

(summary)

YANNIS SKALIDAKIS

Patrick Leigh Fermor in Crete under German occupation

Patrick Leigh Fermor arrived in Crete for the first time in April 1941 as a member of the British Military Mission to Greece during the German attack to the country. He was present at the Battle of Crete in the sector of Heraklion and left Crete for Egypt with the evacuation of the British troops. It was in Egypt that Leigh Fermor joined Special Operations Executive (SOE), the British organization with task to organize resistance behind enemy lines and *set Europe ablaze*. After his training, he was to return to Crete to work there as a British Liaison Officer (BLO), to organize sabotage actions, gather intelligence informations, evacuate and rescue Allied soldiers and Greek resistants, help Cretan resistance in line with the preparation of an Allied invasion on the island. Leigh Fermor returned in Crete in the summer of 1942 and remained there the next fifteen months. After a short break that followed the Italian armistice, he returned to Crete in February 1944 in order to organize the now famous abduction of the German General Heinrich Kreipe and take him to Egypt. At last he was to return to Crete for a last time in autumn of 1944 to attend the last period of the occupation of the island.