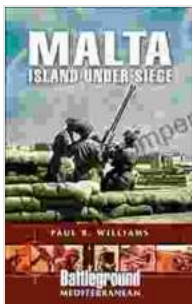


Malta Island Under Siege: Battleground of the Mediterranean

The island of Malta, a small but strategically important outpost in the Mediterranean Sea, played a pivotal role in World War II. Its location made it a key target for the Axis powers, who sought to control the sea lanes between Europe and North Africa. The Allies, recognizing the island's importance, were determined to defend it at all costs.

The siege of Malta began in June 1940, when Italy declared war on the Allies. The island was subjected to relentless aerial bombardments by the Luftwaffe and the Regia Aeronautica, the German and Italian air forces. The Maltese people endured unimaginable hardships, as their homes and infrastructure were destroyed. But they refused to surrender, and the British and Commonwealth troops stationed on the island fought valiantly to defend it.



Malta: Island Under Siege (Battleground Mediterranean)

by Kary Oberbrunner

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 125322 KB

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

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The siege of Malta was a turning point in the war in the Mediterranean. The Allies' successful defense of the island prevented the Axis from gaining control of the sea lanes and cutting off supplies to North Africa. It also boosted the morale of the Allies and gave them a much-needed victory.

The story of the siege of Malta is one of courage, resilience, and determination. It is a testament to the indomitable spirit of the Maltese people and the bravery of the British and Commonwealth troops who defended the island. It is a story that should never be forgotten.

The Strategic Importance of Malta

Malta is a small island, just 17 miles long and 9 miles wide. But its location makes it strategically important. It lies at the crossroads of the Mediterranean Sea, and whoever controls Malta controls the sea lanes between Europe and North Africa.

This made Malta a key target for the Axis powers, who sought to control the Mediterranean and cut off supplies to the Allies in North Africa. The Allies, recognizing the island's importance, were determined to defend it at all costs.

The Siege of Malta Begins

The siege of Malta began on June 11, 1940, when Italy declared war on the Allies. The Italian air force immediately began bombing the island, and the British garrison on Malta was placed on high alert.

The bombing raids were relentless. The Italians dropped thousands of bombs on Malta, destroying homes, businesses, and infrastructure. The

Maltese people endured unimaginable hardships, but they refused to surrender.

The British and Commonwealth troops stationed on Malta fought valiantly to defend the island. They shot down enemy aircraft, repaired damaged infrastructure, and kept the island's defenses operational.

The siege of Malta lasted for over two years. During that time, the island was bombed almost every day. But the Maltese people and the British and Commonwealth troops never gave up.

The Turning Point

The siege of Malta reached a turning point in August 1942, when the Allies launched Operation Pedestal, a convoy of ships that brought much-needed supplies to the island. The convoy was heavily attacked by Axis forces, but it managed to deliver its cargo to Malta.

Operation Pedestal was a major victory for the Allies. It showed that the Axis could not prevent the Allies from supplying Malta, and it boosted the morale of the Maltese people and the British and Commonwealth troops.

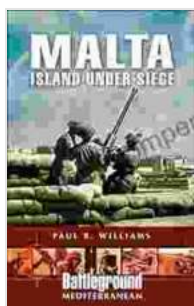
The siege of Malta finally ended in November 1942, when the Allies launched Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily. The invasion forced the Axis to withdraw from Malta, and the island was finally liberated.

The Legacy of the Siege of Malta

The siege of Malta was a turning point in the war in the Mediterranean. The Allies' successful defense of the island prevented the Axis from gaining

control of the sea lanes and cutting off supplies to North Africa. It also boosted the morale of the Allies and gave them a much-needed victory.

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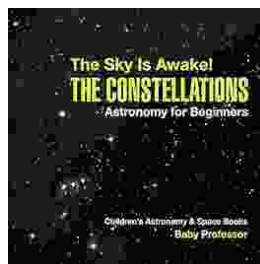
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