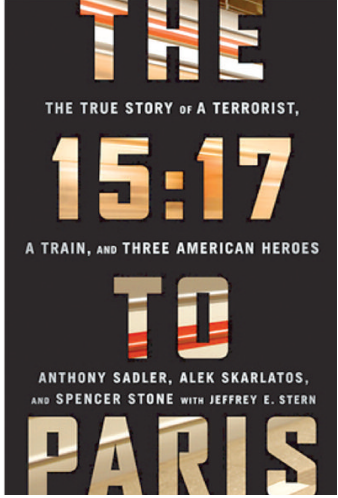


Skarlatos to Pen Memoir of Train Attack

By Stephanie Nikolopoulos

Alek Skarlatos, the Greek-American who helped take down a terrorist on a train headed for Paris, inked a new deal to write about his heroic actions during the attack. Entitled *The 15:17 to Paris*, the coauthored book will be published on August 23.

After being deployed in Afghanistan, twenty-two-year-old Skarlatos, an active duty member of the Oregon National Guard,



was traveling around Europe with two childhood friends, Anthony Sadler and Spencer Stone. On August 21, 2015, the friends took Thalys train 9364 from Amsterdam bound to Paris via Brussels, when suddenly a Moroccan man believed to be Ayoub El-Khazzani entered train car number 12, armed with an assault rifle and close to three hundred rounds of ammunition. Several passengers attempted to disarm the gunman, including Stone, who became injured after the assailant turned his gun then a knife on him. Skarlatos grabbed the AKM rifle, beating the attacker with the rifle until he was unconscious.

The 15:17 to Paris is being co-written by Skarlatos, Stone, and Sadler and will cover not only the actions these American heroes took on the train that day but also their friendship. Adding his journalistic expertise to the writing of the memoir is Jeffrey E. Stern, author of *The Last Thousand: One School's Promise in a Nation at War*. It was sold to editor Benjamin Adams at Public Affairs.

Greece's Enchanting Landscape Comes Alive in the Getty Villa

By Vasilis Papoutsis

LOS ANGELES, CA – A unique exhibition of watercolors created by Edward Dodwell and Simone Pomardi, who visited Greece twice in 1801 and for a longer period of time in 1805, is now on display at the Getty Villa in Malibu, CA.

The exhibition was made possible by the Packard Humanities Institute, which owns the collection of watercolors and loaned them out to the Getty. The exhibition has historical significance for two reasons. These watercolors are a visual documentation of Greece's landscape during the Ottoman occupation, because photography had not been discovered at the time. The painters achieved remarkable depiction to detail by using the camera obscura technique, a triangle tent put on top of a tripod that focused rays of light producing reflections of images.

Camera obscura was the precursor of photographic cameras. The other reason the watercolors are precious is because the landscape in most cases is completely unrecognizable today or even as it was in the last century. Had these watercolors did not exist we would not know what Greece looked like in the 17th and 18th century. That was one of the main considerations for curator David Saunders who



Dodwell's Parthenon at the Getty Villa Exhibition.

told TNH that "I wanted to present both ancient sites and Ottoman era towns, and to show the extent of the painters' travels." A painting that best illustrates that reality is "View of the Acropolis of Athens," which shows the Acropolis surrounded

by homes that housed the Turkish garrison in Athens, and a mosque right next to the Parthenon!

Those structures, of course, do not exist today as they were erased once Greece was liberated from the Ottomans in order

to restore the Acropolis as it was prior to the occupation. The watercolors "Panorama from Mousaion Hill" and the "Temple of Olympian Zeus" show the bare landscape surrounding Athens that in 1805 was a small city of about 15,000 residents. Of para-

mount historical significance is the watercolor "Removal of Sculptures from the Parthenon by Lord Elgin's Men." The painters were present when Elgin's men were removing the sculptures in 1801 and it is a visual testament to the actual incident.

There are 44 watercolors, all very beautiful, selected by curator David Saunders who had the very difficult assignment to pick them out of almost 1000 watercolors produced by the painters! The curator told TNH that "it was a long selection process that took almost three months to complete." Also the work required to frame them was part of the consideration during the selection process, "Our colleagues in the Paper Conservation department did an enormous amount of work to prepare these illustrations for display" Saunders added. Thirteen years after his departure from Athens Dodwell published a two volume book about his explorations in Greece, "A Classical and Topographical Tour through Greece." The book has been digitized by the Getty Research Institute and it can be downloaded for reading.

More information is available at getty.edu and curator Saunders' tours on Thursdays at 3PM are very insightful. The exhibition runs until February 15.

AHEPA/Hellenic Caucus Host Congressional Honor for Megellas

TNH Staff

WASHINGTON, DC – World War II Veteran Lt. Col. James "Maggie" Megellas (U.S. Army, ret.) is the most-decorated officer in the history of the 82nd Airborne Division and on February 1 the Order of AHEPA, in cooperation with U.S. Reps. Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues; and U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX), hosted a congressional reception for him on Capitol Hill.

Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan (R-WI) joined nearly 20 members of Congress for the reception in appreciation for Megellas, who originally hails from Fond du Lac, WI.

The reception, attended by more than 75 people, featured remarks from Bilirakis and Maloney as well as AHEPA Supreme President John Galanis and Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Christos Panagopoulos.

The event is part of an effort, backed by AHEPA and including legislation, to authorize the president to award the Medal of Honor to Megellas for acts of valor during the Battle of the Bulge.

Currently, Reps. Sessions, Bilirakis, and Maloney are circulating a letter that calls for Acting Secretary of the Army Patrick Murphy to grant his urgent consideration and personal review of Lt. Col. Megellas' Medal of Honor case.

AHEPA is urging members of



PHOTOS: BILL PETROS

ABOVE: More than 75 people attended the reception in honor of Lt. Col. James Megellas on Capitol Hill, including 20 members of Congress. His wife, Carole, is seen 2nd from right. BELOW: Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan and Lt. Col. James Megellas talk during the reception as Meredith Walker, George Horiates, and other guests look on.



the community to contact their representatives and senators and ask them signing on to the Sessions-Bilirakis-Maloney letter to Acting Secretary Murphy.

The Medal of Honor is the United States of America's highest military honor, "awarded for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty." It is awarded by the President in the name of the U.S. Congress to U.S. military personnel only.

Megellas, an AHEPA Life Member, is the recipient of the: Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, two Purple Hearts, Belgian Fourragere, and Dutch Orange Lanyard; and in 2008, the German government honored him for his role in liberating the Wobbelin Concentration Camp, May 2, 1945.

"We sincerely appreciate the

hard work of Representatives Bilirakis, Maloney, and Sessions, and their staffs, who helped to make tonight's event a wonderful experience for everyone," Galanis said. "We also thank all the members of Congress who took time out of their busy schedules to meet Maggie. We pledge to continue our efforts, working with our allies on Capitol Hill, to ensure Maggie's case for the Medal of Honor is granted review and reconsideration because he most deserves the honor."

Lt. Col. James Megellas, who authored *All the Way to Berlin: A Paratrooper at War in Europe*, about his WWII experiences, is flanked by Amb. Christos Panagopoulos (L) and AHEPA Supreme President John Galanis



Zografidis Sentenced to 6 Years for Drug

TNH Staff

NEW HAVEN, CT – Konstaninos "Gus" Zografidis has been sentenced to six years in federal prison for trafficking large amounts of cocaine, marijuana, and oxycodone into Fairfield County, CT, the Hartford Courant reported.

Connecticut U.S. Attorney Dierdre Daily confirmed the sentencing, on January 28. The 54-year-old citizen of Greece was convicted on conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute cocaine, the Courant reported.

Department of Justice (DOJ) officials say that police investi-

gated Zografidis for over a year, deeming him a "major distributor" of drugs in the United States, the Courant reported. The probe led to the arrest of 16 individuals altogether.

One of the other defendants was another Greek-American, Demetrios "Jimmy" Papadakos as was his nephew, Efstrati "Steve" Papadakos, former Sheriff of Norwalk.

The Hour reported that "Demetrios Papadakos also is no stranger to infamy, having been accused in 1982 of the largest cash heist in history at the time — a brazen armored car robbery in the Bronx in which \$11.2 million was stolen.

Papadakos was acquitted of the crime but convicted of contempt of court for refusing to testify against the defendants in the case."

Zografidis was in custody since being arrested in May 2012 and pleaded guilty in June 2014.

DOJ officials say that Zografidis will face immigration proceedings following the completion of his prison term.

All non-citizens physically present in the United States are subject to removal (deportation) upon conviction of a felony. Only U.S. citizens are protected, except in the case of committing offenses classified as treason.

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