



# Knowledge of the Order of St John

# Objectives

**At the end of the lesson, cadets should be able to know:**

- **The events leading to the formation of the Order**
- **Original purpose and aims of the Order**
- **Main events, names, dates leading to the fall of Malta**
- **Development of the Order and its foundation**
- **Significance of the Officers of the Order**
- **Development of SJAB & SJAA**
- **Objectives of SJAB in Singapore**

# The Order of St John

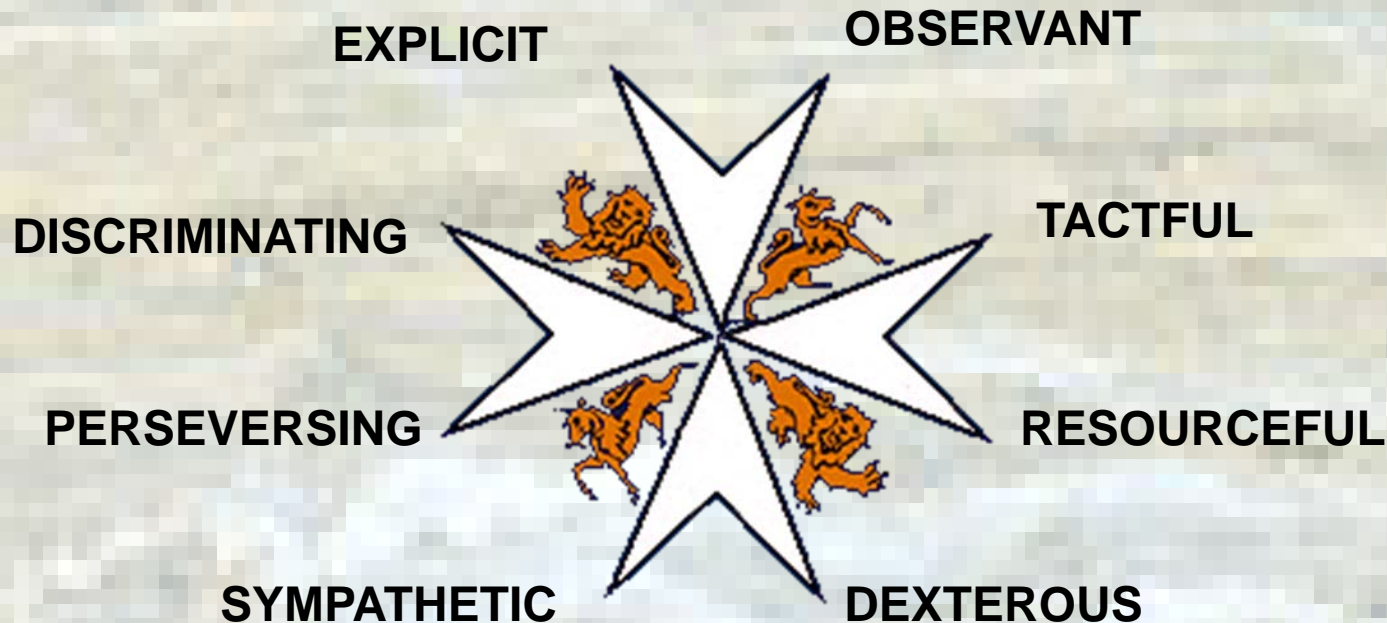
**THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN** is an ancient Christian brotherhood which, in its present form, is an Order of Chivalry, created by Royal Charter, with Her Majesty The Queen as its Sovereign Head.

It is a hard-working, practical, volunteer organisation with many thousands of unpaid workers in its two great Foundations

- **St. John Ambulance and**
- **St. John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem**

# THE EIGHT POINT ST. JOHN AMBULANCE CROSS

In St. John Ambulance, each of the point on the white cross represents different qualities of a first aider, which all first aiders of St. John Ambulance should observe. They are: -



# It all started in 1099...

- **Capture of Jerusalem (Holy Land)**
- **Hospice was maintained by Benedictine monks**
- **Crusades were nursed back to hospital and treated**
- **A new Order of the Hospital of St John was founded and recognised by Pope Paschall II in 1113**

**Full-Name of the Order:**

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

## Upon the founding of the Order...

**Three classes of the Brethren of the Hospital were introduced**

- **The Knights**
- **The Chaplains**
- **The Serving Brothers**

**The purpose of the Order was established upon it's founding:**

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

# The Fall of Malta



For 200 years, there were two Orders that constituted the main defence of the Holy Land

In 1291, after the fall of Acre, the Christians evacuated one of them and recovered the Holy Land.

The survivors (Knights of St John) escaped to Cyprus stayed there for 19 years.

# The Fall of Malta

**Rhodes** was captured by the Knights in **1310** and built a hospital

The Knights ruled the place for **200 years** until two sieges:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> succeeded and forced the Turks to abandon Rhodes
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> in **1522** failed and were forced to **surrender to the Turks to prevent massacre**

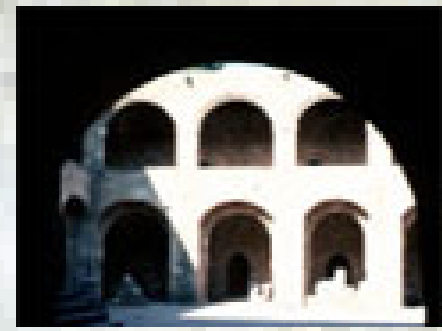
# The Fall of Malta

Upon the fall of Rhodes, the Order had no “home”  
In **1530**, Emperor Charles V granted the island of  
Malta.

For 270 years, the Hospitallers ruled the place  
Became known as the Knights of Malta.

The Knights managed to overcome another siege by  
the Turks in 1565 under the leadership of Grand  
Master John De La Vallette

# The Fall of Malta



The Knights surrendered Malta to Napoleon in 1798.

All military activities were ceased.

The Knights moved to Sicily and then established themselves in Rome.

A purely Roman Catholic body was established and maintained in Rome to carry out humanitarian activities and spread to other countries.

# When is St John Day?

**BAPTIST DAY**  
**24<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE EVERY YEAR**

**In Singapore**  
**St John Day is celebrated in schools on the**  
**1<sup>st</sup> week of Term 3**  
**(through observance parade)**

# Order of St John in England

**In western countries, the order was divided into**  
**Priories and Commanderies**

- **Provide help by raising funds and supplies**
- **To defend Holy Land, Rhodes & Malta**

## **Priory of Clerkenwell**

- **An English branch of the Order**
- **Granted in 1114 at Clerkenwell**
- **Headquarters throughout the Middle Ages**

# Order of St John in England

**There were many dissolutions and restorations of the Order**

- **Dissolved in 1511 by Henry VIII**
- **Restored by Queen Mary in 1557**
- **Dissolved again by Queen Elizabeth I**
- **Restored again in 1831 with support from French Knights**
  - **However due to religious reasons, it was denied by the Order in Rome**
  - **Have to be developed independently**

# Order of St John in England

- **Life Saving Order instituted in 1874**
- **St John Ambulance Association was founded in 1877**
- **St John Ophthalmic Hospital at Jerusalem was founded in 1882**
- **St John Ambulance Brigade established in 1887**
- **1892 saw the SJAB division established in New Zealand**
  - **Later established in South Africa and throughout the countries in the Commonwealth**

# Order of St John in England

**Order of St John granted in Royal Charter**

- **By Queen Victoria in 1888**
- **Queen became Sovereign Head**

**Supplementary Order granted to established priories within the British Empire**

- **By King Edward VII**

**Title of “Venerable” and change in priory name introduced in new Royal Charter**

- **By King George V**

# Officers of the Order

**In the officers of the Order, the Sovereign Head is the present Head of State of Great Britain**

## **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

**The other officers include:**

- **The Grand Prior**
- **The Lord Prior**
- **The Prelate**
- **The Chancellor**
- **The Bailiff of Eagle**



# Officers of the Order

**Under the Executive Officers of the Order, we have the following appointments:**

- **The Chancellor**
- **Secretary-General**
- **Director of SJAA**
- **Chief Commissioner of SJAB**

# **Foundations of the Order**

**There are 3 foundations of the Order:**

- **St John Ophthalmic Hospital at Jerusalem  
(formerly opened in 1960)**
  - **Provide medical help in Middle East**
  
- **St John Ambulance Association and Brigade,  
better known as St John Ambulance**
  - **Provides training in FA and HN to the public**
  - **Provide First Aid help to the public**

# Grades of the Order

**Total of SIX Grades of the Order, namely:**

**Grade I: G.C.St.J**

**Grade II: K.St.J / D.St.J**

**Grade III: Ch.St.J / C.St.J**

**Grade IV: O.St.J**

**Grade V: S.B.St.J / S.S.St.J**

**Grade VI: Esq.St.J**

**Admission to these Orders are recommended to the  
Grand Prior**

# ***Objectives of the Brigade***

**The objectives are mainly:**

- **To train people to be efficient in First Aid and Home Nursing**
- **To provide first aid and nursing to the injured and sick**
- **To encourage team spirit among young people**
- **To train young teens in first aid and provide help to the public/general citizens**
- **To promote health**

# The Mottos of the Order

**“PRO FIDE”**

**For the Faith**

**“PRO UTILITATE HOMINUM”**

**For the Service of Mankind**

# Founding of St John in Singapore

- **Established in 1935 by Dr J.S Webster**
- **Headquarters were at General Hospital in Outram Road**
- **Upon retirement of Dr Webster, the Director of Medical Services took over as Director of SJAA**
  - **HQ transferred to Fullerton Building, 4<sup>th</sup> level**
- **First Division was established in September 1938 upon recruitment of first aiders**
- **After WWII, the HQ was temporary housed at St. Peter's Church at Stamford Road.**

# Founding of St John in Singapore

- St John Council was formed in **1952**
  - To oversee SJAB and SJAA activities
- Transfer of temporary HQ to Gilstead Road in **March 1957**
- **Current NHQ at Beach Road** was officially opened in **1960** by Encik Yusoff Ishak.
- Sub-Centre at Jurong was opened in 1969
  - Moved to Jurong East in 1990
  - Now known as “Jurong Centre”



# Founding of St John in Singapore

- **Restructure in 1978 (previously 5 Areas)**
  - **“Corps” was scrapped and replaced by “Division”**
  - **4 Districts and 10 Areas was introduced**
- **Cadet Proficiency Badge Scheme (CPBS) was introduced in 1990**
- **Restructure in 1996**
  - **10 Zones and divisions known as Corps**

# **SJAB in present Singapore...**

**The work continues to provide help to the public**

- **Being called upon in emergencies**
- **Clinical and hospital duties**

**First Aid coverage of national and public events**

- **Done by officers and members**

# Key Appointment Holders



## National St John Council

**Chairman**

**Mr Bobby Lim**

**Vice-Chairman**

**Dr Chen Sze Hua**

**Dr Teh Peng Hooi**

## St John Ambulance Association

**Director**

**Dr Teh Peng Hooi**

## St John Ambulance Brigade

**Chief Commissioner**

**Dr Chen Sze Hua**

**Chief Surgeon**

**Dr Christopher Goh**

**Chief Nursing Officer**

**Ms Wong Ngiuk Moy**

# **Knowledge of the Order of St John (KSJ/408) Written Test Information**

**The test is conducted 3 times a year (March, June, Sept).**

**There are 50 multiple choice questions (MCQs) to answer, and all questions are answered on the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS).**

**Candidates are to bring along 2B pencil & soft eraser for the test.**

**Please inform your teachers-in-charge / officers to look out for announcement over SJAB website or through Zone CPB officers to register for the test.**

**Test fee is \$1.00 per person, and must be paid BEFORE the test date.**

**Thank you...**