Malta and the Second World War

A BIBLIOGRAPHY

By

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For two anxious years in 1941 and 1942 the fate of the Second World War hinged on the defence of Malta. This little Island situated in the centre of the Mediterranean Sea possesses strategic value of the highest importance, and the Powers that control it dominate the flow of men and matériel between three continents. The defence of Malta thwarted the Southern thrust of the Axis powers and barred their way to India and the Far East thus frustrating the eventual link up between the Japanese forces and their European allies, on which depended the ultimate success of the Axis powers.

During those two long and weary years the world wondered at the outcome of the battle of Malta; all peoples, friends and foes alike, were filled with admiration for the heroic stand of this little Island. The immediate effect of that admiration was a surge of enthusiasm which engendered a flood of publications in various languages and in many lands. Some of these publications were but in the confusion of those hectic times, others have since been forgotten, but all of them possess a certain intrinsic value, being contemporary to the events which they describe, and therefore have the importance of actuality. Many other publications were written after some time by persons who had played their part in, or were witnesses to, these events.

These publications therefore may be considered as useful documents, and at some future date they may serve as valuable sources of information to the historian engaged in relating the story of those stirring times. With this aim in view I have given here a short list of publications related to that eventful period in the history of Malta.

The greater part of the list was prepared from a private collection of books and other publications, and represents a comprehensive idea of the multiplicity of angles from which war circumstances in Malta were viewed. Some of the publications are not, strictly speaking, records of war conditions in Malta, but they were actuated by such conditions. The fame acquired by this Island created universal interest; the reading public throughout the world became Maltese conscious and wanted to know everything about the Island and its people; hence the great variety of publications that ensued.

The purpose of this list is to help not only the historian but also those who take an intelligent interest in the affairs of Malta. With this object in view a classification has been formulated suitable for easy reference. The publications have been grouped under four headings: narrative, descriptive, political and miscellaneous.
The line of distinction, especially between the two first groups, is not well defined but an attempt has been made to sort out as much as possible the various publications in their relative groups.

Generally speaking descriptive and narrative works appeared in allied countries, while political publications were more prevalent in enemy countries; miscellaneous publications originated from various sources. Narrative works included war novels which give a good picture of life in wartime Malta.

The four main groups have been further subdivided into books, pamphlets, sections in books, articles in periodicals and press references. This distinction has been made for the benefit of the reader and to facilitate reference. All publications with more than 100 pages have been classified as books, those with 100 pages or less have been entered as pamphlets; this classification has been adopted merely for the sake of convenience. Nearly all the books and pamphlets are fully documented and profusely illustrated. There were innumerable articles in periodicals and newspapers the value of which is chiefly pictorial. Whenever possible the name of the author or the editor is given; in press references however only the title of the relative organ is mentioned.

It has been thought proper to add to this collection a list of periodicals and newspapers that were issued in Malta and abroad exclusively as wartime publications. These were quite different from and independent of the ordinary daily or periodical local press such as the "Times of Malta", "Il-Berqa", "Lehen Is-Sawwa", "Il-Malti", "Lehen il-Malti", that continued to appear uninterruptedly throughout the war and contain very interesting material about war conditions in Malta.

The world-wide impression made by Malta during the war did not end with the cessation of hostilities. In fact the Island maintained its hold on the imagination of writers as well as on the attention of the public. This explains the post-war publications, which contain interesting chapters or sections about Malta. Some of these publications are of the nature of personal memoirs or reminiscences, others deal with the aftermath of war in Malta such as reconstruction, political developments, social problems etc. In order to make this list as comprehensive as possible the period covered extends from 1939 to 1950 i.e. from the first year of the War to five years after its conclusion.

The following list of publications is by no means complete: admittedly there are many other publications on the subject which have escaped my attention. My primary aim in the compilation of this list has been to encourage and induce others to publish additional lists so that a complete bibliography of war publications about Malta may be available.

**NARRATIVE**

**A. BOOKS:**


**Fiction:**


A. — BOOKS:


B. — PAMPHLETS:


C. — SECTIONS IN BOOKS:


D. — ARTICLES IN PERIODICALS:


A. — BOOKS:

159. STORIA DELLE CONSTITUZIONI MALTESE SOTTO LA DOMINAZIO-
NE INGLESE, by Giov. Sammut. Roma, Edizioni Maltesi, [1959]. x, 
175 p.

160. CINQUE ANNI DI LOTTA POLITICA A MALTA, by Enrico Mizzi. Roma, 

161. IL CENTAURU MALTESE, OVVERO MOSTRUOSITA’ LINGUISTICHE 
NELL’ISOLA DEI CAVALIERI, by Pietro Silvio Rivetta (Toddi). Mila-
no, Casa Editrice Ceschina, 1940. 185 p. illus.

162. LA FINE DEL PRINCIPIATO DI MALTA, by Carlo Galileo Sevastano. 
Milano, Casa Editrice Oberdan Zocchi, 1940. 309 p. illus.

163. CIVILTA’ MALTESE. Roma, Edizioni Maltesi, 1940. [vi], 268 p. 
Contributions by various authors.


165. LA QUESTIONE DI MALTA (1798 - 1874), by Dino Dainacci. Napoli, Luigi 

166. MALTA, REPORT OF CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION: by Sir 

B. — PAMPHLETS:

167. ITALIANITA’ DI MALTA, by Annibale Schiuma Sorge. Roma, “Dante 
Alighieri”. 1949. 31 p.

168. FORME E COLORI DELLA TRADIZIONE MALTESE, by Amy A. Ber-
nardly. Roma, Edizioni Maltesi, 1940.

169. MALTA: 10 caricature of Paolo Conigli. Roma, Edizioni Maltesi, 1940. 
Potter.

170. NUOVI DOCUMENTI SULLA LOTTA ITALIANA A MALTA: racconti e 

171. MALTA OPPRESSA: Otto articoli di Antonio Cini, raccolti e ordinati 

172. MALTA ITALIANISEMA, by Guido Parisio. Roma, Edizioni Maltesi, 
1940. 14 p.

173. COME L’INGHILTERRA BARO’ NELLA PARTITA DI MALTA; by A. 
Offizina dalla “Gioconda di Politica e di Letteratura” A. XVI. — Fasc. VII, 13 
Agosto - Settembre 1940.

1940. 14 p.

175. L’INGHILTERRA AL BANDO DEL MONDO; Roma, Edizioni “La 
MISCELLANEOUS

A. BOOKS:


Plus for reconstruction after war devastation.

B. PAMPHLETS:

Literature - Poetry


Medical and Health


228. L-EWwel GĦAJNUNA Lil Min IrORRI Fi 2Mien IL-GwERRA, by Ġuże Ġalea, M.D., D.P.H. Malta, Progress Press, [1940]. 21 p.


230. ACUTE ANTERIOR POLYMYELITIS, by Prof. J. E. Debono, Prof. P. P. Debono, Dr. C. Cachia, Dr. E. Agius. British Medical Association, Malta Branch. The Allied Malta Newspapers Ltd., 1943. 15 p.


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239. WAR DAMAGE COMMISSION, MALTA: Private Chatsel Scheme (Pamphlet D). In English and in Maltese. Malta, Government Printing Press, s.d. 10 p.

contain useful information about Malta and Government activities connected with them.

The following periodicals and newspapers were issued exclusively as war-time publications:

2. INFORMATION OFFICE CIRCULAR LETTERS, in English. Malta, 1940.
3. INFORMATION OFFICE DAILY NEWS BULLETIN, in English and in Maltese. Malta, 1940.
4. INFORMATION SERVICE BULLETIN, in English and in Maltese. Malta, 1940 - 42.
5. QARI MALTI: Alexandria, Egypt, 1941 - 46.

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