

# END OF JAPANESE RULE IN SINGAPORE

- 12 Sep: Surrender Ceremony held at the Municipal building
- "Whispering terror" in the weeks before the arrival of Allied forces
  - Chinese youths sought out and killed collaborators
- · Breakdown of law and order
  - Widespread looting
- Copycat reprisals against Japanese soldiers



Allied prisoners of war piling out of the main gate of the Changi Prison after the British liberation of Singapore in September of 1945



# The Straits Times

SENEAPORE, FIRMAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 154

### SINGAPORE IS BRITISH ACAIN!

DAY OF LIBERATION

### Reoccupation Proceeds In City colaze With Allied Flags

The re-sceupat n of Singapore by British reoccupation by British es, following tra formal surrender of Japan and forces is a military adminisacceptance of the terms of the Potsdam tration aration at Taio last Sunday, began on dnesday, thus beinging to an end the period of panese occupation which began on February 16, responsibilities over all per-1942, and which he thus lasted 1318 days.

A large convey of transports, supply ships, mechanical ransp of ships and other special craft steamed into the Singapore roads soon after midlay under the low ring clouds of a rainstorm. The ernisers Sussex and Cleopatra, together with destroyers and the minesweepers which had cleared path through the leavily mined Straits of Malacca, administration were already here

First to land was the vanguard of over a hundred Malaya's New G.O.C. everywhere wall now be fully restored. rous convergenced representing all the leading news- Four important preclamations papers and news at ones of the world

### Japanese Guara Poute

All important as set junctions in the city were guarded Japanese soldies who also kept clear the main route

may station, while others landed at Katong.

There were estimated to be 60,000 Japanese troops on

The occupying moons are drawn from the 15th, Indian of mps, fresh from ing and heavy fighting in Burms and of the Stratts Settlements and mmaeded by I ut General Sir Philip Christison.

The primeter of the occupation troops on the first. There will also be District

### Malaya Finished With Tokyo Time

### British Military Administration, Malaya

### **NEW AUTHORITY'S POWERS**

tion of Malaya following the

force. They will be implemented

AFP Christison, General Officer, darkness and suffering

burts to try emplical cases and

### Japanese Aftermath

### KING'S MESSAGE TO MALAYA

### SECURITY AND "PEACE, HAPPINESS"

One of the most theilling and moving surprises of last Wednesday, the day on which the reoccupation of Singapore by British forces began, was 'ee broadcasting from the Singapore station o'el of The Supreme Albed Com- special message from his Majesty the King to Bt., mander. South-East Asia, people of Malayn shortly after the first landings ( the will assume full powers and taken place at the wharves. The text of from

Now that final victory over the forces of aggress tary states which the Japanese has been achieved, I send to my peoples and to the peop under my protection in the Far East, who have suffers The laws in force in Malaya the horrors of Japanese concession, a message of war 192 monoglately before the Japanese sympathy and heartfelt thanksgiving on their deliverance. A

The thoughts of the Queen and myself have been turing the period of military constantly with you during your years of suffering so as bravely borne, and, with the dawn of the Day of Liberation, we relaice with you that the ties which unite my people

I know full well that these ties of loyalty and affecby the British Military Admini- tion netween myself and my Far Eastern peoples have stration have been issued in never been broken, but they have been maintained in

The time has now come when their strength and per-One proclamation establishes manence will again be displayed in triumph before the from the focks along Collyer Quay and up Stamford military courts for the adminia- whole world. The traces of a cruel and ruthless oppresmal law during sion cannot be wiped out in a day, and the work of reof military administ storation will be long and heavy, but it is a work in which g first spread brough the whole of the Tanjong established a Seperior Court we shall be united in price and in confidence, sure in ar and Keppe Harbour dock areas and the terminal sitting as a British Officer Court faith that Peace, Security and Happiness will, with God's

### BACK AGAIN!

The Scratte Times extends

never you brought our on Natar Say, February 14, 1982, the day before the full of Singepore

### Lady Thomas Hoists The Union Jack

# END OF JAPANESE RULE IN SINGAPORE

"I said it then, and I still say it today—that day was the end of the Dark Age of Singapore."

- Heng Chiang Ki

Straits Times, 11 Sep 1995

"We cheered the British and jeered at the Japanese. I felt great. It was as if I had started living all over again."

- Ngui Jim Chiang

Straits Times, 11 Sep 1995

- Desire for independence
  - Loss of respect for British rule because of their failure to protect Malaya.
  - Myth of white superiority collapsed: quick victory of the Japanese showed that Europeans were not superior to Asians.
  - Effect of Japanese propaganda claiming to liberate Asia from colonial rule and encouraging 'Asia for Asians'
  - Banding together of different races against common enemy in a time of adversity.
  - Some people therefore believed in the need to rid Singapore of foreign masters and rule their own nation.

- Expansion of Malayan Communist Party (MCP)
  - Most MPAJA members were supporters of the MCP
  - Posed as people's heroes after the Japanese surrender and so managed to win supporters
  - Given men, training, weapons which they hid after the war
  - Made a legal party after the war in recognition of their efforts
- British needed to fulfill their mandate to restore order and living conditions



"The regime was welcomed back with genuine relief because it was benign, its weaknesses were sins of omission, its memory was not marred by cruelty, or dragooning the population. Nevertheless, the only ultimate justification for a colonial power was its ability to protect, and in this the British colonial regime had been tried and found wanting. The old unquestioning trust in British protection had been shattered forever."

- C.M. Turnbull

"The halo of victory must shine on the Union Jack, but today there remains little vestige of its glory of former times."

"The bronze statue of Raffles appeared on its pedestal for the second time; but without anyone knowing the reason, its colour appeared to have faded."

- COL Masanobu Tsuji



"The prestige of the white man per se has gone. He can now be natural and himself, for he is seen to be a human being, who can be defeated, who can make mistakes, who is often arrogant and crude and yet who has his points... Asia has awakened to its shame and arisen to take its destiny into its own hands... In the new era there will be an end of Empire."

- Tan Cheng Lock



Question:

Why do we need to study the Japanese Occupation?

# History and Today









