

PLAN
Of the Harbours and Fortifications of
VALETTA
In the Island of Malta
BY
Captain W. H. Smyth, R.E.
Knight of S. Ferdinand and Merit.

In common with H.M.'s Ships
Naval waters
Mercantile waters
Quarantine waters
for foreign warlike Ships & War Merchant vessels
Proposed road across the ditch of Valletta

MALTA

BATTLEFIELD STUDY

Map & Reference Book

22 – 26 May 2023



- REFERENCES
To Fortifications
- 1. The Palace
 - 2. The Grand Church
 - 3. The Castle Church
 - 4. The Church of St. John
 - 5. The Church of St. Peter
 - 6. The Church of St. Paul
 - 7. The Church of St. George
 - 8. The Church of St. Andrew
 - 9. The Church of St. Nicholas
 - 10. The Church of St. Raphael
 - 11. The Church of St. Agatha
 - 12. The Church of St. Elizabeth
 - 13. The Church of St. Mary
 - 14. The Church of St. Ursula
 - 15. The Church of St. Veronica
 - 16. The Church of St. Zeno
 - 17. The Church of St. Zofia
 - 18. The Church of St. Zofia
 - 19. The Church of St. Zofia
 - 20. The Church of St. Zofia



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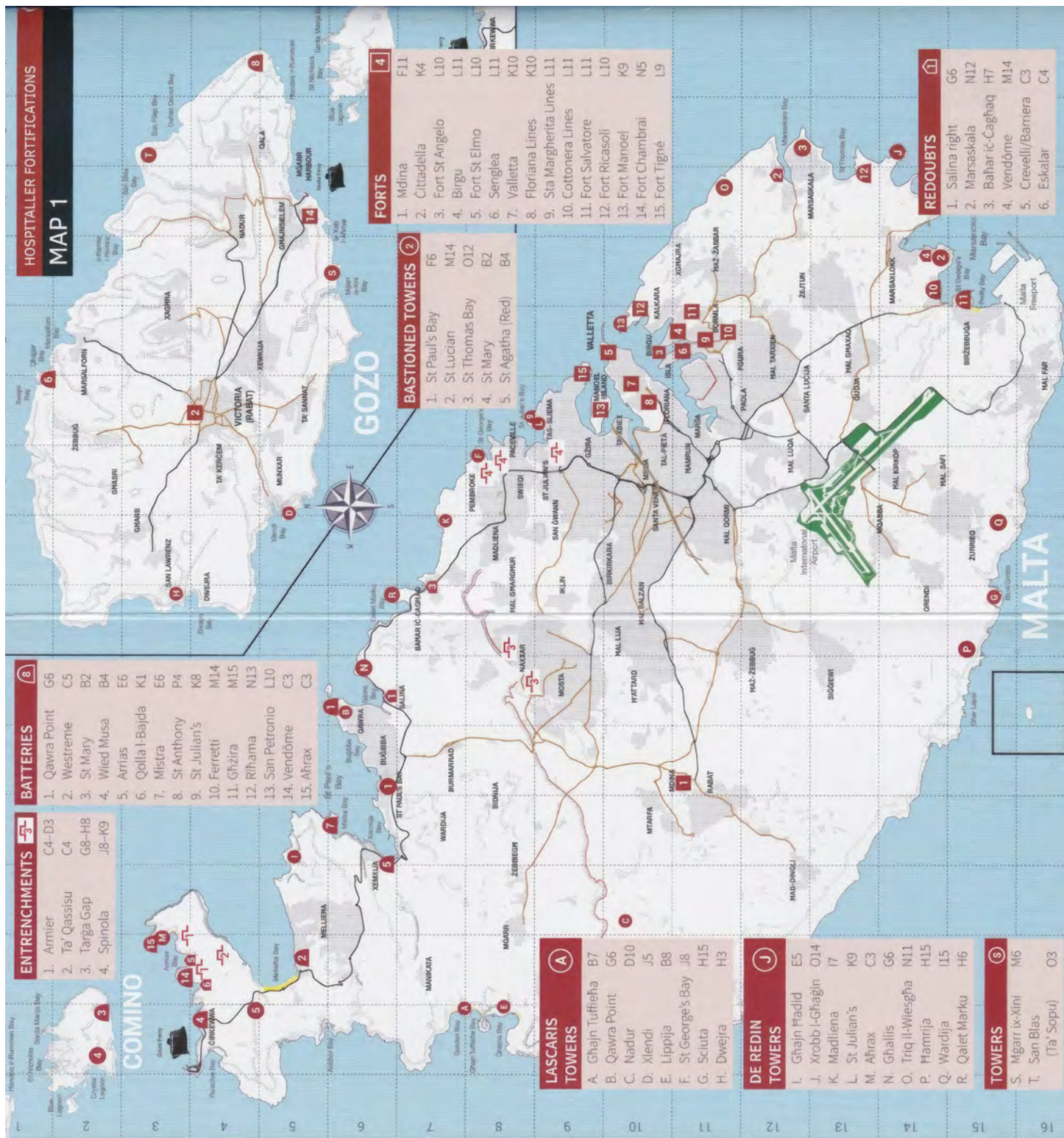


- 1 Fort Rinella
- 2 Notre Dame Gate
- 3 Malta at War Museum
- 4 Dockyard Creek
- 5 Fort St Elmo & National War Museum
- 6 Saluting Battery
- 7 The Lascaris War Rooms and War Headquarters
- 8 Fort Tigné and the Brennan Torpedo Station
- 9 Fort Manoel
- 10 Pembroke Garrison and Military Cemetery
- 11 Fort Madliena & The Victoria Lines
- 12 The Second World War Pillbox in Naxxar Gap

Map 1 – Location of Stands

WITH GRAND AND MARSAMXITT HARBOURS





Map 3 – The Fortifications of the Knights of Malta
(Source: Stephen C Spitieri, *The Fortifications of Malta*)

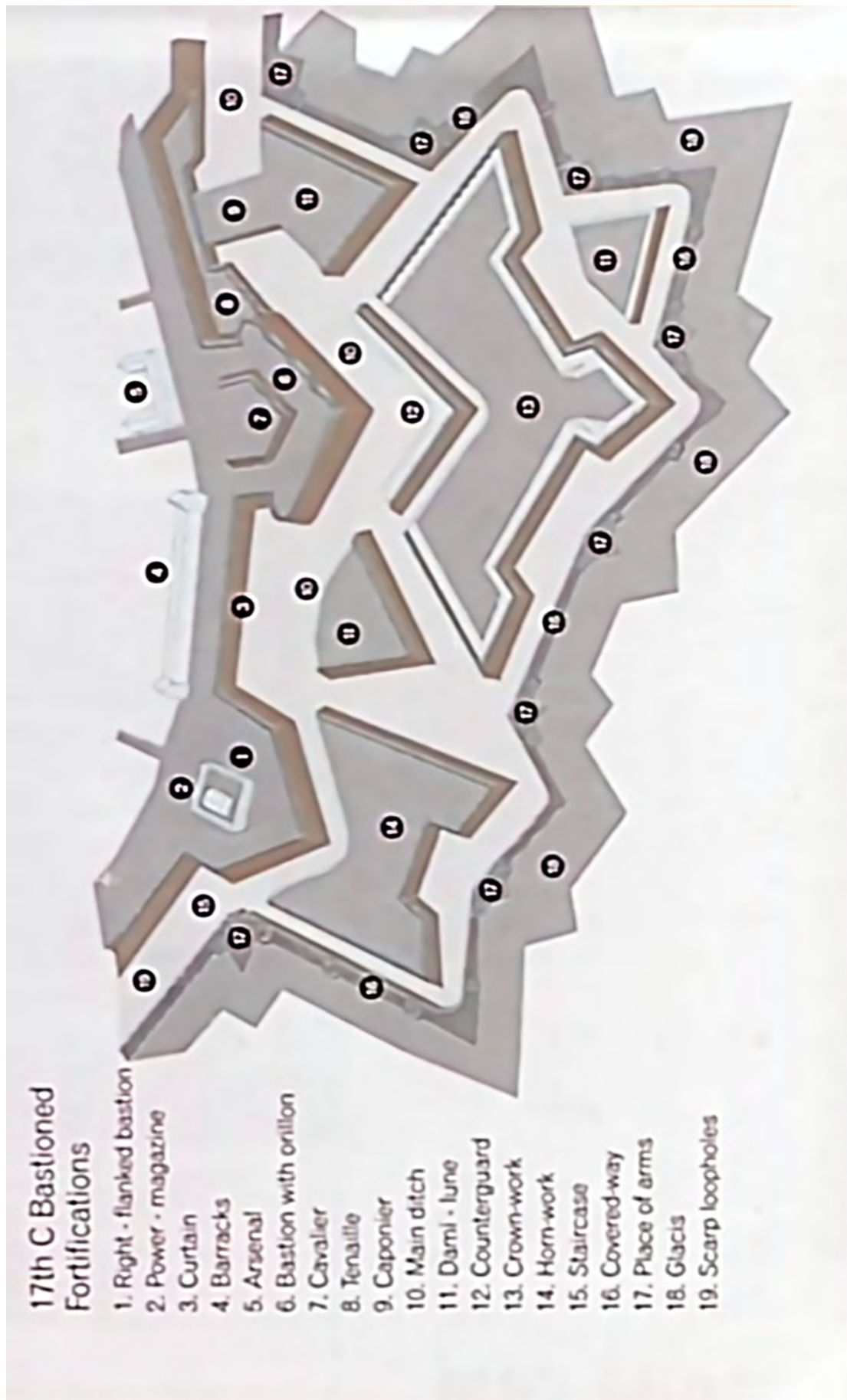
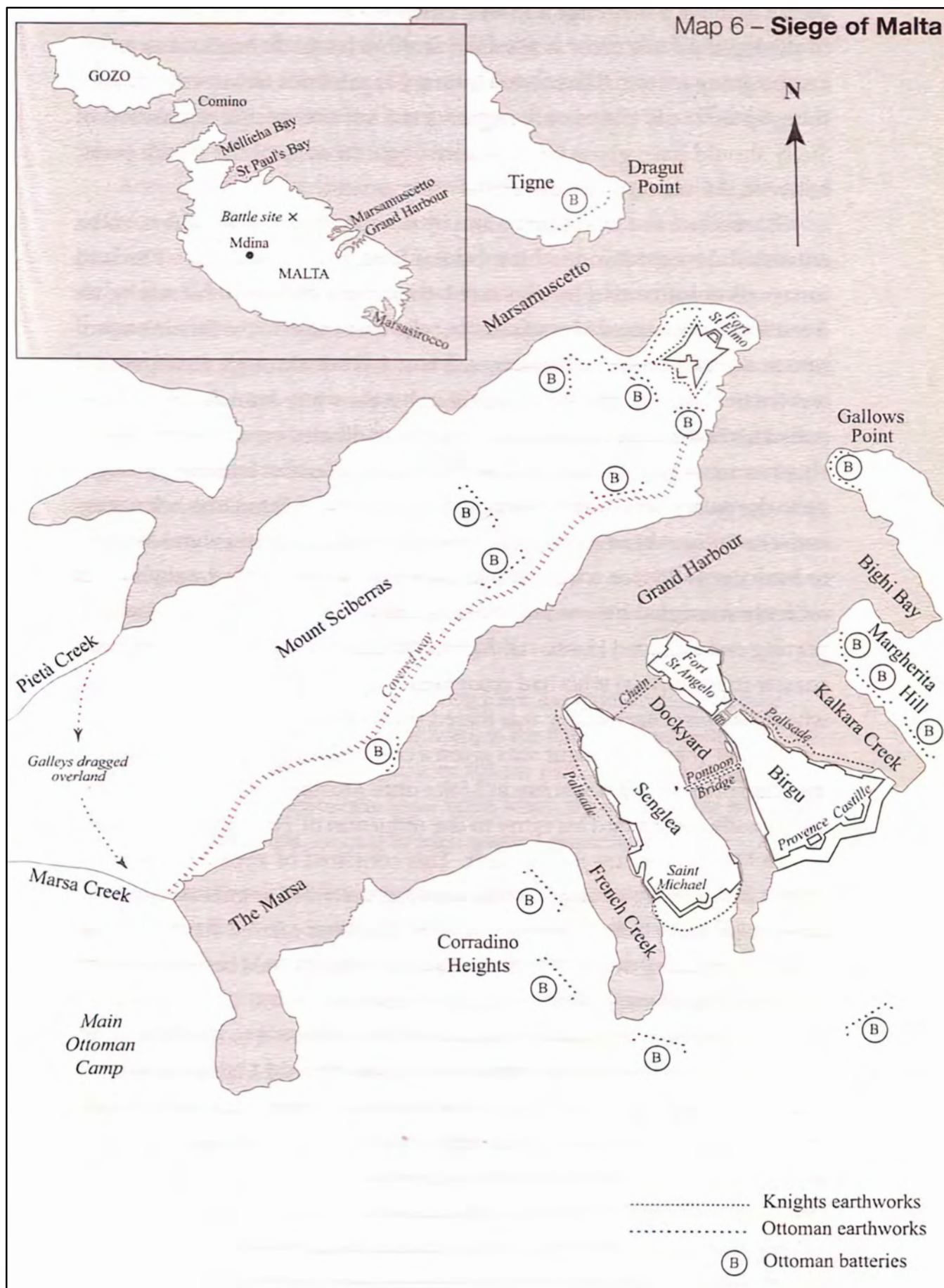
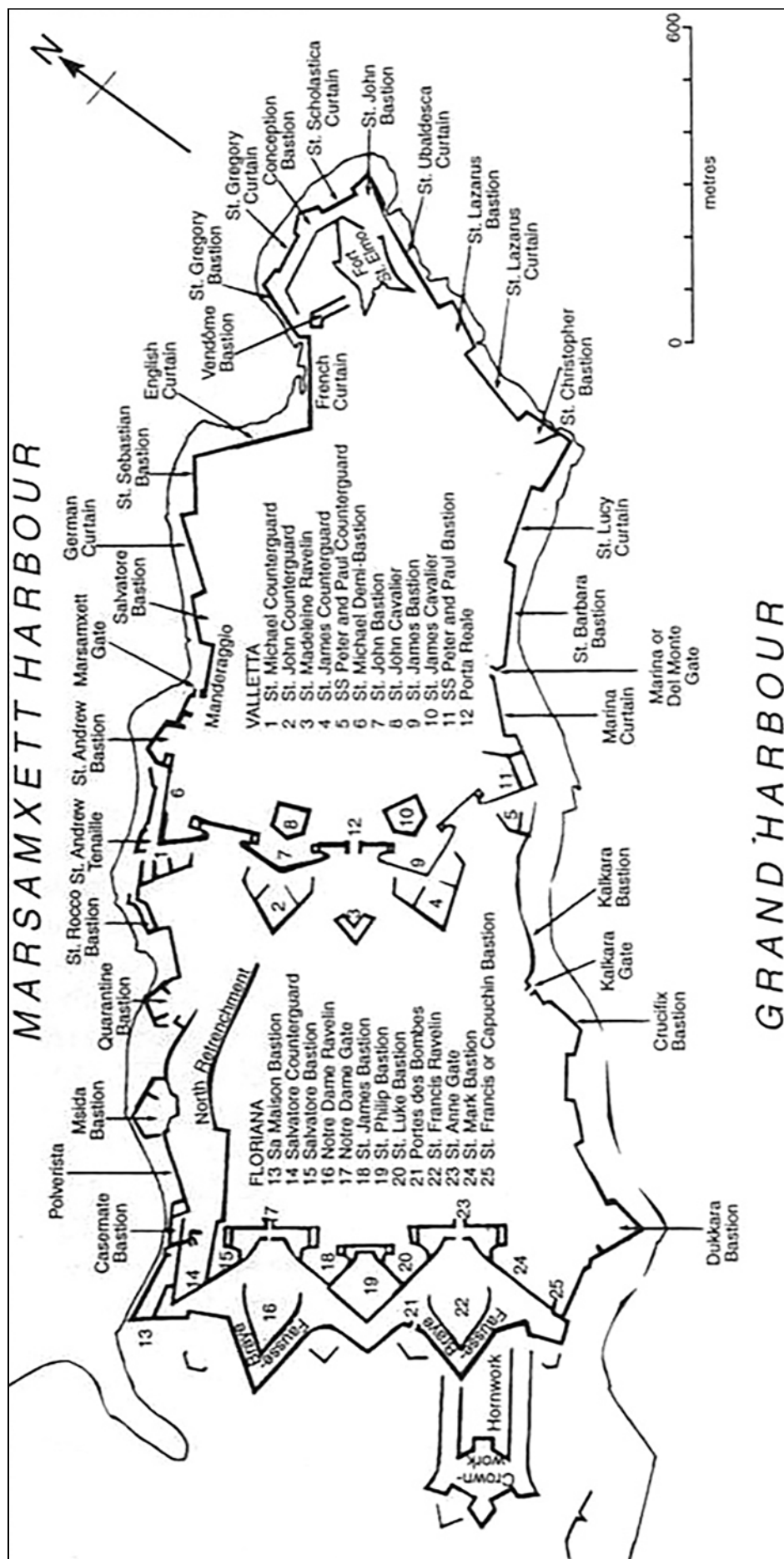


Figure 1 – Typical Artillery Fortifications
 (Source: *Walking the Walls 1530 – 1798*)



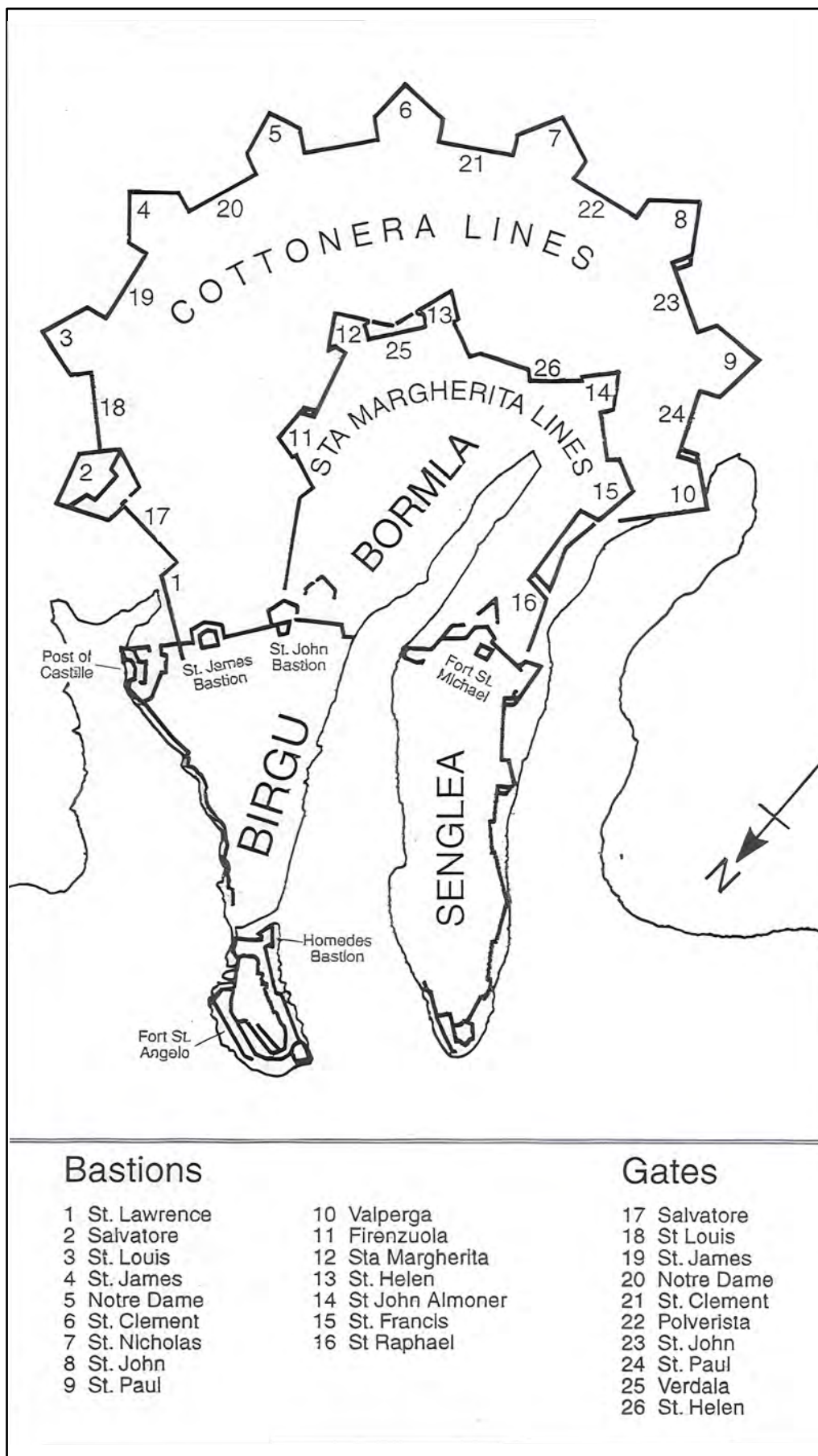
Map 4 – The Siege of Malta 1565

(Source: Hugh Bicheno – *Crescent and Cross: The Battle of Lepanto 1571*)



Map 5 – The Fortifications of Valetta

(Source: Alison Hoppen – *The Fortification of Malta by the Order of St John*)



Map 6 – The Fortifications of Birgu, Senglea & the Cottonera Lines

Source: Alison Hoppen – *The Fortification of Malta by the Order of St John*

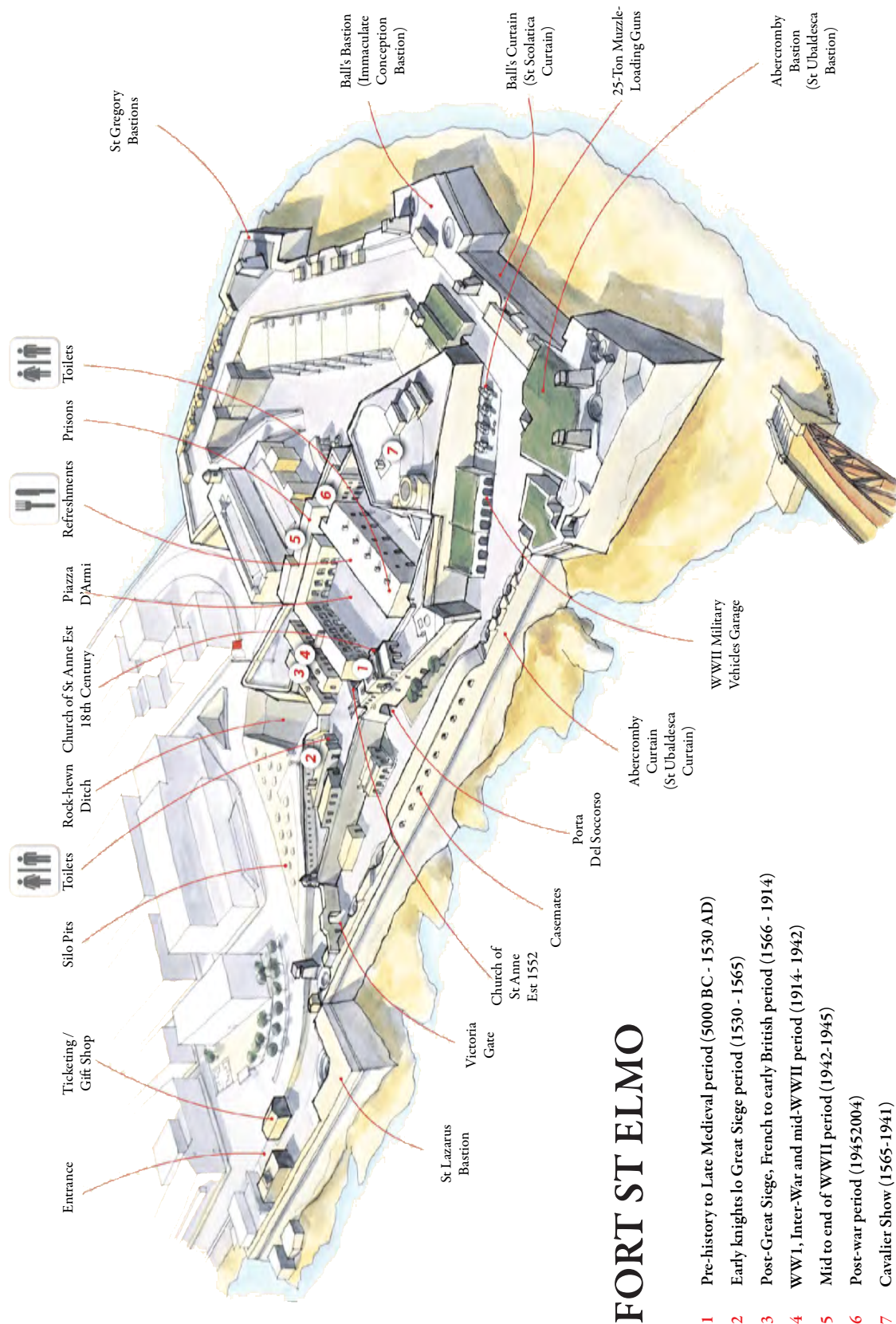


Figure 2 – Fort St Elmo

Source: Heritage Malta Website (<https://heritagemalta.mt>)

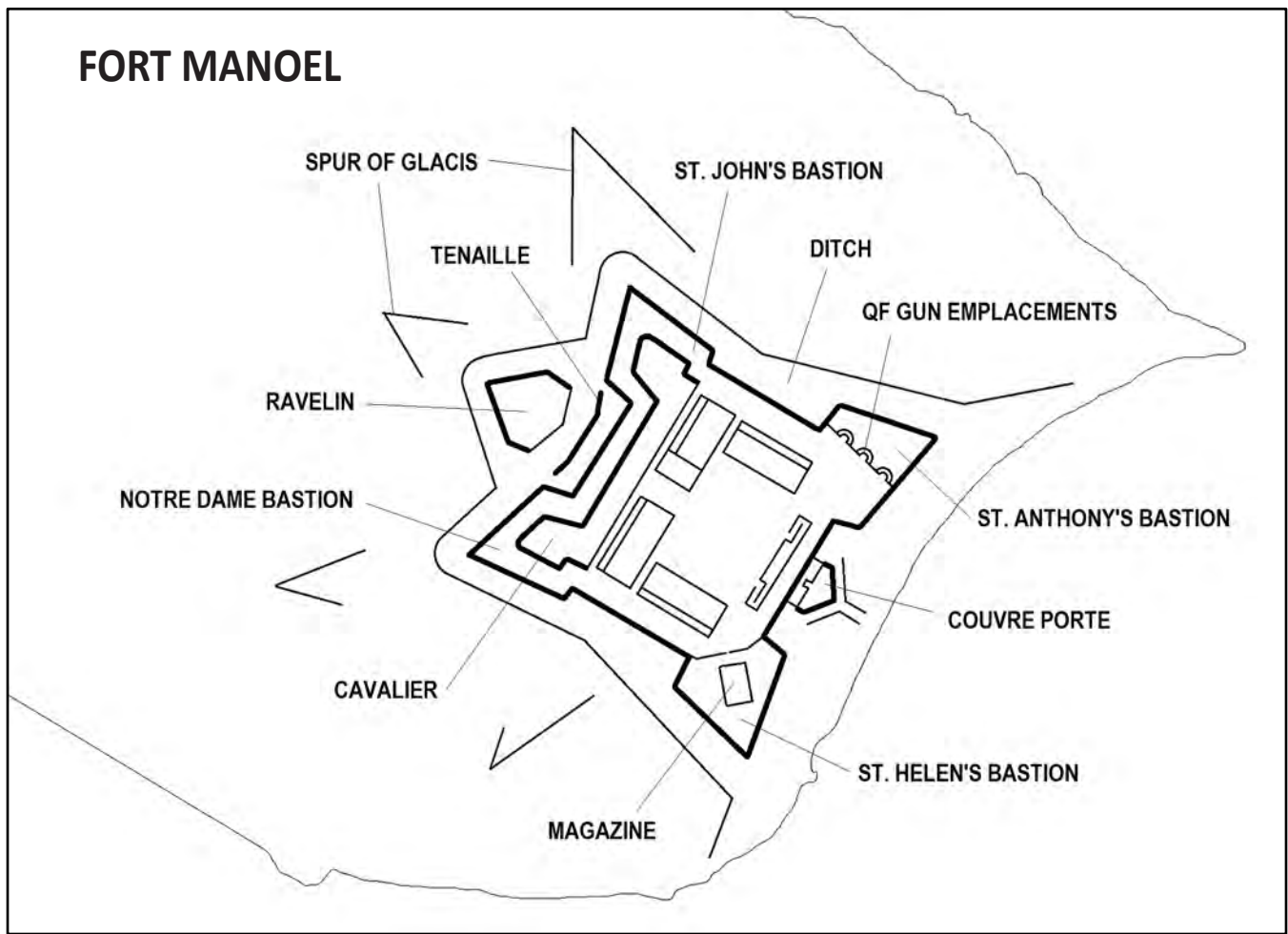


Figure 3 – Fort Manoel

Source: Xwejnusgozo (Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International)

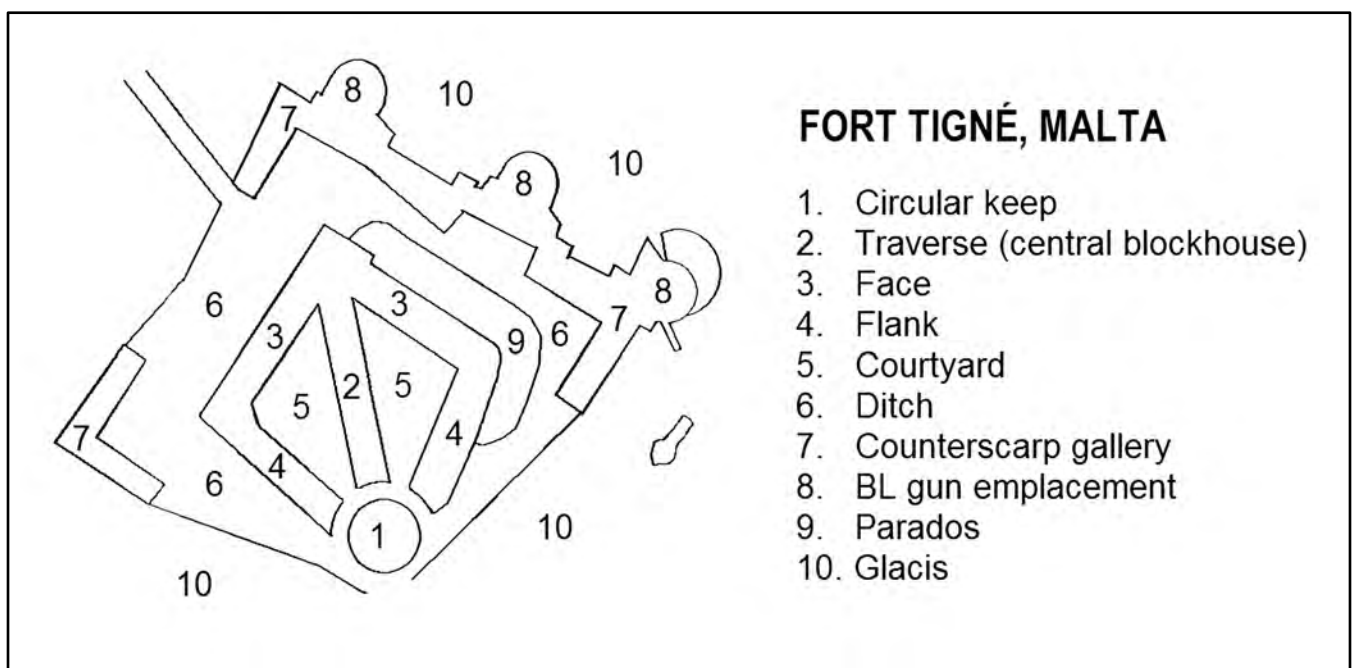


Figure 4 – Fort Tigné

Source: Xwejnusgozo (Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International)



Map 7 – The British Fortifications in Malta
(Source: Stephen C Spitieri, *The Fortifications of Malta*)

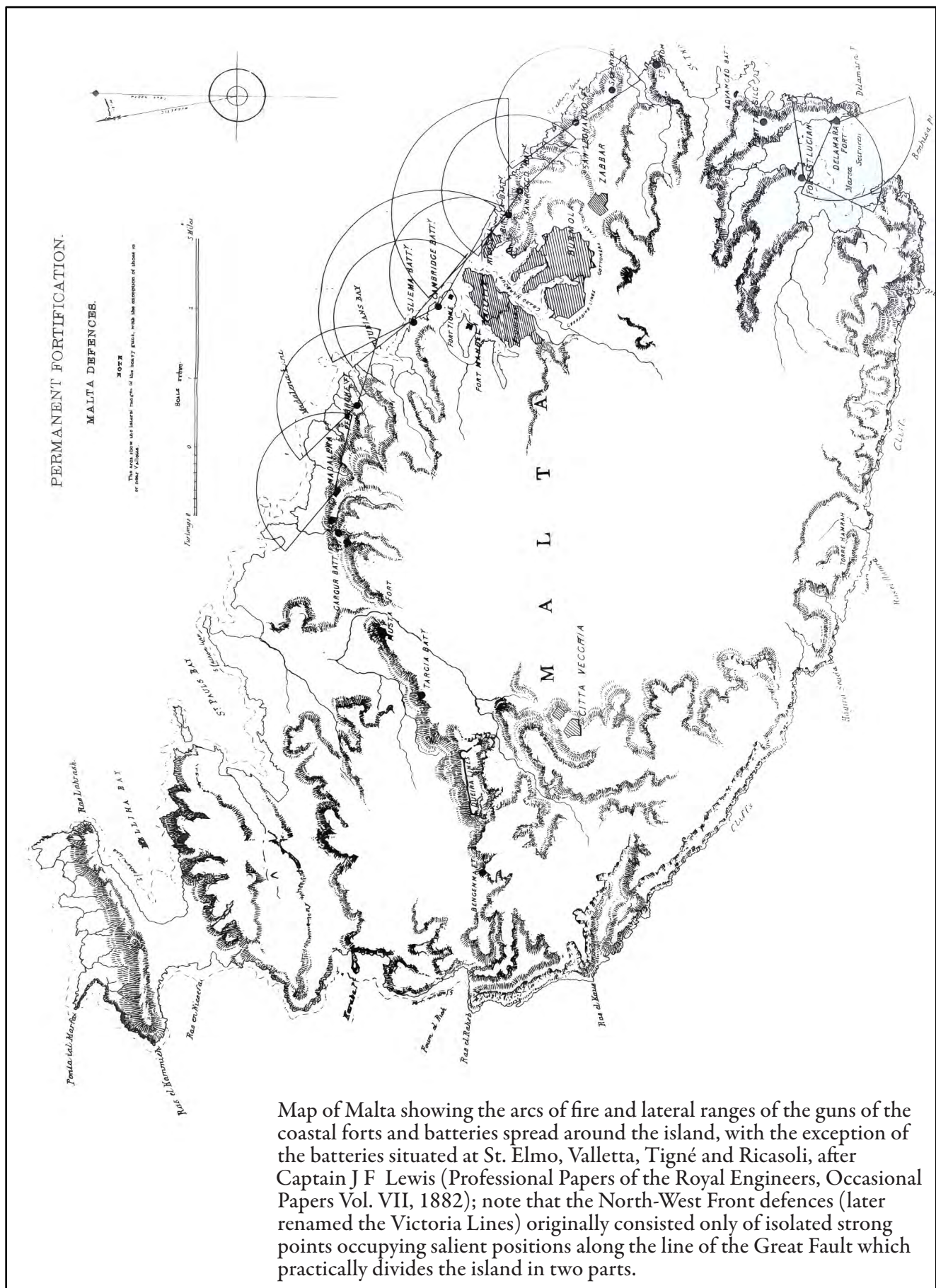
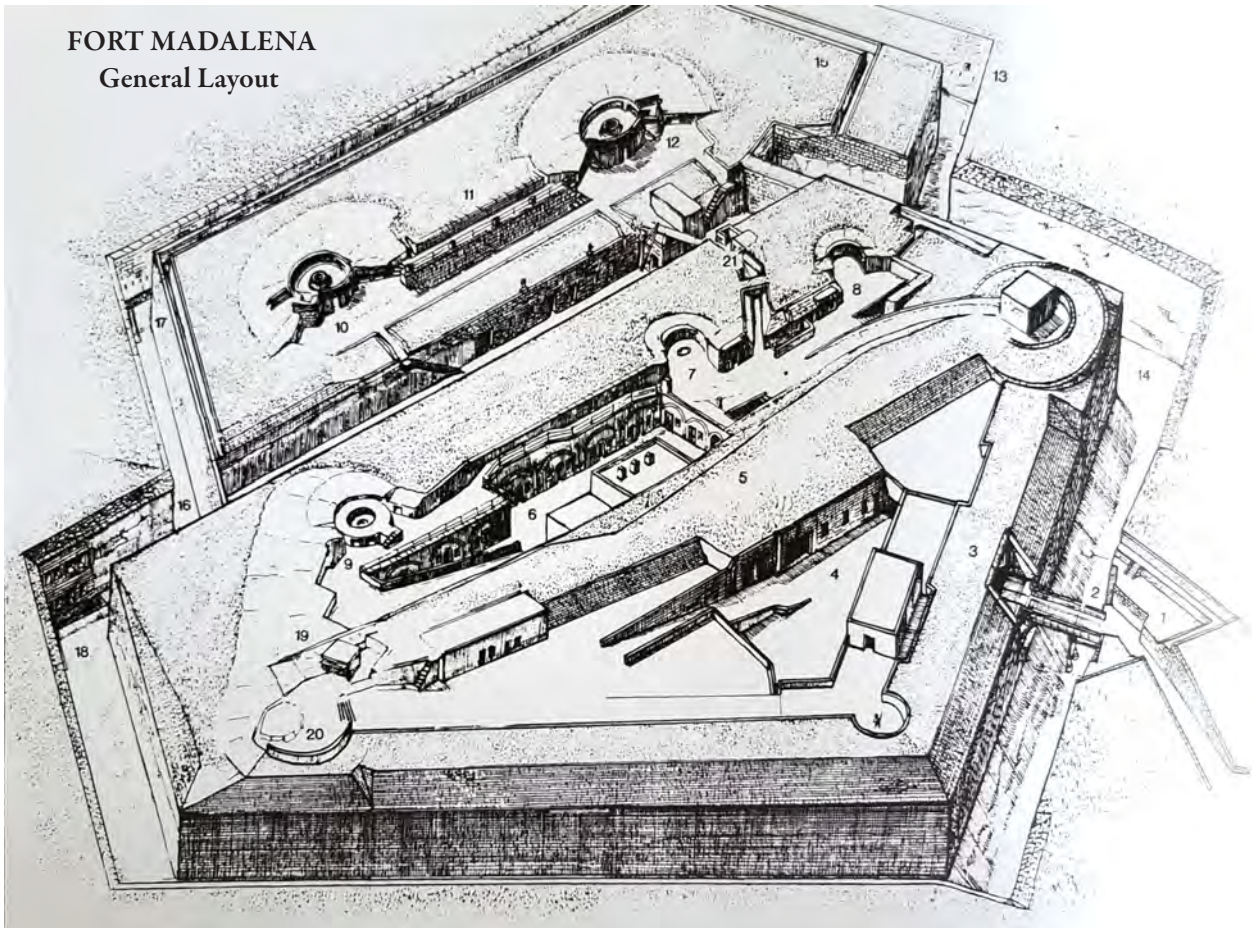


Figure 5 – British Permanent Fortifications in Malta (1882)

(Source: Stephen C Spiteri, *British Military Architecture in Malta*)

FORT MADALENA
General Layout



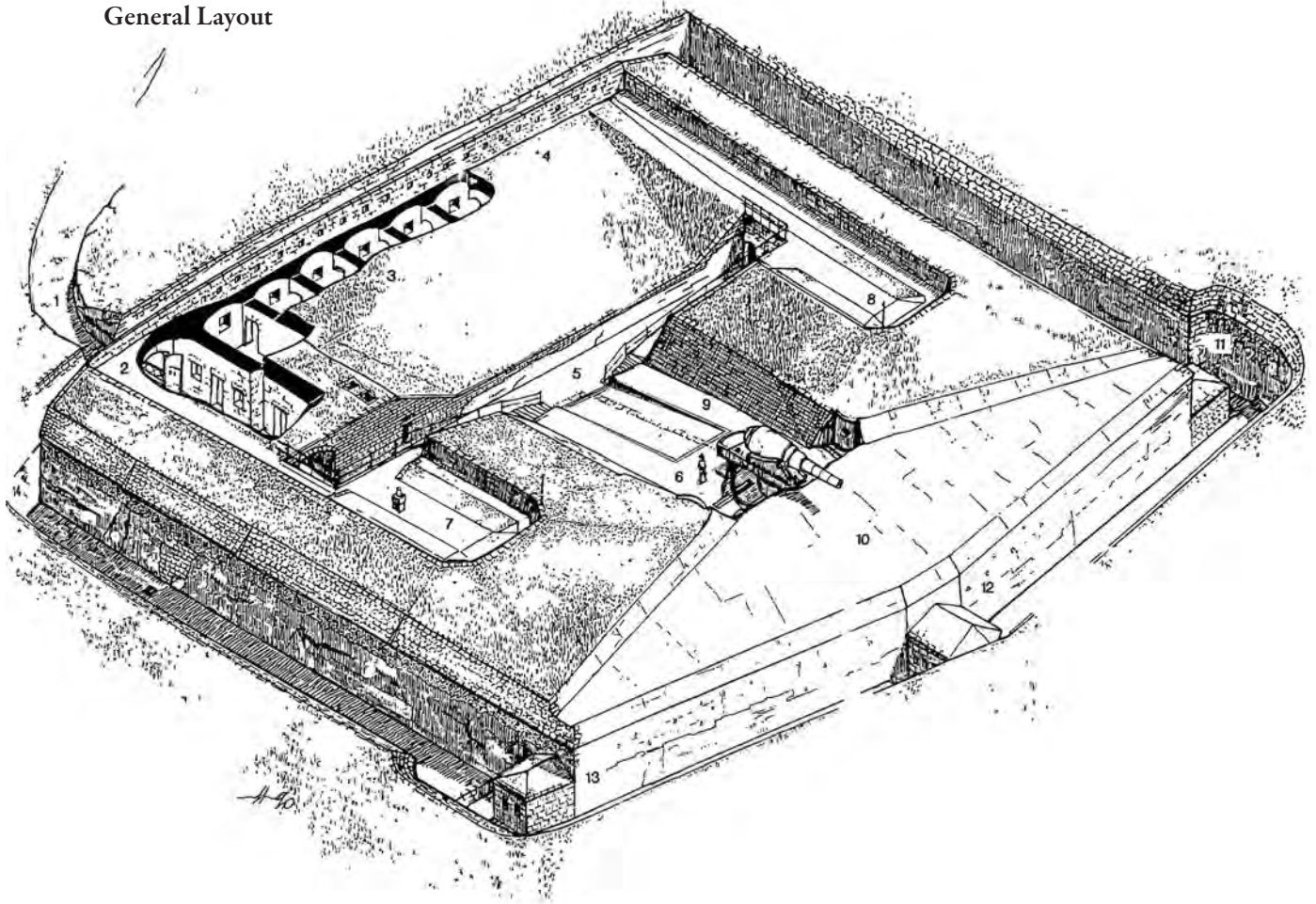
- 1 Redan with cutting in glacis leading up to the main gate
- 2 Guthrie Rolling Bridge
- 3 Main Gate
- 4 The first inner courtyard
- 5 Casemated traverse dividing fortified enclosure into two areas
- 6 The outer courtyard lined with casemated barracks
- 7-8 Early 6-inch BL gun emplacements for HP mountings
- 9 No.3 emplacement for 6-inch BL Mk. VII gun
- 10 No.2 emplacement for 9.2-inch BL gun on outer battery
- 11 Steps leading down to sun-ken area
- 12 No.1 emplacement for 9.2-inch BL gun
- 13 Counterscarp gallery designed to enfilade ditch of battery extension
- 14 Rock-hewn counterscarp
- 15 Infantry trench along the perimeter of the 9.2-inch BL battery
- 16 Ditch of battery
- 17 Counterscarp rifle gallery
- 18 Two-tiered counterscarp musketry gallery
- 19 Battery Command Post for 6-inch BL guns
- 20 No.4 emplacement, 6-inch BL gun
- 21 Original Battery Command Post for 9.2-inch BL guns with adjoining telephone room

Figure 6 – Fort Madalena

(Source: Stephen C Spiteri, *British Military Architecture in Malta*)

RINELLA BATTERY

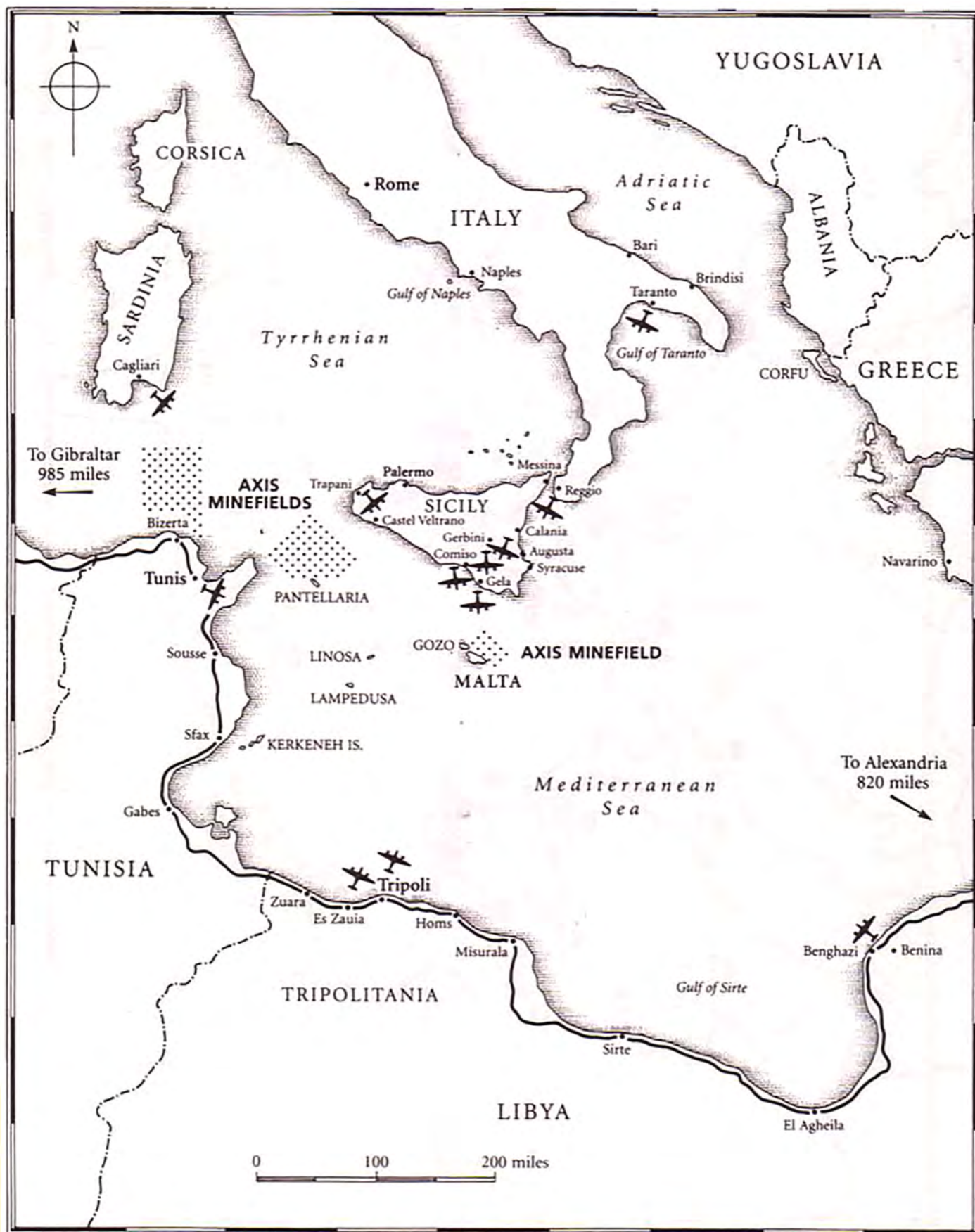
General Layout



- 1 Approach road leading down main entrance into battery
- 2 Cutaway showing main gateway, served by a Guthrie Rolling Bridge and vaulted entrance passage
- 3 Cutaway showing case- mated barrack accommodation along the gorge of the battery
- 4 Parapet fitted with musketry loopholes
- 5 Courtyard
- 6 Barbette emplacement for 100-ton gun
- 7 Infantry banquette
- 8 Infantry banquette with lightning conductor
- 9 Sloping revetment serving as a bonnet or traverse
- 10 Concrete surface of superior slope of front parapet
- 11 Left caponier with drop ditch
- 12 Central caponier with drop ditch
- 13 Right caponier
- 14 Ditch on rear side of the work flanked by counter- scarp gallery set within the right-hand corner of the counterscarp (hidden from view)

Figure 7 – Fort Rinella

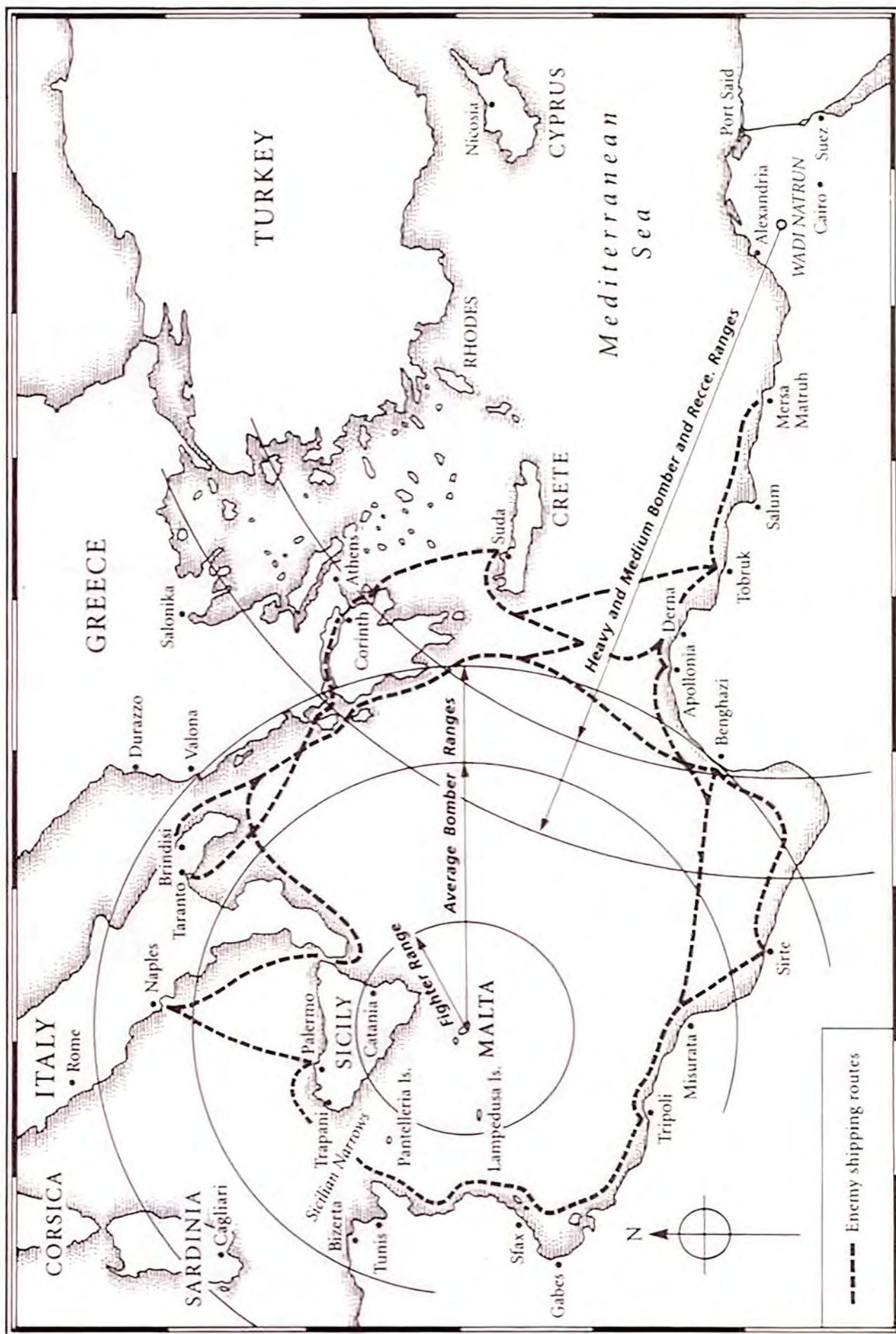
(Source: Stephen C Spiteri, *British Military Architecture in Malta*)



Surrounded by the enemy. During the siege, Malta was walled to the north and south by Axis territory and to the west by Vichy-controlled Tunisia. Enemy minefields and air fleets had her trapped.

Map 8 – Enemy Bases Around Malta

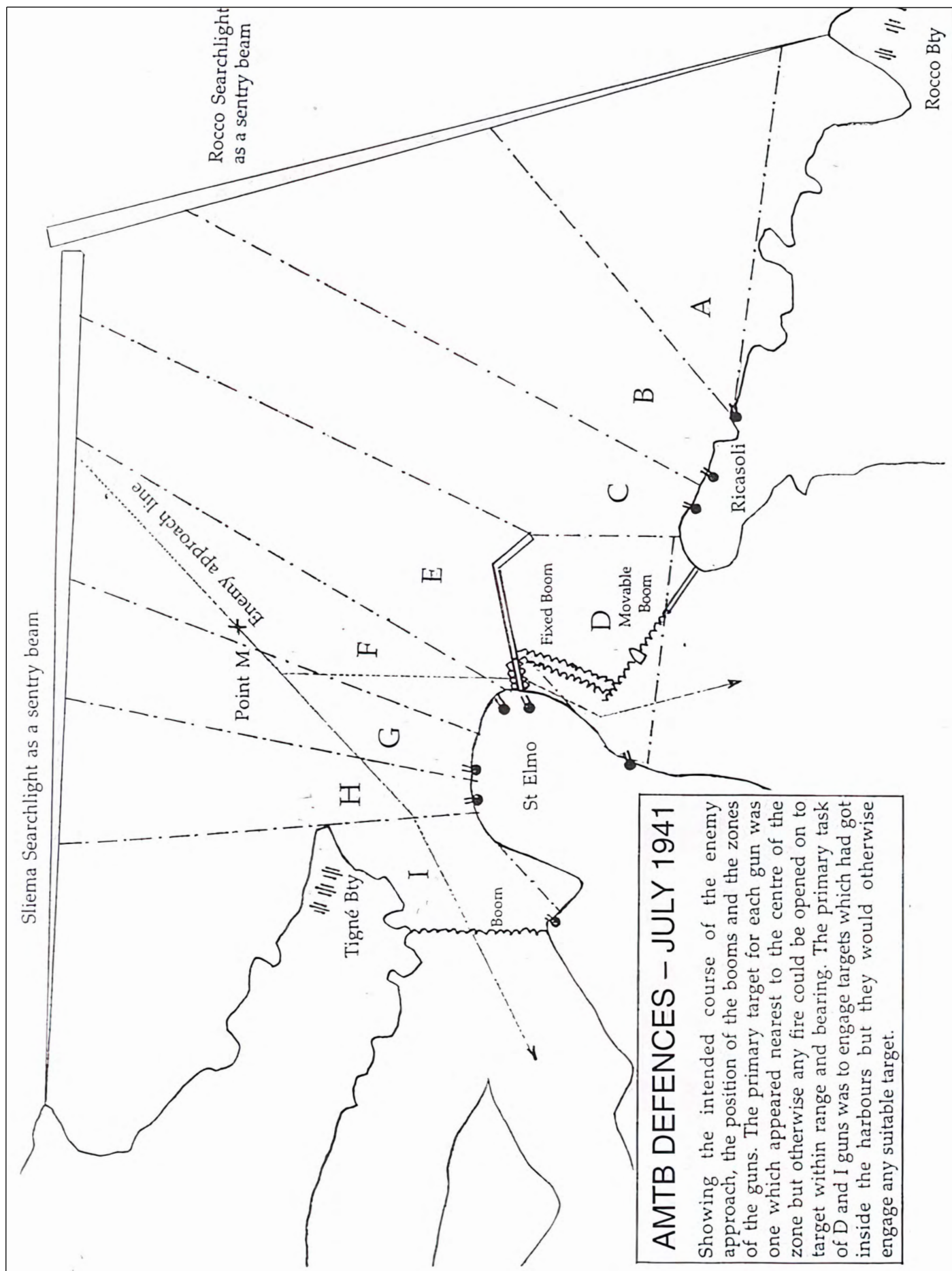
(Source: James Holland, *Fortress Malta: An Island under Siege 1940 – 1943*)



Allied aircraft range from Malta and Axis shipping routes.

Map 9 – Aircraft Striking Ranges From Malta

(Source: James Holland, *Fortress Malta: An Island under Siege 1940 – 1943*)



Map 10 – Anti-Motor Torpedo Boat Defences & the Italian Attack 26 July 1941

(Source: Denis Rollo, *The Guns & Gunners of Malta*)

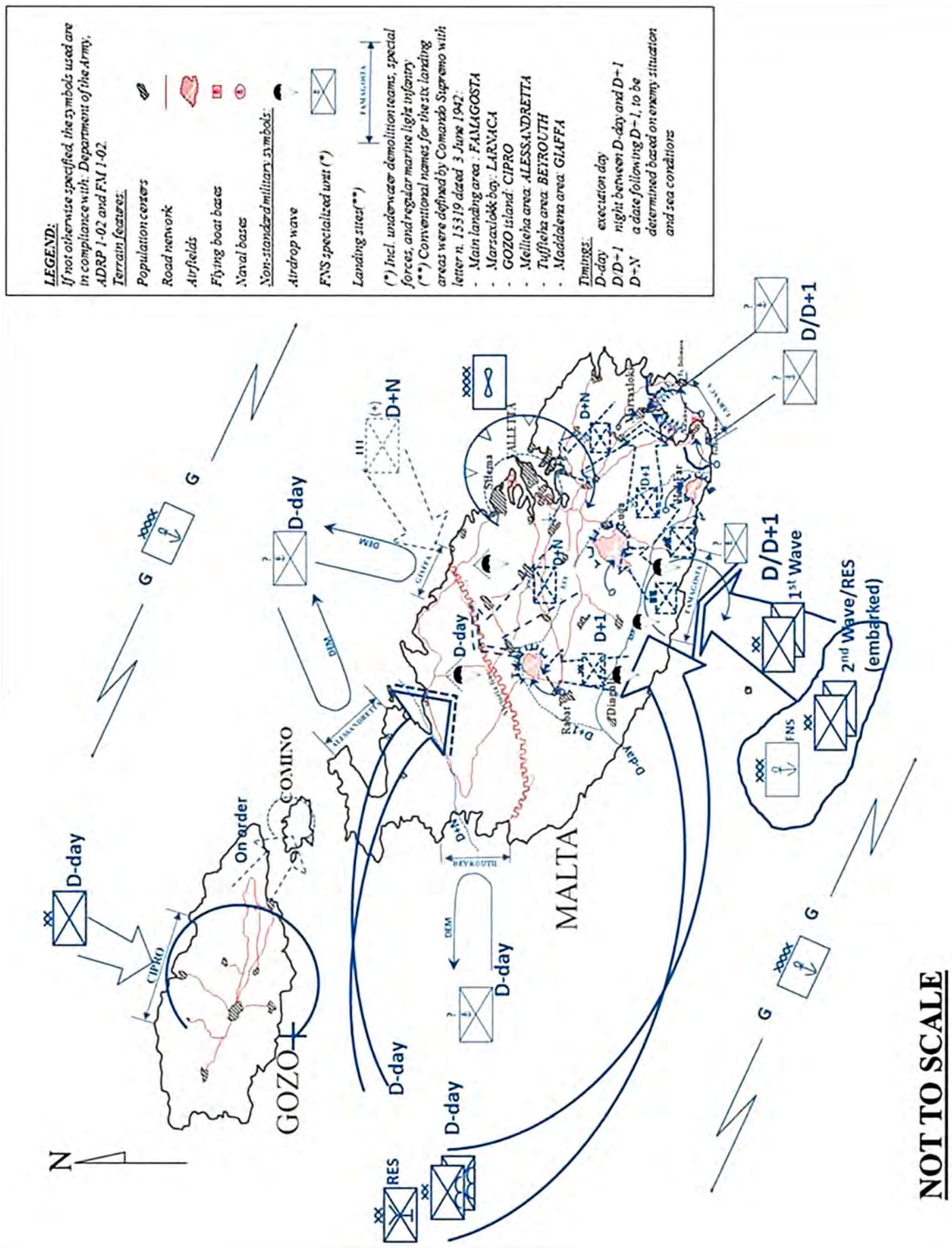


Figure 8 – Operation *Herkules* 1942

Source: Major Alessandro Vivarelli (Italian Army), *The Axis and the Intended Invasion of Malta in 1942: A Combined Planning Endeavor*



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Institution of Royal Engineers



This Battlefield Study has been organized by the Royal Engineers Historical Society (REHS), with the support of the Institution of Royal Engineers, with assistance from Mario Farrugia and the Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna