

Malta

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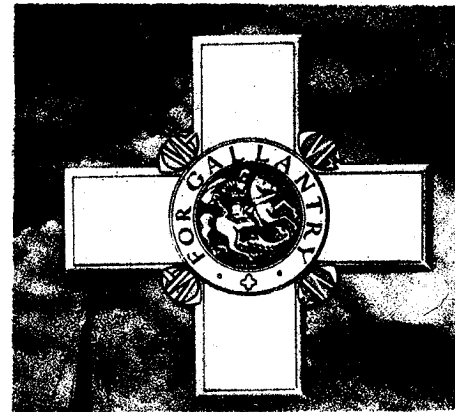
MALTA, G. C.

History:

Malta, G.C. (George Cross), a self-governing colony of the British Commonwealth of Nations, is the largest and most important of the Maltese Islands. It is 17 miles long and eight miles wide and has population of 330,000. It is situated 58 miles south of Sicily and 180 miles north of the African mainland. The capital is Valletta, with a population of just under 20,000. Most of the population are Maltese, speaking the Phoenician Maltese language (which is akin to Syriac and Arabic). English and Maltese are the official languages. Under its constitution of 1947, Malta was granted a measure of self-government. The constitution was repealed in 1959, however, and the island again became a Crown Colony ruled by Great Britain through the Governor. The principal importance of Malta is its strategic location as a naval base. It is the site of Headquarters, Allied Forces, Mediterranean (HAFMED).

The numerous Megalithic and Neolithic temples and remains unearthed in the 19th Century reveal Malta to have been inhabited by man from pre-Stone Age times. Its recorded history is one of storm and turmoil down until 1814, when it was annexed to the British Empire. It was a Phoenician colony from 1000 B.C. It later fell to the Carthaginians, who in turn lost it to the Romans in 218 B.C. From the transition of Roman rule to Arab, Maltese history again becomes obscured. Malta became part of the holdings of the Byzantine Empire, but like Sicily, it changed hands between eastern and western empires time and again. It was overrun by the Saracens in 870, who seemed to regard Malta more as a useful fortress than as a land to colonize, and they thus allowed the inhabitants a certain freedom in the practice of their religion. It was again taken in 1090 by the Norman kingdom of Sicily, but the Arabs were not expelled from the island until 1227. Two hundred years later, after enduring some hardships under the feudal regime, the Maltese paid their own ransom and gained their freedom from the feudal lord, Monroy. Freedom was short-lived, for Malta was successively occupied by Spanish and French.

In 1530, Emperor Charles V gave Malta to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem (known today as the Knights of Malta), who had just lost Rhodes to the Turks. Under their rule Malta enjoyed 228 years of being a state in itself, with its own fleet, ambassadors, and coinage. It was held by Napoleon from 1798 to 1800, when the British took it. British rule commenced in 1814 after the Treaty of Paris. Malta was granted dominion government in 1921. After the church-state controversy it reverted to crown colony status in 1933. During World War II Malta played an important role in aiding British shipments to Africa and in hampering Axis shipping. Consequently, it became the world's most heavily bombed area, undergoing more than 1,200 air raids. The people of Malta were awarded the Cross of St. George by the King of England for their outstanding services during this conflict.



Transportation:

Local Transportation consists of taxis, horse-drawn cabs (called karrozzins), and water transport (referred to as dghaisas). Trolleys and railways are non-existent in Malta. Buses operate to all parts of the island. Terminals in Valletta



are located at Castille Square, and between the Phoenicia Hotel and the Main Gate to the city. There is a regular ferry service to Gozo, weather permitting. The ferry runs from Marfa at the northwest corner of the island. Dghaisas may be hired in Marsamxett and Grand Harbour.

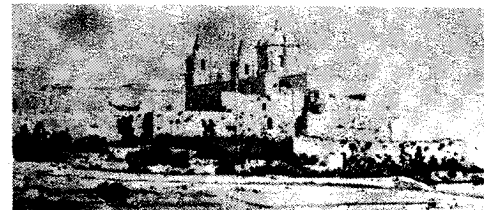
There is a table showing authorized taxi, karrozzin and dghaisa fares. In the event that a taxi or Karrozzin driver demands an excessive fare, he should be asked to drive to the nearest police station. Otherwise, a policeman should be contacted and the particulars (registration, number, time, journey) transmitted.

Tours:

The offices of the Government Department of Information and Tourist Services is located at 24 Merchant Street, Valletta, telephone Central 24901. Personnel are encouraged to take local tours. Buses, with capacities of 28 men each, can be hired to take parties on sight-seeing trips. Arrangements can be made through the British Fleet Recreation Officer, but as much notice as possible should be given. The tour of Rabat, the orange groves, the fresh water lakes and return via Mosta is interesting. Guide books are recommended and can be purchased at any bookstore or newstand in English editions. One such book is Wilkinson's "Guide to Malta", costing 25¢. Swimming tours are not recommended.

Local attractions and places of interest in Malta include the following:

- Megalithic remains: the Hypogeum, Neolithic temples
- Medieval fortifications
- World War II bomb damage
- Palace of the Grand Masters--Valletta
- St. John's Co-Cathedral--Valletta
- The National Museum, "Auberge de Provence"--Kingsway, Valletta
- City and Cathedral of Mdina
- St. Paul's Catacombs and Roman villa--Rabat
- St. Paul's Bay (site of St. Paul's shipwreck)
- Blue Grotto--Wied-iz-Zurrieq
- Verdala Castle--near Rabat
- San Anton Gardens--near Attard.



Shopping:

Some of the better buys in Malta are given below. The main shopping areas are Kinsway, Merchant Street and connecting streets, in Valletta; and Prince of Wales Road and Tower Road in Slieme. Shopping in the company of a tout is usually more expensive than going alone. Such people should be avoided.

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|--------------------------|---|
| Malta Weave: | Malta Industries--Iquanez Street,
Rabat |
| | Mary Bugeja--Rabat |
| | Miss Vella--near St. Paul's
Catacombs, Rabat |
| Handbags, napkins, toys: | Phoenicia Hotel Shop |
| Lace: | Carmelo Cassar, Kingsway, Valletta |

British Woolens: Shops on every street in Malta

Briar Pipes: Marich's--Old Theatre Street, Valletta,
and at other tabacconists.

Pottery: Malta Industries Pottereis--near San
Anton Gardens

Churches:

There are over 300 Roman Catholic churches in Malta. Others include the Church of England, Church of Scotland (Presbyterian), Methodist and Greek Orthodox. There are also Christian Scientist and Jewish services. Some of the churches are:

Roman Catholic: Cathedral of St. John - St. Paul's Square.
Masses: 0600, 0800, 0830, 0915, 1115,
1200

Church of England: St. Paul's Cathedral - Old Theatre Street
Morning Service: 1031; evening
service 1800

Methodist: Floriana Methodist Church - Floriana.
Sunday services: 1000 and 1800.

Jewish: Place of Worship - 9 Supper Street,
Valletta; open all day.

Hotels:

The following hotels in Malta are recommended:

Phoenicia - The Mall, Floriana, telephone Central 5341. Bars
restaurant, snack bar, dancing

Imperial - Sliema

Astra - Sliema

Tigne Court - Sliema

Dowdalle's - Kalafrana, near Marsaxlokk; small boat landing for
ships in Marsaxlokk.

Restaurants:

There are several good restaurants in Malta. The following are recommended:

Phoenicia Hotel - The Mall, Floriana. Elaborate service, below
average food for the money. Expensive

The Griffen - 44 Iguanez Street, Rabat. Excellent view of island
outside dining in summer, usually dancing. Good food,
reasonably priced.

Harbour Bar - St. Paul's Bay - Outside dining in summer. Good
seafood.

The Tunny Net - Mellieha. Outside dining in summer. Good sea-
food, some Italian food



Bologna - Valletta. Italian food. Good for lunch and dinner.
City Gem - 2a St. Pius Street, Sliema. Victorian atmosphere.
Good steaks, reasonably priced. Frequented by Royal Navy
junior officers.

Cafe Cordina - Kingsway, Valletta. Excellent coffee and snack
bar. Tympana, native Maltese dish, a specialty.

Clubs and Bars:

Visiting officers are usually made honorary members of one or both of the two
Service clubs. They are:

Union Club - Sliema. Amenities include bars, dining
room, writing and card rooms,
billiards, and five hard tennis
courts. Dinner dances are held
on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Pri-
vate beach facilities are avail-
able at Tigne; changing rooms and
a bar are provided.

United Services Sports Club - Marsa, telephone Fortress
133. The sports facilities include
polo grounds, tennis and squash
courts, a cricket ground and a
private beach at Tigne (Sliema).
Golf can be played in the winter
months on an 18-hole course. There
are changing rooms and hot showers.
Gear can be rented on the premises.
Light refreshments are served.

The Royal Malta Yacht Club, San Rocco Baths, near Hay Wharf, has
extended privileges to officers in the past.

Beaches:

The best sandy beaches are found in the northwest part
of Malta at Paradise Bay, Armier Bay, Ghanjn Tuffieha and
Military Bay. Other good beaches (bathing from flat rocks)
are Peter's Pool and Delimara Point in the southwest, and
around Bahari-Caghak in the north. The private beach at
Tigne (Sliema) is available to officers.

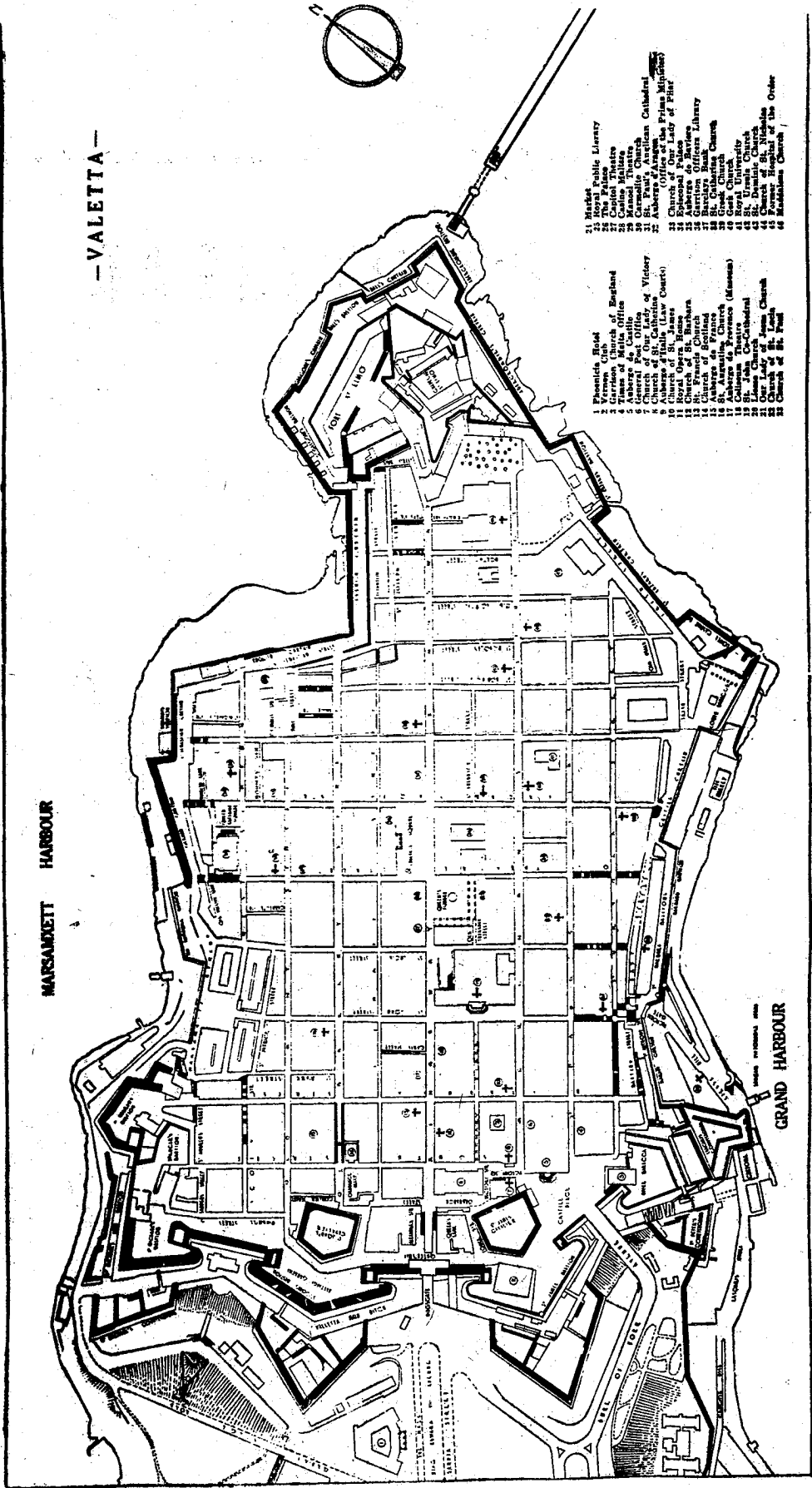


Bathers are warned against sea urchins and jelly fish. Due to a strong undertow
it is dangerous to swim at Ghajn Tuffieha when the red flag is flying. There is al-
ways a risk when swimming in the harbor.

Athletics:

There are three football fields, a hockey field, two tennis courts and two
cricket pitches at Corradino. A rugby ground at Marsa is available two days a
week. Application for the use of these facilities must be made to the Port
Recreation Officer (PRO), telephone Dockyard 7634.

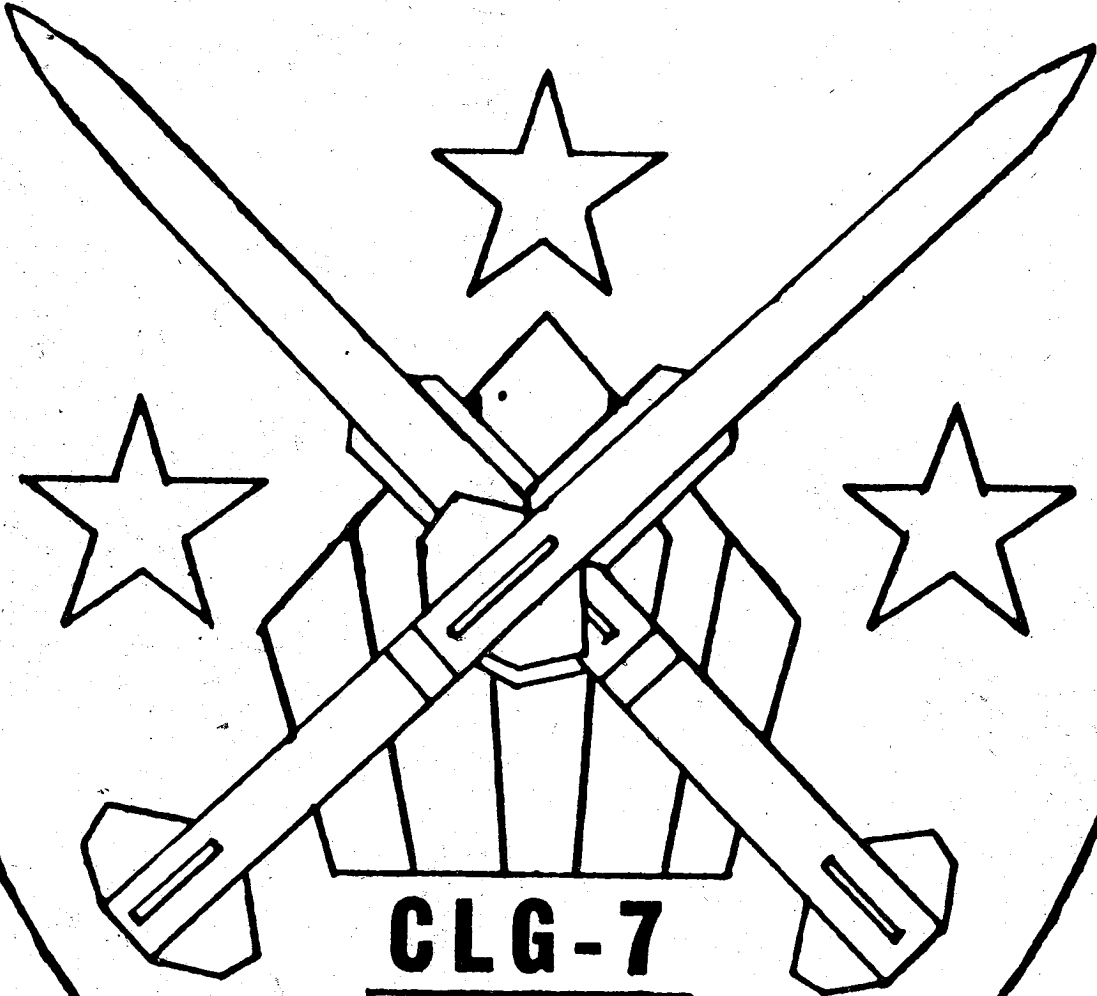
-VALETTA-



- 1. Frenchie Road
- 2. Garrison Church of England
- 3. Times of Malta Office
- 4. General Post Office
- 5. Church of St. Paul of Victory
- 6. Church of St. Catherine
- 7. Address of the Law Courts
- 8. Address of the Law Courts
- 9. Address of the Law Courts
- 10. Address of the Law Courts
- 11. Royal Opera House
- 12. Church of St. Barbara
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- 48. St. John's Cathedral

The quality of this map is very poor; however, it is the only one available for reproduction.

USS SPRINGFIELD



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