

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The Governor
Malta.

To honour her brave people
I award the George Cross to the
Island Fortress of Malta to bear
witness to a heroism and devotion
that will long be famous in history.

George R.I.

April 15th 1942.

**TWO MALTESE FARMERS READING THE TIMES OF MALTA (15 April 1942)
ABOUT THE AWARDING OF THE GEORGE CROSS TO THE ISLAND OF MALTA**



Hal Far Fighter Flight – Faith Hope and Charity

Faith (serial number N5520), a [Gloster Sea Gladiator](#) Mk I, on the ground at an airfield in Malta, in about September 1940. N5520 is the only surviving Gladiator from the Hal Far Fighter Flight and was presented to the people of Malta in 1943.

The **Hal Far Fighter Flight** was a British fighter unit formed during the Siege of Malta in 1940. For several weeks, the island of Malta was protected by a small force of Gloster Sea Gladiator biplane fighters, based at RAF Hal Far, which was also known as the Fleet Air Arm station HMS *Falcon*. The flight is the source of the myth that only three aircraft, named *Faith*, *Hope* and *Charity* formed the fighter cover for the island.^{[1] [2]} In fact, more than three aircraft were operational, though not always at the same time; others were used for spare parts.^[3] The names *Faith*, *Hope* and *Charity* were applied to the aircraft many months later, by a Maltese newspaper.^[4]

Background - Crates containing 18 Sea Gladiators Mark I (serial numbers N5518 – N5535) from 802 Naval Air Squadron, were left at Malta in early 1940 by HMS *Glorious*. Three of the airframes (N5532, N5533 and N5534) were later shipped to Britain to take part in the Norwegian campaign and another three were sent to Egypt. In March, although Malta was not facing attack, it was decided that six Gladiators would be assembled to form an air defence unit. The Hal Far Fighter Flight was to include both FAA and Royal Air Force personnel. Five aeroplanes were eventually assembled, including N5525, N5527, N5530 and N5533 but a few days later, they were dismantled again.

In April, it was decided that Malta had a need for fighter protection and although the Gladiators were obsolete, they could hold their own in air combat against *Regia Aeronautica* bombers. N5519, N5520, N5522 and N5531 were assembled and test-flown. Two of these were to be used for normal operations, one was kept for spares and the other was kept in reserve. (Another source states that the aircraft assembled in April were N5519, N5520, N5523, N5524, N5529 and N5531; N5518, N5521, N5522 and N5525-28 and N5530 were to be the spares.) In May, N5524 and N5529, were assembled and other crated aircraft were to be used as spares. On 11 June 1940, when the air battle for Malta began, the air defence consisted of four Gladiator aircraft, two of which maintained a continuous stand-by during daylight hours.^[5] N5520, better known as *Faith*, was fitted with an engine salvaged from a Bristol Blenheim bomber, which also used the Bristol Mercury engine and a Blenheim three-blade Hamilton propeller, rather than the standard two-blade propeller.

Air raids begin - By June, two of the Gladiators had crashed and two more were assembled.^[6] On 10 June, Italy entered the war. That same day 10 Cant Z.1007 bombers of the *Regia Aeronautica* attacked Grand Harbour and Hal Far. In early raids, the Italian crews bombed from around 5,500 m (18,000 ft) and later reduced the bombing altitude to 3,000 m (9,800 ft), to improve their accuracy. A reporter, Mabel Strickland claimed that "the Italians decided they didn't like [the Gladiators and AA guns], so they dropped their bombs [30 km (19 mi)] off Malta and went back."

Four Hawker Hurricanes joined the Sea Gladiators at the end of June and the flight became part of No. 261 Squadron RAF. *Charity* was shot down on 29 July 1940 and its pilot, Flying Officer (F/O) P. W. Hartley, was badly burned. *Hope* was destroyed in an air raid on 4 February 1941 and *Faith* survived the war. The fate of at least five more Gladiators that saw action over Malta is not as well documented. Sea Gladiators N5513 and N5535 were taken over by No. 33 Squadron RAF, in May 1941 (suggesting that the serial number usually allocated to *Hope* is incorrect).

The fuselage of *Faith* is on display at the National War Museum, Fort St Elmo, Valletta.^[8] No. 1435 Flight RAF took over the defence of Malta from 4 December 1941, flying the Spitfire from July. Today 1435 Flight garrisons the Falkland Islands. The Phantom aircraft assigned to the defence of the Falklands in 1988 wore a Maltese Cross on their fins and bore the names *Faith*, *Hope* and *Charity* with an additional aircraft called *Desperation*. The tradition was continued by the Panavia Tornado and then the Eurofighter Typhoons, although the Typhoons do not carry the names.



shedding light on the oft-forgotten RAF battle over Malta

These stirring black and white images have shed light on the RAF air battle over Malta, a ferocious but often forgotten chapter of the Second World War. The stunning pictures show British Royal Air Force pilots proudly displaying Swastika-clad trophies from downed Luftwaffe planes on the island, a strategically situated outpost of the British Empire. Other shots show children playing

among the plane wreckage, pilots posing with their planes and surviving participants of the battle revisiting Malta - a British colony at the time - years later.

The rare snaps are showcased in a new book, [Air Battle of Malta](#), by Anthony Rogers, which studies the bloody two-year battle and looks at how life was for locals and servicemen during that time.

'Malta was a strategically situated outpost of the British Empire and a threat to the ambitions of Italy and Germany,' he said.



'In order to remove the threat, it was first necessary to neutralise Malta's defensive capability and the best way to do so, prior to inserting ground forces, was by using air power and attaining air superiority.'

'Very simply put, Malta is situated in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, thus providing British forces with an ideal naval and air base from which to strike at Axis supply routes between Italy and North Africa.'

Due to its location in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, Malta was brought into the war when the campaign began in North Africa in mid-1940.



It became one of the most intensively bombed areas during the war as the Italian and German navies sought to destroy the RAF defences and ports.



Pictured is one of four 3.7-inch AA guns at XHB 8, near Bnghisa, Malta, which was credited with the destruction of two of the three Ju 88s brought down during the night of 20-21 July 1942

Two pilots of 185 Squadron also had to

abandon their fighters. Sergeant Ernie Broad (right, with Australian, Jack Yarra) baled out at Naxxar

The Nazis sought to destroy the RAF defences and ports in Malta, then a British colony. Pictured are jubilant British and Maltese servicemen and locals posing with the wreckage of the downed Becker's Messerschmitt aircraft

Although the British forces successfully defended the outpost, the impact was felt across the island, with 3,000 bombing raids over two years and a huge loss of life.

It effectively ended in November 1942, when Axis powers had to divert forces to battles which were raging in North Africa - notably the Battle of Tunisia - rapidly reducing the attacks on Malta.

Air and sea forces based in Malta quickly went on the offensive and sunk 230 Axis ships in 164 days, the highest Allied sinking rate of the war.

The siege - which saw the Italian and German navies fight against the British RAF and Royal Navy - is often seen as the turning point of the war in the Mediterranean.

Oberleutnant Viktor Schnez (left) with Oberleutnant Georg Lust, photographed in November 1941 south-west of Leningrad. Lust was reported missing with his crew during a sortie near Malta on 30 December 1941. Schnez and his crew survived after being shot down on 3 January 1942

Pictured are servicemen in Gibraltar on their way to Malta in July 1940. Sergeant Bill Timms is second from left, while the sergeant pilot to his left is thought to be Roy O'Donnell, who died two weeks later as a result of a low-level bale-out from his Hurricane on 11 January 1941

Life on Malta during this period posed some hardships, including a lack of food, the blackout and the continual threat of invasion. Children among pictured among the Stuka wreckage

Malta was one of the most intensively bombed areas during the war, suffering 3,000 bombing raids over two years as the Nazis sought to destroy the RAF defences and ports. Pictured is Hurricane V7430 in which Pilot Officer R. J. Goode was shot down at Pwales Valley on 28 March 1941



Life on Malta during this period certainly posed some hardships, as explained by Mr Rogers.

'Certainly, there was a very serious shortage of everyday essentials, not least food, which made life extremely difficult,' he added.

'One had to contend with the bombing

day and night, the blackout and the very real threat of invasion. But, for some, particularly the children, it was undoubtedly an exciting time.'

Malta holds a fond place in Mr Roger's heart, having grown up there as his mother was a native Maltese, and later returned to serve with the Royal Marines. John Galea, pictured in 1997, indicates the crash site of a Spitfire below the Chapel of Our Lady of the Abandoned in Malta

'I enjoy history generally and find Malta's past particularly interesting, not least the island's role during the Second World War,' he said.

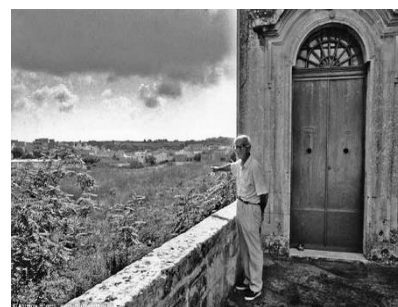
'Much has been written about the latter period. I decided to be different, to present a vivid retelling of events, focussing on the loss of British, Italian and German aircraft and, frequently, their pilots and crews.

'At the same time I wanted to provide a detailed record of where those events occurred, thus creating a book that will continue to be valued by future generations.'

The Queen also has close ties to the Mediterranean island, where she lived between 1949 and 1951 while her husband, Prince Philip, was in the Royal Navy. She has previously described the time as the 'happiest' of her lives.

Air Battle of Malta, by Anthony Rogers, is published by Pen and Sword.

Pilot Officer Phil Wigley (left) baled out at Ghar Lapsi. He is pictured with Pilot Officer Ron Noble. The rare snaps are showcased in a new book, Air Battle of Malta, by Anthony Rogers and published by Pen and Sword





Maltese Community Council of South Australia Incorporated

The Maltese Community Council of SA (MCC) consists of an Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer), delegates from 7 affiliated Maltese societies



Maltese Guild of SA, Maltese Senior Citizens Association of SA, Maltese Chaplaincy Festivities Group, Maltese Queen of Victories Band, Maltese Community Radio, St Catherine Society of SA, Maltese Aged Care Association of South Australia.

The Honorary Members are the Maltese Chaplain Rev. Father Gabriel s Micallef OFM and Honorary Consul Frank L Scicluna OAM

Under the proficient leadership of its President, Mr Edgar Agius OAM JP, the MCC endeavours to maintain a harmonious and tolerant environment between all societies and members of our Maltese community.

The MCC, where applicable, represents our community to both the Australian and Maltese governments. The MCC has been involved in Australia Day celebrations, ANZAC Day commemoration and has actively supported the visits of various Maltese dignitaries, both political and religious visiting our State of South Australia

Through its monthly meetings the MCC enables its affiliated societies to pass on relevant and updated information, promote their upcoming events and report on the general activities of their particular society. The MCC encourages societies to work together for the good of the community and to promote unity, so as a Maltese Community we can provide a better quality of life and recreation for our members.

Of course, it goes without saying, that at times, there are challenges and misunderstandings but the MCC always strives to have those issues resolved in an amicable and agreeable way. The MCC makes every effort to offer counselling and mediation where necessary.

It is the objective of the MCC to continue to provide a platform for all Maltese in South Australia to uphold pride in their Maltese heritage and culture and also be an integral part of their adopted country of Australia.

United as a Maltese Community Council, all Maltese societies strive together to provide the best opportunities available for the members of the Maltese community we are proud to be part off and love so much.

Resurrection statue damaged during Vittoriosa run

Ended up without a left arm

The statue of the Risen Christ in Vittoriosa ended up without a left arm after an incident during the morning procession on Sunday. The statue was being carried on one of the traditional runs when it hit a wire and the arm - which held a flag - was damaged and had to be removed.

This statue was made by Salvu Psaila in 1833.



Prime Minister and wife meet the Maltese in Melbourne

March 2018,



Hundreds of Maltese emigrants, along with their children and grandchildren, attended an activity held in Melbourne for the Maltese community to meet with Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and Michelle Muscat.

Coming from different parts of Malta and having lived for many years in the state of Victoria, they spoke to Muscat's family of their childhood memories and their youth in Malta and Gozo, recounting their lives and their cherished memories, and how succeeding generations continued successfully in Australia.

Speaking at the occasion, the Prime Minister thanked the Maltese community in Melbourne for such a great turn out to the meeting. He urged them to continue participating in activities organized by the Maltese for the Maltese, Muscat said that it was also crucial to participate with the Australian community. He said that the Maltese in Australia should not be a minority group but part of the Australian continent, just as much as they feel that Malta is their home.



PHOTO : DOI - Jason Borg

Muscat said that, as demonstrated through economic results, every visit abroad is trying to bring more jobs to Malta. He also spoke about the satisfaction he feels when listening to grandchild of those who went to find employment in Australia, who are considering going back to work in Malta.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion Carmelo Abela and Parliamentary Secretary for Youth, Sport and Voluntary Organizations Clifton Grima also addressed the hundreds of migrants present.

LUDWIG GALEA FROM VALLETTA TO SYDNEY FOR THE V18 CONCERT



The Maltese Cultural Association of NSW (MCA) with the support of one of its Major Sponsors, George Vella of Breakaway Travel Blacktown, was able to give the Maltese community of Sydney the pleasure of joining in Valletta's celebration by bringing Ludwig Galea, one of Malta's most loved Rock Tenors as their

Special Guest Vocalist for this show.

Thanks to the support of Wentworthville Leagues Club, on Sunday 25 March show in the Starlight room was a complete sellout and it was wonderful to see the the large audience enjoying over three hours of first class entertainment. Ludwig absolutely captivated the people with his powerful tenor voice that included many Maltese classics, songs from Phantom of the Opera as well as a some Neopolitan songs including O'Surdato Nnamorato and Mamma!

A few of Ludwig's singing credits include: The President's August Moon Ball 2017, Oliver 2016 (Fagin), Jesus Christ Superstar playing the part of Jesus, Joseph and his Technicolor Dream Coat 2015 (Joseph), The Eurovision Song Contest (Turkey 12th place) with the song "On Again Off Again", "Fil-Port Ma L-Ewropej" the Official song for Malta accession into the European Union. Ludwig is currently the resident singer on the popular TV program "Hadd Ghalik" which is aired on TVM .

Ludwig, who comes from Valletta, understood the strong need for the Maltese community of Sydney to hear him singing songs in Maltese and he did not disappoint them! Many people joined in with him, especially when he sang "Il Bagalja ta' L-Awstralja."

The show also featured two outstanding and popular young Maltese/Australian singers, James Cassar who has been involved in the entertainment scene since the age of seven and the 18 year old classically trained soprano A-LEE, who absolutely wowed the audience with her powerful ballads and duets with Ludwig Galea.

The MCA wishes to acknowledge the support of all the Maltese Media outlets in Sydney and interstate for their support in promoting this concert. A special thank you goes to Joe Mifsud from The Cittadini Theatre Group for his outstanding artistry in his recreation of *The Triton Fountain* as the main backdrop for the show.

The MCA wishes also wishes to thank its hardworking committee and volunteers and other sponsors including Sunny's Confectioneries, BGB Jewelers and the Limestone Café Schofields for their support and to all the people who helped make the show possible for Maltese Community of Sydney so that they could feel that they too were involved with Valletta's year of celebration. Viva Malta and Viva Valletta.

Report by Marisa Previtera and photos courtesy of Patrick Bartolo

Gold Coast - Queensland



Australia's Gold Coast is a city coming of age. Strategically located on the edge of the Asia-Pacific rim, with access to two international airports, the Gold Coast is perfectly positioned as a destination for business, investment, study, sport, events, tourism and lifestyle.



Situated in the south east corner of the state of Queensland, the Gold Coast stretches along 57 kilometres of coastline and is home to over half a million people. Beyond the city's beautiful beaches are vast, sub-tropical rainforests with breathtaking scenery.

Welcoming close to 12 million visitors each year, the Gold Coast is full of attractions and things to do. As Australia's premier tourist destination, the city offers a

vibrant mix of shopping, accommodation, theme parks, restaurants, entertainment and events, along with an abundance of natural attractions.

The Gold Coast has developed into a diverse, cosmopolitan, forward-thinking city with a future full of promise. As host city for the Commonwealth Games in 2018, the Gold Coast is embracing transformative civic projects like never before, with more than \$13.5 billion in major infrastructure projects planned or underway set to change the face of our city in a way that is distinctly our own.



Celebration of Malta in Morwell Victoria

[Heidi Kraak](#)



The Victorian consul general of Malta officially opened the festa and participated in the celebrations, also commemorating the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Maltese Community Centre in the Latrobe Valley.

The Latrobe Valley Maltese Festa was held at Kernot Hall Morwell on Saturday, February 17.

There was also a men's and women's soccer game of Maltese players versus players of other nationalities at Ronald Reserve after the festa

Morwell's Maltese Festa is expected to attract thousands of people from across Gippsland and beyond to sample the best of Maltese culture.

Bigger and better than ever, the Latrobe Valley Maltese Festa attracted thousands of people from near and far for a taste of Maltese culture.

Festa committee member Mario Sammut said the festa would be held in Morwell on February 17 with a replica of a traditional Maltese fishing boat, known as a luzzu as the centrepiece of the event.

"[It was] very ably refurbished and painted by Thomas Libreri and other committee members," Mr Sammut said. (see photo)

"Thomas also built two traditional Maltese carts which will be an attraction when pushed around by ladies dressed in Maltese costumes, selling sweets and drinks.

"The luzzu was displayed on the grounds near Kernot Hall and everyone can take photos."

The boat has an eye symbol painted on it, which is also featured in the festa flyer, which has historical significance going back to Phoenician times, representing good luck at sea.

Amongst other attractions at the festa there was a bar area outside and a 200-seat restaurant inside Kernot Hall serving up traditional Maltese dishes.

There was also a unique exhibition of Maltese bizzilla, or lace-making, replicas of Maltese buildings and churches dating back to the 16th century.

Other features of the festa included Maltese music and entertainment, a traditional 20-piece marching band, an animal farm, face-painting, a gelati van, coffee vans, a jumping castle and lots more.





MALTESE selectors have included 22 uncapped domestic players in a preliminary 32-man Knights squad for the 2021 Rugby League World Cup Qualifiers starting in June this year. While the squad includes numerous experienced local campaigners including former vice captain Malcolm Attard, Dual Code Internationals Dragan Cerketa and Gary Hili and Overseas Rugby Club's Christian Briffa, selectors also named a handful of inexperienced youngsters.

Predictably, the Sliema Stompers club feature heavily as they have proven to be the dominant team within the local Rugby community for a lengthy period of time.

Jeremy Dela was also named despite defecting to play his rugby league in England last year.

Malta coach Sam Blyton-Keep said today "Players left out of the squad should not be discouraged, with the final team not due to be named until May 30 (one month prior to the first game)"

"It's a purpose of showing our domestic players that we are very confident with them in regards to playing in the World Cup Qualifiers and being involved in that Malta team," Blyton-Keep continued.

"And as for the players that haven't been picked and think they should be there, it's a great opportunity to show over the next few months that they have the form to warrant a position in the team."

Malta's World Cup qualifying campaign begins against Ukraine in Marsa on June 30.

SQUAD: - Jeremy Dela (Birmingham), Martin Barbara, Luke Cutajar, Damien Davis, Ernest Degabriele, Tyson Freeman, Liam Scicluna, Luke Xuereb, Jean Pierre Zarb (Falcons), Jon Jon Micallef (Gladiators), Clifford Debattista, Joseph Pio Mizzi (Gozo), Shaun Chircop, Nicholai Grech, Nathan Zammit (Kavalleri), Christian Briffa, James Donavan, Aiden Grech, Anthony Harvey, Alessandro Patamia (Overseas RC), Mark Alamango, Matthew Alexander, Malcolm Attard, Matthew Camilleri, Julian Caruana, Dragan Cerketa, Nick Formosa, Gary Hili, Nicky Maylor, Charles Mercieca, Aiden Micallef, Ryan Sullivan (Stompers).



We are planning to publish a book containing the main features and pictures which appeared in the Maltese Newsletter. Let us if you are prepared to help us?

AGIUS FAMILY IN WORLD WAR ONE



Sons Tancred, Joseph, Arthur, Richard, Edward, Alfred and Edgar on the Silver Wedding of Edward and Maria – 15th January 1898

Welcome to the E.T. Agius family website, dedicated to the memory of five remarkable brothers – from one extraordinary family. **Edward Tancred and Maria Concetta** were married in **Malta in 1873** and soon after set up home in Hampstead, London. They went on to have fifteen children, two sons dying in early childhood. Four of their daughters married Maltese gentlemen and settled in Malta; the youngest daughter married and lived in Gibraltar.



Edward was a ship owner and coal merchant. He travelled extensively throughout Europe, Russia and across the Mediterranean and was well placed more than most to notice the war clouds gathering ominously on the horizon.

The **five youngest children** – all boys – were educated at Downside School in Somerset. At the start of August 1914 brothers **Alfred and Arthur** were already in uniform – as officers in the Third London Regiment, Territorial Force – and **Edgar** was soon to follow suit. **Tancred** – by then a young Monk at Downside Abbey – completed his training for ordination and went on to serve as a Chaplain to the B.E.F. in 1917 – 1918. All four brothers saw service on the Western Front and survived the war, despite being wounded in some of the bloodiest conflicts. They were mentioned in despatches and two won the M.C.



Richard, the youngest of the family, completed his studies at Downside in July 1914, aged 17. In September he turned 18 and lost no time in obtaining a Commission in the London Regiment. He saw his first action at Gallipoli (Suvla Bay), and eventually joined his brothers on the Western Front in spring 1917. Richard was killed at Poelcappelle, near Ypres, on October 26th 1917, aged just 21. Had he survived the war it was his intention to become a monk at Downside Abbey.

Baton celebrates the friendship between Malta and Australia

Queen's Baton Relay



In September 2017 the Queen's Baton took center stage during the daily midday cannon salute in the Upper Barrakka of Malta's capital city Valetta, beginning the Relay leg with a bang.

Wandering the cobblestones streets of Valetta, hordes of tourists and locals cheered on Luke Bezzina and Rebecca Saré, two promising athletes hoping to compete at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (GC2018), as they carried the Queen's Baton in the warm sunshine.

Rebecca Saré is Malta's

national triple jump record holder and if things stay on track, she hopes to compete at her second Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast next April.

Glasgow 2014 was a wonderful experience. It was my first time competing in a full packed stadium and I believe the crowds cheering helped me break the national triple jump record, one that still stands today.

A number of local communities including Santa Venera, Sliema, Pembroke, Mellieha and Malta's sister island, Gozo, hosted the Queen's Baton Relay (QBR), showing off their love of sports and people.

In one of the northernmost villages of Mellieha, the junior male football team was training at the sports club, alongside a handful of children playing frame football. During water break, everyone got the chance to touch the Queen's Baton, including some young children with disabilities. Their big smiles told it all, it was a special moment for them to be involved alongside everyone else.

A number of Australians in Malta took part in the QBR too, highlighting the strong links that exist between the two nations.

The Australian High Commissioner to Malta, Julianne Hince, was delighted to celebrate the country's hosting of the Queen's Baton.

It is uplifting to take part in a sporting event which unifies so many peoples; to see the joy of all the batonbearers and what enthusiasm the Relay is generating for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Thanks to the help of Australian-Maltese born Anthony Micallef, the Queen's Baton made it safely from the Royal Yacht Club to the starting line of the annual Island Race on a sailing boat. A background in rugby and founder of 'Aussies in Malta', a group aiming to bring Australians living and travelling in Malta together, Anthony expressed his honour of being

I'm blessed to say that sport has given me many highlights over the years, lifetime memories in fact. People will ask, "Why did I carry the Queen's Baton?" The answer is simply, because I'm an everyday person.

AMAZING NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN PICTURES SHOW LIFE IN MALTA 100 YEARS AGO

APRIL 23, 2017 BAY NEWSBAY RETRO, BEAUTIFUL MALTA



Maltese children in their bare feet line up in the street for a photograph 100 years ago. These amazing pictures of around a dozen were never-before-seen photographs of Malta taken in 1916. They were uncovered by a photography enthusiast among an assortment of her grandfather's old photo slides.

In a series of candid snapshots, Private Joshua Whalley is seen in his army medical corps uniform as he carries out his duties in Malta.



In one he is seen riding on a donkey cart near Bahar-ic-Caghaq, in another he is photographed with his friends on a karozzin.

During his time in Malta, Joshua also snapped photos of Msida, Mosta, Notabile railway station near Rabat, Valletta's Royal Opera House as well as farmers working in fields, and the army camps at Pembroke and Ghajn Tuffieha. Joshua's granddaughter Sally Buck from Toronto in Canada said: 'He actually lied about his age to get into the army. He was only 16

She added: 'Malta was the British Empire's island hospital during the First World War, the Nurse of the Mediterranean. 'My mum's dad photographed the tents where surgeries were done.

'When they weren't treating patients, they swam, played games, and went into local towns. My grandfather documented a lot of this in his photos.'

'I fell in love with his little books of photos. I photographed them and created a small album.' See if you can recognise some of the locations.



Diggers in Malta in WW1 ... about 55,000 troops from the Gallipoli campaign came to Malta for care. Picture: Richard Ellis archive. *Source: Supplied*



NOSTALGIA



Father Charles Vella, founder of Cana Movement, dies



Fr Charles Vella, founder of family counselling service, the Cana Movement, has died aged 89.

Vella founded the Cana Movement in 1952 when he held the first marriage counselling service in Sliema. Archbishop Michael Gonzi officially approved the Kana Movement two years later.

Fr Charles Vella also served as Director of the International Centre for Family Studies in Milan.

Throughout the years, Vella's vision became a reality and the Cana

Movement established itself as one of the best in offering couples marriage counselling services.

The Archbishop of Malta wrote in Twitter in memory of Fr. Vella.

A heartfelt tribute to Msgr Charles Vella, an apostle of ministry to families, founder of the Cana Movement (Malta). Requiescat in pace. pic.twitter.com/8ExTa0Nln3

— Bishop CJ Scicluna (@BishopScicluna) March 17, 2018

French sailors in Malta during WWI

French officers and sailors leaving St Barbara church in Republic Street, Valletta, after Mass in WWI.

The outbreak of World War I in 1914 had cataclysmic repercussions worldwide. Among its minor effects was the disturbance of the traditional balances of power in the Mediterranean. The French and the British, together with Russia (the Entente Powers) fought on the same side of the lethal divide, against the Germans, the Austro-Hungarians and the Ottoman Empire (the Central Powers). The Mediterranean had, over the years, grown to be the barely-contested domain of the British fleet, the most powerful naval power in the world. All that was to change drastically with the outbreak of hostilities. Agreeing to a plea by the French naval high command, Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, told the French “use Malta as if it were Toulon”.

The British and the French admiralties assented to a unified command of the joint fleets. The two navies intended to cooperate closely, and to achieve this, they deemed a joint command indispensable. A British admiral was to be supremo of the two navies in the North Sea, but a French admiral was to be commander-in-chief of the British and French fleets in the Mediterranean. The two great navies first sailed under the orders of Admiral Augustin Boué de Lapeyrère, later under Admiral Louis Dartige du

Fournet, and finally under Admiral Dominique-Marie Gauchet.



WWI postcard showing French and British seamen waving their national banner.

How this arrangement worked, or failed to, is not the subject of this article. The joint fleets became the symbol of public unity and of private discord. The British navy, though under French command, could not and did not, overnight, forget its traditions, its pride, its prejudices and its achievements. Collaboration turned into awkward cohabitation, perhaps better marked by mutual distrust than by reciprocal respect.

The French Mediterranean fleet destined Grand Harbour as its base for the duration of the war, though it frequently repaired to Corfu and other venues too. It made its spectacular entrance in Malta on August 11, 1914 – as magnificent as Napoleon’s sally into Malta in 1798. The Maltese harbour was where its great battleships, its cruisers, its destroyers and flotillas mostly berthed when not engaged in action. Thousands of French officers and sailors swarmed all over the harbour towns – a boon for business – lodging, taverns, eateries, entertainment, whoring, theatres, clubs – and for postcard publishers too: hundreds of new cards were circulated, targeting specifically the French naval forces.

But the massive French presence also raised problems of discipline and control. Going through official documents one gets the impression that overall the French crews in Malta behaved reasonably well, and that by far the majority were not trouble-makers – noticeably less than British sailors, anyway.

I have written elsewhere about the broader lines of policies and the effects of the French stay in Malta during WW1, and I need not repeat my findings and observations. Hosting the navies of France and of



Japan became one of the principal functions thrust on Malta during the hostilities. Here I am concerned with some smaller fragments of history arising from the French presence in Malta, episodes that hardly changed the course of mankind, but equally left faint traces in the records. The National Archives in Santu Spiritu, Rabat, preserve plenty of the documents that help make up the larger picture, but also those lesser incidents that somehow managed to find minor immortality between the covers of yellowing files.

Special poster stamp issued for use by the French forces stationed in Malta in WWI.

Keep in mind that those who behave – the great majority – fail to leave imprints in the chronicles. Scoundrels usually have more strident claims to fame – or infamy. Considering the thousands of French

matelots who daily roamed the streets of Valletta and the Three Cities when their navy was in Malta, I would say that their behaviour on land was almost exemplary and hence unremarkable. The opposite would have been quite appropriate: much of the boozing, pimping and whoring in Valletta centred around Triq il-Franċiżi, so called because it abutted on that section of the fortifications called French Curtain by the Knights of Malta. But French naval personnel hardly figure, if at all, in what went on in the sleazier red light districts.

With a few exceptions. Some scuffled among themselves, some with the locals, others still, with their British colleagues, though French and British servicemen often posed for joint souvenir photographs in Malta, waving the Union Jack and the Tricolore.

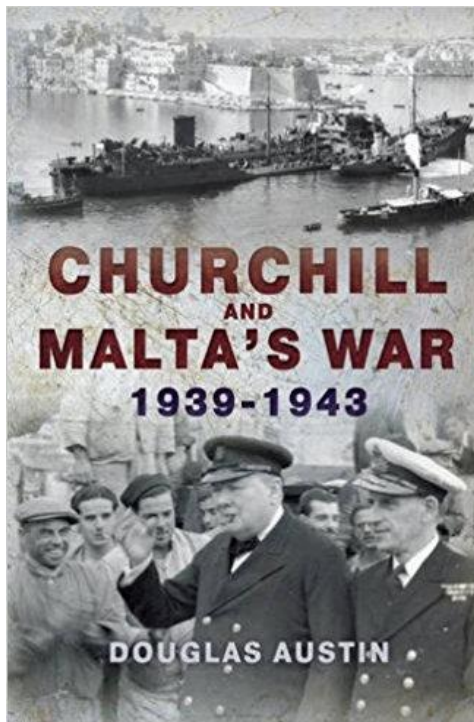
On March 19, 1916, a Maltese boatman and his son came to blows with French seamen they were ferrying across Grand Harbour to the torpedo ship *Temeraire*. Samwel and Spiru Zammit of Cospicua were taking some French sailors back to their vessel. The seamen offered French coins to pay their fare, but the boatmen wanted British currency “whereupon one of the Frenchmen assaulted him and commenced to strike him”.



They called out for help, and two other boatmen, Pietru Miranda and Rafel Busuttil, both from Vittoriosa, approached. The latter's passenger, Jules la Galliotte, jumped into the other boat and the three Frenchmen started hitting Zammit, causing him some injuries. Meanwhile, a patrol boat belonging to the battleship *Paris* approached and witnessed la Galliotte knocking Zammit into the sea, where he chose the safer option of swimming ashore as fast as he could.

This, at least, was what the Maltese reported to the police. Superintendent Ruggier Lapira did not appear at all convinced. He minuted that criminal action should be taken – against the Maltese boatman – and that the French sailors be invited to the police station to record their versions of the events.

Churchill and Malta's War 1939-1943



During the first four years of the Second World War, Churchill and his military advisers were constantly concerned with the defence and sustenance of Malta. From 11 June 1940, the island, only sixty miles from Italian and German airfields in Sicily, suffered intense and prolonged air attack, but Churchill refused to consider the abandonment of the island. He gave orders that every effort be made to provide the supplies needed to maintain a base from which Rommel's supply convoys to North Africa, and other enemy targets, could be attacked. Despite the hazards and severe losses, Malta pulled through and made a unique contribution to Allied victory in the Mediterranean.

This was recognised in April 1942 when King George VI awarded the George Cross to the island and its people. In this deeply researched volume, the story of Malta's heroic struggle is told through Churchill's official Malta Papers. These documents reveal the events as they unfolded and the top-level discussions and decisions which were necessary for the maintenance of Malta. They are also supplemented by extracts from letters, diaries and memoirs which shed additional light on these dramatic events.



FENECH

FAMILY FARM

Horsely Park NSW - We are a proud family business that has been operating for over 40 years. Established by Charlie and Rose Grima (as C&R Grima) in 1976, the farm has been managed by three generations of family members. In

2003 Marion and Joe Fenech took over the family business and changed its name to Fenech Family Farm. Joe and his sons Matthew and Nathan are the current owners.



Throughout the years, our values and work ethic remain unchanged. We are committed to providing our customers with quality products, efficient service and affordable prices.

Our customers are our number one priority. Indeed, we pride ourselves on our loyal and growing customer base, both local and from all four corners of Sydney. We love the fact that our family oriented traditions and service mean that many of our customers are second generation and tell us that when it comes to eggs and other farm products they wouldn't shop anywhere else!

We are current members of the Australian Egg Corporation and NSW Farmer's Association which helps us keep up to date with all the latest research and technology within our industry. We are also constantly updating our skills, services and products available to meet our customers needs.

The Fenech/Grima Family has focused on raising healthy hens to produce quality eggs for the past 40 years. We've gained skills and expertise during that time, as well as a loyal customer base – some of whom remember visiting the farm as children with their own parents! We love that our family tradition has started family traditions for our customers, who won't shop for their eggs anywhere else. Joe has 30 years of experience in the poultry industry and can answer just about any poultry-related question you've got.

Matthew grew up shadowing his dad around the farm every chance he got, learning along the way. Nathan brought his experience of running an office back to the farm when he joined his brother and father in the business.

Official Malta Papers. These documents reveal the events as they unfolded and the top-level discussions and decisions which were necessary for the maintenance of Malta. They are also supplemented by extracts from letters, diaries and memoirs which shed additional light on these dramatic events.

I have been sharing your News Letter with friends. I have recently become Facebook friends with a group of X Royal Engineers Malta section that was disbanded in 1970. I am finding a lot of old mates. These are the guys who you recently wrote about in your magazine. (about the air crash). I will be going to Malta on the 30th of this month and we are going to have a reunion and a small exhibit with photos and other memorabilia. We would like to have News 210 to put it on display (Hard copy) Is it possible to get a hard copy in Malta? if yes where from? Thank you Sir. Henry Berry (NSW)





Grima Bros Wholesale Produce at Gregory Hills NSW

THE BOOMING suburb of Gregory Hills is the home to the largest independent growers market in NSW - Grima Bros Wholesale Produce.

The shop, on Gregory Hills Drive contains fresh fruit and vegetables sourced daily from farmers as well as other delicacies from around the world. It features a European-inspired deli, bakery, butchery, floristry and general convenience section.

Grima Bros business manager Peter Grima said the store had a focus on supporting regional Aussie farmers in its business practices.



Picture: Ian SvegovicPicture

“With the foreign import and export of consumer goods, we want to keep our local farmers in business and support the Australian economy, and that’s why we source our produce direct,” he said.

Mr Grima said he and his brothers, Joe and Manny Grima, aimed to carry out a 60-year family legacy which dates back to when their grandfather established a fresh

produce business in Malta. “The concept was to source the highest quality produce from the paddocks and deliver it to your plates,” Joe Grima, the eldest of the three brothers, said.



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora



Our Journal is reaching readers from all over the world.
It is serving as a link especially among the Maltese living in Malta and those living overseas.
It is free non-political and easy to read. Share it with your relatives and friends. Become a member of our family - contact: maltesejournal@gmail.com

If you receive
and enjoy this
NEWSLETTER
Please, drop me
a line to show
your
appreciation

JO JO ZEP CAMILLERI



Joseph Vincent "Joe" Camilleri, (born 21 May 1948 in Malta) aka **Jo Jo Zep** or **Joey Vincent**, is an Australian vocalist, songwriter and saxophonist. Camilleri has recorded as a solo artist and as a member of Jo Jo Zep & The Falcons and The Black Sorrows. Jo Jo Zep & The Falcons' highest charting single was "Hit & Run" from June 1979, which peaked at #12;^[5] Jo Jo Zep's "Taxi Mary" peaked at No. 11 in September 1982;^[5] and The Black Sorrows top single, "Chained to the

Wheel", peaked at No. 9 in March 1989.

Camilleri has also produced records for The Sports, Jo Jo Zep & The Falcons, Paul Kelly & the Dots, The Black Sorrows, Renée Geyer and Ross Wilson.^[4] Australian music journalist, Ian McFarlane, described him as "one of the most genuinely talented figures in Australian music",^[3] and, as a member of Jo Jo Zep & The Falcons, Camilleri was inducted into the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) Hall of Fame in 2007.^{[7][8]}

Early years[edit]

Joe Camilleri was born the third of ten children in Malta in 1948. The family migrated to Australia when he was two.^[9] Camilleri grew up in Port Melbourne and listened to rock music on the radio.^[9] His mother called him Zep and he became known as Jo Zep. Camilleri began his music career in 1964 when literally thrown onstage to sing with The Drollies.^[9] He played blues and R&B in the mid-1960s with The King Bees, and was then a member of Adderley Smith Blues Band. In 1968, lead singer for the band, Broderick Smith had been conscripted for National Service during the Vietnam War.^[9] Camilleri lasted a year with Adderley Smith, and enjoyed working with the band including guitarist Kerryn Tolhurst (later in The Dingoes with Smith). According to Australian music journalist Ed Nimmervoll, Camilleri was sacked for sounding too much like Mick Jagger and upstaging other band members.¹ After Adderley Smith, Camilleri was a member of various bands, including The Pelaco Brothers during 1974–1975.

Few Aussie musicians have covered as much musical territory as Joe Camilleri. Over half a century, Camilleri has risen to the heights of the mainstream, delved into everything from country to funk to reggae, paid tribute to his musical heroes, produced some of the nation's top acts and been inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame. Through Jo Jo Zep & The Falcons, The Black Sorrows and numerous other combos, the 66-year-old has helped shape the Australian musical landscape. So it's kind of strange to hear him describe music as a pastime. "I still find (music) really exciting," he said. "But it's my hobby. I find peace inside it. I'm not a workaholic ... well, I don't think I'm a workaholic." Having said that, Camilleri has just recorded albums #46 and #47, which are due to be released on Record Store Day in April — just 12 months since he released The Black Sorrows' latest effort Certified Blue, which was one of the biggest selling jazz/blues albums in Australia last year. "I didn't set out to do it," he said of the two new albums.

Readers around the World

this e-newsletter is preserved at the

MALTA MIGRATION MUSEUM - VALLETTA
MALTESE-CANADIAN MUSEUM - TORONTO
GOZO NATIONAL LIBRARY
FACEBOOK - TWITTER

WEBSITE: ozmalta.page4.me/

Subscribe: maltesejournal@gmail.com

**SEND US YOUR
SUGGESTIONS,
IDEAS, COMMENTS
ON HOW TO
IMPROVE OUR
JOURNAL**

A real-life tragedy involving the shipwreck of a family fishing boat became the impetus for this drama set against the background of a refugee crisis. Director Cremona portrays the dimensions of the human rights dilemma as scores of African migrants adrift in the Mediterranean between Italy and Malta are refused entry to either nation. The lives of a doctor reluctantly drawn into aid work, a fisherman and his little boy, and a Malian immigrant laborer intersect fatefully. **SIMSHAR** was Malta's first-ever submission for Academy Awards consideration in 2015. In Maltese and English with English subtitles. Courtesy of Kukumajsa Productions. .



What Did You Think of Simshar?

by Iggy Fenech in Film

"Simshar is a sad, compelling and well-produced film, which has some brilliant, local actors... One word of advice: take a

packet of tissues with you." – Carina Camilleri

"I thought Simshar was very authentic and it speaks about situations that were as current 10 years ago as they are today. It also fills you with hope towards certain people opening their minds to different realities than the ones they live in. It has a story that many can relate to in one way or another, whether it is the characters, village life, the struggles, or the dialects used in the film, it is very much close to home...not just locally but also internationally!" – Sef Farrugia

"Simshar is an absolutely beautiful film and it is a credit to its cast and crew, as well as to Malta. The story is timely and captivating, while the cinematography is stunning. This film is one to watch, and it signifies a very proud moment for Maltese cinema." – Jo Caruana

"Simshar is about two very sad stories, one which happened a few years ago and the other is a story which unfortunately keeps repeating itself. We have finally reached international standards thanks to very talented and passionate people. The picture is beautiful, the detail and portrayal of our Malta is mesmerising, and of course the talented actors gave powerful performances." – Claire Agius Ordway

"Simshar is one fantastic piece of Maltese work, with extremely professional results depicting the tragedy we all remember happening a few years back. I especially liked the parts depicting village life and the Marsaxlokk festa, and how they were seamlessly included in the storyline." – Thomas Bugeja



Malta Weightlifting Association, Malta

Small team from the Malta Weightlifting Association (MWA) had the opportunity to participate in a training in Brisbane, Australia between the 24th August and 3rd September 2017. The Maltese national weightlifting coach **Mr. Jesmond Caruana** together with Maltese national athletes, **Kyle Micallef** and **Kieran Mifsud** and **Jessica Edge** have participated in this camp at Cougars Weightlifting Club under the guidance of **Miles Wydall** and **Angela Wydall**.

The challenging aspect of this initiative was the travelling distance as well as the timing of the training camp given that two weeks later the athletes were competing in an international competition. These training sessions were however essential for the Maltese team as apart from the weightlifting aspects and technicalities as part of its development for future athletes.

The MWA would like to show its appreciation and gratitude towards the International Weightlifting Federation for this camp. Source: Jesmond Caruana, Maltese Weightlifting Association President.



DATE 04-15
APRIL COUNTRIES-
71 EVENTS-275

6,500 athletes and officials from every corner of the Commonwealth, in one of the world's sunniest, sportiest destinations. The largest para-sport programme ever in the history of the Commonwealth Games, a ground-breaking Reconciliation Action Plan and a global first with an equal number of medals for women and men. An inspiring and inclusive festival of community, culture and sport. A loud, proud celebration of today's modern Commonwealth.

All efforts are focused on delivering worldwide recognition and respect for the Gold Coast and Queensland, jobs and economic growth, community engagement right across Australia and the promise of greater reconciliation and social justice.

Louise Martin CBE, Commonwealth Games Federation President

If Australia is a top destination for sport, then Queensland's Gold Coast City is the absolute summit. A natural sporting playground and one of the world's most scenic beach cities, Gold Coast offers endless sandy vistas, a vibrant party atmosphere and in 2018 will host the Commonwealth Games in a range of new and existing world-class venues.

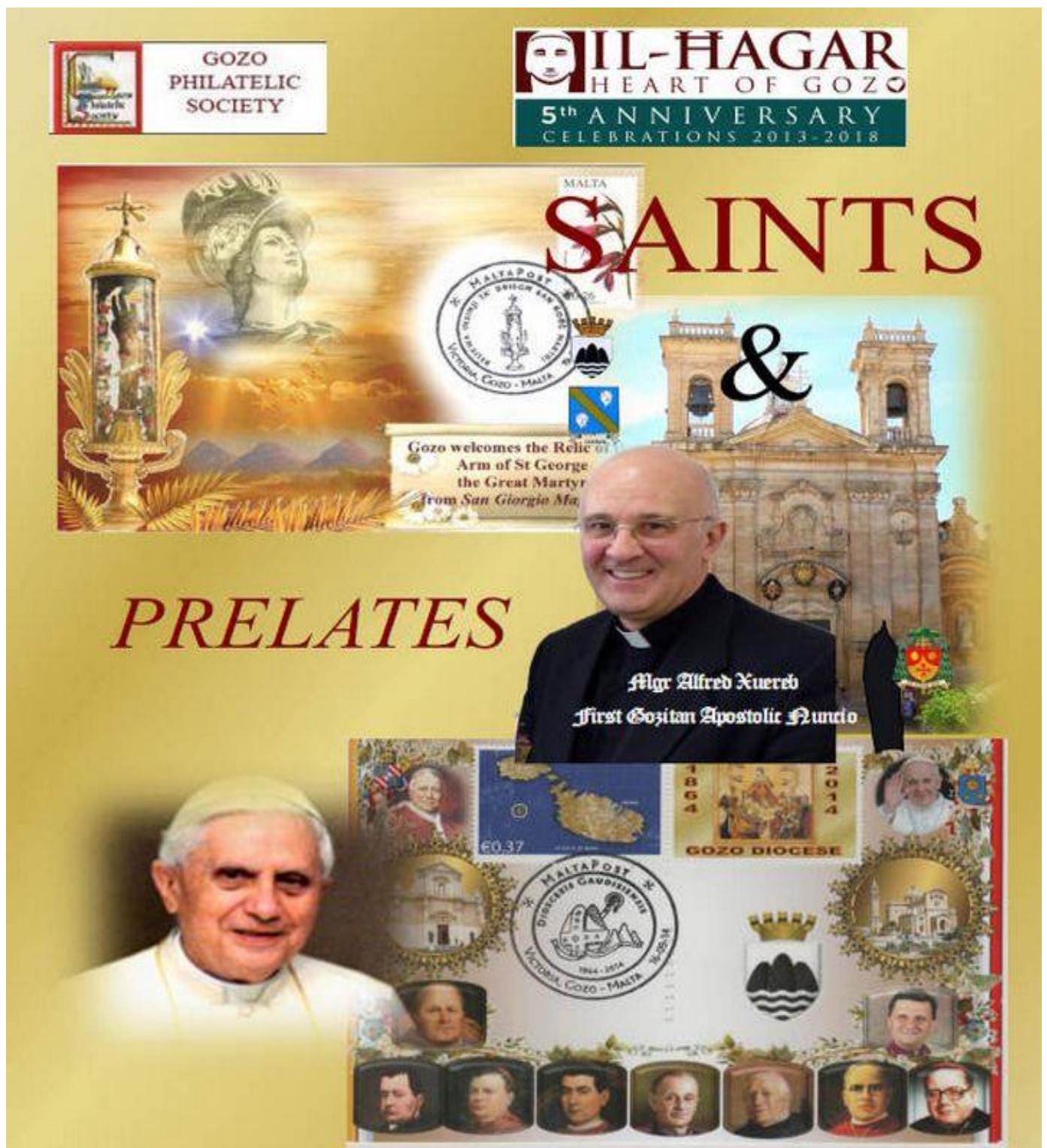
From 4-15 April 2018, Gold Coast's Carrara Stadium will be the venue for athletics and the opening and closing ceremonies. Nearby Southport Broadwater will host Swimming and Diving, while Labrador will host Hockey and the brand new Coomera Indoor Sports Centre will host Netball finals and Artistic and Rhythmic Gymnastics.

Robina Stadium will host Rugby Sevens, while squash, boxing and table tennis will be held at Oxenford. Brisbane will host the shooting and cycling. There will be four free events held during GC2018, the Road Cycling, Cycling Time Trial, the Marathon and Race Walk.

The Commonwealth Games on Australia's Gold Coast in April will demonstrate just how committed the Commonwealth Sports Movement is to ensuring that the benefits of the Games stretch beyond the thrilling impact of 11 days of sport. It's why Gold Coast 2018 will be the first Mega Sporting Event in Australia with a Reconciliation Action Plan, why Festival 2018 will celebrate showcase the diverse and dynamic cultures of the Commonwealth, and why it will be the first multi-sport event in the world to create a truly level playing-field of gender equality – with an exactly equal number of medal opportunities for men and women.

With 6,500 athletes and officials from every corner of the Commonwealth, it will be an inspiring and inclusive festival of community, culture and sport. It will be a loud, proud celebration of today's modern Commonwealth. Tickets for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games are on sale now at www.gc2018.com.

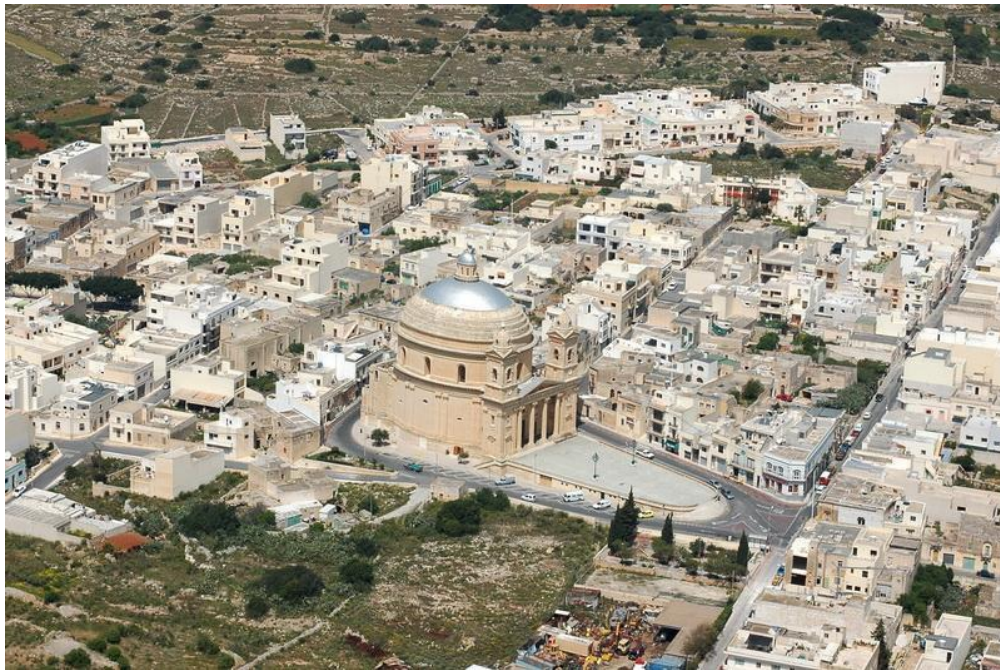




A special philatelic exhibition is taking place at Il-Hagar museum in Victoria, on the occasion of the first Nuncio from Gozo – Mgr Alfred Xuereb.

The exhibition has been set up by The Gozo Philatelic Society in their showcase on level -1 of the museum. Saints & Prelates – consists of stamped covers featuring all Gozo’s bishops, as well as Gozitan commemorations connected with patron saints.

Il-Hagar museum is located in St George’s Square, Victoria, Gozo. Opening hours are 9am-5pm seven days a week – and there is no entrance fee.



Mgarr - Malta

Mgarr is the main farming village in Malta. It offers a traditional village centre with genuine local eateries, vast countryside with some spectacular views and also some of the best coastline on the island. Take a detour on your way to Gnejna Bay for amazing coastline views of Fomm ir-Rih

Mgarr is famous with the Maltese for being one of the best places to enjoy typical Maltese

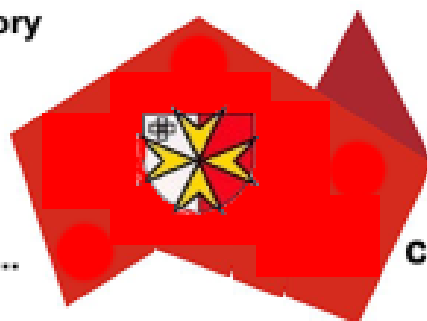
specialities such as "stewed rabbit" and "snails in garlic" in a more rural environment. If you are feeling adventurous enough to try these typical delicacies, dine at one of the small bars around the Parish Church of St Mary which serve typical Maltese food with no frills. For contrast, take a brief walk to Castello Zamitello on the road towards the picturesque Gnejna Bay, to admire one of the favourite venues for chic wedding parties on the island.

If you can deal with the steep hill leading from the square down to the beach, visit the picturesque bay of Gnejna, with its colourful boat houses which serve as shelters from the summer heat for families on their beach excursions. While the village itself is tiny, the coastline pertaining to Mgarr extends from Fomm ir-Rih, a particularly beautiful, desolate spot to enjoy a swim in azure waters beneath steep cliffs further south, to the more accessible Ghajn Tuffieha Bay with its golden sands further north. These pretty inlets were favourite sheltering places for pirates of old, and Lippija Tower was built in 1657 by Grand Master Lascaris to protect Gnejna and the few families living at Mgarr.

While the Parish Church of Mgarr is famous for its unusual egg-shaped dome, Mgarr also has some of the oldest places of worship known to man. Visit the Skorba temples, which have been entered in the Guinness Book of Records as one of the two oldest free-standing structures in the world. Another important set of megalithic structures is at Ta' Hagra. Keep your eyes open for the ancient Cart Ruts which can be found all over the Village. Not nearly as old are the Thermal Roman Baths near Ghajn Tuffieha bay.

You are certain to feel welcome in the village of Mgarr, where the residents are keen to live up to the village motto "Small, with a big heart."

News, History
Culture
Heritage
Photos
Nostalgia
Migration
Stories etc...




Building
Bridges
between
communities

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora