

AMONG THE TURKS IN DISGUISE

A FAREWELL TO LUCA AND HIS BULGAR CHETA

How the Transformation of a Volunteer Revolutionary Chetnik Was Effected—Lurking Among the Stony Hills Until the Askers' Easter Spy Had Ended—The Journey to Monastir

(Special Correspondence of The Evening Post.)

MONASTIR, Macedonia, May 12.—When I came to the Lake of the Two Republics, we had not intended to stay more than ten days, but the bands of the Greek bishop showed so much aggressive activity that Luca deemed it necessary to remain in the neighborhood with some force. A narrow village...

In the afternoon Luca sent out one of the boys to scout. He returned with a Vlach shepherd from a friendly Rumanian village, who brought us water, the want of which we were beginning to feel for our springs and streams were near. After an hour's talk, the Vlach left us, but returned with four friends, who carried a whole sheep, a bag of charcoal over which to roast it—for a wood fire would be seen...

Darkness came, and the full moon rose. We were on the hill, and the light of the moon was only three hours away. All the trail was downward, through heavy forest. We passed over ground that was historic to Teodor, for just a year ago, when Luca was in Bulgaria for munitions, he had invaded this territory with twenty men and engaged a Greek band. As they were firing, askers appeared, and then began a running fight between revolutionists, patriots and askers. In one place a wounded Greek fell over a precipice. Teodor examined the spot as we passed now, and his delight rose to high pitch as he discovered a patch of cloth among some thorns below, which, he said, must have been torn from the Greek's shirt as he fell. It was, in fact, the torn sleeve of a shirt.

Early in the morning of April 13, we entered the village of Jercevo, occupied by the villagers. Luca had sent a letter to Tanne of the next reyan, Lereoski, and I would enter his territory so that we waited, either for him or word from him. One evening Tanne's subject Nado appeared with a chetnik; he was to accompany me over into their reyan. On the night of April 11, Luca and Teodor and their men, with whom I had been just two months. Luca gave me the Bulgarian chetnik Alexander to accompany me on my travels, for henceforth I should meet few people who spoke pure Bulgarian, and Alexander, having been two years in service, of course could help me in my troubles with the Askers. Luca gave me two black-belted boyswep fresh as we two bled them good. Then we hid down the mountain, and only turned once in a ravine below to see the cheta on the heights above watching us in our downward path. Before night we had reached the valley below, skirted the mountain, and were over in Lereoski reyan, in the vilayet of Monastir, the centre of the Macedonian revolutionary movement.

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On the day after the last of the holidays we again entered the village in the valley, and found another courier with a letter from Tanne, saying we might now come back to the village, his hiding place and his companion good-bye—for that region was their permanent zone—went on. Two hours brought us into a dark ravine at the bottom of which was a spring. Initiating the 'call' of a certain night-bird, we received an answer. Three men came down from the rocks above; we exchanged passwords, then shook hands with the patrol Tanne had sent out to meet us.

We climbed a steep, and came out on a winding highway. Presently dogs began barking, and we entered a large village. Our friends conducted us to a house where we were to spend the night. The people expected us; a frugal supper was ready. Then, we two, taking off our uniforms, wrapped them into a bundle, and, together with our arms, ammunition, and bombs, hid them in a secure place. Next we put on well-worn peasant clothes, our long hair we cut, and by means of the shears, I was shorn of a two-months' beard. The finishing touch was the clipping of our old faces. Later the three chetniks left us to join their chief outside the village in a shepherd's hut, while we rolled comfortably in rugs and fell asleep. We were no longer comitaja.

DISASTER TO A CHETA. In the middle of the next forenoon, I happened to look up the road by which we had entered, just in time to see a band of a dozen mounted men sweep over the brow of a hill in a cloud of dust. Down they flew with a dash into the village, bringing up before a house some hundred yards away from us. By their uniforms and their short Mannlicher carbines I knew them at once—Tanne and his men. Some villagers took their horses and they came striding down the street toward us, moving on to meet the band. Tanne came forward, the member of the local committee here, and we shook hands. He was a middle-aged man, with long chestnut hair, blue eyes, and a well-trimmed golden beard, a handsome fellow in spite of his rough appearance. We withdrew at once into a garden, or walled orchard, where we seated ourselves on rugs, cross-legged, to talk and drink coffee. He brought us the details of a terrible disaster which had befallen a cheta in a neighboring reyan during the previous week.

The chief vojvoda of the reyan, George Gungafov, with twenty-four men, had entered the village Paravovo, but later withdrew into the nearby mountains to spend the night, the villagers being very nervous on account of the near presence of patrolling askers. Four Greek bands had observed the passing of the cheta, and followed it at a distance. A cold north wind was blowing, and that might have a fire to sleep by, the chetniks bivouacked in the bottom of a deep ravine, whence the flame could not be observed.

The four spies noted this, and hurried on to a nearby garrison to give information of patrolling askers. Four Greek commands had observed the passing of the cheta, and followed it at a distance. A cold north wind was blowing, and that might have a fire to sleep by, the chetniks bivouacked in the bottom of a deep ravine, whence the flame could not be observed.

At sunrise they opened fire, and, of course, the cheta made a rush for position only to be met by volleys. So heavy was the fire that the chetniks fell almost in one heap. At last Gungafov alone remained standing; evidently they wanted to take him alive, but before they could reach him he shot himself through the mouth. I have since learned that the four spies have been indicted by the committee. The incident had caused a great deal of depression, not so much because a whole cheta was annihilated—which is of common occurrence, especially in the spring, when the askers are active for a month or two—but because usually in such actions the Turks sustain a far greater loss, and Gungafov and his men died without inflicting a single death among their enemies.

As we sat talking on the rug, I noticed a woman enter the gate of the orchard and walk up; her path toward us was well concealed, and Tanne nudged me. "Notice that man," he said. "When he sits down here beside us you say something to him in your language."

The young peasant came up greeted us all, then sat down beside me. "How's business?" I asked. "Is your health pretty good?"

He took the cigarette from his mouth and surveyed me with keen scrutiny. "Well, I'm demised!" he exclaimed. "You talk the pure United States. How long have you been over there? When did you come back?" This his face lightened up with an idea. "You're the American who was with Luca, aren't you?"

We continued our conversation. He had been two years in America, working most of the time in a Pittsburgh factory at \$2 a week. Now he had returned with comfortable capital and was one of the best workers in the valley.

This was Saturday Monday in market day in the vilayet of Monastir, or Bitola as the natives call it. As it was my intention

SCIENCE FOR LAY READERS

NAVAL BOARD'S TESTS OF OIL AS FUEL FOR WARSHIPS

Satisfactory Results of Eighteen Months of Experiment—Cheap Labor Not to Be Thought Of—High Test Oil Required on Warships—The Problem Satisfactorily Solved—Liquid Fuel Not to Be Used as an Auxiliary

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As a result of the extended series of tests of the United States Naval "Liquid Fuel" Board, made under the direction of Rear-Admiral George W. Melville, carried on for twenty-eight months, among other things, the following conclusions have been drawn: That no difficulty should be experienced by an intelligent fire-room force in burning oil in a uniform manner. It need only require but little experience upon the part of the fire-room tenders to be able to detect, either from the character of the roar or hissing noise or by the color of the flame at different points, an approximate idea both as to evaporative output and efficiency conditions. For general purposes on shore, high-pressure steam is a more satisfactory spraying medium than air. The use of steam, however, as an atomizing agent for naval purposes is not unduly required for a considerable increase in the size of the evaporating plant, and this must be considered of importance. The necessary increase of the evaporating plant is practically the main objection to the employment of steam as the spraying medium for liquid fuel on board naval and merchant vessels.

While the use of steam as a spraying medium will undoubtedly prove most satisfactory for general purposes, the results of the tests show that the consumption of fuel oil cannot be forced to as great an extent with steam as the atomizing agent as when highly heated compressed air is used for this purpose. As the warship is designed to be operated at short notice under the severest forced-draft conditions, the question will have to be considered, whether it is not more advisable to fit air burners that would be found most efficient for the day of battle, rather than effect an installation of steam heating that are most desirable for general cruising. The use of forced steam for spraying medium for severe forced-draft conditions is due to the fact that this atomizing agent, after entering the furnace, is a supporter of combustion. With the use of steam as the atomizing agent the rarefied vapor simply displaces a certain portion of air that is requisite for complete combustion. If it were not for the fact that air compressors necessary for supplying an atomizing agent are very bulky and heavy, and require considerable room for their installation, the question might be considered, whether for warship purposes it would not be advantageous to effect an installation whereby either air or steam could be used at will.

WATER TO BE CAREFULLY REMOVED. That in every oil-fuel installation special provision should be made for the removal of the water that will collect from various sources at the bottom of the supply tanks. Even a small amount of water pumped to the burners will interfere with the efficient and satisfactory work of an oil-fuel installation. As it is essential with every boiler plant to secure a uniform oil not large out-pipe, the annoyance and evil of occasionally pumping water rather than oil to the burners should be avoided. That the evaporative efficiency of crude and refined oil is practically the same, no matter from what locality the oil may come. The danger of using crude oil, however, is much greater. As it would be an expensive matter to build retiners near one of the terminal points of a pipe line, the expense of such retining should not increase to a perceptible degree the cost of such fuel, since the sale of the by-products of crude oil would often pay in great part the expense of distillation. The great benefit of heating the air necessary for effecting combustion cannot be doubted. In order to provide a uniform supply of oil to the burners the oil should be heated by some simple means. It can be expected that the burners will be operated much more satisfactorily when the fuel is heated. For merchant vessels the heating has been carried out only to a point well below the temperature of the deposition of the hydro-carbons. The necessity of making special provision for straining the oil was emphatically pointed out. Marine firemen are not ill-disposed toward the use of oil. It will be essential, however, particularly for marine work, to secure retiners for the operation of the burners. If it is found that retining financial economy will ensue by entrusting the management of oil-fuel installation to men of skill and judgment, cheap labor cannot be employed in this work; there will be resulting damage, annoyance, and danger if the operation of oil-fuel burners is assigned to unskilled labor. In the stowing of liquid fuel on board vessels, whether taken on board for fuel purposes or for transportation in bulk, the compartments containing the crude product should be as full as possible, both for reasons of safety and for facility of delivery and discharge. With the use of oil the forcing of a marine boiler should be much more readily accomplished than with the use of coal. Under severe forced-draft conditions and with water-carrying boilers and with the use of oil the solution of the smoke question is nearly as simple as ever. Where a limited quantity of oil is burned in a Scotch boiler, however, and retarders are used in the tubes the burning crude petroleum should be smokeless.

WHOLESALE-SAVING IN WARSHIPS. In order to secure for the day of battle the greatest speed for warships, naval administrators are justified in demanding of manufacturers of water-tube boilers increased coal consumption per square foot of grate surface. The weight thus saved by the reduction of the number of boilers should be exclusively applied to giving the machinery greater endurance by using heavier boiler linings and casings and more efficient auxiliaries. The space gained by the reduction in the number of boilers should be assigned to providing increased sized rooms, evaporator rooms, and pas-

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