



St Margaret's College Boys' Secondary

Verdala, St Nicholas Road, Cospicua

T 21226336, 21220287, 27019451 F 21803850 E gdespott.bjl@gov.mt W schoolnet.gov.mt/smcboys

Verdala RNS Reunion at St. Margaret College Boys Secondary, Verdala, Cospicua

8th October 2014

-Welcome Speech -

Good morning everybody!

I am extremely honoured to have the chance to address you on this memorable day when our institution, St. Margaret College Boys Secondary School, Cospicua is welcoming ex-teachers and ex-students of the Verdala Royal Navy School. This is so precious moment for us to unite with you and discover more the historical and cultural richness of our Verdala school.

The Fort Verdala and the St. Clement's Retrenchment were improvements the British built to span the undefended area between these two lines of fortifications. Fort Verdala has a unique structure, as one of its walls was incorporated into the 17th century Santa Margerita Lines to serve as a stronghold within the vast area of ground enclosed by the Firenzuola (Santa Margerita) and Cottonera Lines.

By 1886 the Fort was armed mainly with 24 pounder smooth-bore Howitzers. This armament was removed in the 1890's and thereafter the Fort was used as a large barrack complex to accommodate military personnel.

It was also used as Prisoner Of War camp during World War 1. After World War 2 it was used as naval stores.

Unfortunately for generations to come there is not even one trace or memory dedicated to the illustrious German prisoners who walked the corridors of Verdala during their captivity in Malta. Some of the prisoners of Verdala changed the course of world history, but their presence at Verdala and other POW camps in Malta is completely forgotten.

Whilst thanking you for choosing to visit our Verdala School and discover our Fort Verdala, I consider it not only my privilege but the honour for our entire school to welcome you all on this special day. Sincere thanks go to all the members and organizers of the Verdala Royal Navy School Reunion who made this day possible.

Thank you for coming and we look forward to see you again in the nearby future. Please whatever material you find about our school we appreciate lots if you can share it with us so we can enrich our school archives.

Now we invite you for the God Save the Queen anthem in our school chapel followed by our Maltese National anthem in our school yard while rising up our Maltese flag. Then we assemble in front of our school hall for a group photo and continue with our programme.

Contact Person: Mr Martin Azzopardi sdc (School Archivist) mob. 79319730 or email address: martin.azzopardi@onvol.net