



## **INVITATION**

The Archeion Polemou is proud and delighted to invite you for a truly unique presentation of “oral history”:

### **The fighting Siotas family:**

**Two generations of Greek soldiers from the Asia Minor Expedition, WWII (France 1944-45) and the Korean War**

**Friday 30 January 2015 at 19.30**

**Presenter and speaker James Siotas  
(The presentation will be in Greek)**

Oral history is a relatively new source of historical data and information. Oral history draws from the experiences and memories of people who either took active part or were witnesses of important historic and social events. This type of history focuses on the “microhistoric” aspects of events based on the recounting of personal experiences and views rather than on the analysis of events from a “macro historic” point of view. Oral history thus brings us nearer to the events even if this happens through the eyes of the witnesses rather than through a detached and impersonal approach.

We are delighted to have with us James Siotas to recount the family history which covers two generations of soldiers and three wars: his father Christos and James himself and the Asia Minor Expedition, WWII (the front in France) and the war in Korea.

James will tell us of the experiences of his father in the Asia Minor campaign and with the American Army in the famous WWII battle of the Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge) and his own experience with the American Army in the Korean War.

His presentation will be illustrated by a series of family photos, they themselves being of high historical value.

### **The presenter, James Siotas, and the Siotas family**

James' father, Christos, was born in 1899 and from an early age followed the struggle for Macedonia in Siatista. At 18 he volunteered in the Greek army and fought in the Asia Minor Expedition, being released from military service in 1922.

A fur trader by profession, he immigrated to Paris in 1925 with his wife and two daughters, and James was born in Paris in 1927. The Great Depression of 1929 found him in the US, where he had to struggle for survival as the fur trade had collapsed.

In 1942, Christos volunteered in the American army and served in the Greek Brigade stationed in Fort Eustace, Virginia. He requested to be sent to Greece but when his application was denied, he asked again for active service posting and was sent to France in October 1944 where he fought in the Battle of the Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge) and where he was wounded. After his recovery he was released from the Army in July 1945.

Christos taught his son James the trade of fur trading and started with him again the family fur business in the States, where he died in 1955.

James continued and developed the family business but in 1951 he volunteered for active service and was sent to Korea (1951-52) where he fought as a member of an artillery unit.

James returned from the States to live in Greece in 1966.

Andrew and Anabella Freris

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The Arheion is looking very much forward to your presence in this event.

We ask you however to let us know whether you will be coming either by replying to this email at [afreris@wararchivegr.org](mailto:afreris@wararchivegr.org) and/or by contacting Maka Dokhnadze at the phone of the Arheion, 210-8676390 ,or mobile phone 69-98088220 by latest 27 January. Please do note that space is limited.

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