

## HISTORY OF ST JOHN AMBULANCE IN MALTA (TILL 1909)

Barely 5 years had passed since the St John Ambulance Association was founded in England. Its first extension outside English soil occurred in Malta in 1882, at the same time when the Ophthalmic Hospital was being founded in Jerusalem.

**1877** Foundation of the St John Ambulance Association in UK.

**1882** A centre for the St John Ambulance Association, the Teaching Branch, was established in Malta.

**1887** Formation of the St John Ambulance Brigade in the UK.

**1909 5th April** - Proposal for the "formation of a Unit of the St John Ambulance, in accordance with instructions received from Headquarters in London" (quote from Minute book of the Association).

**1909 1st July** - Scheme submitted to the Governor of Malta, General Sir Henry Fane Grant, who gave the approval.

**1909 18th September** – Formation of the St John Ambulance Valletta Division in Malta.

**1909 1st December** - Colonel G Bowdier, Commissioner for Special Services, sanctioned the formation of the first unit of St John Ambulance for the Malta District, namely the Valletta Ambulance Division, with effect from September 18th of that year.

A number of the original members belonging to the Armed Forces, Surgeons and Ambulance members used to be attached for duty with the Royal Army Medical Corps during the annual test Mobilization of the Garrison. Nursing Members performed hours of duty in Military hospitals.



**Cottonera No. 2 Division on Training** (Photo: R. Ellis)

