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Report No. 312-47

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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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From MA ATHENS, GREECE Date 30 July 1947
AGENCY OR OFFICER STATION

Source GOS Eval. C-3

Area Reported On GREECE Subject Bulgarian ^{Personnel} Cooperation 316.505

with Greek Guerrillas. Interrogation of Surrendered Bandits: FIIDANAKIS
and BEZENIANIDIS

Reference (DIRECTIVE, CORRESPONDENCE, PREVIOUS REPORT, ETC., IF APPLICABLE.)

SUMMARY: ENTER CAREFUL SUMMARY OF REPORT, CONTAINING SUBSTANCE SUCCINCTLY STATED. ANSWER QUESTIONS WHERE, WHEN, WHAT, HOW, HOW MANY, AND GIVE DATE OF EVENT. IN A FINAL ONE SENTENCE PARAGRAPH GIVE SIGNIFICANCE. BEGIN TEXT ON PAGE 2.

Herewith is interrogation report of two surrendered bandits who stated that their guerrilla group which had been operating in the EVROS area (near the Turkish frontier), were guided by Bulgarians, two soldiers and one civilian, from Greek into Bulgarian territory on 7 June 1947. In Bulgarian territory they were again guided by Bulgarians to another point on the frontier where they reentered Greek territory on 9 June 1947. This movement through Bulgarian territory was accomplished in order to avoid capture by Greek Governmental Forces.

MA COMMENT:

This report is similar to others received on the subject of assistance given by BULGARIA, YUGOSLAVIA, and ALBANIA to Greek guerrillas. These reports are submitted to illustrate the nature of the assistance being given to guerrillas along GREECE's northern frontiers. No change in trend of the nature of such assistance is indicated.

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Authority 765102

Harvey H. Smith
HARVEY H. SMITH
Colonel, GSC
Military Attache

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16-40186-1 GPO

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Movement of KARAISSAKIS Band through Bulgarian Territory
between 7 and 9 June 1947

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Greek General Staff/A2/IV
Ref. No: 19609/353 and 323
16 July 1947

We beg to forward to you herewith, copy of report plus two statements under oath of the u/m bandits who gave up themselves by their own will:

- a. FIDANAKIS Dimitrios, son of Apostolos
- b. BIZURIANIDIS Ioannis, son of Vasilios

It is shown from those statements that the band in EVROS area under kapetan KARAISSAKIS entered into Bulgarian territory on 7 June 1947, through a point situated about 1650 yards N. W. of the frontier village MILIA (see map) and after moving through Bulgarian territory guided by two Bulgarian soldiers and one civilian, they re-entered into Greek territory, on 9 June 1947, at G 525094, two miles north of the village IMILIAS (G 5206) and 22.5 miles S. W. of the point through which they entered in BULGARIA from GREECE.

Attention is called to attached sketch map of the area.

S. VIZAS
Lt Col Inf
For Lt Gen
Chief G.C.S.

SUMMARY REPORT
of Interrogation Conducted under Oath

Today, Thursday 24 June 1947, at A.P.O. 915, the undersigned Inf Capt FIDANAKIS Kiriakos having conducted an inquiry under oath according to the respective Articles of the H.H.L. Penal Law, etc. and conforming to 26 Bde/A.P. 3193/A2/22-6-47, about the complicity of the Bulgarian territory, and having taken under consideration the statements under oath of the examined witnesses, I came to the following conclusions:

On 7 June 1947, kapetan KARAISSAKIS together with 51 bandits entered into Bulgarian territory north of the village MILIA (see map), and at a point about 1650 - 2225 yards - N. W. of this village this band, guided by Bulgarian soldiers, crossed the river ARDA and remained in a ravine on the opposite bank of the river. On 8 June 1947, the band, again escorted by Bulgarians, went through localities, names unknown, because the witnesses themselves had never gone through these places before. On 9 June 1947, at about 2100 hrs they crossed the Greek-Bulgarian frontier north of the village IMILIAS (see map), at or near point G 525094, and then the Bulgarian escorts returned.

Therefore, I consider that, after kapetan KARAISSAKIS consulted with Bulgarian soldiers, the Greek band crossed the Greek-Bulgarian Frontier Line, and, guided by Bulgarian Guides, traversed Bulgarian territory and appeared at IMILIAS, after having passed through the point G 525094. This SPILION (Bulgarian territory)-IMILIAS (Greek

Report No: 11-212-47, Date: 16 July 1947, HHS/ast

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16-49185-1 GPO

territory) movement was made in order to save this band which was afraid of being captured or exterminated as a result of the clearing operations that were then being conducted by the Government Forces.

The Officer conducting the inquiry

Statement of Witness: BEZERRIANIDIS

At A.P.O. 915 today, Thursday 19 June 1947, at 0930 hrs, before myself, Capt Zobanikis KIRIAKIS, conducting an inquiry under oath according to Articles 67, 68 and 69 of the 1911 Penal Law and conforming to 26 Bdc/A.P. 3193/A2, in presence of 2/Lt KONSTANTINIDIS Theod. employed as clerk, appeared the u/n witness who, questioned about his identity in general, replied that he is called BEZERRIANIDIS Vasilios, son of Ioan. born and residing in SPILATION - ORESTIAS (G 9324), tailor and Greek Orthodox.

Then, having taken the oath, he was questioned and stated as follows:

On 3 June 1947, at 2330 hrs, kapetan KARAISSKARE, with 12 other armed bandits came into my village, SPILION, and recruited me by force, along with 36 other persons including 2 women.

We left at night, and on the morning of 4 June, we arrived at VARA area. There we stayed two days, i.e. until 6 June. On that night we departed and reached the Greek-Bulgarian frontier at 2400 hrs. There the kapetans contacted the Bulgarians of the Bulgarian Frontier Post. After a discussion of about half an hour they returned. I noticed this with my own eyes. We stopped at that place because the Bulgarian soldier-sontry, had fired. After our kapetans returned we were guided into Bulgarian territory. When we entered BULGARIA they told us that we had lost our way and had entered into foreign territory. We advanced and after a march of about one hour we arrived at a river. This river was about 45 yards wide and 28-30 inches deep.

After crossing the river in single file, we stopped at the opposite bank until morning. All that day and the next we remained there. On 8 June, at nightfall, we were escorted by one Bulgarian Military and one civilian, and after marching the whole night we arrived at a place, the name of which I do not know. In the morning of 9 June we arrived at a distance of about 2 1/2 miles from the frontier line. Later, with other Bulgarian guides, we reached the Greek-Bulgarian frontier. The Bulgarians then returned and we were guided by our kapetans. During our march through Bulgarian territory we passed near some houses first, and then a small village. Marching in Greek territory we saw a ruined village.

On 10 June, we arrived at the village PEKIA (G 4903). There we stopped and were armed. We got oiled MALINGHER (MA Comment: presumably MANKLICHNER) rifles and 70 rounds of ammunition each. About 20 persons were armed. We departed in the night of 10 June and arrived in a ravine after marching 5 hours. We remained there until 2300 hrs of 11 June when we departed and in the morning of 12 June we arrived at another ravine where we stayed until 13 June. The others left and I, being a tailor, stayed there and made field service caps. On the next evening, we left with one platoon and joined the others. On 14 June, all of us departed together and went to a ravine where we stayed the morning of 15 June. On the next night we moved towards

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the village PASO (MA Comment: presumably PASSOS - M 1382). After we passed PASO we fell into an ambush and then I found the opportunity and escaped. ALL this formation was called "FLISSAS Bn", commanded by FLISSAS and with SOTOS as kapetan.

On the next morning, 17 June, I gave myself with my arms to the ARISVI (M 1379) Gendarmerie Station.

This document was read, verified, and is signed as follows.

The witness The Officer of the Investigation The Clerk

Statement of Witness: Findanakis DIMITRIOTIKHOU

At A.P.O. 915b today, Thursday 19 June 1947, at 2000 hrs, before myself, Capt ZORAHAKIS Kirriakos, conducting an inquiry under oath according to Articles 67, 68 and 69 of the Mil Penal Law and conforming to 26 Bds/A.P. 3194/A2, in presence of 2/Lt KONSTANTINIDIS Theod., employed as clerk, appeared the u/a witness who, questioned about his identity in general answered that he is called FINDANAKIS Dimitries, son of Apostolos, 20 years old, born in ASIMENION (G 9613) - DIMITRIOTIKHOU (G 9208) and residing in SPILION (756416), shepherd.

Then, having taken the oath, he was questioned and stated as follows:

On Wednesday, 3 June 1947, at 2320 hrs, kapetan KARATSKAKIS, with another 12 bandits, came to our village SPILION. They took 29 from our village. From there we passed near a village and then approached the Greek-Bulgarian Frontier. We stopped there for half an hour and then started again in the night and at dawn we were in BULGARIA. We crossed the river ARDA in single file. The river was about 28 inches deep and about 45 yards wide. We stayed in BULGARIA about three days. Our kapetans told us not to speak loudly because we would be heard by Bulgarian civilians and then the Greeks would learn it and we would have trouble. Round the spot where we stayed, in a ravine on the opposite bank of ARDA, there were Bulgarian soldiers who did not allow anybody to approach.

When we departed for GREECE, two Bulgarian soldiers and one civilian guided the column. The two Bulgarian soldiers left us before reaching the frontier line and the civilian left us at the frontier. When we crossed the frontier we went to a place and got armed. I got one MALINGHER (MA Comment: presumably MAILLECHER) and 75 rounds of ammunition. From there we left under command of FLISSAS and went to ZOROPINI (L 9785) area. On the night of 16 June we moved out to get some food. As soon as we went past the village PASSOS (M 1382) we fell into an ambush. I found then the opportunity and escaped. On the next day, together with BEZERRIANIDIS Ioan., I gave up myself to the ARISVI Gendarmerie Station.

This document was read, verified, and is signed as follows:

The witness The Offr i/c the Investigation The Clerk

Harvey H. Smith
HARVEY H. SMITH
Colonel, GSC
Military Attache

16-40180-1 GPO
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PHOTOGRAPHIC APPENDIX

to

Report # 312-47

from
AMERICAN EMBASSY
Office of the Military Attache
ATHENS, GREECE
Office

Subject: BULGARIAN COOPERATION WITH GREEK GUERRILLAS
INTERROGATION OF SURRENDERED BANDITS: FINDANAKIS
AND HEZERIANIDIS

This appendix consists of pages A to X inclusive.

Approved by:

Prepared by:

Harvey H. Smith

Ed M Hedrick

Signature
HARVEY H SMITH

Signature
ED M HEDRICK

Name
COLONEL, GSC

Name
SGT, SIGNAL CORPS

Rank & Arm
MILITARY ATTACHE

Rank & Arm
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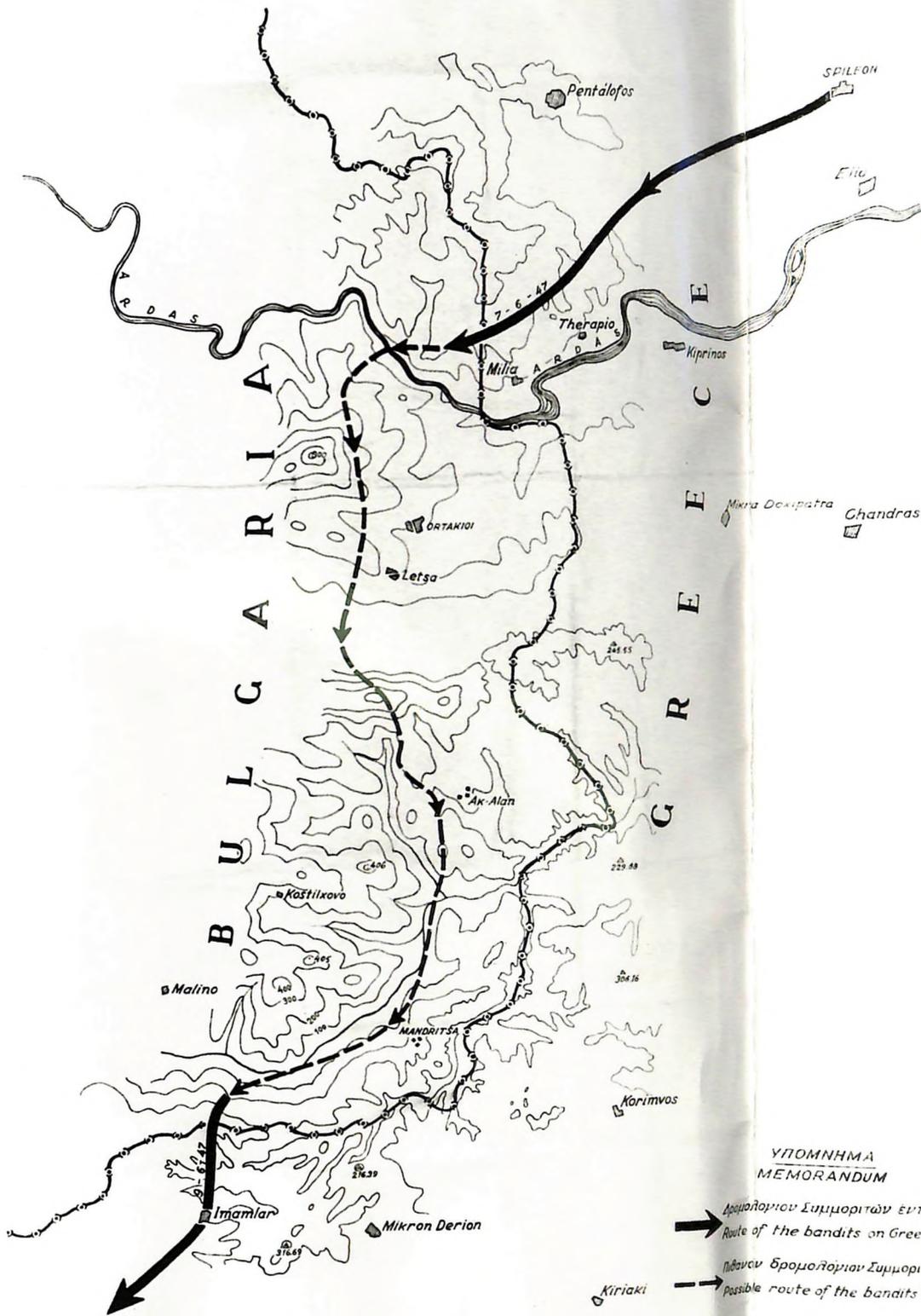
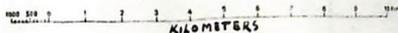
ΣΧΕΔΙΑΓΡΑΜΜΑ

ΔΡΟΜΟΛΟΓΙΟΥ ΣΥΜΜΟΡΙΑΣ ΚΑΡΑΪΣΚΑΚΗ
ΚΙΝΗΘΕΙΣΗΣ ΜΕΣΩ ΒΟΥΛΓΑΡΙΚΟΥ ΕΔΑΦΟΥΣ
ΑΠΟ 7-6-47 ΜΕΧΡΙ 9-6-47.

DRAWING

ROUTE FOLLOWED BY THE KARAISSAKIS BAND
WHICH MOVED THROUGH BULGARIAN TERRITORY
FROM 7-6-47 up to 9-6-47

ΚΑΙΜΑΣ SCALE 1:100.000



ΥΠΟΜΝΗΜΑ
MEMORANDUM

→ Δρομολογίου Συμμοριτών εντός Ελληνικού
εδαφούς
Route of the bandits on Greek territory

- - - Πόθεν δρομολογίου Συμμοριτών εντός Βουλ-
γαρικού εδαφούς
Possible route of the bandits on Bulgarian
territory