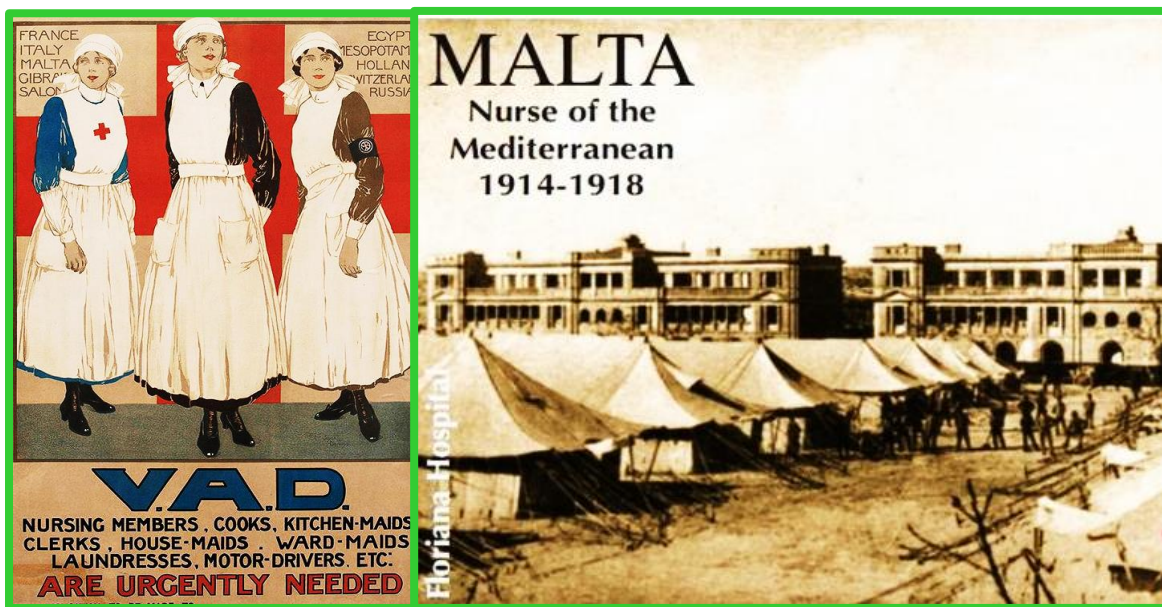


# MALTESE HISTORY

## LO9 Malta and the First World War



## Year 10

Third Edition – 2023

for History SEC 2025



Curriculum Centre Annex

## LO9 I - Malta's Contribution in the First World War

Malta, being a British colony at the time, was not neutral in the war, although its part in the actual fighting was minimal. During the war Malta was never directly attacked by the enemy. However, Malta's main harbours were used by the Allies as a naval and military base against the forces of the Central Powers (*Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Turkey and Bulgaria*) in the Mediterranean.



*An anti-Kaiser demonstration in Malta in 1914.*



*Royal Navy warships in the Grand Harbour during World War I.*

During the war, the Grand Harbour, which was the headquarters of the British Mediterranean fleet, became busy with all sorts of activities. The harbour warehouses were used to store ammunition and all sorts of military equipment. The harbour swamped with Allied warships and transport vessels for repairs at the dockyard. Besides repairing ships, dockyard workers contributed to the war effort by assembling seaplanes using parts brought over from Britain. The number of dockyard workers rose from 3,500 in 1914 to 14,000 in 1918.

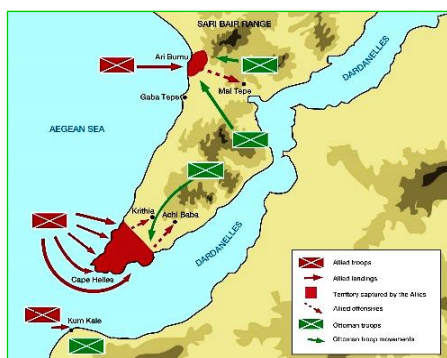


*Henry Ahar  
(1884–1920)*

In 1916, under the leadership of Henry Ahar (Ear), a former follower of Manwel Dimech, they founded the first trade union in Malta (known as the *Malta General Workers Union - MGWU*). This union had 4,000 members in 1917. In 1917 the union held a demonstration in Valletta and ordered the first strike in Malta. The British Admiralty acknowledged their important contribution during the war by giving them a 50% salary increase.

### The Gallipoli Campaign of 1915-1916

In the early months of 1915, fighting spread beyond Continental Europe. The Ottoman Empire entered the war on the side of Germany and closed the Dardanelles Strait to Allied ships. As a result, British and French armies joined forces to organise a naval campaign which started in February 1915 known as the Gallipoli Campaign. The aim of the campaign was to attack the Ottoman capital Constantinople (Istanbul) and knock the Ottoman Empire out of the war. Despite an army of almost half a million soldiers, the invasion was a disaster, with the campaign taking just over ten months and ended in a total Allied retreat. Tens of thousands were killed or wounded, and it was because of these wounded soldiers that Malta came to be referred to as the 'Nurse of the Mediterranean' during the Great War.

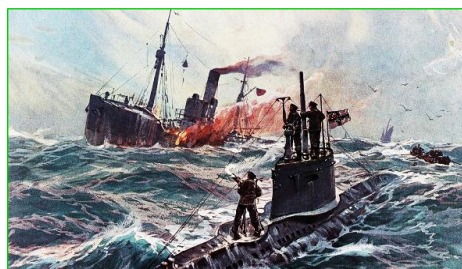


*Gallipoli Peninsula during the campaign of 1915-1916.*

*The main Allied depot station at Gallipoli.*



By April 28, the two sides had fought themselves to a standstill. For eight long months, the Gallipoli Campaign had become a stalemate. By the time the campaign was called off in February 1916, more than 130,000 men had died: 87,000 Ottoman soldiers and 44,000 Allied soldiers. In the wider story of the First World War, the Gallipoli campaign left no significant mark.



*Left: From August to November 1915, five more German U-boats entered the Straits of Gibraltar to form the German Mediterranean Flotilla at Cattaro, an Austro-Hungarian naval base in the Adriatic Sea.*

*Right: A German U-boat sinking an Allied cargo ship.*

### **German U-boats in the Mediterranean**

German U-boats around Maltese waters led to the loss of several warships and merchant-ships, both by mines and torpedoes. The first loss happened during the night of April 26/27, when the German submarine U-73, laid a minefield along the Maltese northeast coast. At nightfall of April 26, the battleship HMS Russell, arrived near Malta and it spent the night cruising east of Malta. Shortly before dawn of April 27, it began to approach the Grand Harbour but at 5:52am it hit a mine, followed almost immediately by the explosion of a second mine. After about 25 minutes it rolled over on her starboard side and sank. A total of 625 crewmen were rescued but 124 died, of which three were Maltese servicemen. U-73's minefield sank two other ships during the night of April 27/28.

### **Prison camp**

More than 1,600 German and Austrian prisoners of war (POWs) also ended up in Malta, many of them were kept in the converted Verdala barracks and Fort Salvatore within the Cottonera bastions. Most of these prisoners were captains or officers of German U-boats or cruisers sunk by the Allies in the Mediterranean. While in prison, they were guarded by soldiers from the King's Own Malta Regiment.

### **Malta as 'Nurse of the Mediterranean' during the Gallipoli and Salonika Campaigns**

At the start of the war in 1914, Malta had four military hospitals with a capacity of around 300 beds. Since Malta was so far off from the Gallipoli battlefield, it was the perfect medical recovery outpost. The first casualties from the Gallipoli Campaign arrived in Malta in May 1915. Barges carrying wounded men were gently unloaded onto the quayside outside Valletta's former *Sacra Infermeria*. From here, the wounded were sorted and moved on to the other hospitals around the island. More wounded soldiers arrived during the next days. By the end of the month, over 4,000 sick and wounded had arrived.



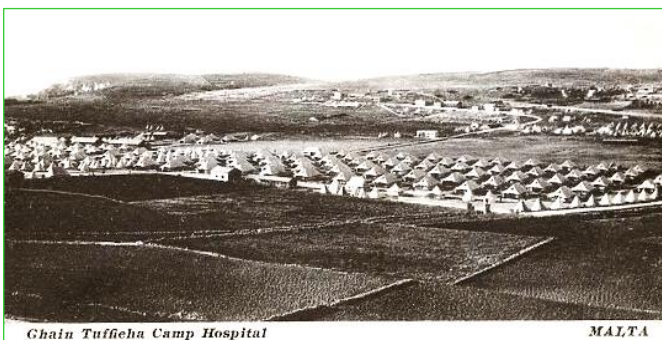
*Left: Allied wounded soldiers in one of the military hospitals on the island.*

*Right: British nurses serving in Malta during the war.*

The Gallipoli and the Salonika campaigns meant that 136,121 wounded or sick soldiers were treated in Malta. An average of 2,000 wounded soldiers started arriving in Malta from the front every week, while the record for the most patients treated in one day amounted to 20,994. Malta had, at its peak, 27 hospitals with 334 medical officers, 913 nurses and 25,000 beds. The table below records the number of arrivals during the month of May 1915:

Date of Arrival	Number of Casualties	Arrived from	Hospitals where patients were admitted
May 4	600	Gallipoli	Valletta and Tigné
May 5	394	Gallipoli	Cottonera and Bighi
May 6	640	Gallipoli	NA
May 12	700	Gallipoli	St George's, St Andrew's
May 17	773	Egypt	Mtarfa, St Andrew's
May 18	1,139	Egypt	NA

*Source: Malta turns into the 'Nurse of the Mediterranean' as Gallipoli ends in a stalemate, TOM, April 19, 2015, Charles Debono.*



*One of the recovery camps for sick Allied soldiers during the First World War.*

By June 1915, there were 14 hospitals in Malta, served by 117 medical officers, 300 nurses and 753 ranks. The number of beds rose to 13,093, catering for wounded soldiers and others sick with dysentery and enteric fever. Recovery camps became important when the first sick and wounded started to recover. They received men who required no further medical intervention but who were not yet fully fit for duty. Two main convalescent camps were set up at Ġhajn Tuffieħa and Mellieħa, both of which offered cool sea breezes and bathing facilities.

At the start of the campaign, there was a small number of medical and nursing staff employed in the local military hospitals. By May 1915, these had been increased by local doctors and nurses who volunteered their services and by British doctors, surgeons and nurses regularly sent from Britain. Throughout the war, there were over 300 surgeons and 1,000 nurses on the island. Nursing work was physically and mentally exhausting due to the constant flow of wounded soldiers. Nurses worked long hours in conditions that were often far from ideal and with the risk of contracting serious diseases through cross-infection from the patients. While the majority of the troops brought to Malta made a full recovery, for others the island became their final resting place, with up to 20 men buried each day at the height of the hospitalisation period.



*Left: Allied soldiers in a war trench at Gallipoli.  
Centre: Members of the MLC digging a trench at Gallipoli.  
Right: A group of Maltese men who volunteered in the Maltese Labour Corps.*

In the meantime, various initiatives were introduced to assist the recovering troops. Many Maltese families invited soldiers into their homes, while others toured them around the island. The Vernon United Services Club in Valletta was turned into an entertainment centre for recovering troops. This place continued operating as a military social club until 1967, when it was taken over by the Maltese Government and became the Central Bank of Malta. The nuns of the Little Company of Mary (known as the 'Blue Sisters'), offered their hospital at St Julian's and the adjoining Zammit Clapp hospital. Local Boy Scouts ran errands for the soldiers, posting their letters and bringing them magazines.



*Left: Australia Hall when it was in use in World War I.  
Right: Today Australia Hall has been left in ruins.*

To cater for the thousands of convalescent ANZACs (Australian and New Zealand forces) in the Pembroke area, the Australian Red Cross contributed £2,000 towards the building of what became known as the Australia Hall. Built by the Royal Engineers in just two months, it seated up to 2,000 patients. The building was gutted by fire in 1998 and is today in a deplorable state.

By the end of the Gallipoli Campaign, just under 58,000 casualties had been treated in Malta, with the highest number of patients in hospital on any one day being an incredible 16,004. After January 1916, the number of sick and wounded fell considerably as the Gallipoli Peninsula was evacuated. Numbers started rising again in summer as the Salonika campaign intensified. The number of hospital beds remained in the region of 25,000 and reached a maximum of 25,522 in April 1917, at which point increasing submarine attacks on hospital ships made it unsafe to continue bringing casualties to Malta. A total of just over 67,000 casualties were brought from Salonika, meaning that in total, Malta had nursed around 125,000 casualties throughout the First World War.

There was one major Maltese deployment to Gallipoli: The Maltese Labour Corps (MLC) was a non-fighting unit that played a logistical role in the campaign. Following a request for volunteers to form a labour battalion for service with the British Army in August 1915, over 1,000 men applied, encouraged by an attractive pay and short-term, renewable contracts. The first group of 864 men were sent to Gallipoli, to dig trenches and to serve as drivers and stevedores. Out of all MLC volunteers, two of them received minor wounds and one was killed in action. Although the MLC battalion returned to Malta in February 1916, some 5,600 men in total volunteered to serve in the MLC in other campaigns throughout the war.

### **Maltese in the Royal Navy and the Dockyard**

Malta was involved in the war in other ways too. British and French warships and submarines blockading the Dardanelles operated from the island. The number of people employed at the Royal Naval Dockyard increased drastically at this time, to cope with the demand of naval operations in the Eastern Mediterranean. In addition to repairing ships, many Maltese men served in the Royal Navy. This is evidenced by the fact that out of the 592 Maltese who were killed in the war, the vast majority died at sea. A significant number of Maltese immigrants enlisted in the ANZAC forces and saw action in various war fronts. Of these, at least seven are known to have been killed in action.



*A Malta stamp of 2014 issued on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First World War in Malta.*

## LO9 I - Malta's Contribution in the First World War

1. Underline **two** episodes of the First World War that had an effect on Malta.

- (a) the Gallipoli Campaign
- (b) the entry of the Ottoman Empire in the war
- (c) the United States declaration of war on Germany
- (d) the German offensive on the Western Front
- (d) German U-boat attacks on Allied ship in the Mediterranean (2)

2. Identify **two** important roles which Malta played during the war.

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(2)

3. How were the dockyard workers affected by the war?

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(2)

4. Why did the Allies embark on the Gallipoli Campaign of 1915-1916?

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(2)

5. Was the Gallipoli Campaign a success or a failure? Briefly explain your answer.

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(3)

6. How did the Maltese take part in the Gallipoli Campaign?

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(2)

7. (a) Why did Malta earn the name 'Nurse of the Mediterranean' during the war?

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(2)

(b) Briefly explain how this role impacted on Maltese society during the war years.

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(3)

8. Is the stamp source on page 4 primary or secondary? Explain your answer.

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(2)

**(Total 20 marks)**

## LO9 I - Malta during the First World War

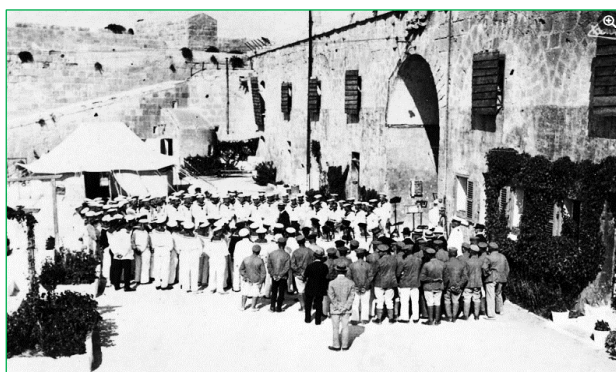
### Source Question

Private Sidney Scowcroft provided one of the most vivid and detailed eye-witness descriptions of the reception received upon arrival in Malta:

'Once on the landing stage we were fairly rushed by both old ladies and young girls, who were anxious to do us a good turn. They distributed amongst us chocolates, biscuits, cigarettes, matches, soft drinks, anything in fact that helps to comfort the wounded. We were then met by very obliging R.A.M.C. men, who took us to a bath, there to make ourselves fit and proper persons to be received by our English nurses at our various wards. The hospital we are in was once an English barracks, but since the outbreak of war, it has been thoroughly renovated, and now it is one of the most up-to-date hospitals here.'

**Source A.** Roads to the Great War – Malta,

Retrieved from: <https://roadstothegreatwar-ww1.blogspot.com/2021/06/malta-in-world-war-one-nurse-of.html>



**Source B.** German POW line up in St Clement's Camp at Verdala Barracks, Cospicua. Photograph taken in 1915.



**Source C**

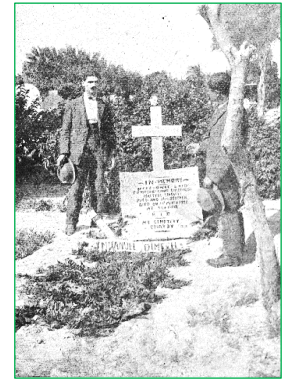
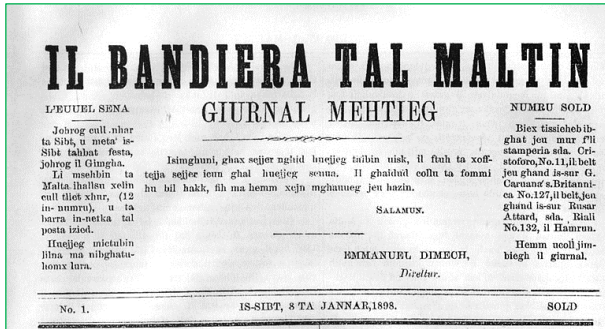
**Answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper.**

1. State why Sources A, B and C are primary sources. (3)
2. (a) Why did Private Scowcroft end up in Malta during the war? (2)  
(b) Briefly describe how persons like him were treated during their stay in Malta. (4)
3. Underline the correct meaning of the abbreviation POW.  
Person of Worth - Plan of War - Prisoner of War (1)
4. (a) Why did the Germans in Source B end up in Malta during the war? (2)  
(b) What happened to Germans in Source B when the war ended? (2)
5. (a) What is Source C about? (1)  
(b) What do they commemorate? (1)  
(c) How do you explain their presence in Malta when Malta was not directly involved in the fighting in World War I? (2)  
(d) Why does Source C also include plaques that refer to Japanese and Italian servicemen? (2)

**(Total: 20 marks)**

# L09 m - Consequences of the First World War on Malta

## Effects of the war on the Maltese



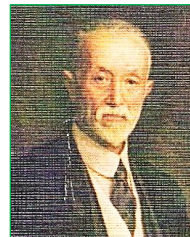
Left: Front page of Dimech's newspapers 'Il Bandiera tal Maltin'.

Centre: Manwel Dimech in the centre with two members of the Society of the Enlightened (Ix-Xirka tal-Imdawlin)

Right: Dimech's grave at Alexandria, Egypt.

When the First World War had just begun, Malta's colonial governor accepted the accusation that Dimech was spying for Germany. He was deported to Sicily (until then a neutral country in the war). There he was arrested again, and was asked to leave to a country, save Malta, of his own choice. Dimech chose Egypt, then a British protectorate. Once there, Dimech lived in prisons or concentration camps either at Alexandria or Cairo. However, when the war ended in 1918, he was not released. Technically, Dimech became an exile, and he remained so until his death in 1921. Various pleas for his return to Malta were refused by the colonial government in Malta.

During the war, German submarines attacked allied ships in the Mediterranean. These attacks caused scarcities of most imported food items in Malta: wheat, flour, oil, cheese, meat, sugar, wood and kerosine. Scarcities led to an increase in prices and in the cost of living. The price of bread trebled between 1914 and 1918. The increase in the price of bread badly affected the lower classes mostly as they already had low wages. Meanwhile, the Government had to introduce new taxes to make up for revenue lost from customs duties. These newly introduced taxes upset the middle and upper classes mostly, namely a tax on cinema tickets and a succession duty on wills. With the end of the war the Maltese hoped that prices would decrease. However, this did not happen as some of the negative effects of the war could not be solved immediately. These conditions were to cause serious political and social unrest in many parts of Europe. In this, Malta was no exception.



Dr Filippo Sciberras

The first meeting of the National Assembly of 25 February 1919. Dr Sciberras is marked by a red circle.

After the war there were tensions across the European continent due to the disruption in agriculture and industry. Malta was no exception. After the war, imports remained limited, food became scarce and prices rose sharply, including the price of grain. This affected the price of bread which was the staple food of the lower classes. Wages were not keeping up with the increase in food prices. All this caused resentment towards grain importers and flour millers. Many believed that the latter were making a lot of profit from the high price of grain at the expense of large sections of society who were experiencing hunger.

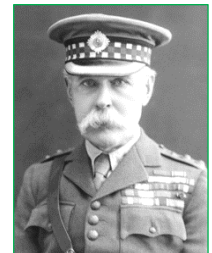
The situation in Malta also worsened because after the war Malta started to experience mass unemployment with thousands of dockyard workers to be among the first to lose their job. In March 1919, dockyard workers decreased from 14,000 to 8,000 employees. Those who became jobless found it almost impossible to emigrate because the United States, Canada and Australia introduced very low quotas for working permits to Maltese emigrants.

The political situation also played a major role. Following the armistice of November 1918, Dr Filippo Sciberras, a leading politician made an appeal to all political leaders to meet and formulate a constitution that would give the Maltese self-government. His appeal led to the formation of a National Assembly with more than 250 delegates. The first meeting was held in February 1919 at La Giovane Malta Club, Valletta. Sciberras was elected as its President. The Assembly consisted of representatives from the political parties, the Chamber of Advocates, the dockyard trade union, the clergy, the nobles, the business community, the notaries, the university students and the press. The event attracted a crowd in Valletta and shops that refused to close were attacked and damaged.

The National Assembly agreed to meet for a second time in Valletta on Saturday 7 June 1919. The delegates had encouraged people to gather in the city and to bring with them Maltese flags, as they felt this would show the British authorities that they had the backing of the common people. Although the Police had foreseen the possibility that the events of February might be repeated, they completely underestimated the gravity of the situation, as events on that fateful day would demonstrate.

Between February and June 1919, the political situation in Malta continued to deteriorate. While the Maltese political leaders were demanding self-government, the press invited the people to protest against the new taxes imposed by the Government. The anti-Government press helped to further turn public opinion against the British colonial authorities. Most of the ten newspapers published at that time were anti-British, such as *La Voce del Popolo*, *Unjoni Maltija*, *Malta Għadha Tagħna* and *Il-Ħmar*. On the other hand, the newspapers that were mostly inclined towards the British were *The Daily Malta Chronicle* and *The Malta Herald*.

Widespread unemployment, low wages and high prices further angered the lower classes. In May 1919 the university students protested in Valletta when their degree courses in law and medicine were extended by another two years. When the leaders of these students were taken to Court, a large crowd entered Valletta to give them support. It so happened that, at this critical moment, Malta was without a Governor because Lord Methuen (photo on the right) had left Malta in April. Until a new Governor arrived, General Hunter-Blair served as an interim-acting-governor.



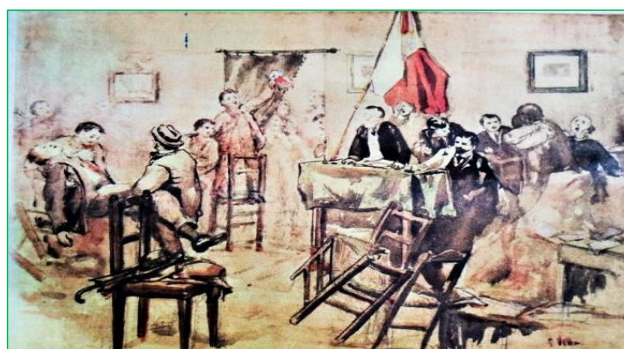
### **The Sette Giugno riots on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June 1919**

On the afternoon of Saturday 7 June, an estimated 20,000 people entered Valletta. They gathered outside the *Circolo Giovine Malta* to applaud the delegates as they entered the meeting. A large group of people soon proceeded along *Strade Reale* (now Republic Street) forcing shops to close. The first sign of trouble took place in front of the *A' La Ville de Londres*. The Union Flag flying from the building's roof angered the protestors. Some forced their way in, damaged the premises and tore down the flag.

The crowd then turned towards to the Union Club at the Auberge de Provence, which served as a meeting place for British officers. The rioters started insulting the officers inside and threw stones at the windows. A small group of police officers tried unsuccessfully to calm down the crowd. The next stop for the demonstrators was *Piazza Regina* (now Republic Square), where the Union Flag was flying from the Malta Public Library. Once again, the crowd called for the flag to be hauled down. A library employee removed the flag, a wise decision which made the crowd move on and thus saved the library and the national archives from being ransacked.

From *Strada Reale*, the protestors moved to the Lyceum on *Strada Mercanti* (now Merchants Street), where they forcibly gained access to the building. Again, the crowd insisted that the flag flying from the Royal Air Force turret, housing the meteorological office, be lowered. The offices were damaged and the Union Flag was thrown into the street and set on fire. The mob then set off for St. George's Square where they insulted the guards on duty at the Main Guard. From there the protestors proceeded towards *Strada Forni* (now Old Bakery Street) where there was the residence of Anthony Cassar Torreggiani, one of the grain importers blamed for the high price of bread. The protestors broke into his house and ransacked it.

Since the situation was getting out of hand, with the Police unable to control the disturbances in different location, 64 British marines stationed in the Floriana barracks were called to Valletta to help restore order. Six of these marines made their way towards Strada Forni to defend the Cassar Torreggiani residence. When they arrived, they found a crowd of around 2,000 people. Realising that they were hopelessly outnumbered, they asked for reinforcements. A platoon of 24 marines were lined up across the street in two ranks in a kneeling firing position, although they were specifically ordered to hold their fire. But at this point one of the soldiers lost his nerve and pulled the trigger, which led to some of the others doing the same. 28-year-old Manwel Attard, from Sliema, was hit in the face and fell dead. Further up the street, 38-year-old Ġużeppi Bajada, from Xagħra, Gozo, was also fatally wounded, while several others were injured.



Above: A sketch drawing of one of the victims being taken to the room where the National Assembly was in session.

Left: The Crowd and the marines in Strada Reale (Republic Street) on 7 June 1919.

Meanwhile, similar scenes were taking place in *Strada Teatro* (now Old Theatre Street), where 400 people were wrecking the offices of the *Daily Malta Chronicle*. A party of 10 marines was sent to clear the place, but although they were successful in forcing all the protestors out, the crowd outside started pelting them with stones and burning missiles. As the soldiers exited the building, the officer in charge ordered one of the men to fire a warning shot in order to disperse the demonstrators. Unfortunately, this shot hit 21-year-old Lorenzo Dyer, from Vittoriosa, who had been standing next to the fountain opposite the offices. He died to his injuries soon after.

The meeting of the National Assembly was interrupted as a seriously wounded man was brought in. Realising the seriousness of what was happening outside, the delegates adjourned the meeting. Some of them addressed the crowds and urged them to calm down and stop the disorders. Some of the delegates went to meet the Acting Governor, asking him to withdraw the troops. No more disturbances were reported that evening.

On the morning of Sunday 8 June, people once again gathered in the streets, mainly to lay flowers on the spots where the three men had been killed the day before. However, at around 9:30am, a British soldier was assaulted by a group of people in Strada Teatro. He was so badly injured, that he died several weeks later.

Late in the afternoon, Colonel Francia's house, situated opposite the Royal Opera House, came under attack. Colonel Francia was involved in the flour milling industry and was seen as a fair target by the crowd. As the family and their employees hid in the cellars, furniture, silverware, and other precious items were being looted or thrown out of the windows. Although around 100 soldiers from the Royal Malta Artillery were present, they were reluctant to use force against their own countrymen, so at around 6pm, 140 Royal Marines were sent to clear the building. 39-year-old Carmelo Abela, from Valletta, was standing near one of the doors, calling for his son, when he was approached by two marines who tried to arrest him. As he resisted, he was bayoneted in the stomach and died a week later.

On the same day, other smaller riots took place at Hamrun, Qormi, Rabat and Zejtun. In most of these occasions, some of the rioters took advantage of the confusion to attack the houses of the upper classes. On Monday 9 June, another huge crowd went to Valletta for the solemn mass and funeral procession from Valletta to the Addolorata Cemetery of the three victims who had been shot on 7 June.



*Photos taken during the funeral procession of the three Maltese victims on Monday 9 June 1919*

### **The aftermath of the riots**

The Acting-Governor Hunter-Blair expressed the view in a report that the riots had been planned in advance. This view was however rejected by the Commission of Inquiry that was set up to investigate the causes of the riots. On the contrary, the Secretary of State Colonel Amery judged the riots as *the* 'incoherent, unreasoning protest of a hungry populace against its sufferings'.

In the meantime, the newly appointed Governor Viscount Plumer (photo below right) arrived in Malta on Monday 9 June, on the day of the funeral of the victims. He immediately set to work to restore public order by declaring temporary press censorship while at the same time he set up the Government Printing Office (later this became known as the Department of Information or DOI). He also stopped political meetings and demonstrations in and around Valletta. The leaders of the crowd suspected of having encouraged the use of violence were arrested. The Governor also increased the salaries of the Police to ensure their loyalty in case there were other riots in the future.

In addition, Governor Plumer took immediate steps to reduce the hardships of the lower classes. He lowered the price of bread by a government subsidy. He started a program of public works to reduce unemployment. Government employees were given a salary increase to make up for the sharp rise in the cost of living.

On the political level, the Governor did much to calm down the tension of the previous days. He soon proved himself an expert in negotiation for he started consulting with the trade unions and the Maltese political leaders on important issues. On more than one occasion he defended the Maltese claim for self-government in his letters to the Colonial Secretary. On their part, the British colonial authorities came to realise that there was an urgent need for political reform. In 1920, the Maltese were promised their own parliament, with jurisdiction over internal affairs. A new self-government constitution was indeed granted in 1921, with the first election being held in October of that year.



### **Remembrance of the Sette Giugno**

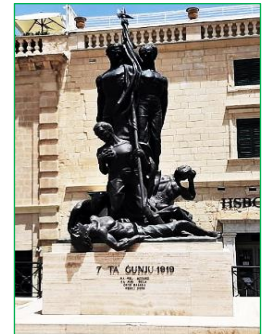
On 9 November 1924, the bodies of the four victims were placed to rest in their new tomb at the Addolorata Cemetery. The monument was designed by the Russian sculptor Boris Edwards and Maltese artist Gianni Vella, who had witnessed the riots. The names of two more men, Ċikku Darmanin and Toni Caruana, who are also believed to have died of their injuries some months later, were not added to the monument.

On 7 June 1986, the *Sette Giugno* monument, the work of Anton Agius, was inaugurated at St. George's Square. On 21 March 1989, the Maltese Parliament declared the 7<sup>th</sup> of June as one of the five national days of Malta. Some years ago, the monument was removed from the square but, following a public consultation about the location, it was returned to its original place in the main square of Valletta on 3 December 2016.



Left: A newspaper report of the Sette Giugno riots in 'Malta Tagħna'.

Above: The four Maltese victims of the Sette Giugno riots. From left to right in this order: Wenzu Dyer, Karmenu Abela, Giuseppe Bajjada, Manwel Attard.



The two monuments in remembrance of the victims. Left: The grave monument at the Addolorata Cemetery.

Right: The national monument of the Sette Giugno at St George's Square, Valletta.

## LO9 m - Consequences of the First World War on Malta

1. Quote for instances of patriotic sentiments mentioned by the author of the newspaper article above under the heading 'Is-7 ta Giunju'.

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2. Do you think Manwel Dimech was wrongly accused in 1914? State why you think so.

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(2)

3. Read paragraphs 2 to 7 on pages 7 and 8 and identify **three** problems that persisted even when the war ended in 1918.

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(3)

4. How do we know that the Maltese were not satisfied with the political situation in Malta after the war?

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(2)

5. Underline the **four** statements from the list below that did not cause the Sette Giugno riots.

- (a) The rise in unemployment;
  - (b) Resumption of trade with foreign countries after the war;
  - (c) The meeting of the National Assembly;
  - (d) The resignation of the Governor Lord Methuen;
  - (e) Some of the local newspapers were strongly anti-British;
  - (f) The discharge of workers from the dockyard;
  - (g) The introduction of new taxes by the colonial government;
  - (h) University degree courses were extended by one year;
  - (i) The granting of responsible government;
  - (j) A strike by the dockyard workers in 1917.
- (2)

6. Mention **three** violent actions that occurred during the Sette Giugno riots of 1919.

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(3)

7. Read paragraphs 2 to 5 on page 10 and identify **one** measure taken by Governor Plumer:

- (a) to re-establish public order: \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) to lessen the hardships of the people: \_\_\_\_\_ (2)

8. Why is the Sette Giugno incident important in Malta's political and constitutional development?

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(2)

**(Total: 20 marks)**

## LO9 Im - Essay questions about Malta during the First World War

Carefully read these essay titles and then choose **one** to answer.

### SEC Level 2–3

1. (a) Describe Malta's contribution to the Allied victory in World War I. (8)  
(b) Discuss the political, economic and social effects of the First World War on Malta and the Maltese. (12)
2. (a) Explain four causes which led to the Sette Giugno riots of 1919. (8)  
(b) Discuss the short-term and long-term political and constitutional consequences of the Sette Giugno riots. (12)

### SEC Level 1–2

1. (a) List four facts about Malta during the First World War. (8)  
(b) What contribution did Malta give to the victory of the Allies in the First World War? (12)
2. (a) Identify four causes of the Sette Giugno. (8)  
(b) Explain two short-term consequences and two long term consequences of the Sette Giugno. (12)

