

UGO PASQUALE MIFSUD

1889-1942



PROFILE

Ugo Pasquale Mifsud was born in Valletta on 12 September 1889 to Gio Batta Mifsud and Philomena Marianna née Muscat. He was educated at the Valletta Lyceum and graduated in Law from the Royal University of Malta in 1910. He married Maria Beatrice née Francia in 1928. By then, he was well known in his profession, especially within the Commercial Courts. Mifsud became Prime Minister when he was just 35 years old, serving twice in office. The first term was between 22 September 1924 and 1 August 1927, and the second between 21 June 1932 and 2 November 1933. Sir Ugo Mifsud suffered a heart attack on 9 February 1942, while delivering a powerful speech to the Council of Government opposing the decision of the British Colonial Government to deport a number of Maltese citizens to Uganda. He died after two days, on 11 February 1942, aged 52, and was interred at the Lija Cemetery.

POLITICS

In 1919, as a member of the National Assembly, he contributed to preparations for the Constitution of Self-Government and in 1921 was elected member on the Legislative Assembly with the Unione Politica Maltese. He held portfolios within the Ministries of Finance, Justice, Post, Industry and Commerce, as well as for Agriculture and Fisheries. Following Francesco Buhagiar's resignation in 1924, Mifsud became the third Prime Minister of Malta. He was also Leader of the Opposition between 1927 and 1930. Eventually, Sir Ugo was a member of the Council of Government from 1939 until his demise.

ROLES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mifsud held several positions. He was co-leader of the Nationalist Party (together with Enrico Mizzi) after it merged with the Unione Politica Maltese in 1926. In 1928, he chaired the Air and Radio Law Committee at a conference in Warsaw, and represented Malta in meetings of the Empire Parliamentary Association held in Canada. In 1932, Mifsud was part of a government delegation in London to present a formal request for Malta to be placed under the Dominion Office as an Independent Member of the Commonwealth, while two years later, he chaired a Committee on Trade Marks in a conference held in Budapest.

OTHER INFORMATION

Sir Ugo Pasquale Mifsud was a prolific writer on International Rights in Law journals. In 1963, a monument was inaugurated in his honour at the Mall Gardens in Floriana. Streets in Lija, Luqa and Ta' Xbiex are named after him.