

Creating a Geographically Registered Database for Cemeteries

http://www.ims.forth.gr/joint_projects/e-mem/pilot_studies.htm

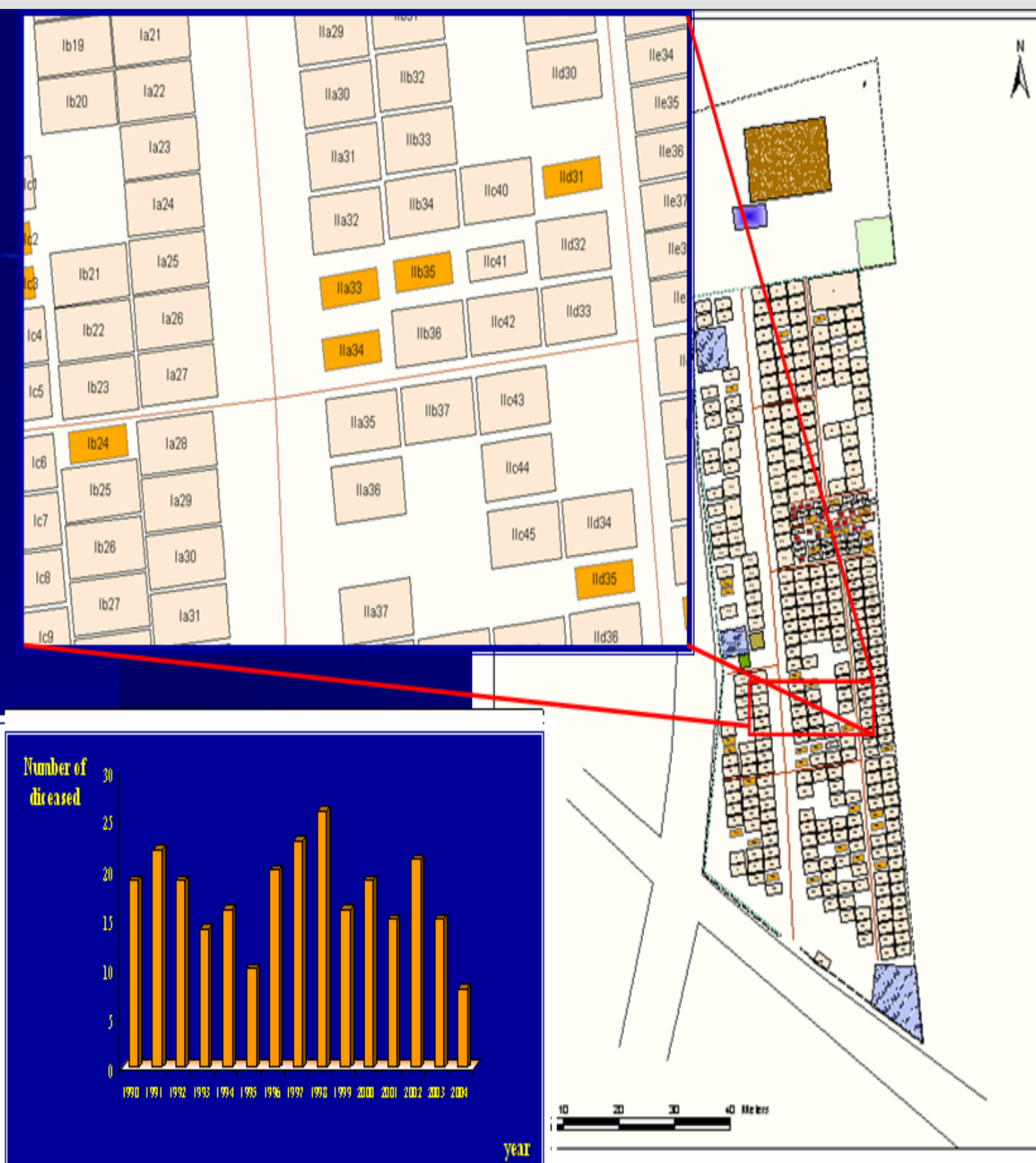


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The Institute for Mediterranean Studies was involved in the mapping of 3 representative cemeteries in Greece as part of a larger project (e-Mem) falling under the umbrella of e-Content of the E.U.

The goal of the project was to create a geographically registered database of the graves and the deceased to be used as a management tool for the cemeteries.



CASE STUDY 1: Cemetery of Agios Georgios in Perivolia, Rethymnon

Historical Background

- **Date:** It was built before the date of 1826.
- **Monument:** Grave of "Tessaris Martires" (executed by Turks on the 28 of Oct. 1824).

Graveyard

- **Number of graves:** 367 in almost straight rows.
- **Type of graves:** Built Graves: 332 Communal Graves: 35
- **Ossuaries:** 3
- **Dimensions of graves:** Height of the "holos": up to 2.5 meters (adults 2.20x1.0m, children 1.10x0.50m)
- **Distance between graves:** 0.25m (N), 0.25m (S), 0.60m. (W), 1m. (E).
- **Depth of graves:** 1 meter
- **Greece:** Fill the grave with earth and stamp it with marble or cement plaque. **Crete:** Lay the coffin in the grave and stamp it with marble or cement - lime plaque (without filling it with earth).



Built Graves (Family Tombs)

- **Type:** Rectangular Graves
- **Consists of:** a plaque, a little box (with photo/s of the dead/s, a small "oil-lamp", icon & flowers) & a cross.

Communal Graves

- **Type:** Simple rectangular cists.
- **Consists of:** 3 rectangular cement plaques stamped with lime. There are no photos of the dead, icons or other ornate.



Case Study 3: Muslim cemetery in Komotini (NE of the town), Northern Greece Cemetery of Yeni Mahalle

Number of Graves: There are 784 graves

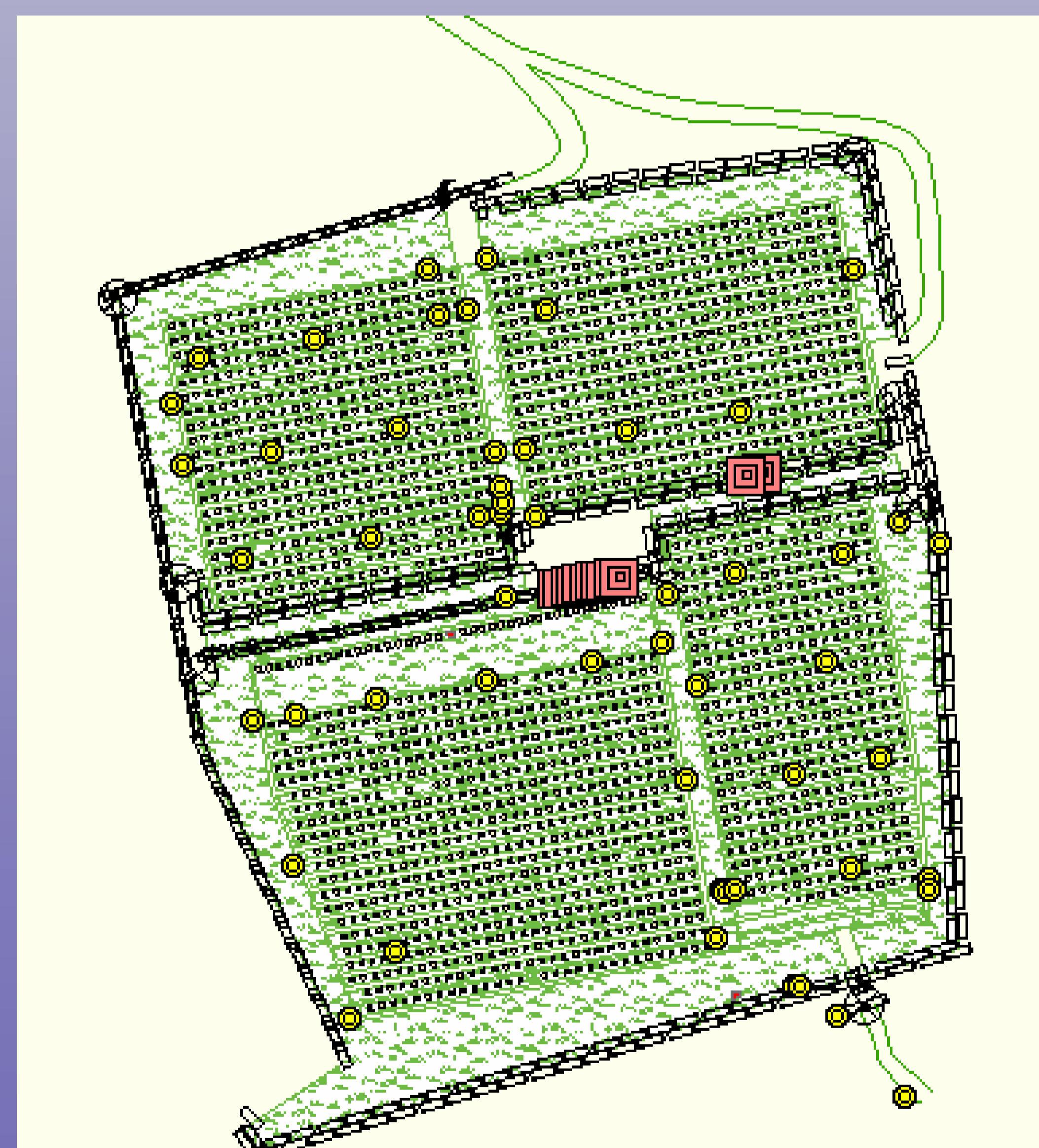
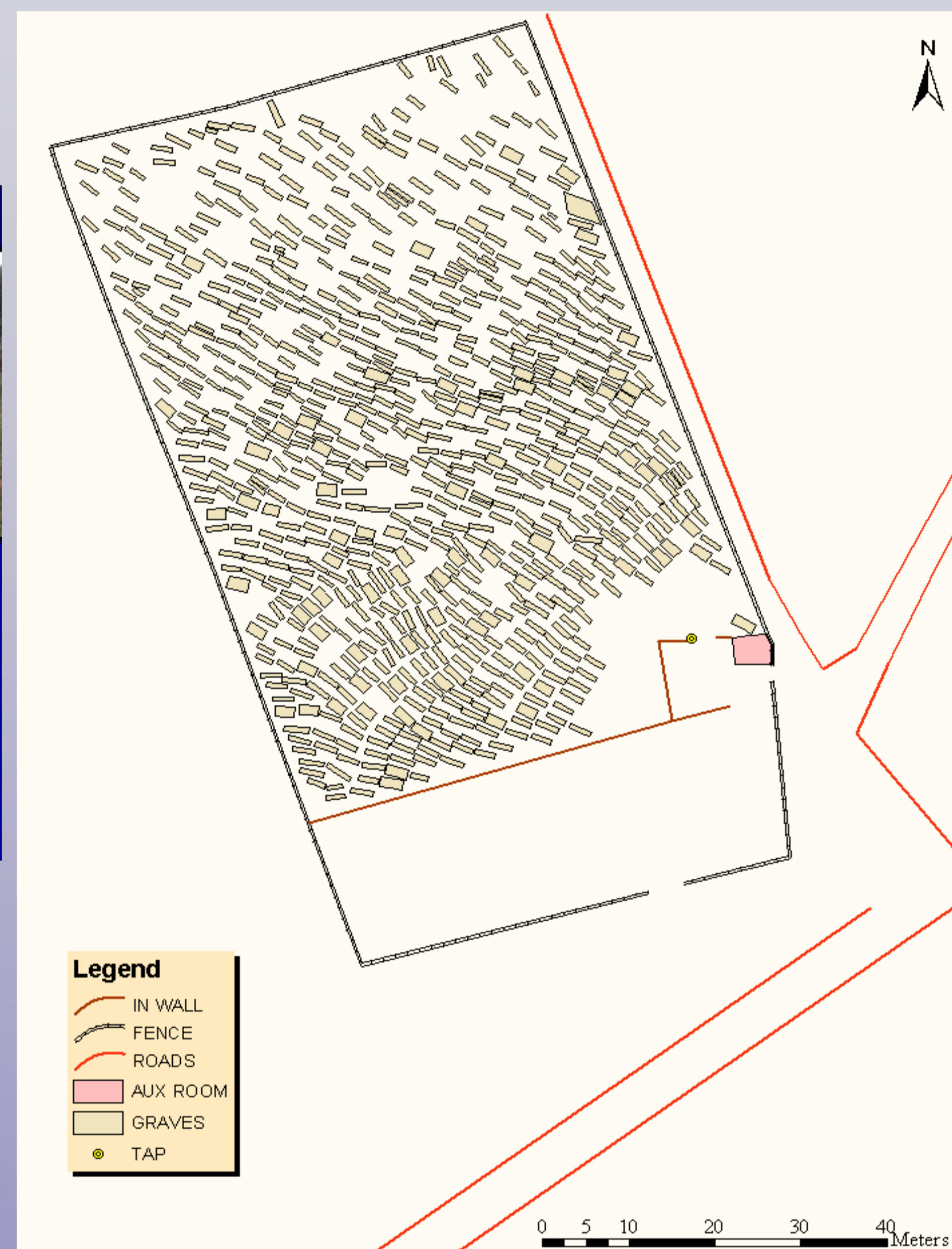
Graves made of: Marble, Cement or stones

Orientation: Towards Mecca

Grave's Alphabet: One of the two headstones is written in *Arabic alphabet* (usually the one on the head) & the other in *modern Turkish alphabet* (usually the one on the legs). However, some graves have both headstones on the Arabic alphabet written.



Special thanks to Mr. Metso Tzemali, responsible of the Muslim community in Komotini, for granting us the permit to study the cemetery of Yeni Mahalle.



German War Cemetery, Maleme, Chania

2nd in the world in visitor numbers

- **Officially opened:** By German ex-officer Gericks, 1974
- **Number of Graves:** There are 4,465 burials
- **Consists of:** Germans who lost their lives at Maleme
- **Re-located burials:** Germans who were initially buried: a) in mass graves in the NW sector of Heraklion airport, b) in front of the chapel at Galatas near Chania c) in the cemetery of the German parachutists fallen in Heraklion
- **Headstones:** They are in fact tablets laid flat on the ground, one tablet for two men. At intervals, there are also small stone crosses.



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