

Greek paper on the same "one side only" policy as us.

By the time the No. 3 issue of *Crete News* was out the end of the paper supply in the printery was in sight. Lieutenant Cox came down and took Zamaryas off to the Customs Office, where they arranged for us to be allowed a quantity of paper. It was then only necessary for me to wait until a truck was sent down to go along and collect the paper—so we thought. The truck arrived, and off we went to the Customs Office, where Zamaryas immediately became involved in violent, gestureful argument with the chief clerk.

After listening some ten minutes to this, I hauled him aside and tried to find out what the trouble was. He said that he was for *Crete News*—everyone was against him. They said, "No B.B.C. Noos—no paper." Zamaryas who had been pestering us for the last forty-eight hours for "B.B.C. Noos," apparently regarded this as a masterly diplomatic thrust.

I made a big speech about having him bayoneted from both sides at once if he made any more funny cracks like that and went off in search of a more reliable interpreter. Fortunately, there was such a man about the place and through him I was informed that what was wanted was a receipt. They wrote out a receipt and I signed it, keeping it in my pocket until such time as the paper was on the truck.

Off we went with the Customs man and Zamaryas in the truck. The door of the shed, really a big corrugated-iron blind running right up to the roof, had been bent by a bomb blast and the Customs man could not open it. The Tommy truck-drivers came to the rescue with a big iron bar and forced it open at one bottom corner. Inside there was nothing but sacks of something.

The Customs man then found another door which he said was the right one. Neither he, with his keys, nor we, with the iron bar, could open this one at all. By then we had wasted so much time that I could not hold the truck any longer. This incident, typical of the ordinary routine in Canea, should, I think, give some idea of what Lieutenant Cox was

up against when first trying to start the paper.

For the fourth and final issue of the *Crete News* we were able to get some wireless news. Zamaryas was on to this like a dog spying a chunk of raw meat. We had to watch him carefully to prevent his walking off with the copy so that he could get his friends in the cafes to help him with the translation. It was only after several brushes and displays of almost tearful frustration on his part that he started to bring in Alexis, through whom we were able to satisfy the Zamaryas craving and make the life of his editor an easy one.

Saturday was our last day in Canea, and the first day of the several during which the town was subjected by the Germans to the process which they describe as "coventrating." All through the week, of course, there had been bombing and machine-gunning in and around Canea, but it was never of a sustained nature, nor did it seem to be deliberately organized.

But it was soon evident that we were to get the whole works. During the whole of that day until nearly dark there was no half-hour when sticks of bombs were not dropped near to us or when planes were not flying over us spraying the streets and houses with their machine-guns.

As mentioned before, our premises offered some degree of protection from bombing. During the day many of the Greek people were gradually withdrawing from the most blitzed area, around the port past our place, to take shelter in the places under the lee of the cliff.

Our place, it turned out, was just on the edge of the area most thoroughly dealt with. Bombs were dropped within two doors of us. All the walls of the Plaza Hotel, a two-story building in front of us, were blown in or out. The blasts of the nearest bombs filled our retreat with dust and broke most of what little glass there was, and once water came in from the harbour, some 75 or 100 yards away on the other side of the Plaza Hotel. We had quite a number of Greeks sheltering with us, which made considerable difficulty for the chaps when they were trying to make the most of