



**Commonwealth War
Graves Commission**
Country Report:
Malta



CWGC
Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) is responsible for maintaining commemorations for 5725 Commonwealth war dead at 15 locations in Malta; with the largest number of commemorations on the Malta Memorial and within Pieta Military Cemetery.

Pieta Military Cemetery



There are 1,303 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated at Pieta Military Cemetery, including 20 Indian servicemen who were cremated at Lazaretto Cemetery. Second World War burials number 166. The Commission also cares for 772 non-war graves in the cemetery and 15 war graves of other nationalities

It should be noted that as the earth is shallow on Malta many joint or collective burials were made as graves had to be cut into the underlying rock. During the Second World War, such work was particularly hazardous because of air raids. Most of these graves are marked by recumbent markers on which several inscriptions could be carved, and for the sake of uniformity, the same type of marker was used for single graves

Malta Memorial

The Malta Memorial commemorates almost 2,300 airmen who lost their lives during the Second World War whilst serving with the Commonwealth Air Forces flying from bases in Austria, Italy, Sicily, islands of the Adriatic and Mediterranean, Malta, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, West Africa, Yugoslavia and Gibraltar, and who have no known grave. The Memorial was unveiled by The Queen on 3 May 1954.

The memorial was designed by Sir Hubert Worthington, R.A., while the eagle which surmounts the column is the work of the sculptor Charles Wheeler, R.A.



Malta casualties

Within our records there are 796 casualties recorded as being from, or having a family connection to, Malta, commemorated in 24 countries worldwide, including Belgium, Canada, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Iraq, Japan, Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey and the UK.

The largest numbers of Maltese casualties commemorated outside of Malta itself are at the following sites:

PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL, United Kingdom – 308 individuals

TOWER HILL MEMORIAL, United Kingdom - 151

KIRECHKOI-HORTAKOI MILITARY CEMETERY, Greece – 25

ALEXANDRIA (HADRA) WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY, Egypt – 14

In addition to the above, the CWGC commemorates 368 individuals who died while serving with military units specifically associated with Malta, including the following:

Royal Malta Artillery – 144 individuals

Maltese Labour Corps – 128

King's Own Malta Regiment – 79

The Commission is also responsible for commemorating 1472 Maltese civilians who died during the Second World War, the majority of whom were killed during the Siege of Malta, which lasted from June 1940 to November 1942. Their names are recorded in the Civilian War Dead Roll of Honour 1939-1945 which is kept in Westminster Abbey, London.