



MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

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**SETTE
GIUGNIO
1919**

**SEVENTH
JUNE
1919**



Karmenu Abela



Guzeppi Bajada



Manwel Attard



Wenzu Dyer

BRITISH TROOPS FIRED INTO THE CROWDS AND KILLED FOUR

The Maltese rebel against British Rule and The Establishment

THE RIOTS OF JUNE 7, 1919



Yesterday was Sette Giugno. Many regarded the day as being the opener for a long weekend. It was, in fact, the day to commemorate the death of four Maltese rioters on June 7, 1919.

The incident is now marked as a day when Maltese nationalism first surfaced during the British Colonial period. This was a time when Malta's economy was dominated by its status as a military outpost. The price of grain had risen sharply, and prices of bread were to increase. This was largely due to the fact that Maltese merchants were crippled by the costs of insuring their cargo, due to the threat to shipping in the Mediterranean.

The flour merchants pleaded with the British government of the time to allow a subsidy, but they were scoffed at. And so, bread prices spiked and the life of Maltese people went from hard to harder. On the day, they converged on Valletta, and the government of the time had no idea what was in store. It completely underestimated the gravity of the situation.

The first spark of unrest centred on the Maltese flag defaced with the Union Jack flying above the "A la Ville de Londres." This incident sparked the uprising. The death of the President of the Court some days earlier had required all governmental departments to fly the Union Flag at half mast, including the Bibliothèque buildings in Pjazza Regina, and the meteorological office.

The crowd moved on to the meteorological offices, housed in a Royal Air Force turret. After breaking the glass panes, the mob entered the offices ransacking and destroying everything inside. Some individuals climbed onto the turret, removing the Union Jack and throwing it into the street. The crowd burned the flag along with furniture taken from the offices nearby.

In Strada Teatro, the offices of the Daily Malta Chronicle were broken into, with pieces of metal jammed in the workings of the presses to break them. While this was taking place, other crowds were attacking the homes of perceived supporters of the Imperial government and profiteering merchants in Strada Forni.

Ten soldiers, led by Lieutenant Shields, approached the offices of the Chronicle, which were surrounded by a crowd which then began to throw stones and other objects at the soldiers. The same happened in Strada Forni, where six soldiers were trying to stem a crowd of thousands.

The soldiers broke and opened fire. The first victim of the uprising, Manwel Attard, fell in front of the Cassar Torregiani house. Other individuals were injured. Guzè Bajjada was hit near Strada Teatro, and fell on top of the Maltese flag he was carrying. The officer in charge began shouting for the firing to cease. Meanwhile, in the Chronicle offices, an officer ordered his men outside, since there was an evident smell of gas in the building. To clear a way out, the officer ordered a soldier to shoot low, away from the crowd. This shot hit Lorenzo Dyer, who tried to run away.

Disturbances continued the next day, with crowds attacking the palace of Colonel Francia, who also owned a flour-milling machine. Royal Malta Artillery soldiers were used to protect Francia's house, but they did not fire on their own people. The crowd forced its way in and threw furniture, silverware and other objects outside. In the evening, one hundred and forty navy marines arrived, clearing the house and street of crowds. Carmelo Abela was in one of the side doorways of Francia's house, calling for his son. Two marines proceeded to arrest him, and when he resisted, a marine ran him through the stomach with a bayonet. Abela died on June 16.





MALTA GEORGE CROSS

By [Chas Early](#)

Malta was part of the British Empire from 1800 until 1964, when it became an independent Commonwealth state, Malta was awarded the honour in 1942 at the height of the Second World War. Now a republic,

Malta's flag still bears the emblem; read on to find out why, and why it means so much to the Maltese people.

Why was the island of Malta awarded the George Cross? - Then a British colony, Malta was besieged by the naval and aerial forces of Germany and Italy from 1940-1942. Strategically important for its place in the Mediterranean, the opening of a new front in North Africa only increased Malta's value to the Allied cause as air and sea forces based on the island could attack essential enemy supply boats.



The Axis powers tried to bomb the island into submission, attacking its ports and cities by air and sea, but with the RAF defending its airspace and Allied convoys resupplying it, Malta held firm. King George VI awarded the George Cross to Malta on April 15, 1942, in recognition of the bravery, heroism and devotion that its people displayed during the siege of the island. At the time of the award, military resources and food rations in

Malta were practically finished.

Why does the Maltese flag still bear the George Cross? - The fortitude of the tiny nation won the admiration of the people of Britain and other Allied nations, and the awarding of the George Cross – an honour specifically given 'for acts of the greatest heroism or for most conspicuous courage in circumstance of extreme danger' - made the islanders justly proud.



From 1943, when it was still a Crown Colony, the Maltese flag featured the George Cross placed in left upper corner. The flag was changed on September 21, 1964, when Malta achieved independence. There have been periodic criticisms of the Cross remaining on the flag, usually with the suggestion that it is a reminder of its time under colonial rule, but public opinion remains positive towards the emblem.

An opinion piece in the Times of Malta in 2013 stated: "The George Cross symbolises the best qualities of the Maltese nation: solidarity with those who fight against oppression; courage and fortitude in times of trial and great difficulty; the iron will to overcome great obstacles and obtain the final victory; the readiness to sacrifice one's own life for a noble ideal. "The George Cross is a symbol of Maltese honour. Let us treasure it now and in the future."

1914 -1918

2014 – 2-18

**Lest we
forget**



100
YEARS OF
ANZAC
THE SPIRIT LIVES
2014 - 2018

MALTA
The Nurse of the Mediterranean
**Commemorating a
Century of Service**



THE STAR OF STRAIT STREET ROCKED ADELAIDE



Larissa Bonaci (left) and Polly March

Photo: Justin Mamo

The Malta Commission of Malta in Australia and the Consulate of Malta in South Australia presented the performance of the highly acclaimed musical play about a love story in Malta in the 1940s at the Maltese Cultural centre, Beverley Sunday 28 May 2018.

The main hall of the Maltese centre was beautifully decorated and over 230 people attended, and it was full to capacity.

The program started with the Maltese Queen of Victories Band performing Maltese traditional marches and they created an atmosphere for the occasion. We thank the president Mr Joe Camilleri, the committee, the band conductor and the players for participating and for their splendid performance.

Stacey Saliba did the introduced by retelling the story of the play written by Philip Glassborow. The beautiful Christina Ratcliffe came to Malta in 1937 with a three-month engagement at The Morning Star, just off Strait Street in Valletta, which was extended to six months. Malta had become part of her, and she loved it, body and soul. Returning in 1940, she stayed on throughout the war, working in the Lascaris War Rooms and creating The Whizz Bangs, a troupe of entertainers who toured army camps, air bases, forts, clubs.

And that's how she met Adrian Warburton, at 26 the most decorated pilot in the RAF, eccentric, crazy, gallant beyond belief. Like him, she was attractive, charismatic and adventurous, and with their personalities, zest and determination, they were to become living symbols of the island's unconquerable spirit.

Larissa Bonaci and Polly March played the part of beautiful Christina magnificently together with Geoffrey Thomas. They amazed the audience with the acting and singing this historic event. The professional actors, Larissa Bonaci, Polly March and Geoff Thomas, gave a splendid performance reminiscing the trials and tribulations of the Maltese and the British during World War 2. The production manager was Marcel Bonaci

The Hon Jing Lee Minister assisting the Premier honoured us with her presence and she was very pleased to experience the richness of the Maltese cultures and praised the members of the Maltese community for their endeavour to preserve and share their heritage in South Australia.

We were also pleased to have with us the Deputy High Commissioner, Denise Demicoli who was in our state for the Consul-on-the-Move project. Our special guests were the Hon Consul for Malta in SA, Mr Frank Scicluna and Mrs Josie Scicluna, Chev. Charles Farrugia, President of the Maltese Guild of SA and Mrs Adelia Farrugia, Mr Edgar Agius, President of the Maltese Community Council and Mrs Anna Agius and the Vice Consul, Mr John Farrugia and Mrs Rosemary Farrugia.

Reviews "A highly enjoyable show which traces the human elements of Malta's wartime past, while showcasing quality talent and a story which is both intriguing and endearing. Definitely one to watch." – Andre Delicata, Times of Malta

THANKING The Mackintosh Foundation and the British Council. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion –(Malta) - Cultural Diplomacy Fund Project – Australia. Malta High Commission (ACT) Endorsed by Valletta 2018 – Strada Stretta Concept.

SOME OF THE COMMENTS WE RECEIVED

What an excellent show, at one stage I had tears in my eye. The performance was great and we would like to see more of that sort of stories. Thank you very much for a great show. Kind regards - Andrew Borg – Adelaide.

"A very enjoyable afternoon for the Maltese community in Adelaide. Very well organised and magnificently presented. A big thank you to the actors, Geoff Thomas, Larissa Bonaci and Polly March. It brought back my childhood memories. Please, Frank, bring us more events like this one to South Australia." J. Tabone



**Christina Ratcliffe and
Adrian Warburton**

Christina Ratcliffe in Malta

Sunday 27 May 2018
Star of Strait Street.

A unique occasion seldom experienced in South Australia when three highly talented actors played a wonderful World War 2 experience in Malta encompassing fun, love and battle stress in a very poignant way. It was truly a great opportunity to be again at the Cultural Centre brimming with true blue Maltese. It was very exciting meeting all those lovely Maltese and some Australians and in particular one lady whom I thought would have been fair dinkum Pommie when in fact she was more Maltese than I am. Actually this actor Larissa Bonaci, spoke Maltese and English far better than I do. I also met our lovely Deputy High Commissioner Denise Demicoli; I was moved by her calm and lovely composure. And I took the opportunity to discuss with the Dep Commissioner the Consulate's up and coming Invest in Malta Day and sorted out a few technicalities.

Last Sunday was a superb opportunity for me as I had not visited this much loved and cherished place for many years. Now that things have changed for the better I feel very comfortable attending any function at Jeanes Street. The atmosphere last Sunday was one of honest gaiety and happiness not seen for many years too. As Consul Scicluna highlighted, let us all remain together as where there is unity there is strength. May I thank the Committee of the Guild, Consul F. Scicluna, Deputy Commissioner Demicoli and all those who in some way contributed for an excellent performance. May we have more of these. **John Farrugia - Vice-Consul**

MALTESE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr Frank Scicluna, OAM, Hon Consul for Malta, please allow me to express my delight with the stage play namely "Star of Strait Street." Presented by the Malta High Commission(Canberra) and organised by you as an Honorary Consul for South Australia. My wife Anna and I thoroughly enjoyed it. This was a great initiative and it was a great success, staged at the Maltese Cultural Centre at Beverley the hub of the Maltese community in South Australia. The Hall was full to the rafters and you could hear a pin drop, the audience devoted one hundred per cent of their attention to the show as they reminisced about Malta's history of that war time era. I congratulate the play stars namely Polly March, Larissa Bonaci and Geoff Thomas they conveyed the play so professionally that they captured the imagination of the whole audience.

On behalf of the Maltese Community Council of South Australia, I thank all those involved to promote this cultural experience for us Maltese living in South Australia and encourage other opportunities like this. Kind regards.

Mr Edgar Agius OAM JP, President - Maltese Community Council of South Australia Inc.



The Maltese Guild of South Australia would like to thank the High Commission of Canberra and the Consulate of Malta in SA for providing this wonderful musical *Star of Strait Street* to our premises – Maltese Cultural Centre. The hall was 100% full and everyone in the audience enjoyed the show especially the actors. We thank Mr Frank Scicluna who was the main organiser of the event and we hope that in future we, the committee of the Guild will work with him to provide similar cultural event for the members of the Maltese Community of South Australia. We thank also Ms. Denise Demicoli, Deputy High Commissioner and the actors - **Charles Farrugia – President**

Many thanks to the clever actors of *Star of Strait Street* for the enjoyable performance they gave to the Maltese community in SA. We appreciated their performance and they really made us remember the good and sad old days of WW2. Splendidly organised by the Malta High Commission and the Consulate and please when you come back to Australia make sure you include Adelaide in your itinerary. Our community still loves Malta its history and culture.
John and Doris Mangion – Adelaide.



Thoroughly enjoyed the show. The story told by the actors on stage was really beautiful and they must be congratulated on their portrayal of Christina Ratcliffe - all of them 'stars'. **Melita Aquilina – Adelaide.**

My daughters, Lauren, Gabby and I were fortunate enough to attend the musical performance "*Star of Strait Street*" on Sunday 27th May at the Maltese Cultural Centre. Not only did we see many of our Maltese relatives in the audience, we also found that we were related to Larissa Bonaci, one of the main actresses, through my paternal grandmother.

I recently read a book: *Fortress Malta An Island Under Siege 1940-1943* by James Holland which vividly described the horrific conditions that Malta endured during World War 2 and tells the story through the eyes of those who were there, including cabaret dancer-turned RAF plotter Christina Ratcliffe, and her lover, the brilliant and irrepressible reconnaissance pilot, Adrian Warburton. It was great to make the connection between the book and the musical play whilst watching the talented cast bring the story to life with their talented acting and delightful voices. Thank you to everyone who contributed to bringing the musical to Adelaide. It has deepened my understanding of what Malta endured during the war and reminded me of how privileged and proud I am to be Maltese. Thank you. **Jennifer Young (Saliba)**

Thank you for bringing such an interesting, successful play, which took us all back to our roots and was enjoyed by all. The play was entertaining and with a humorous story line. The singing and acting was great considering there was only three artists on stage. I hope in future we will be lucky enough to attract more interest for more artists to perform for us. **Cheers Dolores Muscat**

Last Sunday my wife and I had the opportunity to attend the musical play STAR OF STRAIT STREET at the Maltese Cultural Centre in Adelaide. The play was very entertaining as well as to remember about those terrible time of the war. As a 10-years-old boy I remember on the rediffusion the speech of il Duce [Mussolini] at the start of the war. The music was excellent and the three actors put up a great show . It was good to see the Maltese Cultural Centre full. A big thank you goes to you and all those connected with the performance. Proset Joe Monsigneur



Adelaide fell in love with *Star of Strait Street*. We invite more shows like this one to perform here

Dr Francesco Buhagiar (1923 - 1924)

SECOND PRIME MINISTER OF MALTA (1923 - 1924)



Dr Francesco Buhagiar was Malta's second Prime Minister. Born in Qrendi on the 7 September 1876, Francesco Buhagiar studied law at the Royal University of Malta, graduating in 1901.

He followed a successful career as a lawyer and showed himself a capable and sensitive exponent of civil and commercial law. After Malta was granted self-government Buhagiar was returned to the Legislative Assembly in the elections of 1921 and 1924 in the interests of the Unione Popolare Maltese (UPM). On 13 October 1922 he was appointed Minister of Justice in succession to Dr Alfredo Caruana Gatto and exactly a year later he succeeded Senator Joseph Howard as Prime Minister.

The UPM coalition with the Labour Party came to an end on 2 January 1924 but Buhagiar led a minority government until Parliament was dissolved in April. After the June 1924 elections, the UPM returned only 10 Members to the Legislative Assembly but Buhagiar was still asked to form a government. He led a minority government till 22 September 1924 when he resigned his seat and was appointed a judge of the Superior Courts.

A gentlemen and a democrat, Francesco Buhagiar was highly respected by all, even his political opponents. His career on the Bench was a distinguished one, earning him a reputation as an eminent practical man and an accomplished jurist. Buhagiar continued his legal career in court till 1934 when he succumbed to complications after an attack of acute appendicitis. He died at the Blue Sisters Hospital and was buried at the Addolorata Cemetery. Francesco Buhagiar was married to Enrichetta Said and they had five children.



St. Peter and Paul Bastion – Upper Barrakka

Every day at 12 noon, tourists gather on St. Peter and Paul Bastion on the fortifications, where one of the old cannons is fired. It's a resounding reminder that Valletta was built 450 years ago by the Knights of St. John as a fortified city on the Mediterranean island of Malta.

What is National Reconciliation Week?

Don't keep History a Mystery

These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey— the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively. National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.



Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

A Brief History

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) started as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993 (the International Year of the World's Indigenous People) and was supported by Australia's major faith communities. In 1996, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation launched Australia's first 'National Reconciliation Week'. In 2000, Reconciliation Australia was established to continue to provide national leadership on reconciliation. In the same year, approximately 300,000 people walked across Sydney Harbour Bridge as part of NRW, showing support for the reconciliation process. Today NRW is celebrated by communities, businesses and individuals at thousands of events across Australia.

Our purpose is to inspire and enable all Australians to contribute to the reconciliation of the nation.

Our vision is for a just, equitable and reconciled Australia.

Reconciliation Australia was established in 2001 and is the lead body for reconciliation in the nation. We are an independent not-for-profit organisation which promotes and facilitates reconciliation by building relationships, respect and trust between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our vision of national reconciliation is based on five critical dimensions: race relations, equality and equity, institutional integrity, unity and historical acceptance. These five dimensions do not exist in isolation; they are inter-related and Australia can only achieve full

reconciliation if we progress in all five.

Five Dimensions

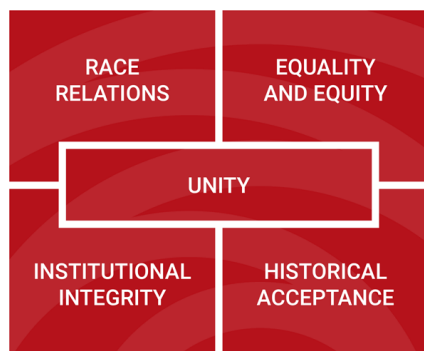
Race Relations - All Australians understand and value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous cultures, rights and experiences, which results in stronger relationships based on trust and respect and that are free of racism.

Equality and Equity - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples participate equally in a range of life opportunities and the unique rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are recognised and upheld.

Unity - An Australian society that values and recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and heritage as a proud part of a shared identity

Institutional Integrity - The active support of reconciliation by the nation's political, business and community structures.

Historical Acceptance - All Australians understand and accept the wrongs of the past and the impact of these wrongs. Australia makes amends for the wrongs of the past and ensures these wrongs are never repeated.



Baritone
CHARLES BUTTIGIEG
In Concert

*accompanied
on the organ by
Mrs. Stephen Camilleri*

Our Lady of Loreto Parish Church, Għajnsielem
Thursday 7th June 2018 - 7.30pm
Info: 99441076

MINISTRY FOR GOZO

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JP2 FOUNDATION

GOZOVILLAGE
HOLIDAYS

Press Release

Young Gozitan Baritone CHARLES BUTTIGIEG was recently admitted to the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in the United States of America, after he was selected during an audition before a panel in Philadelphia. He will be giving a concert in Gozo at Our Lady of Loreto Church Għajnsielem, and will be accompanied on the organ by Mrs Stephan Camilleri.

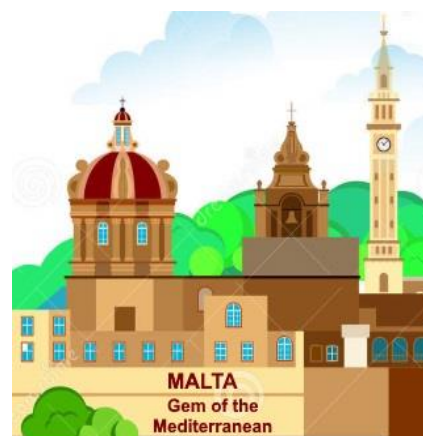
The event is being organised by the JP2 Foundation in full collaboration with the Ministry for Gozo, the Directorate of Tourism and Economic Development, Għajnsielem Local Council, as well as Our Lady of Loreto Parish.

Għajnsielem is the native village of Mr Buttigieg and the villagers are looking forward for this concert to wish Charles good luck for this admission to the Curtis Institute of Music, especially Għajnsielem Local Council and the Archpriest who, from an early age, was one of the first to believe in Charles' talent. The Concert will take place on Thursday 7th June 2018 (a Public Holiday), starting at 7.30pm. The general public is invited to attend. For more information kindly contact 99441076.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

*All Maltese should be proud of their country, its past and traditions.
No other small country can boast of such a rich history, and of a cultural fabric
which makes these islands one of the most interesting and beautiful places on Earth.*

Read and enjoy this wonderful journal of all the Maltese living in Malta and those living abroad. It's free, bilingual and non-political.
To start receiving the journal regularly contact:
Frank Scicluna - Editor: maltesejournal@gmail.com





Maltese in uniform serving the Crown and its allies

by Denis Darmanin

Royal Navy bandsman Enrico Portelli, who was lost on HMS Black Prince. Right: Royal Naval Air Service rating Francesco Attard of Rabat.

Our small island is renowned to have produced excellent seamen, soldiers and gunners. Even before Napoleon ousted the Order of St John from Malta, the Royal Navy employed numerous Maltese in its service. Like countless others, many paid the ultimate sacrifice; some even a hero's death.

Twenty-five Maltese are recorded as having been present during the Battle of Trafalgar while serving in the navy; four of them were Royal Marines and five were actually on HMS Victory. Vincenzo Abela of Senglea was one of 60 Maltese from a complement of 215 men on HMS Juno during the early 1790s.

Juan Battista Azopardo was born in Senglea in 1772 and had mastered the tartana San Antonio e l'anime dell'porgatorio in Malta, and later served the French, Dutch, Spanish and British, the latter under Admiral John Jervis. His naval career was full of action, especially in Argentina's war of independence against Spain, so much so that in 1810, the Argentinian government granted Azopardo the rank of lieutenant colonel and commander of the first national navy.

Those who could, like the eldest son of affluent politician **Camillo Sceberras**, sought a commission in the British Army. 80th Regiment of Foot, is commemorated by a monument at the Upper Barracca. While serving with the regiment in India in 1845, he was killed in the taking of the Sikh's standard and being instrumental in its capture – a feat that demoralised the enemy and helped win the battle.

An event that greatly involved Malta and which changed the world is undoubtedly the start of hostilities in what was then referred to as 'The Great War' or 'The war to end all wars'. Nowadays, it is referred to as World War I, as the one that followed was even greater, and did not serve to end all wars, but was just a prelude to many others in various regions. *The Maltese-Australian soldiers were not included on the ANZAC memorial*

Although Malta was not directly involved in the fighting, it played a major role in many aspects. The hostilities never came to our shores although there was one occasion where Zeppelin LZ 104, designated L 59 by the German Imperial Navy and nicknamed Das Afrika-Schiff, took off from its base at Jamboli, Bulgaria, to attack the British naval base at Malta. It was lost on April 7, 1918, during its voyage.

The role of the islands during this war was more related to troop movement to the fronts, naval repairs, supplies, and in particular as hospital and convalescent camp for thousands of British and troops of the Empire in 1915, that earned it the name of 'Nurse of the Mediterranean'.

The war effort required manpower and as a result, Maltese workers and the economy enjoyed the boost that wars usually bring. The Admiralty's dockyard was at full capacity, shops were doing good business, as were the bars, while many Maltese worked as auxiliaries with the British Services to meet the demand and vacuum left by the troops since they were required at various theatres of the war. But no doubt a larger contribution was given by the Maltese who wore the 'King's uniform' and were either already enlisted in the British Army and the Royal Navy, or even in the armies of the dominions and colonies.

The aim of this article is neither to list all the Maltese who served during World War I, nor as a roll of honour. An edition of The Malta Government Gazette of November 19, 1938, lists all the Maltese in British service who had died during this conflict.

Originally, the article was intended to highlight a selection of Maltese men in the service of Great Britain and the Empire, at the time when soldiering was proudly considered as a profession, not an alternative to unemployment. But the interesting case of Emanuele Pace, previously residing at Strada Ponente (West Street), Valletta, who served in the US Army, and the cases of other Maltese emigrants, kindled further interest.

The role of the Maltese in the Royal Navy up to the outbreak of World War I was limited to either as a seamen, domestics (later changed to stewards), cooks, stokers, as a mate to one of the ship's tradesman or as bandsmen.

The service given by Maltese bandsmen in the Royal Navy is not as widely known as of ratings in other branches. During the 19th century, naval musicians were primarily Royal Marines but there were also bands formed and paid for by naval officers for mess duties.

During 'battle stations', bandsmen usually acted as stretcher bearers and sick bay attendants. Some 26 Maltese and Italian bandsmen were killed on HMS Defence and HMS Black Prince alone, both sank between May 31 and June 1, 1916 during the Battle of Jutland. A particular bandsman and a distant relative of the author was Enrico Portelli of Vittoriosa, who served and died on the Black Prince.

Countless Maltese were serving in the Royal Navy throughout those turbulent years, of whom many suffered terrible deaths and have no known graves. A photo acquired some years ago of a certain F54389 **Francesco Attard of Rabat**, is one of the few Maltese who had served in the Royal Naval Air Service. It is probable that when the RNAS amalgamated with the Royal Flying Corps, Attard was one of the first Maltese to transfer to the Royal Air Force on its formation a few months before the end of World War I. Caruana was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration presented by the US government to a member of its armed forces

The Royal Malta Artillery (RMA) and the King's Own Malta Regiment of Militia (KOMRM) were the two local army regiments in which many Maltese men had enlisted during the outbreak of hostilities. Several officers from the RMA volunteered for overseas service with the British Expeditionary Force on the western front or represented in several theatres of the war and on whom much has been written.

In 1917, 'Y' Battery Royal Malta Artillery had embarked to man coast defences in Alexandria, Egypt. Assigned to local garrison duties, the KOMRM supplied armed guards at the prisoner of war camps and as auxiliaries in several of the military hospitals.

Early in 1915, a contingent of 560 officers and men left Malta for service in Cyprus. Only one casualty to the regiment is known while stationed there – Lance Corporal Emmanuel Abela, who died on July 7, 1915, and rests in the Limassol Roman Catholic Cemetery.

Officers from the KOMRM also commanded detachments of Maltese who served in the Maltese Labour Corps in Gallipoli and Salonika, with whom were other Maltese serving in the Army Ordnance Corps. Like their countrymen from the RMA, a number of officers of the regiment volunteered to transfer to various British infantry regiments, and a number of these soldiers and officers never returned, having paid the ultimate sacrifice. The stories of these brave Maltese are featured in many publications.

The need for work and a better life resulted in many Maltese emigrating either to countries on the shores of the Mediterranean and those further away in the British Empire. But what about the ordinary soldier, in particular the Maltese who had served in the ranks of the colonial and dominion armies?

Trooper No. 181 Charles Mizzi is known to have served in the Australian 2nd New South Wales Mounted Rifles during the Anglo-Boer War (1898-1902) and Trooper S. Camilleri in Royston's Horse during the Natal Rebellion (1906) and later as a stretcher bearer with the South African contingent during World War I, just to name a couple.

Searching for records of Maltese in armies such as those of Canada and Australia, whose numbers were enormous, isn't easy. A painstakingly search for them by known Maltese surnames may help, many times misspelt, but there are certainly others who would have had Anglo-Saxon or Italian surnames.

As already mentioned, thousands of wounded British and Allied troops were brought to Malta, the majority between 1915 and 1917, and many of whom were members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC). Countless succumbed to their wounds and lie buried in Maltese soil. From among the Maltese who had emigrated to Australia, many had answered to the call of 'King and country' and enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF), of whom a good number were killed in action or from the consequences of the war.

At the age of 16, **Emmanuel Attard**, who hailed from Qala, joined the Maltese Labour Corps which supported the Allied campaign at Gallipoli. In late 1917, he was one of 214 Maltese migrants on board the Messageries Maritimes' S.S. Gange who initially were refused entry to Australia, despite their status as

British subjects. Nevertheless, when 19, he enlisted on September 27, 1917, and served as 4991 Private Attard, 32nd Battalion – 14 Reinforcements AIF, embarking for France on HMAT Ulysses (A38).

Although Malta was not directly involved in the fighting, it played a major role in many aspects

In his book on the Gallipoli campaign and Malta, John Mizzi recalls a number of such casualties while serving with the AIF; **Private Francesco (Francis) Bellia**, **Gunner Francis Alfred Brown**, **Private Francesco Bartolo**, **Private Waldemar Beck** and **Private Charles Emanuel Bonavia**, the latter being one of the first to fall from the 11th Battalion, Australian Imperial Forces on April 25, 1915. Sapper Charles Leonard Borg, **Private Andrew Camilleri** and **Corporal Edward Melia (Mallia)** are others. There are undoubtedly more. **Private Charles Mallia of Paola** served in the Wellington Infantry Battalion, **Charlie Camilleri of Mosta** in the 32nd Reinforcements Otago Infantry and **Juliano (Giuliano) Xuereb** (a.k.a. Sherab) in the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force. They are just three Maltese who had served in the ranks of the New Zealand Army during the war.

It is ironic that the ANZAC memorial inaugurated in 2005 at Argotti Gardens lists Australian and New Zealand soldiers buried in Malta, yet the Maltese-Australian soldiers who lost their lives while serving in the same army were not included on the memorial.

Canadian Army records show that the number of Maltese serving in the dominion's army at the time was just as numerous, especially in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF). At first glance, the records I was able to access showed that there were six whose surname was Attard, over a dozen Borg and just as many other common Maltese surnames.

Giuseppe Attard from Casal Caccia (Xagħra), started the war by enlisting in the 57th Battalion (Peterborough Rangers) CEF in 1915 but was transferred to the 41st Battalion later that year and was wounded in action.

Emanuele Pace, born in 1877, is reputed to have served in the US Army and saw action during the Spanish-American War of 1898, in particular in the Philippines. He is later recorded as living in Ontario, Canada, and served for some months in the 38th Dufferin Regiment of Canada. When war broke out, Pace re-enlisted in his old regiment and was assigned to the 125th Overseas Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, which was composed of men from Brantford and the neighbouring towns in Ontario.

When under fire, the gallantry of the Maltese is well known. In his book *Għeruq Beltin*, Victor Scerri refers to **Emanuel Orlando Caruana**, who fought in the American Civil War of 1861-1865. Private, later Sergeant Caruana, Company K, 51st New York Volunteers, or 'Shephard Rifles', was a 'Belti' who served in the Union Army during the American Civil War.

Due to two heroic actions, Caruana was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration presented by the US government to a member of its armed forces.

Although the US entered World War I quite late, the Maltese who had settled there and had volunteered to join the American Expeditionary Forces can be the subject of a separate study. Giuseppe Attard, who is cited to have joined the 106th Infantry US Army in late 1917, was shipped to France and wounded in action a few months later.

The soul is just as important as the body, and the role of the Maltese clergy in uniform who served overseas is not to be overlooked. Towards the end of 1917, **Fr Edgar Salomone of Mġarr**, Malta, offered himself as a volunteer working as a military chaplain to the British troops in the Balkans, in particular to the Maltese. Another was **Rev. J. Verzin, ACE**, who had accompanied the KOMRM contingent to Cyprus and had possibly spent some time in Crete.

JOURNAL OF MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

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22 
ANNIVERSARY

THE
FRENCH 1798 ~
IN MALTA 2018

Maltese Light Infantry

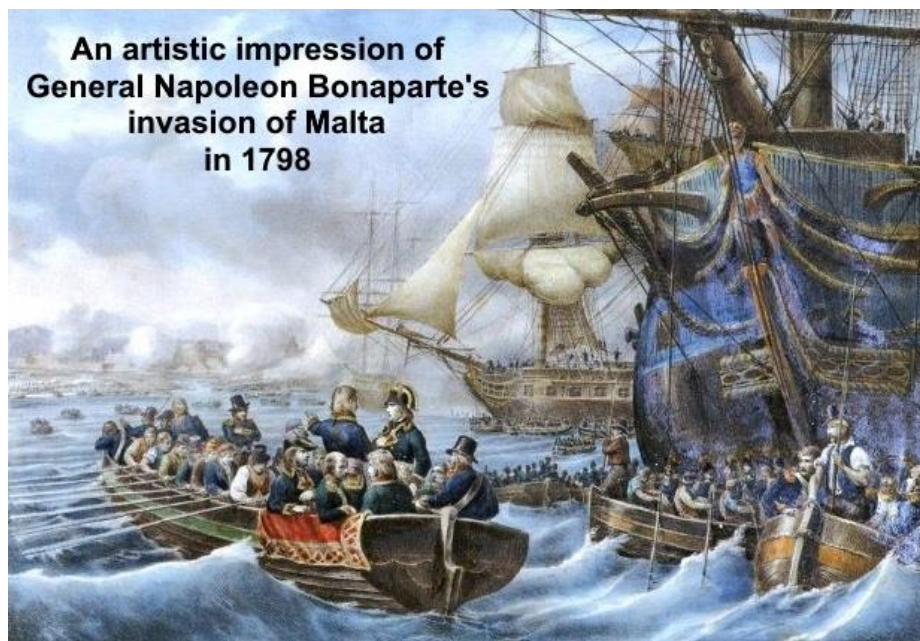
Following the popular uprising against the French on September 2 1798, the Maltese



were subjected to the full horrors of land warfare in their country. They soon came to the conclusion that only Britain was in a more advantageous position of power and wealth to help them in their predicament. With insufficient men to plan an attack against the French, and no indication of further British troops arriving from Minorca, Colonel Graham, Commander in Chief, proceeded with the plan of raising a regiment of Maltese. In 1800 Graham set forth to raise the Maltese light Infantry as the first regiment in pay of the British Army. Admiral Lord Nelson appointed a Scotsman, Captain James Weir of the Marines from HMS Audacious, to command it.

By April till the middle of May 1800 four companies were formed, and the Regiment went to serve along the blockading forces lines, participating in harassing of French posts along the Cottonera and Fort Ricasoli defences. The battalions took part in combined attack by the British and Maltese.

The Maltese Light Infantry was the only Maltese unit to enter Valletta with the British troops with its colours flying on the 9th September, following the raising of the siege on the 5th September 1800. On October 11, 1801 it sent three companies of volunteers under the command of Major Weir to Elba, then occupied by the French, to relieve the British garrison besieged in its, Capital, Porto Ferrajo. When the Maltese light infantry regiment was disbanded in 1802, many of the men re-enlisted in the Maltese Provincial Battalions which were raised shortly afterwards in October 1803.



**An artistic impression of
General Napoleon Bonaparte's
invasion of Malta
in 1798**

The island of Malta was an important strategic stronghold in the Mediterranean Sea and Napoleon Bonaparte knew that controlling it would boost France's naval capacity in the region.

The largest re-enactment event ever organised in Malta. Over 500 participants from 15 countries.... More public information coming out soon. Keep following us

here or on [Facebook](#)

The 220th anniversary of the French arrival in Malta is being marked with by series of cultural and spectacular events being organised by HRGM and Reġjun Tramuntana as part of the first edition of Regun Tramuntana Military Festival which also includes massive historical re-enactments with around 500 re-enactors being held in the same region on 5, 6, & 8 June.

<https://hrgm.wordpress.com/re-enactment-1798/>



THE DONNELLYS AND NED KELLY

by DAN BROCK

Many of us are intrigued by the numerous coincidences relating to the assassinations of Presidents Lincoln and Kennedy, which occurred nearly a century and about a half a country apart. But, until now, no one appears to have noted the

coincidences in two events which occurred in the same year, 1880, and nearly half a world apart.

This February marks the 126th anniversary of the murders of five members of the Irish-Catholic Donnelly family, in Biddulph, Ontario, Canada. This June will mark the 126th anniversary of the end of the Irish-Catholic Kelly gang, in Glenrowan, Victoria, Australia.

Just as Will Donnelly came to be regarded as the leader and brains of the so-called “Donnelly gang” of the 1870s in Biddulph and Lucan, Ontario, so Ned Kelly was the leader of the “Kelly gang,” in the late 1870s, in places like Greta and Beechworth, Victoria.

Will’s parents and Ned’s father were natives of Co. Tipperary. Will’s youngest brother, Tom, and Ned Kelly shared the same year of birth.

Like the Donnellys, the Kellys were often accused of crimes they didn’t commit, were arrested, and were imprisoned. Both families, along with their friends, have been regarded from time to time as victims of the system.

Eventually Ned, his youngest brother Dan, and two friends Joe Byrne and Steve Hart, became bushrangers, armed robbers who operated in the outlying districts of Victoria much like the outlaws of the American West.

Just as four members of the Donnelly family met a violent end in the Donnelly homestead in the early morning hours of February 4, 1880, so three members of the Kelly gang met a violent end in a shootout with the law, on June 28, 1880, in the Glenrowan Inn.

Like the Donnelly home, the Glenrowan Inn was consumed in fire. In the case of the latter, the bodies of the younger Kelly and Hart were incinerated, as were the bodies of James and Judy Donnelly, their son Tom, and niece Bridget.

Joe Byrne died of gunshot wounds, albeit not as far from the hotel as John Donnelly from his home. But, like Donnelly, Byrne was also photographed after death.

While both Will Donnelly and Ned Kelly survived the events of February 4th and June 28th respectively, Kelly was wounded in the shootout. Donnelly would live another 17th years and die a natural death. Kelly would live less than five months after the shootout and be hanged in Melbourne on November 11th.

We know that the saga of the Donnellys did not end in 1880, and that it came to reach folk hero proportions in Canada generally, and Ontario in particular. In Australia, and Victoria in particular, the saga of Ned Kelly and his gang has also reached the same proportions.

The haunts of Ned Kelly and his gang draw tourists in the same way as does, the Roman Line, the Donnelly homestead, St. Patrick’s Church, and the village of Lucan.

And, like the Donnellys, there seems to be no end to the memorialization of the Kelly gang in books, songs, plays, and movies.

**(This appeared as “Coincidences link two Irish families in Canada, Australia,” in The London Free Press, London, Ontario, February 6, 2006, page C4)*



OUR LADY OF VICTORIES CHURCH VALLETTA

Our Lady of Victories Church was the first church and building completed in Valletta. The church was built to commemorate the victory of the Knights of the Order of St John and the Maltese over the Ottoman invaders on 8 September 1565. It was built on the site where a religious ceremony was held to inaugurate the laying of the foundation stone of the new city Valletta on 28 March 1566. A church was chosen as the first building in order to express gratitude. In fact, not only is the church dedicated to the Nativity of the Virgin, but the titular painting is situated behind the main altar as well and it depicts the birth of the Blessed Virgin. Grandmaster Jean Parisot de Valette personally funded for the building of the church.

On the 21st August of 1568, Grand Master De Valette passed away after coming down with a fever. In line with his final wishes, De Valette was entombed in the crypt of the church upon his death. However, as St. John's Co-Cathedral was built, De Valette's remains were moved to there.

In 1617, the order of St John chose this church as their parish church. The church was then dedicated to St Anthony of Egypt. In 1699, the apse of the church was enlarged on the orders of Grand Master Ramon Perellos y Roccaful. In 1716, Maltese artist Alessio Erardi was commissioned by Grand Master Perellos to paint the vault with elemental scenes portraying the Life of the Virgin; these were finished in two years. In 1752, the façade, sacristy, belfry and the parish priest's house were enlarged. The façade received a beautiful baroque look. The façade also includes a bronze bust of Pope Innocent XII. In addition, in the second part of the 18th century, apart from the altars dedicated to St John the Baptist and St Paul, two other altars were built.

In 1837, the church became the Garrison Church to the Royal Malta Fencibles which later became the Royal Malta Artillery. Throughout the years, the church experienced several damages both to its structure and to its paintings. On 23 April 1942, the church ceiling was damaged as a consequence of an air raid that hit Valletta which also destroyed the nearby Royal Opera House.

The church has a number of artistic treasures. The paintings on each end above the altar depict St Anthony of Egypt and St Anthony of Padua. These were brought to Malta in 1530 by the Knights of Malta after the Emperor Charles V gave the island to the Order of St John as its base. The church also contains works by Francesco Zahra, Ermenegildo Grech and Enrico Arnaux.

In 1716, Ramon Perellos y Roccaful commissioned Alessio Erardi to paint the vault of the church. He painted scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary. In 1792, Venetian Grand Admiral Angelo Emo died in Malta. He wished for his heart to be buried in the Lady of Victories church; a monument in his name by Maltese sculptor Vincenzo Dimech was erected in 1802.

References: [Wikipedia](#)

Fireworks explosion 36 year-old victim dies



Colin Muscat, 36, who was critically injured in the fireworks factory explosion near Salina on Saturday, succumbed to his injuries on Sunday.

Another man was seriously injured [in the afternoon blast](#) while four others escaped with minor injuries and were treated by paramedics at the scene.

The blast, at about 3pm on Saturday, created a big mushroom-like cloud seen over a wide distance. People in the area reported one big blast and a number of smaller ones. The fireworks factory was used by the Għaqda Piroteknika 11 ta' Frar of San Ġwann. Mr Muscat was one of its most experienced members.

In November last year a man was grievously injured in an accident near a fireworks factory in Għaxaq. The 29-year-old was burning waste connected to the manufacturing of fireworks in the area known as tal-Garda. In July 2016 four people were injured in a fireworks explosion at Marsaxlokk where the feast of Our Lady of Pompei was being celebrated. A large amount of fireworks went off on the ground close to the power station, causing the explosion.

Emma Muscat Through To Amici's Semi Final

Maltese talent continues to dominate **Chucky Bartolo**



Emma Muscat, the young singer who captured the hearts of two nations, has made it through to one of the final rounds of Amici.

This result comes after a tense song-off against Einar, her opposing team's contestant. Thankfully the votes were in both his, and Emma's favour, and both

singers scored equal points, sending them both into the semi final. They will join three others in next week's big showdown.

The show started with scores of contestants vying for the top spot, but after weeks of hard work and emotional roller coaster, Malta's very own Emma has the crown within her grasp.

Just in case Emma needed one final push for last night's success, the teen star was on the receiving end of one epically emotion surprise: a visit from her mother organised by the show's producers.

Bidding goodbye to her on-screen boyfriend, Biondo, last week, Emma had to push extra hard in this final set of vocal challenges to impress the judges.



KNIGHTS OF MALTA What happened to the Knights of the Order of St. John the Baptist after they were forced to leave Jerusalem?

By Stephen Gabriel Rosenberg

Ancient crusader hospital rediscovered by the IAA 370. (photo credit: Yoli Shwartz/Courtesy of IAA)



With the recent finding of the original hospital of the Knights of St. John in the Old City of Jerusalem, it may be interesting to establish what happened to the order after it was forced to leave Jerusalem. Originally, the Knights of the Order of St. John the Baptist, later the Hospitallers, had come to Jerusalem with the Crusaders in 1099 and formed a kind of medical corps to the infantry. They were monks that turned to soldiers and then practiced medicine to help their wounded comrades and other friendly inhabitants who needed clinical attention. They were an honourable order that kept to their separate national origins, like the French and the Italians, governed by a grand master of absolute power

and restricting entry to young nobles of unblemished Catholic parentage. When necessary, the knights functioned as an army of chivalrous officers.

They were originally quartered in Jerusalem's Aksa Mosque, after the defeat of the Muslims, stabling their horses in the nearby underground chambers later called Solomon's Stables. With the conquest of Jerusalem by Saladin in 1187, the Hospitallers retreated to their hospital quarters in the Muristan or Christian quarter of the Old City (Muristan being the Persian name for hospital), but were soon expelled again by the Muslims in 1244 and escaped to refuge in the islands of Cyprus and then Rhodes.

There they stayed for over 200 years and were busy, as an army, keeping the Turks out of Western Europe. Eventually, the Turks, now the predominant Muslim power, decided to rid themselves of this impediment, and Sultan Suleiman I sent a force of 400 ships carrying an army of 200,000 troops against Rhodes in 1522. The Knights of St. John, with only 7,000 defenders, fought to such good effect that it took the Turks a siege of six months to defeat them and, in recognition of their gallant stand, they were allowed safe passage to leave with their ships and all their men.

They were offered the island of Malta as safe refuge by Charles V of France, but the king offered unacceptable conditions; the commission of knights that went to "spy out the land" reported back with unfavorable views of the island – as being infertile, without trees, lacking in water and difficult to defend. Nevertheless, pope Clement VIII, who had some jurisdiction over the Order of St. John, supported the move, and as there was little alternative, the grand master finally accepted the offer in 1530. The knights were then given Malta in perpetuity for an annual rent of one falcon. In exchange, France and the other European powers relied on the Hospitallers to continue to keep the Turks out of Western Europe, by controlling the Mediterranean Sea routes from Malta.

However, Malta was not free of the Turkish threat, and the first act of the Hospitallers was to form themselves into an effective fighting force and build defenses all around the island. Their original major site was Il-Birgu, one of several promontories projecting into the Grand Harbor off the Mediterranean. It was a desolate area, but the Hospitallers soon transformed it, making a great citadel out of the small, existing Fort St. Angelo on the tip of the promontory, and constructing numerous auberges, or palaces, for the different nationalities of the order – including the French, Spanish, Italians and English. They also built the gloomy but imposing Palace of the Grand Inquisitor at the end of the 16th century, which had nothing to do with inquiring into the lives of Jews converted by force to Christianity. Rather, it was set up to test the knights, whom the grand master suspected of having come under the influence of the Reformation, and having thus been led into unholy doubts of scripture. It still stands in all its overpowering severity and, ironically, it is today the local tourist information centre – though the torture chambers, retaining their original aspect, luckily remain untouched and unused.



Ritratti juru membri tal-JP2 Foundation flimkien mad-Direttur Spiritwali Fr Antoine Borg wara l-quddiesa li tqaddset f'Ta' Pinu nhar is-Sibt li għadda fl-okkażjoni tat-28 anniversarju minn meta kien qaddes quddiem is-Santwarju tal-Madonna Ta' Pinu l-mibki u qatt minsi l-Papa Qaddis Gwanni Pawlu t-Tieni waqt żjara tiegħu lil-gzejjer Maltin! Fr Borg kien assistti fil-quddiesa mir-Rettur tas-Santwarju Fr Gerard Buhagiar. Il-Fondazzjoni Papa Gwanni Pawlu t-Tieni waqqfet il-monument ta' dan il-Papa (life size) qabel taqbad it-Triq lejn Ta' Pinu. **Kav Joe M Attard Victoria Għawdex**



31,500 foreign workers in Malta

Education and Employment Minister Evarist Bartolo told Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici (PN) during question time in Parliament (2016) that as of last April, there were over 23,000 EU nationals and 8,492 from other countries working in Malta, Italians top the list (5,180), followed by workers from Britain (3,985), Bulgaria (2,044), Hungary (1,308), Romania (1,262), Spain (1,119) and Sweden

(1,085). At 1,468, citizens of the Philippines top the third country nationals list, followed by Serbians (1,246). According to Jobsplus, at the end of August, 74 EU nationals were registering for work, the highest being Italians at 20, followed by the Britons at 14. (Source: peopleatwork.com.mt)

Foreign workers in Malta

Indepndt.com.mt

There seems to be a misunderstanding about the value added which foreign workers in our society could bring to the economy. The fact that such activity exists seems to be taken in itself as an indication of how strong the economy has become. But the right questions to address are: What positions are foreign workers taking up? What kind of economic inputs do they provide?

In the history of these islands, there almost always were many foreigners who lived and worked here. At the times of the Knights of St John for instance, we had the knights themselves as well as their followers (not to mention the slaves). In the main all these were involved in the provision of "military" services but their inputs also had an economic dimension. The same can be said for when Malta was a British colony.

The crucial test is not simply the number of foreign workers with jobs at a time when unemployment has reached historically very low levels.

The test must cover whether foreign workers are carrying out tasks that the Maltese themselves do not know how to do, or do not want to do. Would the Maltese economy be hit if such tasks were not being carried out? Is it work that foreigners can do much better than Maltese workers and more cheaply?

All these questions need to tie in with a final one: What would happen if suddenly all foreign workers left?

Malta Needs More Foreign Workers to Boost Economy

More than 30,000 foreign workers have come to the island country of Malta over the past few years but even more are needed to “build the railroad” and keep the economy running.

Clyde Caruana, who heads the state employment agency JobsPlus, is drafting proposals on Malta’s labor force requirements and says there is no doubt thousands more are needed to meet the demand from employers, MNA reported.

He said that if this was not done, the economy would seize up. “We have maximized the potential of the Maltese labor force with a number of measures. And over the past few years we attracted thousands of foreigners to augment local workers too. Attracting them again, and in larger numbers, is a top priority now,” the economist said.

Caruana added that what had once been a sense of frustration among employers seeking enough workers had now become desperation. “I can’t stress enough how important bringing in these workers is for our economy,” he said. And, the economy, Caruana said, is growing. Over the past four years the country’s average economic growth was measured at around 6.4%—far outstripping the EU average. Just last year Malta had registered a net increase of 10,500 jobs over the previous year, a trend that shows no signs of abating.

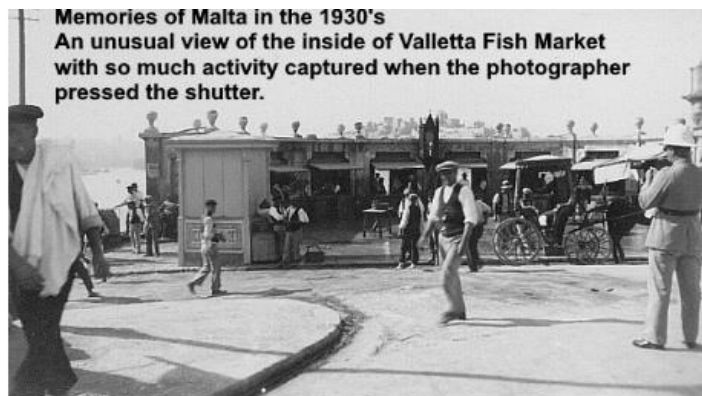
The government has pledged a €700 million (\$835 million) seven-year plan to redo all of the island’s road network. It has also planned to revamp several hospitals, and with a number of major high-rise and luxury construction projects earmarked for the next few years, Malta has a desperate need for workers.

Where are they going to come from? Caruana believes one solution could be to import unemployed Europeans to meet the economy’s requirements. He is expected to propose to the cabinet that bilateral agreements could be reached with countries where unemployment is high, for their jobless to work in Malta. “This is something we are going to have to consider. It has worked in other countries that needed far more labor than their labor force could supply.” The government would also be looking at how countries with a “high dependency on human capital”, such as Singapore, solved their problems. <https://financialtribune.com/>

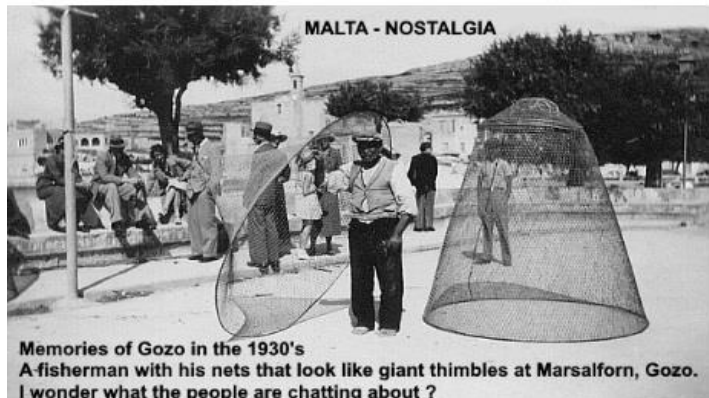




Memories of Malta in the 1930's
A policeman stands guard as Men and Boys pose on a street corner while decorations for the Festa are being erected, the street name reads Strada Reale.



Memories of Malta in the 1930's
An unusual view of the inside of Valetta Fish Market with so much activity captured when the photographer pressed the shutter.



Memories of Gozo in the 1930's
A fisherman with his nets that look like giant thimbles at Marsalforn, Gozo. I wonder what the people are chatting about?



Nostalgia – Malta 1930

Ira Losco is one of the biggest names in Maltese music, and her career spanning over 15 years has seen her win more than 20 music awards. Ira has twice opened concerts for Sir Elton John and has performed alongside Katie Melua, Maroon 5, Akon, Enrique Iglesias, Ronan Keating, Tokio Hotel, Gigi D'Alessio and many more. She has also had a string of chart topping singles, including "What I'd Give," "The Person I Am," and "Me Luv U Long Time." Her fifth album will be released this year.

Of course, Ira is also no stranger to Eurovision, having come within 12 points of winning the Eurovision Contest in Tallinn. She returns to the Eurovision stage 14 years later in Stockholm with a powerful song, "Walk on Water".



Since her near-win at the Eurovision in 2002, she won over 20 music awards, cut five albums, a 400-page photographic tome, and remains one of Malta's most recognisable musical artists. This year she releases a double album marking her 15 years in music. Beyond music, Ira is an advocate for LGBTI rights, supports anti-bullying initiatives and campaigns to help teenagers protect themselves from revenge porn. In 2008 she was awarded a prestigious medal by the President of Malta.



My Way to Success: Through Healing Self-Love

by [Rita Briffa](#) (Author)

Rita's journey was an uphill struggle from the start. An only child, influenced by her parents' strong religious beliefs left Rita believing that was the only way to life and fell into a space where questioning was met with a barrage of opposition.

Facing an unknown illness in her younger years, Rita was flown to the UK for medical diagnosis; she spent many long hours alone and scared in unfamiliar surroundings. Returning home with her diagnosis that she would have to live with for the rest of her life; Rita retreated to a space of loneliness and solitude.

Hard done by, from the actions of others, whether from childhood experiences, feeling a lack of parental love, breakdown of relationships and on the wrong path; Rita luckily stumbled across a variety of holistic therapies. Divine intervention brought Rita to the right path that led to her own healing journey, no longer suffering with illness, listening to her inner guidance, and manifesting the life of her dreams – living with passion and self-love. It wasn't all easy – but it was worth it. While reading through, the chapters subtly open your sub conscious mind, body, and soul. There will be shifts and changes within you as you read, a whole new world of enlightenment to see who you really are, face the shadows within, understand your soul contracts and learn what love really is. A process of unfolding another perspective to death, stubbornness or perseverance and guidelines at the crossroads in life. Follow your intuition, dreams, and ambitions; it only takes one small step on your chosen path to reach SUCCESS!

Rita now, not only lives a life filled with success, she helps others to heal and live with passion too through her consultancy and therapy work at **Wellbeing Consultancy Malta**. "A truly magical book to transform your life and begin to heal yourself. As you turn the pages an experience like no other unfolds." - Nicola Simpson, Yellow Rose Publishing

Footnote:

I am located in Malta but I am publishing my book with Yellow Rose Publishing Ltd., UK. It is already on Amazon, Kindle, Barnes & Noble and Book depository. You may also ask for it at your local(Malta) bookshops and they will be able to order it for you too.

'Id-Dentatura tan-Nanna' – Grandma's Denture

Independent.com.mt

First Magazine Wednesday, 30 May 2018,



Children's books about dentistry are abundant and popular, especially if the protagonists are animals or popular children's characters like Barney or Dora. Most of the storylines are either about the Tooth Fairy or about first experiences at the dentist.

There are other dental health promotion books targeted at young children which explain the importance of oral health and how to maintain a healthy dentition. On the local market one also finds popular children's books translated in Maltese like '*Gigi Tugghu Darstu*' translated by Trevor Zahra and '*Is-Sinna ta' Nora*' adapted in Maltese by Clare Azzopardi. Recently young Samuel Farrugia also published '*Samuel and The Magic Tooth*'.

I was inspired to write this short story through my special interest within the dental field which is geriatric dentistry; dental care for elderly persons. It is a fairly new field, introduced by the Faculty of Dental Surgery at the University of Malta merely five years ago. Nowadays, it is a module studied by all our dental students, not only those who are studying to become dentists but also dental hygienists, dental technologists and dental assistants.



Although 'Id-Dentatura tan-Nanna' focuses on Grandma's dentures, the main message to be delivered is about the perception and attitudes of young children towards older persons.

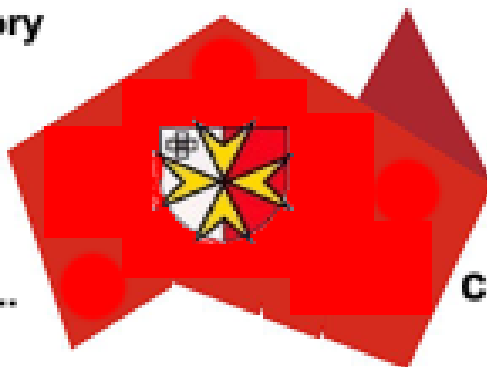
International and local literature, as well as my personal experiences, reveal that although children's attitudes towards the ageing process are often negative, their general attitude towards older people is positive. Thus children identify ill health, loss or greying of hair, loss

of teeth or wearing a denture with old age and this generates the fear of growing old or a negative attitude towards the ageing process.

In a recent study by Sally Newman(2017), when children were asked to find an adjective to describe an older person, they all used positive adjectives like 'pleasant', 'good', 'happy', 'pretty', 'kind' and 'loved'. I believe that these adjectives are also endorsed by our Maltese children who have very loving and respectful relationships with older persons especially their grandparents and great grandparents.

For this story, I collaborated with one of Malta's leading children's writers, Nathalie Portelli, who made the necessary arrangements to my story in order to make it possible for it to be printed as a children's book. Artist David Mifsud magically transformed words into pictures, bringing Grandma and the children to life. *'Id-Dentatura tan-Nanna'* is published by Wise Owl Publications.

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**Building
Bridges
between
communities**

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER
The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

If you find this journal interesting send it to others and invite them to subscribe. Our family is growing weekly.