

# With Peace Restoration, Underground Fighters Emerge Into The Open

**Editors Note:** With peace restored to Cyprus, members of the Greek underground fighting arm which kept the Mediterranean island in turmoil for four years are beginning to emerge into the open. How did this small force keep up to 30,000 British troops baffled all that time? Webb McKinley, Associated Press chief of bureau in Istanbul, has been on Cyprus nearly two weeks seeking the answer. Here is his report.

By **WEBB MCKINLEY**  
NICOSIA, Cyprus. (AP) — EOKAs war is over and the boys are heading home.

The wiry youths whom Britain so recently called terrorists now are hailed as heroes on the streets of Nicosia.

They do not look fierce. It is hard to imagine one padding silently along an alley, gun in hand, or waiting for the right instant to set off a land mine on a mountain road.

They look more like young clerks, accountants, students, electricians, lawyers or farmers — which in fact they once were.

But the four-year war they fought in EOKA, the Greek Cypriot underground, to free Cyprus from Britain was tough and ruthless. A total of 343 killings were attributed to EOKA. More than half the victims were Greek Cypriot civilians marked as traitors to the cause of Enosis, the union of Cyprus with Greece.

EOKA did not win Enosis. But on the advice of its leadership it accepted the plan for eventual independence for Cyprus.

The hatreds born in the struggle washed over into intercommunal fighting between Greek and Turkish Cypriots that took another 115 lives. All in all, including those killed by British security forces, the war left 601 dead and 1,260 wounded.

On the face of it, EOKA was battling hopeless odds. Its own hard core centered in the mountains probably never numbered more than 30 men, although the line of communication and part-time adherents ran into thousands. Against them, Britain threw in as many as 30,000 of its best troops.

How did EOKA do it?  
The answer is Col. George Grivas, a Cyprus-born retired Greek army officer with the pseudonym of Digenis, who formed the underground, led it and has now disbanded it.

"Looking back on it," a British intelligence official mused after Grivas called off the battle early this week, "he was ruthless, absolutely fearless, and a good organizer to the nth degree. In fact, he was the sort of chap you would want on your side if you had to do the same thing."

Grivas was 36 when he landed from Rhodes on the west coast of Cyprus the night of Nov. 9, 1944. Retired from the army in 1944, he had led a fanatically right-wing band in Greece after the war and gotten a name for hardness and efficiency.

He was called to Cyprus to organize a militant force to support Archbishop Makarios of the Greek Orthodox Church in his campaign for Enosis.

He immediately began to search for potential leaders in the Cyprus youth movement, discarding as he went along those with inadequate hardness or zeal. By the time his campaign opened, on April 1, 1955, he had around him a band of tough young men forming EOKA's inner core, and a second echelon of couriers, paymasters, quartermasters, recruiters and informants.

In the years that followed, EOKA had successes and some near disasters. By mid-1956, British intelligence was beginning to break through.

Even so, 1956 was the year that Field Marshal Lord Harding, the British commander in chief here, awoke one morning to find a time bomb in his bed.

In March 1957, when EOKA appeared to be near defeat, with many of its top men dead or captured, Britain accepted a truce. But essentially, EOKA survived because it won almost complete support from the island's 400,000 Greek Cypriots, and because of its excellent organization and deadly discipline.

"We are all EOKA," the Greek Cypriot mayor of Nicosia once proclaimed.

On hundreds of occasions British troops would rush within minutes to the scene of a killing, only to find that the killers had vanished.

## Alcoholism Nets Greatest Pains

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (AP)—The president of the National Council on Alcoholism says there are no pains or anxiety comparable to those suffered as a result of alcoholism.

R. Brinkley Smithers said the pains are greater than those of childbirth, battlefield wounds or major surgery.

"When one realizes," he said, "that the sick alcoholic is suffering from 20 to 30 bona fide physical disabilities in addition to the even more excruciating agonies of anxiety, depression, memory loss and estrangement from both God and his fellow man, this isn't hard to understand."

Smithers said his comments gave consideration to the pains of cancer victims, mental disease patients and heart disease cases.

**TYPO ERROR**  
DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — A typographical error sent Dallas City Council candidate Jack Johnson frantically telephoning newspapers Friday.

The mistake, in copies of his platform he sent out, left him saying: "I favor excessive and unnecessary spending in Dallas." Johnson assured newsmen he meant just the opposite.

furnished with escape routes by the populace. In the mountains peasants fed EOKA men and hid them.

Grivas broke his organization down into mountain gangs, village shotgun groups and two killer squads which worked on order for specific targets, squads waiting for "targets of opportunity," couriers, leaflet distributors, propagandists and the like. Arms were smuggled in from the Greek mainland or stolen from British depots on the island. Explosives were stolen from mines.

Except for the mountain men, who directed the warfare and carried out ambushes, it was a part-time organization. A village might perform an EOKA mission one day and go back to his crops the next. Students were used extensively. Practically every schoolboy between the ages of 12 and 17 was active one way or another.

Communications were surprisingly good. Up to five couriers would carry one message — and the messages got through. To arrange a truce, the British in Nico-

sia could get a letter to Grivas within three hours. Truces were called four times and their effect always was instantaneous throughout the island.

Grivas had some talented and tough lieutenants to help make the organization work. They were not hoodlums — all had respectable and some had brilliant scholastic records.

Grivas himself was a stern and intensely suspicious disciplinarian. He allowed no gambling or amorous adventures in his group. He has not yet emerged in public. He probably will go to Greece for the future.

But on March 9, 18 days after the independence agreement was signed in London, EOKA leaflets, spread as mysteriously and swiftly as ever, told Greek Cypriots Digenis was ordering the struggle to end. He called on them to work in peace for the new republic.

That morning, Nicosia burst out in celebration of relief and joy. The London agreement, to which

Greek Cypriots were lukewarm, had been signed. Archbishop Makarios had come back from exile, so.

But it really hadn't been over — not until their hero, Digenis, said so.

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