

## **2<sup>nd</sup> High School of Hortiatis**

ERASMUS+ 2018-2020

“PRomotion of Identity, European Culture and  
Tradition”



### **P6.2. Activity**

#### **Hortiatis' Monuments Guide**

## **MOUNTAION OF HORTIATIS**

The mountain of Hortiatis is located in the east side of Thessaloniki. The previous name of the mountain was Kissos. According to the tradition, the mountain got its name from the legendary king Kisseas who established the town Kissos. According to another version, it got the name Kissos because of the numerous plants, called ivy, which are grown in the mountain. Also, there is another version that makes the mountain got this name because they worshiped the God Dionysus, also known as Kisseas and the plant kissos was his sacred plant.

## **THE ROMAN AQUEDUCT**

At the entrance of the village there is a big part of the ancient roman aqueduct which was used to transfer the water of the mountain Hortiatis to Thessaloniki. The height of the aqueduct is 5meter and 30 centimeters. Nowadays it is in a very good condition because the municipality repaired it 7 years ago. It



was built in the roman times. It was used to transfer water for 800 years and it stopped functioning in 1975.

## **MONASTERY OF HORTAITISSA**

In the Byzantine period, Hortiatis had a lot of monasteries with the most important of them, the Monastery Hortaitissa. It is dated in 11<sup>th</sup> century and it is dedicated to Virgin Mary. The monastery numbered 200 monks. It was destroyed from the Turkish between 1421 to1422. Today is the junior High school of Hortiatis. As you can see, there are many parts of the monastery in this yard. Also you can see this big black hill its looks like a door. This is one of the most famous qanats of Hortiatis. It used to be a place where all the waters gathered right here. Then with the help of the Aqueduct, the water saw transferred to the city.

## **CHURCH OF AGIOS GEORGIOS**

It is the church of the village. It was built in 1837. In the south side of the church there is bell tower which was built in 1874. It belongs to the Byzantine rhythm. According to some experts a lot of parts of the church come from the Monastery of Hortaitissa. It is a classic beautiful church in the center of the village.



## CHURCH OF METAMORFOSEOS TOU SOTIROS

The small church of Metamorfoseos tou Sotiros is an amazing byzantine monument which is located a few meters away from the church of Agios Georgios. It is dated in the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The rhythm of the church is really rare and it is unique on the mainland of Greece. Researchers have found that this church was constructed with many parts of the Monastery of Hortaitissa.



## THE HOLOCAUST OF HORTIATIS

Let's go back to 1944. On the second of September in 1944, a group of guerilla fighters of EL.AS. attacked a small van with two Greeks which as usual were going to disinfect the water of Hortiatis with chlorine. When the van was near to the aqueduct, rebellions started shooting at it and killed both Greeks. This was the first attack. After 30 minutes, a second van with three Germans and two Greeks were also attacked. In this small fight two Germans were injured and one of them managed to escape and went to Asvestohori, a neighboring village. After these two attacks, the villagers asked the captain of the rebellions, Antoni Kazako if they should evacuate the village because they were afraid of the Germans but he said that they do not have to worry. The majority of the villagers stayed in Hortiatis and few of them packed their stuff and left Hortiatis. A few hours later, twenty trucks with German soldiers of Fris Soubert arrived and circled around Hortiatis. They started gathering the villagers in the square of the village and burning the houses. After that, they transferred them to the house of Evangelos Ntampoudis and burnt them alive. Another group was transferred to the bakery of Stefanos Gouramanis. They set a big machine gun and started killing everyone. Only two people managed to escape from the bakery. Lots of women were ravished and killed. This sad day 149 people were killed, 109 were small babies and women and 300 houses were burnt.



References:<http://2lyk-chort.thess.sch.gr/autosch/joomla15/%CE%BF%CE%B4%CE%B7%CE%B3%CE%BF%CF%82/%CE%BC%CE%BD%CE%B7%CE%BC%CE%B5%CE%B9%CE%B1.html>

<http://www.hortiatis570.gr/sports/item/31-%CF%84%CE%BF-%CF%81%CF%89%CE%BC%CE%B1%CF%8A%CE%BA%CF%8C-%CF%85%CE%B4%CF%81%CE%B1%CE%B3%CF%89%CE%B3%CE%B5%CE%AF%CE%BF>