

1941

On April 6th Germany came to the aid of Italy, invading both Yugo-Slavia and Greece. On the same day it was announced that British forces were already in Greece. To provide them Africa had been stripped, and Britain's gains there imperilled. Within three weeks Greece had been overrun, and within another fortnight Crete had been lost. Soon also Britain had lost her Libyan gains, but she had made Syria and Iraq secure. It has also been suggested that the battles in Greece and in Crete delayed the German move against Russia, which was made on June 21st.

1942

Despite the tightening Nazi grip on Greece, individual acts of sabotage increased and resistance to the enemy was organized. Conditions grew worse as the Bulgarian, Italian, and German forces of occupation plundered the country. The Greek Government in exile began to train and equip a new army in the Middle East.

1943

The forces of resistance to the enemy gradually emerged. The two main organized groups were E.A.M. (National Liberation Front) with its armed force E.L.A.S. (Greek Popular Liberation Army) and E.D.E.S. (Greek Democratic Liberation Army) led by Colonel Zervas. E.A.M. was under Communist leadership and had a Communist core, but included other elements, members of the Socialist Democrat and Agrarian Parties. E.D.E.S. was also Left Wing, although not Communist. E.L.A.S. operated on the Salonika side of the Pindus Ridge, which divides the mainland of Greece from end to end, and E.D.E.S. on the Adriatic side. Britain supplied both groups with arms; the enemy supplied them with propaganda and sought to sow dissension between them. Clashes followed between the two patriot forces.

1944

*February*: A British Military Mission sent to Greece managed to put an end to the clashes between E.D.E.S. and E.L.A.S.

*March*: E.A.M. set up its own governmental Committee inside Greece and proposed collaboration with the Greek Government in Cairo. This offer was rejected by the Cairo Government on the ground that E.A.M. did not represent all political groups in Greece. E.D.E.S. remained loyal to the Cairo Government. Mutual suspicion complicated negotiations. It was feared in Cairo that E.A.M. was not so much concerned with fighting the enemy as with seizing power in a liberated Greece. E.A.M., on the other hand, considered that the Army in training in Egypt was intended not to free Greece, but to police the country after it had been freed. A revolt broke out in the Greek Army in the Middle East directed against what the Republican-minded troops considered was the Metaxist influence in the Greek Cabinet and among the senior officers of the forces. The Greek King issued a statement that a free vote would decide the future of Greece, monarchy or republic.

*April*: A conciliatory move was made in Cairo by the reforming of the Government in exile under the leadership of M. Papandreou, a well-known politician and founder of the Republican Socialist Party; he had been brought from Greece for the purpose at Britain's suggestion.

*May*: M. Papandreou called a conference of all the Greek political parties and resistance organizations in The Lebanon. Representatives of E.A.M. came from Greece to attend. A National Government was formed, but E.A.M. refused to join, making demands for a wider representation in the Cabinet than it was felt they were entitled to.

*September*: E.A.M. withdrew its demands and accepted six seats in the Government.

*October 8*: British forces entered Greece.

*October 18*: The Greek Government returned to Athens.

*November 17*: The Mountain Battalion of the Greek Army in the Middle East arrived in Athens and paraded through the streets, singing Royalist songs.

*December 1*: The Government issued a decree calling for the disbandment of the E.A.M. police force. E.A.M. members refused to sign and left the Cabinet. They