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Anniversary of Athens’ liberation from Axis occupation in 1944



Tuesday marks the 77th anniversary of the liberation of Athens from Nazi occupation in WWII.
Church bells rang out joyously on that day, calling Athenians to the streets to celebrate an end to the three-and-a-half-year occupation of the Greek mainland by Axis forces — a period that witnessed determined resistance against the occupiers in the cities and mountains, countless massacres of civilians by occupation forces, starvation and depravation.

Greece entered the war in October 1940 on the side of the Allies, deflecting and then routing an attempt by Italian fascist forces to invade the country from Albania in the northwest. Nazi Germany came to the aid of Mussolini’s Italy in April 1941, invading Greece from the north, and aided by Axis partner Bulgaria.

The footage is from the archives of Greek state television.

As per the tradition on October 12, a military honor guard ascended to the Acropolis in central Athens at dawn today to raise the Greek flag in a commemorative ceremony.