



Maltese Historical Association (Australia)

*Għaqda Storika Maltija
(Awstralja)*

The **Maltese Historical Association** (MHA) was founded in 1987. Its objectives are to promote interest in the study of all aspects of the history of Malta and her people – social, cultural, economic, architectural, political and religious – and to encourage and support research in Maltese history.



Situated in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, Malta's story spans thousands of years.

Ancient stone temples predate Stonehenge; Punic tombs indicate a Phoenician colony. She was conquered by the Romans, and St Paul was shipwrecked there. She was overrun by the Vandals and Goths, ruled by the Byzantines and conquered by the Arabs.



The Normans took over in the time of the Crusades, and Malta was controlled in turn by the Swabians, the Angevins and Aragonese, firstly as part of the Holy Roman Empire and then the Kingdom of Sicily. She was given to the Knights of St John of Jerusalem and of Rhodes, who resisted the mighty Ottoman invasion in the Great Siege of 1565. They built the fortified city

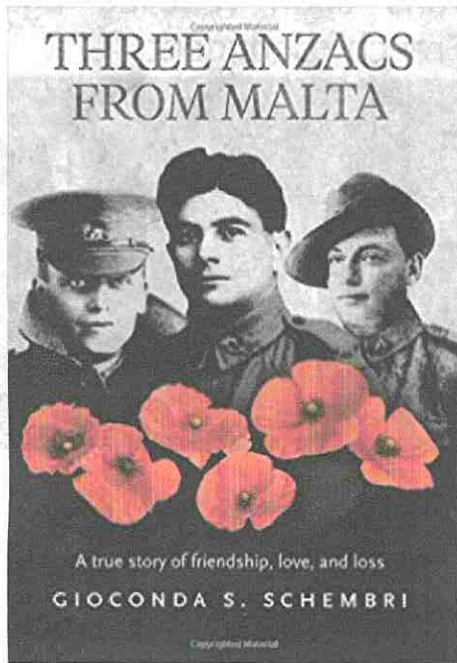
of Valletta but in 1798 they surrendered to Napoleon and were expelled. The Maltese and Gozitans soon rebelled against the French contingent.



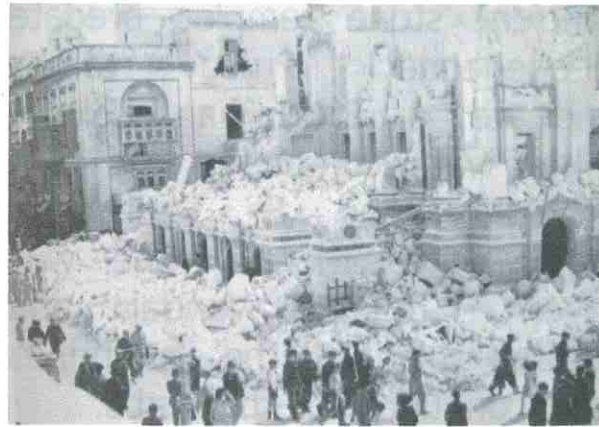
They called on the British, who saw the strategic value of Malta's position in the Mediterranean and took over. In World War I, Malta became the Nurse of the Mediterranean. Many Allies and



ANZACs from Gallipoli and elsewhere were treated in Malta; 270 ANZACs are buried there.



In World War II, Malta suffered relentless bombing and near starvation but refused to surrender. The British naval base stationed there disrupted Axis supplies to Rommel in Africa, which was instrumental in turning the tide of the war. The Maltese people received the George Cross for gallantry in 1942.



Malta finally achieved independence in 1964 and joined the European Union in 2004.

Malta's colourful history has left its mark. She has a unique culture.



The Maltese Historical Association is run entirely by volunteers who are passionate about Maltese history and culture. We produce

a monthly e-newsletter and hold monthly events, including lectures and slide shows. These are conducted in English and are generally held at 7:30 pm on the third Tuesday of the month, at the Maltese Community Centre, 477 Royal Parade Parkville (Enter from Ievers St).

Join us for a lecture and a cuppa afterwards. Entry is free. All are welcome.

For more details, visit our website www.mha.org.au or facebook page.

If you would like to join the MHA, please contact us at a lecture or email

secretary@mha.org.au

***Membership: Single \$15,
Family \$20***

