



First Malaysian Jamboree

4-10 December 1966

ADAPTED FROM WONG KOK NIAN
& PETER WONG TET PHIN



Above: The official commemorative badge for the Jamboree.

Below: An Air Force helicopter was commissioned to take this aerial group photograph of all the participants of the Jamboree gathered on the parade ground of Jubilee Camp.

Xaverians played a prominent role in the organization and staging of the First Malaysian Jamboree at Jubilee Camp, Teluk Bahang, Penang. The historic camp was the initiative of former Xaverian and Scout Tan Sri Datuk Wong Pow Nee. He was the head of the Jamboree Organizing Committee and served as its Camp Chief.

If the Scout Headquarters Building is Pow Nee's enduring legacy to Scouts in Penang, the First Malaysian Jamboree must be his legacy to Scouts in the whole country, as well as many others from across the World who took part in the historic event. The Jamboree was held from 4-10 December 1966. Preparations for it began nearly a year and a half prior to that. The first meeting to plan the Jamboree was held on 3 August 1965. Subsequent meetings were held at the Operations Room





The commemorative
First Malaysian
Jamboree neckerchief.



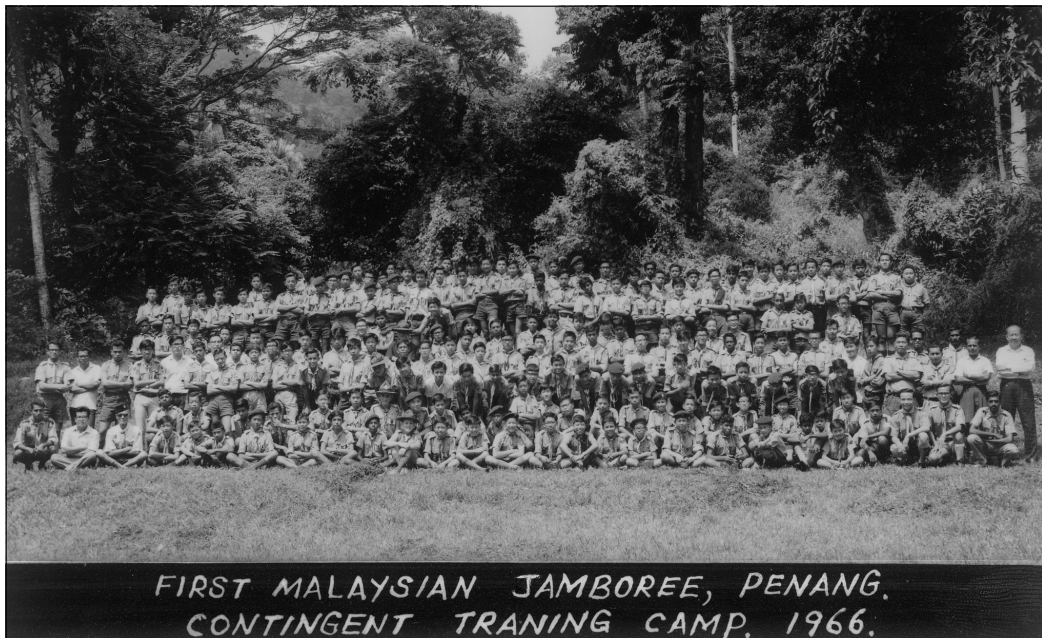
All the contingents in formation for the raising of country flags.



An Air Force helicopter was commissioned to do aerial shots
of the opening ceremony of the Jamboree.



The host contingent from Penang was camped in the area on the far
right of this picture on what used to be a chicken farm!



Scouts from all the
schools in Penang
taking part in the
Jamboree attended
a training camp
held at
Cornonation Camp
several weeks prior
to the event.

in Bangunan Tuanku Syed Putra at Weld Quay, Penang and at The Chief Minister's Residence along Macalister Road. Members of the Organizing Committee were voted in or co-opted into the Committee for his or her expertise required for organizing the Jamboree.

Jubilee Camp in Teluk Bahang, the then campsite of the Penang Boy Scouts' Association, was transformed into the Jamboree Village with nearly 3,000 inhabitants of various colours, class and creed, adhering to the Tenets of the Scout Law, which was also adopted as the Law of this Camp.



The welcome arch to the Jamboree Village at Teluk Bahang.

Monday, 5 December 1966: Opening Ceremony

The official opening by Their Majesties, The Yang Di-Pertuan Agung and the Raja Permaisuri Agung, marked two firsts in their illustrious reign as well as the history of Malaysia – the first sovereign since the formation of Malaysia, and the first sovereign to declare a Jamboree open in the country. Pow Nee was the Camp Chief. He said that the Scouting Movement in Malaysia was very fortunate to have as Chief Patron, His Majesty, and as the other Patrons, Their Royal Highnesses the Sultans, Their Excellencies the Governors and the Yang di-Pertua of Sabah.

In his speech to the Jamboree, Pow Nee said that Scouting was a worldwide movement and it was therefore fitting that our nation supported activities designed to promote the development of it. He said that the objective of the Scouting Movement was aimed at training the youth in the qualities and traits of good citizenship. He concluded:

It is our hope that all the participants to this Jamboree will experience living together and will take away with them very pleasant memories of their stay in Penang. ... I have always stressed the important role that youths constitute approximately 50 percent of our population; it is only fair that a great deal of attention should be devoted to their activities. In this connection, I must make reference to the efforts of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in promoting useful youth activities throughout the nation.... I would like to thank all the people who have in one way or another contributed to make this Jamboree a success.... our special thanks to the



The Yang Di-Pertuan Agung inspecting the assembled participants of the Jamboree.



Xaverians from the Penang Contingent were among the Malaysian Scouts selected to carry the name plaques of the different national contingents.



State and Federal Governments for their respective contributions of \$20,000 and \$40,000. This is certainly another firm indication of the Government's support for the development of the Scouting Movement in our country.

Tuesday, 6 December 1966: "Governor's Day"

It was a great honour for Pow Nee as the Camp Chief to welcome His Excellency the Governor of Penang, Raja Tun Uda Al-Haj bin Raja



Group photograph of Xaverian Scouts and Scouters who took part in the Jamboree.



A presentation on the main stage.



The Jamboree happened during the Apollo Program of sending men to the moon; this model of a rocket captured the fascination of its time with space exploration.



The entrance arch to the tents of the campground assigned to Penang Scouts. It was a chicken farm that had been temporarily cleared for the event.

Muhammad to the First Malaysian Jamboree. In his speech, the Camp Chief said:

During the past 15 months, the Organizing Committee has put in a great deal of work to make this a truly memorable occasion for all concerned. The campsite and the surrounding area in Teluk Bahang have been transformed into a Jamboree Village. An elaborate programme has been drawn up to ensure that all the participants have an enjoyable time and will take away with them memorable experiences of their stay in the State. ... We are grateful to Your Excellency and Yang Teramat Mulia Tengku Puan Hajjah Nor Sa'adah, for your continued interest in the promotion and development of the Scouting Movement in particular, and useful youth activities in general.... Sir, as a leader of this country, you have always endeavoured to promote a harmonious multi-racial society. It is not only in the domestic field that your efforts have been successful – in fact our country has successfully protected this image abroad and our leaders have emphasized the importance and the need for greater understanding and toleration amongst different nations. The Scout Movement, which has for its aim a similar objective, is therefore in complete consonance with your policies. We are therefore very proud and happy that you have been able to take time off from your extremely busy schedule to attend this function.

Wednesday, 7 December 1966: "Prime Minister's Day"

The Tunku arrived to a warm welcome from Pow Nee as the Camp Chief. The Tunku had joined the Scout Movement way back in 1912 in Bangkok. He continued his Scouting at the Penang Free School when he returned to Penang in 1916. The Tunku appreciated a lot his days as a Boy Scout. In his speech to The Jamboree he said:

Scouting is a great movement, because it instils discipline and loyalty in all who join it. It makes them God-fearing, law-abiding and good citizens. You are lucky to have with you here, the Executive Head of the Administration of the State of Penang, Tan Sri Wong Pow Nee, who at the same time, is the Camp Chief. As Camp Chief, he had to do a lot of thinking and planning and in doing so he had some able bodies here to help



Pow Nee leading a yell.



The totem pole was a popular attraction.



The Prime Minister being received by the Camp Chief upon his arrival.



The Tunku being briefed on the design and layout of the Jamboree Campsite by Pow Nee using a scale model of Jubilee Camp as the National Chief Scout of Malaysia, Tan Sri Sardon bin Haji Jubir looks on.

him. He has made extensive preparations, helped by a dedicated band of organizers..... The Scout Promise is one of the factors underlying the happy expansion of the movement at the turn of the Century. For, loyalty to God and to the King and the will to help others at all times indeed make the strongest possible basis for good citizenship and for the help in building a nation.

I have always remembered, without being reminded, all my duties.... I am sure most of you, when you leave this Movement, will remember what you have learnt as Scouts. Only then will this country be assured of loyal support. No doubt there will be some of you who will forget the Scout Promise, but for those who remember it will no doubt help to foster unity among the people.... This country is beset with many problems. And one of the greatest is how to keep out the forces of evil that try to destroy our way of life. We are exposed to the dangers and if

everyone can be a Scout and stick to his Promise, I don't think this evil force – the Communists – will have any effect on the minds and thinking. The Communists have no loyalty to anyone and do not belong to anyone or anything, except to the creed they profess – Communism.... I hope the Scout Movement will be an answer to these evil forces. I also hope many young boys will join the Scout Movement.



The Tunku strolling through the Campsite in the company of Pow Nee and the National Chief Scout of Malaysia, Tan Sri Sardon bin Haji Jubir.

In his speech to welcome The Prime Minister to The Jamboree Village, the Camp Chief, said:

As Camp Chief, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you, and Puan Sharifah to the First Malaysian Jamboree at Teluk Bahang. Today has been dedicated as Prime Minister's Day to give recognition to your continued interest in youth

activities in this country. Your efforts in promoting the development of useful youth activities is borne out by the fact that you have set up a Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. It is not only the activities of youths which have attracted your attention but also various sports and games. These, too, are complimentary for in order that our youths may develop as useful citizens, they must also possess sound bodies and minds. It is therefore encouraging to note that the Government has given such activities every support and co-operation. This Jamboree is a determined effort on our part to get together people of different nationalities and races so that they can learn to live together in a spirit of mutual understanding.

Saturday, 10 December 1966: Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony of this historical event was officiated by the National Chief Scout of Malaysia, Tan Sri Sardon bin Haji Jubir. In his address he said:

I believe that during the one week here in this beautiful and scenic surrounding of Teluk Bahang, all of you would have had the opportunity of meeting each other and to foster closer relationship and exchanging of views. You must have gone through various experiences, good and otherwise. The experiences that you have gained through your mixing in the Jamboree will undoubtedly be of immense value to you as a guide in your everyday life where you live as a member of a community in your own towns.... Scouts must realize that the spirit of understanding and tolerance is a valuable asset which should be maintained at all times in order to create a new and peaceful world. It is therefore imperative of every Scout to help and work together harmoniously in whatever fields in order to achieve this objective.... This Jamboree is greatly enhanced by the presence of a big number of overseas Scouts especially from our neighbouring countries like Australia, Brunei, Republic of China, India, South Korea, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Laos and the United Kingdom. I am sure that the Scouts in Malaysia will have gained many experiences in the way of Scouting and other activities from them. Similarly, overseas Scouts and their presence here will certainly help to strengthen our



Presentations on the main stage by different national contingents at the Jamboree Campfire



The Chief Scout slowly lowering the Jamboree Flag at the end of the Closing Ceremony.



Scouts linking hands to bid farewell.

international relationship. It is hoped that this friendship will continue.

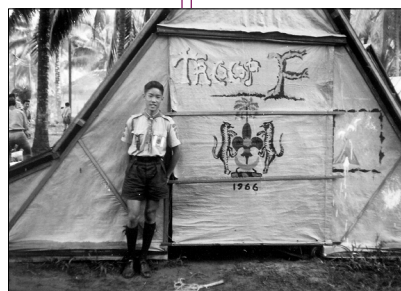
My heartfelt gratitude goes to the members of the exchange of Students Committee of Penang who have made arrangements for overseas Scouts to stay in private homes in Penang after the Jamboree. I hope that they will enjoy their stay here because the people of Penang in particular, and the Malaysians in general, are well known for their hospitality.... I would like also, on behalf of the Scouts, to thank the Chairman of the Jamboree Organizing Committee, Tan Sri Wong Pow Nee, as our Camp Chief. He had, indeed, done a magnificent job to make this Jamboree a great success. I am also very grateful to the able members of his Organizing Committee for the good work they have done.... In appreciation of his contributions to the Scout Movement in the past, and at this Jamboree, I will, on behalf of the Boy Scouts Association of Malaysia, present the highest Malaysian Scouting Award, the *Semangat Padi*, to the Camp Chief, the Honourable Tan Sri Wong Pow Nee and certificates and badges to his dedicated band of organizers.... We must remember that what is important in this Jamboree is not what we have done during this Jamboree, but what we are expected to do after it. Therefore, the success and usefulness of the Jamboree cannot be said to be truly successful after we have seen the events that follow.... Let us pray to Almighty *Allah* that during our week here we have not encountered any incident, except for a few who were taken ill with minor ailments. Let us pray to Almighty *Allah* by reciting *Al-Fatehah*. For those who are of other religions I would ask them to say their prayers in their own respective ways. Lastly, I wish you all a happy stay in Malaysia and a safe journey home.

As the Royal Green Jackets Band played the Jamboree Song the Chief Scout slowly lowered the Jamboree Flag. The 2,300 Scouts from Malaysia and abroad were then linked arm-in-arm as they sang the *Auld Lang Syne* as the National and State Flags of participating Contingents were lowered to mark the official closing of the First Malaysian Jamboree. This brought to a close a most memorable event. This also struck a significant milestone in the history of The Movement in Malaysia.



Memories of a very kind Jamboree Camp Chief

BY FRANCIS TAN



Francis Tan pictured here during The Jamboree in front of his tent.

I met my friend Peter Kwok Kian Tow when we were both undergraduates at Cambridge University, 1971–74. He had his early education at St Josephs' Institution, Singapore followed by the National Junior College and was awarded a Singapore Government Scholarship to read Economics at Trinity College, Cambridge. Although we did not realise it at the time our initial encounter happened at the First Malaysian Jamboree in Penang.

This is Peter's story about the Jamboree as related by him:

We were a bunch of tired out school boys when we arrived by Malayan Railway from Singapore. We landed in Penang at the Railway Pier in Weld Quay. It was the eve of the First Malaysian Jamboree, and we were excited to be there. However, we were still many miles away from the campsite at Teluk Bahang. Someone in our contingent suggested we pay a courtesy call on the Chief Minister of Penang, Mr Wong Pow Nee so we made our way to his office nearby in the government building at Downing Street.

Mr Wong was very gracious and warmly welcomed us. When he heard that we had journeyed all the way from Singapore he instructed his staff that we be given refreshments and allowed us to be put up for the night somewhere in the government building, until it was time for us to transfer to the campsite the following day.

Peter has never forgotten the warmth and hospitality of Penang's Chief Minister and Jamboree Camp Chief on that occasion. Tan Sri Wong left a lasting impression on him and his brother Scouts. The Camp Chief's kindness became as memorable as the Jamboree that followed. They returned to Singapore with good feelings about being briefly a part of the brotherhood of Malaysian Scouting. Malaysia and Singapore had separated by then. And Peter and I have remained great friends ever since – transcending any political boundary.



He built this gadget for his exceptionally demanding Troop Leader during The Jamboree before the campground was closed.



The official participant's certificate.



The Post Office issued a first-day cover for The Jamboree