

LOCAL HEROES of the MANI

Extracts from the 1941 Diary of Panayiotis Kompiliris

Preface

The following accounts are based on the normally slow-moving, rustic, daily eye-witness reportage of a 19 year-old Mani village boy whose uneventful rural calm was dramatically changed for ever during a few exciting but traumatic days in the spring of 1941. His subsequent life-long endeavour to ensure that the sacrifices made by the small band of Allied soldiers who so briefly entered his life would not go un-noticed by history is related to a certain extent in the ensuing item.



The Mani Peninsula, south from Kalamata

Introduction

These are the words of Yota Kompiliris, daughter of Panayiotis:

*“I was born in Proastion, Mani (Greece), as was my father. He was a 19-year old in 1941. In his diary he describes an attempt for evacuation to Crete on **April 29, 1941** of about 30-35 Allied soldiers from **Kaminia**, a beach near Proastion. The evacuation ship was bombed by the Germans and sank. There were 7 dead, and about 15 injured. The surviving Allies quickly buried the dead and hid in a cave, but were **captured** (about 25 of them) the **next day, on April 30, 1941** by a German patrol. My father has written a book in which he mentions this event.*

A few words about my father: Panayiotis D. Kompiliris (1922-2010) was born in Proastion, Mani. He was a teacher and an author. He served in the army as an officer (Infantry Lieutenant) during the Greek Civil War (1948-50). He kept a diary from the age of 14 until his death. He has written ten books (including a dictionary of the Maniot dialect) on Mani and Chios. He was a man of many interests: history, archaeology, cultural heritage, language, speleology, astronomy, photography, exploring.

He only left "raw material" for these ten books. On his own he only published short articles in magazines. My brother (to a certain extent) and I (mostly) read all his notes and decided how to add what was missing, put it together and organise them into books. My name appears as a co-author only on the books that were published after his death (like the Chronicle).”

In an explanatory communication to the noted Australian historian Jim Claven, Yota wrote the following guidance to her translation of Volume 2:

“Please know that the term for the allied servicemen used by the locals (and by my father in his diary) is Εγγλέζοι (the English). The “English” is the term I used in this translation. There is no distinction between English, Australian, New Zealanders etc.

For easy reference, on the top of each page I have numbered the pages as they appear in the book.

The beach is called here Kaminia (and not Delphinia, as it is called today).

I have translated from two different sections of the book and, therefore there is some repetition.

You will notice that my father keeps referring to the need for a commemorative memorial (pp. 79, 126, 149B, p.155B). Being an idealist, he had envisaged two memorials: one on the beach at the site of the temporary grave and another one on the rock in front of the cave where the wounded soldiers took refuge. Two years ago, I tried to go and visit the cave and the Virgin of the Rock. I was told that this is private property and it is now fenced off...

There is also a very interesting 1946 document that I found in the family archive, about a panhellenic fundraiser for a monument to the Anzac soldiers. But you probably already know all of this (until a few years ago, I had no idea what this majestic monument, which is in our neighbourhood in central Athens, was for).

What follows are direct copies of the relevant translated pages from Panayiotis Kompiliris' "Mani Chronicle" Volume 2.

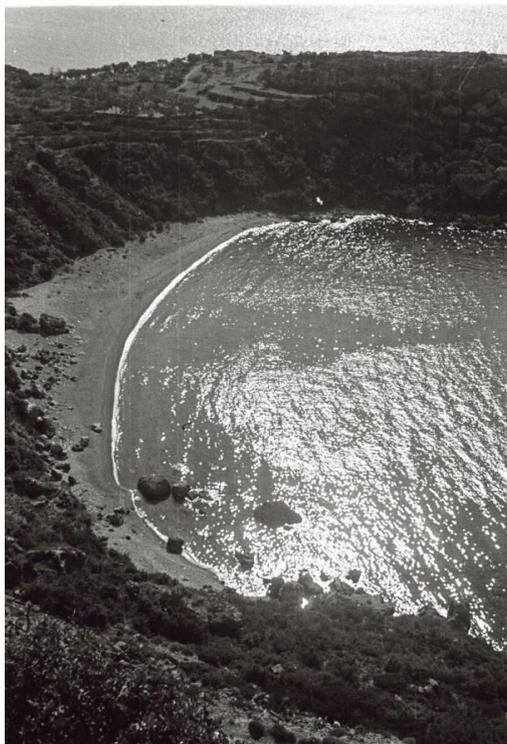
PANAYIOTIS. D. KOMPILIRIS
PANAYIOTA P. KOMPILIRI, Phd

MANI

CHRONICLE
VOLUME 2

PROASTIO OF OUTER MANI
MEMORIES FROM THE TIME OF THE OCCUPATION AND CIVIL WAR
(1941-1950)

AS I EXPERIENCED THEM AS A **CIVILIAN IN OUTER MANI AND ATHENS**
AND AS AN **OFFICER IN GRAMMOS AND IN THE AGRAFA-ACHELOOS AREA**



PUBLICATIONS
ADOULOTI MANI
G. P. DIMAKOGIANNIS
2017

Diary Entries from Panayiotis Kompiliris¹ 1941 diary

29.4.1941

Again today many English soldiers were passing through our area, after having been defeated in Almyro² (outside of Kalamata, on the way to Mani). Kalamata was bombed again heavily. The city is now occupied by the Germans. This morning, the Germans bombed Selinitsa.

In the morning, five Cypriots, soldiers of the English army, came to Proastio and asked us to show them the way to Selinitsa. They left immediately after finding out.

Between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., many German airplanes were bombing the gorges in the Kardamyli area.³ Around 12:00 p.m. a bomb fell on the property of Dr Stefaneas, near the church of Kardamyli. No victims.

In **Kaminia**, a big caïque⁴ belonging to Grigoris Christeas was bombed by 4 German airplanes. It is said that 18 bombs in total were dropped. English soldiers had boarded this ship so that they could be evacuated to Crete. Two bombs did not explode and they are still in the bottom of the sea. The **caïque** was burning continuously for two hours and finally only the masts remained, floating and kept in place by the anchors.⁵ **The victims were seven**, two of them were completely burned, **and all seven were buried in the sand at the SE end of the beach.**⁶ **There were about 15 wounded soldiers.** Thick smoke spread above the village and the whole area.

Today the villagers of Proastio were collecting various objects that the retreating Englishmen left on the main road.

At 1:00 p.m. **the 2-mast caïque which was anchored in Kalamitsi**, belonging to Georgios P. Chareas and Nikolaos P. Chareas (both from Proastion) **was bombed**, because Englishmen had boarded it. **There was one victim, an English officer, who will be buried tomorrow in Kalamitsi.** The rest of the soldiers jumped in the sea, and none of them were injured.⁷

In the afternoon, the first German troops entered Kardamyli. A bit later, around 4:00 p.m., the **first German soldier** came to our village from Kardamyli. He was blond, very tall, and he handed to the local policemen **a list of conditions**. They are reasonable, but are they to be adhered to by the Germans? Lists of conditions were also given to all other villages in our area.

As of tonight, we stopped sleeping in caves, as we had been doing for a week now, because of the fear of bombing.

¹ In 1941 my father was a 19-year old High School student in Kalamata; because of the war, schools had closed and he returned to his village

² Outside of Kalamata, on the way to Mani

³ Young villagers hidden in caves were trying to shoot the airplanes

⁴ 2-mast fishing boat powered by petrol

⁵ On a boat ride in 1957, I noticed that he shipwreck was still clearly visible from above

⁶ A few years later, they were reburied at Proastio Civil Cemetery together with the English officer fallen in Kalamitsi

⁷ Later, **seven** (according to others, only six) English soldiers, who were killed in Kastania, were buried at Proastio Civil Cemetery



The Chlavorto peninsula and the beach of Kaminia photographed from the hills (17.8.59)



The peninsula of Chlavorto (9.9.54)



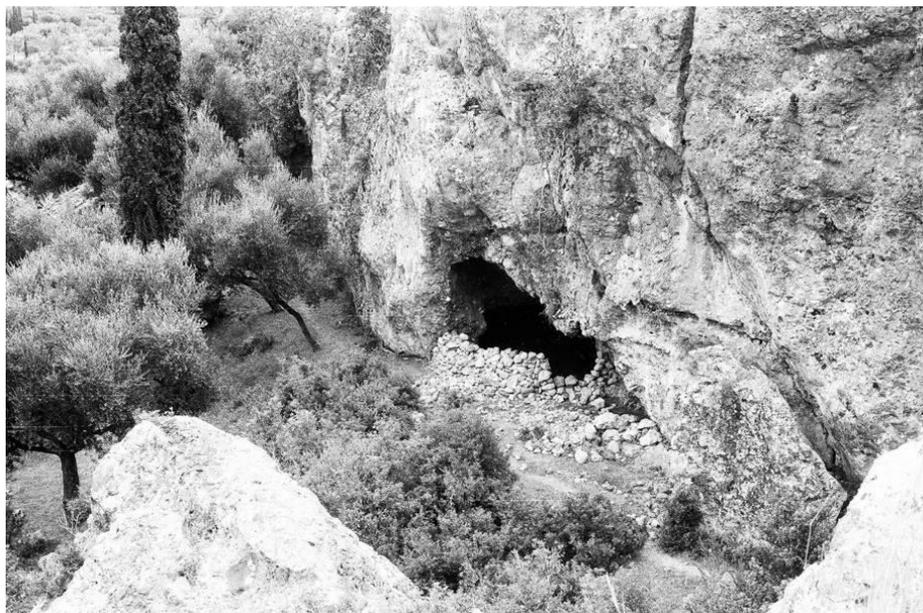
Kaminia and the hill of Lefktro near Stoupa (28.10.62)



Kaminia and Lefkto photographed from the hills (28.10.62)



The north side of the Chlavorto peninsula, photographed from across the bay (9.9.54)



The cave where the Allied wounded soldiers found refuge on April 29, 1941 (6.8.58)

Later note:

In order to photograph this cave, I had to climb a rock opposite it and across the sloped little chapel of Virgin Mary, and I imagined that one day in the future on this solid rock there will be engraved the following inscription:

*IN HONOUR AND MEMORY
OF THE ENGLISH, AUSTRALIANS, NEWZEALANDERS AND CYPRIOTS
WHO FELL ON THIS BEACH IN APRIL 1941
AND THE LOCALS WHO CARED FOR THE WOUNDED IN THIS CAVE*

Let us go back to the **diary entries**:

30.4.41

Sirach 44:14-16 their bodies were buried in peace, but their names live for generations.

Today, the last dead allied soldier, an English officer⁸ who died in Kalamitsi, was buried.

In the morning, two friends of mine (the twins Panagiotis Sot. Chioureas and his brother George) and I walked to the main road, looking for objects left behind by the fleeing English. I found a sword, a damaged gas mask and 15 cartridges.

Then we went to **Kaminia**, and we were diving from a small boat to collect dead fish from yesterday's bombardment. We gathered about 11 kgs of fish and my share was about 3 kgs. But then, when a villager (Stavroula G. Perdikea) came to tell us that the Germans were on their way, we got frightened, threw the sword and everything else that we had found into the sea, and keeping only the fish, we quickly went up the gorge and returned to the village.

While at the Chlavorto peninsula, in Kaminia, we went to the cave where **about 25 English had found refuge. They were wounded from yesterday's bombing, hungry and cold. In the afternoon, a German patrol came and took them all as prisoners of war.**⁹

Later notes on 29.4.41

Tuesday, 29.4.41

Four German fighters of the Sturzkampfflugzeug type bombed and sank the big (30 tons) **caïque** of Grigoris Christeas (he owned three ships at that time, two of which he used to anchor at the bay of Kaminia).

The English had seized this ship to evacuate to Crete. The beautiful red ship's engine was broken, and while an English engineer was trying to repair it, German fighter airplanes bombed the ship from a height of 50 m., and it sank in a depth of 10-12 m. The seven English dead were buried in the sand on the S side of the beach, but not for long, because around the year 1943, people from Proastio reburied them in a big mass grave in the New Civil Cemetery of Proastio,¹⁰ at the initiative of the village President K. Giouleas. On 27.4.45 they were reburied in the Faleron War Cemetery.

During the bombardment, which lasted about 15 minutes, I had found refuge with some other young people in a small cave, the size of a small room, about 20 m. above the bottom of the gorge, and about 1000 m. SW of the big village bridge. From that cave, we could see and smell the thick smoke of the burning ship; the smoke was slowly coming up the gorge until it reached Mount Progora.

Tuesday, 29.4.41

Seven allied soldiers died at the beautiful beach of Kaminia during the bombardment of Grigorakas' **caïque**. The beach is called Kaminia because in earlier years, people from Proastio (the Athanaseas family) had kilns where they made tiles, oil jars and pitchers out of clay. They also made lime.

The evacuation of S. Peloponnese was to happen on April 28, 1941, but the German troops advanced so quickly, that the evacuation of the allied soldiers started on April 26. Some soldiers had enough time to flee in warships, but about 10.000 were left at Maniot beaches, trying to find a way to get to Crete. About 8.000 of them were taken prisoners of war by the Germans.

⁸ We do not know his name, but he is "Known Unto God", as it is often written on the graves of unknown soldiers

⁹ Some say that they were taken by German submarines

¹⁰ The late Proastion priest, the unforgettable Michail Bousboukeas, who could tell us so much on these events, is no longer alive

Testimonies by Proastio villagers **The bombardment of Grigorakas' caique**

Testimony by Evangelia St. Christodoulea (born in 1929)

During the bombings of April 1941 my family and I had hidden in a cave in the hills the size of a house with a big hole similar to a window, in Diavata. With us was the family of Dionysios Chouseas. The Germans were bombing Grigorakas' **caïque** for half a day. We would go to the entrance of the cave and see the bombs aimed at the **caïque**, and we were crossing ourselves, crying and praying that the bombs would miss their target. Two bombs fell on the land and others in the sea. The **caïque** was carrying hay, which caught fire and the English were jumping into the sea to escape, screaming. The ones who died were buried in Kaminia. The ones who survived hid in a cave on the Chlavorto peninsula, wounded and hungry and cold. Others went towards the mountains and hid in the caves of Kastania.

Testimony by Takis St. Xepapadeas (born in 1928)

On the day of the bombardment in Kaminia, my father Fotos Xepapadeas together with Paraskevas Xepapadeas had gone fishing. My father saw the Englishmen, who had thrown away their guns,¹¹ and were trying to escape with Grigorakas' ship, and he kept telling them in English:¹² "where are you going, you will drown, the engine is broken!" but they did not listen. Then, he sent his brother to the village to bring bread and cheese for them. On that day, my family and I we had hidden in a chicken coop that we had in a field above the village. The allied soldiers who died in Kaminia were buried on the beach, at a spot where you can still see traces of kilns. There, in earlier years, villagers from Proastio were making jars and other clay objects, near the foot of the peninsula. Our soil is not suitable for this, and suitable soil was brought with **caïques** to Kaminia.

Testimony of Panayiotis N. Chouseas

The English had paid Grigoris Christeas from Selinitza to transport them to Crete with his **caïque**. As they were repairing the engine, German fighter airplanes arrived and bombed them with 24 bombs. The ship caught fire, and some soldiers were killed, and they were buried in the sand. After some time, an English military chaplain came with a British warship and he together with the crew they exhumed the bodies. I also went there from our summer house, which is nearby, and saw what happened. They took the bodies and left.¹³ **The officer who died in Kalamitsi was buried there, at the Kompiliri family's cypress trees, near the water.**

¹¹ This is not attested elsewhere and it sounds unlikely that they would throw away their guns

¹² He had lived in the USA and had learned English

¹³ This contradicts the other testimonies.

Testimony of Panayiotis N. Perdikeas

Grigorakas' **caïque** was loaded with hay, and he had agreed with the English to transport them to Crete. However, before he could leave, German airplanes of the type Sturzkampfflugzeug bombed it. The hay caught fire and the **caïque** burned.

Anonymous testimony

When the Germans invaded Greece, the English retreated to S. Peloponnese. An English brigade was defeated at the battle of Kalamata, and those who survived came to Mani. They came with cars and ambulances, and at the spot near today's restaurant "Dioskouri" in Kardamyli, where the road ended, they pushed the vehicles over the cliff. They kept walking south, and when they found Grigorakas' **caïque** in Kaminia, 50 m long, they hired it to take them to Crete. They had loaded everything they owned, arms, clothing, backpacks and they were planning to leave in the evening. Two reconnaissance aircrafts flew by, they saw the ship, and they bombed it. Beforehand, an English captain (λοχαγός) asked the major if he allowed him to take the men who wanted to come with him¹⁴ and with his permission they went to Trachila. They hid in a big sea cave, and an English submarine came inside the cave, without anyone seeing it, and took them. Only they survived, the rest died and they were buried on the beach. There were also many wounded soldiers, who hid in a cave on the peninsula. The Germans arrived, they told them that they are taking them to the hospital in Kalamata, but instead they took them during the night to the Kardamyli dry riverbed, and they killed them.¹⁵ Six allied soldiers walked towards the mountains and hid in the Kastania caves. There they asked the villagers of Kastania to bring them to Trachila, but they were killed in the night. They were initially buried next to the hut where they were sleeping. Later the Italians and the Red Cross came and they reburied them in Proastio New Cemetery. After the liberation, English recovery units came, they exhumed the bodies, placed them in wooden boxes draped in English flags, and took them away. The Italians and the Germans were always afraid that there would be an allied landing in Kardamyli.

Although the incident of April 29, 1941 is not that old (compared to the long history of Proastio), the testimonies are very different. Today few people remember the reburial in Proastio, which I witnessed myself (I was 19 yrs old) and which is attested by the archives of the Commonwealth Graves Commission.

A few years later, Grigorakas' **second caïque** also burned. It **was being built** by Proastio shipbuilders, most likely by Sotirios Chioureas. It is said that his enemies burned it, because Grigorakas had right wing ideology. For a few days after that, villagers came to the beach and searched among the ashes to find the big square nails, used in shipbuilding. Thus, Grigorakas lost all three of his ships, one in Kaminia, one in Kalamitsi and the third sank somewhere else...¹⁶

The bombing of another caïque in Kalamitsi (29.4.41)

Testimony of Panayiota Mpotsea (née Charea)

My uncle Georgios P. Chareas had left a beautiful bale of white material for his daughter's dowry, suitable for bedsheets, in our **caïque**, anchored in Kalamitsi. When he saw the German airplanes, he shouted "the bale! the bale!" and then my father (also his brother) jumped into the ship and saved it. There was no damage to the ship, but later it sank in Tainaron.

In the next few pages, we will get to know some of the English and Australian heroes who died in our beaches. Unfortunately, we only know the names of **five** English and Australian soldiers. Now that their names are known, almost 80 years later, is it too much for the local authorities and the state to show some interest for their death and put up a commemorative plaque, reminding their sacrifice to future generations. The short text below would make a suitable inscription:

IN ETERNAL MEMORY OF THE FALLEN ALLIED SOLDIERS.
IN GRATITUDE, GREECE, THE COMMON MOTHERLAND.

¹⁴ This is not attested elsewhere and sounds unlikely

¹⁵ This is not attested elsewhere

¹⁶ The third caïque owned by Grigorakas Christeas must have been "Tasia Christea", launched in Piraeus in 1939, which was seized by the Greek government in November 1940, was sunk by the Germans in April 1941, but was raised by the owner and repaired; in January 1942 the Germans seized it, armed it, turned it into a warship and renamed first GA 41 and then "U-Boot J Jäger 2141" until it was bombed and sunk again at Avlemonas in Kythira by the 16 Sq. of the South African Air Force on 15.4.1944 (the fate of "Tasia Christea" was researched by Andreas Kyriakouleas)

Commonwealth soldiers buried in Proastio's New Cemetery

As we have said, some of the Commonwealth soldiers who died in the area around Proastio were buried in **Proastio New Cemetery**. In the autumn of 1944 an English warship with a military chaplain arrived in Kardamyli, the bodies were exhumed and they **were reburied in Faleron War Cemetery on 27.4.45**.

I believe that in this book (Chroniko) the names of some of the soldiers, buried at Proastio, are published for the very first time. According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, in our cemetery were buried 4 Australian soldiers and one English major:

Charles William Sheppard, 34 yrs old, Australian, died on 26.4.41

Julian Frederic Doelberg, 39 yrs old, English, died on 29.4.41

Donald Archibald Berry, 24 yrs old, Australian, died 6.5.41

Murray Moore, 29 yrs old, Australian, died on 6.5.41

William Andrew Salter, 25 yrs old, Australian, died on 6.5.41

As we can see from the above dates, Australian **Charles William Sheppard** was killed on **26.4.41**, the day that the Kalamata port and other coasts of the Messinian Bay were heavily bombed. It was the day with the most victims, as 10.000 allied soldiers were desperately trying to reach Crete and North Africa by boat. Sheppard must have been somewhere in the vicinity, possibly at a Maniot beach, was killed by a German bomb and buried in Proastio. Was he the only allied soldier who died on that day that who was buried in our cemetery?

English **Major Julian Frederic Doelberg** was an English electrical engineer, who was killed by a German bomb at the bay of Kaminia three days later, on **29.4.41**, as he was trying to repair the engine of Christeas' **caïque**, that would transport the stranded Commonwealth soldiers from Mani to Crete. We know, however, from eye witnesses, that together with Major Doelberg, **six more allied soldiers died at Kaminia**,¹⁷ who were also buried at the southern edge of the beach. After one or two years they were reburied in a mass grave in New Cemetery of Proastio. Unfortunately, we do not know the names of these six soldiers.

We also know that on the same day, another **officer** was killed in the neighbouring beach of **Kalamitsi**. He was buried temporarily at the beach in Kalamitsi, but according to villager testimonies, he was also reburied in Proastio New Cemetery, together with the others.

¹⁷ Who were the other six allied soldiers who died at Kaminia and the officer who died in Kalamitsi? Research in the archives of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, The Royal Engineers Association, the organisation Poppysearch, the national archives of Australia and New Zealand, the NZDF (New Zealand Defence Force) and the RNZAF (Royal New Zealand Air Force) was unsuccessful; research in the archives of Deutsche Dienststelle (WASt) in Berlin was also unsuccessful

We only know that on that day, **29.4.41, in Greece** were killed the following allied soldiers, however, they fell in other areas of Greece: **William Calvert**, 26 yrs old, English, died on 29.4.41, was buried in Kifisia (was reburied in grave 14.A.11 of the Faleron War Cemetery) **Robert Chaffers**, 23 yrs old, English, died on 29.4.41, was buried in Nafplia (was reburied in grave 9.E.3 of the Faleron War Cemetery) **Edward Cowan**, 23 yrs old, English, died on 29.4.41, was buried in Nafplia (was reburied in grave 9.E.7 of the Faleron War Cemetery) **Jeffrey J.W. King**, 23 yrs old, New Zealander, died on 29.4.41, was buried in Kifisia (reburied in grave 8.D.16 of the Faleron War Cemetery) **Charles W. Corner**, 24 yrs old, New Zealander, died on 29.4.41, was buried in Kifisia (reburied in grave 8.D.17 of the Faleron War Cemetery – we do not know if there is a grave 8.D. 18, while there are graves 8.D.17 and 8.d.19) **Arthur O'Halloran**, 35 yrs old, New Zealander, died on 29.4.41, was buried in Metamorphosis Cemetery in Tripoli (reburied in grave 8.D.19 of the Faleron War Cemetery) **Ernest T. F. Reid**, 29 yrs old, New Zealander, died on 29.4.41, was buried in Metamorphosis Cemetery in Tripoli (reburied in grave 8.D.20 of the Faleron War Cemetery)

Eight days after the bombing in Kaminia, on 6.5.41,¹⁸ three more allied soldiers were killed and were also later buried in Proastio New Cemetery together with the ones mentioned above:

Donald Archibald Berry, 24 yrs old, Australian, died on 6.5.41

Murray Moore, 29 yrs old, Australian, died on 6.5.41

William Andrew Salter, 25 yrs old, Australian, died on 6.5.41

Shall we assume that the above three soldiers are among the ones who **were killed during the night near Kastania** and that the villagers of Proastio took the initiative to bury them in Proastio, so that they could be together with the other allied soldiers? We know that villagers such as Dimitrios K. Kotsonis advocated to have them brought to the New Cemetery¹⁹, believing that they should have a dignified burial together with their comrades. Let us see one testimony:

Testimony of Christos A. Perdikeas

I was a young child then. I walked with other people from Proastio to the fields **near the village of Kastania**²⁰ and there they exhumed the bodies of the English soldiers who were buried next to the hut where they were hidden and killed. It was 1 to 2 years after they had been killed, and they had not fully decomposed. They brought them to our church, our priest Michail Bousboukeas read the funeral service. I do not remember anything else.

This means that **at least 15 Allied soldiers were buried in the cemetery of our village**, which as far as I know has not happened in any other village of our area.

Where were the remains of these soldiers finally laid to rest? In the autumn of 1944, a British corvette warship anchored at Kalamitsi bay. An English military chaplain and the village priest together exhumed the bodies and then brought them to the warship in Kalamitsi. **They were reburied on 27.4.45 at the Faleron War Cemetery.**²¹ The interpreter of the English pastor was Sergeant Georgios Lympouris, a Cypriot teacher. The whole village assisted in the exhumation and honoured the allied dead soldiers by accompanying them from the New Cemetery to the British warship in Kalamitsi. It is a pity that priest Michail Bousboukeas is not alive to tell us what exactly happened... I remember that I introduced myself to George Lympouris, and that he invited me aboard the corvette for English tea and biscuits.

The Faleron War Cemetery (entrance on Vouliagmenis Street) where English, Australian, New Zealanders, Canadians, South Africans and Indians are buried is not well known. It was designed by French Canadian architect Louis de Soissons, who has also designed the Suda Bay War Cemetery in Crete and at least 50 other war cemeteries in Greece and Italy. In Faleron War Museum one can also find the young heroes who died in Kaminia. But where exactly in Faleron War Museum are they buried?

- **English Major Julian Frederic Doelberg** was buried in grave **14.C.2**
- The four **Australian** soldiers named above were buried together in mass grave **2.D.14-17**. It is a grave of 20 soldiers, but only the names of four men are known, those who were temporarily buried in Proastio New Cemetery. Only these four graves bear a name, while on the other sixteen graves it is simply written "Known to God".

Two of the Australian soldiers were married. Two came from the state of Victoria, one from Queensland and one from New South Wales.

¹⁸ Who were the other allied soldiers who were killed together with the three soldiers named above on **6.5.41**? research did not bear fruit We only know that **in Greece** on that day, on **6.5.41**, except for the above three, the following three allied soldiers died, not in the Proastio area, but in the vicinity of Kalamata:

John F. Borthwic, 20 yrs old, English, died on 6.5.41, was buried in Kalamata (Caserma Gregori – it could be the Cemetery of Casarma (Casarma with an **a** and not an **e**, near Messini; however, there are a few Casarmas in Greece)

James H. Davies, of unknown age, English, died on 6.5.41, was buried in Kalamata (Caserma Gregori)

M. Joffe, of unknown age, English, died on 6.5.41, was buried in Kalamata (Caserma Gregori)

¹⁹ The New Cemetery of Proastio was founded in the late 1930's, however, it was abandoned in the mid 1940's, because the villagers wanted to be buried at the same old cemetery as their ancestors

²⁰One villager said that the six dead were first buried in a field near the village of **Neochorion** and not Kastania; not attested elsewhere

²¹ This information was given by the Commonwealth War Grave Commission

“Resurrection”, the new cemetery in Proastio

This cemetery was founded in 1938, when the Prime Minister of Greece was Ioannis Metaxas, by the enterprising President of Proastio Constantine D. Giouleas. It was in use until the mid 1940's, and this is where the allied soldiers were temporarily buried before being transferred to Faleron War Cemetery.

What is left today from the New Cemetery, which is behind the village school, on the road to Exochorio? Unfortunately only one eucalyptus tree and a few cypresses... no sign that there was once a cemetery there. It is imperative that this spot is properly cleaned up as a sign of respect to those who were buried there, both foreign and Greek...



The road to Exochorio – the New Cemetery was to the left, where the cypress trees stand (19.12.82)



The New Cemetery area (19.12.82)

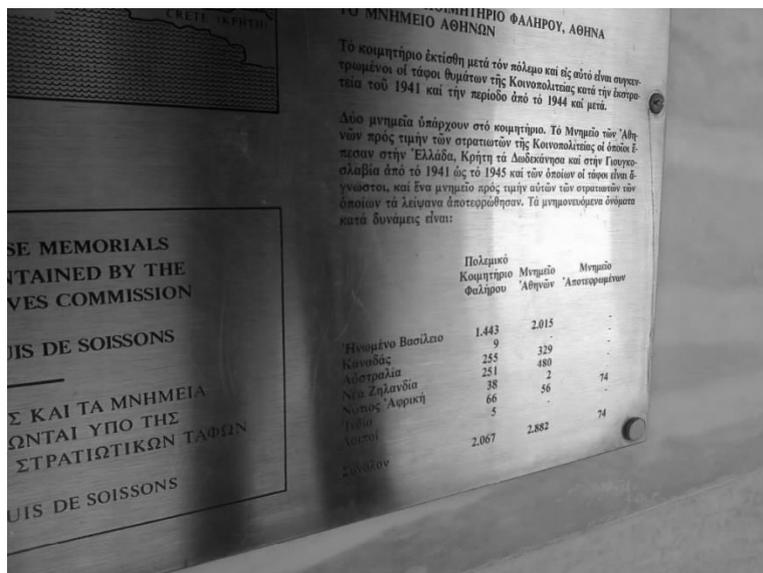


What is left of the New Cemetery today: a few cypress trees, a eucalyptus tree
and the remains of some villagers who were never exhumed...
(their graves are no longer visible)
(photograph taken in 2014)



What remains today of the New Cemetery...
(photograph of 2014)

Faleron War Cemetery²² (Πολεμικό Κοιμητήριο Φαλήρου)



FALERON WAR CEMETERY
ATHENS MEMORIAL
Commemorative plaque at the entrance of the cemetery

This cemetery was founded after WW2 for the Commonwealth casualties. Here are laid to rest allied servicemen who died during WW2, at the campaigns in mainland Greece and Crete in 1941 and 1944-45, in the Dodecanese Islands in 1943-45 and in Yugoslavia in 1943-1945. There are also 596 graves of non-identified servicemen. In this war cemetery there are several sections. The Cremation Memorial has 74 graves of Indian servicemen who died in Greece and Crete and were subsequently cremated. A small section has graves of servicemen who fought in the Crimean War and died in Greece.

The recovery units who collected the remains of the soldiers and brought them to Faleron were the 23rd and 24th Grave Registration Units and the 21st and 22nd Australian War Graves Units.

Below there is a table of the allied soldiers buried in Faleron War Cemetery by country:

	Faleron War Cemetery	Athens Memorial	Phaleron Cremation Memorial
United Kingdom	1.443	2.015	-
Canada	9	-	-
Australia	255	329	-
New Zealand	251	480	-
South Africa	38	2	74
India	64	55	74
Rest	5	-	-
Total	2.067	2.882	74

²² This is the official name of the cemetery, however the Athenians know it as "Allied War Cemetery of Old Faleron" or "Allied Cemetery of Faleron"



Inscription on the external wall of the Faleron War Cemetery on Vouliagmenis Street:
1939-1945

THE LAND ON WHICH THIS CEMETERY
AND THESE MONUMENTS STAND
IS THE GIFT OF THE GREEK PEOPLE
FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF
THE SAILORS SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN
WHO ARE HONOURED HERE



External wall at the entrance of the Faleron War Cemetery on Vouliagmenis Street

The same inscription in Greek:
1939-1945

Η ΓΗ ΔΙΑ ΤΟ ΚΟΙΜΗΤΗΡΙΟΝ
ΚΑΙ ΔΙΑ ΤΑ ΜΝΗΜΕΙΑ ΤΑΥΤΑ
ΕΔΩΡΗΘΗ ΥΠΟ ΤΟΥ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥ
ΛΛΟΥ ΕΙΣ ΜΝΗΜΗΝ ΤΩΝ ΕΝΘΑΔΕ
ΤΙΜΩΜΕΝΩΝ ΝΑΥΤΩΝ
ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΩΝ



The entrance to Faleron War Cemetery on Vouliagmenis St.



The main gate of the cemetery



The central section of the cemetery
(on the plaques are engraved the names of 2,882 Commonwealth soldiers
who died in Greece, but their remains were never found)



Monument to the Indian servicemen who fell in Greece



The Cross of Sacrifice



The Australian section of the cemetery



Grave 2.D. 14-17
(the grave of Australian Private C. W. Sheppard)

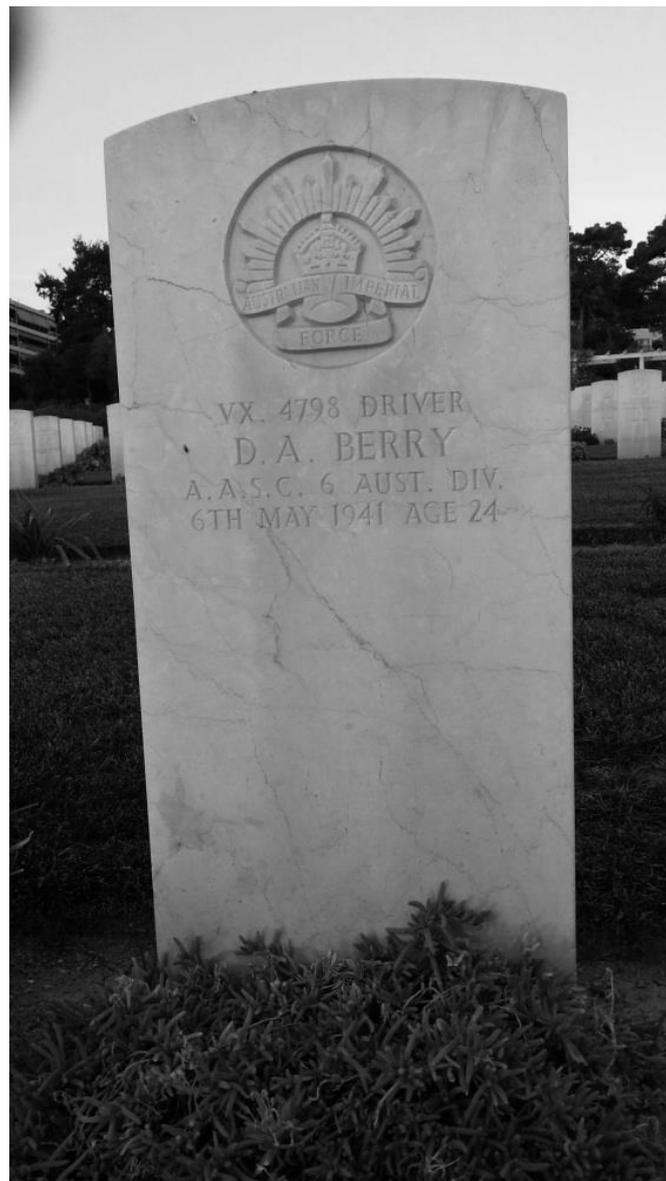
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
NX. 2459 PRIVATE
C.W. SHEPPARD
2/1 AUST. INF. BN.
6TH MAY 1941,²³ AGE 34

THY WILL BE DONE

In the book which is found at the entrance of the cemetery, the date of death is correctly recorded: **26th April, 1941.**

SHEPPARD, Private, CHARLES WILLIAM, NX2459, A.I.F. 2/1 Bn., Australian Infantry. 26 April 1941. Age 34. Son of Albert William and Hannah Louisa Sheppard, of Eastwood, New South Wales, Australia. Grave Ref. Coll. grave 2. D. 14-17.

²³ The date of death on the inscription of the grave is wrong – he was killed on 26.4.41, on the day that the port of Kalamata was bombed



Grave 2.D. 14-17
(the grave of Australian Driver D. A. Berry)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
VX 4798 DRIVER
D.A. BERRY
A.A.S.C. 6 AUST. DIV.
6TH MAY 1941, AGE 24

In the book which is found at the entrance of the cemetery it is written:

BERRY, Driver, DONALD ARCHIBALD, VX4798, A.I.F. 6 Div., Australian Army Service Corps. 6 May 1941. Age 24. Son of Donald Alexander and Ruby Berry, of Mildura, Victoria; husband of Yvonne Lillian Berry, of Toowong, Queensland, Australia. Grave Ref. Coll. grave 2. D. 14-17.



Grave 2.D. 14-17
(the grave of Australian private M. Moore)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
VX 5109 PRIVATE
M. MOORE
2/6 AUST. INF. BN.
6TH MAY 1941, AGE 29

In the book which is found at the entrance of the cemetery it is written:

MOORE, Private, MURRAY, VX5109, A.I.F. 2/6 Bn., Australian Infantry. 6 May 1941. Age 29. Son of Herbert James Moore and Mary Ann Moore, of Portland, Victoria, Australia. Grave Ref. Coll. grave 2. D. 14-17.



Grave 2.D. 14-17
(The grave of Australian Private W. A. Salter)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE
VX 2063 PRIVATE
W.A. SALTER
A.S.S.C. 6 AUSTR. DIV.
6TH MAY 1941, AGE 25

In the book which is found at the entrance of the cemetery it is written:

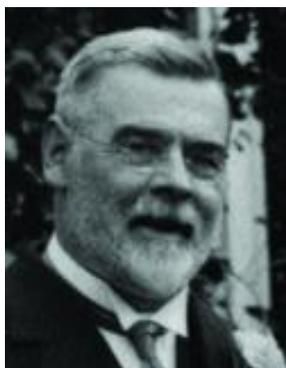
SALTER, Private, WILLIAM ANDREW, VX2063, A.I.F. 2 Petrol Coy., Australian Army Service Corps. 6 May 1941. Age 25. Husband of Pearl Margaret Salter, of Prahran, Victoria, Australia. Grave Ref. Coll. grave 2. D. 14-17.

Major Julian Frederic Doelberg (16.11.1901- 29.4.1941)

Friends, do not be sad,
you are sleeping in such a beautiful bay...
(Panayiotis D. Kompiliris)

What do we know about the lives of the fifteen Allied soldiers who were buried in the New Cemetery of Proastio? Almost nothing... Only about Major Julian Frederic Doelberg do we have some information.

He was born in Lewisham District in London on November 16, 1901, son of Hermann Dietrich Arnold Doelberg (1861-1948) and Nellie Agnes Maltby (1867-1941). His father, Hermann Doelberg, was born in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany, where he owned a factory, he settled in England, got married in 1895 and became a British citizen in 1906.



J. F. Doelberg's father
Hermann Dietrich Arnold Doelberg



J. F. Doelberg's mother
Nellie Agnes Maltby-Doelberg

Hermann and Nellie had three sons: Athelstone (full name: Hermann Athelstone Hendrick, 1896-1958), Major Julian Frederic (1901-1941) and Lawrence D. (born in 1910).

Julian Frederic Doelberg graduated from university with a degree in electrical engineering in 1922 and registered in the Royal Corps of Engineers, Registration No. 18318. He married Leslie Havers and in 1932 they had a daughter, Anne (she later had a boy and a girl). In 1934 Major Doelberg was sent to Singapore, where he worked on the construction of Changi Fort, which later became the infamous Changi Prison; the Japanese used it as a concentration camp/prison for about 50.000 English and Australian prisoners of war. In 1936 J. F. Doelberg returned to England, and sensing that there might soon be a war, he resettled his family in the village Oxshott in Surrey (at the address 12 Clockhouse Mead). During WW2 he was sent to Crete, where his duties were probably the explosion of bridges and destruction of buildings and infrastructure, so that they could not be used by the advancing Germans.

His next mission proved to be fatal. From Crete, he was sent to Mani in mainland Greece in order to assist with the evacuation of the allied troops to Crete and North Africa. On 29.4.1941, while he was trying to repair the engine of a **caïque** in Kaminia Bay, he was killed by a German bomb together with six other soldiers. He was 39 years old. This ship had been hired to transfer allied troops to Crete. We do not know the names of the six other dead, neither the names of the 25 prisoners of war that were caught by the Germans.²⁴ He was initially buried in the south end of Kaminia beach, then in the New Cemetery of Proastio and then in the Faleron War Cemetery in the grave 14.C.2. A few months after his death, in December 1941, his mother Nellie died as well.

²⁴ Research in the German archives proved unsuccessful



Major Julian Frederic Doelberg²⁵

In Oxshott, Surrey, where Major Doelberg's family lived (his wife Leslie and daughter Anne), there are two monuments in which his name is mentioned. The first is the **Oxshott War Memorial**, which was erected in 1923 on the top of a hill, above the village. This was a memorial for the dead of WW1, where the names of the dead of WW2 were added later. The second is the **church of St. Andrews**, where on a pillar there is a triptych engraved in 1949 with the names of dead servicemen from the area. The central section of the triptych is dedicated to 12 Canadian soldiers who were killed during the years 1939-45 in the Oxshott area, while the other two sections are dedicated to the English servicemen of WW1 and WW2. On the right²⁶ section of the triptych, together with 24 other dead of WW2, on the fifth row, the name J. F. Doelberg can be found.

We know that on September 19, 1941, solicitors Culross and Co. published the following announcement in the newspaper The London Gazette:

Major JULIAN FREDERIC DOELBERG, Deceased.
Pursuant to the Trustee Act, 1925.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claim against the estate of Julian Frederic Doelberg, late of 12 Clockhouse Mead, Oxshott, Surrey, and care of Lloyds Bank Limited, Cox's and King's Branch, 6 Pall Mall, London S.W., a Major in the Royal Engineers, who died on the 29th day of April 1941, are hereby required to send particulars thereof in writing to the Executor & Trustee Department, Lloyds Bank Limited, 5 Albemarle Street, London W1, the executor of the Will of the said Julian Frederic Doelberg or to the undersigned, the Solicitors to the executor on or before the 1st day of December 1941, after which date the executor will proceed to distribute the said estate, having regard only to the claims then notified.-

Dated this 16th day of September, 1941.

CULROSS and CO., 65 Duke Street, Grosvenor (235) Square, London W1, Solicitors for Executor

²⁵ The photograph of this page and most of the information given here on the life of the English Major Doelberg were published on the Internet at

<http://www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk/Oxshott-War-Memorials/OxshottWM-DoelbergJF-story.htm>.

The photographs of Major Doelberg's parents were published on the Internet at

<http://www.geni.com/people/Nellie-Doelberg/600000007827521316>

The photographs on the triptych in St. Andrews Church, Oxhott, with the name of Major Julian Frederic Doelberg, were published on the Internet at

<http://www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk/Oxshott-War-Memorials/OxshottWM-StAndrewsWWII.htm>

The photographs of St. Andrews Church, Oxshott, Surrey were published on the Internet at

<http://www.picturesofengland.com/England/tour/Churches/pictures/1030457>

²⁶ towards the reader



St Andrews Church, Oxshott, Surrey



The triptych at St Andrews Church in Oxshott.
On the right section of the triptych can be seen the name of J. F. Doelberg.



Servicemen from the Oxshott area who died during the years 1939-45 (the fifth name is the one of Major J. F. Doelberg).



Wedding photograph of Major Julian F. Doelberg (around 1931)
(on the left the parents of the bridegroom, Hermann and Nellie, the groom Julian, the bride Leslie,
the bride's mother Evelyn and others)

The Doelbergs in the back garden in Oxshott, Surrey, England. About 1937

Leslie Nellie Hermann Evelyn (Leslie's mother)



Julian Anne Athelstone Lawrence



Major Julian F. Doelberg (right) in Greece



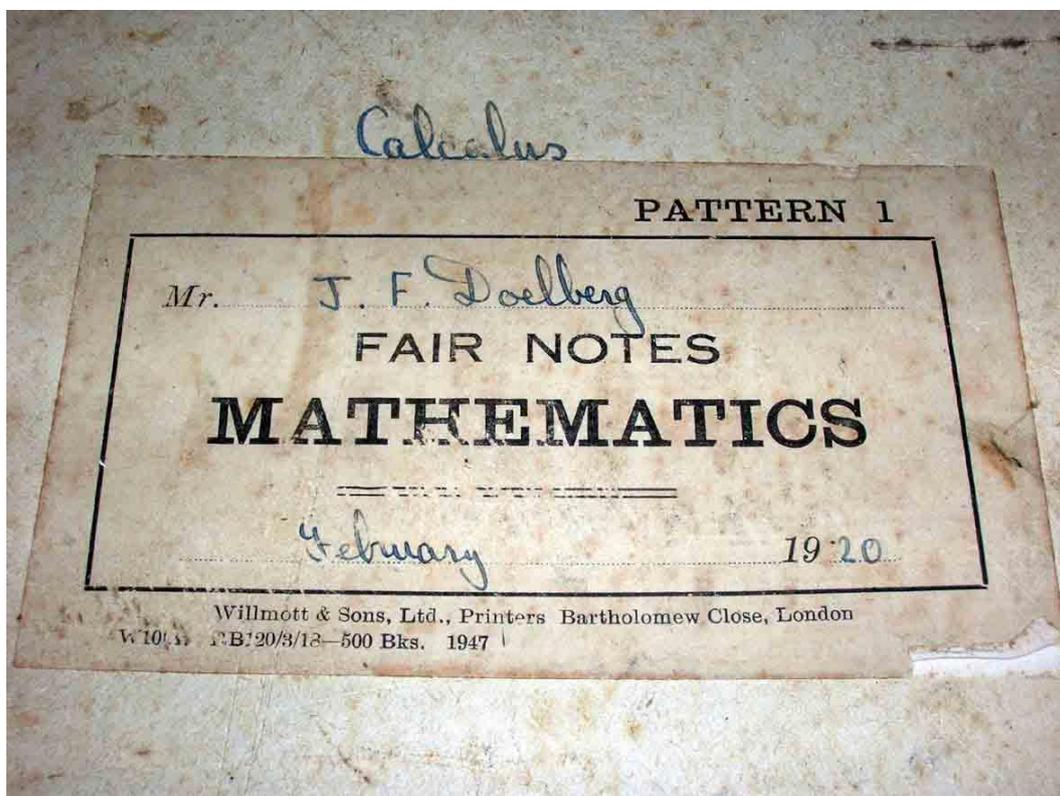
Major Julian F. Doelberg (left) with his assisting officer in Athens

In addition to his other accomplishments, Julian Frederic Doelberg was an inventor.²⁷ His notebooks as well as some instruments that he made are kept at the British Science Museum. In the next two pages we will see some of his personal objects that are displayed at the British Science Museum.

²⁷ He invented bullet proof car tires and a mechanism that silences the toilet water tank. He tried in vain to find a way to free the 99 trapped English sailors in the submarine *Thetis* in 1939.

Dynamites.
Dynamite No 1 : is nitroglycerine
absorbed in 25% bisulphur, a
a plastic substance solid. fair
Power about $\frac{3}{4}$ that of pure
Dynamite No 1: 18% N.G., 71%
1% paraffin wax, less shattering
lifting effect than No 1.
Dynamites' water separator &

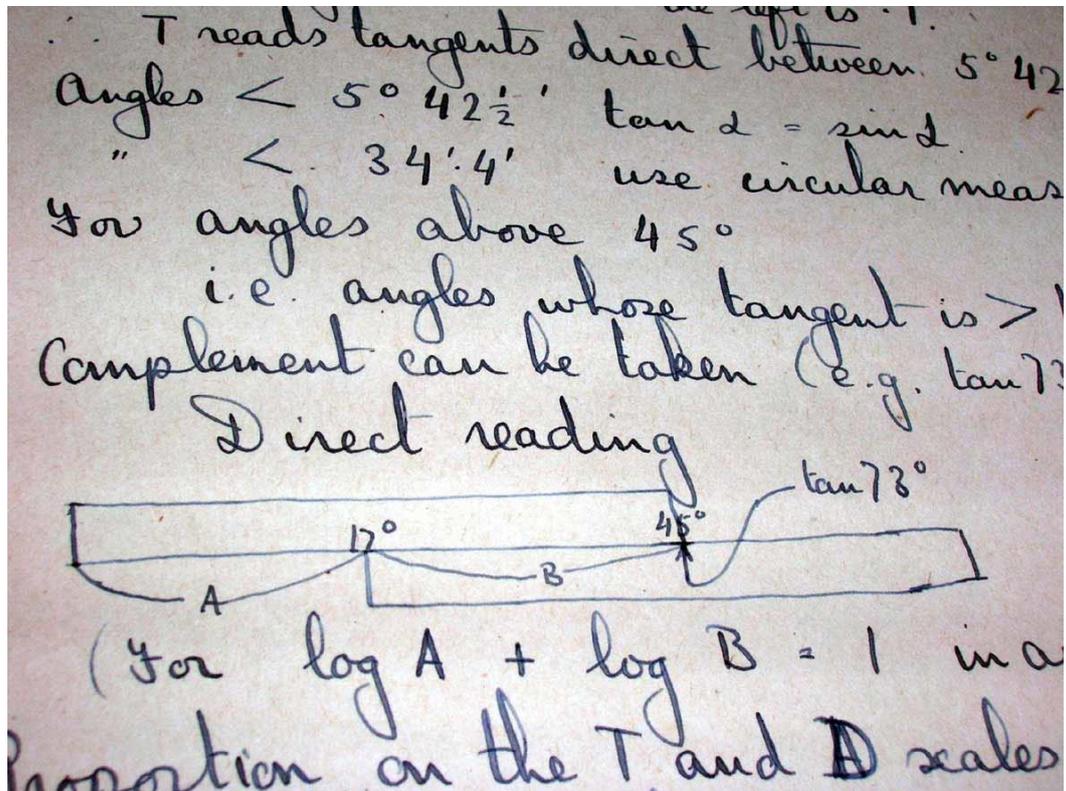
Notes on dynamites by Julian F. Doelberg



Calculus notebook of Julian F. Doelberg (February 1920)



Geometry set of Julian F. Doelberg



Geometry notes by Julian F. Doelberg



Grave 14.C.2

(The grave of J. F. Doelberg at Falern War Cemetery

In this grave some of the ashes of his wife Leslie and his daughter Anne are also buried)

HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE
ROYAL ENGINEERS

MAJOR
J. F. DOELBERG²⁸
ROYAL ENGINEERS
29TH APRIL 1941

²⁸ He was 39 years old

Military badges and pins

Let us now return to the events of 29.4.1941 at Kaminia Beach.

The military pins and the bronze ring of the photographs below were found on 20.5.65 at the south end of Kaminia Beach, in the sand, at the spot where the fallen allied soldiers were initially buried, after the bombing of the ship with which they tried to escape to Crete on April 29, 1941.



Royal Engineers collar badge with pin
Corps of Royal Engineers or Royal Engineers or Sappers
Honi²⁹ soit qui mal y pense (may be shamed he who thinks evil)
(Major J. F. Doelberg was an officer in the Corps of Royal Engineers)

The pin of the first photograph below belongs to the Royal Regiment of Artillery. The motto of this regiment is: Ubique Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt (everywhere where duty and glory lead). Quite often the motto is shortened to either "Ubique"³⁰ or "Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt".



²⁹ Honni (with two n) is the past participle of the French verb "honnir" which means "to publicly shame". The English form 'honi' with one n is wrong

³⁰ Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem called "Ubique"



The beach of Kaminia photographed from Frangkia (28.10.62)
(the fallen allied soldiers were buried at the far end of the beach)

It should be mentioned that 53 years after the events of April 29, 1941 in Kaminia, on May 17, 1994, the Brotherhood of Veterans of the Greek Campaign 1940-41 erected a monument at the entrance of the Public Railway Park in Kalamata in memory of the allied and Greek servicemen who died during the Battle of Kalamata on 28.4.1941.



Brotherhood of Veterans of the Greek Campaign 1940-41
Monument in Kalamata

Four poems

However, in Kaminia, even today (2018) there is no monument or even a plaque reminding the sacrifice of the allied young heroes. The following poem is dedicated to their memory:

Σ' ἓνα φανταστικό³¹ ἐπιτύμβιο

Ἐδῶ θά μένης στούς καιρούς
νά ψάλλης τήν ἀλήθεια
καί γιά μιά δόξα ἀθάνατη,
τρισοξασμένη, πάλλευκη,
ὦ πλάκα ἱερή!

**ΕΙΣ ΤΙΜΗΝ ΑΙΩΝΙΑΝ
ΚΑΙ ΜΝΗΜΗΝ ΑΛΗΣΤΟΝ
ΤΩΝ ΕΝΤΑΥΘΑ ΠΕΣΟΝΤΩΝ
ΒΡΕΤΤΑΝΩΝ, ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΩΝ
ΝΕΟΖΗΛΑΝΔΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΚΥΠΡΙΩΝ
τῆ 29ῆ Ἀπριλίου 1941
Ἡ ΕΛΛΑΣ ΕΥΓΝΩΜΟΝΟΥΣΑ³²**

Καί θά ξυπνᾶτε ἀπ' τόν βαρύ
τόν ὕπνο πού σᾶς πλήττει
τέτοιον καιρό κάθε χρονιά,
καί θά ἴρχεται ἡ ἀνοιξη
μέ τούς ἀνθούς τ' Ἀπρίλη
ψηλά στό ἀγέραστο τό μέτωπο τοῦ βράχου,
ἀνθούς καί μύρα πλήθια
πού θά λαλοῦν ἀηδόνια καί κοτσύφια.

Αὐτή τήν ἔρημη τρισδοξασμένη γῆ
μέ τῆς ψυχῆς τό φρόνημα,
μέ τῆς καρδιάς τό αἷμα,
τῆς Λευτεριάς τόν θρίαμβο ἐπότισαν μαζί
Ἄγγλοι, Αὐστραλοί καί Κύπριοι
καί Νεοζηλανδοί.
Θά μελετᾶ τή δόξα σας
κι' ἡ ἔρημη ἐτούτη γῆ
ἀπό μυρσίνες καί κισσοῦς
ἀμάραντο ἓνα στέμμα
θά πλέκη πάντα στούς καιρούς.
Θά σᾶς φυλάη ἡ ἔρημιά
τό κυπαρίσσι κι' ὁ κισσός, ἡ μυρσινιά κι' οἱ σκῖνοι
θέ νά θροοῦν, νά χαίρωνται καί νά φρουροῦν κι' ἐκεῖνοι
καί τό ἐκκλησάκι τό γερό³³ πού σᾶς ἔγινε βωμός
στήν ἔρημη τή γῆ
θά τή σφραγίζη ἡ μνήμη σας,
ἄληστη, ἱερή!

Θά χαιρετοῦν τή δόξα σας αἰώνια
γαλήνια ἢ τρικυμιστά τά ἑλληνικά τά γαλανά νερά
πού ἔγιναν ὁ τάφος σας,
κι' ἀπ' ὄλους τούς ὀρίζοντες κι' ἀπ' τούς καιρούς σταλμένα
αἰώνια τά κύματα τῆς πατρικῆς σας γῆς
θά ἔρχωνται νά χαιρετοῦν φαιδρά, γλυκά, πικραμένα.
(19.4.63)

³¹ «φανταστικό», γιατί μέχρι σήμερα (2018) δέν ἔχει ἀνεγερθῆ μνημεῖο...

³² παραλλαγή: ΚΟΙΝΗ ΠΑΤΡΙΣ Ἡ ΕΛΛΑΣ ΕΥΓΝΩΜΟΝΟΥΣΑ

³³ τό ἐκκλησάκι τῆς Παναγίας στοῦ Βασιλέα τῆ Λουκά

p.149B (Simple translation of the previous poem on p.149A)

To an imaginary³⁴ monument

You will stand here for eternity,
sacred, white plaque,
to tell the truth
about an immortal glory!

**IN ETERNAL HONOUR
AND ETERNAL MEMORY
OF THE BRITISH, AUSTRALIANS,
NEWZEALANDERS AND CYPRIOTS
WHO FELL HERE
ON APRIL 29, 1941.
GREECE IN GRATITUDE.**

And every April,
when spring comes,
you will wake up
from your deep sleep,
and you will
see and smell the flowers
and hear the nightingales.

British, Australians,
New Zealanders and Cypriots,
with your strength and sacrifice
you helped bring freedom to us.
This lonely beach
every April will make
a wreath of myrtle and ivy
in eternal memory of you.
Rustling cypresses, ivy, myrtles
and the small chapel³⁵
will always guard your memory
eternal and sacred!

You will always be greeted
by calm or stormy blue Greek waters
and by the waves of your motherland
which will come from all corners of the earth
to greet you with love and sadness.

Panayiotis D. Kompiliris (19.4.63)

³⁴ "imaginary" because until today no monument or even a plaque has been erected

³⁵ the chapel of Virgin Mary on the Chlavorto peninsula, above Kaminia (see photograph on p. 152)

p.150

Ubique³⁶

(Τῶν ξένων / Τῶν ἀφανῶν)

Κατακαημένα
μακρινά παιδιά τῆς λησμονιάς,
τοῦ πανταχοῦ παρεῖναι,
γιά τήν Ἑλλάδα ἐπέσατε
μέ αὐτοθυσία ἐδῶ.

Ἵψίλοι, μή λυπᾶσθε,
ἀφοῦ σ' αὐτή τήν ἀγκαλιά
τῆς θάλασσας κοιμᾶσθε!

Quick translation of the above poem "Ubique"

Ubique

Young heroes, you came from very far away
Here, where duty and glory led you,
And sacrificed your lives for Greece.

Friends, do not be sad,
You are sleeping at such a beautiful bay...

(Panayiotis D. Kompiliris, the poem was published in the newspaper «Μεσσηνία» on 1-5-72)

A poem by Rupert Brooke

The Soldier

If I should die, think only this of me:

that there's some corner of a foreign field

that is forever England. There shall be

in that rich earth a richer dust concealed;

a dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,

gave, once, her flowers of love, her ways to roam,

a body of England's breathing English air,

washed by the rivers, blessed by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
a pulse in the eternal mind, no less
gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
her signs and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
and laughter, learned of friends; and gentleness,
in hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Rupert Brooke (1887-1915 – died in a military hospital on the way to Gallipoli and was buried on the island of Skyros on 23.4.1915)



Rupert Brooke's grave in Skyros (+23.4.1915)

³⁶ everywhere

The following poem refers to the chapel near the cave where the wounded allies found refuge on 29.4.41:

Στοῦ Βασιλέα τῆ Λουκά³⁷

«Σέ ποιάν ἀκτὴ θ' ἀράξης, ὦ καρδιά μου;»
(Καμπίρ, Ἰνδός ποιητής)

Ἔνα ἐκκλησάκι μικρὸ λησμονημένο
πάν' ἀπ' τῆ θάλασσα μισογερμένο στέκει,
ὄλο πλακόπετρα πελεκητὴ χτισμένο.
Δέν ἔχει τίποτε, οὔτε πόρτα οὔτε καντήλι,
οὔτε εἰκόνα π' ὄνομα νά δίνη
τοῦ ἁγίου πού τό θεμέλιωσε ἡ πίστη,
ὅταν ἡ ψυχὴ τό παραστέκη.
Ἔνα «Χριστὸς Νικᾶ» ὑπάρχει σκαλιστό,
πού ἕνα σταυροῦλι τόσο δά τετράδιπλα ἀγκαλιάζει,
πανωγραμμένο στήν κορφὴ, στῆς πόρτας τό δοξάρι,
πού ἴγνι χαμηλὴ ἐπίτηδες, νά σκύψης νά περάσης,
μόνο σημάδι ἀπὸ χέρι ἀνθρώπου.
Ἔχει καί κόγχη ὑπέρθυρη ἀπὸ πάνω,
μ' ἄγραφή πλάκα ὀρθή, πού χρόνια
ἱστόρισμα³⁸ εἰκόνας μάταια περιμένει.
Ἔχει καί θαλασσόπετρες πελεκητές στοὺς τοίχους
κι' ἄγριο βοτάνι π' ἀνθίζει στήν κορφὴ του,
τό ἀγριοσέλινο, μόνο στολίδι τοῦ Θεοῦ ἀπομένει.
Τρύπες τὰ παραθύρια του καί μέσα ἡ σκοτεινιά,
ὁ γκιώνης στήν ἀγριονυχτιά κι' οἱ ἄνεμοι σφυρίζουν,
μέ μούχλα σταχτοπράσινη ἴστορημένοι οἱ τοῖχοι.
Ἔνα μόνο καρφί ζερβόδεξια, σάν τοῦ Χριστοῦ μπηγμένο,
στήν κόγχη τοῦ ἱεροῦ γιά τό λυχνάρι
πού κάποτε θ' ἀνάφτηκε,
(ἄξιο σημάδι ἀπὸ χέρι ἀνθρώπου
πού κάποτε πέρασε ἀπὸ ἴδω...)
Μπαίνοντας μέσα, καί μονόπαντα ὡς στέκεις
σχεδὸν στό ἕνα πόδι νά ἰσορροπήσης,
νομίζεις πὼς πατάς καράβι κακοφορτωμένο,
ἔτσι τὴν θάλασσα ἀπὸ χαμηλά ὡς ἀκοῦς νά σιγομουρμουρίζει.
Ἔγειρε ὁ γίγας, πού στήν πλάτη του βαστάει ἐσέ,
μαζί μέ τό μικρὸ τό περιαύλι,
- τάχα τό χόρεψαν παιδοῦλες προσκυνήτρες;
Γέρνει αὐτός, γέρνεις κι' ἐσύ μαζί του
κατὰ τὴν θάλασσα τὴν κοσμοκαταλύτρα.
Καί μιὰ ἄραχλη ἐλιά, κακοελιά, ἀπ' τό γκρεμὸ σπρωγμένη
κι' αὐτὴ σέ σπρώχνει μέ μουντὰ βραχιόνια
κατὰ τὴ θάλασσα· σά νά σοῦ λέη: «νά ἡ μοῖρα!»
Ἄδειο κοχύλι τώρα ὡς ἀπομένεις
στῆς ὑπαρξης τὴν ὑπνοφαντασιά τί θέλεις;
ἴτι ὁ πάγουρος³⁹ τῆς πίστες χρόνια εἶναι φευγάτος.
Θέση πάνω στῆς γῆς τό πρόσωπο δέν ἔχεις, τὴ μολεύεις.
Τί θέλεις τώρα πιά ἐδῶ καί περιμένεις;
Στόν κόσμο ἐτοῦτο τὸν μοντέρνο τί ζητᾶτε,
σεῖς τοῦ παλιοῦ σκιές τυραγνισμένες;⁴⁰
Στοῦ Βασιλέα τῆ Λουκά μονάχο
ἕνα παράδοξο ἐκκλησάκι ἀκόμα στέκει.
Ἡ Παναγία τοῦ βράχου, ἡ πετρωμένη,
μισόγερτη στὰ κύματα διανεύει.⁴¹
Τούτη ἡ Παναγία, ἡ ἀγωνιοῦσα,
πού ξέπεσε ὡς ἐδῶ κατατρεγμένη,
ὡς στέκεται, τὴ θάλασσα ἐλεοῦσα,
βωμός τοῦ τάφου μου θά ἤθελα νά γένη! (10.4.60)

³⁷ ἡ λουκά: περιοχὴ μέ θάμνους σέ γκρεμὸ

Τοῦ Βασιλέα ἡ Λουκά: ἡ μιὰ πλευρὰ τῆς χερσονήσου Χλάβορτος Προαστίου (ἐκείνη πού εἶναι πρὸς τὴν παραλία Καμίνια)

³⁸ ἀγιογράφηση (Ἐρωτόκριτος, Δ 841)

³⁹ κάβουρας· ἐδῶ ὁμως σημαίνει «θαλασσινὸ ζῶο μέ κοχύλι»

⁴⁰ «Ὅμως στόν κόσμο ἐτοῦτο τό μοντέρνο τί ζητᾶτε, σεῖς τοῦ παλιοῦ σκιές τυραγνισμένες;»

(Φρ. Νίτσε «Μυστικισμός»)

⁴¹ γνέφει

p.152 (Quick translation of the previous poem on p.151)

A forgotten chapel

A small, forgotten chapel
sloped, onesided, built of stone,
it has nothing, no door, no oil lamp,
not even an icon to show
who the Saint honoured here is.

Just above the doorway, on the arch,
so low, that you have to bow your head to enter,
someone has engraved "Christ Conquers" (ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΝΙΚΑ)
around a small cross.

The niche above the doorway
has a plaque that has been waiting for centuries
for a fresco to be painted...

It has sea stones on the wall
and the wild parsley on the roof
is its only decoration.

The chapel is dark, its windows are gaping holes
the walls green-gray, covered with mould,
the owls and the winds howl in the frightening nights.

A nail on the wall is still waiting for an oil lamp
and is a reminder that someone came here sometime.

when you enter, it is difficult to keep your balance,
as the chapel is bent, and you think you are in a boat,
particularly since you can hear the murmur of the sea from below.

Small chapel, the giant rock that supports you has bent, and so have you
and so has the little courtyard in front of you
-did young girls ever dance here?

Everything is sloped towards the world-destroying sea
and even the old olive tree seems to be pushing you towards the cliff
as if it wants to tell you: "this is your fate!"

It seems as if there is no place for the chapel on this rock,
as if the chapel is an empty shell, now that the faith is gone.

What are you waiting for, tormented shadows?

Here a lonely and strange little chapel is still standing.

Virgin Mary of the Rock, half-bent, full of agony,
Seems to be waving at the sea and protecting it.

This deserted spot above the waves
would be a suitable, peaceful place

for the interminable vespers and matins of the Dead.⁴² (10.4.60)⁴³



The Virgin of the Rock
The bent chapel of Virgin Mary at the Chlavorto Peninsula (6.8.58)

⁴² Most of the prisoners of war that were caught in the cave near this chapel must have been Australians

⁴³ All three poems by Panayiotis D. Kompiliris, were written in April or May, at a time near the anniversary of the events of 29.4.41

Fundraising for Erecting a Monument in Honour of the Allied Servicemen, British, Australian and New Zealanders Who Fell in Greece (1946)

While Commonwealth organisations had already built the Faleron Cemetery in 1945, in 1946 the “Central Committee for Erecting a Monument in Honour of the Allied Servicemen, British, Australian and New Zealanders Who Fell in Greece” (Mitropoleos 2, Athens), together with the Greek-Australian, the Greek-New Zealand and the Greek-English Associations organised a fundraiser across Greece. President of the committee was Marshall Alexandros Papagos, who wrote an “Appeal to the Greek People”, signed on 30.8.1946:

ΠΡΟΣ ΤΟΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΝ ΛΑΟΝ	
<p>ΔΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΑΝΕΓΕΡΣΙΝ ΜΝΗΜΕΙΟΥ ΤΩΝ ΕΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΙ ΠΕΣΣΟΝΤΩΝ ΒΡΕΤΤΑΝΩΝ, ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΝΕΟΖΗΛΑΝΔΩΝ Μητροπόλεως 2, Αθήναι – ΤΗΛ. 32-603, 32-690</p> <p>Όταν ή Έλλάς εδέχθη τάς ανάνδρους επιθέσεις δύο Αυτοκρατοριών, όταν ό Έλληνικός στρατός εις άνισον άγωνα εδημιούργει τό Άλβανικόν έπος, όταν ό Έλληνικός στρατός νικητής εισήρχετο εις τήν Βόρειον Ήπειρον, διά νά δεχθή μετ' όλίγον τήν προδοτικήν και άνανδρον επίθεσιν τής δευτέρας και τής μεγαλυτέρας Αυτοκρατορίας, Βρεττανοί, Αυστραλοί και Νεοζηλανδοί διέσχισαν χιλιάδες μίλια διά νά έλθουν νά πολεμήσουν και νά πέσουν ήρωϊκώς μαχόμενοι διά τάς ελευθερίας μας.</p> <p>Τό Άλβανικόν έπος και τούς άγώνας τών Μακεδονικών όχρωών διεδέχθησαν οι ήρωϊκοί άγώνες τής Κατοχής και τούτους οι ήρωϊκοί άγώνες διά τήν τελικήν άπελευθέρωσιν μας μέ τούς ίδιους πάντοτε πρωταγωνιστάς.</p> <p>Εις τά ήρωϊκά παιδιά, πού έτάφησαν μακρυνά από τίς ευτυχισμένες χώρες των, μακρυνά από τούς δικούς των, ή Έλλάς, ό Έλληνικός λαός, ό Έλληνισμός, έχει νά επιτελέση ένα ιερόν καθήκον, έχει τήν υποχρέωσιν ν' άνεγείρη μνημείον και μέ χρυσά γράμματα νά αναγράψη ότι οι ήρωες αυτοί έπεσαν μαχόμενοι διά τάς ελευθερίας και τόν πολιτισμόν τής χώρας εκείνης, ή όποία πρό 3.000 έτών ύπήρξεν ή κοίτις τού πολιτισμού και τής ελευθερίας.</p> <p>Διά τήν άνέγερσιν τού Μνημείου αυτού, τήν όμόθυμον θέλησιν όλοκλήρου τού Έλληνισμού εκφράζοντες, συνεστήσαμεν Έπιτροπήν διά τήν διενέργειαν έράνων και τήν άνέγερσιν τού Μνημείου.</p>	<p>Τό Μνημείον αυτό θ' άνεγείρη ό Έλληνισμός διά τού ταλάντου τού πλουσίου και τού όβολού τού πτωχού.</p> <p>Διά τόν Πανελλήνιον αυτόν έρανον ποιούμεθα εκκλησιν πρός όλον τόν Έλληνισμόν και εϊμεθα βέβαιοι ότι δέν θά ύπάρξη ούτε ένας Έλλην νά στερηθή τής τιμής νά συμβάλη διά τήν έμπρακτον αυτήν εκδήλωσιν ευγνωμοσύνης πρός εκείνους πού έθυσίασθησαν διά τήν Έλλάδα.</p> <p>Τό Μνημείον αυτό θ' άποτελέση τόν άκατάλυτον κρίκον εις τούς δεσμούς τής αιωνίας φιλίας τής Πατρίδος μας μέ τάς Χώρας τής Βρεττανικής Συμπολιτείας, φιλίας ή όποία θά επιτρέψη εις τήν Πατρίδα μας ν' άποκατασταθή και νά εϋημερήση.</p> <p>Ό έρανος εις τάς επαρχίας θά γίνεται διά τών κατά Δήμους και Κοινότητας συσταθεισών ύποεπιτροπών, διατελουσών υπό τήν Γενικήν Έποπτείαν τών κατά τόπους Νομαρχών.</p> <p>Εις τάς Αθήνας και τόν Πειραιά ό έρανος θά διενεργηθή κατ' έπάγγελμα και υπό ύποεπιτροπών ύποδειχθεισών υπό τών οικείων όργανώσεων.</p> <p>Διά τόν σκοπόν τού έράνου ώσάυτως και υπό ειδικών ύποεπιτροπών θά όργανωθοϋν έορταί, τελεταί, άθλητικά και ποδοσφαιρικά συναντήσεις, συναυλία, θεατρικά και κινηματογραφικά παραστάσεις.</p> <p>Διά τήν επιτυχίαν τού ιεροϋ αυτού έργου ζητούμεν τήν συνδρομήν όλων άνεξαίρετως τών Έλλήνων, διότι όλόκληρος ό Έλληνικός Λαός πρέπει ν' άνεγείρη και θ' άνεγείρη τό Μνημείον.</p>
<p>Έν Αθήναις τή 30ή Αύγουστου 1946 Η ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ</p>	
<p>Ο ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΣ ΑΛΕΞ. ΠΑΠΑΓΟΣ Άρχιστράτηγος</p>	<p>Ο ΓΕΝ. ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΥΣ ΝΙΚ. ΘΕΟΛΟΓΟΣ, Δικηγόρος Πρόεδρος Αύστραλοελληνικού Συνδέσμου</p>
<p>ΤΑ ΜΕΛΗ</p>	
<p>Γ. ΛΑΖΑΝΑΣ, Υπουργός Κοιν. Προνοίας - Αντιπρόεδρος Γ. ΠΑΠΑΔΗΜΟΣ, Υπουργός Παιδείας Κ. ΚΑΛΚΑΝΗΣ, Υπουργός Έσωτερικών Ν. ΤΡΙΚΟΥΠΗΣ, Αντιστράτηγος, Πρόεδρος ΠΕΦΜ Βρετανίας, Αντιπρόεδρος ΝΙΚ. ΜΠΑΛΑΤΑΤΖΗΣ, Υφυπουργός Τύπου Α. ΑΝΤΩΝΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ, Υφυπουργός Οικονομικών Π. ΣΠΗΛΙΩΤΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ, Άρχηγός Γεν. Επιτελείου Ι. ΠΙΤΣΙΚΑΣ, Δήμαρχος Αθηναίων Α. ΚΟΥΖΗΣ, Πρόεδρος Ακαδημίας ΔΗΜ. ΜΠΑΛΑΝΟΣ, Πρύτανις Πανεπιστημίου ΘΕΟΔ. ΒΑΡΟΥΝΗΣ, Πρύτανις Πολυτεχνείου ΓΕΩΡΓ. ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΟΣ, Ακαδημαϊκός Γ. ΜΑΝΤΖΑΒΙΝΟΣ, Διοικητής Τραπεζής Ελλάδος ΣΤΥΛ. ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΟΥ, Υποδιευκτής Τραπεζής Ελλάδος</p>	<p>ΓΕΩΡΓ. ΠΕΣΣΑΤΖΟΓΛΟΥ, Διοικητής Έθνικής Τραπεζής Ελλάδος Κ. ΗΛΙΑΣΚΟΣ, Γεν. Δ/ντής Τραπεζής Αθηνών ΧΡΙΣ. ΜΟΥΔΑΚΗΣ, Γεν. Δ/ντής Έμπορικής Τραπεζής ΙΠΠΟΚ. ΚΑΡΑΒΙΑΣ, Πρόεδρος Φ. Σ. «Παρνασσός» ΚΛΕΑΝ. ΘΕΟΦΑΝΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ, Πρόεδρος Δικηγορικού Συλλόγου ΜΑΝΟΣ ΚΑΡΖΗΣ, Πρόεδρος Ιατρικού Συλλόγου ΑΝΤ. ΜΠΕΝΑΚΗΣ, Πρόεδρος Άγγλοελληνικού Συνδέσμου ΔΗΜ. ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΑΚΗΣ, Πρόεδρος Έλληνο-Νεοζηλανδικού Συνδέσμου ΧΡΙΣΤ. ΚΑΤΣΑΜΠΑΣ, Πρόεδρος Βιομηχάνων ΑΠΟΣ. ΠΟΥΛΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ, Πρόεδρος Βιομ. Έπιμελητηρίου ΔΗΜ. ΒΑΣΙΛΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ, Πρόεδρος Έμπορικού Συλλόγου ΙΩ. ΜΠΕΡΝΙΤΣΑΣ, Πρόεδρος Όμοσπονδίας Βιοτεχνών</p>

ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ
ΔΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΑΝΕΓΕΡΣΙΝ ΜΝΗΜΕΙΟΥ
ΤΩΝ ΕΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΙ ΠΕΣΟΝΤΩΝ
ΒΡΕΤΤΑΝΩΝ, ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΝΕΟΖΗΛΑΝΔΩΝ
 ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΕΩΣ 2 - ΤΗΛΕΦ. 32-603, 32-690

ΠΡΟΣ ΤΟΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΝ ΛΑΟΝ

Όταν η Έλλάς ἐδέχθη τὰς ἀνάνδρους ἐπιθέσεις δύο Ἀυτοκρατοριῶν, ὅταν ὁ Ἑλληνικὸς Στρατὸς εἰς ἀνίσον ἀγῶνα ἐδημιούργει τὸ Ἀλβανικὸν ἔπος, ὅταν ὁ Ἑλληνικὸς Στρατὸς νικητὴς εἰσῆρχετο εἰς Βόρειον Ἠπειρον διὰ τὰ δεχθῆ μετ' ὄλιγον τὴν προδοτικὴν καὶ ἀνάνδρον ἐπίθεσιν τῆς δευτέρας καὶ μεγαλειτέρας Ἀυτοκρατορίας, Βρεττανοὶ, Αὐστραλοὶ καὶ Νεοζηλανδοὶ, διέσχισαν χιλιάδες μίλλια διὰ τὰ ἔλθουν τὰ πολεμήσουσιν καὶ τὰ πέσουσιν ἡρωϊκῶς μαχόμενοι διὰ τὰς ἐλευθερίας μας.

Τὸ Ἀλβανικὸν ἔπος καὶ τοὺς ἀγῶνας τῶν Μακεδονικῶν ὀχυρῶν διεδέχθησαν οἱ ἡρωϊκοὶ ἀγῶνές τῆς κατοχῆς, καὶ τοὺτους οἱ ἀγῶνες διὰ τὴν τελικὴν ἀπελευθέρωσίν μας, μετὰ τοὺς ἰδίους πάντοτε πρωταγωνιστάς.

Εἰς τὰ ἡρωϊκὰ παιδιὰ, ποὺ ἐτάφησαν μακριὰ ἀπὸ τὴς εὐτυχημένης χώρας των, μακριὰ ἀπὸ τοὺς δικούς των, ἡ Ἑλλάς, ὁ Ἑλληνικὸς Λαός, ὁ Ἑλληνισμός, ἔχει τὰς ἐπιτελέσει ἕνα ἱερὸν καθήκον, ἔχει τὴν ὑποχρέωσιν ν' ἀνεγείρῃ μνημεῖον καὶ μετὰ χρυσὰ γράμματα ν' ἀναγράψῃ ὅτι οἱ ἡρώες αὗτοι ἔπεσαν μαχόμενοι διὰ τὰς ἐλευθερίας καὶ τὸν πολιτισμὸν τῆς χώρας ἐκείνης, ἡ ὅποια πρὸ 3.000 ἐτῶν ὑπῆρξεν ἡ κοίτις τοῦ πολιτισμοῦ καὶ τῆς ἐλευθερίας.

Διὰ τὴν ἀνέγερσιν τοῦ Μνημείου αὐτοῦ, τὴν ὁμοθυμὸν θέλουσιν ὁλοκλήρου τοῦ Ἑλληνισμοῦ ἐκφράζοντες, συνειστέσωμεν Ἐπιτροπὴν διὰ τὴν διενέργειαν ἐράνων καὶ τὴν ἀνέγερσιν τοῦ Μνημείου.

Τὸ Μνημεῖον αὐτὸ θ' ἀναγείρῃ ὁ Ἑλληνισμὸς διὰ τοῦ ταλάντου τοῦ πλοσίου καὶ τοῦ ὀβολοῦ τοῦ πτωχοῦ.

Διὰ τὸν Πανελλήνιον αὐτὸν ἔρανον ποιούμεθα ἔκκλησιν πρὸς ὅλον τὸν Ἑλληνισμὸν καὶ εἴμεθα βέβαιοι ὅτι δὲν θὰ ὑπάρξῃ οὔτε ἕνας Ἕλληνας ἢ Ἕλληνα στερηθῆ τῆς τιμῆς τὰ συμβάλῃ διὰ τὴν ἔμπρακτον αὐτὴν ἐκδήλωσιν εὐγνωμοσύνης πρὸς ἐκείνους ποὺ ἐθυσίασθησαν διὰ τὴν Ἑλλάδα.

Τὸ Μνημεῖον αὐτὸ θ' ἀποτελέσῃ τὸν ἀκατάλυτον κρίκον εἰς τοὺς δεσμούς τῆς αἰωνίας φιλίας τῆς Πατρίδος μας μετὰ τὰς Χώρας τῆς Βρετανικῆς Συμπολιτείας, φιλίας ἡ ὅποια θὰ ἐπιτρέψῃ εἰς τὴν Πατρίδα μας ν' ἀποκατασταθῇ καὶ εὐημερήσῃ.

Ὁ ἔρανος εἰς τὰς ἐπαρχίας θὰ γίνεταί διὰ τῶν κατὰ Δήμους καὶ Κοινοτήτας συσταθεισῶν Ὑποεπιτροπῶν διατελούντων ὑπὸ τὴν Γενικὴν Ἐπιτροπὴν τῶν κατὰ τόπους Νομαρχῶν.

Εἰς τὰς Ἀθήνας καὶ τὸν Πειραιᾶ ὁ ἔρανος θὰ διενεργηθῇ κατ' ἐπάγγελμα καὶ ὑπὸ ὑποεπιτροπῶν ὑποδειχθέντων ὑπὸ τῶν οἰκείων ὀργανώσεων.

Διὰ τὸν σκοπὸν τοῦ ἐράνου ὡσαύτως καὶ ὑπὸ τῶν οἰκείων κατὰ τόπους συσταθεισῶν ὑποεπιτροπῶν θὰ διοργανωθῶσιν ἑορταὶ, τελεταὶ ἀθλητικαὶ καὶ ποδοσφαιρικαὶ συναντήσεις, συναυλία θεατρικαὶ καὶ κινηματογραφικαὶ παραστάσεις.

Διὰ τὴν ἐπιτυχίαν τοῦ ἱεροῦ αὐτοῦ ἐργου ζητοῦμεν τὴν συνδρομὴν ὅλων ἀνεξαιρέτως τῶν Ἑλλήνων, διότι ὁλόκληρος ὁ Ἑλληνικὸς Λαὸς πρέπει ν' ἀναγείρῃ καὶ θ' ἀναγείρῃ τὸ Μνημεῖον

Ἐν Ἀθήναις τῇ 30 Αὐγούστου 1946

Ἡ ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ

Ὁ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΣ
ἈΛΕΞ. ΠΑΠΑΓΟΣ
 Ἀρχιστράτηγος

Ὁ ΓΕΝ. ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΕΥΣ
ΝΙΚ. ΘΕΟΛΟΓΟΣ, Δικηγόρος
 Πρόεδρος Αὐστραλο-ελληνικοῦ Συνδέσμου

Τ Α Μ Ε Λ Η

Γ. ΛΑΖΑΝΑΣ,
 Γ. ΠΑΠΑΔΗΜΟΣ,
 Κ. ΚΑΛΚΑΝΗΣ,
 ΝΙΚ. ΤΡΙΚΟΥΠΗΣ,
 ΝΙΚ. ΜΠΑΛΑΤΑΤΖΗΣ,
 Α. ΑΝΤΩΝΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ,
 Π. ΣΠΗΛΙΩΤΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ,
 Ι. ΠΙΤΣΙΚΑΣ,
 Α. ΚΟΥΖΗΣ,
 ΔΗΜ. ΜΠΑΛΑΝΟΣ,
 ΘΕΟΔ. ΒΑΡΟΥΝΗΣ,
 ΓΕΩΡΓ. ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΟΣ,
 Γ. ΜΠΑΛΗΣ,
 Γ. ΜΑΪΤΖΑΒΙΝΟΣ,
 ΣΤΥΛ. ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΟΥ,
 ΓΕΩΡΓ. ΠΕΣΜΑΤΖΟΓΛΟΥ,
 Κ. ΗΛΙΑΣΚΟΣ,
 ΧΡΗΣ. ΜΟΥΔΑΚΗΣ,
 ΙΠΠΟΚ. ΚΑΡΑΒΙΑΣ,
 ΚΛΕΑΝ. ΘΕΟΦΑΝΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ,
 ΜΑΝΟΣ ΚΑΡΖΗΣ,
 ΑΝΤ. ΜΠΕΝΑΚΗΣ,
 ΔΗΜ. ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΑΚΗΣ,
 ΧΡΗΣΤ. ΚΑΤΣΑΜΠΑΣ,
 ΑΠΟΣΤ. ΠΟΥΛΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ,
 ΔΗΜ. ΒΑΣΙΛΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ,
 ΙΩΑΝ. ΜΠΕΡΝΙΤΣΑΣ,
 Κ. ΠΑΣΑΤΖΗΣ

Ἐπιμελητὴς Κοιν. Προνοίας Ἀντιπρόεδρος
 » Παιδείας
 » Ἐσθαιτικῶν
 Ἀντιστράτηγος, Πρόεδρος Π.Ε.Φ.Μ. Βρετανίας Ἀντιπρόεδρος
 Ὑφυπουργὸς Τύπου
 » Οἰκονομικῶν
 Ἀρχηγὸς Γεν. Ἐπιτελείου
 Δήμαρχος Ἀθηναίων
 Πρόεδρος Ἀκαδημίας
 Πρύτανης Πανεπιστημίου
 » Πολυτεχνείου
 Ἀκαδημαϊκός
 Διοικητὴς Τραπεζῆς Ἑλλάδος
 Ὑποδιευκτὴς
 Διοικητὴς Ἐθνικῆς Τραπεζῆς
 Γεν. Διευκτὴς Τραπεζῆς Ἀθηνῶν
 » Ἐμπορικῆς Τραπεζῆς
 Πρόεδρος Φ.Σ. «Περνασσός»
 » Δικηγορικὸν Συλλόγου
 » Ἱατρικὸν
 » Ἀγγλοελληνικοῦ Συνδέσμου
 » Ἑλληνο-νεοζηλανδικοῦ Συνδέσμου
 » Βιομηχανῶν
 » Βιομηχανικοῦ Ἐπιμελητηρίου
 » Ἐμπόρικου Συλλόγου
 » Ὁμοσπονδίας Βιοτεχνῶν
 Γεν. Γραμ. Γ.Σ.Ε.Ε.

Ἐκκλησίαις Ἀρχιστρατήγου Ἀλεξ. Παπάγου πρὸς τὸν Ἑλληνικὸν λαόν
 «διὰ τὴν ἀνέγερσιν μνημείου τῶν ἐν Ἑλλάδι πεσόντων Βρεττανῶν, Αὐστραλῶν καὶ Νεοζηλανδῶν»

p. 154B (Quick translation of p.154A "To the Greek People")

TO THE GREEK PEOPLE

Central Committee
for Erecting a Monument
in Honour of the Allied Servicemen
British, Australian and New Zealanders
Who Fell in Greece

Mitropoleos 2, Athens - tel. 32-603, 32-690

When Greece was the recipient of cowardly attacks by two empires, when the Greek army triumphed in an unequal struggle in Albania, when the Greek Army entered victorious in N. Epirus, only to be attacked shortly after in a cowardly and turncoat fashion by the second and bigger empire, at that time British, Australian and New Zealanders crossed thousands of miles in order to come and fight heroically for our freedoms.

The Albanian Saga and the victories on the Macedonian front were followed by the heroic struggles of the Occupation and the struggles for the final liberation, always with the same allies on our side.

To these heroic young people, who fell in Greece and are buried far away from their happy homelands, far away from their families, Greece, the Greek people, the whole Hellenic world has the obligation to erect a monument and engrave in gold letters that these heroes fell, while fighting for the freedoms and the civilisation of the country, which 3.000 years ago was the cradle of civilisation and freedom.

Expressing the unanimous will of the whole Hellenic world, we have set up a Committee which will oversee the fundraising for the erection of the Monument.

This Monument will be erected by the Greek people, by the generous contribution of the rich and the humble contribution of the poor.

For this panhellenic fundraising we are appealing to all the Greek people, and we are certain that there will be not even one Greek who will forego the honour of contributing and proving in practice his/her gratitude towards those who made the ultimate sacrifice for Greece.

This monument will represent the unbroken link in the chain of eternal friendship between our Homeland and the countries of the Commonwealth, friendship which will support our Country to recover and prosper.

In the provinces, the fundraiser will be organised by subcommittees, which will be formed by regional and municipal authorities, under the supervision of the Prefectures.

In Athens and Piraeus, the fundraiser will be organised by subcommittees, proposed by the Central Committee. Different professional bodies will organise their own fundraisers.

To this end, special subcommittees will organise festivities, celebrations, sport and soccer matches, concerts, theatre play performances and film showings.

In order for this sacred undertaking to be successful, we are asking for the support of all Greeks, because the whole Greek Nation must erect, **and will erect**, this Monument.

Athens, August 30, 1946
THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The President
Alexandros Papagos
Marshall

Secretary General
Nikolaos Theologos, Lawyer
President of the Greek-Australian Association

THE MEMBERS

G. Lazanas, Minister of Social Security, V.P.
G. Papadimos, Minister of Education, V.P.
K. Kalkanis, Minister of External Affairs, V.P.
N. Trikoupi, Lieutenant General, President of P.E.F.M. of Britain, V.P.
N. Baltatzis, Under Secretary of Press
A. Antonopoulos, Under Secretary of Finance
P. Spiliotopoulos, Army's Chief of Staff
I. Pitsikas, Mayor of Athens
A. Kouzis, President of the Academy
D. Balanos, Dean of the University of Athens

Th. Varounis, Dean of the Polytechnical School
G. Oikonomos, Member of the Academy
G. Balis, Member of the Academy
G. Mantzavinos, Director of the Bank of Greece
Styl. Grigoriou, Deputy Director of the Bank of Greece
G. Pematzoglou, Director of the National Bank of Greece
K. Iliaskos, General Director of the Bank of Athens
Ch. Moudakis, General Director of the Commercial Bank
Hip. Karavias, President of the Philological Society "Parnassus"
K. Theofanopoulos, President of the Bar Association
M. Karzis, President of the Medical Association
A. Benakis, President of the Greek-English Association
D. Apostolakis, President of the Greek-New Zealand Association
Ch. Katsambas, President of the Industrial Association
Ap. Pouloupoulos, President of the Chamber of Commerce
D. Vassilopoulos, President of the Trade Association
I. Bernitsas, President of the Craft Association
I. Pasatzis, General Secretary of the Association of Greek Workers

The appeal of Marshall Alexandros Papagos resonated with the Greek people, the funds were collected and the monument "Athena Promachos – Monument of the British, Australian and New Zealanders Who Fell in Greece During the Years 1941-1945" was built in the park Pedion tou Areos in Athens and inaugurated in 1952. The sculptor of the Athena statue was Maniot artist Vassos Falireas, from Exochorio. The lioness at the base of the monument was made by sculptor Athanasios Limnaios. The architects of the monument were the couple Faidon and Ethel Kydoniatis. On the façade of the pedestal the following inscription is engraved:⁴⁴
TO THE BRITISH, AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALANDERS WHO FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM – IN ETERNAL MEMORY – GREECE.



(photograph by D. P. Kompiliris - 2015)

⁴⁴ ΤΟΙΣ ΒΡΕΤΤΑΝΟΙΣ ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΟΙΣ ΚΑΙ ΝΕΟΖΗΛΑΝΔΟΙΣ ΑΓΩΝΙΣΑΜΕΝΟΙΣ ΥΠΕΡ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑΣ ΕΙΣ ΑΪΔΙΟΝ ΜΝΗΜΗΝ Η ΕΛΛΑΣ

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Several decades later...

If not now, when? If not us, who?

The letter below was sent to the British Embassy in Athens in 1967, asking for the erection of a commemorative monument at the beach of Kaminia:

Proastion, January 31, 1967

To the British Embassy
In Athens

I would like to inform you of the following:

In the vicinity of our village Proastion there is a beach called Kaminia, in which British soldiers (English, Australians and New Zealanders) were killed during the evacuation of the allied forces in April 1941. These servicemen tried to escape to Crete on a small ship that was anchored in the bay, but were bombed by German aircrafts; those killed were buried on the beach by the locals.

A couple of years later, their remains were reburied by the local people in the New Cemetery of Proastion. However, the exhumation was not done properly, and sometimes the waves bring up to the surface more human remains... After the liberation, they were exhumed again by a military chaplain and the crew of a British warship and were reburied for the last time in the Faleron War Cemetery.

No commemorative sign of their sacrifice exists at the beach, and the memory of those brave heroes, might be forgotten in less than a generation, by everyone, including the locals!

I hope that at least you, the British Embassy, will see to it, so that some kind of a memorial, a commemorative stele⁴⁵ or a plaque will be put up, so that it reminds future generations of the sacrifice of these young heroes.

Sincerely,

Panayiotis D. Kompiliris, Teacher
Proastion Kardamyliis, Kalamata

Twenty four years after my letter, and fifty years after the bombing of the ship carrying allied troops in Kaminia and the death of seven servicemen, I went to the British Embassy in person, with the same request. Again, my efforts were in vain. Let us see my diary entry from 28.9.1991:

Wednesday, 28.9.91

I went to the British Embassy of Athens (at the intersection of Ploutarchou and Ypsilantou streets) to tell them about the bombing of fleeing British allied soldiers by German airplanes at the beautiful bay of Kaminia near Proastio, during the morning hours of Tuesday, 29.4.11, more than 50 years ago.

On my way there, I was thinking that the souls of the dead, if they are not tired by now, they will be climbing the slope of the peninsula again this year, at the anniversary of their sacrifice, and through yews and myrtles they will be going to the deserted and sloped for so many centuries chapel of the Virgin of the Rock, holding white and pink flowers of oleander instead of candles, for yet another vespers and an all-night vigil; and again in the morning they will have yet another interminable matins of the Dead, holding oleander flowers, symbols of their short and sad lives...⁴⁶

Upon my arrival to the Embassy, I spoke to two Englishmen of about my age. I tried to tell them about the "ubique" (everywhere where duty and glory lead) motto of these sacrificed heroes, those whose last moments were spent at one of the beaches of my village. I tried to say that I am one of the few eyewitnesses still alive, who could relate to them in detail the dramatic events of that day, that I am in a way, part of their living history. However, "No! fifty years later!... No, we are not interested..."

I left the Embassy full of sadness and disappointment...

⁴⁵ Inscribed vertical stone

⁴⁶ In modern Greek the "oleander" is called «πικροδάφνη» (bitter laurel), and as bitter, it is a symbol of sadness

About the Author (by his daughter)



Panayiotis D. Kompiliris (1922-2010)

P. D. Kompiliris was born in Proastio of Western Mani, Greece. He finished elementary and high school in Proastio, Kardamyli and Kalamata. He studied at the Theological Seminary in Corinth for two years, but did not graduate because it was closed by the Occupation forces during WW2. It was during this time that he studied Byzantine music, which he loved and practised until the end of his life. He then studied at the Marasleios Paedagogical Academy of Athens, continued with postgraduate studies at the National and Capodistrian University of Athens and graduated with “arista” (top marks) from both institutions. He graduated from the Military Academy for Reserve Officers on the island of Syros (SEAS) and served as an Infantry Second Lieutenant during the Greek civil war. He did not lose any men under his command. He also served under two Maniot generals: as secretary to Major General Konstantinos Ventiris from Gaitses and as adjutant to General Stylianos Tavoularis from Karea. He worked in Primary Education and taught on the island of Chios, in Mani and Athens. He was appointed Honourary Curator of Antiquities for an area of Mani, and he helped highlight and protect its monuments by contributing hundreds of hours of unpaid service. He was particularly interested in the ancient city of Lefktron, and he advocated for further excavations. He also published a treatise on the Lefktron monuments.

He was a learned man and a nature lover who had many interests: literature, history, archaeology, folklore, hiking, cave exploration, astronomy and photography. Few Maniots have loved Mani as much as he did; he walked and explored it from one end to the other. For many decades he documented the linguistic, historical and cultural heritage of his beloved homeland. He kept a diary from the age of 13 until his death. Of particular interest to the Brotherhood of the Veterans of the Greek Campaign are his descriptions of the evacuation of allied troops from Mani to Crete in April 1941. Except for the cultural tradition of Mani, he also documented the linguistic, historical and folklore traditions of Northern Chios, where he taught at the beginning of his career and where he met his wife Eugenia. Some of his work was published in various newspapers and magazines of Kalamata (Simaia Kalamon, Ta Nea Kalamon, Tharros, Messinia, Aristomenes, Messiniakon Vima, Messiniaka Chronika), of Chios (Chiaka Chronika) and of Athens (Acropolis, Kathimerini, Athinaiki, Kainourgia Epochi, Nea Estia).

Towards the end of his life he published four lengthy books:

- (i) Collection of Words and Phrases of the Dialect of Western Mani (a dictionary of 14.000 entries) – 2009
- (ii) Winter Blooms (Poetry and Prose) – 2010
- (iii) Chiaka (From the Diary of a Teacher during the 1950's: Linguistic and Folklore Elements from Northern Chios) - 2010
- (iv) Trekking Itinerary from Kalamata to Diros during the 1950's and 1960's - 2010

Two more books were published posthumously:

- (v) Words and Phrases of the Dialect of Western Mani: Thematic Units – 2017
- (vi) Chronicles of Proastio in Western Mani from the Beginning to the Present Time – From the Diary of a Teacher (5 volumes: A. Beginning-1940, B. 1941-1950, C. 1951-1960, D. 1961-1965, E. 1966-2015) – 2017

There are still at least four more books to be published.