

## $N_{ m ational}$ $I_{ m nventory}$ of the $C_{ m ultural}$ $P_{ m roperty}$ of the $M_{ m altese}$ $I_{ m slands}$

NICPMI Inv. No. 1385

Date of Publication 28 June 2013

Outstanding

**Property Name** Rihama Battery

Address Tal-Munxar, St Thomas Bay

Town Name Marsascala Toponym Local Council Marsakala

Property Owner Government Managing Body Ghaqda Bajja San Tumas

**Guardianship** Deed

Period Modern (18th Century)

**Phase** Early Modern: Knights of St John (18th Century)

Cultural Heritage
Type & Value
Historical
Architectural

Architectural Property Value Archaeological Assessment

Property Function Fortification Conservation Area AEI

Outline Description Coastal Battery

**Property Description** 

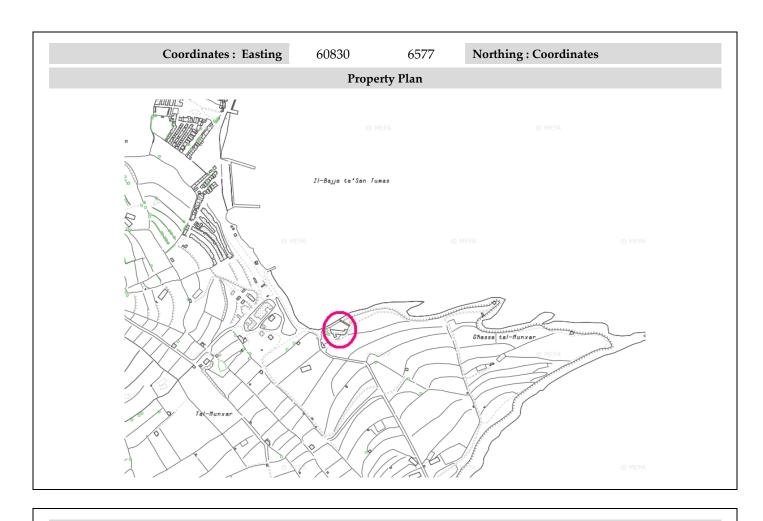
Also known as Ducluseaux or Tal-Francis. Rihama Battery was one of the original group of coastal fortifications erected by the knights of St John in the years 1714-16. The structure originally consisted of a pentagonal platform with a large rectangular blockhouse sealing off the gorge. Today the structure is missing its left face, which collapsed over time into the sea. The blockhouse itself originally had a V-shaped redan protecting its entrance (now missing) and a drop-ditch This was one of the largest blockhouses constructed in a Hospitaller coastal battery and consists of three rooms, a large central one for the accommodation of troops, with two smaller ones on the sides serving for the storage of gunpowder and victuals; in all the blockhouse's roof was supported on 17 diaphragm arches and two cross-walls. The blockhouse has its own cistern cut out into the rock immediately underneath the floor of the building. There was one main entrance from the exterior and a corresponding opening leading out onto the battery platform. Each of the two side rooms had a door opening to the gun platform while the central room also had two windows, likewise opening onto the battery. Various 19th and early twentieth century alterations were made to the blockhouse.

**Cultural Heritage** 

Scheduled by MEPA Yes Degree of Protection Grade 1 G.N. No. 729 G.N. Date 1995

S.C. Spiteri, Fortresses of the Cross (Malta, 1994), 530

Recommended Bibliography S.C. Spiteri, 'Campaigning for Rihama Battery' in MilitaryArchitecture.com at http://www.militaryarchitecture.com/index.php/Conservation/campaigning-for-rihama-battery.html



## **Property Images**





