

GREEK RESISTANCE TO BULGARIAN ATROCITIES

The following two cables have been received by the Greek Government in London from official sources:-

1. As a result of a rising in the districts of Drama - Kavalla and Zikne the Bulgarian authorities immediately enforced instructions previously given to them by the Germans concerning action to be taken in the event of an insurrectionary movement. According to these instructions whenever there is the slightest suspicion of the possibility of disorder, the notables of the suspected village, town or district are arrested and kept as hostages. If a clash comes some or all of these hostages are shot. Applying this system on the night of the 10th of September, the Bulgars arrested thirty Greek and Jewish notables in Kavalla. They were all peaceful citizens and were at the time asleep in their homes. During the night the Bulgars said that they had received information that a few of their men had been killed in the suburbs of Kavalla, and that they would proceed summarily and without trial to the execution of four hostages for each Bulgar alleged to have been killed. This decision they forthwith carried out, shooting Greeks and Jews indiscriminately. The name of a well-known Jew of Greek citizenship is given in the message, in regard to whom the Bulgars themselves admitted that there was no charge and that he was shot at random with the others. The cable says that as a result of these outrages the Kavalla district is now in revolt and that all communications have been cut. (This Message is dated October 17).

2. A later cable shows that as a result of these and other outrages the revolt has spread all over the province of Drama. Discontent was increased by the commandeering by the Germans of all the tobacco in the district for which the payment promised was never made. A Bulgarian major deliberately exploited the discontent of the tobacco-growing villagers and sending out 'agents provocateurs' fomented the trouble which soon broke out in minor disturbances. This was what the Bulgars desired, and they did not lose any time in letting loose their instincts in a series of brutal massacres perpetrated in the villages of Pentapolis Hagion Pneuma, Nea Zikne, Protostane, Gazaros and Doxaton. According to a conservative estimate based on statements by eye-witnesses, the official source of this information places the victims of this savagery at fifteen thousand. The village of Doxaton has been burnt and razed to the ground: it is but a heap of smoking ruins. Nevertheless the Greeks put up a fight, although practically unarmed, and killed 330 Bulgars and seven Germans. And by these devilish methods of provocation the Bulgars have fabricated a "justification" for their brutality. (Message dated October 19).

What comment could be more forcible than the text of the above messages?

A press message adds that five German regiments have been moved into northern Greece to keep order - because the Bulgarians have been unable to do so. By the spirit of her people, Greece, though occupied, is seriously hampering the enemy, and thus still contributes against heavy odds and at the cost of terrible sacrifice, to the common cause of liberty.