

1947-1949 WAR IN GREECE
AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS



JOINT U. S. MILITARY
ADVISORY AND PLANNING GROUP
ATHENS, GREECE

21 March 1969

Major General A. Balodimas
Commanding General
VIII Division
Ioannina, Greece

Dear General Balodimas:

Ambassador Grady, Admiral Sherman and I were greatly impressed by the splendid show in Ioannina. I want you to know how much I appreciated all your goodness, including the reception, the review, the briefing and the luncheon.

The trip was not only interesting but extremely profitable and inspiring to everyone of us. Especially outstanding was the splendid appearance of the 883 Battalion of Infantry which had so recently arrived from operations. I was also particularly happy to see this battalion again because of its great work in capturing Mount Gleftis.

With warm regards,

Cordially,

JAMES A. VAN FLEET
Lieutenant General, USA

USMAG Det.
VIII Mt. Division

This copy for
Lt. Col. KOUMANAKOS
883 Bn. Commander

COMMANDER SIXTH TASK FLEET

21 March 1949
Athens, Greece

Dear General:

My visit to your headquarters in Janina was most pleasant and I am indeed grateful for the hearty welcome which we received.

I was greatly impressed by the troops of your division and particularly by the fine infantry battalion which passed in review. I have seen many fighting men of different services and different countries and your battalion is immediately recognizable as among the best. Will you congratulate the battalion commander for me?

With best wishes for your continued success,

Cordially yours,

FOREST SHERMAN
Vice Admiral, United States Navy.

Major General BALODIMOS,
Commanding VIII Division,
Greek National Army.

This copy is for
Lt. Col. KOUKMANAKOS ✓
DSN Pa Commander

JUSMAG DET.
VIII MT. DIVISION