

CYPRUS BENEFITS FROM CRETE LESSON.

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Title: Beau Geste.

Track: Ditto

Lines: Stagg.

Voice: do.

Britain has strengthened her garrison at Cyprus. To prevent this island at the eastern end of the Mediterranean becoming an Axis air and naval base, reinforcements at once marched inland to prospect aerodrome sites. They landed with all the fighting equipment and transport they'll need to defend the little country, and make sure Cyprus won't be a jumping-off place for an Axis assault on Turkey which is only fifty miles north, over the sea.

The islanders, mainly of Greek extraction, are busy making army hutments. Cyprus has been a Crown Colony since 1914. After enjoying freedom under British rule the people are anxious to keep it.

Troops detailed for aerodrome defence lost no time preparing gun emplacements. The mistakes of Crete wont be repeated. Strategically, too, Cyprus is better placed than Crete - little more than 100 miles from mainland air-bases, as against 400. Engineering skill made up for lack of mechanical derricks when it came to unloading anti-aircraft guns.

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Dont shout at us. The job's done now, anyway.

Work on the airfield itself started with damping down the dust. Apart from loose topsoil the place was almost a ready-made aerodrome. It only remained to roll it out - the cow-power outfit giving a hand, and the planes could move in whenever they liked.

Now well defended, Cyprus becomes an asset to Britain's fortified positions in the Mediterranean.
