



MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed until 2 February 2016, 6pm,

BATTLE FOR SINGAPORE: THE STORIES OF WAR

National Heritage Board commemorates the 74th anniversary of the Battle for Singapore

Singapore, 2 February 2016 – This February, listen to the voices and stories from World War II in the National Heritage Board’s (NHB) commemoration of the 74th anniversary of the *Battle for Singapore*. From 12 to 28 February 2016, NHB is partnering heritage experts, community groups and Museum Roundtable (MR) member-museums in presenting Singapore’s war stories through a series of guided tours to World War II sites, special programmes at MR museums and institutions, and public talks. The *Battle for Singapore 2016* project not only observes the significance of this period in Singapore’s history, but also serves as a channel for Singaporeans today to understand the resilience and unity of our forefathers during the tumultuous war years.

2 Ms Norsaleen Salleh, Deputy Director of the Museum Roundtable Unit at NHB, said, “NHB works closely with our fellow MR museums, especially those with war-related content, heritage experts, and community groups to put together exciting, and meaningful, programmes for our annual commemoration of the *Battle for Singapore*. Programmes such as our public talks and World War II heritage tours are valuable opportunities for Singaporeans to learn more about the war period in Singapore’s history. And this year, it is especially meaningful that we have our youths working together with us on some programmes, as this is an experience quite literally beyond their textbooks. We are heartened by their passion to share their interest in our history and heritage with others, and hope more youths will do the same.”

Special Activities at Museum Roundtable Museums and Institutions

3 MR members including the National Museum of Singapore, the Battlebox, Singapore Discovery Centre, and Army Museum will be holding special programmes. Singapore Discovery Centre is offering a comprehensive guided tour, conducted by an army veteran, of the Army Museum, Reflections at Bukit Chandu and Kranji War Memorial. In addition, the Battlebox, which officially opens only in March, will be holding sneak previews of its *A Story of*

Strategy and Surrender The Battlebox Tour™ during the *Battle for Singapore* period. Please see **Annex A** for details on these special programmes.

4 The National Museum of Singapore will also be hosting a public lecture on 28 February, entitled *Voices from the Ground*. It will feature four speakers presenting different perspectives of the war based on the research and personal accounts of the people who have lived through it. The lecture will shed light on lesser-explored topics such as the pre-war and post-war experiences of the small Japanese community in Singapore, the buried wartime secrets under the Adam Park Estate, and even noteworthy stories of the war dead buried in the Bukit Brown Cemetery. Details of the talks can be found in **Annex B**.

Heritage Tours to World War II Sites

5 From 12 to 28 February 2016, NHB will offer 30 tour runs to six World War II-related sites and structures in Singapore, including Pasir Panjang Ridge, Tiong Bahru, and Mount Imbiah in Sentosa. These will be led by heritage experts and community groups such as the NUS History Society and NTU Heritage Club, as well as the Tiong Bahru Heritage Volunteers. The tour of the *Battle of Pasir Panjang*, in particular, will trace the march of the Japanese Imperial Forces and the heroism of the defence forces – Lieutenant Adnan Saidi and the Malay Regiment, in one of the fiercest and last battles fought before the surrender. These tours will be conducted in the evening to simulate, as closely as possible, the low-light conditions under which the actual battle took place. A full list of the guided tours may be found in **Annex C**.

6 Members of the public may refer to the Museum Roundtable website at www.museums.com.sg for more information and to sign-up for the programmes. Sign-up begins 3 February 2016, at 10.00am.

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About the National Heritage Board

The National Heritage Board (NHB) was formed on 1 August 1993. As the custodian of Singapore's heritage, NHB is responsible for telling the Singapore story, sharing the Singaporean experience and imparting our Singapore spirit.

NHB's mission is to preserve and celebrate the shared heritage of our diverse communities, for the purpose of education, nation-building and cultural understanding. It manages the national museums and heritage institutions, and sets policies relating to heritage sites,

monuments and the national collection. Through the national collection, NHB curates heritage programmes and presents exhibitions to connect the past, present and future generations of Singaporeans. NHB is a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Please visit www.nhb.gov.sg for more information.

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Battle for Singapore 2016**12 – 28 February 2016**

For more information and to register for the programmes, please refer to
<http://www.museums.com.sg/programme-and-exhibitions/battle-for-singapore>

Registration begins 3 February, 10.00am

The *Battle for Singapore 2016* will commemorate the 74th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore. Through a series of activities such as World War II guided tours, Museum Roundtable special programmes, and public talks, participants will learn more about the historical significance of World War II sites such as Adam Park, Mount Imbiah, and the Pasir Panjang Ridge, where many fierce battles against the Japanese forces took place, as well as stories of Singaporeans' experience and resilience in the face of adversity.

For queries, please email: nhb-battle-sg@nhb.gov.sg

I. Museum Roundtable Special Programmes

Museum Roundtable Institutions	Special Activities in February
National Museum of Singapore	WW II History Gallery Guided tour* By Museum Volunteers English Language 14, 21, 28 Feb 11am, 2pm & 3pm Mandarin Language 14 Feb 2pm Free <i>No registration required</i> Museum Volunteers will do special guided tours which begin from the WW II section of the History Gallery. Come and find out more about the WW II history of Singapore. *Regular admission charges to the galleries apply. Free admission for Singaporeans and PRs.
Singapore Discovery Centre	Lest We Forget – A Special Total Defence Day Trail 12 Mar 2pm – 5pm \$15/pax; Family/ Group Package available <i>Registration via Singapore Discovery Centre's Main ticketing</i>

	<p>counter or via email to publicprogrammes@sdcc.com.sg</p> <p>Join us with your loved ones on a special Total Defence Day (TDD) Trail that invites you to reflect on our war experience and discover how far Singapore has come as a nation. Tour highlights include a guided tour by an army veteran through the Army Museum of Singapore, the Reflections at Bukit Chandu interpretative centre, and end at the Kranji War Memorial.</p> <p>For more information please contact Ms Hayati Abdullah at publicprogrammes@sdcc.com.sg</p>
Army Museum	<p>Special Exhibition - Our Army, Our Nation's Strength*</p> <p>15 Feb – 31 Jul 16 10am – 6pm</p> <p>Embark on a journey to understand the 15 Formations of Our Army contributing towards operations readiness, the Army's core values, as well as training, responsibilities and roles. Visitors get to test out their strength, endurance, dexterity, agility and mental ability by trying out the various activity stations. Learn about jungle survival facts, skills such as building a shelter, starting a survival fire or collecting food and water.</p> <p>Activities - Tile Painting: Together We Make Singapore Strong</p> <p>13 & 14, 20 & 21 Feb 11am – 5pm</p> <p>Free</p> <p><i>No registration required</i></p> <p>Love to paint? Try your hand at tile painting and share with us through colours and art, your idea of how together as a people, we can make Singapore strong. Pick up your brushes and start painting away!</p> <p>Activities - "Be A Soldier"</p> <p>13 & 14, 20 & 21 Feb 11am – 5pm</p> <p>Free</p> <p><i>No registration required</i></p> <p>Calling all young soldiers! Come try on our kid-sized Army uniforms prepared just for you. In addition, props will be provided. Don't forget to share your photos with us on the Army Museum of Singapore Facebook page!</p> <p>*Regular admission charges to the galleries apply. Free admission for Singaporeans and PR.</p>
Battlebox	Sneak Preview: A Story of Strategy and Surrender™

	<p>The Battlebox Tour</p> <p>13 – 28 Feb / 9.45am (Tue – Sun), 11am (Tue – Sun), 1.30pm, 2.45pm, 4pm¹</p> <p>\$15/adult; \$8/child (aged 7 to 12)</p> <p>BSG Special Price for 4pm tours: \$7.50/adult; \$4/ child</p> <p><i>Registration is required via www.battlebox.com.sg</i></p> <p>An underground command centre for Malaya Command, Battlebox will open its doors daily for a sneak preview of its guided tours through the bunkers, where the momentous decision to surrender Singapore to the Japanese on 15 February 1942 was made. For a limited time, Battlebox is offering its last tour time slot of each day at half price. Visit www.battlebox.com.sg for terms and conditions.</p>
The Changi Museum	<p>Singapore's Dark Years, 1942-1945 13, 17, 18 & 19 Feb 11am BSG Special Price: \$6/pax <i>Registration will be done before the start of the tour.</i></p> <p>To mark the 74th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore, The Changi Museum is glad to announce that the in-house guided tours will be offered to the public at half price. The tour is an informative, carefully designed tour for visitors to learn about the Fall of Singapore, the Japanese Occupation and experiences of prisoners of war. The tour will bring the visitors through the entire museum and the chapel at the centre courtyard of the museum.</p> <p>Come and take this opportunity to take part in this tour and understand a dark but important chapter in Singapore's history. Visit Changi Museum's website at changimuseum.sg for more details.</p>

¹ Tickets for the last guided tour are sold at half price.

II. Public Talks - 'Voices from the Ground'

Date: 28 February 2016, Sunday

Time: 13:00 – 16:30

Venue: Gallery Theatre, National Museum of Singapore

Free

Pre-registration is required at <http://bsg2016.eventbrite.com>

Time	Programme	Synopsis
12:00 – 13:00	Registration opens	
13:00 – 13:30	<p>Talk 1:</p> <p>Speaker: Ms Goh Ngee Hui</p> <p>Goh Ngee Hui began her museum career at the now defunct Empress Place Museum, where she was involved in developing several blockbuster exhibitions featuring historical and cultural artefacts from China. In 1995, she joined the Asian Civilisations Museum and curated galleries featuring Chinese Symbolism and artefacts from the Tianminlou Collection of Imperial Porcelain. She later left to pursue a part-time career in translation and content development for arts and cultural projects. Following that, she also enjoyed a short stint at the Resorts World Sentosa as curator of the Maritime Experiential Museum, where she set up the maritime archaeological gallery on</p>	<p><u>Title: Curating the Surviving Syonan Gallery</u></p> <p>The Surviving Syonan gallery seeks to engage the audience through the voices of ordinary people, how they coped with daily life and responded with resilience, tenacity, inventiveness, resourcefulness and self-reliance during the Japanese Occupation. The speaker will shed light on the curatorial process of how the personal stories were discovered during research and eventually presented in the gallery. She will also share about how her experience of weaving the intangible aspects of these wartime stories (such as first-hand memories, personal diaries and oral history accounts) with the tangible (such as artefacts and images).</p>

	<p>the Bakau wreck. Since 2014, she has been with the National Museum of Singapore (NMS) and curated the “Surviving Syonan” gallery in the recent gallery revamp of NMS.</p>	
13:30 – 14:00	<p>Talk 2</p> <p>Speaker: Dr Sayaka Chatani</p> <p>Sayaka Chatani is a FASS postdoctoral fellow in the Department of History, the National University of Singapore. Born and raised in Japan, she studied in Tokyo, New York, Washington DC, Taipei, and Seoul, before obtaining a Ph.D. in history from Columbia University in New York in 2014. She conducts research in Japanese, Korean, and Chinese on topics related to Japanese imperialism and colonialism, social history of wartime mobilization, and politics of memory in the Asia-Pacific region. She teaches the history of East Asian international relations at the NUS.</p>	<p><u>Title: The Japanese Community in Prewar Singapore</u></p> <p>Since the turn of the twentieth century, Japanese merchants and their families migrated to the region and formed a small but vibrant community. How did they maintain their Japanese way of life and how did they acclimatize themselves to local culture? What did they read and how did they educate their children? How did World War II impact the dynamics of the community? This talk will introduce some of the primary sources as well as major research findings on the everyday lives of the Japanese residents in prewar Singapore.</p>
14:00 – 14:30	Panel Q& A	
14:30 - 15:00	Refreshments	
15:00 – 15:30	<p>Talk 3</p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Jonathan Cooper</p> <p>Jonathan Cooper is an alumni of the Centre for Battlefield</p>	<p><u>Title: Tigers in the Park – Adam Park Estate</u></p> <p>Jon Cooper's new book 'Tigers in the Park' plants the reader amidst the suburban splendor of the Adam Park Estate with a sampling of life in pre-war suburbia which eventually gives way to stories of the three day battle that took place within the Estate before Singapore fell to the Japanese forces and POW experiences through the</p>

	<p>Archaeology at Glasgow University. He wrote his first book <i>'The Heart and the Rose'</i> based on the research he had carried out about the battle of Linlithgow Bridge 1526 in his home town. He paid his way through university by writing a second work on <i>Scottish Renaissance Armies</i>.</p> <p>In 2009 Jon and his family moved to Singapore and not wanting to let his new found knowledge in battlefield archaeology fade, Jon took on the challenge of researching the WWII heritage of Adam Park and has spent the last 7 years pulling together a fascinating insight into Singapore's wartime past.</p>	<p>occupation period.</p> <p>Using newly discovered primary sources, Cooper also illustrates the stories with the various artefacts found from the many archaeological surveys carried out at the site. Richly illustrated with maps, rare archival images and stunning modern photographs of this incredible heritage site, the book also links the reader with the Adam Park Virtual Museum - Singapore's first interactive virtual battlefield website that provides the visitor with unique access to all the primary source material and images used to research the book.</p> <p>Join us for this talk to find out more about the myriad of stories buried within the Adam Park Estate's wartime past.</p>
15:30 – 16:00	<p>Talk 4</p> <p>Speaker: Ms Claire Leow & Ms Catherine Lim</p> <p>In 2012, Claire and Catherine started the blog All Things Bukit Brown (bukitbrown.com) to share the heritage, habitat and history of Bukit Brown Cemetery - the oldest Municipal Chinese Cemetery opened to all Chinese regardless of status and dialect group. They met just months before on another heritage site, the Rail Corridor.</p> <p>With a shared interest in history and heritage and a common background in journalism they became part of a community of volunteers who met on the grounds of Bukit Brown. Collectively, the "Brownies"</p>	<p><u>Title: 70 – World War II @ Bukit Brown Publication</u></p> <p>Bukit Brown Cemetery (1922-1973) is the largest cemetery in situ for the war dead during the Japanese Occupation of Singapore (1942-1945). The numbers of war dead, both civilian and volunteer forces which include those buried in mass graves in Bukit Brown, have yet to be tallied up. But some of stories have been shared by descendants with a group of volunteers who have come to be known as "Brownies" who have been conducting regular public guided walks and independent research since 2012. The stories are now part of the collection in a book called WW II@ Bukit Brown. They tell of bravery, resilience, betrayal and survival leading up to the war, under occupation and in the immediate aftermath. Editors Catherine Lim and Claire Leow will share their experience in speaking to descendants and uncovering</p>

	have organised regular talks and two exhibitions on Bukit Brown. WW II@ Bukit Brown is their first book under the banner of All Things Bukit Brown, published by Singapore Heritage Society and Ethos Books with support from the National Heritage Board's Heritage Participation grant.	these stories and rare photos from family archives which have been recovered and dusted off from family archives.
16:00 – 16:30	Panel Q& A	

III. WW II Heritage Tours

TOUR 1: MT IMBIAH BATTERY

Tour date: 13, 20, 27 February 2016

Timings: 1st tour | 09:30 – 11:30

2nd tour | 11:00 – 13:00

Meeting Point: Walkway above Bus stop B14129 (Along Telok Blangah Road near Seah Im Food Centre)

Free

Synopsis

The Imbiah Battery began life as an Infantry Redoubt in 1890, manned by 82 infantry soldiers and 19 gunners who were responsible for two 9-Pounder muzzle loading guns. It was operational from 1911 and served as the Fire Control Centre for the western half of the island. By mid 1930s, it was decommissioned and replaced by the newly built Fort Connaught Battery which was armed with three updated 9.2 inch calibre guns. Visit one of the few surviving late 19th century gun batteries built to defend Singapore including its underground passages.

Guides: Peter Stubbs, Alvin Chia, and Juliana Yeo

TOUR 2: TIONG BAHRU WWII STORIES

Tour date: 13, 27 February 2016

Timings: 1st tour | 14:00 – 15:00

2nd tour | 15:00 – 16:00

3rd tour | 16:00-17:00 * **Only for 13 Feb**

Meeting Point: Car park at Blk 78 Guan Chuan St, Singapore 160078

Free

Synopsis

The Tiong Bahru Conservation Area houses many intriguing structures. It is the only public housing building by then Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) to be built with an air raid shelter as part of its design. Join the Tiong Bahru Heritage Volunteers (TBHV) as they tour the pre-war structures and relate stories of residents who lived in one of Singapore's first public housing estates during the war years.

Guides: Tiong Bahru Heritage Volunteers

TOUR 3: THE ADAM PARK PROJECT TOURS

Tour date: 13, 14, 27 February 2016

Timings: 09:30 -11:30

Meeting Point: Heritage Marker board at junction of Adam Road and Adam Park Road. Between SPC Petrol Station & Bus Stop (B41131). Opposite the Japanese Association Building.

Free

Synopsis

Adam Park was the site of the last battle for Singapore and the place where the British succeeded in holding the line against the Japanese right up to the time of the surrender on 15th February 1942. After the surrender, the site was used as a Prisoners-of-War camp. Venture into the exciting world of battlefield archaeology and learn more about the battle at Adam Park through archaeological materials unearthed by The Adam Park Project.

Guides: Jon Cooper, Project Manager, Researcher and Battlefield Archaeologist at The Changi Museum

TOUR 4: SIME ROAD - THE HELLFIRE TOURS

Tour date: 13, 14, 27 February 2016

Timings: 14:00 – 16:00

Meeting Point: Pedestrian overhead bridge at the crossroads of Sime Rd/ Lornie Rd and Adam Road. Bus stop no. 41149 (opp. Singapore Island Country Club)

Free

Synopsis

Stretching from Sime Road to Bukit Brown cemetery, the Hellfire Tour takes you to the scene of General Yamashita's strategy for the Japanese Imperial Army to crush the defending British forces in the Battle for Singapore. The site also marks the former combined Operational Headquarters of the British Army and Royal Air Force during World War II and later became the internment camp for Allied Forces POWs after the fall of Singapore. Take a walk with Jon Cooper as he relates the stories of the soldiers who fought amongst the gravestones and the civilian internees who spent their years of captivity in the Sime Road camp.

Guides: Jon Cooper, Project Manager, Researcher and Battlefield Archaeologist at The Changi Museum

TOUR 5: BATTLE OF PASIR PANJANG

Tour date: 12, 13, 19, 20, 16, 27 February 2016

Timings: Fridays | 19:30 – 21:00

Saturdays | 1st tour | 19:30 – 21:00

| 2nd tour | 20:30 – 22:00

Meeting Point: Carpark at Haw Par Villa

Free

Synopsis

The Pasir Panjang Ridge was a strategic location of military importance. Overlooking much of Southwestern Singapore, the Ridge was the site of one of the last battles in the Battle for Singapore before the British surrender of Singapore. Join guides from the NUS History Society, NTU Heritage Club and SAF Veteran League on evening tours of the Ridge and Reflections at Bukit Chandu and trace the march of the Japanese imperial forces and the heroic exploits of the defence forces - Lt. Adnan Saidi and the men of "C" Company, 1st Malay Regiment.

Guides: NUS History Society; NTU Heritage Club; SAF Veterans League

TOUR 6: IN REMEMBRANCE OF WWII @ BUKIT BROWN CEMETERY

Tour date: 14 and 21 February 2016

Timings: Sundays | 1st tour | 9.30am – 11.30am (Guided Walk A)
| 2nd tour | 9:30am – 11:30am (Guided Walk B)

Meeting Point: Please refer to the maps & directions at
<http://bukitbrown.com/main/?p=10124>

Free

Synopsis

Discover untold tales of locals buried at the Bukit Brown Cemetery, including that of a young girl on the brink of marriage whose life was tragically cut short while attempting to protect her family from the strafing of Japanese bombs and that of Singapore's first practicing female doctor who tended to the sick and injured throughout the Occupation. Join the Brownies and discover tales of resilience, bravery and survival in what are still the darkest chapters of our island's recent history while exploring the resting place of fallen soldiers and the burial ground of civilians.

Guided Walk A (a gentler route at a gentler pace)

Meeting Point A - Pedestrian Access only

Guided Walk B (the route involves some climbing and a faster pace)

Meeting Point B - Vehicular Access with limited parking available.

Please ensure you have good walking covered shoes, sunblock, and mosquito repellent, umbrella or poncho in case of rain, and note there are no toilet facilities within the grounds.

Guides: All Things Bukit Brown

Registration T&C for Guided tours

1. Registration is on a first come, first served basis through the online ticketing platform at <http://bsg2016.eventbrite.com>;
2. Each ticket registers 1 person and up to 4 tickets can be reserved in each transaction; and
3. Tickets are non-transferable unless the organisers have been informed at least 2 days prior to the start of the tour via email at nhb-battle-sg@nhb.gov.sg

Guidelines for all tours:

1. Pre-registration is required for all WW II Heritage Tours and public talks;
2. Registration is on a first come, first served basis through the online ticketing platform;
3. Each ticket registers 1 person and up to 4 tickets can be reserved in each order;
4. Tickets are non-transferable unless the organisers have been informed at least 2 days prior to the start of the tour via email at nhb-battle-sg@nhb.gov.sg;
5. Participants are required to provide their full names, emails and contact numbers;
6. All tours will depart on schedule and participants are required to arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the tour;
7. Participants are advised to wear appropriate attire and covered walking shoes;
8. For all outdoor walks, participants are advised to bring along sun block, insect repellent, umbrellas and/or raincoats;
9. For evening tours participants are advised to bring torchlights; and
10. NHB reserves the right to amend the terms and conditions for the tours without prior notice.