



Haidar Pasha Cemetery, Istanbul



The 1939-1945 War Graves Plot with, in the foreground, the Mashlak and Osmanieh Memorial

Istanbul (Constantinople), the former capital of Turkey, and originally the Roman city of Byzantium, was selected as the capital of the Roman Empire in AD 328 by Constantine the Great, and so renamed by him. Haidar Pasha (local spelling Haydar Pasha) is a suburb of Istanbul on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus, between Scutari (Uskudar) and Kadikoy.

The Cemetery, on high ground close to the sea, was first established for Crimean War burials. The land forming this site then comprised two separate plots and was donated by the Turkish Government to the British Government in 1855; a second grant of land was made in 1867 in order to link up the lands, included in the original grant. It was for some years the direct responsibility of the British Government, but from 1925, and to this day, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission has undertaken the maintenance of the whole cemetery, acting directly in so far as the World War graves are concerned, and on an agency basis on behalf of the British Government in regard to the remainder of the burials.

THE CRIMEAN WAR

There are about 6,000 graves of British soldiers from the Crimean War, who died (mostly as the result of a cholera epidemic) in the first organised military hospital in modern history, established by Florence Nightingale in the Scutari barracks. Only a few of these graves are now marked, but it was reputedly at Miss Nightingale's request that the British Government successfully persuaded the Sultan of Turkey to issue the edict transferring the nearby military cemetery, formerly part of the Summer Palace, to British ownership. A bronze plaque to her memory can be found on the plinth of the Crimean War Memorial obelisk, which was erected in the Cemetery in 1857 to commemorate the British dead of that war. The plaque (unveiled on Empire Day 1954) bears the following inscription:-

TO FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, WHOSE WORK NEAR THIS CEMETERY A CENTURY AGO RELIEVED
MUCH HUMAN SUFFERING AND LAID THE FOUNDATIONS FOR THE NURSING PROFESSION.

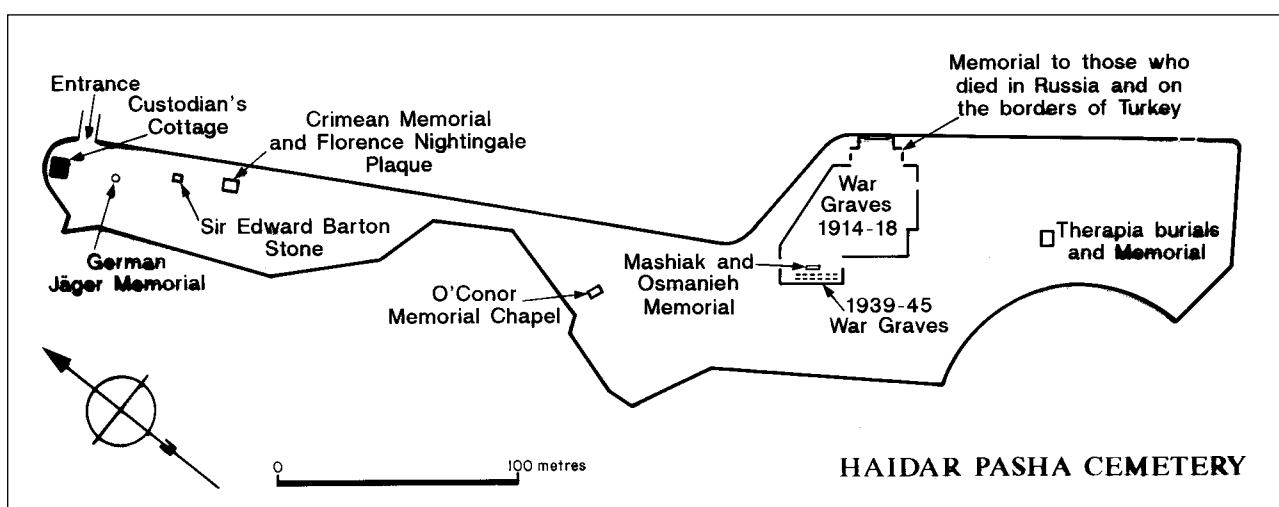
Other monuments preserved include a symbolic broken column to the memory of German Jager officers who died in the Crimea, and a British memorial erected in Therapia (tarabaya) Crimean Cemetery in 1855 and later transferred from there to Haidar Pasha together with the graves of 18 officers and men of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

CIVILIAN GRAVES

The first civilian burial is believed to have taken place in 1867, and there are now more than 700 in the civilian section including some military graves outside of the World War periods. The tombstone of Sir Edward Barton, who was the British Ambassador to Turkey during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (brought here from Heybeli Island in the Sea of Marmara, where he was buried at the time), and a chapel in memory of Sir Nicholas O'Connor, the Ambassador at Constantinople at the turn of the century, are among the historic monuments to be found in this section.

THE TWO WORLD WARS

Buried in special plots are some 450 Commonwealth war dead of both World Wars, the majority, just over 400, from the 1914-1918 War, mostly prisoners of war who died in Turkey, but some - when after the Armistice the capital was occupied - from No. 32 General Hospital. In addition to the graves of 39 dead of the 1939-1945 War, there are two further important memorials of the First World War: one bears the names of a little over 200 dead of the United Kingdom and Undivided India who lost their lives in various parts of Russia and on the borders of Turkey, and whose graves could no longer be maintained; the other is to soldiers of the Indian Army who died in 1919 and 1920, whose remains were cremated and who were commemorated at Mashlak and Osmanieh Cemeteries. In 1961, when those cemeteries could no longer be maintained, the earth with which the ashes of these men had mingled was scattered near this memorial, while the remains of their comrades of the Muslim faith were brought here and re-interred.

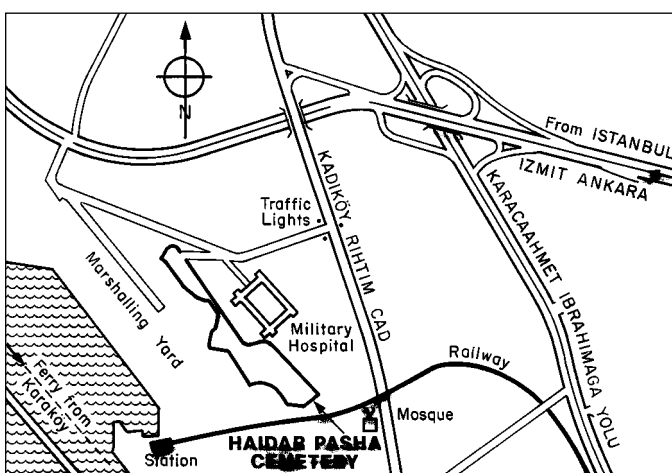


Maintenance of the Cemetery is the responsibility of:

Area Director, Outer Area Office, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, 2 Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 7DX, England (Telephone 01628 634221). This office is also responsible for the maintenance of the Commonwealth War Cemeteries and Memorials of the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915 (36,000 dead).

There is a sub-office with a Local-Supervisor at Canakkale on the east side of the Dardanelles where registers of all Commonwealth War Cemeteries and Memorials in Turkey may be consulted. Visitors should telephone on (286) 2171010 to obtain travel directions to this sub-office.

DIRECTIONS FOR VISITORS (Note: local direction signs carry the spelling Haydar Pasha)



BY CAR FROM ISTANBUL

After taking the suspension bridge across the Bosphorus, follow the road to Ankara for about 4km, turning off for Haidar Pasha. Continue along the Izmit Ankara, crossing the Karacaahmet Ibrahimaga Yolu, then take the exit road off to the right, linking with the Kadikoy Rihim Cad, as shown on the map. Turn left (south) onto the Kadikoy Rihim Cad, then right at the traffic lights onto the road leading to the cemetery. The entrance is just past the military hospital main gate.

BY FERRY FROM ISTANBUL

Take the ferry from Karakoy, near the Galata Bridge, to Haidar Pasha pierhead and railway station. Go around to the right (south) side of the main station building and follow the road east approximately 400 metres. Close to the mosque with two minarets there are steps up to the Kadikoy Rihim Cad Road. Turn left (northwards) along this road (passing over the railway lines) approximately 700 metres. At the traffic lights turn left down towards the entrance to the cemetery - just past the military hospital main gate.