

Treasure Hunter's Unearth Nazi Cache

NORTHERN GREECE—After a two year search for Nazi gold of Northern Greece, treasure hunter, Patrikios Vulgaris finally found what he'd been looking for in the rigorous Pindus Mountains.

"We were looking for that treasure because we knew about the gold of the guerillas," said Vulgaris. "It's a well known circumstance here in Greece. A lot of people try to find that gold," he added.

Five months after Germany invaded Greece on April 6, 1941, a Greek resistance movement known as the EAM (National Liberation Front) made up predominately of communists organized in the mountains. The military branch of this group, the ELAS (National Peoples Liberation Army) was also formed and was said to have number 40,000 to 70,000 members.

Although the EAM was controlled by the Greek Communist Party, their only objective in 1941 was to purge the Germans from Greece. A second group of resistance fighters

formed and was named the EDA (Greek National Democratic Union). It operated independently from the EAM under the command of General Napoleon Zervas, a former colonel in the Greek army. The EDA however, were non-communist but had the same objective—to rid their country of the Nazi infestation.

The first organized attack involving both resistance groups occurred in November, 1942, when British forces lead the resistance to destroy the Gorgopotamos Viaduct railroad bridge. It was the only time that members of the ELAS and the EDA would fight side by side.

In 1943, the leaders of both resistance groups were flown to Cairo to meet with the Greek government in exile. Mutiny erupted between the resistance groups over who would be in power once the Greek government was re-installed. A month later, at a conference in Lebanon, the Papandreou's Greek government in exile was legitimized and the EAM-ELAS forces were placed under

its command. This move resulted in Greece's civil war while under German occupation.

The war devastated Greece and while both the ELAS and the EDA fought the Germans, they also fought each other.

On February 2, 1943, the German army surrendered to the Red Army at Stalingrad. A year later, German forces in Greece feared being cut off from their homeland and began to retreat. By this time, the EDA was nearly crushed and turned to the retreating German army for aid. With politics in a state of instability, an agreement was struck and Germany moved to support the EDA with money and weapons to fight the ELAS. Nazi shipments of gold and weapons were known to have been diverted to the EDA.

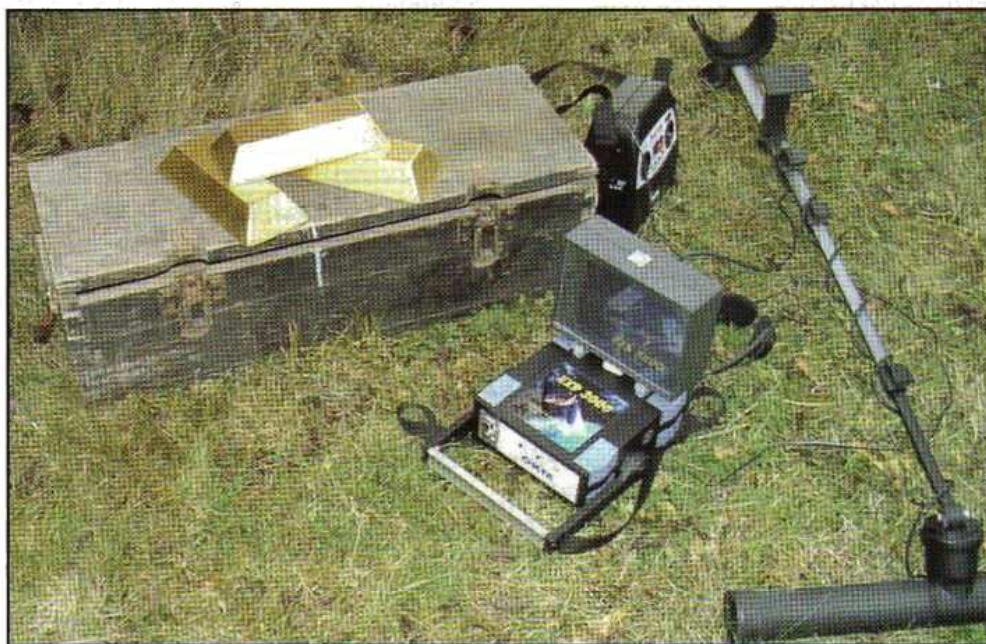
Rumors circulated after the war that the EDA buried a number of treasure and weapons caches near their strongholds in the mountains.

Recently, Vulgaris and his partner, after two years of research and searching the mountains, unearthed a wooden box in the upper reaches of the Pindus Mountains bearing markings of the German Luftwaffe. The treasure hunters located the strong-box using a German detector, the

"exp 3000" and inside they found an undisclosed number of gold bars.

According to Vulgaris, other Nazi gold caches as well as British caches of gold coinage remain buried in the Pindus Mountains. He and his partner have already invested in the latest version of the German detector, the "exp 4000," and plan to return to the same area, convinced more Nazi gold awaits discovery.

Nazi Treasure Box Unearthed in Greece.
Photo: Patrikios Vulgaris



Arizona Antique Dealer Sells Rare 13-Lockbox — Six Weeks Later the "World's Smallest Treasure" is Found Inside

AUSTIN, Texas—On a recent trip through Arizona, Rick Krauss of Austin, Texas stopped at an antique shop in Tucson. While browsing he happened upon a matching pair of hand carved wooden stands, each one depicting a Griffin. A Griffin is a mythical monster possessing the head and wings of an eagle and the body