

HERITAGE IN
OUR BACKYARD

- or how we started telling the
stories of Kent Ridge

Kent Ridge





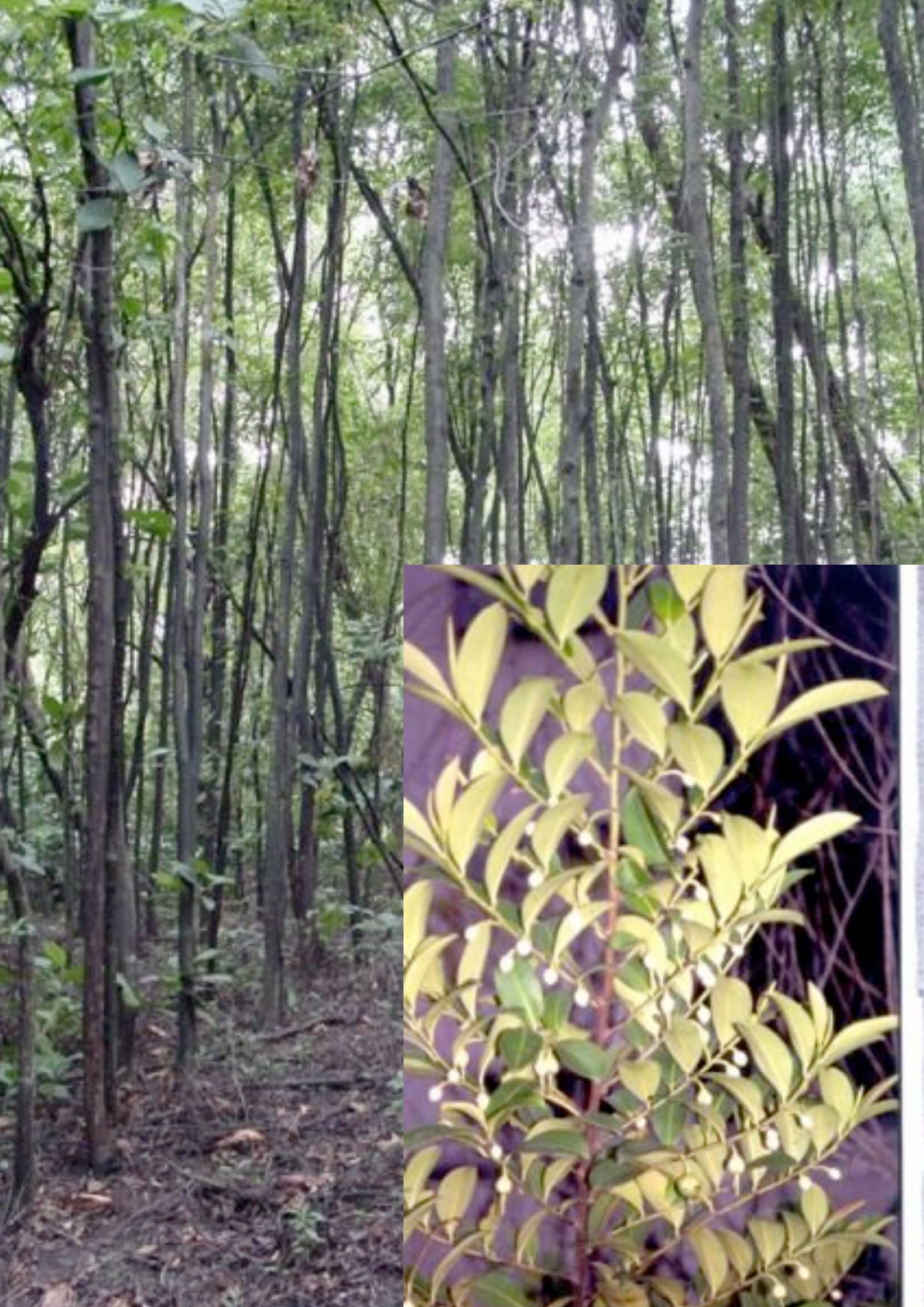
Literature, old street directories, web searches,
National Archive photos, conversations

Flora
and
Fauna

Ecology of Kent Ridge - a classroom since the 60's



Adinandra belukar
of Kent Ridge



Bat dispersal of *Adinandra belukar*





Bats on the Ridge



The Tembusu (Fagraea fragrans) grove



White leaved fig (*Ficus grossularioides*),
leaves and fruit



Simpoh ayer (Dillenia suffruticosa),
flower and fruits



Simpoh ayer (Dillenia suffruticosa),
fruit, points upwards





Senduduk
(Melastoma malabathricum)





Rubber (Hevea brasiliensis)



Rubber (Hevea brasiliensis) - seeds

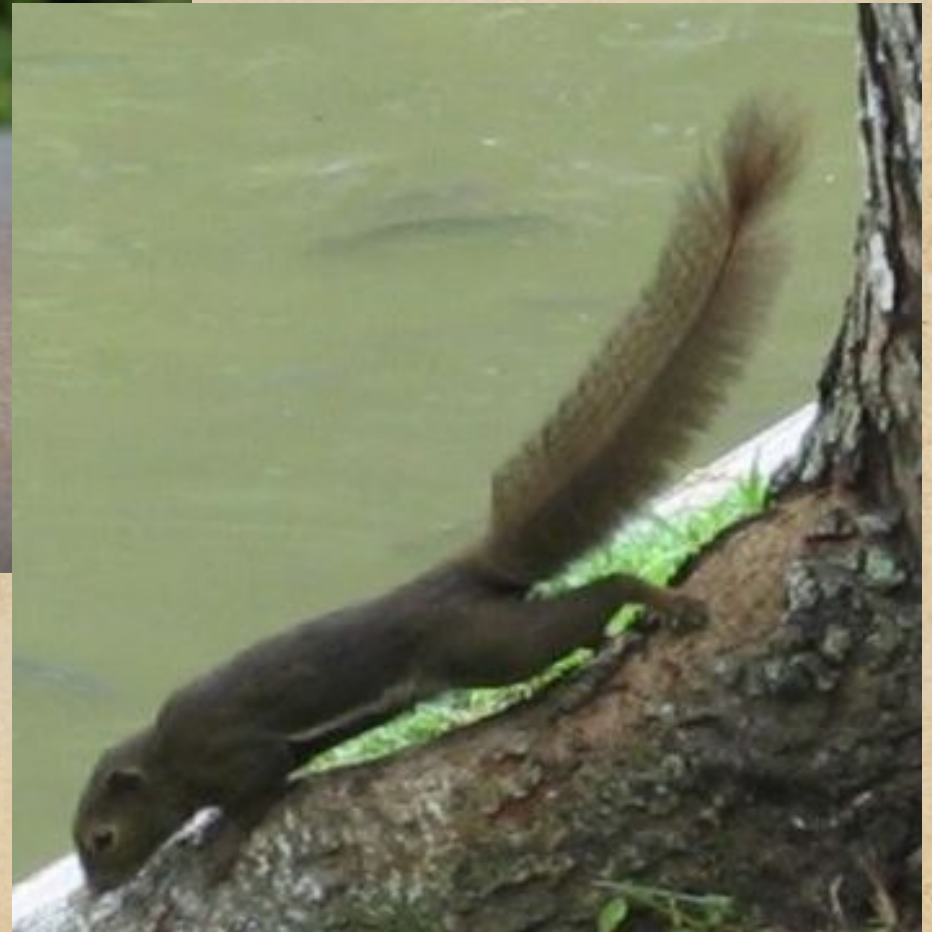


Fauna

Moult skin of a cicada



Plantain squirrel
(Callosciurus notatus)



Snakes on the Ridge

“Last night (or early this morning) I saw a 1.5 m long adult banded krait in the middle of the road...”



“Guess what? Saw another beautiful snake at 3am.

A very beautiful 2 m long rock/ reticulated python juvenile.”



“A 3.5m long (8cm girth) glistening adult rock python.”

Oriental Whip Snake (Ahaetulla prasīna)

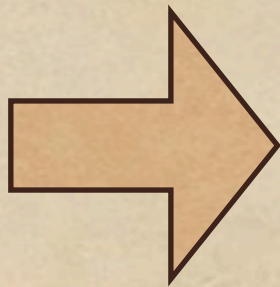


Flying dragon
(Draco volans)



Changeable lizard
(Calotes versicolor)

Praying
mantis



Green Crested
Lizard
(Bronchocela
cristatella)



White-crested Laughing Thrush (Garrulax leucolophus)



Hornbills on the Ridge





Black Bazas migrating. Photos by Laurence Poh.





Ecology of Kent Ridge - a classroom since the 60's Kok Oi Yee



Kok Oi Yee

Oí Yee, a Kent Ridge guide since 1959!



Kok Oí Yee

Kent Ridge



Oral History reconstruction



Pasir Panjang
& the Southern
Islands



SUBURB OF SINGAPORE

1st Dec 1950: Houses on stilts, Pasir Panjang



20 May 1950: View of a prawn farm at Pasir Panjang





Pasir Panjang:
travelling
dispensary,
14 Mar 1958

Pasir Panjang, c.1911



(41)

Pasir Panjang, Singapore

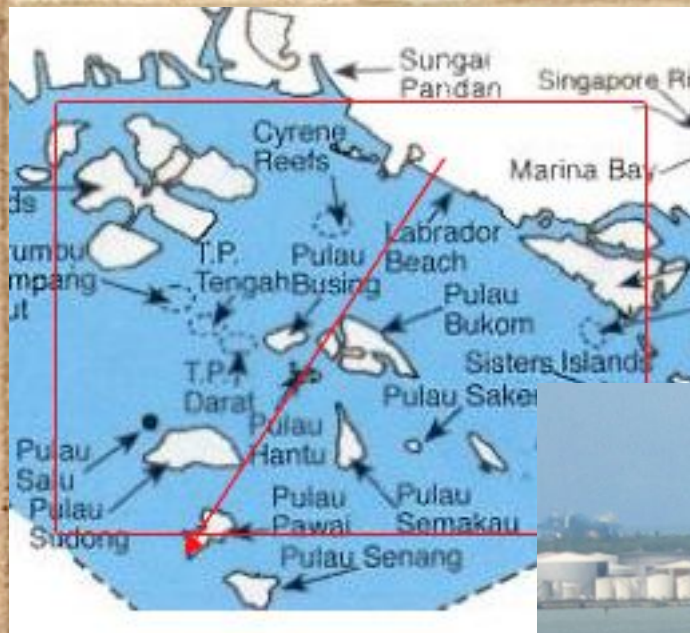
Singapore Island

Angular coastline











3298 m

© 2007 Europa Technologies



Pulau Hantu



Pasir Panjang

South Buona Vista Road, c.1925

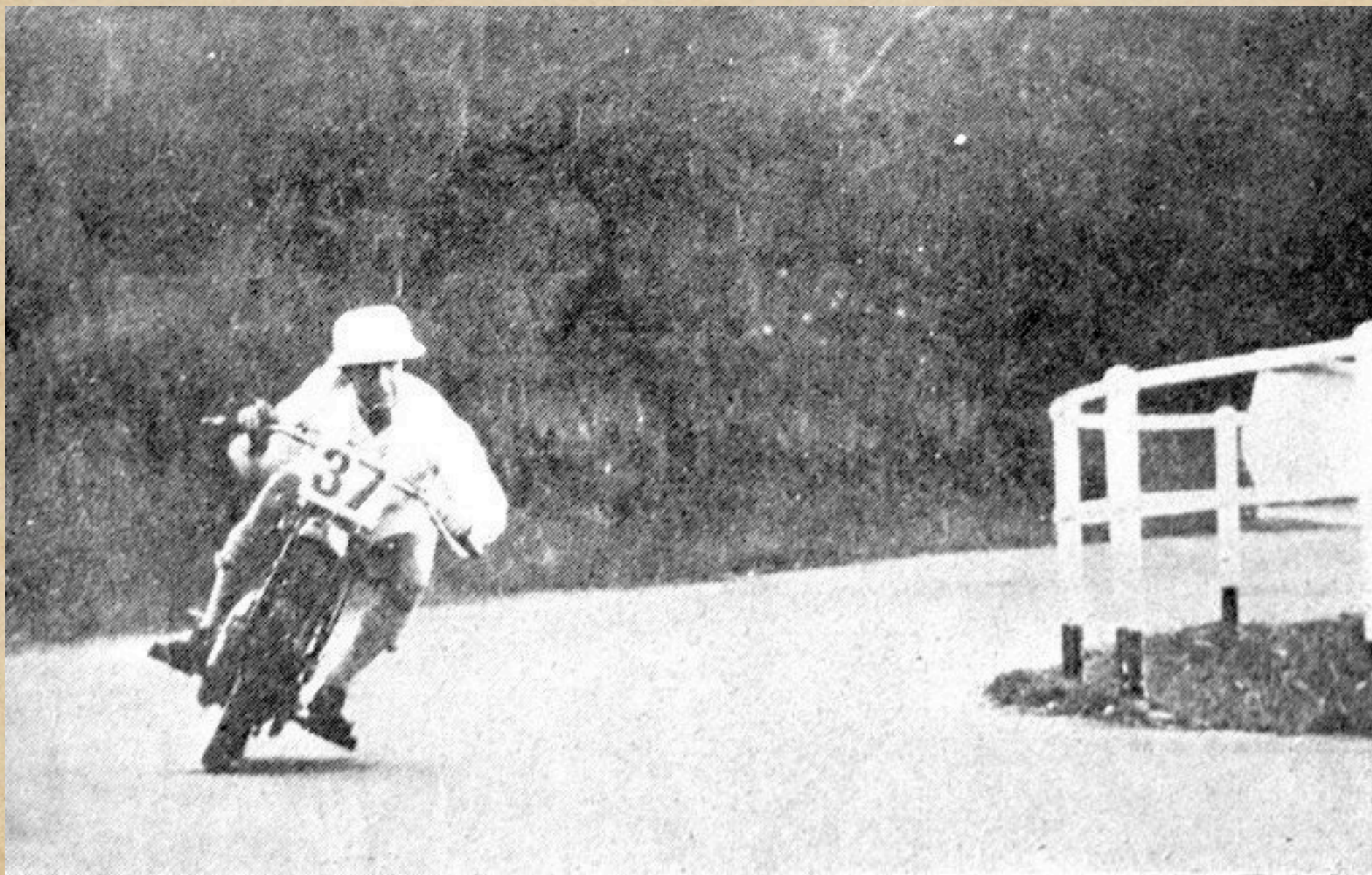


On of the earliest motorcycle races on the Gap,
1st September, 1927



National Archives of Singapore

Motorcycle race on the Gap, 1st September, 1927

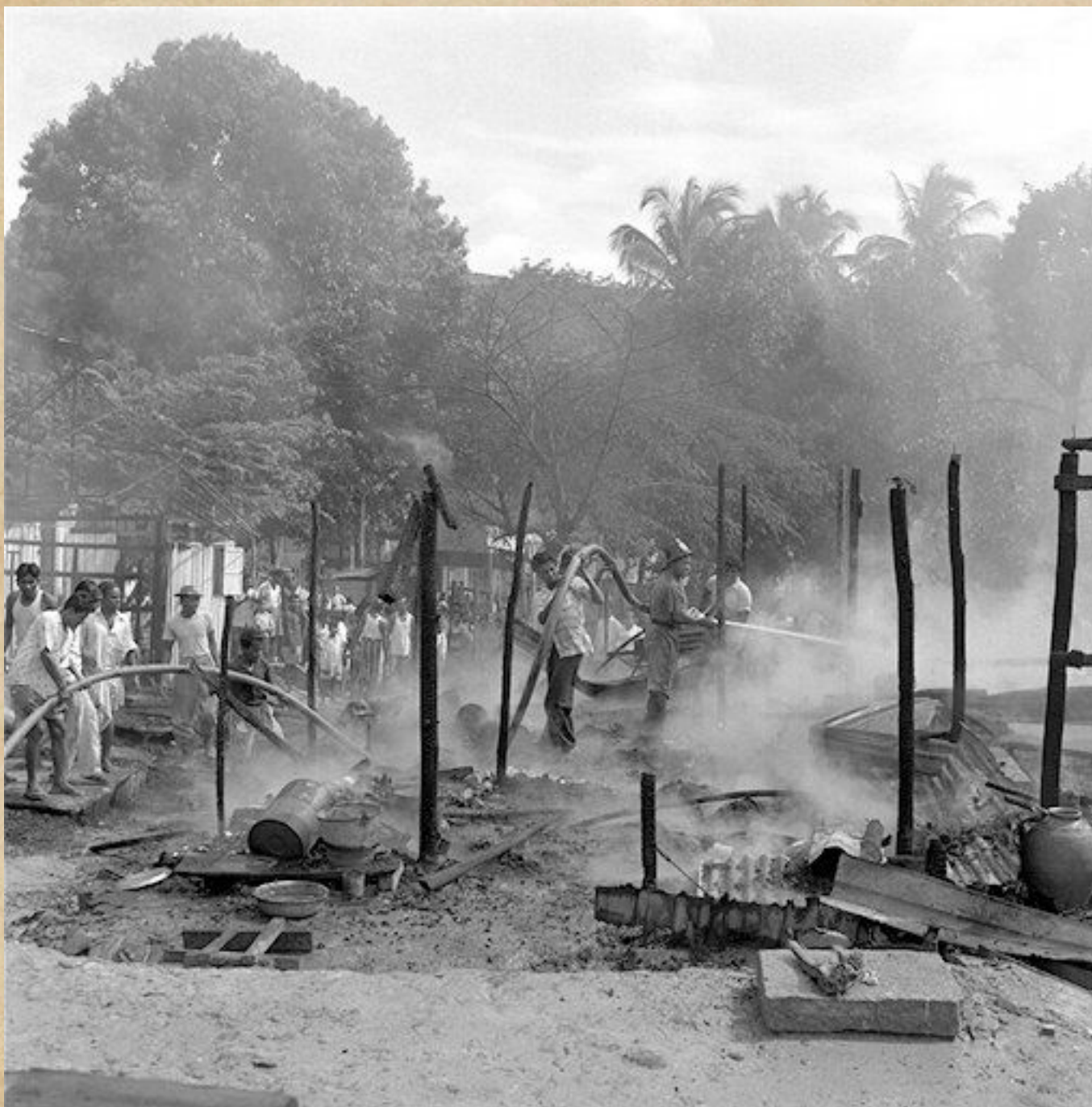




1st August 1954
Pagoda with
Buddha,
Haw Par Villa,
Pasir Panjang.



Tour of
Pasir
Panjang
Village by
PM Lee
Kuan Yew,
21 Jul 1963



Fire at kampung,
5 mile junction,
Pasir Panjang,
27 Nov 1959:
Firemen and
volunteers
battling the
blaze.



Fire at kampung,
5 mile junction,
Pasir Panjang, 27
Nov 1959:
Lucky Bedah,
rescued by her
uncle in the nick
of time.

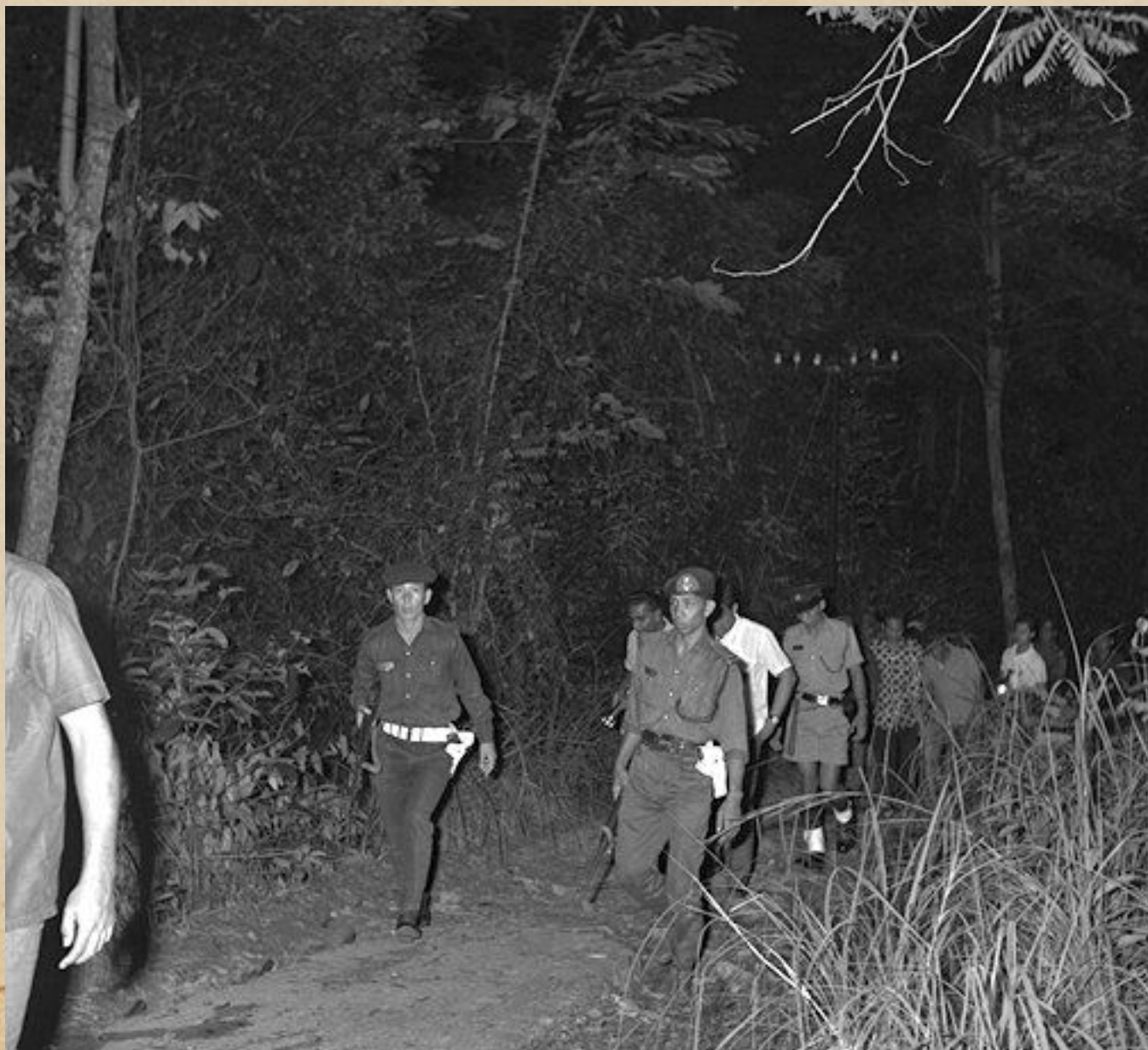


Fire at kampung,
5 mile junction,
Pasir Panjang, 27
Nov 1959:
escaped with his
crutches.



19 Jan 1961:
A fire
gutted Pasir
Panjang
Brick
Factory

Konfrontasi, 3rd January 1965: Report of two unidentified boats approaching Pasir Panjang shore. Queenstown police and Federal Reserve Unit men scouring Labrador.





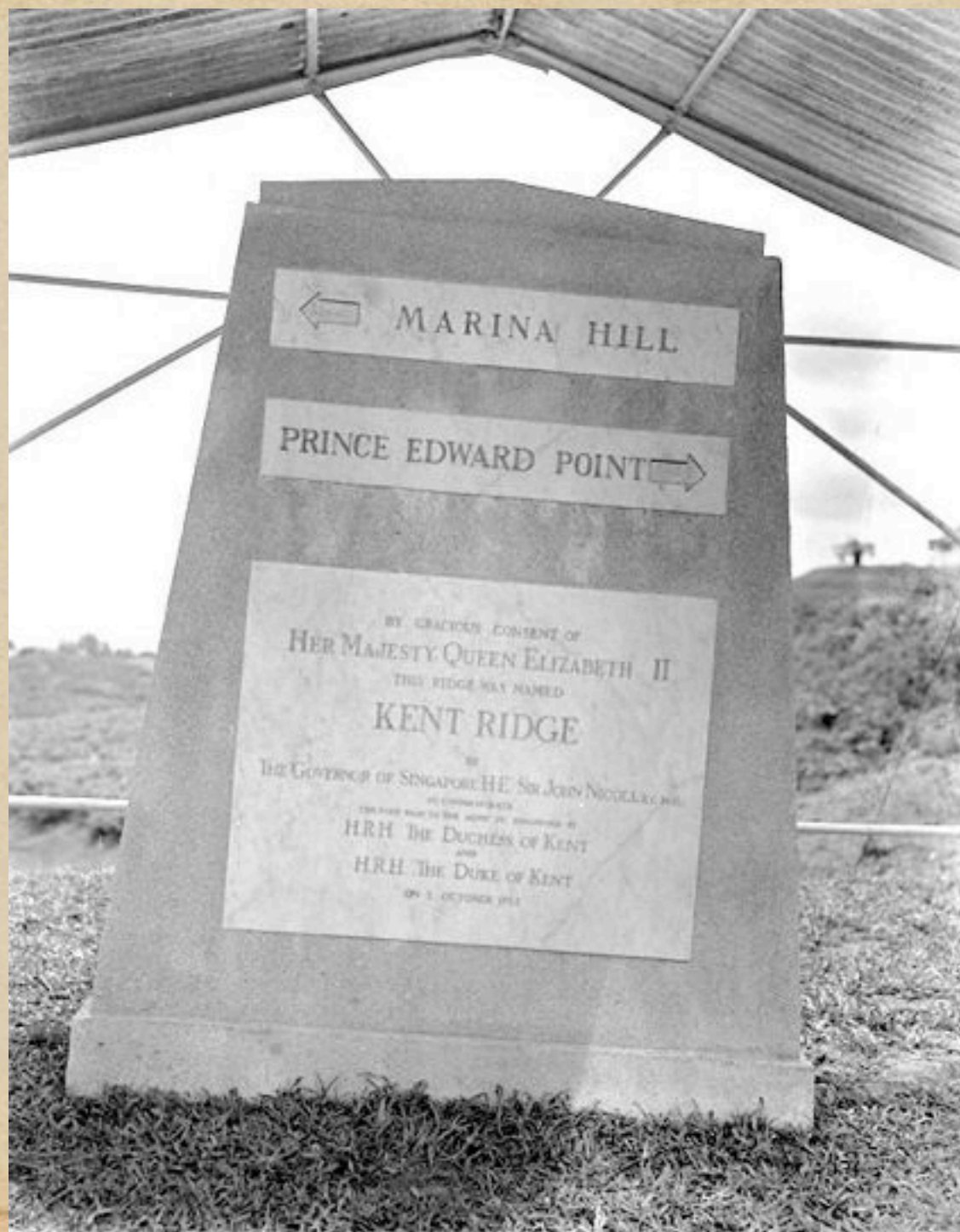
Konfrontasi -
an Indonesian
infiltrator
captured
in Pasir Panjang
mangroves,
29 Dec 1964

National University of Singapore, > 1975



Kent Ridge,
a colonial
name





By the gracious consent of
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

This Ridge was named

KENT RIDGE

BY

The Governor of Singapore HE Sir John Nicoll KCMG

To Commemorate

The visit paid to the Army in Singapore by

HRH. The Duchess of Kent

and

HRH. The Duke of Kent,

on 3 October 1952



The first Duke of
Kent died on 25
August 1942 in an
aeroplane crash in
Scotland while on
active service with
the RAF.



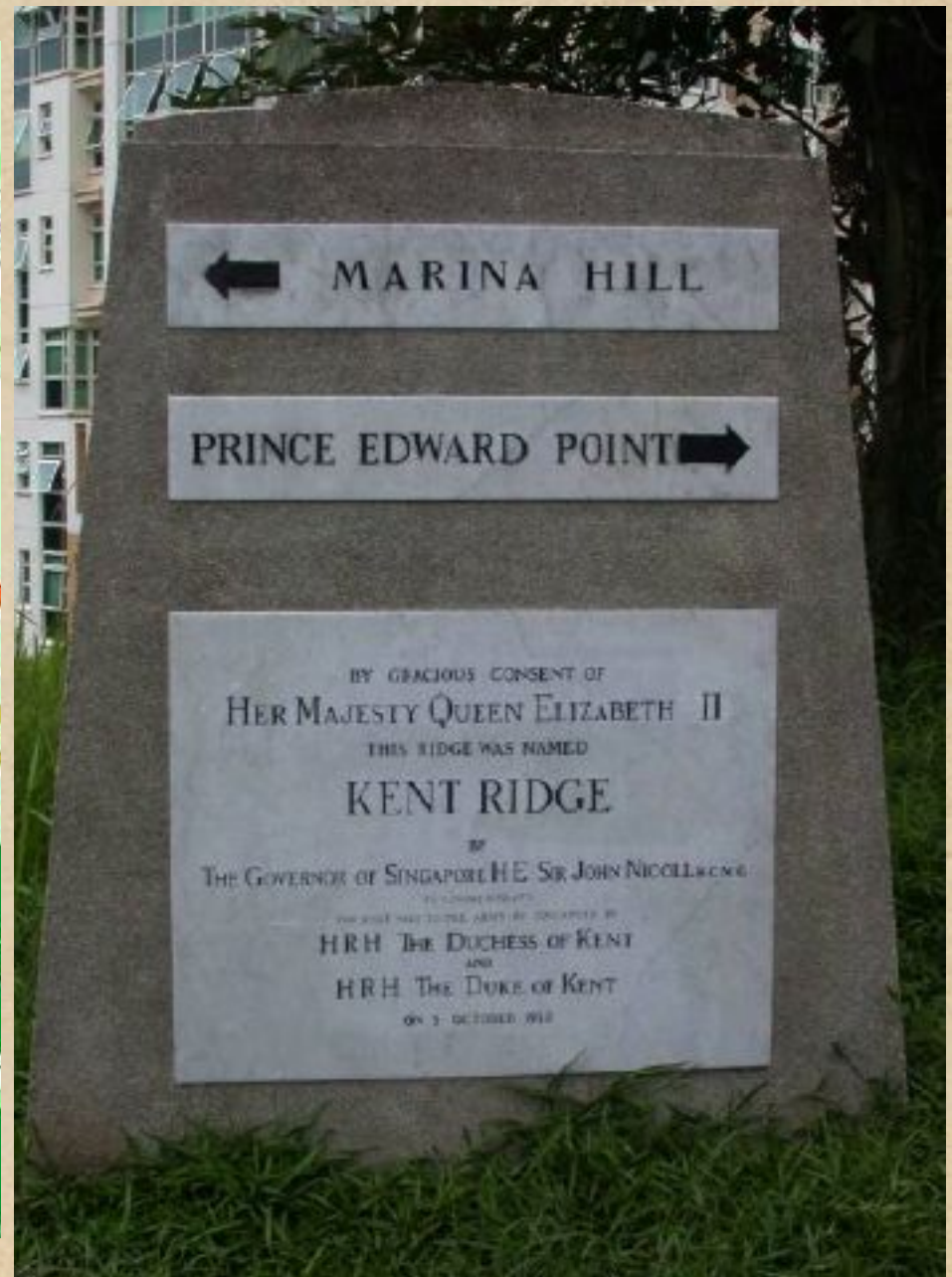
The second Duke of Kent,
cousin of QE2, was 17
years old in 1952 when he
visited Singapore.



Princess Marina of
Greece was of Greek
and Russian descent,
also a princess of
Greece and Denmark.
1906 - 1968

But why rename
the ridge?



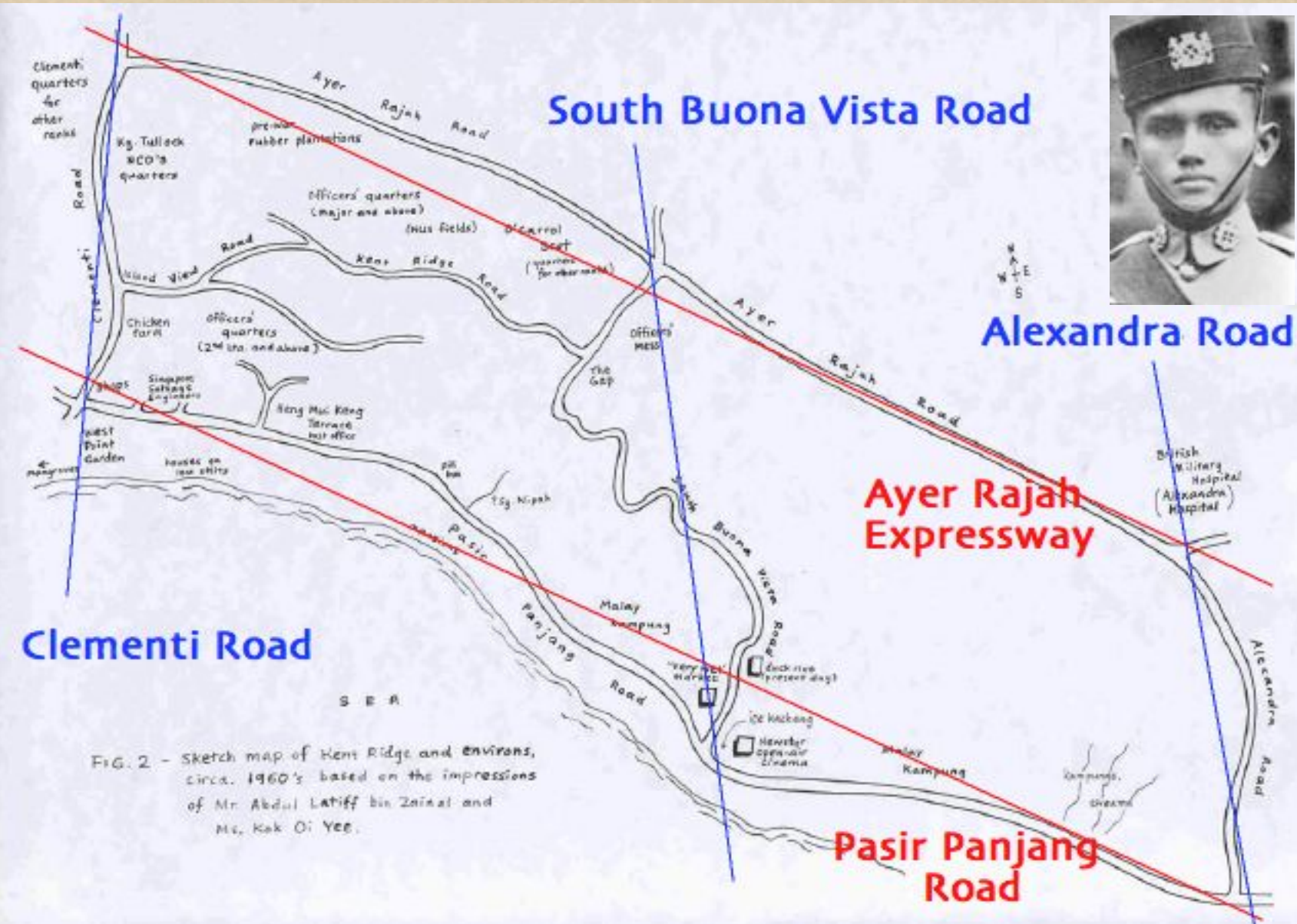


3rd October 2002

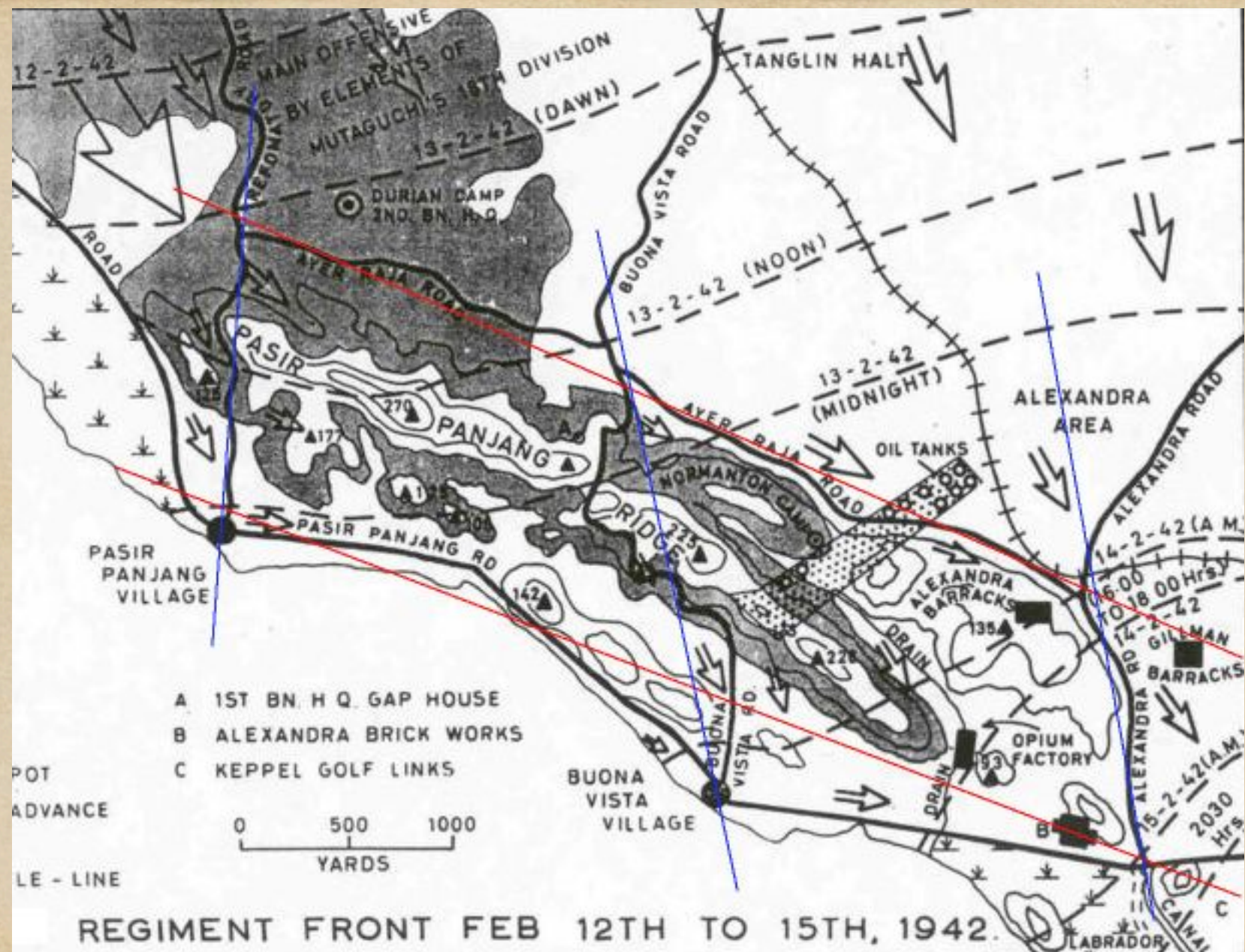




The
Battle of
Pasir
Panjang







Dol Ramli, 1965

Sharing
the
Heritage



A Kent Ridge Heritage

Impressions of the Ridge (updated, 20th September 2002)

The Ridge has a significant place in our natural heritage, as it is the most accessible area in Singapore to see the hardy plants of the *Adinandra* belukar ecosystem. 'Belukar' is Malay for secondary forest, and this one is dominated in parts by the Tiup-Tiup tree (*Adinandra dumosa*). Generations of biology undergraduates from NUS have been trained here, and recreational [walks on the ridge were conducted in the 1960's](#) by one of your guides!

Plant diversity on dry and nutrient-poor Ridge, cut off from the seed bank of a primary forest is quite low. As a result, you will begin to recognise the common plant species of the *Adinandra* belukar by the time we reach the Gap. In Kent Ridge Park, you will see larger and older examples of plants compared to the badly disturbed campus forest.

My favourite plant is the Tembusu tree with its sweet-scented flowers. Did you know these are planted all around campus, near Arts Canteen? If you stop to smell the flowers, you will get a whiff of a wonderful perfume. It is meant for creatures of night and has weakened by day. At dusk, however, the perfume makes some nervous, as they think it wafting from the ghost 'Pontianak' - merely the Tembusu trying to attract some moths!

Snakes are regularly seen, but only in the middle of the night these days. 3am is a good time to encounter a python crossing the road at his favourite place, as one of our postgraduate students, [Sasi Nayar, will attest!](#) Another exciting sighting has been

[Email webmaster](#)



Public Gallery of the Raffles Museum



View of the Ridge vegetation



Prewar bunker, 1936, damaged by recent construction works

Introduction -- *Adinandra belukar*

The type of vegetation found on the Ridge is known as *Adinandra belukar*, as *Adinandra dumosa* is its characteristically most commonly found tree, and 'belukar' is Malay for secondary forest. Secondary forest is forest that grows on ground that has been previously cleared of its original vegetation (primary forest) or disturbed significantly. It is different from primary vegetation in many ways. For example, the species of plants growing in secondary forests are different from those in primary forests, and are more adapted to life in its different conditions. These different conditions include increased light intensity, lower humidity, higher temperatures, etc. In order to survive and be successful, plants in secondary forests also have to grow quickly and be easily and widely dispersed, so that they may colonize newly disturbed ground before other plants do. *Adinandra belukar* is found on degraded land, whereas another type of belukar, *Trema belukar*, dominated by *Trema* sp. and similar plants is found in naturally occurring gaps in primary forest, where the soil is still rich in nutrients and not degraded.

Adinandra belukar was first qualitative (1992). Wee and Corlett (1986) have given Singapore, and Corlett (1991) has described secondary vegetation based on studies in the distinct differences from primary forest. Fir per species per unit area than primary forest much greater. The belukar is highly exposed during the night it is very cool. It is much humidity is 62% whereas primary forests are lacking various nutrients due to its previous and organic material as well. In short, belukar various aspects are explored in detail below.

Wildlife on the Ridge - a diary of encounters

To figure out the locations, please see: [The NUS Interactive Campus Map](#). locations are between grids C3 and E7; click to enlarge.

Who's who:

Sasi Nayar, a postgraduate student with Reef Ecology Lab, Department of Biological Sciences & Tropical Marine Science Institute, NUS. Works late nights in campus; **Kelvin Lim**, Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians, Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research, NUS. **Tony O'Demspey**, naturalist and snake-hunter, also known as Orang Ular. **Victor Muthu**, first year undergraduate who spotted a hornbill on the ridge, Jeffrey Low, his ; **Alvin Wong**,

From: Sasi Nayar <scip8370@nus.edu.sg>

Date: Sun, 17 Feb 2002 04:51:32 +0800

To: "otterman@sivasothi.com" <otterman@sivasothi.com>, Lim Kok Peng Kelvin <kelvinlim@nus.edu.sg>

The Kent Ridge Commemorative Plaque

"During a visit to this military area by the then Duchess and Duke of Kent (I believe they were mother and son), the area was named Kent Ridge. The Duchess was the Princess Marina of Greece, and the son was a Prince Edward Duke of Kent. The missing husband and father was a Prince George, who had died in 1942 in a plane crash.

A commemorative plaque, of inscribed marble laid on granite, was erected on 3rd October 1952 to commemorate their visit. It is still visible on Kent Ridge, at the junction of Prince George's Park and South Buona Vista Road. The inscriptions bears two arrows, one pointing to Marina Hill and the other, to Prince Edward Point in NUS."

"This is particularly interesting as it predates the NUS developments on Kent Ridge. This commemorative plaque, which is slightly chipped off at the top, has 3 marble slabs mounted on a concrete plinth. The marble slabs in the upper half have inscriptions with arrows, one pointing to Marina Hill (DSO) and the other Prince Edward Point in NUS.

Inscribed on the lower marble slab:

"By the gracious consent of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Governor of Singapore, Sir John Nicoll, KCMG

The ridge is named the Kent Ridge to commemorate the visit paid to the Army by the Duchess of Kent and the Duke of Kent, 3 October 1952"

- Chong Min Keong, NUS Office of Estate and Development, 27th August 2002.

The Kent Ridge commemorative plaque, 3rd October 1952



OI YEE ON THE RIDGE, circa. Dec 1959



Guided walk for Gan Eng Seng and Victoria Secondary school boys by Crescent Secondary School girls, led by Kok Oi Yee, c. Dec 1959. This is near the high point of the ridge, possibly point 270, between the present day Department of Biological Sciences and Institute of Molecular and Agrobiotechnology. Note the wall along the ridge. It is still present in parts. The view to the coast was relatively unrestricted as the trees were shorter. The romantic sea view made it a popular lover's haunt, the heroic events of 13th February 1942, by then, a distant memory.



Guided walk for Gan Eng Seng and Victoria Secondary school boys by Crescent Secondary School girls, led by Kok Oi Yee, c. Dec 1959. Oi Yee hale and hearty even then! Foreground plants include Simpoh Air and Tiup-tiup.



Briskwalk from MacRitchie to Bukit Timah summit, 26 May 2002. Oi Yee (foreground, red t-shirt), is still hale and hearty and led the pack of much younger walkers! She will be one the guides on the 27th July walk.

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Sun 13 Feb 2005

Commemorating the Battle of Pasir Panjang

Category : [heritage](#)

As we did a [year ago](#), the Pasir Panjang/Kent Ridge Ridge Guides commemorated the Battle of Pasir Panjang with an observance walk, but this time from the start point of the battle to the point of the last stand.

At dawn of 13th February 1942, Mutaguchi's 18th division attacked the Malay Regiment at what is now the stretch of Clementi Road next to NUS. This marked the start of the











Heritage Fest 2004

Training

[3rd July 2004](#) [rmbr/as]

[3rd July 2004](#) [nas/csy]

[3rd & 10th July 2004](#) [sajc]

Heritage Fest

[Saturday 17th July](#) [sajc]

[Sunday 18th July](#) [sajc]

[Sunday 25th July 2004](#) [rmbr/tpt]

[Sunday 25th July 2004](#) [rmbr/tpt]

[Sunday 25th July 2004](#) [sajc]

Guides from:

St. Andrew's Junior College Green Club,
Raffles Museum Toddycats
Reflections at Bukit Chandu

Organised by

Reflections at Bukit Chandu
(National Archives of Singapore),
National Heritage Board

Raffles Museum of Biodiversity
Research, Department of Biological
Sciences, National University of
Singapore

Pasir Panjang Heritage Walk (unedited galleries)





Heritage Trail

Dates : 16 (Sat), 17 (Sun), 24 (Sun) July

Tours begin at 9am, 11.30am and 2pm

Start Point : Kent Ridge Park (Upper Car Park)

End Point : Reflections at Bukit Chandu (31K Pepys Rd)

Duration : 2 hours

Language : English

Max. no. per tour: 40

PASIR PANJANG HERITAGE TRAIL

Join us for a short tour filled with stories of the rich natural and social history of Pasir Panjang.

Learn about the ecology of the Ridge where lizards and eagles hunt for food. Be introduced to pitcher plants and rubber trees that are part of a special forest ecosystem that begins at Clementi Woods and ends at Mount Faber. Hear about the adventures of residents in the 1960s. Find out about the beautiful seashore that used to exist and spot pre-war buildings in the area.

Reach the new canopy walkway, leading to Reflections at Bukit Chandu, a WWII Interpretative Centre housed in a restored colonial-styled bungalow. Experience one of the fiercest and last significant battles fought in Singapore during WWII - the Battle of Pasir Panjang.

Registered participants will be informed of transport arrangements.

FOR ENQUIRIES + REGISTRATION:

Contact: Eileen Ng (Ms) Phone: 6332 7973 Email: eileen_ng@nhb.gov.sg

or visit http://www.s1942.org.sg/bukit_chandu/homepage.htm

Registration and participation is FREE. Closing date: 12 July 05



Now an annual
collaboration with
Reflections of Bukit
Chandu, National
Archives of Singapore

10 volunteer guides
2002 - present

Pasir Panjang Heritage

- ◆ Feb - Battle of Pasir Panjang commemoration
- ◆ May - International Museum Day
- ◆ Jul - Heritage Fest
- ◆ Sep - End of WWII

Similar models applied elsewhere

- ◆ Changi Heritage - since 2002
- ◆ Sembawang Heritage - since 2002
- ◆ Labrador - since 2002
- ◆ Pedal Ubin - since 1998
- ◆ Volunteer powered, long-term sustainable

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