

ROYAL NAVY CONTINUES AID TO GREEK ISLANDS

TWENTY-SIXTH PRESS RELEASE

Life is slowly returning to normal on the earthquake-shattered Greek islands, where public services are being restored as rapidly as possible with the help of ships of the Royal Navy employed on relief operations .

Villagers are already back in the fields at work on the harvest near the town of Zante, where houses are to be built with timber sent to the island on board Greek naval vessels. The local reservoir is working again and by to-morrow (Wednesday) it is hoped that camps for homeless in the area will be independent of supplies from H.M.S. BERMUDA, the cruiser, on which they have been relying.

Some five thousand men, women and children were inoculated at Zante yesterday against epidemics by local and R.N. medical officers.

At Efimia on Cephalonia, which has been visited by the frigate WRANGLER, all important roads from the harbour are now clear and ships drawing up to 25 feet are able to use the jetty.

The engineroom staff of H.M.S. DARING have started the water-works at Argostoli and unlimited supplies are available for distribution by water bowser. It is hoped that the reservoir on high ground, gravity feeding water to the town, will soon be operating. The foundations of fifty large wooden houses have been laid at Argostoli, and the power station there has commenced providing limited supplies.

Admiralty, S.W.1.
18th August, 1953

Copy for Mr. Stagg
17.8.53 - 18.11.

GREEK THANKS TO ROYAL NAVY

Captain P.W. Gretton, D.S.O., O.B.E., D.S.C., R.N., the Commanding Officer of the cruiser GAMBIA which arrived at Malta today after taking part in the earthquake relief operations of the Royal Navy in the Ionian Islands, has received a message of thanks from His Hellenic Majesty's Ship "Panther", a destroyer at Zante for the ship's services.

"Please accept the warmest gratitude of the authorities and the people of Zante for your precious assistance as well as that of all officers and men of your gallant ship. God Bless You" the message reads.

The GAMBIA which was diverted to the scene of the disaster while on passage from the canal zone to Malta was one of the first of H.M. Ships to arrive in the islands and found the town of Zante on the island of that name in ruins with fires still burning when she entered the harbour at dawn on Thursday.

H.M.S. WAKEFUL, a frigate, (Commander J.G.B. Morrow, D.S.C., R.N.) sailed from Malta early today to relieve H.M.S. DARING at Argostoli. The DARING arrived at Malta on Thursday.

Latest reports to Admiralty from the frigate WRANGLER state that the supply of water has become an urgent requirement at Vathi where water cisterns have been found to be leaking badly.
