Giuseppe Garibaldi in Malta - March 1864

**VISIT OF GARIBALDI TO MALTA.**

On Wednesday morning, on the arrival of the Valetta from Marsailles, the population was taken by surprise at the news that General Garibaldi was on board, accompanied by his two sons, Menotti and Ricciotti, Secretary of Signor Guerzoni, Dr. Basile, Signorino Basso and Sonycles, and Colonel Chambers, Liverpool Rifles Volunteers.

It appears that the Valetta had received orders at Marsailles to call at Caprera, and on leaving the Island fired two guns, which brought alongside the Guard from the neighbouring Island of Madalena, who enquired the object of their visit. In the meantime, two other boats approached the steamer from the other side, and in a few moments General Garibaldi and his sons and the few friends who accompanied him were on board. On arriving at Malta he enquired if he could land without creating a sensation, and having received permission, he landed at the Quay. At the Imperial Hotel, Valetta, he was met by Sir Victor Grima, a son of the late Sir Charles Grima, and the Zaccaria Roncali, who had been his chief aide-de-camp in Sicily. The visit was then announced to the public, and a great excitement prevailed in the city and throughout the Island.

"After Italian unification in 1861, almost all the liberal refugees in Malta left to return to their homeland. Their place was taken by their adversaries, mainly Sicilian adherents of the ousted Bourbon reigning family."

The beginning of the derogatory report carried in the *Malta Times* on April 4, 1864, on Garibaldi's visit to Malta. COURTESY OF THE MALTESE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MALTA

Giuseppe Garibaldi, a hero of the Italian Risorgimento, from a photograph.

Malta, April 1864.

GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI in MALTA

La notizia isola dava in questi giorni notizie anche di Malta durante la visita di Garibaldi. "Cultura e storia nel lotto dell'ultimo secolo della questione del giudice unione della Chiesa e del popolo, del primo straordinario della rivoluzione italiana," fece il direttore di un giornale italiano.

"Giovedì sera, garibaldino, era arrivato a Malta, dove è rimasto per un giorno."

On the other hand, the report of the *Umbria* makes very different reading. It was reported that no carriage could be found to be hired to take Garibaldi to the quay and so he had to make do with a private one, and that only a small party of about 300 people paid him farewell from a tugboat. Moreover, these supporters - or Garibaldini as they are termed - were also present, according to this newspaper, booted and booted as they left when they returned to land.

Thus came to light the very brief sojourn in Malta of one of the best-known heroes of the 19th century. The necessary arrangements for his short stay had been made by an English gentleman who preferred to remain anonymous.

On March 29, Garibaldi reached Gibraltar where the weather stayed for only a few hours. He arrived safely in Southampton on April 3.

Dr. Joseph Grima, a classicist in literature and former assistant director of education, included among his publications "The Fleet of the Order of Malta" - its organisation during the Eighteenth Century and its role during the Siege of Malta in 1798-1801.