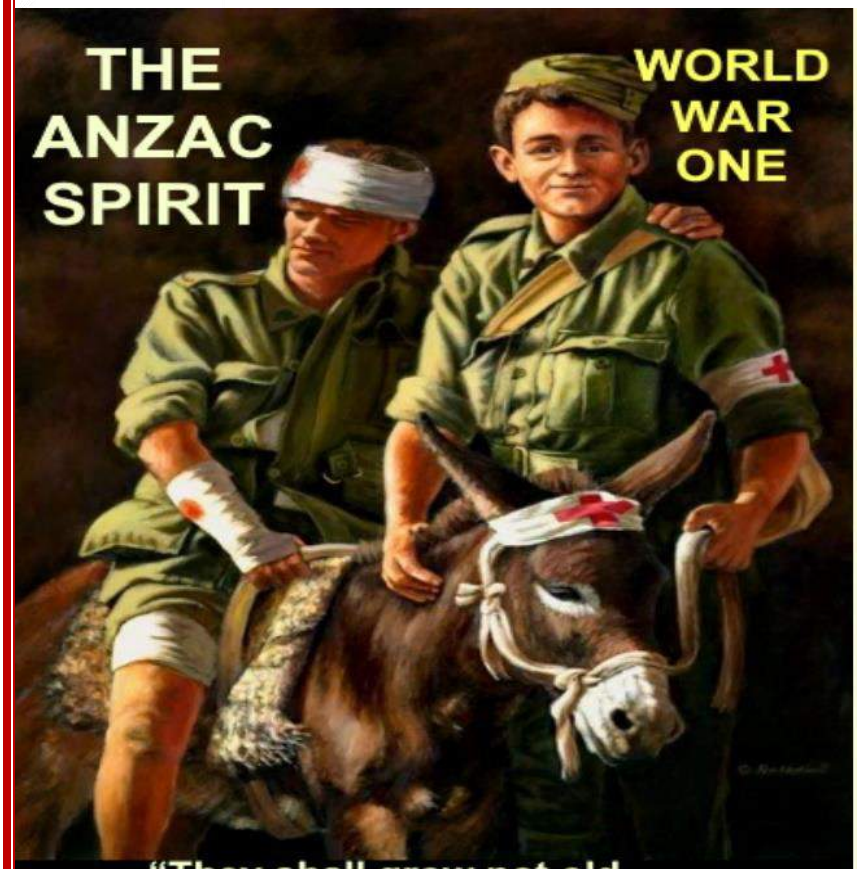
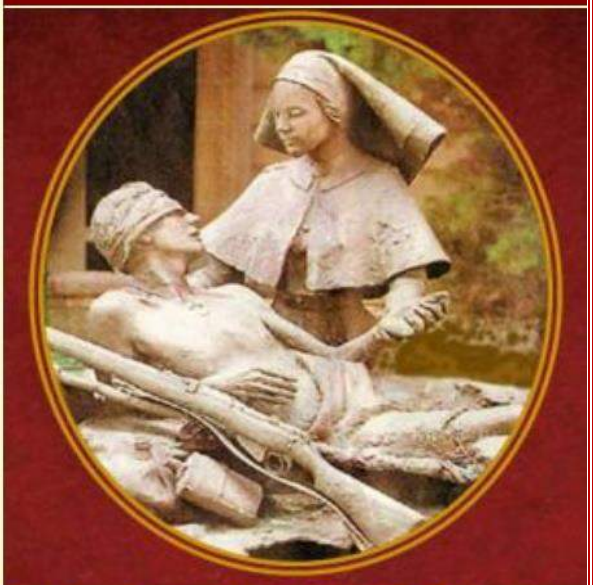


"They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.
Lest We Forget"

MALTA



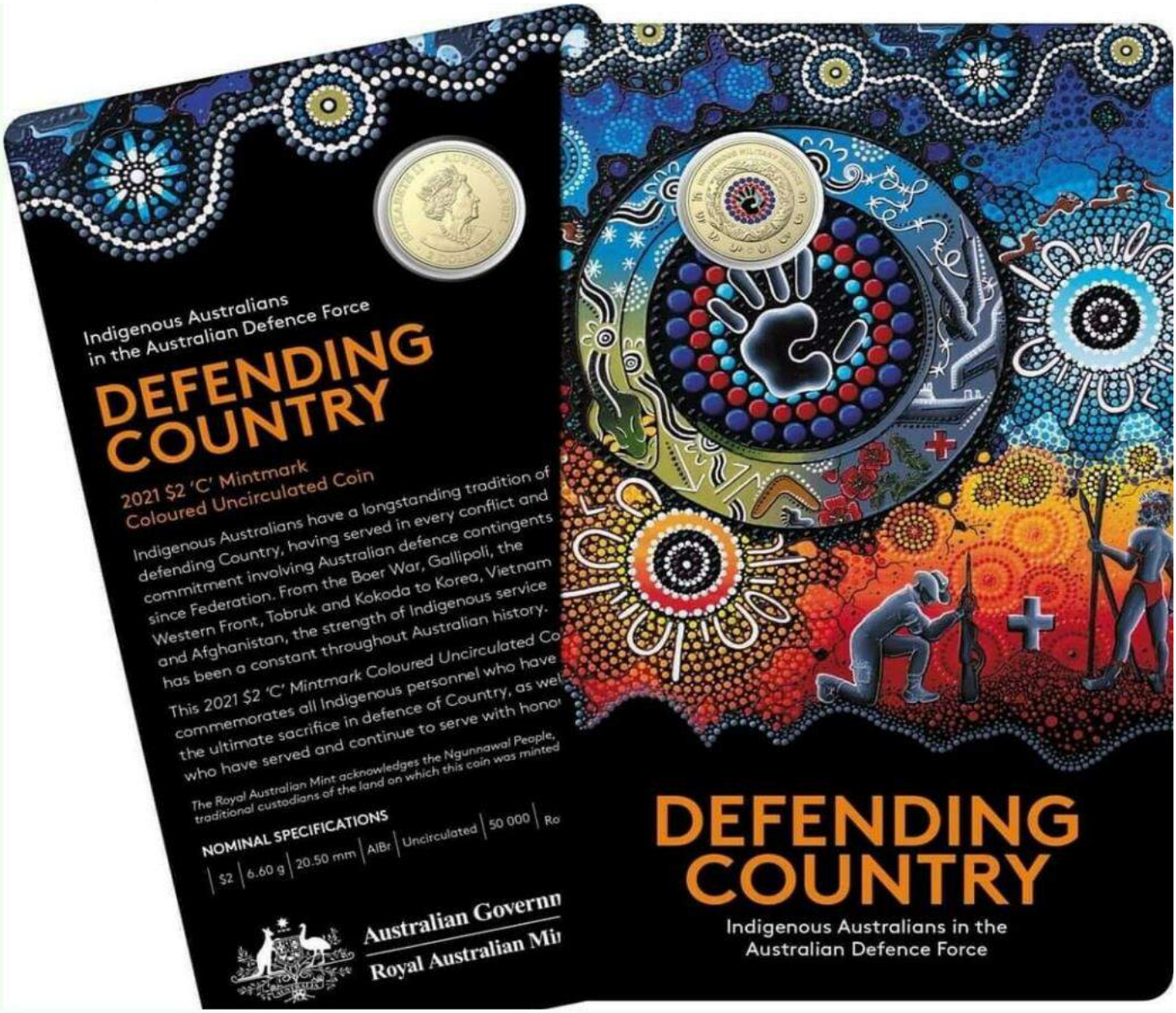
THE NURSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

Maltese e-Newsletter
Journal of Maltese Living Abroad

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

THANK YOU WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH"
WWI-II 1914-1918 1939 - 1945 - ANZAC Day

25 APRIL - ANZAC DAY - SPECIAL EDITION



Ahead of #anzacday a $2 AU coin has been released by the Royal Australian Mint to commemorate Indigenous Australians who served in the Australian Defence Force.
A series of symbols depict soldiers leaving communities and going to war, then "stepping back onto their land" https://ab.co/3wyefAG

WE REMEMBER AND SALUTE ALL THE INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS WHO SERVED IN THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE

ANZAC Day is commemorated on 25th April and is one of the most important national commemorative occasions in Australia and New Zealand, marking the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand armed forces during World War One. Learning about ANZAC Day helps young children to understand the life and times of Australia and its people. The ceremony and traditions are such an integral part of our culture that it gives us an opportunity to talk to children about the importance of ANZAC Day.

We are writing to let you know that, due to the current pandemic, we will unfortunately not be able to host our annual ANZAC Day commemoration on 25 April this year. Instead, we will hold a short, private wreath-laying ceremony which we will record and post on social media at @AusHCMalta and @NZinMalta later that day. We invite you to view it when convenient.

Although we cannot commemorate the occasion together in Malta this year, we will nonetheless mark it solemnly and meaningfully. Ceremonies to mark the day have been held in Australia, New Zealand, Malta and in many other countries since 1916, initially to remember the first landing of the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (the ANZACs) on the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey. Over the years, our commemoration has come to encompass all men and women from both our countries who have served in wars, conflicts and peace-keeping operations in many capacities.

The formation and deployment of the ANZACs marked the first time that our two countries' armed forces had been identified separately
from Britain's, and it symbolised a growing sense of national self-confidence and identity.

In the eight-month Gallipoli campaign, many thousands on both sides were killed, and many more were wounded. The ANZACs did not defeat the Turks, but both sides admired and respected the other's tenacity and bravery.

The ANZACs' ranks included 48 Maltese Australians and 6 Maltese New Zealanders who gave up everything to fight for their adoptive countries. In addition, Malta looked after many of the injured and evacuated troops in hospitals and convalescent camps. 229 Australian and 72 New Zealand ANZACs are buried here and their names are inscribed on a beautiful monument in the Argotti Gardens. Both our countries are deeply grateful to Malta and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for their care and continuing shelter.

We hope that next year we will again be able to meet to remember them in person.

With best wishes

Jenny Cartmill – Australian High Commissioner in Malta
Kevin Bonnici New Zealand Honorary Consul

Australian Aboriginal presence at Gallipoli

Indigenous soldiers enthusiastically joined up to fight in WWI even though they weren't regarded as citizens and they were banned from enlisting.

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander soldiers who were known to be involved in the Gallipoli campaign stood at 50 men. This during an era when they weren't recognised as Australian citizens, so for them enlistment was illegal. At present it seems that it will never be possible to state an accurate number, but the Australian War Memorial is currently endeavouring to rectify this situation and to identify and recognise this little-appreciated and unexpected piece of Australia's military history.

500+ TANE MAORI

Soldiers of Maori descent at Gallipoli but could be many more.

Images from Auckland Weekly News 1915

Māori at Gallipoli

The New Zealand Pioneer Battalion was formed in 1916, during the First World War. This skilled labour force was made up of Māori, Pākehā (mainly from the former Otago Mounted Rifles unit), Cook Islanders, Tongans, Samoans, Niueans and one man from Tuvalu.

Restoration of Australia Hall Malta Project

R.A.H.M.P. Community Organisation

We are seeking to gather interest in the potential restoration of Australia Hall, Pembroke, Malta. Built in 1915 to provide respite to ANZAC soldiers, the building suffered a catastrophic fire in 1998 and has remained subject to deterioration ever since.- -Marie-Louise Marisa Previtera LET'S PRESERVE THIS ANZAC ICON.

Let's help keep this project alive! How wonderful it will be to see this historic building restored for future generations to enjoy! Write to us to show your support via email to australiahallmalta@gmail.com or please write to us showing your support:
RAHMP PO Box 12, DAW PARK SA Australia 5041

How Pembroke's once-popular entertainment venue Australia Hall turned into a sad ruin

The 104-year-old building was buzzing with life in the first half of the 20th century
Caroline Curmi31st December 2020

If you've ever taken a stroll through Pembroke, you might have spotted a once majestic (but now a roofless and decaying) building within the parameters of the town.

Built between 1915 and 1916 by the Australian branch of the British Red Cross Services, it was aptly christened as Australia Hall. Its original purpose had been to entertain wounded soldiers from the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps recuperating in Malta during WWI.

Large and spacious, it could fit 2,000 people in its massive hall (which would sometimes double as a theatre) and even had its own library.

Later, it was passed on to a section of the British government in charge of overseeing recreational space for its troops, with the hall being subsequently fitted with a projector and transformed into a cinema in 1921. It would serve as an entertainment hall right till the last days of the British retreat from Malta.

After the islands' independence, the property passed on to the Maltese government and later to third parties, but it was never put back in operation.

In 1996, Australia Hall was listed as a Grade 2 National Monument but by December 1998, it suffered a catastrophic fire that destroyed its roof. Although it was believed to have been caused by an arsonist, the case was never solved, and repairs were never effected. As such, it became a target for vandals and now graffiti cover some of its walls.

However, in 2016, the Australian High Commissioner got in contact with the building's current owners for a possible restoration. Estimated to run into millions of Euros if this were to be effected, no word has yet been issued regarding if, or when, this would take place, and whether it would be rendered accessible to the public.

Australia Hall – It is only a colonial building

- *October 28, 2013*

by Conrad Thake

The former Australia Hall in Pembroke is today a sad carcass of a once dignified public building, with its interior totally gutted out and left in a state of utter dilapidation.

During World War I (1914-1918), Malta had a special role to play as a nursing station within the Mediterranean where several hospitals and convalescent camps were set up to tend to the casualties of the war. Australia Hall was built in 1915 by the Australian Branch of the Red Cross who raised funds to finance a combined recreation centre/theatre building that would serve to entertain wounded soldiers belonging to the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC). In its heyday the hall could accommodate up to two thousand men as stage productions, dances, and other forms of recreation were regularly held there. Later a library and reading room were introduced and around 1921 a projection room was added to the structure so that the hall could also be used as a cinema.

When the British military facilities in St Andrew's Barracks were closed down in 1978, it was returned to the Maltese government and transferred to the Labour Party in exchange for other property. In December 1998, a fire gutted the hall's entire roofing system of metal trusses and sheeting. Only the external masonry shell has survived. Today the roofless shell of a building is vulnerable to the natural elements and vandals have left their marks on what remains of the building.

Public consciousness and awareness of the need to safeguard our historic architectural heritage has increased notably in recent times. However, I suspect that our appreciation for buildings and structures dating to the time of the Order of St John is distinctly greater than that of British colonial architecture, this being even more so in the case of military architecture. British military buildings and complexes have explicit political associations loaded with the trappings of colonial rule. In asserting our identity as an independent island-state we seem to have unconsciously rejected the legacy of our former colonial masters. This is the sad predicament of an important part of our architectural heritage.

The former Australia Hall is crying out to be restored and rehabilitated to a use which would serve the needs of the local community. This begs the question as to how long all we will continue to close a Nelson's eye to this shambolic situation.

This has been an exciting week for RAHMP. The support to see this through is growing. People who tried to raise the issue in 2007 have made contact, and are providing news and other relevant information to the significance of the building to them, the Maltese, the ANZAC legacy, and to the heritage precinct of Pembroke.

A special mention must go to the Australian High Commissioner Jenny Cartmill who has indicated her interest and support for seeing the restoration realised. Thank you to Jeff Pickerd and Wayne Saillard who provided us with this article from the past

Nursing in Malta

World War I

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 on Malta to treat the deluge of sick and wounded troops from the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign.

More than 10 000 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.

Nurses who served in World War One were exposed to the physical and mental strain of dealing with the huge number of casualties from the battles. Once a nurse enlisted, they had no choice but to serve for the duration of the war unless they got badly injured or married.

More than 3 000 Australian women served as nurses during World War One.

Most of the nurses served with the Australian Army Nursing Service, although some served as Royal Australian Navy Nurses and some served with allied organisations such as the Red Cross and Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

Nurses embarked on the first convey of ships that sailed to Egypt in November 1914.

Those stationed on hospital ships received the wounded throughout the Gallipoli campaign in 1915. Nurses also cared for the wounded on hospital camps at Alexandria and Malta and later, at Lemnos Island.

Conditions on hospital ships ranged from very difficult to impossible due to a lack of staff and medical provisions. Medical facilities soon became overwhelmed with the wounded and dying each time there was a major battle.

Lemnos was also inadequately equipped and under-staffed. Nurses stationed at Lemnos were housed in flimsy tents in freezing conditions and gale-force winds, and were forced to contend with a lack of food and dysentery while trying to treat the masses of wounded.

The conditions on the Western Front were also bad for the nurses and medical staff. The nurses stationed at casualty clearing stations in France and Belgium sometimes faced dangerous circumstances and were exposed to gas and bomb attacks.

Nurses also served in base hospitals behind the lines and in England.

In addition to those on the Western Front, Australian army nurses also served in India, Mesopotamia and Salonika. These postings meant isolation, nursing people of other nationalities, and no outings to Paris or London when on leave.

Life after the war

Many nurses and women volunteers never recovered from the physical and emotional stresses of wartime service. The experience of working during the war gave many nurses new confidence in their abilities and skills. During the war, some nurses received training and opportunities to perform roles previously reserved for men, such as surgery and administering anaesthetics.

NEW ZEALAND AND MALTA
Political, Cultural and Trade Relations

http://nzconsulate.wixsite.com/malta

New Zealand and Malta share a common history of having both been members of the British Empire, and both countries are members of the British Empire's offspring, The Commonwealth of Nations.

Many Maltese emigrated to New Zealand and Australia from the beginning of the 20th

century onward, and there are thriving expatriate communities in Australasia. An increasing number of New Zealanders choose Malta as a holiday destination in Europe as we have the English language and a love of maritime pastimes in common. What Malta offers the New Zealand visitor by way of historical marvels, good food and the stunning blue of the Mediterranean, New Zealand offers the Maltese visitor mountains, lakes, fjords, extensive sandy beaches, lush sub-tropical forests, adventure tourism and modern cities.

New Zealand's current political and commercial relations with Malta are summarised on the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) website.

New Zealand and Malta also have a strong common bond stemming from their involvement in both World War I and World War II, with many New Zealand and Australian military personnel having been either stationed in Malta or evacuated from active battle to convalesce in Malta. There is a noteworthy account of New Zealand airmen's involvement in the WWII siege of Malta in The Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War (1935-1945). The story of the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) (1914-1918) connection to Malta is aptly related on the websites of the Australian High Commission in Malta and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). Anzac Day is commemorated annually on 25 April in New Zealand, Australia and Malta (and many other countries where Anzac personnel were stationed), and has become a commemoration of all wars where New Zealand, Australian and Maltese military personnel have served. If you are interested in touring the ANZAC sites of Malta, click on the *ANZAC experience* link under the *Information for NZers* tab above.

.

A little bit of New Zealand in Gozo!

The 'Grog Shop' in St Francis Square in Victoria catered for Kiwi soldiers stationed in Malta and Gozo.during the war.

New Zealand womens' 'overlooked' role in World War I

Oliver Lewis

Esther Hope, right, with her friend Beatrix Dobie working in World War 1.

On her first night in the hospital ward in Malta, Kitty Mair nursed a New Zealand soldier as he died in her arms.

It was 1915, World War I was raging, and the young artist had sailed to the Mediterranean island to volunteer with the Red Cross.

Mair was accompanied by two friends, both fellow artists and Kiwis, Beatrix Dobie and Esther Hope.

They called themselves "the trio" and author Jane Tolerton believes they and other young women have been done a disservice in official histories.

Saturday is Armistice Day, the 99th anniversary of the end of World War I – a conflict in which both men and women played a part.

(Photo-left) Esther Hope (nee Barker) with convalescent soldiers on Malta, in 1915.

However, Tolerton, the author of the newly released book *Make Her Praises Heard Afar*, said New Zealand women's role in the conflict had been largely overlooked.

"We're told that woman stayed home, but now we find out that they did very interesting things. I think that's inspiring, especially for young woman," she said. "The trio" were on an artist's holiday in the Bay of Biscay in France when war broke out in 1914. Hope, an accomplished Canterbury painter from whose works had been displayed in the Royal Academy in London, documented the period through her photography.After Malta, she returned to England where she continued to contribute to the war effort in camps and by driving trucks at Butler's Wharf in London

Lady Doctors at Spinola Hospital Malta 1917

(Cotter collection AMS Museum Keogh Barracks)

'The Maltese Senior Citizens Association of South Australia Inc'

Many Maltese families migrated to Australia in the nineteenth and twentieth century and called it home. At first it would have been strange as it has a different climate, unusual houses but most significate was they had no friends. We were outcasts and been called many names, having a different culture, but one thing in our favour, we could speak English. Slowly we began to blend in and the Australian people accepted us and became good friends.

Unlike other Europeans where they settled together making whole suburbs with one culture, we dispersed all over South Australia and mingled with the locals. We worked with them and adapted their way of life, and socialized with them and making us Maltese/Australians.

Mr. Frank Grima President

Many European groups like the Italians, Greeks, etc, had formed lots of clubs, but the Maltese are a minority group and we didn't have any clubs to go to. There was only one club to go to and it was called 'The Maltese Guild'. Many Maltese people joined the club and socialized together. Other clubs started to immerged like the 'Maltese Soccer Club, Maltese Folk Dancing, The South Australian Maltese Youth Club and there was also the Maltese Language School.

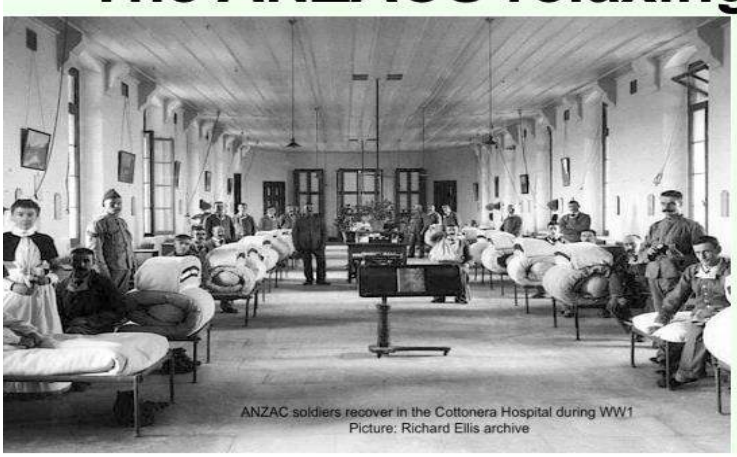
The Maltese Guild catered for a lot of the people, but there was a need for the elderly to socialize in their own way, so on the 23rd May 1983 , these men **Andrew Coleiro, Frank Falzon, Emmanuel Grima, Paul Delia, Joe Barbara and Anthony Buhagiar** got together and formed a committee and a club was born. They named it '**The Maltese Senior Citizens Assoc of South Australia Inc'**.

In the beginning the club used a few different halls where the people would play games like cards, carpet bowls and enjoying tea, coffee and pastizzi. They held Dinner Dances on Saturday nights to celebrate special occasions like the clubs Anniversary in May, Christmas in July was a favourite and later in November would be the big one, the Christmas Dinner Dance.

Other favourite functions are the Bus Trips to a special destination on some Sundays and a Christmas Break-Up Party for the close of the year. The club attracted more members and the people really enjoyed coming to the club. After a few years, they began to celebrate special days like, Australia Day to a traditional barbeque. For Easter they held the 'Easter Bonnet Parade' where people display hats decorated in the Easter theme and parade around the hall with prizes for the best decoration.

The club has its own news booklet called '***The Bulletin'*** which is published quarterly by me, Godwin Gauci. It's contains is previous functions with photos, future activities, trivia and Maltese recipes. In this photo, are the latest Committee Members and Volunteers which keep the club functioning and bring joy and social entertainment to the Maltese Seniors in South Australia.

The ANZACS relaxing in Malta WW1 1916



Anzac Day commemorates past and present ADF soldiers': Minister Peter Dutton

Defence Minister Peter Dutton says Anzac Day commemorates the “amazing legacy” of the original Anzacs in addition to almost 40,000 Australian troops who have since fought in Afghanistan and Iraq. Mr Dutton said Australian forces have helped stop “many terrorist attacks” from taking place around the world and he said it was important to recognise the “incredible effort” of the ADF in general.

MALTA - SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH THE ANZACS

ANZAC CENTENARY 1914 - 1918 2014 - 2018

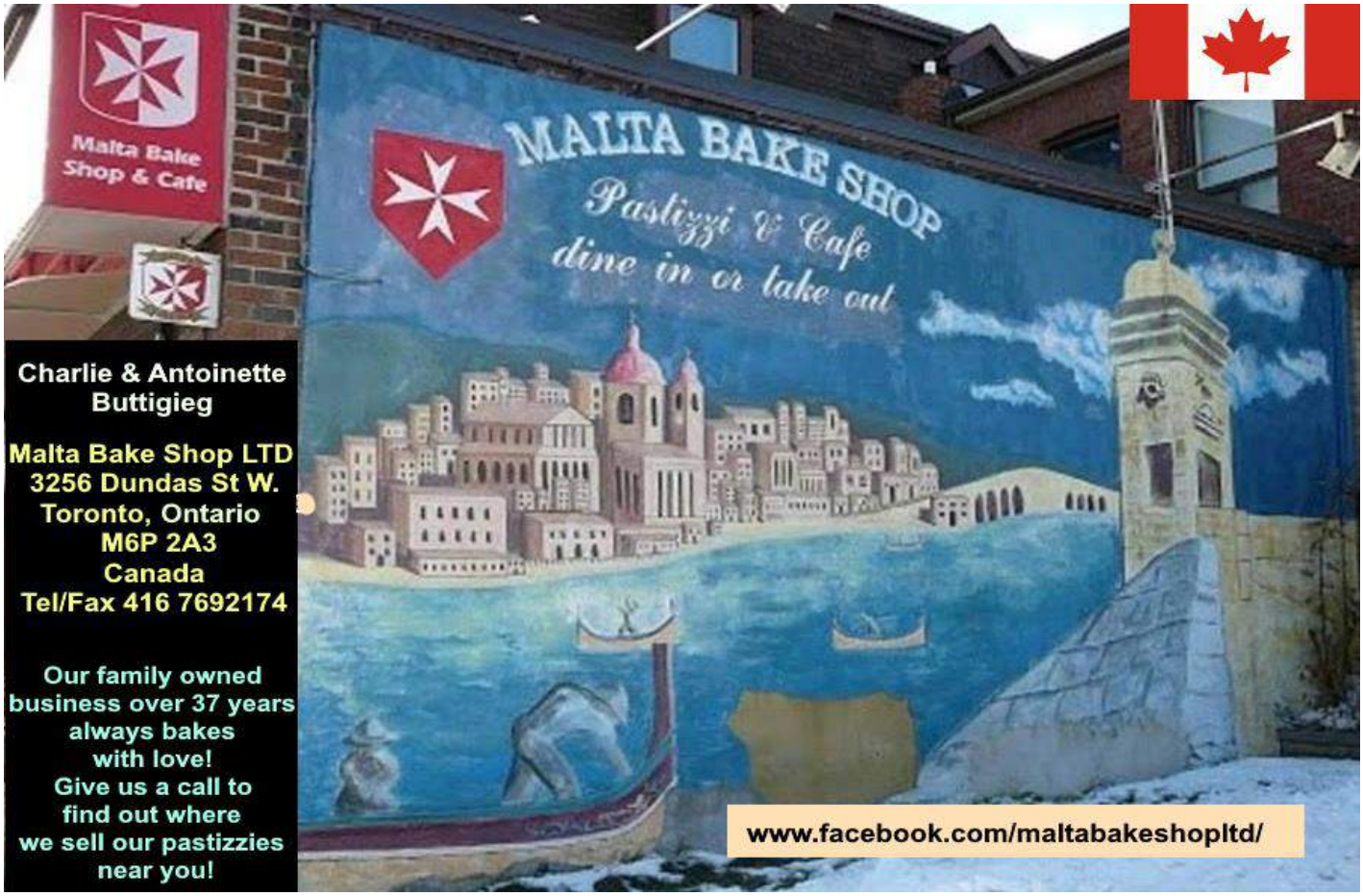
The beautiful ANZAC Memorial at the Argotti Botanical Gardens, Floriana, Malta

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 Late Nicholas Bonello was the Chairman-ANZAC Memorial Committee-Malta. He Originated the idea to erect a memorial to WW1 ANZAC's who are buried in Malta. This Memorial was Inaugurated on 25 th May 2013 at the Argotti Botanical Gardens in Floriana – Malta by the Foreign Affairs Minister, Hon George Vella MP.**



Australian High Commission, Malta et Ambassade d'Australie en Tunisie
Visited a second CWGC Cemetery, Addolorata, prior to ANZAC Day this month,
with New Zealand Consul in Malta Kevin Bonnici.
Because we can't commemorate the day in the usual public way this year,
we hope to visit together, over the coming weeks, a number of the
cemeteries in Malta where ANZACs are buried.
There are 28 and 10 WW1 ANZAC graves in Addolorata Cemetery,
including that of Private Francis Walsh,
his parents' "darling son, who will never be forgotten".
Died July 1915, aged 22. LestWeForget MarkFitzi

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

Kummissjoni Għolja tar-Repubblika ta' Malta

High Commission for the Republic of Malta

Press Release 05/2021

21 April 2021

On the final leg of a series of courtesy calls, H.E. Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg called on the Ambassador of Egypt H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Mohamed G. Zayed, the Papal Nuncio, H.E. Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana, the Ambassador of Lebanon, H.E. Mr. Milad Raad, the Ambassador of Indonesia, H.E. Mr. Y. Kristiarto S. Legowo, the High Commissioner of Canada, H.E. Mr. Mark Glauser, the Ambassador of Qatar, H.E. Mr. Saad Abdulla Al Shareef, and the Head of the Delegation of Palestine, H.E. Mr. Izzat Abdulhadi, the High Commissioner of Singapore, H.E. Mr. Kwok Fook Seng and the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, H.E. Mr. Abdulla Al Subousi.

During his courtesy calls, the High Commissioner reassured Their Excellencies of Malta's commitment to maintaining the already cordial relations between countries and people.

To his counterparts from the Middle East, the High Commissioner recognized their continued adherence to the peaceful process in the maintenance of peace in the region and Malta's recognition of Palestine's right to self-determination and the Palestinian's natural and fundamental rights.

To the Papal Nuncio, the High Commissioner expressed appreciation in the recent appointment of former Bishop of Gozo Mario Grech as Cardinal during the 2020 Consistory.

The High Commissioner with H.E. Mr. Abdulla Al Subousi of the United Arab Emirates

The High Commissioner, with his Canadian counterpart, spoke about the large Maltese community in Canada, predominantly in Ontario, who have very well kept and promoted their Maltese culture and tradition in the community and similarly with the High Commissioner of Singapore, High Commissioner Farrugia Borg highlighted their shared history as members of the Commonwealth.

The Ambassador of Indonesia, H.E. Mr. Y. Kristiarto S. Legowo, showed a keen interest in the large Maltese diaspora in Australia and spoke to the High Commissioner of the challenges faced by the Indonesian diaspora, which in many instances are similar to those of the Maltese.

With the Ambassador of Qatar, the High Commissioner expressed his hope that flights to Malta by Qatar Airways would resume in the near future

THE JOURNAL THAT IS CONNECTING MALTESE
IN MALTA, GOZO AND THE REST OF THE WORLD
Seven Years of Service to communities and individuals
BUILDING BRIDGES maltesjournal@gmail.com

PRIVATE ERNEST BUCK – AN ANZAC

Evacuated from ANZAC Cove to Malta

Posted by Susan Buck

Ernest Clive BUCK enlisted in the army on 22 August 1914 when he was 19 years and 5 months old. He was indentured as a carpenter's apprentice at G & T Hastings, Kogarah after he finished his schooling at age 14. Ern had served in the regional cadets for 2 years and at the time of enlistment had served 1 year with the 34th Infantry reserves.Private Ernest Clive Buck, 1914

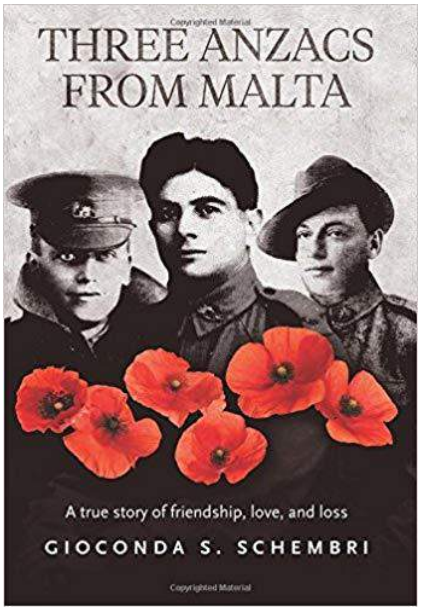
Private E C BUCK (Service No. 571) was posted to the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Brigade, Australian Imperial Force (AIF). The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war on 4 August 1914. The troops were bivouaced for basic training at Randwick Racecourse, Kensington, Sydney. The soldiers marched from Kensington to Circular Quay just two months later and embarked on *"HMAT Africa"*. After a brief stop in Albany, Western Australia, the battalion proceeded to Cairo, Egypt, arriving on 2 December where they undertook further training and served in a static defence role around the Suez Canal. 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry, 1st AIF, route marching near the Pyramids.

Ern Buck took part in the Allies landing at Gallipoli, coming ashore with the second and third waves on 25 April 1915. In the days and weeks after the landing men fought a hundred fights – attack and counter attack followed in wearying succession, trench to trench, the fighting was hand to hand, bayonet and bomb and man to man.

Ernest was wounded in the head by a bullet receiving a slight scalp wound in 21 May 1915. He was shot in the abdomen and bayoneted in the chest by the enemy and left for dead during trench fighting about 5 June 1915.

Thankfully he was found and evacuated from ANZAC Cove to a military hospital on the island of Malta. After his recovery he was moved then by ship to the base hospital in Manchester UK

THREE ANZACS FROM MALTA



Author - Dr. Gioconda S Schembri - Australia

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. The book is available from Dr. Gioconda Schembri: **giocondaschembri@yahoo.com**

MALTESE LABOUR CORPS DURING WORLD WAR I.

The first contingent of Maltese had arrived in Gallipoli during September 1915 where they gained a reputation as good workers. In September 1916, a battalion of Maltese was raised, composed of labourers, drivers and stevedores, which arrived for service in Salonika during October and from there onto the Lines of Communications.

The Maltese labourers also served on the peninsula although alleged that when they came under shellfire at Suvla and Anzac they were unreliable and often refused to work. A 2nd Battalion was raised which arrived in December 1917, followed by two Employment Companies during 1918.

Although unconfirmed, some members of the Maltese Labour Corps as having served in Italy, with detachments at the Taranto docks and having a mining company employed in tunneling work in the north of the country.

The British War Medal (1914-1918) in silver was awarded to those who entered a theatre of war between August 5, 1914 and November 11, 1918 and to those who served in Russia in 1919 and 1920. Maltese and other non-British labour units were issued with a bronze version of the medal.

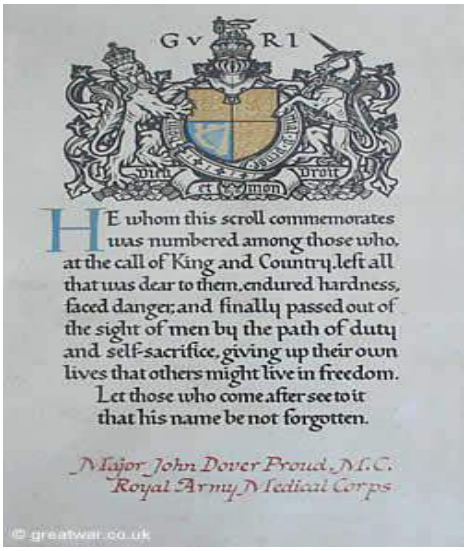
The Maltese Labour Corps was composed of locally enlisted personnel and related documents would have probably been deposited at the Palace Archives in Valletta. Some World War I records of Maltese serving in the Royal Malta Artillery and the King's Own Malta Regiment of Militia are now housed at the National Archives in Rabat.

If these records are not in Malta and neither at the National Archives at Kew in the UK, maybe they're with the Royal Logistical Corps (1993), the descendents of the then Army Service Corps. The Maltese Labour Corps had served in Gallipoli with the Army Service Corps, in which many Maltese had also enlisted and served in the same theatre. Another possibility is The Royal Engineers Museum, considering that the MLC were as the name says, "Labourers".

.

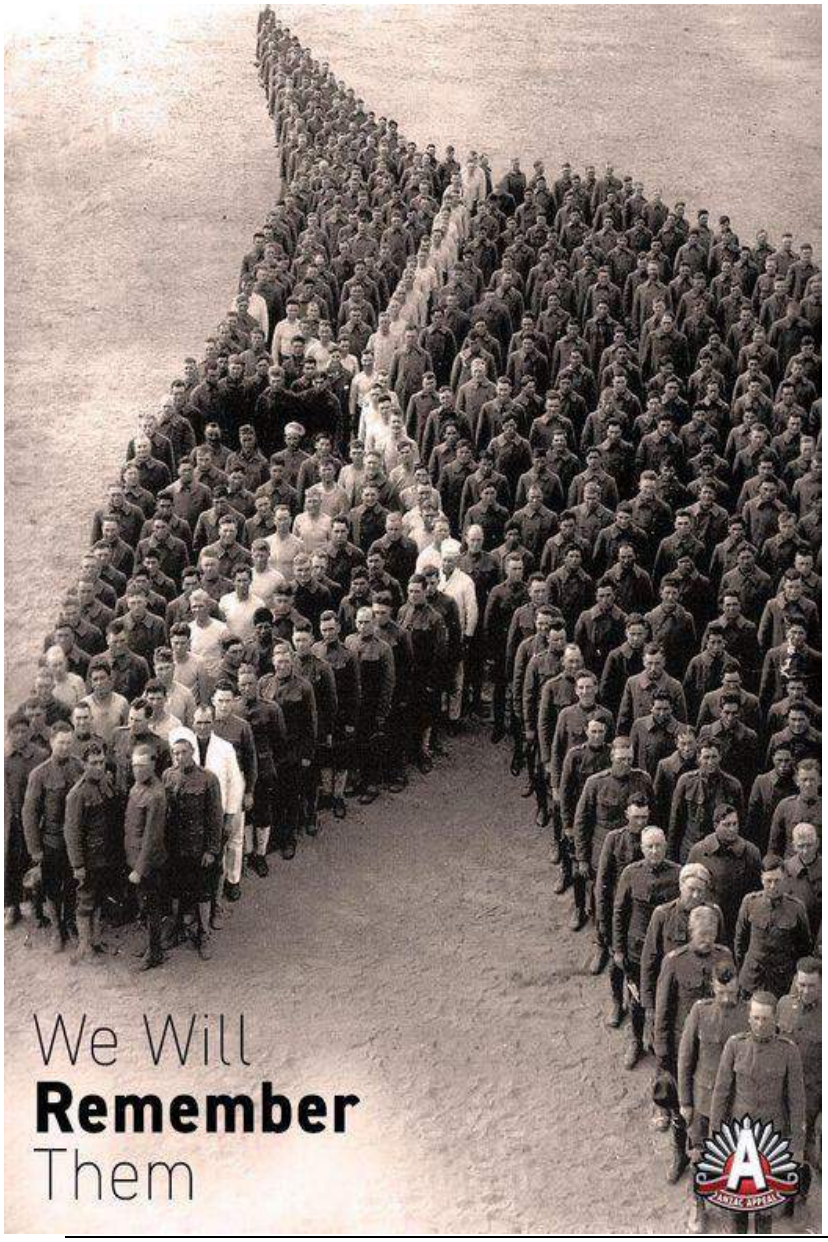
MEMORIAL PLAQUE WWI - DEATH PLAQUE DEAD MAN'S PENNY

The **Memorial Plaque** was issued after the First World War to the next-of-kin of all British and Empire service personnel who were killed as a result of the war.

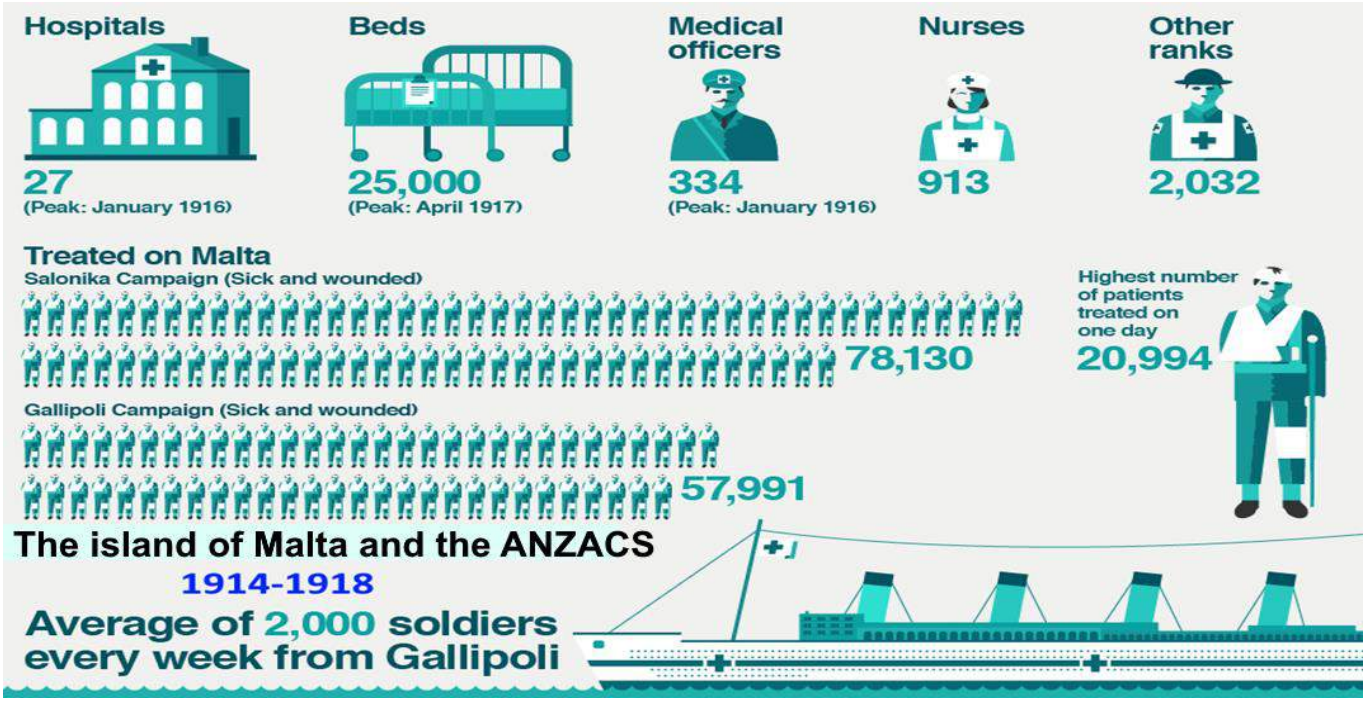


The plaques (more strictly described as plaquettes) were made of bronze, and hence popularly known as the "Dead Man's Penny", because of the similarity in appearance to the somewhat smaller penny coin. 1,355,000 plaques were issued, which used a total of 450 tonnes of bronze, and continued to be issued into the 1930s to commemorate people who died as a consequence of the world war one.

The next-of-kin also received a Memorial Scroll and a letter from Buckingham Palace (see right).



MALTA AND THE ANZACS IN WORLD WAR ONE



Since Malta was the most important British Fortress in the Mediterranean and home to the British Mediterranean Fleet it could not escape involvement in the First World War (1914-18). Though Malta was not a frontline state the Maltese were not shielded from the horrors of war. An estimated 24,000 Maltese served with the British services and the Maltese Labour Battalion took part in the Gallipoli Campaign against Turkey. Royal Malta Artillery soldiers manufactured 68,000 hand grenades at the Dockyard for the Dardanelles army. Sixteen Maltese soldiers died in an explosion during production.

Maltese harbours hosted the British, French and Japanese fleets and teemed with activity, where all kind of military equipment, including ammunition, was warehoused. Warships and transport vessels queued for repairs at the dockyard where the workforce quadrupled to 14,000. In 1916 dockyard workers formed the earliest local trade union, the Government General Workers Union. In 1917 the union called a strike in defiance of wartime regulations.

Hospitals, barracks and some schools served as military hospitals in which some 80,000 wounded servicemen were treated. Hundreds were buried on the Island. Malta also became an internment camp for hundreds of enemy prisoners of war.

The wartime advantage of full employment was offset by deprivation of essential commodities such as wheat, flour, oil, cheese, meat, sugar and kerosene. Soaring inflation together with new taxes, introduced to offset income lost from customs duties, caused workers' living standard to plummet.

When peace returned Malta shared in the post-war social and political unrest that plagued Europe popular expectations remained unfulfilled. Prof J.M. Pirotta

7 years
MALTA
Serving the Diaspora
OUR JOURNAL IS ARCHIVED AT
Malta Migration Museum – Valletta
Maltese – Canadian Museum – Toronto
FACEBOOK and www.ozmalta.com
Aged Care Facilities - Maltese Clubs
Libraries, Schools and Consulates

The Newfoundland Regiment at Gallipoli

Canada's role in the First World War www.veterans.gc.ca

The armistice of November 11, 1918, brought relief to the whole world. Never before had there been such a conflict. For a nation of eight million people Canada's war effort was remarkable. More than 650,000 men and women from Canada and Newfoundland served — over 66,000 gave their lives and more than 172,000 were wounded. It was this immense sacrifice that lead to Canada's separate signature on the Peace Treaty. No longer viewed as just a colony of England, Canada had truly achieved nation status. This nationhood was purchased by the gallant men who stood fast at Ypres, stormed Regina Trench, climbed the heights of Vimy Ridge, captured Passchendaele, and entered Mons on November 11, 1918

When Britain entered the First World War on August 4, 1914, Newfoundland—which was then a British dominion—was suddenly at war, too.

At a time when great pride was taken in being part of the British Empire, the people of Newfoundland reacted enthusiastically to the news of war. Almost 1,000 young men signed up to join the newlycreated Newfoundland Regiment by late September. Recruits officially enlisted "for the duration of the war, but not exceeding one year"—a prediction that would prove sadly optimistic as the conflict would drag on for more than four years.

The first recruits began training in a camp on the outskirts of St. John's. It was a modest start—just getting enough tents was difficult and some ended up being made from the sails of ships in harbour. Providing uniforms was also a challenge. A local shortage of khaki meant they had to use blue fabric for their puttees (wrappings for the lower legs of their uniforms), giving rise to the nickname "the blue puttees" for soldiers of the Newfoundland Regiment.

The regiment's first contingent set sail for Britain on October 3, 1914 and more soldiers would soon follow. The Newfoundlanders would train in England and Scotland for months before finally seeing action on an unexpected front—the eastern Mediterranean.

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE The Allied countries of Britain, France and Russia had declared war on Germany, but were also fighting Germany's other Central Powers partners— Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Empire occupied what is now present-day Turkey, the eastern coast of the Mediterranean and parts the Middle East. Its control of the Dardanelles Strait that joined the Mediterranean Sea to the Black Sea meant it could cut off access to southern Russian sea ports. This was important because the Allies wanted to provide Russia with war materials to help the country in its fighting along Europe's Eastern Front, but land transport routes were blocked and other sea routes were difficult.

The Allies decided to create a new front in Turkey to open this supply line to Russia, draw surrounding countries into the war on the Allied side, and help break the stalemate of trench fighting in Europe by pulling enemy resources from other fronts. After preliminary naval engagements, the first Allied troops landed in Turkey's Gallipoli peninsula on April 25, 1915 when the Australian and New

Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) and British forces came ashore. It would be the start of months of trench fighting that soon made it clear an Allied victory there would be much harder than thought.

THE NEWFOUNDLANDERS IN GALLIPOLI

After almost a year of training, the Newfoundland Regiment learned it would be part of the 29th Division of the British Army fighting in Gallipoli. After a short stay in Egypt, 1,076 Newfoundlanders came ashore along the shores of the Dardanelles Strait on September 20, 1915. The flashes and the sounds of distant artillery and rifle fire quickly told them they were finally in a war zone. The next day they were shelled by Turkish artillery as they huddled in their shallow dugouts for protection—their welcome to Gallipoli.

The young Newfoundlanders had arrived hoping for action and excitement but they were soon disappointed. They spent the first months digging trenches and keeping long night watches, spending time on the front line learning trench warfare techniques from the ANZAC and British forces that had been fighting there for months.

Conditions were bad. Enemy fire and life in the trenches made the situation miserable for the Newfoundlanders. Even getting enough to drink was difficult; sometimes soldiers had to get by on less than a cup of water a day. The weather was harsh and unpredictable. The heat brought swarms of flies that helped spread diseases like dysentery which hit the Newfoundlanders hard. It could also be surprisingly cold as it was the worst winter in the region in four decades. Weeks of heavy rains and wind battered the soldiers, turning trenches into flooded ditches. When the rains finally stopped, the weather turned very cold and caused many cases of frostbite. Despite the difficult conditions, the Newfoundlanders persevered and earned their first battle honour when they captured Caribou Hill (a high point used by Turkish snipers) in November, with three men earning medals for their bravery in the fighting.

The lack of a military breakthrough convinced the Allies it was time to withdraw from Gallipoli. It was decided the Newfoundland Regiment would help in the difficult task of covering the evacuation of Allied troops onto waiting ships. This rearguard operation went well and the Newfoundlanders were among the last Allied soldiers to leave Turkey in January 1916.

SACRIFICE During the almost four months the Newfoundland Regiment fought at Gallipoli, approximately 30 men died in action and 10 more died of disease. The hardships and death they experienced were a taste of the even harsher experiences that were waiting when they were shifted to Europe's Western Front in April 1916. By war's end, more than 6,200 men had served in the regiment. The price was high, however—more than 1,300 died and many returned home with injuries to body and mind that lasted a lifetime. The loss of so many of its finest young citizens and the toll taken on the survivors was a heavy burden that Newfoundland had to bear for decades.

The Legacy Gallipoli was the first of many battles that would earn the Newfoundland Regiment an impressive reputation during the First World War. It would go on to fight with distinction in Belgium and France throughout the rest of the conflict. The regiment even earned the title “Royal” in 1917 in recognition of its exceptional service and sacrifice—the only regiment to be honoured this way by the British during the war.

The sacrifices and achievements of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment are not forgotten. July 1 is still marked as Memorial Day in Newfoundland and Labrador in commemoration of the great sacrifices made by the regiment during the First World War.

UNITED STATES AND WORLD WAR 1

On June 28, 1914 Yugoslav nationalist **Gavrilo Princip** assassinated the heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian empire, Archduke **Franz Ferdinand**. Princip and his accomplices wanted to unite the Yugoslav people and liberate them from Austrian rule.

The assassination set off a series of events that culminated in a declaration of war between Austria-Hungary and Serbia. Due to the European alliance system, all major European powers were drawn into the war, which spread around the globe and became the first world war in human history.

Though everyone believed the war would be quick and decisive, it instead bogged down in a prolonged war of attrition, with soldiers in the trenches fighting ferociously to move the battle lines by mere inches.

THE UNITED STATES ENTERS WORLD WAR I US President Woodrow Wilson sought to maintain US neutrality but was ultimately unable to keep the United States out of the war, largely because of escalating German aggression. On May 7, 1915, the Germans sunk the British ocean liner RMS Lusitania, which had over a hundred Americans on board. Wilson warned that the United States would not permit unrestricted submarine warfare or any further violations of international law.

In January 1917, the Germans resumed submarine warfare. A few days after this announcement, the Wilson administration obtained a copy of the Zimmermann Telegram, which urged Mexico to join the war effort on the side of Germany and pledged that in the event of a German victory, the territories of Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico would be stripped from the United States and returned to Mexico. The publication of the Zimmermann Telegram and the escalation of German submarine attacks on US merchant vessels led the US Congress to declare war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

More than 1.3 million men and twenty thousand women enlisted in the armed forces. Though some Americans opposed US entry into the war, many believed they had a civic duty to support the war effort. US government propaganda sought to mobilize the American citizenry through appeals to patriotism and civic duty, and by linking US democracy with support for the democracies of Western Europe.

The **Selective Service Act of 1917** authorized the conscription of military manpower for the war effort so that the United States did not have to rely solely on volunteers. Because many American citizens believed it was their patriotic duty to support the war effort, the draft was well-received and rates of draft-dodging were relatively low.

WORLD WAR I ON THE HOME FRONT The First World War had an enormous impact on US politics, culture, and society. Advocates of female suffrage successfully linked the patriotic efforts of women in the war with voting rights. This strategy was highly effective, and in 1920, the US Congress ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote.^55start superscript, 5, end superscript

Others were not so lucky. Hyper-vigilance on the home front led to spontaneous outbreaks of violence against groups whose loyalty to the United States was considered suspect. German-Americans, labor activists, suffragists, immigrants, African Americans, and socialists were subjected to threats, harassment, imprisonment, and physical violence.

At the same time, civil liberties were sharply curtailed. The **Espionage Act of 1917** and the **Sedition Act of 1918** criminalized the expression of antiwar sentiment and criticism of the US government and armed forces. Voluntary associations were created to identify dissidents, and many of these worked together with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to patrol the home front and punish perceived "enemies."

AFTERMATH: CONSEQUENCES OF WORLD WAR I The experience of the First World War was traumatizing. The so-called "civilized" Western democracies had plunged into a ferocious and deadly conflict with uncertain origins and an unsatisfying outcome. As a result, many became disillusioned with the values and ideals of American political democracy and consumer culture. The generation that came of age during the First World War and the "Roaring 1920s" is known as the "Lost Generation."

On the political front, a debate erupted between President Wilson and his supporters, who sought an expanded role for the United States in world affairs, and isolationists in Congress, who feared becoming embroiled in future European conflicts. Though Wilson was the foremost advocate of the League of Nations, an international peacekeeping organization, the United States never officially joined the League due to isolationist opposition

FONDAZZJONI BELT VICTORIA VO/0762 *Gozo NGOs Association*

founding member Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria VCT 1101
info@heartofgozo.org.mt

Media release

Il-Ħaġar reopening

Il-Ħaġar museum (Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria) is pleased to announce that it will again be welcoming visitors from Sunday 26 April - at the usual opening hours of 9am to 5pm, seven days a week. Anti-Covid protocols will be followed but entrance remains free.

To satisfy requests, it has been decided to extend the five temporary exhibitions which were limited to the website (www.heartofgozo.org.mt) when museums were closed by the health authorities in March, soon after their display had commenced.

· "Twilights" (on various levels) offers forty examples of Sacred Art by Aaron Formosa. The full colour sixty-pager exhibition catalogue is again available.

· *Vexilla Regis* - housed in a showcase on level -1 - has a range of Crucifixes, from different periods and in assorted styles.

· Video Room 2 holds "A Meeting of Minds" with documents and manuscripts highlighting connections between Professors Joseph Vella and Oliver Friggieri – with a background recording too.

· A typical Good Friday Procession is represented through hundreds of statuettes - made by Joseph Agius, Lino Fardell and Paul Muscat - arranged in three cases in Video Room 1.

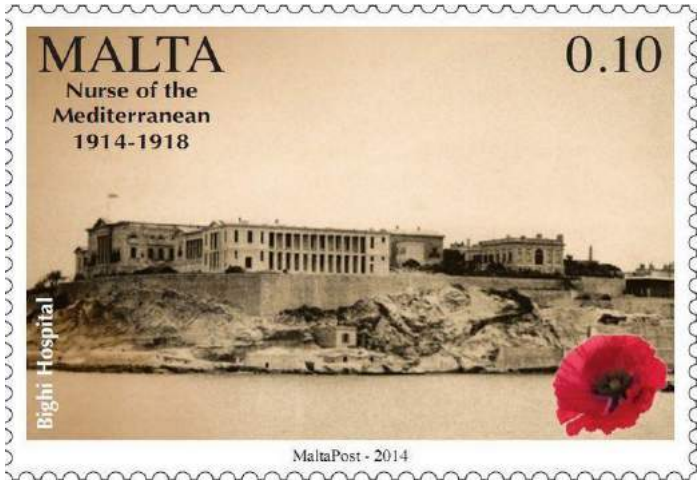
· The Gozo Philatelic Society showcase (level -1) has a look at Malta's first stamp, including rare items

On Wednesday, 21 April, 2021, at Heritage Malta there was a streaming on Facebook a masterclass that follows the journey, from site to lab, of a skull discovered at St Paul's Catacombs and of the creation of the related facial reconstruction.

The journey started on the 22 August 2013, when a skeleton belonging to a female between 18 and 24 years of age was discovered within the access shaft of a shaft-and-chamber tomb, surrounded by a remarkable assemblage of grave goods. Based on tomb typology and pottery studies, the skeleton was estimated to date back to between the late 4th century BC and the 2nd Century AD. The masterclass was followed by a journey of the skeleton from the site to the lab, highlighting the various techniques used to understand past burial practices and the studies that went into creating a biological profile of the individual from the bones. The combination of this biological profile and the conservation of the skull ultimately resulted in sufficient information for specialists to create a facial reconstruction, giving a face to our past.

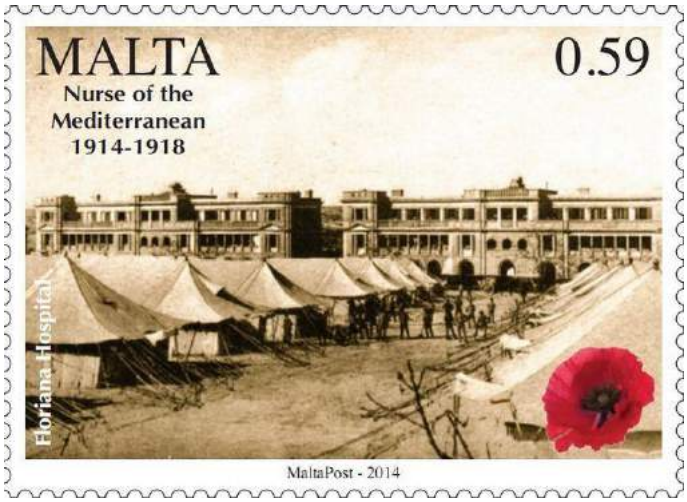
Entitled "Staring the Past in the Eyes: Discovery and Research on a Skull from St Paul's Catacombs", the masterclass was delivered by a number of specialists, including David Cardona (Senior Curator of St Paul's Catacombs), Michelle Padovani (Osteologist) and a group of Italian specialists led by Roberto Miccichè (Forensic Anthropologist).

MALTAPOST: STAMPS COMMEMORATING WW1 CENTENARY



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 were 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 was 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**.

The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora
MALTESE LIVING ABROAD THIS IS YOUR JOURNAL

RECONNECT WITH OUR CULTURE

ACROSS CANADA

Maltese Language

Community Speaking Gatherings

Conversation Leader: Darren Giordmaina

Session 1: Greetings: small talk, weather, relevant manners

Session 2: The kitchen; food, kitchen items and recipe sharing

Session 3: At home; the items, people and events there

Session 4: The Calendar; holidays and conversations

Session 5: The outdoors: car, nature, parks

Session 6: Class requests

Get a logon for you and your family;

call 647-236-4565

Saturday's
2:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.
May 1- June 12
(except Victoria Day long weekend)

$20.00 /Per household video session
$100.00 /Per household for all 6 sessions

In an effort to stimulate and revitalize using the Maltese language in our homes, we are introducing Maltese Language Community Speaking Gatherings across Canada. It is open to all, and we invite households to join in so we can all participate in Maltese communication. Once a properly certified teacher for grammar instruction, that will commence. Please do share with the community. We hope to see many people in the online zoom community speaking gathering! This is great! Kind regards, Mel Hamelin

TURKISH MILITARY CEMETERY MARSA MALTA

In theTurkish Military Cemeterythere are are 7 Commonwealth war graves from World War I and 4 from World War II. The cemetery was built by Turkish POWs in World War I. There are also 15 French war graves. Notice the horseshoe-shaped arches, intricate stone carving around the portal, fluted sequential domes and high crowning sickle, symbol of Islam; also the way the piers along the road echo the motifs in the portal itself.

Islam came to Malta as early as the ninth century. When the Turks invaded Malta in 1565, they camped out in Marsa because of its harbour facilities and water supplies. Many died there though, because the wells had been poisoned in advance of their arrival. Since then, Muslims from a number of Arab countries have come to the islands with different intentions, and have received warmer welcomes. When the Turkish Sultan Abdul Aziz visited Malta in 1867, he presented Galizia with the knightly order of Mejidie, and commissioned him to build a new cemetery, at his own expense, on the older burial ground there.

Galizia's travels in Cyprus, where the British twice sent him to report on the feasibility of a Maltese settlement, must have helped him to design this "fine example of Moorish architecture. He evidently enjoyed the style, turning to it again in the houses he built in the fashionable town of Sliema — one of which was for his own use. Muslims are very much in a minority in predominantly Roman Catholic Malta, and the cemetery is no longer used

How to cook ANZAC Biscuits

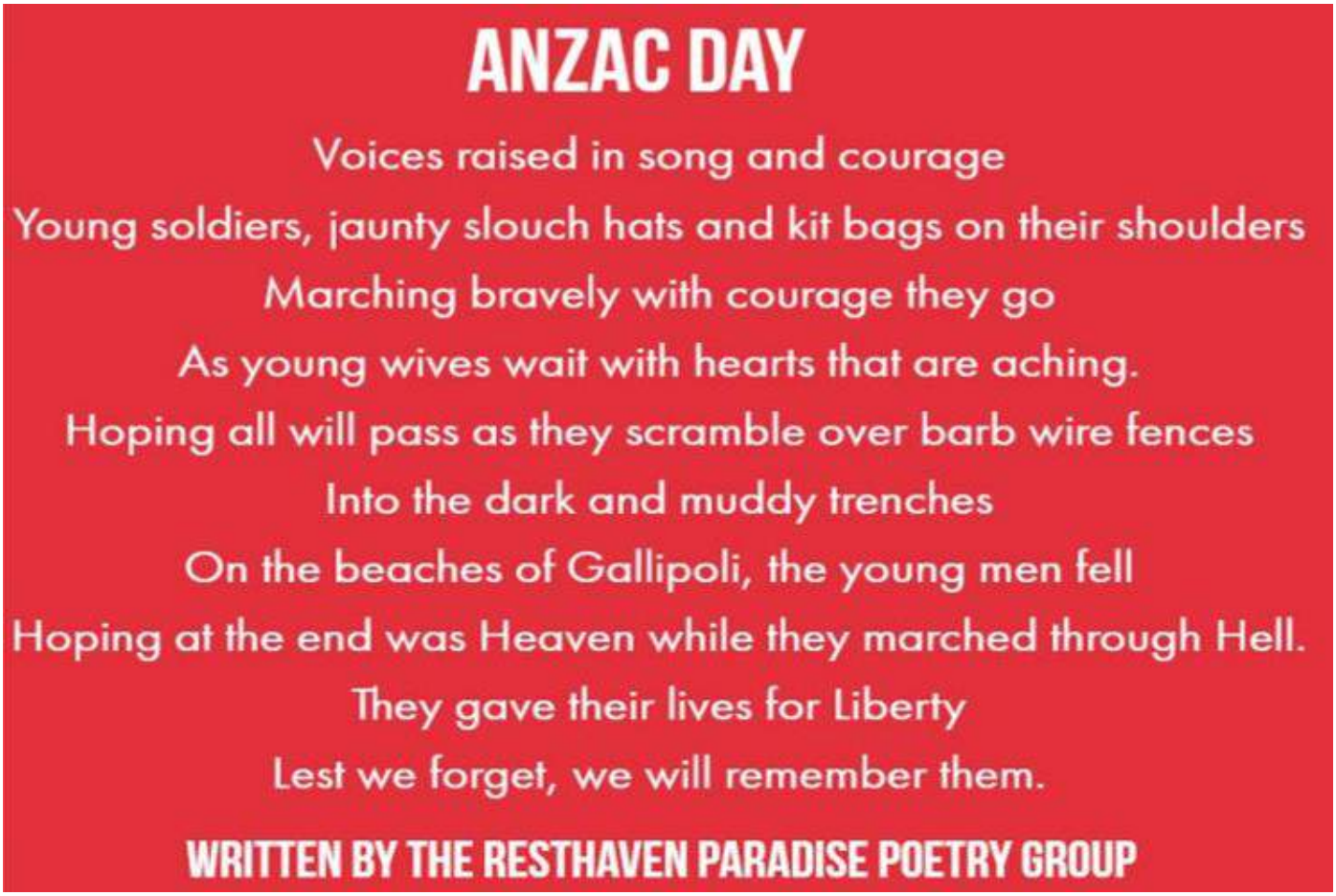
The Anzac biscuit is a sweet biscuit, popular in Australia and New Zealand, made using rolled oats, flour, sugar, butter, golden syrup, baking soda, boiling water, and desiccated coconut. Anzac biscuits have long been associated with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps established in World War I *Our classic ANZAC biscuits are an all-time Australian favourite recipe. Have a batch of sweet golden biscuits ready in less than 20 minutes... with the perfect amount of chewiness and crunch!*

Prep Time: 10 minutes Cook Time: 10 minutes Total Time: 20 minutes Servings: 20 cookies

Ingredients

- ▢ 110 g (1 cup) rolled oats
- ▢ 150 g 1 cup) plain flour
- ▢ 120 g (⅔ cup) brown sugar
- ▢ 70 g (⅔ cup) desiccated coconut
- ▢ 125 g butter
- ▢ 2 tbs golden syrup see recipe notes
- ▢ ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda

Instructions

Conventional Method

Preheat oven to 160 degrees celsius (fan-forced). Grease and line three flat baking trays with baking paper.
Combine the rolled oats, flour, brown sugar and coconut in a bowl.
Place butter, golden syrup and 2 tablespoons cold water into a microwave-safe bowl and heat for 3 minutes, 50% power or until melted.
Stir through the bicarbonate of soda.
Pour the butter mixture over the oat mixture and stir to combine.
Roll level tablespoons of mixture into balls.
Place on trays, 5cm apart and flatten slightly.
For chewy ANZACS, bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until light golden. For crunchy ANZACS, increase cooking time to 12-15 minutes.
Leave on the baking trays for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.
Thermomix Method
Preheat oven to 160 degrees celsius (fan-forced). Grease and line three flat baking trays with baking paper. Place the butter, golden syrup and brown sugar into the Thermomix bowl. Melt for 3 minutes, 100 degrees, Speed 2.
Add the bicarbonate of soda and 2 tbs cold water to the melted butter mixture and mix for 10 seconds, Speed 3.
Add the rolled oats, plain flour and coconut. Mix together for 40 seconds, Reverse, Speed 2.
Roll level tablespoons of mixture into balls. Place on trays, 5cm apart and flatten slightly.
For chewy ANZACS, bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until light golden. For crunchy ANZACS, increase cooking time to 12-15 minutes.
Leave on the baking trays for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.