

Base 13120

BRITISH MOVISTONE NEWS LTD. 22, Soho Square, London, W.1.

Story Report from M. FISHER.

Sound Engineer: SILENT.

Date: 13th December 1944.

Location: ATHENS.

Also covered by: EXCLUSIVE.

Footage: 600 feet.

FIGHTING IN ATHENS -- FURTHER SCENES.

Scenes taken on the Acropolis which is in British hands, held by troops of the Airborne Division. From the Acropolis Hill a very large part of the city, including territory held by the rebels, can be observed and brought under fire. Paratroops are seen taking up their positions on the Parthenon under constant fire from enemy snipers from the neighbouring Monument Hill.

British snipers, equipped with telescopic sights keep a keen watch on the streets and buildings held by the rebels and keep them constantly under cover by accurate rifle and machine gun fire. The snipers shown here already have a considerable "bag".

Fighter planes of the R.A.F. are shown shooting up with their cannon buildings and streets where rebel activity has been observed.

Other material includes pictures of M. Papandreu and General Scobie, seen walking to his H.Q. with an escort of armed military police.

Field-Marshal Alexander visits Athens to view the situation. He is seen talking with Rear-Admiral Turle, S.B.N.O. Greece, and leaves in an armoured car.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION

R.K.W.

Film not seen.

Field Press Censor.

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BRITISH MOVIE-TONE NEWS LTD. 22, Soho Square, London, W.1.

Story Report from N. FISHER.

Sound Engineer: SILENT.

Date: 26th Dec. 1944.

Also Covered by: Army Film Unit.

Location: ATHENS.

Footage: 900 feet.

MR. CHURCHILL AND MR. EDEN VISIT ATHENS.

Shots in the grounds of the British Embassy in Athens show Mr. Eden and Field Marshal Alexander together with the British Ambassador Mr. Rex Leeper (in light grey suit), Mr. Harold Macmillan. On the roof of the Embassy they look through glasses into territory held by the rebels. Mr. Churchill arrives at the Embassy in an armoured vehicle, and acknowledges the cheers of the people in the windows of neighbouring houses. Extraordinary security precautions are taken following the discovery in the early morning of December 26th, the day following the Prime Minister's arrival, of three-quarters of a ton of high explosive, placed in the sewers by the rebels beneath the Athens Hotel housing the Greek Government.. First scenes in Roll I show this explosive being removed from the sewer by the sappers. All of it is of German origin and consisted of wooden boxes of dynamite and sacks containing dynamite demolition slabs. The charge was placed by the rebels with extraordinary speed during the night. It is not known whether or not the attempt was prompted by the presence of the P.M. in Athens. Further material on Rolls I and II show the Prime Minister in the Garden of the Embassy with Archbishop Damaskinos, once proposed as the Regent in the event of a settlement with ELAS, and who has agreed to act as chairman at the present talks with the ELAS representatives. Also shown arriving at the Embassy are the French Ambassador, the American Ambassador, and Col. Popeff, head of the Russian Mission accompanied by Brig. Smith-Berrien, senior British Liaison Officer in Greece. (In that order).

Other material: Camera interview with Archbishop Damaskinos, whose name has been put forward in connection with a possible regency in Greece, following the creation of a Government acceptable to all parties. He is shown with his close friend (Major Mackaskie) who has done much valuable work in Greece on special missions during the German occupation. Also shots of (General Nicholas Plastiras) (in plain clothes on balcony), who is something of a legendary figure in Greece, having on two previous occasions overthrown a corrupt Greek Government by force, as well as being a national hero of the Balkan wars. He was summoned to Athens at the special request of M. Papandreu, but has so far played no active part in present Greek politics, although his appointment in some capacity is probable. Follows shots of M. Papandreu.

Further material show street fighting still in progress in Athens with British paratroops clearing the gasworks area. A prisoner is captured.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION: Captions only for release when location (Embassy) is released.

(More follows)

Field Press Censor.

cameraman: Sgt. Gregory
 story: Martial Law.
 location: Athens.
 length: 100 ft.
 date: 18.12.44.

A.853/3

Since the battle of Athens began, the rebel troops are being at last driven from their positions in the city, though odd snipers are holding up the operations.

Roll 1.

Shows a mortar detachment of a Parachute Regt., firing their mortars to destroy a rebel machine nest.

C.U. of a Paratrooper lining his sight on a target.

yes

OK

Collect
Karp

Base 13120
Screened
-11- 13121
29/12/44

MOVIE-TONE DOPE SHEET

Cameraman: N. Fisher.
Story: Mr. Churchill and Mr. Eden visit Athens.
Date: 26.12.44.
Location: Athens.
Length: 900 ft.

B.533/D

Shots in the grounds [redacted] in Athens show Mr. Eden and Field Marshal Alexander together with the British Ambassador Mr. Rox Leeper (in light grey suit), Mr. Harold Macmillan. On the roof [redacted] they look through glasses into territory held by the rebels. Mr. Churchill [redacted] in an armoured vehicle, and acknowledges the cheers of the people in the windows of neighbouring houses. Extraordinary security precautions are taken following the discovery in the early morning of December 26th the day following the Prime Minister's arrival, of three-quarters of a ton of high explosive placed in the sewers by the rebels beneath the Athens Hotel housing the Greek Government. First scenes in roll 1 show this explosive being removed from the sewer by the sappers. All of it is of German origin and consisted of wooden boxes of dynamite and sacks containing demolition slabs. The charge was placed by the rebels with extraordinary speed during the night. It is not known whether or not the attempt was prompted by the presence of the P.M. in Athens. Further material on rolls 1 and 2 show the Prime Minister in the Garden [redacted] with Archbishop Damaskinos, once proposed as the Regent in the event of a settlement with ELAS, and who has agreed to act as chairman at the present talks with the ELAS representatives. Also shown arriving [redacted] are, the French Ambassador, The American Ambassador, and Col. Popoff, head of the Russian Mission accompanied by Brig. Smith-Dorrien, senior British Liaison Officer in Greece. (in that order) Other material: camera interview with Archbishop Damaskenos, whose name has been put forward in connection with a possible regency in Greece, following the creation of a Government acceptable to all parties. He is shown with his close friend Major Mackaskie who has done much valuable work in Greece on special missions during the German occupation. Also shots of General Nicholas Plastiras (in plain clothes on balcony), who is something of a legendary figure in Greece, having on two previous occasions overthrown a corrupt Greek Government by force, as well as being a national hero of the Balkan wars. He was summoned to Athens at the special request of M. Papandreu, but has so far played no active part in present Greek politics, although his appointment in some capacity is probable. Follows shots of M. Papandreu. Further material show street fighting still in progress in Athens with British paratroops clearing the gasworks area. A prisoner is captured.

When screening look for British soldier with
fixa bayonet chasing Greek, if seen, please
take out