

SGI 7 Memorial to the Siege of Malta

City of London

Memorial to the Siege of Malta, Tower Hill, EC3R 5BJ

Grid reference: TQ 3335 8069

It is common practice to construct war memorials commemorating events in far-off theatres with a stone local to that area or to the home of the troops who fought there. This is certainly the case with the Memorial to the Siege of Malta, commemorating the 'George Cross' Islanders' strength and suffering during the siege of 1940 to 1942.

The stone used here comes from the island of Gozo in the Maltese archipelago and it was quarried from the Scutella Bed of the Oligocene Lower Coralline Limestone. The name derives from the fact that this unit is packed with fossil echinoids of the species *Scutella subrotunda* and these are clearly visible, primarily as longitudinal cross-sections in this monument. The fossils stand out white against the buff coloured, calcarenitic limestone. *Scutella subrotunda* is restricted to Oligocene and Miocene strata of the Mediterranean region. It is a Clypeasteroid echinoderm, resembling modern 'sand dollars', which have flattened, circular tests.

Access

The Malta Memorial is located in the pedestrianised area, just off Byward Street outside the church of All Hallows-by-the-Tower, EC3R 5BJ. The nearest Tube station is Tower Hill (Circle and District Lines). Buses 15 and RV1 stop on nearby Great Tower Street and at Tower Hill Station.



Photos: Ruth Siddall

References

- Pedley, H. M., House, M. R. & Waugh, B. 1976. The Geology of Malta and Gozo. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association* **87**:325-341.
- Siddall, R. 2014. Spitfires and Sand-Dollars: The Memorial to the Siege of Malta, Byward Street EC3; *Urban Geology in London* No. 19 www.ucl.ac.uk/~ucfbrxs/Homepage/walks/MaltaMemorial.pdf
- Wigglesworth, J. C. 1964. *The tertiary stratigraphy and echinoid palaeontology of Gozo, Malta*. Unpublished PhD thesis, Durham University: <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/9003/>