Maltese eNewsletter

Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR

Email: maltesejournal@gmail.com

FRONTLINE HEROES

Australian Stamp

New coins mark 50th Anniversary of the Armed Forces of Malta

Father Mintoff has been providing shelter for refugees and migrants for over 15 years.

John XXIII Peace Laboratory - Hal Far, Malta

"As a Franciscan, and a Maltese who has personally seen the outcomes of war, I decided to open a space that advocates for peace education in Malta"

Father Dionysius Mintoff OFM

Update – Tourists will be welcomed back to Malta and Gozo from June

BY GOZO NEWS ·

Update with MHRA and ALPA statements below – "Malta will be gradually welcoming tourists back to our country from the beginning of June," announced Minister for Tourism Clayton Bartolo. He added that, "this period has been agreed with the Public Health Authorities together with all parts of the tourism sector."

The Minister explained that the first markets the country will be opening for will be the European ones as well as the UK, because these same countries are "expected to have satisfactory vaccination rates by the beginning of June."

He also launched the tourism recovery plan amounting to around € 20,000,000 in direct aid and commitment for local businesses and tourism sectors.

This will be divided into various incentives and assistance schemes over the coming weeks and months to start preparing for the gradual opening of the tourism sector from the beginning of June, the Minister said.

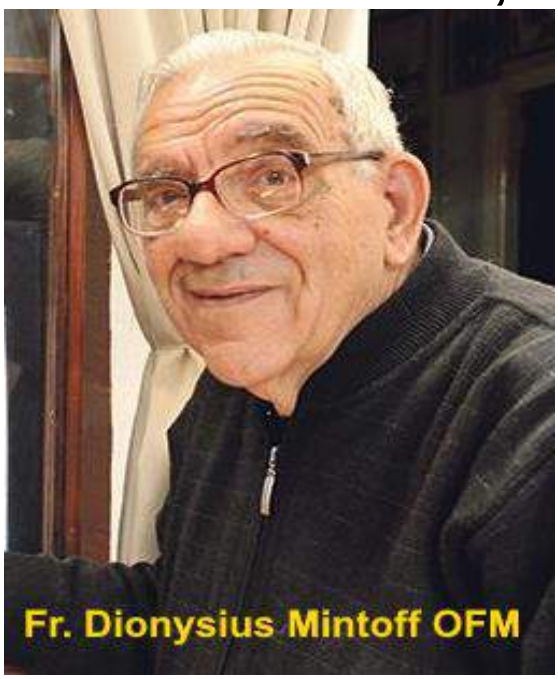
Schemes will also be issued by the Malta Tourism Authority over the same timeline which are dedicated to travel operators, English language schools, the Conference sector (MICE) as well as events and festivals sector. However when asked by the media about the entertainment and festivals sector, Minister Bartolo assured that "no experiments would be made with people's lives."

Minister Bartolo said that in addition there will be initiatives addressing Quality Assured Visitor Attractions, individual tourists, long-stay tourists, sports tourism as well as diving tourism.

The Minister for Tourism said that the ultimate goal of this plan is that in the shortest time local tourism will embark on the path of recovery, "so that our country can generate the necessary number of tourists who will be able to support the investment made by the local sector."

"For this summer, in terms of air connectivity, Malta International Airport will be on the map of 18 different airlines with 4 of them being in operation for the first time in our country. These numbers are equivalent to 70% of the airlines that were operating to Malta back in 2019," remarked Bartolo.

DIONYSIUS MINTOFF, 90, A MAN OF PEACE



The Peace Lab is a well known voluntary organisation which has remained active for well over 30 years. It runs an extensive adult education program through various radio programs and newspapers. Though over the years, thousands of people have visited this blissful and and unassuming place, the Peace Lab has now decided to introduce its headquarters to the millions of people who surf on the internet.

The Peace Lab has its headquarters located at Hal Far, Malta. This site was originally part of the HalFar airfield which saw intensive air combats during World War 2. It contains a sanctuary as well as a number of associated building and is surrounded by extensive gardens.

The change from a War station to a Peace Centre was the result of direct political action. Nonetheless the JOHN XXIII Peace Laboratory of Malta is a living practical example of the role that a non-governmental, voluntary organization can play in shaping the conscience and opinion of the majority. It incorporates a group of people who have a similar philosophy of life.

They recognize a responsibility to those less fortunate than themselves – a concern for others which is put into practice both as individuals and as an organization. They try to be concerned for peace and just ice in Malta and throughout the world, wherever they feel they have a useful contribution to make. In planning its activities the Peace Laboratory draws heavily on experience gained in its programs and on growing experience with its numerous partner institutions.

The founder of the Peace Lab, Fr. Dionysius Mintoff, a franciscan friar, believed deeply in the need for an open and unrestricted meeting-place, where people of all backgrounds and attitudes could mix together. In 1971 he led a group that decided to do educational and practical work for justice and human rights. They embarked on an experiment in fostering solidarity and moral values based on Christian beliefs, though not excluding any other idea or any other person. The Peace Laboratory was born.

Fr. Dionysius Mintoff, 90, whose love for the poor keeps him going and gives him the courage and strength to continue working with the marginalised and the poor within society. Fr. Mintoff believes that “Easter means love, and that when you love God, you should expect nothing in return and will instantly feel happier and at peace”.

Fr Mintoff is still very passionate about giving up his life for the marginalised. At a slow but determined pace, Father Dionysius is giving shelter to over fifty immigrants inside the Peace Lab, ensuring that when they leave they are on their feet and able support their families.

He does not only preach mercy to the poor, but rolls up his sleeves and gets to work.

The legacy of Father Dionysius is decades in the laboratory of peace which is a living museum of merc and love.

FOR THE DEAD AND INJURED OF THE 7 June VICTIMS

On Monday 9th June 1919 a Committee named 'Pro Morti E Feriti il 7 ed 8 Giugno 1919' was formed. Its aim was to collect funds to be donated to the families of the victims. In all the princely sum of £2389.07s,2d was collected. Countess Scicluna (Iċ-Ċiska) donated £300, Antonio Cassar Torreggiani (Is-Sur Tonin) who had his house ransacked donated £100, Baron Chapelle and brothers Xuereb contributed another £100 each. The funerals of Manwel Attard, Ġuże Bajada and Wenzu Dyer held on 9th June cost £45.12s,2d and expenses were paid from the fund. Similarly the funeral of Karmnu Abela who died on 16th June cost £7.10s and likewise was settled from the fund.

The widow of Karmnu Abela who had six children received £494 paid in instalments of £3 per month; the widow of Manwel Attard who had four children received £360 similarly paid £3 monthly; the four unmarried sisters of Ġuże Bajada received £260 at £4 a month whereas the family of 21 year old Wenzu Dyer received £160 at £4 a month.

The 26 casualties of the revolts shared £329.07s6d

The Committee was made up of the following gentlemen: (Honorary President) Dr Filippo Sciberras; (President) Dr Andrea Pullicino; (Secretary) Dr Enrico Mizzi; (Assistant Secretary) Dr Salvatore Xuereb, (Treasurer) Mons Ġużeppi Depiro; (Assistant Treasurer) Dwardu Borg and members Salvu Zammit Hammet, Mikelanġ Borg, Giuseppe Mallia Pulvirenti, Guże Muscat Azzopardi, Franġisku Bonello, A. Vella Zarb, P. Farrugia and Is-Sur Ġann Bencini (later of Melita Football Club fame).

ARMED FORCES OF MALTA (AFM)

The Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) is Malta's military organisation tasked with primary defence functions and safeguarding national sovereignty and interest, both in peacetime and in crisis. Malta's military instrument, in the form of the operational capabilities delivered by the AFM, is a major component of the Maltese Island's national defence and security architecture.

A Force that is organised, trained and equipped to conduct military operations at a national level as well as to contribute towards international crises management operations. Stay updated with the latest news and events via Facebook, YouTube and Twitter!

Structure

The Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) consists of a Force Headquarters and five separate units - three land units, an air wing and a maritime squadron. The AFM also has a Volunteer Reserve Force.

Command, Control & Administration

The 'Malta Armed Forces Act' was passed through Parliament in 1970. It enables the Head of State to raise, maintain and regulate an armed force. This act also empowers the President of Malta as Head of State, to delegate the command and authority vested in him/her to the democratically elected Government, exercisable by the Minister for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement, and answerable to Parliament.

The Minister for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement (MHSE) retains Defence Matters within his portfolio.

A Defence Matters Directorate provides civilian oversight of the Armed Forces of Malta.

Military command of the Armed Forces of Malta is exercised by the Commander, who is of Brigadier rank.

The Commander is supported by the Force Headquarters that is responsible for the command, control and management of the Force. The Force Headquarters lays out policies and directs the day to day running of the AFM in order to achieve the defence and security objectives set by Government in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

The **Maritime Squadron of the Armed Forces of Malta** (Maltese: *Skwadra Marittima tal-Forzi Armati ta' Malta*) is the naval component of the Maltese military. The Maritime Squadron

has responsibility for the security of Maltese territorial waters, maritime surveillance and law enforcement, as well as search and rescue. It is based at Hay Wharf in Floriana.

The Maritime Squadron was established in November 1970 as the Maritime Troop of the Malta Land Force. Its name changed a number of times:

- Maritime Troop of the Malta Land Force (1970–1971)
- 1st (Maritime) Battery of the Malta Land Force (1971–1973)
- 1st (Maritime) Battery of the Armed Forces of Malta (1973–1980)
- Maritime Squadron of the Armed Forces of Malta (1980–present)

History

Malta's first navy was built when it was under the Order of Saint John. It was a powerful navy with ships such as the *Santa Anna*. The Order participated in various naval exploits against the Ottoman Empire while based in Malta, most notably the Battle of Lepanto of 1571 and the Battle of the Dardanelles of 1656. In the 17th and early 18th centuries Maltese vessels also went for corsairing expeditions against Muslim ships. Eventually corsairing decreased and the Order was weak and bankrupt, so there was little resistance when Napoleon landed on Malta in 1798. The Order's navy, including the ships of the line *San Zaccharia* and *San Giovanni*, was integrated into the French navy and Malta no longer had its own naval force.

Soon after the British occupied the island, the Mediterranean Fleet of the Royal Navy transferred its base to Malta. Malta became a hub of naval activity due to its harbours and strategic position, and it remained so during the Second World War and until the 1960s. The Mediterranean Fleet was disbanded in 1967, and three years later Malta's first naval force appeared after over 150 years.

The Maritime Troop of the Malta Land Force was established in November 1970 and two Swift boats were transferred to Malta from the United States Coast Guard in January 1971. In July 1971 the force was renamed 1st (Maritime) Battery of the Malta Land Force and was based in Senglea. In the 1970s, the number of patrol boats increased as West Germany and Libya gave Malta some of their former customs launches. In 1973 a vessel built at the Malta Drydocks for the Customs Department was taken over by the Maritime Battery.

In 1977, the Battery moved to its present base at Hay Wharf, or *Xatt it-Tiben*. In 1978, the British gave Malta two search and rescue launches, and in 1979 they left Malta completely, handing over all their former responsibilities to the Battery. On 1 April 1980 it was renamed Maritime Squadron of the Armed Forces of Malta, as it is today. In the 1980s and 1990s, Yugoslavia, the United States, Italy gave more vessels to Malta. Malta purchased patrol boats for the first time in 1992, when former East German minesweepers and patrol boats were bought from Germany. The *Swift*, *Kondor* and *Bremse* classes from the 1960s and 1970s were all decommissioned between 2004 and 2012 as new vessels replaced them

Armed Forces of Malta Band

The Band of the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM), formerly known as the Royal Malta Artillery Band (RMA Band), was established in the late 19th century (1890) yet it can trace its origins way back to the year 1800, when a band with fifes and drums formed part of the Malta Light Infantry Regiment. During the years 1939 to 1942, owing to the war circumstances, the band was put into suspended animation and its members served in support of the parent regiment, the Royal Malta Artillery. It was reformed in 1943.

The AFM Band was established in 1970 under the baton of Warrant Officer I Chircop Anthony. Today, the AFM Band which has a compliment of 43 musicians and is directed Warrant Officer 1 Jonathan Borg is the only specialised Band on the Island. The Band's President is Colonel Mark Mallia AFM whilst the Band Secretary is Major Edric Zahra AFM.

As a Military Band, its primary role is to fulfil a range of commitments in support of the Armed Forces of Malta on numerous ceremonial occasions. Its wide repertoire ranges from military marches to classical and popular music. Besides their duties as bandsmen, the personnel also perform all military duties such as basic military training, internal security duties and much more.

Throughout the years, the band had various opportunities to participate in massed–band displays, Military Band Festivals and Tattoos organized by the British Army of the Rhine at Monchengladbach, Germany. On other occasions it was invited to participate in Cyprus and Sicily. In the last decade the AFM Band was invited for various military tattoos and festivals such as in Germany, Italy, Russia, Libya, Switzerland and Scotland.

Flats 'will mar' temple in Malta older than pyramids

Tom Kington, Rome

In its proposed position, the block would loom over the temple

ALAMY

For 5,600 years the temple complex of Ggantija, reckoned to be among the oldest remains of free-standing buildings, has beguiled visitors.

Plans to build a five-storey block of apartments, advertised as overlooking the site on the Maltese island of Gozo, have prompted protests from locals and British archaeologists.

"This temple was older for Pericles than Pericles is for us," Simon Stoddart, of Cambridge University, said. "To build flats 200 yards from it is a tragedy and a sign of pure greed."

Hundreds of complaints have been sent to Malta's planning authority, which is reviewing the application. Protesters say that the building will block sightlines from the temple while the underground garage for 20 cars could destroy unexcavated remains.

Destiny to sing in the first semi-final of Eurovision

Within two months, the city of Rotterdam in The Netherlands will be hosting another edition of the Eurovision Song Contest, in which Malta will be closing the first semi-final nig

Eurovision with an audience of just 3,500?

The Dutch Government has given permission, circumstances permitting, for up to 3,500 persons to attend the semi-finals and final of the Eurovision Song Contest.

Following last year's cancellation of Eurovision because of the pandemic, this year's edition will be held in Rotterdam in May.

There will be nine shows in all, including rehearsals, and these will include two semi-finals and the final. An audience of 3,500 will mean just half of the theatre capacity. Anyone attending will have to have tested negative for Covid-19.

Meanwhile, the organisers of the Eurovision Song Contest welcomed this decision and stated they will be considering their options. They added that more details will be released in the coming days, whilst pointing out there will be strict protocols that ensure the health and safety of all attendees as well as artists and delegations,

Prime Minister Mark Rutte stated last week that restrictions because of Covid-19 are being extended to the end of April. The latest arrangements for Eurovision will be confirmed at the end of this month.

Several teen stars are working hard to win the Eurovision Song Contest 2021. And while we are still over a month out from the first semifinal, the bookies suggest things are looking positive for at least two of them. Malta's **Destiny** is the heavy favourite to win the first semifinal, with Sweden's **Tusse** following as second-favourite. Her song is - her song **"Je me casse"**

Giovanni Buttigieg has been appointed as Consul of Malta for New York, Connecticut and New Jersey as of February 1, 2021.

Mr. Buttigieg has been serving as Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations in New York since July 2017. Mr. Buttigieg served as Vice-President of the 37th Meeting of the State Parties to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and the 28th Meeting of the State Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination. Before this posting Mr. Buttigieg was Executive Director at the European Commission – League of Arab States Liaison Office. He is a great friend of the Maltese Center, and has taken a genuine interest in the Maltese community in New York since his arrival amongst us. The Maltese Consulate is located at the Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations 249 East 35 Street, New York NY 10016.

THE MALTESE HIGH COMMISSIONER ACKNOWLEDGES THE STERLING WORK OF A MALTESE ACHIEVER IN NSW

Mr Louis Parnis is the president of the George Cross Falcon Community Centre of Cringila, He dedicates most of his time in supporting the Maltese community. He produces a weekly Maltese program on the popular community radio station in the region of Illawarra, New South Wales

Mr Louis Parnis

This program can be listened to every Monday from 5-6 PM NSW AUSTRALIA time on VOX FM 106.9 streamed on the Internet

Vox FM is a not-for-profit charitable institution is dedicated to give members of the Illawarra community a voice. From music programs playing hits from the 50's, 60's 70's and 80's to discussing regions local issues & hosting ethnic music. Vox FM gives local talent the opportunity to be heard and it also caters for many of the various ethnic communities that call the Illawarra home.

H.E. Mr Mario Farrugia Borg has acknowledged Mr. Parnis' work and sent him a message which reads

.Dear Mr Parnis The High Commissioner of the repoublic of Malta would like to extend its appreciation and commendation for your dedicated long-standing service to the Maltese community in Wollongong. A special appreciation goes to the regular broadcasting of programmes in Maltese on 106.9 VOX FM Community Radio, whch assist in keeping alive the promotiom and knowledge of Maltese language, music and culture

HERITAGE MALTA

EVENT DETAILS

History repeats itself!

Past pandemics and epidemics in Malta, take centre stage in a feature in the English language that Heritage Malta will stream on Facebook on Thursday, 8th April, at 6.30pm.

Highlighting the relevance of archival documents and research, and how these have influenced current mitigation measures against Covid-19, the 20-minute documentary will take viewers on a swift journey through the ages, not only to catch a glimpse of local life during past pandemics, epidemics, and various contagious diseases but also to gain some insight into how our health authorities have tackled them across the centuries.

Starting with a brief history of pandemics and epidemics in the Maltese islands, such as the plague and the Spanish Flu, the feature also describes how disease triggered the Knights of St John to develop a better healthcare system and adopt more effective quarantine measures through the setting up of a permanent lazzaretto on Manoel Island.

The Second World War also features prominently in the documentary, narrating how the rumours preceding it led to the fear of another outbreak and how the health authorities prepared for that contingency. Viewers will also discover our forefathers' reactions to the vaccines offered at the time, as documented in letters published in contemporary newspapers.

This feature is being streamed free of charge on the Official Heritage Malta Facebook Page.

New coin mark 50th Anniversary of the Armed Forces of Malta

On 25 March 2021, the Malta Coin Centre of the Central Bank of Malta will be issuing two numismatic coins in silver and cupro-nickel, marking the 50th anniversary of the Armed Forces of Malta.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the coins will not be on sale from the Bank's premises but will only be available from the Malta Coin Centre e-shop.

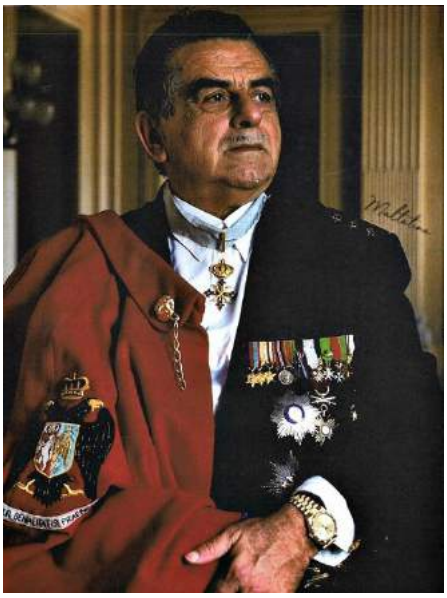
Mr Alexander Demarco, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Malta, had officially launched the coins during an event organised by the Armed Forces of Malta at the Luqa Barracks, on 18 December 2020.

The coin design was the result of a collaboration between the Bank and the Armed Forces of Malta. The coins were manufactured by the Royal Dutch Mint.

On the reverse, the coins feature the regimental badge of the Armed Forces of Malta on a red-on-blue coloured background. On the obverse is the coat of arms of the Republic of Malta together with the year of issue.

The coins can be pre-ordered from the Malta Coin Centre website.

More information may be obtained from the Malta Coin Centre, which may be contacted by email or by phone on (+356) 2550 6006/7. A digital version of the 2021 coin programme is available from the Malta Coin Centre website as well as on the Central Bank of Malta's website.



Marquis Joseph John Scicluna

The son of philanthropist Marquis Joseph John Scicluna (1903 – 1970) and Maria Violetta Testaferrata-Moroni-Viani, the 7th Baroness of Tabria.

Joe's mother's title – originally gifted by the Knight's of St John – was recognised by the Queen of England and due to her title she could also sit on the Italian Senate, Baroness Violetta was even a guest at the coronation of Elizabeth II representing the Maltese nobility.

The current Baroness remembers her grandmother as 'a fantastic woman'. 'She would have been a great business woman had she been allowed to do it. She was a very jolly person and always up to something. As an accomplished pianist Violet would often organise parties in Dragonara Palace and during the war she would invite the officers of the British navy to join her for musical evenings, to keep spirits up'.

Joe Scicluna as a young boy.

Joe – their 3rd child – was born in Dragonara Palace, which was the Scicluna's residence at the time. He had three siblings, Corinne, Mignon and Patrick, all of them spent their childhood there at Dragonara Palace. They were all very

protected from the 'outside world'. The upbringing was strict and very religious as was the way in Malta at that time.
His school years cannot be claimed as a happy time for the young Joseph John. At the age of six he was sent to the Convent of the Sacred Heart and later boarded at St Edward's College and spent a brief time at the Jesuit-run, St Aloysius College.
It seems to me that Joe Scicluna was like Michelangelo of his era. He was multi-talented artist. He loved and practiced sculpture, painting, music, photography and very interested in philosophy and science.
For many years he sat as a Director on Farsons' board and Muffy remembers that 'He was fantastic. He would bring up all these ideas and always be sharing anecdotes. At that time he was considered to be a colourful addition to the Board, and today everyone affectionately remembers those days as fun times.'
Joe Scicluna never married and remained a bachelor all his life. One thing is for sure Joe Scicluna loved women and their 'shapes'. He enjoyed their company and would often ask them to sit for portraits – sometimes painted, sometimes photographed.
What was Joe Scicluna like? Joe Scicluna was mostly seen in army shorts. He had an obsession about the military and medals. It was his fantasy. He just loved it. Some of his uniforms are still stored at Palazzo Parisio.
I kindly asked Romina to describe her late uncle. 'Joe was charismatic, charming, intelligent, and creative with a great sense of humour. He was a great story teller. He was very knowledgeable and interested in everything.'
'The marquis was an imposing figure in terms of stature but he exuded a pleasant personality without any airs and graces. He was also quite eccentric and quirky.' – this is how Prof Conrad Thake remembers Marquis Joseph Scicluna when he met him in 1983 as a second years architecture University student at Mystique.
Portrait of Joe Scicluna by a famous artist where he is actually lighting up a cigarette. Joe found it 'too normal' and stuck a knight's sword in the painting.
'My uncle was a fantastic creature with a wicked twinkle in his eye. He was a lovely person and everybody loved him. Unfortunately, his eccentricity meant that he was often misunderstood for many years. Sometimes people are only really appreciated when they're gone. I admired him immensely.' – Baroness Christiane Ramsay Scicluna.
Justine remembers: 'I used to be fascinated by him. He had a lot of time for me & I liked to be with him because he was a bit different and so cool. He was a very inspirational man. I enjoyed his company very much.'

Buried in Mystique? The last five years of his life he spent in Rome with his sister Corinne, Christiane and her husband, Umberto and their daughter Justine. He was already very sick at that time, so he had someone to take care of him.
A rare photo of Joe Scicluna at Mystique.
The last wish of Joe Scicluna was to be buried in Mystique. 'When I die, I'd like to be buried in Mystique, not in a cemetery. We have our own private chapel in the cemetery, but I'd rather be buried where I built, because that's part of me.' he had revealed in the interview by TVM/ABC (Australia).
Unfortunately, his wish was not granted as on 6th June 1995, he died in Rome and was buried in the Scicluna family's private chapel in the Addolorata Cemetery.
He might not be buried in Mystique, but as he said in one interview: 'As I have no children, I am leaving Mystique and Mystic to my niece so that she might be able to continue my legacy and give young Maltese architects a broader education, exploring the possibilities of free form architecture and architecture as sculpture.'
I would like to finish off with a short virtual tour of Mystique.
Author's note: This will be most likely an ongoing research. The article might be amended from time to time to make it even more accurate.

Mystique: A relic of the Marquis Scicluna

Mystique, an old and strange building, lies in the locality of Madliena. Built by the Marquis Scicluna in the 1960s, it was first used as a residence followed by the transformation into a nightclub. It is known to have been one of the most popular nightclubs of its time.

However, what is really striking is that it was designed and constructed in the Marquis's own style of architecture. Moreover, it was built from stones of Maltese buildings which were destroyed during the Second World War.

The building is known for its unusual or rather creative and wonderful architecture. It almost has a unique style and includes several features such as glass mosaics which decorate the walls throughout the building. Some old furniture and other accessories may also be observed.

Although so unusual, this building was not included as a protected building and is currently in an abandoned state. Due to its unusual design as well as the fact that the building was built by the Marquis Scicluna, many architects have urged the need for its preservation.

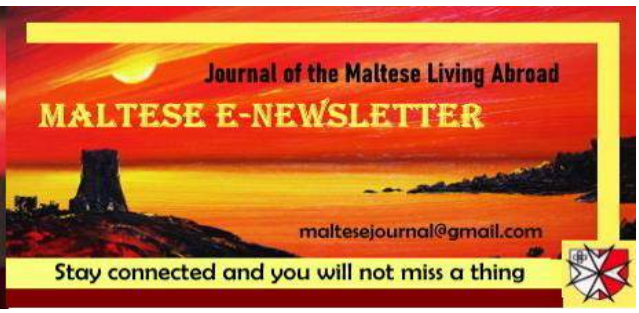
Useful links: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=topIs0_2gSk

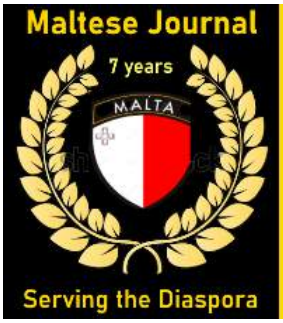
YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH IS A PRIORITY
STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARIAT FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND THE CHURCH SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

The Secretariat for Catholic Education and the Church Schools Association (CSA) are concerned about several issues raised in the white paper on "the responsible use of cannabis". In light of the proposed white paper, the Secretariat and the CSA emphasise that priority should be given to the effect of cannabis on young people's mental health and the way it will promote and strengthen a cannabis culture among our young today as well as entire future generations.

Therefore, they are appealing to members of parliament to always safeguard the mental wellbeing of young people and not the interests of the few who will enrich themselves at the expense of young people. The Secretariat and the CSA endorse and fully support the arguments put forward in the joint statement by Caritas Malta, OASI, and the Malta Psychiatry Association, which describes the negative consequences that the proposed law will have on young people and children in Malta and Gozo

NIXTIEQU
NIRRINGRAZZJAW
LILL-QARREJJA
TAGHNA KOLLHA
SPECJALMENT
DAWK LI JGHIXU
MALTA U
GHAWDEX U
JZOMMU
KUNTATT MA
HUTHOM
TA' BARRA
ID-DINJA SARET
VILLAGE WIEHED





The Journal of Maltese Living Abroad is read at:
Malta Migration Museum - Valletta, Maltese-Canadian Archives - Toronto, Embassies and Consulates, Libraries, Schools and Residential Homes, Maltese Community Centres in Australia, Canada, USA and UK.
Government Departments and Agencies in Malta, Gozo and Australia
FACEBOOK: facebook.com/frank.scicluna.3
WEBSITE: ozmalta.com

Story By Godwin Gauci (Adelaide)

A MALTESE ACHIEVER – EDDIE CAMILLERI

Eddie Camilleri

Godwin Gauci

Eddie Camilleri is from Naxxar, Malta who lives in Elizabeth Vale, South Australia, and has been a Soccer enthusiast all his life. So much so that he joined the local sports club, 'The Elizabeth Vale Sports Club' and has been a member for many years, infect over twenty seven (27) years and a devoted volunteer.
During those years, Eddie was awarded 'The Clubman of the Year' at the 'Elizabeth Vale Sports Club' the first in 1980 and a few more times later in 1989, 1996 and 1999.
On 29th October 1983, Eddie was awarded a trophy seen here in the photo with his name inscribed on it, which was presented by the President of the club. He also received an honour certificate as a Life Member of the club.
After a few years with the club, he joined the Committee and served for two (2) years as the clubs Secretary. He watched the club going forward and help improving it. Eddie is well liked and fitted in perfectly, making lots of friends and mates. He became a Manager and also a Sports Organizer and advanced the soccer team forward.
Sometime later, Eddie became the Chairperson of the Social side of the Club and served for two (2) years. He is also an excellent Barman who likes a drop or two, and to his mates nicknamed 'The Maltese Falcon'
Eddie's much-loved dedication to soccer, spent nine (9) years as an assistant coach, and later The Coach to 'The Juniors Soccer Team'. They are also members of 'The South Australian Amateur Soccer League Inc'. With soccer in his heart, but not so young he changed to Refereeing the soccer games for a few years and loved watching his team play.
In the New Mellinium Year, on the 8th October 2000. Eddie was Awarded 'The Meritorious Sertvice Award' for his dedication and long service.

Here presenting the award is the President of S.A.A.S.L. 'The South Australian Amateur League Inc' Mr. W. Bailey. with a big smile by Eddie receiving the award.

The Elizabeth Vale Sports Club is celebrating Sixty (60) years anniversary of it's existance this year and Eddie is so proud to have been part of it.
Time went by and Eddie is now in his senior years and has moved on. He has put his talent elsewhere and joined 'The Maltese Senior Citezens Assoc of South Australia Inc' as a member at first and after some time, he joined the committee and is the Vice President of club.

Memory game encourages players to explore Malta's hidden gems

An expat's love for Malta

www.maltatina.com

A Czech expat who has made Malta her home has fallen so in love with the island that she opened a travel blog, inviting readers to explore beautiful, little-known spots on the island.

Martina Brtnicka

She also launched a memory game based on Malta sights and, to mark the fourth year anniversary of her blog, she has just launched a special edition, focusing on traditional door knockers.

The Maltatina Memory Game provides a fun way of exploring the Maltese islands from one's own home while also being a great tool for memory training.

Martina Brtnicka settled in Malta 13 years ago. In 2017, she set herself a personal challenge to visit a new spot in Malta or Gozo every weekend. Four years later, she is still discovering hidden corners and she shares her experience regularly on her blog Maltatina.

"I hear complaints that there is nothing to do in Malta and that you can see it all in a week but that's simply not true," the photographer and entrepreneur says.

"The Maltese islands have so much to offer and I want to remind locals, expats and tourists alike about places that they may have forgotten or don't even know exist."

The blog's first set of merchandise was a game to inspire exploring. Also known as the Concentration Game, Match & Match, Pairs or Pexeso, the Maltatina Memory Game is a great tool for memory training, according to Brtnicka. Each game also includes index listings of all featured places, with photos taken by her.

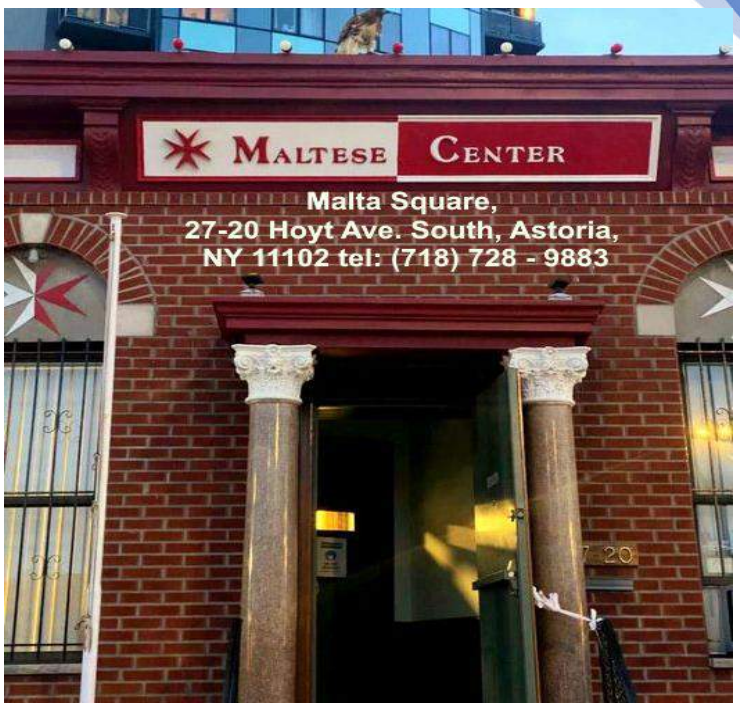
"I believe it to be a fun way to explore the islands from your own home and learning all about them while spending a quality time with friends and family. You can then visit the spots that catch your eye," Brtnicka continues.

The entrepreneur has more creative projects in the pipeline, one of which is the launch of a range of postcards featuring Maltese door knockers later this year as well as a travel diary with weekly travel tips for 2022.

"Now more than ever, I encourage people to get outside. I encourage them to spend their free time discovering beautiful hidden gems, appreciating nature and relishing Malta's stunning countryside. If my games inspire you to go out and explore, stay physically active and appreciate this little island in the Mediterranean a bit more, it will have been worth it," she says. ***Source- Times of Malta 23/03/2021***

2011

The Maltese Center of New York City proudly participates in the Good Friday Parade organized by The Most Precious Blood R.C. Church in Astoria. Unfortunately, this year the parade was put on hold. Here's a video from 10 years ago. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPNz_VmhiWQ



What are the origins of Good Friday processions in Malta and Gozo?

Popolin program on MTV

In Malta Good Friday is associated with being quiet and silent as well as with holy processions. The first processions with statues began in the 17th Century in the two churches of the Franciscan Minors in Rabat and Valletta. Shortly after, similar processions began in Cottonera localities. The first processions began with the carrying of just one or two statues. The statues at the St George Basilica are adorned in velvet, similar to those at the Cathedral as well as the Vittoriosa church.

In Gozo the first procession began at the start of the 19th Century and later at the Nadur church in 1913. Qormi was at the forefront of the statues carried in Good Friday processions being increased to nine including that of the treachery of Judas and today Qormi and Żejtun processions carry 12 statues. It has also to be said that Qormi is renowned for its Last Supper depiction and a similar one is held at Żebbuġ in Gozo. Żebbuġ is also renowned for the number of biblical depiction persons accompanying the procession.

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT OUR READERS SEND THE JOURNAL TO THEIR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS ACCORDING TO OUR SURVEY THIS JOURNAL IS READ AND ENJOYED IN FIFTY (50) DIFFERENT COUNTRIES ALL OVER THE WORLD

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

IS IT A DETERRENT?

Jeremy Buttigieg A Historical Overview of Capital Punishment In Malta

The final execution at the Corradino Prison took place on 5 July 1943, wherein Karmnu Zammit and his brother Guzeppi were hanged as they were found guilty of murdering Spiru Grech of Zabbar. In 1934 a new law was promulgated,1 by which a woman expecting a child had to have her capital punishment sentence changed into life imprisonment, after proving her pregnancy to the satisfaction of the court. Although the abovementioned final execution took place in 1943, Malta witnessed two sentences condemning the accused to capital punishment in 1962 and in 1963. The former was none other than the judgment of Giga Camilleri, found guilty of murdering her son Twannie.

The latter, being the very final sentence on capital punishment, was that of Anthony Patignott, on 1 October 1963, who had been found guilty of murdering Manwel Baldacchino. The Governor of Malta eventually reduced the last two judgments into life imprisonment sentences. On 4 October 1971 and through Act XXI, the Maltese Parliament unanimously approved the abolition of capital punishment from the Criminal Code.

However, it remained applicable to certain crimes committed by the Armed Forces of Malta and during wartime to those aiding the enemy in treason. The first trial by jury after the abolition of the death sentence was presided over by Judge Joseph Flores and was held in November of 1971, wherein the prosecution asked the court to award the sentence of life imprisonment. In May 2002, Malta ratified Protocol No. 13 to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, on the abolition of Death Penalty in all circumstances,2 thus bringing the death penalty to a complete end in Malta.

In Malta, persons under the age of eighteen were not hanged and although there were five sentences condemning women to capital punishment, these women were reprieved. Simultaneously noteworthy and interesting is that globally, the Roman Catholic Church evolved throughout the years. Initially, its view as per Canon Law was that persons condemned to death by hanging were buried without a ceremony 1 Ordinance No XXXVII dated 31/10/1934 2 Council of Europe, Protocol 13 to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms on the Abolition of the Death Penalty in All Circumstances, 3 May 2002, ETS 187, available at:< http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ddd0e4c4.html > accessed 1 November 2013Għ.S.L. Online Law Journal 2013 and could not be buried in sacred land, in other words, in a cemetery. Later, the Roman Catholic Church rectified its perspectives and burials began to take place in a cemetery. Nowadays, as opposed to its initial view of being in favour of capital punishment, the church is against capital punishment.

Share it with others send it to us

Maltese in Vietnam Is Shaping The Craft Beer Scene

An advertising whiz from Malta has taken the craft beer scene in Vietnam by storm.

Tobias Briffa moved to Vietnam in 2012 after having lived in India for 3 years working as a volunteer teacher in the slums of Mumbai.

He's worked with heavy-weights like Ogilvy & Mather – a marketing and public relations agency, and one of the largest marketing and communications companies in the world – known for its work with brands like *Dove, American Express*, and *IBM*. He was at their branch in Bangladore for two years before he had to leave because of new visa regulations. After that he moved to Vietnam on a whim and worked in another ad agency for three years, till he decided to go it alone and build something for himself.

Briffa quite quickly grew tired of corporate advertising and decided to set up his own ad agency – AstroPig – in 2014, so that he could make designs and campaigns for products that him and his team loved. The agency's philosophy was to provide quality creative which doesn't take itself too seriously. An approach that Briffa would also bring to his next company: Tê Tê Beer.

He founded Tê Tê Beer with two Spanish brothers (Ruben Martinez, Luis Martinez) with backgrounds in design and biochemistry, and an American web developer (Michael Rowland). They set out to create a high-quality craft beer that reflected the idiosyncrasies of Saigon – where they are based. It's now Vietnam's fastest growing craft beer brands.

"The plan is to grow the beer brand into a successful craft brewery in S.E. Asia. We want to make great craft beer that is easy for the locals to drink."

Tê Tê is a super likeable brand – it looks great and it's sensitive to Vietnamese identity without being overly precious.

"The brand looks to reflect a part of Vietnamese culture and make people feel proud of their culture, language, idioms and local quirks. We want to make a premium beer". We want to portray quality without being too serious. We want to reflect the playfulness of our approach through the brand."

Although most of the ingredients for Tê Tê are imported, the beer is made in Vietnam. It's promoted as a Belgian style wheat beer which is brewed in Vietnam, with a light-taste that has proven to be especially popular with female drinkers.

Originally founded in 2015 as a home-brewing project between Briffa and some friends, Tê Tê Brewing has since shot to the forefront of the Vietnamese craft beer scene.

It also exports to Singapore and soon to Malta as well with the help of Brew Haus, Malta's leading craft beer distributor.

Briffa and his fellow brewers seem to be living the dream. They've ditched the corporate gig, created a brand which is young, light, and fun, and are working closely with their new community.

As for Tê Tê beer – people are drinking it up, literally. It's all over Vietnam. So well done Briffa and his team. Hoping they'll bring a sample for us to taste in Malta soon.

MALTA RAILWAY

Can you imagine travelling around the island of Malta any other way than by car or bus? The idea isn't too farfetched, as there was once a railway that served Malta over 100 years ago! But have you ever wondered what happened to it?

132 Years Back in Time

Travelling around Malta today, you would never have imagined a railway existed on the island. Cars, buses and boats are now the main modes of transport. But travel back 132 years and you would have found a very different island. It would have taken three hours to travel from Mdina to Valletta on foot, and as a result, a railway line was proposed.

Why Didn't the Railway Survive?

The railway lasted nearly 50 years, with a two-year break between 1890 and 1892 because of financial problems. With the increase in buses and trams, the competition took its toll on Malta Railway Company Ltd., and thus it closed its doors in 1931.

During World War II, the railway line offered safety to the Maltese. The tunnel under Valletta's fortifications became an air raid shelter. In 1940, Benito Mussolini claimed that an Italian air raid destroyed the railway despite it being closed for nine years prior to his statement.

What's Left of the Railway Today

Various parts of the railway still exist to this day, most notably the stations at Birkirkara and Mdina, along with various bridges and tunnels. Various roads which were built instead of the railway retain names such as Railway Road in Santa Venera and Railway Street in Mtarfa.

The station at Valletta was damaged during World War II and was demolished in the 1960s to make way for Freedom Square. Its site is now occupied by the Parliament House. The railway tunnel adjacent to the station was used as a garage (Yellow Garage), but it was closed in 2011 as part of the City Gate Project. The modern structures within the tunnel have since been demolished, restoring it to its original state. Works are also being made on the bridge near the tunnel.

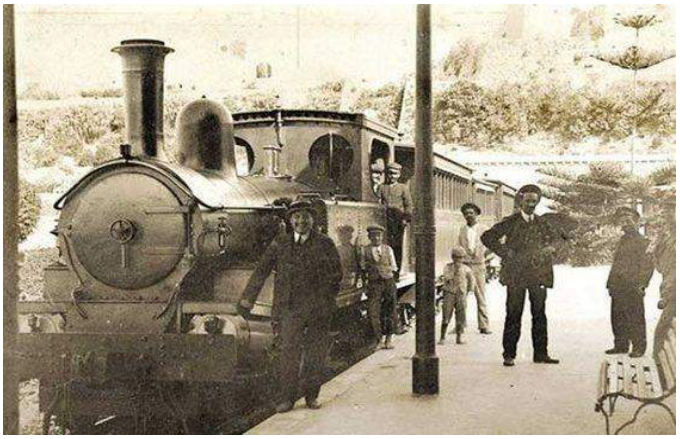
The ticket office at Floriana still exists. A former railway tunnel under St Philip's Gardens was reopened in 2011 and has been open for visitors on various occasions since then. Two original luggage trolleys were found within the tunnel, but in a very dilapidated state.[8] The bridge which linked the tunnel with the rest of the line still exists, although it is overgrown.

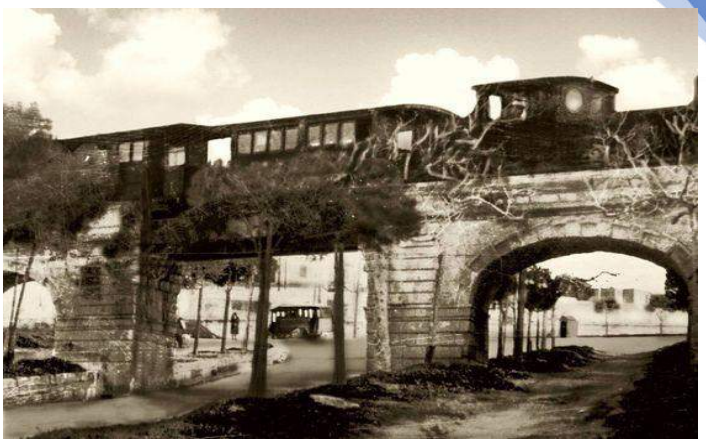
The Ħamrun station is now used as the headquarters of the 1st Hamrun Scout Group.

The former station in Birkirkara is currently used as a child care centre, but plans are being made to turn it into a museum known as the Birkirkara Historical Malta Railway Museum. The garden near the station, *Ġnien l-Istazzjon* (Station Garden), contains the only surviving carriage of the railway, which has been recently restored.[10] When the station is converted into a museum, the garden will also be refurbished, and the carriage will be restored and repositioned.[11] At the beginning of April 2017 the carriage has been taken to renovate.

On the place where there was Attard Station is now known as Gnien L-Stazzjoni, which is close to San Anton Gardens. In Attard there is the Malta Railway Museum, a small private museum, which is open to the public on demand, that was opened in 1998. It shows photographs, documents and other memorabilia of the railway, in addition to models of eight segments of the line reconstructed in a ratio 1:148 by Nicholas Azzopardi between 1981 and 1985.

The former Museum Station near Mdina was converted into the *Stazzjon Restaurant* in 1986. The restaurant also contained many railway-related photos and a model locomotive.[14] It closed down in 2011. But in 2016 it was reopened and is known as L-Istazzjon.





MALTA RAILWAY – 100 years ago

INANNA - Dance of the Rising Goddess
AUDITION CALL FOR TORONTO DANCERS & CIRCUS ARTISTS – Joanne Camilleri

Celebrating the Goddess Inanna, Joanne Camilleri invites you to audition for the November 2021 production of this ancient Sumerian myth!

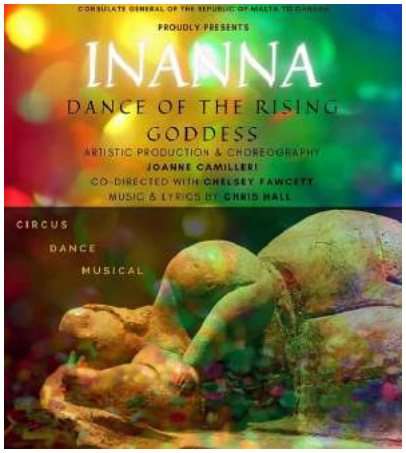
Inanna: Dance of the Rising Goddess is a full-length 90-minute 2 Act, Multi-Media Dance-Musical. It takes the audience on a journey to the ancient world of Mesopotamia. This performance will be live-streamed for a virtual audience in November of 2021 at the Redwood Theatre in Toronto, Ontario.

What we're looking for: We are looking for dancers from all dance forms and circus artists (apparatus work in hoop, silk, or rope) who are interested in the creation process, that are willing to experiment and integrate their form with elements acting, physical theatre, belly dance, and circus elements.

Payment: This production is funded by the Canada Council for the Arts and dancers will be compensated comparably to current union rates.

How to apply: Auditions will be virtual submissions. Please send an unlisted YouTube link of 1 minute of footage that best portrays your dance. To sign up for auditions please visit www.joannedancer.com/inanna-production and click the audition sign up below.

Deadline to apply May 14th Questions can be sent to - please do not saudition applications to this email address.



Applicants will not be discriminated against for any reason, including race, colour, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, religion, national origin, citizenship status, disability, ancestry, marital status, mental health or medical condition. Priority will be given to performers living within the GTA.

For more information about the production, check out

About Joanne: Joanne is an accomplished freelance performer, choreographer, and instructor with over 20 years of experience in performing arts. Joanne is known as a pioneer of the fusion belly dance style. She is recognized for her unique style, charisma, and magnetic stage presence, and signature technique.

About Chelsey: Chelsey is an accomplished freelance creator working as a director, playwright, dramaturg, and choreographer. Chelsey is a recent graduate of the University of Ottawa's MFA Director's program. Chelsey fuses her dance performances with narrative, opening up for expression of the artistic voice which pushes the boundaries of what belly dance can be.

1946 RABAT VICKERS WELLINGTON CRASH

From Wikipedia

The **1946 Rabat Vickers Wellington crash** was a military aviation accident that occurred in Malta on 5 April 1946 when a Vickers Wellington bomber crashed during a training exercise in a residential area in Rabat. All four crew members on board the aircraft and 16 civilians on the ground were killed. The crash also caused extensive property damage. The exact cause was never conclusively determined, but a magisterial inquiry suggested that leakage of hydraulic fluid leading to crew incapacitation could be a probable cause.

BACKGROUND The aircraft involved in the accident was a Vickers 440 Wellington B Mark X bomber with the registration *HE274*. The aircraft formed part of 765 Naval Air Squadron of the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy, and it was the last Wellington in service with the Fleet Air Arm.

Accident[The Wellington took off from RAF Hal Far at 10.50am, after the crew had inspected the aircraft and declared it to be airworthy.[4] The aircraft was taking part in a training exercise with a Supermarine Spitfire from No. 73 Squadron RAF, in which the Spitfire performed dummy attacks on the Wellington which was to take evasive action.

The two aircraft rendezvoused over Ħal Far at about 11.00am and established radio contact, before beginning the exercise by flying northwest towards Gozo. The Spitfire performed three attacks from above or at the same level as the Wellington, and then began its fourth attack from below. At this point, the Wellington was at a height of 4,000–5,000 feet (1,200–1,500 m), and it turned to port and descended towards the east at an angle of 20°,continuing until it crashed into a residential area of Rabat and exploded[4] at about 11.15am.

All four crew members on board the aircraft died in the crash. On the ground, 16 residents were killed and several others were injured.[4] Several children and a baby were among the dead.

RESCUE AND RECOVERY EFFORTS The search and rescue operation was undertaken by British soldiers, naval ratings, RAF personnel, demolition and clearance rescue squads, medical officers, paramedics, police and firefighters.[4] Fire engines and fire-fighting equipment was sent to the area from the Malta Dockyard and RAF Ta' Qali, while the navy supplied generators allowing the rescue efforts to continue at night.

Civilians also took part in searching for survivors, and police had to cordon off the crash site to prevent too many people from entering the area.[4] The area was unsafe for the rescuers due to the unstable partially collapsed buildings and the spread of fire, and a policeman and a demolition crew member were injured by falling masonry. Clergymen also helped out in the recovery of bodies, and performed last rites to the victims.

At least 10 people were rescued alive from the rubble and were taken to a Bugeja hospital in Ħamrun.

Aftermath The crash of the Wellington was the first air disaster to occur in Malta after the end of World War II.[4] The crash site was visited by Lieutenant-Governor David Campbell, Archbishop Mikiel Gonzi, Vice-Admiral Frederick Dalrymple-Hamilton and the Commissioner of Police. Dalrymple-Hamilton offered condolences to the victims and their families, and the National Assembly observed a minute of silence on the recommendation of secretary R. G. Miller.

> The crash resulted in extensive property damage which totaled up to about £11,000. 18 houses were destroyed or had to be evacuated after suffering severe damage, leaving 72 families homeless. These people were provided with new accommodation as well as clothes, food and other necessities after the crash.

INVESTIGATION Representatives from the Surveyor of the Lands Department (H.M. Dockyard) inspected the crash site on the day after the disaster.[4] A magisterial inquiry was conducted by Magistrate Albert Camilleri.

There were claims that smoke was seen coming from the aircraft before it crashed, but this contradicts the inquiry report which found no evidence of fire before the crash. There were also claims that the crew had attempted to land in fields below Tal-Virtù, but no distress calls were ever received from the aircraft.

The inquiry was unable to determine the exact cause of the crash, but leakage of hydraulic fluid was considered to be a probable cause. This could have resulted in fumes which rendered the crew unconscious, leaving them unable to control the aircraft.

Coach Jose Borg - Man from Malta joins FC ManitobaNew coach wants to rebrand club

Maltese coach Jose Borg is set to start a new adventure in his coaching career as he has been appointed at the helm of a senior team in North American football.

In fact, Borg will take over at Canada-based team FC Manitoba which usually plays in the USL League (Central Conference – Heartland Division), considered as the fourth tier in the United States football pyramid.

However, Manitoba will not participate in the 2021 USL League Two season as the championship has been cancelled for a second straight year. Instead, Manitoba will be participating in a joint interprovincial initiative with Calgary Foothills Soccer Club to provide a Canadian solution for the 2021 season.

Borg, who recently obtained the UEFA Pro License, has coached in Malta's top-flight having been in charge of Luxol St Andrews and Tarxien Rainbows.

The Maltese coach was also involved in women's football, with spells at Hibernians, Raiders (Luxol) and most recently was also involved in Birkirkara's technical staff.

FC Manitoba were previously called WSA Winnipeg before being purchased by the Garcea Group of Companies and renamed in January 2020.

"We need to bring in a different set of eyes, to motivate our players and coaches and to provide the professional side of football business," FC Manitoba's Team Manager Enrique Garcea said in the club's official statement.

"Mr. Borg is a great choice with the extensive professional European experience. We are excited for him to be assisting us with this massive project."

Meanwhile, club owner John Garcea heaped praise on the acquisition of coach Borg as this is a positive sign in the development of this club.

"I am very excited for this new venture and I would like to thank the club and the Garcea Family, all those involved for giving me this opportunity," said Borg in the statement.

"I am proud to be the head coach of FC Manitoba and I look forward to working hard and achieving our targets to give Manitoba a great soccer team."

Maltese Food - ilovefood.com.mt

A pastizz (plural **pastizzi**) is a traditional savoury pastry from Malta. **Pastizzi** usually have a filling (tal-ħaxu) either of ricotta (**pastizzi** tal-irkotta, cheese cake) or mushy peas (**pastizzi** tal-piżelli pea cake). **Pastizzi** are a popular and well-known traditional Maltese food..

Such is its popularity,that the Maltese have these idioms idiom jinbiegħu bħall-pastizzi (selling like pastizzi) is equivalent to the English "selling like hot cakes", to describe a product that seems to have inexhaustible demand. Things which are jinħarġu bħall-pastizzi, coming out like pastizzi, can be said to be emerging at a fast rate, sometimes too quickly. Pastizzi are also produced by Maltese immigrants that have travelled and settled across the globe.

Here are but a few locations worldwide where you can savour the traditional Maltese pastizzi.

CARDIFF, WALES UK:

Located on the main street in Cardiff, this Pastizzeria, possibly the first in Wales, has a name familiar to anyone who sunk their teeth into a fresh party in Malta: it's called McSims!

MEXICO:

Mexico's first Maltese café, with timpana, qassatat and locally-baked ftajjar, all selling like the proverbial pastizzi. Situated at 168, Calle Xicotecatl, Coyoacan, Mexico City, the bakery was the culmination of a dream that stretched back decades, owner Mark Mercieca said. La Santa Gula's recipes are all his mother's doing and Mrs Mercieca even spent a month in Mexico with her son perfecting her creations.

TUCSON, ARIZONA:

Meet 55year old Joseph Gauci and his Pastizzi Express. (above photo)

AUSTRALIA:

Look out for Bonavia Pastizzi. Situated in Delahay in Melbourne.

Pastizzi Cafe

523 King Street & 109 King Street, Newtown, NSW, Australia

Gatos Pastizzi

Specialty Grocery Store
4/46-66 The Horsley Drive, Villawood, NSW, Australia

Nanna's Place at The Maltese Pastizzi Bar & Restaurant

Place · Restaurant 355 Keilor rd, Essendon, VIC, Australia

The Original Maltese Pastizzi Co.

Place · $$ · Specialty Grocery Store
19A & 19B Suffolk Road, Sunshine North, VIC, Australia

CANADA:

Joe's Pastizzi & Café Place · $ · Coffee Shop Toronto, ON Canada

Malta Bake Shop Ltd.

5070 Dundas Street West Toronto, ON, Canada M9A 1B9

DO YOU KNOW ANY OTHER LOCATIONS?

HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT ARTEFACTS IN RABAT - MALTA

€100,000 project to repair Rabat niche to St Paul

CommunityRabatHeritageIIP Photo: DOI

A niche dedicated to St Paul in Rabat's Saqqajja square is to be restored using funds from the sales of Maltese passports, in a €100,000 community project.

The restoration will see the 18th-century niche professionally cleaned and its structure restored, with deteriorated masonry replaced by restoration professionals, the parliamentary secretariat for citizenship said in a statement.

Restoration will focus on areas damaged through the use of cement, with commemorative plaques removed and areas coated in a black crust caused by dust particles cleaned. Missing or cracked plasterwork will be replaced and wrought iron grilles repaired.

Commissioned in 1727 by Grandmaster de Vilhena, the niche became an important focal point for religious gatherings over the ensuing years. Built in the late Baroque style, it features a statue of St Paul covered with several layers of coloured paints and that is probably a replica of a baroque model recurring in Malta.

It was last restored in 2002.

The restoration project is the result of an agreement signed between the Community Malta Agency and Rabat local council. The agency was set up last November to administer and process all Maltese citizenship-related matters, as part of the revised passports scheme that superseded the Individual Investor Programme.

Agency CEO Jonathan Cardona said he was glad to see that funds from the citizenship scheme would be used to improve parts of Maltese heritage. Rabat mayor Sandro Craus said the restoration would bring pride to locals of the town. [Times of Malta]

The **Victory Niche**, which is located on Saqqajja Hill just on the way to Rabat, commemorates the Great Siege of 1565. The Latin inscription on this niche reads '*Hic pervenerunt Saraceni*', which roughly translates to 'The Ottomans didn't advance any further'. Popular myth has it in fact, that when the Ottomans arrived in the fields where the niche now stands, huge numbers of ants crawled out of the soil and attacked the Turks, forcing them to retreat.

The **Four-Panel Medieval Altarpiece** at St Mark's Priory in Rabat is unique to the islands, with experts hailing it as Malta's most important artistic treasure. Made from four tempera-on-wood panels, it is believed to have been commissioned in the 15th century and created by an Italian or Sicilian artist whose name has been lost. The panels depict St Augustine, St Mark, St Paul and the Virgin and Babe, with many believing that a fifth panel depicting the Virgin of Graces once existed.

MALTA BAKE SHOP Ltd.

3256 Dundas St W, Toronto,
ONTARIO M6P 2A3, Canada

66 years ago in April 1955 (Maundy Thursday) in the afternoon a big explosion was heard coming from the Fireworks Factory in the limits of Kandlora, Zebbug Malta.
Four men lost their lives as a result of the explosion and they were members of the St Philip Band Club of Zebbug.
The victims were Philip Cassar (Ta' Samillu, 37 years old), Anthony Debono (tal-Paradajs, 29), John Mary Farrugia (il-Bibillu, 37) and Philip Xuereb (ta' Lilel, 52).
May they rest in peace

THE MALTESE JOURNAL IS SENT TO THOSE WHO SUBSCRIBE

FREE OF CHARGE.

WE PRODUCE THIS ELECTRNIC NEWSLETTER NOT FOR PROFIT BUT TO KEEP THE MALTESE COMMUNTIES CONNECTED AND TO PROMOTE THE LANGUAGE, HISTORY AND CULTURE

OF THE

MALTESE ISLANDS