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World War: BALKAN THEATRE: After Klisura

The bells of Athens, which had long been silent, rang gladly one day last week. Klisura had been captured. This was the first important Greek accomplishment since the taking of Argirocastro on Dec. 9. The Italians had set up a defense sector hinged on Tepeleni and Klisura. Tepeleni blocked the road to the vital port of Valona, Klisura the road to Berat, northeast of Valona. Having broken through at Klisura, having driven the Italians from "naturally formidable" mountain positions, the Greeks pressed on.

Three days after the fall of Klisura, the Italian Commander in Chief in Albania, General Ubaldo Soddu, also fell—because of ill health, the Italians said. It was another case of shake-up sickness. Benito Mussolini had to have a winning general. He decided to let General Ugo Cavallero, who replaced Marshal Pietro Badoglio as Chief of Staff on Dec. 6, see if he could pick up the pieces in Albania.

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