

DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

by
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END OF MILITARY FACILITIES AGREEMENT ISSUE

Date of Issue	31st March 1979.
Values	2c, 5c, 7c, 8c, 17c and 20c.
Stamp Size	26.5mm x 35mm.
Art Designer	Chev. Emvin Cremona.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.4 x 13.5.
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways.
Paper	Chalked surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours

The colour of these stamps was produced by the multi-colour process.

Designs

The Malta Postal Administration is marking the historic event of the End of the Military Facilities Agreement with Britain by the issue of this set. The year 1979 heralds the beginning of a new era for the Republic of Malta with the Island's change from a military base to a centre of peace in the Mediterranean. After continuous domination by various peoples and countries since the first settlers crossed over from nearby Sicily about 6,000 years ago, in 1964 Malta attained its Independence within the British Commonwealth. In 1974 Malta became a Democratic Republic, founded on work and on respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual.

On the 31st. March 1979, Malta discards completely its traditional fortress role and fashion a new way of life based on peace, determined to earn her livelihood through honest endeavour and initiatives in the field of manufacturing, ship repair, ship building, agriculture, fishing, commerce, tourism and other services.

This set consists of three designs, each common to two stamps. The first, showing fishing from a multi-coloured "luzzu" with an aircraft carrier in the background, is common to the 2c and 8c stamps.

The design for the 5c and 17c stamps show a boiler-suited worker shaking hands with a British sailor holding the Union Jack on his arm while in the background a Maltese worker is seen hoisting the Maltese Flag which is being saluted by a bugler from the Armed Forces of Malta. The 7c and 20c stamps show a British soldier in full kit and carrying a rifle, going past an orange branch. All stamps carry a common legend, "HELSEIEN—SLIEM" meaning "FREE—DOM—PEACE"

Colour Checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter are seen in the right hand margin next to the last stamps of the two bottom rows. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from left to right on all Panes of all values.

Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in the top and bottom margins of Panes. Figures are 2.5mm high and printed in maroon in the 2c, 5c and 7c values and in dark blue in the 8c, 17c and 20c values. The Printed Sheets of all six values consisted of three Panes, "A", "B" and "C". Each Pane has 50 stamps made up of ten rows of five stamps. All stamps are of the vertical format. Plate/Pane Numbers:

Plate/Pane Numbers

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row.

2c = 1A x 7, 1B x 7, 1C x 7.

5c = 1A x 7, 1B x 7, 1C x 7.

7c = 1A x 7, 1B x 7, 1C x 7.




8c = 1A x 7, 1B x 7, 1C x 7.

17c = 1A x 7, 1B x 7, 1C x 7.

20c = 1A x 7, 1B x 7, 1C x 7.

Perforation of Margins

The top margins of Panes "A", "B" and "C" of all values are imperforate. The left hand, right hand and bottom margins of Panes "A", "B" and "C" of all values are fully perforated.

PANE "A" WMK. 	PANE "B" WMK. 	PANE "C" WMK. 
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From a study of all details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting, would look as shown on left. With the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps would be seen the right way up, hence why the watermark on individual stamps is sideways.

Imprint Blocks

“PRINTED LIMITED MALTA” is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. Letters are 1mm high and printed in maroon in the 2c, 5c and 7c values and in dark blue in the 8c, 17c and 20c values. An Imprint Block of four, of any value, will also include the colour checks.

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue.

Up to 1p.m. on the first day of issue, £M78,121 worth of stamps were sold. Normally the G.P.O. is kept open for sale up to 4p.m. on the first days of issue. However the G.P.O. closed at 1p.m. because the 31st. March was a public holiday. This set will remain on sale up to Monday, 16th. July 1979, unless stocks are previously exhausted.