The Japanese Occupation:
SINGAPORE
1942-1945
日本线治下的豺加坡

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1942-1945 日本绕治下的豺加坡

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Foreword

The exhibition together with this book attempt to pictorially portray how Singapore was captured by the Japanese on 15 Feb 1942, only 55 days after landing at Kota Bahru (a town located on the north-eastern tip of the Malay Peninsula) and what life was like during the ensuing 3 years and 8 months ending 12 September 1945.

Until her capture, Singapore was thought to be impregnable, the "British Gibraltar of the East". She was contented to be a British Colony. Life was kept simple and peaceful. On 15 Feb 1942, the myth of the invincibility of the Fortress of Singapore and British supremacy was shattered. The British surrendered and Singapore, renamed Syonan-to, came under the administrative charge of an Asian master, the Japanese.

As with all wars, there were the gruesome and violent aspects – the brutality of the tortures meted out by the Kempeitai, the massacre of the Chinese, the robbing and raping of defenceless women. As the vanquished, the expatriates also suffered a great deal as prisoners-of-war. There was total loss of freedom, food shortages and business came to a halt. It was revived to some extent during the occupation years. For all who

lived through this period, the experiences were most traumatic. Many senior Singaporeans can recall vividly the extreme hardships they suffered.

And yet, the Japanese Occupation lacked documentation. The Japanese Administration left no written records behind in Singapore. Thus in 1981 we embarked on a project to collect oral recordings and to look for documents, photographs and all kinds of paraphenalia related to the war and the occupation. To date, the department has interviewed 151 persons and collected 572 hours of recordings on tape. In addition we have collected and copied all photographs and documents.

This exhibition of 160 photographs and 104 documents would not have been possible without the Interviewees' contributions. We organise this exhibition to express our appreciation to them and to share their experiences with young Singaporeans who have not lived through the war and the occupation. However, there are still gaps in the documentation which we hope to fill. We appeal to all Singaporeans to come forward if they have stories to tell, photographs, documents or articles to add to our collection.

Mrs Lily Tan

Ag Director
Archives & Oral History Department
January 1985

前言

这一次的展览会连同出版的这本图片集,旨在通过图片反映日军如何在哥打客鲁(位于马来半岛东北部的一个市镇)登陆五十五天后,於一九四二年二月十五日攻陷新加坡,以及人民在这三年八个月里(至一九四五年九月十二日止)的生活。

在日军未占领之前,新加坡被认为是攻不破的东方直布罗陀。她安於做英国的殖民地,人民的生活简单安宁。然而一九四二年二月十五日这一天,终於粉碎了新加坡是牢不可破的堡垒以及英国人是至高无上的神话。英国人投降后,新加坡改名"昭南岛",由亚洲主人——日本人管理。

和所有的战争一样,这段时期有着它可怕和残暴的一面——日本宪兵的严厉酷刑,华人的遭屠杀、财产的被掠夺、手无寸铁的妇女被糟踏。战败的英国人,也成了战俘,吃了不少苦头。人民丧失自由,粮食缺

乏。商业停顿,直至占领后才略为恢复。对於所有经 历过这个时期的人士,这段回忆是惨痛的。许多老一 辈的新加坡人对当时的艰苦生活,记忆犹新。

然而,日本占领时期的这一段历史却缺乏文献记录。在新加坡,日军政府並没有留下任何档案。因此本馆於一九八一年开始收集与日军占领时期有关的口述历史录音访谈、文物、照片等等。至今,本馆已访问了一百五十一名人士,共做了五百七十二小时的录音,同时也收集和复制了有关之相片和文物。

承蒙受访者的捐献,本馆方能在此次展览中展出一百六十帧照片及一百零四件文物。因此,举办这次展览是借此向捐献者致谢,其次是要让从未经历过战火洗礼的年轻一代的新加坡人了解身历者的经验。我们希望弥补文献记载的不足;在此,我们恳请所有新加坡人前来忆述个人的经历或捐献照片、文件或文物,以便充实我们的历史记录。

陈罗伶俐女士

档案与口述历史馆 代馆长 一九八五年一月

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WAR SITUATION (1937-1941) 大战局势



THE FALL OF SINGAPORE 新加坡沦陷

Even as funds were raised for victims of the war in China and Europe in the late thirties, the probability of a war on Singapore soil had never been considered ... not even with the remotest possibility. After all, Singapore under the British was invulnerable to attack; or so at least everyone thought...

在三十年代末期,当本地人纷纷捐款赈济中国和 欧洲的战争难民时,谁也料想不到战事会伸延到新加 坡本土上。每个人都这么想:在大英帝国庇护下,新 加坡是无懈可击的…







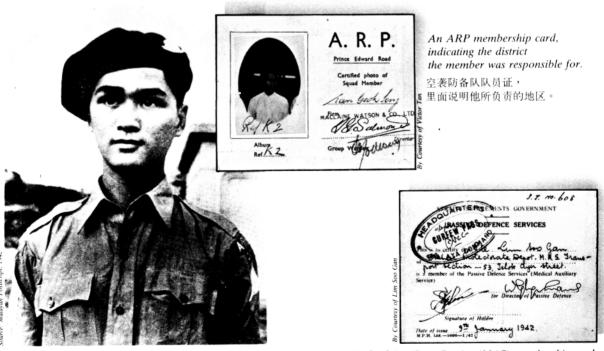
Coastal areas were covered with wire entanglements, minefields, log barriers and pillboxes at strategic points to make amphibious operations difficult. These were deemed sufficient to repel an initial attack.

沿海一带的军事要点都布防了铁丝网、水雷、障碍木和枪堡,使两栖作战困难。 这些布署足以击退任何先头部队发动的攻击。



Local people were recruited to help in the defence of Singapore. They were taught first aid and fire-fighting skills.

本地居民也被征召加入防卫工作。他们都接受了救伤和救火的训练。



An Air-raid Precaution (ARP) warden. 这是一名空袭防备队队长。

A Medical Auxiliary Service (MAS) membership card. 辅助救伤队队员证。



Two battalions of the Straits Settlements Volunteer Forces (SSVF) stationed in Singapore.
They were mobilised a few days before the outbreak of war and were sent to defend the beaches.
有两营海峡殖民地义勇军驻守新加坡。在战事爆发前几日,他们被动员前往防守海岸。



The Malay Regiment, another local defence force. 另一支本地防卫军力是马来兵团。



Local people were encouraged to join the SSVF or to volunteer for civil defence work. Although many came forward, few did so with war in mind.

本地民众也被鼓励参加殖民地义勇军或民防工作,有不少人前往报名。但许多人都没想到战争会爆发。



The Sino-Japanese War broke out on 7 July 1937.
The local Chinese quickly rallied to the help of their compatriots.
On 15 August 1937, Tan Kah Kee was selected as the leader and president of the Singapore Chinese China Relief General Association (SCCRGA), to co-ordinate relief efforts of all the dialect groups in Singapore.

- 一九三七年七月七日,中日战争爆发了。本地华侨迅速团结起来,援助他们的同胞。
- 一九三七年八月十五日,陈嘉庚当选为新华筹赈会主席,由他协调及策划各帮的筹款工作。

Identification badges such as this were given to committee members of the various relief sectors.

各个筹赈小组的执委都有一枚徽章,以示身份。



By Courtesy of Teong Ah Chin



A receipt issued to donors.

Clan associations, businesses and inc

Clan associations, businesses and individuals were called upon to donate money to the relief fund.

这是筹赈会所发的收条。

他们呼吁会馆、商家和个人,捐款赈济受战争影响的同胞。



A group of youths who helped raise funds by selling flowers.

Other methods of collecting funds included drama presentations,
fairs and variety performances. Occasionally, "Popular Speech Meetings"
were held to inform people of the war situation in China
as well as to solicit contributions.

图示一队青年卖花队。 其他筹款的方法包括戏剧演出,义卖会和游艺会。偶尔也有"通俗演讲", 向民众报告中国的战局,同时恳求捐款。

An anti-Japanese boycott organised at the same time as the relief fund (by another group) put tremendous pressure on the local Chinese to stop buying, selling or using Japanese goods.

A notice in the press denying its advertiser had any

A notice in the press denying its advertiser had any dealings with the Japanese gives evidence of such pressure.

- 另一个团体则发起抵制日货运动,向民众施以强大压力,
 - 劝阻他们不买、不卖与不用日货。
- 这是一则有关商家否认与日人通商的通告,压力之大,由此可见一斑。

Source: Sin Chew Jit Pau 之初



War relief activities were also organised in aid of war victims in Britain. Fund-raising stamps like this one were sold.

All these efforts were made on behalf of victims of war in other countries. Little did the local people dream that

they would soon be fighting a war on Singapore soil.

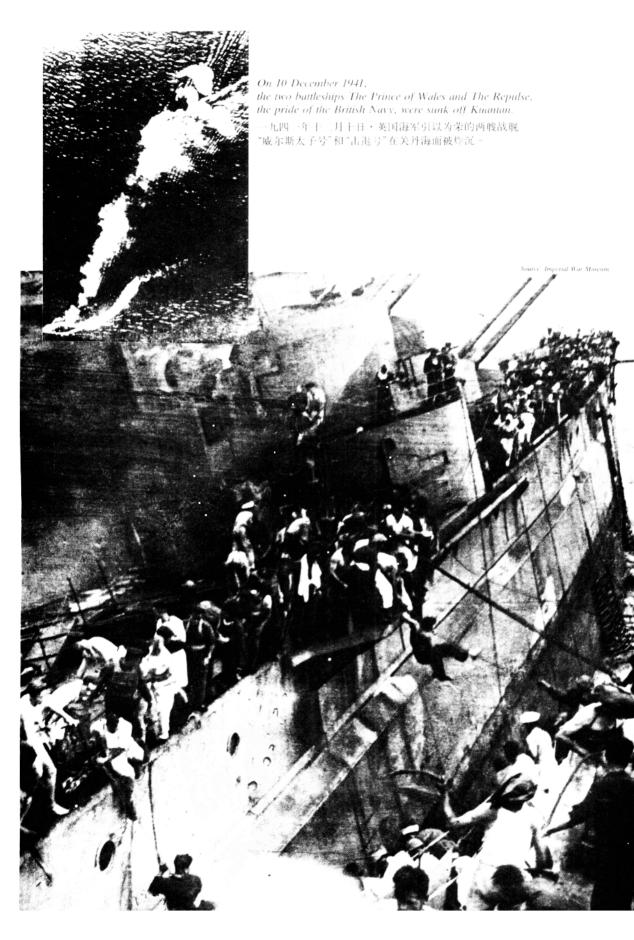
赈济英国战争难民的活动也展开了,他们通过发行邮票来筹款。 正当救济他国难民的活动如火如荼的展开时,本地民众做梦也想不到 战火会漫延到新加坡本土上。



On 8 December 1941, Japanese troops made a surprise landing at Kota Bahru, Malaya. 一九四一年十二月八日,日军突然在马来亚的哥打零鲁登陆。



At the same time, Japanese air planes bombed Singapore. 同一天,新加坡遭受空袭。





Swiftly and steadily, Japanese troops pushed southwards after the initial surprise attack. British troops were forced to take up defensive positions, as each major Malayan city fell to the Japanese.

日军快速地向南推进。 在马来亚大城市逐个失守后,英军被迫采取守势。



Labouring frantically, civil defence workers cleared streets, extinguished fires, removed inflammable or explosive stores from bombed areas and helped the wounded.

民防队员慌乱地工作,清理街道,救火, 将可燃物体从轰炸区移走,同时协助伤者。

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