

The Maltese Journal

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DISPATCHES FROM VALLETTA, MALTA

MALTA PERFECTS DEFENSES

August 12—Enemy air activity continues to be confined to reconnaissance flights. The lull has been utilized to augment civilian and military defense preparations by the provision of numerous shelters and recruiting for local and regular territorial and volunteer units.

It is expected that the Government schools will reopen shortly.

MALTA BOMBED AGAIN

August 13—High explosives and incendiary bombs were dropped last night in new air raids on Malta. Another air raid warning sounded this morning but no enemy planes were seen. Damage from the night raid was described as slight. One civilian casualty was reported.

ITALIAN BOMBERS RAID MALTA IN TWO WAVES

August 14—Two waves of Italian bombing planes raided Malta early today, dropping a number of bombs, including incendiary missiles. Slight damage was caused and one civilian casualty was reported.

MALTA BOMBED BY ITALIANS

Aug. 29—Heavy formations of Italian planes flying at a great height raided this British Mediterranean island fortress for fifty minutes this morning. No casualties were reported but bombs did some damage to civilian property.

R. A. F. COMMUNIQUE FROM CAIRO

August 8—Enemy fighters approached Malta yesterday, but turned back before our fighters could engage them.

August 16—A formation of enemy bombers, protected by a large force of fighters, raided Malta, but there was little damage.

August 20—Yesterday three enemy aircraft approached within thirty-five miles of Malta, but made off when our fighters went up. Later, another small force was reported, but it also turned away when our fighters took off.

August 21—Yesterday ten enemy bombers escorted by twenty fighters raided Malta. Our fighters went up and dispersed the enemy.

MALTA RAID REPELLED

London, August 21—A dispatch from Malta said British fighting planes dispersed formations of enemy aircraft which bombed the British Mediterranean base this morning without causing either casualties or damage.

London, August 24 British air bases on the island of Malta were attacked by "strong Italian formations escorted by fighters" between 10 a. m. and 1 p. m. today, the Rome radio announced in a broadcast heard here. The broadcast said that at least three British planes had been destroyed but that the Italian raiders had "returned to base."

ITALIAN HIGH COMMAND COMMUNIQUE FROM ROME

August 13—Our bombing formations hit oil depots at Malta, causing big fires.

A Stefani dispatch of the same date said: "Waves of heavy Italian bombers smashed intermittently at Malta for hours last night, after scouting planes had surveyed and photographed the island base during the day."

August 16—Our bombing formations, escorted by pursuit planes, bombed Halpar airport in Malta, scoring direct hits on objectives and causing fires. Enemy pursuit planes after having started to attack our formations, withdrew. An enemy plane was shot down. All our planes returned.

August 20—Italian bomber formations accompanied by fighting planes bombed the British naval base of Malta today. Military objectives there were "successfully attacked."

August 21—Our bombing formation attacked and hit successfully air bases at Malta. All our planes returned, despite violent enemy reaction. Enemy pursuit planes encountered by ours were put to flight. One plane probably was shot down.

August 25—One of our formations bombed Hal Far airport at Malta. Ten English chasers tried to block our action but were attacked by our chasers. Four English planes and one of ours were shot down in the fight that followed.

3,000 LIVE IN GIANT SHELTER MALTA LEADING EMPIRE

Malta is expecting its one hundred and fiftieth air-raid and by the time this message is in the print the island will probably have had it.

But when I toured this most bombed place, in the empire today I wished that Mussolini were with me.

He would have seen how his bombers, swooping over day and night from Sicily, have left the Maltese with their morale utterly unshaken and with a deep hatred of Italy.

NUNCIO AT HAVANA ONCE OF NEW YORK

Havana—The extraordinary and highly important American Conference of Foreign Ministers having focused world attention on this Cuban Capital, it is interesting to know that the head of the diplomatic corps accredited to Havana is an Archbishop of wide and unusual experience in the service of the Church.

The dean is His Excellency the Most Rev. George J. Caruana, Papal Nuncio to Cuba, an American citizen although a native of Malta, a former United States Army Chaplain, the master of several languages, and a prelate who has served the Church in a half-dozen countries.

Archbishop Caruana has lived in Cuba for fourteen years, five DEAN OF DIPLOMATS



Archbishop George J. Caruana of which he has been the official representative of the Vatican. These years, added to his service in the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Guatemala and elsewhere have given him an exceedingly broad knowledge of a large number of subjects. Through it all he has retained a lively sense of humor which makes him a highly entertaining raconteur.

Knowing that His Excellency

And since the Duce entered the war on June 10, his airmen have been bombing the island on an average of twice a day.

"The bombing is not nearly as bad as we had expected," a fruit-seller told me as I strolled round Valletta's colourful market this morning.

Mussolini cannot bomb us into submission, any more than Hitler can shake England."

Another bystander told me that he had taken a vow to kill four Italians before he died.

Malta is giving the dictators a great example of how the British Empire stands up to "lightning war."

I spent this morning visiting the ancient tunnels and cellars beneath Valletta, where more than 10,000 homeless or evacuated islanders are now living.

I had a shock the first time the sirens drove me from the blinding sunshine into the blackness of a shelter, for I stumbled against a huge brass bedstead with a bright patchwork quilt.

Then I saw that the whole place looked like a jumble sale. Hundreds of people had brought their beds and other belongings and were camping out.

As the sirens screamed, mothers collected their children, picked up their cooking pots, and quietly filed into the shelter.

They are too experienced to panic now, and the children play unheeding while the bombs crash harmlessly above.

OLD STATION

Later I visited the biggest shelter, which has become the almost permanent home of 3,000 people.

It is the underground terminus of a disused railway, together with three quarters of a mile of tunnel leading out of the city.

The authorities, I learned, have already installed drainage and are planning to fit big fans to purify the air.

Outside one entrance, where workmen were busy putting up new washing arrangements, I

(Continued on page four)

The Maltese Journal

"The Maltese Journal's first duty is to be of service to its community."

Joseph Edward Dimech
Editor and Publisher

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SEND YOUR CHILDREN TO A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Some time ago while visiting with a few of my fellow countrymen one of them said to me, "Father, how glad I am now that I sent my children to a Catholic school! When after long deliberation I took them away from the public school and sent them to the Sisters, there was an immediate change for the better in their language, respectfulness and general bearing. I first sent them to the public schools because I had foolishly listened to some friends who told me that Catholic schools were inferior to the public, and that in them the children would have no opportunity of making worthwhile friends and acquaintances." The statement surprised me at the time. Nevertheless I was impressed because they who made it were my fellow countrymen, Maltese Catholics. They were in good faith, I am sure; but they had not appraised the matter properly.

The heart and conscience of the child are not fashioned and trained simply by filling the memory with information and giving it companions from all kinds of homes, Good Christians—and that is synonymous with good citizens—are not developed solely or mainly by training of the heart and the conscience. Parents who expect their children to be moral and religious in their maturity should know that it is vital to have them under religious influence during the critical years of youth and adolescence.

With regard to the educational standards of the Catholic schools it is now quite generally known that they are the equal, grade for grade, of the public schools. The scholarship standards of the teachers are as high as those required in the state

STRICKLAND DIES FORMER MALTA PRIME MINISTER

Valletta, Malta, Aug. 22—Lord Strickland, Prime Minister of Malta from 1927 to 1932, died today. He was seventy-nine years old. He was the first Baron Strickland. Despite his Roman Catholic faith he carried on a



LORD STRICKLAND

dispute with the Vatican from 1928 until 1932 over the transfer of a British subject from Malta to Sicily. Malta, originally a Crown colony, has a prime minister because it acquired "Quasi-Dominion" status by Letters Patent of 1921 and 1928.

Gerald Strickland, first Baron of Sizergh, Westmorland, plunged the British government into a controversy with the Holy See when he refused in 1928 to issue a passport to a British Franciscan monk to leave Malta at his Italian superior's order. The dispute ended in June, 1932, with Lord Strickland's unreserved apology to the Church.

The church contended that the monk, a native of Malta, was being transferred for religious offenses. Lord Strickland maintained that no ecclesiastical authority could award temporal punishment. He further argued that the order of transfer was invalid because it was issued by a foreigner, and that actually the monk was being shifted for political reasons.

The controversy quickly became a matter of utmost importance in Malta, which is predominantly Catholic, and the Vatican and the British government were soon involved. The Vatican's Secretariat of State published a note urging Maltese bishops to oppose the Maltese government because it was "behaving in a manner prejudicial to religion." The Vatican also asked the British government to stop the Prime Minister's "subversive activities."

In April, 1930, the Bishop of Gozo and the Archbishop of Malta issued pastoral letters declaring that it would be a mortal

COMMUNITY NOTES

Jimmy Darmanin slipped away to Detroit in mid-August for a ten day stay among his many friends there.

Sojourning in the auto city James met none other than the dapper Harry Parady, said to be New York's most critical dresser. We hope Harry enjoyed his stay there and we are doubly sure that Eddy Carwan made his vacation very very pleasant.

Mr. A. J. Findlay, the British Pavilion's Colonial Hall director, and Mr. J. E. Doublet, our editor, were guests of Capt. and Mrs. Jose L. Mifsud at a Garden dinner party given on their Pelham estate on August 16.

Mr. Joseph Mifsud, of Erie, Pa. spent a lovely vacation in New York City. Joe brought his large family along with him and from the looks of some of his fine boys they all had a corking good time World's Fair and all.

Mr. Thomas Zammit of Brooklyn is advertising his Motor-boat for sale.

Of course every one knows that Tommy likes the air better than the sea, and perhaps Tommy is contemplating the purchase of a small two seater bird.

Mrs. G. H. Salter and her four year old son arrived in New York from London on August 27. Mrs. Salter and her son the first Maltese war refugees from London, are the guests of her brother, Mr. A. Tabone and her sister Mrs. E. Micallef of Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr. Henry Laferle of Detroit enjoyed a long vacation amongst his friends of New York. Mrs. Laferle, his mother and Alfred a young nephew, accompanied the robust Detroitier. Henry paid a three day visit to our summer colony of Southampton, and of course a breezing call to our editor was also included in his itinerary.

Mr. Philip Borg of 331 Fourth Avenue, City, and some friends experienced a rather sharp auto collision in Brooklyn on August 10, which landed two of the party in Kings County hospital. Frank Laudi and his party were involved in another auto fracas, this was a four car meet at the Catskills but all concerned escaped injury.

FIFTY PAIR OF SHOES TO THE MALTA WAR RELIEF FUND

Mr. Charles Bartolo, proprietor of the Family Shoe Store of 2535 MacDonald Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., has donated fifty pairs of shoes to the Malta War Relief Fund. Arrangements are under way to have the shoes sent to Malta.

The Committee of the Malta War Relief Fund deeply appreciates the generous gift of Mr. Bartolo.

WE'RE HAVING A HIGH OLD TIME IN MALTA

Only a little island this, but it's another Britain.

Mussolini has selected us to be the most-bombed spot in the Empire, but won't wear us out.

Since June 10, when Italy came into the war, we've had close to one hundred and fifty raids.

Again and again they come, and we look into the blue Mediterranean skies. "The Wops again!" we say. That's all

We are not afraid of the Wops. All buzz and no sting.

If we are the most bombed part of the Empire, we have equally the smallest casualty list in proportion.

Runs to less than three deaths for every two raids.

The difficulties about Malta from Musso's point of view are many. It is not an easy target for a bomber.

WORRIES FOR THE WOPS

Rather larger than the Isle of Wight, it looks just like a big pancake when viewed from 20,000 feet in the air. A fast plane could easily miss it with its bombs.

Not much chance of getting a bull's-eye on the dockyard with its thousands of workers.

Worry number two for the Wops is the character of its people.

When Malta was besieged in the middle ages for four months there were no non-combatants. The women served the guns, peasants fought alongside noblemen, children carried the munitions of war.

Today the spirit is just the same.

The Royal Maltese Artillery are the terror of the Wops. All natives, speaking the old language of the Phoenicians, they have been brought to a high state of efficiency.

Devout Catholics, they hate Fascism, and have made this a holy war. Before they fire they put the picture of their patron saint on the breach of the gun, and pray - "Help us to lay well and truly."

Backing them up are British aircraft from the seaplane base and aerodrome. A single R. A. F. plane against a bunch of Wops reminds you of a fight between Jimmy Wilde and Carnera. With Carnera going down for the count every time.

So it's mostly a case of cut-and-run with the Italian pilots.

Every home in Malta is a natural shelter.

ROOFS AS GRANDSTANDS

Built on rock, the houses of Valletta are all of Maltese limestone. Flat roofs give town an Eastern look.

(Continued on page four)



CALLEIA'S NEW PICTURE

Joseph Calleia and Paul Lukas are now hard at work on Paramount's newest picture "DEAD ON ARRIVAL."

WEDDINGS

Bailey - Cumbo

Miss Marion Bailey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Bailey, of 14225 Montrose Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, and Mr. Herbert Cumbo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emm Cumbo, of 14362 Robson Avenue, Detroit were married on August 10th at St. Mary's Church, Detroit.

The newlyweds motored to California where they spent their honeymoon.

Campbell - Chircop

Miss Marion Campbell and Mr. Charles Chircop, both of Detroit, were wed on August 17, in St. Paul's Maltese Church.

Farrugia - Taliana

Miss Angeline Farrugia and Mr. Charles Taliana, both of Detroit, were married at the same Church on August 24.

MALTAMERICA

A daughter, Rose Mary, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Farrugia, of Detroit, Michigan, on July 1.

A daughter, Christine Aloysia, was born on July 26 to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Borg of Detroit, Michigan.

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Sajan of Detroit, announce the arrival of a daughter, Yvonne Joseph on July 26.

A son, Philip Joseph, was born on July 27, to Mr. and Mrs. Philip Camilleri of Detroit, Mich.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mizzi, of New York, on July 9, at the Fifth Avenue Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Manicaro of 891 Dawson Street, New York City, announce the birth of a daughter, on August 26, 1940.

OBITUARIES

Joseph Vassallo, 60, Sliema, Malta, July 26.

Surviving are two daughters, Mary and Mrs. E. Galea of Malta, three sons, Edward and Victor of Malta and Arthur of New York City, four brothers, Peter of Cairo, Egypt, Philip of London, Cesarin and George of Ssaford, L. I., N. Y., and three sisters, Marie of London, Sister Pancrazia of Rome, and Mother Agnes of Florence, Italy.

OTHER DEATHS

Mrs. Virginia Vella, beloved wife of Alfred, Detroit Mich.

Mrs. Caroline Lauron, beloved wife of Joseph, Detroit, Mich.

Joseph Vella Camilleri, 44, on August 15, Detroit, Mich.



GOOD WORK

The positive response of our far-flung communities here to the distress call from Malta is one that deserves much favorable comment.

Ever since June 10, the day that Il Duce said "Yes Sir" to Hitler and started to fuel his aircraft and load his bombers with death and destruction aimed at Malta, we have been thinking of how great the suffering of our brothers in tiny Malta must be, and that they surely require all the help they can get from all Maltese living outside of Malta.

We publish below a telegram sent to H. B. M. Consul General of New York by the Governor of Malta.

"A Relief Fund has been open in Malta for the relief of a number of people who have had to be evacuated from dangerous area and of people who have been rendered destitute by the war. Would be grateful if you could assist by inviting Maltese in your area to Contribute to the Fund."
Malta, August 10, 1940

A similar cable was received by the British Consul of Detroit and was published in the Detroit Free Press for the notice of our community there.

Committees were formed in the three major Maltese communities in the United States to work for this worthy cause. The Committees are as follows:

Robert Manduca, Chairman, Louis Barlow, Treasurer, William Demarco, Secretary, with headquarters at 246 Eighth Avenue, New York City.

Rev. M. Z. Cefai, D. D., Chairman, Vincent J. Giorgio, Treasurer, John Gatt, Secretary, with headquarters at 2219 Fourth Street, Detroit, Michigan.

The Detroit Committee cabled \$2,500 to Malta on August 15.

We have been unable to secure the correct names of the Chairman and Secretary of the San Francisco, Cal., committee, whose headquarters is at 1789 Oakdale Avenue, however, Mr. Charles Bajada, the Treasurer, writes that they cabled \$1,200 to Malta early in August.

The committees deserve the praise of all the Maltese people. The results of the onerous and arduous task these committees have been charged with are viewed with great satisfaction. To these Committees we say without reserve "Good work."

19th ANNUAL PARISH EXCURSION PROFITS GO TO MALTA RELIEF FUND

The 19th Annual Parish Excursion to Bob-Lo-Park held by our Detroit Community on August 10, was a real social and financial Success.

The weather was ideal and the 800 people who attended the annual outing enjoyed all the games arranged by the committee in charge.

The Profits from the excursion went to the Malta War Relief Society's Fund.

CHURCH STUDENTS HELP RELIEF FUND

London, August 8—Sunday school children at the Maybank Baptist Church, of Independence, Mo., sent a check for \$23.21 to the Allied Relief fund, which gave five X-ray apparatuses valued at \$40 000 each to Britain a fortnight ago.

The Sunday school check bore instructions the money should be spent to buy milk for refugee children.

Bertram N. Cruger, representative of the Allied Fund in London, said that the money would be used to purchase milk for children evacuated from Malta.

K. OF M. JUNIOR CORPS



Joseph Ciappara, Jr. Vice-Commander of the Knights of Malta Post 129 and Master Sacco, mascot of the Post and the idol of the Canadian Legion.

Jr. Vice-Commander, Joseph Ciappara has been assigned the task to form a Junior Corps of the Knights of Malta Post 129.

Vice-Commander Ciappara has succeeded in enrolling a number of Maltese youths in the Corps.

A committee was initiated and the Jr. Corps is functioning very well. To the energetic Vice-Commander we say "Well Done."

3,000 LIVE IN GIANT SHELTER MALTA LEADING EMPIRE

(Continued from page one)

found a woman hanging out her laundry as though she had lived there all her life. A neighbor brushed past her with a shopping basket, on the way to market.

Nearby, people who have shut up their shops were carrying on trade in booths, selling cooked meals and all kinds of household necessities. One woman was actually selling eggs from her own hens. They certainly built well those old Knights of Malta, who honey-combed Valletta with a vast system of underground chambers.

The world's biggest bomb could not penetrate to these ready-made shelters, some of which are 80 feet below the surface.

During my second raid here two 500 lb. bombs crashed only five yards from the entrance of the cellar where I was taking refuge. The noise and the blast were terrific, but the shelter was not damaged and no one was hurt.

LEADING EMPIRE

Malta deserves a special medal for the way it is standing up to Mussolini's air terror. There has been a certain amount of evacuation from the towns, but it is difficult to speak of evacuation in such a tiny island, which is one of the most thickly populated places in the world.

Damage and casualties are inevitable, especially when the raiders scatter their bombs wildly from tremendous height.

But the calm and cheerfulness everywhere are inspiring.

Malta is leading the Empire in civilian resistance to the air-raiders.

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NUNCIO AT HAVANA

(Continued from page one)

was born on the Island of Malta and that he later became a naturalized citizen of United States, one is puzzled by his extraordinary accent which occasionally shows surprising touches of the Irish brogue. The Archbishop insists that this was acquired through his association with an Irish seminarian at the Capranica Seminary in Rome and through studies at a college of the English Jesuits.

His Excellency speaks Spanish and Arabic. The latter language is a valuable aid to him in view of some 6,000 Syrians living in Cuba.

ONCE NEW YORK PASTOR

The Archbishop went to the Philippines immediately following ordination and was secretary to the Apostolic Delegate in Manila. Subsequently he was a pastor in Brooklyn (of St. Lucy's Church, Kent street). Part of the present World Fair grounds is within the confines of his old parish. Then came service as a World War Chaplain, and a period as Secretary to His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia. In 1921, he was named Bishop of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and while holding that office served in 1925 as Apostolic Visitor to Guatemala.

In 1926, he was named Apostolic Delegate to the Antilles, a newly-created post. In the turbulent days of the same year he was named Apostolic Delegate to Mexico, but was expelled from that country by President Calles. He is the first Papal Nuncio to Cuba.

WERE HAVING A HIGH TIME

(Continued from page two)

Sometimes it is a ticklish job for air-arid wardens to coax the people down from these flat roofs. They make wonderful grandstands for a view of the scrapping.

Sensible people go indoors and close the green shutters, which every house has to keep out the heat. Or they go down to cellars, built in the days of the Knights of Malta.

Even if the air raids get worse we don't fear casualties. The soft rock of Valletta is riddled with catacombs. There are also underground vaults built by the Grand Masters of the island.

So we sit in the open-air cafes in the sun, drink our morning coffee or our beer--there are two breweries on the island--while life goes on in and around Strada Reale--our main street.

In the marvelous harbour, two miles in length, hundreds of British workers are doing their day's darg without fear or fret.

What do we care for the Wops?

SEND YOUR CHILDREN TO A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

(Continued from page two)

schools; and as for the children, the results of competitive tests held from time to time that are open to pupils of all schools indicate very often that Catholic school methods excel.

As for social contacts, there is a wholesome abundance of that in the Catholic schools. It does not indeed extend to as wide a cross-section of the community as one will find in the state institutions. It is not desirable that it should do so; for Catholic children have nothing to learn, but much to lose, through contact with boys and girls who have no moral and spiritual training and who come from non-religious homes.

Occasionally one hears the remark: "I send my children regularly to the Sunday-school class. Isn't that enough religious instruction for them?"

My answer is that the Sunday-school class is a poor substitute for the Catholic school. Training in the all-important matter of religion must be a daily feature in the lives of children so as to mold their characters and build up their resistance for the great battles of life. Soldiers of the state could not be properly trained on a weekly drill of half an hour. The soldiers of Christ need more intensive training than the soldiers of the state, for their battles begin earlier and last as long as life itself.

Others say they cannot afford the expense of the Catholics who have limited incomes (and that takes in most of them) find that it entails sacrifice to make use of the parish school facilities. But it is a sacrifice that is worth while and one that will bring returns that are beyond human words. They will discover a part of the value of the sacrifice when in later years they behold their children, grown clean and wholesome manhood and womanhood, taking their place in the ranks of the best citizens of their community.

Yes, dear Catholic parents, give serious thought to these matters. Your children are entrusted to your care by the Omnipotent Creator. You will have to give a personal account to Him as to how you discharged your trust.

Fr. O. S. Grech, O. C.

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STRICKLAND DIES,

(Continued from page two)

sin for Catholics to vote for Lord Strickland's party in the next election. The election was postponed, but in May, 1930, a fanatic attempted unsuccessfully to assassinate Lord Strickland.

Charges and counter-charges were freely exchanged, until Lord Strickland went to London to state his case to the British Cabinet. A commission of inquiry was appointed. It issued a report in February, 1932, stating that Lord Strickland's aggressive manner had aroused animosity among those attacked and embittered the whole island. Its proposals of restoration of Parliamentary government and an early election were adopted by the British government.

On June 3, 1932, Lord Strickland apologized to the Vatican, saying that "in defending himself against this political opponent he clashed with the Church and her authority and used words that should be withdrawn, and which he does, in fact, withdraw, for which he humbly and unreservedly asked pardon." The Maltese bishops, in a joint letter, announced that "the Holy Father, being always ready to welcome strayed children who show they are sincerely sorry, has accepted the apology of Lord Strickland."

Lord Strickland was born in Malta, May 24, 1861, the son of Capt. Walter Strickland, of the Royal Navy, and Louisa Bonici. In the Maltese nobility he was Count della Catena. He studied at Oscott College, Birmingham, and was graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge University with honors in law in 1887.

One year before his graduation he was elected to the Maltese Council of Government, and a year after his graduation he was named Assistant Secretary of Malta. In 1889 he became Chief Secretary, and soon he was a major in the Royal Malta Regiment and president of the Committee of Privileges. He was knighted in 1897.

From 1902 until 1904 he was Governor of the Leeward Islands, and from 1904 until 1909 he was Governor of Tasmania. He then served successive four-year terms as Governor of Western Australia, Norfolk Island and New South Wales.

Elected to the Malta Legislative Assembly in 1921, he became a leader of the Constitutional party. He was elected to Parliament as a Conservative from Lancaster in 1924. His presence in the two Legislatures aroused comment in England as well as Malta, but in August, 1927, he was asked to form a government when the Mifsud Ministry resigned.