fought hard for seven hours. And when he saw that there was no other way out he killed himself so that he would not be captured alive.

G Shipakov
Shipakov Gele

Gele Shipakov was born in the village of Ostrovo-Vodensko in 1927. In his village he completed primary school. He was a member of ELAS. After Varkiza he was arrested. He escaped from prison along with a group of youths and at the start of 1946 he was among the first partisans on Kajmachkalan. He took part in many violent battles.

His heroism and fearlessness was most strongly shown by Gele in the battle of Jankulova hut. With his comrade Trajko Kolichanov from Chegan, from whom he was never apart, he destroyed a boundary monarcho-fascist post. For that effort he was promoted to the rank of officer for bravery. In 1947 he went to DAG officer school. He distinguished himself with his courage both as a student at the officer school and while, at the same time, fighting in many battles. In one of the battles fought by the 14th brigade on Mali-Madi against the monarcho-fascists, Gele died fulfilling his obligation to the party and the people.

G Shipakov
Shipakov Pando

Pando Shipakov was born in the village of Ostrovo-Vodensko. Because of the hard and impoverished situation of his family he was forced to leave school to help his father. From the age of 14 he had a job working in Ksanti and Dedeagach. At the time of the German occupation he left for Vardar Macedonia to become a partisan in the Yugoslavian partisan movement where he became an officer. At the end of 1947 he returned to our homeland and joined the ranks of DAG. He took part in the big battles on Vich and on one summer night in 1948 his unit set off for Buf. That movement was betrayed to the Bulgarians who set a trap in the village. They allowed the partisans to enter the village and then they opened fire. The partisans attacked to try to pull out. But one of them had to remain to cover the withdrawal of the others. Pando was the one to remain. He fought alone for four hours and when he saw that he had only one grenade left he used it to kill himself so that he would not be captured alive by the Bulgarians. They took his body and tied it to the back of a horse and dragged his body to Lerin.

Pando’s father Lazo Shipakov was captured with Mirka Ginova and was sentenced to 18 years in a dark jail. He died in jail.

G Shipakov
Shiperkov Pando

I can still see Pando Shiperkov alive before me as a fearless regiment leader in the middle of the fire and storm of battle who, as a young commander at the most difficult times, filled people with faith and courage; who was a friend with an open heart and a clever confidante between battles.

That simple Macedonian from Smrdesh understood the secret that troubled the hearts of the fighters. Everyone - big and small - in the battalion respected him and held him in high esteem. His word was law for the fighters. His personal bravery - our ideal; his stamina was an example for us. Whoever went into his battalion refused to ever leave it. In the marches he was tireless and led the column. He helped the stragglers and he gave courage to the down hearted, he helped others with their packs. In camp, he was the last to go to sleep. In battle he was first, in the front trenches. First to attack, last to withdraw.

He was olive complexioned with a firm body. When he stepped he recalled the eagles with wide wings in the mountains of his birth. Hard as Vasil Chakalarov; modest like Pando Kljashev, it seemed that he was given by nature the talents of two legendary freedom fighters from his own village. When he spoke to you he would look at you with a thoughtful and bright look; you felt that in his face was gathered all of the wisdom of the years and the flaming pain of his enslaved homeland.

And it was true. Those years, when the whole world was embroiled in a storm, when the nations picked up weapons and stood against the German occupiers, left a deep impression on him. A young man with no whiskers on his face, he picked up a rifle and joined the ranks of ELAS so that he could fight for the liberation of Greece, to liberate his own homeland. And those years made him a mature and
experienced regiment leader fighting for freedom, for an indivisible freedom for the two peoples, which the two peoples sought – the Macedonian and Greek peoples.

And he remained a faithful soldier of that ideology, a faithful member of the CPG, dedicated entirely to the grand ideals. And he fell faithful to the obligation of dignity as an eagle, soaking the soil of his homeland with his own blood. He fell in the spring of 1948 in the locality Sveti Ilija – Paprasko, Kostur region, not far from his own village of Smrdesh. He fell, leaving to the living his sacred life as an eternal example that every fighter could follow in the fight for liberation, peace and the joining of the peoples.

N Kitopulos
Shumbashev Dimitri

Dimitri Shumbashev was born in Rosen, Lerin region. During the German occupation he was about 60 years old but his age did not prevent him from taking an active part in the liberation movement, nor in becoming secretary of EAM in his own village. He did not want to remain behind the other people. At the time of the Ilinden uprising he was in the village police and many years during the uprising he worked for VMRO. With passion and importance he spoke about the Ilinden freedom fighters from that region – Krsto Ljondev, Leko Dzhorlev, Mice Zabrski, about the Ilinden uprising, about his young years. He was sad that he did not, at that time, get to hold a rifle and to join the ranks of ELAS.

But what he could not do with a rifle he did with words; with his tireless work in the village, for the freedom movement. He went from house to house and spoke to the villagers of EAM, for the struggle of the Macedonians and Greeks, about the rights the people would gain. He believed forcefully in the victory of the great Russian people, in the victory of all of the oppressed peoples.

Dimitri as a secretary of the village organization of EAM took part in various regional councils of EAM: in Lagen, Kotori, Negovan and others. There, in the liberated and not yet liberated territories – he saw that in the midst of the passion of battle, the people began to put their new lives into order. In the councils the representatives spoke in their mother tongue. He heard the partisans and youths from the villages sing freely the melodious Macedonian songs and also to present some Macedonian plays. In Lagen and Kotori he saw with his own eyes our Macedonian language being taught in the schools that were functioning.

He spoke to his neighbours with enthusiasm about everything he saw in the liberated territories. He told them
about the great education that was taking place where the people took control in their own hands. On his initiative a Macedonian school was opened in Rosen with the local priest as the teacher – Pop Petre. All of the Rosen villagers felt such happiness and satisfaction at that. Now they worked even harder for liberation. The whole village was up on its feet. Whole trucks loaded with wheat and other village produce were taken from Rosen to the partisans’ stores.

After the Varkiza agreement Dimitri with the same passion continued to work for the victory of democracy, for the rights of the Macedonian people. Because of his activism he was followed by the police force. He did not sleep at home at night but rather in the fields, among the wheat.

One spring night they killed him in his own fields. His field, for which for half a century he poured out his sweat and now gave his blood. He closed his eyes peacefully, convinced that he had fulfilled his life’s obligation – his obligation to his homeland, the people.
Shijaka Shuli

Shijaka Shuli was born in the village of Rosilovo, Voden region. During the Nazi occupation Shuli was a teacher in the village of Katranica-Kajlarsko. She became one of the most active local cadres of the CPG and, along with another woman fighter, carried out organizing work among the women of the village.

During the bloody days of Katranica in 1944 the Germans arrested her and along with other patriots – Greeks and Macedonians – they forced her to Trapishta. Once there, they were told to dig their own graves. But Shuli did not accept that. She told the others to escape and they did so immediately. But they did not save themselves. The Germans chased them among the fields and shot and killed them all.
Jamovski Anton

Anton Jamovski was born in the village of Trnaa, Lerin region in 1928. From a young age he joined the ranks of EPON and fought for the ideals of the youth. In January 1947 at the age of 19 he joined DAG at Vich. He took part in many battles and fought heroically. He was wounded three times – on 15 June 1947, on 20 March 1948 and 1 May 1948. From January 1948 to February 1949 he served in the Peoples police and later transferred to the 18th foot brigade. In that role he rose to a leader of EPON in the 427th battalion and for his bravery he was promoted to sub lieutenant. On 14th August 1949 he was killed in Vich, on the 1685 peak. He was put forward for the rank of lieutenant, postumous hero.
Janovski Sotir

Sotir was an 18 year old boy when he joined the ranks of DAG. And he did not go alone. He went with all the youths of his village – the beautiful village of Zhelevo. His father, Fote, had left for DAG earlier. Sotir’s mother, Dimitra-Foteica – as told by the villagers of Zhelevo, worked day and night for the people’s struggle in the village, in the trenches and wherever it was necessary. For her great activism and dedication she was elected to the Lerin regional council.

In the summer of 1949 Sotir died in a battle on Mali-Madi. Many youths like Sotir died in the battle for national liberation. Death lurked not just in the front line but also in the areas liberated by the partisans. The enemy artillery and airplanes sowed death among the villages and on the plains. They killed the elderly, women, children. In that stormy time death had lost its meaning. So the news of Sotir’s death reached his village like ordinary news. But Sotir’s mother did not receive the news as ordinary news because she was a mother who had lost her first born, her own boy, her only son.

She tied a black scarf on her head and with a grieving face she received and sent off visitors paying their respects.

Among the others, two comrades visited her, the representatives of the national democratic organization. They greeted her quietly and sat in the seat opposite her. In the room an endless silence reigned. The comrades who had come to lift the spirits of the grieving mother sat still as statues, sad and motionless. Between them stood Sotir’s mother. Neither one nor the other comrade dared to break the silence. In those moments of suffering Foteica stood proudly, took the rifle of one of the comrades and opened the window and emptied three rounds and at the end shouted –

”For the struggle! For freedom! May the soil that will cover him lay lightly on Sotir.” And then turning to the
comrades she said, “That is the struggle, comrade Tasho and Micho. There cannot be a wedding without a drum to beat. There can be no battle without sacrifice.”

Foteica was not the first and would not be the last who courageously and cool headedly faced the death of her own son. Hundreds and thousands of heroic mothers taught their sons and daughters to be brave fighters for freedom, so that there would be better and happy days in our homeland.