

CAMOCIO

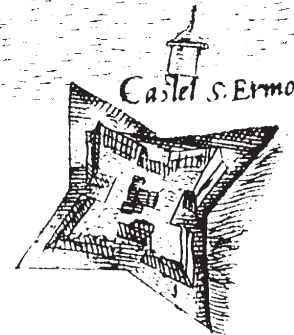
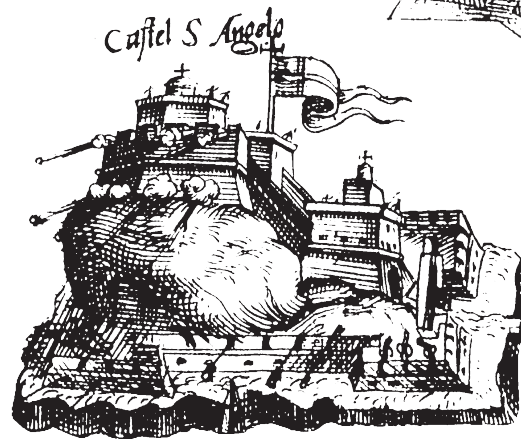
Siege maps

Depiction of the Port of Malta
currently besieged by the Turks
*Disegno del Porto di Malta,
come al presente si trova assediato da turchi*

UNESCO Memory of the World

>Map Collection of the Faculty of Science
of Charles University, Prague

>National Museum of Fine Arts,
Valletta



VERSION 1

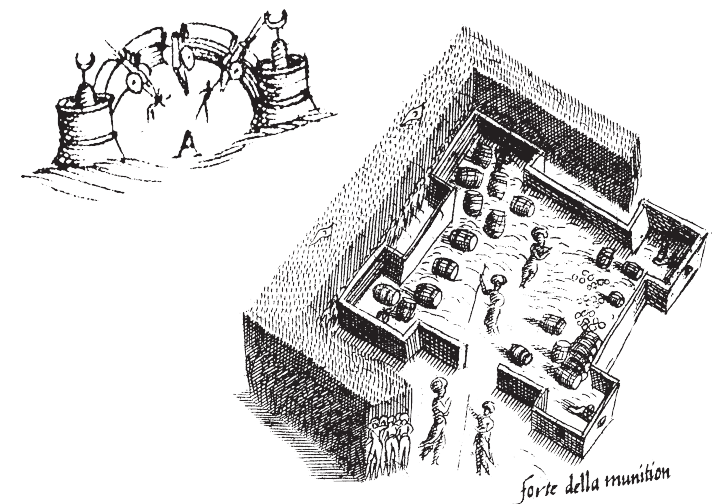
Publisher: Giovanni Francesco Camocio
Scale: circa 1:10 000
Impressum: Venice, end of August 1565
Cartographic Collection of National Museum of Fine Arts, Valletta

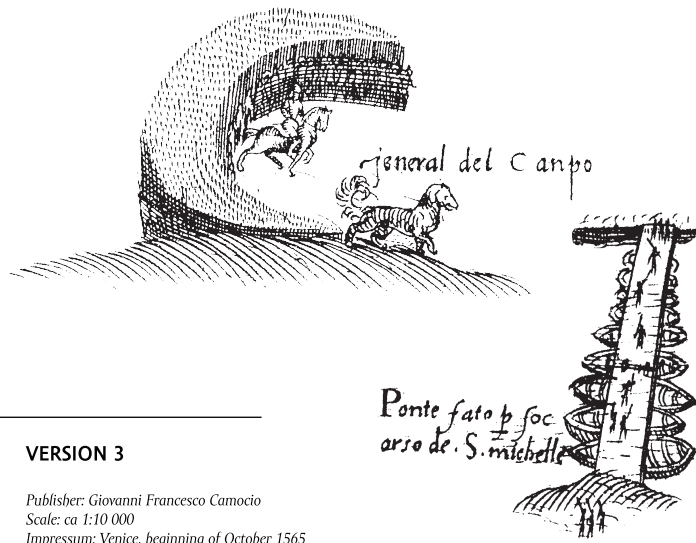
The siege of Malta began. The map shows state of July 1565, deployment of Turkish camps, military units and fleet. The massive descent of Turkish fleet on the town Senglea with the St. Michael fortress is obvious. The forts St. Elmo* on the Scerberras Mountain and St. Angelo* on the Cape Birgu are also clearly visible. The Catholic fleet* anchors Sicilian offshore.

VERSION 2

Publisher: Giovanni Francesco Camocio
Scale: ca 1:10 000
Impressum: Venice, September 1565
Map Collection of the Faculty of Science of Charles University, Prague

Compared to the previous version we notice changes in the Sicilian Channel where ships are gathered including the large Portuguese galleons*, that are ready to help the defenders. Meanwhile, the Turkish built 4 forts on the island marked with letter A*. Numerous Ottoman troops are gathered around ammunition* down in the middle. The Crescent-shaped formation is marshalled behind the Turkish General*. The Knights included to their defence a pontoon bridge* behind the chain between the Senglea and Birgu Capes and they dug a moat at St. Elmo fort.





VERSION 3

*Publisher: Giovanni Francesco Camocio
Scale: ca 1:10 000
Impressum: Venice, beginning of October 1565
Cartographic Collection of National Museum of Fine Arts, Valletta*

Here is the state after the arrival of Gran Soccorso, the Great Catholic Relief led by Sicilian Viceroy Garcia Alvarez de Toledo. Compared to the previous version the changes are minimal and are marked primarily by added commentaries, e.g. Altelarie Abandonate da turchi* (the Turks leaving their cannons) or Turchi che ua uia* (the Turks are leaving) or Christiani mesi in tera p. S don Cbarcia* (landing of Christians by Don Garcia). The symbols on guidons has changed. With the progress of Christians in Birgu and on the Sceberras and Marsaxlokk Mountain the Turkish Crescent changes to a Christian Cross. This 3rd version of the map announced as the first the end of the Great Siege of Malta.



VERSION 4

*Publisher: Giovanni Francesco Camocio
Engraver: Paolo Forlani
Scale: ca 1:10 000
Impressum: Venice, end of October 1565
Cartographic Collection of National Museum of Fine Arts, Valletta*

The map shows dramatic departure of the Turks. It is characterized in the most significant changes. Compared to the 3 previous versions there are many empty areas in the port and in the inland because the Turkish army had already pulled down the camps and fled to the Marsamxett port to board. There are only scattered groups of Turkish soldiers hauling heavy cannons*. On the left is seen a mass departure of Turkish army from St. Paul's Bay. Christian and Turkish soldiers are fighting their last fights* including the fight of Don Alvaro. Scattered crippled bodies demonstrate how fierce the fights were. On the right at the bottom a bugler on the horseback announces the end of the Great Siege. The text next to him describes the events of the last days.



4 versions of Camocio's maps were unified by 2 institutions from 2 different countries, Malta and the Czech Republic. Versions 1, 3 and 4 are in the Cartographic Collection of the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta, version 2 is stored in the Map Collection of the Faculty of Science of Charles University in Prague where it was recognized by Joseph Schiro of Malta Map Society in 2013. Thereby the whole series of very rare maps was completed (versions 2 and 3 are world unique, version 1 is preserved in 2 copies version 4 in 3 copies). The established Czech-Maltese cooperation resulted in 2015 in the submission of a joint application to the UNESCO Memory of the World nominating the whole series of Camocio's maps. The maps were ceremonially entered into this prestigious list in 2017.

<https://www.natur.cuni.cz/geography/map-collection/registration-to-unesco>
<https://www.unesco.org>

Altelarie Abandonate da turchi

Christiani mesi in tera p. S. don Cbarcia

Turchi che ua uia

