



CEREMONY OF PRESENTATION
OF THE
"SWORD OF HONOUR"

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY FIELD MARSHAL THE VISCOUNT
GORT, VICTORIA CROSS, KNIGHT GRAND CROSS OF
THE MOST HONOURABLE ORDER OF THE BATH,
COMPANION OF THE MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF
THE BRITISH EMPIRE, COMPANION OF THE MOST
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER, MEMBER OF THE
ROYAL VICTORIA ORDER, MILITARY CROSS, DOCTOR
OF LAWS (HON. CAUSA) AID DE CAMP.

BY THE

BAND AND ALLIED CLUBS

IN MALTA AND GOZO

HELD AT ST. PHILIP SQUARE, ŻEBBUĠ

on the 12th March 1944

SYNOPSIS OF THE HISTORY OF ZEBBUG.

(Translated from the Maltese of Mr. L. VELLA.)

Although the village of Żebbug was only recognised as an independent parish about the year 1436, it was undoubtedly inhabited long before that by people worthy of their motherland. Many archeological remains of Phoenician and Roman origin, found in the village as well as in its neighbourhood, testify to this fact.

The patriotism of the Zebbug people was evident during the Great Siege of 1565, when the village provided one of the best regiments: Of this regiment not less than 900 lost their lives on the battlefield, and in memory of these patriots a solemn funeral is still held annually in the Parish Church on the 7th September. At about this time one of the Zebbug citizens, Mgr. Butigieg, was appointed Bishop in the East, and after the death of St. Francis Xavier was sent as Apostolic Delegate to India.

On the 21st June, 1777, Grand Master De Rohan bestowed the title of "City" upon the florid village, in memory of which the people of Zebbug erected a gate to which they gave the name of Rohan Gate.

The learned Zebbug historian, Father Pelagio, Capuchin, wrote of a Zebbug citizen who became a famous Missionary, Father Alfonso Butigieg, who much to the honour of the name of Malta, preached the Word of God among the heathens.

The town of Zebbug was moreover the birth-place of great warriors, like Marku Butigieg, Duke of Biron and Field Marshal of the King of France. On the other hand a young Zebbug lady became Princess of Vallakia or, as it is known nowadays, Jugoslavia, where her husband Bazilkon, by some thought to be himself a native of his wife's birthplace, ruled the land—"Basilicon Melitensis et milas Egregius Vallachiae Princeps". Zebbug-born was undoubtedly the nephew of this Prince, Mgr. Bogdano,

a renowned and learned Missionary, whom Pope Alexander VI made Archbishop of Uskob, the then capital of Albania.

At a later period a Zebbug-born dignitary, Mgr. Mikielang Mallia, a personal friend of Emperor Charles VI, was living in Vienna, while not less distinguished was the Zebbug-born painter and architect Karlu Dimech who is traced to have lived first in Portugal and then in Rome. Furthermore there lived in this City, and was widely known, the learned Zebbug historian and writer Father Pelagio, Capuchin. Honour be to the Father of the Maltese Language, Mikiel Anton Vassalli, who for some time studied in Rome where he established for himself an uncommon fame.

Honour be also to good and brave Dun Mikiel Xerri, Maltese hero and martyr, shot by the French whom he had done his best to expel from the Island, and to the able and upright Canon Frangisku Saverju Caruana, who succeeded in expelling the French and in assuming for the Island the protection of great and unconquered Britain.

Many are the fellow-countrymen who have since contributed to uphold the prestige of their native town, and who have so to say, branched out from the old olive tree—after which the village was first named. They have risen never to die out but to keep the prestige of their native town always fresh and green—“Semper Virens” as called by the great Maltese Latinist Zammit Brighella.

ST. PHILIP BAND CLUB—ZEBBUG

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SWORD OF HONOUR

PRESENTED BY

BAND AND ALLIED CLUBS IN MALTA & GHAWDEX

Interpreters of the People's Admiration, Gratitude, Devotion
and Love

TO HIS EXCELLENCY FIELD MARSHAL THE VISCOUNT GORT V.C.

their great Leader and Governor during the Second Siege of Malta.

DONORS

MALTA		Peace	Naxxar
Eastern Star	<i>Attard</i>	Constitutional	<i>Pawla</i>
St. Mary	<i>Attard</i>	G.M. Fra De Paula	<i>Pawla</i>
Balzan Youths	<i>Balzan</i>	Pinto	<i>Qormi</i>
Maria Annunziata	<i>Balzan</i>	St. George	<i>Qormi</i>
San Gabriele	<i>Balzan</i>	Lourdes	<i>Qrendi</i>
Duke of Edinburgh	<i>Birgu</i>	St. Mary	<i>Qrendi</i>
Duke of Connaught	<i>B'Kara</i>	Count Roger	<i>Rabat</i>
St. Helen	<i>B'Kara</i>	Kazin Soċjali	<i>Kabat</i>
St. Georges	<i>Bormla</i>	L'Isle Adam	<i>Rabat</i>
Dingli	<i>Dingli</i>	St. Julian	<i>San Giljan</i>
Lion Sporting	<i>Furjana</i>	St. Nicholas	<i>Siggiewi</i>
The London W.T.	<i>Furjana</i>	Sliema	<i>Sliema</i>
Vilhena	<i>Furjana</i>	Stella Maris	<i>Sliema</i>
Malta Home Guard	<i>Gharghur</i>	Annunziata	<i>Tarxien</i>
St. Bartholomew	<i>Gharghur</i>	Anglo Maltese League	<i>Valletta</i>
St. Joseph	<i>Ghaxaq</i>	King's Own	<i>Valletta</i>
St. Mary	<i>Ghaxaq</i>	La Valette	<i>Valletta</i>
San Giuseppe	<i>Hamrun</i>	St. Georges (Overseas	
St. Cajetan	<i>Hamrun</i>	League)	<i>Valletta</i>
San Giuseppe	<i>Kalkara</i>	Ghaqda Muzikali	
St. Leonard	<i>Kirkop</i>	(S. Mikiel)	<i>Zabbar</i>
Circolo Papa Pio X	<i>Lija</i>	Maria Mater Gratiae	<i>Zabbar</i>
Liense	<i>Lija</i>	Malta Home Guard	<i>Zebbug</i>
St. Andrew	<i>Lija</i>	St. Philip	<i>Zebbug</i>
Queen's Own	<i>L-Isla</i>	Beland	<i>Zejtun</i>
St. Andrew	<i>Luqa</i>	Juventutis Domus	
Union	<i>Luqa</i>	(S. Familia)	<i>Zejtun</i>
Imperial	<i>Mellieha</i>	Zejtun	<i>Zejtun</i>
Malta Home Guard	<i>Mellieha</i>	Queen Victoria	<i>Zurrieq</i>
Vittoria	<i>Mellieha</i>	St. Catherine	<i>Zurrieq</i>
King George V	<i>Mqabba</i>		
Lilly	<i>Mqabba</i>		
Nicolò Isouard	<i>Mosta</i>		
Melita	<i>Msida</i>		
		GHAWDEX	
		Leone	<i>Rabat</i>
		The Stella	<i>Rabat</i>
		Victory	<i>Xaghra</i>

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ST. PHILIP BAND CLUB,
ZEBBUG, MALTA.

26th July, 1943.

Field-Marshal the Viscount
Lord Gort V.C.
Governor of Malta.

Your Excellency,

When you assumed the governorship of our troubled Islands, Malta was thrilled with pride and joy, and ever since, conscious of your singular and noble qualities she has been following your leadership with admiration, and with more than simple devotion but with filial love.

When our Gracious Sovereign His Majesty King George VI was pleased to promote you to the dignitous rank of Field-Marshal, Malta was second to none in realizing the worthiness of the gesture and in rejoicing in the honour bestowed upon her Great Leader. One brainwave went over the whole population, how to show best their affection and how not to fail in their attention and appreciation.

The Band and Allied Clubs in Malta and Gozo, on the initiative taken by the St. Philip Band Club of Zebbug, had originally intended to express their feelings with the presentation of a replica of the Field-Marshal's Baton as proposed by the Club's past effective and present honorary President Prof. Philip Farrugia.

As these same Clubs have since been informed that a Sword of Honour would be a more suitable gift, and as they consider it high time that their wish should come true, they have the honour to ask Your Excellency whether you would be good enough as to accept the gift of a Sword of Honour from the Band and Allied Clubs of Malta and Gozo who, we take the liberty to point out, are the very life of the villages and towns in the Islands, and therefore cannot be substituted by better and apter representatives.

As it is the ardent desire of all the Band and Allied Clubs that Your Excellency may condescend to accept from their hands the Islands' token of gratitude and love, the St. Philip Band Club's Committee warmly pray for a favourable reply.

We have the honour to remain,

Your Excellency's obedient and loyal servants,

(Sgd.) REV. L. CALLUS, *President.*

(Sgd.) P. ZAMMIT, *Hon. Secretary.*

(Sgd.) PROF. PH. FARRUGIA, *Hon. President.*

THE PALACE,
MALTA.

29th July, 1943

Gentlemen,

May I say at once that I am deeply touched by your letter of 26th July which you have addressed to me on behalf of the Band and Allied Clubs of Malta and Gozo. To be invited to accept a Sword of Honour is to be invited to accept a gift which falls to the lot of few men, and I am especially proud to accept it as I realize the very special compliment which the Band and Allied Clubs of these Islands are paying me.

Never shall I forget the days through which we passed together; never shall I forget how proud I felt, and still feel, to have been associated with the Maltese people during those difficult times. Everyone stood ready, cost what it might, determined that Malta should once again prove worthy of her glorious history.

I am proud to have had a part to play in the siege and I know that without the loyal support and co-operation of everyone in these Islands no efforts on my part would have availed.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) GORT

The President,
St. Philip Band Club,
Zebbug.

PROGRAMME

- 3.00 p.m. His Excellency leaves the Palace, Valetta and proceeds via Floriana, Spencer Monument, Santa Venera and Qormi.

Members of the Band and Allied Clubs, School Children and Boy Scouts of the route towns are stationed at key points for a worthy "God Speed".

- 3.30 p.m. Arrival of His Lordship the Archbishop of Malta. The St. Philip Band plays the "Pontifical Hymn".

- 3.35. p.m. His Excellency arrives at Rohan Gate—Zebbug. The Trumpeters of the R.M.A. Sound a Fanfare of Welcome. H.E.'s car is drawn by representatives of the donating Clubs and the people in general.

The Band plays "Hymn and Triumphal March" from AIDA.

- 3.50 p.m. H.E. arrives at St. Philip Square and walks to the dais under a canopy formed by the Colours of the Band and Allied Clubs.

The Band plays "God Save the King" to the accompaniment of a chorus of the "Zebbug School Children".

- 4.00 p.m. Prof. Ph. Farrugia, Chairman of the General Committee, introduces the Presidents of the Band and Allied Clubs to H.E.

The St. Philip Band plays "Celebrated Minuet" by Boccherini.

4.35 p.m. The Rev. Lor. Callus, President of the St. Philip Band Club carries the "Sword of Honour".

Prof. Ph. Farrugia delivers a speech and then presents the "Sword of Honour" to H.E. in the name of the Band and Allied Clubs of Malta and Gozo.

The Rev. Lor. Callus reads and presents an Illuminated Address in attestation of the historic event.

5.05 p.m. Speech by His Excellency the Governor.

The Band plays "Sword of Honour", March of Triumph accompanied by the Zebbug School Children Chorus.

5.45 p.m. The Very Rev. P. Galea, Archpriest, unveils a marble tablet commemorating the presentation of the "Sword of Honour" to H.E. and delivers a speech.

6.15 p.m. The Rev. Lor. Callus addresses the people. The Band plays "St. Philip Hymn" and "Hymn of Malta", to the accompaniment of a Chorus of the Zebbug School Children.

6.30 p.m. His Excellency and the guests are entertained by the Committee at St. Philip Band Club. The Band plays suite No. 1— "L'Arlesienne" by BIZET.

7.30 p.m. Fireworks display.

8.00 p.m. Departure of His Excellency. The St. Philip Band plays "Hymn of Malta" and "God Save the King".

H Y M N
AND
TRIUMPHAL MARCH

FROM
"A I D A"

BY
V E R D I

Synopsis

EGYPT is at war with Ethiopia.

The sacred soil of the Egyptian Empire has been raided by Ethiopians, its fields laid waste, its harvest burned and now, emboldened by their easy victory, the predatory hordes are marching on the besieged Thebes and the Valley of the Nile, under the fierce and indomitable warrior -- King Amonasro.

All the people of Thebes and the Valley of the Nile are crying out for vengeance and the grave news has reached the city of Memphis. By the will of Isis, Radames has been appointed leader of the Egyptian Armies.

The fate of Egypt, depending on this battle of Thebes, has been placed in the hands of Radames by the will of the gods.

The vast avenue of the city of Thebes, richly decorated is full of people excitedly awaiting the return of the victor. The splendour of the pageant increases when Radames enters under a canopy carried by his officers.

The people break into a vigorous chorus in praise of Isis, Egypt and the King.

The trumpeters of the Egyptian Armies play a magnificent March Theme.

ENGLAND is at war with the Huns and their allies.

The sacred soil of the British Empire has been raided by the barbarous Huns, its fields laid waste, its harvest burned and now, emboldened by their easy victories, the predatory hordes are advancing on the besieged MALTA and her sister Island GOZO, under the fierce and indomitable warrior - Field-Marshal Kesserling.

All the people of MALTA and her sister Island GOZO are crying out for vengeance and the grave news has reached the city of London. By the will of King George VI, Lord Gort has been appointed leader of [besieged MALTA and GOZO.

The battle of MALTA, on which the fate of England depended, has been placed in the hands of LORD GORT by the will of His Majesty's Government.



The vast square of De Rohan City, richly decorated, is full of people excitedly awaiting the arrival of the victor. The splendour increases when LORD GORT, drawn in his car by the loyal Members of the Band and Allied Clubs and citizens of Zebbug, arrives at the square and walks under a conopy formed by the Colours of the Band and Allied Clubs.

The people break into a vigorous applause in praise of GOD, the EMPIRE and the KING.

The trumpeters of "St. Philip Band" play a magnificent March Theme.

ADEODATO GATT

Director of Music.

SWORD OF HONOUR

March of Triumph with Chorus

"LET US GO FORWARD TOGETHER"

dedicated to

H.E. FIELD-MARSHAL THE VISCOUNT GORT, V.C.
GOVERNOR OF MALTA.

Words by Prof. Ph. Farrugia B.Sc., M.D.

Music by Mr. A. Gatt, Director of Music.

Let us go forward together !

We are brave and we are free

Dark and stormy is the weather,

Red with blood are land and sea.

Let us go forward together,

Up the road that takes to fame !

Thorns may pierce and tear thro' leather,

But we cannot sit in shame.

Let us go forward together !

GORT is leader, brave and free,

GORT will turn the lead to feather,

Where is GORT there MALTA be !

Let us go forward together,

Forward go on wheels of steel !

Fearing not a but or weather

Halting just to GOD to kneel !

Let us go forward together,

Rule the waves the Nelson way,

Beat in air the eagle's feather

Let us go and win the day !

Let us go forward together

In the air, on land and sea ;

Hearts will heal, will clear the weather

GOD will crown the brave and free.

H Y M N — M A R C H

OF

ST. PHILIP BAND

“ BIL-HILA TAS-SEWWA ”

Words by Prof. Ph. Farrugia, B.Sc., M.D.

Music by Mr. A. Gatt, Director of Music.

Bil-ħila tas-sewwa
Bis-saħħa tal-ġieħ
Nghollu dejjem l-isem tagħna,
Żebbuġin, isem sabiħ !

Niftakru kif jixraq
Lil nies Żebbuġin,
Fid-demmm qawwi, qalbieni,
Li minnu ġejjin !

Bil-ħila tas-sewwa
Li tegħleb l-egħdewwa
Li tkeċċi li tirbaħ id-dnub;
Li thenni li twettaq il-qlub.

Infittxu li dejjem
Nghaddu l-quddiem,
Li għall-barka ta' "FILIPPU"
Qatt u qatt ma' jasal tmiem.

HYMN OF MALTA

“LIL DIN L-ART HELWA”

Words by Mons. C. Psaila

English words by Miss M. Butcher

Music by Robert Samut, M.D.

Lill din l-Art helwa, l-Omm li tatna isimha
Hares, Mulej kif dejjem int harist :
Ftakar li lilha bl-ohla dawl libbist !

Aghti, Kbir Alla, id-dehen lil min jahkimha,
Rodd il-hniena lis-sid, sahha 'l haddiem :
Seddaq il-ghaqda fil-Maltin u s-sliem !



Guard her, O Lord as ever Thou hast guarded,
This Motherland so dear whose name we bear !
Keep her in mind whom Thou hast made so fair !

May he who rules for wisdom be regarded,
In master mercy, strength in man increase !
Confirm us all in unity and peace !

“BRITISH NATIONAL ANTHEM”

GOD SAVE THE KING

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King.

Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King.

O Lord, our God, arise,
Scatter his enemies
And make them fall !

Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks
On Thee our hopes we fix,
O save us all !

Thy choicest gifts in store,
On him be pleased to pour
Long may he reign !

May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice
God save the King.

MUSICAL PROGRAMME

to be played by the

“ST. PHILIP BAND”

under the Baton of Mr. ADEODATO GATT

Director of Music

PART I.

1. Hymn and Triumphal March from “AIDA” G. VERDI
2. Celebrated Minuet L. BOCCHERINI
3. March of Triumph “Sword of Honour” A. GATT
(with Chorus)
4. Suite I “L’ARLESIENNE” G. BIZET
 - a) Prelude
 - b) Minuet
 - c) Adagietto
 - d) Carillon

PART II

5. Dramatic Symphony “UNFINISHED” F. SCHUBERT
(1st movement)
6. Impressions from “LOHENGRIN” R. WAGNER
7. Military March
“STARS AND STRIPES FOR EVER” J. PH. SOUSA

Band's Hymn—“ST. PHILIP”

HYMN OF MALTA

GOD SAVE THE KING.