

ARMY NEWS

PULSE OF OUR ARMY

SINGAPORE

all about
LOVE

HIGHLIGHTS

LOVE CONQUERS ALL | LOVE FOR THE UNIFORM | FREEFALLING

Our Leave Story



on family-friendly provisions

Latest Enhancements

Servicemen are now given the flexibility to apply for Parent Care & Child Care Leave in half days!

With effect from 1 Jan 14

This aims to provide servicemen with more flexibility and support in fulfilling their familial responsibilities.

Servicemen may apply for Parent Care Leave and half-day Child Care Leave using the application forms in Annex R and M of the SAF Leave GOM respectively. Leave administrators are reminded to monitor and keep records of all manual leave applications. A separate announcement will be made once the applications are available on e-HR.

Family-Friendly Leave Types



Home is where the heart is. MINDEF/SAF cares for its people through enhancements made to leave provisions over the years in order to provide greater support for the men and women of our organisation when it comes to starting and caring for their families.

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the Deputy Speaks



Valentine's Day is a day most would associate with love. On this day, couples make the effort to display their love to their significant other. Likewise we commemorate this month's issue with various forms of love; Love for the uniform, romantic love and the love for our country, love that is worth defending with all of our very being.

This month, we also look at HQ Signal's visit to the Red Cross Home for the Disabled. It never fails to tug at my heart strings when I see our servicemen giving back to the community.

The Ranger course is known to be the toughest small unit course in the SAF. We bring you a first hand account and insights from past course participants. Learn what the Ranger Course entails and what it means to be a Ranger!

I would also like to take this opportunity to add that it is an honour to be your new Deputy Editor. I look forward to bringing you the highlights and features of our outstanding soldiers on both the Army News magazine and our various social media platforms (We are on Twitter, Instagram, Youtube, Facebook and Tumblr!). It is indeed thrilling to see Army News vastly expanding its scope so quickly.

Melvin Loo
Deputy Editor of Army News

PASSING ON THE BATON

Appointment	Incoming	Outgoing
Chief Maintenance and Engineer Officer	ME6 Tjhin Poi Chung	ME7 Ng Chan Cheok
BDE SM/27 SIB	1WO(NS) Lim Choon Seng	MWO Ho Kian Lee
CO 324 SCE	LTC Mark Tan Lee Meng	LTC(NS) Kevin Kwek Yiu Wing
CO 35 SCE	MAJ Lee Yee San	LTC Lee Ling Kwang
CO SOTSC	MAJ Tay Sze Chong	MAJ Ng Wei Khian
CO SOTC	MAJ Lee Swee Hiong Robin	LTC Yeo Hock Seng

* In last month's issue, it was reported in "Passing on the Baton" that the CO of 732 SIR was handed over from LTC (NS) (DR) HEAH SIEU MIN to MAJ (NS) (DR) QUEK CHARNG MIN. The correct handover should be from LTC (NS) TAN WEE HAW, MARK to MAJ (NS) PHUA KAH CHIAW KENNETH. We apologise for the error.

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Doing Their Part

Story by Edmund Heng / Photography by G1 Army

A little goes a long way. That has always been said about charity G1-Army hosted a charity event on 4 December and put all proceeds to the SAF Benevolent Fund. The SAF Benevolent Fund is set up to provide financial assistance to MINDEF/SAF Personnel and their families of the service personnel or their families.

"Work wise, G1-Army deals with Human Resource (HR) issues," Ms. Gwendolin Goh, a Staff Officer in G1-Army said, "and we hope to do our part for charity as well so we involved the entire G1-Army for this event hoping to build team cohesiveness through the means of charity as a common goal." Ms. Goh also said that the goal for the entire charity drive was to raise funds for the servicemen and servicewomen who are in need of help.

MINDEF and SAF provide a broad range of welfare support to assist injured servicemen and families of deceased servicemen. Under the SAF Benevolent Fund, several types of welfare grants are provided.



CLD Helps HCI Develop Leaders

Story / photo contributed by Centre for Leadership Development



The SAF Centre for Leadership Development (CLD) conducted a Leadership Development workshop on 27 Jan 14 for 38 Hwa Chong Institution (HCI) Year 5 IP student leaders at SAFTI MI.

The workshop focused on raising awareness on leadership in the SAF and saw facilitated activities for building better leaders to lead learning in teams. Participants found the workshop interesting and interactive and helped them better understand on themselves and their team members. They also found the new awareness intuitively applicable to harness team synergy that can be impactful and engaging.

The workshop was also supported by two SAF officers, MAJ Phua Jia Kai from 111 SQN and CPT Koo Kai Siong from 1 CDO BN, who shared their the leadership development journey. The MINDEF Scholarship Centre (MSC) has been collaborating with CLD in introducing leadership programmes in schools since 2013.



Giving Back to the Community

- HQ Signals Visit the Red Cross Home for the Disabled

Story by Lim Wei Liang/Photos by Aloysius Lum and Lim Wei Liang

HQ Signals spreading personnel the Christmas Cheer with some popular carols



Chief Signal Officer COL Percival Goh (right, in pink) joins a resident in greeting Santa!

The servicemen from HQ Signals spent Christmas Eve doing something meaningful – spreading the festive cheer to the residents of the Red Cross Home for the Disabled. During the visit, Our servicemen helped clean the wards, entertained and played games with the residents. HQ Signals have been participating in community service activities at the home since 1994.

Upon their arrival, the servicemen promptly got to work, cleaning the beds and furniture. PTE Muhammad Hafiz was one of the soldiers tasked to clean the wards. When asked about his thoughts from taking part in this activity, PTE Hafiz said, "The experience has taught me that there are less fortunate people and we should always help them in any way we can. Seeing all the people who are staying at the Home made me realize how fortunate I was and that we should never take what we have for granted."

At the same time, another group of servicemen went around the wards, musical instruments in hand, performing Christmas songs for the residents. As wards were cleaned, the residents were ushered to the multi-purpose hall, where they were treated to a series of performances and games.

At the multi-purpose hall, everyone sang Christmas carols. A special rendition of the classic fairy tale, "Little Red Riding Hood", was



An afternoon well spent keeping a 20 year tradition alive.

also put up for the residents of the home in the form of a play. LCP Daryl Ho played the part of the Wolf. When asked about the planning involved in bringing the skit to the residents, LCP Ho said, "The performance was meant to bring joy and laughter to the residents at the home. We prepared props and costumes that were brightly coloured to enhance the festive mood. The staff of the home had mentioned to us that the residents respond well to bright colours."

The soldiers also played games and awarded prizes to the residents. Some residents also had a very special Christmas Eve lunch as their meal was fed to them by the servicemen from HQ Signals who also took this opportunity to interact with the residents. It was definitely a morning well-spent for our servicemen of HQ Signals, and for a worthy cause!



"Who's afraid of the Big Bad Wolf?"

"Let me give you a hand"

♀ 2WO Saloma Bte Johari

♂ 2WO Mawi Bin Mohd



Love Conquers All

Story by Oon Ming Shen / Photographs contributed by Mawi Bin Mohd and Saloma Bte Johari

Theirs was a fated meeting. The year was 1978 - Mawi Bin Mohd and Saloma Bte Johari were both based at the now-defunct Changi Camp and would see each other every day in the cookhouse. Soon they would become friends and talk to each other often. They were a perfect match for each other, and Mawi and Saloma tied the knot in 1982.

Theirs was a simple wedding, no bells and whistles, just a formality which marked the official beginning of Mawi and Saloma's life together. It was a perfect ceremony for the two army regulars, the functionality associated with the military reflected in their marriage. Even their wedding photographs have been thrown away; all that is needed now are memories in the heart.

"A unique couple" best describes Mawi and Saloma. Indeed, they met and fell in love, even as they both found their calling in the army. They are still serving in the army and they are now 2nd Warrant Officers (2WOs). 2WO Mawi is at Supply Hub West while 2WO Saloma is a Training Supply Supervisor at SAF Personnel Hub (West). Their son-in-law, CPT Rudie Imran, is also a regular in the army.

Though they have the army to thank for their marriage, it hasn't always been easy. 2WO Mawi has been on many exercises and operations overseas, including East Timor and Aceh. The longest time he served overseas was for 4 years and 8 months. He has had to leave his family behind in Singapore during these periods which were difficult times for him and his family as they had to be separated. He even had to miss Hari Raya for two years, which were "sad moments" for his family. When 2WO Mawi went to Aceh, he could only call back to Singapore once a month and 2WO Saloma worried about him constantly. Their most trying period was when he participated in Operation Blue Heron in East Timor. However, with both of them in service, it was a lot easier to understand and accept the difficult challenges, and to help each other grow stronger together as a couple.

Like many couples they have seen their fair share of difficulties, weathered whatever hardships that came their way but Mawi Mohd and Saloma have remained as loving as ever since 1982. That Saloma is a regular in the Army helps, too: they "understand each other's work" and Saloma understands why her husband cannot always be by her side. Mawi's jovial nature,



Family is everything to Mawi and Saloma

which first attracted her to him, never fails to ease any tense situation: sometimes when she's angry, "all it takes is a look at his face" and she calms down immediately with a smile.

Now that they are approaching retirement, our couple derives greatest joy from their time spent with their family. Their "happiest moment" was when they had their first grandchild, Ryan Syazmie, in 2007. They also have a second grandchild, Syaliz Ryanna (age 4) and are expecting another. One could not fail to notice how Mawi and Saloma's eyes light up when they started talking about their family and recollected happy moments spent together.



A rare occasion where the family can celebrate the holidays together

The sparkle in their eyes shines brightly like the sun and as dazzling as diamonds. It tells of the undying love between two people destined to be together. It represents the strength of the bond that ties them together, through all these years. And it holds the power to transport anyone who sees this, back to the good old days, back to Changi Camp where a very special meeting between a corporal and a recruit first took place.



Family of Soldiers: (from left) son-in-law CPT Rudie Imran, 2WO Mawi Bin Mohd, 2WO Saloma Bte Johari, son CPL Sadali Mawi.

"We found Love in Our Army"

Story by Daniel Yong/ Photos contributed by CPT Tan Hui Ze and SSG Wang Peggy Wang



SSG Peggy Wang is currently serving in Signal Institute, where she is a Course Instructor.



CPT Tan Hui Ze is currently serving as a Staff Officer in General Staff (Operations).



Did you know that Valentine's Day, (or Saint Valentine's Day) and soldiers share a very special relationship?

Valentine's Day was set aside to celebrate not just romantic love between couples but also as a celebration of Saint Valentine's martyrdom during the times of the Roman Empire. Soldiers then were forbidden from getting married - the Emperor was afraid that soldiers' morale would be hugely affected as they feared losing their wives and families in battle. However, Saint Valentine felt that it was wrong and married them against the Emperor's orders anyway. Eventually, he was persecuted.

As we celebrate Valentine's Day, we are reminded of the love around us. CPT Tan Hui Ze and SSG Peggy Wang found love, and each other in the Army in 2011. Today, they are happily married with an adorable 16-month old son, Perseus Tan.

CPT Tan and SSG Wang first met at the beginning of 2011. Starting out as friends and colleagues in the beginning, something very unique sparked the flame between the both of them. CPT Tan found out that SSG Wang enjoyed the same genre of music- metal-rock music. He recalled, "I was very surprised and excited to know that she likes metal-rock music too. She is probably the only girl I know who likes metal-rock music and who is able to name the songs and bands." Soon, they found out that they also shared many more common interests and habits, and towards the end of 2011, they started dating.

At the start of 2012, the couple's relationship was put to the test. In January



2012, CPT Tan was deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Blue Ridge. Yet, despite the long distance that kept them apart, they kept in contact frequently. With the aid of technology, they used Facetime to catch up on their daily happenings and kept the communication going. It was also during this time that Hui Ze proposed to Peggy. She shared, "He proposed to me while serving in Afghanistan. He bought the ring there and proposed to me. And when I went meet him at the airport when he returned in April 2012, he gave me the ring. It was a very special and memorable experience for the both of us." And in the same month, they got married.

Since then, Hui Ze and Peggy have been setting many milestones together, from building a new home to welcoming their son, Perseus. They shared that with the both of them in service, it has strengthened their relationship, especially when communicating and understanding each other's work demands. Peggy said, "Being

in service helps us communicate better and there is no barrier between us when we are talking about work. If I were not in service, I would not understand what he is doing at all." Hui Ze also added, "we understand each other's jobs better and this makes us much more understanding towards each other, for example, when we are called back for work during the weekends or when one of us has to stay overnight in camp."

Though their love story is one out of the many in the Army, it is still heartwarming to be reminded that love can be found everywhere. As we celebrate Valentine's Day this month, we should not only celebrate romantic love but also be grateful for the love we find around us.

Little did the Roman Emperor know - love actually makes a soldier want to fight even harder, especially to protect the ones he or she loves!!

Professional soldiers devoted to their career in the Army, Warrant Officers exemplify the values of the Singapore Soldier. We speak to 2 Warrant Officers, on what 'Love for Uniform' means to them

In service for 22 years and counting, MWO Sanjee Singh is currently the Officer Commanding (OC) of the Basic Tactics Wing in Commando Institute

LOVE FOR THE UNIFORM

CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR ENKIS

Story by Lim Wei Liang
Photos by Lim Wei Liang
Contributions by MWO Sanjee Singh
and 2WO Lim Woon Pin



What prompted you to sign on with Our Army?

I initially joined the Army due to the need to support my family. As the years passed, the Army became a passion and I never regretted the decision.

What were some of your career highlights?

The two most memorable appointments for me were the time spent growing up in the Commandos and holding the appointment as a RSM in HQ Guards.

In the Commandos, I was exposed to many different appointments. We had training and operations in many locations, both locally and overseas. It was the place that really developed and nurtured me into who I am now. The bonds and values that I've learnt here became the cornerstone of my life. Here I was introduced to the meaning of Brotherhood and there are not many units in the SAF that can replicate the teachings of Brotherhood as how it was taught and shown to me in the Commandos.

My appointment as a Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) in HQ Guards brought new meaning into my life. With the values and tools taught to me during my junior specialist days in the Commandos, I started my journey as a RSM. Even though the journey in the unit was full of ups and downs, I felt that it was an adventure, and I've learnt much along the way. It was here that I've learnt how to mentor and interact with soldiers of different races and across different age groups, and help them to overcome the issues they faced daily.

How is the Army of today different from the Army of the past, the time you first enlisted?

Time has changed the Army tremendously. It is always good to see how our Army is moving forward with the changes in technology, the environment as well as society. From being a 1st Generation Army to a 3rd Generation Army today, Our Army has come a long way.



Being in service for all these years, I have seen how the Army has embraced all these changes and turned it into its advantage. One example would be the replacement of the flipcharts as training aids by Learnnet computers. Another example would be that our infantry has its own vehicle (Terrex) now plus the Advanced Combat Man System (ACMS), which aids the commanders in battle. All these show that Our Army isn't one that rests on its laurels; it is always looking at ways to ensure that our soldiers are better equipped with cutting-edge equipment.

Being in charge of Commando recruits as the OC of the Basic Tactics Wing, what do you do to inculcate the value of 'Loyalty to Country' in your soldiers?

Soldiers today are much more IT-savvy compared to the soldiers of the past. As such, they are exposed to more information on the internet, and they would have higher expectations of their service in the Army compared to their fathers.

Being the father of a 14 year old boy, I realised that to inculcate in these young men the values of a soldier, you have to engage them by explaining the principle and rationale of the things we do in the Army. Once you are on the same wavelength as them, they would better appreciate the meaning of the Army's core values.



Being in service with the Army for such a long time, what does being a Singapore Soldier mean to you?

Being a Singapore Soldier is no different from any Singaporean. Probably the greatest difference is that we wear a uniform to work.

For many, a career is a choice and their calling. For us who chose the Army as their calling, we have found new meaning in ourselves. To me, being a Singapore Soldier means that I would be ready to protect Singapore when called upon. History has shown that for us to exist, we must be ready to defend Singapore ourselves.

What does the uniform mean to you? What kind of feeling do you have when you put on the uniform?

I always feel proud whenever I don the uniform. Wearing the uniform is a rite of passage for every Singaporean male who has given 2 years of their time to serve the country. The uniform not only provides an identity, it also reminds us of the reason we become soldiers. You wear the uniform so that your family is able to sleep peacefully at night.

2WO Lim Woon Pin joined the Army 14 years ago for a career that provided him with a sense of purpose. 2WO Lim is now the Regimental Sergeant major (RSM) in the 5th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment (5 SIR)



What made you decide to join the Army at that time?

I studied Chemical Processing Technology in Singapore Polytechnic, but I felt drawn towards a more challenging, physical and promising career which most importantly, gave me a sense of purpose rather than spending my time on a monotonous and unexciting job.

What were some of the more memorable moments in your military career?

I must say it was when I was first posted to 4 SIR as a junior section commander after my graduation from SCS (then SISPEC). My first major assignment upon joining the unit was to travel overseas for training for a Battalion exercise, and to lead a section for navigation. To be honest, I felt as though I was thrown into the deep end of the pool. At the start, my relative inexperience did not give me much faith in navigating the adverse terrain in overseas, but I am proud to say I made it and passed the navigation with my section.

Another memorable moment would be Exercise Wallaby 2008, when I joined 1 SIR on a brigade-level exercise and witnessed an air and land integrated live firing. It was an eye-opener to see such a wide spectrum of operations, as well as to experience training with the M113 under such rugged terrain.

More recently, the Army Open House 2012 was also another memorable moment in my career. As part of the organising committee, I assisted in putting up the Mobile Display for this event. As it was the first time the event was held in the city, there was no prior template to work on and we spent numerous weeks brainstorming to come up with the details for the segment. It gave me a sense of satisfaction to see our concepts come to fruition through the many rehearsals involved to fine-tune the details of the segment.



2WO Lim Woon Pin with his course mates in New Zealand

Tell us more about a day in the life as the RSM of 5 SIR.

Compared to the past, the role of the RSM is now more varied. In the past, the role of the RSM was focused on handling the regimentation and discipline of his/her men. Now the RSM takes on the role as BN Chief Trainer.

As the RSM, I'm not only in charge of the discipline of my men; I'm also heavily involved in the training of my men in the relevant soldiering fundamentals throughout their service with the unit. I feel that the challenge comes from having to juggle between the multiple roles that I assume. While I am the disciplinarian in my unit, I'm also a mentor to my men. It is important to achieve a balance between these roles.



What have you learnt through these years in the Army?

I've learnt that a leader should do what is right and not what is popular. That takes moral courage.

I've also learnt that here is no shame in saying "I don't know" or making mistakes. You cannot possibly know everything under the sun and you should first have the courage to say, "I do not know; but I will find the answer and get back to you." We learn through mistakes.

What does the uniform mean to you? What kind of feeling do you get when you put on the uniform?

To me, our uniform is an identity. This identity represents my responsibility to serve, the pride we uphold as soldiers and a belonging to the Singapore Armed Forces.

When I put my uniform, I feel a sense of responsibility, giving me the passion and energy to do more.







“FREE... FALLING...”

Story by Edmund Heng / Photos contributed by 1WO Maheswaran

For most people, looking down from a height can be quite daunting. For 1WO Maheswaran however, team leader of Hi-Flyerz, it is one exciting feeling. For him, no feeling in this world comes close to jumping out of the plane. Even though the first few times were a completely different experience, and the thought of jumping off a plane was downright terrifying; the feeling of fear eventually died down and after making more than 100 jumps, every time the opportunity arises, he's there to take the leap.

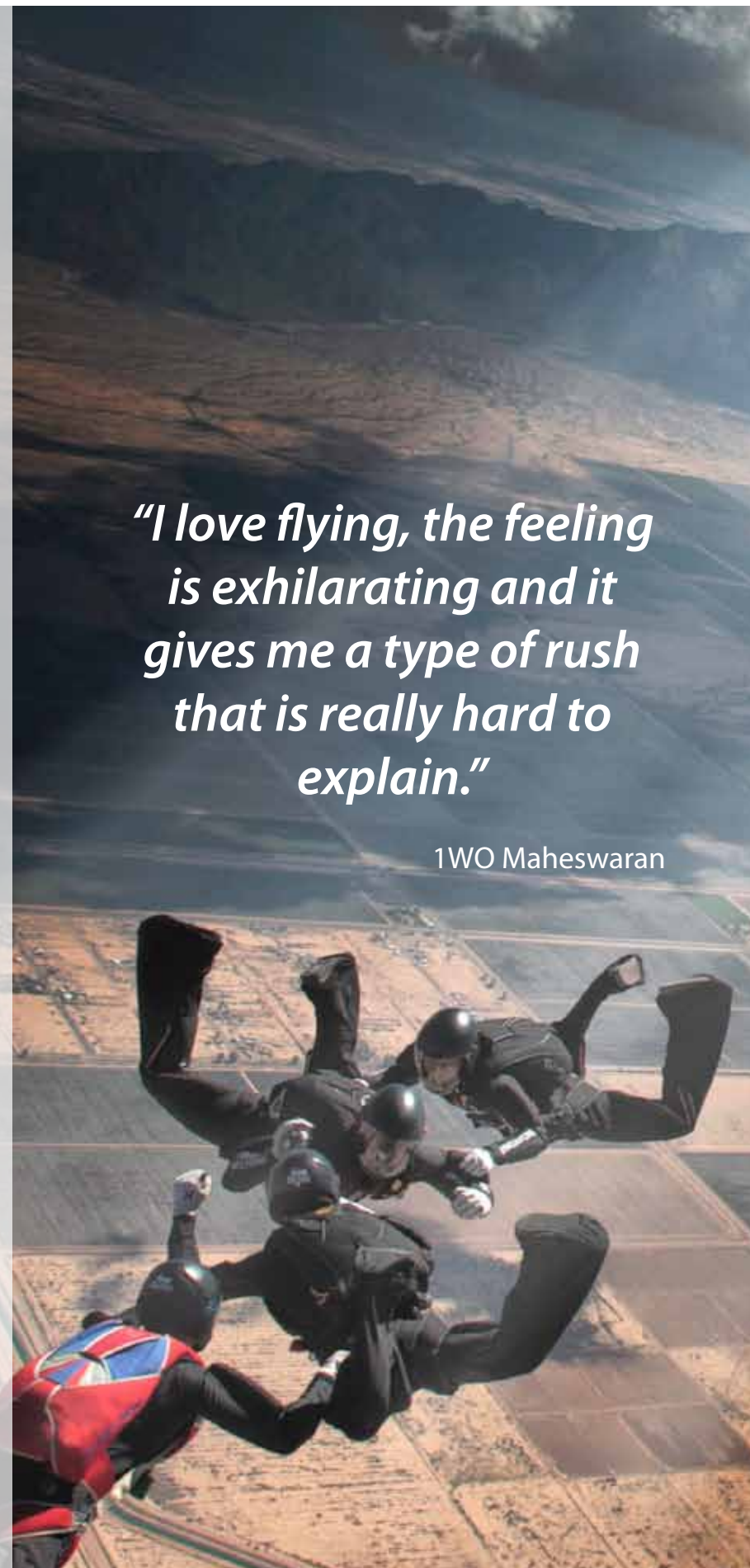
Hi-Flyerz comprises 4 performers and a videographer, all of which play an important role. He described his team members as a closely knitted group, first formed in 2010. The training throughout the years has taught them to understand each other, especially when they are flying.

Each person has a special role in the free falling team. There is a Point, an Inside Centre (IC), an Outside Centre (OC) and a Tail. The Point has a lot of individual flying roles for certain blocks and is responsible for facing away from the rest of the team most of the time so he should feel comfortable facing out and be a good solo flyer. The IC is responsible for starting the exit count - he should be good at staying calm enough in free fall to know when to push the pace of the skydive and when to slow things down as needed. The OC has the biggest move from formation to formation. He has to be able to communicate well with the IC, be a confident and strong flyer that won't get pushed around as he is docked on, and the Tail is the last of the pack and he needs to be calm enough to make his moves quickly and dock softly. The last one is the videographer - he has to be able to fly close enough to the team making sure that every move is filmed.

For 1WO Maheswaran, he was surprised at how supportive his family is towards his line of work. However they always remind him that he has to be safe so he would normally show them photographs and videos of his jumps to their delight. This also helps to build their confidence in all our safety measures.

He shared that the love for Flying however is a feeling that is hard to explain. "There is nothing more incredible than flying through the clouds, flying through the sky is the greatest feeling I have ever experienced. It's just amazing!"

When he reflects now- From how jumping out of the plane was a scary and terrifying thought, and how he would occasionally wish that there would be strong winds or a thunderstorm so that he would not need to take the leap - to now calling it an indescribable thrill that everyone should experience at least once; truly 1WO Maheswaran embodies *The Love for Flying*.



“I love flying, the feeling is exhilarating and it gives me a type of rush that is really hard to explain.”

1WO Maheswaran

The Highest Award for Valour

Story by Edmund Heng



For the United Kingdom, a nation with a long and proud military tradition, one medal stands above all others as a mark of recognition for the ultimate individual feat of bravery; the Victoria Cross (VC). The idea of the VC was simple, it would be awarded to any individual to mark extreme acts of great heroism by any British and Commonwealth servicemen in the face of enemy. It is genuinely an exclusive club; since the Second World War, there have been just fourteen recipients of the VC.

The Victoria Cross has its origins in the Crimean War. This was the first major war that was reported by war correspondents in the field. William Howard Russell of "The Times" reported of the bravery of the common soldier and pushed for a bravery award that could be given to the common soldier in recognition of his bravery. At this time, only senior officers were awarded medals for bravery, as it was deemed their leadership that drove men on to victory. The metal for the Victoria Cross came

from a captured bronze Chinese-made cannon used by the Russians at Sevastopol during the Crimean War. The metal itself is practically worthless, but that is what it was meant to be. The Victoria Cross was meant to have a simple design in an era when medals for bravery were anything but simple.

Lance Corporal (LCpl) James Ashworth VC was the last person to receive a VC in the War in Afghanistan. He was killed in action in Afghanistan in June 2012. He is only the second person to be awarded the VC in Afghanistan, the other being Corporal (CPL) Bryan Budd VC who was killed when he "single-handedly stormed a Taliban position" in August 2006. When CPL Budd stormed the position, he allowed his platoon to reorganise and push forward, eventually forcing the enemy to retreat. CPL

Meaning

val-our
 /'vælər/ Show
 Spelled [val-er]
 noun
 boldness or determination in facing great danger, especially in battle; heroic courage; bravery; a medal for valour.



Victoria Cross

Budd later died of his wounds and his body was found surrounded by three dead Taliban. For his determination to assault a superior enemy force despite his wounds, it was determined that it was an act of inspirational leadership and valour. For this, CPL Budd was awarded the Victoria Cross. For Lance Corporal Ashworth, he received his VC when his platoon needed to get rid of a sniper so that they could be extracted. He bravely took his last grenade and crawled until he was no more than five metres away before poking his head out to get a better angle and to throw the grenade. However before he was able to toss the grenade he was killed.

Another interesting story would be of Major Robert Henry Cain VC, who received his medal in the battle of Arnhem, in the Netherlands during World War 2. On 20 September 1944, Major Cain's company was holed up in an area in Oosterbeek when they were approached by a German tank, a Sturmgeschütz III (StuG III).

Major Cain went out to deal with it alone, armed with a PIAT (Projector, Infantry, Anti Tank), which weighed close to 16kg and would require two people to reload effectively. He waited until the tank was just about 18 metres away from him before he opened fire.

The enemy tank crew noticed Major Cain and engaged him, and although wounded from the machine guns and falling walls, he continued to attack until he succeeded in immobilising the tank. Only after the tank was destroyed did he allow himself to be treated. During the next few days, Major Cain refused rest and medical attention so that he could move amongst his men and encourage them. The London Gazette, one of the official journals of record for the British Government, quoted "Throughout the whole course of the Battle of Arnhem, Major Cain showed superb gallantry. His powers of endurance and leadership were the admiration of all his fellow



officers and stories of his valour were being constantly exchanged amongst the troops. His coolness and courage under incessant fire could not be surpassed!

To date, there have been 1357 Victoria Crosses awarded thus far but just 14 people have received it since the second world war and out of that 14, eight of them were posthumous. It clearly illustrates that it is an exclusive club of exceptional people.

The United States of America's highest military honour is The Medal of Honor. The Singapore equivalent of the VC would be the Bintang Temasek (The Star of Temasek), which was created in 1970. It is awarded to any member of the SAF, The Singapore Police Force or the Singapore Civil Defence Force who perform acts of exceptional courage and skill or exhibit conspicuous devotion to duty in circumstances of extreme danger. Thankfully, because of the peace we enjoy, we have no recipients for the Bintang Temasek.

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<http://www.cmahs.org/>

The Victoria Cross For Valor (2003)
 Heroes - Nigel Cawthorne

Love for Family



Story by Jotham Yeo / Photography by Lim Chen You and contributed by LTA Anna Soo

that I was now alone in SCS while my brother was in OCS."

During Peter's time in SCS, he received encouragement from his peers and his twin brother too, and was determined to move on. Due to his good performance and respect from his platoon-mates, he was offered a chance to crossover to OCS after his foundation term in SCS. He took up the offer and joined his brother, David's company in OCS during service term.



Regiment, was especially proud of her two younger twin brothers, going through their NS journey together and maturing from "ah boys to men". LTA Anna pointed out, "I have seen them grow since their enlistment. Even at home, they have grown more independent, they plan their own routines and schedules. They are more disciplined now, adhering to their specific goals and doing their utmost in achieving them."

It was a relief for both of them, as Peter had his brother to teach him the ropes. David recounted, "I was really glad that Peter was able to crossover and join me in OCS. We were able to go through all the tough times in OCS together, with each other for support. There was also the friendly competition between us, such as the IPPT, where we would compare results. There were no hard feelings, it just motivated us to do even better."

Their eldest sister, LTA Anna Soo, a Platoon Commander in 48 Singapore Armoured



2 LT David Soo Zheng Jie and 2LT Peter Soo Zheng Yi are identical twin brothers, who have just been commissioned as SAF officers on 18 January. Donning the same uniform, having the same hairstyle and having the same stature, I had difficulty differentiating either one when I first saw them.

2LT David and 2LT Peter are the youngest in a family of five siblings. Being brought up together, they share a very unique bond. They are two peas in a pod – they share the same hobby, they were in the same school, in the same basketball team, and they did almost everything together.

Although they enlisted in different companies during their Basic Military Training (BMT), they were in the same enlistment batch. However, for their posting after BMT, the twins were finally separated when David was posted to the Officer Cadet School (OCS) whilst Peter was posted to the Specialist Cadet School (SCS). Peter revealed that it was really tough for the both of them as they thought that they would go to OCS together. He added on, "I have always wanted to go OCS, which was why upon hearing the posting news, I was very disappointed. Another reason was

Spots

Story by Lim Wei Liang

Tinea versicolor, more commonly known as "white spots", is a fungal infection of the skin.

Sufferers of **white spots** have **discoloured patches on their skin** usually white, but sometimes pink or brown. These patches normally appear on the face, chest, back, shoulders and limbs. Sufferers of white spots would also complain of itchiness or flakiness on these patches of skin as well.

People who **engage in exercise or strenuous activities** (such as soldiers) are more susceptible to white spots, as excessive perspiration, together with the warm and humid climate of Singapore, creates an environment where fungi on the skin are able to thrive. While fungi is normally found on the skin, fungal skin infections such as white spots occurs when there is an overgrowth of fungus on the skin. While **not contagious**, white spots can cause discomfort to its sufferers.

Keeping the **skin dry** is very important for the **prevention of white spots**. Applying powder to areas of the body in which excessive perspiration may occur (e.g. the groin and armpits) may help to reduce the growth of fungus on the skin. For individuals who are more susceptible to white spots, using an anti-fungal shampoo on the scalp and body once a month, leaving the shampoo on for 10 minutes each time before rinsing it off, may be effective in preventing white spots.

Tinea versicolor is a condition that is **fairly easy to overcome** with treatment. Treatment usually consists of topical anti-fungal medications such as creams, lotions or cleansers, or even oral anti-fungal medications for instances where the white spots appear on a large area of the body, or is recurrent.



Sources:
<https://www.nsc.com.sg/Patient-Guide/Health-Library/Types%20of%20Skin%20Conditions/Pages/Fungal-Infections.aspx>
<http://www.aad.org/dermatology-a-to-z/diseases-and-treatments/q-t/tinea-versicolor>

Picture:
<http://www.flickr.com/people/sarahrosenau/>

SETTING THE STANDARDS

40 COURSES AND COUNTING...

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY CONTRIBUTED BY RANGERS

05 September, 1945hrs. Grateful for the thick vegetation and heavy rain, Rangers of the 40th Ranger Course had adeptly avoided enemy patrols and stealthily closed in on their high value target. As the darkness enveloped them, 3SG Ganesan and his buddies prepared their night vision goggles and live demolition while awaiting the return of the commanders' recce group.

Though cut by thorns, soaked to the bone and fatigued after carrying over 30kg of equipment for infiltration, 3SG Ganesan shook off the combat stress and listened intently to his patrol leader's recce update. Minutes later, adrenalin was coursing through his veins as he assaulted the objective, sending live rounds on targets marked by his buddy's tracer rounds.

Despite having less than 3 hours of sleep the night prior, 3SG Ganesan dug deep into his mental reserve to concentrate on rigging the critical components up with explosives. 3, 2, 1, Ignite now!

Battle damage assessment: Target Destroyed. Mission accomplished, 30kg packs back on and preparations begin for a 5km casualty evacuation (CASEVAC) to the next patrol base.

For many, this high level of stealth, coordination and endurance in operations are the stuff of action movies and war fiction. For the 47 Rangers who graduated from the 40th Ranger Course on 19 September, however, this high level of combat stress and training realism was an everyday occurrence during the Course. For 3SG Ganesan s/o Devadas from the Naval Diving Unit, **"The live firing exercises were definitely highlights of the Course because we get to display our confidence and ability to fight as a detachment."**

In the case of LTA Wu Bo Han from HQ Guards, **"the wide variety of live insertion means added another dimension of realism and excitement in the Course"**. In addition to a full combat equipment parachute jump from a C-130, heli-insertion, rappelling and terminal air guidance experiences on Super Pumas and Chinooks, the Rangers also conducted sea-borne insertion via assault and zodiac boats. "Combining the live insertion, unparalleled combat stress and cunning enemy on objective, no other Course can match the SAF Ranger Course in offering a more realistic war-fighting experience," LTA Wu reflected. Evidently, the SAF Ranger course continues to set the SAF's high watermark for training realism and professional development.

"The Ranger Course would not enjoy its reputation as the toughest and most realistic small unit leadership course in the SAF if not for its people. While committed and professional instructors go the extra mile to frame the standards and keep training safe, the Rangers and their impressive

fighting spirit and teamwork continue to define the striking canvas of the Ranger Course," said MAJ Samuel Wang, Commanding Officer of Special Forces Leadership School.

Ranger instructors, also known as Ranger Cadres, are custodians of the Ranger Course's values, competencies and traditions. Given the risks inherent in Ranger training, Ranger Cadres had to ensure realistic training can be executed safely. "To meet our obligation of upholding the exacting standards of the Ranger Course and our responsibility to keep training safe, we design exercises for maximum realism first before mitigating unacceptable risks on the margin. This deliberate thought process in our instructional design allows us to safely negotiate and define the boundaries of realistic training," added MAJ Wang.

During the 65-day course, many instructors were also sources of inspiration and role models for the Rangers. Standing out from the instructor body were three NSmen Ranger Cadres, whose commitment to the Ranger fraternity and passion to serve the nation resonated with the Ranger trainees. SSG (NS) Ganesan s/o Arumugam, 1SG (NS) Yap Jun Jie and 1SG (NS) Siang Chee Meng, all voluntarily extended their high key In-Camp Training spending a full month away from their loved ones to serve as Ranger Cadres.

When asked about his motivation to be a Ranger Cadre, SSG (NS) Ganesan articulated, **"Although my work in civil engineering is fulfilling and rewarding, nothing beats the privilege of being able to impart my knowledge and values in small unit leadership to new generations of Rangers. That keeps me coming back year after year, whatever it takes."** On the NSmen Ranger Cadres, Ranger Trainee SSG Lin Jie Long from Specialist Cadet School said, **"Although they are no longer Army regulars, I still find their knowledge current and experience relevant. Their commitment to defence is an inspiration for all of us."**

Every Ranger pledges "Never to fail my comrade" in the Ranger Creed. While Ranger Cadres spared no effort in inducing combat stress and frustration within every Ranger, the onus was on every Ranger to stay mentally alert, physical strong and morally straight when they were cold, tired and hungry (as they always were). **"No Ranger is able to complete Ranger Course alone,"** articulated LTA Tan Chuan, the Distinguished Honour Graduate of the 40th Ranger Course.

LTA Tan represents many in the Course when it comes to his beliefs on the core values a Ranger must possess to successfully

complete the Course. **"Given the demanding standards set by the Ranger Cadres, every Ranger must put up in order to secure the team. Individuals may have a strong foundation in small unit tactics but good teamwork and strong fighting spirit are essential to raise everyone's standards and morale so as to complete the assigned mission"** added the Commando officer. **"It is also in times of adversity that we discover the hidden strengths and breaking point in every one of us. During the Course, we learnt how to face up to our individual weaknesses and overcome them through collective effort. From the prisoner of war (POW) training to the final Rite of Passage CASEVAC, these stories and memories of our fellow Rangers' extraordinary courage and perseverance will stay with me for a long time."**

40 courses on, the SAF Ranger Course continues to blaze the trail for the SAF when it comes to offering an unparalleled small unit leadership training experience. Replete with tales of intrepid action and inspiring values under fire, Rangers of the 40th Ranger Course have joined 39 classes of Rangers before them in affirming the strength of the human spirit and demonstrating the power of teamwork in making the impossible, possible.

RANGERS
LEAD THE
WAY



TOTAL DEFENCE DAY

THE BATTLE OF BUKIT CHANDU

STORY BY JOTHAM YEO / PHOTOGRAPHY BY SIM CHUN YOU AND CONTRIBUTED BY NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD

For many younger Singaporeans like me, it is hard for us to imagine a war occurring in Singapore. Total Defence Day, 15 February, however, is a day in our history for us to remember, the reality that a war was fought and lost on Singapore soil. But, it is not only important for us to remember the fall of Singapore during World War II, it is also important for us to commemorate our heroes and their sacrifices. Former Minister for Foreign Affairs, George Yeo said, **"If we do not remember our heroes, we will produce no heroes. If we do not record their sacrifices, their sacrifices would have been in vain... the greatest strength we have as a people is our common memories of the past and our common hopes for the future..."**

In this article, we recall one of the fiercest battles which took place in Singapore during World War II, and the bravery of our soldiers at the Battle of

Pasir Panjang. (This battle is also known as the Battle of Opium Hill or the Battle of Bukit Chandu)



A map showing what happened at Bukit Chandu

Background information



The Japanese campaign to invade Singapore began on 8 February. The campaign was very successful with the British defence lines being pushed back with each attack, and strategic points such as Bukit Timah falling to Japanese hands.

Bukit Chandu constituted the final British defence parameter against the invading Japanese army. This Battle of Pasir Panjang was one of the last few battles fought before the surrender. It happened on 14 February, after "C" Company of the Malay Regiment had retreated from the Pasir Panjang Ridge to Bukit Chandu.

It was on Point 226, or Bukit Chandu that the soldiers of the Malay Regiment fought most gallantly. This battle, fought against incredible odds, became known to posterity as the illustrious "Battle of Pasir Panjang".

The Battle (14 February)

After retreating to Bukit Chandu, the commander of "C" Company of the Malay Regiment, Lieutenant Adnan bin Saidi ordered his men to fortify their new defence position by building a wall of sandbags all round.

In the early afternoon, "strange" troops were seen by Adnan advancing uphill from Pepys Road. The troops were first thought to be Sikh soldiers from the British-Indian Army because they were spotted wearing turbans. However, their grouping of four instead of three, which was the norm of the British Army, led Adnan to suspect that these were actually enemy troops disguised as British soldiers. Adnan ordered his men to open fire and 20 enemy were mortally wounded, causing the Japanese to retreat. This victory for the Malay Regiment was however short-lived as two hours later, the Japanese launched a second all-out attack with more Japanese soldiers and heightened shelling by aircraft.

Fierce fighting ensued on Bukit Chandu, and when their ammunition ran out, Adnan and his men resorted to hand-to-hand combat using their bayonets. Although heavily outnumbered, the Malay Regiment continued to hold their ground

until they were completely overrun. For their courage in frustrating the Japanese army's attempts at victory for nearly 48 hours, they paid heavily – with their lives.

Recollections of Lt. Adnan bin Saidi

"Adnan said to me, "Tuan if I should die today, I am quite willing as long as someone can look after my family." Those



were his last words and that was the last time I saw him alive." – Datuk Abbas Manan, from an interview in a documentary, "Between Empires"

If you would like to know more about the Battle of Pasir Panjang, please visit Reflections at Bukit Chandu, located at 31-K Pepys Road S(118458).

References:
infopedia.nl.sg/articles/SIP_457_2005-01-04.html

Pictures were reproduced courtesy of National Heritage Board and Reflections at Bukit Chandu



The French Revolution formed the precursor for the Napoleonic Wars, with Great Britain and France competing for supremacy. The Napoleonic Wars lasted from 1803 to 1815, and was put to an close only after France's invasion of Russia which ended in failure.

This period was marked by economic warfare, which started in 1806 when Napoleon issued the Berlin Decree. This ruling placed an embargo on trade with Britain and incited Britain to retaliate by authorizing the British navy to seize ships that did not abide by this law. This created some friction between the USA and Great Britain, after British forces forcefully boarded the U.S.S. Chesapeake in 1807 to search for British navy deserters.

In 1805, the War of the Third Coalition broke out between Austria and France. Austria, led by Karl Mack von Leiberich, invaded Bavaria. This prompted a face-off with the French army, and Napoleon's forces encircled Mack von Leiberich's army at Ulm and this caused von Leiberich to surrender. Following Austria's defeat, Napoleon invaded Vienna but was met by a Austro-Russian army led by Mikhail Kutuzov. In what is considered his most celebrated victory, Napoleon easily overpowered the Austro-Russian force.

Shortly after, Prussia, Russia, Saxony, Sweden and the UK formed the Fourth Coalition to counter the rising French threat in 1806. In August of that year, the king of Prussia, Frederick William III, waged war against Napoleon, who deployed his forces east of the Rhine. France dealt a

The Napoleonic Wars

Story by Oon Ming Shen



crushing defeat to Prussia and wiped out the Russian forces in Poland.

Another coalition, the Fifth this time, was formed by Britain and Austria. This time, the British army adopted a skirmish tactic in tandem with the Royal Navy. These attacks, however, proved to be of modest effectiveness as they were limited by the ability and quality of the land forces. The lesson that we can derive from this, even today, is that it would not be wise to concentrate power in one single entity, especially when collaboration is involved. Both parties must be equally strong for any concerted effort to be successful.

In 1812 Napoleon, with a strength of 650,000 men, invaded Russia and won several small battles. In the face of such a defeat, the primary Russian military constantly retreated for almost three months. Napoleon's forces entered Russia but faced numerous challenges as criminals were deliberately released from prisons and the Russians set Moscow on fire. This caused the French to retreat,

and whilst in the course of doing so, an extremely cold winter set in. Napoleon's forces were not properly prepared for such extreme weather and many succumbed to the cold. Historians largely attribute his defeat to his failure to pre-empt the bitter winter of Russia.

After several more battles, the Napoleonic Wars finally ended with the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. The Duke of Wellington from Britain commanded the Allied forces while General Blucher

helmed the Prussian army. Their forces congregated at the north-eastern border of France and Napoleon decided to launch an attack in hope of crushing them before they could initiate an invasion. Despite the fact that some of Napoleon's smaller forces were defeated by Wellington, Napoleon still decided to launch an attack, saying "Just because you have all been beaten by Wellington, you think he's a good general. I tell you Wellington is a bad general, the English are bad troops, and this affair is nothing more than eating breakfast." Clearly, Napoleon had underestimated the Allied forces and his arrogance would cause his downfall.

The forces under Wellington held the ground until dusk, when the Prussian army arrived and pierced through the right side of the French forces. This threw Napoleon's forces into disarray and his troops fled in fear. After the French retreated to Paris, public support for Napoleon had wavered and he finally surrendered himself to the British on 15 July.

Battle of Leipzig

Commanding a total force of 225,000 soldiers from France, Poland, Italy and Germany, Napoleon established his troops at Leipzig. He faced against 380,000 soldiers from Russia, Austria, Hungary, Prussia and Sweden. Napoleon had planned to be on the offensive even though he was heavily outnumbered as he believed he could exploit the geography to his advantage. The land was divided into many different regions by rivers converging there, and Napoleon knew that he could move troops across different regions much faster than his foes.

On 16 October, Russian forces attacked Wachau, supported by Prussian troops. Unbeknownst to the Russians, however, the French were lying in wait and launched a surprise attack, crushing the Russians. Hoping to backup the Russians, the Prussians entered Wachau but were forced back by a barrage of attacks from the French artillery. Napoleon was not as lucky in Liebertwolkwitz, however. The Austrians drove the French out of Liebertwolkwitz but were in turn driven out by the French. The French forces then adopted a columnar attack formation, which worked against them as smaller, swifter Allied cavalry troops easily broke up the clumsy columns. Elite Russian and Austrian forces took down French cavalymen effortlessly and overran the French artillery batteries.

The next day, on 17 October, the Russians attacked the French cavalry troops and once again proved their superiority by defeating the French forces, which sustained severe losses. There was a large disparity between the reinforcements of the French and the Allied forces - Napoleon only had 14,000

reinforcements while the Allied forces received 145,000.

Knowing that further battle would end in his defeat, Napoleon sought armistice. He offered to surrender fortresses at Oder and Vistula in return for his withdrawal to a place behind the Saale. However, his offer was rejected by the Coalition. Taking advantage of Napoleon's small numbers, the Coalition launched attacks from all directions. Yet, no breakthrough was achieved as the French troops were resilient and courageous in holding the ground. In Probstheida, a village in proximity of Leipzig, the French had the upper-hand as the village was an impregnable fortress, with tall and thick garden walls that protected the French cavalry, as well as artillery and infantry reserves at the back of the village. The Coalition attempted to drive through the village but were met with fierce resistance from the French. Both sides suffered great losses.

Finally, on the night of 18 October, Napoleon ordered his troops to retreat across the river Elster. The Coalition learned of this on 19 October in the morning and launched an urban assault. Despite this, the French's retreat took place successfully until the afternoon. The general who was supposed to destroy the sole bridge across the Elster tasked this responsibility to a colonel, who in turn had a corporal carry it out. However, the corporal was not aware of the importance of precision in the timing and blew it up while retreating French troops were still on the bridge. Panic ensued and many French troops were killed or captured.

interesting Trivia

Napoleon's semaphore telegraph was the world's first telegraph network. It had 534 stations that spanned more than 5,000km at its best. It only took 3 or 4 hours for a message from Paris to reach the outskirts of the country. Despatch riders on horseback would have taken almost 4 days!

The dish, Chicken Marengo, was named after a battle of the Napoleonic Wars, the Battle of Marengo in 1800 between Napoleon and Austrian forces. After the battle, Napoleon demanded a meal served quickly but his chef had few ingredients as supply wagons were too distant. With whatever meager ingredients he had, the chef created the dish and Napoleon enjoyed it very much and considered it lucky.

Image Credits:
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/43/Battle_of_Borodino.jpg
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/72/Battle_of_Waterloo_1815.PNG
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0f/Wellington_at_Waterloo_Hillingford.jpg



Mission Ready - Rangers Lead The Way

Love For Country



'24 km Route March'

Syed & Soresh



THE SINGAPORE ARMY
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**WHAT'S HOT!
WHAT'S TRENDING!
WHAT'S GOING VIRAL!**



Soldier makes boy carry field pack? This is what really happened.

The boy pictured in a STOMP contribution showing him towing a soldier's duffel bag was really 1SG(NS) Zuliflie Rahmat's nephew who wanted to feel the weight of his uncle's NS gear!

(Posted on 171213)



More opportunities for WOSpecs to hold command!

It was a historic moment yesterday when Commanding Officer of the Armour Combat Training Centre (CO ACTC) LTC Bryan Tan, handed over command of the unit to CWO Lee Sung Cheng (pictured). The appointment of CO ACTC, which has traditionally been helmed by an officer, will now be assigned to Warrant Officers. Other senior leadership positions held by Warrant Officers include the CO of Supply Transport Centre at the Institute of Logistics and the CO of the Signals Vocation Training School at the Signals Institute.

(Posted on 121213)



Video on HIMARS

Sending fires on targets with deadly accuracy - Our Army's High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS)!

(Posted on 191213)

In Your Words 

100114
04/13 BMT Graduation Route March

Trippy Arghh - All smiles and laughter I see...24km nowadays soo fun...

070114
CG USARPAC Visits our Army

Mervin Quah - It's not everyday a Four Star General with a Ranger badge drops by!

010114
War relic found, and disposed off on New Year's Day!

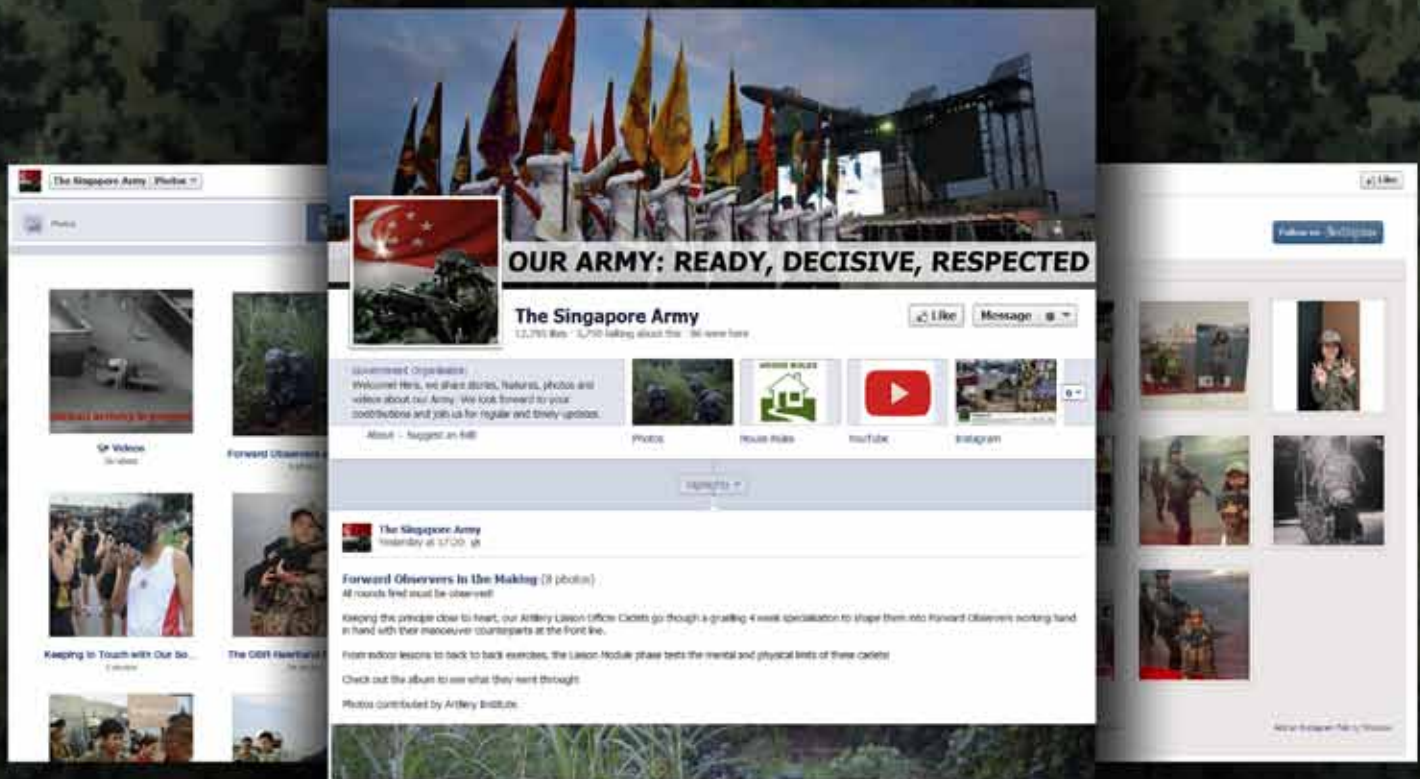
Tan Chong Boon - With SAF soldiers on 24/7, Singaporeans can sleep in peace.

010114
New Year Poster

Eric Chua Kim Hock -Thanks for keeping us safe.. To those on duty now, a special thanks...

251213
Christmas Poster

Alan Ang- Honour, pride and respect: I salute all past and present Singapore Army servicemen and women! Merry Christmas everyone themselves! Excellent stuff - power to the other ranks!



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