

R.A.F. IN GREECE: FIRST PICTURES.

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Issue No. 1022.

Title: The Battle.

Tracks: Crusades Prelude..Funeral March..Sylvanian March.

Lines: Stagg.....Voice .....Stagg.

16..12..1940.

Discs: 350.541.343.363

344.232.

Victory was in the air on both sides of the Mediterranean as a British cruiser approached Athens with R.A.F. re-inforcements. A previous Air Force contingent was rushed to Greece immediately the Italians invaded. Near the harbour keen watch was kept for submarines by a British seaplane, but the man-of-war made her way in unmolested. The reinforcements were coming to the little country which has set an example to the world. Greece was not only attacked and she would have been in the fashion had she laid down her arms when the first shot was fired. Instead she resisted and with dazzling success. People at the dockside gave a big welcome to their British allies. They knew that the dash and fearlessness of the R.A.F. prevented the Italians from effectively turning their planes against the brave Greek infantry.

The day that Athens awoke to find that Italy had launched the expected attack was not one of fear, but exultation. Exclusively Paramount News filmed the exciting scenes, and these are the first pictures of Greece in the early days of the war.

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The Turkish flag flew with the Greek as the people massed to hear the Prime Minister. When General Metaxas appeared he told them that Greece would defend herself to the last man and the last mile. Defence was the best that anyone hoped for that day. The possibility of a great victory was not yet foreseen.

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Greek troops garrisoned at Athens were immediately dispatched to the front, and as they marched a general mobilisation brought the little country's man-power to arms.

With all possible speed the recruits were sworn in. The world now realises how much it owes to this people - first of the small nations to stand up successfully to the Axis bullies. The young men of Greece swore to serve King and Country in the cause of liberty.

King George himself, later in the day, inspected a munition factory - another proof that Greece has been preparing. His brother Crown Prince Paul and the Crown Princess Frederika accompanied him.

Meanwhile Greece honoured a British hero. The people of Athens gave a full military funeral to the first R.A.F. airman to lose his life in this campaign - a rear gunner.

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Members of the British Military Mission and RAF officers were at the graveside. Meanwhile Greek airmen had fought no less valiantly than the British, and young pilots just out of training paraded to receive their commissions from the King.

The streets of Athens reverberated day and night with the passage of the army towards the Albanian border.

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Greek planes made a brave showing. They are modern and they were more than a match for the Italians, though heavily outnumbered.

The Kilted Evzones have proved to be unsurpassed fighters in the storm-swept Albanian heights. Greece has not been neglecting her defences and now her sense and courage are magnificently rewarded. The free world is full of admiration for the valiant people who have been led to triumph by King George and General Metaxas.

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