

# The Maltese Labour Corps during World War I

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**Abstract:** *The participation by Maltese troops abroad has been limited. During the First World War Malta was not directly involved, yet during this time a significant overseas deployment did take place. It did not take the form of front line troops; rather it was some 5,600 locally enlisted men who volunteered for overseas service with the Maltese Labour Corps. At least 120 men lost their lives on active service, very often from disease. They are buried across various cemeteries mostly in Greece. It is a deployment that has received little attention and is all but forgotten. This paper seeks to tell their story and to remember the service these men provided.*

**Keywords:** *Maltese Labour Corps, Salonika, World War I.*

The First World War began in the summer of 1914 and ended with the concession of defeat by Germany on Armistice Day, 11 November 1918. The inter-war period covered by the Malta census of the period 1911 to 1921 shows that the population exhibited only a marginal change, from 211,564 to 212,258 with some 20% (approximately 42,000) of the male population contributing to the war effort.<sup>1</sup> While a lower figure of 15,000 Maltese men is also quoted,<sup>2</sup> much depends on what is included under the term 'war effort'. The salient groups were employed in the Royal Navy, the Royal Naval Reserve, the Royal Malta Artillery, and the two battalions of the Kings Own Malta Regiment of Militia (KOMRM), along with

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<sup>1</sup> C. Savona Ventura, 'War and population change in the Maltese Context', *Malta Medical Journal*, 18 (2), 2006, pp. 37-8.

<sup>2</sup> John Starling and Lee Ivor (2009). *No Labour, No Battle: Military Labour during the First World War*, Gloucestershire, 2009.

various supporting units. However, what is often overlooked or relegated to a footnote is the contribution given by the Maltese Labour Corps (MLC). These were recruited locally for service overseas and led by officers, mostly from the KOMRM. The MLC consisted of a first battalion that served in Mudros and Gallipoli and later at Salonika (today Thessalonica); a second battalion that served at Salonika; the first and second Employment Companies also at Salonika; a detachment from both battalions that operated at the Italian port of Taranto; and a Mining Company that served in the Treviso region of Northern Italy. The medal roll indicates that 5,621 served with the Malta Labour Corps.<sup>3</sup>

Labour battalions have played an indispensable role in sustaining logistical and line of communication support for frontline troops. These were not primarily fighting troops and have, quite understandably, not generated the same interest as other frontline military formations. Indeed they are almost looked down upon and lie almost forgotten. There are some indications, however, that the contribution of these men who worked, toiled and fought during the First World War was appreciated at the time. It is recorded that, almost from the very beginning, Maltese Labour battalions were doing splendid work. Gallipoli and Salonika knew well the lilting music of the swarthy gangs of broad-shouldered men who sang as tirelessly as they worked.<sup>4</sup> Today, however, even Maltese authors hardly feature their contribution in the writings on the Maltese war effort. The Floriana War Memorial that existed on the site of the present one featured 592 names of Maltese who were killed in the First World War. This monument had been designed by Louis Naudi and inaugurated on 11 November 1938—20 years after Armistice Day.<sup>5</sup> However, after the Second World War the names were removed when the stone cross where they featured was moved for road widening and replaced by four tablets so that the monument could be re-dedicated to include those who died during the Second World War.<sup>6</sup> The Maltese Labour Corps account for some 124 of the 592 recorded Maltese deaths in the First World War. As a unit it lost more men during the war than any other single Maltese formation. Yet the MLC has been practically erased from the collective memory of the Maltese.

This paper is an attempt at remembering these men. It recognizes the fragmented nature of the available information and seeks to bring together various sources to provide an overview of the MLC. To help obtain a better insight, a list of recruits who died in service is compiled and analysed.

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<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 211.

<sup>4</sup> *The Times History of the War*, 1918, Vol. XVI, p. 104.

<sup>5</sup> Anthony Zarb-Dimech, *Malta during the First World War 1914–1918*, Malta, 2004, p. 135.

<sup>6</sup> John A. Mizzi, *Gallipoli: The Malta Connection*, Malta, 1991, p. 119.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Malta Labour Corps (Mudros and Gallipoli): 1 September 1915 to 17 February 1916**

The first call for recruits to form a MLC Battalion took place in August 1915. In less than a week over 1,000 applied, of whom 864 were chosen.<sup>7</sup> It is difficult to be sure what generated such strong recruitment. From the paternity information that is sometimes available, it results that some of those that lost their life were young fathers, such as Carmelo Attard (Regimental Number 4820) from Zebbug, Nicola Azzopardi (7819) from Tarxien, and M. Borg (6793) of Birkirkara, as well as sons of widowed mothers such as Antonio Bonnici (7290) from Luqa and A. Vassallo (7089). In such cases, the recruit's prime motivation was likely to have been economic. The conditions were attractive. Recruits received 'an average pay of half a crown a day, besides rations, and a separate allowance of sixpence in favour of the wife, and a penny for every child'.<sup>8</sup> Volunteers were on a three-month contract renewable for another three months. Compared to what was available locally, it was an excellent pay.<sup>9</sup> Dire economic circumstances, attractive pay, and an undertaking that they would primarily be away from the frontline were undoubtedly key motivators. A sense of adventure and perhaps a sense of duty and loyalty to the colonial master may also have played a part, albeit a secondary one.

These new volunteers were put under the command of Major J.V. Aspinall, KOMRM who, together with 14 Maltese officers (including: Lt. A.J. Adir; Lt. U. Von Brockdorff; Lt. Edward A. Mifsud; Second Lt. Leonard Sammut; Lt. J.L. Muscat all from the KOMRM).<sup>10</sup> In September 1915, they proceeded to the port of Mudros on the Greek island of Lemnos. At the time, Mudros was under British control and commanded by Admiral Rosslyn Wemyss and was being used to support the British and ANZAC forces landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula which had taken place in April and August 1915. Discipline was maintained by returning and replacing the 'useless and insubordinate' and the 'complaint makers' back to Malta.<sup>11</sup>

A total of 234 of the men at Lemnos under Capt. F.M. Stivala, KOMRM volunteered to serve in the ANZAC sector of the Gallipoli peninsula and left Mudros on 27 September 1915.<sup>12</sup> Their return to Malta took place on 28 November 1915 and they were encouraged to re-engage.<sup>13</sup> The final evacuation from Gallipoli of the MLC took place on 11 December 1916.<sup>14</sup> Capt. Stivala is mentioned in dispatches

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<sup>7</sup> *The Daily Malta Chronicle*, 2 September 1915.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> Sterling and Ivor, p. 212.

<sup>10</sup> J.M. Wismayer, *The History of the King's Own Malta Regiment and the Armed Forces of the Order of St. John*, Malta, 1989, p 158.

<sup>11</sup> Zarb-Dimech, p. 28.

<sup>12</sup> Sterling and Ivor, p. 212.

<sup>13</sup> *The Daily Malta Chronicle*, 29 November 1915.

<sup>14</sup> Sterling and Ivor, p. 213.

for his efficient command of the MLC at Gallipoli between 27 September and 24 November 1915. Second Lt. Henry Curmi, KOMRM is also mentioned for rendering good service. It was reported that under his command the stevedores worked with confidence, even when subject to shelling. Lt. A.G. Dandria, KOMRM is reported to have received the highest praise by the principal landing officer at Walker's Pier.<sup>15</sup>



Walker's Pier at North Beach, Gallipoli

Source: [http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/landing/ch6\\_2-3pic.html](http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/landing/ch6_2-3pic.html)

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion MLC was the last to leave Mudros and arrived back in Malta on 17 February 1916.<sup>16</sup> Their service is recognized in the letter dated 23 January 1916 from Major General Walter Campbell on behalf of the commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force sent to the governor and commander in chief Malta, Field Marshall Lord Methuen, in which it was stated that:

The need for the services of the Maltese Labour Battalion has now come to an end, and arrangements are being made for the Battalion to be sent back to Malta for disbanding.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing to you my personal thanks for the great trouble you took in raising the Battalion.

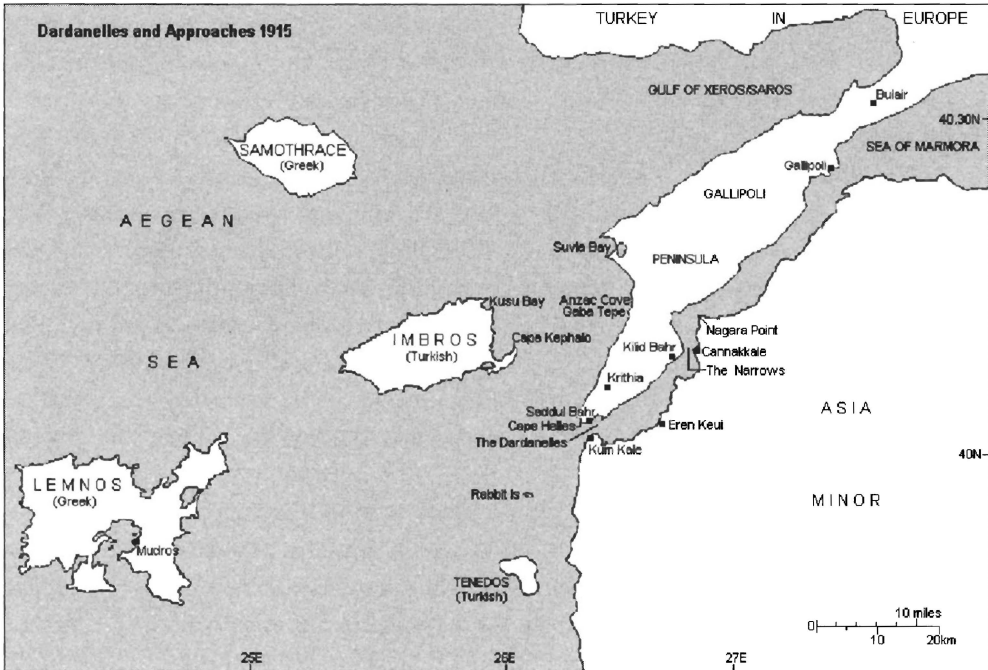
I have much pleasure in informing you that the Battalion performed most excellent work, both at ANZAC and elsewhere, and I shall be grateful if you will be good enough to express to the Commanding Officer, and through him to the NCOs and men of the Battalion, my high appreciation of the services they have rendered.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Mizzi, p.123.

<sup>16</sup> *The Daily Malta Chronicle*, 18 February 1916.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, 17 February 1916.

Only one death is recorded in the period September 1915 to February 1916 when the first battalion served in Mudros and Gallipoli. This was of Labourer Giuseppe Camilleri (913), aged 27 years, who was killed in action on 7 December 1915. He was the only son of Filippa and Angelo Camilleri, of St Helen Street, Sliema. He is buried in the Ari Burnu Cemetery (ANZAC), Turkey.



Mudros (Lemnos) and the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915

Source: [www.naval-history.net](http://www.naval-history.net)

### **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Employment Companies of the Maltese Labour Corps (Salonika): September 1916 to December 1918**

The initial landings of the British Salonika Force in October 1915 were intended to help the Serbian army against the German, Austrians, and Bulgarians. At first the force took a defensive stance, but the bridgehead was later strengthened with the arrival of more British divisions and Allied troops throughout the summer of 1916. The Bulgarian attempt at the invasion of Greece in July was repulsed and the force was eventually to advance in cooperation with other Allied forces. The two battalions of the MLC were to join the British Salonika Force in late September 1916.

In August 1916 a fresh call was made for volunteers for service in Salonika with a reformed 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion MLC. An initial group of 800 men together with

KOMRM officers<sup>18</sup> under the command of Major C. Vella, KOMRM<sup>19</sup> was prepared for Salonika. Major C. Vella is reported to have become invalid at some point and Lt. S. Samut-Tagliaferro was promoted to major and took over command.<sup>20</sup> The new recruits of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion MLC were on a six-month contract and a three-month re-engagement. Terms of pay remained the same as for earlier recruitments, at half-a-crown per day. The first batch of recruits, consisting of 502 labourers, a dispenser, 6 hospital orderlies, and 307 stevedores arrived in Salonika on 26 September 1916. A further 216 recruits arrived in October 1916, bringing the total strength to around 900 men. The Battalion set up headquarters at the Ordinance depot in Salonika.<sup>21</sup>

The Allies faced serious logistical problems in supporting an army in the Balkans that had to be supplied from Britain as against the Axis that could be more easily and directly supplied overland from Germany. Ward Price<sup>22</sup> quotes a contemporary source listing the infrastructural improvements undertaken by the Allies at Salonika as part of this effort and notes that ‘the British have made two deep-water piers, Pinto Pier and Malta Pier, near the Standard Oil Company’s depot, and two shoal-water piers, Gravesend Pier and Marsh Pier, to the extreme west of the town’.

Given their names, these first two piers were likely to have been the work of the MLC.

The first casualty of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion MLC at Salonika was Second Lt. Edgar William Huber (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, KOMRM), who died in a traffic accident on 2 November 1916.<sup>23</sup> He was the son of Joseph and Maria Adrianna Huber née Micallef, of 131, St Paul Street, Valletta. He is buried in Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece. He was also the younger brother of Lt. Herbert William Huber (KOMRM) who was attached with the 1st Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers at Gallipoli and who had similarly been killed in action on 7 January 1916. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion MLC suffered 49 dead at Salonika. The war diary of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion MLC in Salonika does not appear to have survived, but the record of deaths indicate that the battalion continued to exist beyond the initial nine-month term of the engagement suggesting that many recruits re-engaged.

<sup>18</sup> Wismayer, p. 158 and Zarb-Dimech, p. 44 claim the (1<sup>st</sup>) battalion under the command of Major C. Vella arrived in Salonika on 5 December but it is likely they are referring to the arrival of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion under Major F. Stivala. There is insufficient detail to determine which KOMRM officers accompanied 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion separately but these appear to include Capt. Charles Pace; Lt. J de Piro; Lt. S. Samut-Tagliaferro; 2 Lt. J.V. Chapelle, and 2 Lt. Edgar Huber.

<sup>19</sup> Herbert Ganado, *Rajt Malta Tinbidel*, Vol. I, Malta, 1975, p. 172.

<sup>20</sup> Zarb-Dimech, p. 44.

<sup>21</sup> Sterling and Ivor, p. 213.

<sup>22</sup> G. Ward-Price, *The Story of the Salonica Army*, chapter 6. <http://www.gwpda.org/memoir/Salonica/salon6.htm>. Retrieved 24/11/2010.

<sup>23</sup> Sterling and Ivor, p. 213 says it was a traffic accident while Zarb-Dimech, p. 44 says ‘accidentally’.

In October 1917 a new recruitment call for an initial group of 750 men for the formation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion MLC was made. The emphasis of this recruitment that took place between 13 October and 16 October was mostly to enlist recruits from Gozo. This Gozo recruitment sought to take advantage of farming skills that were required in Salonika. The recruits were due to sail to Italy on 20 October 1917, but a shortage of transport stopped sail. In the meantime they were returned home until ordered to embark.<sup>24</sup> In this period, a further 250 men were recruited.<sup>25</sup> The battalion, about 1,000 strong, under Major F. Stivala, KOMRM<sup>26</sup> embarked for Salonika at 9.00 a.m. on 5 December 1917.<sup>27</sup> They arrived in Salonika on 10 December 1917 and proceeded to Dudalar.<sup>28</sup> On 19 December they set up headquarters at Janes and had detachments at Causica, Snevle, Gugunci, Sarakli, and Salsamanli. Some 100 men of the Sarakli detachment worked on the Decaville rail, while the rest loaded and unloaded stores belonging to the Royal Engineers.<sup>29</sup>

The contract of the recruits for the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion was for six months from the date of embarkation, with a three-month re-engagement option. The pay was also half-a-crown a day with a separation allowance. Leading labourers were paid an extra sixpence a day.<sup>30</sup> Appendix 1 (*infra*) lists one ‘ganger’ or foreman of a group of workers, F. Barbara (3465) from Valletta of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. There are no gangers recorded among the dead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. Because the initial group of recruits could not travel as planned and had to wait until 5 December 1917 the men were returned home until ordered to embark. However, in the meantime the governor agreed to a payment of sixpence a day while the recruits were awaiting embarkation.<sup>31</sup> The recruitment that took place between 13 and 15 May 1918, to expand and cover those whose term of service with the battalion expired, was offered at the same rate of pay.

The war diary of the second Battalion is very sparse. However, it records that, up to 18 February 1918, the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion lost three men – two of natural causes and one killed in a rail accident.<sup>32</sup> These are likely to have been Carmelo Gatt (6,995) from Victoria, Gozo; Vittorio Sultana (6628) from Birkirkara, and I. Chetcuti (6,532). During this time the British Salonika force consisted of the XVI Corps (10 Irish, 27, 28 British Divisions) and the XII Corps (22, 26, and 60 (2/2 London)

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<sup>24</sup> W[ar] O[ffice]/95/4944.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Mizzi, p. 99 fn. Major Stivala was undoubtedly the same (then captain) Stivala that led the volunteer contingent of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion at Gallipoli.

<sup>27</sup> WO/95/4944. This date is also confirmed by Ganado, p. 172.

<sup>28</sup> WO/95/4944.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

Divisions). The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion MLC was attached to XVI Corps since the war diary states that on 18 March a detachment of 100 men were sent to work with XII Corps.<sup>33</sup> The entry on the same day records that the a detachment of 250 from the battalion had worked with 273 Coy RE and completed work on a light rail link and the letter of thanks from Major P.G. Douglas (RE) states:

The director of railways directs me to convey to all officers and other ranks employed on the STAVROS line his appreciation of the celerity with which the work has been carried out. The commander in chief is very pleased with the progress made.

On 18 April 1918, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion MLC is recorded to have been operating in Janes, Gugunci, Causica, Spancovo, Oreovica, Kalinova, Vergator, Karamudli, Seres Road – Kilometre 52, 61, 65, and 70, Cerceskoi, and Likovan. On the same day, the war diary records that some men were ‘on agriculture and anti-malaria duties’ but no details are provided. It also records the death of one man during the month and that six men were returned to Malta. The dead labourer was probably R. Attard (6342), whilst the six men repatriated to Malta could have been repatriated both to prevent discontent and maintain order or as a result of sickness. The diary entry for 18 May 1918 mentions three men invalidated to Malta.<sup>34</sup>

The initial six-month engagement came to an end on 5 June 1918, six months after the date of embarkation. A poster signed by Lt-Col. A.J.H. Keyes, for an intake of 926 labourers with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, was issued. It encouraged those Maltese and Gozitans aged between 18 and 50 to enlist. The officer responsible was Major A. Trapani and Gozo recruits could present themselves at Victoria Camp, Gozo between 13 and 15 May 1918, while Malta recruits could present themselves at Lascaris Barracks, Valletta.

A labour company appears to also have served in Malta and although no records have been found,<sup>35</sup> four members of the MLC are known to be buried at the Addolorata cemetery in Malta. They are M. Borg (6793), M. Camilleri (16/421), G. Micallef (service number not available), and J. Spiteri (189). It is possible that these men were brought over sick or injured from Salonika and died in Malta, but two of the three for whom service numbers are available have numbers that are less than 900, possibly indicating that the company may have existed prior to the expansion of the MLC that occurred as a result of the First World War.

A further company appears to have continued to serve after the war in Turkey. Giuseppe Muscat (992) aged 27, of C. Coy from Paola died from dysentery on 31 July 1920 while Paolo Grech (BS/250), aged 25, of the Employment Company

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<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Sir Charles Lucas, *The Empire at War*, Vol. V, p. 11 quoted in Sterling and Ivor, p. 215.



from Valletta died on 31 October 1919. Both are buried in Haidar Pasha cemetery, Turkey. The last casualty of the war for the MLC appears to be Antonio Buttigieg (886) of Sliema who died on 31 May 1920 aged 23. He has no known grave but is recorded on the Haidar Pacha Memorial along with the names of 30 officers and men of the British empire who died in the borderlands of Russia and Turkey in the last days of the Great War.

### **Employment Companies**

On the 9 February 1918, one-year engagement was offered for enrolment to the 1<sup>st</sup> Employment Company, MLC. Enrolment consisted of 119 men made up of 14 cooks, 42 waiters, 63 servants, together with 3 sergeants and 2 corporals under the command of Acting Capt. Charles F. Von Brockdorff.<sup>36</sup> These left Malta on 18 February 1918<sup>37</sup> and arrived in Salonika on 23 February 1918. On 10 March a further 18 waiters and 100 servants arrived together with 3 NCOs and one officer, bringing the first company to full strength.<sup>38</sup>

The Second Employment Company that consisted of 200 men was under the command of Acting Capt. W.L. Bonello, who was then just 19 years old. These arrived in Salonika in September 1918.<sup>39</sup> Employment companies are recorded to have been used in Turkey and with the Army of the Black Sea.<sup>40</sup> Turkey, under Atatürk, never ratified the armistices treaty and the Allies remained technically at war. The new Republic of Turkey that emerged from the chaos after the war was able to eventually obtain better terms with the signing of the treaty of Lausanne.

Salonika in Greece

Source: <http://www.allempires.com/empires/venice/salonica.jpg>



<sup>36</sup> Wismayer, p. 158.

<sup>37</sup> Zarb-Dimech, p. 44 and Ganado, p. 172.

<sup>38</sup> Sterling and Ivor, p. 214.

<sup>39</sup> Wismayer, p. 158; Zarb-Dimech, p. 109; Ganado, p. 172.

<sup>40</sup> <http://www.labourcorps.co.uk/Pages/Timeline.html>. Retrieved: 1 July 2010.

### **Detachments from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions MLC at Taranto**

As soon as Italy declared war on Austria in May 1915, the Royal Navy started to make use of the port of Taranto. The port became an important link in the lines of communication between Southern France, Northern Italy, and other Mediterranean ports. Commonwealth troops were present in Italy between November 1917 and November 1918 and Taranto was operated as an important base and rest camp.<sup>41</sup> It was recognized that the best of the foreign labour units were the two Maltese Labour Battalions who served in Salonika from September 1916 onwards.<sup>42</sup> In the spring of 1918, detachments from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions MLC were sent to the docks at Taranto in support of Commonwealth efforts.<sup>43</sup>

### **Mining Company**

A Mining Company was sent to Treviso in Northern Italy in connection with the British XIV Corps campaign supporting the Italians against the Austro-Hungarian Divisions along the Italian front. The last engagement on this front was at the battle of Vittorio Veneto on 23 October 1918 which saw the allies achieve the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian army.

The 110-strong Mining Company undertook tunnelling in the north of Italy under Lt. Frank Gollcher, KOMRM.<sup>44</sup> Montecchio Precalcino is near Vicenza in the province of Treviso in Northern Italy. Between April 1918 and February 1919 those who died from wounds or disease in the 9<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 39<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Stations which occupied the village school at Dueville were buried either at Montecchio Precalcino Communal Cemetery Extension or at Dueville.<sup>45</sup> The two members of the Mining Company buried at the Montecchio Precalcino Communal Cemetery Extension are Antonio Micallef (217) of Gudja and Giovanni Micallef (207) who died on 20 and 21 November 1918 respectively of 'disease'.

### **Regimental numbers of the MLC**

An analysis of the regimental numbers of the recruits of the MLC that had died in service indicate that numbers between 992 to 5,051 belong to those that served with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion; numbers between 6,120 to 8,000 served with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. There is one exception 7,589 who served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Employment Company, while

<sup>41</sup> [http://www.cwgc.org/search/cemetery\\_details.aspx?cemetery=2101700&mode=1](http://www.cwgc.org/search/cemetery_details.aspx?cemetery=2101700&mode=1). Retrieved: 7 July 2010.

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.labourcorps.co.uk/Pages/Gallipoli%20&%20Salonika.html> Retrieved: 1 July 2010.

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.labourcorps.co.uk/Pages/Timeline.html>. Retrieved: 1 July 2010.

<sup>44</sup> Wismayer, p.158; Zarb-Dimech, p. 66.

<sup>45</sup> [http://www.cwgc.org/search/cemetery\\_details.aspx?cemetery=70301&mode=1](http://www.cwgc.org/search/cemetery_details.aspx?cemetery=70301&mode=1). Retrieved: 7 July 2010.

numbers up to 913 appear to have been used by 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, the 1<sup>st</sup> Employment Company, and the Mining Company.

### **The dead**

The recorded dead of the MLC consist of a total of 124.<sup>46</sup> While 17 cannot be allocated to a particular unit of the MLC, the rest are as follows: 52 from 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (includes 3 listed as 1<sup>st</sup> Coy, A Coy and B Coy respectively); 41 from 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion; 12 from the Employment Companies (8 from 1<sup>st</sup>; 3 from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1 not specified); 2 from the Mining Company. The 124 are buried as follows: 94 in Greece; 22 in Italy,<sup>47</sup> 4 in Turkey and 4 in Malta – Table 1.

Out of 124 dead, details of the formation to which they belonged to are available for 107. Whilst the Mining Company and the Taranto Contingent are necessarily separate as they operated in different theatres, there appears to be little difference in terms of burial sites for the different formations (1<sup>st</sup> BN, 2<sup>nd</sup> BN, 1<sup>st</sup> EC, and 2<sup>nd</sup> EC) that composed the MLC – Table 1.

The age at the time of death of death is recorded for 53 or 42.7 per cent of dead. This data show the youngest at 17 (Paolo Caruana – 3243) and the oldest at 63 (Giuseppe Pace – 154) with a mean of 27.5 and a sd of 10.9. Although the cause of death for 110 of the men (out of 124) that perished is not recorded, disease was undoubtedly the main killer. The 14 for whom a cause of death is provided were: one killed in action, one possibly killed in action; seven of pneumonia, one of influenza, one of malaria, one of dysentery, and two of ‘disease’. Giuseppe Camilleri (913) was definitely killed in action on 7 December 1915 and is the only Maltese buried at Ari Burnu cemetery near ANZAC Cove, in Turkey. The other possibility is Antonio Buttigieg (886) of Sliema who died in the borderlands of Turkey towards the end of the Great War on 31 May 1920.

Table 2 shows that the highest death rate occurred during the period between September and December 1918. It is known that in September 1918 the Spanish influenza epidemic began and raged for three months, filling three-quarters of the Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery.<sup>48</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> Sterling and Ivor, p. 214–15 hold that 128 men of the MLC died in theatre. Sixty-four men from the two MLC died at Salonika, with the youngest E. Cassar on 15 September 1918 at 17 years of age and the eldest A. Demetri, 67 years, who died on 15 December 1918. E. Cassar is one of three aged 17, while there seems to be no A. Demetri on the database of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

<sup>47</sup> Sterling and Ivor, p. 215 hold that 23 MLC labourers died in the period 25 July 1918 to 4 April 1919 from the detachment sent to Taranto. The current data can only identify 20.

<sup>48</sup> Source: [http://www.cwgc.org/search/cemetery\\_details.aspx?cemetery=34900&mode=1](http://www.cwgc.org/search/cemetery_details.aspx?cemetery=34900&mode=1) Retrieved: 8 July 2010.

**Table 1** Place of Burial of Labourers by MLC formation

Place of Burial:	MLC Formation							Total
	1 <sup>st</sup> BN	2 <sup>nd</sup> BN	1 <sup>st</sup> EC	2 <sup>nd</sup> EC	EC	MC	No Detail	
Addolorata Cemetery, Malta							4	4
Ari Burnu Cemetery (Anzac), Turkey							1	1
Bralo British Cemetery, Greece	2							2
Doiran Military Cemetery, Greece		1						1
Haidar Pasha Cemetery/ Memorial, Turkey	1				1		1	3
Karasouli Military Cemetery, Greece	1	1						2
Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece	26	20	7	2			1	56
Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece	3	4	1	1				9
Montecchio Precalcino Communal Cemetery Extension, Italy						2		2
Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece	13	3					1	17
Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston, Greece	3	2					1	6
Struma Military Cemetery, Greece		1						1
Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy	3	9					8	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>124</b>

**Royal / Army Service Corps**

The Army Service Corps (ASC) as it was known before 1918 when it became the ‘Royal’ Army Service Corps was responsible for transport and supply in support of army units. Like Labour units, it was not a front-line fighting unit and often the butt of jokes, with RASC often converted to ‘Run Away, Someone’s Coming’. A Maltese ASC Mechanical Transport (MT) unit is reported to have served in Macedonia. A force of about 1,000 was selected from 2,100 Maltese volunteers.<sup>49</sup> Details of Maltese recruits who died while serving with this corps provide evidence that its members served in the region with different Motorized Transport (MT) Companies. Of the 33 members of the RASC that died during the war, 16 are buried in Greece; six in Macedonia, one each in Serbia and Turkey (after the war), and another nine in Malta. This deployment needs further investigation.

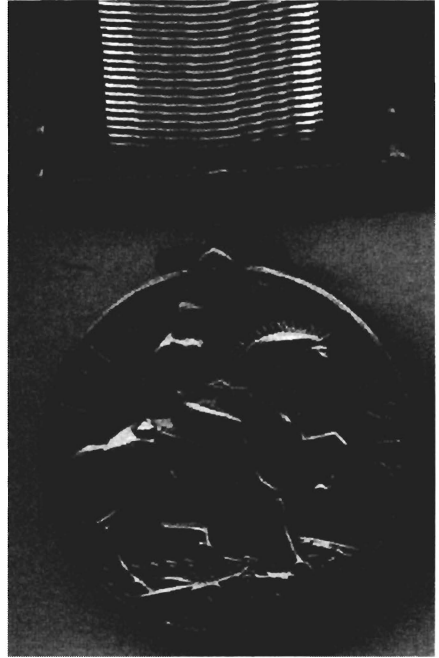
**Table 2** Date of Burial of Labourers by MLC formation

Date of Burial	MLC Formation							Total
	1 <sup>st</sup> BN	2 <sup>nd</sup> BN	1 <sup>st</sup> EC	2 <sup>nd</sup> EC	EC	MC	No Detail	
December 1915							1	1
November 1916	1							1
April 1917	1							1
July 1917	1							1
August 1917	1							1
September 1917	1							1
November 1917							1	1
December 1917		1						1
January 1918		2						2
February 1918	1							1
April 1918	1	1						2
June 1918	2							2
July 1918	4						1	5
August 1918	1	2					2	5
September 1918	14	16	2				2	34
October 1918	6	7					3	16
November 1918	11	4				2		17
December 1918	4	8	5	2			2	21
January 1919			1				1	2
February 1919	1						1	2
April 1919							1	1
May 1919							1	1
August 1919	1			1				2
October 1919					1			1
May 1920							1	1
July 1920	1							1
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>124</b>

<sup>49</sup>Mizzi, p. 119.

## Medals

Maltese and other non-British personnel who served with Labour units did not receive the British War Medal in silver but in bronze. Ironically, because fewer of them were issued, these medals today are rather sought after by collectors.

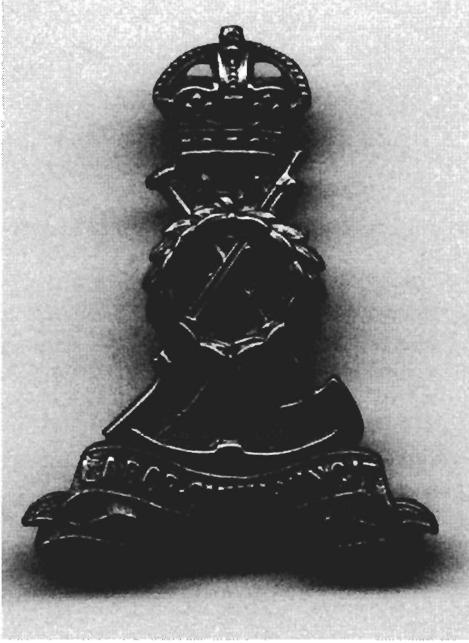


Campaign service medal in bronze given to members of the Maltese Labour Corps  
*Source: [www.pathsofglory.co.uk/BWM native1.jpg](http://www.pathsofglory.co.uk/BWM%20native1.jpg)*

## Epilogue

Today, the Maltese Labour Corps of the First World War are very much a distant memory. However, on 22 May 1972, for completely different reasons and in particular political circumstances, there was a re-emergence of the Labour Corps. The Maltese government enlisted recruits to what was then the Malta Land Force, as the Maltese military structure was then known, and took in volunteers into an Emergency Labour Corps (ELC) on a one-year engagement. The Labour Corps of the British Army are generally regarded as a predecessor of the Royal Pioneer Corps and some parallelism is also present here. Indeed, on 19 April 1973, the Malta Land Force became the Armed Forces of Malta and, on termination of the

service of the recruits to the ELC, they were offered automatic engagement into a new Malta Pioneer Corps which expanded to three battalions by 1974. Although these were eventually all disbanded, they provided an important stream to the various units that today make up the different regiments of the Armed Forces of Malta.



The headstone of most of the men of the MLC that died during the Great War carries the crest of the Labour Corps, as depicted on their cap badge

Source:<http://www.labourcorps.co.uk/Images/LCCAPBadgebronze.jpg>

## **Appendix**

### ***Alphabetical List of Members of the MLC that died during World War I<sup>50</sup>***

1. **AGIUS Amabile**, 7014, Labourer, 2nd Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 4 September 1918. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.
2. **AGIUS Salvatore**, 3015, Labourer, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 4 November 1917, aged 19 years. The son of Maria and Lorenzo Agius, of 101 Strada Rudolfo, Sliema. Buried in Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece.
3. **AQUILINA V.**, 4948, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 1 October 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
4. **ATTARD A.**, 7822, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 20 September 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
5. **ATTARD Carmelo**, 4820, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 20 September 1918, aged 28. The son of Maria and the late Giuseppe Attard, and husband of Carmela Attard of 7, Hal-Duיל, Żebbuġ. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.

<sup>50</sup> The sources for the list are three: (1) <http://website.lineone.net/~stevebidmead/soldiers.htm>. Retrieved: 5 July 2010 (2) <http://twgpp.org/index.php>. Retrieved: 5 July 2010 and (3) Zarb-Dimech, Appendix D, pp. 195–19.

6. **ATTARD Carmelo**, 156, Labourer, Maltese Labour Corps, son of Wigi of 6, Triq Wilga, L-Ghasri, Gozo, died on 4 April 1919. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.
7. **ATTARD Giuseppe**, 6346, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 20 September 1918. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.
8. **ATTARD P.**, 8, Labourer, No 1 Employment Company, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 24 December 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
9. **ATTARD R.**, 6342, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 19 April 1918. Buried in Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece.
10. **AXIAK Ignazio**, 5051, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 23 September 1918, aged 19. The son of Maria Teresa née Piscopo and Salvatore Axiak, of 42, Triq San Lawrenz, San Lorenzo, Gozo. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
11. **AZZOPARDI G.**, 7219, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 11 October 1918. Buried in Struma Military Cemetery, Greece.
12. **AZZOPARDI G.**, 4111, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 23 December 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
13. **AZZOPARDI Nicola**, 7819, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Labourer, Maltese Labour Corps, died of pneumonia on 16 September 1918, aged 28. The son of Annunziata and Carmelo Azzopardi of Tarxien, and husband of Emmanuela Azzopardi of 30, Simmons Avenue, Tarxien. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
14. **AZZOPARDI P.**, 4038, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 14 September 1918. Buried in Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece.
15. **AZZOPARDI P.**, 7619, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 25 October 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
16. **BARBARA F.**, 3465, Ganger, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 29 April 1918, aged 22, the son of G. Barbara of 1, Strada San Giovanni, Valletta. Buried in Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece.
17. **BONNICI Antonio**, 7290, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died 17 December 1918, aged 25. The son of Rosa and the late Felice Bonnici, of Strada Carmine, Luqa. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
18. **BORG Carmelo**, 6793, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 17 September 1918. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.
19. **BORG G.**, 7502, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 12 November 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
20. **BORG M.**, 6793, Labourer, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 17 September 1918, aged 21. The son of Angela and Giuseppe Borg, and husband of Anna, of 6, Strada Buerak, Birkirkara. Buried in Addolorata Cemetery, Malta.
21. **BORG Paolo**, 6903, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 26 August 1918. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.
22. **BORG S.**, 149, Servant, No. 1 Employment Company, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 20 December 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
23. **BUGEJA Giuseppe**, 4653, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 5 September 1918, aged 24. The son of Vincenza and Francesco Bugeja of 34, Strada San Giovanni, Victoria, Gozo. Buried in Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece.
24. **BUSUTTIL Domenico**, 3711, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 7 September 1918. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.
25. **BUTTIGIEG Antonio**, 886, Labourer, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 31 May 1920, aged 23, the son of Paola and Alfred Buttigieg, of 12, Flaxton Street, Sliema. He has no known grave but is remembered on the Haidar Pacha Memorial, Turkey. He is recorded with the



- names of 30 officers and men of the British empire who died in the borderlands of Russia and Turkey in the last days of the Great War and have no known graves.<sup>51</sup>
26. **BUTTIGIEG Giuseppe**, 2802, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 18 August 1917. Buried in Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece.
  27. **CALLEJA A.**, 4196, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 30 November 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
  28. **CALLEJA Agostino**, 3707, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 3 September 1918. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.
  29. **CAMILLERI Giuseppe**, 913, Labourer, Maltese Labour Corps, Killed in action on 7 December 1915, aged 27. The only son of Filippa and Angelo Camilleri, Strada Santa Elena, of Sliema. Buried in Ari Burnu Cemetery (Anzac), Turkey.
  30. **CAMILLERI G.**, 2870, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 30 September 1917. Buried in Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece.
  31. **CAMILLERI Gio Maria**, 3400, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 2 November 1918, aged 43. The son of the late Giorgio Camilleri and husband of Antonia Camilleri of 4, Strada Santa Caterina, Qormi. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
  32. **CAMILLERI M.**, 16/421, Labourer, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 3 May 1919. Buried in Addolorata Cemetery, Malta.
  33. **CAMILLERI S.**, 8000, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 30 September 1918, aged 28. The son of Michael Camilleri, of 19, Triq il-Knisja, Nadur, Gozo. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
  34. **CARUANA E.**, 4735, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 21 September 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
  35. **CARUANA F.**, 152, Cook, A Coy, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 24 August 1919, aged 21 years. The son of Bernarda and the late Antonio Caurana of 54, Strada Botanico, Floriana. Buried in Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece.
  36. **CARUANA M.**, 642, Labourer, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 28 January 1919. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.
  37. **CARUANA Paolo**, 3243, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 1 February 1918, aged 17. The son of Raffaele and Antonia Caruana, of 7 Strada San Giovanni, Valletta. Buried in Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece.
  38. **CARUANA Paul**, 44, Waiter, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 3 February 1919, aged 21. Born in Mosta, the son of Carmela and Mose Caruana of 8, Strada Reale, Lija. Buried in Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece (Also served in Mercantile Marine).
  39. **CARUANA S.**, 7299, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 18 December 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
  40. **CASSAR Edgard(o)**, 752, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died of malaria on 15 September 1918, aged 17. The son of Elvira and Saverio Cassar of 625, Strada Reale, St Paul's Bay. Buried in Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece.
  41. **CASSAR Emmanuele**, 4236, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 4 October 1918, aged 18 years. The son of Maria and Salvatore Cassar of 18 Strada Hamrija, Xewkija, Gozo. Buried in the Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
  42. **CASSAR F.**, 4006, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 21 July 1918. Buried in the Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece.
  43. **CASSAR G.**, 7144, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 15 November 1918. Buried in the Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.

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<sup>51</sup> Source: <http://www.levantine.plus.com/pdf/haidarpashacem.pdf>. Retrieved: 4 July 2010.

44. **CASSAR Giovanni**, 4546, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 2 October 1918, aged 30 years. The son of late Salvatore Cassar, and husband of Teresa Cassar of Strada Ghoannirea(?), Victoria, 45 Triq Santa Luċija, Ta' Kerċem, Gozo. Buried in the Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
45. **CAUCHI Loreto**, 7027, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 24 December 1918 son of Pietru of 63 Triq Hamri, Ghajnsielem, Gozo. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.<sup>52</sup>
46. **CEFAI Salvatore**, 4409, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died of pneumonia on 18 November 1918, aged 20 years. Buried in the Bralo British Cemetery, Greece.<sup>53</sup>
47. **CHETCUTI I.**, 6532, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 30 January 1918. Buried in Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece.
48. **CHIRCOP Carmelo**, 6617, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 3 December 1918, aged 18 years. The son of Francesca and Antonio Chircop of 34 via Carma, Marsa. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
49. **CRISTIANO G.**, 7860, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 15 September 1918. Buried in the Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece.
50. **CUSCHIERI Giuseppe**, 7057, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 17 August 1918, aged 49. The son of Carmelo and Caterina Cuschieri née Fenech, and husband of Anna née Frendo. Buried in Karasouli Military Cemetery, Greece.
51. **CUSTO Michel Angelo**, 7815, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 17 September 1918, aged 58. The father of Carmelo Custo of Strada Reale Vicolo, Hamrun. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
52. **D'ALFONSO P.**, 14, Cook, 1<sup>st</sup> Employment Company, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 29 September 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece
53. **D'AMATO C.**, Mec/140, Servant, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 10 December 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
54. **DEBONO Salvatore**, 130, Labourer, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 18 October 1918. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.<sup>54</sup>
55. **DEBONO V.**, 7245, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 8 October 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
56. **DIMECH G.**, 2256, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 5 April 1917. Buried in Karasouli Military Cemetery, Greece.
57. **EBEJER A.**, 250, Labourer, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 25 July 1918. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.
58. **EBEJER N.**, 7413, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 7 December 1918, aged 20. The son of Francesco Ebejer, of Strada Fedele, Hamrun. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
59. **FALZON V.**, 4471, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 10 October 1918, aged 31. The son of late Joseph and Concetta Falzon née Grima, and husband of Annetta of 31, Strada Miratore, Floriana. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
60. **FENECH Emmanuele**, 7393, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 19 October 1918, aged 19. The son of Bartolomeo and Elena Fenech of Strada Camenzuli, Sliema. Buried in Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece.
61. **GALEA Domenico**, 7845, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 11 December 1918, aged 22. The son of Giuseppe and Maria Galea of 12, Strada San Paolo, Naxxar. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.

<sup>52</sup>Zarb-Dimech, p. 196 notes that Loreto Cauchi is listed as a Second World War victim on the war memorial at It-Tokk, Gozo.

<sup>53</sup>Ibid. claims that Salvatore Cefai (4409) is the brother of Grezzju of 3, Triq Ghajn Qatet, Victoria, Gozo, Died Taranto.

62. **GALEA G.**, 4707, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 18 October 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
63. **GALEA L.**, 158, Labourer, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 9 December 1918. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.
64. **GALEA Publio**, 9, Cook, 1<sup>st</sup> Employment Company, Maltese Labour Corps, died of influenza on 2 December 1918, aged 35. The son of Vincenzo and Ludgarda Galea, of Valletta. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
65. **GALEA V.**, 7776, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 1 November 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
66. **GATT Carmelo**, 6995, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 20 December 1917, aged 44. The son of Vincenzo and Maria Gatt, and husband of Maria Gatt of Via Kerçem, 30, Triq San Duminku, Victoria, Gozo. Buried in Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece.
67. **GATT Giorgio**, 4225, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 11 November 1918, aged 21. The son of Giovanni Gatt of 90, Strada Palma, Victoria, Gozo. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
68. **GAUCI Eugenio**, 2675, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 17 July 1917, aged 27. The son of Vincenzo and Dolores Gauci of 42, Strada Porta Reale, Victoria, Gozo. Buried in Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece.
69. **GERADA S.**, 4056, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 9 June 1918. Buried in Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece.
70. **GRECH Luigi**, 261, Labourer, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 21 September 1918, aged 18. Born in Hamrun, the son of Camilla and Giuseppe Grech of 37, Via Curmi, Hamrun. Buried in Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston, Greece.
71. **GRECH Paolo**, BS/250, Private, Employment Company, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 31 October 1919, aged 25. The son of Alfonso and Evangelista Grech, and husband of Paola Grech of 197, Strada Reale, Valletta. Buried in Haidar Pasha Cemetery, Turkey.
72. **GRIMA Giovanni**, 4315, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 12 August 1918, aged 28. The son of Pietro and Ginesia (Dionisia) Grima of 11 (12), Strada Chiesa, Ghajnsielem, Gozo. Buried in Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece.
73. **HUBER Edgar William**, Second Lt, 1st Battalion, King's Own Malta Regiment of Militia, died in a traffic accident<sup>55</sup> on 2 November 1916 whilst serving with the Maltese Labour Corps. The son of Joseph and Maria Adianna Huber née Micallef of 131, Strada San Paolo, Valletta, Buried in Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece. He was the younger brother of Lt. Herbert William Huber KOMRM who was attached with the 1st Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers at Gallipoli and died on 7 January 1916.
74. **MALLIA Joseph**, 3928, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 3 June 1918, aged 46. The son of Giovanni and Coucella Mallia, and husband of Giuseppa Mallia of 32, Strada Giafar, Sliema. Buried in Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece.
75. **MAMO Tommaso**, 7133, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died of pneumonia on 18 September 1918, aged 53. Born in Floriana, the son of Giuseppe and Madalena Mamo and husband of Anna. Buried in Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston, Greece.
76. **MEILAK Giuseppe**, 4378, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 22 November 1918. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 195. Claims that Salvatore Debono (129) is the son of Grezzju of 35, Triq Wileg, Qala Gozo. Died Salonika.

<sup>55</sup> Sterling and Ivor, p. 213.

<sup>56</sup> Zarb-Dimech, p. 198. Probably the same Guzepp Mehlak (578), son of Marija of 13, Triq Grunju, In-Nadur, Gozo, Malta Labour Corps who, author claims, died in Salonika between September and November 1918.

77. **MICALLEF Antonio**, 217, Private, Mining Company, Maltese Labour Corps, died of disease on 20 November 1918, aged 35 years. The son of Andrea Grazia Micallef of Casal Gudja, Malta. Buried in Montecchio Precalcino Communal Cemetery Extension, Italy.
78. **MICALLEF Giovanni**, 207, Private, Mining Company, Maltese Labour Corps, died of disease on 21 November 1918, aged 19, the son of Spiro and Maria Micallef. Buried in Montecchio Precalcino Communal Cemetery Extension, Italy.
79. **MICALLEF Giuseppe**, Labourer, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 17 October 1918. Buried in Addolorata Cemetery.
80. **MICALLEF Luige(i)**, 4195, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 5 September 1918. Buried in Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece.
81. **MICALLEF Paolo**, 7480, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 10 September 1918, aged 37. The son of Ignazio and Grazia Micallef née Balzan of 2, Okella Zimelli, Hamrun. Buried in Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece.
82. **MICALLEF R.**, 4410, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 2 November 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
83. **MIFSUD A.**, 7470, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 12 October 1918. Buried in Doiran Military Cemetery, Greece.<sup>57</sup>
84. **MIFSUD G.**, 7794, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 28 December 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
85. **MIFSUD Publio**, 7408, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 9 October 1918. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.
86. **MIZZI Carmelo**, 5050, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 25 September 1918, aged 23. The son of Teresa and the late Lorenzo Mizzi of 18, Triq il-Wileġ, San Lorenzo, Gozo. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
87. **MUSCAT Giuseppe**, 992, Private, C. Coy, Maltese Labour Corps, died of dysentery on 31 July 1920, aged 27. Born in Paola, the son of Carmelo and Vittoria Muscat, and husband of Filippa of 23, Strada San Bartolomeo, Qormi. Buried in Haidar Pasha Cemetery, Turkey.
88. **MUSCAT J.**, 4036, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 26 December 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
89. **PACE C.**, 7977, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 22 September 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
90. **PACE Giuseppe**, 154, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 30 July 1918, aged 63. Born at Żejtun, the father of Dolores Spiteri of 18, Falzon Street, Sliema. Buried in Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston, Greece.
91. **PACE Giuseppe**, 4723, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died of pneumonia on 27 September 1918. The son of late Giovanni Pace, and husband of late Maria Pace née Mercieca. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
92. **PACE Nicola**, 6322, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 12 September 1918. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.
93. **PARNIS Emmanuele**, 4102, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 21 July 1918, aged 21. The son of Pietro and Cristina Parnis of Birkirkara. Buried in Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston, Greece.
94. **PISANI Giuseppe**, 7857, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died of pneumonia on 18 September 1918, aged 18. The son of Vincenzo and Carmela Pisani née Calafato of 105, Strada Levante, Valletta. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
95. **PISANI Spiro**, 244, Servant, 1<sup>st</sup> Employment Company, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 4 January 1919, aged 23. The son of John and Annie Pisani of 52, Strada Giafar, Sliema. Buried in Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece.

<sup>57</sup> Apparently the only Maltese buried at Doiran.

96. **PORTELLI Paul**, 7185, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 29 October 1918, aged 21. The son of John Baptist Portelli. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
97. **ROBERTS Clement**, 151, Waiter, 1<sup>st</sup> Employment Company, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 17 September 1918, aged 37. The son of Carrie and the late Francis Roberts. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
98. **SACCO G.**, 193, Servant, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 4 December 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
99. **SACCO Giuseppe**, 4372, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Coy, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 10 December 1918, aged 35. The son of the late Antonio and Rosa Sacco née Galea of 19,<sup>58</sup> Strada Saguna, Sannat, Gozo. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
100. **SALIBA Luigi**, 4247, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 2 November 1918, aged 26. The son of Paolo and Rosa Saliba of 11,<sup>59</sup> Strada Kanun, Ghasri, Gozo. Buried in Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston, Greece.
101. **SAMMUT C.**, 4932, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 30 September 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
102. **SANT Giuseppe**, 273, Labourer, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 7 February 1919. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.
103. **SCHEMBRI A.**, 7818, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 28 September 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
104. **SCHEMBRI Domenico**, 4812, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 20 September 1918, aged 27. The son of Paul and Vincenza Schembri and husband of Annetta Schembri of Hamrun. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
105. **SCHEMBRI L.**, 4919, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 28 September 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
106. **SCICLUNA E.**, 130, Servant, 1<sup>st</sup> Employment Company, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 27 December 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
107. **SCICLUNA V.**, 594, Servant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Employment Company, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 24 December 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
108. **SPITERI J.**, 189, Labourer, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 21 October 1918. Buried in Addolorata Cemetery.<sup>60</sup>
109. **SULTANA Giuseppe**, 6120, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, son of Marija of 12, Triq Gorf, Ix-Xaghra, Gozo, died on 23 November 1918. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.
110. **SULTANA Vittorio**, 6628, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 26 January 1918, aged 19. The son of Francesco and Elena Sultana of 38, Strada Herba, Birkirkara. Buried in Sarigol Military Cemetery, Kriston, Greece.
111. **TEUMA Michele**, 4274, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died of pneumonia on 14 November 1918, aged 21. The son of Giuseppe Teuma of 42,<sup>61</sup> Strada Concezione, Kala, Gozo. Buried in Bralo British Cemetery, Greece.
112. **VASSALLO A.**, 7089, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Employment Company, Maltese Labour Corps, died of pneumonia on 24 December 1918, aged 22. The son of Anna and the late Paolo Vassallo. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 197. Gives address of Giuseppe Sacco as 20 not 19, Strada Saguna, Sannat, Gozo.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.* Gives address of Luigi Saliba as of 1 instead of 11, Strada Kanun, L-Ghasri.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 198. Probably the same J. Spiteri as Guzepp, son of Pawlu, of 20, Triq Parsott, Ix-Xaghra, Gozo, Malta Labour Corps. Died in Malta.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 197. Gives address of Teuma Michele (Thewma Mikiel) as 2 instead of 42, Strada Concezione, Kala.

113. **VELLA**,<sup>62</sup> 556, Labourer, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 26 August 1918. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.
114. **VELLA G.**, 4144, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 22 July 1918. Buried in Salonika Military Cemetery, Greece.
115. **VELLA Luigi**, 6748, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 24 September 1918. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.
116. **VELLA R.**, 110, Labourer, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 25 August 1918. Buried in Taranto Town Cemetery Extension, Italy.
117. **XERRI C.**, 4905, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 22 November 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
118. **XERRI S.**, 204, Servant, 1<sup>st</sup> Employment Company, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 19 December 1918. Buried in the Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
119. **XUEREB Giuseppe**, 4369, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 15 November 1918, the son of Giovanni and Teodora Xuereb of 35, Sta. Sant Andrea, Xewkija, Gozo. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
120. **ZAHRA J.**, 7888, Labourer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 29 December 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
121. **ZAMMIT L.**, Servant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Employment Company, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 28 August 1919. Buried in Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece.
122. **ZAMMIT S.**, 4882, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 6 October 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
123. **ZARB V.**, 4902, Labourer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 29 September 1918. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.
124. **ZERFA M.**, 181, Servant, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Maltese Labour Corps, died on 11 November 1918, aged 17. The son of Gaudenzis and Carmela Zerafa of 6, Weides St., Żebbuġ. Buried in Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery, Greece.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> No first name is provided.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 199 gives Azzopardi Carmelo, son of Carlo, of 13, Triq L-Imġarr, Ix-Xewkija, Gozo, died in Taranto, as having been a member of the MLC. The name of this person does not feature on the online database of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.