

REFLECTIONS AT BUKIT CHANDU

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

REVAMPED REFLECTIONS AT BUKIT CHANDU REOPENS WITH AN ENHANCED RETELLING OF THE BATTLE OF PASIR PANJANG AND THE MALAY REGIMENT

*Visitors can also look forward to the site-specific history of Pasir Panjang and Bukit Chandu with
new displays and artefacts.*



Image credit: Reflections at Bukit Chandu

Singapore, 2 September 2021 – Reflections at Bukit Chandu (RBC) will reopen its doors to the public on 9 September. Managed by the National Museum of Singapore, under the National Heritage Board, the newly revamped RBC reopens with an enhanced retelling of the story of the Malay Regiment in the Battle of Pasir Panjang, during which the heavily outnumbered soldiers from the regiment made a heroic last stand against a 13,000-strong Japanese force.

Overview of Bukit Chandu

2 The revamped World War Two interpretative centre takes visitors on an immersive journey to remember the brave soldiers of the Malay Regiment with an expanded narrative that includes the site-specific history of Pasir Panjang and Bukit Chandu. First opened in 2002, RBC

1

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of Singapore

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is housed in a bungalow that was originally built in 1930 for senior British staff of an Opium Packing Plant down the hill. RBC was closed in 2018 for major redevelopment works.

3 Chung May Khuen, Director of the National Museum of Singapore, said: “Reflections at Bukit Chandu commemorates the tenacity and heroism of the Malay Regiment in the battle of Pasir Panjang, a key moment in Singapore’s World War Two history. With this revamp, we also hope to share with visitors more insights into the pre-war character of Pasir Panjang and Bukit Chandu. RBC complements the National Museum’s World War Two galleries and the recently revamped Changi Chapel and Museum’s story of the prisoners of war and civilians interned at Changi prison camp – together, these interlinked narratives piece together the story of World War Two in Singapore. The stories of courage and resilience shared in these three institutions remain relevant to our lives today and we hope that they will continue to inspire and resonate with visitors, especially as we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore in February next year.”

An immersive experience in Bukit Chandu: Battle Point 226

4 The RBC bungalow stands close to Point 226, a military position that was the site of the Malay Regiment’s last stand against the Imperial Japanese Army on 14 February 1942. Enhanced with new artefacts and displays, the galleries on the first floor of the revamped RBC charts the regiment’s beginnings, and pays homage to their courage and sacrifice during the Battle of Pasir Panjang in the exhibition *Bukit Chandu: Battle Point 226*.

The exhibition comprises three sections:



Section 1: The Malay Regiment

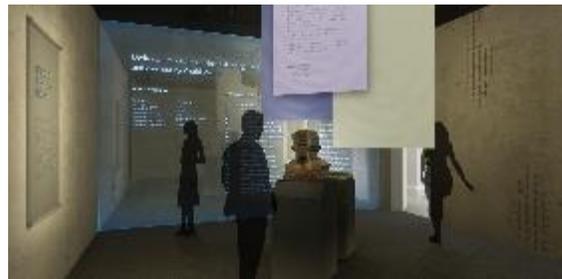
1. **The Malay Regiment:** *This section traces the origins of the Malay Regiment, from the equipment that they used to the specially designed uniform that they wore. The regiment began as the Experimental Company with 25 recruits in 1933, assembled in the Federated Malay States near Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan. In 1935, the Company was renamed the Malay Regiment, and by the time war broke out in 1941, it comprised almost 1,400 soldiers.*

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Section 2: Into Battle

- 2. Into Battle:** *This section traces the regiment's story during the defence of Malaya and Singapore against the Japanese invasion, culminating in the battle of Bukit Chandu on 14 February 1942.*



Section 3: Aftermath

- 3. Aftermath:** *By the time Singapore surrendered, more than 100 men of the Malay Regiment had been killed in action. About 600 members of the Malay Regiment who were detained were ordered to remove their uniforms and join the Japanese forces or be released as civilians. A number were executed for refusing to take off their uniforms. This section pays tribute to these men who embodied the regimental motto, Ta'at Setia ("faithful and true" in Malay), to the very end.*

5 The exhibition features familiar key artefacts such as a Malay Regiment officer's uniform and the bronze bust of Lieutenant Adnan Saidi. Those on display for the first time include a rare archival pre-war film footage featuring Lieutenant Adnan at a ceremonial parade, bullets from the Battle of Pasir Panjang that were found around Pasir Panjang Ridge in the 1970s, and bullet cases recovered from the eastern side of the bungalow's compound during an archaeological excavation in 2019. The bullet cases were identified as .303 rounds used by the British Army during World War Two and are thought to have come from the platoon led by Lieutenant Abbas Abdul Manan, the only surviving officer from the battle. A tin cup belonging to Lieutenant Ibrahim Sidek, who was detained after the surrender and killed by the Japanese for refusing to remove his uniform, is also featured alongside an excerpt of an interview with his widow. Visitors can

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also look forward to an immersive multimedia display show that tells the story of "C" Company's defence of Point 226.

6 A sculpture depicting a mortar crew of the Malay Regiment has been moved to the centre of the RBC compound and welcomes visitors to the centre. It was previously installed to commemorate the soldiers' bravery, sacrifice, and heroism in World War Two.

Tracing the legacy of Bukit Chandu

7 The history of RBC's surroundings, which predates both the war and colonial era, has been incorporated into RBC's revamp to provide a larger historical context beyond the World War Two period. Galleries on the second floor as well as on the grounds of RBC shed light on the history of Bukit Chandu ("Opium Hill" in Malay), Pasir Panjang ("Long Beach" or "Long Sand" in Malay) and the history of the RBC building from as early as the 14th century.

1. **Packing Chandu:** *Visitors can learn more about the history of opium production in Singapore and life at the Opium Packing Plant, which used to exist at the foot of the hill. Raw opium was first processed in a factory at Telok Blangah, after which it was sent to Pasir Panjang to be packed, before being sold to opium smokers in Singapore, Malaya and other countries in the region. This section also sheds light on the harm caused by opium addiction and efforts taken by local community leaders to combat it.*
2. **The Lounge:** *Visitors will get to experience how former occupants of the house would have enjoyed the sea breeze and a view of the Singapore Strait, and find out more about the history of Bukit Chandu and Pasir Panjang through archival photographs.*
3. **On the Lawn:** *Through two outdoor installations, visitors can learn about the local landmark Longyamen ("dragon's teeth gate" in Mandarin) and the pineapple plantations which used to dot this area.*

Other artefacts that were excavated at the site in 2019 and are presented in the revamped gallery include a Marseille roof tile, which was likely part of a ridge tile at the apex of a gabled roof, and a small medicine vial possibly used to contain a Chinese medicine, which may have belonged to a domestic helper employed by the bungalow's residents.

Improved galleries and facilities

8 As part of efforts to enhance the infrastructure and accessibility in RBC, new features such as a sheltered driveway and a lift to the second-floor galleries have been introduced. Visitors can also enhance their experience with the RBC chatbot which allows them to tune in to exclusive audio tours, access exhibit captions in Malay, Chinese, Tamil and Japanese, and even browse merchandise. Visitors can also check out suggestions for nearby World War Two-related sites to explore.

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Opening Weekend programmes at Reflections at Bukit Chandu

9 To commemorate the reopening of RBC, all visitors will enjoy free admission from 9 to 26 September 2021. Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents will continue to enjoy complimentary admission beyond this period.

10 The opening weekend for RBC will take place from 11 to 12 September, which also coincides with the anniversary of the surrender of the Japanese on 12 September 1945. Visitors can look forward to a self-guided scavenger hunt through the RBC galleries and complimentary livestreamed tours by the curators of RBC and Changi Chapel and Museum on Facebook Live.

*Please refer to **Annex C** for the full list of programmes.*

11 Visitors are encouraged to pre-book their museum admission tickets and sign up for the opening weekend programmes ahead of their visit. Please visit www.bukitchandu.gov.sg for the latest updates on the museum.

Media materials can be accessed via this [link](#).

1. Annex A: General information on Reflections at Bukit Chandu
2. Annex B: Visitor information on Reflections at Bukit Chandu
3. Annex C: Programmes
4. Annex D: List of key artefacts

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RBC Facebook: facebook.com/reflectionsatbukitchandu |
RBC Instagram: [@reflectionsatbukitchandu](https://instagram.com/reflectionsatbukitchandu) | **Website:** www.bukitchandu.gov.sg

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About Reflections at Bukit Chandu

Reflections at Bukit Chandu is a World War Two interpretative centre that commemorates the battle of Pasir Panjang and the men of the Malay Regiment who fought in it, as well as the history of Bukit Chandu itself. Housed in a bungalow that is closely connected to the site's history, the interpretative centre uses immersive experiences and contextual artefacts to present a multi-faceted look at Bukit Chandu and Pasir Panjang, while inviting visitors to reflect on our nation's wartime experience and the brave sacrifice of the soldiers.

About the National Museum of Singapore

With a history dating back to 1887, the National Museum of Singapore is the nation's oldest museum with a progressive mind. Its galleries adopt cutting-edge and multi-perspective ways of presenting history and culture to redefine conventional museum experience. A cultural and architectural landmark in Singapore, the Museum hosts innovative festivals and events all year round—the dynamic Night Festival, visually arresting art installations, as well as amazing performances and film screenings—in addition to presenting thought-provoking exhibitions involving critically important collections of artefacts. The programming is supported by a wide range of facilities and services including F&B, retail and a Resource Centre. The National Museum of Singapore re-opened in December 2006 after a three-year redevelopment. It refreshed its permanent galleries and re-opened them in September 2015 for Singapore's

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Golden Jubilee. In 2017, it celebrated its 130th anniversary. For more details, please visit www.nationalmuseum.sg.

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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ANNEX A

General Information



REFLECTIONS AT BUKIT CHANDU REOPENS TO SHARE STORIES OF THE MALAY REGIMENT IN THE BATTLE OF PASIR PANJANG

Reflections at Bukit Chandu (RBC) will be reopening its doors to the public on **9 September**. Managed by the National Museum of Singapore, under the National Heritage Board, the newly revamped RBC reopens with an enhanced retelling of the stories of the Malay Regiment in the Battle of Pasir Panjang, during which the heavily outnumbered soldiers from the regiment made a heroic last stand against a 13,000-strong Japanese force. The World War Two interpretative centre will also explore the site-specific history of Pasir Panjang and Bukit Chandu with new displays and artefacts.

Join us for the Opening Weekend on 11 and 12 September with a self-guided scavenger hunt that will immerse you in the galleries and surroundings. To commemorate the anniversary of the Japanese surrender, we will be offering complimentary livestreamed tours of both of our World War Two memorial sites, RBC and Changi Chapel and Museum, in September. The curator tour of RBC will be livestreamed on our [Facebook page](#) on 16 September.

For more information, please visit www.bukitchandu.gov.sg or follow us on our [Facebook](#) ([@reflectionsatbukitchandu](#)) or [Instagram](#) ([@reflectionsatbukitchandu](#)) pages.

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About the building



Image of Workers at the Opium Packing Plant, 1940s. Courtesy of American Geographical Society Library, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries. (<https://collections.lib.uwm.edu/digital/collection/agsphoto/id/30389/rec/2>)

This bungalow was originally built in 1930 along with a group of other bungalows for senior British staff of the Opium Packing Plant. Although influenced by the style of other black-and-white colonial bungalows, the bungalow also bears distinct Art Deco elements. In the 1990s, public interest led to the bungalow being conserved and used as a World War Two interpretative centre. Reflections at Bukit Chandu opened on 15 February 2002.

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ANNEX B

Reflections at Bukit Chandu Visitor Information

Reflections at Bukit Chandu

31-K Pepys Road
Singapore 118458

Enquiries: RBC@nhb.gov.sg

Facebook: [/reflectionsatbukitchandu](https://www.facebook.com/reflectionsatbukitchandu)

Website: www.bukitchandu.gov.sg

IG: [@reflectionsatbukitchandu](https://www.instagram.com/reflectionsatbukitchandu)

Opening Hours

9.30am to 5pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)
Closed every Monday except Public Holidays
Last admission at 4.30pm

Admission

For smooth and contactless entry, visitors are encouraged to pre-book their admission tickets ahead of their visit via the museum [website](http://www.bukitchandu.gov.sg) or [chatbot](#) from 6 September 2021, 12 noon onwards.

From 9 September to 26 September 2021:

Free admission for all until 26 September 2021.

From 27 September 2021:

Singapore Citizens & PRs

Free admission for Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents (please present Pink or Blue NRIC for scanning).

Tourists & Foreign Residents

Standard Adult \$ 5

Concession \$ 4* (Senior (60 years and above), Student and Special Access)

Family Package \$ 15 (For a family of 5 with maximum of 3 adults)

Enjoy \$2 off when you present a valid ticket stub from the National Museum of Singapore or Changi Chapel and Museum.

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Children 6 years and below (any nationality) enjoy free admission to the museum.

* Valid proof of identity (e.g. passport, school pass) must be presented at the Visitor Services counter to enjoy concession admission.

Getting There

Parking

Parking is not available on-site at the museum. Free parking is available at the nearest public carpark at Carpark 'C' of Kent Ridge Park located about 100m downslope from the museum.

Bus

You may alight from bus no. 10, 175, 30, 51, 176, 188 and 143 at Opp Currency Hse (15199) or Pasir Panjang Stn/FC (15191) and walk up to the museum at the top of the hill (about 750m). It will be an uphill walk of about 15-20 mins from the bus stop to the museum.

MRT

You may alight at Pasir Panjang MRT Station (CC26) on the Circle Line, and exit via Exit A. After which, please cross to the opposite side of Pasir Panjang Road and walk in the same direction of traffic for about 300m. Turn left onto Pepys Road and walk uphill for about 700m to arrive at the museum.

It will be an uphill walk of about 15-20 mins from the Pasir Panjang MRT station to the museum.

Shop

MUSEUM LABEL

NHB_museumlabel@nhb.gov.sg

Browse the full range of specially-designed MUSEUM LABEL merchandise (<https://go.gov.sg/rbcretail>) inspired by the museum's collection and publications with your mobile device. Make your selection and head to the Visitor Service counter to purchase them. Every purchase helps to support the museum and its offerings. Please refer to the appended RBC Product Catalogue for more info.

Accessibility

Reflections at Bukit Chandu is committed to ensuring an accessible and enjoyable museum experience for all. Our gallery and facilities are wheelchair and stroller accessible. Manual wheelchairs are also available at our Visitor Services counter. Exhibition captions will be available in English, Chinese, Malay, Tamil and Japanese on our mobile interactive platform as well.

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Chatbot for More

Enjoy exclusive audio tours, exhibit captions in various languages and browse shop for Reflections at Bukit Chandu merchandise on your phone with our chatbot! Listen to our audio guide, which takes you from the shores of Pasir Panjang to the last stand of the Malay Regiment. You can also check out suggestions for nearby World War Two-related sites to explore. Visit <https://go.gov.sg/rbcwelcome> and chat away!

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ANNEX C

List of Programmes

Reflections at Bukit Chandu Opening Weekend

Saturday and Sunday, 11 & 12 September 2021

*** *Pre-booking of timeslots for priority admission and online registration for opening weekend programmes will begin on 6 September 2021, 12 noon onwards.***

Free admission for all

Priority Admission with Pre-booked Timeslots

To ensure safe distancing, better crowd regulation and help create a safer environment for all, during the Opening Weekend on 11 & 12 September, visitors are advised to pre-book their admission by timeslots (930am, 1130am, 130pm and 330pm). Visitors with pre-booked admission are required to visit during the selected time and will be given priority admission to the museum. Visitors can pre-book their entry timeslots for up to 5 persons max from 6 September 2021, 12 noon. Visitors are advised to check museum crowd levels via the museum [website](#) or [chatbot](#) before their visit. Visitors without pre-booked entry timeslots may be required to return at a later time.

Programme
<p>Scavenger Hunt @ Reflections at Bukit Chandu and Changi Chapel and Museum [Self-guided] <i>11 & 12 September</i> <i>9.30am – 5pm</i></p> <p>Go on a journey through the RBC gallery and compound to uncover stories of the Malay Regiment as well as the history of the site. Follow the clues to discover our key artefacts and find out more about Bukit Chandu, and at the end of your journey, redeem a special souvenir and Grab voucher to our other World War Two memorial site, the Changi Chapel and Museum.</p> <p>No registration is required for the programme. Redemption of souvenirs and vouchers is on a first come, first served basis (while stocks last), with successful completion of the scavenger hunt. If you wish to participate in this programme, please ensure that you pre-book your admission tickets.</p>

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Curator Tour of Reflections at Bukit Chandu and Changi Chapel and Museum (Livestreamed)

16 September

To commemorate the anniversary of the end of World War Two in Singapore, we are offering online curator tours of both of our World War Two memorial sites in September.

The curator tour of Reflections at Bukit Chandu will be livestreamed on our [Facebook page](#). Hear from our curators as they share their experiences of putting the exhibition together, and learn more about the history of Bukit Chandu, and the story of the Malay Regiment and their last stand during the Battle of Pasir Panjang.

Stay tuned for more updates! Visit the Changi Chapel and Museum (CCM) website to find out more about the CCM curator tour.

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ANNEX D

List of key artefacts

No.	Artefact	Information
1		<p>[Left] Malay Regiment officer's uniform Undated Cloth, metal Collection of the National Museum of Singapore</p> <p>Malay Regiment <i>songkok</i> Undated Cloth Collection of the National Museum of Singapore</p> <p>British Army helmet Undated Steel Collection of the National Museum of Singapore</p> <p>The Malay Regiment's field uniform was based on the cotton khaki drill issued to British Army servicemen in Asia and Africa. It consisted of a khaki shirt with matching shorts, green puttees (a cloth band wound around the lower leg to provide support) over hoesocks (a footless sock), and black boots.</p> <p>For parades and other dress occasions, Malay Regiment soldiers would wear a <i>songkok</i> (a Malay headgear) bearing the regimental crest. The crest, which was designed by Major G. M. S. Bruce and Captain Kenneth Exham, features two standing tigers supporting a crown and a circle that encloses a crossed <i>keris</i> and scabbard. Inscribed</p>

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		<p>on the circle is the Regimental motto <i>Ta'at Setia</i> ("Faithful and True") in Jawi script.</p> <p>During field exercises, the men wore the standard steel helmet used by the British Army since World War One or a wide-brimmed slouch hat.</p> <p>[Right] Malay Regiment walking-out uniform and swagger stick Undated Wood, metal, cloth Collection of the National Museum of Singapore</p> <p><i>Songkok</i> 1950s Cloth Collection of the National Museum of Singapore</p> <p><i>Songkok</i> Undated Cloth Collection of the National Museum of Singapore</p> <p>The Malay Regiment's walking-out dress or regimental mufti, which soldiers donned when off duty, was based on the traditional <i>baju Melayu</i> outfit worn by Malay men during formal occasions.</p> <p>A swagger stick also formed part of the walking-out ensemble before the war. This short cane was usually tucked under the arm and was a symbol of authority.</p>
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2		<p>British .303-inch projectiles 1940s Metal Collection of the National Museum of Singapore</p> <p>These bullet cases were recovered from the eastern side of the bungalow's compound during an archaeological excavation in 2019. They have been identified as .303 rounds used by the British Army during World War Two and are thought to have come from Lieutenant Abbas Abdul Manan's platoon, which was stationed at the southeast side of Bukit Chandu, firing towards the west.</p>
3		<p>British Army entrenching set 1942–1945 Cloth, metal Collection of the National Museum of Singapore</p> <p>Slit trenches were dug in defensive positions to help protect soldiers from shrapnel and enemy fire. This set of entrenching tools was issued to all non-commissioned infantry soldiers. It consists of a cast-iron head with a shovel end and pick end; a handle that slots into the hole of the head; and a webbing cover with loops and buckles for securing the handle. Apart from digging, it was also used as a combat weapon.</p>
4		<p>[Top] Lee-Enfield rifles c1940s Wood, metal Collection of the National Museum of Singapore</p> <p>[Bottom] Enfield No. 2 Mk 1 Revolver 1942–1945 Wood, metal Collection of the National Museum of Singapore</p>

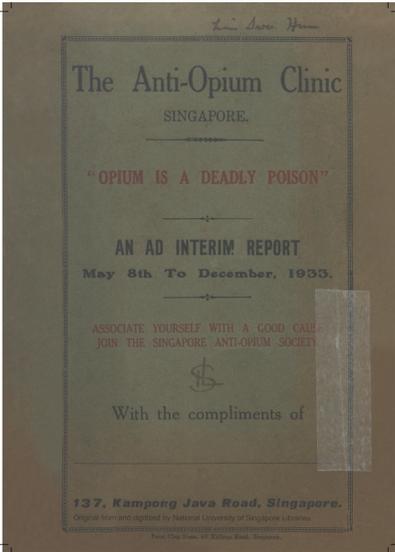
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		<p>Even before the war, the Malay Regiment enjoyed a reputation for their marksmanship. As infantry troops, they each carried a Lee-Enfield rifle. Officers were also issued an Enfield No. 2 revolver as a sidearm.</p>
5		<p>Bren Mk II light machine-gun with tripod Undated Metal Collection of the National Museum of Singapore</p> <p>The men of the Malay Regiment were also known for their proficiency with the Bren gun. This light machine-gun entered service in 1937 and became known for its ease-of-use, reliability, and accuracy. The name Bren combined Brno (a Czech town where the gun was designed) and Enfield (its British manufacturer). The Bren gun required a two-man team: one to shoot and another to reload the 30-round curved magazine. It was accurate at up to 550 metres, with a maximum range of 1,700 metres.</p>
6		<p>Bullet Projectiles 1940s Metal Gift of the Harmer family Collection of the National Museum of Singapore</p> <p>These bullets were found by Paul and Martin Harmer around Pasir Panjang Ridge with the use of a metal detector in the 1970s.</p>

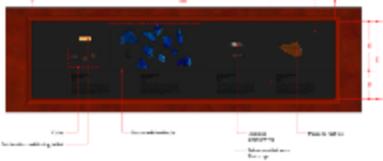
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7	 A bronze bust of Lieutenant Adnan Saidi, a soldier in uniform, displayed on a white pedestal in a museum setting.	<p>Bronze bust of Lieutenant Adnan Saidi 2002 Yeo Chee Kiong Collection of the National Museum of Singapore</p> <p>A soldier who chose honour above self and sacrifice before surrender, Adnan Saidi is recognised as one who embodied the motto of the Malay Regiment, <i>Ta'at Setia</i>. Born in 1915 at Kampong Sungei Ramal near Kajang, Selangor, Adnan attended Pekan Sungei Ramal School and was a teacher there before he joined the Malay Regiment in 1933.</p> <p>He was voted the best recruit by his commanding officer in 1934 and became a sergeant in 1936. In 1937, Adnan represented the Malay Regiment at the coronation of King George VI in London. After returning to Singapore, he was eventually commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant.</p> <p>In 1941, Adnan's wife Sophia Pakih Muda and his two sons joined him in Singapore, where they had a house in Pasir Panjang. But in December, Adnan sent his family back to Kajang as the Malay Regiment prepared for war.</p>
8	 A simple, cylindrical metal mess cup, likely made of tin, sitting on a white surface.	<p>Mess cup c1930s Tin Collection of the National Museum of Singapore</p> <p>Lieutenant Ibrahim Sidek was one of the pioneer recruits to the Malay Regiment in March 1933. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1936.</p> <p>During the Battle of Pasir Panjang, Lieutenant Ibrahim fought with "B" Company, 2nd Battalion,</p>

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		<p>which was deployed between Ayer Rajah Road and the Gap. After the surrender, he was executed by the Japanese on 28 February 1942.</p> <p>This tin mess cup, which he owned, is the only memento that Sharifah Khadijah Hamid had of her husband.</p>
9		<p>Anti-Opium Clinic interim report (reproduction) 1933 National University of Singapore Library</p> <p>The campaign against opium and the harm it caused was led by community leaders such as Dr Lim Boon Keng and Dr Chen Su Lan. A member of the Straits Settlements Legislative Council, Dr Lim (1869–1957) was a founding member of the Anti-Opium Society and wrote a number of articles condemning the habit.</p> <p>Like Dr Lim, Dr Chen (1885–1972) was a medical doctor, philanthropist, and social reformer who fought against opium. He opened the Singapore Anti-Opium Clinic in May 1933. The clinic was located at 137 Kampong Java Road in a bungalow and could house about 125 patients. Its supporters included prominent businessmen such as Aw Boon Haw and Lim Kim Tian.</p> <p>Dr Chen treated about 6,000 addicts at the clinic before it closed in March 1938. After the war, the building became the Good Shepherd Convent School and was eventually demolished in the 1980s.</p>
10		<p>Watercolour sketch of the western entrance to Keppel Harbour c1845–1848 John Turnbull Thomson Collection of the National Museum of Singapore</p> <p>This painting shows one of the pillar-like rocks that made up Longyamen, with Bukit Chermin in the</p>

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		<p>background. Known to locals as Batu Berlayar or “Sailing Rock”, this natural column stood close to the present Labrador Park, facing Tanjong Rimau, the westernmost point of Pulau Blakang Mati. The rocks that made up Longyamen were blown up in 1848 to widen the entrance to New Harbour, later named Keppel Harbour.</p>
12		<p>Bob Martin conditioning tablet container 1950s</p> <p>This showcase features artefacts from an archaeological dig around the bungalow in 2019. Among the items uncovered was a Bakelite canister used to hold conditioning tablets or supplements for dogs. The manufacturer, Bob Martin, was founded in 1892 and is still active today. Recovered from the same layer as the container were three British North Borneo one-cent and five-cent coins minted in 1961 and 1962.</p>
13		<p>Medicine vial Early to mid-20th century</p> <p>Talisman with Lanna script Late 20th century</p> <p>This small glass bottle was recovered from the south side of the compound. This bottle was handblown, which resulted in its whittled texture and visible bubbles within the glass. The bottle’s size and design suggest that it was used as a Chinese medicine vial, perhaps by a domestic helper employed by the bungalow’s residents.</p> <p>Found in a more recent soil layer was a silver and glass talisman containing a scroll inscribed with Lanna (a northern Thai) script. This talisman may have belonged to a Thai labourer working in Singapore in the 1980s or 1990s.</p>

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		<p>Marseille roof tile Early 20th century</p> <p>This is a fragment of a ceramic roof tile produced by Guichard Carvin & Cie, a French firm. Made from fired clay, such tiles were invented in 1851 and known as Marseille tiles. They became popular in Singapore in the early 20thth century. This fragment was likely part of a ridge tile at the apex of a gabled roof.</p>
14		<p>Detail from Map of the Island of Singapore and its Dependencies 1868 Collection of the National Museum of Singapore</p> <p>As a toponym, “Pasir Panjang” is believed to date from the 16th century or earlier. In 1596, the Dutch navigator Jan Huyghen van Linschoten referred to Pasir Panjang as a <i>lange strand</i> (“long sandy beach” in Dutch). This map shows various 19th-century landmarks and places along Pasir Panjang, such as Batu Berlayar, Ayer Nipah, Ayer Raja, and Tanjong Penjuru where “C” Company of the Malay Regiment was initially deployed in 1942.</p>
15		<p>Motor race at the Gap 1927 Courtesy of the Singapore Sports Council</p> <p>Buona Vista Road offers a scenic route that drivers have taken advantage of since the early 1900s. At that time, the surrounding hills were dominated by pineapple and rubber estates.</p> <p>This photograph shows what was possibly the first motoring event at Buona Vista Road, which was</p>

REFLECTIONS AT BUKIT CHANDU

		<p>organised by the Singapore Volunteer Corps in 1927.</p>
17		<p>Orang Seletar in their houseboats, Johor Strait 1950s Ivan Polunin Collection, courtesy of National Archives of Singapore</p> <p>The boats of the Orang Selat at Pasir Panjang likely resembled these vessels of their fellow Orang Laut, the Orang Seletar who dwelt along Singapore’s northern coast.</p> <p>Between the 14th and 17th centuries, mariners sailing from India to China knew Pasir Panjang as a <i>lange strand</i> (“long sandy beach”) that led to the entrance of the Old Strait of Singapore, which was known as Longyamen. This narrow maritime passage contained many hidden shoals, reefs and rocks, making it a hazard for sailors unfamiliar with the area.</p> <p>To guide them through these treacherous waters, sailors turned to the people who dwelt along the strait, who were known as Orang Selat or <i>Saletes</i>.</p> <p>The Orang Selat were armed with <i>keris</i> and short spears made from wild palms called <i>seligi</i>. They were a maritime folk who seldom set foot on land; their boats doubled as homes for their families and livestock. These boats were partly covered by a low thatched roof called a <i>kajang</i>, and were similar to those of other Orang Laut (“Sea People”) such as the Orang Seletar.</p>