It is with deep regret that we notify the passing of Surgeon-Captain Mario Sant Cassia, Ph.C., MD, on Thursday, September 22, 2016, aged 92, residing at Wardija, St Paul’s Bay, Malta, ex-3LAA Regiment, Royal Malta Artillery, Territorial Army.

He leaves to mourn his great loss, his loving, devoted and caring wife Melina née Boffa, his cherished children Paul and his wife Kristina, Suzanne and her husband Mario, Peter and his wife Marie Louise, and Joanna and her husband Joseph, his beloved grandchildren Simon, Mark, Maria, Chiara, Andrea and Christian, other relatives and friends, the Wardija community, and his carers Florante and Jennyvie Bartolome.
Mario with his charming wife Melina, daughter of the late Sir Paul Boffa.
Surgeon-Captain Mario Sant Cassia was 3rd LAA Regiment RMA(T) Medical Officer from 1956 to 1959. Although Mario was not a Surgeon per se, the official military rank for a doctor in the Army is “Surgeon-Captain”. Mario was commissioned Surgeon-Captain, Royal Malta Artillery (T) on 28 October 1956, almost 60 years to the day!

His medical advice was always abundant, to all who crossed his paths. He had a knack to combine medicine with common sense and practical hints. He belonged to a generation of medical doctors who focused on clinical observation. Earlier in his life, he contributed immensely to public health in Malta, through a well-planned programme of inoculation of school children, which he implemented in person together with a small team of medical doctors and nurses. A few weeks ago he described his efforts in the 1950s and 1960s, to eradicate polio in Malta and Gozo. One could observe a note of satisfaction since his efforts were successful.

Mario with son Peter
Mario with daughter Suzanne.
During the late 1950s, Mario shared an RMA medical clinic at Fort St. Elmo. In the adjoining office were stored the 3LAA Regiment medical records, as well as other WWII documents signed by Surgeon Lieutenant V. Tabone, RMA, the very same Censu Tabone who later became the President of Malta.
Subject: War Diary - April, 1940

Number: Med.02

SECRET

D.D.M.S. Castille

14th April. 7th A.A. Bty, R.M. A. moved away from Lower St. Elmo.

18th April. Two Medical M.A.C's added to Med. Insp. Room personnel.

29th April. 5th A.A. Bty, R.M. A. concentrated at Lower St. Elmo with a view to proceeding overseas shortly. All officers and men are being examined as to fitness to proceed.

Inoculation and vaccination records are being carefully scrutinised and action is being taken accordingly.

All men under my medical charge are being re-graded by Categories according to A. O. I. No. 184 of 1940.

During the last days recruiting for 2nd K.O.M.R. has been more brisk than usual.

Upper St. Elmo, Malta
1st May, 1940

Surgeon-Lieutenant
R.M.A.

Officer in Aid Post St. Elmo.

WWII medical document signed by Surgeon Lieutenant V. Tabone
SECRET.

Subject: War Diary - May, 1940.
Number: MEN/22.

D.D.M.S.

7.5.40 - 5th. A.A. Rty. R.M.A. proceeds on Active Service overseas. All Officers and men have been carefully examined prior to embarkation, and those who were found fit were given the necessary inoculations and vaccinations. Two men had to be sent to Hospital and were consequently unable to leave.

Recruiting has been very brisk this month both for the R.M.A. and K.O.M.R. 650 were examined and 308 were found fit.

25.5.40. I accompanied the Adjutant 1st.Hy/Regt. R.M.A. and a party of men to Gozo for the purpose of recruiting for the R.M.A. 31 men were examined and 16 were found fit.

Upper St. Elmo, Malta
1st June, 1940.

Surgeon Lieut.
Royal Malta Artillery.

WWII medical document signed by Surgeon Lieutenant V. Tabone
This photo of Papa was taken 27 years ago today. Thank you Papa, for being there to take myself and Suzanne up the Cathedral aisle.

What irony, only last Saturday, did we enter the Cathedral, taking you up the aisle for your funeral. Thank you Pa, from all of us.

Joanna X

1st October, 2016
Capt. Mario Sant Cassia now rests in peace in a quiet place in the Carmelite Church Crypt, Mdina. His children are ever so fortunate that he is close to them as they all reside in Mdina, yet it feels bittersweet, so close and yet so far.
Acknowledgements

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Mario Felice
Lt. Col. Herbert C. Abela, MBE

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