

Disinfection

Part 5

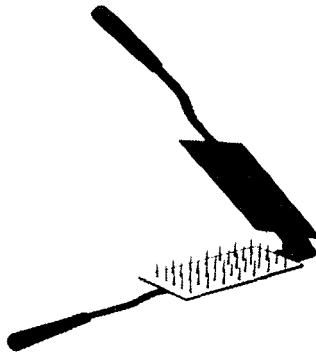


By Dr. A. Bonnici

Slitting of letters for fumigation purposes was not only done in Malta but also extensively used in the Lazzarettos of France and Italy and quarantine establishments.

Austrian and German Contumaz stations used to perforate the letters with punch holes using a rastel. That is why these stations were called "Rastelamts".




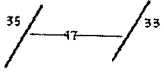
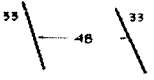

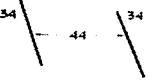
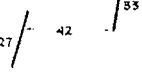
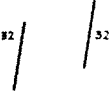
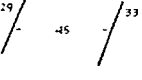
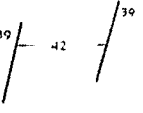
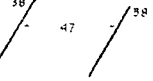
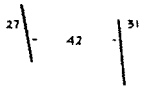
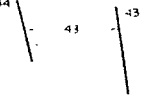
*Signor
Simone Tagliapferro
Odesa*



So far we have no evidence that this method was used in Malta.

PATTERN RELATIONSHIP AND MEASUREMENTS (in millimeters) OF SLITS FOUND ON LETTERS WITHOUT AND WITH DISINFECTION CACHETS APPLIED AT MALTA

LEGEND WITH INITIAL P. COLLECTION OF D. PATTON LEGEND WITH INITIAL M. COLLECTION OF K.F. MEYER
 TYPE A - DISINFECTION CACHET 25mm
 TYPE B - DISINFECTION CACHET 26mm

<p>P MALTA 1823</p> 	<p>P MALTA 1823</p> 
<p>P MALTA 1838</p> <p>LEFT HAND FOLD OF COVER SLIT ALL THE WAY</p> 	<p>M SYNA-VIA MALTA-NIZZA di NARE-PIEDMONT TYPE A 1838</p> 
<p>M ATHENS VIA PIRAEUS-MALTA-LIVORNO TYPE B 1839</p> 	<p>M CORFU-MALTA 1840 TYPE B Front</p> 
<p>M ATHENS-VIA PIRAEUS-MALTA-MARSEILLE-LONDON TYPE A 1841</p> 	<p>M ATHENS (PIRAEUS ON BACK)-MALTA 1842 TYPE B</p> 
<p>P MALTA 1842 1846 1847</p> 	<p>M BEIRUT-SMYRNA-MALTA-LIVORNO TYPE A 1843</p> 
<p>M CONSTANTINOPLE-VIA LIVORNO-GENOA TYPE A 1844</p> 	<p>M ATHENS-VIA MALTA-MARSEILLE-PARIS TYPE A 1845</p> 
<p>M ALEXANDRIA-MALTA-LIVORNO 1846 TYPE A</p> 	<p>M MAURITIUS VIA TRINCOMALEE-ALEXANDRIA-MARSEILLE PAQ ANGOULOME-BRUSSELS TYPE A 1846</p> 

<p>P MALTA 1824</p> <p>20 20</p>	<p>M 1838 CORFU - VAPORE IN GLESE - MALTA NO CACMET</p> <p>27 — 50 — 28</p>
<p>M 1839 CORFU - MALTA TYPE A</p> <p>35 / — 45 — \ 35</p>	<p>M 1840 AT-ENS, Posto-Montebello-Maximus TYPE A VIA PIRAEUS - MALTA - MARSEILLE PARIS - BREST</p> <p>34 / — 45 — \ 34</p>
<p>P MALTA 1840 1842 1845</p> <p>30 32</p>	<p>M 1841 ALEXANDRIA - VIA MALTA - MARSEILLE TYPE A</p> <p>31 / — 44 — \ 31</p>
<p>M 1842 MALTA - LEGHORN TYPE B</p> <p>31 / — 43 — \ 30</p>	<p>M 1842 CONSTANTINOPLE - VIA MALTA - PARIS TYPE B</p> <p>32 / — 45 — \ 32</p>
<p>M TYPE A 1843 CONSTANTINOPLE - VIA MALTA - LEGHORN</p> <p>35 / — 45 — \ 31</p>	<p>M TYPE A 1844 PIRAEUS - MALTA - MARSEILLE - EDINBOROUGH</p> <p>33 / — 45 — \ 28</p>
<p>M 1845 CONSTANTINOPLE - MALTA - LIVORNO TYPE B</p> <p>31 / — 44 — \ 32</p>	<p>M TYPE A 1846 CONSTANTINOPLE - MALTA - LIVORNO - GENOVA</p> <p>29 / — 43 — \ 32</p>
<p>M 1847 ALEXANDRIA - MALTA TYPE A</p> <p>34 / — 45 — \ 30</p>	<p>P MALTA 1849</p> <p>22 — 20 — 20</p>
<p>M 1861 CONSTANTINOPLE - BRISTOL - ZOSTOFFNE - MALTA</p> <p>28 / — 48 — \ 28</p>	<p>M TYPE A 1850 GENOVA - AMMIRACLIATO - MALTA - CORFU</p> <p>19 / — 65 — \ 18</p>

The Knights lost Malta in 1798, when Napoleon Bonaparte on his way to Egypt, captured the Island and turned it into a French base for the support for his army fighting in the East. This change gave hope to many and despair to others. It swept away many of the old regulations, whilst it introduced new measures and provisions. The Quarantine service was in no way relaxed. In one of his earliest decrees, Napoleon ordered that “Les lois de la santé à Malte ne seront ni plus ni moins rigoureuses que kes lois de la santé de Marseille.” (1)

Soon after his occupation of Malta, Napoleon ordered the Commissioners of Health, whom he styled Magistrates of Health, to report, together with other High Officials of the Local Government to General Berthier at noon of the 26 Prairial (14th June 1798) for the purpose of expressing their loyalty to the French Republic and to receive instructions about their office. (2)

On the 18th June, Napoleon issued a schedule of official tariffs. Article 10 of the list empowers the Magistrates of Health to establish and collect fees from vessels and passengers arriving in Malta. (2)

Napoleon was not satisfied with the location of the Lazzaretto on Manoel Island because on the 16th June he gave orders to the General Officer Commanding the Malta division to the Commissioner of the Civil Government and to the Commission of the Maritime troops to meet together and find a place for the erection of a new Lazzaretto. The selected site had to measure at least 3200 metres long and of the same width, so that it could accommodate at least 600 soldiers plus quarters for officers together with a garden for the relaxation of officers. No doubt Napoleon had in mind the isolation of infected soldiers in Malta before their return from the Egyptian campaign to their home in France. He also directed that meanwhile ships and passengers should continue to undergo their period of quarantine at the old Lazzaretto. (2)

The rising of the Maltese against the French suspended all the schemes for the erection of a new Lazzaretto. General Vaubois, the French Governor of Malta had other matters of a pressing nature to deal with, and because of the blockade of the Island by the British fleet, there was little risk of the introduction of the contagious disease from abroad, the prevalent disease was malnutrition. (3)

Since the French had retreated behind the fortified bastions the Lazzaretto was not available for patients, hence it fell more or less in disuse during the two years of the French occupation of Malta.

Finding himself unoccupied Mathew Pulis, who was in charge of fumigation at the Lazzaretto, became involved in a conspiracy of the insurgents to seize the city of Valletta by surprise. he was shot with other patriots in the Palace Square at dawn on the 29th January 1799. (4, 5.)

1. Information to Commanders of Vessels entering the port of Malta, Health Office, Malta. 5 August 1801.
2. Correspondence de Napoleon I, publiée par ordre de l'Empereur Napoleon III, Paris 1859.
3. Robert, Dr - Mémoire sur la Topographic Physique et Medicale de Malte, P. Didot. L' Aire, Paris An XI. (1802).
4. Mifsud A. - Origine della Sovranità Inglese su Malta, Malta 1907.
5. Professor Joseph Galea, The Lazzaretto of Malta.