

CHAPTER XX

GREECE. 1940-1945

A. GENERAL

1. The Italians invaded Greece on October 28, 1940, although they maintained that this was not in fact true for a few days thereafter. During the early part of the campaign the Italians were driven back into Albania by the Greeks within a short time and matters were rather serious, because at the speed with which the Greeks were advancing it was apparent the Italians would be driven from Albania. Therefore Hitler to save his axis partner's face attacked Yugoslavia and Greece simultaneously on April 6, 1941. By April 27, the Germans had entered Athens. The Greek government and the British forces in Greece evacuated to Crete, where they were attacked by the Germans on May 20. The British forces began to evacuate Crete on June 1.

2. A few days after the Germans entered Athens a puppet government was established composed of 5 generals, 5 university professors, 1 lawyer and 1 former civil servant. No politician or business man of any standing would accept office under the Germans, although many were approached repeatedly. By an edict of May 7, 1941, the Kingdom of Greece ceased to exist and the State of Greece appeared. Although the Italians were nominally in occupation of the country, German troops actually controlled all the more important places.

3. After the occupation of Greece (Greece was occupied by Germans, Bulgars and Italians) certain areas were annexed to Bulgaria and to Italy, although no formal statement of annexation was ever made. In the Bulgarian annexed territories (which included the occupied Greek regions of Macedonia and Thrace) a decree published on June 10, 1942, stated that all persons resident in "Greater Bulgaria" would automatically acquire Bulgarian nationality on that day. Persons of non-Bulgarian descent became Bulgarian citizens unless they opted for Yugoslav or Greek nationality in which case they had to leave Bulgarian territory. Large numbers of Greeks were sent as forced labourers.

B. GREECE UNDER THE OCCUPATION

4. As mentioned above a puppet government was established in Greece during the occupation. Its first Prime Minister was Tsolakoglou, who resigned in 1942 and whose place was taken by Loghothetopoulos. Gotsamanis was the most notorious Greek collaborator and he held the directorship of the majority of the important ministries. Part of the puppet government was pro-German while the other part was pro-Italian.

5. In the territories annexed by Bulgaria and Italy, all civil officials were replaced by collaborators and in the Bulgarian part the old officials were sent to concentration camps in Bulgaria or Germany. Generally it may be stated that all collaborators had been anti-Venizelists before the war although it would not be correct to say that all anti-Venizelists were collaborators. In fact the bulk of them belonged to the resistance move-

ment. (Note: Venizelos had been Prime Minister of Greece and in 1935 certain elements of the Greek army attempted an unsuccessful coup to return him to power, which the anti-Venizelist group in the army quelled.)

6. In 1941, Tsolakoglou inaugurated a Security Corps which was a new Gendarmerie designed to ensure full cooperation with the occupying forces. Many of the higher officials were undoubtedly pro-German but collaboration in the lower ranks was rare.

C. ELIGIBILITY STATUS OF THE ABOVE GROUPS

7. Members of the Quisling Government are *prima facie* outside the mandate of IRO. Junior officials who may have retained their posts because of economic reasons will be dealt with on the merits of each case.

8. Senior members (rank major and above) of the Security Corps are outside the mandate under the terms of paragraph 2 of Part II of the Constitution. Officers below that rank will be dealt with according to their individual merits. Ordinary members of the corps are *prima facie* within the mandate.