Malayan National Liberation Army (MNLA) (photo: Leon Comber)

Malayan Police Jungle Squad forming up outside Central Police Station, High Street, Kuala Lumpur (December 1948) before leaving on a jungle operation (photo: Leon Comber)

Malayan Police Jungle Squad (Selangor 1949) (photo: Leon Comber)
Police patrol with Informer approaching hut used by communist guerrillas (Selangor 1949) (photo: Leon Comber)

British troops attacking hut (photo: Leon Comber)

Hut being burnt down (photo: Leon Comber)
Malayan Police parading with fixed bayonets on the Padang (now Freedom Square), Kuala Lumpur (1948) which brings out well the para-military aspect of the Malayan Police at the time (photo: Leon Comber)

Jack Barlow, Johore Special Branch officer, with Lau Hon, a surrendered communist guerrilla, 21 milestone, Yong Peng/Labis Road, Johore, en route to Kluang to examine captured communist documents (9 February 1951) (photo: Leon Comber)

Malayan Police escort for deported communist supporters on board SS Anhui at Hoihow (Haikou), Hainan Island, China (May 1949). This is the only known occasion when Malayan police came face-to-face with the Chinese army (photo: Leon Comber)
Special Branch Training School, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Kuala Lumpur (1948–1960), an old dilapidated Chinese mansion which had seen better days, that was owned by a leading Malayan-Chinese family (photo: Department of Information, Kuala Lumpur)


Sir Edward Gent, Governor, Malayan Union, visiting the Police Officers Mess in June 1948 a few days before he left on his ill-fated flight to London (photo: Leon Comber)

Colonel WN Gray, Commissioner of Police, Malaya, (1948–1952) (photo: Malayan Police Magazine)

Colonel Arthur Young, Commissioner of Police, Malaya (1952–1953) (photo: Malayan Police Magazine)


WN Carbonnell, Commissioner of Police, Malaya, meeting General Phao Sriyanonth, Director-General Thai Police and Director of Thai Intelligence, at Kuala Lumpur airport (1954) (photo: Malayan Police Magazine)
Lieutenant General Sir Harold Briggs, who was employed in a civilian capacity as Director of Operations, Malaya (1950–1952) (photo: Malayan Police Magazine)

General Sir Gerald Templer, High Commissioner and Director of Operations, Malaya (1952–1954), addressing Malayan soldiers (photo: Department of Information, Kuala Lumpur)

Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra al-Haj, Malay(s)ia’s first Prime Minister (photo: Leon Comber)

The Rt Hon Malcolm MacDonald, British Commissioner-General for SE Asia, relaxing in the grounds of his residence at Bukit Serene, Johore Bahru, one of the Sultan of Johore’s palaces (photo: Leon Comber)
Dato’ Seri Yuen Yuet Leng, a senior Special Branch officer, who played an important part in ‘Operation Ginger’ (see Chapter 12). He subsequently became Chief Police Officer, Perak and filled other senior posts in the Malayan Police (photo: Dato’ Seri Yuen Yuet Leng)

Old foes meet. Chin Peng, Secretary General, Communist Party of Malaya, and Leon Comber, at the Australian National University, Canberra (February 1999) (photo: Leon Comber)
Leong Chee Woh, a senior Special Branch officer, who with Dato’ Yuen played an important part in ‘Operation Ginger’. He retired from the police as Dy Director Special Branch (Operations) Malaysia (photo: Leong Chee Woh)

Lee Meng (Lee Ten Tian Tai), the ‘Grenade Girl’, a member of the CPM’s Perak State Committee, whose arrest and sentencing to death became an international cause célèbre (see Chapter 10) (photo: Department of Information, Kuala Lumpur)