

Annie Ure Atrebatas Talk: On excavating at Rhitsona, early 1920s.

Ure Museum archive

"... my husband's thoughts turned again to Greece. Before the war he had been out several times digging the cemetery of the ancient Mykalessos, now a hamlet entitled Rhitsona. It was very rich in graves and he wanted in particular to find the victims of the fearful massacre by the Thracian mercenaries under Diitrephes. ...

At last to our great joy we got the all clear from our friends in Greece who were negotiating for us with the Archaeological Service, and were given the necessary permit to dig... we sent our foreman, Athanasios Vasileiou... to Aulis...to enrol workmen. He got three or four there and filled up the number with men from Tanagra which was a little further away.

We depended a great deal on our workmen. Although we gave them general directions on where to dig, it was they who knew whether they were on to a grave or not. They knew when they were only about a foot down from the surface whether there was a grave beneath or whether it was stereo and must be abandoned."