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RUSSIAN MILITARY HOSPITAL IN PIRAEUS (GREECE)

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Queen Olga of Hellenes (Grand Duchess Olga Constantinovna of Russia) a member of the Romanov dynasty and wife of King George I of Greece built the Russian Hospital in Piraeus in memory of her daughter, Alexandra, who died in Moscow in 1891 after premature birth of her second child. In 1939 when Alexandra's nephew George II of Greece was reigning, the Greek government obtained a permission from the Soviet government under Josef Stalin to rebury Princess Alexandra in Greece. Her body was removed from the vault in Leningrad and transferred by a Greek ship to Athens. It was finally laid to rest near the Tatoi Palace. Alexandra's marble tombstone over an empty tomb is still in its place in the Peter and Paul Cathedral.



The "*Alexandra Maternity Hospital*" (now "*Alexandra General Hospital*") in Athens was later named in her memory by another nephew, King Paul; it was affiliated with the University of Athens with a special remit to research and combat postpartum maternal mortality.

Queen Olga purchased a building in Piraeus in 1897 with her personal funds and with the financial assistance, of her cousin, the Tsar of Russia, in order to strengthen relations between Greece and Russia and in order to promote the common elements of the two countries.

The building was renovated and restructured, and in 1902 the "Russian Hospital of Piraeus" was inaugurated by the Greek Royal Family. A church of Saint Olga was built within the hospital in honor of the Queen.



Its purpose was to care for Russian sailors of the Russia Mediterranean Fleet and local residents, free of charge.

Indicative of the services offered was that during the period of 1902-1923, 5,399 patients were hospitalized while 924,091 were treated during the same period.

In 1903 next to the Hospital Russian Church of Saint Olga was erected

On November 9, 1925 and while the Greek Royal Family was in exile, a governmental decree was issued by which the hospital was converted into a medical institution for the Greek Navy. It operated regularly until 1981 when due to earthquake damages, its function was inhibited. The Naval Hospital reopened in 2000 following repair of the damage.

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