



**Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:**  
Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:

## The War museum in Askifou /South-west Crete Contemporary witnesses from World War II on Crete

An article from our member *Maria Eleftheria*, Agios Nektarios / South Crete



Crete travellers, who have time and desire for a very special Museum visit during their stay, is recommended the unusual collection of *George Andreas Hatzidakis* in the mountain village **Askifou**. The War Museum founded by Mr. Hatzidakis is reached across the now very well-developed street from **Vrisses** to **Hora Sfakion**. The village **Askifou** lies directly on the historic North South link which played an important role during World War II, after the occupation of the island by the German army: In May 1941, the retreating Allied troops crossed the plateau of **Askifou** on their way in the **Sfakia**. From there the soldiers were brought then by boat to Egypt.

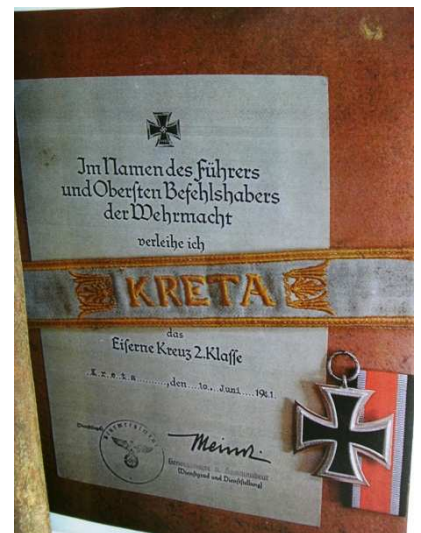
The founder *George A. Hatzidakis* was a boy of ten, when he witnessed the fighting, in which members of his family lost their lives and he even suffered serious injury. The young Cretan processed this trauma by starting collecting militaries from the time of the occupation after the war, and built the War Museum on his own initiative.



The way to the Museum, located inside the house of the family *Hatzidakis* is well signposted in town; also larger exhibits already line the access. Many "eye catcher" awaits guests in the atrium which is, like the richly stocked showroom itself, full of surprises.



Since the death of its founder, whose son leads *Andreas George Hatzidakis*, interested visitors through the extensive collection. Friendly smiling he offers Raki and explains the many items on questions in quite liquid English, which his father, who made a find everywhere in Crete, from the end of World War II until his death in the year 2008 brought together here: the other following (uncommented) figures bear witness to that.



There are no fixed opening hours in this Museum; also no entrance fee is required. Donations, however, are gladly accepted and should be given as a little support for this special private commitment.

For more information on the subject see our info sheet under: [http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/Merkblaetter\\_en/086-05E.pdf](http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/Merkblaetter_en/086-05E.pdf) and within our Forum at: <http://www.kreta-umweltforum.de/wbb2/thread.php?threadid=774> (in German only).

**Pictures:** Maria Eleftheria (6), U. Kluge (5), H. Eikamp (2)