

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE SINGAPORE

CADET PROFICIENCY BADGE SCHEME

KNOWLEDGE OF THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN

Background of The Foundation of The Order

1. The Holyland - Jerusalem

The Number of Christians in Europe and the Mediterranean was increasing. Many pilgrims went to the Holyland. During their journey to the East, there bound to be injuries and sickness among the pilgrims. The need of the service of a hospice therefore arose.

2. Islam in the Arabian Countries

There were often fighting between the Christians and the Moslems, especially over the occupation of the Holyland.

3. Pirates in the Mediterranean Sea.

The journey to Jerusalem was at all times fraught with danger from pirates by sea and robbers on land.

Outline Of The History Of The Order Of St John

The Holy Land

The date of the origin of the Order of St John is lost in legend, but it is known that about AD 600, a hospice for pilgrims was established in Jerusalem by an Abbot named Probes on the instructions of Pope Gregory the Great. This hospice was rebuilt and enlarged by the Emperor Charlemagne. It was later destroyed by the Moslems early in the eleventh century (1010), but soon afterwards was again rebuilt by some merchants from the Italian Republic of Amalfi.

When the First Crusades captured Jerusalem in 1099, the Hospice was maintained by Benedictine monks under their Rector Gerald, known to history as the Blessed Gerald. Many crusades were nursed back to health in the hospital and in gratitude lavished gifts upon it. As a result, Gerald was able to find the new Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, which was recognised by Pope Paschal II in 1113.

Full Name Of The Order :

The Most Venerable Order of The Hospital of St John of Jerusalem

Gerald's successor, Raymond du Puy, who first took the title of Master of the Hospital, instituted a new class of military Brethren to help the knight Templars in protecting the routes of pilgrimage and defending the frontiers of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem. From that time onwards, there were three main classes of Brethren of the Hospital are the Knights, the Chaplains, and the Serving Brothers. The Hospitallers, however, never neglected the original purpose for which the order had been founded, namely to care for the sick and to succour the poor and the homeless.

Original Purpose And Aim Of The Order

To care for the sick and to succour the poor and the homeless

By the end of the twelfth century, the knights of the Hospital had won undying fame and their renown for valour stood as high as that of their great comrades and rivals the Knights Templar. These two powerful Orders constituted the main defence of the Holy Land for nearly two centuries until its evacuation by the Christians after the fall of Acre in 1291.

Notes

1. The Crusades

The military expeditions which Christians undertook from the end of 11th to the end of the 13th century to recover the Holy Land from the Moslems.

2. Knights Templars

Members of the religious military Order established by the Crusaders at Jerusalem in 1118 to protect pilgrims and the Holy Sepulchre.

3. Knights Hospitallers

Members of the military religious order established by the Order of St John to care for the sick, needy and also to help the Knights Templars to protect the Kingdom of Jerusalem.

CYPRUS

After their heavy losses at the Siege of Acre, the few surviving Knights of St John escaped to Cyprus and made their headquarters for nineteen years in Cyprus, and from there continued to wage war on the Saracens by sea.

RHODES

In 1310, under their Master Fulk de Villaret, the Knights captured Rhodes, where they built a new hospital and fortified the city. In 1312, Pope Clement V dissolved the Order of the Templars and transferred the possessions of the Templars to the Order of St John, thereby greatly increasing its wealth and power.

The Hospitallers held Rhodes for over 200 years, and there underwent two great sieges. In the first, under Grand master Peter d'Aubusson, the Knights forced the Turks to abandon the siege. In the second, however, in 1522, after a most gallant defence lasting nearly six

months, Grand Master de L'Isle Adam decided to surrender in order to save the civil population from massacre.

As a mark of respect for the gallantry of the defenders, the young Sultan Suleiman granted most honourable terms and allowed the remnant of the proud Order to leave in their own ships, taking with them many of their possessions.

MALTA

For the next few years, the Order had no settled home, until in 1530 the emperor Charles V granted the island of Malta. The Hospitallers held the island for nearly 270 years and during this period became known as the Knights of Malta. It was there that the navy of the Order won further renown in many engagements with the Barbary Corsairs who then infested the Mediterranean.

In 1565, under the inspiring leadership of Grand Master John de la Vallette, the Knights withstood another great siege by the Turks, holding out for four months until relief arrived from Sicily. At this siege, few English Knights were present, as the Grand Priory of the Order in England had been dissolved by Henry VIII in 1540. Nevertheless, Elizabeth I ordered prayers "for the deliverance of the Knights" to be said in the Churches of England. In the years following the siege, the city of Valletta was built and named after its founder John de la Valette.

In 1798, the Knights surrendered Malta to Napoleon, and from then on ceased to engage in military activities. Many renounced their vows and returned home, but a few sought the protection of the Czar in Russia. Thence, they moved to Sicily and finally established themselves in Rome. There, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, a purely Roman Catholic body, maintains its headquarters and continues to carry on works of Humanity in Italy and many other countries.

Summary

	Fall of Acre in 1291		Fight against Arabian Pirates
Jerusalem	----->	Cyprus	----->
(Holy Land)			(19 Years)
	Expelled by the Turks in 1522		Expelled by Napoleon in 1798
Rhodes	----->	Malta	----->
(1310)	(200 Years)		granted by Emperor Charles V in year 1530
Sicily	----->	Rome	

The St John the Baptist Day falls on June 24 of every year.

THE ORDER IN ENGLAND

The Priory of Clerkenwell

For purposes of administration the vast estates and possessions of the Order in the countries of **Western Europe were divided into Priories and Commanderies**, which helped to provide the funds and supplies needed for the defence of the Holy Land, and later of Rhodes and Malta. About 1144, the English Branch of the Order was granted some land at Clerkenwell on the outskirts of the city of London, and there, the Knights built the Priory which was their headquarters in this country throughout the Middle Ages. The Gate House of the Priory, rebuilt in 1504, is still standing and is today the chancery of the Order of St John in the British Realm. Subordinate to the Grand Priory of England there was also a Grand Priory of Ireland and a Priory of Scotland.

Dissolution and Restoration

At the time of the suppression of the Monasteries by Henry VIII the Grand Priory of England was also dissolved, and the rich estates of the Order in this country were confiscated. Under Queen Mary, England temporarily returned to the Church of Rome, and in 1557, the Queen issued Letters Patent reviving the Order and restoring its estates. Those Letters Patent were never revoked, but Elizabeth I again confiscated the estates, and for nearly three centuries, the Order in this country remained in abeyance. During the greater part of this period so called Titular Grand Priors of England were appointed in Malta and the Tongue of England was kept alive there, so that the Hospice in Jerusalem in early times.

In 1831, through the good Officers of a group of French Knights, the Order was revived in this country and an English Committee elected the Reverend Sir Robert Peat to be the Prior of the Tongue of England. Because of religious differences, however, despite prolonged negotiations, the revived English Tongue was refused recognition by the parent body, the Sovereign Order of the Knights of Malta in Rome, and therefore developed independently.

The British Order In The Nineteenth And Twentieth Centuries

In the later part of the nineteenth century, the Order of St John in England was very active in the development of Ambulance, First Aid and Nursing work both in war and peace, and also played a leading part in the foundation the British Red Cross Society.

In 1874, the Life-Saving Medal of the Order was instituted, in 1877 the St John Ambulance Association was founded, and ten years later, the St John Ambulance Brigade; mean while, in 1882, the Ophthalmic Hospital had been established in Jerusalem. **The first division of the St John Ambulance Brigade overseas was formed at**

Dunedin in New Zealand in 1892, followed by division at Cape Town and Rondebosch, South Africa, the following year.

During the twentieth century, these humane and charitable activities of the Order have increased tenfold and have been extended to every part of Commonwealth.

Royal Charters

The Order first came under royal patronage when H.R.H. The Princess of Wales, later Queen Alexandra, became a Lady of Justice. A few years later, in 1888, Queen Victoria granted the Order its first Royal charter. The Queen became the Sovereign Head of the Order and the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, was appointed Grand Prior. Since that time, the reigning monarch has always been the Sovereign Head, and the Grand Prior has always been a member of the Royal Family.

In 1907, King Edward VII granted a supplementary charter to enable the Order to establish Priories within the Empire, King George V granted a new Royal charter by which the title of, "Grand Priory of England" was changed to that of "Grand Priory in the British Realm", and at the same time, as an outward sign of its ancient origin, the honourable prefix of "Venerable" was added to the title.

The Order is governed in accordance with the powers granted by the Royal charters and the Provisions of statutes made by virtue of such powers.

The Order of St John Today

The Headquarters of the Order are St John's Gate, Clerkenwell, where there are still many traces of the ancient fabric of the Priory of Clerkenwell.

Separate and largely autonomous branches exist in all the principal Commonwealth Countries and in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The charitable work of the Order is now expressed principally through its two Foundations:

1. **The St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem founded in 1882 and rebuilt in 1960.**

Designed to serve as a Consulting Ophthalmic Hospital for the whole of the Middle East. It gives free treatment every year to very large numbers of patients who come to it from far and wide.

2. The St John Ambulance Association and Brigade, or in short St John Ambulance, operate throughout the commonwealth and in some other countries too. Its objects are to spread a knowledge of First Aid, Nursing and allied subjects as widely as possible amongst the general public and in industry and to provide a voluntary practical service in these subjects for the community. To these ends it organises classes and examinations; issues Government recognised certificates to successful candidates; arranges competitions; publishes textbooks; and develops training aids.

The practical service is provided by uniformed and trained volunteers - men, women and cadets - who accept a code of discipline and give up their time to be on duty whenever crowds collect and casualties may be expected.

THE GRAND PRIORY IN THE BRITISH REALM OF
THE MOST VENERABLE ORDER OF THE HOSPITAL OF
ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM

THE OBJECTS OF THE ORDER

- a. The encouragement of all that makes for the moral and spiritual strengthening of mankind in accordance with the first great principal of the order of embodied in its motto 'Pro Fide' [For the Faith]
- b. The encouragement and promotion of all works of humanity and charity for the relief of persons in sickness, distress, suffering and danger, without distinction of race, class, or creed, and the extension of the second great principal of the Order, embodied in its motto 'Pro Utilitate Hominum' [For the Service of Mankind]

THE GREAT OFFICERS OF THE ORDER

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IS THE SOVEREIGN HEAD OF THE ORDER

The Grand Prior

The Lord Prior

The Prelate

The Chancellor

The Bailiff of Eagle

The Grand Prior, under the Sovereign Head, is supreme over the Order and all its establishments, Members and Associates.

The supreme governing body of the Order, under the Sovereign Head and subject to the Grand Prior's right of veto, is the Chapter-General. It consists of the Great Officers and other Bailiffs Grand Cross, the Priors, the Executive Officers, certain Knights and representatives of the other grades of the Order. A smaller body, which can be summoned more easily is the Council. It is primarily the advisory body of the chapter-General, but may also act for it in all matters of routine or urgency.

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE ORDER

The Chancellor

The Secretary - General

The Receiver - General (The Chief Financial Officer)

The Director _ General of the St John Ambulance Association

The Hospitaller [who is responsible for the contral of the Ophthalmic Hospital at Jerusalem]

The Almoner

The Librarian

The Registrar

The Genealogist

The Director of Ceremonies

The Commissioner-In-Chief of the St John Ambulance Brigade

THE ORDER AND ITS FOUNDATION

The Grand Prior

The Lord Prior

The Chapter-General

The Council

- Ophthalmic Hospital St John Ambulance Jerusalem

- Association Brigade Branch

The Foundations of The Order

There are three Foundation of the Order, namely:-

1. The St John Ophthalmic Hospital at Jerusalem, founded in 1882 and recently rebuilt on a new site in the Kingdom of Jordan, outside the old city of Jerusalem, was formally opened in 1960.
2. The St John Ambulance Association, establish in 1877, the teaching body of the order.
3. The St John Ambulance Brigade, established in 1887. In 1961, the total strength of the Brigade in the United Kingdom and overseas, including both adults and cadets, was over 250,000.

THE GRADES OF THE ORDER

Grade I Bailiffs and Dames Grand Cross G.C.St.J.

Grade II Knights and Dames K.St.J.

(who may be of Justice or of Grace) D.St.J.

Grade III (a)Chaplains Ch.St.J. (b)Commanders (Brothers and Sisters) C.St.J.

Grade IV Officers (Brothers and Sisters) O.St.J.

Grade V Serving Brothers and Serving Sisters S.B.StJ. and S.S.St.J.

Grade VI Esquires Esq.St.J.

Admission to the Order

The names of the members for admission to the Order or for promotion to a higher grade, are recommended to the Grand Prior by the Chapter General and, if approved by him, are submitted for sanction to the Sovereign. New members must take a Declaration of Allegiance and sign the Homage Roll. They are then, in due course, formally invested with the badge or insignia of their grade by the Grand prior or by the Lord Prior acting as his deputy. On rare occasions of especial importance investitures may be held by sovereign.

THE BRIGADE

The Objects of the Brigade

- a. To train and maintain a body of men and women thoroughly efficient in First Aid and Auxiliary Nursing.
- b. To afford opportunities for holders of approved First Aid Certificates to meet together for training and practice, under qualified members of the medical and nursing professions, with the object of combining individuals efforts in the service of the public.
- c. To provide First Aid and Nursing for the injured and sick.
- d. To provide ancillary services both to the sick and injured, and in hospitals of all kinds.
- e. To provide Reserves for the Medical Services of Her Majesty's Armed Forces.
- f. To prepare such permanent organisation during time of peace as may at once be available in time of emergency.

g. To afford opportunities for boys and girls to learn and practise First Aid, Home Nursing, and other subjects conducive to the training of good citizens

The Objects of the Cadet Divisions are:

- 1) To provide opportunities for boys and girls to learn and practise First Aid, Home Nursing, and other subjects conducive to the training of good citizens.
- 2) To encourage young people to follow the way of life exemplified in the Cadet Code of chivalry.
- 3) To develop the spirit of combined effort while giving due consideration to the personality of the individual cadet.
- 4) To promote Health
- 5) To encourage among young people a full and enterprising use of leisure by providing all the facilities of a National Youth Organisation.
- 6) To lay the foundation for membership of the Ambulance and Nursing Divisions of the Brigade.

Cadet Code of Chivalry

1. To serve God
2. To be loyal to the Queen and my Officers.
3. To observe the mottoes of the Order which are:
4. 'Pro Fide' - For the Faith;
5. 'Pro Utilitate Hominum' - for the Service of Mankind
6. To be thorough in work and play
7. To be truthful and just in all things
8. To be cheerful and prompt in all I do
9. To help the suffering and needy
10. To be kind to all animals

The qualified age group to join as St. John's Cadet is 11 – 18.

PRIORIES AND COMMANDERIES OVERSEAS

1. PRIORY FOR SOUTH AFRICA
2. PRIORY OF NEW ZEALAND
3. PRIORY OF CANADA
4. PRIORY IN AUSTRALIA
5. COMMANDERY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA
6. COMMANDERY IN CENTRAL AFRICA

OTHER OVERSEAS COUNTRIES

A. INDEPENDENT NATIONS

1. BAHAMAS 16. MAURITIUS
2. BANGLADESH 17. NEPAL
3. BARBADOS 18. NIGERIA
4. BRUNEI 19. PAKISTAN
5. CYPRUS 20. PAPUA, NEW GUINEA
6. FIJI 21. SEYCHELLES
7. GHANA 22. SIERRA LEONE
8. GRENADA 23. SINGAPORE
9. GUYANA 24. SOUTH YEMEN
10. INDIA 25. SRI LANKA
11. JAMAICA 26. SUDAN
12. KENYA 27. SWAZILAND
13. MALAWI 28. TANZANIA
14. MALAYSIA 29. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

15. MALTA 30. UGAMDA 31. ZAMEIA

B ASSOCIATED STATES

1. ANTIGUA 4. ST. LUCIA

2. DOMINICA 5. ST. VINCENT

3. ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA

C. OTHER OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

1. BERMUDA 4. GIBRALTAR

2. BELIZE 5. HONG KONG

3. BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS 6. MONSERRAT

HISTORY OF ST. JOHN IN SINGAPORE

Most people in Singapore are familiar with, and often take for granted, the presence of male and female uniformed members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and many are aware of, and have benefited from First-Aid workers trained by the St. John Ambulance Association and Brigade. Very few, however, are fully aware of the centuries of history, and the long tradition of "Service to Mankind" that lie behind it. The Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem dates back to the year 1066.

In Singapore, in the year 1935 Dr. J.S. Webster, O.St.J., a radiologist with the Medical Services of the General Hospital, Singapore, organised with a few public spirited friends, and brother doctors the beginning of First Aid lectures in Singapore. The first headquarters being one desk in Radiology Department of the General Hospital, Outram Road, Singapore. Dr. Webster persuaded men and women to join these lectures, but without any real incentive, very little progress was made, except for the recruiting of a sufficient number of First Aiders to form the first division of the uniformed body of the Brigade in September 1938.

Shortly after this Dr. Webster himself left Singapore on retirement. After Dr. Webster's departure, it was not easy, without funds and very little enthusiasm to carry on the good work, and it was eventually realized that if all was not to be lost, a senior Government official of the Medical Services should head the Organisation. After a lapse of several months, and much persuasion, then the Director of the Medical Services, Singapore, was prevailed upon to take over the responsibility of Director of the St. John Ambulance Association, Singapore, and he very generously transferred headquarters to his Board Room, which was on the 4th floor of Fullerton Building, Singapore.

From these headquarters gradually more voluntary helpers were recruited, and slow but steady progress was made. At this time Singapore Headquarters controlled the then Federation of Malay as well as Singapore, and sub-centres, responsible to the Singapore Headquarters, were established in Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Malacca, and all documents and correspondence were forwarded to the St. John Headquarters in London for permanent record.

In due course other divisions of the Brigade were formed, and thus efficiency was maintained.

It was the crisis of 1938, just before the second World War, that it became increasingly apparent to our citizens how vital our work was, and at that time recruiting was brisk, with men and women coming forward to prepare themselves for any emergency. Classes were held in many languages - English, French, Dutch, German, Malay, Tamil and several dialects of the Chinese language, doctors and nurses being hard pressed to cope with this entirely voluntary work after ordinary day-time duties.

The Headquarters of the St. John Ambulance Association and Brigade continued to remain at Fullerton Building, but at that time, before the actual outbreak of war in Malaya, the Government Authorities decided to incorporate all St. John personnel to form the nucleus of what was to become The Passive Defence Service of Singapore and Malaya.

In the year 1952, the first St. John Council was formed in Singapore. This Council comprised a body of senior and professional Singapore citizens who were willing to give their services and specialized knowledge in an advisory capacity to assist and co-ordinate the St. John Ambulance Association and Brigade. The Chairman and Committee members meet frequently to guide the affairs of St. John Headquarters, and to be responsible for the finances and well being of the Organisation. All property, furniture and ambulances are vested in the Council, which acts as liaison between Singapore and the parent organisation in England, through our Patron, the President of the Republic of Singapore. In 1945, the temporary Headquarters was located at St Peter Church. In March 1957, St. John Ambulance Headquarters was again transferred and temporary housed at Gilstead Road. The current St John Ambulance Headquarters at Beach Road was officially opened by late President of Singapore, H.E. Enche Yusof Ishak on 23 Jul 1960.

In October 1969, a Sub-Centre of the St. John Ambulance Association was formed in the industrialized area of Singapore. With the assistance of the West Area of the Brigade, this Sub-Centre gives lectures in First Aid and Home Nursing to many factory workers.

The St. John Ambulance Singapore was upgraded to National Headquarters Level in 1978. On 1st September 1978, a major re-organisation occurred in the St. John Ambulance Brigade Singapore. 'Corps' was scrapped in the re-organisation and the five Areas (West, West Central, East Central, East and Jurong Area) were re-designated into four Districts and ten Areas.

The Cadet Proficiency Badges Scheme was launched in 1990. In 1996, the Brigade was again re-structured. The District level was removed. Area was renamed as Zone. Divisions in each school were administered as a corps.

Today, the St. John of Singapore continues with its work for suffering humanity and it assists the Republic of Singapore whenever called upon in all emergencies such as epidemics, clinic and hospital duties, the St. John Ambulances also carry the sick and needy whenever requested. Brigade officers and members provided first-aid coverage at National, public and other events.

The Association is currently conducting the following courses in English, Mandarin and Malay for the public:

- **Basic First Aid**
- **Adult First Aid**
- **Refresher First Aid**
- **Higher First Aid**
- **Methods of Instruction**
- **Home Nursing (Basic)**
- **Home Nursing (Adult)**
- **Higher Home Nursing**

Today, ambulance and nursing members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade are familiar sights in Singapore. Many people in our Republic have benefited directly from these First Aid workers who carry out our motto. "For the Service of Mankind" after being trained by the Association and Brigade.