Tqassim tal-ilma mill-Pulizija ħdejn Bieb il-Belt

Bieb il-Belt fi żmien il-gwerra min-naħa ta' ġewwa. L-ewwel bieb tal-Belt kien jismu Porta San Giorgio u kien mina fis-swar. Il-Gran Mastru Antoine de Paule (1623-1636) fl-1630 kien għamel bieb ġdid u sar minn Tumas Dingli (1591-1666). Fl-1853 fi żmien il-Gvernatur William Reid (1851-1858) sar bieb ieħor u x-xogħol tmexxa mill-inġinier il-Kurunell Thompson u fl-1892 Bieb il-Belt beda jissejjaħ Porta Reale -Bieb Irjali. Dan il-bieb dam sal-1964 meta kien sar bieb ġdid iddisinjat minn Rodrigo Bergonzo. Dan il-bieb tneħħa f'Mejju tal-2011 u saret daħla ġdida fuq id-disinn tal-Perit Renzo Piano (1937-) F'Bieb il-Belt kien hemm il-kwartieri tar-Red Caps, il-pulizija militari Ingliża. Waqt il-gwerra l-Pulizija Maltija, minbarra x-xogħol normali tagħha, kienu jagħmlu diversi dmirijiet oħra relatati mal-gwerra. Fost dawn kien hemm it-tqassim tal-ilma, salvataġġ u tneħħija ta' materjal minn bini mwaqqa'. Biex jgħinu lill-pulizja kienet twaqqfet l-iSpecial Constabulary. 10 pulizija kienu tilfu ħajjithom waqt il-qadi ta' dmirijiethom waqt il-gwerra.

Water distributed by Police near Valletta City Gate

The interior of Valletta City Gate during the war. The first Valletta Gate was known as Porta San Giorgio and was a tunnel within the bastion walls. Grand Master Antoine de Paule (1623- 1636) had commissioned a new gate in 1630, built by Tomaso Dingli (1591-1666). During Governor William Reid's (1851-1858) time, another gate was constructed, in 1853. It was designed by the engineer Colonel Thompson. And in 1892, the Valletta Gate started to be known as Porta Reale-Royal Gate. This gate was removed in 1964 and a new one was built, designed by Rodrigo Bergonzo. This gate was pulled down in May 2011 and a new entrance, designed by the architect Renzo Piano (1937-) was created. Within Valletta City Gate was the headquarters of the Red Caps, the British military police. Maltese police engaged in war-related duties such as distribution of water, salvage and clearing of rubble from destroyed buildings. To assist the police, a Special Constabulary was established.10 police officers lost their lives carrying out their duties during the war.

Photo: National War Museum - Heritage Malta