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23 June 1987

**UN ARCHIVES REVEAL DIRECT ORDER
FROM HITLER TO EXTERMINATE RIGA JEWS**

Adolph Hitler personally ordered the mass murder of more than 10,000 Jewish women and children in the village of Skirotawa (near Riga) in 1941. The Jewish men were expelled to labor camps.

This is the first piece of evidence that shows Hitler's direct and personal participation in the extermination of Jews. It also confirms that the systematic extermination of Jews was already being pursued at an early stage of the war.

The revelations were the result of a preliminary survey of 500 files from the UN War Crimes Archives received by Israel on June 5, 1987. Among other findings, they contain the testimony of a Nazi Major-General who personally witnessed the mass murder that Hitler had ordered. They also contain files on Hitler, Bormann, Goering, Goebbels, Himmler, Heidrich, Mengele and Barbie.

142,000 Czech Jews Killed by July 1943

Among the many historical findings compiled by the UN War Crimes Commission and included in the Archives are detailed descriptions of:

- The fate of Czechoslovakian Jewry -- Of the 142,000 Czech Jews killed by July 1943, 51,000 were women and 49,000 were under the age of 21.
- The destruction of Polish Jewry in Lodz, Sobibor, Treblinka and Chelm.
- Medical experiments conducted by Nazi doctors in various death camps.
- The fate of the Jewish prisoners in Tereisentadt.

Nazi War Criminals

The files contain comprehensive lists of Nazi officers operating the death camps of Maydanek, Stothoff and Treblinka.

Fate of Individual Victims

The files contain descriptions of the fate of many individual victims of Nazi atrocities. For example, the files show that Anna Mandel, a Jewish woman, was killed by Hans Biebow, the ghetto commander of Lodz, who murdered her with his bare hands in 1941. (Biebow was executed in 1947).

These latest findings demonstrate the wealth of new historical information contained in the UN War Crimes Archives. Along with a previous delivery of 347 files, Israel has so far received 847 files. This is but a small fraction of the total number of files which contain information on nearly 40,000 people, most of whom are accused Nazi war criminals.

But even this small number of files has provided new details on the deportation and extermination of European Jewry, Nazi atrocities, Nazi "medical" experiments, and wholesale destruction of Jewish communities and property. The files uncover new information on the crimes committed by senior Nazi officials, death camp doctors, camp commandants and ghetto supervisors.

This information flies in the face of recent efforts to minimize or even deny altogether the horrors of the Holocaust. Israel believes that public access to the files is indispensable for setting the historical record straight. The decision to open up the files rests with the UN Secretary-General. On June 12, 1987, Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's Permanent Representative to the UN, met with the Secretary-General to reiterate Israel's demand that the Archives be opened.

WAR CRIMES
UN

Conference of Presidents Of Major American Jewish Organizations

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JUN 1 1987

May 27, 1987

TO: MEMBER AGENCIES
FROM: MORRIS B. ABRAM, CHAIRMAN CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS
SEYMOUR REICH, CHAIRMAN, UN COMMITTEE
RE: UN ARCHIVES

AMERICAN JEWISH
ARCHIVES

As our last meeting had to be postponed due to the visit of Foreign Minister Peres, we want to bring you up to date on recent developments. Significant progress has been made in the weeks since Ambassador Netanyahu first convened us to discuss the problem of access to the UN Archives on Nazi war criminals. Coordinated by the Presidents Conference and NJCRAC, our member organizations have engaged in a concerted advocacy program that has seen several countries change their positions and led others to reexamine their stands.

The most important development was the announcement by Secretary of State Shultz that the United States, in a major shift, was advocating more liberalized access. While this was not further defined initially, an announcement is expected that the US favors total access with requests to be submitted through, and approved by, the applicants' government. This stand by the US will be of great important in influencing other members of the Commission.

In addition, Australia has advocated complete public access, while the Netherlands and Yugoslavia have urged access for historical research. It has also been reported that France, Czechoslovakia and Poland, as well as Canada are reviewing their positions. The others, (Belgium, France, the United Kingdom, China, Luxembourg, India, Denmark, Greece, New Zealand and Norway) have not indicated any change in their positions.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has informed Ambassador Netanyahu that he is personally willing to open the UN war crime archives, but since he views the decision in political terms he wants to be guided by the views of the 17 members of the now defunct War Crimes Commission. It would appear that if a few additional countries shift their position, the Secretary-General will change the rules of access.

A meeting has been requested on behalf of the Presidents Conference with Secretary General de Cuellar. He is out of the country at this time and he declined the original request because of scheduling problems.

We will press further on his return from abroad.

Continued approaches including visits to UN missions and pressure being applied in the various capitols, both directly and through the media and religious groups, etc, are essential. Various organizations including the World Jewish Congress have approached Jewish communities abroad and there has been outreach to non-Jewish organizations to join in these efforts. In addition, NGOs have been contacted by B'nai B'rith and by other Jewish organizations to take public stands and some have responded favorably. We urge that all such contacts be expanded as expeditiously as possible. Expression of appreciation to those countries that have taken positive steps are also in order. Organizations wishing to participate in delegations to UN missions should contact NJCRAC or the New York JCRC. Copies of all correspondence and responses should be sent to our office.

MBA, SR



CONSULATE GENERAL OF GREECE
IN NEW YORK
—
THE CONSUL GENERAL

June 5, 1987


Dear Rabbi Tanenbaum,

I would like to inform you that at the initiative of some prominent members of the Greek American Community, a statue of Colonel Mardochoaios Frizis is going to be dedicated in Israel in commemoration of his death at the Second World War namely at the outset of the Italian aggression against Greece in 1940.

To honour this initiative, I am hosting a dinner at my residence, on June 17th. An invitation is enclosed for your kind attention. I will be very happy if you and your wife join us on this particular evening.

Enclosed please find background information concerning Colonel Frizis.-

Sincerely yours,



George Assimacopoulos
Consul General

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum
The American Jewish Committee
165 East 56th Street
New York NY 10022

The Legend of Mardochoaios Frizis

The Jew Colonel of the Greek Army who with his sacrifice changed the course of the war.

By EUGENE PANAGOPULOS

When Hitler, the human-faced beast was exterminating the six million Jews of Europe, he did not know and he could not imagine, that some fifteen hundred miles south of his capital, Berlin, the den of the viper, one more Jew was dying, not in the gas chambers of the concentration camps, but by bombs and bullets, fighting as a free man leading to victory other brave men on the snow covered mountains of the Epirus and Albania. His death planted the seed of the destruction of the beast and his gang of criminals. And that is how was avenged the blood of the innocent members of many religions and many races, victims of such unheard-of savagery in human history.

And who was this Jew? And how could his sacrifice have had such an influence on the outcome of Second World War and, consequently, on the future of the whole world?

It was Mardochoaios Frizis, a Colonel of the Greek Army during the Greek-Italian war of 1940. He was killed on December 5th 1940. For several years his name was on the lips of all Greeks, but, as it almost always happens, as time passes the dead of past wars who gave their lives in order to set the foundations of peace and happiness for the forthcoming generations, are forgotten. The feeling that forgetting the old heroes is the worst kind of ungratefulness, made me research the story of Mardochoaios Frizis; and the more I was searching and reading, the more my interest and my gratitude towards that man were growing.

I gathered much historical material and many documents of the war, publications in old newspapers about happenings at that time, texts of lectures, speeches made during official occasions in honor of the dead, contacts with persons who knew the history of Frizis from their own experiences and above all, I contacted his son, Mr. Iakovos Frizis who lives with his family in Athens. He is the one who gave me most of the information about his heroic father.

Let us start first with the matter-of-fact historical record as given in the Great Greek Encyclopaedia, (supplement), Volume D, page 939. Almost identical information is contained in the Dictionary Papius-Larouche and in the Eleftheroudaki Encyclo-

paedia.

"FRIZIS MARDOCHAIOS. Military. Born in 1893 at Chalkis, Eubia, of Jewish parents. Joined the army as volunteer and he studied in the School of Reserve Officers from which he graduated with the rank of Second Lieutenant of the Infantry reserve in 1916. He saw action in the 1st World War and in the campaign of Asia Minor during which he was granted permanent officer's status for distinguished service. During the Greek-Italian War of 1940 he served as Lieutenant-Colonel, commanding at first the Delvinaki sub-sector of the VIII Division and subsequently commanding a detachment which occupied the south bank of the river Aaos, (Vrisohori), where he strongly resisted for 9 days the attacks of the Italians who were unsuccessfully attempting to cross the river. There he took the first Italian prisoners. During the period November 23-27 when the Greek forces started their counter-offensive, he overcame the enemy resistance and after crossing the river Logaritsa he occupied a number of important heights and later the bridge of Premeti with the commanding heights Novosela and Tremisi. He finally reached the line Kosova-Kardamitsi, where, after a hard fight, he took 200 prisoners of the Italian Division "Modena". For these achievements he was promoted to full Colonel rank for outstanding performance in action.

On 5th December 1940, while he was in the advanced front lines of the Premeti area, he was hit by an Italian bomb and was killed. Colonel Frizis is the first high ranking officer who fell in the field of battle during the Greek-Italian war 1940-41. He was awarded the Golden Medal of Honor for Bravery, the War-Cross and several other medals and decorations".

The above are what the books say in their dry and matter-of-fact language; but we must now write the "legend" of Mardochoaios Frizis as was passed on from mouth to mouth by his colleagues and by his soldiers who saw him fall, took him in their hands as he was in his bloody clothes and they buried him in the field of battle.

His grave was not found again, since the Greek army retreated following the German



The Hero Colonel Frizis

attack in 1941. But, as Periklis said in his eulogy of the war-dead, "For famous men the whole earth is their grave".

I am writing the "legend" going by what I have heard and by what I have read from sources which I consider reliable and after eliminating whatever appeared to me doubtful or farfetched.

When the Italians invaded Greece at dawn on October 28th 1940, they advanced in two directions. One, directly from Delvina towards Kalpaki and Ioannina. This was the most dangerous approach for Greece because the ground is relatively flat and the Italian tanks could traverse it. The only serious obstacle was the river Kalamas and further east the river Aoos. There were concentrated most of the Greek efforts and there was Frizis active from the beginning. If the Italians had passed through to Ioannina, Greece could not hold out because from that point on the roads would have been open towards Arta and Western Greece, south as far as the Gulf of Corinth and Messolongi. This is what the Turks had done during the Greek War of Independence in 1821. The Ionian Islands would have fallen and they would have become safe bases for the Italian Navy, cutting off all Western Greece from any contact with her allies.



1922. Prisoner of war in Asia Minor. The Turks proposed to release him as a special favor but he refused this preferential treatment. (Second from the left).

The other direction of the invasion was further west, through the gullies and ravines of the Pindos mountain range towards Metsovo and the Katara pass, from where they could threaten Ioannina if they turned west,

or Trikala and Larisa if they turned east, cutting Greece in half at the height of Volos. In the Pindos front the Greeks threw in the "Euzone" regiments which are made up primarily of mountaineers, who climb the

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mountains like wild goats. Wherever the Italians advanced through the ravines, they found the Greeks holding the slopes and the peaks of the mountains and attacking them savagely. There the Greek troops were helped also by the women of Metsovo and the other villages, who carried the ammunition on their backs. I wonder what the delicate ladies of Athens would have thought if they saw such things, although they helped too, as nurses and in any other way they could in the mountain fronts as well as behind the lines.

At the Pindos front the defense was directed by the famous Colonel Davakis, who survived and died after the war. So, the defenses of both fronts, at the Kalama river and at the Pindos range were directed by Frizis and Davakis. Very soon the soldiers nicknamed them "the crazy Colonels", because they would always press forward, never counting

the odds in comparison with the tremendous superiority of the enemy forces. Of course, if they took into consideration such comparisons and if they were not a little crazy — like all of us Greeks — would they ever have taken on such a powerful enemy and beat him at that?! It was exactly for this reason that the British, the Americans and the already enslaved nations of Europe were talking about the "Greek miracle", as Churchill called it. After the Greek Army stopped the Italian advance on both fronts it went into the counter-attack pushing back and pursuing Mussolini's troops who could not anchor themselves and hold on at any point. They were thrown out of the Greek territories which they had invaded and they were retreating rapidly deep into Albania with the Greeks closely at their heels like wolves behind the flock.

Frizis' advance had reached a point

outside Premeti where the Italians tried make a stand at a strong point. The Greeks attacked violently but the Italians threw in the battle some aircraft squadrons which appeared suddenly, bombing and strafing the exposed Greeks who did not have a single anti-aircraft weapon. Frizis ordered "his children", that is what he called his soldiers to take cover as best they could in any natural or dug-out trenches because it seemed impossible to keep advancing so exposed to the air attacks. Time was passing and the Italians were strengthening their positions at the point where the success of the Greek attack was becoming problematic without suffering heavy losses and it might even have resulted in complete failure.

Frizis decided to continue the attack without delay, disregarding the aircraft. Like a legendary or Homeric hero, so that he would give courage to "his children", he mounted

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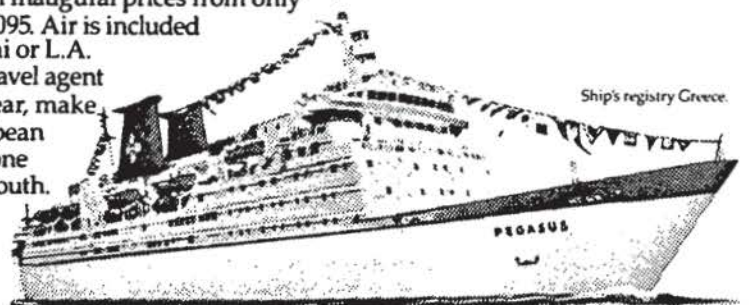
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his white horse and with drawn sword he galloped to the foremost line shouting at the top of his voice, "forward boys, forward, Christ is with us!!!..." The soldiers took courage, "if even the Jew sees Christ he sure is with us, forward, acra!!!" (The shout "acra" which simply means "air" is a sort of war cry, like a challenge to the enemy, used by the Greek soldiers when they are attacking. My father remembered this as far back as the war of 1897!)

The stronghold was taken at the point of the bayonett, but before reaching it Frizis was hit in the abdomen by a bomb fragment. He fell from his horse but he mounted again and continued the advance. Near the occupied positions, while the soldiers were cheering wildly, he fell from the horse dead, probably hit again by an aircraft strafing bullet. His feet remained caught in the stirrups of his saddle, as if he wanted to continue the attack even after he was dead.

A military priest was summoned hurriedly and he read over the corpse what he believed was the proper Jewish prayer for the dead. "Listen people of Israel, God is one and only..." They buried him hastily because the advance had to continue until Premeti was occupied.

An acquaintance of mine who was with one of Frizis' formations told me that he was shouting "Forward boys, the Virgin Mary is with us". But what difference does it make? His words encouraged the soldiers, whether he mentioned Christ or the Virgin Mary. His words accomplished what they were meant to accomplish!

Many friends of mine who were at the fronts in Albania were telling me that our soldiers, going without sleep, dog tired,



The bust of Frizis at Chalkis

hungry and frozen, frequently would see visions, something like hallucinations and most frequently they would see the Virgin Mary. Perhaps because it was the image of their mothers, or perhaps because of the offense to the Virgin Mary when the Italian submarine torpedoed "ELLI" on August 15, 1940 on the day of the feast at Tinos.

Somewhere, in a ravine beyond the Greek border, deep inside the Albanian border, near Premeti, in an unmarked grave rest the bones of a Jew by religion but Greek by soul. Long live his memory and may his name be for ever a bond between the two people, of Greece and of Israel, who suffered so much over the centuries, but who are continuing

Letter by the Prime Minister of Greece IOANNIS METAXAS to the wife of Colonel Mardochoaios Frizis (Translated from the Greek).

Office of the Prime Minister:
Athens, 14 December 1940

My dear Mrs. Frizis,

I knew of the death of your husband on the field of honor before you were advised about it and I did not know how to tell you.

Now, I see from your letter that not only he was a hero but his wife also was worthy of him.

You and your children, like all the families which have lost their protectors have now become families of our State. You can rest assured that you and your children will never want for protection. The children of Colonel Frizis will always be the subject of adoration by our Youth.

With sentiments of honor and love
IOANNIS METAXAS

to this day their old traditions which gave the world the philosophy of Democracy and the Judeo-Christian religion.

Greece honored her son who gave his life for her. His statue was placed at Kalpaki, the center of his war-time activities, during a solemn ceremony attended by many official representatives of the Greek State. Also, the Jewish Community of Chalkis erected his statue and at the ceremony there the contributions and the sacrifices of the Jewish Communities in Greece to the national effort during the war of 1940 were enumerated. The following numbers are very interesting, although little known to the general public:

Out of a total Jewish population of 77,000, 12,898 served in the Greek army. 343 of these were officers. Their casualties were 513 killed and 3,743 wounded. These numbers correspond to the average numbers for all the other Greeks during the same war, regardless of religion, national origin or any other distinction.

It may be asked, how Colonel Frizis planted the seed of the destruction of the beast, Hitler. The answer is simple, if one looks at the history of the 2nd World-War. Frizis was active in the most crucial sector of the Greek defense lines, the Kalama river front, and he is accepted universally as the officer primarily responsible for repulsing the enemy. If the Italians had passed and Ioannina had fallen, we would not have had the epic of the war in Albania; with an Italian victory it would not have been necessary for Germany to intervene, nor would besieged England and the other countries

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which, like France, were already enslaved, have taken courage. Most important, Germany would not have lost the 7 weeks which her armies and her airforce spent in order to intervene in Greece and Yugoslavia to save the defeated Italians from certain destruction. These 7 weeks were critical because they meant an equal delay in the German invasion of Russia. If the German army had reached Moscow 7 weeks earlier and had avoided the premature arrival of the terrible winter, it is doubtful if Russia could have held out and the fate of the world today would have been different, with many nations exterminated or immersed in the darkness of slavery. With the Greek victories, the wheel of the chances of war was reversed. The Germans were held up before Moscow, Stalingrad followed, then El Alamein, the landings in North Africa and France and finally the inhuman beasts went where they belonged, to prison and the gallows. Here applies the English saying: "For the want of a nail the shoe was lost. For the want of the shoe the horse was lost. For the want of the horse the battle was lost. For the loss of the battle the war and the country were lost!"

During the last few months we noticed some tension in the relations between some of the Greek and Jewish Communities. Responsible for this I think was to some extent Mayor Koch of New York who is a Jew himself. He made some unfavorable comments because some Greek government Minister, or the Prime Minister himself, used the expression: "Jewish Synagogue" during a meeting when all the persons present were talking at the same time as is usually the case with us Greeks anyway! He said that this expression was an anti-semitic remark. Actually, it was nothing of the sort. It is simply an ancient colloquial expression introduced centuries ago when some Jewish refugee groups brought with them the custom of praying together and aloud in their Synagogues. I am surprised that Mr. Koch who appears to be a clever and educated person displayed such lack of understanding; What should we, the Greeks, say for the different expressions, "it is Greek to me," or "beware of the Greeks when they carry presents"; (From Homer's Iliad); or so many other expressions for the Poles, the Irish, the French, the Italians and other nationalities and minorities which make up today the great nation of America.

Regardless of the above, I think that we must honor the memory of the hero Mardocheios Frizis, on the anniversary of his death, December 5th, and invite representatives of the Jewish community to participate in the ceremony together with us. We, the two people who have suffered so much, must help each other for our common good. I also had another thought and I asked and received the agreement of Colonel Frizis' family, through his son. The Greek com-

munity in New York to construct a statue of the hero and to have it placed somewhere in his religious homeland, Israel.

Frizis was nothing else but a Greek and a great patriot, as he proved with his efforts and his sacrifice. I do not think that if it was possible to ask him he would have had any objection to being honored also in the country where his religion had started

thousands of years ago and where, after all, our religion started too.

I would like to know what our readers think about this thought of mine, so that we could, if accepted, organize an appropriate committee to attend to this matter.

EUGENE PAPAGOPULOS
New York, November 1986

Editor's Note

The suggestion by Mr. Panagopoulos that the Greek community of New York construct and dedicate a statue of the Greek national hero Colonel Frizis in Israel, his religious homeland, was accepted enthusiastically and unanimously by the Council for Greek American Affairs at their meeting on January 20th, under the presidency of Dr. Michael Sideris. A provisional committee was set up to proceed with the necessary contacts with Jewish organizations in New York, which might assist in arranging the details of the dedication with the Israeli authorities. The proposal was accepted by them whole-heartedly. A very likely location of the statue would be on the grounds of the University of Jerusalem, where other memorial dedications have been placed in the past in the area of the "Greek House". (Beit Yavan), mainly by Greek Jewish communities.

The members of the committee are: Dr.

George P. Argerakis D.D.S., Mr. Dimitrios Argyriadis (United Nations), Mrs. Peter A. Beys, Mr. Aris Douzoglou, Mrs. Stella Kokoli, Mr. Peter Makrias, Mr. E. Panagopoulos, Mr. Elias Betsios, Mr. Theodore Prounis, Mr. Elias Recanati, Mrs. Michael Sideris, Dr. Anthony Vasilas.

The first contacts with Jewish organizations have been made and matters appear to be developing satisfactorily.

With much regret we were advised that the widow of Colonel Frizis, to whom the letters by Prime Minister Metaxas and by the King of Greece were addressed in 1940, announcing the death of her husband in the field of honor, was recently hospitalized in Athens in critical condition. She is 93 years old and her condition is very precarious. We wish her a good recovery so that, God willing, she may attend the placing of her husband's statue.

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