

HISTORY

THE OLD CEMETERY



In February 1828 the City of Helsinki Registry Office handed over a plot of land to 'local adherents of the Lutheran Christian faith' that has since become known as the old Hietaniemi cemetery. It is situated between the Lapinlahti district and the old Russian Orthodox cemetery which was established in 1815. There was a clear need for a new cemetery as Helsinki, recently made the capital of the country, was growing rapidly and the old cemeteries located in the present-day centre were

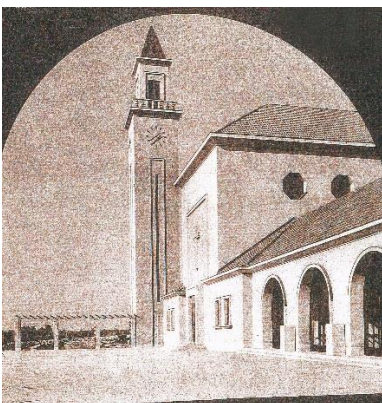
being cleared to make space for the expanding city. The cemetery was established in October 1829.

THE NEW CEMETERY

In just under three decades the cemetery was suffering from a shortage of space and so a committee was set up in 1856 to look into the possibility of expanding. A decision was made to incorporate land lying to the northwest, belonging to the Sandudd and Sandnäs villas, resulting in the new cemetery being established in September 1864.



THE HIETANIEMI AREA



The next time the cemetery acquired new land was in the 1930s when the city gave it a plot between the new cemetery and the Taivallahti district, this area was inaugurated in 1931 with the work on the new chapel completed in 1933. The Second World War saw the establishment of Finland's largest heroes' cemetery at Hietaniemi which is the final resting place of 3,164 Helsinki-born and 121 German heroes. The area now houses a notable collection of the nation's wartime memorials.

THE URN GROVE



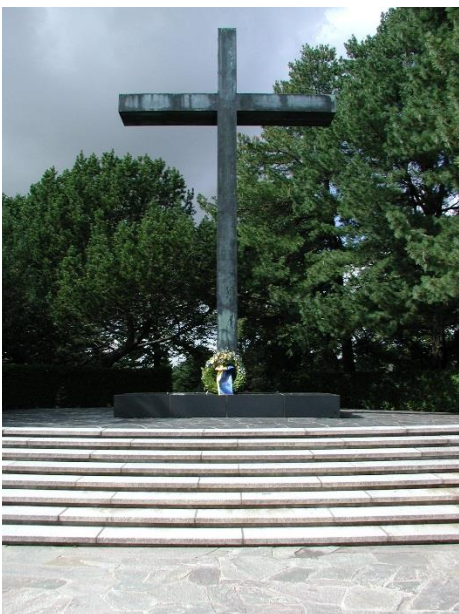
The latest addition to the cemetery took place in 1949 when a burial site for urns was inaugurated to the north of Hietaniemenkatu. Next to the Urn Grove you can find the chapel of the privately-run Finnish Cremation Foundation which was designed by the architect Bertel Liljeqvist and consecrated in 1926.

THE CEMETERY OF THE GUARD OF FINLAND

The cemetery area is completed by the Old Cemetery of the Guard of Finland which is located towards the Lapinlahti side of the area, west of the Orthodox Cemetery. Inaugurated in 1833, this cemetery originally belonged to the Guard's own parish with mostly soldiers buried there. Today this historic cemetery, now run by the Parish Union of Helsinki is reserved for the descendants of the members of the Guard parish and the White Guard Regiment.



MONUMENTS AND HEROES' GRAVES



A bronze cross for war heroes by sculptor Wäinö Aaltonen, Marshal Mannerheim's grave monument and a memorial wall commemorating fallen soldiers whose remains were never returned were erected next to the war heroes' cemetery and unveiled during a ceremony held on Ascension Day in 1954. Later, a number of monuments dedicated to people who lost their lives in wars have been set up in the area, including a memorial to German war heroes and a monument designed by sculptor Heikki Häiväoja in honour of soldiers who died as prisoners of war. The lane running south from the memorial area is lined with monuments in remembrance of the suffering of various groups of people in war, along with memorials to notable individuals including General Adolf Ehrnrooth. Burial sites for veterans and their spouses are located in the area of the cemetery closest to the sea.