

The murder of Karolos Ogle, correspondent of the Times of London in Greece

Charles Chaloner Ogle, a young British architect, arrived in Athens in 1875 and began working for E. Ziller. In addition to his professional occupation, he began to send responses to *Builder* magazine about the rebuilding of Athens. A year later, captivated by the war climate of the time, he became a war correspondent for *The Times* of London.



Lithographic portrait of Karolos Ogle based on the photograph of Petros Moraitis. Πανελλήνιον ημερολόγιον (1880), έτος Α', εκδοθέν υπό Σωκράτους Α. Παρασυράκη, Αονδίνο: Williams and Norgate, χ.χ., σ. 138–139 (MIET-ELIA Library).

In 1878, the Greeks raised the flag of revolution in the Greek provinces that were under Turkish occupation. As a war correspondent for *The Times*, Ogle traveled to rebellious Thessaly to cover the Greek uprising there against the Turks. He sent constant replies, published almost daily in *The Times*, in which the plight of the civilian population prevailed. He writes incessantly, protests vehemently and clearly takes the side of the Greeks. In addition, he took action himself to relieve and protect the civilian population by doing everything in his power to help. British public opinion was shocked by his responses. The harsh description of brutality that pervades his texts, his attempt to protect civilians and his philhellenic attitude caused reactions. The Ottoman government officially expressed to *The Times* its displeasure with the content of his responses.

On March 17/28, 1878, after the Battle of Makrinitza, which ended with the defeat of the revolutionaries and

essentially led to the end of the revolution, Karolos Ogle was assassinated. He was found decapitated at the Halasmata site, near Mega Rema. His body was identified by a scar on his wrist and a bloody telegram to *The Times*, which was found in his wallet. The body was transported from Volos to Piraeus by the British warship *Wizard*, which was in the area at the time.

The murder of Charles Ogle shocked Greece, made headlines in all European countries, while in Great Britain the case reached the House of Commons. His murder was certainly carried out by Turkish soldiers, it is not clear whether they acted voluntarily or under orders. The moral perpetrators were never discovered, and the investigative investigation by the British consul Blunt (Blunt) and Recep Pasha remained fruitless, since no one familiar with the assassination dared to testify to the truth. The official conclusion was that Ogle fought in the Battle of Makrinita, illegally entered Ottoman territory, defied Ottoman authorities, was biased in favor of the Greeks, did not carry out his journalistic duty objectively, and was probably killed by Turkish soldiers.

<p>TURKEY—MURDER OF MR. OGLE. RESOLUTION. Mr. H. SAMUELSON, in rising to call attention to the failure of Mr. Consul General Fawcett to ascertain the circumstances under which Mr. C. C. Ogle, the "Times" Correspondent in Thessaly, was murdered by Turkish soldiers; and to move—</p> <p>"That, in the opinion of this House, Mr. Consul General Fawcett's Report upon Mr. C. C. Ogle's death is inconclusive, and that a fresh Commission of Inquiry ought to be instituted, composed of Englishmen only, who should be specially empowered to assure the witnesses of the protection of Her Majesty's Government."</p> <p>said: I must say that I feel some compunction in obtruding myself upon the House at this late period of the Session, and I also feel bound to apologize to the House for the length to which, in all probability, my remarks will extend. The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Bourke) told me, when I complained on a former occasion that we had not had the Papers as soon as I thought we might have expected them, that the delay of which I complained was due to the fact that the</p>	<p>studious, and able. The King of Greece made him Knight Silver Cross of the Order of the Redeemer, in recognition of the thorough knowledge which he had acquired of every branch of the social and political affairs of Greece. Probably, His Majesty hoped that Mr. Ogle would make use of his knowledge in dispelling certain mistaken opinions, prevalent in some quarters of England, upon the present state of Greece, and upon the wonderfully rapid progress which that deservedly rising country has made of late years. Well, Sir, that Mr. Ogle was held in the highest esteem by all classes in Greece is proved at once by referring to the circumstances that attended his funeral. On that occasion the shops were spontaneously closed. A vast concourse of people followed him to the grave, including representatives of every class, from the President of the Council of Ministers, and other Members of the Cabinet, the members of the Holy Synod, a gentleman-in-waiting of the King, and the Mayors of Athens and Piraeus, down to the pretty weeping child of 12, who, at the last moment, placed on the top of the pile of memorial wreaths of flowers that hid his coffin,</p>
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The Parliamentary Debates. Authorized Edition, London: Wyman, 1878, σ. 1956 (2004).

The Greek State awarded Charles Ogle with the Order of Saint George and held his official funeral in Athens. Ogl's family and *The Times* entrusted the organization of the funeral to Charilaos Trikoupis, then Greek foreign minister (later prime minister) and Ogl's friend.

δολοφονία του στην επαναστατημένη Θεσσαλία το 1878. Βόλος:
Πανεπιστημιακές Εκδόσεις Θεσσαλίας, 2020.
Ο επόρκος Ραγκαβής / ο υπεύθυνος καπετάν-Καρατάσος. Εν
Αθήναις: τύποις Νικολάου Ρουσοπούλου, 1878.

Εθνικόν Πνεύμα (21.3.1878, 22.3.1878, 27.3.1878,
29.3.1878, 30.3.1878).

Αρχείο Χαρίλαου Τρικούπη.

Other sources:

The Parliamentary Debates. Authorized Edition, London:
Wyman, 1878, σ. 1956 (2004).

Parliamentary Papers, vol. 82, Great Britain. Parliament.
House of Commons, Λονδίνο κ.α., H. M. Stationery
Office, 1878.

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Library of MIET-ELIA
(MIET-ELIA stands for Hellenic Literature and
Historical Archive of the Cultural Foundation of the
National Bank of Greece)