

FREE ALBANIA CELEBRATES INDEPENDENCE

Independence day 1944 was the occasion of greater rejoicing than the anniversary had ever been since the little country threw off the yoke of the Turks in 1912. The unpretentious dwelling that was King Zog's Royal Palace was damaged by the R.A.F. when it was used as enemy headquarters. Rocket firing fighter planes got direct hits, but the little place still stands. Whether Zog will ever return to it as King is to say the least, doubtful. Meanwhile the flag of Albania again flew in Tirana. Banners pay tribute to Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin.

Past the war memorial marched Albanian partisans who have been fighting the Germans, with arms sent to them by the Allies.

(crowds) The people had good reason to rejoice. Albania has been in foreign occupation since Easter, 1939, when Mussolini invaded the country. Halifax bombers made a ceremonial fly past. Those aircraft had previously delivered food and weapons to the Albanian people. To this part of the world liberty returned.