

—+— Macedonian front

The Balkans were not one of the First World War's main battle-grounds, although there was some heavy fighting. Austria-Hungary attacked Serbia in 1914 and failed; the subsequent first landing attempts of the Entente Powers were also unsuccessful. In September 1915, Bulgaria joined the Austro-Hungarian and German alliance. Together, they defeated Serbia. In response, British and French troops landed at Thessaloníki harbour on 5 October and marched into Serbia; however, the Bulgarians held them at bay. The French withdrew to Thessaloníki.

This was the beginning of the establishment of the Macedonian Front, which ran along the Albanian part of the Adria coast. Three years of stalemate followed. British, French, Russian, Serbian, Italian and (from 1917 onwards) Greek troops fought against their German, Bulgarian and Austro-Hungarian counterparts. All offensives failed. In September 1918, the Entente Powers launched a successful attack, and the Serbs occupied Prilep. The Armistice of Thessaloníki was signed six days later, on 29 September.

Visiting Hours War Cemetery / Exhibition
October to April: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
April to October: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Address
Penka Koteska 40
7500 Prilep, Macedonia

Contact
Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e. V.
Sonnenallee 1, 34266 Niestetal
Tel.: 0049 (0)561-7009-0
Fax: 0049 (0)561-7009-221
E-Mail: Info@volksbund.de

Donations
IBAN: DE23520400210322299900
BIC: COBADEFFXXX

Photos: Volker Kreidler /
Der Völkerring, C.H. Baer / 123map

Gefördert durch:



Auswärtiges Amt



**VOLKSUND DEUTSCHE
KRIEGSGRÄBERFÜRSORGE E.V.**

The Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e.V. is a humanitarian organisation charged with caring for the graves of German war casualties abroad. It offers educational programmes and promotes an international culture of commemoration and peace.

www.volksbund.de



**VOLKSUND DEUTSCHE
KRIEGSGRÄBERFÜRSORGE E.V.**

PRILEP

German War Cemetery



—+— A last resting place for more than 1800 casualties from both World Wars

This war cemetery was established by German troops in 1916, the second year of the First World War. Although there was no actual fighting in Prilep, it was the location of a German field hospital. The Macedonian Front was not far away.

In the early 1930s, the official German war graves registration and information service extended the grounds to create a communal cemetery which was inaugurated on 9 May 1933. It became a last resting place for soldiers from Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia and Turkey as well as for civilian labourers from Serbia and Albania.

During the Second World War, around 60 German war casualties were buried here. After that, locals destroyed the cemetery as they saw Germans as the enemy. In 2003, the Macedonian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy permitted the German War Graves Commission to restore the grounds. The work began two years later.

Symbolic crosses arranged in groups were placed on the levelled World War burial grounds; the names were inscribed on granite stones. Those who fell in the Second World War were buried in individual graves. The cemetery was reinaugurated on 29 August 2009.

Cemetery

German soldiers established the cemetery with 2000 graves in 1916. Fifteen years later, the official German War Graves Registration and Information Service extended the grounds to create a communal cemetery. Thirty thousand irises had been planted in the grounds when the cemetery was inaugurated on 9 May 1933. During the Second World War, around 60 German soldiers were buried there. After that, the cemetery was no longer maintained. The German War Graves Commission was permitted to restore it in 2003.

The work, which was based on designs by the landscape architect Hartmut Kroll, took until 2009. The old entrance gate was reconstructed. Workers levelled the First World War graves. The old gravestones were moved to a lapidarium; symbolic crosses now mark the actual graveyard. Prilep became the central communal cemetery for Second World War casualties in Macedonia. Macedonia signed a war graves agreement with the German Government in 2012.



- A

Information point
- B

Reception board
- C

Exhibition board
- D

High Cross and Lapidarium with gravestones and relics from the cemetery
- E

Metal name book to remember the German soldiers killed in Macedonia during the Second World War
- F

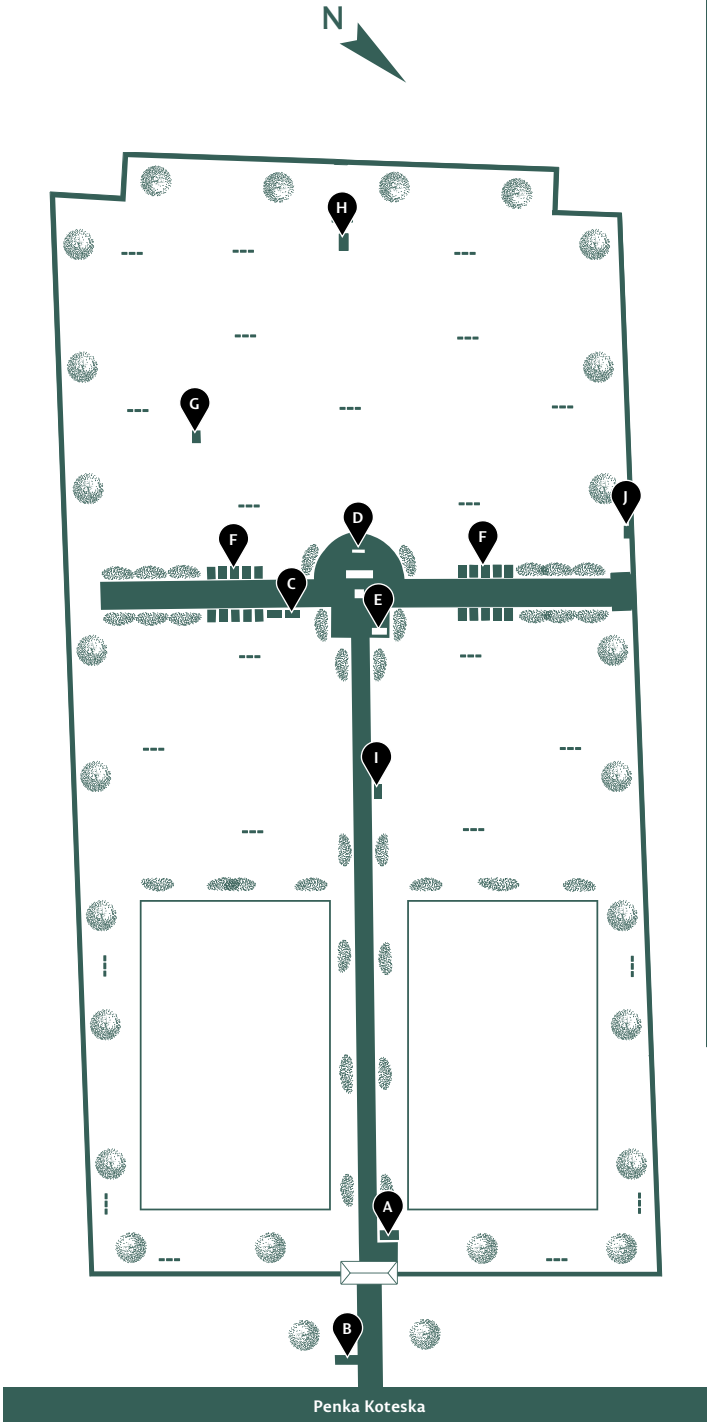
Name stones for the casualties of the First World War
- G

Russian memorial stone
- H

Bulgarian memorial stone
- I

Hungarian memorial stone
- J

Memorial stone Heinrich Ebert



- 1

German War Cemetery Prilep
- 2

German War Cemetery Bitola opened in 1936. The war cemetery is laid out in the shape of a “Totenburg” (“Fortress of the Dead”) and holds the remains of over 3400 German soldiers from the First World War.
- 3

British War Cemetery Skopje Here 124 Commonwealth soldiers are laid to rest. Most of them were members of the “Royal Army Service Corps”.
- 4

Greek War Cemetery Valandovo was established by Greek troops during the First World War.
- 5

Bulgarian War Cemetery Novo Selo for casualties of the Second Balkan War and the First World War.
- 6

British War Cemetery Kalamaria 1810 war casualties from the Commonwealth are laid to rest here.
- 7

British War Cemetery Thessaloniki 1648 war casualties from the Commonwealth are laid to rest here.
- Indian War Cemetery Monastir Road was established between 1916 and 1920. Here 353 Indian war casualties, who fought for the Commonwealth, are laid to rest.
- French War Cemetery Bitola opened in 1923. Here 6128 identified and more than 7000 unidentified French soldiers are laid to rest.
- Serbian War Cemetery Bitola Here 1321 Serbian soldiers, who fought on the Macedonian front, are laid to rest.

