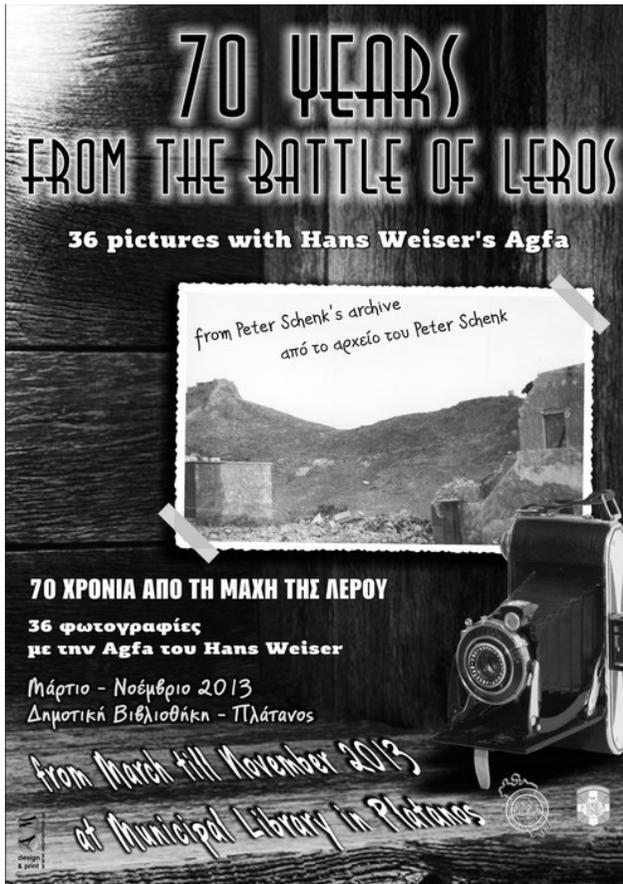




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**Municipal Library of Leros**

**Platanos**

**Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 14:00**

**Wednesday from 17:00 to 20:00**

**free entry**

This exhibition of photographs from the archive of Peter Schenk is an initiative of AIAL in collaboration with the Municipality of Leros, an event commemorating the 70 years from the Battle of Leros.

The photographs presented here were printed from a roll of film shot by Hans Weiser's simple Agfa camera. The author was an anonymous paratrooper, member of a radio platoon and these shots are a kind of photographic notes, a sort of crude "diary from the front", from the front line of the Battle of Leros, a unique direct testimony with a strong emotional impact.

This is not professional stuff destined for propaganda, nor official documentation on which memoirs would be based in the future.

On the contrary, these pictures reflect the immediacy of the events and were taken with an amateur camera, very common at the time.

This is a plain and direct testimony of the military action of those who were called upon during that period – from both sides – to perform their duty as soldiers.

The photographs of the two comrades killed in action, of those who were immortalized shortly before they were hit, the demonstration of the bombers and, above all, the final, symbolic shot at the cemetery of Alinda, remind us of the cruelty of war in an incessant warning of man's eternal madness.

However, life goes on, even in such extreme situations.

Thus, mingled with the above, we find captures of the moments of repose or indications of sensitivity in aesthetic impressions inspired by the dawn over the Turkish coast and the islet of Ayia Kyriaki.

This exceptional documentation, so full of immediacy and humanity, is a precious testimony of those painful days and, from the distance of 70 years, it transfers us to a fragment of the history lived by the island.

It must be a memento for the future generations advocating peace and concord among peoples.

00 - 02. The shots early on 13 November were made from the base of the radio platoon at the house of Karanikolas on the road to Gurna. Mount Germano was still occupied by the British.

03. A member of the platoon at the base.

04. This is Hans Weiser himself pictured with the self timer early on the morning of 14 November after he had spent the night at a stove near the base. Some seconds after he made the picture a grenade hit near the spot where he had been. Several of his platoon had been killed during the night in a battle on Rahi.

05. All soldiers are hungry...

06. This Oberfelwebel (master Sergeant) from the same plane as Weiser was killed on the first day.

07. The base of the radio platoon in the house of Karanikolas. Weiser is in foreground.

08 -10. Near the house of Karanikolas. Gurna Bay in the distance.

11 -12a. In the base.

13. Wounded parachuter in the base.

14. On top of Rahi at the entrance to the observatory of the battery a soldier from II Battalion of Grenadierregiment 16. A few minutes later he was wounded by a splinter in his chest.

16. In the early morning of 16 November the paratroopers move silently along the coast road to Platanos to support the final attack onto Merovigli from Spilia.

17. A street in Spilia.

18. Weiser in the doorway in Spilia.

19 - 20. Stuka attacks on Portolago seen from Spilia.

21. A house in Spilia with paratroopers in the street.

22 - 23. Stukas circling.

24. Hans Weiser and Ludwig Popp in Spilia.

25. Sunrise on the coast of Turkey from Spilia; in between, the inlet of Ag. Kiriaki

26 - 27. The fighting is over. The Paratroopers gather in a ditch. Weiser on the left (26).

28. This paratrooper from the Brandenburger company fell to his death on 13 November when a shot severed the rope to his parachute.

29. Early on 17 November General Müller is seen among the paratroopers in Alinda.

30. Hans Weiser with his parachute on Rahi hill where he came down.

31. A view over Gurna Bay.

32. Arthur Lublin is taking a bath in Alinda.

33. A landing boat in Alinda.

34. A Dornier flying boat taking wounded from Alinda at Beleni.

35. The last picture of the film is symbolic: fresh graves at the cemetery in Alinda.