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Writer of the famous War Film 'FORGOTTEN MEN'

The Home Guard is On His Own Fields

The Bully of Rome Strikes At Little Greece

On the 18th anniversary of Mussolini's so-called march on Rome, Fascist Italy delivered an altogether unprovoked attack on Greece. So the war came to the Balkans—in part, at least, because the Axis Powers had been unable to bring the Battle of Britain to a successful conclusion—and the left arm of the pincers (see page 422) is extended to keep pace with the right in Egypt.

At 3 a.m. on October 28 the Italian Minister in Athens, Signor Grazi, handed to General Metaxas, the Dictator-Premier of Greece, an ultimatum in which the Italian Government accused the Greek Government of having allowed its territorial waters and its coasts and ports to be used by the British Fleet during war operations, of having favoured the supplies to the "alien British forces," and having allowed the British Secret Service to organize a service of military information in the Greek Archipelago. It also referred to the "terrorist policy" that had been adopted towards the population of Ciamuria (the region in northern Greece which was annexed from Albania in 1913) and of the continued attempts to create disorder in the Albanian frontier zone. "All these provocations cannot possibly be tolerated any longer by Italy. Hence the Italian Government has reached the decision to require the Greek Government as a guarantee of its neutrality and of Italian security to allow the Italian forces to occupy for the duration of the present conflict with Great Britain certain strategic points on Greek territory." The Greek Government was further asked not to oppose this occupation, but if the Italian troops did encounter resistance, then this, it was stated, would be met by force of arms. General Metaxas was swift with his reply.

He asked "What points?" and when Grazi said he did not know, the Greek Premier rejoined that he regarded the ultimatum as a declaration of war by Italy against Greece. The Italian Minister rejoined with a statement that the Italian troops would begin to march at 6 o'clock.

In fact, the Italian military forces began their invasion of Greece at about that time, when the frontier from Albania was crossed in several places. The army of invasion was drawn from Italy's army of 200,000 men in Albania, and the main thrusts were aimed eastwards across the mountains towards Florina and south in the direction of Janina. The Greeks fought desperately in the mountain passes to bar their passage, and at one point they actually invaded Albania. At the same time Italian troops were reported to have landed on some of the Greek islands in the Aegean Sea, and their warplanes bombed the harbour of Athens, the Corinth Canal, and other military objectives.

Soon after King George of Greece and General Metaxas had signed orders for a general mobilization, they issued messages to the Greek people. "At this great moment," said King George, "I am sure that every Greek man and woman will do their duty to the end and will show themselves worthy of the glorious history of Greece."



King George of the Hellenes is here seen with General Metaxas, President of the Greek Council. The King's grandfather was a brother of our Queen Alexandra.

Photo, Wide World

while General Metaxas urged the nation to stand up and fight for Fatherland, wives and children, and sacred traditions—to show "whether we are truly worthy of our ancestors and of the freedom won for us



This contour map of Greece, Albania, Bulgaria, and Turkey suggests the mountainous nature of the country in which the fighting must take place. Italy is anxious to obtain bases from which naval operations against the British Navy could be conducted in the Eastern Mediterranean, and in particular her desire is to occupy Corfu and some of the islands between Greece and Crete and off the coast of Turkey.

Courtesy of the "Evening Standard"

King George VI to King George of Greece:

A message sent on October 28.

In this hour of Greece's need I wish to say to the heroic Greek nation and to my cousin George, King of the Hellenes, this:

We are with you in this struggle; your cause is our cause; we shall be fighting against a common foe.

There are doubtless hard trials to be borne, but we shall both meet them in the firm faith that ultimate victory is assured by the ever-increasing strength of the free peoples.

We may hope, indeed, that we are already near the turn of the tide, when the power of the aggressor will begin to ebb and our own growing might to prevail.

Long live Greece and her leaders; long live the King of the Hellenes.

Mr. Churchill to the President of the Greek Council, General Metaxas:

Italy has found threats and intimidation of no avail against your calm courage. She has therefore resorted to unprovoked aggression against your country, seeking justification for a wanton attack in baseless accusations.

The way in which the Greek people, under your trusted leadership, have faced the dangers and provocations of recent months has gained for Greece the admiration of the British people; the same qualities will uphold them in their present hour of trial.

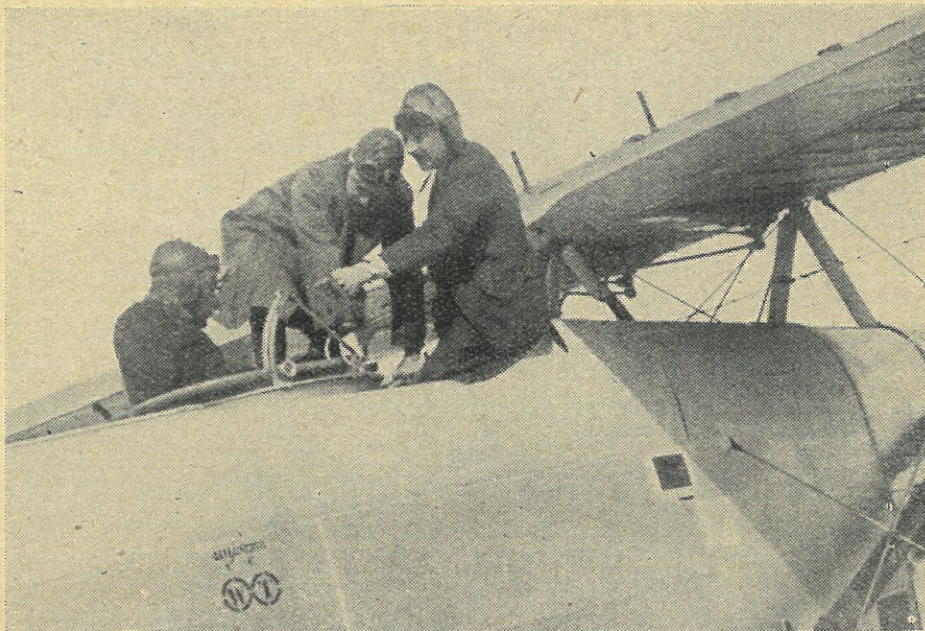
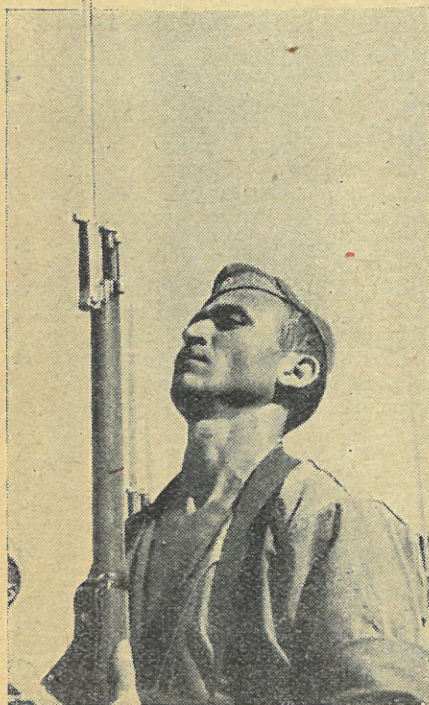
We will give you all the help in our power.

We fight a common foe and we will share a united victory.

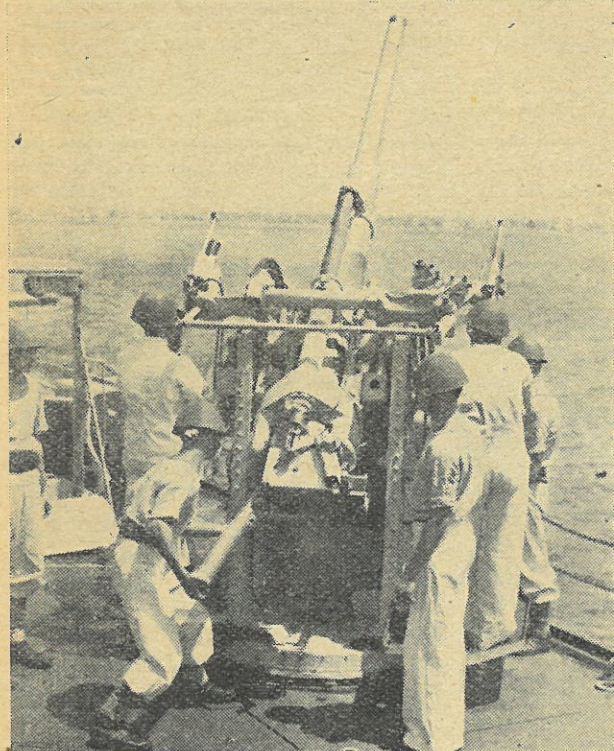
by our forefathers." He concluded with the words used by the Greeks on the eve of the battle of Salamis in B.C. 480: "Now above all the battle."

Early in the day the Greek Government sent an appeal to Britain to honour the guarantee given on April 13, 1939. Speaking

Over the Balkans Break the Clouds of War



Greece has six infantry divisions ; a typical infantryman is seen left at the " present." As for its air arm, the Greek air force comprises approximately 150 to 200 first-line but not all modern aircraft. A biplane bomber is seen above at the Tatoi aerodrome, near Athens.



On the left is seen an anti-aircraft gun crew on board the coastal defence ship "Giorgios Averoff." This ship is an armoured cruiser of 9,300 tons and was refitted in France in 1927. Above, Greek troops with a machine-gun.

Two Greek destroyers belonging to the "Hydra" class are viewed from the deck of the "Averoff." These ships have a displacement of 1,350 tons with a complement of 156. They carry six 21-in. torpedo tubes and forty mines. For some years past a series of British naval missions have been in charge of Greek naval training and organization.

Photos, Wide World, Keystone, Planet News

