

Secret War ... **The Story, the People, and the Project**



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<http://teaching.cs.uml.edu/secretwar>


February 15, 2017

George Santayana



1863-1952

Progress, far from consisting
in change, depends on
retentiveness. . . . **Those
who cannot remember the
past are condemned to
repeat it.**



WWII European Dead (approx.)

Country	Military	Civilian	Total
USSR	12,000,000	17,000,000	29,000,000
Poland	597,000	5,860,000	6,457,000
Germany	3,250,000	2,440,000	5,690,000
Yugoslavia	305,000	1,350,000	1,655,000
Romania	450,000	465,000	915,000
Hungary	200,000	600,000	800,000
Greece	30,000	590,000	620,000
France	245,000	350,000	595,000
Italy	380,000	153,000	533,000
Great Britain	403,000	92,700	495,700
Czechoslov.	7,000	315,000	322,000
Holland	13,700	236,000	249,700
Belgium	76,000	23,000	99,000
Totals	17,956,700	29,474,700	47,431,400

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The Greeks Say "Oxi" (No)



At 3:00 AM on October 28, 1940, a representative of the Axis forces arrived at the Greek prime minister's residence and demanded Greece's surrender. The prime minister replied with one single word – *Oxi* – No.


<http://www.oxidayfoundation.org/the-story-of-oxi-day/the-story-2/>

5



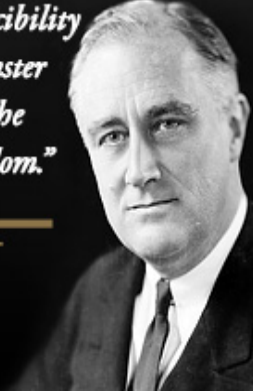
The Greeks Say "Oxi" (No)

"Hence, we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks."



WINSTON CHURCHILL

"When the entire world had lost all hope, the Greek people dared to question the invincibility of the German monster raising against it the proud spirit of freedom."



FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT

The WASHINGTON OXI DAY FOUNDATION


The WASHINGTON OXI DAY FOUNDATION

 **The Greeks Say "Oxi" (No)**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KztWUNKCkio>

7

 **WWII in Greece**

Leaving for War

Rigas and Mother
Athens
October 28, 1940
the day Italy declared war on Greece




8



1941

March 7	British forces arrive in Greece.
April 6	Germany invades Greece and Yugoslavia.
April 17	Yugoslavia surrenders to the Nazis.
April 26	British forces withdraw from Greece. Rigopoulos, a Reserve Second Lieutenant, assists the British evacuation in Nafplion and then returns to Athens.
April 27	Greece surrenders, Nazi occupation begins.
May 30	Maonolis Glezos and Apostolis Santas tear down Nazi flag flying from the Acropolis.
September 2	Greek government-in-exile arrives London.
September 7	EAM established by the Communists.
December 7	Japanese attack Pearl Harbor.
December 8	US and Britain declare war on Japan.
Winter	Severe famine in Greece, especially in Athens and Piraeus.

9



1941


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10

 **1941**
April 26
Rigopoulos, then a Reserve Second Lieutenant, assists the British evacuation in Nafplion and then returns to Athens.



11

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12

 **1941**
April 27 Greece surrenders, Nazi occupation begins.



13

 **1941**
May 30 Maonolis Glezos and Apostolis Santas tear down Nazi flag flying from the Acropolis.




14



1941

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15



1942

January 1	Declaration of the United Nations signed by 26 Allied nations.
January 26	First American forces arrive in Britain.
April	First organization of Service 5-16-5 by Rigas Rigopoulos with Mitsos Rediadis. 5-16-5 = E-P-E = Elliniki Patriotiki Eteria = Hellenic Patriotic Society Rigopoulos finds Limberopouloses' radio operator, Paliatseas, who leads him to Menegatos, who gets Allied Services to confirm receipt of radio transmission. Transmissions begin in earnest.
May 22	ELAS formed with 15 men.
September 20	Kostas Perrikos's PEAN organization blows up headquarters of pro-German ESPO.
October	First British officers paratroop into Greece.

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 **Administrative Division**

 **Rigas Rigopoulos**
Sociologist
Leader
photo taken in 1944
when he commanded
an armed caïque

 **Mitsos Rediadis**
Lawyer
Second in Command


17

 **Administrative Division**

Nicos Paliatseas
1st Sergeant
Greek Air Force
Wireless Set Operator
**Executed by the
Germans**



18



Administrative Division


No Photo Available

No Photo Available

George Zentelis
Law Student
Administrative
Liaison with
Paliatseas and
Menegatos

Anonymous Boy
never gave his name
Liaison with
Averof Prison

19





The Wireless Set House

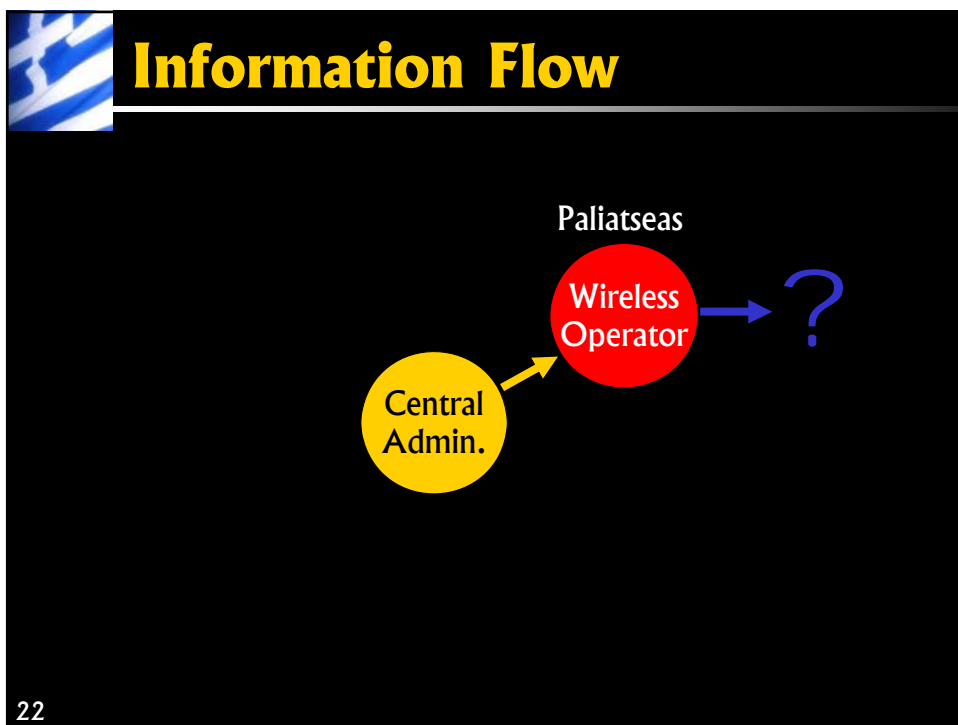
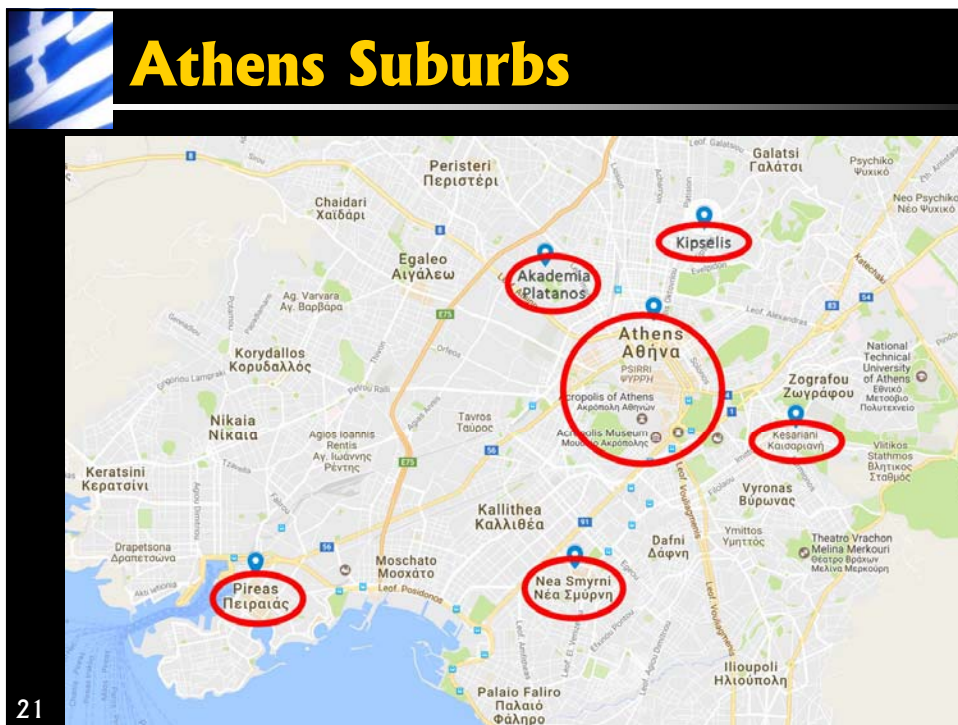
circa 1971 photograph by
Rigas Rigopoulos

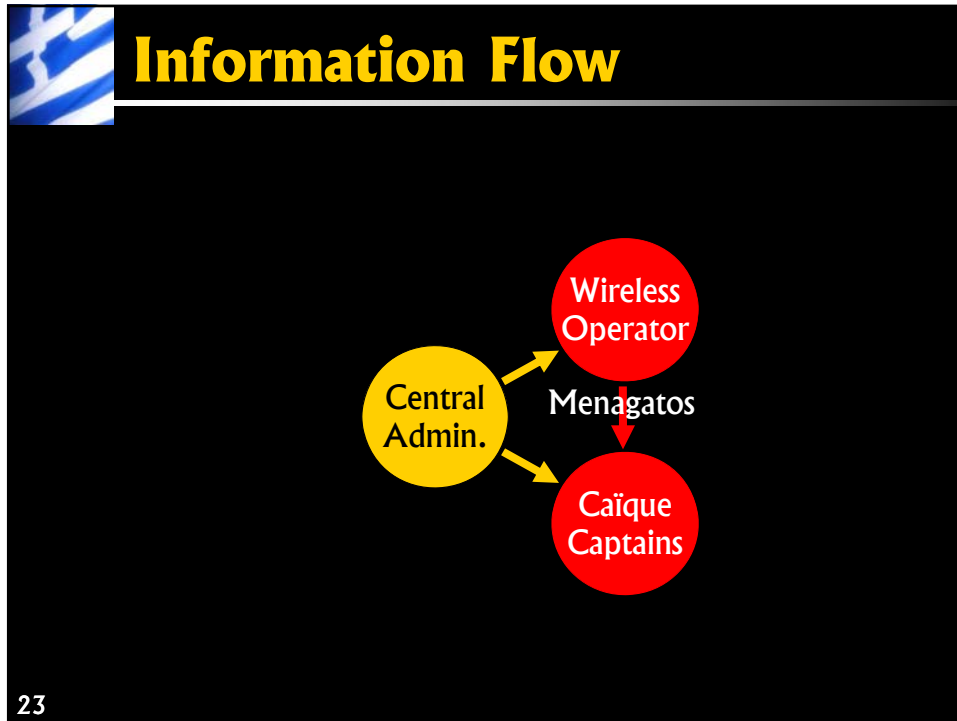
2001 photograph by
Jesse Heines


23
Sevastias
Street
Nea
Smyrni



20








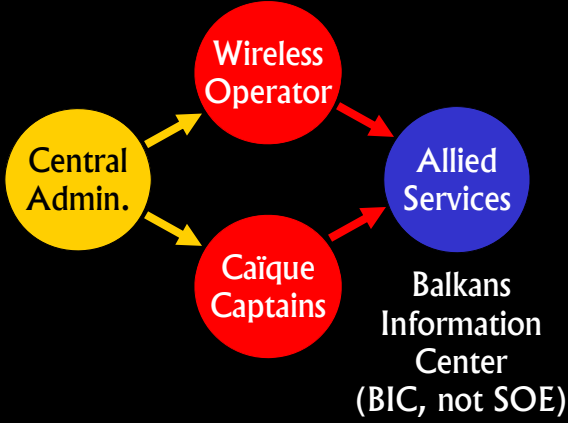
Independent Companions

- **Nicos Menegatos**
 - *Liaison with the Allied Intelligence Service*
 - Traveled to and from Turkey to transport written information and drawings
 - **Executed by the Germans**
- **Socratis Tselentis**
 - *Agent of the Allied Intelligence Service*
 - **Executed by the Germans**
- **George Hadjigeorgiou**
 - *Commander, Royal Navy*
 - Provided connections with valuable Navy informants
- **Aristeidis Papadopoulos**
 - *City Police Officer*
 - Supervisor of the Confidential Archives Department in the Subdivision of General Security

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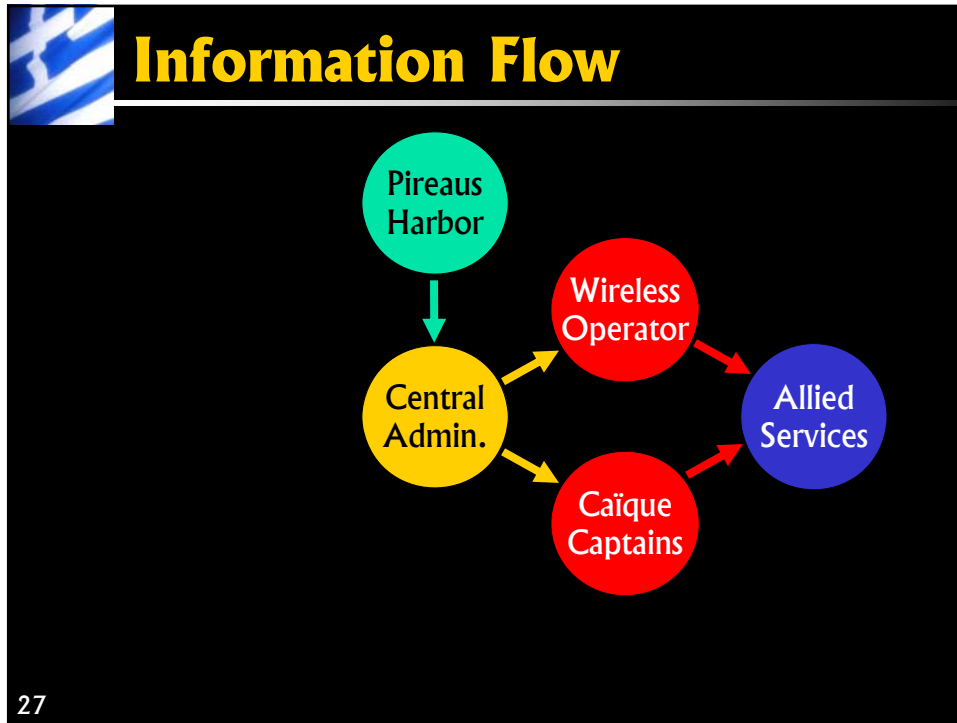


Information Flow



```
graph LR; CA((Central Admin.)) --> WO((Wireless Operator)); CA --> CC((Caique Captains)); WO --> AS((Allied Services)); CC --> AS; subgraph BIC; AS; end; BIC --- BIC_Label[Balkans Information Center (BIC, not SOE)];
```

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Pireaus Harbor Division



The Harbor Division reported on the movement of ships and convoys, war materiel loaded, minefields lain in the sea, etc.

Information provided by this division resulted in the sinking of 55 Axis ships by the Allies.


Manolis Koutsoudakis
Chief Pilot
Division Leader



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 **Pireaus Harbor Division**


	
Antonis Bachas <i>Harbor Master</i>	Dimitris Samantzopoulos <i>Harbor's 2nd in Command</i>

29

 **Pireaus Harbor Division**


		<i>No Photo Available</i>
Kostas Moros <i>Harbor Pilot</i>	Kostas Damoulakis <i>Harbor Pilot</i>	Savatakis <i>Chief Boatman</i>

30


 **Pireaus Harbor Division**


Captain Petros Drakopoulos
Harbor Pilot

Executed by the Germans



31


 **Petros Drakopoulos**



**Executed
September 8,
1944**

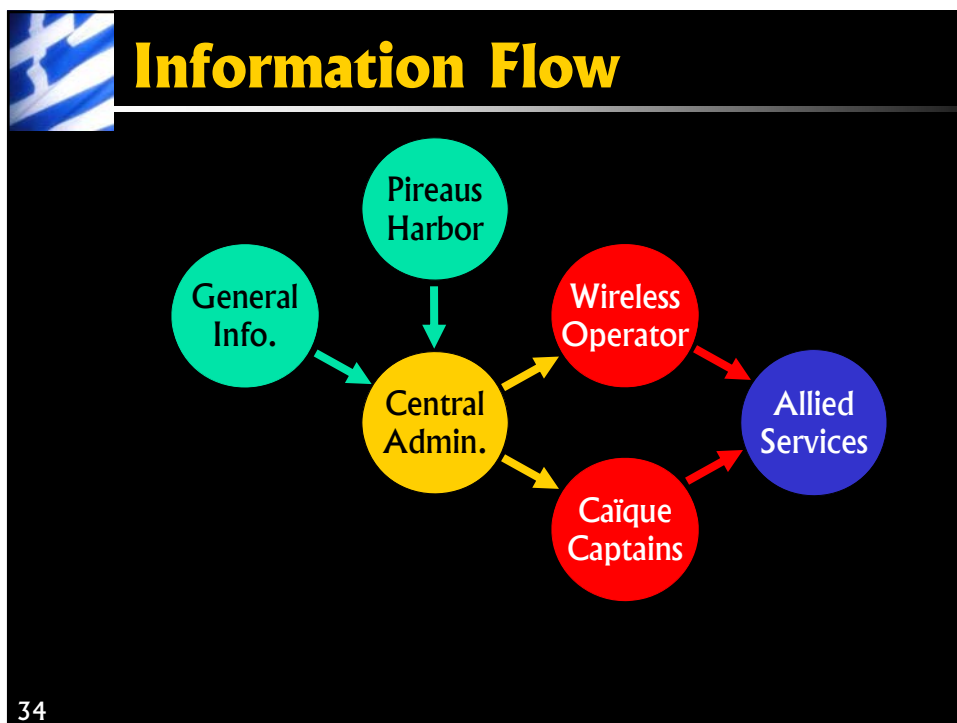
32


Petros Drakopoulos




Executed
September 8,
1944

33






General Information Division






The General Information Division drew diagrams of enemy installations, storage facilities, mine fields, and every kind of construction and fortification on the coast and inland.

Stavros Vrachnos
*Chemical Engineer and Lecturer
National Technical University of Athens*
Division Leader

35



General Information Division




Nicos Kriezis
Chemical Engineer

George Eleftheriou
Chemical Engineer

Dimitris Thanopoulos
Chemical Engineer

36

General Information Division

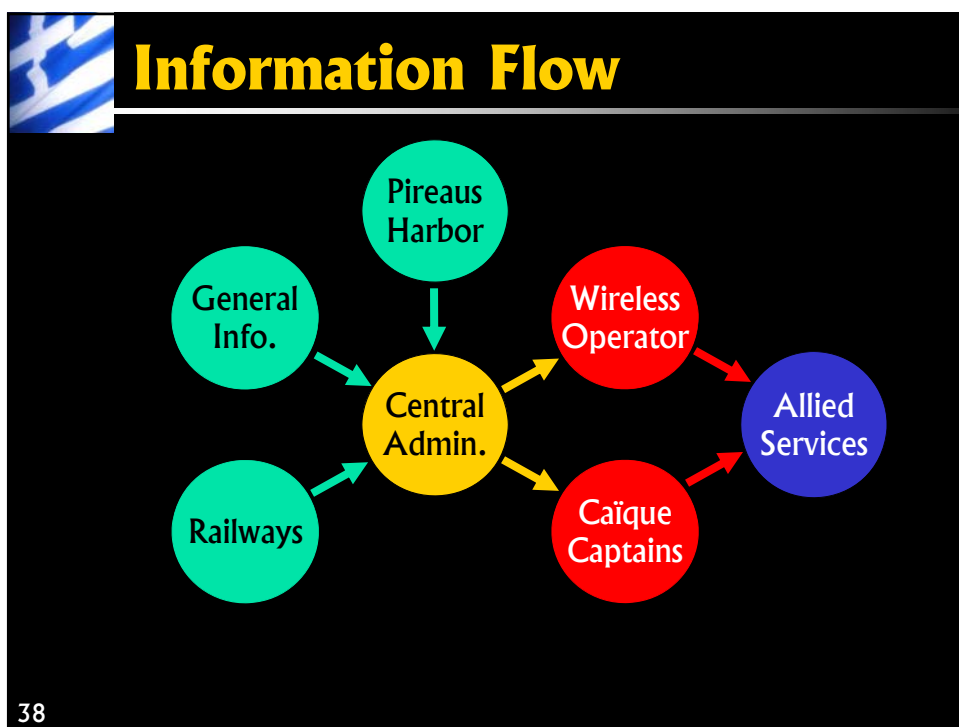


Thanos Savas
*Chem. Eng. & Exec.,
Hambakis & Savas
ship repair factory*

Antonis Embirikos
*Executive,
Atlas Cement Factory*

George Kambanis
*Merchant Marine
Captain*

37



Railways Sub-Division

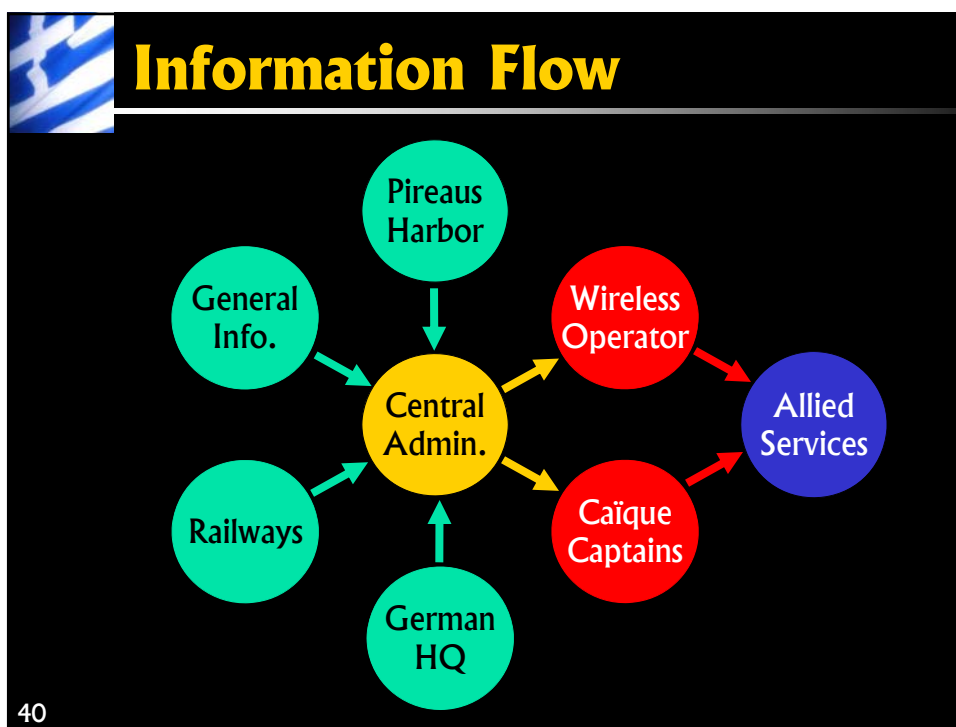



Poppy Sakelaridis
Member of the Board
Sub-Div. Leader

Francisko Petrits


George Leousis
Employee of the Bank of Greece

39





German HQ Division




Alexander Kairis
Lawyer

*Employee of the German
Engineering Command for
Southern Greece*

Penetrated the Confidential
Archives of the Germans and
provided the Allies with the
most valuable of information.

**Executed by the
Germans**

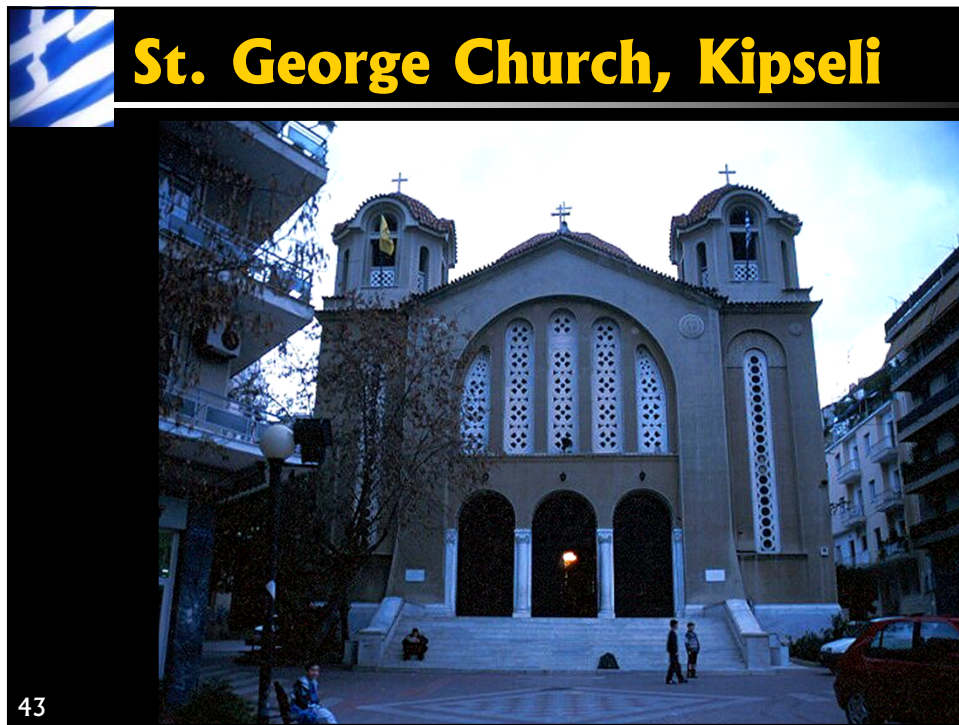
41



1943

March 25	Allies sink five German ships based on information from Service 5-16-5.
April 21	Germans capture Menegatos as he delivers information to caiques.
April 22	(Holy Thursday) Germans search for and find Paliatseas's wireless set.

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1943

April 24	(Holy Saturday) Rigopoulos warns Kairis that the Germans are on to him. Advises Kairis not to return to work and to flee Greece. Kairis rejects Rigopoulos's pleas.
April 27	(Tuesday after Easter Sunday) Kairis returns to work and is immediately arrested.
May 29	Wireless operator Nicos Paliatseas , caique captain Slamatis Tratras , Allied Services liaison Nicos Menegatos , and Allied Services agent Socratis Tselentis executed.
Late May	Kairis tried for first time, defended by Georgakis, counsel to the Archbishop. Acquitted by Krieger, Pres. of the Court.
June 5	Kairis tried again and again acquitted.

45



1943

July 29	Rigopoulos escapes to Turkey.
August	Rigopoulos duped by British Secret Services; sent to Egypt. Interrogated by SOE. Requests for a new wireless set and permission to return to Greece refused. Begins working as special consultant to the Prime Minister.
September 16	Rigopoulos leaves Prime Minister's service and begins training with Sacred Squadron.
October 18	Kairis tried a third time and sentenced to death by the German SS Judge Radtke.
November 2	Kairis executed at Kessariani.
December	Rigopoulos commands armed caique in the Aegean Sea (to August 1944).

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 **Sacred Squadron**


Sacred Squadron Officers
Easter 1944

Caïques in Aegean Sea
Spring 1944

Commander
—
Colonel
Christodoulos
Tsigantes

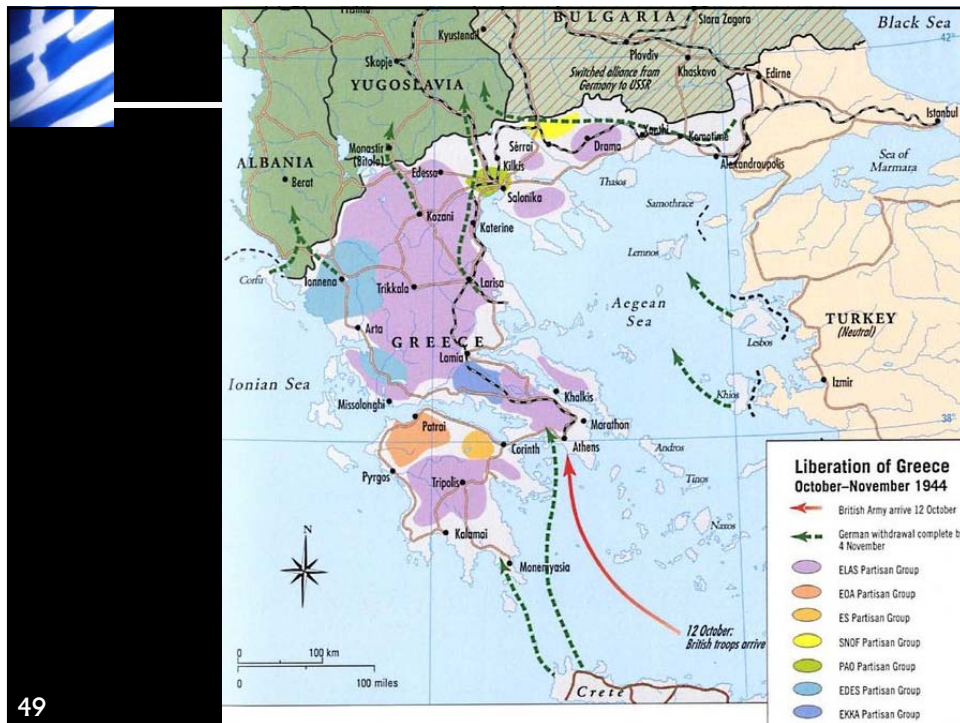


47

 **1944**

March 28 Harbor Pilot **Petros Drakopoulos** arrested.
June 6 D-Day invasion by Allies, Normandy, France.
September 8 Drakopoulos executed after the Germans announce that they are *releasing* prisoners, a last vengeful act by the retreating enemy.
October 12 **British troops arrive, Germans pull out of Athens.**

48

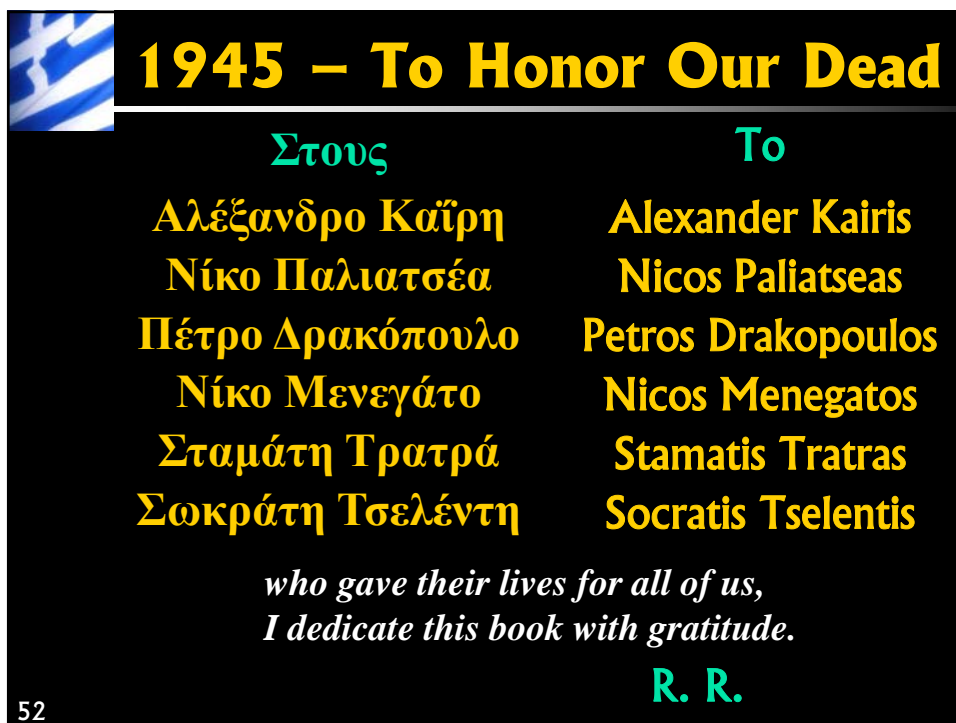
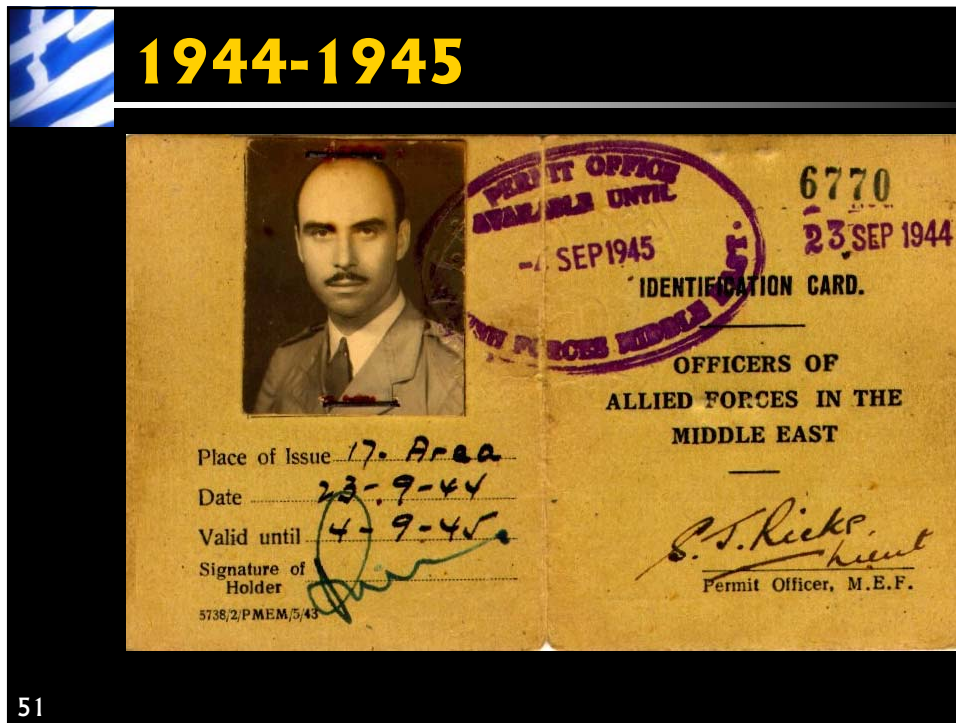


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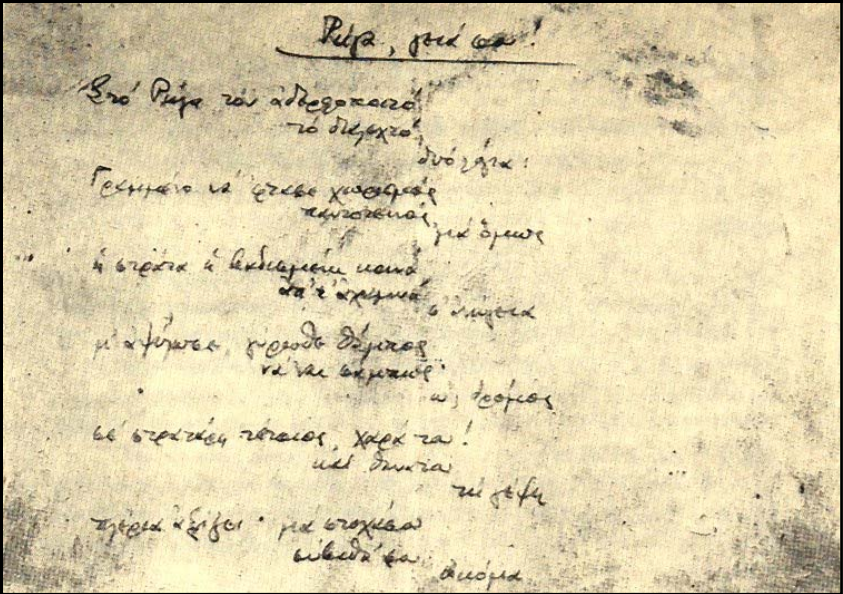
1944

<p>March 28</p> <p>June 6</p> <p>September 8</p> <p>October 12</p> <p>October 14</p> <p>October 18</p> <p>December 4</p>	<p>Harbor Pilot Petros Drakopoulos arrested.</p> <p>D-Day invasion by Allies, Normandy, France.</p> <p>Drakopoulos executed after the Germans announce that they are <i>releasing</i> prisoners, a last vengeful act by the retreating enemy.</p> <p>British troops arrive, Germans pull out of Athens.</p> <p>Rigopoulos returns to Athens.</p> <p>Greek government-in-exile returns to Athens.</p> <p>Civil War breaks out in Greece. Athens placed under martial law.</p>
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50



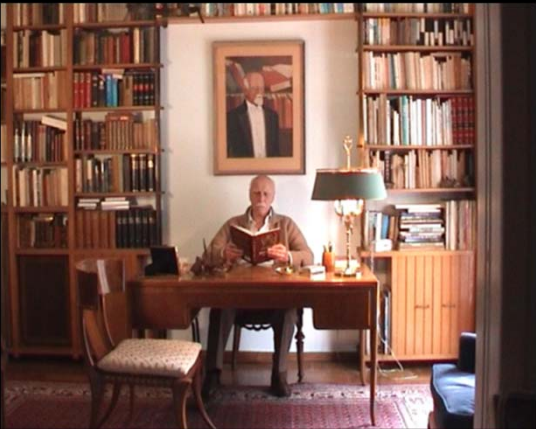
Alexander Kairis's Last Poem



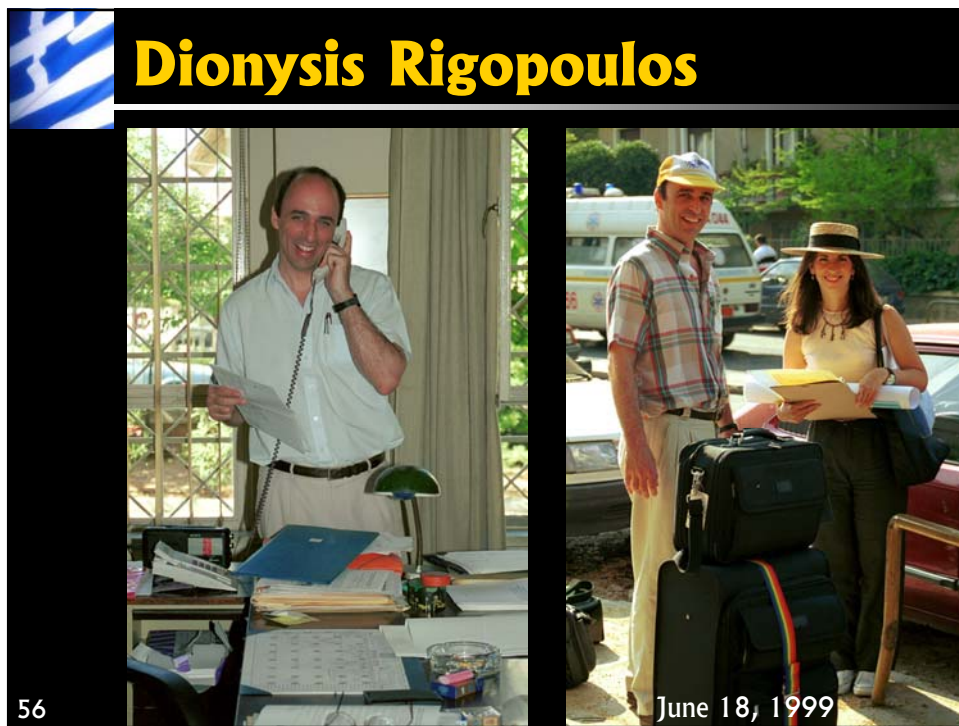
53

Rigas Rigopoulos

- Recorded May 2, 2004 in his flat on Dimocritou Street, central Athens
- Videographer:* Rigas's son, Dionysis



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Sparta Institute Conference

Κέντρο Διεθνούς Διαπανεπιστημικής Συνεργασίας στη Σπάρτη / **A Centre for International Interuniversity Cooperation in Sparta, Greece**

1η Συνάντηση Εργασίας / **1st Workshop**

Σπάρτη
Μυστράς
Γύθειο

18 - 20 Ιουνίου 1999

18 - 20 June 1999

Thema: Ακαδημαϊκό Πρόγραμμα για το Σχεδιασμό Ανθρώπινου Περιβάλλοντος / **Subject:** an Academic Program for the Design of Human Environments

Ερευνητικό πρόγραμμα με χρηματοδότηση της ΕΕ / A Research Program funded by the EU

Το Διεπιστημονικό Πρόγραμμα «Ανθρώπινο Περιβάλλον» / The Interdisciplinary Program «Human Environment»

Κοινωνικό Περιβάλλον / Social Environment

Φυσικό Περιβάλλον / Natural Environment



57



Christos Carvounis



ΕΞΕΤΕΛΕΣΘΗΣΑΝ ΥΠΟ ΤΩΝ ΓΕΡΜΑΝΩΝ
ΤΗΝ 26 ΗΝ ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ 1942
118 ΣΠΑΡΤΙΑΤΑΙ

ΚΑΡΒΟΥΝΗΣ ΧΡΗΣΤΟΣ ΙΑΤΡΟΣ
ΚΑΡΒΟΥΝΗΣ ΚΩΣΤΑΣ
ΒΟΥΛΟΥΚΟΣ ΠΕΤΡΟΣ ΙΑΤΡΟΣ
ΓΙΑΤΡΑΚΟΣ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ ΔΙΚΗΓΟΡΟΣ
ΦΙΚΙΩΡΗΣ ΜΕΛΕΤΙΟΣ
ΣΑΛΜΑΣ ΗΛΙΑΣ


58



 **Christos Carvounis**



Executed by
the Germans
November 26, 1943

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 **Rigas and Aanny**



60 June 24, 1999

 **Translator Eleni Dedoglou**

April 23, 2000

May 21, 2000

61

 **Editing in Athens**



John Fortounes

62

January 15, 2001

photograph by Terrie Rigopoulos

Editing in Athens



John Fortounes

63 January 15, 2001 photograph by Terrie Rigopoulos

The Finished Product



64 July 2, 2003

Discussing Our Differences



65

photographs by Dionysis
July 3, 2003

The slide features a black background with a yellow Greek flag icon in the top left corner. The title "Discussing Our Differences" is written in bold yellow text. Below the title are two photographs. The left photo shows two men in a close conversation; the man on the left is wearing a red and white plaid shirt, and the man on the right is wearing a white shirt. The right photo shows the same two men laughing heartily, with the man in the plaid shirt gesturing with his hand. The number "65" is in the bottom left, and the credit "photographs by Dionysis July 3, 2003" is in the bottom center.

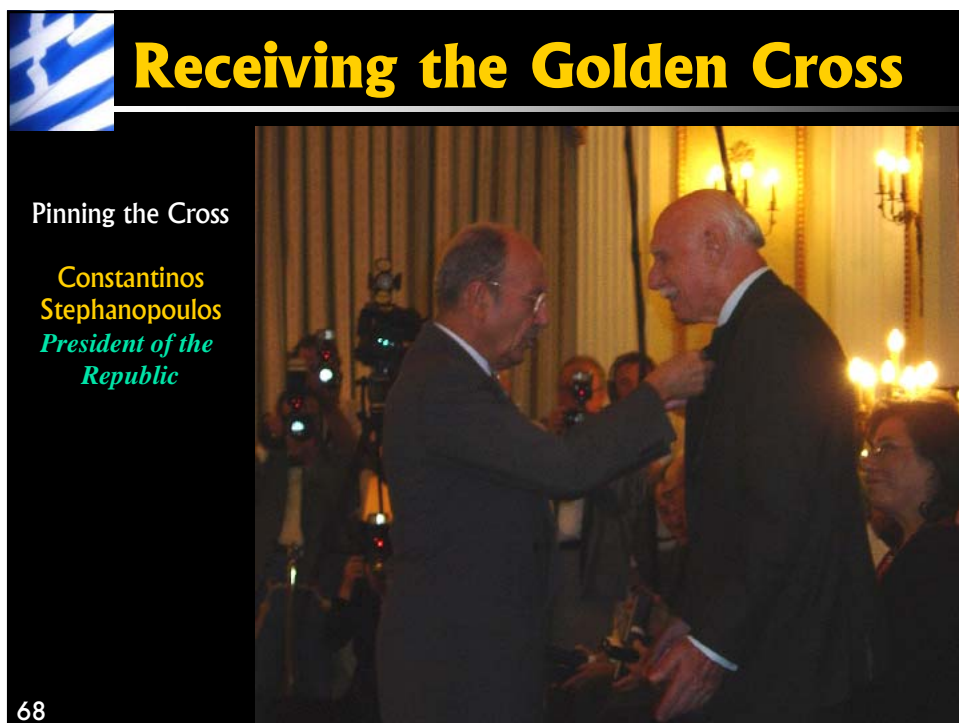
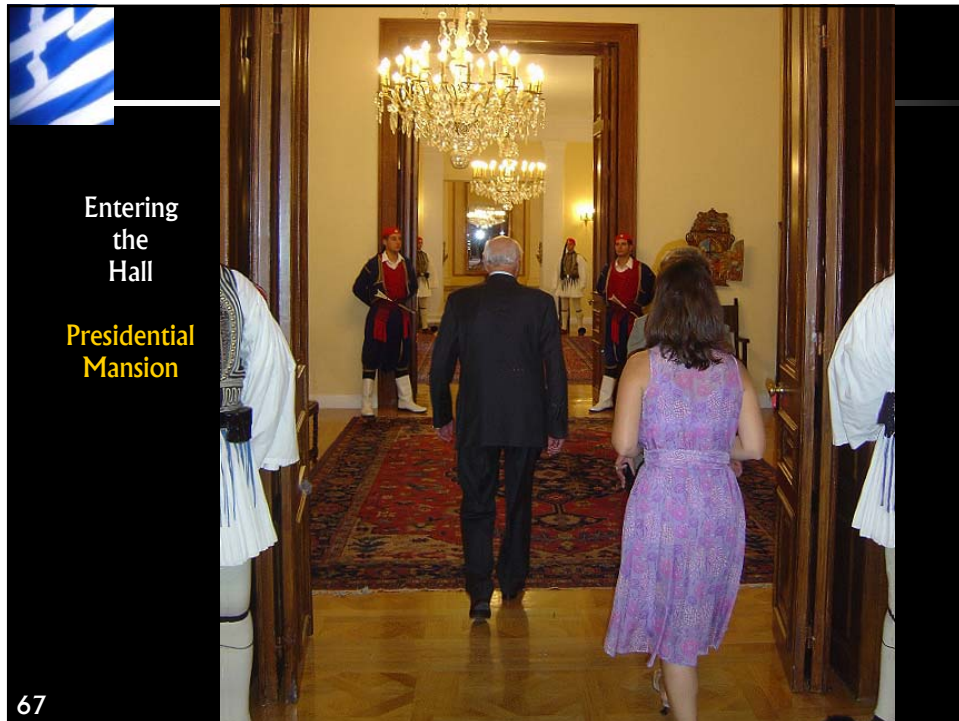
Receiving the Golden Cross

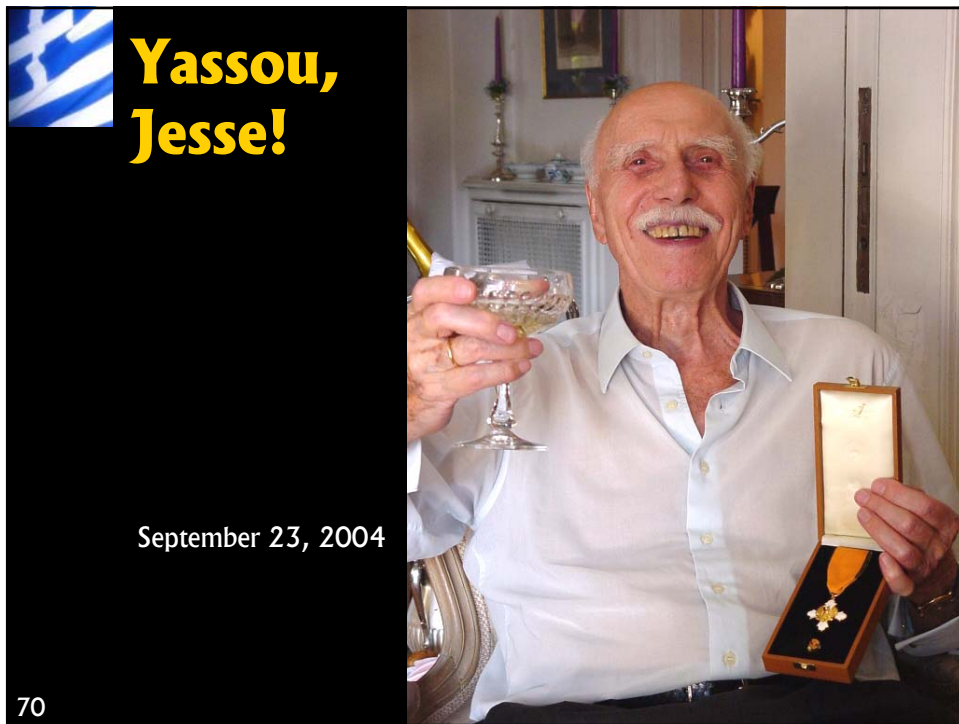


66

September 23, 2004

The slide features a black background with a yellow Greek flag icon in the top left corner. The title "Receiving the Golden Cross" is written in bold yellow text. Below the title is a photograph showing a group of people standing on the steps of a classical building. A man in traditional Greek attire, including a white shirt, a dark vest with a patterned sash, and a red cap, stands prominently. A woman in a purple dress and a man in a dark suit are walking towards him. The number "66" is in the bottom left, and the date "September 23, 2004" is in the bottom right.







thank you

Jesse M. Heines, Ed.D.
University of Massachusetts Lowell

SECRET WAR
Rigas Rigopoulos

Greece - Middle East, 1940-1945
The Events Surrounding the Story of Service 5-16-5

Jesse_Heines@uml.edu

<http://teaching.cs.uml.edu/secretwar>



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SECRET WAR
Rigas Rigopoulos

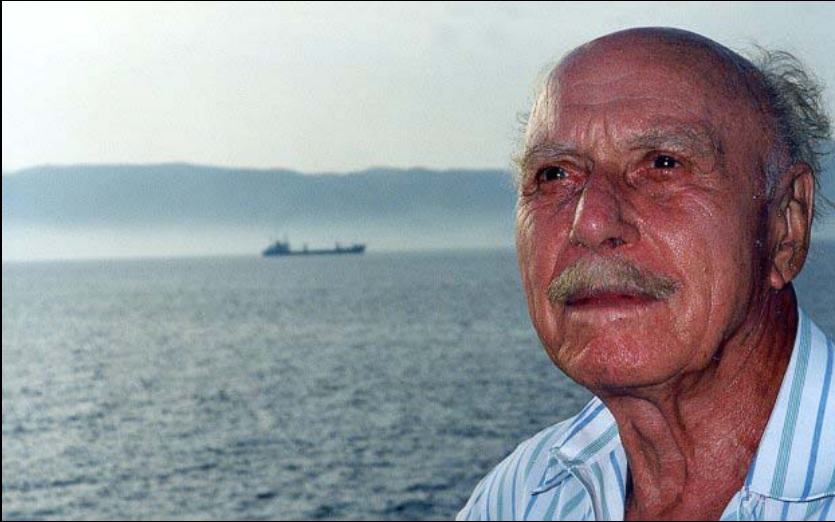
Greece - Middle East, 1940-1945
The Events Surrounding the Story of Service 5-16-5

Flip to back


72

A True Story of Heroism in Nazi-Occupied Greece [Some of] the most dramatic use of secret intelligence in the Western Theater resulted from covert operations against the Nazis in the cities of occupied Europe, which were implemented, to a great extent, by young men and women. For the most part, their stories remained shrouded in secrecy. Readers were carried away reading the brave feats of the partisans in the mountains, deserts, and jungles, while the strategic role of the spies and saboteurs in the cities remained almost anonymous. Rigas Rigopoulos offers a rare insight into the world of espionage and sabotage and the daily terror that characterized covert operations in Athens and Piraeus. Rigopoulos was one of many young Greeks appalled by the Axis occupation, but one of the few who was prepared to undertake the hazardous role of spy and saboteur.

 **Rigas and His Beloved Sea**




73 Summer 2000 photograph by Dionysis Rigopoulos

 **Motivation**

You make
a **living** by
what you **get**,
but a **life** by
what you
give.

Winston Churchill



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