

# **Monograph with Memories – Album About the Village German – Prespa Region**

**By**

**The Organising Committee for the Residents of the Village German**

**Translated By**

**Elizabeth Kolupacev Stewart**

**Publisher** – The organising committee for the residents of the village German:

1. Mitre J Kajchevski
2. Aleksandar G Karlovski, professor
3. Risto N Maljanovski
4. Pando K Kajchevski

**[Extract from Foreword]**

The editors, with the help of oral history from villagers, have assembled this book.

The Monograph is dedicated to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 5<sup>th</sup> traditional celebration of German villagers held in Trnovo on 20/5/79.

**Translator** – Monograph with Memories – Album About the Village German – Prespa Region was translated from the Macedonian by Elizabeth Kolupacev Stewart.

## A Short Historical Sketch of German

From as early as the 7<sup>th</sup> century slavs settled the Balkan Peninsula and a part of them settled in Macedonia. Beautiful Macedonia with its many passes, river plains, and four big rivers: Vardar, Struma, Bistrica and Mesta, beautiful mountains and lakes, attracted the families: Brsjaci, Sagurati, Velegeziti, Rinhini, Strumjani, Smoljani etc to settle this beautiful Macedonian land and they took up agriculture, raising livestock, hunting and fishing in the abundant rivers and many lakes.

Macedonia is the only Balkan country with so many lakes so it is no surprise that they called it a lake-country.

It is historically recognised that a part of the large Brsjak tribe settled Prespa, that tame, beautiful and bountiful part which mother nature richly bestowed with many mountains, green pastures, flower covered meadows, varied forests and clear mountain springs. Nature determined the future occupation of the residents – agriculture, livestock raising, forestry and fishing.

And here, near the Great Prespa Lake at the place “Markova Noga” sprang up a settlement of the forefathers of the future village German. It is theorised that it was quite small (12 houses) but it is not known what it was called. The settlement was in an open location and had many passers-by – those who were good and those who sought to steal etc. So it is easy to accept that the village could not be in that location. This was the main reason the residents moved to a higher position which would give them better conditions for living. This new settlement was named German.

The village German is near the intersection of today’s borders of Yugoslavia [sic], Albania and Greece. The village is in the part of Macedonia that Greece was given in the Bucharest Treaty in 1913. It

is under the mountains Stogo, Rxhena, Bela Voda, Elata and Prisoo. North of German are the following villages: Rakovo, Buf, Psoderi, Armensko and Zhelevo; south are Medovo, Rudari and Shtrk and to the west Rabi and the Prespa Lake.

There is a legend about how the village got its name. It is from the small village church St German dedicated to the saint German. The village sprang up near the little church and soon grew quickly to 300 houses. It is estimated that the church was built in 1224 and that the holy person German arrived in 1259. [... a line is missing]. And from then, the village was called St German. The village got that name from the church. That little church still stands and the bones of St German are buried underneath its foundation stone.

At the end of the XVIII and the whole XX century the Turkish empire made attempts to stop falling apart. This was evident from the attempts of various sultans (starting with Selim III) to introduce reforms to quell unrest and to improve the living conditions of the enslaved peoples. The reforms promised to improve the living conditions. One of the rights to be given to the raya (rightless Christian subjects) was the freedom of religion and building of new churches and monasteries. The Macedonians took advantage of this in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the help of the young Macedonian bourgeois and in almost all Macedonian cities built Macedonian orthodox churches decorated with beautiful frescoes and the altars were decorated with beautiful iconostasis (wood carvings) by the most skilled artisans of the time. Those frescoes, icons and woodcarvings are our cultural heritage and tourists go to see them because of their artistic merit. These buildings arose from the Macedonian people and its most conscious segment – the young Macedonian bourgeois, and gave rise to skilled craftsmen

and traders. In the Macedonian towns alongside the churches, there were buildings erected in what is known as Macedonian urban architecture which today speaks of the abilities of Macedonian builders. Buildings from that period are still retained in Ohrid, Krushevo , Kostur and other towns.

In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the national consciousness grew in the Macedonian villager which had suffered under the Ottoman yoke. He started to build better houses, tried to live better, and some villagers became wealthy. And in the village, an action to build a new church started. German was one of the more progressive villages where life changed and improved for villagers and they got the idea to build a new church. The little church no longer met their needs.

In digging the foundations for the new church the builders found a large marble plaque damaged at one corner. The plaque was engraved. That was in 1888. As Bulgarians had their own patriarchs in some Macedonian Dioceses the plaque was quickly grabbed and taken to Sofia where it is still in a museum. The text on the plaque was in Cyrillic. It was essentially a gravestone placed by Samuil at the grave of his parents: father Nikola and mother Ripsimija and his brother David. Tsar Samuil put the stone in place himself, the governor of the First Macedonian early feudal state in 993. The plaque found in German was evidence of Macedonian Cyrillic writing. This suggests that German was an important settlement. We know that the first castles of Samuil were in Prespa so it is reasonable to suppose that Tsar Samuil himself may have stayed in German.

Starting from the 8<sup>th</sup> century Macedonia began to adopt Bulgarian hanovi and in due course somewhere in the middle of the 9<sup>th</sup> century almost all of Macedonia, with the exception of Solun,

joined with the Bulgarian state and remained under her government for 150 years. There is evidence that in this period when the feudal relations were being established villagers were subjected to harsh exploitation and were treated as serfs (tenant-farmers) and that was one of the main reasons for the appearance of Bogomilism as a religious-social and anti-feudal movement. Toward the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> century is the period of the great Slav teacher Kliment Ohridski who spread Slav liturgy to the Macedonian churches. It is also recognised that in the middle of the 9<sup>th</sup> century the Macedonian Slavs were baptised in the Greek language.

The Bulgarian government was thrown off in 969 following the uprising led by the Brsjak knez Nikola and his four sons. However real liberation came when the Byzantine government was also overthrown in 976.

Samuil governed from 976-1014. His seat in the first period was in Prespa where he had a number of castles on the shores of the Prespa lakes. It is certain that in the time of Samuil German played an important role as a large settlement within the Prespa region because important members of Samuil's family were buried there.

The Samuil state as it is known, did not last long. Its end was glimpsed following the catastrophe at Belasica in 1014 when Byzantium took revenge, blinding 14,000 soldiers. Samuil could not overcome that and died and four years after him in 1018 the state fell. Difficult times came for the Macedonian people as the Byzantine aggressor took revenge on the Macedonians. The Greek Byzantine church began from that time to pressure the Macedonian language and priests and to introduce the Greek language with the aim of assimilating our people. Life became even worse when there

was pillaging by the Kumani, Pechenezi, Uzi (nomads) and then droughts, illnesses (cholera) and earthquakes.

Escape from Byzantine rule was sought through two uprisings in 1040 and 1072, but they were unsuccessful.

Macedonia also suffered as a result of the first Crusade at the end of the XI century when the crusaders travelled from Italy through Albania to our parts.

At the end of the XII century and the beginning of the XIII century two attempts were made to establish a Macedonian state but these were unsuccessful. At that time, rivalry between Macedonia's neighbours also started as to which one of them would grab Macedonia. From the end of the XIII century Macedonia was taken over bit by bit by Serbian rulers starting with King Milutin to Tsar Dushan 1282- 1355. In that period many churches and monasteries were renovated or replaced by new ones decorated under the strong influence of Byzantium.

After the death of Tsar Dushan, because of the changed economic-community conditions the Serbian state fell apart and Macedonia was self-ruling for a period. The main rulers in Macedonia became Volkashin and Uglesha who ruled until the Marichka battle on 26.9.1371. In their time, a new danger appeared for Macedonia and the Balkans and that was the Ottoman Turks who began to take over the Balkans.

The Marichka battle in which Volkashin and Uglesha died was a real catastrophe for the Balkans. Krali Marko served as a vassal and he died in battle in 1395. From that year, 1395 until 1912/13 Macedonia was under Turkish rule. Turkish enslavement was most difficult and long lasting. For centuries, Macedonians were subjected to the harshest exploitation. They were robbed; their right to freedom of religion was taken, women were forcibly converted,

taken by force and assaulted. In essence, it is the blackest period in our history. The Turks settled everywhere where the soil was most fertile for production.

These aggressors also settled near German where there were two Turkish settlements – Shovci and Bostandzhiovci. While Turkey as a country retained its power, life was somehow tolerable. But from the XVII century Turkish rule weakened and the Agas and Begs took advantage of that to assert themselves over the enslaved population, taking land, pillaging and stealing. The Turkish rulers did not trust in the Christians because a Hajduk resistance appeared. Ordinarily, the church assisted that effort so that in 1767 the Turks closed the Ohrid Bishopric and the Macedonian churches were placed under the administration of the Greek patriarchate. Now, as well as the Turks, the Macedonians are dominated by the Greek archbishops. The Greek cultural influence strengthened after the Edrenski Peace in 1829 when a Greek bourgeois state was established. That cultural influence was spread through the churches and Greek schools that the Patriarch opened with the support of the Greek government. The aim of this policy was clear: to give to the Macedonian land a Greek character and to assimilate the Macedonian people.

The Macedonian priests were the first to rise against the Greek spiritual enslavement and then the young Macedonian bourgeoisie which was springing up in Macedonian towns in the first half of the XIX century. They sought renewal of the Ohrid Bishopric as a national church and schools in the Macedonian language.

This battle was neither easy nor straightforward because the Patriarchate threw all its resources into extinguishing national consciousness, even bribing the Turkish rulers. Typically, the leaders



of our national resistance were treated as Russian agents and were mistreated and persecuted.

Until 1870 the Macedonian bourgeoisie focussed its fight chiefly against the Greek spiritual enslavement. But in that year, another spiritual enemy arose, the Bulgarian Exarchate, the Bulgarian national church which would try to suppress Greek influence in Macedonia and to impose Bulgarian influence in its place. The appearance of the Bulgarian church in Macedonia represented misfortune for the Macedonian people, because from that time the Macedonian people were divided between two churches – patriarch (Greek) and exarchate (Bulgarian) – and that division on religious grounds would be reflected in political division as well. The rivalry between the two churches would bring political problems for the Macedonians. This religious and cultural propaganda foretold of the future armed rivalry which was a fight for Macedonia itself. However, the most aware Macedonians would, with a strong wish and enthusiasm, start a battle against these two and soon against a third national propaganda (Serbian). These propaganda campaigns struck a powerful blow to the unity of the Macedonian people. So that it was even more ironic, one population that had been unified and monolithic was divided into Grecomans, Bulgarophiles and Serbomans.

The Macedonian people and their battle for self-determination was forced to be waged on several fronts against the take-over intentions of the neighbouring bourgeois states and against the centuries old Turkish domination. For a long time, the battle was not connected and therefore could give no result. But from 1893 the battles started to connect and the national-liberation movement to be organised on a higher level. That is the time when the TMORO organisation was formed. The organisation aimed to

organize the Macedonians into a general and massive uprising to eliminate the centuries-old enslavement and bring liberation. The organisation across Macedonia prepared people for an uprising and established committees. The establishment of the committee in German was in about 1898. The members of the organisation in German explained to the population the aims of the battle, collected arms and other materials, undertook exercises in the use of arms in the place called Mocharta, attacked the Turks, and took other actions.

The uprising in German to remove the despised tyrant after so many centuries was awaited with anticipation. German had prepared its own brigade for this purpose comprised of more than 150 fighters under the leadership of the villager Voivoda Petre Damovski–Germancheto and Naum Gerovski as the ideology motivator for the fight. The committee in German was a part of the Bitola revolutionary organisation. The fighters under the leadership of Petre Germancheto in the Ilinden Uprising distinguished themselves in the battle against the Turkish garrison in Popli which they circled and then destroyed. One of the greater battles in the region between German and Rudari was the battle at Bigala. About 200 fighters took part in that battle and many gave their lives. But the brigade was helpless in the face of the huge Turkish force so that when the army entered German, it pillaged, took a large number of captives and burnt to the ground many houses and barns. When they were clearing the terrain on the mountain, the Turks imprisoned all the villagers they found hiding in the mountains. The villagers were taken to the place Ramna where they were to be shot! However, a villager named German Veljanov was sent to the Pasha in Buf to seek approval for the innocent villagers not to be shot. It seems that the pasha was agreeable and decided

to save the lives of the innocent villagers. The villager ran from Buf to Ramna to take the response from the Pasha and save the lives of the 100s of innocent villagers. And that is how the villagers of German were saved from death.

At the time of the uprising and after it 25 villagers gave their lives for the liberation of the country. The number of sacrifices and the numerous participants in the uprising give witness that the village was one of those in which the uprising had a significant character. It is known that the uprising did not give rise to liberation but rather the oppression continued. The neighbouring countries took advantage of this new situation after the failure of the uprising and threw armed units at Macedonia with the aim of preparing the terrain for the future division of Macedonia. Life became worse. Persecutions, prosecutions, internments, tortures. It was clear that the aim was to suppress every effort toward and all belief in liberation. The neighbouring states, looking at the state of Turkey and taking advantage of its weaknesses, being pushed around by the great powers, feverishly and with secrecy they prepared to push Turkey out of the Balkans so that they could grab its Balkan assets and put an end to the feudal system of the Turks in Europe.

It is recognised that the Macedonian people were surprised when the First Balkan war started but nonetheless they participated and made a huge contribution to the defeat of the Turks with the hope that they would achieve the liberation they hoped for. But the Macedonian people quickly realised that again they had been deceived.

The Turks left but were replaced by new oppressors; oppressors who with the Bucharest Treaty in 1913 had divided Macedonia between them and despite the appeals of the leading

Macedonian activists, they began to follow, put down and persecute the Macedonian people, aiming to weed them out so that they would emigrate. The Serbian army was the first to arrive in German in the First Balkan War to set up command in the Dolna Prespa region. But after the Bucharest Treaty, Dolna Prespa was allocated to Greece.

In essence, in that time, the Serbians left and the Greeks came. The Greek armed forces gathered the villagers together, they frightened them, tortured them, asked them to give up all of their arms because they well knew that German was a rebellious and revolutionary village during the Ottoman Empire. If, with even a small gesture, someone showed disloyalty toward the Greek government, he would be beaten to death. A Greek school was opened. The villagers who refused to send their children to the Greek school were tortured and mistreated the most.

The time of the Greek occupation was short and did not give them the chance to implement their assimilationist policies because the First World War burst forth in 1914. New occupiers arrived: the Bulgarian military police in the service of central forces.

In 1916 the German region entered the zone of the Solun front. The Greeks, the French and the Serbs came again. Many villages were suspected of being dangerous to Entente plans and people were interned, some as far as France. People were interned in 1917 as well, but most of those internees returned to German. It is known that, with the victory of the Entente over the central forces in Versailles, peace negotiations took place in relation to the future of Europe. Borders were recrafted. There was a ray of hope for the Macedonia people. They gave many sacrifices and from 1916-1918, the Solun front was fought on their territory. The deserving Macedonian people appealed to the larger powers to

rectify the wrongs done by the Bucharest Treaty and to give the Macedonians the right to self-determination. However, the result is known: the greater powers confirmed the division and with that they entrenched the future of the Macedonian people.

From 1903 to 1918 the residents of German bore many sacrifices, arrests, tortures, mistreatments and they bore them stoically. They were very hard times.

After the First World War in 1918 Greek rule was re-established in German and immediately commenced with arrests, surveillance and torture of the people they thought disloyal to the Greek regime. Hard times again and uncertainty.

During the time of the spreading of propaganda, the people were again deceived that, once the Greeks were expelled, the villagers would take back the land. But the Macedonians did not get one foot of Turkish soil. On the contrary, the Greek rulers were applying pressure to the Macedonians to emigrate, to be weeded out, to change their ethnic character. But it was not easy or so simple. The Greeks and Bulgarians made an agreement on this matter; Greece would recognise the Macedonians as Bulgarians and then undertake a population exchange. The Macedonians were to go to Bulgaria and the Greeks to arrive from Bulgaria. In that population exchange and notwithstanding the pressure applied, not one family left German.

During the Greek-Turkish Asia Minor Conflict, many villagers from German fought and many died. Soon a population transfer was agreed between Greece and Turkey in 1924. The Turkish people from neighbouring settlements to German, Shaovci and Bostandzhiovci, emigrated and in their place came Greeks (prosfigi) from Asia Minor. The profsigi were settled into the houses left by the Turks and they were given Turkish land. The poor from German

had previously hired themselves to the wealthy Turks as farm labourers and now hired themselves to the wealthier profigi.

The Macedonian children had to attend the Greek school in German and if they did not, they were harshly punished. Even so the Macedonian children could only complete primary school and nothing further. The only children who could study further were those whose parents showed by their actions that they were Greek. Soon a law was introduced with which everything was renamed in Greek. Under that law, German became Agios Germanos.

The consequences of the war were felt, especially food shortage. So it is easy to understand the appearance of a fervour for overseas work. Soon German became a typical village from which men left to work overseas because hundreds of villagers were going or returning from working overseas. It was only through those earnings that the Macedonian people managed to live through those times and for some, it meant they could buy a field. A number of the villagers who went never returned.

Between the two world wars the regimes under which Macedonia was divided continued to negate the Macedonian people and to put pressure on the Macedonians. The attempt in 1925 to establish schools in the Macedonian language under pressure from the League of Nations was not permitted by the Greek reactionaries even though the primer ABECEDAR was put together. Even though the Macedonians respected the rule of law, they were treated as second class citizens without the right to speak their own language. The Greek Communist Party at one time became involved with the Macedonian people so it is not surprising that, at the elections, the Macedonians gave their vote to the Greek communist candidates.

Notwithstanding all of this, the Macedonian people were most brutally treated during the Metaxas regime between of 1936-1941 when the use of the Macedonian language was totally banned and failure to know Greek led to being force-fed huge quantities of retsinas, internments and similar. During that time even the elderly were forced to attend night school to learn Greek. At that time many residents of German were interred and fined because of the language or because they were caught reading progressive literature, or for being sympathisers of the Greek Communist Party (KPG). Everything progressive was persecuted because the KPG was banned. Many residents from German who lived there at that time and are still alive remember well Crete, Chios, Karditsa and other places where they were exiled. But that was not the worst. During the Metaxas regime (according to eye witnesses) the Lerin mayor Chaktsiras brought about 100 Greek families who tended livestock – the so-called sarakatsani from various corners of Greece with their large herds of sheep, goats, horses, giving them the land for pasture: Bela Vora, Kevajntsa, Shiroka. The Sarakatsani were armed and did as they liked. They destroyed the pastures, meadows, crops; they cut the ploughs of the ploughmen. In essence, the German villagers were deprived of many things and just tried to survive. The villagers complained, they went to court seeking their rights, but they were harshly dismissed. Chaktsiras himself, according to eye witnesses, came to German and spoke to the villagers: “Die of hunger; here is the lake, throw yourselves into it and escape to Serbia!!!” He would recalculate the size of the land taken from the villagers and in that he was supported by the profigi. The government was sour toward German because it was a purely Macedonian village, rebellious and uncompromising because of all of the injustices it suffered. The Greek government had plans

according to eyewitnesses from German to resettle the German villagers to “old” Greece but the Greek-Italian war occurred in 1940-41. Between the two world wars, the German residents were pro-democracy and voted in the elections for the Venizelos Liberal Party, and in 1926 for the KPG and in 1932 for the People’s Front.

According to the recollections of our people, there was a party organisation in German from 1925 comprised of about 10 people. Those people were terrorised by the regime. In 1934 another group of progressives from German, sympathisers of KPG, formed a party core of six members. The group, according to eye witnesses, spread progressive ideas, collected aid for those who were interned and for those who fought in the Spanish Civil war. During the Metaxas regime, the group fought against the Sarakatsani, the evening schools etc. However, the party was soon discovered and many of its activists were imprisoned so it seems it was passive until 1943 when it was reactivated.

During the Greek-Italian war of 1940-41, German offered around 200 participants who bravely fought together with other Macedonians defending Greece from Mussolini’s hordes. In this battle too, German bore many sacrifices. Nine people died and five were so heavily wounded that they remained invalids for the rest of their lives. Some suffered injuries from the Italian bombardments. Mussolini with this ... [section missing] ... experienced failure and from the unpleasant position in which he put Greece, withdrew at the same time his collaborator Hitler occupied Greece and Yugoslavia in April 1941.

After the capitulation of Greece, at one time, the Greek forces withdrew from German to Lerin. This event was awaited with happiness because the Greek rulers were despised. The Greek forces quickly returned but were not welcomed. They were met by



demonstrations organised by the villagers of German and Rabi who then attacked the Greek barracks in Rabi. It came to shots being fired and people were killed. With that, the Greek forces were compelled to withdraw to Lerin.

There were similar scenes with the Italian occupiers. At the end of 1942 to the start of 1943 partisans from Vardar Macedonia appeared and agitated for battle against the occupiers. The villagers from German gave whatever arms they had to the partisans. That was how the villagers from German started their collaboration and assistance for the People's Liberation Movement. In the summer of 1943, the partisan detachment Bigla came to the village. It was greeted by the villagers who gave them food, clothing, some arms and ammunition; and seven people joined the partisans. This way, the German villagers joined EAM, SNOF, AFZH, EAS, EPA, ETA and contributed a great deal. A party organisation was also formed in which the village activists worked. Those people helped save many partisans from the Bitola detachment who were forced into an insecure position. That activism was present throughout the period from 1943. A people's government was also organised in German: a people's committee with five members and a People's Court of seven members. From 1943/45 about 45 fighters took part in the movement and the resistance movement was also helped by a lot of people from the village.

In the resistance movement the Macedonians contributed a great deal along with the progressive Greek population in the battle against the reactionaries and fascism. Unfortunately, because of the wrongful politics of KPG the movement was deceived by the Varkiza Agreement so that, after liberation from fascism, a reactionary regime was returned to Greece and all of the gains from the battle were reversed. Many Macedonian fighters went to Vardar

Macedonia as a token of protest and fought under the leadership of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia and Tito.

In 1945 reactionary forces returned to German and would bring huge injustices to the villagers. The Greek forces did that with the support of the profigi and a huge number of domestic traitors.

On 28 March 1946 the Greek Civil War which ran from 1946-49 started at the call of the KPG. This war, as is known, was started under undesirable international conditions because the Second World War had just finished. And this time again, the Macedonians from Aegean Macedonia participated in a massive way at the call of the KPG hoping that they would achieve liberation. The residents from German actively joined in the battle. In 1946 a detachment of 23 fighters left German and 11 of those heroically fought an enemy that was armed to the teeth with the most modern American weaponry on Vich Mountain, Vrba, Malimadi, Gramos and other places. In 1947 German sent 134 fighters, in 1948 another 103 fighters and in 1949 another two. These are details which unambiguously speak of an imposing number of participants from just one village. This clearly shows the side that German residents supported. More than 150 residents from German were imprisoned and tortured, a large number interned on the dry and barren islands. In the period 1947/48 the reactionary Greek forces sentenced to death and shot 13 and later five more from German who were accused of participating in the movement. These sentences were carried out by sham military courts without any evidence whatsoever. This is how the Monarcho-Fascists dealt with the innocent and freedom minded population from German. Those who were imprisoned were beaten senseless and then thrown into sea water to regain consciousness and then beaten again. The accused and interned Macedonian people lived through heavens

knows what. But the Macedonians remained unbroken even after all of those sufferings and troubles because they bore all of those things stoically, because they were fighting for right. The women whose husbands were partisans suffered especially. They were hung head downwards and had smoke blown up their noses to try to make them tell where their husbands were.

*--picture --*

*Group of prisoners on the island Samotraki.*

Even pregnant women were imprisoned and women with small babies! Even young girls were imprisoned and tortured because they had taken food to their fathers and brothers – partisans! The harsh measures of the fascist rulers were worse than those under Turkish rule. But that was the destiny of the Macedonians for centuries.

German made a huge contribution to the Greek Civil War. 288 fighters from German fought in the war and of those 92 gave their lives. It is surprising that German also gave many women partisans from whom a large number left their bones on Vicho, Gramos and other battle places.

Alongside the active fighters the rest of the German villagers also contributed to the Civil War taking arms, food, digging trenches and everything else they could do that could help the movement.

In DAG many fighters from German distinguished themselves and took leading military roles. The contribution of German was huge. There was barely a family that did not lose a son, husband, daughter or another close family member. Some families lost three, two sons or lost their only son! Every house was wrapped in black. But that is what the fight for liberation is like. It seeks sacrifices.

The epilogue to the Civil War is known. In addition to the heavy sacrifices, liberation was not achieved. The war brought tragedy, new hardships, and new sufferings because our people could not remain after the defeat because later there were new persecutions and repression. As a result many German villagers spread to many Eastern European countries and also to countries beyond the oceans but most ended up in the liberated part of Macedonia in Tito's Yugoslavia. Most of the East European countries permitted our people to return to their motherlands after a request from our government. Over the next 15 years a large number of our people were able to find a home in Macedonia where for the first time they could live and work in freedom.

In the Civil War the village almost became a waste. A village of almost 640 families and about 3,500 residents became a wasteland. When the Greek rulers returned to German they stole all they could as there were almost no villagers. They found only the disabled and immobile old people who could not escape. And when those old people complained about the theft, they were slaughtered like lambs on the threshold of their houses. The Greek rulers were glad that the rebellious villagers were absent. They were glad they had achieved what they could not achieve earlier and that was to have the German villagers emigrate. Now because of the failure of the war the residents were forced to emigrate from German because they knew what was awaiting them if they were to stay. That is why there are German descendants everywhere in every meridian.

Today, many people with German background are educated and carry out responsible roles in their work places. Many have secondary, tertiary and postgraduate education. And what was it like 30 years ago? Our man could be a shepherd, ploughman, farm

labourer and nothing else. He was treated as a second class person. However, today descendants of German villagers live well and freely in comradeship in the Yugoslav community.

## **The Characteristics of German**

The most characteristic feature of German is that it is surrounded in green and varied trees in which walnuts dominate. They look like big bouquets of green hugging the village [sic]. Also noteworthy is the Stara-Reka (Old-River) which flows like a pearl necklace on the north side of the village with many waterfalls and valavnici along its length. Two smaller rivers run through the village "Gushajca" and "Neola" and at the place "Nadselo" and on the two sides of the three rivers there are spread wide pastures which, because of the water, are green and flowering over three seasons (spring, summer and autumn).

The forested hill "Elata" gives colour to the village with its varied coloured leaves and deciduous plants including pines and fir trees.

Around the village the gardens and orchards are spread, severed by boundaries and walls and various buildings and plots that are always well worked.

Under the peak of the hill "Prisoo" next to Stara Reka and above there are huts in which shepherds wintered.

If a person found himself on the hill from the eastern side of the village, he would see a panorama of the village and beyond is a beautiful passage of the beautiful Prespa Pole which ends on the banks of the two lakes.

..

The houses in the village are built in the old style ... when more accommodation was needed, a room was added or a house was built in the yard.

From various view points above the village, you can see different parts of the village:

- The new, reasonably large primary school,
- The large church Sv German with its large imposing bell tower made of carved stone
- The old little church of Sv German, with its very old architecture
- The church Sv Atanas
- The large houses with white facades of the following families – Maljanovski, Machevski, Topalovski, Chulakovski, Popovski, Nushevski, Ushlinovski and many others.

The older houses were built just in stone. On the upper levels were the bedrooms and balconies and downstairs the kitchen, keralite and tremovite. In every old house there was a room which served as a kitchen or which had a fireplace with badzha where the family cooked.

---photo---

*The old church Sv German.*

After the Turks left these parts, the villagers gained more space to live in (houses and fields).

After 1913 in the village, new, more modern houses were built with more floor area. Such houses were built first by those families that had earned money working overseas (pechalba). The new houses were made of stone, baked bricks and mortar and with well worked wood, wider windows and modern stairs sanduk.

It is thought that more than 100 years ago in German and the rest of Prespa the people wore traditional costumes similar to those in Smilevo, very colourful and elaborately embroidered. The men's and women's tops were made of white cloth and the underwear of cotton spun at home and the whole decorated with many red embroidered designs, braiding and jewellery. But because of the frequent and massive Turkish debauchery and because of the forceful conversion to Islam of many Prespa women, in grief and protest the people in Prespa began to massively wear black. The white shirts were exchanged for black. The women wore these black traditional costumes until the end of the Second World War. The younger and middle aged men began to wear European clothes.

---photo---

*Old type of village house.*

---photo ---

*New type of village house.*

----photo ---

*Village family in traditional costume.*

The residents of this village were mostly occupied with farming, tending livestock and pechalba (working overseas). A small number had trades: sawyers, wood carver, tailor, builder, blacksmith, miller, valavnichari and saddle-maker. A further small number were involved in business, having small coffee houses or shops with basic goods for the village families.

As the number of residents increased from year to year, so the villagers found better mountain land to work because the fields

on the plains were not enough to feed the whole population of the village. The plains fields were planted mostly with wheat, corn, beans, and garden vegetables and the mountain fields with rye and potatoes which were so tasty that they were known far and wide.

Because of the excellent geographic position of the atar of this village with water and grassy hills and mountains pastures, tending livestock also became a prominent occupation. That is why in this large village with many residents and a wide atar there were many domestic animals – cows, sheep, horses, donkeys, goats, pigs and poultry.

Before a large part of the village area was declared national in 1936 the number of livestock in this village was great. For example, the number of sheep alone was between 15,000 and 20,000.

*--- photo ---*

*A village family in traditional costume.*

After the wars, the number of livestock was significantly reduced and then renewed. The most catastrophic reduction was at the time of the Italian fascist occupation of Prespa in 1941-43 when the occupiers almost destroyed the livestock holdings.

Every villager spent summer in the fields... mountains... unforgettable songs... seeing many ploughmen, harvesters, mowers, woodsmen; some playing a small flute (kaval)... pleasant ambience. Pleasant also to visit the May mountain huts... happy conversations with shepherds... buying sheep milk products: yoghurt, young cheese and mature cheese, refreshing drinks – buttermilk and 'topenica' (pieces of bread, sheep's milk butter and cheese).

The grape vines of German are near Robi near the place called 'Markova Noga' near 'Viroite', 'Baro', and 'Kashanca'. They



were enough such that every house could fill their barrels with wines and rakija but when the grapes got a disease called 'filoksera' the vines dried up and because of the Second World War there was no opportunity to renew them. The gathering of the grapes presented a great holiday event because on that day, along with the hundreds of singing and happy pickers, the recently married would attend, all dressed up.

Fruit orchards were started about 5-6 years before the Second World War. This was because the old people thought it important to ensure there was bread before growing other things. Until then, there were fruit trees here and there (summer apples, pears, plums and quinces). In addition each house also had 2-3 walnut trees which grow very well in this village. The villagers ate natural fruits – raspberry, strawberries, pine nuts/ ofinka, gornici leshnik and others which grew in the village.

## **EXAMINATION**

### **Of surnames in German with the number of families in August 1949**

No.	Surname	Number of families with that surname
1.	Adzhiovski	9
2.	Arnautite	8
3.	Asencharovski	12
4.	Boglevski	12
5.	Bucajkovski	2
6.	Boshevski	5
7.	Babinkostevski	4
8.	Belevski	4

9. Vrlevski	1
10. Vlachs	11
11. Vlashki (tailor)	2
12. Vardovski	3
13. Veljanovski	5
14. Gemishovski	2
15. Golchevski	9
16. Gulevski	1
17. Grozdanovi	2
18. Grozdanovski	13
19. Gashtovi	4
20. Gerovski	2
21. Ginevski	2
22. Gligurovski	8
23. Grezhlovski	4
24. Gogarovski	2
25. Dupchinovski	6
26. Dimovski	11
27. Damovski	2
28. Dojchonovski	14
29. Durlovski	9
30. Damchevski	4
31. Drdovski	4
32. Gákovski	13
33. Endumovski	1
34. Ivanovski	
(Kajchovski)	2
35. Jankulovski	4
36. Jankovski	2
37. Janevski	3

38. Joanovski	2
39. Joevski	2
40. Kolachkovski	11
41. Kuzmanovski	8
42. Kimbilovski	1
43. Kekenovski	1
44. Kaledanovski	2
45. Kolevski	
(Kajchovski)	6
46. Kajchovski	9
47. Kostovski	2
48. Kochovski	1
49. Kiprevski	9
50. Kufalovski	13
51. Karlovski	11
52. Klashninovski	4
53. Kirinkovski	3
54. Langovski	14
55. Laovski	7
56. Lelifanovski	10
57. Maljanovski	13
58. Mlechnikovski	7
59. Madzhevski	19
60. Menchovski	10
61. Mechovski	1
62. Mechkarovski	7
63. Muchkarovski	6
64. Mladenovski	5
65. Nikini	3
66. Nikovski	17

67. Nushevski	5
68. The Nedinki	5
69. Nashojchin (Kajchovski)	3
70. Olkovski	1
71. Petkovski	19
72. Perchakliovski	43
73. The Pasinci	2
74. Popovski	18
75. The Pitropi	10
76. Pajkovski	9
77. Petkojchini	2
78. Patkarovski (Kuburovski)	1
79. Plaskovski	5
80. Pishtolovski (Kuburovski)	1
81. Petkashinovski	5
82. Peovski	1
83. Rusevski	12
84. Stojchevski	8
85. Stojchovski	10
86. Sekulovski	2
87. Sarag'ílovski	9
88. Stamkovski	3
89. Sivakovski	10
90. Stomboldzhiovski	1
91. Selimovski	1
92. Trpenovski	5
93. Topkovski	8

94.	Tanevski	7	
95.	Topalovski	14	
96.	Ushlinovski	10	
97.	Crnilazorovski	2	
98.	Cholakovski	3	
99.	Chetelevski	5	
100.	Cangarovski	1	
101.	Chulakovski	8	
102.	Dzhuklevski	9	
103.	Shapkovski	13	
104.	Shoklarovski	6	
105.	Shtrakangotovski		1

## Toponyms

In the village German, Prespa region and is village atar

1. Village squares and youth gathering places

- Crniche
- Sredselo
- Asajnca
- Poshkoec

2. Village community buildings

- New school
- Old school
- Post office
- Tower (middle of the village)

3. Church

- Sv German (old)
- Sv German new)

- Sv Atanas

4. Village springs

- Manojca
- Popovska-Cheshma
- Grozdanosko-klajche
- Sredselo (middle of the village)
- Kajchosko-Klajnche
- Kladeneco
- Kaj Kostovski
- Dimovska-Cheshma
- Na Crnicheto

5. Rivers

- Stara Reka
- Neola
- Guahajca
- Belivodska Reka
- Kevajnska Reka
- Moreshnichka Reka

6. Bridges

- Poshkoec (Lower)
- Dojchinovski (Upper)
- Shoklaroviot
- Bogleviot
- Podcrkva (Gushajce)
- Kamejnchki
- Gornimost
- Moreshnichki

- Kevajnichki
- Velivodski

7. Village district ('maala')

- Karloska
- Peoska
- Kajchoska
- Grozdanoska
- Poposka
- Dojchinovska
- Dimoska
- Nikoska
- Langoska
- Damoska (Gliguorovska)

8. Places linked to historical events

- Ramna
- Grobo
- Bigala
- Kezhaovo-Ritche

9. Places linked to legends

- Kumanka
- Dva-Brata
- Zmeojca
- Plochi

--- Photo ---

*Sred Selo.*

10. *Photo – New School.*

*Photo – New Church Sv German.*

*Photo – Popovska Cheshma.*

*Photo – Maljanovska valavnica.*

*Photo – Kajchevska Maala.*

*Photo – Bridge on Poshkoec.*

### **Toponyms in the Atar of Sv German, Prespa Region**

1 through to 161

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...

...

### **Property of Sv German found in the area around German Rabi and Medovo**

1. Kashanca
2. Barovo
3. Biroite
4. Markoa-noga
5. Slatina
6. Kopinata
7. Sharkoica
8. Sveti-Nikola

### **German [feast]Day and massive weddings held on that day**

...

*Photo – Village wedding “Navoda” (at the water).*



# ALBUM

FOR US, THE DESCENDANTS LET THE MANY FALLEN FIGHTERS IN PAST WARS AND REVOLUTION FROM THE VILLAGE OF GERMAN SERVE AS A SACRED EXAMPLE AND A MATTER FOR WHICH WE CAN BE PROUD. THEY FOUGHT FOR NATIONAL AND SOCIAL FREEDOM AND GAVE THEIR ALL, THEIR LIVES.

BY INCLUDING THEIR PHOTOS WITH SHORT BIOGRAPHIES IN THIS ALBUM WE MODESTLY PAY THEM TRIBUTE AND EXPRESS OUR DEEP RESPECT AND GRATITUDE.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

***RODENIOT GOCEV KAT***

...

Poem by Vasil Kunovski

## **SACRIFICES GIVEN BY GERMAN, PRESPA REGION FROM 1903-1949**

### **A. DURING THE ILINDEN UPRISING 1903-1908**

LEADERS (VOIVODA)

1. DAMOVSKI H PETRE – GERMANCHETO (THE LITTLE ONE FROM GERMAN)
2. GEROVSKI F NAUM (DIED LATER FROM NATURAL CAUSES)

--- *Photo* ---

*Fighters.*

3. ADZHIOVSKI S STERJO
4. GOLCHEV STOJAN
5. GROZDANOVSKI K DINE
6. GROZDANOVSKA D GELA
7. DOJCHINOVSKI N KOTE
8. DUPCHINOV K SPIRO
9. DUPCHINOV R GELE
10. JOEVSKI N RISTO
11. KAJCHOVSKI B JOVAN
12. KAJCHOVSKI MILANKO
13. KIPREVSKI R KOLE
14. MECHKAROV S STEFO
15. MADZHEVSKI T KIRE
16. MADZHEVSKI S TRAJKO
17. MENCHOV ILIJA
18. NIKOVSKI S STOJAN
19. OLKOV S STEFO
20. PEOVSKI SPIRO
21. PAJKOVSKI TRAJKO
22. POPOVSKI S VASIL
23. KARAGILOVSKI K SPIRO
24. STAMKOV S MARKO
25. TOPALOVSKI D KOLE

*PARTICIPATION OF PETRE VOIVODA*

...

...

*[POEM ON KILLING OF PETRE LEADER]*

BY GERMAN VELJANOVSKI

**B. AT THE TIME OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND  
THE GREEK-TURKISH WAR IN ASIA MINOR  
(1913-1924)**

1. BELEV N JOSHE
2. BELEV R BOGOJA
3. BOSHEV P STOJAN
4. VELJANOVSKI G NIKOLA
5. GOLCHEV R NAUM
6. KARLOVSKI D PANDO
7. MENCHOV N PETRE
8. MALJANOVSKI N KRSTIM
9. NIKOVSKI K PANDO
10. NIKOVSKI J NAKE
11. NIKOVSKI M GLIGUR
12. POPOVSKI R VASIL
13. POPOVSKI N ALEKSO
14. POPOVSKI T VASIL
15. PITROPOV M VASIL
16. PETKOV V SPASE
17. SIVAKOV M GERMAN
18. TOPALOVSKI N TODOR
19. CHULAKOV N ALEKSO
20. SHTRAKANGOLOV M PETRE

## **C. FIGHTERS FALLEN IN THE GREEK-ITALIAN WAR**

### **ASENCHAROV SOTIROV NIKOLA**

Born in 1913 in a family of many members. Father of three children. He was one of the most progressive people of his generation and he was respected and liked. Among other things, he was the only clarinet player – an amateur in the village who had his own group. He took part in the Greek–Italian War against fascism in 1940-41. He died in the Albanian mountains in 1940 while in the front line.

### **GEROVSKI STOJANOV ILIJA**

Born in 1905. Father of three children. A man of high morals and progressive ideas. He took part in the Greek Italian War in 1940-41. He died at the end of 1940 on Ivan Mountain (Albania) fighting bravely and with self-sacrifice against fascism. He was the only breadwinner for his family. At the time of the Civil War his son died as a brave partisan-fighter and his daughter died in the bombardment of the village.

### **GROZDANOV STEFOV STOJAN**

Born in 1920 to a poor family. He was the only man and sole breadwinner for his family. He was one of the most progressive youths in the village. On 28.10.1940 he was in the front line of the Greek Italian War against fascism which occurred while he was serving his compulsory military service. He died heroically in Elbasan, Albanija in 1941. He was unmarried and left no offspring.

#### DOJCHINOVSKI RISTOV FILIP

Born 1918 to a poor but revolutionary and progressive family. As a young boy he lost his parents and had to earn his own crust. He was an active fighter against fascism in the Greek Italian Wwar in 1940-41. The whole time, he fought in the front line through the Albanian mountains. He died at the end of 1940 as a 22 year old unmarried young fighter without leaving descendants.

#### KAJCHEVSKI (KOLEV) GÓRGIOV VASIL

Born in 1916. Father of one child. Progressive, diligent and respected as a man with outstanding qualities. At the start of the Greek Italian War (28.10.40) he was in the front line against fascism through the Albanian mountains where he distinguished himself as a brave fighter. He died in 1941. In DAG as a partisan his brother Mitre also died bravely.

#### KIRINKOV T MITRE

Born 1908 to a poor family but fired up and wealthy with progressive ideas. He took part in the fight against fascism in the Greek Italian War 1940-41. The Spring of 1941 in a heavy battle he was wounded and soon fell from those injuries on Albanian territory. He left behind a wife who was blind and two small children. One memento of his face is the photo as a 14-15 year old boy.

#### NUSHEVSKI FOTEV STAVRE

Born in 1920 . Father of one child. Immediately after marrying in 1939 he started military service as a cadre and the Greek Italian War started in 1940-41 against fascism. Stavre along with many other villagers from his village was sent to the front line in the Albanian

mountains. He died bravely in a heavy battle near the town of Elbasan in 1941.

#### SARAGILOVSKI STEFOV GOCE

Born in 1916. Father of three small children and the only breadwinner of his family. He was a man of many outstanding qualities, always happy and cheerful and so he was liked and respected by people. Goce gave his life fighting against fascism in the Greek Italian War 1940-41. He died bravely near the town of Elbasan (Albania) in the spring of 1941.

#### SHAPKOV NAJDOV NAUM

Born in 1917 to a family that was reasonably well off. He was a man of progressive ideas and understanding. He was respected and liked by the people. He was an active fighter in the battle against fascism in the Greek Italian War of 1940-41. He died deep in Albanian territory in a heavy battle, leaving his wife and three small children.

#### PETKOV TANASOV ANDREA

Born in 1922. Father of two children. A quiet hardworking man who was popular. He was killed by Italian fascist air fire while tending sheep on 26.7.1943 on the mountain near the village.

### **GROUP OF 13 ANTIFASCISTS AND FIGHTERS FOR NATIONAL AND SOCIAL FREEDOM FROM GERMAN, PRESIPA REGION IN LERIN, EXECUTED BY THE MONARCHO-FASCISTS.**

#### BABINKOSTOV RISTOV GERMAN

Born 1925. Father of a small child. As a progressive youth, filled with revolutionary spirit he actively worked for the NO movement

(Narodno-Osloboditelno Dvizhenje or the “People’s Liberation Movement”), undertaking many responsible, important but unlawful activities against fascism. He was imprisoned in 1946 by the Greek monarcho-fascist regime in Lerin where he was tortured. On 29.10.48 he was sentenced to death by a military court and shot on the same day as his 13 friends from the same village.

#### BOGLEV KOLEV GERMAN

Born in 1922 to a large family. He worked for the People’s Liberation movement and ELAS against fascism. He undertook various important and responsible youth functions in the village. He also undertook many responsible party tasks. He was in regular contact with the ELAS and POJ partisan groups. In November 1946 he was caught and imprisoned in Lerin and because of his activism in the People’s Liberation Movement, he was tortured and mistreated. On 29.10.48 he was sentenced to death and shot along with the 13 other fighters from his village.

#### BELEV PETKOV VASIL

Born in 1915. Father of two children. He was a man of progressive ideas because he was always followed by the Greek forces under the Metaxas dictator regime. During the time of the People’s Liberation Movement and ELAS he was an active co-operator in the rear, completing important tasks. He took part in the battle against fascism during 1940-41 in the Greek Italian War in Albania. In November 1946 he was imprisoned and sentenced to death by a military court in Lerin. He was shot on 29.10.48 along with 13 others from his village.

*POEM BY KOSTA MUNDUSHEV ABOUT GERMAN IN AEGEAN  
MACEDONIA*

...

...

IVANOVSKI (KAJCHOVSKI) GERMANOV<sup>1</sup>

Born in 1924. Father of one child. He was relatively young when he became a sympathiser of the ELAS movement and actively worked in the backroom. He was imprisoned in the autumn of 1946 and shot along with 13 others from his village on 29.10.48 by the Greek monarcho-fascists. Andrea was the only son of the family and regarded as a kind and respected man.

JANKOV RISTOV STOJAN

He was born in 1914 to a poor family. So that he could feed his family he became a saddle maker. He took part in the Greek Italian war in 1940-41. As a person with progressive and moral-politically correct qualities he was a member of the party activists in the village and undertook various functions, completing responsible tasks in the People's Liberation Movement and for ELAS at the time of the fascist occupation. He was imprisoned in Lerin in November 1946 and sentenced to death and shot on 29.10.1948 along with 13 other anti-fascists who fought with him.

JOANOV RISTOV JOSHE

Born 1929. Unmarried. He was from a poor family and because of that at a very young age he worked as a farm labourer to earn a crust. He was an active youth who undertook important tasks for the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS. He was imprisoned in

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<sup>1</sup> Some original text is missing.



autumn 1946 in Lerin where he was tortured. He was sentenced to death by firing squad on 29.10.1948 along with the 13 others from his village – fighters for freedom from the Greek monarcho-fascists. His older brother Petre died as a hero for DAG.

#### LANGOVSKI VASILOV STOJAN

Born in 1917. Father of three children. He took part in the Greek Italian War in 1940-41. He was one of the people who actively helped the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS. He was in constant contact with the outlawed activists in the village , undertaking important tasks. He was imprisoned by the monarcho-fascist Greek regime in November 1946. He was sentenced by a military court in Lerin and was shot with 13 fellow fighters on 29.10.48.

#### MECHKAROV ALEKSOV FOTE

Born in 1921. Father of two children. A progressive youth. He worked unlawfully against the fascist occupier. After the capitulation of fascist Italy, when Prespa became a liberated territory and when the first partisan groups crossed through Prespa, Fote was among the first to accept them and took the partisan songs to all the Macedonian villages. In the autumn of 1946 he was imprisoned in Lerin where he was tortured. On 29.10.48 he was sentenced to death by firing squad along with 13 others from his village.

#### MLADENOV ILIEV GERMAN

Born in 1922. He was imprisoned in autumn 1946 and was shot with 13 others from his village in Lerin on 29.10.48 because of his activism against the fascist occupier in the People's Liberation

Movement and ELAS. He was one of the most progressive youths of the village. He was married and the father of one child. By nature he was mild, quiet and hard-working and thirsty for freedom.

#### NUSHEVSKI PETREV VANGEL

Born in 1922. Father of one child, and a member of a large family. He was one of the young people from the village who held a strong desire for freedom and a better life. During the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS he undertook important tasks and, as a result, in the autumn of 1946 he was arrested and brutally tortured in the Lerin prison. On 29.10.48 he was sentenced by a military court and shot along with 13 of his friends and fellow fighters.

#### RUSEVSKI GOCHEV LAZAR

Born in 1921. Unmarried. As a youth he held revolutionary ideas and actively cooperated with the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS from 1943 against the occupier. In the autumn of 1946 he was imprisoned by the monarcho-fascists in Lerin. On 29.10.48 he was sentenced by a military court and shot with 13 others who were anti-fascist fighters from his own village and who fought for freedom and a better future.

#### TORKOV ANDREEV METODIJA

Born in 1908. Father of three children. He was among the first organisers and progressive people of the village. He took an active part in the battle against fascism in the Greek Italian War in 1940-41 and during the time of the occupation he worked illegally in the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS and undertook responsible functions including being responsible for the People's Liberation Movement for Prespa. In autumn 1946 he was arrested by the

Greek monarcho-fascist regime in Lerin where he was tortured and mistreated. On 29.10.48 he was sentenced by a military court and shot with a group of 13 antifascists from his own village.

#### CHETELEVSKI STEFOV VANGEL

Born in 1921. Father of two children. He was from a large and revolutionary and progressive family which gave three sacrifices during the People's Liberation Movement and DAG. His father Vangel as an unrelenting Macedonian was often gaoled and exiled on the barren Greek islands by the Metaxas regime. Vangel was progressive and was a well-regarded young man. During the occupation he actively helped the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS and because of this activism in the autumn 1946 he was arrested and imprisoned in Lerin and brutally tortured. On 29.10.1948 he was sentenced to death and shot along with the 13 anti-fascist fighters from his village.

#### **Notice published in the Bulletin of the DAG Headquarters**

The following notice was published following the shooting of 13 anti-fascists from German, Prespa region in Lerin, by the Greek monarcho-fascist regime:

*The evil doer Penzopoulos together with the monarcho-fascists through the military courts threw themselves on our people so as to destroy it. They made a single accusation that they were collaborators with the partisans. On 22.10.1948 the military court in Lerin sentenced 13 Macedonians, patriots from German. They were:*

- *Metodija Torkov*                      *aged 33*
- *Stojan Jankov*                        *aged 38*
- *Fote Mechkarov*                      *aged 26*

- *Andreja Ivanov*                      *aged 25*
- *Vangel Chetelev*                      *aged 25*
- *Stojan Langov*                      *aged 30*
- *Joshe Damovski*                      *aged 17*
- *Vangel Nushev*                      *aged 25*
- *German Babinkovski*                      *aged 25*
- *Pavle Karlovski*                      *aged 24*

(The soldier who escaped from the terrors and joined DAG did not recall the names of the other three.)

All 13 sentenced to death on 29.10.1948 were taken outside Lerin to the small church Sveti Nikola and shot. They held themselves with valour during the torture in the police station and also before the firing squad. Led by the patriot Metodija Torkov who was a member of the Lerin Regional People’s Committee during the time of EAM, they were cool-headed when they faced the evil monarcho-fascist rifles and they all called out “Long live DAG. It will take revenge for our blood! DAG cannot be defeated and it will be victorious! Long live DAG!”<sup>2</sup>

## **D. THE FALLEN FIGHTERS – PARTISANS IN THE GREEK CIVIL WAR**

ASENCHAROVSKI TANASOV RISTO

Born in 1916, married and a father of 2 small children. He took part in the Greek Italian war against fascism in 1940-41. He joined the Greek Civil war as a partisan in July 1947. He was a brave and

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<sup>2</sup> The DAG Bulletin quoted above wrongly names Pavle Karlovski. He was in gaol with a group of anti-fascists but was later released. Along with the nine from our village that were named there were also the following: German Boglev, Vasil Belev, German Mladenov and Lazar Rusev.

decisive fighter in the military actions of his unit. He was heavily wounded near Zagorichani, Kostur region in December 1947 and when his fellow villager and fellow fighter Mitre Saragilovski approached to help him, the two of them were mowed down by machine gun fire. His brother Bozhin died in DAG.

#### ASENCHAROVSKI TANASOV BOZHIN

Born 1927. He was a youth organiser in the Youth organisation (EPON) from 1943. He joined the Greek Civil War as a partisan at the beginning of 1947 and he took part in all the battles his unit was involved in and showed himself to be a brave and self-sacrificing fighter against the monarcho-fascist Greek regime and for the national and social freedom of his people. He died in Mechovo on 1948 as a 21 year old unmarried youth.

#### ARNAUTOVSKI MITREV GOCE

Born in 1930. Progressive and organised youth in EPON (People's Youth). As a 17 year old youth he voluntarily joined the frightening and bloody battles in the North of Greece and Aegean Macedonia as a partisan against monarcho-fascism. He died bravely on the legendary mountain Gramos in 1948. His brother Done, who was wounded as a partisan – a DAG fighter – and who was in hospital being treated, informed his parents by letter about the death of his brother Goce. The letter was published in the Bulletin of the Headquarters of DAG number 24 as follows:

*“My dear father and mother, be informed that my brother Gorgi was killed in the month of March in Greece – Pirey. Father and mother, do not weep for his death; he died fighting bravely for freedom. It is better to die with a rifle in your hand rather than live in slavery*

*under the boot of the Anglo-Americans. I plead with you not to weep; be proud because we are fighting with right on our side. The wrongdoer Truman can send as many cannonballs as he wants to the monarcho-fascists who have sold themselves to him. At the end of the day, the one who has the people with him will win. The people are with us...*

*Your son,  
Done Arnautovski”*

*28/10/48*

#### BOGLEVSKI KOLEV PETRE

Born in 1913. Father of five children. He was born to a large progressive family. He took part in the Greek-Italian war against fascism in 1940-41. At the time of the occupation he actively assisted the People’s Liberation Movement and undertook illegal tasks for it. He was an active fighter – he became a partisan in the Civil War at the start of 1947. He died while fighting bravely and with self-sacrifice in the well-known battles on Gramos toward the end of 1948. His brother German was one of the 13 anti-fascists shot in Lerin on 29.10.1948.

#### BOSHEVSKI STOJANOV NIKOLA

Born in 1918. Father of two children. He joined the Greek Italian War in 1940-41 and the People’s Liberation Movement of 1943-45 and gave a huge contribution to the battle against fascism. At the beginning of 1947 he joined the ranks of DAG and took part in many bloody battles against the Greek monarcho-fascist regime. He died in July 1948 on Klefti mountain. His father died in the Asia Minor conflict in 1921.

#### BOSHEVSKI ILIEV STOJAN

Born in 1930. As a 17 year old unmarried youth he voluntarily joined the ranks of DAG as a partisan in the Spring of 1947. His decisiveness and self-sacrifice was demonstrated in many battle actions in the well-known heavy and bloody battles against Greek monarcho-fascism. He died in 1948 on Malimadi.

#### VELJANOVSKI SPASEV MITRE

Born in 1913. He was the only man and sole breadwinner of his family. He took part in the battles against fascism in the Greek-Italian War in 1940-41. During the occupation he helped the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS in the effort against the fascist occupation. In the Greek Civil War he joined as a partisan in November 1947. He took part in many battles where he showed outstanding bravery and self-sacrifice. He died in August 1949 on Gramos.

#### VLASHKI STOJANOV VANGEL

Born in 1921. He was the father of young children. As a progressive youth he actively helped the People's Liberation movement and ELAS during the fascist occupation completing many illegal tasks. He joined DAG as a partisan in the IV Division, III Battalion, I Squadron in May 1947 and was brave and decisive as a fighter against the enemy. In a heavy battle in 1948 on the well-known mountain Gramos Vangel was wounded. He died from his wounds in 1949 on Albanian territory.

#### VLASHKIGERMANOV TANAS

Born in 1925. Father of one child. As a youth organiser in EPON he actively helped the People's Liberation Movement and he joined

DAG as a partisan on 12 June 1947. He took part in many well-known battles on Gramos. He died on 20.12.1949.

#### VLASHKI EFTIMOV AHILEA

Born 2.04.1929. Unmarried, he was from a skilled-tailor progressive family. He became a member of EPON in 1946 and voluntarily became a partisan in DAG the spring of 1947. He was a brave and decisive fighter in the battles of his 14 brigade against Greek monarcho-fascism. Ahilea always volunteered to destroy some machine gun nest, bunker or beating back an enemy line. He died on 13.02.1949 in the battles for Lerin as a student of VI class in the military school at the DAG Headquarters.

#### VLASHKI NAUMOV KRSTIN

Born in 1913 to a poor family. He actively helped and cooperated with the People's Liberation Movement against the Italian fascist occupier. Krstin opposed fascism in the Greek Italian war of 1940-41 as well. He joined the ranks of DAG in 1947 and fought actively against Greek monarcho-fascism. He was decisive in battle with his unit. He died in 1948 at Bapchor, Kostur region.

#### VRLEV RISTOV GERMAN

Born in 1907. Father of three children. He was from a poor family but was respected by everyone because of his kindly disposition. He took part in the Greek-Italian War 1940-41 against fascism. At the time of the occupation he actively helped and cooperated with the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS and with the partisan groups from Vardar Macedonia. In 1947 he joined the partisans (DAG) and took part in countless battles where he fought heroically. German would shout out when he ran at the enemy and would



shoot with his semi-automatic. He died on the mountain Klefti in July 1948.

#### GEROVSKI LAMBROV VANGEL

Born in 1930. Unmarried. Filled with the progressive ideas of his father, as a youth he became a member of the Youth organisation toward the end of 1946. In the spring of 1947 as a 17 year old partisan he voluntarily joined the ranks of the 14<sup>th</sup> brigade of DAG. He took part in the many battles that his unit was involved in with outstanding bravery and skill. He died in Ardea, Voden region, in 1948. Vangel was the only son of his family.

#### GEROVSKI ILIEV RISTO

Born 1928. Unmarried. A youth with progressive ideas. He was organised in the Youth organisation in the village. He voluntarily joined the partisans in the spring of 1947 and took part in many heavy battles against the monarcho-fascist regime where Risto showed particular skill and bravery. He died at Sheshtevo near Buka on 22.9.1947. His father died in 1940 fighting fascism on Albanian territory and his sister was sacrificed to the fascist aviation when it bombed the village in 1948.

#### GINEVA CVETKOVA TRONDA

She was born 1930. Unmarried. She was progressive and an organised youth in EPON (People's Youth Movement). She joined the partisans voluntarily in the spring of 1947 where she showed herself as an outstandingly brave fighter and medic. In the most critical and dangerous moments, she gave first aid to the wounded comrades and fellow fighters. She died in the battles near Grevena

in 1949. Her mother was killed during the bombing of the village by the enemy in 1948.

#### GREZHLOVSKI OGNENOV KIRE

Born in 1917. Father of one child. He was raised as an orphan without parents. He completed high school in Lerin where he joined the progressive intellectuals. During the Greek-Italian War against fascism he took active part in 1940-41. In March 1943 he joined the ranks of ELAS and took part in many battles in Central Greece, Epirus and Aegean Macedonia. He joined DAG in the autumn of 1946. He was always given leading military functions including major and main commander of the officers' school in Epirus. In a heavy battle on mountain Murgana, he led his unit and was heavily wounded in both legs. As such he became an invalid and was sentenced to death and shot in 1949 by the Greek monarcho-fascist regime.

#### GROZDANOVSKI MITREV GERMAN

Born in 1923. Father of one child. He was from a family with a little bit of property. As a progressive youth during the occupation he actively helped and cooperated with the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS. He joined DAG in 1947 and took part in many battles against the enemy in which he was a brave and decisive fighter. He died in December 1948 as the leader of fighters on Gramos at the place called Crno.

#### GROZDANOVSKI KRSTINOV TANAS

Born 12.10.1926. Unmarried. He actively helped the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS during the fascist occupation. In the Greek Civil War he became a partisan at the beginning of 1947. He

took part in many battles with his unit in which he distinguished himself with his self-sacrifice and daring. He died on 10.11.1948 in Ardea, Voden region.

#### GOLCHEVSKI MIJALOV KOTE

Born in 1924. Father of two children. As a young child he lost his father. He was the only son and the breadwinner in the family home. As a progressive youth he actively helped the People's Liberation Movement, ELAS and POJ. He joined DAG in 1947 and took part in many battles with his exemplary youth battalion connected to the DAG Headquarters. He was a brave and self-sacrificing fighter against monarcho-fascism seeking the national and social freedom of his people. He died at Olympus in 1948.

#### DIMOVSKI CVETKOV DONE

Born in 1912. Father of one daughter. He set off overseas to work as a migrant at a young age. Before the end of the Second World War he returned to the village of his birth and in 1940-41 he took part in the battle against fascism in the Greek-Italian War in the Albanian mountains. During the occupation he actively cooperated with the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS and joined DAG in 1947 where he bravely fought in countless battles against the Greek monarcho-fascist regime. In his last battle he was seriously wounded and he died from those wounds in an Albanian hospital.

#### DIMOVSKI KOTEV GERMAN

Born in 1914. Father of three children. He came from a progressive and revolutionary family. He took Greek powers. During the fascist occupation German actively helped and cooperated with the People's Liberation Movement, ELAS and the partisan groups from

Vardar Macedonia. He was one of the most progressive people in the village. He joined DAG in 1947 and took part in many heavy and bloody battles against Greek monarcho-fascism where he showed outstanding bravery and participation. He died in 1948 on Gramos.

#### DOJCHINOVSKI STAVREV BOGOJA

Born in 1927 to a poor but revolutionary family. During the occupation he cooperated with the People's Liberation Movement, undertaking many illegal tasks. With that activism he continued against the new Greek monarcho-fascist regime in 1945 and at the start of 1947 he voluntarily joined the ranks of DAG as a partisan. Bogoja was a daring fighter in the battles against the enemy. He died in the battles ### as a 21 year old unmarried youth, fighter and patriot.

#### DOJCHINOVSKI SPIROV GOCHE

Born in 28.10.1928 to a progressive family. Even though he was relatively young, he actively helped and cooperated with the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS undertaking illegal tasks. In 1945 he was in Bistrica, Bitola region where he became a member of the People's Youth Group of the village. At the start of 1948 he voluntarily joined the ranks of DAG and took part in many battle acts in which he distinguished himself with his bravery and decisiveness when he had to charge toward the enemy positions. Goche's battle unit was proud of Goche's example. He died toward the end of 1948 on Gramos when in his last battle he charged with his gun in his hand.

#### DURLOVA (PETKASHINOVA) NAJDOVA JANA

Born in 1918. Mother of two young children. At the time of the occupation she joined the People's Liberation Movement and from 1945 DAG. An active fighter in the Greek Civil War, she joined the partisans on ### and bravely fought shoulder to shoulder with fellow fighters. On top of that her task was to bring food and drink. She did that even during critical battle moments. She died in the battles on Malimadi in 1948.

#### DURLOVSKI DONEV KOTE

Born in 1930. He came from a poor but progressive family. A youth with progressive ideas and a member of the youth organisation EPON. He joined DAG in spring 1947 and took part in many battles against the monarcho-fascist enemy. Kote was always a decisive and brave fighter in all the battle actions of his unit and as such he was highly regarded by his colleagues and comrades and fellow fighters. He died bravely at Falcata, Kostur 1948 as an 18 year old unmarried young fighter.

#### DUPCHINOVSKI LAZAROV PANDO

Born in 1913. He was an active fighter against fascism in the Greek Italian War 1940-41 and during the occupation and was an active outlaw in the People's Liberation Movement. He joined DAG in the spring of 1947 and took part in countless battles against the monarcho-fascist Greek regime. He was a decisive fighter in the pursuit of the social freedom of his people. He died in the battles for the town of Voden in 1948.

#### GÁKOVSKI KRSTINOV SARAF

Born in 1910. Father of five small children. A man with kind and progressive ideas. Always skilled, passionate and smiling, even in the most difficult moments he tried to create a happy atmosphere. He took part in the battle against fascism in the Greek Italian War 1940-41. During the occupation he helped the People's Liberation Movement, undertaking many illegal but responsible tasks. He continued with that activism and in 1945 helping DAG in the Greek Civil War. He joined the partisans on 15.10.1947 and showed himself to be a skilled and decisive fighter against the dangerous enemy – monarcho-fascism. He died on 15.10.1948 in the place Sheshtevo-Buka on Vicho.

#### GÁKOVSKI DONEV VANGEL

Born in 1927. Unmarried. As a youth with progressive ideas he actively helped the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS. As a result of his activism he was arrested, tortured and mistreated by the Greek monarcho-fascist regime in Lerin. After the amnesty, Vangel voluntarily joined the ranks of DAG as a partisan and took part in many battles against the enemy, in which he distinguished himself as a daring and decisive fighter for freedom. In one such battle he was captured by the enemy in 1948 and taken to Solun and shot.

#### GÁKOVSKI NAKEV PAVLE

Born in 1930. Unmarried. A passionate and progressive youth. He was the only son. He was organised in the People's Youth (EPON). He joined DAG voluntarily in the spring of 1947. He took part in the frightening and bloody battles of Gramos in which he was one of the most daring and brave young fighters. At the end of 1947, he was

heavily wounded and on the road to the hospital he died from his wounds.

#### JOANOV RISTOV PETRE

Born in 1916 to a poor family. Father of three children. He was rich with ideas and the desire for national and social freedom for his suffering people. He took active part in the battle against fascism in the Greek Italian War 1940-41. At the time of the occupation he was an active outlaw in the People's Liberation Movement, cooperating and undertaking important and responsible tasks for the activists and partisan groups from Lerin and Bitola (ELAS and POJ) which at that time crisscrossed Prespa. In the spring of 1946 he voluntarily joined the ranks of the Prespa partisan units with DAG and took part in the first battle against the burandarite on Vrba mountain. After that, Petre took part in many bloody battles in Northern Greece, Epirus and Aegean Macedonia where he was one of the most decisive and bravest fighters. He fell heroically as the leader of his unit during the advance on Alevica on 28.8.1948.

#### KAJCHOVSKI NAUMOV VANGEL

Born in 1926 to a progressive and revolutionary family. At the time of the occupation in 1943 he became a member of the People's Youth (EPON) and actively helped the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS. Vangel continued with that activism during the monarcho-fascist Greek regime in 1945 helping the organisation of DAG. In the spring of 1947 he voluntarily joined the partisans in the Dzhavela battalion where he undertook courier functions because of his particular agility and willingness. In a battle on Trsjanski Mountain he was captured by the monarcho-fascist army and imprisoned in Lerin. In an attempt to escape with his fellow

villager Krstin Muchkarov with the aim to join DAG again, on 26.2.1948 he was shot getting through the enemy fortifications. His cousin Done was killed in DAG.

#### KAJCHOVSKI BORISOV DONE

Born in 1929. He was from a family of progressive and revolutionary ideas. As a 16 year old youth, in November 1945 he was gaoled in Lerin by the monarcho-fascist forces following an accusation that he had taken food and arms to the partisans. After being released from gaol, he continued to work for DAG and in the spring of 1947 he voluntarily joined the partisans and was sent to the youth battalion of the DAG Headquarters. During the taking of the hill "Plakes" near Greek Konitsa in Epirus, as always, Done volunteered to destroy a bunker. He was mowed down by enemy machine gun fire on 26.12.1947 along with a fellow fighter from Solun.

#### KAJCHEVSKI (KOLEV) GORGIEV MITRE

Born 1922. Father of two children. During the time of the occupation he actively cooperated with the People's Liberation Movement, undertaking illegal activities. Mitre continued with that activism in 1945-46 during the monarcho-fascist Greek regime. He joined DAG in the spring of 1947 and fought bravely in the heavy battles of Northern Greece and Aegean Macedonia. He died in 1948 on Malimadi. Those fighters who survived him said he was a partisan of outstanding bravery and willingness to be involved.

#### KAJCHEVSKI (NASHOJCHIN) SARAFOV VASIL

Born in 1931. Unmarried. He voluntarily joined DAG in the spring of 1947. He took part in many heavy battles against the monarcho-fascist Greek regime. Vasil always distinguished himself with bravery



and decisiveness in all battle actions. In one heavy and bloody battle he was wounded and placed in the hospital on Gramos and when the hospital was bombed by the enemy aviation in 1948 he was again badly wounded and soon died from his injuries.

#### KARLOVSKA NATEVA DOSTA

Born in 1926. Unmarried. A progressive and organised young woman in the People's Youth. She joined the ranks of DAG voluntarily in the spring of 1947 as a partisan, where she was a medic, helping fellow fighters when they were injured on the front line. She was also brave and decisive in battle actions in her unit against the enemy. She died in Gramos in 1948.

#### KIRINKOV DINEV TANAS

Born 1921. Unmarried. He was from a poor family but notwithstanding that, he was one of the most progressive youths in the village. At the time of the occupation he actively cooperated and undertook illegal responsible tasks for the People's Liberation Movement, ELAS and POJ with the outlaws from Lerin, Bitola and Resen regions. When the Aegean Macedonian brigade crossed to Vardar Macedonia, Tanas joined and took part in the last battles against the Germans in Tetovo, Gostivar, Kichevo and Debar where he showed outstanding bravery and skill. Worn out by his many years of outlaw activity (courier) and heavy battles against the enemy, he became sick in February 1945 and died in Gostivar.

#### KUZMANOVSKI MITREV ILIJA

Born in 1920. Father of three small children. He was from a progressive and revolutionary family. He took part in the battle against fascism in the Greek Italian War 1940-41. His father was

often imprisoned for taking part in every action connected to political events in Greece and was exiled to the barren Greek islands as an undesirable person by the regime and as an unrelenting Macedonian. During the occupation, Ilija was one of the first illegal and active collaborators with the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS.

#### KOLACHOVSKI VASILOV STOJAN

Born in 1923. One of the most effective and brave fighters wherever he fought as a partisan in the Greek Civil War. Although relatively young he voluntarily joined the Prespa partisan detachment and took part in the first battle against the monarcho-fascist Greek regime on Vrba Mountain. He also took part in all the bloody battles with his unit where he showed unheard of bravery and skill. In August 1949, because he could not reconcile himself to the monarcho-fascists trampling his own Prespa, he directed his own line to meet the modern and well-armed enemy assisted by the imperialists and he himself shot and killed enemy soldiers shouting: "While I live, you will not trample Prespa!" On Preval, he died. After his death, Stojan was promoted to captain of DAG.

#### KOLACHKOVSKI ANDREEVA ELENA

Born in 1921 and mother of one child. At the time of the occupation, she actively helped the People's Liberation Movement and in 1945-46 and the organisation of DAG. She became a DAG partisan fighter in 1947 and took part in many battles against the monarcho-fascist enemy. As a woman fighter with a gun in her hand, she was the first to help the wounded comrades, fellow fighters. She died in February 1949 in the battles for Lerin. Her husband Stojan died heroically as a DAG lieutenant on Preval in August 1949.

#### KIPREVSKI VASILOV GOCHE

Born in 1925. Unmarried. The only record of his face is his photo as a 5-7 year old child while his face as a 23 year old fearless partisan-fighter remains only in the memory of his fellow fighters and all those who knew Goche. He joined the ranks of DAG in 1947, 14<sup>th</sup> brigade and took part in many battle actions where he showed himself to be an outstanding and brave fighter. He died at "Kolanche" on 3.8.1948.

#### KIPREVSKI DIMOV STOJAN

Born in 1917 to a very poor family. He took part in the battle against fascism in the Greek Italian War in 1940-41. A sympathiser and collaborator with the People's Liberation Movement during the occupation. He joined DAG in 1947 and took part in the frightening and bloody battles against the monarcho-fascist Greek regime where he distinguished himself with his willingness to fight and self-sacrifice. He died in 1948 in the battles near the town of Negosh.

#### KOLACHKOVSKI PETREV SPASE

Born in 1927. Unmarried. He was very young when he became a member of EPON and belonged to the People's Liberation movement. In June 1947 he joined the ranks of DAG in the Polinikos battalion. He took part in the frightening battles of Vicho, Sinjachko and Kajmachkalan. In a charge on the bunkers near the village of D. Kleshtin in June 1948 Spase is fatally shot by an enemy bullet and with that a young Macedonian life is extinguished, one that was thirsty for the national and social freedom of his own people.

#### KUFALOVSKI GLIGUROVA VASILKA

Born in 1929. Unmarried. She was from a progressive family. She actively helped and cooperated with the People's Liberation Movement against the fascist occupation. She was a member of the youth organisation in the village. In the spring of 1947 she voluntarily joined the ranks of DAG as a partisan and took part in countless battles against the enemy where she distinguished herself as outstandingly brave and decisive. She fought shoulder to shoulder with the men but also had to offer first aid to any fellow fighters who were injured. She did that in the most dangerous moments of her life. She died in the last battles on Perovo, Prespa in August 1949.

#### KUFALOVSKI DONEV LAMBRO

Born in 1915 to a progressive family. Father of three children. He took part in the battles against fascism in the Greek-Italian War of 1940-41. During the time of the occupation he actively helped and cooperated with the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS. While the Greek monarcho-fascists governed (1945-46), he actively helped and worked in DAG. In the middle of 1947 he voluntarily joined the partisans and took part in the heroic march on Olympus of the VI brigade of DAG. Lambro was a brave and decisive fighter for freedom. He died in February 1948.

#### LANGOVSKI NIKOLOV KOTE

Born in 1929 in a progressive and revolutionary family. An organised youth in EPON from 1943. He actively helped the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS during the fascist occupation. He joined DAG voluntarily as a partisan June 1947 and took part in many heavy and bloody battles against the monarcho-fascist enemy

where he distinguished himself with his self-sacrifice and heroic actions in all the battles of his well-known Ipsilanti battalion. He died as an 18year old fighter at Mechovo, Katara in November 1947.

#### LANGOVSKI RISTOV MITRE

Born in 1928. Unmarried. He was a sympathiser and active collaborator in the People's Liberation Movement against the fascist occupier. With the onset of Greek monarcho-fascism, the terror and torture of our people began afresh. For that reason Mitre, in the spring of 1947, voluntarily joined the ranks of DAG as a partisan. He took part in many battles against the enemy in which he distinguished himself with his bravery and close involvement. He died bravely in December 1948 near the Karadzhova baths.

#### LANGOVSKI LAZAROV TRAJKO

Born in 1926. Father of one child. As a youth he was organised into the youth organisation in the village and worked for the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS against the occupier. In 1947 he voluntarily joined the ranks of DAG fighting for the national and social freedom of his people. He took part in frightening and bloody battles against the dangerous enemy of his people and showed outstanding battle skill and bravery. He died in 1948 in the well-known battles on Gramos.

#### LAOVSKI PAVLEV ILIJA

Born in 1917. Father of three small children. His years-long battle against fascism in the Greek-Italian War of 1940-41, in the People's Liberation Movement, ELAS and DAG (1941-45 and 1946-48) is an example of bravery, self-sacrifice and daring. Ilija was one of the countless loyal sons of our people who gave their lives fighting for

national and social freedom. He died 19.08.1948 on Bela Voda near his village following a charge by balistichki bandi escaped from Yugoslavia.

#### MADZHEVSKI KIREV VASIL

Born in 1927. Unmarried. He was from a progressive and revolutionary family. As a progressive youth he actively helped the People's Liberation Movement. In the autumn of 1946 he was imprisoned by the monarcho-fascist Greek regime where he was tortured. After his release from prison at the beginning of 1947 he joined the ranks of the people's police of DAG and took part in many battles in which he distinguished himself with exceptional bravery and strength. He died on Bigla Mountain on 28.5.1948.

#### LELIFANOVSKI DONEV BOGOJA

Born in 1924. Unmarried. As a progressive youth with high moral and progressive ideas he actively helped and cooperated with the People's Liberation Movement and in 1943 he became a member of the youth organisation of the village. In October 1945 he was arrested by the Greek monarcho-fascist regime in Lerin where he was tortured. After his release from gaol Bogoja again collaborated with the partisan groups and the movement opposed to the regime. In the spring of 1947 he voluntarily joined DAG where he always bravely fought against the enemy in the battles on Voden, Negosh and other places. He died on Vicho on 15.4.1949. He is buried above the village Konomlati with all the honoured fighters. He was posthumously recognised as a hero by the DAG Headquarters.

#### MADZHEVSKI KOTEV MITRE

Born in 1917. Father of three small children. He was from a wealthy family. He took part in the battle against fascism in the Greek Italian War of 1940-41. During the time of the occupation he cooperated with the People's Liberation Movement. He joined the ranks of DAG in the Greek Civil War as a partisan in 1948 and took part in countless heavy battles against the enemy in which he distinguished himself with his decisiveness and high level of involvement. He died at Chernoe on Gramos in 1949.

#### MADZHEVSKI STEFOV MITRE

Born in 1929. Feeling the terror that he and his people were subjected to by the Greek monarcho-fascist regime (1945-46), in the spring of 1947 he joined the ranks of DAG. He took part in the heavy battles against the enemy to gain national and social freedom. He distinguished himself with his fearlessness and bravery. He died at Buka, Kostur in 1948.

#### MECHKAROV ALEKSOV STEFO

Born in 1929. Unmarried. As a progressive youth he actively helped the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS during the fascist occupation. With the declaration of various organisers of NOD as illegal along with the first Macedonian partisan groups in Prespa, they took up the first Macedonian partisan songs and he was one of those who quickly learned them and, singing, he taught the songs to the others. He joined DAG in 1947 and took part in many battles against the monarcho-fascist enemy where he distinguished himself as an outstanding and brave fighter. Even in the heaviest battles while he was shooting at the enemy, he sang Macedonian partisan songs. He died on Visho mountain in 1948

#### MUCHKAROV NOACHEV KRSTIN

Born in 1912. Father of three children. He was from a poor family. One of the most progressive people in the village and as such the Greek police often kept an eye on him. During the occupation he actively worked for the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS, undertaking illegal tasks for the members of the Communist Party of the village. He carried messages and other illegal material. He cooperated with the partisan groups in Prespa and agitated for people to join NOD in large numbers. In 1946 he was imprisoned in Lerin where he was tortured. In 1948 he was released on conditions. On 26.2.1948 he tried to leave Lerin and to join DAG along with his fellow villagers Vangel Kajchovski but as soon as he passed the barbed wire, he was spotted and shot.

#### NUSHEVSKI PETREV BOGOJA

Born in 1925.unmarried. He was from a poor and large family but he was rich with progressive ideas and was thirsty for national and social freedom. Bogoa was organised in EPON and in 1947 he joined DAG as a partisan. He distinguished himself as a brave fighter in all of the battles where his unit fought. He died on the legendary mountain Gramos in 1949. His brother Vangel was one of the 13 antifascists from our village that were shot in Lerin.

#### NUSHEVSKI FOTEV TRIFUN

Born in 1924. Father of one child. A progressive youth who actively helped the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS during the occupation. When the first partisan DAG groups were organised in 1946 Trifun actively helped, undertaking important tasks and taking them food and arms. In 1947 he voluntarily joined the ranks of DAG as a partisan and took part in many battles where he distinguished



himself with his skill and decisiveness. In one heavy battle he was badly wounded and on the road to the hospital he died from his wounds. His brother died bravely in the battle against fascism in the Greek Italian War 1940-41.

#### NEDINKIN ALEKSOV ILIJA

Born in 1924. Unmarried. He was a youth with progressive ideas and a member of the village youth organisation. In the Spring of 1947 he voluntarily joined the ranks of DAG and fought bravely against Greek monarcho-fascism and for the national and social freedom of our tortured Macedonian people. He died in the battle at the village Nestram, Kostur 1949.

#### NIKOVSKI LAMBROV RISTO

Born in 1920. Unmarried. He joined DAG in 1947. He took part in many heavy and bloody battles against the burandari in which Risto demonstrated his self-sacrifice and decisiveness as a true fighter-partisan. His battle path was cut short by an enemy bullet near the village Chereshnica, Kostur on 22.9.1947 and he was the first fighter sacrificed from the village in the Greek Civil War.

#### NIKOVSKI VANCHOV TANAS

Born in 1929. Unmarried. In the spring of 1947 he joined the ranks of DAG voluntarily and bravely and decisively fought against Greek monarcho-fascism. He always volunteered to be in the front line in a charge and attacks by his unit. He died bravely on Vicho mountain in 1948.

### NIKIN MIJALOV JOSHE

Born in 1908. Father of three children. He took part in the battle against fascism in the Greek Italian War of 1940-41. During the occupation he actively helped the People's Liberation Movement. He continued his illegal tasks and to help the first partisan groups of DAG in 1946. In 1947 he joined the ranks of DAG as a partisan where he took part in countless bloody and heavy battles against the dangerous Greek monarcho-fascist regime with the hope that, after victory, there would be national freedom for his Macedonian people. Joshe was a brave and decisive fighter. He died at the end of August 1949 on Perovo, Prespa region.

### PAJKOVSKA SOTJANOVA GERMANIJA

Born in 1931. Unmarried. She was from a progressive family. Filled with a desire for national freedom, as was her father, she actively joined the resistance against the monarcho-fascist Greek regime. So at the end of 1947 she, along with her father and his brother, her uncle, worked in the blacksmiths meeting the needs of the partisans and working on various metal objects. In 1948 she voluntarily joined the artisans where she fought shoulder to shoulder with her fellow fighter-partisans. In one heavy battle she was captured as a wounded fighter. The next day, still not recovered from her wounds, she was pulled out of hospital and dragged through the streets of Lerin, tied to a truck, to frighten the population. From this, Germanija from the village of German, Prespa region, died.

### KOVACHKA

--POEM--

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#### PAJKOVSKI RISTOV MITRE

Born in 1924. Unmarried. As a youth with progressive ideas he actively helped the People's Liberation Movement during the occupation and in 1944 he crossed over to Yugoslavia and took part in NOB together with the Macedonian Aegean brigade. In 1946 he returned to his home village and joined the Prespa partisan detachment and in other units of DAG where he bravely fought for national and social freedom of his people from the monarcho-fascism. He died bravely near Greek Konitsa, Epirus in 1947.

#### PAJKOVSKI TRAJKOV TANAS

In 1927. Unmarried. He joined DAG in the spring of 1947 and took part in many battles against the monarcho-fascist Greek regime. He distinguished himself with his outstanding skill and bravery in the heavy battles against the enemy. Because of his outstanding ability and close involvement he was always where there was a need. In a battle at Kalugerica, Tanas was captured and immediately shot.

#### PETKOV TANASOV KOTE

Born in 1914. Father of five children. He took part in the fight against fascism in the Greek Italian War of 1940-41. He was a sympathiser and collaborator of the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS during the occupation. He joined DAG as a partisan in 1947 in 103 brigade. He fought with bravery and self-sacrifice against the monarcho-fascist Greek regime and for national and social freedom of his own Macedonian people. He died with other fighters in Sorovich in 1949.

#### PETKASHINOV GERMANOV STOJAN

Born in 1925. Unmarried. During the fascist occupation he actively helped the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS. As a 17 year old fighter he voluntarily joined the first Macedonian Aegean Brigade which operated in Vardar Macedonia against the Germans and the Balisti in 1944-45. After liberation from fascism Stojan served in JNA and in the spring 1946 he returned to his village and joined the ranks of DAG, from desetar he was promoted to pol. Komesar of the battalion and took part in many battles against Greek monarcho-fascism on Vrba, Malimadi, Vicho, Kajmachkalan, Sinjachko, Gramos and other places. Everywhere he distinguished himself with his military involvement and bravery and self-sacrifice. He died a hero in the spring of 1948 on Sinjachko. Stojan was the only son and man of his family and the breadwinner for his family.

#### PITROPOV FOTEV MITRE

Born in 1922. Father of two children. He joined DAG in 1947 and in all the battles against the monarcho-fascist enemy he was a decisive and fearless fighter. He died in the battles for Voden at the end of 1948. As a person he was quiet and hard-working but thirsty for national freedom and justice for his own Macedonian people.

#### POPOVSKI MITREV ALEKSO

Born in 1925. Father of one child. In the spring of 1947, he became an active fighter-partisan in the Greek Civil War. He fought bravely and with self-sacrifice in many battles against the enemy for the national and social freedom of his people. He fell while fighting bravely during the legendary battle on Gramos in 1949.

#### POPOVSKI LAZAROV MIJALE

Born in 1924. Married. He actively helped the People's Liberation Movement and ELAS during the occupation. Feeling again the terror and torture by the Greek monarcho-fascist Greek regime over his people, in 1945-46 Mijale actively cooperated with the first partisan groups of DAG and in 1947 he became a partisan where he distinguished himself as a brave and daring fighter against the enemy in the heavy battles of his unit. He died in the renowned bloody battles on Gramos in 1948.

#### POPOVSKI SOTIROV KOLE

Born in 1930. Unmarried, he actively cooperated with the organising of DAG. As a member of the village youth organisation he voluntarily joined the ranks of DAG in the spring of 1947 and took part in the bloody and frightening battles against monarcho-fascism where he showed himself to be an outstanding and decisive fighter in the battles in Northern Greece and Aegean Macedonia. He died bravely in 1948.

#### RUSEVSKI MITREV TANAS

Born in 1930. Unmarried. He voluntarily joined the ranks of DAG on 10.09.1947 as a part of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> brigade. He took part in the battles on Malimadi, Sinjachko, Gramos, Furka, Vicho, Lerin and other places. He was a part of special units – shmajceristi – diverzanti. He was injured a few times and then, after healing, returned to the battles against the Greek monarcho-fascist enemy army. For his services, he was promoted to lieutenant of DAG. He died bravely in the well-known bloody battles on Gramos in 1949.

#### SARAGILOVSKI ILIEV MITRE

Born in 1922. Father of one child. The only son and father, the bread winner of the family because his father was away overseas working for many years. Mitre was a progressive and hot tempered youth. During the occupation he was working far from his own village. He joined DAG in 1947 and took part in the battles against the monarcho-fascist enemy army in many places near Epirus and Aegean Macedonia where he showed exceptional courage and wisdom. He died in December 1947 in Zagorichani, Kostur, when we went to help his heavily wounded fellow villager Risto Asencharov.

#### SIVAKOVSKI LAMBROV TRAJKO

Born 1926. Unmarried. At the age of 18 in the autumn of 1944 he voluntarily joined the ranks of the First Aegean Macedonian Udarne brigade of NOV which operated against the fascist occupier and its slaves on the territory of Vardar Macedonia. In 1947 Trajko returned to his village and joined the ranks of DAG. He took part in (text missing)

#### SEKULOVSKI TANASOV SIMO

Born in 1928. Unmarried. As a progressive and organised youth, he actively helped in the organisation of the revolution against the Greek monarcho-fascism. He voluntarily joined DAG in spring 1947 and showed himself to be brave in all the battles his unit took part in. He volunteered to undertake diversionary actions behind the enemy lines. He died in the renowned battles on Gramos in 1948.

#### TANEV PAVLEV DONE

Born in 1879. During the time of occupation he was a sympathiser and helped the NO movement. He continued his activism and during

the Greek Civil War giving selfless assistance and moral and material support to DAG. He was shot by the monarcho-fascist Greek soldiers when they entered the village at the end of the war in August 1949.

#### TOPALOVSKI MIJALOV JOSHE

Born in 1912. He joined the battle against fascism in the Greek-Italian War of 1940-41. After that he actively cooperated with the NO movement and later in DAG; in 1947 he became a partisan fighter. Joshe took part in many battles against the burandi and he distinguished himself as a very wise and courageous fighter. He died bravely at the place Bogacko (Sinjako).

#### TOPALOVSKI ILIEV MITRE

Born in 1926. Unmarried. The only son of a progressive family. His father was a progressive and nepokorliv Macedonian and for a full 10 years (1945-55) lay in Greek prisons and camps on the barren Greek islands. In the spring of 1943 Mitre became a member of the youth organisation in the village and actively assisted the NO movement and later DAG, undertaking responsible tasks for the movement. In the spring of 1947 he voluntarily joined the 18<sup>th</sup> brigade of DAG as a partisan. He distinguished himself with his extraordinary bravery and courage in the battles with the enemy. He died in Malimadi at the beginning of 1948.

#### USHLINOVSKI STOJANOV ALEKSO

Born in 1930. Unmarried. As an only child and the only male in the family, as a young boy he took on the responsibility for the assets and the house. His father was away working in America for many years. Although relatively young, Alekso was a sympathiser and helped the NO movement during the occupation. In the spring of

1947 he voluntarily joined the ranks of DAG. He took part in many frightening and bloody battles against the enemy in which he particularly distinguished himself with his heroic and courageous actions. He died at the end of 1947 at the place Mechovo.

#### USHLINOVSKI KRSTANOV VANGEL

Born in 1930. Unmarried. In 1946 he actively assisted the first partisan groups of DAG in the Greek Civil War and in the spring of 1947 he voluntarily joined DAG. He joined in many battles against the monarcho-fascist enemy where he distinguished himself with his youthful bravery and courage. He died in 1948 in the heavy battles on the legendary mountain Gramos.

#### CHETELVSKI STEFOV NIKOLA

Born 1913. Father of two children. He came from a large progressive and revolutionary family. His father Stefo was imprisoned during every movement and political events. Nikola was one of the most progressive people in the village. He was always liked by his group but he was intolerant of injustice and slavery. He participated in the battle against fascism in the Greek Italian War 1940-41. During the occupation in the NO movement he undertook responsible tasks with the outlaws of KPG and KPJ. Kole voluntarily joined the ranks of the Aegean Macedonian Brigade of ELAS and participated in all of its battles in Aegean Macedonia and Vardar Macedonia. On 19 July 1946 he joined the Prespa partisan ranks of DAG and fought in all its well known battles on Vrba, Malimadi, Vicho, Sinjako, Hasja, Epir, Murgana. In February 1949 he died heroically at "Porta" on Gramos. The Chetelevski family gave two other sacrifices – brother and nephew.



#### CHETELEVSKI RISTOV CVETKO

[text missing]

Born 1926. Unmarried. He came from a progressive and revolutionary family. Actively helped the NO movement and ELAS and was in the youth organisation from 1943. From autumn 1946 he participated and helped with the organisation of the first partisan groups on DAG in Prespa and he got them food and arms. He voluntarily joined DAG as a partisan – a fighter in the spring of 1947 and participated in many heavy battles against Greek monarcho-fascism. Cvetko distinguished himself with his ### spirit , bravery and self sacrifice. He died ## Karadzova in 1948.

#### DZHUKLEV VASILOV KOTE

Born in 1921. Father of one child. During the occupation, he actively helped the NO movement and ELAS. He joined DAG at the beginning of 1947 and participated in many battles against the Greek monarcho-fascism where he distinguished himself with his decisiveness and bravery. He died on 25.10.1947 in the well-known battles at the village Samarina (Epirus).

#### SHAPKOV RISTOV PAVLE

Born 5.06.1925. Unmarried. Only child. He came from a progressive and revolutionary family. His father as a staunch Macedonian who constantly fought against the Greek government and was often imprisoned. Even though relatively young, he actively helped the NO movement and ELAS. In August 1944 he voluntarily joined the partisans of the udarna Aegean Macedonian Brigade of ELAS. In October of the same year he moved to a brigade in Vardar Macedonia and took part in the battle on the bridge Kalenik against the Germans in ### Balistete. After that, Pavle joined the 17th

Macedonian Brigade for the liberation of Yugoslavia which operated in Eastern Macedonia. At the end of 1946 he voluntarily joined the ranks of DAG in various units where he bravely fought against the Greek monarcho-fascist throughout Aegean Macedonia. Before his death he was in the cheta on Chapata. He died heroically at Orla on Gramos in March 1948.

## **SACRIFICES FROM THE BOMBING OF THE VILLAGE BY THE MONARCHO-FASCIST AIR FORCE**

### **VELJANOVSKI ILIEV STEFO**

Born 1876 . A fighter in the Ilinden uprising. By nature he was quiet and as such was highly regarded by the people. During the fascist occupation he helped the NO movement and lived to enjoy liberation from fascism. However, quickly after that, the enemy took over – the Greek monarcho-fascists who imposed themselves on our villagers and began arrests because of their anti-fascist activism. The new regime did not spare the family of Veljanovski. Stefo died in the first bombing of the village by the monarcho-fascist air force in the summer of 1947 when he was working on his land on the mountain.

### **GINEVA VANGELOVA RISTOSIJA**

Born in 1902. Mother of one child. Died in the bombing of the village by the monarcho-fascist air force in March 1948. Her daughter Tronda died bravely in the Civil War as a partisanska.

### **GEROVSKA ILIEVA TRONDA**

Born in 1933. Unmarried. Progressive organised youth of EPON. Died in the bombing by the monarcho-fascist air force in March

1948. Her father died bravely fighting against fascism in 1940-41 and her brother as a partisan in DAG.

PETKOVSKA STOJA (PANDOJCA)

Born 1903. Mother of one child. Died in the bombing of the village by the Greek monarcho-fascist air forces in March 1948.

## **DEATHS OF VILLAGERS FROM VARIOUS REASONS**

PITROPOV VASILOV GERMAN

Born in 1916. Father of one child. A participant in the battle against fascism in the Greek-Italian War of 1940-41. During the occupation he actively cooperated with NO movement and ELAS. Because of his activism, in autumn 1945 he was imprisoned by the monarcho-fascist regime in Lerin and then taken to the camp “Gúra”, which was notorious for being a camp in which there were thousands of progressive patriots including many Macedonians, among them people from German. German stayed in that camp until 1948. Immediately after that he was mobilised by the monarcho-fascist army. As a progressive patriot thirsty for national freedom he illegally connected himself to DAG. In March 1949 his cooperation was spoken of by the burandi and in Sorovich he was shot at the same time as his fellow villager, Bozhin Shapkov.

SHAPKOV CVETKOV BOZHIN

Born in 1912. Married. Active participant in the battle against fascism in the Greek-Italian War 1940-41. In the time of the occupation he actively cooperated and helped the NO movement and ELAS. As a result of that he was imprisoned in Lerin and was then sent to the camp “Gura” by the monarcho-fascist regime. After

the 1948 amnesty he was mobilised to the Greek monarcho-fascist army. However, he found a way together with his fellow villager to illegally cooperate with DAG. In March 1949 his cooperation with DAG was discovered and he was summarily shot along with his fellow villager, German Pitropov by the monarcho-fascist army.

#### KIPREVSKI STEFOV RISTO

Born 1920. Father of 2 children because of his sympathies and cooperation with NO movement and ELAS during the 1945 occupation he was imprisoned in Lerin. During the amnesty he was still in Lerin in 1949 and is mobilised as a civilian to work in support of the defence against attacks from DAG in R'mensko. This is where Risto died together with his neighbour Risto Tanev.

#### TANEV JOSHEV RISTO

Born in 1914. Married. In October 1945 he was locked up in Lerin by the monarcho-fascist regime because of his anti-fascist activities. He was an active fighter against fascism in the Greek Italian War in 1940-41 and an active member of the NO movement and ELAS during the occupation. After his liberation from prison, while still in Lerin in 1949 he was forced to go to work for the enemy in R'mensko to defend against attacks from DAG.

#### LAOVSKI KOLEV GERMAN

Born 1926. The only son of his family. At the time of the fascist occupation he helped NOD. In 1946/47 he spent time in Yugoslavia and in April/May he joined the workers action "Shamac-Saraevo". In May 1947 he returned to the village of his birth and joined the 103 brigade of DAG and joined the battle against the monarcho-fascist

regime. In October 1948 he found himself on the enemy side in a heavy battle but the details are not known.

#### JANKULOVSKI JOANOV NAUM

Born 1926 to a poor family. During the occupation he was a sympathiser of NOD and actively helped it. In the spring of 1947 he joined the ranks of DAG as a partisan and fought in many battles with his unit against the enemy. In unknown circumstances he found himself on the enemy side in a battle toward the end of 1948.

#### PETKOV FILIPOV LAMBRO

Born in 1926 to a poor family. During the occupation he actively helped NOD and later DAG. In spring 1947 he joined the ranks of DAG as a partisan. During a very heavy battle he found himself on the enemy side and was sent to fight against his own brothers but the details of how this occurred are unknown.

#### GÁKOVSKI LAZAROVA SOFIJA

Born I 1906. Mother of 3 children. Actively helped in the NO movement during the occupation and DAG during the Civil War. A member of AFZH in 1943-45 and from 1946/49. She died at the end of the Civil war in 1949 but details are unknown.

#### GÁKOVSKA JOANKA (DONEJCA)

Born 1890. Mother of four children. She actively helped in the NO movement during the occupation and DAG during the Civil War. She died at the end of the Civil War but the details are not known.

#### GASHTOV RISTOV EFTIM

Born in 1910. A part of the Greek Italian War against fascism in 1940/1 and a sympathiser and collaborator in the NO movement. He joined DAG as a partisan in 1947 and was an active fighter against the enemy. He died in 1948 in unknown circumstances.

#### CRNILAZAROV GELEV JOSHE

Born in 1909. Father of two children. In a small measure he was a *dushevno rastroen* person. He died in the Greek Civil War in 1948 in unknown circumstances.

#### MADZHEVSKI STEFOV NAUM

Born in 1921. At the time of the occupation he was working far away from his village. At the time of the withdrawal of the Germans in 1944 he was killed somewhere in Austria (according to accounts which are not confirmed).

#### DURLOV CVETKOV MITRE

Born in 1922. During the occupation he helped NOD. In 1946 he was mobilised in the Greek monarcho-fascist army and forced to fight against his own brothers. It is not known how that occurred. It is not known when and how he died. However, it is known that his three brothers were among the bravest partisans in DAG.

#### MUCHKAROVSKI MITREV BOGOJA

Born in 1926. Unmarried. In 1946 he was mobilised into the Greek monarcho-fascist army and sent to fight against DAG. Details are unknown and the details of his death are also unknown.

#### KLASHNINOV BOZHINOV LAZAR

Born in 1917. As a high school student he was a member of the progressive movement. He fought against fascism in the Greek-Italian War in 1940-41. During the occupation, he lived in Bitola and then in Sersko. He died in 1944 but there are no details available.

#### DZHUKLEVA ELENA (VASILICA)

Born in 1900 , shot by DAG as a traitor. Her two sons were active fighters against the occupiers and for national and social freedom. Her older son Kote died bravely on Gramos while the younger Todor was a part of NOV in Yugoslavia and he is still alive.

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