MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 519

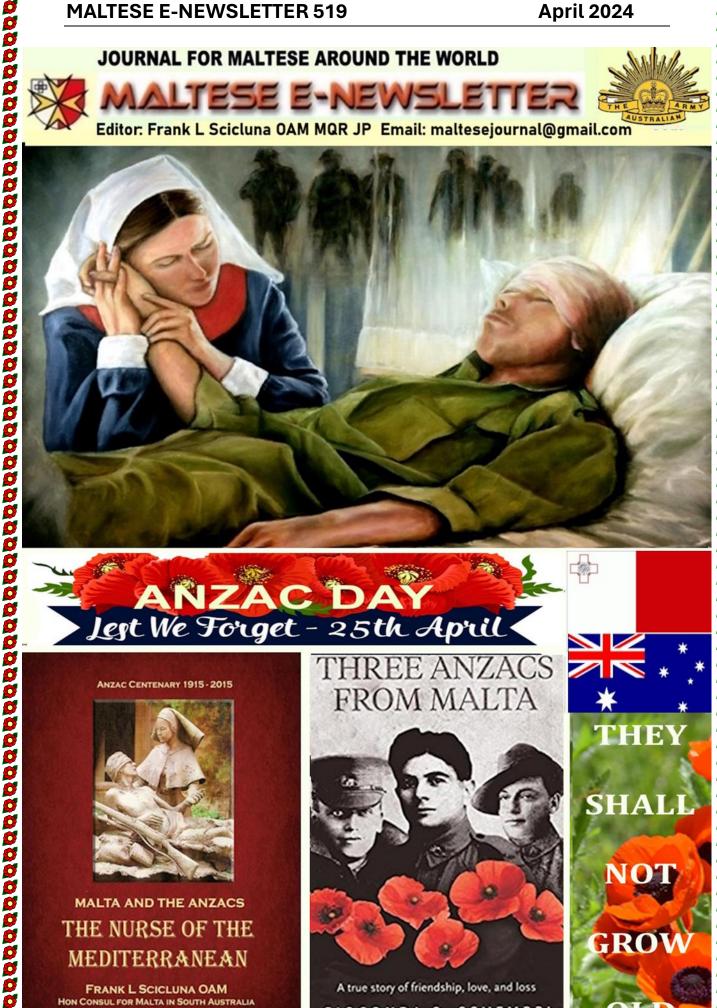
April 2024

JOURNAL FOR MALTESE AROUND THE WORLD

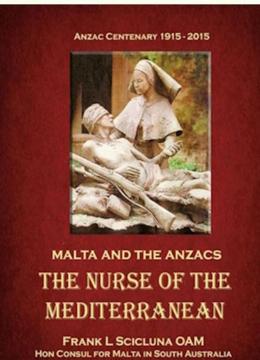


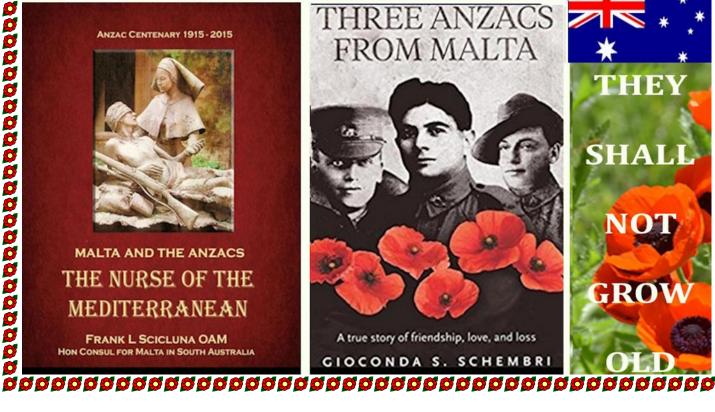


Editor: Frank L Scicluna OAM MQR JP Email: maltesejournal@gmail.com











MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 519 April 2024



THE MALTESE YOUTHS SPEAK **ABOUT** THE STATE OF **OUR ENVIRONMENT**

A conference on Climate Change was organised the Member of aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa

Parliament, Eve Borg Bonello, and presided by Speaker Anglu Farrugia at Parliament House on Thursday 18 April 2024. Activists and stakeholders in the environmental sector participated but it was the youths who made an impact in the chamber by their steadfast insistence that leaders must take action on climate change now and treat it like the emergency that it is. Here are their comments:

16-YEAR-OLD NINA BRIFFA: "My generation isn't the one that created these problems but it is the one that will have to face the consequences for it. Instead of planting more trees, what remained were being chopped, instead of preserving unbuilt spaces, every empty corner was being filled with concrete, and instead of investing in green energy, the country was using fossil fuels to generate power. We are angry, and not just because we are expected to fight for our futures but also because the highest authorities in our country continue to make it worse. And then we wonder why 70% of Maltese youth want to leave the country. We're living in a broken world".

16-YEAR-OLD ANDRE MICALLEF: "I am an outdoors enthusiast, and I could see first-hand how the environment had been destroyed. We as children have nowhere to go to enjoy nature, everywhere is full of plastic. This is no longer our world; it is a broken world. We are focusing too much on individuals and not the actions of corporations in this area. It is crucial that we see more grants for startups to usher in newer and cleaner technologies to help us combat the problem. It took me two-and-a-half hours to get to Valletta and it will take me another two hours to get home. This cannot continue, for the system to work it has to be sustainable. We need to have a good and efficient mode of public transport but we're not getting that with Tallinja (the route bus service). It's good that the service is free, but kids aren't using it because it's not a good service." 'I want to grow up in a country that cares about my future."

9-YEAR-OLD MARTINA CASSAR: "Last summer's heat waves should have been an overdue wakeup call to the state of rising global temperatures. I am very worried about my future and I don't know what's going to happen due to the drastic effects of climate change.

"Water scarcity is one of the country's most pressing climate issues; more needs to be done to preserve the water supply, especially in light of the fact that last year, nine of the 12 months were drier than average. In Malta we have excessive number of cars on the road and we must plant more trees to offset CO2 emissions from their pollution. I want to grow up in a country that cares for me. When you're taking decisions, think of me and all the other children in the country who want to grow up in a clean and safe environment. You need to take action today before it is too late."

15-YEAR-OLD RHYTHM GARG: "I came to Malta from India 10 years ago because of my health, with my parents but the air is dirtier than ever; They came here because they wanted me to breathe clean air, but today it's sad that this is a thing of the past, it is not the case anymore, It is crucial that we work together. We all know how serious the problem is, but some of us insist on sweeping it under the rug." This problem could and should not be ignored.

She said that there is power in individuals making better choices, such as shopping for local items which are likely to have a lower carbon footprint than imported products. Public transport needed to become more efficient as it did not meet the needs of young people and students. And as

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 519

April 2024

alternative transport such as cycling was encouraged, the road infrastructure needed to be improved to support cyclists."

"Hearing these remarkable children speak in Parliament has renewed my faith in the next generation," MP Borg Bonello said. "It's high time for the adults in the room to step up and take the difficult decisions."

What went wrong at Gallipoli?

1915: Australian troops land at Gallipoli

On 25 April 1915 Australian soldiers landed at what is now called Anzac Cove on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

For the vast majority of the 16,000 Australians and New Zealanders who landed on that day, it was their first experience of combat. By that evening, 2,000 of them had been killed or wounded. The Gallipoli campaign was a military failure. However, the traits that were shown there - bravery, ingenuity, endurance and mateship - have become enshrined as defining aspects of the Australian character.

On 25 April 1915, 16,000 Australian and New Zealand troops landed at what became known as Anzac Cove as part of a campaign to capture the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The British had been trying to force their way through the narrow straits known as the Dardanelles to capture Constantinople and so relieve pressure on their Russian allies engaged with Ottoman forces in the Caucasus.

Minefields and onshore artillery batteries thwarted the early naval attempts

to seize the strait and it was decided that troops would have to be landed on the peninsula to overcome Turkish defences.

British and French forces landed at Cape Helles on the southern tip of the peninsula. Meanwhile, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC), which included the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Australian Brigades along with the 1st New Zealand Brigade as well as artillery units from the British Indian Army, landed on the west coast in a series of waves. However, in the early morning darkness it is possible that they were beached one kilometre or so north of



their planned objective in an area of steep, rugged terrain.

Turkish resistance - Once on the beach, many units became separated from one another as they began moving up the tangle of complex spurs and ravines in the darkness. Turkish resistance remained strong, and the Anzacs were subjected to devastating artillery bombardments.

By mid-morning Turkish reinforcements had arrived under Mustapha Kemal (later Kemal Ataturk, president of Turkey). Kemal's orders to his men are said to have been: 'I don't order you to fight, I order you to die. In the time it takes us to die, other troops and commanders can come and take our places.'

The Anzac position became progressively more precarious as the Anzacs failed to secure their highground objectives. The Turks mounted a fierce counterattack regaining much of the ground the Anzacs had taken. That evening, Major-General William Bridges, commander of the 1st Australian Division, and Lieutenant-General Sir William Birdwood, commander of ANZAC, both advised General Sir Ian Hamilton, Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, that the Allied force be withdrawn from the peninsula.

Digging in - After consultation with the Royal Navy, Hamilton decided against an evacuation, and ordered the troops to dig in. Falling back on improvised and shallow entrenchments, the Anzacs held on for a crucial first night.

By that first evening 16,000 men had been landed but more than 2,000 had been killed or wounded.

MALTA AND THE ANZACS THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN



The Gallipoli Connection

Anzac Day has been commemorated in Malta since 1916. Since 1979 the service has been held at the Pietà Military Cemetery as it contains the highest number of ANZAC war graves in Malta.

The cemetery is located in Triq Id-Duluri (entrance at the junction of Triq Id-Duluri and Triq Santa Monika) Pietà. Malta played a significant role in and during the Gallipoli Campaign with many Australians and New Zealand

casualties being evacuated to Malta for medical treatment. From the spring of 1915, hospitals and convalescent camps were established on the islands of Malta and Gozo, to deal with the many thousands of sick and wounded from the Gallipoli and Salonika campaigns. Despite the courageous efforts of the doctors and medical staff, some of the casualties could not be saved and they were buried on Malta. Of those buried on Malta there were 202 Australian and 72 New Zealanders.

The Commonwealth war burials in Malta are unlike those found anywhere else. Many joint and collective burials were made as graves had to be cut into the rock underlying the island's shallow



earth crust. These graves are usually marked by flat tablets that could take several inscriptions and, for the sake of uniformity; the same type of marker was used for single graves. Diggers in Malta ... about 55,000 troops from the Gallipoli campaign were sent to Malta for care. Picture: Richard Ellis archive.

HOSPITALS AND CONVALESCENT CAMPS

To cater for the over 135,000 sick and wounded from the Gallipoli and Salonika campaigns there were numerous

hospitals and convalescent Camps throughout Malta and Gozo. The Australian and New Zealander soldiers were treated in various hospitals and convalescent camps. Listed below are but a few of the many hospitals and convalescent camp that were in Malta to treat the sick and wounded.

Station Hospital

The Station Hospital which is now the Mediterranean Conference Centre_located at Mediterranean St, II-Belt Valletta. Tours are conducted through this Centre by the Malta Experience.

Lazzaretto Hospital Lazzaretto Hospital ia situatreed in Manoel Island and can still be viewed from any of the tour boats conducting the harbour cruises from Sliema.

Bavière Hospital The Bavière Hospital was situated in the Auberge de Bavière. The Auberge de Bavière has an ancient and honourable history, having been the headquarters of the Anglo-Bavarian Knights of St. John located at San Bastjan, Valletta. It now houses the main offices of the GPD, including the Director General's Office, the Finance & Administration Directorate, The Estate Management Directorate, the Land Directorate, and the Joint Office Directorate.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 519

April 2024

St. Elmo Hospital The St. Elmo Hospital was previously a government school that was converted in to a hospital. St. Elmo specialised as a surgical hospital. The hospital was located at Fort St. Elmo at the north end of the Grand Harbour. It was well ventilated and overlooked the breakwater.

Fort Chambray Hospital Gozo The Fort Chambray Hospital served as an excellent Convalescent Depot (camp) during the First World War, relieving the crowded camps on Malta.

Mtarfa Hospital The hospital was commissioned in 1912. It was used during World War I to hold many of injured Australian and New Zealand troops from the Gallipoli landings. It was expanded enormously during the Second World War.

In the 1950s it was renamed the David Bruce Royal Naval Hospital after the doctor who discovered the root cause of Malta fever, or Brucellosis. It has since been converted to a state secondary school, named after Sir Temi Zammit, part of St Nicholas College.

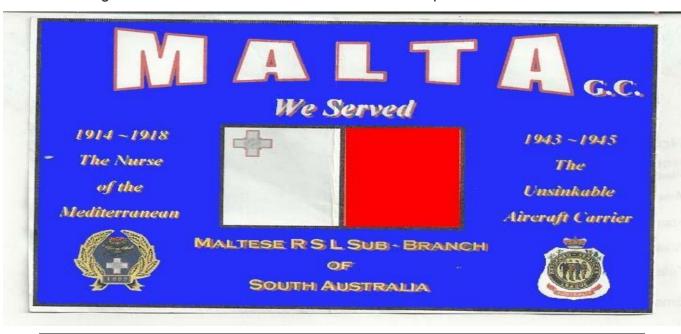
Cottonera Hospital The Cottonera Hospital is now St Edward's College_providing an excellent all round education, including an IB 6th Form, to its students and also very proud of its heritage as the Cottonera Hospital.

Visit the beautiful grounds of St Edward's College and get a feel of what it may have been like as an Australian or New Zealand soldier to have been a patient at the Cottonera Hospital during the First World War. St Edward's College have also set up a permanent display of the history of the College when it was known as the Cottonera Hospital.

St Edward's College is located in Triq Dan Dwardu, Birgu (Citta Vittoriosa) Cottonera.

Ghajn Tuffieha Camp Hospital Ghajn Tuffieha is situated 10 miles directly west of Valletta in a charming valley near the sea with hills on either side. Ghajn Tuffieha had already been used as a camp in peace time, partly by the army and partly by the navy, being in great request as a summer holiday resort both by officers and men. There is abundant room for exercise and games of every description; the bathing facilities are unrivalled, and the summer heat is greatly tempered by a cool breeze; in fact Ghajn Tuffieha was eminently suitable for making men, softened by wounds or sickness, hard and fit for service. The area is still a very popular area for tourists; there are numerous walking tracks, and swimming and other water sports may be enjoyed from the sandy beaches in Golden Bay.

Australia Hall The area around Pembroke had a number of convalescent camps such as All Saints, St Paul's, and Spinola Camp. Australia Hall was built after the sum of £2,000 (pounds) was raised through donations by the Australian Branch of the Red Cross, at the time, to provide a place of amusement and social activities. Australia Hall was used for shows for the Forces between the wars and also during the Second World War. Now the hall is in disrepair and could be demolished





MALTESE ANZACS IN WW1

CHARLESL BONAVIA. Charles Emanuel Bonavia was born in Sliema and arrived in Australia as a bachelor aged 24 years. Son of Emanuel and Giorgina Bonavia of 331 Strada St Paolo, Valletta, Charles was a draughtsman by profession and enlisted with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps in the Australian

Waldemar Beck Francis Brown Charles Bonavia from Msida from Valletta from Sliema

Imperial Force [Reg. No. 157] on 9 September 1914 as a Private aged 27.

A tall man with a dark complexion, Bonavia was allocated to the Battalion of 'B' Company. Together with his unit, he left for overseas duty from Fremantle, Western Australia, on the Transport ship A11 Ascanius on 2 November 1914, and saw service in Egypt Gallipoli.

A few months later, his father received a letter from the Army advising him that his son was missing in action somewhere in Gallipoli, Turkey. It was a great shock for the Bonavia family, all hoping and praying their son would be found alive and well. As was the procedure when a soldier is missing in action, a Court of Inquiry was held in this case at Fletre, France, which concluded that it would be reasonable to assume that he was dead. Eventually, the official verdict stated that Private Charles Emanuel Bonavia had been killed in action. As he was never found, there is no known grave for him.

It was a traumatic experience for his family, when they received the second letter confirming the bad news. Bonavia was one of the first soldiers to be killed in action on Anzac Day, 25 April 1915 and posthumously awarded the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His burial place is at Lone Pine Cemetery, Anzac Gallipoli Canakkale, Turkey.

WALDEMAR BECK. Private Waldemar Beck Waldemar Beck was born at 91 Strada Rudolfo, Sliema, Malta. He was the son of Lawrence and Carolina Beck. Whilst his occupation was that of a motor driver, Beck had attended the Royal University of Malta, earning the degree of Bachelor of Economics and Land Surveying.

With this qualification he did a one-year apprenticeship with S. Sacco in Malta before emigrating to Australia. As a single man, 5 ft 7 ins tall with a fresh complexion, blue eyes and dark brown hair, he enlisted on 9 October 1916 from Perth when he was just 27 years old. He was assigned to the 16th Battalion, 23rd Reinforcement, which embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia on the HMAT A35 Berrima on 23 December 1916. Some months later, the Battalion found itself in France.

He was plagued with many health problems and after being admitted for treatment and rejoining his unit during his tour of duty, he was wounded in action in France near Hamel (during the Battle of Hamel) on 6 July 1918 and consequently died of gunshot wounds aged 29. Private Beck was later buried in the Bois Guillaume Communal Cemetery Extension (Row D, Grave No. 6B), France, and awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal for his service with the ANZACS

FRANCIS BROWN. Private Frank Brown was born on 4 February 1886 in Valletta and later lived at 213 Prince of Wales Road, Sliema. He applied for a passport to emigrate to Australia on 24 September 1913 and three years later he answered the call and enlisted with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 519 April 2024

Francis was the son of Joseph and Angiolina Brown of 12 McDonald Street, Leichhardt NSW. He enlisted on 16 October 1916 with the rank of Gunner, at the age of 30 and he was assigned to Medium Trench Mortar Battery, 5th Reinforcement. Together with his unit, he embarked from Sydney bound for Europe duty on board troop ship A67 Orsova on the 2 December 1916. Nine months later he was killed in action on 5 September 1917 in Belgium and laid to rest at Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, Belgium. After his death, Gunner Brown was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal..

FRANCIS BELLIA. Francis Bellia was born on 21 September 1899 in Valletta and resided at 36 Strada Miratore, Floriana. He married Sarah Harriett and after applying for a passport to come to Australia on 17 October 1909, settled with his wife at Meroo, Tavistock Road, Flemington NSW. A man short in stature and weighing 116lbs, he enlisted as a Private on 23 January 1917, at 27 years of age, giving his occupation as a driver [Reg No 7209].

After his basic training, and assignment to the 1st Battalion, 24th Reinforcement, he left Australia with his fellow trainees, embarking from Sydney per RMS Osterley on 10 February 1917. Sadly, Bellia was killed in action on the 17 April 1918 at the young age of 28 years. Dellia wa decorated with the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

THOMAS RIZZO. Private Thomas Rizzo was not born in Malta nut in Australia of a Maltese father, Antonio, and an Australian mother, Johanna, who lived in Melbourne Victoria. He attended St Francis Christian Brothers School in Melbourne, and at the age of 26 decided to enlist in the Australian Army for overseas service.

ANDREW CAMILLERI. Andrew Camilleri was a stonecutter by trade and migrated to Australia in 1913 at the age of 19 years. He was the son of Caterina Camilleri of Mgabba, Malta. Before migrating, he served in the KOMR for a few months. Being used to military life he wanted to enlist in the Australian Army, so when he was 23 he filled in his enlistment papers at Victoria Barracks in Sydney on 24 January 1917 [Reg. No. 7212]. After the basic three months training, he joined his fellow trainees who were assigned to the 35th Battalion Infantry, boarded from Sydney per Troop carrier RMS Osterley, and later transferred to 62nd Battalion. His assignment in the battlefields was cut short, as he was pronounced killed in action aged 26. Private Andrew Camilleri's place of burial is Tyne Cot Cemetery, Passchendaele, Belgium. He was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal after his death.



FRANCESCO BARTOLO. Francesco Bartolo was born on 21 November 1893, son of Vincenzo and Carmela Bartolo of Mellieha. A labourer, he applied for a passport to emigrate to Australia on 27 October 1913 and went to Tasmania to work in the mines where a number of Maltese were employed.

Barely out of his teenage years, he enlisted to fight with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps from Queenstown, Tasmania, on the 26 February 1915 [Reg. No.823]. enlistment form, Francesco stated that he served four years in the British Army in Malta prior to migrating. Although unable to write, Francesco still wanted to be part of the Battalion of Anzacs.

He was assigned to 26th Battalion Australian Infantry, 'C' Company, sailing on Troopship HMAT A60 Aeneas for service overseas on 29 June 1915. During this tour of duty he was wounded twice but rejoined his Battalion before falling sick and admitted to hospital on 2 March 1918 and again fought on with his Company from May 1918.

Sadly, on 9 August 1918 during the fighting in the second Battle of the Somme, France, he was killed in action and buried one month later by his fellow soldiers, in the Australian Section, 3rd Echelon, Heath Cemetery,. He was posthumously awarded the 1914-15 Star Medal, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. By our correspondent

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 519

April 2024



The name Hennessy MJ stares down at me from a plaque at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Why did he die, in Malta, a decade after World War 2?

The 1950s is known as the start of the Cold War, and the decade was marked by many of the world powers losing their colonies, including Malta, which would soon look to loosen its ties with Britain. It was also a decade during which Malta would look backwards to the wounds inflicted during the Second World War and look forward to its role in an era of an uneasy peace. Likewise,

Australia's military links with Malta that were prominent since World War 1, would continue for decades to come as the world grappled with new dangers.

Australian War Memorial, Roll of Honour, April 2024



Malta's role in World War 1 is known as being "The nurse of the Mediterranean", where over 50,000 Australian and NZ soldiers found refuge following the Gallipoli campaign. The strategic battle for control of Malta in World War 2 that left the island devastated is part of Malta's proud folklore of resistance and perseverance, immortalised in the film The Malta Story shot in Malta in 1953. In the Second World War, the Royal Australian Airforce (RAAF), as part of the Royal Air Force (RAF), was crucial in the defence of Malta. These sacrifices during armed conflicts, are acknowledged in Anzac Day commemorations which have been held on Malta since 1916.

But Australia's involvement and sacrifice in the Mediterranean extended well past the battle for Malta that ended in 1942, and beyond the battles fought across Europe during World War 2.

In 1952, No. 78 Wing RAAF was deployed to Malta. The RAAF 78 Wing deployment in Malta was the first time that Australia had members of its own forces in Malta. Originally based in Hal Far, the 78 Wing was moved to Ta' Qali during 1953, as part of Australia's contribution in the Cold War era. It became the first Air Wing in the RAAF to be equipped with jet aircraft.

Based in Malta, the RAAF units formed part of a British force which sought to counter the Soviet Union's influence in the Middle East. It consisted of 75 and 76 Squadrons who used their jet fighters to provide an air garrison for the island over the next two and half years.

Adding the dangers posed by the threat of combat, the presence in Malta of military aircraft added to the risk of air crashes and accidents over and around Malta's territorial waters. As part of its garrison duties RAAF aircraft flew security and surveillance operations as well as training flights around the archipelago.

In January 1954, a Gl. Meteor jet aircraft of the RAAF 78 Wing stalled after take-off from RAF Ta' Qali. It fell back to the runway hitting the runway. At the end of the runway, the plane flipped over on its back causing the aircraft to burst into flames, killing the 25 year old rear seat occupant, Leading Aircraftman Maxwell James Hennessy, while the pilot Bob Hunt escaped with face and arm injuries. Hennesy MJ, enlisted in 1950 from Chippendale NSW died in Malta on his first jet flight.



The two other servicemen of the 78 Wing, remembered on the plaque; Rees MP and Sharkie RJW, after serving in Malta died on their way back to Australia. Flight Seargeant Rees was lost overboard on a ship sailing to Aden, while Squadron Leader Sharkie having completed his tour of duty in Malta died of a severe illness in Singapore.

Even in non-combat times, the sacrifices of men like MJ Hennesy strengthen the links between Malta and Australia. Their commitments to service continue to be commemorated in the ANZAC ceremonies held in Malta.

Maltese Girl Guides and members of 78 Fighter Wing RAAF watch as

Leading Aircraftman Ron Wiseman of Sydney, NSW and Miss Margo Benello, Chief Girl Guide of Malta, place sprays of purple Bougainvillea on the grave of an Australian pilot who died during the battle of Malta. The Wing was doing garrison duty in Malta; several members accompanied the Girl Guids

AUSTRALIAN ANZAC ON HIS DEPARTURE FROM MALTA

Dr. J.J. Doyle, who served in the Australian Army Medical Corps, expressed sentiments about the island of Malta through different means such as poetry, with Doyle sending the following poem to the *Western Star* on the eve of his departure back to active service. Published on 15 December 1915, the poem is reproduced below.

To-night, we leave thee little isle, To-night we go from thee, Back to our comrades, away, to the front, With happy hearts and free. To us how kind you people were! Though Strangers here we came, Australian, British, everyone To you, t'was all the same. E'en when we landed, we were met By ladies fair, not few Who loaded us with luxuries, And more they could not do. Yet better still, the smile that cheers Was mixed with all, -t'was Heaven. To us poor Soldiers wounded then, For the Cross against the Crescent. And now "God Speed" us, off we go, By the blessed morning's light But remember us, aye pray for us, Adieu kind friends, Good night.



We thank our readers who sent a contribution towards the production of this journal

If you would like to send a donation these are the bank details

Bank - Commonwealth (Australia) BSB - 065 106

Account - 0050 2597 Name - Frank Scicluna



KNOW IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND

Knowing the stories of migrants, helps us to understand their struggles, achievements, joys, hopes and aspirations. Share your story too.

ANZACS IN MALTA DURING WORLD WAR ONE







WOUNDED SOLDIERS AT RICASOLI HOSPITAL, MALTA - CHRISTMAS 1915. PHOTO IS FROM A PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM AT THE MUSEUM OF MILITARY MEDICINE, ALDERSHOT, ENGLAND.

Despite the significance of the Gallipoli campaign to the Australian sense of nationhood, little is known of Malta's critical role during the engagement.

Known as the 'Nurse of the Mediterranean', a hospital base was established in Malta to treat the deluge of sick and wounded troops from the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign.







AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH WOUNDED AT BIGHI HOSPITAL, MALTA. PHOTOGRAPHER, RICHARD ELLIS. CATALOGUE NO:HU129304, COURTESY OF IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUMS.

More than 20 000 Australian and New Zealand casualties were treated in one of the twenty-seven hospitals, convalescent homes and camps by medical staff from all over the British Empire. 'Yells, Bells and Smells' shines a light on this forgotten episode of Anzac history and examines the experiences of convalescing soldiers and their nurses in Malta during 1915 and 1916.

MEMORIAL SITUATED AT THE GARDENS OF THE GEORGE CROSS FALCONS COMMUNITY CENTRE AT CRINGILA, NSW

IN MEMORY OF THE MALTESE ANZACS

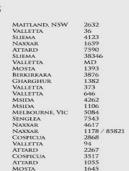
WORLD WAR 1 1914 - 1918

N IMPERIAL FORCES

	AGIUS ALBERT
	AQUILINA CARMELO
	ATTARD EMANUEL
	ATTARD PAUL
	ATTARD VINCENT
	AZZOPARDI ANTHONY
	BALDACCHINO GEORGE
	BARTOLO CHARLES
+	BARTOLO FRANCESCO
	BARUN IOSEPH
	BECK WALDEMAR
+	BELLIA FRANCIS
+	BONAVIA CHARLES
	BORG LORENZO
+	BROWN FRANK
	BUSUTTIN BASIL CHARLES
	CAMILLERI ANDREW
+	CAMILLERI BENEDETTO
	CAMILLERI PAOLO
	CASTALDI ELIGIO
	DALLI JOHN
	DARMANIN GIUSEPPE
	DEBONO ANDREW
	DEBONO PAUL

USTRALIAN		
MOSTA	140	
NAXXAR	105	
GOZO, QALA	499	
ZEJTUN	359	
QORMI	300	
MELLIEHA	735	
SIGGIEWI	759	
MELLIEHA	640	
MELLIEHA	823	
VITTORIOSA	227	
MSIDA	696	
FLORIANA	720	
SLIEMA	157	
VALLETTA	213	
VALLETTA	318	
AYR, QLD	326	
MOABBA	721	
RABAT	214	
NAXXAR	475	
SLIEMA	361	
VALLETTA	182	
COSPICUA	6730	
BIRKIRKARA	216	
BIRKIRKARA	469	

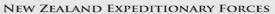














MOSTA 57364 GOZO, RABAT 55923 SENGLEA 10 / 3343 SLIEMA 15 / 74 INVERCARGILI, NZ 35930

LEST WE FORGET

MALTESE EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION. NSW SUB BRANCH

The memorial is an aluminium plaque, attached to a limestone-block pillar. The plaque is inscribed with an honour roll of servicemen from the First World War, who were of Maltese descent. The roll is divided into two sections, for those who served in the Australian Imperial Force or the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Each name is accompanied by their service number and their city or town of birth, in either Malta or Australia.



The plague also contains three photographs of veterans, one of which includes a name. It is of Private Waldemar Beck, service number 6969, and is dated 23 December 1916. On this same day, Beck sailed for Devonport in England from Fremantle in Western Australia, on board HMAT A35 Berrima. He died of wounds in France on 6 July 1918.

The memorial stands on a paved area, under a covered awning, in the garden of the George Cross Falcons Community Centre in Cringila, NSW, near Wollongong. It is positioned alongside two other pillars, which have interpretative plaques attached. It was designed by Louis Parnis, President of the community centre. He collaborated with the RSL archives and was assisted by South Australian historian and former Honorary Consul Frank Scicluna OAM. The memorial was inaugurated on 17 April 2021, by the President of the Wollongong RSL sub-Branch. Members from the Maltese Ex-Servicemen's Association RSL sub-Branch also attended the ceremony. The memorial is the first of its kind in the area and is expected to attract local visitors, as well as those from further away. It is intended annual Anzac Day services will be held on the site.

ANZAC DAY 2024 CEREMONY AT THE GEORGE CROSS FALCONS COMMUNITY CENTRE

On Saturday 20 April 2024 at 10am Admiral Bruce Kafer Master of Ceremony held the Anzac commemoration in Cringila. Among those attending the ceremony were Wollongong Council Lord Mayor and Councillors, Parish Priest Father Damien Ellis, Federal Member for Cunningham Ms. Alison Byrnes, State Minister Mr. Paul Scully Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Federal Member for Whitlam Mr. Stephen Jones Multicultural Communities Council of the Illawarra Mr. Chris Lacey and members and guests. President Parnis in his speech welcomed everyone to Cringila and read out a poem he wrote for the occasion. Parish priest Father Damien Ellis recited a prayer for the nation and Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbery AM welcomed all to the Country.

April 2024

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 519

The Australian Navy Cadet Unit-TS ALBATROSS organised a Catafalgue party to guard the monument for the duration of the Memorial. Mr. lan Colquhoun- City of Wollongong RSL sub-Branch read out the commemorative address written by the President Parnis titled the Nurse of the Mediterranean.

The minute of silence was broken by the Reveille played by the Bugler Ken Milner. Mr Lawrence Buhagiar, the Consul-General for Malta in NSW was also present. After the laying of wreaths, the attendees sang the Maltese and Australian National Anthems. At the conclusion of the Memorial MC Bruce Kafer thanked everyone attending to remember the Maltese Immigrants for their sacrifices. Morning tea was served at the community centre.



GEORGE CROSS FALCONS COMMUNITY CENTRE CRINGILA NSW





(L to R) Lord Mayor Gordon Bradbery, Stephen Jones Federal Minister, Paul Scully State Minister, Alison Byrnes State Member, Louis Parnis President GCFCC and Ann Martin Councillor

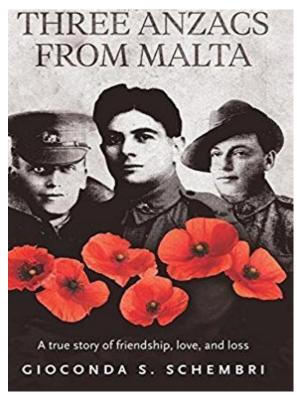


Australian High Commission, Malta et **Ambassade d'Australie** en Tunisie

ANZAC DAY IN MALTA

Anzac Day is one of Australia's most important national days—a time for Australians to remember our servicemen and servicewomen. Anzac Day is a time of personal reflection where we demonstrate our solemn respect for those who have served, and those who continue to serve our nation. selflessness Lovalty, and courage reflect the Anzac encompasses spirit, which values that Australians hold dear and aspire This year the Anzac Day Ceremony, Commemorative co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand, will be held on Thursday 25th April at the Military Cemetery. commencing at 09.00am. The service is open to the public who are requested to be seated at 08.45am. Members of the public who wish to lay a wreath are welcome to do so, once invited by the Master of Ceremonies. Military medals may be worn. Guests may wish to wear sunhats and other protection against the sun.

LEST WE FORGET



DR. GIOGONDA SCHEMBRI'S BOOK THREE ANZACS FROM MALTA

A True Story of Friendship, Love and Loss

Three friends... Big dreams... One war that shook their world...'Three Anzacs from Malta' tells the story of three young men, Charles, Waldemar and Anthony, who, in their early twenties, leave behind all they hold dear to pursue their dreams for a bigger and brighter future in a faraway land. Educated, charming, and adventurous, they soon settle in their adoptive home, securing steady jobs, forging new friendships, and finding love. But their carefree days end abruptly when the sombre clouds of a global war darken their world. What unfolds is one of the deadliest conflicts humankind had ever seen, one that would destroy a whole generation of youth. From the tiny Mediterranean island of Malta to the vast Australian continent, and from the unforgiving slopes of Gallipoli, all the way to the muddy trenches in Flanders, 'Three Anzacs from Malta' follows these young men as they carve out their destinies amidst unprecedented bloodshed and suffering. This is a timeless

story about migration, the heartache of separated families, loss and war. But this book is mainly a tribute to the tenacity of the human spirit in the face of enormous adversity, as well as a celebration of the virtues that transcend borders and time: courage, friendship and love. The book also includes various photos, extracts from letters and a war diary.

KM MALTA AIRLINES STAMP ISSUE - THE NEW NATIONAL AIRLINE

BY GOZO NEWS -







KM Malta Airlines, the new national airline of the Maltese Islands, performed inaugural flight Sunday, the 31st of March, with a return trip between Malta and Catania.

To commemorate the new national airline launch, MaltaPost is issuing a set of 3 stamps portraying images of the newly ordered Airbus passenger aircraft. Each stamp carries a denomination of €1.50 and will be available as from Friday, the 19th of April, from all post offices in Malta and Gozo.

The new airline said that it will focus on connecting Malta to major European cities and airport hubs and will operate a young single-type aircraft fleet consisting of eight Airbus 320 neo.

The stamp set will be issued in a sheet of 9, with each stamp measuring 35mm x 35mm, a comb perforation of 14.29 x 14.29 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark.

The sheets measure 135mm x 135mm and were produced by Printex Ltd in the offset process. The issue consists of 37,800 stamps.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 519

April 2024



MIGUEL MIFSUD **JIPPREŻENTA DONAZZJONI LIL CARITAS MALTA**

Wara girja nhar il-Hadd 7 ta' April 2024

Nhar il-Hadd 7 ta' April, Miguel Mifsud temm b'suċċess il-ġirja ta' 100KM



madwar il-kosta ta' Malta. Il-girja ta' 100km Miguel irnexxielu jagħmilha fi 11:13:08 b'pass ta' 6.43 minuti/km.

Ilbieraħ iltaga' mad-Direttur ta' Caritas Malta, is-Sur Anthony Gatt, biex prezenta d-donazzjoni ta' €6,100 li ngabru b'għan altruwistiku bħala ġest biex jagħti lura lin-nies fil-bżonn li huma mgħejjuna minn din l-organizzazzjoni. Fil-passat Miguel għamel żmien ta' riabilitazzjoni fiċ-Ċentru Terapewtiku ta' San Blas biex jikseb ħajtu lura minn dipendenza ta' numru ta' snin fug sustanzi.

Id-direttur ta' Caritas Malta is-Sur Anthony Gatt esprima l-apprezzament tieghu lejn Miguel ghal din l-inizjattiva u lejn kull min ta donazzjoni. "Dawn il-fondi se jkunu ta' sostenn għal dawk l-aktar persuni vulnerabbli, is-servizzi ta' Caritas Malta huma kollha bla ħlas. Huwa ta' sodisfazzjon kbir li innutajna li numru ta' persuni għamlu l-ewwel pass u resqu għallgħajnuna wara l-kuraġġ li ħadu mingħand Miguel. Kien mument sabiħ ħafna li naraw l-entużjażmu ta' numru ta' residenti miċ-Ċentru Terapewtiku tal-Ibwar, ta' San Blas u ta' Dar Charles Miceli flimkien ma' staff li għamlu biċċa mill-ġirja miegħu. Ġie innutat wkoll li persuni fi programmi residenzjali terapewtići thajru jibdew f'attività fiżika." Anthony Gatt temm jgħid li huwa ta' sodisfazzjon li nkomplu nahdmu ma' Miguel Mifsud f'iktar avvenimenti u avventuri fejn permezz ta' dan innatural high inkomplu nwasslu l-messagg tas-sabih tal-hajja 'I boghod mid-dipendenza fuq id-droga.

Miguel Mifsud irringrazzja lil kull min b'xi mod tah is-sapport għal din il-girja b'mod specjali l-isponsors. Irringrazzja wkoll lil dawk li nhar il-Ħadd 7 ta' April sabu l-ħin biex ġrew biċċa mid-distanza miegħu bħala sapport u wkoll lil dawk kollha li għoġġobhom jagħtu donazzjoni. "Bħalma jien fil-passat gawdejt mill-frott ta' donazzjonijiet li ingħataw, illum inħossni 👰 kburi li nista' naghti lura ftit minn dan il-frott ghal dawk il-persuni li qed ifittxu l-ghajnuna tal-Caritas" temm jghid Miguel waqt li pprezenta d-donazzjoni li ngabret f'kont apposta li nfetaħ għal din il-girja ta' 100KM.

Minbarra gbir ta' fondi b'risq Caritas Malta, Miguel kien strumentali fejn permezz ta' diversi intervisti li għamel fuq ilmedia, wassal messagg car li l-attività fizika zzommok 'il boghod mid-droga. Ghada Miguel se jigi intervistat fil-programm Andrew Azzopardi fuq RTK103 fil-1115 ta' filgħodu. Marica Cassar PR & Fundraising Officer

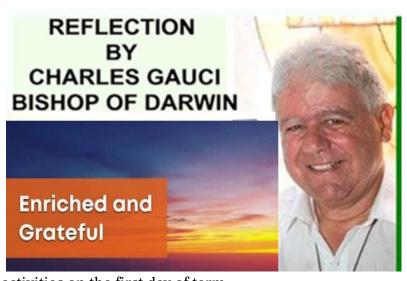
THE MISSION OF THE CARITAS MALTA

Caritas mission is to alleviate poverty and promote human development and social justice, witnessing to the Christian faith and Gospel values. To fulfil this mission, - Adheres to the guiding values and principles of the Pastoral Plan of the Diocese and the Strategic Plan of Caritas Internationalis and Caritas Europa:

- Renews its preferential option for the poor and gives witness of this commitment within the Christian community;
- Raises public awareness of poverty and injustice;
- Facilitates co-operation within and beyond the Caritas organisation in order to address the old and new faces of poverty
- Acts as the voice of the poor and enables the poor to become agents for change.

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 519

April 2024



As I write, I am on a small plane travelling from the Tiwi Islands back to Darwin.

I was engaged in several activities over a period of four days.

I celebrated a funeral for a woman of deep faith. I celebrated mass at the aged nursing home.I installed a new parish priest and inaugurated a new congregation now ministering to the people here while acknowledging the ministry done by others for so many years.I also took part in school

activities on the first day of term.

I also engaged in pastoral conversations with individuals and groups.

In all of these activities, I was reflecting on the lives of the local people.

They face many challenges. Yet there is a resilience and an openness. They are a spiritual people.

I admire the commitment of the priests and religious ministering here.

Then there is the natural beauty of the amazing environment.

As I look down from the plane on the deep blue sea I feel enriched and full of gratitude for all these gifts and experiences.



IL-KNISJA TA SANTA SAVINA **FIL-BELT KAPITALI** T'GHAWDEX VICTORIA

Kav. Joe M Attard

Din hija knisja ta' Adorazzjoi perpetwa ddedikata littwelid tal-Vergni Mbierka Marija li tinsab fil-qalba tal-Belt Victoria u għandha kampnar wieħed li nbena fis-sena 1903 u tkabbar fis-sena 1913. Sa mill-1904, din il-knisja ċkejkna serviet dejjem bħala post tal-Adorazzjoni matul il-jiem kollha tas-sena u jżuruha nies minn Għawdex kollu; kienet ikkonsagrata fis-7 ta' Frar 1904. Il-pittura tat-titular minn artist mhux maghruf kienet inghatat lill-

Knisja mill-Gvernatur ta' Ghawdex Fra Riccardo Nini de Claret fl-1622; fl-isfond tal-pittura wiehed jista' jilmaħ parti miċ-Ċittadella. Din hija knisja ferm qadima u kienet waħda mill-ftit li baqgħet wieqfa barra mis-swar u fi żmien l-ahhar gwerra, meta r-Rabat kien ikun fid-dlam minhabba l-attakki tal-ghadu, xi Ghawdxin kienu jazzardaw johorgu mid-dar u u jmorru jitolbu fiha biex il-Mulej jiskansana millbombi tal-ghadu. Jum wiehed fi żmien l-ahhar gwerra ajruplan Ġermaniż immaxingja xi passiġġieri li kienu neżlin mix-xarabank f'din il-pjazza ta' Savina li hadet isimha mill-knisja u qatel ghadd ta' Ghawdxin li isimhom jinsab imperrec fuq lapida ta' rham mwahhla mal-genb tal-knisja fejn ninsabu. Ilfesta f'din il-knisja ad unur Gesu' Sagramentat ssir fl-ahhar ġimgha ta' Jannar waqt li l-festa titulari ssir fl-aħħar week end ta' Settembru. Monsinjur Luigi Vella mill-Kapitlu tal-Katidral kien stinka ferm biex din il-knisja ssir post tal-Adorazzjoni perpetwa u rhama f'din il-knisja tfakkar din il-grajja mportanti flistorja tal-Knisja ta' Savina. **Kav Joe M Attard**

ANZAC CENTENARY 1914 -1918 ALL GAVE SOME - SOME GAVE ALL

To remember the sacrifice, contribution and courage of all those who were involved in the First World War and ANZAC these commemorative coins were minted.



Between 2014 and 2018, Australia and New Zealand commemorate the Anzac Centenary, marking 100 years since the nations' involvement in the First World War.

The First World War was one of the most significant events of the 20th Century, claiming the lives of more than 16 million people across the globe.

MALTA SALUTES THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALND ARMY CORPS (ANZACS)

THE BEAUTIFUL ANZAC MEMORIAL AT THE ARGOTTI



BOTANICAL GARDENS, FLORIANA, MALTA

World War 1 had its effects on the way of life of the Maltese. During World War 1, 80,000 ANZAC wounded soldiers were evacuated from the battlefield of Gallipoli and hospitalised in Malta. This little island was justly described as **The Nurse of the Mediterranean**.

Tragically, many of those wounded soldiers never made it back home. Approximately, 300 Australians and New

Zealand servicemen are amongst those buried in Malta. In May 2013, a memorial to those ANZACS (pictured above) was unveiled at the beautiful Argotti Botanical Gardens in Floriana, Malta and this monument is a profound and lasting tribute to those ANZACS who paid the ultimate price fighting for freedom and democracy of their country.

The memorial symbolizes the shared history and the deep and enduring bonds that exist between the people of Australia, New Zealand and Malta. The members of the Maltese community of South Australia have always been known for their energy and strong community spirit. The building of the ANZAC monument is just one example of this, with South Australian Maltese community playing a key role in raising funds for this memorial.



A FORGOTTEN **MEMORIAL**

MARY ALICE WALSHE

The church of St. Mary Magdalene in Merchants Street, Valletta, Malta, has been vacated to be cleaned and returned to the Archdiocese of Malta.

Other to the exquisite and elaborate sculpture that 👂 adorns the apse and doorways, just within the church's main door by the right hand corner is a small marble slab that not many would have noticed or known about.

It has been estimated that some 135,000 British, Australian, New Zealanders and allied casualties of were brought to or passed through Malta during S the First World War.

Due to the shortage of doctors and nurses on the island, various local doctors,

invaluable service and stretcher-bearers were the first to assist the military.

A number of these nurses and volunteers died while serving in Malta during the war. Towards the end of the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries, the church St. Mary Magdalene in Valletta was used by Roman Catholic soldiers stationed at nearby Fort St Elmo and Royal Marines and their families from the Camerata Barracks just across the narrow St. Nicholas Street.

An unexpected discovery concerns one of the volunteer nurses Mary Alice Walshe who was stationed statements in Malta during the First World War. Although very little could be found about her locally, the 💋 amazing discovery consists of a commemorative marble plaque dedicated to her. The plaque shows two central figures, a soldier wearing a khaki uniform and Foreign Service Helmet who is having his hands bandaged by a longhaired female in biblical robes, possibly Mary Magdalene.

Above her head is the badge of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service

(QAIMNS) Reserve. At bottom is a scroll with the legend; whatsoever you shall do to one of these, shall be done for me (Matthew 25:40), which is slightly painted over. Above is a dedication which although also painted over, some of the text is legible; to the memory of Mary a. Walshe q.a.i.n.n.s.r. died at Malta 19 VIII 1915, flanked on each end by a shield, possibly that of St. George of England. The sculptor was C. di Paolo. Her age is not known but Staff Nurse Walshe is recorded as having 💋 died at the Nurses Hospital in Strada Maggiore, Floriana, from a disease that she had contracted,

died at the Nurses Hospital in Strada Maggiore, Floriana, from a disease that she had contracted, possibly from one of the patients that she was attending. She was buried at the Santa Maria Addolorata Cemetery, at Paola. The plaque was erected as her grave was located in the 'public' section of the cemetery and these graves have been cleaned and reused. http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20100504/books/a-forgotten-memorial.305806

The Maltese Senior Citizens Association of Adelaide has lost its beloved and dedicated President, Mr. Frank Grima. The seniors' club is still functioning and they meet every Friday at the Cummunity Hall, LeHunte Street, KILBURN from 10.am till 3.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please, support this vibrant association and attend

Let's treasure what we've got before it is too late



Minister Ian Borg inaugurates new facilities at Maltese **Embassy in Washington**

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade lan Borg inaugurated the extensive refurbishment of the Embassy of Malta in Washington DC, with increased accessibility and security and new facilities for improved services to the public, including the Maltese diaspora community in the United States of America.

During the inauguration, Minister Borg met Maltese Ambassador to the United States Godfrey Xuereb and the diplomats and staff of the Maltese mission in Washington, as well other distinguished guests, including the United States Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigleg.

The United States has the third largest Maltese community in the world. Their resilience, hard work and commitment to their heritage serves as a testament to the enduring ties that bind our two nations together. This investment in the quality of our services in Washington highlights our commitment to strengthen ties between the two countries, and to consolidate collaboration across a wide range of fields, from trade and investment to security and cultural exchange," stated Minister Borg.

Reflecting on more than five decades of relations between Malta and the USA, the Minister reminded that such strong bonds are becoming increasingly more important. "From the earliest days of our Republic to the pivotal role Malta played as an international and regional mediator, as well as our increased participation in the UN Security Council and OSCE in recent months, our destinies have been bγ shared values and common aspirations for freedom, democracy prosperity. In times of uncertainty and conflict, it is essential that we continue to stand together, united in our pursuit of peace, stability and prosperity for all," Minister Borg said.

Ambassador Xuereb said that the refurbishment project of the Maltese Embassy and Consulate in Washington included the remodelling of the building, to make all areas accessible for all and increase service efficiency. A new conference room will facilitate bilateral meetings and other diplomatic and community engagements. The project also included an overhaul of the building's security and ICT systems, as well as energy and water saving technologies, to reduce carbon emissions.

The Maltese Mission to the United States was established in 1967. Besides the Embassy and Consulate in Washington, Malta also has honorary consuls in Alabama, Arizona, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Philadelphia, Puerto Rico and Seattle.

MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

WHEN ARE WE GOING TO LEARN OUR LESSON? OUR COMMUNITIES OVERSEAS ARE SHRINKING RADIPDLY AND WE STILL DON'T WANT TO WORK **TOGETHER AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER-WHY?. - EDITOR**



Replica locomotive is centrepiece of newly-restored Attard railway station

The replica was built of two tons of cardboard

NationalAttardHistory <u>Times of Malta</u> The train engine replica at Attard station garden.

A superbly detailed full-scale replica of one of

the Malta Railway's locomotives is on display at the former Attard railway station, which was reopened as a public garden on Tuesday after restoration.

The <u>loco replica is the work of Stephen Bonello</u>, who painstakingly built it in 2016 using a blueprint sourced by Paul Galea of the Malta Railway Foundation, and supported by Multi Packaging Ltd. It was assembled in place a few days ago and covered in a large glass case.

The restoration of the garden was carried out by Attard local council in a €600,000. project. It included the rebuilding of the station building, which was destroyed during the war. The new structure is to be used as an education centre and library.

The Planning Authority contributed some €200,000 towards the rebuilding of the station building and €30,000 for the steel and glass case sheltering the train engine replica.

The Malta Railway operated between Valletta and Rabat between 1883 and 1931. A journey typically took 30 minutes. The only surviving part of the Malta Railway trains is a wagon displayed at the former Birkirkara station.

Those present for the Attard garden's reopening included Gozo and Planning Minister Clint Camilleri and the parliamentary secretary for local councils Alison Zerafa Civelli.



THE MALTESE
JOURNAL
IS PUBLISHED
BY
VOLUNTEERS
AND SENT FREE
OF CHARGE
TO THOUSANDS
OF MALTESE
LIVING ABROAD

MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER 519

April 2024







MALTAPOST: STAMPS COMMEMORATING WW1 CENTENARY 1918 - 2018

MaltaPost issued a set of three stamps depicting military hospitals that were instrumental in saving the lives of tens of thousands of sick and wounded at Gallipoli, Turkey that were brought to and cared for in Malta during World War I. During that war, a total of 27 hospitals and camps were set-up across Malta and Gozo to accommodate thousands of wounded British, Australian and New Zealand servicemen. The first group of 600 casualties arrived from Gallipoli on 4th of May 1915. Initially, numerous wounded men were disembarked on the quayside by Valletta's ancient Sacra Infermeria hospital. They were then moved on to

other hospitals around the Island. This activity earned Malta the title: 'Nurse of the Mediterranean.'

The stamps carry a face value of €0.10 and €0.59 and €2.00 and portray the images of Bighi Hospital, Floriana Hospital and HMHS Rewa respectively. The stamps have been designed by Paul Psaila and will be issued in sheets of 10 stamps.

Each stamp measures 44mm x 31mm with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb.), while the sheets measures 119mm x 186mm. The Malta stamps bear the Maltese Crosses watermark. Printex Limited produced the set-in offset and the issue consists of 240,000 of the €0.10 stamp, 300,000 of the €0.59 and 72,000 of the €2.00. This Philatelic are available for sale after the 7th of November 2014 from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo: online at www.maltaphilately.com or by mail from the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c. 305, Qormi Road, Marsa, MTP 1001; Telephone: 2596 1740, e-mail:

info@maltaphilately.com.



"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old, Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn, At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We shall remember them"

Biex Qatt ma Ninsew