



Media Release

Information to be embargoed till 28 January, 9.30am

NEW WORLD WAR II TOURS AND EXHIBITION ON WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL TO COMMEMORATE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE, 28 January 2015 – The last surviving bunker from the Armament Depot of the British Naval Base at Attap Valley, Woodlands, will be opened to public for the first time this February. The bunker tour is one of six new guided tours offered to the public as part of the National Heritage Board's Battle for Singapore project which seeks to commemorate Singapore's fall to the Japanese 73 years ago and liberation from the Japanese three years later.

Guided Tours to WWII Sites and Structures

2. NHB has partnered heritage experts and groups to organise a total of 52 tours to nine World War II (WWII) sites and structures in Singapore. Some of the new tours include tours of the Mount Imbiah Battery in Sentosa, and Sarimbun Beach where one of the first battles with the Japanese forces took place. Tours at Sime Road, Kranji War Memorial and Bukit Brown Cemetery will also unravel poignant stories of those involved in the Battle for Singapore – both soldiers and civilians. All tours are free of charge and public must register in advance as spaces are limited.

Other Commemorative Activities

3. NHB will also launch an exhibition entitled *Case Files from the Singapore War Crimes Tribunal* which will be on display at the National Museum of Singapore from 11 February to 27 March 2015. The exhibition will focus on key cases from the tribunal's investigator case files and court proceedings, and cover atrocities which happened at places such as Alexandra Hospital, Selarang Barracks, Oxley Rise, Outram Gaol as well as during *Sook Ching*, Double Tenth, and Operations Jaywick and Rimau. In addition, WWII artefacts including two machine guns recovered at the Attap Valley bunker, archival photographs, court transcripts and video clips will also be displayed.

4. Said Mr Alvin Tan, Group Director of Policy at NHB, "The Battle for and Liberation of Singapore are significant milestones in Singapore's pre-independence history. As we celebrate the nation's Golden Jubilee, it is important that we remember the Allied servicemen, the local armed forces, the civilians and the prisoners of war who survived the Second World War and honour their resilience and sacrifice."

5. Col (Ret) Lau Kee Siong, Vice President of the Singapore Armed Forces Veterans League (SAFVL), who will be one of the guides/organiser of the Kranji War

Memorial Tours, said, “We are excited to be part of NHB’s Battle for Singapore’s commemorative activities. 2015 is a milestone year for Singapore and we hope that participants will not only gain a stronger understanding of Singapore’s history through our tours, but also a better appreciation of how far we have come as a nation.”

6. For more details on the Attap Valley bunker, guided tours and the exhibition, please refer to the following annexes:

Annex A: Photographs of Attap Valley Bunker

Annex B: Guided Tours of World War II Historical Sites

Annex C: *Case Files from the Singapore War Crimes Tribunal* Exhibition

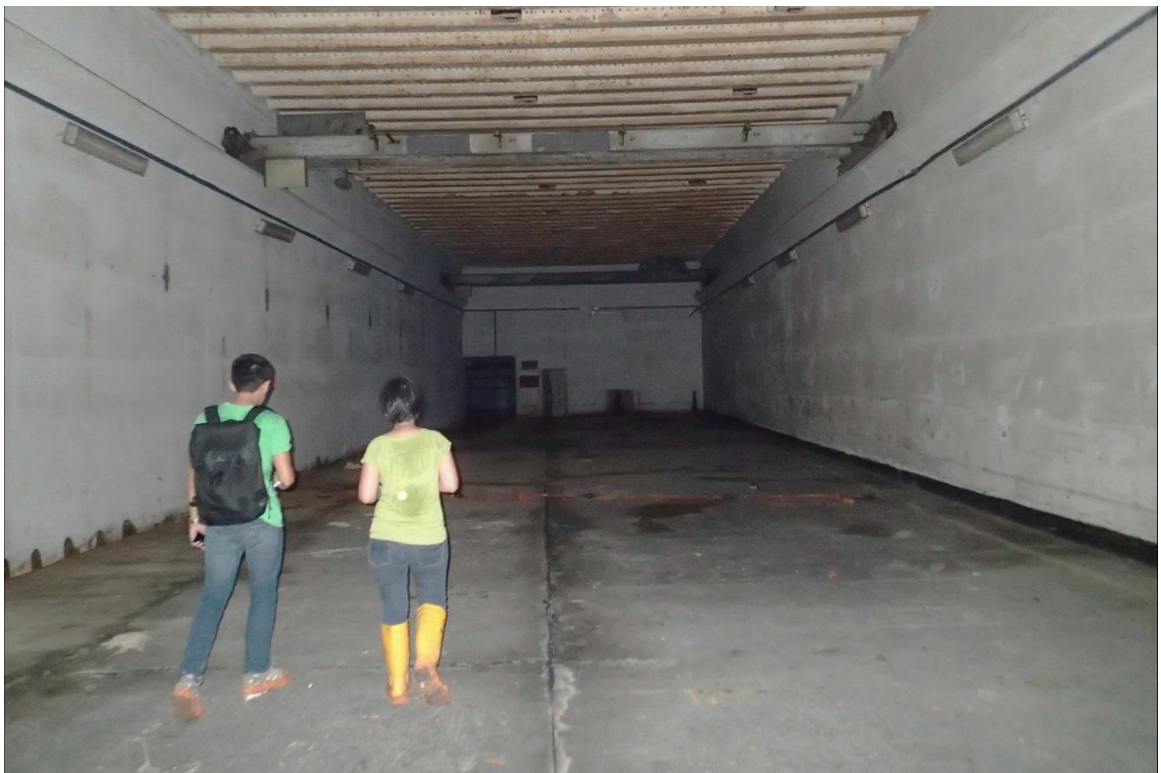
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About the National Heritage Board

The National Heritage Board (NHB) was formed on 1 August 1993. Its mission is to foster nationhood, promote identity building, and champion the development of a vibrant cultural and heritage sector in Singapore. As the custodian of Singapore’s heritage, NHB is responsible for telling the Singapore story, sharing the Singaporean experience and imparting our Singapore spirit. Through the national collection, NHB curates heritage programmes and presents exhibitions to connect the past, present and future generations of Singaporeans through a shared experience. NHB manages the national museums, community heritage institutions, Heritage Conservation Centre, Preservation of Monuments Board and the Language Councils Secretariat. NHB is a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Please visit www.nhb.gov.sg for more information.



Photograph 1: Entrance to the Attap Valley Bunker



Photograph 2: Interior of Attap Valley Bunker

BATTLE FOR SINGAPORE PROJECT – GUIDED TOURS

2015 marks the 73rd anniversary of the beginning of World War II in Southeast Asia and the Battle for Singapore and the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of Singapore. To commemorate this important period in our history, the National Heritage Board (NHB) and our partners will be organising a series of events including guided tours and talks, as well as an exhibition on the Singapore War Crimes Tribunal from February to March 2015.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL TOURS AND REGISTRATION IS ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS

TOUR 1: WWII BUNKER @ ATTAP VALLEY TOUR (NEW!)

Tour date: 7 and 14 February 2015

Timings: 1st Tour: 10.00am – 11.00am
2nd Tour: 11.00am – 12.00pm
3rd Tour: 3.00pm – 4.00pm
4th Tour: 4.00pm – 5.00pm

Meeting Point: Admiralty MRT Station Pick up point

Synopsis

The Attap Valley Bunker is the last surviving bunker from the Armament Depot of the British Naval Base. This bunker was formerly known as Magazine No. 4 and it was originally part of a network of seven underground bomb proof stores in the area built by the British to store weapons and ammunition. Join us on a tour of this well-preserved WWII bunker which will be opened to the public for the first time and learn about the design of the bunker, British preparations for the defence of Singapore and British defence policy in the region before the Second World War.

Guide:

Dr. John Kwok, Assistant Director (Research), NHB

Note:

Maximum capacity per session is 20 participants per tour, and registration is on a first come, first served basis.

Please ensure that you are appropriately attired for outdoor trekking and note that no shorts and slippers are allowed.

To register for the tours, email your particulars (i.e. name, NRIC no., email address and mobile no.) to nhb-battle-sg@nhb.gov.sg by 5 February 2015.

TOUR 2: MT. IMBIAH BATTERY (NEW!)

Tour date: 7 and 14 February 2015

Timings: 1st Tour: 9.30am – 11.30 pm
2nd Tour: 11.00am – 1.00pm

Meeting Point: Bus terminal opposite Vivocity (near Seah Im Food Centre.)

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. The Battery remained active until the mid-1930s, when it was itself replaced by the updated Fort Connaught Battery. 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

Note:

Maximum capacity per session is 20 participants per tour and on a first come, first served basis.

Please ensure that you are appropriately attired for outdoor trekking and note that no shorts and slippers are allowed.

To register for the tours, email your particulars (i.e. name, NRIC no., email address and mobile no.) to nhb-battle-sg@nhb.gov.sg by 5 February 2015.

TOUR 3: SIME ROAD – THE HELLFIRE TOURS (NEW!)

Tour date: 6, 7, 13 and 14 February 2015

Timings: 2.00pm – 4.00pm (One tour per date)

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

*Those travelling by car please park near Bukit Brown Cemetery Gates on Lorong Halwa or in the roundabout after the gates.

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.

Guide:

Jonathan Cooper

Project Manager, Researcher and Battlefield Archaeologist at The Changi Museum

Postgraduate student, Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, Glasgow University

Note:

Maximum capacity per session is 20 participants per tour and on a first come, first served basis.

Please ensure that you are appropriately attired for outdoor trekking and note that no shorts and slippers are allowed.

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TOUR 4: THE LANDING OF THE JAPANESE FORCES (NEW!)

Tour date: 6, 7, 13 and 14 February 2015

Timings: 1st Tour: 8.00pm – 9.00pm
2nd Tour: 9.30pm – 10.30pm

Meeting Point: Joon Koon Mrt Station Pick up Point

Synopsis

Sarimbun Beach marks the landing site and the first battle between the British/Australian and Japanese forces in Singapore on the evening of 8th February 1942. Join NTU Heritage Club as they take you through the accounts of events on that night and retrace the path of the battle at Sarimbun Beach where the Australians and Japanese forces fought ferociously in the mangrove forest.

Guides:

NTU Heritage Club

Note:

Maximum capacity per session is 20 participants per tour and on a first come, first served basis.

Please ensure that you are appropriately attired for outdoor trekking and note that no shorts and slippers are allowed.

To register for the tours, email your particulars (i.e. name, NRIC no., email address and mobile no.) to nhb-battle-sg@nhb.gov.sg by 5 February 2015.

TOUR 5: KRANJI WAR MEMORIAL (NEW!)

Tour date: 6 and 13 February 2015

Timings: 9.30am – 10.30am (One tour)

Tour date: 7 and 14 February 2015

Timings: 1st Tour: 9.30am – 10.30am
2nd Tour: 11.00am – 12.00pm

Meeting Point: Kranji War Memorial Entrance

Synopsis

Kranji War Cemetery commemorates more than 24,000 soldiers including a handful of nameless graves that is inscribed with the poignant epitaph “Known unto God”. Talk a walk with members from the Singapore Arm Forces Veteran League (SAFVL) through this memorial and learn more about the historical significance of the cemetery through the rich and myriad stories of these soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the defence of Singapore.

Guides:

Singapore Arm Forces Veteran League (SAFVL)

Note:

Maximum capacity per session is 20 participants per tour and on a first come, first served basis.

Please ensure that you are appropriately attired for outdoor trekking and note that no shorts and slippers are allowed.

To register for the tours, email your particulars (i.e. name, NRIC no., email address and mobile no.) to nhb-battle-sg@nhb.gov.sg by 5 February 2015.

TOUR 6: IN REMEMBRANCE OF WWII @ BUKIT BROWN CEMETERY (NEW!)

Tour date: 8 and 15 February 2015

Timings: 9.30am – 11.00am (Two tours)

Meeting Point: Main Gates of Bukit Brown @ Jalan Halwa.

Synopsis

Discover untold tales of locals buried at Bukit Brown Cemetery including a young lad who sacrificed her life to protect her family during a bomb raid, and an entrepreneur and community leader who defied the Japanese and motivated a civilian force. Learn more about these individuals buried at Bukit Brown Cemetery and find out about their acts of compassion and courage during WWII. Join the Brownies and learn more about Bukit Brown's significance as a battlefield in February 1942, the resting place of some fallen soldiers, and the burial grounds of civilians.

Guides:

All Things Bukit Brown

Note:

Maximum capacity per session is 20 participants per tour and on a first come, first served basis.

Please ensure that you are appropriately attired for outdoor trekking and note that no shorts and slippers are allowed.

To register for the tours, email your particulars (i.e. name, NRIC no., email address and mobile no.) to nhb-battle-sg@nhb.gov.sg by 5 February 2015.

TOUR 7: TIONG BAHRU AID RAID SHELTER

Tour date: 7 and 14 February 2015

Timings: 1st Tour: 3.00pm – 4.00pm

2nd Tour: 4.00pm – 5.00pm

3rd Tour: 5.00pm – 6.00pm

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

Synopsis

The air raid shelter at Blk 78 Guan Chuan Street is the last remaining pre-war civilian air raid shelter and the only public housing building by the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) to have been built with an air raid shelter as part of its design. Today, it is conserved as part of the Tiong Bahru Conservation Area. Visit Singapore's only remaining pre-war air raid shelter, nestled in the heart of 1930s Tiong Bahru, one of Singapore's first public housing estates.

Guides:

The Tiong Bahru Heritage Volunteers and Tan Teng Teng

Note:

Maximum capacity per session is 20 participants per tour and on a first come, first served basis.

To register for the tours, email your particulars (i.e. name, NRIC no., email address and mobile no.) to nhb-battle-sg@nhb.gov.sg by 5 February 2015.

TOUR 8: THE ADAM PARK PROJECT TOURS

Tour date: 6, 7, 13 and 14 February 2015

Timings: 9.30am - 11.30am (One tour per date)

Meeting Point: Along Adam Road – path leading up to NUS Guild House

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.

Guide:

Jonathan Cooper

Project Manager, Researcher and Battlefield Archaeologist at The Changi Museum

Postgraduate student, Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, Glasgow University

Note:

Maximum capacity per session is 20 participants per tour and registration is on a first come, first served basis.

Please ensure that you are appropriately attired for outdoor trekking and note that no shorts and slippers are allowed.

To register for the tours, email your particulars (i.e. name, NRIC no., email address and mobile no.) to nhb-battle-sg@nhb.gov.sg by 5 February 2015.

TOUR 9: TALES FROM THE OPIUM HILL TOUR

Tour date: 6, 7, 13 and 14 February 2015

Timings: 1st Tour: 8.00pm – 9.00pm

2nd Tour: 9.30pm – 10.30pm

Meeting Point: Carpark at the foot of Pepys Road

Synopsis

Bukit Chandu, or “Opium Hill” was a strategic location of military importance. Overlooking the northern part of Singapore, the hill was witness to one of the last battles in the Battle for Singapore before the British surrender of Singapore. Join guides from the NUS History Society on evening tours of the “Opium Hill” and discover the heroic exploits of Lt. Adnan Saidi and the men of C Company, 1st Malay Regiment.

Guides:

NUS History Society

Note:

Maximum capacity per session is 20 participants per tour and registration is on a first come, first served basis.

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To register for the tours, email your particulars (i.e. name, NRIC no., email address and mobile no.) to nhb-battle-sg@nhb.gov.sg by 5 February 2015.

BATTLE FOR SINGAPORE: CASE FILES FROM THE SINGAPORE WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL EXHIBITION

11 February – 27 March 2015
National Museum of Singapore
The Glass Atrium
Free admission

To commemorate the 73rd Anniversary of the Battle for Singapore and the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Singapore, NHB will present an exhibition titled *Case Files from the Singapore War Crimes Tribunal*. The exhibition focuses on the key WWII incidents, war time atrocities committed by the Japanese, as well as accounts of the investigations undertaken by the tribunal between 1945 and 1948.

Through the use of photographs, WWII artefacts, court transcripts and video clips, the exhibition will present key cases covering war crimes committed at Alexandra Hospital, Selarang Barracks, Oxley Rise, Outram Goal, Arab Street and on board the *Hofuku Maru*, as well as during Sook Ching, Double Tenth, and Operations Jaywick and Rimau.



Photograph 1: Japanese machine guns used in WWII, which will be on display in the exhibition



Photograph 2: Indicted Japanese war criminals standing to attention in the dock of the Singapore Supreme Court at the beginning of the trial. This photograph will be incorporated as part of the exhibition.