

KORITZA: Pop. 29,000. 7½ miles inside Albania. Italian H.Q. and keypoint of drive (intended) to Salonika. Is at junction of 4 of 8 roads leading from Albania.

Key to Pogradets, it also led to main road from Argyrocastro to Northern Albania along which Italian supplies passed.

Greeks occupied positions in MOROVA HEIGHTS. Road winds up to 5000 ft. pass of QAFI-A-QARRIT. Heights semicircle town on East.

Then attacked from South. Position being untenable Wops fled. Before this they had rushed up reinforcements badly needed for their main supply depot at Argyrocastro, thus weakening that position.

With fall of Koritza Greeks attacked on whole length of 150 mile front from K. to sea. Quickly Elbasan, Pogradets, Argyrocastro and Santi Quaranta (main supply port) fell. From K. they drove North towards Pogradets; and West to cut only road from Argyrocastro along which supplies travelled to Wops in Pogradets sector.

W Greek cavalry pushed on ahead 12½ miles west of Koritza to capture important Meseopolis, after Greeks had broken up and routed entire Wop division.

Italians driven out of Koritza included MUSSOLINI'S OWN Bersaglieri.

Stuff on the donkeys in hills was all booty left by fleeing Wops. No final figures available, but in mopping up Greeks took 1500 prisoners, 12 big guns, lots of mortars and about 400 boxes of ammunition. Also 10 abandoned planes damaged by R.A.F.

Koritza is normally 75 percent Greek pop. On entering Greeks at once established a council.

Churchill sent telegram to Metaxas congratulating.

For earlier scenes, Greeks in drive towards Koritza were badly strafed by Wop bombers. Just before the real drive started another big R.A.F. reinforcement landed and fighters scared off Wops enabling Greeks to get on with job.