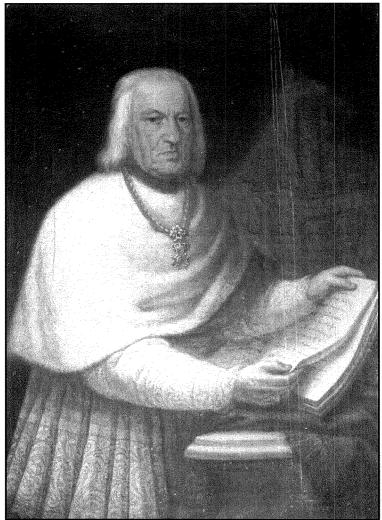
# LETTERS BY ARCHPRIEST S. CASSAR TO HIS VILLAGE COMMANDERS DURING THE FRENCH OCCUPATION OF GOZO PART TWO

## 6th September 1798 – 30th October 1798 by Dr. A. Bonnici. KM., MD.

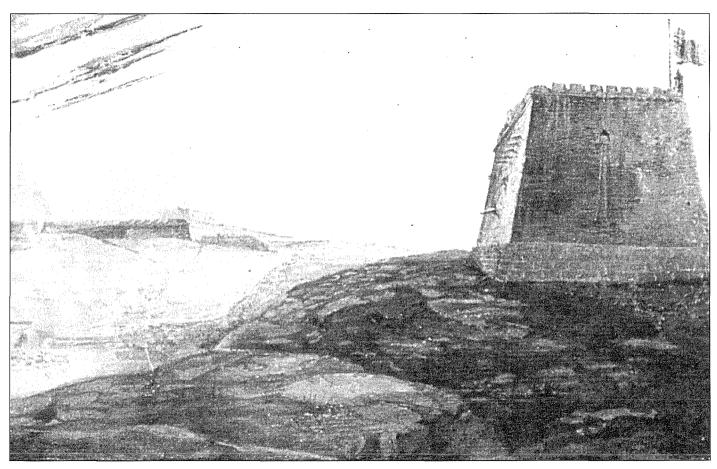


Archpriest Saverio Cassar (Photo J. Cremona)

Undated ? 12 October 1798, NLM Ms 1053 f 12.

In this letter Dr Francesao Pace Commander of Rabat, informs the Capo Mastro (Head) of Garzes Tower, about the intention of Archpriest Cassar to arrest the "tre Canonici" who will be sent to him to be kept under close watch in Garzes Tower".

We do not know the names of the "Three Canons" or were they "TWO", because in the next letter written by Archpriest Cassar to Liberato Grech he refers to "Two Canons".



Fort Garzes, with Fort Chambray as viewed during the French occupation, 1798. Water-colour by C. Busuttil. Courtesy, Museum Department Gozo.

Sig. Comandante Liberato Frech Sento Dalla Voitra Cetters cir futta, chessact cadde jui à lette la in vingingie dell'attingion c pronter to will mis incombing of the mit li due Canomini le prisuacero d'andres cariente villa litta riambre , i Sino gia spedition e pertanto it Corpo A gente più nimma necessit-Tur l'execution della Catture, e giacches get Due Jono al Sieuro, és non possono, postécar gention un fotranso cattivale An Sigurace & Cio, der for fece al hot? Van? To pa jenja alli hadurini Di Cascialto in sin pois; mintre de mis lagette fordate à contra li sun Fight d'ant duige a Deniele class avery il piacere & arestare.

Stente con min sorprese, che la Lighin Vitette Tel notan Vace à stata in Casale Caccia condette, é por limandate ignedies, apricun. timi clare sugto con Sarai all pechi s no somete alle sacrane, an and allos tomshin ; ien montoin, cles ne ancher, testans he work, a stri Intris devete al Vopla, che un faccio simili eccepie, peles star atandonate In Dis , a della protogriow Delle Potenje anemo; Viscuinamo i che il Vojeto git livelegine ti Diporti Da vero cuistano, town later warne rightalde barlan fector in Imneering the hanno Conciliato odis & futto il airedo. · Do atta facyto have to manine put Socione it latter al the des fatts di ques, aus goy alliche um a fi nicate : Smil . Li 13. Strades St



This is another letter from Archpriest S. Cassar to Liberato Grech Commander of Caccia expressing concern about Gozitan Francophiles, even arresting 'Rev.Canons'.

"I learn from your letter everything that happened yesterday night. I thank you for your prompt attention to my task. This morning the two Canons (not three as indicated in the previous letters) were persuaded to be imprisoned in Chambray City, and they have already been sent there, and consequently I no longer need the men to effect their arrest, and as these two are in a secure place and cannot communicate with people, they will not be able to win them over.

"I regret what has been done to Notary Pace. I have already written to the men in Nadur to leave him in peace, whilst my well founded suspicion is against his sons, advocate Luigi and Daniele, whom it would give me pleasure to arrest. I am surprised to hear that the unmarried daughter of Notary Pace has been taken to Casal Caccia and then sent back naked, rest assured that such a thing offends the eyes not only of the local population, but of foreigners as well, and these are things that are done not even by "Turks", or other heretics: warn the people not to do such excesses, because they will be abandoned by God and they will also lose the protection of the Powers. Let us ensure that in this revolution the People behave like true Christians, and will not leave a record of any barbarity like the French, who have attracted the hate of all the world.

"You did well to rush to the aid of Rabat at the noise of shots, but thank Heaven nothing happened".

From this letter it is obvious that Archpriest S. Cassar was displeased at the treatment received by the daughter of Notary Pace, and exercised leadership in preaching restraint. He was fully aware that Gozo was being very closely observed by the Portuguese and British. In fact the first conditions that Nelson later on, demanded of Archpriest Cassar, on the 24th October, when the French were thinking of surrendering, was *"that the Maltese should not offer them the slightest insult or maltreatment"*.

15th October 1798, Mons A Gauci Nº 2.

Sig Comandante Silento Sector Non ho potito palle d' fueili mandales prin Tri due cento po mencanzo di materiale & priomo; e me sicof. Li 15- 870 1798. aff- her fal Avop J. Gm -fon si continue l'iden delle miner pequere dira-- mimet the che se feriories de polos fiches Telle Nomber mi peace , mas pond del agrito del licypite dell'armitre du l'aspecer un figuiano - werder, mentre ne anches l'anno in melle, e 2m più scare d'anis. - thispinds all for the an grange ingite mento . a le sico, che il vostos opensor les trismente al - donar mi piece, ed co lo considero como se fojo gin well Coper equendo epplicati un dengtiono del - pulico; In quaato all'avori funtegli ingeto momento Davo Rimerio

9

In this letter Archpriest Cassar informs Liberato Grech "that he could not send him more than two hundred musket balls, because of shortage of gunshot".

He wants to "drop the idea of the mine, because those that were going to construct it have become discouraged". He "likes the idea of the bombs, but before this can be done, the army needs to be reorganised":.

"Re the money you mentioned in your letter l like the idea, and assume that it has been deposited in the "Cassa Publica" to be used for the benefit of the people".

### 17th October 1798, NAG Grima papers.

Sig : (smandante? Vi partecipo, de puyo aggi a nottomi fi quarto Jalli Die Tenevali Sortugheer, a Inglese Ortine & notificare al Comandante Frances Fi evacuare Dal Castello Allos Sua guarnigione prendende seco vella Citta Velletta le loro sos = traye, eccettuat le armi, e per fare d'inaggio gli si Timano le sole bariler, cle samano remi gate raloro stejn; il eltrimenti vermano li Styri Teventi a attaccarlo senjo alcun pero: no; Jugt' ordi spia in trovo avels ecequeito. mediante la letter die las formato, a inviato

al d' Commandente France de les assendo las ow . U Ma

On the 6th October 1798, Capt Alexander John Ball left Naples in the Alexander for Malta, as instructed by Lord Nelson, accompanied by the frigate Terpsichore - Capt Gage: the sloop Bonne Citoyenne - Capt Nisbet; and fireship Incendiary - Capt Barker. (23)

They joined the Portuguese Squadron in the blockade of Malta and Gozo.

In this letter Archpriest S. Cassar informs Commanders Giuseppi Grima and Martino Hasciac of Zebbug that "he had received an order from the Portuguese and British Generals to notify the French Commander to evacuate the Castle, together with his garrison, taking with him to the city of Valletta their possessions, except arms, and in order to make the voyage, they are to be given only boats, to be rowed by themselves, failing which, the said Generals will attack him without allowing him any quarter. This order I have already carried out by means of a letter to the French Commander, and am waiting the reply".

17th October 1798, NLM Ms 1053 f 5.

Perill . Sig Comewante 1 Carteripo à UT. Peville, des in guyte note manchen la quartier di dietre li bastime, che Mevans fare li Tellugioni, priche guy to willow maggior parte sons in questo monto per sup: plive i soliti lugli delle quaedie aviado seco preso il Sif. Sopminten, Folume porgime della her gente vel migiano, e la legtante. piciela porjour à stata trattenuta dal Comendantes per sus uso vel Caule; Jugt; e quanto le devo per sus leglament, e an pertifit d'ejen Mi V. Jento? P. J. C. J. Stro 08. ant fitur qu'il bef Sopmint.

Al Pent !! /ip / ip - Que Mener 1/ /ip Ar Francy co Pace Dep - Comandantes IN Rastato

Secretary Fortunato Spiteri in this letter informs Avvocato F. Pace Commander of Rabat that: "the guard at the back of the bastions which used to be guarded by the "Zebbugin" will be missing, as they had accompanied in their majority the Superintendent to Migiarro, and the remaining few have been kept in the village by their Commander. He was passing on this information so that he could regularise matters".

The Superintendent Archpriest S. Cassar went to Migiarro to go on board the Portuguese/British ships, to convey the message he had received from the French Commander, re capitulation as the letter of the 18th October from Secretary F. Spiteri to Commander F. Pace confirms.

18th October 1798, NLM Ms 1053 f 7.

Perill' Sig- Omendante Non manchers d'invigilare pla provisione des meg: chiatie. Il life abtate Daboue venne nel Rabbati del Sig. Sugazinivo el sus litomo le parten', e un dies al shit? Thi V. Puilt. Li 18. 8000 1798.7

A. Sig. Comendante OM. Arenuyos Pace

Secretary Dr F. Spiteri in this letter informs F. Pace Commander of Rabat, that "he was sending a sample of the wheat mixture, and that he was to have a word with Mr Albert Tabone on his return, who, after visiting the storekeeper, went to Rabat.

It is obvious from this letter, that there were complaints about the mixture of the flour to make bread.– Another administrative headache.

#### 18th October 1798, NLM Msc 1053 f 6.

Perill. Sif- formandante. I hostro Sip. Soprintendente si lascio jui vers un over per portrani à Cordo Iella navier à complimentere i ren Comandante Portreghen es Justew, « per preventarle la lipporter unto del Comandante frances. Supporgo intere de grade su altri article nguesanti il bungoveno cum alter so precisales si quanto mi licere que Surquisto, e ault Aferimi for sengire mindi chinan I guere A. A. Penel. 1. 8. 8100 1208.

Al Pinto. ht. Star Sud Collins auf. Coment. El la

In this letter Secretary Dr F. Spiteri, informs Commander F. Pace of Rabat, that the "Superintendant yesterday towards one o'clock left to visit and pay his respects to the Portuguese and British Commanders, and to convey to them the reply received from the French Commander".

We do not know what the reply of the French Commander was, but by now the French were seriously considering capitulation, and Archpriest Cassar went to discuss this with the Portuguese and British Commanders.

#### Undated ? 18th October 1798, Bondi No 55.

in- Comandante Il nostro Sep. Separintendento non i uneor ritornato, e quyto la commignione prime di partire lasciatame apri la letter sur à cui per adyso soltant 11010 lispondeles, che il Sentimento del Sig ! So: praintenduito sion d'um far uno nigsun Fores I' Gandieros alcuno sino il letorno della Parco Speditor à Nopeli, de co strons d'ampeter

yurs molto Contano. Si tus eltis amin la hiposto al litorno dello stegio sifi Sopraint? a ciri precenteri la per leccon. lo n'anza A- liverire Ta parte min it Sig. Bonds es li & live hig . Jij , a un pirty for & equere Jurle. P. Spiter All Sigoman

Secretary Dr F. Spiteri informs Liberato Grech, that "The Superintendent had not yet returned from his mission, but before leaving he gave him permission to open his letters, and so, would like to inform him, that at the moment the Superintendant, Archpriest Cassar, did not want any flag to be hoisted on any forts, until the return of the boat sent to Naples, which probably was not far away".

Commander Archpriest Cassar, wanted specific orders from King Ferdinand of the two Sicilies about this, and was expecting any moment the King's reply.

19th October 1798, Bondi No 41.

Sig: Comandant . Ritornaj contento dal 60000 Telle navio. Sur far usure del Castello la Francesia deve veniro tra Domani e Doppe Domanio un Ufte Portughee I motore Egla style a concluier la cogeitologion Ondo Vi pingo to far seatire al Sopolo si " Stave quieto, ele ligette à d'ufforce the nom faccio alcuno cora che potro initare l' animo Di questi forsitivo scapo de quale populano hire I' your purdute hours in the same Juyto matting he licento una lection da dicata Il Barne Frangipanie apraj conqueto; Cafe Stepio Sincufisce à Compiarie oqui genire à prontinie, Service D'aver spectito un Serio à Salemo, ed é licurs & stenere Ial traine l'insario livero Felli vinning un licerco il mandato re porcura falts welle detite forme acandid arter a

um della Soplagion del Forro Anetaire le Compro, e per faste vule 6 6415. che fanns one or 1.200. In Sumo puneta Jo Thins, de un purmaggio come è Il Bairne potro ulto ... vantaggiare il Populo in quyt'affare di provisionis; Section of the Cooperando per Racinghio in competente soume forman tato a d' humer et is ir priego, che se maj avete o' peteto avere qualelu forman A unito Adamaio della Capio commune for mit heddiefter Sove in altergine Jelle vortin Reporter Relationmente al Janan & mi Sico Li 19. 8ho 1298.) and the second second Volta fer - Ven Avop V. Copier ental contact

omandant.

Archpriest S. Cassar informs Commander Liberato Grech of Caccia that "he had returned satisfied from on board the ships, and in order to force the French to come out of the castle, a Portuguese Officer was to come the next day, or the day after, in order that he may negotiate, and conclude the capitulation himself".

He points out that "the people have to understand that they have to be quiet, to be respectful towards the Officers, and that they should not do anything which might bring about hostility of these foreigners, without whom they could not win".

He also says that "that morning he had received a letter from Licata from Baron Frangipani" informing him that he was prepared to purchase for them all kinds of provisions, and that he had already sent his man to Palermo to confirm that he would be able to obtain from the Viceroy permission for free loading of the provisions. He had asked for a warrant of authority to act in the name of the people of Gozo, for the purchases, which will be sent to him in due course.

For these purchases he was asking 6415 Scudi. He goes on to say: "I consider that a personage like the Baron, could be of great benefit to the people in supplying us with provisions. I am therefore starting to collect an adequate sum and send it to the Baron, and so I would like to know from you what sum of money can be made use of from the Cassa Commune".

19th October 1798, Bondi No 42.

Eman Sonte ni penco s'amagiave il daviaso, cles per mandado in sicilià, onlo lo omani-

mattino puede con gunano sicum innami il danas, der los prenido. Che e quanto e an Lunyer li 10. 8100 120 8.9 omassate ?? iber to Trecho

Archpriest S. Cassar informs L. Grech that: "he was making arrangements to send money in his possession to Sicily tomorrow with a reliable person".

This money was to be sent to Baron Frangipani in Licata, as per Archpriest S. Cassar's letter to L. Grech of the 19th October.

#### 19th October 1798, Bondi unnumbered.

erill. Jig. Come quest' oggi no nicevuto una poliza rev Dane il Meschiato a' panattien del Distretto voito avendo voi aleri Dell' Oryco, porveste esenta a: mentre non abbianno per sornire il Rabe

Questo é quanto devo per suo rego amente De offerendomi a' vottri cenni pieno di sti-ma mi dico. Raid. 19811.1.198. Vostvo Seve. ed am? How Francesco Sace Al Sig. Comand. Liberato Spech in Codal - reia

In this letter Commander F. Pace informs Liberato Grech that "he had received a delivery order to give flour to the bakers of his district, but regret that he cannot give them any as they did not even have enough for Rabat".

20th October 1798, Bondi 44.

Sil comendantes Libert's Freeh Ju Forfiere di unerco aqui dulio di tradimento . es peniti; la ladunanjo Si fair nel vortos lacale Caccio alle ore 4. doppo auguo si; Concernate Duaque la letter speritor alle comandant? del hadur alle quali famite aminere l'acchuere vide contrine la Steja arriso; l'ens anyone Usite 1. 20. STad 1 298. []. ſ. Indiande la pard lecter à il have specifie. Sel-vuro Avoipt V. Correr

Archpriest S. Cassar was also preoccupied with treason. In this letter to Liberato Grech of Caccia he says: "In order to remove any doubts of treason and peril the meeting will be held in your village of Caccia at 4 p.m. Therefore keep the letter sent to the Nadur Commander, and give him the enclosed which is the same as yours".

#### 20th October 1798, Nlm Ms1053 f 8.

Sig. Comandante Tenerale M. Congregio si Anostini que Domanio, es si terri in Casale Caccin alle Ore 4. Doppeo megro di ; il cles le san d'avriso. 2 mi Sing. ai v. li no. 860 i 208. Jus Led. vero Al Sip Gomendante

Archpriest S. Cassar informs Commander F. Pace, that "the congress had been adjourned to, tomorrow and will be held in the village of Caccia at 4 pm".

20th October 1798, Bondi No 45.

/in oman ante Aug to Ser Doppo l'ave marine vi aspetto qui , doverdo vadunani futti i Comandanti per un congregio su affan & grandes importanza. Do hunger Sultano un fumo contati such treveato, e questo ser il not ne fari l'atto delle loss concegne in Cajco ; Con voi gito sur portante treto la Vostor quate armation, come farano quelli del Nadur Sonor. 4. 20. 860 1798 ... Arup Voita Lot

Al Sp. Comendante Isento Trech

In this letter Archpriest S. Cassar informs Commander Liberato Grech of Caccia, "that he will wait for him that evening after the Ave Maria (7pm), as all the Commanders are due to meet for a congress on affairs of great importance" (the next day the 21st, as per his letter to Commander F. Pace of the 20th). He tells him also that "from Giuseppi Sultana he had received three hundred scudi, and that evening, the Notary will draw up the deed, so that he can deposit them in the "Cassa Publica" and concludes his letter by saying: "with you bring all your men in arms, as the Commanders of Nadur will do".

What where the affairs of great importance he wanted to discuss with Congress? He wanted to inform Congress about the discussions he had had with the Portuguese and British Commanders on the 19th October.

#### 22nd October 1798, Bondi No 46.

ip (omendante itent Weiche Con Sommo mio piacere Scato Carrier della schifaccio con orgio. La lesson à del Parme Frangipani apraj solligaate ; lo la poiego de favner mendave dat più pryto a Patron Menjian per of packado; a questo per piacendo al Cicle ci calevens meglis - Sours. Li 21. 8000 1298. Avip . Juo fur. Al Sip. omradantes ilente Treile

In this letter Archpriest Cassar informs Commander Liberato Grech of Caccia, that "he was pleased to know that a vessel had arrived from Baron Frangipani from Licata".

On the 19th October Archpriest S. Cassar had informed Commander L Grech that Baron Frangipani had agreed to send them food etc. So the vessel arriving in Gozo on the 22nd was very quick work indeed by Baron Frangipani.

#### 22nd October 1798, Bondi No 48.

In: Comono: Vono con questa à vioevirui motto è nel merte vi necessita per il nostro l'agale un poco d'orgio per il Servizio del Lopolo, come infatti aieri o det a Venzino che abbinno bijogne per il nottro lagale e coje gousto matino-mandai tutti li fornati al migiarro per profiare ili las e non anno troumto, di più Venna vijoge alle detti Tornari nalamente, e dell'orgio che anno portato la altre barchi abbiamo prejo, è anche anno pigliato per il vytro lajale è coji bijogna regolariji questo per non lagerar lamente nel nostro lagale, è aspettinono la ripoita con il latore è retiamo tutti noi à salutari è offererd: Sadar hi 22 stores 98. Intonio Renave Dentato trancesco the

( omand : Freed hounts nel Ingal Caccia.

The parallel pen marks indicated a road and the dashes a horse, meaning that this letter was to be dispatched by a mounted courier.

In this letter the Commissioner of Health Antonio Reynaud and Commander Francesco Attard of Nadur, express concern about wheat distribution saying: "This is to show our esteem to you, and to let you know that this morning I sent the bakers to Migiarro to pick up barley for our village which is in need of it, but they have not found any. Moreover Venzina was rude to them, re the barley, which arrived by boat on our shore.

There is therefore a great need to regulate distribution, in order to avoid complaints in our village".

#### 22nd October 1798, Bondi No 49.

if Comendanto ibert's freeh to in prize & - ere bene i conti del velore dell' orgo includendo il pregeo, a il nolo con tute le spece, c'am falo vendere più di quello du viene , purcher la Capia non viene à Fave perditor minto importors se non fair quadaque, Some sempre untro 6. 12. 8000 1298.

V'arrets, che dalla Sicilia è Itats Competer for ~ 11. 3. La Salma, e che in ogni saline sons queatos trummenti di più = perto. Avin . Copson ibento Frech

In this letter Archpriest S. Cassar directs Commander Liberato Grech to "work out the accounts well on the value of the barley, and to include in the price all the expences, but he was not to sell it at a higher price than that arrived at. Never mind if it does not make a profit, but neither a loss for the Cassa Publica". He also informs him in the postscript, that "he has bought other consignments from Sicily at 11 scudi 3 tari per "salma" and that in each "salma" there was 4 tumoli of barley."

#### 22nd October 1798, Bondi No 50.

Sig Concurr Ju: vostra Senve e venuto a piliare qui scartuai, che esistevano in casa del Sig. Mallie. Mi june etters do contro l'interi wiene det Sig ! aniprote, mentre it Reb-

buto non deve esseres sportito della munijone; essendo qui is Nemico. Non manco per altro di parteripare il me avaprile Della mia condotta. El offerendomí a avortri cermi prieno Di lance mi die Rall. M. Doob. 1798. Vorra Sedied Amico Francesco Dave Cone 1. Comand. fil as Sig

In this letter Commander F. Pace of Rabat informs Commander L. Grech, that "his men had come to take possession of the cartridges which were to be found in the house of Sig Mallia".

He points out that this "seemed to him to be against the orders of the Archpriest as Rabat was not to remain without munitions, being so close to the enemy" and "was going to inform the Archpriest about this". 22nd October 1798, Bondi No 51.

Sig - Comendante Le accluedo uston del santo giornale cler semini per tresto la porti. Inquesto por al destores nes allos face: ais cles con convenientes avere il jegemento. Socol: li 282 \$ 600 1298.

oman - Alente Frech

In this note Archpriest Cassar says "that he was sending to the commanders (a Holy Journal) probably meaning a Bible, which was to serve all the posts." He also informs Liberato Grech that he was to act as he thought fit to regain payement from a debtor. *(to be continued)*