## French Siege Letters in Gozo carried by hand 12th June 1798 – 8th September 1800

by

Dr. A. Bonnici

The convention drafted by Napoleon whereby Malta was seeded to the French Republic, was signed on board the Orient on the 12th June 1798 and Malta passed under French rule.

Grand Master Ferdinand von Hompesch left the Island on Monday 18th June 1798.

On Sunday 2nd September 1798 an auction took place were gold and silver articles belonging to the convent of the Franciscan Friars of Rabat were auctioned, as a consequence the revolt of the Maltese against the French started.

Medina was captured by the Maltese on the 3rd September but the Siege of Floriana / Valletta and the Kottonera lasted up to 8th September 1800 when the French surrendered to the British.

On Sunday 28th October 1798, the French in Gozo surrendered and the -caputalation was signed.

## French Siege Letters in Gozo carried by hand

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Siege letter written in Gozo on the 13th October 1798 and signed by Arch Priest Rev. Dr. Saverio Cassar Head of the Provisional Government in Gozo to Officer Cammanding Casal Caccia, Liberato Grech in Gozo. Stating the following:

"I learn from your letter all that happened last night, whilst I thank you for your prompt attention in dealing with my worries. This morning the two Canons have allowed themselves to be taken to Fort CHAMBRAI, where they are being kept prisoners. Therefore, I no longer need the reinforcements which were thought to be necessary to effect their capture. Once they are kept out of the way, they will be powerless to corrupt the people.

I feel sorry for what happened to Notary Pace, and have duly written to the people in NADUR to let him be.

My well founded suspicions, lie with his sons, the Advocates Luigi and Daniele, both of whom I would be glad to arrest.

I learn with great dismay that the spinster daughter of Notary Pace was taken to Casal Caccia, and when released was sent away without any clothes.

Make no mistake, these things will not only catch the eye of our country men, but also of foreigners. They are things unworthy of the - TURKS - and other heretics.

Warn the people not to go to excesses, as they will be abandoned by God, and will also loose the protection of the friendly powers.

Let us make sure, that in this uprising, our people will conduct themselves as true Christians, and not leave memories of atrocities like those which have been perpetrated by the French, who have already earned the hatred of the whole world.

You would do well to get together in preparation to liberate Rabat- (Gozo) from the enemy. It has suffered some damage, but, thank Heaven, this is not too bad"



Sig. Comendante Liberito Frecho

Sents dalla vostra lettera cià futto, classa e :
cadde juri à latte . So n' vingunzio dell'activizione
e prontizio nelle mis incombinged. Juegtor metrin
li due Canomini le persuaser à sudani caranti
vella litta sciambre e seno già speditio, e
pertanti il Corpo d' gente più non mi necesita

que l'esecuzione della Cattarno, e giacclus giti
due sono al sieuro, e non possono pratticare

gente un potenno cattivala.

Sispiace d' Ciò clus de fece al not ! Sau ;

So più senjai alli Madurini di Cascialo in ni

poso; mentre il mio sespetto fondati è conti

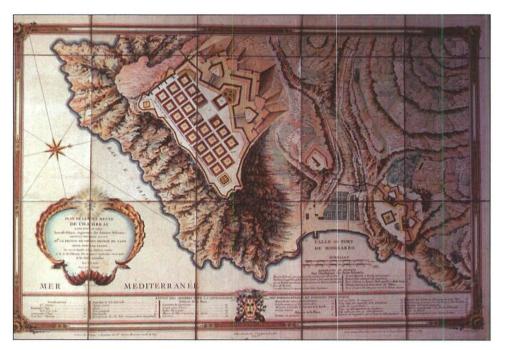
li suri fighi; L'anti suigi, e Daniele cles

anurej il piacere di amestare.

and the same for the court of Sente con mia serpresa, che la Figlia Vitetta del notar Paco è stata in corde Caccia condette, e poi himandate ignude; apricus: his cler juyte Cow Jane all pechi: no Mamente alli Gaerani, ma anche . alli Fonskir, è sono core, che ne anche le fano li turchi, o altri Entrici: aevete al Pople, cles um faccio simili eccepii, pelesan estandonate de Dis, a delle pestegrious della Potenze anema; Vincuriamo ; che il Poplo ingst livolegione ti diporti da vero cristiano, Eun lascien memorin di qualche barbaria come fecus i Francesi, che hanno Conciliato Codio & tutto il grando.

Voi altre facyte han & commerce puisoccomerci lashte al humore che lis
fattes di spero, and gengio al ciclo am
a-fr nicates: Song.
li-113. 8 one 1298!

Araps. J. Good.
Araps. J. Good.



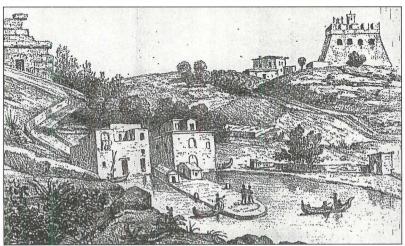
Fort Chambray constructed on the initiative of Grand Master Manoel Pinto de Fonseca in 1749, architect Louis François d'Aubignè de Tignè, and paid for by Balli Fra Jacques de Chambray, and so the fort began to be called by that name.

Siege letter written in Gozo on the 12th October 1798 and signed by Arch Priest Rev. Dr. Saverio Cassar Head of the Provisional Government in Gozo to Officer Cammanding Casal Caccia, Liberato Grech in Gozo. Stating the following:

"In reply to your letter, and about Notary Pace's problem, I wish to make it clear that I have given no orders that he should be arrested, and yet, whilst I was dining, I was informed that he was arrested and taken to the hill, (in Caccia the head quarters was on top of a hill), on the pretext that the letter he produced was not the same one that he had received from Clement. (Clement was another village commander)
I have not given any instructions to your men, but said only that it was up to your Officers to deal with Notary Pace, against whom, to this day, I have no suspicion.
However I did urge your men to arrest, if possible GIO ANDREA PULLICINO, and Advocate LUIGI PACE, son of Notary Pace, both of whom are known revolutionaries, and that it would be best, to keep them locked up in Garzes Tower to stop them from

communicating their evil intentions with others"





Garzes Tower

Sof Comsulante

Rispondo alla vistra lettera; ed intorno alfatto Id sife not. Pour Monto Ver Dice, che io um la Veto ordine vernas per la sua Cathur, un nel montento the pringavo mi si digio, ele for in Mate vosti en condotto mella montagna Moundo po mostios di Fele Catture, cles la lettir precentator delle steje letter Vace non en quell'ittiger, cles aver licento In alementes; So nullas ovrines alla vosta gente Mado ghi digii, che era artitus Illi Comendant lovo dis tratter A Icto not ! Vaco contre lui de nulla fin Degre

he hi sospetto. Ordinaj si alla vostas jente se ghi sair populite di Cadurare à Tio: andres Pullières Dell'ant hugi Paus figlio de detto notaro aprendo presto ma: nifesti vivoluzionari. I i apaj buone di metedi in pazione aello Jone Tarjes, que um Communicare la los Caltino intergine con Mois Cois serger al Solit mi\_ L. 12.8600 1798" ago Voite Led Avaipted. Capied



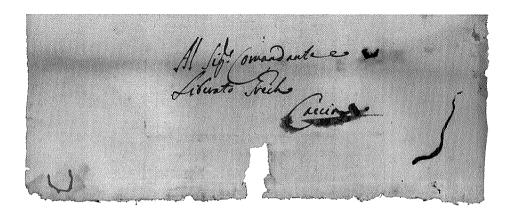
Headquarters in Caccia

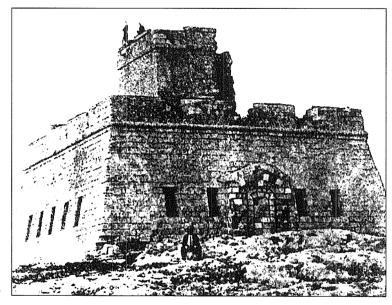
Siege letter written in Gozo on the 6th October 1798 and signed by Arch Priest Rev. Dr. Saverio Cassar Head of the Provisional Government in Gozo to Al Sign Comandante Liberato Grech in Gozo.

Stating the following:

"I would like you to send me two barrels of powder from Marsalforn Tower. I have only eight very small barrels left which are hardly enough for our guns for two days. Tomorrow I shall send the boat out to the Portuguese Admiral (NIZZA), to have delivery of the powder.

I am stationed in Mount Ghelmus. and shall wait for the powder here Please ask the clergy to pray for us."





Marsalforn Tower

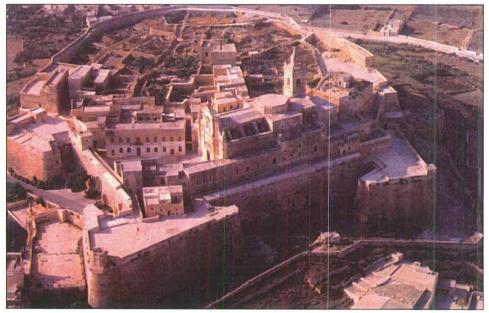
Sif Comsudante Libert Freih

So sons à pregada si farmi maisares della Jove & manelfions du Gamili placere, mestre la quentità cles lis un mi serve p fave Due giorni di fuoco, core oggi, e domani trovandomi avere Mi otto Cambi agraj piccoli; Domani spedios la barros all'ammissaglio Portugues per porture la policere; la mi trovo wet manter Theleny Towe aspects dether Fuer Camili poluerea. Fire al Sif Peroco hi for L'esposigine Imani mattino almos y ser over, affinite will adonyim it Poplo fair le sue jurghiere Population, e un dief. Il Soprainted level. Li 6. 8600 1798. Soupe V. Carros Siege letter written in Rabbato Gozo on the 8th October 1798 and signed by Antonio Mallia Comandente Generale of the Gozitan Forces to the Comandente of the village of Caccia in Gozo.

Stating the following:

"I must ask you to send me, closely guarded by your men and ours, the French Sergeant who has offered to speak to his soldiers now occupying the Citadel, to try and persuade them to surrender. I hope that you will be able to send him at once as the Archpriest also requested this in his letter to me".





Cittadella

his Consta Ino a pregarte Di mandarini la carrolito Pai mai, e nostri soldati il Savsente France. sa , il quale s'offeri di purpose am i soldat. she stanno nel Svan astello, nor forgli arren. Inc. Somo ch'ella mi la mandi d'un subito ellendo anche questo il sentimento del his cio le giacoli tanto mi significi de ne no 2. ma lettera . grest'è quants , e nell'associo mi ni Dir 8: 11.5. Rasto \$. 8600 1298 antonio malera?

Siege letter 4th August 1800 from Baron Ignazio Bonici in Malta, to his brotherin-law Saverio de Baroni Gauci in Gozo. Carried by hand. Discussing various ground rents which were due

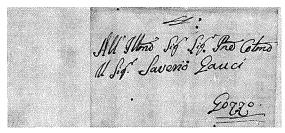


Stima" Sig" Logarate Malta li 4 Mosts 1400 Di mio sommo pracure fin la novose del voltro delice. viaggio, a mi congestalo molto che voi ciessema con vostra famiglia godste quella perfella saluta, che di cuora so Jest deto, to per grazia dal hig sto bere disalu. ta, e pronto compre por vicasore li vartii comandi justore out will rate allo. Inquale l'affine De Gulichmo, in quella oggi, anders assie no col with his lugino, a favente la nostra possibile Tiliganya par turminarlo. Inquesto al graviero dello ta Prago la gabbellar al vandi sendi ed una buona plaggioria. Inquesta al territorio dello ta huiet il choloto, jeri ho fatto latto, candolo in conso per anni gg. al pregro di et 1400. riservando la gragia de fatali. Inexante al mariato delle tavole date all'Università non posso risenotere il denaso, non ortante che Maetre Vincenzo gli tece replicate islanze, onde vi priego a spedithi una lettera per sollecitare il pagamento

perche stimo meglio aver cento scudi in taja, che one cento in credito, e poi potrà accasare che mulando sito saranno a restituinos de nosto Tavole.
Di mando tre piccoli saco di pare avrete la Conta di dayle a Maestro Gio. Lado Vella. Hoostro bastone Vi ringrazio mollo Zelli poma e pera che vi siete compiacialo sonondarmi, e per fine di vera cuore vi salais, assiente con mia sig sorella ed a luti di voitra famiglia. Jubli li nostri interemi di Malto de quals m'ace. te incarricato vanno trebi bere espero de l'estesso sono qualli del Gago, è se mai occorrera qualche cora di nuovo, falemi partecipe, che mi ritrovarete sempre Affegionalisimo Cogniato ABra Igniagio Laolo Bonici,

Mostro bastong Lecomme The sabbilo e la presi in Local Bella cara per la · vailora subbite the sava terminator lo mandero vi addimando se mai volete dorarla in oro per accompa. gniare il pamo di sopma surivatami. Jeri son , butto rulla Melleha, epiglior le misure di qualtre virtelli. per fire vi saluto se sono di 039. Ulmile servo Vincenzo Ambrea Imbroll.

Siege Letter 6th August 1800 from A. Pace from Żebbuġ Malta to his cousin Saverio Gauci in Gozo, regarding family property. Carried by hand.

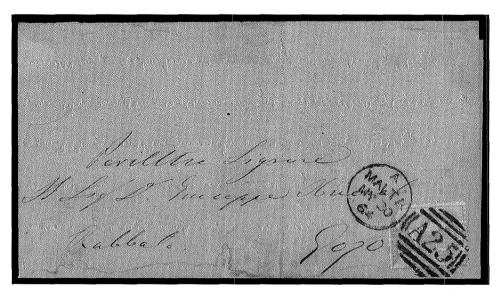


Sig: Cregino Conlagità very aniverirla Garan? nel istesso mente jupplico a N. S. S. paco: sirmi vedera, che di cenpraligio fiseles en Grazia Hair Selen Gebel Latmar popaduri a cenyo da Grujeppa: Grecke e juoi Jegli projensent Grego Bajada Galfi Mberro del Nadur Romerico agrig se daloi Persanto brand di vodore l'ulime ricevuse jutte da Giovarra Pace yinech o verant N.S. se non gli vien incomodo, li chians alli di cerpralissi e vedi i Libri car sarmi nova di oute l'ulaine vicevute can i giorni meji el arno di cia che suna sice cruea e con sodisfiere allo serivaro non aloro, mentre companica del rappo ardire ad incomodarla priche offerendomi abutti di lei comandi N.S. Ulma 7268 ug li 6. Hogge 1400. Cugino Michael Trap Sace

## British Period Letters to Gozo with franked Queen Victoria 1/2 yellow



First printing SG1 Blue paper, no watermark, dated 3rd December 1861



Fourth printing SG4 issued June 1863. White paper, watermark Crown CC, dated 20th May 1864 (latest recorded date).



5th printing SG4, pale brown, white paper, watermark Crown CC, perf. 14, dated 24th June 1864.



8th printing SG4, pale brown, white paper, watermark Crown CC, perf. 14, dated 13th May 1866.



9th printing SG6, pale red brown, white paper, wmk Crown CC, perf. 14, dated 21st May 1868.



11th printing SG7, dull orange, white paper, watermark Crown CC, perf. 14, dated 5th May 1870.



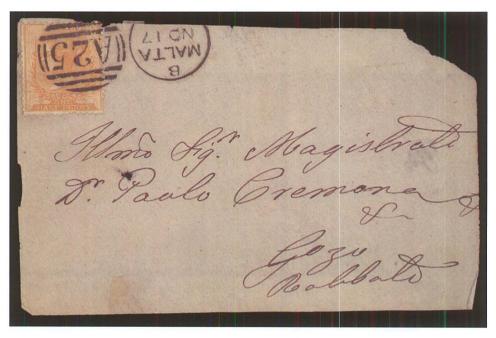
12th printing SG15, yellow orange, white paper, wmk Crown CC, perf. 12 1/2, dated 20th November 1871.



14th printing SG7, dull orange, white paper, wmk Crown CC, perf. 14, dated 11th June 1873.



14th printing SG7, dull orange, white paper, wmk Crown CC, perf. 14, dated 3rd June 1873.



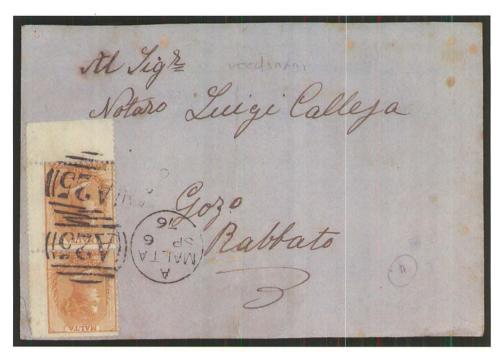
14th printing SG7, dull orange, white paper, wmk Crown CC, perf. 14, dated 17th November 1873.



15th printing SG9, golden yellow, white paper, wmk Crown CC, perf. 14, dated 6th November 1874.



15th printing SG9, golden yellow, white paper, wmk Crown CC, perf. 14, dated 10th April 1875.



Pair 17th printing SG13, yellow buff, white paper, wmk Crown CC, perf. 14, dated 6th September 1876.



24th printing SG13, pail to bright yellow, white paper, wmk Crown CC, perf. 14, dated 17th September 1881.



Pair 25th printing SG18, pail orange yellow, white paper, wmk Crown CA, perf. 14, dated 13th September 1882.



26th printing SG18, pail orange yellow, white paper, wmk Crown CA, perf. 14, dated 27th January 1883.