Battle of Budapest

In late August 1944, the Red Army started an offensive and advanced into Hungary from Romania. As one of Germany's allies, Hungary was of particular strategic importance. After the loss of Romania, it was the only country with oil resources in the German sphere of influence. The Soviets advanced into Hungary in September. Hungary's head of state, Miklós von Horthy, negotiated a ceasefire with them on 15 October 1944. That same day saw the beginning of "Operation Panzerfaust": The Arrow Cross Party deposed Horthy with the help of SS troops.

In December, the Red Army encircled Budapest and laid siege to the city, which was occupied by 70,000 German and Hungarian soldiers and more than 800,000 civilians at the time. Hitler's order that the city must be held at all costs led to catastrophic conditions and high losses. 30,000 of the Germans and 17,000 of the Hungarians fighting on one side, and almost 80,000 of the members of Soviet and Romanian troops fighting on the other side lost their lives.

The German troops that still remained in the city after a mass breakout attempt capitulated on 13 February 1945.

Gefördert durch:

Auswärtiges Amt

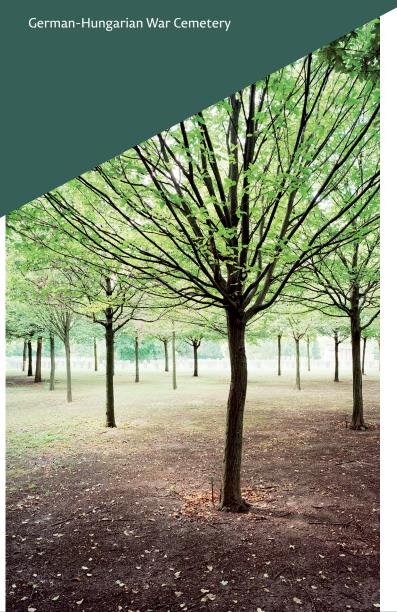**VOLKSBUND DEUTSCHE KRIEGSGRÄBERFÜRSORGE E.V.**

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.

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VOLKSBUND DEUTSCHE KRIEGSGRÄBERFÜRSORGE E.V.

BUDAÖRS

German-Hungarian War Cemetery

More than 16,300 Second World War casualties are buried here

The Budaörs war cemetery was inaugurated on 19 October 2002. It is the largest German war cemetery in Hungary. More than 16,300 German and almost 800 Hungarian soldiers who fell during the Second World War, not least also during the Battle of Budapest between 28 October 1944 and 13 February 1945, are buried here. At the time, the country was occupied by the German army and ruled by a satellite regime installed by Adolf Hitler.

War casualties from battles in other parts of Hungary have also been reinterred at Budaörs. Graves in around 1400 other locations were opened and the bodies exhumed and laid to rest here. Further reinterments are still ongoing. The steles at the high cross and the metal name book are memorials to the more than 7000 war casualties that can no longer be recovered.

The planning for the cemetery began in 1992. The Hungarian architects Margit Dékány and János Csongrádi designed the cemetery together with the adjacent Peace Park. Since 1998, several hundred trees have been planted in the park – funded by sponsorships by relatives of the soldiers, other people interested in the project and members of the German War Graves Commission. The German War Graves Commission maintains another 14 war cemeteries in Hungary.

Cemetery

This war cemetery was inaugurated on 19 October 2002 – ten years after the begin of the planning. In his remembrance speech, the German ambassador to Hungary, Wilfried Gruber, voiced his hopes that the cemetery would be a place of remembrance, but also serve as a warning against war, and inspire a spirit of reconciliation, tolerance and an active commitment to peace.

The cemetery was designed by the architect János Csongrádi and the landscape architect Margit Dékány. The Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture's Department for Rural Development honoured the entire grounds and the buildings with the "Pro Architectura" prize.

The basic landscape design concept for the cemetery was realised in the form of visual axes along the paths that continue right into the Peace Park. Keeping the visual axes free resulted in separate copses. Groups of trees symmetrically divide the main axes. In contrast, the areas where the graves are located remain free of trees.

B

D F

E

H

A Information point
B Exhibition with Book of Names
C Reception board
D High Cross – Central site of commemoration
E Name stones for those resting among the unknown. When the dead are buried whose names are known, but cannot be allocated individually, they are buried as "Unknown".

F Steles at the High Cross for those who cannot be retrieved. The names of German soldiers who died in the region and couldn't be retrieved are listed on the steles.
G1 Grave block 1. The dead that were previously at rest on the war cemetery of the X. District in Budapest are interred here. Their names are listed on the name stones.

G2 Grave block 2. Soldiers of the Hungarian Army are interred in this field of graves. They fought as allies of the Germans.
G3–13 Grave blocks 3 to 13

H Metal name book for those who cannot be retrieved. The name book supplements the steles at the High Cross by additional war casualties that cannot be retrieved.
I Peace Park
J Restrooms

1 German-Hungarian War Cemetery Budaörs

2 Soviet War Cemetery established in the existing Kerepesi Cemetery. Here Soviet soldiers killed in action in the battle of Budapest in 1945 are laid to rest.

3 British War Cemetery established in 1947. Here 173 war casualties from the Royal Air Force are laid to rest.

4 Memento Park opened in 1993. Collection of communist monuments from the period 1945-1989.

5 New general cemetery accommodates Polish, Soviet, Italian and Romanian casualties of the Second World War.

6 Holocaust Monument erected in 1949 by Alfred Hajós on the Kozma Cemetery, the largest Jewish cemetery in Hungary.

7 Work of art "Shoes on the banks of the Danube" was created by Gyula Pauer and János Can Togay in 2005; the memorial remembers the shooting of Jews on the banks of the Danube from October 1944 to January 1945.

8 The Holocaust Monument by Imre Varga commemorates over 400,000 Hungarian Jews who were murdered by National Socialists.

9 The Hungarian Military Museum presents Hungarian military history up to the World Wars and beyond.

10 The Soviet monument on the Freedom Square commemorates the Red Army soldiers who died in the battle of Budapest in 1945.

11 The House of Terror Museum commemorates all the victims in Hungary who died under the two totalitarian regimes of the 20th century with its exhibition.

N

5km to the centre of Budaörs
15km to the centre of Budapest

Gyár u.

BUDAPEST

Budaörs