

# OPERATION PEDESTAL

## HOPE FOR MALTA, AND THE MEDITERRANEAN CHAIR: NATE MOORE



# CODE OF CONDUCT

Our goal at CINCYMUNC III is to cultivate an educational environment that aligns with our mission. It is essential for all participants, including delegates, head delegates, faculty, delegation leaders, guests, secretariat, staff, and board members, to maintain professionalism in their speech, actions, and appearance throughout the conference. The following guidelines are provided to establish clear expectations.

If any disrespectful behaviors arise during committee sessions, attendees are encouraged to address the issue directly with each other or involve their faculty advisor or head delegate. In instances of repeated undiplomatic behavior can be brought to the attention of organizers by faculty advisors or head delegates through Information Services. Larger concerns, such as issues related to sexual harassment or discrimination, should be referred to conference organizers. Cases involving sexual violence must be reported to conference organizers at a minimum.

Organizers can be contacted either through volunteer staff in committee or directly through Information Services.

CINCYMUNC III retains the right to exclude violators from further participation and/or impose restrictions on future registration for any participant or school that fails to uphold their responsibility to the conference's expectations.

## GENERAL CONDUCT POLICIES

Delegates are required to adhere to all rules, regulations, and policies applicable to the venue hosting CINCYMUNC III throughout the entirety of the conference.

Delegates are expected to maintain a noise level that is not disruptive while inside the conference venue.

Harassment or disruption of other participants is strictly prohibited.

Conference identification (delegate name tags) must be visibly worn at all times during the conference.

The use of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and vapes, is prohibited within the conference venue.

The use or possession of illegal substances, including marijuana products or paraphernalia, is strictly forbidden for all delegates.

Consumption or possession of alcohol in public spaces, including those within the conference venue, is strictly prohibited, regardless of the delegate's age. Alcohol consumption or possession among underage delegates is strictly prohibited in all situations.



Delegates are expected to be punctual and present at all committee sessions. In the event of anticipated lateness or absence, delegates are required to inform their chair and/or crisis manager in advance.

Delegates are expected to demonstrate respect for all ethnic and national cultures, as well as religious affiliations. Additionally, they must adhere to any committee-specific content expectations outlined in their Background Guide.

Delegates will act in accordance with federal laws and regulations at all times and comply with the local laws and regulations of the city where CINCYMUNC III is hosted.

Delegates are obligated to follow the instructions of CINCYMUNC III staff members, venue staff and security, as well as law enforcement personnel, and respect their roles in enforcing the policies outlined in this Code of Conduct.

#### **ZERO-TOLERANCE DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

CINCYMUNC III maintains a strict zero tolerance policy towards any form of sexual misconduct, encompassing sexual harassment and assault. Additionally, the conference enforces a zero tolerance policy against harassment or discrimination based on race, color, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual identity, national origin, religion, age, or disability. This policy extends to inappropriate :

Content in notes exchanged or documents produced during committee sessions, Conversations occurring throughout the CINCYMUNC III event, and

Behavior at the designated venue or during any conference-sponsored activities.

Delegates who encounter any discrimination or experience sexual misconduct are encouraged to promptly report the incident to a member of the CINCYMUNC II Secretariat or through an anonymous reporting form, which will be provided during the conference. All reported cases will be immediately investigated by the Executives and may result in disqualification from awards and/or removal from the conference.

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

Delegates should not use Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Tiktok, or any other kind of social media during committee sessions. Outside of committee sessions, delegates should practice appropriate behavior on these sites and apps. Inappropriate posts or bullying via social media related to CINCYMUNC III will not be tolerated.

#### **DRESS CODE POLICY**

CINCYMUNC III requests that delegates wear standard Western Business Attire while the committee is in session. Western Business Attire includes appropriate dress shirts and pants worn with jackets and ties, appropriate dress blouses worn with skirts or slacks, and business formal dresses.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS POLICY**

Participants should be aware that if they are found in violation of any of the above policies, the

Executives may impose these or any other sanctions at their sole and final discretion:

Notification of the participant's head delegate and/or faculty advisor

Suspension from the remainder of committee sessions

Disqualification of the delegate or delegation from individual and/or delegation awards

Other actions deemed fit by the Executives, including notification of and/or security, law enforcement or other relevant authorities.



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR:

Welcome to Cincymunc IV!

My name is Nate Moore and it is my distinct pleasure as your chair to welcome you and be your chair for this specialized committee on the WW2 siege of Malta. It is incredibly important for us, particularly in this modern day and age to remember our history and not allow any of our stories to fall back and be forgotten. The story of Malta, while seemingly small and innocuous, is about the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and despite that is often forgotten in our histories, and the sacrifices of those in it along with it. Throughout this debate, I hope to see you evidence both a knowledge of the era, as well as acknowledge the issues many of the choices you make have, and I hope you have as much fun learning and debating this subject as I have!

A bit about myself: I am currently a third year medical-sciences major pursuing a pre-med career. Currently, I am working on papers related to metastatic brain tumors, as well as working as a patient care assistant on the neurology floor at UCMC. I enjoy learning both about health disparities, as well as public health policy in part fitting into MUN. Outside of school, I have an interest in history, which has largely fed both this paper, and countless hours of documentary watching. This background guide, and idea for committee largely stems from my visit to Malta, and its war rooms in the summer of 2024, where the book Operation Pedestal by Max Hastings caught my eye, and has since only grown. In addition to my love of history, I have an intense love for fantasy and strategy video games.

In regards to Model UN, I have taken part in various forms of model UN since my 7th grade year, at various times serving as a crisis staffer, CD, or sometimes a vice chair/chair. Throughout this coming weekend I hope to see delegates working together, while at the same time providing unique viewpoints to these historical situations.

# **CONTENT WARNING GUIDELINES COMMITTEE LOGISTICS**

Welcome to Malta Delegates! Throughout this weekend you shall take on the role of various military leaders, civilians, and political leaders to come together towards the defense of Malta. This committee shall take the form of a frontroom crisis separated into 3 separate stages below. For anyone who has not taken part in a frontroom crisis before I will be open for questions should any need to be answered, though I shall attempt to explain as best I can here any special procedures.

## **FRONTROOM PROCEDURES**

Throughout this weekend delegates shall debate in “crisis cycles” albeit without notes. These cycles shall take the form of responding to a given update with actionable directives, which themselves will serve to generate their own updates.

## **STAGES**

The three stages throughout the committee shall serve for different time periods within the general siege itself with the topics of debate changing based upon which stage the committee is in at a given time. Each stage is planned to take place during 1 committee session, though depending on debate may change slightly in pacing. While the stages shall be detailed below in the background, the general outline for the stages shall be 1. Preparation for the siege; 2. Planning and actions taken to relieve the siege; 3. Actions of the relief force to the siege. While sections 1 and 2 shall be on the scale of months, section three shall be on the scale of days or even hours depending on the actions of the committee. It is important that actions taken within each stage are not isolated and shall affect actions and updates in later stages of the siege and committee, therefore delegates should prepare accordingly.

# BACKGROUND

## MALTA 1939

Malta, is centrally placed within the Mediterranean, serving as a naval base for Britain and other countries throughout history, as well as the stage for more than half a dozen other sieges and battles throughout history. Malta itself is only a mere 95 Sq. Miles, with the next largest island, Gozo, being merely 26 Sq. Miles. Of that land, much of it is rocky and arid, with at most only a quarter of the land being farmed, ultimately leading to a reliance on imports. Notably, more land on Gozo is arable than on Malta itself. Ultimately, due to the rocky terrain, Malta is naturally defensible, with much of the western half of the country being dominated by rocky cliffs, though a few beaches can be found around the western end of the island. Notably, from the island's exact location, the nearest point in Sicily is a mere 58 Miles to the north, close enough for significant air cover from Italy during the 1930's, with flight time being under half an hour. 180 Miles to its south lies the African Continent. In this time period, the nearest British-controlled areas would be Gibraltar and Egypt (specifically Alexandria), with Gibraltar lying nearly 1200 miles to its west, and Alexandria 1900 miles to its east.



## MALTESE RESOURCES, AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS 1939

Malta in 1939 showed a heavy reliance on the importation of goods for daily life. Due to the lack of arable land and resources, Malta imported in excess of 70% of their food, fertilizer, and animal fodder from Italy in the year 1939. It should be noted that at a minimum, to feed Malta, an import of 20,000 tons of food is needed a month simply to sustain its people without starvation. Ironically, despite this reliance on Italy, Maltese residents did not noticeably stray from a relationship with the British, rather showing a greater affection for their “mother country”. This loyalty was evidenced by the turnout of nearly 20,000 Maltese to the arrival of Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham in late 1940 on his Battleship Warspite. Though it is important, this loyalty is not infinite, and the strain of war often fractures relationships.

## WAR COMES TO MALTA

While the Second World War saw its start in September of 1939, Italy remained out of the war until June of 1940 with its invasion of the French Alps. While Malta saw intermittent Italian bombing, conditions were relatively livable, with roughly 146,000 tons of cargo making its way to the island on 24 cargo ships in the first 9 months of 1941. However, this took a turn in the winter of 1941 with Albert Kesselring's issuing of a 'directive for the battle against Malta' which saw the unleashing of over 250 bombers, 160 fighters, as well as components of the Italian and German navies on



the Island. Compared with 1941, in the first seven months of 1942, only 5 cargo ships reached the island. Of those 5 ships, only 2 even successfully unloaded their cargoes

### **MALTA'S IMPORTANCE TO THE WAR EFFORT**

While significant in location, it should be noted before the war out of Britain's 3 services, only its navy believed Malta would be defensible in the event of war with Italy, and even then a heavy reliance on the French colonies in North Africa was Assumed, however following the fall of French held North Africa in 1940 as well as Greece, Malta remained the sole possession of the allies between British held Egypt and Gibraltar. While initially having some offensive capabilities, Malta was quickly worn down via attrition, with many of its offensive capabilities being expended, and many of its resources going towards its defense and simple survival. However, Malta was important in another form. In May of 1942, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill asserted that the loss of Malta would be 'a disaster of the first magnitude to the British Empire'. For Britain's leaders, the island had become a matter of pride and prestige, as well as one of heroic resistance. In the spring of the same year, British chiefs of staff went as far as recommending an offensive of the Eighth Army in Africa being moved up, despite little hope of success, to simply relieve pressure on the island.

## **CURRENT SITUATION**

### **STAGE 1- THE COMING STORM**

Stage 1 of the committee finds you in the opening stages in the war with the Axis starting in September 1939. In this portion of the committee, the goals of the committee shall be to prepare the island for the coming fighting as well as to define the island's future role in the given war. It should be noted that while initially Italy has not entered the war, it is likely inevitable at this point, the question shall be when and HOW it enters. The committee during this period should understand that conflict is coming to Malta, and should therefore take actions to address the coming conflict and problems that come with it. It should be noted that the Island currently, while well-defensible and with many fortifications in the capital, lacks modern fortifications from which to command. Furthermore, it would be in the best interest of Malta's defense to consider the coordination of the separate branches contained within the island.

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

How should Malta prepare, given a dependence on food imports?

How should Malta structure its defense in the event of a siege?

What early warning systems does Malta have in place in the event of air raids?

How should Malta, as well as Gozo, structure its defenses in the event of landings?

## STAGE 2- THE BLACK WINTER:

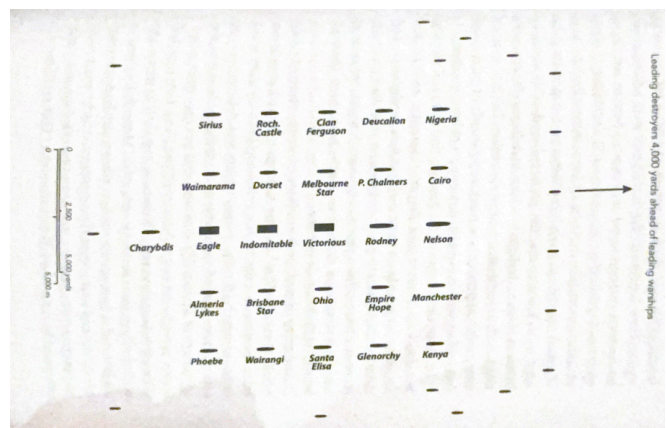
Stage 2 of the committee finds you directly after the issuing of Kesselring's Directive and the beginning of 1942. This period shall find you dealing with the fallout of this directive, as well as dealing with the actions taken in stage 1 of the committee. During this time of the committee, one should consider both the damage to morale and the island itself caused by the bombings. A poignant reminder of the Maltese people's plight lives on in graffiti that appeared around the island, stating 'hobz, mux George Cross', calling for "bread, not medals" in response to King George awarding the entire island with the medal bearing his name. It is during this time that shortages will likely be at their worst, with starvation being a pressing problem before one even considers oil shortages. While smaller supply ships may get through, a larger operation will need to be planned, which shall also serve as a point of debate within this time period.

### REGARDING RELIEF

With the planning of this larger fleet, one should consider both where the fleet shall leave from, as well as the composition of the given fleet. As it stands in 1942, of the war material sent from Britain to Malta, upwards of 40% of it is being lost, compared to upwards of 30% from Alexandria. Though gathering the materials in Alexandria may be considerably harder, as much of it would need to travel around the horn of Africa. Furthermore, the sheer amount of resources needed indicates the need for a substantial number of convoy ships, and along with that, a substantial number of convoy escorts and even capital ships to escort them, as during this period, the Italian fleet is still a significant threat within the region. Delegates during this time should consider both the number and kind of ships present, as well as what route and precautions to take in regards to the sailing to Malta, it should be noted delegates shall have the entirety of the Mediterranean Command at their disposal for this operation, though to commit too much of it to this operation would doubtlessly be detrimental to the overall war effort.

### OPERATION PEDESTAL

Historically, the operation that would come from this planning would become Operation Pedestal, one of, if not the largest, naval convoys in history to that point. Among the ships included in this effort were 14 Merchant Ships, 7 Cruisers, 2 battleships, as well as 3 carriers, and more than 2 dozen destroyers, among other naval assets. It should be noted that many of these ships did not make the full journey, nor did they plan to make the journey, as the journey into the Sicilian Strait at the time would be considered suicidal for many of the capital ships. Of the 14 Merchants sent with the convoy, only 5 reached their destination, along with the vital oil tanker the Ohio (notably the Ohio sank after offloading its contents).



### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

How should the convoy to Malta be composed, both to ensure the highest success chances, while allowing for the continued efficacy of the Mediterranean fleet

What route should the convoy to Malta take, and how shall risks to the ships and convoy be minimized on this route?

What goods should the Convoy have on it, given the limited space on the available ships?

## **STAGE 3- OPERATION PEDESTAL**

While named Operation Pedestal, that does not require your operation to have that name. This stage of the committee shall take place on the scale of hours and days, and you, as a committee, shall make the decisions that the lives of thousands depend on. Through this stage, you shall dictate the direction of the convoy, as well as its response to a variety of situations thrown at you throughout the course of the convoy. Doubtlessly, among the challenges the convoy itself shall face are espionage difficulties, delays, submarine attacks, and air attacks. You, as a committee, shall respond to these attacks and their fallout.

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

How should the convoy react to the attacks as they arise?

Should the convoy stick to the initial plan given different conditions from the original planning?

How should the convoy react if a ship sinks?



# CHARACTER DOSSIER

It should be noted that throughout world war 2, Malta, along with the overall military structure, saw much movement, so many positions may not be exact to the 1939 date, and rather are given to account for later changes that occurred during the war.

## **ADMIRAL SIR ANDREW “ABC” CUNNINGHAM**

Commander in Chief of the British Mediterranean fleet, the Admiral's biggest priority is the continued survival of the fleet, though he is not unsympathetic to the cause of the Maltese

## **VICE-ADMIRAL NEVILLE SYFRETE**

Born in South Africa, Syfrete served through the course of the First World War before finding himself as a Vice-admiral in the Second. He briefly served as secretary to the first lord of the admiralty Sir Winston Churchill, before his ascension to the Prime Minister

## **SIR DUDLY POUND**

First Sea Lord (commander of the British Navy), a close friend of Winston Churchill. Following the failure of the PQ-17 convoy to Murmansk, Pound likely should have been fired; however was saved in part due to Britain's low fortunes. Pound is now seeking to avoid another failure such as that seen in the PQ-17 convey, but also is hungry for a success.

## **HUGH PUGHE LLOYD**

In 1941, Lloyd was appointed commander of the Island's aerial forces. While inexperienced with fighter forces, Lloyd has abundant experience with bombers, and through the committee, should seek to keep the air force of the island functional at all costs.

## **JOHN VEREKER, 6TH VISCOUNT OF GORT**

Having commanded the BEF during the disastrous retreat of Dunkirk, Vereker does not have much of a reputation beyond one of tenacity. Currently, the governor of Gibraltar, he would later be appointed governor and commander of Malta. He would do anything to prevent the surrender of the Island

## **ERNEST BEVIN**

Minister of Labor and National Service. Notably, Bevin oversaw the management of Britain's human resources through vital manpower management programs. Though sometimes controversial, such as in the case of coal mine conscription, Bevin seeks to provide the human resources needed to achieve the goals of the committee.

## **AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR ARTHUR TEDDER**

RAF supremo in the Mediterranean, Tedder, is responsible for many of the air operations within the Mediterranean. Notably, Tedder has clashed in the past with the navy officials, thinking them 'deplorably weak'.

## **CHRISTINA RATCLIFFE**

Traveling to Malta in 1937 as an entertainer, Ratcliffe was stuck in Malta when the war began.

Despite this, Ratcliffe joined in assisting the war effort within the command, serving to help plot fighter routes. Ultimately, Christina would be decorated for gallantry following the war. Christina serves to provide a view into the general civilian life, particularly among those who are serving in conjunction with the armed forces on the island.

### **MABEL STRICKLAND**

Responsible for running the Times of Malta (Malta's most popular and influential paper), Strickland holds considerable sway over the Maltese people and provides a direct line to them for the committee. Strickland seeks to provide for the general welfare and morale of the people.

### **IRENE CONDACHI**

A Doctor of Maltese and Greek descent, Condachi believes in the need for programs to support the general island population. Of particular importance in this time period, Irene understands the need for medical assistance during a period of siege and malnutrition due to the influx of diseases that occur during such times.

### **NEVILLE RILEY**

Civilian Captain of the SS. Brisbane, Riley is both adept at his job as well as reading people. Historically, his ship would be wounded on the way to Malta, but after leaving the fleet, and some tricking of Vichy officials, found its way to Malta to ultimately deliver its cargo.

### **DUDLEY MASON**

Commander of the SS. Ohio, a fuel tanker that has sailed across the Atlantic from the US. While many in the merchant navy have butted heads with the British Navy, they understand the need to work together. Mason shall prioritize the lives of his crew and sailors over his own.

### **RICHARD WREN**

Captain of the SS. Rochester Castle, Wren is an experienced captain within the merchant marine, known for his unique personality and quick temper.

### **FRANCIS "LONNIE" DALES**

A young American Midshipman within the Merchant Marine, Lonnie is a brave young man willing to risk everything for the sake of his mission.

### **MARY "THE MAN" ELLUL**

A woman of remarkable strength, Ellul was said to have thrown rowdy sailors into the sea in her role as a bouncer following the war. During the war, Ellul, as an air raid warden, used her strength to help many trapped under rubble. Through her role as an Air raid warden, she has seen much of the destruction wrought by the air raids and seeks to help minimize the damage caused by them.

### **RAF CHIEF KEITH PARK**

Throughout the war park was posted in a variety of positions (even as commander of Malta's

defenses in 1942), seeing action as early as the Battle of Britain. Park brings in a further view of the RAF when it comes to the defense of the Island from the sky.

### **TOM TOUBRIDGE**

Briefly serving as a naval attache in Berlin, Toubridge brings in ideas regarding the enemy's movements. Though currently he serves as the captain of the HMS Indomitable aircraft carrier, he has much experience within the role of a carrier commander, and the union between air and sea warfare is not lost on him.

### **PAUL BOFFA**

Boffa entered Maltese politics in 1921 when self-government was granted, and joined the Labour Party in 1923. In 1932, he was the only Labor Party member elected to the legislature until it was dissolved the next year. He was later nominated and served as the sole labor member of the executive council between 1936 and 1939. Ultimately, during the war, Boffa served in a role as a district commander and ARP medical officer. Boffa would go on to be elected the first prime minister.

### **LUCIJA GATT**

Lucija Gatt, as a mother, tries her best to provide for her family despite any harsh circumstances. She has helped organize a group of local families and tries to provide a voice for them among the general council to prevent ignorance of them or their struggles.