

**Singapore HeritageFest 2009**  
**“Our Neighbours’ Heroes” Storytelling Competition**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Winner (Lower Primary Category)**



**Participant's Details**

Name: Siti Zulaikha Bte Muhammad Ali  
Gender: Female  
Age: 8-year-old  
NRIC: TXXXX015G  
Nationality: Singaporean  
School: East View Primary School

**Tan Chong Tee: Singapore’s James Bond**

SLAPPED. Whipped. Kicked by soldiers for at least two hours, until he was bruised and bleeding, and was finally knocked out cold.

Still, Mr. Tan Chong Tee, then 21, refused to say a word.

"There was no way the soldiers could get me to talk."

"I was prepared to lay down my life for my comrades," said the brave spy of Force 136.

That was March 26, 1944, when Mr Tan was captured by the Japanese during a crackdown of underground espionage organisations in Ipoh.

And he would be tortured again and again, during the 18 months that he was imprisoned.

"My back and chest were badly injured and I soon passed out," he said of the first time he was beaten.

"When I came to later, I found myself drenched in water. The soldiers went on torturing me and I fainted several times."

"But there was no way they could get me to talk. I was prepared to lay down my life for my comrades."

For food, he was given only three or four pieces of rotten sweet potato daily. Sometimes, he had to go hungry for days.

He and his comrades were locked up in separate cells which measured less than 0.37 square metres each.

There was only one barred window in his cell. The walls were stained with blood and filth.

The bed was made up of four pieces of plank nailed together, while the toilet was nothing more than a broken bucket.

He often heard screams coming from the torture chambers.

Mr Tan was not fearful of losing his own life. But after his leader, Mr Lim Bo Seng, was tortured to death, he vowed to stay alive so that he could tell others about Mr Lim's heroism and seek justice for those comrades who had perished.

"It was this thought that kept me going. We lived in the hope that we would one day escape from this hellish place." As Mr Tan was an important prisoner, the Japanese did not kill him.

After the Japanese surrendered, he was released on the condition that he changed his name and severed all ties with his past.

Excerpt from <http://ourstory.asia1.com.sg/war/lifeline/bond.html>

*Community from which the hero came from: Chinese*