

The Civil Defence in Detroit (Mi.) USA and Gozitan William Pace

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The Civil Defence in Detroit

It is said that during World War I (28 July 1914 – 11 November 1918), President Roosevelt was deeply concerned about the safety of the Americans. He instructed the Government to establish a Council of National Defence to help co-ordinate resources for national defence and stimulate public morale. State and local communities set up their own defence councils even though the volunteer groups did not get involved in actual civilian defence. In those years the aviation industry was still in its infancy and military attacks from other countries could not reach America. However, in the 1940s, with the outbreak of World War II, the situation was different.

On 20 May 1941, in fact, in the United States, the Office of Civilian Defence [OCD] was set up.¹ It was conceived as a federal emergency war agency,² and had to co-ordinate state and federal measures for the protection of the civilians in case of war emergency. It was created to protect the general population in the event of an attack, keep up public morale if the United States were to enter the war in Europe, and involve civilian volunteers in the country's defence. It had two branches which supervised protective functions such as blackouts and special fire protection. Besides, it was responsible for child care, health, housing, and transportation. It also embraced a Civil Air Patrol.

The OCD was divided into nine regional offices, each with a salaried regional director at the helm. Under each regional director there were unpaid volunteer state directors, county and city directors, and block leaders. Each block was headed by a block captain whose duties were to enrol volunteers for service as air wardens, auxiliary firemen and police, drivers, nurses, and messengers.

It is doubtful whether the OCD was an effective organisation, and it was criticised by the media in this regard. It was never able to act upon any of its plans. However, it did establish important civil defence measures, including sandbag stockpiling, which later proved useful for natural disasters.

The agency was terminated on 4 June 1945.³

A Maltese in the OCD

Among the volunteers in the Detroit Metropolitan Area Office of Civilian Defence there was an American naturalised citizen, born in Malta – William Pace. I did not trace if there were any more volunteers in the same or other branches of the American Civil Defence who were of Maltese origin. Besides, the interest of the present author focused on this one William Pace.

Why William Pace?

In the midst of the many old papers in the possession of the present author, which he keeps and treasures with nostalgia, there are three documents and an Identity Card which once belonged to a Mr William Pace. Together with the Identity Card, the documents consist of two original certificates and an original letter typed on an A4 sheet of paper, addressed to Mr William Pace, then of Plum Street, Detroit, Michigan, USA.

The first document is a certificate, signed by Edward J. Jeffries Jr.,⁴ Coordinator of the Detroit Metropolitan Area, which certifies that William Pace 'has satisfactorily completed the Required Courses of Training prescribed by the Civilian Defence Institute' and was thereby appointed 'Air

¹ This information was collected from <http://www.michigancivildefense.com/index.html> (visited on 14.ii.2011).

² Executive Order 8757.

³ Executive Order 9562.

⁴ Edward Jeffries – a Republican – was the 64th Mayor of Detroit. He served between 2 January 1940 and 5 January 1948. In 1940, Jeffries moved to the mayor's office, winning four consecutive terms before losing to Eugene Van Antwerp in 1947. Jeffries was elected once more to serve on the City Council, beginning in 1950, but died in office shortly thereafter.



Certificate which shows that William Pace has satisfactorily completed the required training

Raid Warden'. This meant that Pace was entitled to wear the Official Emblem and Insignia created by the authority of the Michigan Council of Defence. The Certificate is dated 25 February 1943.⁵

Another Certificate

William Pace seems to have taken a very active part in the Civilian Defence activities. The Office of the Director of Civilian Defence of the State of Michigan issued him a 'Certificate of Award' for '500 hours service as a volunteer in Civilian Defence activities which materially assisted in the prosecution of the War (World War II)'.



Certificate – Awarded to William Pace for his 500 hours of service in the Civil Defence

The certificate was signed, again, by Edward J. Jeffries Jr., Mayor of Detroit and chairman of the City of Detroit Defence Council, by the Director of Civilian Defence,⁶ and by Harry F. Kelly, Governor.⁷ It is dated 10 April 1944.⁸



Harry F. Kelly, Governor of Detroit

Receipt of Certificate

On 2 June 1944, the 21 Area Warden, Mr E.J. Hudson sent Mr Pace a letter – with letterhead 'Detroit Metropolitan Area – Air Raid Warden Division' – in which the former informed the latter (Mr Pace) that the 'attractive and appropriate Certificate of Recognition' for his (Pace's) contribution of time and effort to the Air Raid Warden Service has reached his (Hudson's) office and may be collected personally from a certain Ms Fallows,⁹ in the Area Headquarters Office, in

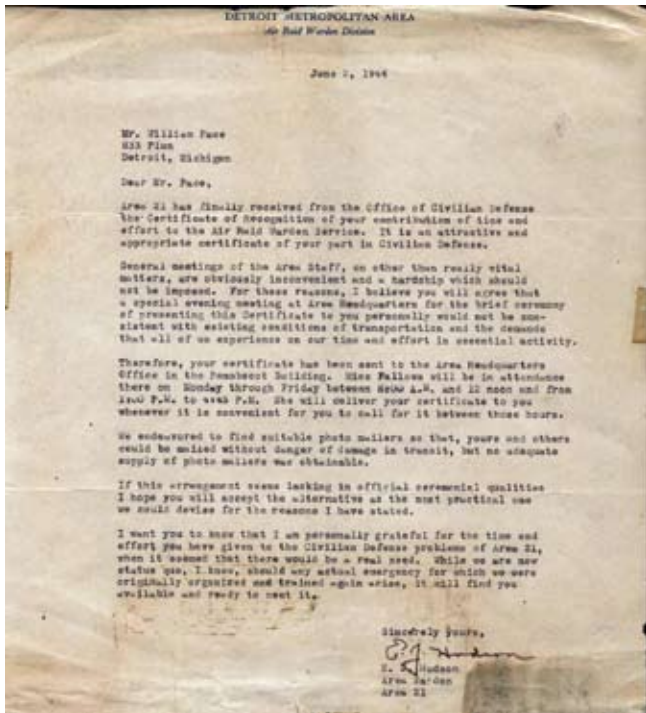
⁵ See relative certificate in picture top left above.

⁶ The name cannot be read well.

⁷ Harry F. Kelly (1895–1971), of Detroit; Secretary of State, 1939–42, Governor, 1943–46. Cf. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Harry_F._Kelly.jpg (visited on 14.ii.2011).

⁸ See relative certificate in picture bottom left above.

⁹ No first name is given.



Letter sent to William Pace instructing him how to be given his '500 hour service' certificate

Penobscot Building,¹⁰ between 8.00 a.m. and 12.00 noon, or between 1.00 p.m. and 4.45 p.m., any day between Monday and Friday, at his convenience. In the letter, Hudson explained that 'General meetings of the Area Staff, on other than really vital matters, are obviously inconvenient and a hardship which should not be imposed. For these reasons, I [Hudson] believe you [Pace] will agree that a special evening meeting at Area Headquarters for the brief ceremony of presenting this Certificate to you personally would not be consistent with existing conditions of transportation and the demands that all of us experience on our time and effort in essential activity.'

Mr Hudson expressed personal gratitude for the 'time and effort you [Pace] have given to the Civilian Defence problems of Area 21'.

Pace picked up this second certificate, which he seems to have treasured, together with the first one, the letter he received from Hudson, and the Identity Card he was given as Post Warden, in the Office of Civilian Defence, Air Raid Protection Service,



Penobscot Building

of the city of Detroit. He affixed both certificates on black cardboard – one above the other – and seems to have hung them somewhere at his home. He attached the ID card with adhesive tape to the bottom of the second certificate. He stuck the letter by Hudson to the back of the black cardboard, with adhesive tape, too.¹¹

Pace's ID card number as member of the Civilian Defence Office was numbered 58342, and shows that he was qualified and serving in Area 21, Zone



The Civil Defence membership ID card of William Pace

¹⁰ The Greater Penobscot Building, commonly known as the Penobscot Building, is a skyscraper and class-A office building in downtown Detroit, Michigan, with 47 stories and rising 566 feet (172.3 m). The building is located in the heart of the Detroit Financial District. Today, the Penobscot is a hub for the city's wireless Internet zone and fibre-optic network. Cf. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penobscot_Building#Origin_of_the_name (visited on 22.ii.2011).

¹¹ This is the state in which the certificates, letter, and Civilian Defence ID card found their way in possession of the present author.

1, Sector A, Post 8. Besides the signature of Mr Pace, on the ID card there is also that of Edward J. Jeffries Jr.¹²

Research

With this information the present author embarked on an assiduous task of searching the Ellis Island records, and the 1920, 1930, and 1940 American Censuses records, for William Pace.

At that time – about eight years ago – in the records of immigrants/passengers who had passed through Ellis Islands there were at least 3421 persons with last name ‘Pace’; most of them were of Italian origin. Quite a few were Maltese.¹³

Different Abodes

In the 1920 fourteenth census of the population of the United States,¹⁴ William Pace is registered as male, of white colour, living at no. 167, Elizabeth Street – East, in Detroit, Michigan, a lodger with another 15 people. Of these, eight were born in Malta and had applied to be naturalised as American Citizens, as William Pace did. These were:

1. Head, Charles Mizzi (M[arried]), (58 years old), (born in Malta); [Arrived in the USA on 19 February 1910, to meet with his son Eugenio who had already been in the USA, before. He travelled on the ship S.S. Principe di Piemonte which left Naples on 4 February 1910].¹⁵
2. Wife, Antonia Mizzi (M), (50), (born in Malta);
3. Son, Eugenio Mizzi (S[ingle]), (33), (born in Malta); [Eugenio had been in the USA since he was 20 years old, when he arrived in New York on 27 June 1907, on S.S. Lazio which sailed from Naples on 11 June 1907].¹⁶

4. Son, Lorenzo Mizzi (M), (28), (born in Egypt);
5. Daughter-in-law, Marie Frances Mizzi (M), (27), (born in Tennessee);
6. Daughter-in-law, Mary Mizzi (Widow), (32), (born in Malta);
7. Sister-in-law, Carmela Said (S), (54), (born in Malta);
8. Grand-daughter, Mari Antonia Said (S), (6), (born in Michigan);
9. Grand-son, Charles John Said (S), (5), (born in Michigan);
10. Grand-son, Edgar Anthony (S), (36/12), (born in Michigan);
11. Grand-son, Eugene Emmanuel (17/2), (born in Michigan);
12. Lodger, Alfred Pardi (S), (37), (born in Malta);
13. Lodger, Arthur Pardi (M), (35), (born in Malta);
14. Lodger, Joseph Pace (M), (34), (born in Malta);
15. Lodger, William Pace (S), (22), (born in Malta); and
16. Lodger, Anthony Pace (S), (22), (born in Malta).

William Pace in the 1920 American Census

¹² See picture of ID card, bottom right, on previous page.

¹³ Cf. <http://www.ellisland.org/search/matchMore.asp?MID=14883756830908784000&LNM=PACE&PLNM=PACE&kind=exact&offset=0&dwpdone=1>.

¹⁴ ‘Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census – Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920 Population’, State of Michigan, County of Wayne, Detroit, Supervisor’s District No. 145, Enumeration District No. 93, enumerated on 8 January 1920, Sheet No. 13 B.

¹⁵ Cf. http://www.ellisland.org/search/shipManifest.asp?MID=14883756830908784000&LNM=MIZZI&PLNM=MIZZI&last_kind=0&RF=105&pID=101273050217&lookup=101273050217&show=%5C%5C192%2E168%2E100%2E11%5Cimages%5CT715%2D1413%5CT715%2D14130719%2ETIF&origFN=%5C%5C192%2E168%2E100%2E11%5Cimages%5CT715%2D1413%5CT715%2D14130720%2ETIF (visited on 20.iv.2011).

¹⁶ Cf. http://www.ellisland.org/search/shipManifest.asp?MID=14883756830908784000&FNM=EUGENIO&LNM=MIZZI&PLNM=MIZZI&CGD=M&bSYR=1886&bEYR=1888&first_kind=1&last_kind=0&RF=1&pID=102013110134&lookup=102013110134&show=%5C%5C192%2E168%2E100%2E11%5Cimages%5CT715%2D0931%5CT715%2D09310234%2ETIF&origFN=%5C%5C192%2E168%2E100%2E11%5Cimages%5CT715%2D0931%5CT715%2D09310234%2ETIF (visited on 20.iv.2011).

In the same census, William is registered as aged 22,¹⁷ with both of his parents Maltese, was 'single', migrated to the USA in 1919, was waiting for naturalisation,¹⁸ could read and write, and was employed as 'machinist' in an auto-factory (in Detroit).¹⁹

Of the people living in the same building, there were another two men whose surname was also Pace – Joseph and Anthony. Their common surname and their ages, together with the fact that they were staying in the same 'house', gave me the intuition that the three could be related.

The Other Two Paces

In the same 1920 census, Joseph,²⁰ the eldest, was registered as aged 35, was 'married', emigrated to the USA in 1916, was awaiting naturalisation, and was employed as a 'machinist' with an auto-factory too.²¹ Although he was recorded as being married, his wife does not feature in the Census. However, one should keep in mind that it was the custom that many Maltese and Gozitan married men emigrated alone and sent money to their family at home, until a decision either to make their wife join them when they settle down, or return back home in Malta when they would have made a small fortune.

In the same census, in 1920, Anthony is registered as having been 22 years old, was 'single', emigrated to the USA in 1919 – most probably together with William – had applied for naturalisation that same year, and was employed also as 'machinist' with an auto-factory.²²

All three – Joseph, Anthony and William may have

been employed with the same car makers, probably General Motors Corporation where several Maltese were employed.

Ten years later, in the 1930 fifteenth census of the population of the United States²³ William Pace is registered as living at no. 541,²⁴ Elizabeth Street – East, in Detroit, Michigan, again as a lodger, this time together with just nine other people.

These were:

1. Head, Charlie Mizzi (74 years old), (born in Malta);
2. Wife, – H. Mary A. Mizzi (66), (born in Malta);
3. Son, Eugenio Mizzi (42), single, (born in Malta);
4. Lodger, Niche Kundasar, (40), single, (born in Greece);
5. Lodger, Mustari (?) Karamen, (52), single, (born in Arabia);
6. Lodger, William C. White (68), widower, (born in Germany);
7. Lodger, George Sofieto (51), married, (born in Greece);
8. Lodger, William Pace (34), single, (born in Malta);
9. Lodger, George Karas (47), single, (born in Greece); and
10. Lodger, Peter Andrea (47), single, (born in Greece).

In this census William Pace's age is shown as being 34 years old – a figure which is 'two' years older than that shown ten years earlier. This was in fact the correct age of Pace who, this time, is shown as employed with an auto-factory, as a 'painter', no

¹⁷ This age is mistaken; William Pace was actually 24/25 years old.

¹⁸ In the column next to year of arrival, a 'PA' was inserted. This abbreviation indicates that Pace had submitted his declaration of intention – the first step of the naturalisation process. This 'Pa' appears again in the 1930 census. Cf. 'Detroit City, Wayne County, Michigan, Enumeration District 82-68, Sheet 4B, Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, National Archives Microfilm Publication T626, roll 1034, Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29, National Archives Building, Washington, D.C.'

¹⁹ Cf. 'Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census – Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920 Population'.

²⁰ Joseph was baptised on 1 December 1884. Cf. 'Die 1 Dicembris 1884, Ego Archip.r Felix Refalo baptizavi infantem heri natum ex Paolo Pace, et Maria Antonia Calleja cog. Cui impositum est nomen Ioseph, Vincentius, Georgius. Patr. Georgius Portelli gno. Salvatoris et Gратиella, ejus mater.' Liber Baptizatorum in Ecc. Parr.li S. Georgii M., Vol. 12 (1879-1892), p. 219. He is however registered as having been born on 12 December 1884, in Act 592/1884, in the Public Registry of Gozo.

²¹ Cf. 'Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census – Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920 Population'.

²² Cf. 'Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census – Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920 Population' – Population Schedule', State of Michigan, County of Wayne, 3rd Precinct, Detroit City, Supervisor's District No. 21, Enumeration District No. 21, enumerated on 14 May 1930, Sheet No. 4 B.

²³ 'Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census – Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1930 – Population Schedule', State of Michigan, County of Wayne, 3rd Precinct, Detroit City, Supervisor's District No. 21, Enumeration District No. 21, enumerated on 14 May 1930, Sheet No. 4 B.

²⁴ Most probably this is the same abode where William Pace lived in 1920; the house/flat number was changed. Some of the people who lived at 167, in 1920, were still living at 541, together with William Pace, in Elizabeth Street – East, in Detroit, Michigan.

William Pace in the 1930 American Census

more as a ‘mechanist’. Pace was also identified as being still ‘single’. This is perhaps why he could afford to enrol in the voluntary service of the Civil Defence, an involvement which required him to participate in his after work free time.

Together with him, only three other Maltese-born, from those of the 1920 census, still dwelt in the same abode, while both of his fellow lodgers Joseph Pace and Anthony Pace do not appear at all. One may presume they may have returned to Malta.

In the USA only William stayed; he was single and, eventually, as we learn later on, died single.

The Maltese-born citizens living in the same abode are the same Head of the family Charlie Mizzi (now 74 years old), his wife now registered as Mary A. (aged 66), and their son Eugenio (aged 42)²⁵ who was still single. The Mizzis seems to have been the ‘renting’ family, back in 1920, too.

Who were the Paces?

As already stated, the fact that Joseph, Anthony, and William had the same surname, were living in the same residence, were working (perhaps) in the same

car-factory, together with their (next to each other’s) ages led the present author to sense a relationship; they could have been possibly brothers, or at least were blood related.

Moreover, the fact that the documents once owned by William Pace were in possession of the present author’s father, indicated the possibility that William may have had some connection with Gozo.

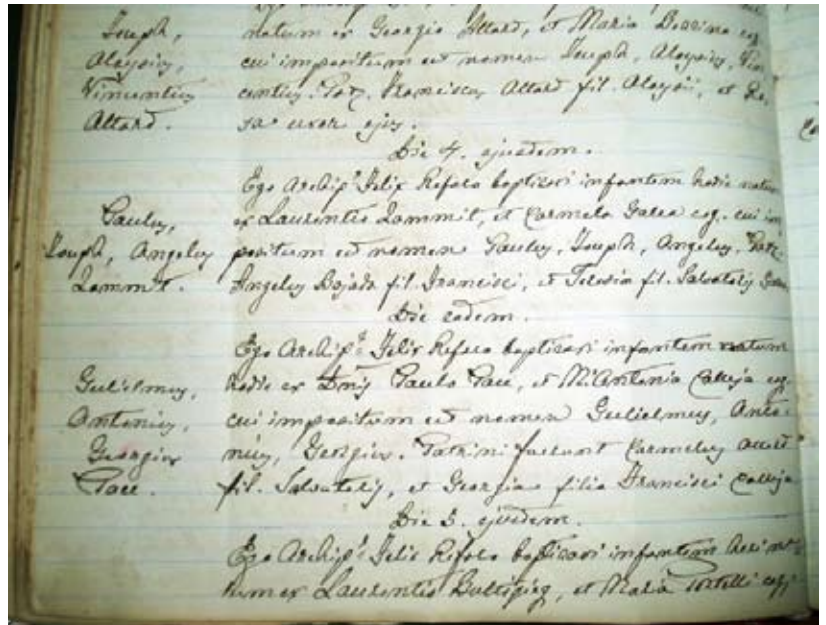
With these conjectures in mind, and the approximate years of birth of the three Paces, the present author started research in both of the Malta and Gozo Public Registry Offices. The names did not feature in the registry of people born in the island of Malta. However, a diligent employee²⁶ in the Gozo Public Registry succeeded to trace all three – born in Gozo – and provided the present author with their registry ‘acts’.

At this point in time all that was known to the present author was that three Pace brothers – a Joseph, an Anthony, and a William – were definitely born in Gozo.

The present author asked Mr Francesco Pio Attard, a nephew of his, to check for these names – now with definite relative dates of birth – in the register

²⁵ As may be observed from a comparative study of the ages of the same people featuring in the 1920 and 1930 censuses, there are some discrepancies in the ages given.
²⁶ Ms Margaret Gatt, from Victoria, Gozo.

Extract from the Book of Baptisms where the baptism of Gulgielmo Pace was registered on 4 November 1895



of baptisms performed in St George’s (Basilica) Parish church, in Victoria, Gozo.

The Three Brothers

There were three men, Joseph, Anthony, and William Pace, who were truly brothers. This is what the present author thought and this is the end result of this research. They came from Victoria, Gozo, Malta:

a) Joseph – the eldest among the three – was born on 30 November 1884 and given the names Ioseph, Vincentius, Georgius at baptism, which took place at St George’s parish church, in Victoria, Gozo, on 1 December 1884.²⁷ He was registered ‘Giuseppe’ in the Gozo Public Registry.²⁸ At the age of 28 he married Carmela, daughter of Frangisk Mejlak and Dolora Debono, in the Cathedral church of Gozo, on 11 August 1912.²⁹

b) Antonio, born on 4 December 1888,³⁰ was given the names Antonius, Aloysius, Iosepho, at baptism, which took place at St George’s parish church, in Victoria, Gozo, on the same day he was born, 4 December 1888.³¹ At the age of 22, he married

Maria, daughter of Mikiel Mercieca and M’Rosa Portelli, in the Conventual Franciscan church, in Victoria, Gozo, on 4 November 1910.³²

c) Gulielmo, born on 4 July 1895,³³ was given the names Gulielmus, Antonius, Georgius, at baptism, which took place at St George’s parish church, in Victoria, Gozo, on the same day he was born, 4 July 1895.³⁴ Nowhere in the register of baptisms are there notes about him having ever married.

These three men were the sons of Paolo – a school master – and Maria Antonia née Calleja (housewife), born in Victoria, Gozo (Malta), too.³⁵ However, Anthony Pace who arrived in Ellis Island, aged ‘22’ years,³⁶ on the ship of travel Lafayette

²⁷ Cf. Liber Baptizatorum in Ecc. Parr.li S. Georgii M., Vol. 12 (1879-1892), p. 219.

²⁸ Cf. Act no. 592/1884, Births, Public Registry, Gozo.

²⁹ Joseph’s wife does not feature in the 1920 USA Census for people living in Detroit, Michigan. However cf. ‘Ipse contraxit matrimonium cum Carmela fil. Francisci Mejlak et Dolora Debono cog. in Ecc. Cathed. die 11 Augusti 1912.’ This is a note written down on the same page, beneath the insertion of the name, in the left hand side margin, of Liber Baptizatorum in Ecc. Parr.li S. Georgii M., Vol. 12 (1879-1892), p. 219.

³⁰ Cf. Act no. 610/1888, Births, Public Registry, Gozo.

³¹ Cf. Liber Baptizatorum in Ecc. Parr.li S. Georgii M., Vol. 12 (1879-1892), p. 365.

³² Cf. ‘Ipse contraxit matrimonium cum Maria fil. Michaelis Mercieca et M. Rosa Portelli cog. in Ecc. Minorum Conv. die 4 Novembris 1910.’ Liber Baptizatorum in Ecc. Parr.li S. Georgii M., Vol. 12 (1879-1892), p. 365.

³³ Cf. Act no. 402/1895, Births, Public Registry, Gozo.

³⁴ Cf. Liber Baptizatorum in Ecc. Parr.li S. Georgii M., Vol. 13 (1892-1908), p. 108. In this document, the Archparish priest Felix Refalo states that he baptized the child on the same day he was born.

³⁵ Cf. ‘Gulielmo Pace, act no 402/1895, ... Joseph, and Anthony have the same parents. Their act numbers are 592/1884 and 610/1888 respectively. The parents are Paolo (school master) and Maria Antonia née Calleja (housewife).’ The present author wishes to acknowledge the information provided by Ms Margaret Gatt at the Public Registry in Victoria, Gozo, on this research.

³⁶ In both of the records held for arrivals on Ellis Island and in the USA census for 1920, the age of this Antonio is registered as having been 22, as well. Cf. http://www.ellisland.org/search/passRecord.asp?MID=14883756830908784000&LNM=PACE&PLNM=PACE&last_kind=0&TOWN=null&SHIP=null&RF=3421&pID=603453050820 (visited on 4.iv.2011)

and ‘Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census – Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920 Population’, State of Michigan, County of Wayne, Detroit, Supervisor’s District No. 145, Enumeration District No. 93, enumerated on 8 January 1920, Sheet No. 13 B.

which departed from the port of 'Le Havre', in the north of France, on 17 November 1919, registered as Antonio Pace, was 'single', with ethnicity 'British Italian So. Maltese', and his last place of residence was 'Victoria, Malta', with manifest line number '0024',³⁷ is not the brother of either Joseph or Guglielmo.

Guglielmo Sive William Pace

William Pace was in fact baptized Guglielmo – an Italian name more commonly given rather than the English 'William', during the nineteenth century, especially in traditional Gozo. Guglielmo could have adopted the name William, or the latter name could have been 'bestowed' upon him, when he migrated to the USA in 1919. Likewise, his elder brother's name, Joseph did not need a lot of change to become 'Joseph'.

William Pace arrived in Ellis Island, on 17 November 1919, aged '24' years, on the ship of travel Lafayette – on which was, probably, 'his cousin' Antonio – which departed from the port of 'Le Havre', in the north of France, on 8 November 1919. He was registered as Guglielmo Pace, 'single', with ethnicity 'British, Italian So., Maltese'. His place of 'previous residence was 'Victoria, Malta'.³⁸ His manifest line number was '0022'.³⁹

In the ship's manifest, the name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien (Guglielmo) came were: 'Father – P. Pace – strada Ghain Kaset (for 'Qatet') 2 – Victoria'

and he was registered as having final destination – Canada.⁴⁰ It seems that although his intention was to keep going on to Canada, for some reason, Guglielmo, sive William decided to stay in the USA, and eventually settled in Michigan.

In the 1930 USA Census, William Pace is registered as still having submitted his declaration of intention, the first step of the naturalisation process. A 'Pa' still features in the column related to 'naturalisation' information.⁴¹

The discrepancy between 'brother' Antonio whose actual age in 1920 was 31 and that given in the USA 1920 census for Anthony Pace aged 22 was confusing. A search for another Anthony Pace who, in 1920 was dwelling in the same abode as Joseph and Guglielmo at 167, Elizabeth Street – East, in Detroit, Michigan, had to take place.

The true identity of Anthony Pace, aged 22 years in 1920, was provided by the statistics of arrivals on Ellis Island in 1919.

Another Anthony Pace

Another Anthony Pace arrived on Ellis Island, on 17 November 1919, aged '22' years,⁴² on the ship of travel Lafayette, which departed from the port of 'Le Havre', in the north of France, on 8 November 1919. He was registered as Antonio Pace, was 'single', and had the ethnicity of a 'British Italian So. Maltese'. His last place of residence was 'Victoria, Malta'. His manifest line number was '0024'.⁴³

³⁷ Cf. http://www.ellisland.org/search/passRecord.asp?MID=14883756830908784000&LNM=PACE&PLNM=PACE&last_kind=0&TOWN=null&SHIP=null&RF=3421&pID=603453050820 (visited on 4.iv.2011).

³⁸ Victoria is the capital city of the island of Gozo, smaller sister island of Malta.

³⁹ Cf. http://www.ellisland.org/search/passRecord.asp?MID=14883756830908784000&FNM=GUGLIELMO&LNM=PACE&PLNM=PACE&CGD=M&bSYR=1895&bEYR=1897&first_kind=1&last_kind=0&TOWN=null&SHIP=null&RF=1&pID=603453050818 (visited on 31.iii.2011).

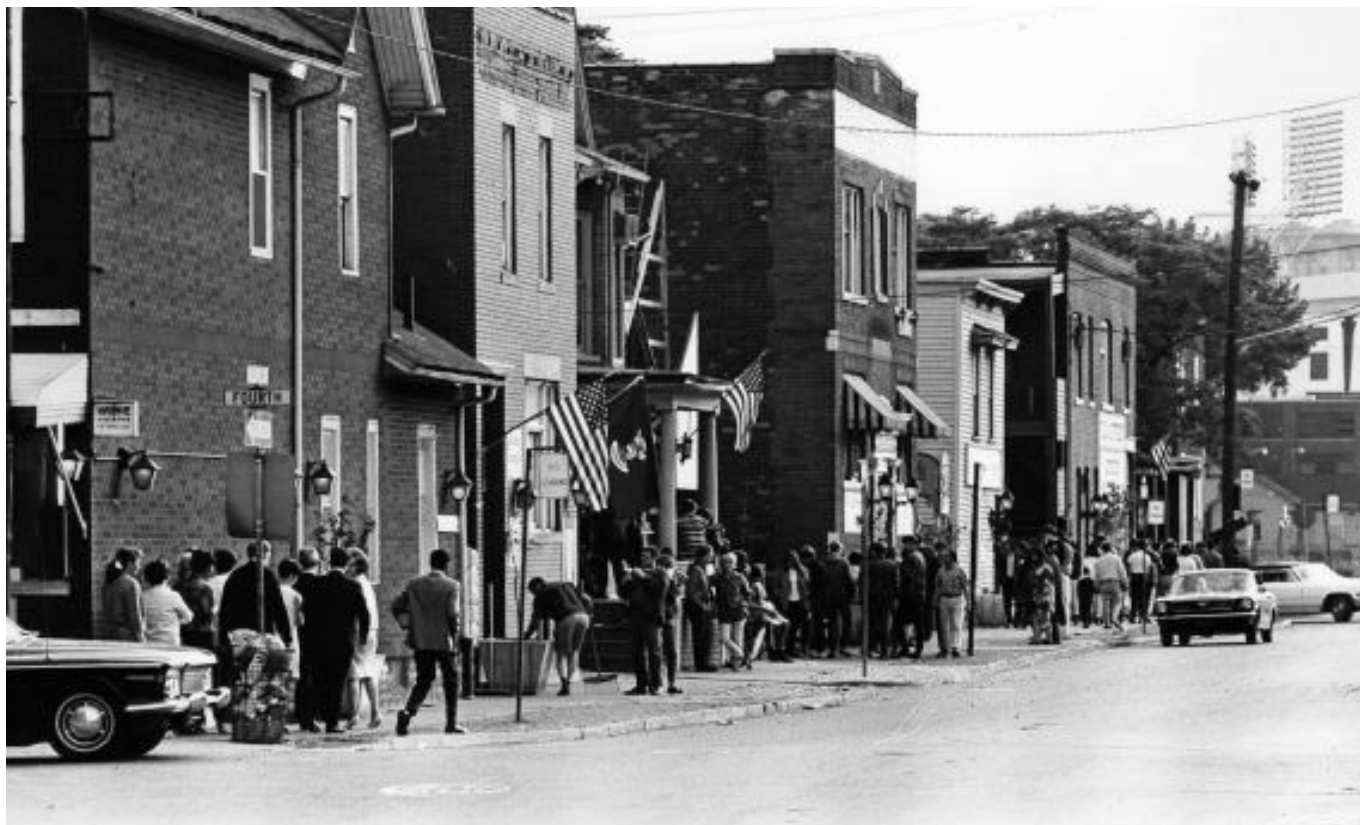
⁴⁰ Cf. http://www.ellisland.org/EIFile/popup_weif_5a.asp?src=%2Fcgi%2Dbin%2Ftif2gif%2Eexe%3FT%3D%5C%5C%5C%5C192%2E168%2E100%2E11%5C%5Cimages%5C%5C715%2D2698%5C%5C715%2D26980720%2ETIF%26S%3D%2E5&pID=603453050818&name=Guglielmo%26nbsp%3BPace&doa=Nov+17%2C+1919&port=Le+Havre&line=0022 (visited on 14.iv.2011).

⁴¹ Detroit City, Wayne County, Michigan, Enumeration District 82-68, Sheet 4B, Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, National Archives Microfilm Publication T626, roll 1034, Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29, National Archives Building, Washington, D.C.

⁴² Antonio was in fact 31 years old. However, for some reason, in both of the records held for arrivals on Ellis Island and in the USA census for 1920, his age is registered as having been 22, as well. Cf. http://www.ellisland.org/search/passRecord.asp?MID=14883756830908784000&LNM=PACE&PLNM=PACE&last_kind=0&TOWN=null&SHIP=null&RF=3421&pID=603453050820 (visited on 4.iv.2011).

and 'Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census – Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920 Population', State of Michigan, County of Wayne, Detroit, Supervisor's District No. 145, Enumeration District No. 93, enumerated on 8 January 1920, Sheet No. 13 B.

⁴³ Cf. http://www.ellisland.org/search/passRecord.asp?MID=14883756830908784000&LNM=PACE&PLNM=PACE&last_kind=0&TOWN=null&SHIP=null&RF=3421&pID=603453050820 (visited on 4.iv.2011).



Plum Street in the 1940s

Then, in 1944 – the period when he was enrolled in the Detroit section of the Civilian Defence – William was dwelling at 833, Plum Street,⁴⁷ Detroit, Michigan⁴⁸ – a street parallel with Elizabeth Street.

Back in Malta

The present author could not trace more information about the movements of William Pace in Detroit, after 1944, when he was 49 years of age.

However, there is evidence that he visited Malta often to spend some time with his family in Gozo, and return to Detroit where he could have kept working until retirement, and perhaps even after. A diligent search in the ‘Status Animarum’ register, in St George’s Basilica archives, provides records of when William was at home in Gozo, and was visited by the parish priest in his annual ‘blessing

of homes’ in his parish.

Born in Victoria

Guglielmo was born in Victoria, Gozo, on Thursday, 4 July 1895. His father, Paolo, was a teacher hence, it is presumed that the children, in the early years of the twentieth century, had a good education, even though regular normal classes were as yet non-existent. Still, perhaps being encouraged or at least inspired by the spirit of adventure and, following the footsteps of fellow same-age youths and relatives who had emigrated before, Guglielmo applied for a passport to be able to travel.

Passport Application

Guglielmo filled in the declaration in an application for a passport at Victoria, Gozo, on 30 September

⁴⁷ In the 1960s, Plum Street became one of the quirkiest neighborhoods and a depressed neighborhood in Detroit. In the spring of 1967, young counter culture types, self-described as “freaks,” set up head shops, clothing boutiques, alternative bookstores, and several small eateries within a two or three block area. It also captured the attention of a local motorcycle gang - The Outlaws, who rolled in and started taking over and roughing people up. However, with help from law enforcement, the Plum Street “experiment” failed and the area once again became deserted and depressed. Cf. <http://fornology.blogspot.com/2012/02/detroits-plum-street-turns-sour-in.html> (visited on 5.vii.2017).

⁴⁸ Cf. letter sent to Pace by E.J. Hudson for picking the Certificate of award for Service.



Guglielmo Pace's application for a passport

1919.⁴⁹ In the central upper part of this printed form, Pace declares that then he resided at No. 2, S(tra)da Ghain Katet,⁵⁰ Victoria, Gozo, that he is a British born subject, that he was born in Victoria, Gozo on the 4th July 1895, and that he was applying for a Passport for the purpose of travelling to Toronto, in Canada. Moreover, Pace states that his profession was that of a messenger.

In the lower part of the application, Public Notary Ang Cauchi, from Nadur, Gozo, declares that he believes the information given by Mr Pace was true, and that from his personal knowledge of him, vouches that he (Mr Pace) is fit for a passport.

The application carries the signatures of both Mr Pace and Notary Cauchi, respectively.

A Photo

A black and white photo of Guglielmo Pace, twice the size of a normal present day passport photo, was also attached. It was once stapled on the left hand side of the form. The staple's rust ruined parts of the photo, though not the figure of the applicant. In this, Guglielmo – a definitely healthy looking young man, aged just over 24 – is wearing a white shirt, a tie, and a semi-dark jacket. He looks very serious and sombre. From the photo and the description of applicant notes written down on the right hand side of the same application we learn that Guglielmo had chestnut hair, was very well groomed with parting on the left, had a round face, a high forehead, dark brown eyes, a broad nose, a normal mouth, and a square chin. His complexion is given as dark. He is said to have been 5 feet 5 inches tall.

Guglielmo Pace and his Family

In Victoria, Gozo, a family which in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century had the surname Pace and the nickname 'Tal-Ferħ' was a



The parish priest's certificate of baptism of Gulielmus Pace

⁴⁹ For this and the information given infra cf. N(ational) A(rchives) M(alta), MFA01, 2696/1919. This document consists of the application form (size A3), a birth certificate issued by both the Cathedral and St George's Parish in Victoria, in the name of Guglielmus, and signed by Archpriest Can. Alphonsus M. Hili, on 24 September 1918, and a declaration signed by Public Notary Ang Cauchi whereby he certifies that Mr Guglielmo Pace 'is of respectable character, loyal to His Britannic Majesty both in act and word, and that he is a fit and proper person to be entrusted with a passport signed by the Government requiring His Majesty's Representatives abroad to afford him every assistance and protection of which he may stand in need.' Cf. *ibid.* sheet 3.

⁵⁰ This is present day 'Għajn Qatet Street' in Victoria. The house – which still stands today – is situated among buildings behind St Francis church.



Guglielmo Pace's passport photo

large one. Guglielmo was a member of this family. He was one of the children of Paolo Pace and Maria Antonia née Calleja.⁵¹ The family lived at 2, Ghajn Qatet Street, Victoria, Gozo. The house remained in possession of the family until the 1960s when it was sold to the present occupants.

Single

Guglielmo never got married. He died of a heart attack, in his father's house,⁵² single, aged around 74, on 3 December 1969,⁵³ and was buried in the Victoria Cemetery, in the limits of Xewkija, Gozo.

Conclusion

From the many documents I have seen while searching about Guglielmo Pace I found that many young Gozitans migrated to the USA in the last two decades of the nineteenth and first decades of the

69.

ATTI DI

Numero d'Ordine	PARTICOLARITÀ	DATA DELL'ATTO		
		Nome e Cognome	Professione, mestiere, o altro stato	Mis. Anni
66.	La sposa	Paolo Pace	assistente nella scuola	21
	La sposa	Mariantonia Calleja	Lavoratrice	20
	PARTICOLARITÀ	Nome e Cognome	Professione, mestiere, o altro stato	Età
	Le testimonie della celebrazione del matrimonio	Paolo Pace, assistente nella scuola	assistente nella scuola	21
		Mariantonia Calleja	Lavoratrice	20

Il matrimonio fu celebrato in chiesa il giorno 18 Agosto 1880. I testimoni furono: Paolo Pace, assistente nella scuola, e Mariantonia Calleja, lavoratrice. Il parroco fu Don Giovanni...

67.

PARTICOLARITÀ	DATA DELL'ATTO		
	Nome e Cognome	Professione, mestiere, o altro stato	Età
La sposa			

The marriage registration of Paolo Pace to Mariantonia Calleja

MATRIMONIO.

Del 18 Agosto 1880.

Luogo di		Qualità degli Spusi		Professione, mestiere, o altro stato
Matrini	Matrilinei	Nome e Cognome, se viventi o morti		
Paolo Pace	Mariantonia Calleja	Paolo Pace, assistente nella scuola	Mariantonia Calleja, lavoratrice	
Paolo Pace	Mariantonia Calleja	Mariantonia Calleja, lavoratrice	Paolo Pace, assistente nella scuola	
Luogo di		Nome e Cognome del Padre, o scia viva o morto		
Matrini	Matrilinei			
Paolo Pace	Mariantonia Calleja	Paolo Pace, assistente nella scuola		
Paolo Pace	Mariantonia Calleja	Mariantonia Calleja, lavoratrice		

Il matrimonio fu celebrato in chiesa il giorno 18 Agosto 1880. I testimoni furono: Paolo Pace, assistente nella scuola, e Mariantonia Calleja, lavoratrice. Il parroco fu Don Giovanni...

Paolo Pace
Mariantonia Calleja

Del 18 Agosto 1880.

Luogo di		Qualità degli Spusi		Professione, mestiere, o altro stato
Matrini	Matrilinei	Nome e Cognome, se viventi o morti		
Paolo Pace	Mariantonia Calleja	Paolo Pace, assistente nella scuola	Mariantonia Calleja, lavoratrice	
Paolo Pace	Mariantonia Calleja	Mariantonia Calleja, lavoratrice	Paolo Pace, assistente nella scuola	

⁵¹ The marriage between Paolo Pace (21), 'assistente nella scuola', from Rabat, Gozo, and Mariantonia (20), 'lavoratrice', from Rabat, Gozo, was celebrated in the parish church of Nadur, Gozo, on 18 August 1880. Cf. 'Atti di Matrimonio – 1879-1884', Act 66/1880, p. 69. Thanks to Ms Margaret Gatt, Gozo Public Registry (5.vii.2017).

Paolo was a teacher ('assistente nella scuola'), and ended his career as Headmaster of Xewkija Primary school (16 September 1902 and 30 November 1914), when he eventually retired. Cf. Horace Mercieca, *Gozo College Rosa Magro – A Short History*, Malta, 2008, p. 33.

⁵² Information given by the late Ms Maria Vassallo (5 May 2011).

⁵³ The Act is numbered 241/1969. Margaret Gatt, Public Registry, Gozo (3.vi.2011).



William Pace in the 1950s

twentieth centuries. Among these some were from Victoria, Gozo – Guglielmo was one of them.

Around the turn of the twentieth century the United States became the world's leading industrial power especially due to an outburst of entrepreneurship in the Northeast (which includes Michigan) and Midwest, and millions of immigrant workers and farmers from Europe invaded the United States, and settled in places where jobs were in abundance, and had friends or relatives who would help them with dwelling places. The boom of car-making, particularly in Detroit and Michigan, was at its initial stages and many young men were being employed in the flourishing business, doing all kind of work. Word among young Maltese, but it seems especially amongst Gozitans, encouraged migration to the 'States' where many took up secure jobs and built fortunes for themselves and their families. It was this prosperous period – which continued throughout the 1960s – which helped Maltese and Gozitan 'Americans' to make a fortune and come back home and build large homes which were given names like 'Sweet America' and 'God bless America', and fly American flags on the roofs of their houses, as recognition.

William Pace was one of these migrants. He worked in a car factory, perhaps all his life, until retirement.

He was and remained single. He must have fallen in love with the USA; he went on living in Michigan even after he retired, and kept frequently coming to Gozo to visit his relatives, and returning back to the 'States', until his sudden death in Victoria, Gozo, in 1969, when he was 74. However, due to the altruistic enthusiasm shown in his participation in the voluntary service of the Civil Defence of the locality where he lived, during his free time, in the early years of the Second World War, he earned himself acknowledgement from the Detroit authorities with certificates of recognition. These certificates eventually inspired this research, which is being published, in turn, as an appreciation for William's sive Guglielmo's good deed towards society, especially at a time when it was threatened by a world war.

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Dr Joe Zammit Ciantar, BA, MA, PhD (8.5.1942-). was born in Ta' Sannat, Gozo. He received his education in Victoria, Gozo. He used to teach at primary level between 1960 and 1971, at secondary level up to 1976, and at tertiary level from 1976, at the Junior College, and later on with the University of Malta until his retirement as Senior Lecturer in 2006. Between 1991 and 2006 he also lectured at the Università degli Studi (L'Orientale) in Naples.