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GERMAN TERRORISM IN CRETE

According to a report which has just reached the Greek Government in London, and which emanates from a high official who recently succeeded in escaping from Crete to Palestine, acts of terrorism of the most savage character continue; arrests and shootings are a daily occurrence. The number of Cretans executed to date is estimated at more than three thousand.

Persons condemned to death are forced to dig their own graves, and the executions take place in the towns, in the presence of the local population.

This official from Crete reports the following characteristic episode: More than a month ago 15 Cretans were arrested at Canea on a charge of sabotage and thrown into prison. Some days later they were led out to a public square, ostensibly for the purpose of being photographed. But behind the trees the Germans had placed machine-guns, and as they stood to be photographed, the prisoners were mowed down. It so happened that one of these unfortunate men was only slightly wounded, and, in an attempt to escape with his life, fell on the ground feigning death.

The Germans thereupon withdrew and permitted the relatives to bury the victims. The wounded man was noticed by two women, who immediately approached him and moved him with the utmost care to a nearby church in order to tend his wounds. While they were there, a German officer suddenly appeared; he pretended to be a doctor and ordered the women to leave, on the pretext that he himself would attend to the man's removal to the Military Hospital. As soon as the women had left the church, the officer turned to the unfortunate Cretan; ordering him to stand up, he drew his revolver and shot him.

This act of German criminality betrays an unheard of savagery and barbarity; it suffices in itself to give a vivid picture of the prevailing terrorism, and affords clear proof to all mankind of the criminal instincts of the German administration in Crete, which are directed against the innocent civilian population.

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MINISTRY OF INFORMATION