Sehem is-Soċjetà fit-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija

Keith Micallef, P.R.O.

L-ewwel attakki mill-qawwiet tal-ajru Taljani nhar l-10 ta' Ġunju tal-1940 li kienu jfissru l-miġja tat-Tieni Gwerra Dinjija f'Malta, ġabu bidliet soċjali kbar. Il-każini tal-baned ma kinux eċċezzjoni u matul l-eqqel snin tal-gwerra l-attività mużikali waqfet kompletament, kemm minħabba li l-festi kellhom jitħassru u fuq kollox minħabba l-fatt li f'dawk iċ-ċirkostanzi kien hemm prijoritajiet oħra.

Madankollu l-każini tal-banda xorta baqgħu jaqdu numru ta' funzjonijiet, fosthom is-Soċjetà tagħna.

Fis-sajf tal-1940 meta l-attakki fuq Malta kienu battew xi ftit, il-biżgħa kienet li l-Imperu Ingliż, li kien l-aħħar bastjun tad-demokrazija fl-Ewropa, ukoll kien se jaqa' taħt il-ħakma Nażista. Quddiem sitwazzjoni bħal din il-poplu Malti, kif ngħidu ma ħarisx sal-ponta ta' mnieħru u pprova jagħmel il-parti tiegħu wkoll.

Fost id-diversi inizjattivi li kienu ttieħdu kien hemm dawk li jinġabru flus biex tingħata għajnuna lill-poplu ta' Londra waqt il-*Battle of Britain*. Fost l-oħrajn kienu saħansitra ġew regalati żewġ ambulanzi li fuqhom kellhom imnaqqax isem Malta, biex jassistu l-feruti f'Londra.

Inizjattiva oħra kienet dik tal-*Malta Mobile Canteen (London) Fund*. L-iskop ta' din l-inizjattiva kien li tingħata għajnuna finanzjarja lil dawk li kellhom xi propjetà, qraba, ħbieb jew xi konnessjoni oħra mal-kapitali tal-Imperu, biex jinxtraw *mobile canteens* għall-popolazzjoni li hekk kif il-*Battle of Britain* kienet fl-eqqel tagħha, bl-attakki mill-ajru ma jaqtgħu xejn lejl u nhar.

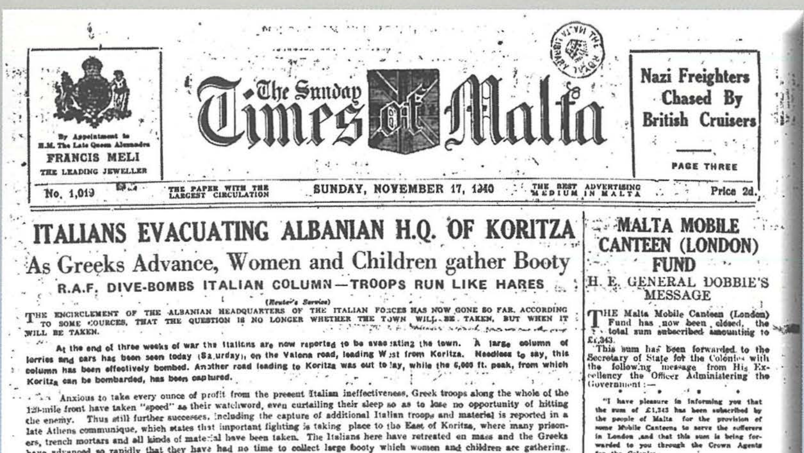
Il-popolazzjoni kienet imħeġġa biex tikkontribwixxi u b'hekk tagħti l-kontribut tagħha fil-gwerra. Fil-ħarġa tat-*Times of Malta* tat-13 ta' Novembru tal-1940 fil-lista li l-ġurnal kien jippubblika regolarment bil-kontributuri ta' dan il-fond kien hemm is-Soċjetà Mużikali San Ġużepp tal-Ħamrun li kienet ħarġet is-somma ta' £5.

Għalkemm din tidher somma redikola għaż-żminijiet tal-lum, dan ma kienx il-kas. Biżżejjed ngħidu li Scicluna's Bank kienu offrew £10-10-0d u Żejtun Band Club kienu ġabru £2-2-0d.

B'kollox sa nofs Novembru tal-1940 kienet inġabret is-somma ta' £1,343 li kienet intbagħtet lis-Segretarju tal-Istat għall-Kolonji mill-Gvernatur ta' Malta l-Ġeneral Dobbie li kien bagħat dan il-messaġġ:

"I have pleasure in informing you that the sum of £1,343 has been subscribed by the people of Malta for the provision of some Mobile Canteens to serve the sufferers in London, and that this sum is being forwarded to you through the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

The gift is offered not only as a token of admiration for the indomitable spirit shown by the people of London which has thrilled the whole world but also in understanding sympathy from a people who have also suffered, even though in a lesser degree, from similar attacks. It is hope that the Canteens thus provided will be a help and comfort to our fellow-sufferers in London, and that the name Malta inscribed on the Canteens will remind Londoners of a small country which can understand from experience something of their ordeal and sympathise with them."



By Appointment to H.M. The Late Queen Alexandra
FRANCIS MELI
THE LEADING JEWELLER

The Sunday Times of Malta

Nazi Freighters Chased By British Cruisers
PAGE THREE

No. 1,019 — THE PAPER WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION — SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1940 — THE BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUM IN MALTA — Price 2d.

ITALIANS EVACUATING ALBANIAN H.Q. OF KORITZA

As Greeks Advance, Women and Children gather Booty

R.A.F. DIVE-BOMBS ITALIAN COLUMN—TROOPS RUN LIKE HARES

(Reuter's Service)

THE ENCIRCLEMENT OF THE ALBANIAN HEADQUARTERS OF THE ITALIAN FORCES HAS NOW GONE SO FAR, ACCORDING TO SOME SOURCES, THAT THE QUESTION IS NO LONGER WHETHER THE TOWN WILL BE TAKEN, BUT WHEN IT WILL BE TAKEN.

At the end of three weeks of war the Italians are now reported to be evacuating the town. A large column of lorries and cars has been seen today (Saturday), on the Valona road, leading West from Koritza. Needless to say, this column has been effectively bombed. Another road leading to Koritza was cut today, while the 6,000 ft. peak, from which Koritza can be bombarded, has been captured.

Anxious to take every ounce of profit from the present Italian ineffectiveness, Greek troops along the whole of the 120-mile front have taken "speed" as their watchword, even curtailing their sleep so as to lose no opportunity of hitting the enemy. Thus still further successes, including the capture of additional Italian troops and material is reported in a late Athens communique, which states that important fighting is taking place to the East of Koritza, where many prisoners, trench mortars and all kinds of material have been taken. The Italians here have retreated en mass and the Greeks have advanced so rapidly that they have had no time to collect large booty which women and children are gathering.

WHAT'S YOURS!

The following was heard over the ether yesterday:
The United States Navy drinks whisky, while the British Navy prefers rum. But the Italian Navy sticks to port.

V.C. FOR FEGAN OF THE "JERVIS BAY"

(Reuter's Service)
LONDON, Nov. 16.

The announcement of the award of the Victoria Cross to Captain Fegan, of the armed merchant cruiser "Jervis Bay", says: "For valour in challenging the enemy against hopeless odds and in giving his life to save the many ships it was his duty to protect, the King has ...

ITALIANS PLUNDER AND BURN:

The town of Erzeka came under Greek fire this afternoon and troops who took Konitza have advanced into Albania.

The retreating Italian troops are pillaging and burning the villages.

During the day enemy aircraft bombed some towns and villages of no military importance. There were no casualties.

ITALIAN TRANSPORT COLUMN BOMBED AND MACHINE-GUNNED:

A communique issued from the British Air Force headquarters in Greece on Friday night stated:

"Among objectives attacked by our Air Force yesterday was an Italian motor transport column on the move in the area North of Koritza. It was successfully bombed and machine-gunned, great damage being done and many casualties inflicted.

GREEK BOOTY:

Events are moving swiftly in Albania, but up to a late hour last night the Greeks were officially credited with having captured:

3,500 prisoners.
24 heavy guns, mostly 7.5's.
80 Trench mortars.
182 heavy machine-guns.
237 light machine-guns.
34 sub machine-guns.
8,763 rifles.
267 motor lorries loaded with rifles.
278 cases of small arms ammunition.
1,755 shells and
687 mules and 172 horses.

(Much booty still remains to be collected and classified).
Greek 'planes have so far brought down 28 Italian machines for the loss of seven Greek aircraft, while ...

MALTA MOBILE CANTEEN (LONDON) FUND

H. E. GENERAL DOBBIE'S MESSAGE

THE Malta Mobile Canteen (London) Fund has now been closed, the total sum subscribed amounting to £1,343.

This sum has been forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies with the following message from His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government:—

"I have pleasure in informing you that the sum of £1,343 has been subscribed by the people of Malta for the provision of some Mobile Canteens to serve the sufferers in London, and that this sum is being forwarded to you through the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

"This gift is offered not only as a token of admiration for the indomitable spirit shewn by the people of London which has thrilled the whole world but also in understanding sympathy from a people who have also suffered, even though in a lesser degree, from similar attacks. It is hoped that the Canteens thus provided will be a help and comfort to our fellow-sufferers in London, and that the name of Malta inscribed on the Canteens will remind Londoners of a small country which can understand from experience something of their ordeal and sympathise with them."

STOP PRESS

***The Sunday Times of Malta* tas-17 ta' Novembru 1940 li kienet irrapportat li s-somma miġbura kienet ta' £1,343**

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