

OCTOBER 28TH, 1940 *OXI* DAY

In the hallowed records of history, and indeed, of today, there are moments that shine as beacons of courage, unity, and the indomitable human spirit. Greece's 'OXI' Day stands as a testament to such moments. It is a day that we, as Greeks, and as citizens of the world, hold close to our hearts.

As we present this special newspaper insert dedicated to 'OXI' Day, we invite you to embark on a journey through time, one that takes us back to the defining moment when Greece, in the face of tyranny, uttered a resounding 'OXI' – a 'No!' that has echoed across generations. In these pages, we explore the multifaceted tapestry of 'OXI' Day, touching upon history, heroism, traditions, culture, and the often unsung role of women in the resistance.

'OXI' Day is not just a historical event but a living testament to the Greek spirit of resis-



tance, unity, and pride.

For Greeks, both in Greece and in the Diaspora alike, it is a cherished occasion to come together, honor our heritage, and celebrate the values that bind us to our homeland. 'OXI' Day serves as a reminder that, no matter where we reside, the Greek people continue to carry the torch of freedom and resistance, ensuring that our history and culture remain vibrant and enduring.

We wish you a happy 'OXI' Day and hope that it may be a meaningful tribute to the courage and resilience of the Greek people today and always.

Vanessa Diamataris Co-Editor/Publisher

A Historical Overview

Greece's 'OXI' Day - A Defiant Stand against Axis Powers

TNH Staff

Greece's 'OXI' Day, celebrated annually on October 28th, is a poignant reminder of the nation's indomitable spirit and unwavering commitment to freedom and sovereignty. It marks a pivotal moment in Greek history when the country took a resolute stance against the forces of oppression during World War II, refusing to capitulate to Axis powers. The significance of 'OXI' Day extends far beyond historical remembrance, symbolizing courage, unity, and the enduring values of the Greek people.

The Prelude to 'OXI' Day

To fully appreciate the significance of 'OXI' Day, one must delve into the turbulent geopolitical landscape of the 1940s. Greece, nestled in the southeastern corner of Europe, found itself at the crossroads of a global conflict. World War II was in full swing, and Nazi Germany, along with its Axis partners, sought to expand its territorial conquests.

In the early hours of October 28, 1940, the Greek government, led by Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas, received an ultimatum from the Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. Mussolini demanded unfettered access for Italian troops to Greece, threatening invasion if Greece did not comply. Metaxas' defiant response to this ultimatum is remembered as a resounding 'OXI' – the Greek word for 'No'. This single word ignited a spark that would set Greece on a path of resistance and resilience.

The Italian Invasion

Mussolini's forces, underestimating the resolve of the Greek people, initiated their invasion of Greece on the same day. The Italian campaign, which was expected to be swift and unopposed, encountered a fierce and tenacious resistance. The Greek army, though outnumbered and outgunned, inflicted heavy casualties on the invading forces and pushed them back across the border with Albania.

The unexpected Greek victory over Italy was a clear indication that Greece would not bow to tyranny. 'OXI' Day had not only become a symbol of resistance but also a beacon of hope for nations grappling with the horrors of the war.

The Arrival of German Forces

The Italian defeat in Greece led to the intervention of Nazi Germany. Adolf Hitler, recognizing the strategic importance of the Balkans, ordered the invasion of Greece in April, 1941. The Greek forces, with limited support from British



Commonwealth troops, faced overwhelming odds. Despite their valiant efforts, the German military machine proved too formidable, and Greece ultimately fell to Axis control.

The occupation of Greece by the Axis powers was a dark chapter in the nation's history. It brought hardship, starvation, oppression, and suffering to the Greek people. However, even in



the face of occupation, the spirit of resistance continued to burn.

The Greek Resistance Movement

Greece's occupation gave rise to a robust and multifaceted resistance movement. The Greek people, from all walks of life, joined clandestine organizations and fought back against their oppressors. Partisan groups engaged in sabotage, espionage, and acts of civil disobedience, making life as difficult as possible for the occupiers.

One of the most well-known resistance organizations was the National Liberation Front (EAM), founded in 1941. EAM and its military arm, the Greek People's Liberation Army (ELAS), played a pivotal role in coordinating resistance efforts. Other groups, such as the National Republican Greek League (EDES) and the Greek People's Liberation Navy (Greek resistance at sea), contributed to the fight for liberation.

The Liberation and the Legacy

As the tide of World War II turned against the Axis powers on a global scale, Greece, too, began to see a glimmer of hope. In 1944, as the Axis forces retreated, the Greek resistance groups helped pave the way for the country's liberation.

On October 12, 1944, the Greek government-in-exile returned to Athens. Later, on October 28, 1944, the Greek people took to the streets to celebrate OXI Day, not only as a commemoration of their initial refusal to surrender but as a symbol of their eventual triumph over oppression. The nation was free once again.

'OXI' Day remains a cherished national holiday in Greece, marked by parades, ceremonies, and the resounding cry of "OXI" throughout the country. It is a time to honor the brave men and women who risked their lives for the cause of freedom and to remember the sacrifices of those who never lived to see the day of liberation.

The legacy of 'OXI' Day endures, serving as a reminder of the values that define the Greek spirit: courage, unity, and an unwavering commitment to freedom. It is a lesson for the world, demonstrating that even in the face of overwhelming odds, a nation's refusal to surrender can inspire the hope of liberation.

Greece's 'OXI' Day is a testament to the enduring power of the human spirit and the belief that, in the darkest hours, a single word – 'OXI' – can ignite a flame of resistance that will never be extinguished.



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With respect and pride, we honor the heroes who bravely fought and sacrificed for our beloved Greece.

ZHTΩ

H 28^H OKTΩBPIOY 1940!

Dean, Marianne, Evan and Daren Metropoulos



WAR OR PEACE

BUT EVEN IF

3 DAYS OR WEEKS OR YEARS WERE GIVEN, THE RESPONSE WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME.

THE GREEKS TAUGHT DIGINITY

THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES.

When the entire world had lost all hope

THE GREEK PEOPLE

DARED TO QUESTION

THE INVINCIBILITY OF THE GERMAN MONSTER RAISING AGAINST IT THE PROUD

SPIRIT OF FREEDOM.

-FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

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Lincoln MacVeagh - U.S. Minister to Greece on October 28, 1940

By Stavros Stavridis

Lincoln MacVeagh served as the U.S. Minister in Athens, 1933-1941, and witnessed the turbulent internal and external events that impacted Greece before the Italian ultimatum of October 28, 1940. He recorded these events in his diary, which provide insights into Greek society and the major politicians who ruled Greece.

The Italians wished to extend their influence in the Balkans and Eastern Mediterranean which the British would have considered a threat to its imperial interests in this area. Italy ramped up its anti-Greek campaign, accusing Greece of the murder of "an Albanian so-called patriot in August 1940." The cruiser Helli was sunk off Tinos on the day of the Feast of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary by "an unidentified submarine." The Italians [accidentally] bombed two Greek destroyers. The Greeks were further accused of arming "irregulars to terrify the Albanians on both sides of the border." Italian troops were being increased along the Greek-Albanian border, which worried Athens. The Greeks were wary of so-called friendly Italian overtures of peace and were prepared to fight Italy if invaded. All these happenings seemed to be part of a well-orchestrated plan by Italy to attack Greece.

On October 28, 1940 Lincoln MacVeagh was woken at 4:15 AM to be told by the Athens correspondent of the New York Times, Shan Sedgwick, that the Italian Minister, Emanuele Grazzi had handed the Greek dictator, loannis Metaxas, an ultimatum that was to expire at 6 AM demanding the right to occupy strategic points in Greece. These strategic points were never stated in the Italian ultimatum. Italy accused Greece of not being neutral in the war by supporting Britain and creating trouble in Albania. If Greece failed to respond by 6 AM, then the Italians would attack. The opposite was the truth. Mussolini was looking for an excuse to attack Greece, which had been planned for some time.

MacVeagh sought further details of the Italian ultimatum from the United Press correspondent, Ben Ames who had confirmed Sedgwick's original information. MacVeagh got dressed and went to the foreign ministry to seek out more details of what lurked behind this ultimatum. As he proceeded to the foreign ministry, Athens



Lincoln MacVeagh served as the U.S. Minister in Athens, 1933-1941

"was completely blacked out. Staff cars and diplomatic cars; sidecars and motorcycles dashed dangerously through the darkness." The first air-raid alarm began at 7 AM with "sirens making a dismal noise" but with no planes flying over. Then at 10 AM, the first planes flew over Athens bombing "the Tatoi airfield, with little ef-

"I saw the Director of the Greek Foreign Office before lunch and the Yugoslav Minister in the afternoon", MacVeagh said. England indicated that she would help Greece, whereas Turkey and Yugoslavia remained non-committal. At this stage, the Italians would attack Greece "south of the Yugoslav border."

The streets of Athens were full of demonstrators who attempted to storm the Italian Legation and succeeded in destroying the offices of the Ala Littoria airline. The Greek Director-General

About the Size of It

MACH T STARTED IT I CAN'T TOU STOP AN AND MACH I LOOK.
AS IF I WON?

The invasion of Greece is a triple crime. An unprovoked assault on one more small nation,

launched on an even flimsier excuse than

usual, is no surprise; it belongs to the brutal

pattern of this war. It is no surprise that Fascist

Italy celebrates its eighteenth birthday by using

the soil of one weak neighbor, similarly in-

vaded, to deliver an attack upon another. Thus

does fascism fulfill itself. The grandeur that was

Rome has declined to the mean bravado of a

bully, striking at those who are not expected to

they are, poor in the instruments of modern war,

remember and defend the glory that was Greece.

They recognize at once that this is a fight for in-

dependence, for the survival of all small nations.

Whatever happens, their instant determination

to «prove worthy of our ancestors and of our free-

dom» vindicates the heroic tradition of

But the Greeks in this hour, outnumbered as

strike back.



of the Foreign Office, Delmouzos gave MacVeagh "the story of Grazzi's ultimatum." The former got Metaxas out of bed at 3 AM and handed him the note. It appears that Metaxas responded, "I must consider this a declaration of war." Later in the morning, Grazzi explained to Mavroudis that the reason "why he had not asked for his passport," was "that no [declaration' was made and that Metaxas had not used that term." Mavroudis informed MacVeagh that Metaxas certainly said in French "C'est la guerre (It is war)."

MacVeagh praised Greece. writing that she "has saved her honor by taking arms against Italy, and has also saved her investments, which were mostly held in the British Empire and the U.S.A..."

The Italians opened firing on the Albanian front at 5.30 AM to prevent "the British bolstering Greek courage and counting on the Greeks caving in if they had to decide on their own at once."

"At 6 AM, the Greek Government declared general mobilization and later martial law was proclaimed throughout the country, while the Premier and the King issued manifestoes, the Premier's being especially dignified and inspiring in its simplicity and appeal," noted MacVeagh

MacVeagh mentioned that the Greeks called up to the colors were registering in large numbers to fight the Italians. Greek-Americans came to the U.S. Legation "seeking exemption from the draft." Those Greeks who were U.S. citizens would be exempt from the draft but non-US citizens were required to enlist in the Greek army.

After October 28, MacVeagh recorded in his diary that Patras had been twice bombed by the Italians, resulting in many casualties. The Turks promised to keep an eye on Bulgaria, who promised neutrality during the war.

This allowed Greece to transfer troops from Eastern Thrace to face the Italians on the Greek-Albanian border. So far Britain had not rendered any assistance to Greece but in the early stages of the war, the Greek army was holding up well against the Italians by "holding their advanced positions in Albanian territory." The Greeks had also shelled Koritza.

Meanwhile, the Bulgarian minister visited MacVeagh, where their discussion focussed on the Greek-Italian conflict and noted that the Bulgarian government believed that Greece would sooner or later collapse from the Italian onslaught. MacVeagh was sceptical of Bulgarian neutrality when the latter say they "want the Aegean corridor but by negotiation, not war." MacVeigh "replied that if she is to get it that way she must do something for Germany to merit it. To this, he said that Bulgaria is doing something for Germany in keeping Turkey in check! I said: "That's what the Turks are saying about England: they are helping her, and Greece, by keeping you in check."

MacVeagh praised Greece, writing that she "has saved her honor by taking arms against Italu, and has also saved her investments, which were mostly held in the British Empire and the U.S.A. The Greeks have always been ready to fight when they could be noble and sensible at the same time. You can read it in Xenophon."







Voula Papaioannou: Photographer of the "Katochi"

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.

The Hour of Greece

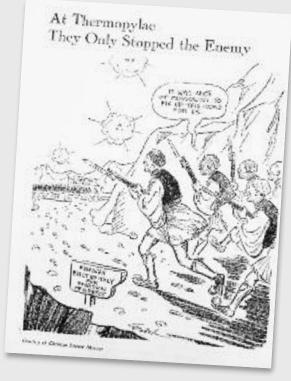




Marathon, Thermopylae and Salamis and establishes once more the title to nationhood of a brave and ancient people.

The attack on Greece is not only a crime against Greece and the law and civilization Rome was once proud to symbolize. It is a direct threat to the sole remaining bloc of «neutral» states. By this move the war-makers have wantonly dragged into danger the very nations they claim to protect and control. The Bulgarians hope to gain an outlet to the Aegean out of the expedition and Yugoslavia is completely encircled. If a major struggle develops over Greece, the Balkans and Turkey will sooner or later be drawn in.

Out of the confusion of rumors and contradictory reports two main questions suggest themselves. First, is the Italian move conceived as a diversion, and in this case can the British, heavily engaged in defending England and



Egypt, afford to draw large naval and air forces from these vital spots? Second, why does Hitler rush to Florence to confer with Mussolini just as the Italians start the drive on Greece? Can it be that the Duce moves ahead of time in order to confront his partner with a fait accompli? These and other questions will soon be answered, but the raid on Greece confirms what Hitler's diplomatic offensive already emphasizes. The two dictators are in a desperate hurry. From their viewpoint, Greece is merely an obstacle to the lock-up of the Balkans, a springboard for an attack on Egypt. But in our view, whatever happens, its stand is a bright sign in the darkness. In its long story Hellas has never been a Great Power; it has survived many invasions and defeats because it is what its few million people remain in their resistance today—a great nation.

New York Times

Lest We Forget

That Noble and Immortal Nation GREECE From the book compiled and edited by Georgios J. Kramanos Sponsored by the Greek War Relief Association Athenian Press, New York - 1943

A Tribute to the Heroic Greeks The Greek Resistance in 1940 inspired the entire world.

As Winston Churchill said:

"Hence, we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks."

The American people saw the bravery of the Greeks fighting against fascism in those difficult six months and it transformed the way Greek-Americans were perceived in the United States. From facing hatred and discrimination as outsiders, Greek-Americans were finally accepted as Americans.

Vassiliki Kekela

'**OXI' Day:**A Testament to Greek Valor

By Eraklis Diamataris

In the annals of history, certain moments stand tall as epitomes of a nation's spirit and character. For Greece, October 28th, known as 'OXI' Day, is a glowing emblem of fortitude that echoes through the generations. The day commemorates the audacious 'No' pronounced by Greek Prime Minister loannis Metaxas in 1940, in response to Mussolini's ultimatum to allow Axis forces to enter Greek territory. This singular act of resistance sparked Greece's involvement in World War II, pitting a small, defiant nation against the colossal Axis forces.

As the sun rises on October 28th, a palpable reverence blankets the Hellenic lands and beyond. In every corner of the country, the valor of the forebears is celebrated with fervor. Streets are adorned with the blue and white of the Greek flag, parades march through towns and cities, and families gather to honor the legacy of courage that courses through Greek veins. The Diaspora, too, partakes in this ritual of remembrance, showcasing the indelible bond between Hellenic descendants wherever they may reside.

A unique blend of solemnity and jubilation marks the commemorative events. Wreaths are laid at war memorials and the haunting notes of the national anthem resonate in hearts, as homage is paid to the valiant souls who fought and fell for Greece's honor. In schools, the youth imbibe tales of heroism from the annals of 1940, nurturing the seeds of patriotism that will guide future generations.

A unique blend of solemnity and jubilation marks the commemorative events.

The Greek-American community, with its deep-seated roots and an unwavering love for the homeland, holds this day in a reverent light. The National Herald, as a torchbearer of Hellenic heritage, has always played a pivotal role in bringing the tales of heroism from the motherland to the hearts dwelling in American soil. Through articles, special inserts, and community events, we have endeavored to keep the flame of 'OXI' Day burning bright in the hearts of Greek-Americans.

The legacy of October 28th is not merely a chapter in history books but a living narrative of resistance against tyranny. It's a reminder of the indomitable spirit that has seen Greece through millenniums of challenges. As we commemorate 'OXI' Day, we are not only reminiscing about a pivotal moment in history but are also nurturing a legacy of courage and defiance that continues to inspire Hellenes and philhellenes alike.

In contemporary times, 'OXI' Day transcends the bounds of historical remembrance, morphing into a symbol of resilience in the face of adversity. Its message resonates with the universal ethos of freedom and dignity, underscoring the timeless relevance of standing firm against forces of oppression.

As we reflect on the significance of this day, let's rekindle the spirit of 'OXI' Day in our hearts, fostering a culture of resilience and honor that will continue to shine as a beacon of hope in turbulent times. The story of October 28th is a timeless tale of valor, a narrative that propels the Greek spirit forward in a ceaseless quest for freedom and dignity.

EMBCA Presents 2023 'OXI' Day Panel in Athens

By Constantine S. Sirigos

Every Greek in Greece knows about the importance of 'OXI' Day, October 28, 1940, in Greek history, but sometimes they forget about its international importance – and few appreciate its profound meaning for Hellenes of the Diaspora.

Those elements will be highlighted when the New York-based Eastern Mediterranean Business Culture Alliance (EMBCA) hosts it annual 'OXI' Day event in Greece for the first time.

It will be held on Friday, November 3 at 7:00 PM at the Athens Plaza hotel in the Greek capital, in cooperation with the American Legion of Greece, whose Commander, leading Ahepan in Greece Nick Papadopoulos, will welcome the guests and introduce the panel.

The presenters include Lou Katsos, Founder and President of EMBCA – whose presentation is titled 'OXI' Day and its effect on America, the Diaspora, and Internationally'. Also on the panel are Thanasis Chiousi, journalist with ERT, Stelios Fenekos, Rear Admiral (ret.) of the Hellenic Navy, and Meletis Meletopoulos, PhD, from Geneva University.

"This panel in Greece is also important because it ties together the Hellenic Diaspora, Hellas, and America," Katsos told The National Herald. Invited guests include U.S. Embassy officials.

"I think the American participation is important because 'OXI' Day was also very important to the United States itself," Katsos said, explaining that that "when the Fascists invaded Greece from Albania there was an explosion of news coverage on a day-by-day basis by all the newspapers in the U.S. regarding what was happening in Greece."

He noted what was happening in Europe at the time, when "country after country was being taken over" – the capitulation of France happened only a few months earlier in 1940 – and on October 28 Italians under Mussolini attacked.

When people saw Greece successfully resist, "it galvanized all of Europe," Katsos said. "They saw that the Fascist powers that seemed invincible could be defeated – and Hellenic Heroism raised the hopes of all these people who were occupied."

Katsos also spotlighted the fact that "it caused the Nazi forces which were preparing to attack the Soviet Union under Operation Barbarossa to divert their forces and invade Greece, because they thought Mussolini's armies would be totally wiped out. The delay of the invasion of the USSR caused the eventual Nazi defeat there."

"Greece played a larger role in the war than just defending itself," Katsos reminded. "It was a major accomplishment, both psychologically by holding back the Fascists forces for a long time," and militarily, disturbing preparations for the Russian front. "The scope of what took place on 'OXI' day was international and its importance went beyond the Hellenic state," he reiterated

"And even though they were defeated eventually, the Hellenes fought hard for six months. The bravery of the Hellenic people was justifiably acknowledged by everybody – Churchill, Roo-



sevelt, etc.

GREEK-AMERICANS FINALLY 'ARRIVE' IN AMERICA

It was also emphasized by Katsos that, "'OXI' Day also had the effect of changing how Hellenic-Americans were perceived in America. It transformed us from being thought of in America as 'the other' – we were not really accepted as Americans" before 'OXI' Day. "That was the turning point... it led to President Roosevelt" to listen to the pleas of the Greek government in exile and establish the 122nd Infantry Battalion and to recruit Greek-Americans to support Greek resistance to the Nazis.

In is also important to note the role of the Hellenic merchant marine before and after October 28, 1940. It was targeted by the Nazis even before 'OXI' Day because they were transporting food, supplies, and weapons across the Atlantic to the Allies – up to two thirds of their fleets were destroyed. "And when 'OXI' Day happened, the sailors on the Greek ships at sea joined the

American army."

Katsos pointed out that it was not just the Hellenic Orthodox Christian population that took part in the resistance to Fascism. "The Hellenic Jewish community" which suffered catastrophic losses in the Holocaust, "stood united with the Christians, facing the adversities together in those challenging times" and producing its own war heroes, such as Col. Mordechai Frizis, he

The heroism and sacrifices of Greece had an impact on America's post-war support of Greece through the Marshall Plan and NATO membership. "There is no doubt about it. They did not forget 'OXI' Day" but Katsos also emphasized that the Community ran one of America's most successful War Bonds campaigns.

The EBCA event also spotlights the importance of the Greek-American community's support for people in Greece during 'the katohi' – the Fascist occupation. "If it wasn't for certain Hellenic Americans who actually sent supply ships to Greece via turkey, which was neutral during WWII, thousands more would have died."

Famous Quotes Honoring the Greeks

"If there had not been the virtue and courage of the Greeks, we do not know which the outcome of World War II would have been."

- Winston Churchill

"I'm sad because I'm getting old and I will not live much longer to express my gratitude to the Hellenic people whose resistance determined WW II. You fought unarmed and won, small against big... You gave us time to defend ourselves. As Russians and as fellow humans, we thank you."

- Soviet Leader Josef Stalin



On this October 28th let us commemorate the momentous

'OXI!'

and the heroes who stood up and fought for freedom against fascism in World War II



May their unity and sacrifices inspire us today!

The James Plevritis - Joseph C. Keane
AHEPA - EVZONE Chapter #405, New Rochelle, New York

President, Harry A. Fotiadis Vice President, Nick Kinas Secretary, Jon Kohilakis Treasurer, Jimmy Oddone When the entire world had lost all hope, the Greek people dared to question the invincibility of the German monster raising against it the proud spirit of freedom."

- President Franklin Roosevelt

"As a matter of historical truth, I must ascertain that only the Hellenes, of all the adversaries that confronted me, fought with daring courage and the highest disregard to death..."

- Adolph Hitler

"The great struggle of Hellas was the first big detour for the 2nd World War."

- King George VI

"Hence, we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks."

- Winston Churchill

"The Greeks delayed by two or more vital months the German attack against Russia; if we did not have this long delay, the outcome of the war would have been different."

- Wilhelm Keitel, Hitler's Chief of Staff

"I have taken up my cross, I spoke to the Lord, and made up my mind to save as many Jewish souls as possible."

 Archbishop Damaskinos of Greece

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Dr. Sotirios VahaviolosFounder and Chairman Emeritus

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SPOTLIGHT:

Profiles of Five 'OXI' Day Heroes

TNH Staff

1. Ioannis Metaxas: The Defiant Prime Minister

loannis Metaxas, a Greek general and politician. Although he led a dictatorial regime, Metaxas is perhaps best known for his resolute response to Mussolini's ultimatum on the eve of 'OXI' Day. As the Prime Minister of Greece in 1940, he faced an impossible decision: to either yield to the Italian demand or stand defiantly against the Axis powers. Metaxas chose the latter and reportedly uttered the word 'OXI', sealing his place in history as a symbol of Greek resistance.

Metaxas was a strong advocate for national unity and sought to fortify Greece's defenses in preparation for potential aggression. He understood the gravity of the situation and was willing to lead by example, even if it meant risking the nation's well-being. His unwavering stance on 'OXI' Day inspired countless Greeks to join the resistance effort, setting the stage for the eventual liberation of their homeland.

2. Manolis Glezos: The Flag-Bearer of Defiance

Manolis Glezos, born in 1922, was a young and idealistic activist when World War II began. His act of defiance on May 30, 1941 made him an enduring symbol of Greek resistance. Along with his friend Apostolos Santas, Glezos climbed the Acropolis in Athens that night and removed the Nazi flag, replacing it with the Greek flag as a powerful gesture of opposition.



Glezos' courageous act was a clear statement that Greece had not surrendered its spirit. He was subsequently arrested and imprisoned by the occupying forces. However, Glezos continued his activism and resistance work after his release, becoming a key figure in the post-war Greek political scene and advocating for social and political change.

3. Melina Mercouri: The Cultural Ambassador of Greece

Melina Mercouri, celebrated as a renowned Greek actress, was not only an emblematic figure in Greek culture but also a fervent advocate for her homeland. Her fervent support for the Greek resistance and her unrelenting efforts to raise awareness about the Nazi occupation and the suffering of the Greek people earned her international recognition.

Mercouri, who went on to become Greece's Minister of Culture, used her influence to promote Greek art, culture, and history. Her work extended beyond the stage and screen, contributing to the global understanding of Greece and its historical struggles.

4. Aris Velouchiotis: The Guerrilla Commander

Aris Velouchiotis, born Athanasios Tzimas, was a key figure in the Greek People's Liberation Army (ELAS), one of the largest resistance groups in Greece. As the commander of ELAS, Velouchiotis played a critical role in organizing and leading resistance efforts against the Axis occupiers.

His leadership and tactical acumen were instrumental in coordinating the diverse resistance movements throughout Greece. Under his command, ELAS engaged in guerrilla warfare, causing significant disruption to the occupiers' activities. Velouchiotis' dedication and strategic brilliance made him a revered figure among Greek partisans.

5. Lela Karagianni: The Heroic Journalist

Lela Karagianni was a pioneering Greek journalist who used her platform to shine a light on the atrocities of the occupation and support the resistance. Her newspaper articles, radio broadcasts, and pamphlets conveyed the struggles and suffering of the Greek people, inspiring them to stand up against their oppressors.

Karagianni was not merely a passive observer; she actively participated in the resistance efforts. Her contributions to the cause and her unwavering commitment to informing the world about the Greek plight made her a hero both in the field of journalism and in the resistance movement.

These five figures represent the diverse array of individuals who contributed to the resistance and the enduring spirit of 'OXI' Day. They each demonstrated unique forms of heroism, whether through political leadership, acts of defiance, cultural representation, military command, or journalistic activism. These profiles underscore the remarkable courage, resilience, and commitment that define the legacy of 'OXI' Day and the Greek people's struggle for freedom.

'OXI' Day in Art and Culture

Commemorating Greek Resilience Through Creativity

TNH Staff

The celebration of 'OXI' Day extends far beyond military parades and historical remembrance. It weaves itself into the rich tapestry of Greek art and culture, offering a profound and enduring source of inspiration for artists, writers, filmmakers, musicians, and performers. 'OXI' Day's impact on art and culture has resulted in a diverse array of creative expressions that commemorate Greek resilience and defiance against oppression.

Visual Art: Capturing the Spirit of 'OXI'

Visual artists have long been drawn to the themes of 'OXI' Day. The visual medium provides a canvas to express the indomitable spirit of Greece during World War II. Paintings, sculptures, and other forms of visual art often depict heroic resistance fighters, the Greek flag flying proudly, and powerful symbols of defiance.

The artwork of 'OXI' Day also extends to contemporary artists who draw inspiration from the past, creating pieces that capture the enduring legacy of the resistance and the spirit of 'OXI'.

Literature: Words of Defiance

Greek literature has been profoundly influenced by the events of 'OXI' Day. Poets, novelists, and essayists have often turned to the theme of resistance as a source of inspiration for their work. The words of defiance and courage expressed by those who lived through the war continue to resonate in contemporary Greek literature.

The poetry of Odysseas Elytis, a Nobel laureate and one of Greece's most celebrated poets, often carries themes of resistance and freedom. His work, such as the poem 'Monogram', resonates with the sentiments of 'OXI' Day and the indomitable will of the Greek people.

Film and Television: Portraying Heroic Struggles

The big and small screens have also paid tribute to the events of 'OXI' Day through film and television. Gripping cinematic narratives bring to life the stories of resistance fighters, highlighting the heroism and sacrifices of those who defied the Axis powers.

Films like 'Captain Corelli's Mandolin' and 'The 300 Spartans' have depicted Greek resistance against overwhelming odds, capturing the



A scene from the world premier in Germany of the opera 'Eleni' by Nestor Taylor, based on the eponymous book by Nicholas Gage.

tenacity and determination of the Greek people. These cinematic portrayals help ensure that the spirit of 'OXI' Day remains alive for new generations.

Music: Songs of Resilience

Music has been a powerful tool for commemorating 'OXI' Day and the broader history of Greek resistance. Songs have been written and sung to honor the struggles and sacrifices of the Greek people, with lyrics that evoke a strong sense of national pride and resilience.

The song 'To Zeimbekiko tis Evdokias', composed by Mikis Theodorakis with lyrics by Giorgos Seferis, has become an anthem of Greek resistance. It is a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made during the war and the unwavering spirit of the Greek people.

Theater and Dance: Stories on Stage

Theater and dance productions have also explored the themes of 'OXI' Day and Greek resistance. These performances bring to life the historical events and evoke the emotions of that pivotal era, providing audiences with a deeper understanding of the struggles and triumphs of the Greek people.

Dance, particularly traditional Greek dance, has played a significant role in 'OXI' Day celebrations. Greek folk dances are often performed at 'OXI' Day events, evoking the spirit and unity of the Greek people during the war.

Conclusion: A Cultural Tribute to Greek Resilience

'OXI' Day's impact on art and culture is a testament to its enduring significance in Greek history. It is a source of inspiration that continues to captivate the creative spirit of artists, writers, filmmakers, musicians, and performers. Through their work, they pay tribute to the heroism, sacrifices, and resilience of the Greek people during World War II, ensuring that the legacy of 'OXI' Day lives on in the hearts and minds of people around the world.

From visual representations that capture the spirit of defiance to the words of poets and novelists who celebrate the courage of the Greek resistance, and from cinematic narratives that portray heroic struggles to the songs that serve as anthems of resilience, 'OXI' Day is an everpresent and vibrant theme in Greek art and culture. It allows artists to channel the enduring spirit of the Greek people and share it with the world, ensuring that the memory of 'OXI' Day remains eternally alive and inspiring.

'OXI' Day in the Diaspora:

Honoring Greek Heritage and Resistance

TNH Staff

Greece's 'OXI' Day is not just a national holiday within the borders of Greece but a powerful symbol of resistance and national identity that resonates throughout the Greek diaspora. For Greeks living abroad, 'OXI' Day holds a special place in their hearts, serving as a reminder of their roots, the sacrifices of their ancestors, and the enduring spirit of the Greek people.

The Greek Diaspora: A Global Community

The Greek diaspora is a vast and far-reaching global community, with millions of people of Greek descent living in countries all over the world. These Greek communities, whether in the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe, or elsewhere, have maintained a deep connection to their homeland's history and traditions.

'OXI' Day is an occasion for Greeks in the diaspora to come together, celebrate their heritage, and show solidarity with Greece. It's a day that transcends borders and unites the Greek diaspora in a shared sense of identity and pride.

Commemorative Events

In the Diaspora, 'OXI' Day is marked by a variety of events and activities that reflect the rich tapestry of Greek culture and the importance of this historical day. Some of the common ways in which 'OXI' Day is celebrated in Greek communities around the world include:

- **1. Parades and Marches:** Many Greek communities organize parades or marches in honor of 'OXI' Day. Participants often wear traditional Greek attire, wave Greek flags, and display banners and signs to commemorate the resistance.
- **2. Religious Services:** Greek Orthodox churches play a central role in 'OXI' Day celebrations, hosting special services and liturgies to remember the fallen and pray for the well-being of Greece.
- **3. Cultural Performances:** Greek dance troupes, choirs, and musicians perform traditional Greek music and dances at various events, bringing the rich cultural heritage of Greece to life.
- **4. Exhibitions and Lectures:** Museums, cultural centers, and educational institutions often host exhibitions and lectures that explore the historical significance of 'OXI' Day.
- **5. Award Ceremonies:** Greek organizations and associations in the diaspora may use 'OXI' Day to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the Greek community or excelled in various fields.
- **6. Fundraising for Greece:** In times of crisis or need, the Greek diaspora has rallied together to provide humanitarian aid or financial support



to Greece. 'OXI' Day serves as a reminder of the importance of solidarity and philanthropy.

A Symbol of Unity

One of the most striking aspects of 'OXI' Day in the diaspora is how it brings together people from diverse backgrounds who share a common heritage. Greeks of different generations, backgrounds, and experiences come together to celebrate their roots and to ensure that the legacy of 'OXI' Day endures.

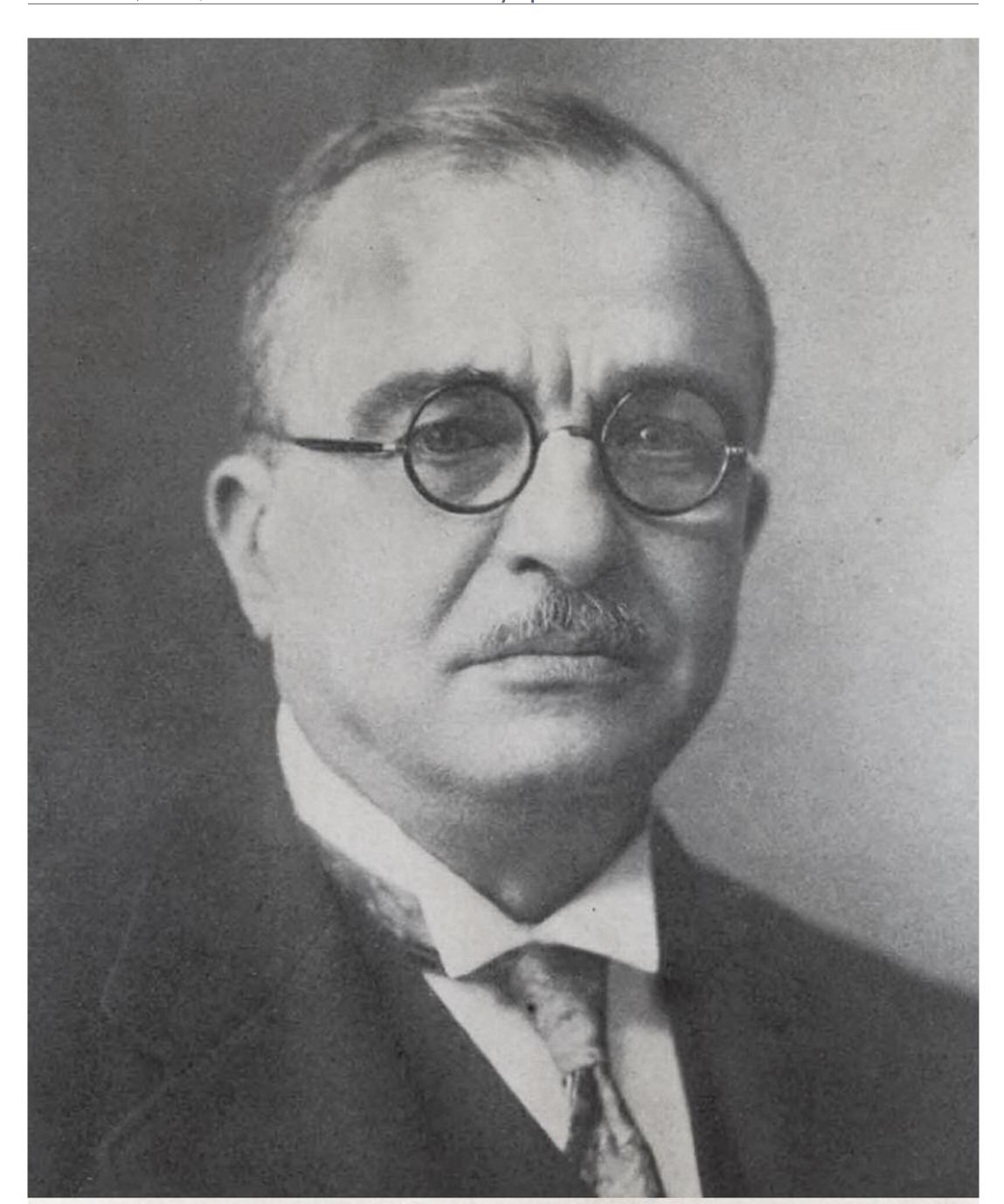
This unity is not limited to Greeks alone. 'OXI' Day celebrations often draw the attention of people from other communities, fostering crosscultural understanding and promoting the principles of resistance and freedom. In this way, 'OXI' Day becomes a symbol of the universal values that transcend nationality.

Preserving Greek Heritage

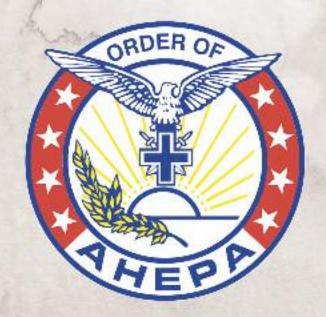
'OXI' Day serves as a critical vehicle for preserving and passing on Greek cultural heritage to the younger generations within the Diaspora. It offers an opportunity to educate Greek-American, Greek-Canadian, Greek-Australian, and other Greek youth about their roots and the sacrifices of their forebears. By engaging in 'OXI' Day celebrations, younger generations can connect with their cultural identity and gain a deeper appreciation for Greece's historical struggles.

In a world where cultural assimilation and intermarriage can sometimes dilute the ties to one's ancestral homeland, 'OXI' Day serves as a strong and unifying force in preserving Greek heritage and fostering a sense of belonging within the Diaspora.





The Order of AHEPA proudly commemorates the 83rd anniversary of OXI day and celebrates freedom, justice, liberty, and the passion of the Hellenic spirit.



Not 'The End'

By Constance M. Constant

It was the beginning of the end. But it was not the end.

Set high in Mount Parnon's foothills, the simple village continued sustaining unendurable war. The year 1944 was the horrific third year of the village's intermittent occupation by the German army during its World War II occupation of Greece. Each ruthless, "shock and awe" Nazi foray, meant innocent villagers and their terrified children endured panic, violence, starvation, and possible death.

The Germans suspected villagers were aiding Greek resistance fighters stationed at guerrilla hideouts up higher on Mt. Parnon. But villagers' mortal fear of diabolical Nazi repercussions against themselves and their loved ones restrained contact with the Resistance. Most Greek citizens, suffering overwhelming Nazi-wreaked cruelty, intimidation, and murder, avoided resistance fighters to keep themselves and their loved ones alive.

"...Seventy-nine years is a drop in history's bucket. Yet 79 years seem like yesterday to surviving octogenarians who were children growing up, almost eight decades ago..."

Voracious Nazi appetites had insured Greek starvation during the disease-breeding 'peenah' (famine). Nazis killed uncountable civilians, burned down villages, and horrendously targeted Greek Jews for extinction. One out of 10 Greeks died during WWII.

Nazis even emboldened power-hungry Greeks to help Germany defeat the independence of their own Greek nation. To gain favor with Nazi hierarchy, collaborating Greeks falsely and maliciously accused blameless fellow Hellenes of crimes against Germany. Shameful, criminal ambition incited Greek collaborators to hopefully help Hitler rule Europe if and when Nazis became victorious at war's end.

In March, 1944 Nazi military trucks and soldiers arrived again at Mt. Parnon wielding fiery torches to burn the village down. Inflicting barbaric punishment, laughing soldiers set fires to homes, torching 75% of the village.

Still reeling from the holocaust in late 1944, villagers spotted a weird sight in autumn's amber-tinged sunlight. Traveling the unpaved road from Sparta, a lone, unshaven German soldier in a torn, Nazi uniform rode into town on the back of a humble Greek donkey.

Villagers immediately suspected an additional Nazi disaster. German soldiers never dressed in rumpled, ripped uniforms, never needed a shave, and never rode Greek donkeys. Nazis traveled with big, black, shiny cars, menacing trucks, and noisy motorcycles to blatantly show off dominance and superiority.

The donkey-riding-soldier sputtered explanations in German – that no one understood. But outnumbered and in danger, the soldier persisted. Village interrogators finally grasped that, supposedly, the soldier was a Nazi deserter.

Suspicion increased. Was it a ruse? "Who ever heard of anyone in the German army deserting Hitler?" Still, the AWOL soldier reported the German army was pulling out of Greece – and he was not going with them.

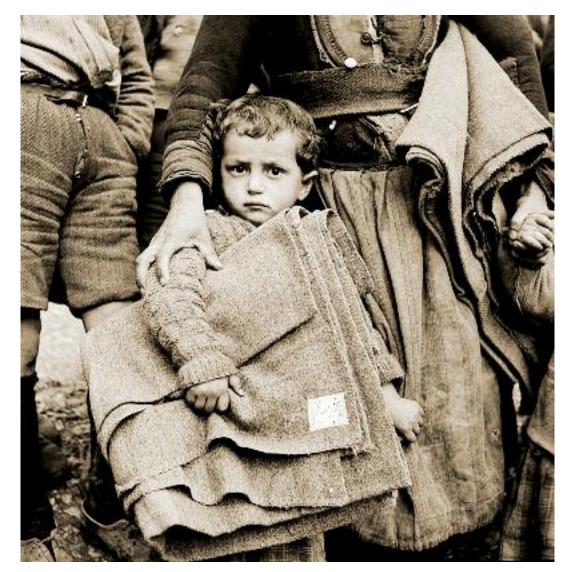
Was the deserter on the level? When no additional soldiers or attacks followed, one hopeful villager spoke up, "If you're telling us the truth – and the war is over – we will cover you with aold."

German soldiers never again arrived to harass Mt. Parnon's residents. With little remaining in villagers' cupboards or sheds after three years of Nazi house-looting, there was no gold to fulfill the promise.

September and October, 2023 mark the 79th anniversary of the start of the Nazi Army finally pulling out of Greece. Withdrawal, beginning in the autumn of 1944, eventually resulted in ending the brutal, violent, WWII Nazi occupation of Hellas.

Did champagne corks pop and '1812 Overture' music lift Mt. Parnon's villagers' spirits when Nazis pulled out 79 years ago? Sadly, suffering had become part of normal life. Weakened by devastation, terror, and death, it took months to realize WWII in Greece had finally ended.

Nazis left Hellas when the High Command in Berlin needed additional troops in Western Europe to respond to the massive, Allied invasion



Circa 1950 in the northwestern Greece town of Kastoria, a boy among those displaced by World War II from their mountain villages further to the north, holds a folded UNICEF-supplied blanket.

at Normandy, France in June of 1944, which had surprised the Germans. On their way out of Greece in 1944's autumn, the German army continued pillaging, burning down villages, and slaughtering innocents – Nazi cruelty continued.

So much is made of time. Seventy-nine years is a drop in history's bucket. Yet 79 years seem like yesterday to surviving octogenarians who were children growing up, almost eight decades ago, in war-torn Europe and Asia. From Maine to California, many WWII, child-Greek-war-victims continue to live among us as senior citizens. In one form or another, a fragment of WWII remains inside each of them.

Experiencing 'war', they had been tragically cheated of childhood security, amusements, and peace. Too many kids were orphaned and left without siblings. Personally scarred by war's horrors, WWII survivors acknowledge knowing the definition of 'war', as children, but not the defin-

ition of unadulterated 'fun'.

Pulling out of Greece 79 years ago was the beginning of the end of WWII – but tragically, not yet the end of war. Most horrendously, humans still wage the viciousness of killing, maiming, burning, and torturing their fellow human beings. And, innocent children are still horrendously stuck in it.

"When will we ever learn?"

Constance M. Constant has authored two books about-Greek American life and history, focusing on the generation of Greek immigrants who arrived between 1890 and 1930 – and their children: 'American Kid, Nazi-Occupied Greece Through a Child's Eyes' (Year of the Book, 2016) and 'Austin Lunch, Greek American Recollections' (Cosmos Publishing, 2005).

The Role of Women in the Greek Resistance:

TNH Staff

While the heroic actions of Greek men of 'OXI' Day and more generally, in the resistance movement are well-documented, the contributions of Greek women are often less recognized, but equally significant. On 'OXI' Day, it's essential to unveil the vital role women played in the Greek resistance.

Undercover Agents and Couriers

Greek women actively participated in the resistance movement, serving as spies, couriers, and undercover agents. Their ability to blend into the local population made them valuable

assets for intelligence gathering. They risked their lives to obtain vital information, often moving behind enemy lines to deliver messages or supplies to resistance fighters.

One notable figure is Lela Karagianni (right), a journalist who, in addition to her reporting, was actively involved in the resistance. Her journalistic work was a cover for her covert activities, which included gathering information, publishing anti-Nazi articles, and aiding the resistance.

Arms Smugglers and Nurses

Women played crucial roles in smuggling arms and supplies to the resistance fighters. They carried concealed weapons, medicines,



and equipment, often hiding them in their clothing or belongings. These brave women facilitated the sustenance and growth of the resistance movement

Moreover, many Greek women served as nurses, tending to wounded soldiers and resistance fighters. They worked under dangerous conditions, often without access to proper medical supplies, and their dedication saved countless lives.

Supporting the Partisan Movement

Greek women on the home front supported the resistance movement in numerous ways. They provided food, shelter, and clothing to fight-



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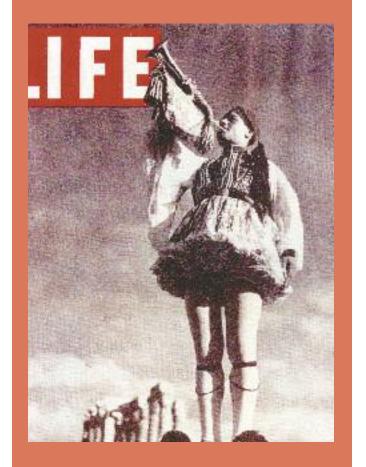


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The National Herald honors

October 28th, 1940
OXI DAY





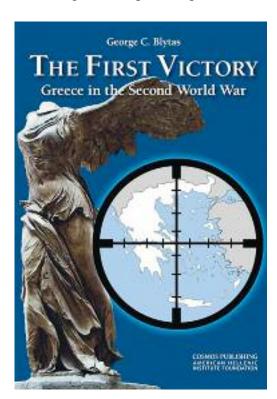
Books to Add to Your Reading List in Honor of 'OXI' Day October 28, 1940

By Eleni Sakellis

For many Greek-Americans, celebrating 'OXI' Day is tied to their experience at Greek school, reciting poems and performing in plays about the event that changed the course of World War II. The details of what actually happened, how pivotal that day was in history, and Greece's subsequent experience of the war should not be forgotten.

As many of the eyewitnesses and those who lived through the war are growing older and passing away, it becomes increasingly important to honor and remember the sacrifice and suffering the people endured at the time. Greece's significant contribution to the war effort should be remembered always. Winston Churchill said: "Hence, we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks." Add the following books to your reading list to commemorate October 28, 'OXI' Day.

'The First Victory: Greece in the Second World War' by George C. Blytas is a history which includes the events leading up to the famous "OXI" of Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas to Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini's ultimatum and Greece's entry into World War II. The Greek victory over the Italians and the resistance that followed delayed Hitler's plans to invade the Soviet Union, which many scholars agree changed the course



of the war. The book also includes personal accounts from those who lived through WWII.

'Modern Greeks: Greece in World War II: The German Occupation and National Resistance and Civil War' by Costas Stassinopoulos, who actually fought in the resistance, is a unique history. Written by the father of Arianna (Stassinopoulos) Huffington, the book includes an introduction by Huffington. The book also delves into the aftermath of the war, the Greek Civil War.

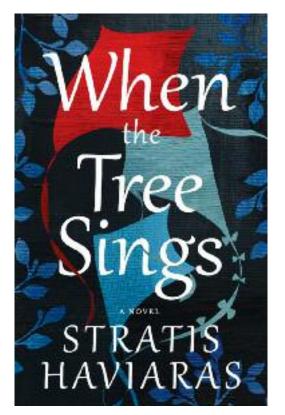
'The Defense and Fall of Greece 1940-41' by John Carr details the heroic efforts of Greece against the Italians and then the Germans. Using Greek sources, the book offers insights into the Greek experience of World War II. The British and Commonwealth nations' efforts to aid Greece in the fight are also recounted in this brief history. The book is a fine introduction to the events of 1940-41.

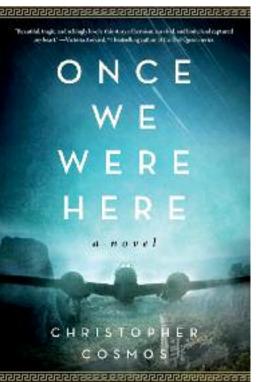
'My Father Had This Luger: A True Story of Hitler's Greece' by Evangelos Louizos is a memoir that details Greece's involvement in World War II. Evangelos is ten years old and lives in Kallithea on the outskirts of Athens. His experience of the war highlights the incredible endurance of the human spirit. The memories recorded in this volume give an extraordinary inside sense of what life was like right before the outbreak of war, during – and then after liberation.

'When the Tree Sings' by Stratis Haviaris is a novel that tells the story of the war through the eyes of a young boy in a small Greek village. The book describes the Nazi Occupation and the Greek Civil War vividly. Well-written and with a lyrical quality, the book is an unforgettable account of the war and its toll on the people. For many years, When the Tree Sings was out of print, but now thanks to the internet, it can be found online.

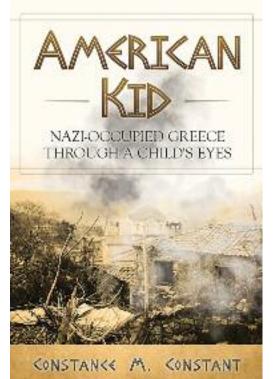
'Once We Were Here' by Christopher Cosmos was released in 2020 in honor for the 80th anniversary of 'OXI' Day, and to highlight how Greece helped the Allies win the war. A Greek-American, Cosmos, author and Black List screenwriter, was raised in the Midwest and attended the University of Michigan as the recipient of a Chick Evans Scholarship.

He spoke with The National Herald about the book in a previous interview, noting that, "I first heard the stories that became Once We Were Here when I was very young, so in many ways, this novel represents my life's work. I went to the Greek Orthodox church in Grand Rapids,





Michigan, where I'm from and grew up, and one day after church there were a series of speakers who were just parishioners who lived through these events in Greece, before coming to Amer-



ica. One of them told a story about how they were so hungry after the Nazis came and occupied their village that they had to chew on the sole of their shoe, because the sole was made of leather. It's a story and image that stuck with me, and that was when the idea for this novel first was born, and so, in a lot of ways, I've been writing it ever since."

'American Kid: Nazi-occupied Greece through a Child's Eyes' by Constance M. Constant is a vivid and moving story of survival. As the Greatest Generation grows older, it is vital to preserve stories of World War II, lest we forget the harsh times and the struggles that shaped the world we live in today. After fleeing from the Great Depression in the United States in the late 1930's, Katherine and her three American-born children find themselves fleeing the Germans and then living under the Occupation for the duration of the war. For many children and grandchildren of immigrants, those years in Greece were never spoken of in the family, as if talking about it was too painful for our older relatives to share and so the truth of what happened is lost or only fragmentary. American Kid offers insights into the brutal years of Occupation that might otherwise be lost.

The above-mentioned books are available online.

Unveiling Heroic Contributions on 'OXI' Day

ers in hiding. They helped produce forged documents and identification papers to assist resistance members in evading capture. Their involvement was integral to the logistics and survival of the resistance.

Women's Organizations

Women in Greece formed their own organizations, such as the National Organization of Greek Women (EOKA), to support the resistance. These groups collected funds, organized relief efforts, and promoted the morale of the resistance fighters. EOKA, led by Melina Merkouri and Nitsa Karalaki, played a significant role in raising awareness about the resistance efforts both domestically and abroad.

Partisan Fighters

Some Greek women took up arms and joined

the partisan groups. They fought alongside their male counterparts in the mountains and forests, contributing to the armed struggle for freedom. Many of these women faced the same dangers, challenges, and sacrifices as the men, refusing to be left out of the fight.

One of the most famous female resistance fighters was Argyro, a pseudonym for a young woman who joined the Greek People's Liberation Army (ELAS). Her contributions to the armed struggle and her courage in combat made her an emblematic figure in the resistance.

The Legacy of Greek Women in the Resistance

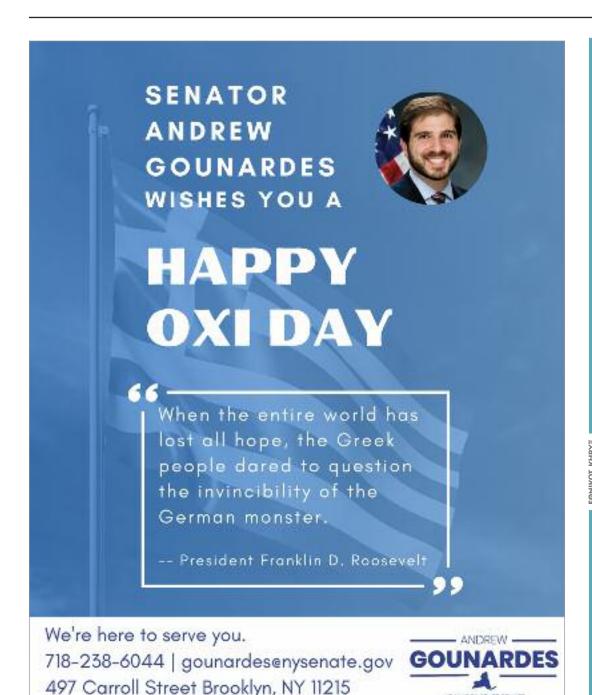
The contributions of Greek women to the resistance during World War II are a testament to their unwavering commitment to their homeland

and their unyielding spirit in the face of danger. These women defied societal norms and risked their lives, often working in the shadows to support the resistance movement.

Their actions after 'OXI' Day and throughout the war exemplify the core values of freedom, courage, and resilience. The legacy of Greek women in the resistance continues to inspire future generations and underscores the importance of recognizing their vital role in the historical events that 'OXI' Day commemorates.

On 'OXI Day', it is imperative to honor the sacrifices and contributions of these remarkable women, whose bravery and determination were crucial in the fight against tyranny. Their stories deserve to be remembered and celebrated as an integral part of Greece's enduring legacy of resistance and liberation.







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