The July 28, 1940, issue of The New York Times featured headlines and stories related to the Battle of Crete and the Greek resistance against the Axis powers. The newspaper highlighted the courage and determination of the Greek people in their struggle against the occupying forces.

The article mentions the historical significance of the battle and the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by the Greek people. It also discusses the role of the Greek Resistance in fighting against the Axis forces and the subsequent liberation of the Greek territories.

The article concludes with a call to action, urging readers to remember the lessons of history and to stand up against the forces of oppression and aggression. It emphasizes the importance of preserving the memory of the Greek Resistance and honoring the lives lost in the struggle for freedom.

The text also touches on the broader implications of the battle, linking it to the larger context of World War II and the struggle for democracy andfreedom.

In summary, the article serves as a reminder of the resilience and courage of the Greek people in their fight against oppression, and it encourages readers to reflect on the importance of remembering the sacrifices made in the name of freedom and justice.
Long Live the Heroes and the Glory of October 28th 1940

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We Salute the Heroes of «OXI Day»

Who Defied Fascism and Tyranny

«The heroic struggle of the Greek people to defend their liberties and their homes against the aggression of Germany after they had so signally defeated the Italian attempt at invasion has stirred the hearts and aroused the sympathy of the whole American people.» – President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (AHEPA Member) to the AHEPA Supreme Lodge, April 25, 1941

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Seventy-five years ago this month, the Nazis were sweeping through Europe with frightening ease. The Nazi war machine seemed horrifyingly effective as country after country fell. This was the backdrop on the early morning of October 28, 1940 when the Axis forces requested a meeting with Greek Prime Minister Ioannas Metaxas.

Surely, when the emissary for the Axis forces arrived in Greece to meet with Prime Minister Metaxas, one can only assume that they knew that meeting would be a formality — that any sensible country would have witnessed the carnage brought upon Europe and would be desperate to avoid bringing that home at all costs. One can only imagine that the Axis agenda for the meeting was short. They came with only a simple demand: Greece must unconditionally surrender and allow the Axis forces unimpeded use of strategic military sites or the Greek people would face war.

The Axis forces clearly underestimated the Greeks’ resolve. They did not understand that the same people who, just a decade earlier, had seen thousands of their friends, families, and neighbors slaughtered by the Ottoman Empire, would not sit idly by while a new menace terrorized a continent with unimaginable cruelty. Despite the Greeks having been war-weary people, Metaxas shocked the Axis powers by giving his now famous one word answer: “OXI!”

Perhaps it was precisely because the Greek people knew the Ottoman Empire perpetrate the first — and largely forgotten — genocide of the 20th century that Greece showed its resolve. Maybe it was Greece’s resistance that made Prime Minister Metaxas make his famous answer to Hitler rather than allow that evil barbarity to suffocate the world. Greece, along with other nations in Europe chose to stay one of the conflicts in hopes they would be spared. The Greeks willingly inserted themselves into the fray, costing hundreds of thousands of Greek lives but saving millions by continually stunting and stifling the Axis forces.

Greece’s refusal to aid and abet Axis brutalities from as early as the first days of the war tempered the Axis forces enough to prevent them from directly invading Greece. Despite those early losses, Greece held on to its territory and forced the Axis to spend billions of dollars and valuable resources to maintain a front in Greece.

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Just as we remember OSI Day and the Greek forces fought heroically and prolonged the fight longer than anyone imagined, we have two options: we can be filled with despair and lament that we are powerless to do anything to stop the work of evil men, or we can learn from the Greeks and say in a clear and strong voice that, no, we will not tolerate this evil barbarity. We can band together and say, “OXI.”

By Rep. Bob Dold

[Image 450x313 to 526x382] German soldiers raising the German War Flag over the Acropolis. It would be taken down by Manolis Glezos and Apostolos Santas in one of the first acts of resistance.

German soldiers enter Athens in 1941.

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OXI Day Special

THE NATIONAL HERALD, OCTOBER 24, 2015

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Ζήτω το Επος του '40
Ζήτω η 28η Οκτωβρίου

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Voula Papaioannou, along with Balafas, Meletzis and Tloupas, is one of several prominent Greek photographers who came to maturity during the Occupation and Greek Civil War. Her images from the Occupation are unique documents of the period that skillfully transcend the demand for realistic information. Her photographs present the misery and pain of the occupation as part of life, and her subjects are infused with the breath of spontaneity.

Voula Papaioannou was born in Lamia and grew up in Athens (Greece). She began working as a photographer during the 1930s, concentrating at first on studies of landscapes, monuments and archaeological exhibits. The outbreak of war in 1940 marked a turning point in her career, as she was intensely affected by the suffering of the civilian population of Athens. Realising the power of her camera to arouse people’s conscience, she documented the troops departing for the front, the preparations for the war effort, and the care received by the first casualties. When the capital was in the grip of starvation, she revealed the horrors of war in her moving photographs of emaciated children.

After the liberation, as a member of the photographic unit of UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration), she toured the ravaged Greek countryside recording the difficult living conditions faced by its inhabitants. She often exceeded her brief, immortalising the faces and personal stories of ordinary people in photographs that stressed dignity rather than suffering. [...]

Voula Papaioannou’s work represents the trend towards “humanitarian photography” that resulted from the abuse of human rights during the war. Her camera captured her compatriots’ struggle for survival with respect, clarity, and a degree of personal involvement that transcended national boundaries and reinforces one’s faith in the strength of the common man and the intrinsic value of human life.

Voula Papaioannou: Photographer of the “Katochi”
from tom vellios,
on behalf of five below,
we honor all the brave men and
women who fought and died
for freedom and democracy.
For the next four years, Metaxas made a serious effort, with the country’s limited natural resources, to strengthen its military forces, and to build some of the best equipment available on Greek soil. Metaxas was not an opti-
mist. In the summer of 1939, he wrote an essay on modern Greek politics. In it, he declared that Greece had no enemies on land and no enemies at sea. Greece was surrounded by friends, and the only problem was how to defend itself. Metaxas went on to say that the country’s main enemies were its neighbors, Turkey and Italy. He believed that Turkey was a threat to the north and Italy was a threat to the south.

Metaxas’ policies were based on the belief that Greece should not be a passive participant in international affairs. He believed that Greece should take an active role in protecting its interests and that it should not be afraid to use force if necessary. He also believed that Greece should not be afraid to attack its enemies.

Metaxas was a strong supporter of Greek unity and of its eventual effect on the Balkan region. He believed that the Balkan region was a natural sphere of influence for Greece, and he was prepared to use force if necessary to protect it.

Metaxas was also a great supporter of Greek culture and of its eventual effect on the Balkan region. He believed that Greek culture was a natural sphere of influence for Greece, and he was prepared to use force if necessary to protect it.

In 1940, as the Italians prepared to invade Greece, Metaxas announced that Greece would fight to the death. He said, “Our country will never surrender. We will never give in to the enemy. We will fight to the end.”

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