



Macedonia has been raked over by war so many times in recent years that its people seem to take a state of war for granted. Being on the border, they are naturally the first to be occupied and the last to be liberated. Evacuation by the enemy was always a time of special horror, because atrocities no longer had to be accounted for; thus the full measure of vengeance was exacted by the Turks 30 years ago and more recently by Italians, Bulgarians and Germans during the Second World War and Communist guerrillas during 1948-49. The newspapers recently carried items about 500 kidnapped Greek children who had been released by the Yugoslavs; the children were from this section of the country and had been carried off by retreating Communist guerillas at the end of the fighting. There is still no such good news for the Greek peasants whose children were spirited across the Albanian and Bulgarian frontiers in great numbers. It is not surprising then, that distributions of Canadian food and clothing have often been made in this area since the end of the war, or that we went in this direction to deliver the school supplies.

School furnishings, with some exceptions, are usually pathetically few. In a number of schools the blackboards were just what the name implies — wooden boards painted over with black paint that was already well-worn, making it very difficult to read chalk markings on it. In others, for lack of maps, geography is taught from a sand-box, with little mounds labelled "Athens", "Salonika", or "Italy", leaving distances and outlines largely to the imagination of the pupil or the descriptive powers of the teachers. In others, pupils learn to write and do their homework on slates, for lack of copy-books and pencils.