

Chronicle of Neuchâtel and the Vineyard

THE MISADVENTURES OF A NEUCHATEL PILOT IN GREECE

Mr. Gérard de Chambrier, piloting a **Transair “Bonanza”** flew a few days ago from **Cointrin airfield [now Geneva airport]** bound for Turkey where he had to deliver a certain quantity of gold watches.

After stopping to refuel, **Mr. de Chambrier** intended to reach Athens, but on the way, damage to the aircraft forced him to land on the island of **Lefkada**, in the Ionian Sea, some 100 kilometers from the front where government and supporters of Markos are fighting

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The Greek police, believing they were dealing with an unknown plane responsible for supplying the insurgents, immediately began investigating and demanded that the pilot present a “manifest,” a document which indicates both the identity of the travelers and the nature of the goods aboard the aircraft.

Since Transair had not asked the exporter to adhere to this formality and since the customs at Cointrin had not required the presentation of this document either, Mr. de Chambrier could not follow the orders of the Greek police who then decided to hold the plane.

It was only when the Swiss legation in Athens had provided acceptable explanations transmitted by the Federal Political Department and the Federal Air Office that the Greek authorities authorized the Swiss pilot to leave.



Detail from map of The Balkan States showing Lefkás (Lefkada), the island on which Gérard de Chambrier made an emergency landing. Click image for complete map.