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Gen. Van Fleet Talks To Greek Soldiers Like Football Coach

Top U. S. Military Man in Greece Hits Salonika
To Look Over 'Slow Motion' Civil War

By FRED SPARKS—Times Foreign Correspondent
SALONIKA, Greece, Apr. 13—Gen. James Van Fleet, chief of the American military mission in Greece, came up here to look over this slow motion civil war.

Gen. Van Fleet with the shoulders of a halfback and the profile of a Warner Brothers juvenile, is pretty much top military man in Greece these days. For the U. S. is picking up the Greek army's dinner check.

We left Athens aboard an American C-47 transport plane. We were accompanied by Gen. Yantzis, Greek chief of staff, various aides and interpreters.

At Saloniaka we were loaded into a small convoy of trucks. A tank and a mine sweeper pushed ahead and a few truckloads of shabby soldiers brought up the rear.

We bumped over pimply roads for hours, passing signal towers built by Alexander the Great when he sat firmly on this part of the world.

Soon we neared the Kroussa Range, where a confusing battle—sparked by Gen. Van Fleet's planning board—had been going on for a week.

On top of a hill the local Greek combat commander had pitched his headquarters tents. Troops had scraped themselves some protective mud and peered down behind Bren and Sten guns.

The outpost was circled with barbed wire. Scores of empty cans were strung to the wire.

Anybody—even a cat—rubbing the wire at night would rattle a can and promptly die.

On Highest Ridge

Encircled by Gen. Yantzis and local brass, Gen. Van Fleet mounted the highest ridge and as Greeks waved maps, shouted and pointed, looked over the country-side.

"Last night," said the commanding officer, "they escaped through that pass. We are now in pursuit. We hope to drive them into the sea."

"How can I get up to the front line?" asked Gen. Van Fleet.

"Oh, my," said a Greek officer, "it would take many hours on a mule."

Gen. Van Fleet couldn't spare the time. And he was disappointed. He is no flabby rear-echelon Washington-kissing general. On the beachheads of Europe he was a mere chicken colonel—and he walked across the bloody sands with his lowest GL.

"Be sure to plug this pass," said Gen. Van Fleet, studying the map. "We don't want any more escape routes open."

Like Football Coach

This is the gist of all Gen. Van Fleet's conversation with the Greeks.

He talks like a football coach between halves: "Surround them. Capture or kill them. Now is the time to make the extra effort. We must stamp out the bandits this summer."

All the Greeks nodded their heads in agreement.

Just then up puffed Lt. Col. Silas Ben Dishman, of Williams-

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

State OK's New Roadside Parks

The state highway department today announced approval of plans for two new roadside parks and four road junction landscaping projects.

The roadside parks will be located five miles east of Kokomo on Ind. 35 and on Ind. 37 in Marshall County.

Junctions to be landscaped are U. S. 38 and Ind. 67 northeast of Indianapolis; U. S. 32 and Ind. 431 south of Indianapolis, and Ind. 37 and Ind. 28 east of Elwood.

GOP Club Sets Meeting

Warren Township Republican Club will meet at 8 p. m. tomorrow in the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Curry, 6797 E. 10th St.

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