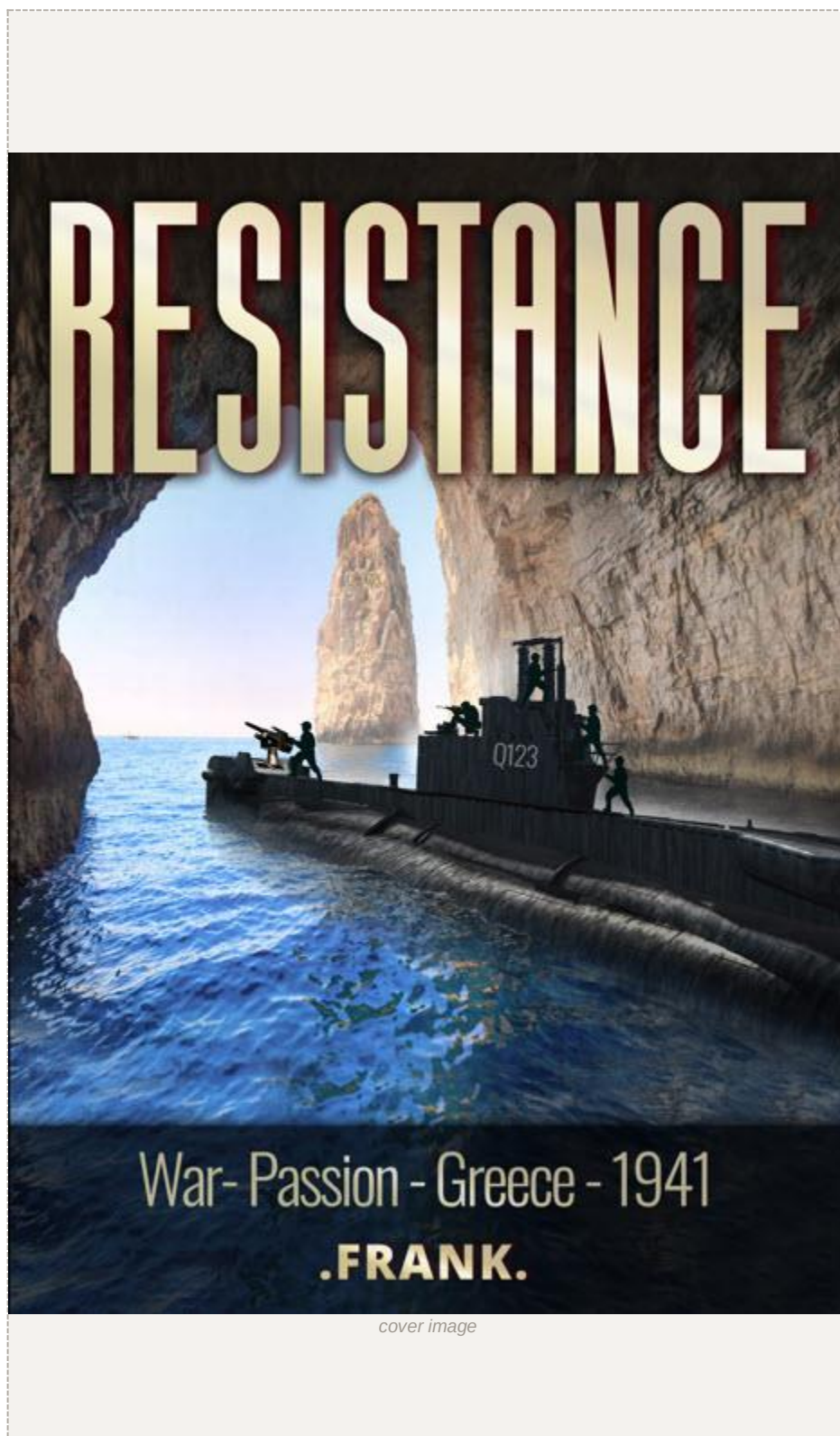


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RESISTANCE

A novel of the Ionian occupation, 1926–1941

by **FRANK**

April 2022 — On an island of olive groves and fishermen twenty miles south of Corfu, a few hundred people decided that being conquered a seventh time was not inevitable. *RESISTANCE* is the novel of that decision and of what it cost.

The book opens on a single day in January 1926, on two coasts at once. In Saint-Nazaire, a shipyard facing closure is saved by an unexpected call from the Greek Navy: a 500-ton submarine, the "Léopard des Mers", will be built after all. In Sicily, Mussolini's Iron Prefect empties the village of Gangi at gunpoint, and a hunted capo takes a fishing boat east toward an island so peaceful that no one will think to look for him there. Fourteen years later, the submarine and the fugitive arrive at the same war.

Italy invades Greece in October 1940. Within weeks the drowned crews of torpedoed troopships are washing up on the beaches of Paxos, and the islanders bury them by their own rites because no others exist for the occasion. Katerina, a fisherman's daughter, takes charge of the island's defence. Around her gather Luciano, the exiled Sicilian with an ageing sense of debt; Gordon and François, two Allied officers improvising weapons drops out of Malta; Olga, an aristocrat whose languages make her indispensable and whose nerve makes her dangerous; and Kristos, a combat swimmer who has loved Katerina since they were ten. By the spring of 1941 the Germans have replaced the Italians, and the improvised network is paying in full.

FRANK writes the occupation as arithmetic rather than heroics: who informs, who hides, who leaves, who stays, and what each choice is worth by morning. The narrative is built as eighteen dated days, cut between locations and timed to the minute — a Breton slipway, a Palermo palace, the Corinth Canal, a cipher room in Malta, twenty metres beneath the Ionian Sea — so that events separated by a continent are read as the single day they were.

The novel draws on documented history: the Mori campaign against the Sicilian clans and the emigration it forced, the Greek Navy's French-built submarine fleet, the Italian invasion of Epirus, and the German arrival of April 1941.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

FRANK is a geopolitician, board advisor and author whose work spans science, technology and international affairs. He writes and publishes under his first name. *RESISTANCE* is his [Nth] book and his [first] work of historical fiction.

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