



The landing at Anzac, 25 April, 1915, by Charles Dixon



The ANZAC experience in Malta

In 1915 57,950 servicemen from the Gallipoli expeditionary force were evacuated to Malta, and during the last three months of the year the sick and wounded continued to arrive from the Dardanelles at the rate of about 2,000 weekly, and in one week in December 6,341 were landed in Malta.

Despite the best efforts of the medical staff, some casualties did not recover and were buried in Malta. Among these are 202 members of the Australian Imperial Force and 72 servicemen from the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

When war was declared in August 1914 there were just four military hospitals on the islands. Within a year there were 21 plus seven convalescent depots and homes – earning Malta the sobriquet of *Nurse of the Mediterranean*.



At the start of the Gallipoli campaign, in April 1915, the wounded were evacuated to Egypt, but it was immediately evident that facilities there could not cope.

A week after the landings at ANZAC Cove, at the beginning of May, the first convoy of casualties arrived in Malta; by the end of the month more than 4,000 sick and wounded were being treated on the island.

The *ANZAC experience in Malta* is a set of four self-guided tours to the principal sites associated with the personnel of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) during, mainly, the First World War.

These tours will show you where wounded Anzacs were hospitalised, convalesced, were entertained, and the locations where those who lost their personal battles are buried.

Tours may be followed in one of two ways: circularly, ending where they begin, or in a linear fashion. The walking man (♣) and car (🚗) pictograms denote travel directions on foot or by car, whilst the reading man (📖) indicates information about the locale and provides historical insights. A map is recommended for car tours, otherwise one is not necessary.

The tours also highlight points of interest on the islands – places where recovering servicemen and off duty personnel may have visited, and so can you.



Valletta's original city gate (left) and the military gymnasium in the background — now site of the central bank

Tour 1 - Arrival

Valletta, Floriana and Pieta Military Cemetery

Mode: Linear, on foot
Start: Valletta, city gate
Distance: 6.5kms
Duration: approx 4hrs, at a leisurely pace





Valletta's Grand Harbour from the Upper Barrakka Gardens with: A - Ricasoli Hospital; B - Bigli Naval Hospital; C - Fort St Angelo, known as HMS Egmont in WWI; and, D - Cottonera Hospital

The many sick and wounded from Gallipoli required entertainment and the military gymnasium - built in 1872 for the Valletta and Floriana garrisons - was turned into a soldiers and sailors institute.

The Vernon United Services Club, as it became known, maintained its function as a social club for the military until 1967.

The government took over the building in 1968, demolished and rebuilt the interior but retained the external walls. It was inaugurated as the Central Bank of Malta on 13 February 1971.

nasium, converted into an entertainment centre in mid-1915 for servicemen recuperating from Gallipoli wounds.

The imposing building on *Mis-*

† Turn right as you enter Valletta – the new ‘gate’ was completed at the end of 2014 – and walk up the stairway, turn left towards *Misrah Kastilja* making for the Upper Barrakka Gardens.

You’ll pass, on your left, what is known as a cavalier, a forbidding, windowless monolith intended to be used as a last means of defence in siege warfare. On your right is the Central Bank of Malta. At the outbreak of war this was the military gym-

rah Kastilja is the *Auberge de Castile*, now the prime minister’s office.

During the First World War it was British military headquarters and the building to its left is the former Garrison Chapel that now houses the stock exchange. The entrance to the gardens is to the left and behind the stock exchange.

The Upper Barrakka is the highest point in Valletta and its terrace offers a panoramic view of the Grand Harbour.

On 5 May 394 wounded arrived on the *HS Sicilia*. A further 641 were disembarked from *HT Aragon* on the 6th. By the end of May more than 4,000 sick and wounded had landed in Malta.

ical care of Captain (later Major) Vivien Benjafield of the Australian Army Medical Corps.

Within minutes the *HT Clan McGillivray* docks and the 600 wounded Anzacs on board “feel that they have reached a haven of rest.

“Quietly big barges come alongside, and almost tenderly the

steam cranes lower the stretchers, swinging them gently into their places. Thus they are brought ashore.”¹

One hundred and sixty severely wounded were ferried to Valletta Military Hospital in ambulances drawn by six horses; the remainder were taken to specialised hospitals.

† Make your way to *Triq ir-Repubblika*, retracing your steps past the *Auberge de Castile*, the statue of Grand Master de Valette and the renovated *Pjazza Teatru Rjal* – the original opera house was destroyed in 1942.



Australian servicemen in Valletta after an Axis air raid

‡ The ambulances made their way slowly to Valletta, entering the capital through *Porta Reale* and proceeded down *Strada Reale*, now *Triq ir-Repubblika*.

“Masses of people packed the *Strada Reale*...Large crowds lined both sides and waited silently...Many had brought packets of cigarettes while others carried bags of chocolates... Others carried bunches of beautiful, sweet scented roses and

During the Great Siege of 1565 Fort St Elmo guarded the entrance to the Grand Harbour. The Sciberras Peninsula – modern-day Valletta – was largely uninhabited scrub.

The strategic height of the peninsula was not lost on the Ottoman Turks. As at Gallipoli, Turkish heavy artillery had the advantage of an elevated position over the defending knights of the Order of St John, occupying the lower ground, across the harbour in Fort St Angelo. In 1565 what are now the Upper Barrakka Gardens were used as a platform for the Ottoman canons.

Today it is used as a saluting battery with canons fired daily by re-enactors in Victorian-era military uniforms at noon and at 16:00.

flowers that bloom in spring”, writes Herbert Ganado in his memoirs *Rajt Malta Tinbidej*². “Some clapped but were quickly shushed by the crowd. It was not an occasion for noise and shouting”, Ganado recalls.

When the first batch of wounded arrived in Malta on 4 May, there were no motorized ambulances on the islands.

Six Ford ambulances arrived on 26 May, shipped from Britain on the *SS Gibraltar*. The following month another 24 arrived.

By November 1918 there were 83 ambulances in Malta.

“The people, particularly mothers in the crowds, became very emotional and threw chocolates, packets of cigarettes and flowers.

“Some of the wounded waved, smiled and looked happy that they had been welcomed with such love and spontaneous affection.”

↗ Turn right at the intersection with the *Wembley Store*, walking down *Triq ir-Repubblika* passing the *Auberge de Provence* (on your left). In the days of the British Empire the building’s top floor was the Union Club, the hub of Malta’s social life, today it houses the *National Museum of Archaeology*.

At the next intersection, with *Triq San Gwann*, you’ll pass the 16th century Co-Cathedral of St John. Once the conventual church of the Order of St John, it is artistically and historically one of the most important monuments in Malta and certainly worth a visit.

Two squares along, on *Misrah ir-Repubblika*, is a statue familiar to all from former British colonies: Queen Victoria.

The austere building next to the Victoria monument is the Palace, formerly the grand master’s palace later the governor general’s and now the president’s office. It also houses Malta’s parliament and a mediaeval armoury, the latter and the staterooms deserve to be seen.

⚔ In 1915 the ambulances would have continued their

journey down *Triq ir-Repubblika* with “the crowds pressing forward to catch a glimpse of the heroes recumbent on stretchers or comfortably seated – according to the nature of their injuries – and as the situation developed sympathy and enthusiasm, the spectators cheered with vigour and heartiness...Those of the wounded who were strong enough to reciprocate the compliment, waved hands and smiled upon the sympathisers”³.

↗ Past the Palace turn right into *Triq l-Arcisqof* and head towards *Triq il-Merkanti*. Just before reaching it you’ll see *The Pub*, a favourite watering hole of the Royal Navy, and the place where actor Oliver Reed died on 2 May 1999 whilst drinking with his wife Josephine and sailors from *HMS Cumberland*.

Turn left at *Triq il-Merkanti* and, some 100 metres along, it’s right again into *Triq San Kristofru* and head for the Lower Barrakka Gardens. These afford an equally good view of the Grand Harbour.

On exiting the gardens, turn right and you’ll see the Second World War Siege Memorial. Unveiled in 1992 by Queen Elizabeth II, the memorial commemorates the awarding of

the George Cross to Malta in 1942 and honours the more than 7,000 service personnel and civilians who died on the islands between 1940 and 1943.

⚔ Facing the memorial is the Mediterranean Conference Centre, once the principal hospital of the Order of St John. In 1915 this was the Valletta Military Hospital, used mainly for triage.

“Low-lying, one might at first think it unsuitable as a health resort. Yet once inside its thick, ancient walls, and you feel as if you had passed beyond the reach of the sun. The very solidity of the old masonry acts like a refrigerator, and within there is coolness”, writes the Rev Albert MacKinnon in *Malta The Nurse of the Mediterranean*.

“Here is said to be one of the biggest wards in the world, with its 200 beds, and it is a touching sight to look down its great length and see every cot occupied.

“Here are many of the dangerous cases, which it would be unwise to move farther.”

At the outbreak of the war Valletta Hospital had only 36 beds, but was increased to 440 just before the Gallipoli campaign with the renovation of disused wards and improvements made



The Valletta Military Hospital, now the Mediterranean Conference Centre, was used expansively for triage and the treatment of the severely wounded



Valletta's *Sacra Infermeria*, built in 1574, was the new, bigger and better equipped hospital of the Order after the original in Vittoriosa was abandoned. *The Infermeria* had six wards; the largest originally measured 155 metres in length and is reputed to be the longest room in Europe.

Each patient had his own bed, unusual at the time, and silverware was used to serve meals and drinks.

During the French occupation the infirmary became the *Hôpital Militaire* and, as its name implied, was used as a military hospital. It retained this function from 1800 until 1920 as a British military hospital.

In 1837 Australia-born Dr David Bruce (later Major General Sir) identified the cause of undulant fever, then known as Malta fever, whilst serving at the Valletta Military Hospital.

During the Great War the main entrance to the hospital was in *Triq il-Merkanti*; however, that section of the building was destroyed in the Second World War. The principal entrance nowadays is in *Triq it-Tramuntana*, by the sea front.

Sacra Infermeria tours are conducted by the *Malta Experience*, located across the road.

Housed in the Magazine Ward of the Mediterranean Conference Centre, meanwhile, the walk-through *Knights Hospitallers* focuses on the medical history of the Order of St John in a series of life-size tableaux.

to existing medical facilities.

The 18 May edition of *The Daily Malta Chronicle* reports that “without bustle or confusion each wounded soldier was borne on a stretcher carried by the strong hands of the attendants, under personal supervision of a medical officer, led along the long corridor, up the stairs into the ward, each being placed on the bed previously allotted to him.

“In an incredibly short time all



Recovering soldiers posing with nurses and ‘medicos’ at Valletta Hospital, that had “one of the biggest wards in the world”

available accommodation was taken up; each wounded was resting on his bed of comfort, where he was at once attended to by skilled medicos and devoted nurses.”

One of the wounded Australian infantry soldiers “found that a bullet had struck the bible in his (breast) pocket. The bullet penetrated as far as the gospel of St Matthew, the last pages split by the bullet being that contained the 22nd chapter. The two verses which were split were 43 and 44, the end of the tear resting exactly on the words: “Till I put thine enemies underneath thy feet.”

To accommodate the ever-increasing number of injured servicemen from Gallipoli, and further to the expansion of Valletta Hospital's bed capacity, Cottonera Hospital – across the harbour – provided 167 beds and was the largest military hospital in Malta at the outbreak of war. A month into the Gallipoli campaign this had to

be increased to 314. Likewise, on the southern side of Grand Harbour was the Royal Navy's Bighi Hospital; this, too, played a vital role (*see Tour 3*).

In the Valletta area, meanwhile, several public buildings were converted into hospitals to treat the more severely wounded.

✦ With the conference centre at your back, follow the signs to the war museum. Along the way you will pass granaries, storage silos with stone lids, and Fort St Elmo (*see the sidebar on page 6*).

The fort was rebuilt after the Great Siege of 1565 and now houses the *Military History Museum*. Showcased are exhibits that highlight Malta's role in both world wars.

✧ Opposite the fort a government school was converted into the 218-bed St Elmo Hospital. Designated a surgical facility, it received its first patients on 12 August 1915, “but very soon more beds were needed and, by



Recovering Anzacs ‘taking the air’ at St Elmo Hospital. It was here, in 1918, that a bullet was surgically removed from a trooper's heart - the first such operation in Malta



On 16 February 1918 Colonel, later Sir, Charles Ballance (*above*) performed an operation to remove a bullet from the heart of Trooper Robert Martin of the Derbyshire Yeomanry.

Martin had been shot in the chest on 14 November 1917, his 21st birthday, by a Bulgarian soldier in Salonika. He had basic surgery at a field hospital and was then evacuated to Malta.

On 13 January 1918, Martin was admitted to St Elmo Hospital with the bullet still in his right ventricle.

A month later, on 16 February, Col Ballance removed the bullet with a pair of artery forceps. Trooper Martin survived the operation but died on 14 March of an infection.

This was the first heart operation in Malta and the third of its kind worldwide.

dint of using the fine verandahs, another 100 beds were found...Much fine work has been accomplished there; in one series of 531 operations only six deaths occurred, a tribute surely to the operative skill and nursing powers of the staff”, writes Dr George Bruce in his history of military hospitals in Malta⁴.

Official records say that St Elmo Hospital was closed in October 1917; clearly, this is not possible if surgical operations were carried out there in February 1918. Unfortunately, no contemporary writer provides the precise date of its closure. There is no doubt, however, that the building was destroyed during an air raid in the Second World War.

↑ Continuing along the sea front, some 500 metres

from Fort St Elmo, past *Triq il-Fran*, you’ll see a large, somewhat dilapidated, old building; this is the *Auberge de Bavière*, now offices of the Government Property Department.

⚔ Formerly the headquarters of the English and Bavarian knights of the Order of St John, in colonial times it had been an



The former auberge of English and Bavarian knights became Bavière Hospital in 1915 and specialised in surgical cases of a very severe type, particularly head and spine injuries

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officers’ mess and just before the war the Command Paymaster’s HQ.

After renovation and “the usual sanitary fittings” installed, the auberge opened on 15 June 1915 as Bavière Hospital with 100 beds, increased to 130 in July and to 155 in August.

“In spite of its smallness Bavière Hospital did excellent work,” reports Dr Bruce, “for from the beginning many surgical cases of a very severe type were admitted, and shortly afterwards it specialised in the reception of surgical injuries of the head and spine.”

Bavière Hospital reverted to civilian use on 14 August 1917.

Possibly a good time for refreshments? Across the road is the *GunPost Snack Bar*, a converted WWII observation and machine gun post that bills itself a “mini war museum”, with emphasis on the ‘mini’. The military memorabilia on display is fascinating.

↑ Walk along *Triq Marsamxett*; turn left at *Triq l-Arcisqof* and up the flight of steps. At the top, you’ll be in *Pjazza Indipendenza*; on the left is the *Auberge d’Aragon*, now a government ministry but in WWI it was the Military Families’ Hospital.

Opposite is the Anglican St Paul’s Pro-Cathedral, consecrated as a church in 1844. It contains numerous memorials

to units that took part in the defence of Malta during the Second World War. Healed Gallipoli Anzacs, no doubt, attended services here.

The first lift in Malta was installed in *St Paul’s Modern Building*, behind St Paul’s Cathedral, in 1908.

The neo-classical cathedral, meanwhile, was built on the spot where the *Auberge d’Allemagne* – home of the German knights - had stood.

When Britain’s dowager Queen Adelaide learned that Anglicans did not have their own purpose-built place of worship, she commissioned and financed the building of the church; she also laid its foundation stone on 20 March 1839. It was completed in 1844 and has the tallest spire in Valletta at 60 metres.

St Paul’s is one of three cathedrals of the Anglican Diocese of Gibraltar in Europe.

Proceed along the side of the cathedral, down *Triq il-Punent*; at the intersection with *Triq Santa Lucija* turn right and at the end of the block take a left. Some 200 metres ahead you’ll see the *Fortress Builders*. This recently opened museum offers an enthralling look at the development of fortifications in Malta and beyond.

At the intersection of *Triq Marsamxett* and *Triq San Mark*, turn left and proceed to *Triq il-Fran* (Bakery Street). The large building facing you is *Vincenti*



Guarding the approaches to both the Grand and Marsamxett harbours, Fort St Elmo – built in 1488 – was the scene of a heroic defence during the Great Siege of 1565.

The fort withstood intense bombardment and was under siege for 28 days before capitulating to the Ottoman Turks on Saturday, 23 June.

At sunrise on that fateful Saturday those too injured and unable to stand were placed in chairs behind the shattered ramparts, among them was the Spaniard Captain Juan de Miranda. They were armed with pikes, swords and pistols and awaited the final assault. When it came, the Ottomans attacked as a howling mass yet the handful of Christians still managed to fight for several hours. Eventually the Turks took their prize and killed all the defenders. De Miranda and other knights were beheaded and their heads placed on spikes.

Today, a descendent of the heroic Captain de Miranda is an Australian citizen and a reporter for News Corp Australia.

Fort St Elmo was rebuilt and integrated into Valletta's fortifications after the Great Siege and has been in use since. It was the target of the first air raid over Malta in 1940.

Today it houses the War Museum. It is also the location where the *In Guardia* and *Alarm* re-enactments are held.

In front of the fort are the St Elmo Granaries, storage silos with stone lids.

Buildings, on this site stood the bakery of the Order, destroyed in WWII. Turn right and walk up the hill toward St John's Cavalier – a fortress within a fortress and now the embassy of the Order of St John.

♿ However, before reaching the cavalier, at the junction with *Triq Nofs in-Nhar* stands St Andrew's Scots Church. Two stained glass windows in the church were gifts from Australian and New Zealand Methodists, as a memorial to their compatriots who died in

the First World War.

♣ Take a left into *Triq l-Ordinanza* and then right on reaching *Triq ir-Repubblika*.

One must now leave Valletta and head towards Floriana passing, once again, through the city's new gate, the imposing Triton Fountain and walking down *Vjal ir-Re Dwardu VII* and past the Independence Monument.

Behind the *al fresco* car park, officially known as the Independence Arena, stands everybody's least favourite

government department – the inland revenue.

♣ In 1915 these buildings were barracks, and the infantry battalion that occupied them vacated on 5 June; within 48 hours equipment began arriving to convert this into Floriana Hospital with 600 beds, increased to 700 in November.

Meantime, the first batch of 249 patients arrived on 9 June,

On 14 August 1915 21-year old Corporal John Vasey of the 2nd Field Company, Australian Engineers, died in Malta of wounds received at Gallipoli and was buried at the Pieta Military Cemetery.

His father, George Vasey, of Malvern, Victoria, together with friends presented two stained glass windows to the Methodist Church in Floriana in memory of his son and other Anzacs who died in Malta.

The windows, designed and made by Abbot & Co of Lancaster, England, were installed in 1921 and were damaged in WWII. After the war they were shipped to Abbot for repairs and were returned to Malta by the Royal Navy in 1947, and placed in their original setting above the communion table.

The stained glass windows were transferred to their present location in 1988.



The window on the left depicts Christ as *The Light of the World*, after the painting by William Holman Hunt, whilst the other shows Our Lord as *The Good Shepherd*.



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Courtesy Walter Bonnici

(Above) In 1915 Floriana Barracks were converted into a hospital, seen on the left of the clump of trees and tents. (Left) In 1916 the hospital was enlarged to include marquees pitched on the parade ground

“followed by 110 on the 10th and 236 on the 14th”. The majority of cases treated at Floriana “were severe surgical requiring in many cases early operative treatment”, writes Dr George Bruce. “As an example of the strain of work it may be mentioned that, on arrival of one convoy, two operating tables were hard at work from 4 pm till 3 am next morning, and again from 7 am until 2 am the following morning.

“The hospital’s site”, explains Dr Bruce “was exceedingly convenient, being close to both the Marsamxett and Grand Harbours, each of which was then in use for disembarkations.”

Floriana Hospital was closed the following April, but re-opened with 704 beds in September. In December 1916 the accommodation was increased to 1,304 beds by erecting hospital marquees on the parade ground – today’s football pitch. It finally closed on the 30 April 1917.

⚡ We now embark on the more sombre part of this self-guided tour. Walk to the end of *Triq il-Mall* and enter the Argotti Botanic Gardens on *Triq Vincenzo Bugeja*.

One cannot miss the ANZAC Memorial, inaugurated in May 2013. Designed by a Maltese sculptor, the monument names every Australian and New

Zealand serviceman of the First World War who died and is buried in Malta.



Terence Mirabelli

Two hundred and five names are inscribed on the plinth of the ANZAC Memorial

The next and final stop is Pieta Military Cemetery, one kilometre away.

Turn right as you leave Argotti Gardens, past the former Methodist Church (*see the sidebar on the following page*) and Scout HQ, turn right on reaching *Triq Sant Anna* and continue downhill passing the ornate *Portes de Bombes*. Continue along *Triq l-Indipendenza*, keeping the pinetum and the

Jubilee Grove commemorative column to your right. At the bottom of the hill, and on your left, you’ll see the *Satariano Home* showroom (there’s a zebra crossing some 100 metres beyond); the cemetery is located behind the showroom and is accessed from *Triq id-Duluri* – use the farthest gate.

⚡ The cemetery was opened in 1857, and is one of four administered by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Malta.

Of the 1,303 Commonwealth casualties of WWI buried or



Terence Mirabelli

The ANZAC memorial in Argotti Gardens, inaugurated on 25 May 2013, is the first such monument outside of Australia, New Zealand and Gallipoli.

In 2004 the Valletta-based Maltese Australian Association (MAA) agreed to erect a monument to commemorate the Anzacs of WWI who died and were buried in Malta.

A competition was held for the design of the memorial, won by sculptor Ganni Bonnici, and construction began in late 2011.

Contributions to fund its building were obtained from the MAA, various Australian and Maltese associations and from individuals.

The monument’s two bronze figures represent the soldiers who died and their families who suffered. According to Bonnici “the idea was not to represent war and weapons, but rather the humanity that defended it, and those who lost their lives fighting for their country”.

The plinth contains the names of 205 casualties buried in Malta.

commemorated here, 170 are Australians and 61 are New Zealanders. Pieta Cemetery is also the site where the annual ANZAC Day remembrance services are now held.

ANZAC Day has been commemorated in Malta since 1916, and was originally two services. A service for non-Catholics was held at Pieta Military Cemetery and another at the Addolorata Cemetery for Catholics, as servicemen were buried in cemeteries according to their religion.

With the unveiling of the War Memorial in Floriana, the commemoration services were combined and held at this new location until 1977. A low-key service was held in 1978.

Since 1979 an ecumenical service has been held at Pieta Military Cemetery, as it contains the highest number of ANZAC war graves on the island.

Building of the neo-gothic Robert Samut Hall was begun in 1881 and completed two years later. On 18 March 1883 it opened its doors as the first purpose-built Methodist Church in Malta. It was also the first building on the islands to use electric light bulbs.

In 1921 two stained glass windows, gifts from Australian and New Zealand Methodists as a memorial to their compatriots who died in Malta during WWI were installed (*see the sidebar relating to St Andrew's Scots Church*).

The Methodist Church was closed in 1974, since then its congregation has worshipped at St Andrew's, where the stained glass windows were transferred in 1988.

The building, along with the adjoining Connaught Home - a refuge for soldiers and sailors run by the Methodists and used to entertain convalescing troops during WWI - were taken over by the government in 1975. The church was renamed Robert Samut Hall and converted into a cultural centre whilst Connaught Home became a home for the elderly.

(Samut was a doctor and author of the Maltese national anthem; he lived in Australia for a short while.)



Terence Mirabelli

Jack on a gun carriage. Occasionally, one saw six or seven coffins in the same funeral procession.

“Two qualities characterised the Australian soldier as a patient throughout the campaign. Under almost any suffering he was too proud to wince; and he struggled like a plant towards light and air and water. Stowed in the crowded, unventilated chambers of the ship any Australian who could move himself used to get somehow to the deck - and to the bath, if one could by any means be obtained.”⁵



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Anzacs paying their last respects to fallen comrades at the Pieta Military Cemetery

“The day after the first batch of wounded arrived, one witnessed the first military funerals,” recalls Herbert Ganado in his memoirs *Rajt Malta Tinbidel*². “This is how I learned Chopin’s Funeral march, and now, whenever I hear the music, this scene comes to mind: a firing party, rifles at reverse arms, pointing downwards, a band and a coffin draped in the *Union*

“Later, perhaps not to create an atmosphere of despondency, funeral processions left from *Portes de Bombes* and ended at the Ta’ Braxia cemetery.

“From Argotti gardens where we played, we could hear the saluting party fire three times in succession and, as the last volley was fired into the air, we said: ‘He has gone up to Heaven’.”

Sources

¹ *Malta The Nurse of the Mediterranean* (Rev Albert G MacKinnon MA, Hodder and Stoughton 1916)

² *Rajt Malta Tinbidel*, translated into English by Michael Refalo and titled *My Century* (Be Communications 2004)

³ *The Daily Malta Chronicle* of 6 May 1915 quoted in *Gallipoli The Malta Connection* (John Mizzi, Tecnografica Publications 1991)

⁴ *Malta Military Hospitals 1915-1917, a short account of their inception and development* (George Bruce, MA, MD, DPH, Capt, RAMC, (SR), Specialist Sanitary Officer, Malta)

⁵ *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918 Vol 1* (Charles Bean, 11th edition, 1941)

WWI Military hospitals and convalescence facilities

Hospital	Name before conversion to a hospital	Date opened	Initial beds	Maximum beds	Dated closed
Valetta Hospital		1801	36	524	1918
Bighi Naval Hospital		1832	250		17-Sep-1970
Forrest Hospital	Palazzo Spinola	1860	30	186	1922
Cottonera Military Hospital		28-Aug-1873	148	802	1920
Blue Sisters Hospital		1910	80		1979
as an officers' hospital		06/06/15	80	120	30-Jun-1917
Mtarfa Hospital		1896	42	1,853	Feb-19
(Mtarfa Military Hospital)		23-Jun-1920	196	2,000	1978)
Tigné Hospital	Tigné Barracks	2-May-1915	600	1,314	6-Jan-1919
St George's Hospital	St George's Barracks	6-May-1915	840	1,412	31-Oct-1917
St Andrew's Hospital	St Andrew's Barracks	9-May-1915	1,172	1,258	
Floriana Hospital	Floriana Barracks	4-Jun-1915	600	1,304	30-Apr-1917
Hamrun Hospital	Istituto Tecnico Bugeia	8-Jun-1915	108	117	5-Jul-1917
Bavière Hospital	Auberge de Bavière	15-Jun-1915	105	155	14-Aug-1917
St Ignatius Hospital	Jesuits' college	2-Jul-1915	155	196	1917 ^a
St David's Hospital		25-Jul-1915	464	1,168	1-May-1917 ^b
St Elmo Hospital	Government Elementary Schools	12-Aug-1915	218	348	Oct-17
St Patrick's Hospital		15-Aug-1915	1,000	1,168	27-Apr-1917
St Paul's Hutments		25-Aug-1915	240	898	27-Apr-1917
St John Hospital	Government Elementary Schools	1-Sep-1915	400	520	9-Oct-1917
Spinola Hospital	Fort Spinola	6-Nov-1915	1,000	1,168	27-Apr-1917
Ricasoli Hospital	Fort Ricasoli	6-Nov-1915	800	800	19-Mar-1916
Manoel Hospital	Fort Manoel	16-Nov-1915	500	1,184	21-Dec-1918

Convalescence depots

All Saints Camp		12-Jun-1915	1,465	2,000	Nov-17
Ghajn Tuffieha Camp		15-Aug-1915	2,000	5,000	Jan-19
Fort Chambray Camp	Fort Chambray	4-Oct-1915	400	400	13-Mar-1916
Mellieha Camp		31-Jan-1916	1,250	2,000	5-Sep-1917

Convalescence homes

Villa Dragonara		14-May-1915	12	20	29-Aug-1917
Juno House			60	60	
Verdala Castle		9-Dec-1915	30	30	17-Apr-1916

a Mental hospital from 1917 to 1919. *b* Precise date unknown, operations were still being carried out here in early 1918

ANZAC casualties buried in Malta

Cemetery	Australian	New Zealand	WWI	WWII	Totals
Addolorata Cemetery	28	10	38	0	38
Kalkara Naval Cemetery	27	7	3	31	34
Mtarfa Military Cemetery	1	1	2	0	2
Pembroke Military Cemetery	3	0	2	1	3
Pieta Military Cemetery	170	61	231	0	231
Totals	229	79	276	32	308

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