

A Malta Fighter Pilot

TELLS HIS STORY

Yesterday evening, over the Rediffusion, subscribers were thrilled to hear one of Malta's fighter pilots narrate in his own way, the work which pilots and ground crews are engaged in every day in defence of our island home.

The talk was fittingly preceded with a rendering of that glorious tune "Land of Hope and Glory". In the words of the announcer himself, the speaker was one of that batch of pilots who has come from the grey skies of England, to the brilliant sun and white stone of these islands, to do such gallant work amongst us. Others with him have come from the farthest corners of the Empire. In this fact we may truly see that it is the Empire that is at war, and that not one small part of the Empire is forgotten.

The following is "Malta's Fighter Pilot's" talk:

"During the last few weeks the air over Malta has seen a number of exciting incidents. I have been asked to give you a few details as to what my job is in this connexion.

"Not so very long ago, I was piloting flying boats, but with Italy's entry into the War, I was permitted to become a fighter pilot. As, perhaps, you may imagine there is a vast difference between a large comfortable flying boat and a high speed single-seater fighter aircraft. However, one has to adapt oneself to the new conditions; and it is not very long before you feel quite at home in the new plane.

"We are continually on duty as, of course, we never know when to expect an enemy raid. When the Italians elect to stay at home, and we do not get a chance of having a crack at them, we, not unnaturally, get a bit bored.

"However, when we see an enemy formation approaching the Island, there is not any time wasted in manoeuvring to get into the best position to attack.

"After a last look round the cockpit to make sure the guns will do their stuff, that the oil pressure and temperature and petrol pressure are all O.K. we put our machine into a dive, straight for the enemy.

"The moment we are within range and the sights are lined up on the target, we let them have it.

"Very often, even above the roar of our own engines, we can hear the rattle of the Italian machine-guns plugging back at us and sometimes see his tracer bullets go flashing past.

"On one occasion while attacking an enemy bomber, I saw two of his engines burst into flames and pieces fall off the wings of the machine.

"A moment or so later, the port engine fell off completely. but the rear gunner continued to fire back at me. A few seconds after that the enemy bomber lost height rapidly and finally crashed into the sea. All this took place within a few seconds. After all, air fighting is pretty quick work, and we do not often have time to notice so much because there are other enemy bombers and fighters to deal with.

"Occasionally, after we have attacked a bomber formation, we get mixed up with their escorting fighters; and a dog-fight takes place.

"This is by far the most exciting part of our job. Aircraft roar round the sky doing very tight turns each endeavouring to get on to the other's tail.

"Suddenly, an enemy appears in the sights, the psychological moment has arrived, you press the button which releases a stream of lead and then break away and look for the next plane.

"When the raiders have gone and the "All Clear" is given on the ground, we return to our aerodrome, land, and hand over the aircraft to the ground

Social And Personal

APPOINTMENTS

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to confirm the following gentlemen in their appointment as Assistant Post Medical Officers in the Medical and Health Department:— Dr. J. Morana, M.D., D.P.H., Dr. C. Coleiro, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to appoint the following to be Sanitary Inspectors, Second Class, in the Medical and Health Department, with effect from the 15th July, 1940, on probation for one year:— Mr. Joseph Caruana Scicluna; Mr. Costant. Mifsud.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to make the following appointment in the Prisons Department, with effect from the 1st July, 1940:— Mr. Lewis Frendo, to be Warden 2nd Class.

His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government has been pleased to appoint the following District Nurses in the Medical and Health Department with effect from the 1st July on probation for one year:— Miss Mary Carmen Grech; Miss Mary Anne Attard; Miss Consiglia Vella.

MALTA COMMAND APPOINTMENTS

Commands and Staff
Lt.-Col. (A/Col.) W. L. Eastwick-Field, M.C., R.A., to be paid acting Colonel, 19th July, 1940.

Lieut. (A/Capt.) V. M. Hammer, R.A., to be paid acting Captain, 19th July 1940.
Capt. J. D. Kitson, Devon R. to be Bde. Major, 8th Aug. 1940.

Capt. M. J. Hunt, Dorset R. to be Staff Captain, 8th Aug. 1940.

REGULAR ARMY

Royal Malta Artillery,
Lieut. G. L. Zammit-Tabona, to be unpaid acting Captain, 4th Aug. 1940.

Lieut. (A/Capt.) E. A. Camilleri, relinquishes the rank of acting Captain, 4th Aug. 1940.

Royal Corps of Signals.
Lieut. T. de B. Miller, to be unpaid acting Captain, 21st July 1940.

MALTA TERRITORIAL FORCE

Royal Malta Artillery (Territorial).
Major (A/Lt.-Col.) J. Terreni, to be paid acting Lt.-Colonel, 19th July, 1940.

Lieut. (A/Major) C. J. Coghill, R.A., to be paid acting Major, 19th July 1940.

Lieut. (A/Capt.) H. A. Scicluna, to be paid acting Captain, 19th July 1940.

Lieut. (A/Capt.) P. Farrugia, to be paid acting Captain, 19th July, 1940.

Lieut. V. A. Trapani, resigns his commission on account of ill health, 9th Aug. 1940.

The King's Own Malta Regiment.
2/Lieut. (A/Capt.) The Baron J. Chapelle to be temp. Capt. 9th Dec., 1939 and remains attached for service with R.A.S.C.

crew, who fill up the petrol and oil tanks, replenish the ammunition, inspect the guns, and carefully examine the whole aircraft to make sure that it is serviceable in every way and fit to go into another fight as soon as is necessary.

"Few people outside the service realize what magnificent work is done by the ground crews, and they do not always receive the praise they deserve.

"When an enemy is shot down it is just as much a victory for them as it is for the pilot to whom the success is credited.

"My patrol has shot down 3 of a certain bag of 15 enemy aircraft, and we have damaged many others. When we talk of certain victories we mean those in which the enemy has actually been seen to crash either on land or in the sea, and although we know that many others have been so badly damaged that they are unlikely to have reached their bases, it is a service custom not to claim them."

We voice the feelings of all listeners in thanking this officer for his broadcast, and the Air Officer Commanding for kindly giving his permission. We are deeply grateful for the presence of the R.A.F. pilots amongst us, and know a greater security thereby. We trust that this, the first local broadcast speech by a fighter pilot, will not be any means be the last, and we pray that glorious victory will ever be theirs.

The "Fighter Plane" Fund, Malta



The following contributions to the "Malta Fighter Plane Fund", have been received:—

Amount already acknowledged	£3,535 6 8
Mr. Cataldo Vella	1 1 0
Mr. Joseph M. Scorey	0 10 0
Military and Civilian Staff, R.A.O.C., Sa Maison	14 0 8
Collected by Mr. George Pace, from Zebbug	21 15 0
Mr. Levi Wine	0 10 0
Collected by Mr. C.J. Wirth from Rabat	16 4 0
Messrs. G. Scivagnotis	50 0 0
W. & E. Dept. Vallette Branch	2 3 0
Mr. Ant. Cappara, Qormi	1 0 0
Mr. George Zammit, (Il-Korru)	5 5 0
Mr. Anthony Schembri, Hamrun	1 0 0
Messrs. Anthony Tabona & Sons	10 0 0
The Handy Store, Sliema	0 10 0
Graham Stores, Sliema	1 1 0
Dr and Mrs. E.F.N. Currey	5 5 0
Married Quarters, Tigne	8 15 6
Savoy Hotel	1 0 0
The John Bull Ironmongery Stores	50 0 0
Messrs. C. Camilleri & Co	5 5 0
Mary and Rene, Tigne	0 5 0
Prof. W.F. Nixon	2 2 0
Messrs. Tahilram & Sons	5 0 0
Messrs. Portanier Bros. Hamrun	10 10 0
Mr. J. Sammut, B'Kara	1 0 0
Messrs. S. Stellini & Sons	2 2 0
British American Dry Cleaning Co.	3 3 0
Messrs. Gauci Borda & Co.	2 2 0
Mr. G. Xiberras	0 2 6
Mr. A. Hilli	0 1 0
Mr. W. Paulter	0 1 0
Mr. C. Zahra	0 1 0
Miss Lucy Borg	0 1 0
Mr. C. Bugeja	0 1 0
Mr. D. Abela	0 1 0
Mr. L. Grech	0 1 0
Mr. E. Mifsud	0 1 0
Mr. C. Zahra	0 2 0
Mr. G. Williams	0 1 0
Mr. R. Zahra	0 1 0
Mr. V. Camilleri	9 1 0
Magistrate C. Parnis LL.D. (Retd.)	1 1 0
Rev. Nikola Zammit	1 1 0
Rev. Salvatore Camilleri	1 1 0
Messrs. Pace & Loporto	5 0 0
Mr. Emm. Spiteri, Zejtun	1 0 0
Collected by Mr. Ant. Banavage from Lija and Balzan	3 15 6
Mr. and Miss Mallia, Hamrun	0 10 0
Mr. Emm. Anastasi (Thomas Bird & Sons.)	0 5 0
Miss Kathleen O'Shea	0 10 0
Captain and Mrs. C. De Giorgio	2 0 0
V.A.M.'s Messengers:—	
(Mr. Edgar Cherrett)	0 2 6
(Mr. Lawrence Grima)	0 2 6
(Mr. E. Ellul)	0 2 6
(Mr. Paul Vella)	0 2 6
Mr. Giuseppe Brincat	0 2 0
Presh's Detachment R.E. "The Gulch"	1 10 0
Mr. and Mrs. J. Vella Zarb	1 0 0
B.M.C. Head Office	3 12 6
B.M.C. Garage Staff	8 2 11
Collected from Prof. Nixon's Apprentices 1 day wages	0 12 6
R.E. Military & Civilian Staff	
Margherita	11 0 0
Civilian Employees, Float Shop R.A.F.	1 0 0
Miss Lina Pace	0 10 0
Total	£3,802 16 3

Collected by Mr. C.H. Wirth from Rabat:	
Rev. Jos. Delia S.J. Rector St. Aloysius College	10 0 0
St. Anthony's Pharmacy, Rabat	2 2 0
The following (2) contributed £11.0 each: Mr. and Mrs. L.A. Lungaro	
Mifsud; Mr. and Mrs. Carmelo Axia	2 2 0
The following (2) contributed £10.0 each: Mr. and Mrs. Andrea Bugeja;	
Magistrate F. Wirth	2 0 0
Total	16 4 0

Collected by Mr. Ant. Banavage from Lija and Balzan:	
Sir Ugo P. Mifsud, Protection Officer, Balzan	1 0 0
Anglo-Maltese Dispensary, Balzan	0 10 0
The following (3) contributed 5/- each: Mr. P.P. Muscat; A.M.D.; Mr. P. Mallia	0 15 0
The following (7) contributed 2/6 each: Mr. M. Micallef; Mr. G. Galea; Mr. Gatt; Mr. Darmania; Mr. C. Portelli; Mr. S. Catania; Mr. G. Bugeja	0 17 6
The following (3) contributed 2/- each: Mrs. Xiberras; Mr. T. Debattista; Mr. Ganado	0 6 0
The following (6) contributed 1/- each: Lotto Office No. 44 Balzan; Mr. G. Camilleri; Miss Mary Nichols, Lija; Mr. P. Attard; Mr. Muscat; Mr. Bardon	0 6 0
The following (2) contributed 7/6 each: Mr. S. Catania; Mr. G. Mizzi.	0 1 0
Total	3 15 0

Collected by Mr. George Pace, from Zebbug:	
St. Philip's Band Club, Zebbug	10 0 0
Messrs. Fratelli Felici	4 4 0
The following (3) contributed £10.0 each: Mr. Philip Gatt; Mr. C. Pisani	2 0 0
The following (3) contributed 10/- each: Mr. George Mallia Ph.C.; Mr. G.M. sammut; Mr. Lawrence Cassar	1 10 0
The following (6) contributed 5/- each: Mr. Gregory Mifsud; Mr. C. Mallia; Mr. E. Spiteri; Mr. C. Azzopardi; Mr. C. Coleiro, (Teacher); Mr. Duff	1 10 0
The following (14) contributed 2/6 each: Mr. J. Farrugia; Mr. M. Gauci; Messrs. Attard Bros. Ironmongery; Mr. S. Mifsud Ellul; Mr. C. Azzopardi; Mr. A. Cilia; Churchill Admirer; Mr. P. Falzon; Mrs. Mary Pace; Rohan Pharmacy; Mr. Lewis Said; Mr. P. Buttigieg; Miss Aaida Pace; N.N.	1 15 0
The following (8) contributed 2/- each: Mr. P. Chetuti; Mr. Nkol Ciantar; Mr. P. Agius; Mr. J. Galea; Mr. T. Borg; Mrs. Gracy Caruana; N.N.; N.N.	0 16 0
Total	21 15 0

The following alterations are made to the subscription lists published on the 8th and 9th August, respectively:	
Collected by Zebbug and Siggiewi Buses Bus-No. 343	0 10 0
Commissioner, Officers and Men, Malta Police	30 0 0
Mr. C. Gatt	0 2 0

Malta Relief Fund

Amount already acknowledged	£11,834 12 1 1/2
Collected from Maltese seamen living in Mr. Michel Camilleri's Boarding Houses in Cardiff	6 10 0
Messrs. Cable & Wireless, Ltd., London	100 0 0
13th Platoon 2nd Royal West Kent Regt.	1 17 6
"C" Company H.Q., 2nd. Royal West Kent Regt.	1 3 5
14th Platoon 2nd Royal West Kent Regt.	1 11 1
15th Platoon 2nd Royal West Kent Regt.	1 2 0
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lunn	3 0 0
Mr. Louis A. Buttigieg, M.D., D.M.O.	1 0 0
Mqabba and Kirkop	1 0 0
R.E. Workmen Gargur and Pembroke	3 0 0
Total	£11,953 16 1 1/2

FROM MY PARROT

"They charged," said the colonel, "like blazes. In all my life I never saw anything like it before."
"Is he referring to one of the battles in which he has taken part?" asked a bystander of the person next to him.
"No," came the reply, "he's referring to the bill they gave him at the hotel."

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE IN MALTA

The Director of the British Institute has the honour to inform Members of the Institute that recent papers and journals, up to issues of July 20, have now arrived and to remind them that the Institute is, as it always has been, open at the usual times.

ORDER No. 1 BY THE CONTROLLER OF ENGINEERING AND BUILDING MATERIALS

Every person who, on or after the date of this Order, has or shall have in his possession or under his control any of the commodities enumerated in the Schedule to this Order, shall make a return thereof within 6 days from the date of this Order.

The returns should be addressed to the Controller of Engineering and Building Materials, Great Britain Hotel, Valletta.

The Schedule

- Water supply materials, including pipes of all kinds and sizes, bends, tees, elbows, valves, stopcocks and bib-cocks, ball valves, tanks and cisterns, hot water boilers.
- Electrical apparatus, including bare copper wires or other aerial conductors, insulators and pins, underground cables, conduits, transformers, fuses and switch-gear, all kinds of electrical wires, proprietary bands, conduits, casing, meters, fuses, distribution boards, switches, wooden blocks, ceiling roses, wall plugs, flexible wire, table lamps, bulb holders and electric light bulbs.
- Cooking ranges — large sizes — say 40 to 150 persons.
- All steel work, including rolled steel joists, rope and hawser, rods, bars, angles, tees, channels, rounds, half rounds, squares and flats, reinforcing fabric of all kinds, corrugated and plain sheeting.
- Stone crushers.
- Mechanical sieves.
- Concrete mixers.
- Rock cutters (power driven).
- Air compressors.

LEAVE TO GOZO

Only personnel whose families are domiciled in Gozo are allowed to go there when on leave.
No other personnel will be permitted to visit Gozo when on leave.

MALTA VOLUNTEER DEFENCE FORCE

(Sliema and Gzira Sections)

Members of the Malta Volunteer Defence Force, Sliema and Gzira Sections are kindly requested to attend at the Main Police Station, Sliema, on Sunday, 11th August, 1940, at 6.30 p.m.

NEW FORMATION

The 2nd Works Company, Royal Engineers (Territorial) was formed on the 15th June, 1940.

OBITUARY

With deep regret we announce the death of Lieutenant Colonel A. G. Norris late Royal Artillery, which occurred at Winchester on 9th July.

Lieut. Colonel Norris is well-known in Malta having served here. Among the relatives, who mourn his loss are Mrs. Lauder Warren and the Misses Ella and Kay Warren.

MASSES DE REQUIE

On the initiative of the Staff of the Cable Censorship Department the Masses de Requite, that will be said at the Parish Church of Zabbar on Tuesday, 13th instant, will be for the repose of the soul of the late Mr. A. Ruggier. The attendance of relatives and friends will be greatly appreciated.