



## ADV - 1

The above Registered Envelope (R. No. 31) sent by Notary Muscatello of Augusta, Sicily on the 5th July 1895 to Baron Giuseppe De Piro a well known personality, in Notabile (Mdina) - Malta, arrived in Malta on the 6th July 1895. It has the Boxed "ADVERTISED / 6 JULY 95 / G.P.O. Malta" (Adv - 1). This date is the earliest recorded being 8 years 3 months 20 days earlier than what was quoted in the Malta Newsletter Vol. 10 No. 8.

It is also the first recorded on an ENVELOPE and addressed to a CIVILIAN, as the ones recorded are on post-cards, addressed to Military Personnel, mainly to soldiers in the 2nd Battalion the Cameron Highlanders (1903-04) stationed in Mtarfa Barracks located about 2 miles away from Mdina, Rabat, doing garrison duties. The 1st Battalion of the Cameron Highlanders, doing also garrison duties in Malta were here during 1892 - 1895. There is a fresco on top of one of the doors of the main hall of the "Main Guard" opposite the Palace in Valletta, depicting the 2nd Battalion of the Cameron Highlanders while in Malta.

We can easily understand why ADV - 1 on cards addressed to Personnel at Mtarfa was applied, because Mtarfa was too far out for a delivery to take place, so the cards etc were placed at the G.P.O. for collection. This reason does not apply in the case of Baron De Piro living at Mdina.

The only logical conclusion I can arrive at is that most probably Baron De Piro was on holiday (either at his Malta summer residence or abroad) July, August, were and still the hottest months in Malta, and the Maltese did and still do take their holidays during these two months) but the letter being a Registered one, could not be dropped in his letter box, but was placed at the G.P.O. for collection.