Malta and the Second World War

A BIBLIOGRAPHY

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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 Middle Sea possesses strategic value of the highest importance, and the Power that controls it dominates the flow of men and material 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 lost 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 those events.

Those 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 Malta-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, whilst 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-Sewwa", "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**:


7. A WOMAN IN MALTA, by Tamara Marks. Cairo, R. Schindler, 1943. [viii], 107 p.


Fiction:


B. — PAMPHLETS:

   Serial, incomplete.

21. MALTE PASSE A L’ATTAQUE. [1943]. [12 p.].


Fiction (including Drama):


   Short story. Offprint from “Il-Malti”.

   Short story. Offprint from “Lehen il-Malti”.

   War Play.

   War Play.

   Juvenile fiction.

C. — SECTIONS IN BOOKS:

35. RULE BRITANNIA, by Cecil King. London, 1941. xii, 280 p. illus.
41. EAST OF MALTA WEST OF SUEZ: the Admiralty Account of the Naval War in the Eastern Mediterranean, September 1939 to March 1941. London, His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1943. 63 p. illus. Appeared in French in 1943 under the title "De Malta a Suez".
44. THE MEDITERRANEAN FLEET — GREECE TO TRIPOLI: The Admiralty account of Naval Operations, April 1941 to January 1943. London, His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1944. 95 p. illus.
49. AFRICAN TRILOGY. by Alan Moorehead. London, Hamish Hamilton. 1944. 592 p. maps. A personal account of the three years struggle against the Axis in the Middle East and North Africa. 1940 - 43.
52. THE SILVER PHANTOM: H.M.S. Aurora, by Her Company. London, Frederick Muller Ltd., 1945. 94 p. illus.
The work of the Fleet Air Arm.
See also No. 69.
The Lees Knowles Lectures at Cambridge University in 1947.
See also No. 60.
   French translation.
   A true story of reconnaissance work in the Mediterranean.
   Contains an interesting account of the E Boat attack on Malta.

D. — ARTICLES IN PERIODICALS:

81. THE WAR WEEKLY: London, 1 November 1940.
82. THE WAR WEEKLY: London, 7 February 1941.
83. ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS: 15 March 1941.
84. ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS: 19 July 1941.
85. THE SPHERE: London, 4 April 1942.
86. ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS: 4 April 1942.
88. IMAGES: No. 703. Le Caire, Egypt. 28 Fevrier 1943. Attaque Navale Contre Malte.
89. IMAGES: No. 705. Le Caire, Egypt. 14 Mars 1943.
90. THE SPHINX: Egypt, 10 April 1943.
92. AIR FORCE NEWS: 18 May 1943.

E. — PRESS REFERENCES:

Contains also a poem by Will H. Ogilvie.
100. THE PALESTINE POST: 27 August 1942.
101. LA BOURSE EGYPTIENNE: 11 June 1943.

DESCRIPTIVE

A. — BOOKS:

20 drawings by P. Consiglio.

B. — PAMPHLETS:

105. WORKS OF ART IN MALTA: Losses and Survivals in the War, compiled by Hugh Braun. London, His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1946. [vi], 48 p. illus.

C. — SECTIONS IN BOOKS:


113. THE WAR IN PICTURES: London, Odhams Press Ltd., [1940 - 45?]


D. — ARTICLES IN PERIODICALS:


118. THE WAR WEEKLY: London. 14 March 1941.


120. THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS: 2 August 1941. (E Boat attack on Malta).

121. WORLD DIGEST: London, August 1941. "Malta — Key to the Mediterranean" by Harold J. Shepstone.

122. PARADE: Middle East Weekly. Vol. 5 No. 65. Egypt, 8th November 1941.

123. THE SPHERE: London, 10 January 1942.


126. THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS: 2 May 1942.


130. EVERYBODY'S WEEKLY: London, 4 July 1942.


October 1943. Pictorial only.


135. AIM: No. 15, March 1944. Army Illustrated Magazine, Middle East Command.


138. THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS: 4 May 1946.


140. EGYPTIAN RADIO: 4 September 1947.


144. UNITY: Vol. 1, No. 1, 1948-49. Lothian, Scotland.


149. TODAY: No. 15, published for the Colonial Office by the Central Office of Information, London.


E. — PRESS REFERENCES:


155. THE EGYPTIAN MAIL: 24 October 1942.


Three articles by "Bartimeus".

158. TIMES WEEKLY EDITION: London, 17 February 1943.
A. — BOOKS:


163. CIVILTA' MALTESE, Roma, Edizioni Maltesi, 1940. [vi], 298 p. Contributions by various authors.


B. — PAMPHLETS:


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


184. SEHEM L-INGILTERRA FIL-GWERRA: Dar ta’ S. Gużepp, [1942?], 24 p. Published by the “Information Office”, Malta.


C. — SECTIONS IN BOOKS:


D. -- ARTICLES IN PERIODICALS:


206. THE COLONIAL REVIEW: December 1946. Colonial Department, University of London Institute of Education.


211. EVERYBODY: London, 3 December 1949. "Gratitude is not enough", by Commander R. T. Bower, R.N. (Retd.).
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E. — PRESS REFERENCES:


MISCELLANEOUS

A. — BOOKS:


B. — PAMPHLETS:

Literature - Poetry

218. IL-GHANJA TAL-GWERRA TAGHNA, by Salvu Agius. Valletta, Giov. Muscat, s.d. 8 p.
Medicine and Health


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


C. — SECTIONS IN BOOKS:


D. — ARTICLES IN PERIODICALS:


Issued by the Infestation Division, Ministry of Food, London.


257. ANNUAL DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS during and after the war years
contain useful information about Malta and Government activities connected with them.

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

1. MALTA. Quindicinale. Esce per la durata della Guerra. Roma, 1940 - 42. In Italian.
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.
7. MALTA CATHOLIC REVIEW. Issued by the Information Office. In English. Malta, 1943 - 44.
8. YOUNG MALTA. Issued by the Information Office. In English and in Maltese. Malta, 1943 - 46.

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