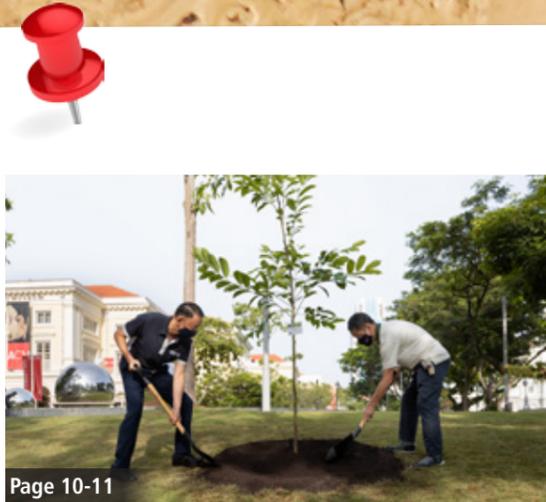


THE POLICE BEACON

Remembering Our Roots
A Walk Down Memory Lane
Pawnshop Robbery Attempt Foiled

CONTENT SPOTLIGHT



Remembering Our Roots

The Singapore Police Force pledged to plant 200 trees in support of the One Million Trees movement and to mark 200 years of policing in Singapore. This initiative was inaugurated on 10 December 2020 by Commissioner of Police Hoong Wee Teck and Chief Executive Officer of National Parks Board Kenneth Er, with the planting of five Merbatu trees at Empress Place.



The Police Beacon

The close cooperation between the Singapore Police Force (SPF) and the Home Team Science and Technology Department has culminated in this latest addition to the SPF's technological arsenal. On trial for a year, two Police Beacon prototypes have been deployed along Punggol Waterway Park Connector and Sengkang Riverside Park Connector respectively. Learn more about the Police Beacon and how it supports the SPF's mission in keeping Singapore safe and secure.



A Walk Down Memory Lane

The Police Heritage Trail is a one-of-a-kind trail, the first in Singapore to focus entirely on important landmarks in the country's security and law enforcement history. Launched on 26 November 2020 by the SPF, the trail consists of nine different sites located at the heart of Singapore's Central Area.



Pawnshop Robbery Attempt Foiled

Armed with a knife and a replica gun, a man attempted to rob a pawnshop and even threatened the shop staff with a fake bomb. Find out how officers from various units worked together to arrest the perpetrator within five days of the crime.

CONTENTS



04

Let's Get Social!



16

Poster



06

2020: The Year in Review



18

A Walk Down Memory Lane



08

SPF200 LIVE: Commemorating 200 Years of Policing



22

What's in my Neighbourhood?



10

Remembering Our Roots



24

Pawnshop Robbery Attempt Foiled



12

The Police Beacon



26

Lead by Example: Dirty Boots and SQ117



14

Saluting Frontline Heroes around the World



30

The FIFA Player

Committee

Editorial Advisor

Serene Chiu

Chief Editor

Ho Yenn Dar

Senior Editor

Matthew Chua

Editor

Denise Luo

Journalist

Irwan Shah

Journalist

Syam Roslan

Police Life is a publication of the Singapore Police Force. For feedback or enquiries, please write to the editorial team at SPF_PLM@spf.gov.sg. The materials in this publication are not to be reproduced in whole or in part without the prior written consent of the Editorial Committee. All rights reserved. Whilst we tried to ensure that information provided is up-to-date and accurate, the publisher will not be responsible for any errors or omissions.

2020: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

By Irwan Shah
(Photos: Singapore Police Force)

The SPF200 Run



On 10 January 2020, the Police Bicentennial kicked off with air horns ringing in the commemorative year. SPF officers from every unit took part in a 200-kilometre relay run around Singapore in the span of 24 hours.

Police Bicentennial Launch cum Police Family Day Carnival



President Halimah Yacob officially launched the Police Bicentennial Celebrations at the OCBC Square in the Singapore Sports Hub on 11 January 2020. The day also marked the first of a two-day Police Family Day Carnival.

The SPF200 Exhibition



The SPF200 Exhibition was launched on 6 February 2020 at the National Museum of Singapore by Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, Mr K Shanmugam. The exhibition detailed the story of the SPF's humble beginnings and encapsulates the SPF's bicentennial heritage and developments in tandem with the nation's growth.

Battling COVID-19



More than 3,000 SPF officers were deployed to support the nationwide battle against COVID-19 pandemic since January 2020. Their roles ranged from contact tracing, securing Government Quarantine Facilities and assisting with dormitory operations.

POLICE DAY OBSERVANCE CEREMONY 2020

Police Day 2020



The SPF commemorated Police Day on 3 June 2020 with a virtual Police Day Observance Ceremony due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The first of its kind in the police force's history, the observance ceremony was led by Commissioner of Police Hoong Wee Teck and was attended virtually by officers from various SPF units. It was a day where the SPF commemorates the contributions and achievements of past and present officers.

Singapore General Election 2020



The Singapore General Election 2020 saw over 12,000 SPF officers deployed islandwide to ensure a smooth and safe polling experience for all eligible voters.

2020 was a symbolic year for the Singapore Police Force (SPF) as the Police commemorated 200 years of policing in Singapore. It was also a year that tested the SPF's mettle, in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and the unprecedented challenges it posed to our policing duties. Nonetheless, SPF officers remained steadfast in their duties, quickly adapting, amidst making personal sacrifices, and contributing to the national efforts in combating COVID-19. Let us take a moment and revisit the pivotal moments and highlights of 2020!

The Next-Generation Fast Response Car (FRC)



The Next-Generation FRC was unveiled on 2 August 2020, featuring several improvements from its predecessor, integrating technology into its design to enhance the operational effectiveness, and improving the safety of frontline officers.

National Day Parade 2020



Singapore's 55th birthday celebrations were unlike any other due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. A scaled down version of the ceremonial parade was held at the Padang while the Mobile Column drove through the heartlands. Joining the officers offshore were the Police Coast Guard, who performed a maritime sail-past along Singapore's waters in tribute and solidarity to frontline workers.

SPF200 LIVE



"SPF200 LIVE" was the police force's very own live show that aired on the SPF's Workplace page on 20 November 2020. During the livestream, officers tuned in to look back on the SPF's bicentennial milestones, showcasing officers' contributions and SPF200 initiatives.

Police Heritage Trail



The Police Heritage Trail was unveiled on 26 November 2020, tracing significant landmarks in the SPF's history. The trail enabled visitors to learn about the police force's contributions to Singapore's safety and security throughout the two centuries. The trail consisted of nine sites in the civic district.

Tree Planting Ceremony



The SPF pledged to plant 200 trees in support of the One Million Trees movement and to mark 200 years of policing in Singapore. On 10 December 2020, Commissioner of Police Hoong Wee Teck and Chief Executive Officer of National Parks Board Kenneth Er, were joined by a group of serving police officers, volunteers and retirees, as they planted five Merbau trees at Empress Place. The tree planting at the Empress Place traced the origins of the SPF back to the Singapore River and where the first purpose-built Police Office was situated.

SPF200 LIVE: Commemorating 200 Years of Policing

By Irwan Shah
(Photo: Singapore Police Force)



Our amazing studio hosts, Paige Lee and Kamal Hakim, kicking off the show with a lively introduction.



Mr Chua Wei Hao from the Special Operations Command and Mr Patrick Pang from the Public Affairs Department shared with us the various challenges in organising the SPF200 Run.



Meet Mr Said Nasir, a 43-year veteran who retired in 2004 and became our esteemed guide at the SPF200 Exhibition at the National Museum of Singapore earlier this year.



Check out the replica of the traffic wings which were used by our officers to direct traffic back in the 1930s. Mr Darrell Leong, from Ang Mo Kio Division, demonstrated how it was used to our hosts, Ivan Tan and Nurulhuda Zaibarudin.

SPF200 LIVE, the Singapore Police Force's (SPF) very own live show debuted on Workplace – an internal communication platform that allows SPF officers to stay connected remotely through the use of group chatrooms and live video broadcasting - on 27 November 2020.



The digital version of the SPF200 Commemorative Book, *Safeguarding Every Day: 200 years of the Singapore Police Force* was launched a few days before the SPF200 live show. The book details the police force's bicentennial heritage and developments.



Mr Amri Amin, Creative Director of the SPF200 Musical and Ms Syafiqah Binte Abdul Aziz, a member of the musical cast, shared with us about the rehearsals and preparations that they went through before they were halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Launched on 26 November 2020, the Police Heritage Trail is a one-of-a kind trail that explores the significant landmarks in Singapore's security and law enforcement history.



The Kreta Ayer redesigned Neighbourhood Police Post (NPP) houses an exhibition that provides information about the Police Heritage Trail and the historic area around the redesigned NPP.



Remembering Our Roots

By Elliot Wong

(Photos: Naveen Raj)

As one of the events to conclude the series of Police Bicentennial commemorative events, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) pledged to plant 200 trees in support of the One Million Trees movement, marking 200 years of policing in Singapore.

It was a bright and breezy morning on 10 December 2020, a perfect weather for tree planting. As the sun shone through the trees and the winds rustled the leaves, Commissioner of Police (CP) Hoong Wee Teck and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Parks Board (NParks) Kenneth Er, planted five Merbatu trees at the Empress Place with a group of serving police officers, volunteers and retirees.

Planting Trees of Hope

The Empress Place is one of several stops along the Police Heritage Trail, which takes visitors along a journey through the SPF's humble beginnings. When Major William Farquhar came to Singapore, he set up the island's first police force in 1820, with its Police Office situated right at Empress Place by the Singapore River. 200 years later, the SPF returned to this location to commemorate its roots in colonial-era Singapore.

"It is very fitting to commemorate the Police Bicentennial with tree planting as trees provide shade and they are sturdy as well as enduring. Tree planting symbolises saluting the past by putting down roots while safeguarding the future with growth," commented CP Hoong.

By planting the roots of these five Merbatu trees in the SPF's birthplace, it represents a commemoration of the organisation's origins as a skeleton-crew police force. These roots connect the trees to the earth below, similar to how the SPF has worked to forge deep connections with the community and worked together to prevent, deter and detect crime. While these trees are but mere saplings now, they will grow into bigger and stronger trees in the future, reflecting the SPF's growth and development over the past 200 years and its potential in the years to come.

Beyond the five trees planted at Empress Place, another 195 trees will be planted progressively in 2021 from Empress Place onto streetscapes of roads in the vicinity to Fort Canning Park, next to Farquhar Garden, the first Botanical Garden of Singapore.

"The planting from Empress Place to Fort Canning Park reflects the close historic link between the first Police Office and the first Botanic Garden," said Mr Er, CEO of NParks. "We congratulate the SPF on its bicentennial and are heartened that the SPF is part of the One Million Trees movement, sharing our vision to make Singapore our City in Nature."

200 Years and Beyond

When everyone had finished planting their respective trees, the smiles of the participants glowed through their eyes despite being masked. Everyone was in good spirits, not just because of the good weather, but because of the atmosphere of hope that the event had brought out, that the SPF would continue to thrive no matter the challenges ahead. As CP Hoong put it, "We will continue serving Singapore and Singaporeans as we have done for the past 200 years." Indeed, as the new year begins, the SPF will strive to keep Singapore the safest place in the world, just as it has done before.



THE POLICE BEACON

By Irwan Shah
(Photos: Naveen Raj)

Conceived and developed through the close cooperation between the Singapore Police Force (SPF) and the Home Team Science and Technology Agency (HTX), the Police Beacon is the latest to join the SPF's technological arsenal to prevent, deter and detect crime. Through incorporating various audio, video and sensor technologies into a single platform, the Police Beacon is another example of the

SPF's foray into the next frontier of policing services that serves to enhance police presence, increase accessibility for the public to police services during emergencies, and improving police response to those in need of assistance in locations that are more secluded. Read on to find out more about its key features, and how it will help to keep the community safe!

- A** Siren/Blinkers (remotely activated from POCC)
- B** CCTVs (provides real-time video footage to POCC)
- C** Floodlights (remotely activated from POCC)
- D** Speakers (remotely activated from POCC)
- E** Electronic Screen: (displays crime prevention messages)
- F** Motion detection lights (lights up when a person approaches)
- G** Communications Button (provides direct access to a police operator in POCC)
- H** Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Box



More than a Beacon

In December 2020, the SPF deployed two Police Beacon prototypes, one at Punggol Waterway Park Connector and the other at Sengkang Riverside Park Connector, for a one-year trial. These prototypes are equipped with several unique features and capabilities, including motion detectors that activate lights to illuminate the surroundings when someone approaches the Police Beacon. Cameras are also mounted on the Police Beacon with the capability to transmit video footage in real-time to the Police Operations Command Centre (POCC), complementing the Police's sense-making and incident management capabilities.

Members of the public who need immediate assistance can speak to the Police in real-time through a built-in communication button. Police warning systems, such as blinkers, sirens, floodlights and speakers, have also been installed and can be remotely operated by POCC to serve as an interim intervention measure before the arrival of responding police officers at the scene. In the event of a medical emergency, there is also an AED Box mounted on the Police Beacon for ready access by members of the public. When the AED box is activated, the Police will immediately be alerted, allowing the Police to make an assessment if emergency medical services should be mobilised.

Working Together

The Police Beacon conceptualisation process began in June 2019 between HTX's Policing Programme Management Centre and the SPF's Operations Department. The features and functions of the Police Beacon were developed based

"While the various technologies mounted on the Police Beacon are not new, this is the first time we are pulling them together into one single platform."

on the team's assessment of how police officers' response and operational effectiveness can be enhanced to better serve the public. Concluding on the finalised features also involved several rounds of design reviews and iterations.

"While the various technologies mounted on the Police Beacon are not new, this is the first time we are pulling them together into one single platform," explained Deputy Superintendent of Police Lionel Lee from SPF's Operations Department. "Throughout this process, the team remained focussed on the key intent of the Police Beacon – to allow the Police to better serve the public."

Should the Police Beacon trial prove to be effective, the public can look forward to seeing more Police Beacons deployed in other public spaces in the future. The Police Beacon is just one of the many ways which the SPF leverages technology with its stakeholders to explore and adopt new technologies to achieve its vision of making Singapore the safest place in the world.



SALUTING FRONTLINE HEROES AROUND THE WORLD

By Syam Roslan

On 28 October 2020, the Ministry of Interior (MOI) from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) released a music video on their Facebook page featuring a virtual collaboration of 27 police bands, which performed the score of Giuseppe Verdi's 'Triumphal March' from the world-renowned opera 'Aida'. The performance served as a tribute to frontline workers worldwide for their commitment and sacrifices in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. The Singapore Police Force (SPF) Band had participated in this special collaboration, and *Police Life* (PL) spoke to Senior Staff Sergeant (SSSgt) Siti Khadijah Binte Mahat to hear her thoughts about her participation as one of the SPF's representatives.

PL: What is your role in the SPF Band?

SSSgt Siti: I am a Senior Musician with the SPF Band and am in-charge (IC) of the Brass Quintet as well as the Band Resource Library. As the Brass Quintet IC, I arrange rehearsal schedules and prepare the ensemble for upcoming performances. I also take on administrative and coordination roles for ceremonies and events, including overseas SPF Band assignments.

PL: When did you join the SPF Band?

SSSgt Siti: I joined the SPF in 2010 and was attached to Clementi Neighbourhood Police Centre, before joining the SPF Band in July 2011.

PL: What is your musical instrument of choice?

SSSgt Siti: I have been playing the French Horn for 20 years, since my secondary school days. It is a passion that I have followed through and it has been a big part of my career with the SPF Band.

PL: What other musical instruments are you proficient in?

SSSgt Siti: While serving in the SPF Band, I picked up several other instruments, such as the keyboard and bass guitar. I have been practicing hard to master them so that I can become a more versatile musician. I have also started training as a band conductor and have been trying my hands at music arrangement for the band and ensembles.



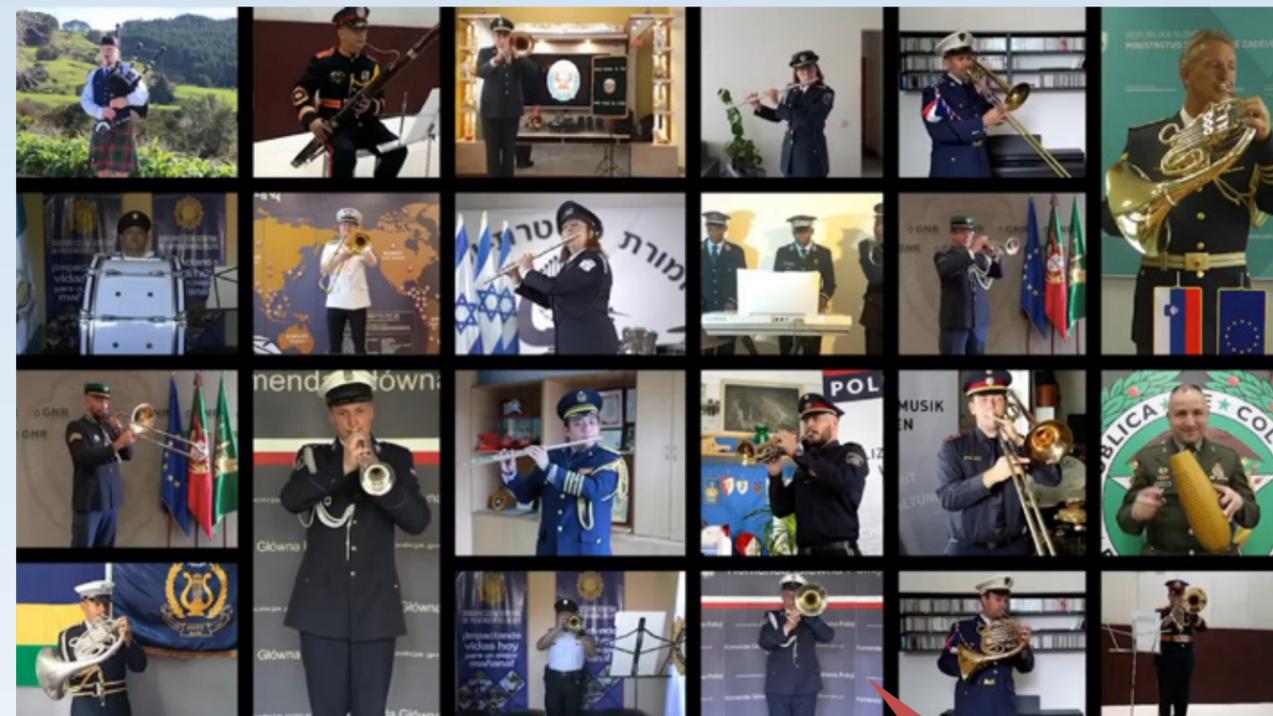
(Photo: Screenshot taken from video off 'MOI UAE' Facebook page).

PL: How did the opportunity present itself to be part of the virtual collaboration performance?

SSSgt Siti: The UAE, particularly Dubai Police, is one of the SPF's key strategic partners in international policing. Hence, the UAE's MOI had invited the SPF Band to participate in this international musical tribute.

PL: How were you selected to be part of this performance?

SSSgt Siti: The SPF Band was presented with the prerequisites in terms of instrumentation for the video and I was selected based on my musical proficiencies.



(Photo: Screenshot taken from video off 'MOI UAE' Facebook page).

PL: To those who are not familiar, share with our readers the significance or popularity of the song you had to perform.

SSSgt Siti: 'Aida' is a musical based on the world-renowned Italian opera of the same title written by Antonio Ghislanzoni with music by Giuseppe Verdi. The song, 'Triumphal March' symbolises a victorious return after the battle. It represents a celebration of bravery in war. This song is a tribute performed by 27 police bands, dedicated to frontline workers who are battling the pandemic.

PL: What was the preparation like before you recorded yourself performing the song?

SSSgt Siti: Preparing and rehearsing with a full orchestra or band setup helps a musician to understand the structure, interpretation, and mood of the song. However, as we were only provided with the scores of our respective instrumentation parts, I had to listen to audio recordings of the song to analyse the harmonic progression of the piece using the piano. Researching the history of this musical piece also enabled me to better understand and execute my performance. I also spent several days practicing and memorising my parts to ensure that I would deliver my best during the video recording.

PL: How do you feel being a part of the collaboration, especially since it is a tribute to frontline officers who are fighting hard against the COVID-19 pandemic?

SSSgt Siti: Such international collaboration sends a signal to the world that though borders are closed and lockdowns are enforced, the world remains united in fighting this pandemic. We hope that this video collaboration would

Scan the QR code to watch the virtual collaboration performance!



help lift the spirits of frontline officers and generate greater positivity during this challenging period. I am proud and honoured to have represented the SPF for this international tribute to all frontline officers.

PL: Any words of encouragement for frontline officers hard at work in this pandemic?

SSSgt Siti: Hope is a powerful word that represents life on its own. With hope, we strive to support each other by any means possible. Having hope means not giving up because the efforts are worth the fight. And with hope, we will have the courage to continue fighting this pandemic together.



POLICE RADIO DIVISION



A Walk Down Memory Lane

By Rachel Ng

(Photos: Singapore Police Force)

The Singapore Police Force (SPF) launched the Police Heritage Trail on 26 November 2020. This one-of-a-kind trail is the first in Singapore focussing exclusively on significant landmarks in security and law enforcement history.

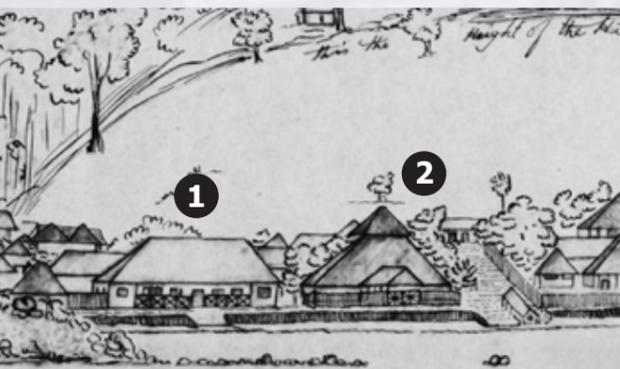
The trail, consisting of nine sites in the Central Area, marks the SPF's contributions in policing this city-state from its infancy to its rise to prominence as a highly developed nation.

The First Police Office

A highlight of the trail is a physical marker near the mouth of the Singapore River, in front of the Asian Civilisations Museum Green. This marker indicates not only the start point of the trail but also the location of the first Police Office that was built shortly after the establishment of the police force in May 1820. A symbol of law and order in Singapore's early development, the Police Office overlooked the busy river where commerce flourished, and diverse migrant communities settled close to the banks. It stood at this location from December 1820 to February 1823. Before this, the 12-man team that was running on a shoe-string budget operated out of the residence of Police Assistant Francis James Bernard - located in front of Victoria Concert Hall. He was appointed to the post in 1820 by his father-in-law, Major William Farquhar, the first British Resident of Singapore. Some duties of the early police force included fighting crime, working with the chiefs of native populations to affect law and order, fighting fires, numbering streets, settling disputes over minor debts, and witnessing contracts dealing with land transfers.



The Police Heritage Trail marker located near the mouth of the Singapore River.



A sketch of Singapore Fort Canning Hill by K. M. Foong, based on a photograph of the original drawing by Lieutenant Philip Jackson (1823), c. 1950s

Courtesy of National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board

1. The likely location of the Police Office in 1823.
2. Believed to be the house of F.J. Bernard, which doubled as a Police Office before one was built in 1820.

Kreta Ayer Redesigned Neighbourhood Police Post (NPP) Permanent Exhibition

Visitors to the trail can also explore a permanent exhibition at the redesigned NPP which provides information about

the trail and an insight into the historic area around the NPP. This redesigned NPP may not look like it, but it is more than 100 years old. Built in 1908, the North Canal Road Post Office was initially sited within the Police Courts compound as there was a great demand for stamps used on official



Exhibition at the Kreta Ayer Redesigned NPP.

documents by both the Courts and the nearby Central Police Station both of which are no longer standing.

In 1990, the building was repurposed by SPF and commenced operations as the 76th NPP in Singapore. As the only NPP in the Central Business District, Kreta Ayer NPP was kept very busy in its early years, working round the clock to preserve the peace in prime land. By 1995, crime rates at Kreta Ayer saw a 20 per cent drop. The NPP also worked with crime prevention committees consisting of shop owners and tenants, security and property management firms on crime prevention measures. Today, it continues to serve the public as a redesigned NPP.

The trail is a self-guided tour and its companion guide as well as the map of the trail can be found online at <https://www.roots.gov.sg/places/places-landing/trails/Police-Heritage-Trail>

on National Heritage Board's heritage portal, Roots.sg. Take a walk down memory lane and reminisce old times by visiting the trail today!

Other Trail Highlights

Old Hill Street Police Station

The Old Hill Street Police Station was built in 1934 as part of an extensive infrastructural scheme spearheaded by then Inspector-General of Police Harold Fairburn to improve police capabilities. It amplified police presence in the city centre at a time when Singapore had the unsavoury reputation of being the "Chicago of the East". It also enabled the police to target the heart of secret society activities in Chinatown and effectively break up gangs to clean up the town.

Old Hill Street Police Station, 2020.





View of the Central Police Station at South Bridge Road, Singapore, c. 1911. Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore.

Barracks facilities, luxurious by the standards of that time, boosted the officers' morale and were seen as an incentive in recruitment. It showed the police force's commitment in the 1930s to ensure the well-being and morale of its men, which was a far cry from the overcrowded police stations of its early days. The police station and cells, Constables' quarters, canteen, recreation rooms and parade square occupied the ground floor. The Old Hill Street Police Station could accommodate about 1,000 police personnel, including their families. With more than 900 double-leaf louvered windows to keep the building well-ventilated, it was also equipped with modern amenities like flushing toilet systems and lifts to access higher floors. More than a workplace, the Old Hill Street Police Station was also home to the policemen and their families. The canteen was a place where they shared meals and stories, forged friendships and built a strong camaraderie. Every few months, movies were screened at the open-air courtyard. Residents knew one another very well and children often played together at the communal playground.

The building was vacated by the police force in 1980. It was eventually gazetted as a National Monument in 1998. It currently houses the offices of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth as well as the Ministry of Communications and Information.

Central Police Station (Demolished)

The Central Police Station was converted from Singapore's first civil jail in 1849. Undergoing reconstruction twice, once in the 1880s and another in the 1930s, the Central Police Station stood sentinel at the heart of Central Division for more than 100 years until it was demolished in 1978. It was nicknamed 'Yit Hor Mata Chu' (Number 1 Police Station) by locals. Throughout its history, it had housed not just the Central Police Station but also the Police Headquarters (also known as Police Office) from the 1860s until the 1950s.

For over a century, this station bore witness to much action - from riots and horrific crimes to being occupied by the Japanese forces during World War Two. By the 1930s, order in the city had improved - the operations of brothels had become illegal, opium dens reduced in number, and secret societies were under heavy surveillance. However, the deterioration of social conditions after the Second World War led to a resurgence of gang activities in Chinatown.

From the 1950s, the Central Police Station became a base from which anti-secret society operations were carried out. A common practice in the 1950s or 1960s was for gangs to collect protection money from those in their territories. They harassed the hawkers who thronged the roads around People's Park during Lunar New Year, on top of collecting \$10-\$15 a month from them. To combat the gangs,

officers patrolled late into the night at the areas where the gangsters struck. In 1948, the Police gate-crashed a gang initiation ceremony. It resulted in the arrest of 88 people and the seizure of triad initiation paraphernalia.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Headquarters (Demolished)

The CID Headquarters was built in 1931 to house what was known as the Detective Department. Located in between Robinson Road and Cecil Street, the three-storey building became the base of operations for the police force to battle increasingly sophisticated crimes. The carefully designed quarters, courtyards and recesses in the building allowed about 40 detectives, four European Inspectors, four Asiatic Inspectors, four Asiatic Sub-Inspectors, and two Chief Inspectors to carry out their work away from public view and prying eyes. Inspectors were also able to leave the building for police raids and missions undetected by taking the steps from the quarters to their waiting vehicles obscured by a brick wall.

The building housed state-of-the-art photographic studios,

a criminal registry, and facilities for criminal detection. Hailed the 'Scotland Yard' of Malaya, the building's style reinforced and represented the police's authority through its columns and corridors. Offices occupied the ground floor and on the upper floors were living quarters for the officers and their families. There was also a "crush" room on the ground floor where visitors waited to be called and an enclosed exercise room for prisoners adjacent to their cells.

It also functioned as the base where operations were planned against crime syndicates and secret societies. The Special Branch - known as the Internal Security Department today - operated from the same building between 1940 - 1976 for joint crackdown efforts on secret societies and subversive organisations. After the building was demolished in 1993, CID relocated to the Lower Barracks before moving to the Police Cantonment Complex in 2001.

CID Headquarters, c. 1930s.



WHAT'S IN MY NEIGHBOURHOOD?

By Syam Roslan

(Photo: Naveen Raj)



Most of us would have encountered police officers on the ground, patrolling our streets to keep residents safe and secure. What most may not see beneath the serious demeanour of officers is the affinity they bear towards the neighbourhoods they patrol, its residents and the Neighbourhood Police Centres (NPCs) they are stationed at. In this latest feature, *Police Life* (PL) speaks to ground officers from various NPCs to learn more about the bond they share with the neighbourhood they consider to be their 'second home'. We sat down with one such officer, Station Inspector (SI) Simon Chia, a Community Policing Unit officer from Clementi NPC, to hear his thoughts.

PL: How long have you been attached to Clementi NPC?

SI Chia: I have been with the Clementi NPC family for over 13 years. I was a Ground Response Force (GRF) officer for about 12 years before being posted to Clementi NPC's Community Policing Unit (CPU) in December 2019.

PL: What do you like about your current job as a CPU officer?

SI Chia: I enjoy interacting and building relationships with people. For instance, as a CPU officer, I disseminate crime prevention advisories through my regular community engagements with residents living in the neighbourhood. Up close and personal, I will share these crime prevention messages with elderly residents as some of them may be illiterate and would not be able to understand the content of the advisories.

PL: Describe your relationship with Clementi and the people living here.

SI Chia: For the past 13 years, Clementi has been my second home. This is where I served my National Service and started my policing career. In my mind, I can visualise every corner of the neighbourhood. In this second home, the people of Clementi are friendly and supportive of police engagements and events, which allows us to fight crime together.

PL: Before being posted as a CPU officer, did you enjoy cycling?

SI Chia: Definitely. My family and I will travel to East Coast Park for cycling and bonding sessions during my free time. So as a CPU officer, I get to cycle and also perform my policing duties as well!

PL: What is your most memorable work-related incident as a CPU officer in Clementi NPC?

SI Chia: In April 2020, I was deployed to a dormitory for liaison duties between the Police and the dormitory management. During the circuit breaker, many dormitory residents who are migrant workers, were targeted by online commercial and bank impersonation scams. To arrest the rising trend, we used WhatsApp chat groups to share related crime prevention advisories to reach out to these residents. To ensure that the workers understood the advisories, we launched a series of quizzes for them to participate in. Participants would need to read the

advisories and find the answers within them. The first 100 participants who submitted the solved puzzles would win prizes. Through this platform, we helped to engage and keep the residents occupied during their free time in the dormitories. More importantly, we are right at the frontline to prevent these residents from becoming victims of crime. This is one of my most meaningful experiences thus far.

PL: What is your greatest fear?

SI Chia: FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out). As a CPU officer, we engage the public every day, and the interactions tend to be more casual so as to better connect and build rapport with members of the public. Often, the public would share with us the latest trend or "in" thing on social media and news. Sometimes, it could cause some awkwardness as there is a tendency for members of the public (particularly the youth) to assume that police officers would know about everything under the sun. Nevertheless, we also learnt a lot from these sharing sessions. So, it is important for us to keep up-to-date with the latest trends and be "in" when engaging members of the public.

PL: What is your comfort food in Clementi?

SI Chia: Clementi is full of great and affordable food outlets! My favourite is fried carrot cake at the Clementi 448 Market & Food Centre. It comes with a generous portion with savoury and crispy textures.

PL: Any recommended activities to do here in Clementi?

SI Chia: West Coast Park. While much smaller than its counterpart in the east, I find it a gem. It is a relaxing and stress-relieving place with a magnificent sea view where you can watch the sunset. There are also plenty of activities for people of all ages (e.g., building sandpits, kite flying, cycling, fishing, jogging, photography, barbecuing, camping, bird watching in Marsh garden, having meals at McDonald's). It is certainly a place that I would recommend visiting!

PL: What should fellow Clementi residents do when they see you around the area?

SI Chia: Please do not hesitate to say "Hi"! CPU officers can be easily identified by their friendly demeanour and their attire of white polo-shirt and blue bermudas.

Pawnshop Robbery Attempt Foiled

By Irwan Shah

(Photo: Singapore Police Force)

On 28 July 2018, a man armed with a knife and a replica gun, had attempted to rob a pawnshop located outside Boon Lay MRT station before throwing an object that he claimed to be a bomb on the display counter of the pawnshop! In this issue of Crime Files, *Police Life* finds out how officers from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) worked tirelessly to process the various evidence collected and trawled through more than 100 hours of CCTV footage to establish the identity of the suspect. With support from the Police Intelligence Department, Special Operations Command and the Police land divisions, the suspect was eventually arrested within five days of the reported crime.

What happened

The Police were alerted to an incident at about 4.30pm involving a man armed with a knife and a replica gun attempting to rob a pawnshop located outside Boon Lay MRT station. The perpetrator demanded the pawnshop staff to handover cash and jewellery. When the staff refused to give in to his demands, the perpetrator threatened to blow up the pawnshop by throwing a device which he claimed to be a bomb on the display counter. He eventually fled without taking anything.

After the armed robber had fled, the pawnshop's branch manager removed the device left on the display counter and placed it at an open space outside the pawnshop. Fortunately, the device did not explode. Upon Police's arrival, the scene was secured and a cordon was enforced to keep the public away from danger. Officers from the Singapore Police Force's (SPF) Bomb & Explosive Branch were called in to ascertain the situation. Following a thorough examination, they determined that the bomb was a fake and it contained only some electrical components.

The Hunt Begins

From the interviews with the staff and the branch manager of the pawnshop, investigation officers (IOs) from CID gathered that the perpetrator was a dark-skinned man with a beard and a moustache. He also carried a black backpack and was wearing a pink turban, a dark-coloured t-shirt and a black jacket to conceal the fake bomb. From the pawnshop's closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage, the IOs saw the perpetrator loitering outside the pawnshop earlier at 1.30pm before the attempted robbery at about 4.30pm. The IOs also noticed that the turban was unusually wrapped, suggesting that the perpetrator might not be a Sikh. A screenshot of the perpetrator was taken by the IOs and sent to the Police Operations Command Centre (POCC) which coordinated efforts with various SPF units for an island-wide manhunt. The Police also issued an appeal for information, urging the public to come forth to provide information should they have leads regarding the perpetrator.



A screenshot of the perpetrator from the CCTV footage within the pawnshop.

Chasing Leads

Based on the information obtained, officers from POCC worked tirelessly to trawl through extensive Police Camera (PolCam) footage within the vicinity to establish the perpetrator's whereabouts. Meanwhile, the IOs visited neighbouring shops to conduct ground enquiries and comb through their CCTV footage. Finally, a promising lead came several hours after the incident when a resident at a nearby Housing Development Board (HDB) flat made a police report regarding an unattended backpack that was found behind a potted plant. It contained clothes and a knife that matched the pawnshop employees' description earlier.

Upon further inspection of the items in the backpack, the IOs suspected that the perpetrator could have changed his clothes at the vicinity to avoid detection. Instinctively, they split up to comb the area in search of other items which might have been discarded by the perpetrator. Their efforts paid off when they found a discarded pink turban in a recycling bin nearby. A Police K-9 dog was activated to track down the perpetrator's scent. Although the trail went cold after some time, officers from the POCC managed to obtain a new lead from the PolCam footage. The perpetrator was seen going up a flight of stairs and coming back down in a different outfit 10 minutes later. This piece of information aided the IOs in confirming their suspicion; that the perpetrator changed clothes after fleeing from the pawnshop to evade detection.

Putting Two and Two Together

The IOs examined the contents of the backpack and found a plastic bag belonging to a small mini-mart at Kampong Glam. Forensics analysis was conducted on the found items to extract evidence including fingerprints. After trawling through CCTV footage around the Kampong Glam area, the perpetrator was eventually arrested by the IOs along Muscat Street on Wednesday, 1 August 2018.

The perpetrator was identified as a 30-year-old Bangladeshi man named Sheikh Md Razan, an immigration offender who had overstayed in Singapore. He had worked illegally as an odd job worker to sustain himself in the country. However, he was unable to do so for long and decided to turn to robbery out of desperation. Sheikh Md Razan was eventually convicted and sentenced to three-and-a-half years' imprisonment with 18 strokes of the cane for robbery and other offences.



Lead by Example: Dirty Boots and SQ117

Reproduced from the 'Leadership Stories Through the Years' series by Police Psychological Services Division, Manpower Department

Lead by example - these were the three simple yet powerful words that guided Mr Chong Teng Kok throughout his 32 memorable years in the Singapore Police Force (SPF). He first joined the Force in 1971 as a Police Constable and was retired in 2003 as a Senior Station Inspector (2) (SSI2). With a police career spanning several decades, one would think that Mr Chong's most striking stories of leadership would consist of high-profile cases or major crackdowns in Singapore. However, what immediately came to mind was a simple anecdote that left a lasting impression on the young constable then.



Taken in 1979, a newly promoted Sgt Chong poses outside the Police Academy's main entrance.

A TALE OF THE DIRTY BOOTS

It was just another morning in the 1970s when Mr Chong reported for his section duty at Kandang Kerbau Police Station (present day Tekka Centre).

"After falling in, the Patrol Sergeant singled out another constable and scolded him for his dirty boots. Even though the constable insisted that he cleaned them under a running tap earlier, the Patrol Sergeant was still not convinced. Just then, the Officer-in-Charge (OC) Division, a senior officer stopped by after hearing all the commotion and asked what happened. The OC took a good look at the constable's boots and commented that it was not dirty! Instead, most of the men from that section were simply rookies from the Police Academy with well-polished boots, making the other constable's boots look dirtier in comparison. This exchange really stuck with me as it was rare for senior officers to interact with junior officers in those days, much less an OC Division speaking up for a junior Police Constable."

This unassuming encounter was one that Mr Chong held in high regard all these years. Having watched the OC walk the ground and treating his officers fairly regardless of their ranks made him realise how crucial it was for leaders to lead by example and be present to build connections with their men. While it is important in day to day trainings, it is especially so in times of emergency as whatever a leader says would hold water. Guided by this very principle, Mr Chong went on to assume various leadership roles, one of which was during the hijack of a Singapore Airlines flight, SQ 117.

FOLLOW THE PLANE

On the night of 26 March 1991, SSI Chong who was Deputy Officer-in-Command (DOC) and covering OC of Police Troop K "A" in Special Operations Command (SOC), was on standby with his troop when the emergency bell rang and a message from the teleprinter read "Hijack - Code Red".

SQ 117 hijack. (Source: The New Paper © Singapore Press Holdings Limited. Reprinted with permission.)





Mr Chong, then a Police Constable, reporting for station duty at Rumah Miskin Police Post in 1972.

"As news came in that it was a Singapore Airlines plane that was hijacked, my men and I swiftly responded to the incident. It was a gruelling nine hours as we took position on the tarmac with our arms on the target, surrounding the plane to prevent any accomplices from approaching the area, while staying alert to orders from the Crisis Management Executive Group.

Unknown to us, the executive team made an agreement with the hijackers to move the plane and refuel it to prepare for their flight to Sydney. At this point, the plane started moving along the runway and I feared that the hijackers would take off without a warning, so I immediately informed the executive group. A small part of me was wondering if my men and I might have to do something dramatic to hold the plane down like what is in the movies, but the executive group relayed just one simple order – 'follow the plane'."

Despite the lack of information given to them and not knowing what is awaiting his men and himself, Mr Chong vividly recounted that unforgettable moment when he and his men ran at full speed alongside the moving plane.

Regardless of the long hours and unforeseen fluid situation, Mr Chong remarked that his men remained steadfast to their duties all because of their dedication and strong camaraderie. His style of leadership meant building connections by being with his troop on the ground whenever possible, be it for training or recreational activities. This gradually instilled in the men a sense of respect for SSI Chong's command and deepened the understanding between them. Embodying the mantra of leading by example, SSI Chong made sure that he himself was able to complete the tasks that he had assigned to his men. In fact, he was still able to clock a timing of about 9 seconds for his IPPT shuttle-run even in his fifties!



Mr Chong preparing for his leadership training to Nepal in 1999.

EVOLVING LEADERSHIP

As policing continues to transform over the past few decades, Mr Chong emphasised the importance of shaping our leadership approaches accordingly.

"The newer generation comprises of many individuals who often seek meaning in their work, and they want to understand why they do what they do. I believe that it is more essential for current leaders to explain the concept and rationale behind their decisions."

According to Mr Chong, this helps to cultivate greater understanding between leaders and their men, and provides assurance that fair deliberation has gone into each decision.

Much has changed since Mr Chong first joined the Force. He commended the organisation's desire to continuously better their practices and leadership approaches today. Despite having left the Force many years ago, he fondly shared several recent encounters with past and present leaders whose kind gestures and personable dispositions have moved him till this day.

Today, Mr Chong puts his past policing experience to use and continues to advocate for safety and security with the National Crime Prevention Council as a Senior Executive.

"I am proud to say that Singapore is one of the safest cities in the world for many years running now. Kudos to SPF200 and I wish the SPF many more safe and secure years to come."



THE FIFA PLAYER

By Syam Roslan

(Photo: Naveen Raj)

The 'FIFA' football video game is one of the most popular video game series in the world. It is therefore of no surprise that this video game is also highly popular among gamers in Singapore. Tapping on the video game's popularity, the Civil Service Club (CSC) organised the CSC eSports FIFA 2020 Online Tournament, for civil service officers to put their gaming skills to the test! In this issue of *Police Life*, we throw the spotlight on the Singapore Police Force's (SPF) very own FIFA gamer, Management Executive Muhammad Muzaffar Bin Mustafa, and learn how he fared against his opponents.

Owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, many events and tournaments are being held online. 29 years old Muzaffar, a Senior Assistant Intelligence Executive (Data Management) at Jurong Division's Intelligence Branch got to know of the online tournament when it was first announced by the Ministry of Home Affairs' (MHA) Sports & Recreation Guild through an email broadcast to MHA officers. Growing up, Muzaffar has been an avid FIFA gamer and he pounce on this opportunity to pit his skills against other like-minded Home Team officers.

As part of his preparations before the competition, Muzaffar played matches against fellow MHA officers whom he got to know from an MHA eSports group-chatting platform built for gamers. Muzaffar, who usually engages in leisure gaming sessions twice a week, increased the intensity of his training by putting in at least one hour of practice matches every night for two weeks, prior to the competition. **"Playing these practice matches brought out our competitive spirit but no matter how intense the competition became, we respected our opponents. We were surprised to find out that there were many officers who were talented at FIFA,"** quipped Muzaffar.

Muzaffar shared that the practice sessions helped him to learn new "skill moves" to evade pressure from opponents and game management strategies. Muzaffar also emphasised the importance of maintaining his composure while playing the game, as any momentary lapse of judgement may result in the opponent scoring against him.



The online tournament was held on 24 October 2020 and attracted a total of 64 participants from MHA, other ministries and government agencies such as GovTech, SportSG and the Housing and Development Board. The qualifying rounds were intense and exciting, as Muzaffar had to play two matches against each opponent in a knock-out format in order to qualify to the next round. **"Each round was harder than I had anticipated, as you had to play two matches against the same opponent and win by an overall goal margin to move on to the next round. Any small mistake would cost me the game, and I had to look at the two matches as a whole instead of separate matches,"** Muzaffar mentioned.

After beating three opponents and playing six matches, Muzaffar clinched a spot in the finals, becoming the only SPF officer who emerged as one of the top 8 finalists. In the final round, Muzaffar faced off against a very strong opponent from the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA). **"In the first game, the score was 1-1 at the 88th minute. With only two minutes of game time to go, I missed a clear opportunity to extend my lead. My opponent eventually scored at the last minute of the match. In the second match, our score was just as tight. His goalkeeper saved all my shots! Eventually, he won again by a single goal margin."** quipped Muzaffar. The ICA participant eventually became the overall champion of the competition.

When asked about his thoughts after the competition, Muzaffar admitted there was some disappointment, but the experience was satisfying, nonetheless. **"Despite losing in the finals, I am proud to be one of the top 8 finalists in the competition as well as being the sole SPF representative in the finals,"** Muzaffar mentioned.

Muzaffar is now looking forward to other upcoming online FIFA tournaments, held internally within the civil service and externally by other local organisers. As for the game itself, Muzaffar encourages other officers who have not played FIFA before to consider getting into the game. **"Playing FIFA helps me to cope with stress. It helps me relax and unwind at home, and that helps me to be more productive in my course of duty,"** Muzaffar shared.





**SALUTING
THE PAST**

**SAFEGUARDING
THE FUTURE**

The Singapore Police Force (SPF) presents *Safeguarding Every Day: 200 Years of the Singapore Police Force*, a commemorative publication that encapsulates its bicentennial heritage and developments— from its rudimentary founding in 1820, through the colonial era, to internal self-government and briefly being part of Malaysia, and to the modern professional police force ensuring the nation’s safety and security today.

The SPF’s devotion to public service and commitment to operational excellence would not have been possible without the contributions and sacrifices of past and present officers. To inspire future generations, the SPF’s resilience and resourcefulness come through in the many ways in which it adapts to changing security threats, be it dealing with secret societies and communal unrest in the past or fighting crime and terrorism among other emerging challenges today.

Saluting the past, safeguarding the future, the SPF will continue to be a Force for the Nation and strive towards achieving its vision of making Singapore the safest place in the world.

Scan the QR code to read the e-book.

