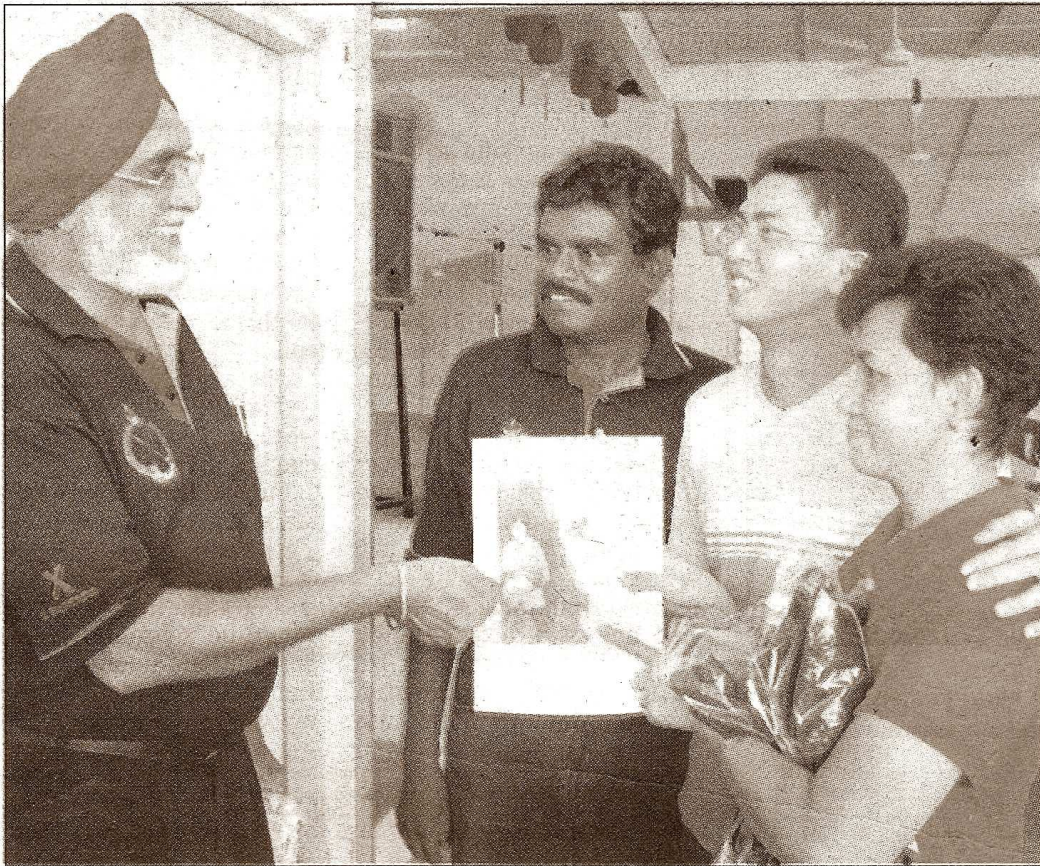


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KUALA LUMPUR
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PAST RECALLED ... Dr Mohan Singh remembering old times with Chan (right) when he helped deliver her son Lee as Capt (Rtd) V. Panirchellvum (third from right), winner of the Pingat Gagah Berani, looks on.

Man meets doc who delivered him in the dark

■ BY CHRISTINA KOH

LENGGONG: Salesman Lee Chee Leang, 25, never imagined that he would meet the doctor who delivered him in the dark after his mother suddenly went into labour in Kampung Selat Pagar during the height of the period known by the security forces at the time as the Second Emergency.

Lee, who was reunited with Datuk Dr Mohan Singh, 56, during a special occasion at Ayer Kala New Village near here yesterday, said he was overjoyed at finally seeing the man who answered to his mother's emergency.

At that time, the Royal Ranger Regiment Third Battalion was maintaining a strict curfew after dusk to curb the threat which made the surrounding areas of Selat Pagar, Ayer Kala, Padang Grus and Grik a communist terrorist hotbed.

When mother Chan Fong Lan went into labour in the

wee hours of the morning, villagers rushed to the Ranger camp for help.

Dr Mohan Singh, a captain who was attached to the battalion as a medical officer, saw that it was too risky and too far to move Chan to the nearest clinic in Grik, 50km away, and decided to deliver the baby in her own bedroom.

Minutes later on Feb 16, 1977, Lee was born under the glare of two torchlights, because the village had no electricity, at 6.30am.

"I am overjoyed to see Dr Mohan Singh again, and cannot express how grateful I am for what he did for my mother.

"I definitely want to invite the doctor and the other rangers to my wedding next year," said Lee, who had driven all the way from Singapore with his 48-year-old mother yesterday to attend the reunion.

Dr Mohan Singh, a retired Lt Col who now has a private practice in Kuala Lumpur, said he was moved at how Lee

had turned out.

"At that time, the environment was a bit hostile. Many of the villagers in that area were considered to be sympathisers of the communist terrorists, and they supplied them with food and materials.

"We were stationed there just two days before I delivered Lee, and the villagers often stared or refused to be friends with us," he said.

Dr Mohan Singh remembered feeling scared at first when asked to attend to Chan because he was not sure if something (bad) would happen.

"After the delivery, the villagers began to see us in a different light. In the weeks that followed, the battalion offered them their medical services, held gotong-royong, and even played and lost basketball matches to the villagers.

He said that after gradually winning the hearts and minds of the people, the communists lost their supply links.

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