

# The Malta Maritime Museum Sailors' Pocket Book



Heritage Malta



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**IL PADRONE**

# W

elcome Aboard!

Padrone Michelle told me to take care of you and to ensure that you are in safe hands while aboard the speronara.

These are the sailors who will join you on your journeys.

First I will introduce you to the pilot. Giuseppe is his name, but we call him Guz. He knows every anchorage in the Mediterranean as well as being an expert gunner.

The man in charge of the logging of the journey is Giovanni.

Ganni will help you settle in, ask him anything and he will help.

Lastly there is Liemu. He is the cook on board and he will make sure you will never become hungry. His speciality is roasted pork on a bed of rice. Go to the next section to read what you will be eating.

## Your Food Rations

No Sailing is done on an empty stomach! On board we like to keep things tasty but simple. In the morning, scrambled eggs with some ship biscuit will get you started, washed down with some fresh water.

Lunch will consist of some salami, hard cheese, maybe a raw onion and a few olives.

In the evening once the speronara has found a safe anchorage our cook will always prepare a warm meal, maybe a nice warm fish soup, or a good thick minestrone full of beans, onions and rice.

When the cook has time to spare he will prepare a nice roasted pork stuffed with cloves, thyme, all on a bed of rice and if you are old enough you will get some water mixed with wine. If the padrone allows it we will sometimes even enjoy some crushed ice mixed with fruit.

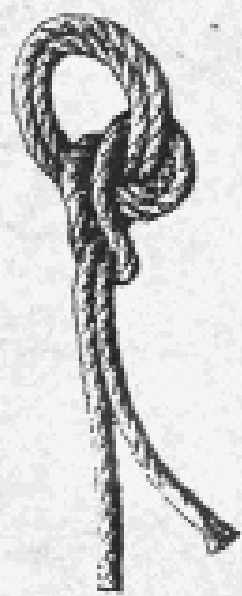
# Know your knots

You cannot manoeuvre a boat if you do not know your knots. Here is a list of knots that you might need!



FIGURE OF EIGHT CHAIN

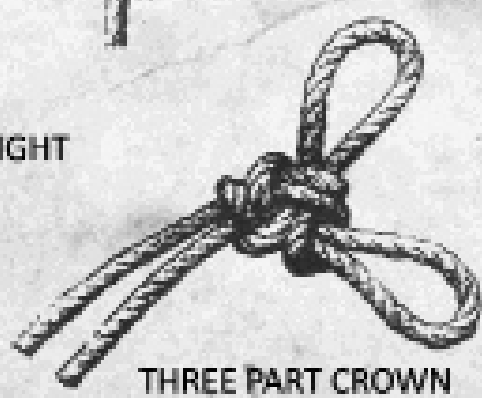
RUNNING BOWLINE



BOWLINE ON A BIGHT



LOOP KNOT



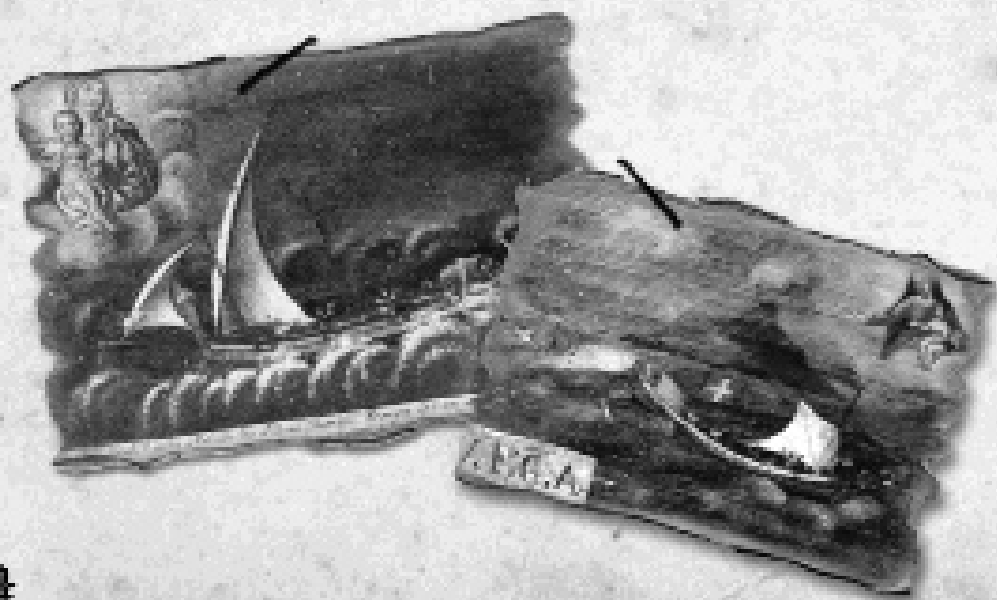
THREE PART CROWN

## *Evade your Enemy*

*The Mediterranean is a dangerous sea. Corsairs and pirates lie awaiting to pounce on any merchants they come across. Stay alert and pray to your favourite Saint so that you will escape the clutches of the enemy.*

*If you manage to escape the corsairs or the pirates, commission a painting in the Saint's name. Then take your ex-voto to the Żabbar sanctuary or to the Madonna tal-Ħerba in Birkirkara.*

*If you are ambushed by pirates then your fate will be slavery, and we don't want that, do we?!*



## Trading Goods

Your voyage around the Western Mediterranean will consist of various ports. You will be involved in maritime trade between the ports of Malta, Sicily, Rome, Marseilles, Barcelona and Valencia. The cargo you will be transporting and trading in will be wine, sugar, wheat, barley, coffee, chocolate, cheese, other products such as cotton, leather socks as well as some live animals. We can transport anything to anywhere at any time on our speronara. I remember that only last year we brought over from Rome a whole dining table for the Bishop Fra Paolo Alferan De Bussan.

So now you know what it takes to be a sailor on a Maltese speronara. You know the most important things. If you do have some time on your hands you can carve a piece of wood, collect some shells while in a foreign port and then you can bring them to your loved ones back in Malta.

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