



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF KALAMATA

MEETING 07/2003

DECISION EXTRACT NUMBER 188/2003

In Kalamata today, Friday the 11th of April, at 8.00 p.m., the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Kalamata met in the amphitheatre "ALEXANDROS KOUMOUNDOUROS" of the Prefectural Administration of Messinia, in the square of the Prefecture, after they received the invitation of their President with the number 07/07.04.2003, which was delivered according to the Law.

The President then introduced the 2nd topic for discussion on the agenda with the title: **"Mr. Edwin Arthur Horlinton and Mr. Patrick Leigh Fermor being given the freedom of the Municipality of Kalamata"**.

Mr. Mayor suggests to the Town Council to unanimously accept the above suggestion and bequests that the instigator of the suggestion, the Town Councillor Mr. Panagis Koumandos (former Mayor) to proceed with his speech.

When introducing the suggestion, Mr. Koumandos, mentions the following:

"Patrick Leigh Fermor cannot be regarded as a person with a military career, although he is a graduate of the King's College of Canterbury.

His relationship to the army forces is confined to his action during World War II and bears the stamp of a man with unlimited possibilities.

When he was still young, he travelled across Central Europe either on foot or on horseback in order to get to know peoples and places.

Being an accurate observer, he evolved into a great travelling writer.

Eventually, he arrived in Greece.

He came to love its beauty and he eventually settled in Kardamyli in Mani.

As he writes, "Curiosity and Coincidence were the only factors that determined my route."

In the foreword of his book "MANI" he reveals quite clearly all the emotions he nurses for Greece and Mani, which arise from the text, making further emphasis unnecessary and continues by saying that "Since this book was written (in the beginning of the 70s), these feelings have grown stronger with very invisible ties."

Being a Philhellene and an adorer of Greek nature, he chose Kardamyli as the place to live for the rest of his life.

One cannot disagree with former Prime Minister Tzannis Tzannetakis who translated the book "MANI" on the point that Patrick Leigh Fermor combines a resourceful richness of words in his expression, a very sensitive eye which researches into every detail, a great deal of imagination, inexhaustible knowledge of Greek reality and history and even practicality in his conclusions.

"He deserves to be among the greatest English writers."

During World War II, Patrick Leigh Fermor joined the English Army and served as a Military Link in the Greek Headquarters on the Albanian Front.

After the invasion of the Germans, he followed the British troops to Crete.

He remained on the island and he helped organize the movement of the National Resistance.

Under the codename "Filedem" or "Mihalis" during the Resistance, he became widely known because of his daring undertaking to kidnap General Kreipe from Heracleion and take him to Kairo.

During his stay in Crete he considered the Resistance as an act of military defense against the Nazi invaders and he did not favour the gathering of "Local Captain's" military groups.

He cooperated with the same success with both the National Liberation Front (EAM) and the National Organization of Crete (EOK) and as a representative of the General Staff of the Allied Forces in the Middle East he refused to approve of the definition "Chief Captain" as general chief officer of the Cretan Resistance, so as not to disrupt the unity of the Cretan people.

This act of his had a soothing and unifying effect.

So, in a spirit of brotherhood, the Agreement of Therissos was signed between EAM and EOK and, after that, the Agreement of Tromarissa, which helped the Cretan people avoid civil war and, following that, the German troops surrendered in Crete without bloodshed.

The Municipality of Heracleion has the honour of being the first municipality of Greece that made Patrick Leigh Fermor a Freeman of Heracleion.

The Municipality of Kalamata being sensitive towards cultural issues cannot ignore Patrick Leigh Fermor's contribution to Peace and the literature.

Edwin Arthur Horlington is a warm and tested friend of the Municipality of Kalamata and the Municipal Council is righteously deciding tonight to give him the freedom of the Municipality of Kalamata.

In 1989, he founded the "Fraternity of Veterans of the Expeditionary Force in Greece" together with his British colleagues, who were rescued from the Battle of Kalamata in May 1941 during World War II.

Since 1991, he has regularly visited Kalamata with the British veterans and their families and they attend the annual Memorial Service, which takes place, under the organization of the Municipality of Kalamata.

If I am not mistaken, this is the third occasion that the Allies in Greece have been honoured in Greece; the first being for the Battle of Crete and the second for Gorgopotamos.

That is the reason why the President of the Hellenic Republic is always represented at these occasions.

Edwin has been recognized as a distinguished personality due to the great love that he nurses for Greece, (he is also a member of the Anglohellenic Society), and especially for Kalamata.

His enthusiasm is apparent when he speaks of Kalamata.

Last year, at this time, during the trial against the British and Dutch amateur plane spotters, when the majority of the British Press was unjust and in many cases hostile towards Greece and

Kalamata, Edwin Horlington's voice was one of the very few voices that spoke in a friendly manner of our country.

Edwin published a warm letter in favour of both Kalamata and Greece in a British newspaper, which was republished in many English-speaking newspapers, in which he revealed to the English public that Kalamata is a non-hostile city and that its inhabitants welcome the British Veterans every year with a royal welcome.

He also suggested to the British visiting Greece to respect the Laws that are valid in the country, especially when they are different from English laws.

I attach a copy of this publication and admit it to the Secretary of the Municipal Council for the record, which was sent to the Mayor of Kalamata in 08.05.2002 from the British Embassy of Athens and which bears the signature of the Consul Mr. Donard Holder:

"Kalamata has an excellent Ambassador of Good Will in Britain who demonstrates his philhellenic emotions on any occasion and who promotes the Anglohellenic relations in his own way.

During these difficult times of conflicts, personalities like Edwin Horlington and Patrick Leigh Fermor can contribute a lot to the fraternity of peoples and the consolidation of international peace which is also the only and nonnegotiable demand of all the peoples on Earth."

After Mr. Koumandos' proposal and the discussion between the members of the Municipal Council of Kalamata, it is decided UNANIMOUSLY to give Mr. PATRICK LEIGH FERMOR and EDWIN ARTHUR HORLINGTON "The Freedom of the Historic City of Kalamata" and the publishing of the following resolutions is approved of, which shall be given to the honoured persons during a special ceremony which shall be held in the Town Hall on May 22th 2003.

RESOLUTION

GOOD CHANCE,

IT IS THE HONOUR OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALAMATA TO PUBLICLY VENERATE AND GIVE "FREEDOM OF ITS MUNICIPALITY" AND TO INCLUDE INTO THEM INTO THE FAMILY OF THE "FREEMEN OF THE HISTORIC CITY OF KALAMATA" :

MISTER PATRICK LEIGH FERMOR

A DISTINGUISHED WRITER OF INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION, CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY OF ATHENS AND A PHILHELLENE WHO HAS ON MULTIPLE OCCASIONS DEMONSTRATED HIS EMOTIONS AND HIS LOVE FOR GREECE, IN BOTH PEACETIME AND IN WARTIME, AND WHO HAS WRITTEN THE BOOK UNDER THE TITLE "MANI" AND IS RESIDING HERE PERMANENTLY.

**IN THE HISTORIC CITY OF KALAMATA
ON MAY 22ND 2003**

RESOLUTION

GOOD CHANCE,

IT IS THE HONOUR OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF KALAMATA TO PUBLICLY VENERATE AND GIVE "FREEDOM OF ITS MUNICIPALITY" AND TO INCLUDE INTO THEM INTO THE FAMILY OF THE "FREEMEN OF THE HISTORIC CITY OF KALAMATA" :

MISTER EDWIN ARTHUR HORLINGTON

PRESIDENT OF THE FRATERNITY OF VETERANS OF THE GREEK EXPEDITION, 1940-1941, WHO FOUGHT IN KALAMATA ON APRIL 28TH 1941, MEMBER OF THE ANGLOHELLENIC SOCIETY IN LONDON AND WARM FRIEND OF KALAMATA.

**IN THE HISTORIC CITY OF KALAMATA
ON MAY 22TH 2003**

KALAMATA APRIL 11TH 2003

THE MAYOR

GEORGIOS N. KOUTSOULIS

**THE PRESIDENT OF
THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**PANAGIOTIS EL.
ADAMOPOULOS**