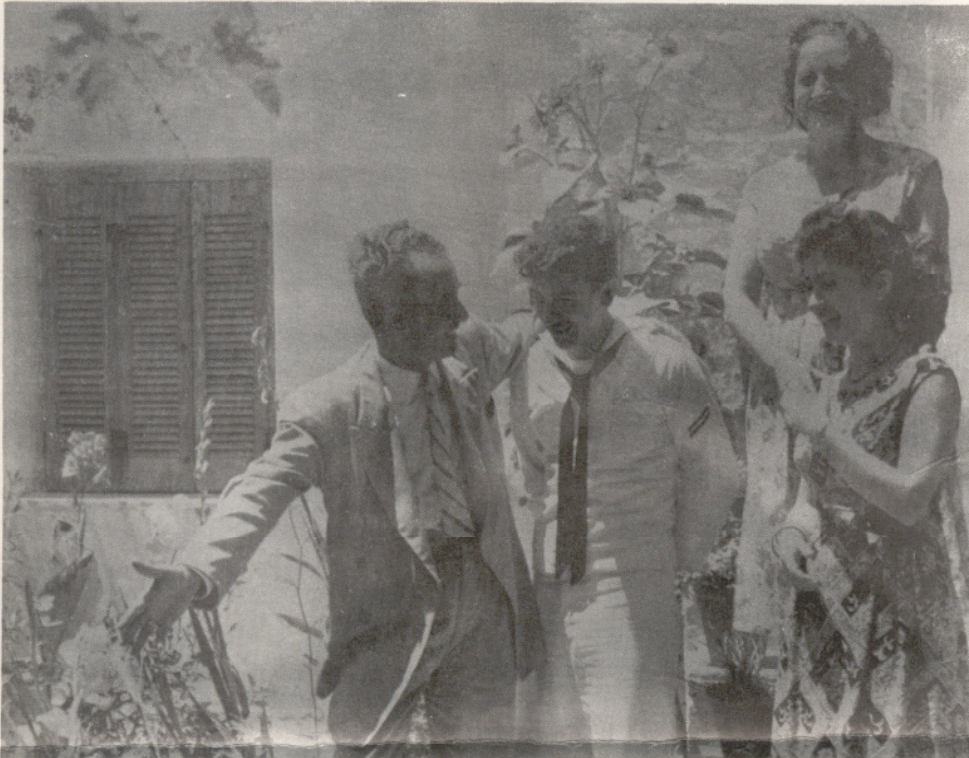


WASP Man Visits Kin in Athens

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A WASP NAVYMAN, Christie Stathopoulos, SA, USNR, visited his relatives in Athens when the ship was anchored there. Above he chats with them in the garden at their home. At left is his uncle George Zervoulakos, and at right are his aunt, Bessie, and cousin, Patricia.

Chaplain's Message

by Chaplain R. Canfield

Have you ever heard these remarks around the ship? "Religion is for sissies"...or, "Good God, why do you want to see the Chaplain?" I think that too many men feel that there is no room for Christianity in the life of a real "blood-and-guts" type of individual. Christ Jesus is not for the "he-man" type of guy. But is such thinking justified? Let us take the Master of men, Himself. Was Jesus a "pollyanna?" He was born of very poor parents and never went to adequate schools. He had to learn His trade at His father's side. Perhaps the Lord was not a "dead-end" kid in his youth in the same degree as we think of such cir-

cumstances today. But certainly Jesus knew about the "hard-knocks" and disappointments of life. In His ministry he never grew wealthy. He knew loneliness when He was deserted by His disciples. He knew the whip of the Roman scourge and felt the weight of His own cross on His back. Jesus died a criminal's death by crucifixion, and His last words were, "Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do."

Religion for sissies? Most certainly not. Christ Jesus is for all men regardless of race, creed, or background. It takes men with strong moral fiber to be his followers. Where do we stand?

A U.S. Navyman walked through the iron gate leading to a pleasant yellow stucco house in a quiet neighborhood of Athens, Greece. He hurried through the flower-filled patio to knock on the door.

Christie Stathopoulos' distant cousin, a young brunette with sparkling brown eyes, opened the door. He had never seen her before.

Chris, a 19-year-old Seaman Apprentice from the Second Division, is the first member of his immediate family to visit Greece since his parents left there in 1920.

While the ship was anchored at Athens on June 17, he visited his uncle, George Zervoulakos, and his family who live at 17 Halikdonas in Athens. His uncle owns the Athens Cotton Manufacturing Company, a textile mill.

The young Navyman had been granted special leave in order to enjoy an overnight visit with his relatives the first two days the ship was in Athens.

Three days later the Zervoulakoses came to the WASP to visit Chris. On June 20, they toured the carrier's hangar and flight decks and were awed by the array of anti-submarine airplanes and helicopters embarked in the ship.

His cousin, Patricia, especially enjoyed the evening, since the band on the WASP played dance music for the Navy men and about 85 young women from the Institute of American Studies.

When Chris visited his relatives, the first day was "get acquainted" time, and the next day they gave him a whirlwind tour of metropolitan Athens, an area of about 1.5 million people.

First item for the day was a visit to his uncle's office in downtown Athens where, between casual conversation, Chris enjoyed the Greek version of the coffee break.

From his Uncle's office window, and later from the patio, on the building roof, Chris got a remarkable view of Athens' famed Acropolis where remnants of some of the

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