

MARSHAL **BADOGGIO** RESIGNS.

Italy's Chief of Staff.

REPORTED DISAPPROVAL OF DUCE'S POLICY.

Greeks Take Albanian Port.

From Our Own Correspondent and A.A.P.

LONDON, December 6.

Marshal Pietro **Badoglio**, 69-year-old Chief of Staff of Italy's Armed Forces, has resigned—at a critical stage of the war in Albania.

The B.B.C. suggests that **Badoglio** has taken this method to show his disapproval of Mussolini's reckless enterprise against Greece and that his displeasure is shared by the officers and men of the Italian Army.

Marshal Badoglio was reported only a week ago to have set up headquarters at Tirana, capital of Albania, in an effort to reorganise the retreating Italian troops.

He was the third commander to have attempted to retrieve the situation in Albania. The first one is reported to have committed suicide.

General Ugo Cavallero, aged 60, is the new Italian Chief of Staff. He has been Commander-in-Chief in Italian East Africa since 1937. He was formerly Under-Secretary of State for War.

Greek troops occupied Saranda, Albania's third seaport and an important Italian base, this morning, it is officially announced in Athens.

The fate of Argyrokastron, key town of southern Albania, also seems to be sealed. The wireless station is silent and the Greeks have encircled the town.

BADOGGIO ITALY'S ABLEST SOLDIER.

Marshal Badoglio was recognised even before his successful Abyssinian campaign as Italy's ablest soldier.

He had fought in all Italian wars since 1896, when as a lieutenant of artillery, he took part in the disastrous campaign in Eritrea.

In 1911, when Italy won Libya from Turkey, Badoglio was given the credit for the decisive victory at Zanmur.

He was promoted to the rank of general in 1916, when he captured Mt. Sabotino from the Austrians. At the discreditable Italian rout of Caporetto his troops, the Second Army, broke down badly, but it is pointed out that he had not long held the command, and that his army bore the brunt of the Austrian attack.

He was active in the reorganisation of the army, and planned the advance in October, 1918, which resulted in Austria's defeat. He has been decorated for bravery seven times.

SON OF PEASANTS.

The son of Piedmont peasants, he is a champion at the people's game of bowls. He is also an expert bridge player. He never overthrew.

When the Fascists marched on Rome in 1922, Badoglio was commanding the garrison at Rome, and is said to have offered to disperse them with one machine-gun company. King Victor Emanuel refused to allow it.

Although he was reported to be secretly hostile to Fascism, Badoglio's strong support from the army made him too important to be dispensed with, and he became a senator. Ambassador to Brazil, chief of the General Staff and president of the Army Council.

Though he was essentially a soldier, not a politician, some observers believed that when Mussolini selected him to replace Marshal De Bono in the conduct of the Abyssinian cam-

paign in 1935 that the Duce was pleased to have him out of Italy and taking an active responsibility in a campaign the wisdom of which, Badoglio, as a professional soldier, was said to doubt.

Gunter, in "Inside Europe," says: "The appointment of Badoglio made the business an affair of the regular army, not merely of the Black Shirts. And it was also said that Mussolini was not averse from removing Badoglio from Italy because the Marshal, the King's best friend and trusted by the Army, would be a natural counter-leader to Mussolini if the Abyssinian adventure should collapse."

VICTOR IN ABYSSINIA.

Under Badoglio the Abyssinian war succeeded, and he became Viceroy of Ethiopia and then Duke of Addis Ababa. George Martell states that one result of the war was the liquidation of the Marshal's feud with Mussolini.

Badoglio is said to have been the military brain behind Italy's support of General Franco in Spain, and to have applied shrewdly to the Italian armies the lessons of mechanisation learnt there.

He is credited with a genius for understanding the Italian peasant-soldier. He has shown a great pride in his men. Once in Abyssinia, he telegraphed to Mussolini: "With such troops we shall go to the top of the world."

General Cavallero received Italy's highest military decoration, the Order of Savoy, for reorganising the Italian defences after the inglorious debacle at Caporetto in 1917, when the Austrians broke the Italians' line and set them in full retreat. He retired from active service for two years after the 1914-18 war.

General Cavallero's appointment has already taken effect. Marshal Badoglio remains president of the National Council of Research, which covers military and scientific fields.

(Portrait on Next Page.)