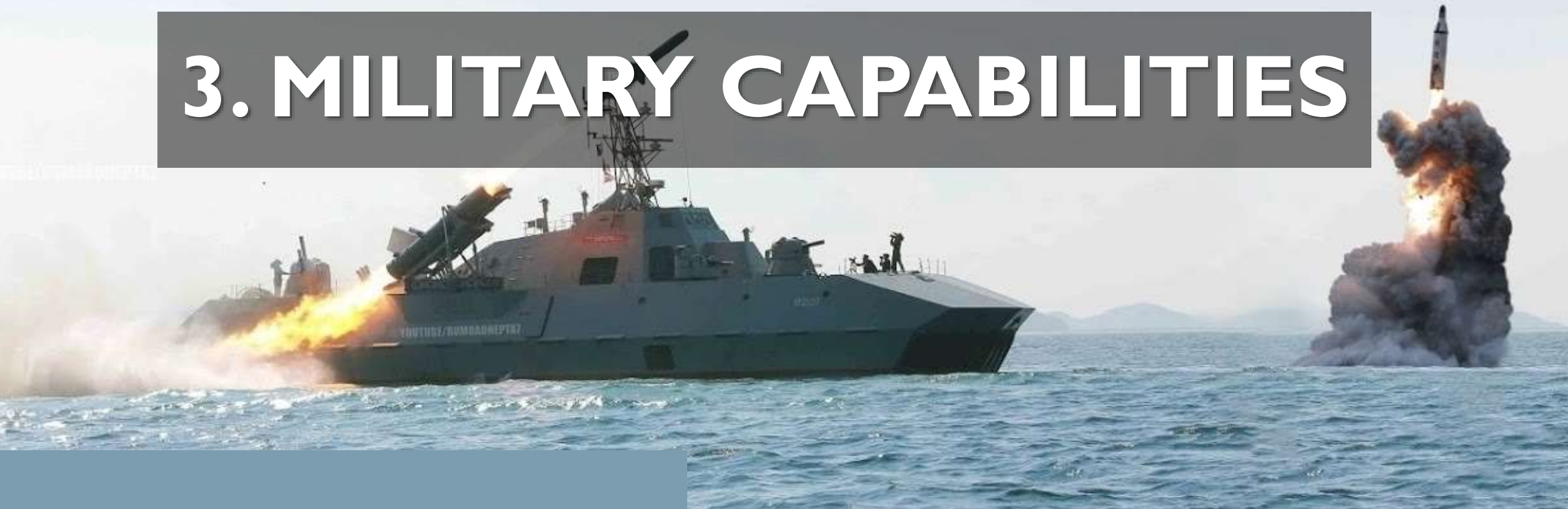




### 3. MILITARY CAPABILITIES





# BRITISH LAND FORCES

## MALAYA COMMAND

- Indian III Corps
- Malaya Regiment
- 53<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade

## AUSTRALIAN ARMY

- 8<sup>th</sup> Division
- 120,000 troops in total

➔ Nature and impact?







# BRITISH LAND FORCES

Poorly  
equipped, with  
**no access to  
tanks** and had  
few anti-tank  
guns





# BRITISH AIR: THE AMERICAN-BUILT BREWSTER BUFFALO



- Top Speed: 504 km/h
- Range: 1,555 km
- Rate of Climb: 2,300 feet per minute
- Service Ceiling: 33,202 ft
- Armament: 4 x 7.7 mm aircraft machine guns



# BRITISH NAVAL POWER

Despite initial plans to send a fleet of **seven battleships** to the Far East, only **two** were sent to Malaya

- Prince of Wales
- Repulse







# JAPANESE FORCES: LAND AND AIR

## 25<sup>th</sup> ARMY

- Imperial Guards
- 5<sup>th</sup> Division
- 18<sup>th</sup> Division
- IJA 3<sup>rd</sup> Air Corps
- 3 Sentai of the IJA 5<sup>th</sup> Air Corps
- IJN 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Flotilla



## INTENT

The ENY intent is to secure SEA so as to exploit resources



# JAPANESE ZERO FIGHTER



- Top Speed: 570 km/h
- Range: 1,920 km
- Rate of Climb: 3,100 feet per minute
- Service Ceiling: 37,730 feet
- Armament: 2 x 20mm Type 99-1 Cannon, plus 2 x 7.7 mm aircraft machine guns

## BRITISH VS. JAPANESE FORCES

### British Brewster Buffalo

Top Speed: 504 km/h

Range: 1,555 km

Rate of Climb: 2,300 feet per minute

Service Ceiling: 33,202 feet

Armament: 4 x 7.7 mm aircraft machine guns



### Japanese Zero Fighter

Top Speed: 570 km/h

Range: 1,920 km

Rate of Climb: 3,100 feet per minute

Service Ceiling: 37,730 feet

Armament: 2 x 20mm Type 99-1 Cannon, plus 2 x 7.7 mm aircraft machine guns







# JAPANESE FORCES IN MALAYA

- In contrast, the Japanese army was a **homogeneous force** of 70,000 battle-hardened soldiers
- Most of the Japanese soldiers had **lots of experience** fighting in China, and had trained extensively in the jungles of Taiwan
- Japanese forces were well equipped with **tanks**
- The Japanese Air Force possessed the fearsome Zero fighter, which could **turn better and faster** than any plane the Allies possessed



# JAPANESE HA-GO LIGHT TANK



**protection**

**psychological effect**





**JAPANESE  
TROOPS ON  
BICYCLES ON  
THE MOVE:  
WHY WAS THIS  
CONSIDERED  
THEIR  
“SECRET  
WEAPON”?**

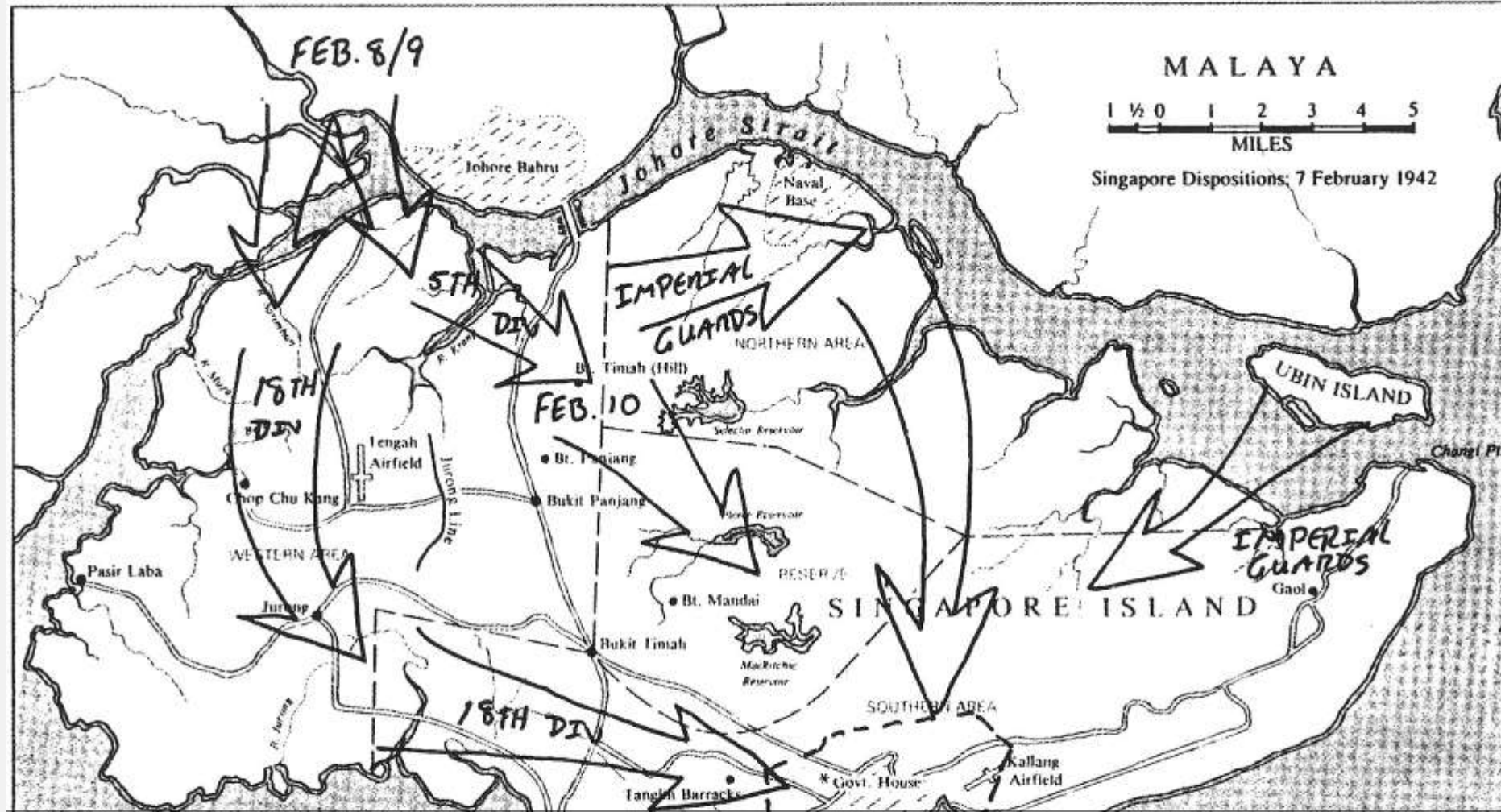




# JAPANESE VS. BRITISH MILITARY FORCE

JAPANESE FORCES	BRITISH FORCES
70,000 soldiers, many of whom are battle-hardened from the war in China	140,000 British, Indian, Australian and Malayan soldiers
<b>617 aircraft, including the latest “Zero” fighters</b>	280 aircraft, composed mainly of the outdated “Brewster Buffalo”
400 artillery pieces	810 artillery pieces
<b>120 tanks</b>	0 tanks; 208+ anti-tank and anti-aircraft guns
<b>Bicycles</b>	





# 4. STRATEGY

Singapore Dispositions : 7 February 1942

SURRENDER  
PERIMETER  
FEB. 15, 1942



(Plan, Propaganda, Preparation, Execution)



# THE GEOGRAPHY OF MALAYA

## TERRAIN IN GENERAL

- Mountainous
- Dense jungles
- Mangrove swamps

## SIZE

- Length - 748KM
- Width – 322KM





ECA – ENEMY COURSE OF ACTION  
AO – AREA OF OPERATION

**THE PLAN**



# **MOST PROBABLE – ECA ‘A’**

*IJA to conduct an amphibious assault on the  
southern ridges of Singapore*

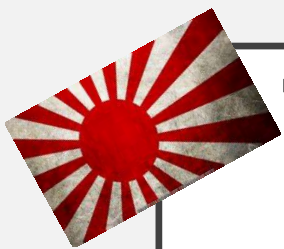
*Rationale: The large AO will most likely deter  
the IJA from attacking from the North.*



# **MOST DANGEROUS – ECA ‘B’**

*IJA to mount a southward invasion from Northern  
Malaya*

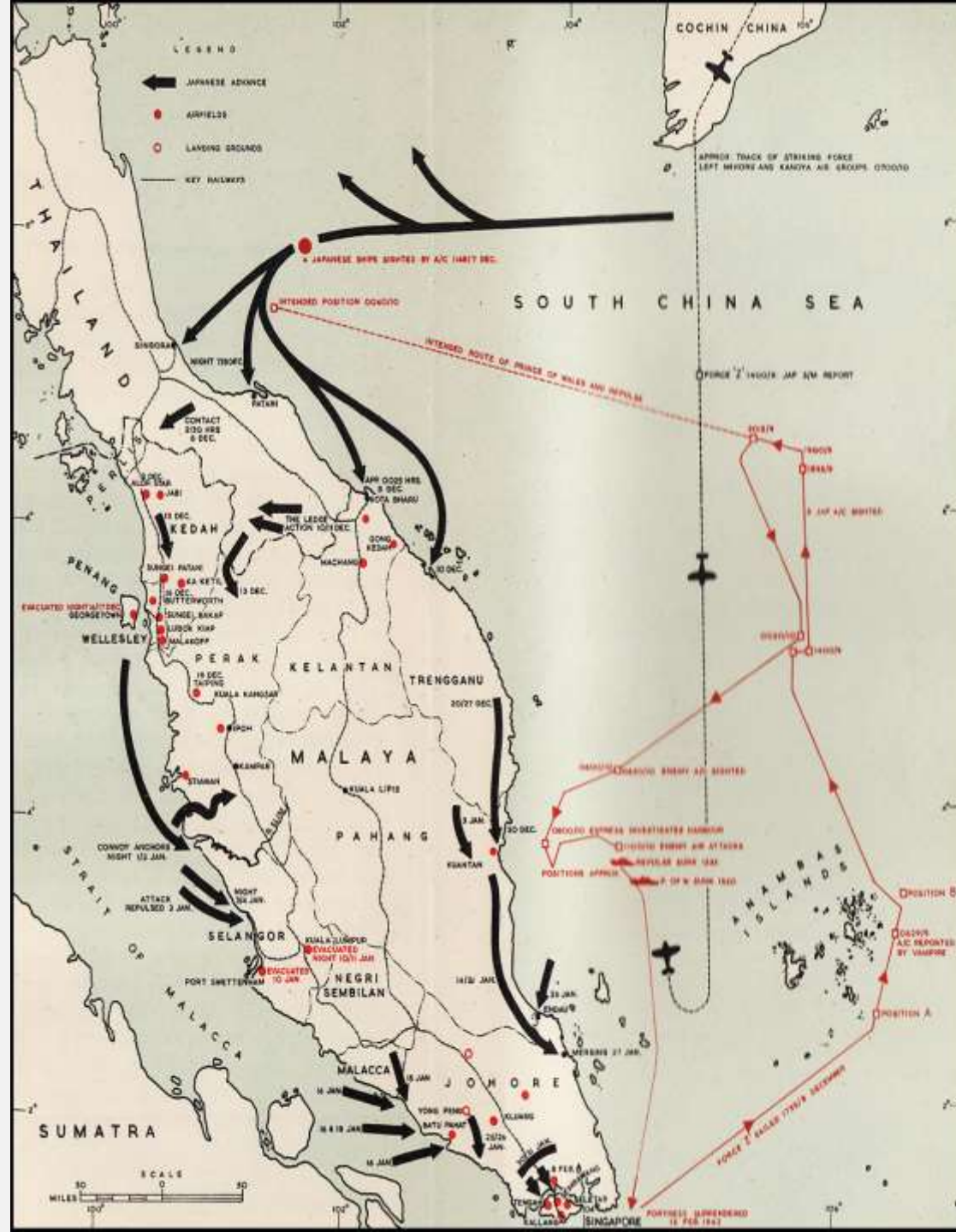
*Rationale: An attack from the North may result in a  
high-rate of collateral damage involving civilians and  
over-stretch our troops in defending the large AO.*



# THE MALAYAN CAMPAIGN

## *Japan's plan of advance*

- Phase 1: Secure beachheads in southern Thailand and northeastern Malaya for disembarkation of troops
- Phase 2: Seize vital airfields in northern Malaya to obtain command of the air
- Phase 3: Advance as quickly as possible down the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, seizing British supplies along the way to sustain the advance







# THE MALAYAN CAMPAIGN

## *British's defence plan*

- The British anticipated that Japan might attempt to land their troops on the southeastern coast of Thailand, before advancing down the Malayan Peninsula
- To pre-empt this, British generals considered sending British forces into Thailand to try to defeat the Japanese on the beaches (Operation Matador)
- However, this plan was eventually vetoed due to political reasons



# ***Part of the Plan - PROPAGANDA***

<b>Factor</b>	<b>Japanese</b>	<b>British</b>
Effects of British and Japanese propaganda	<p>-Won the people's support with slogans such as '<b>Asia for Asians</b>' &amp; '<b>Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere</b>'.</p> <p>Support from Indian troops who were fighting for independence from the British.</p> <p>-Indian leaders from Brit formed the Indian Independence League &amp; came to Malaya to try and break the loyalty of the Indian troops to Malaya.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• British bought their own propaganda of the "<b>Impregnable Fortress</b>" and "<b>Gibraltar of the East</b>" refused to fortify Singapore in its entirety for "fear of alarming its population"</li></ul> <p>➔ UNDERESTIMATION OF THE ENEMY</p>

# PREPARATION: ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

How long did each party take to prepare for the war?

How much understanding and preparation did they have of:

- **Resources required**
- **Terrain**
- **Enemy's strengths & weaknesses**





A black and white photograph of soldiers in a jungle. In the foreground, three soldiers are visible, wearing helmets and carrying rifles. They are positioned in a line, looking towards the right. The background is filled with dense tropical foliage. In the top right corner, there is an orange thought bubble containing the text 'THE PREP'.

**THE PREP**

# Strategy - Preparation



# JAPANESE PREPARATIONS



*Masanobu Tsuji*

- Largely responsible for planning Yamashita's successful landing in Malaya and subsequent campaign against Singapore – one year in advance
- IJA intelligence helped to gather information from locals
- Dressed comfortably for the jungle – bindings around feet



AN EXTRACT FROM A LEAFLET ISSUED TO JAPANESE SOLDIERS JUST BEFORE THE MALAYAN CAMPAIGN. THE LEAFLET WAS TITLED,  
“READ THIS ALONE AND THE WAR CAN BE WON”

**What can  
you infer  
about the  
Japanese  
level of  
preparation?**

ters, and incorporates the fruits of training exercises carried out for research under similar conditions. It is intended for distribution to all officers and all other ranks immediately upon embarkation.

*Imperial Army Headquarters*

LIST OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER

I THE CAMPAIGN AREA IN SOUTH ASIA—WHAT IS IT LIKE?

1. A treasure-house of the Far East, seized by the British, the Americans, the French and the Dutch
2. A hundred million Asians tyrannized by three hundred thousand whites
3. A world source of oil, rubber and tin
4. A world of everlasting summer

II WHY MUST WE FIGHT? HOW SHOULD WE FIGHT?

1. Obeying the Emperor's august will for peace in the Far East
2. Treat the natives with kindness—but do not expect too much of them
3. Respect native customs
4. Destroy the genuine enemy—but show compassion to those who have no guilt
5. Who are the “Overseas Chinese”?
6. Be strong, correctly behaved, and self-controlled
7. Preserve and protect natural resources
8. Is our present enemy stronger than the Chinese Army?
9. You may be killed in battle—but don't die of disease

III BY WHAT STAGES WILL THE WAR PROGRESS?

1. From the long voyage to the landing assault
2. The attack on main positions and fortifications
3. Securing enemy supplies and guarding strategic points
4. A long occupation and the enforcement of order

IV WHAT ARE YOU TO DO ON THE SHIP?

1. Keep your secrets
2. Settle your personal affairs in case of emergency
3. Do not fall ill
4. To prevent sea-sickness
5. Be kind to the horses
6. Grow attached to your weapons, care for them
7. Do not waste water
8. Precautions against fire
9. What to do in an aerial or submarine attack
10. A little carelessness can cause a great injury
11. Ammunition, food and water
12. Particular care in the preparations for the landing assault
13. Fit makeshift floats to heavy armaments and ammunition boxes

V THE LANDING ASSAULT

1. Transferring to small craft from the mother ship
2. Directing fire from the landing craft
3. Plunge boldly into the water
4. To reach the land is victory
5. Do not throw away lifejackets
6. Make sure damp weapons do not rust

AN EXTRACT FROM A LEAFLET ISSUED TO JAPANESE SOLDIERS JUST  
BEFORE THE MALAYAN CAMPAIGN. THE LEAFLET WAS TITLED,  
**“READ THIS ALONE AND THE WAR CAN BE WON”**

VI MARCHING THROUGH THE TROPICS

1. Water is your saviour
2. Sleep well, eat well
3. Clothing on the march
4. When you rest
5. Tyres on motor vehicles and bicycles swell in the heat, engines become overheated

VII CAMP IN THE TROPICS

1. Do not freeze in bed in the early mornings
2. Native settlements are nests of fleas, bedbugs and infectious disease
3. When using temples and mosques
4. Precautions against mosquitoes, dangerous animals and poisonous snakes
5. Fuel for fires
6. Do not let your weapons be stolen

VIII SCOUTING AND SENTRY DUTY

1. Carelessness is the great enemy
2. When you stand sentry
3. Sending out patrols

IX THE BATTLE

1. The long voyage, the sweltering march—all has been for this
2. Squalls, mist and night are our allies
3. Battle movements in extreme heat
4. Hindering the flight of the enemy
5. Guarding strategic areas

X ANTI-GAS PRECAUTIONS

1. Do not discard your respirators

2. Movement with respirators fitted
3. Putting on your respirator
4. Care of the respirator
5. Keep the canister dry
6. Do not wear anti-gas clothing next your skin

XI FOR SIGNAL TROOPS

1. Water for the radio earth
2. Points to note on radio signals
3. When you use semaphore
4. Arrangement of watches for signal troops

XII FOR MOTORIZED TROOPS

1. Get through by determination
2. Is the vehicle in good running order?
3. A drop of petrol is a drop of blood
4. Do not work the engines recklessly
5. When they get wet
6. Oil and water

XIII CHERISH YOUR WEAPONS

1. Rust, mildew, misting
2. Keep the gas cylinder lock at its lowest marking
3. See that binoculars and optical mechanisms do not moisten

XIV PROVISIONS

1. Water-supplies and disinfection
2. How to keep cooked cereals from going stale
3. What fruits can you eat?

XV HYGIENE

1. How do you contract malaria?
2. What is sun-stroke?





# BRITISH PREPARATIONS

## BRITISH COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS

### TIMING

*(unsupported)*

All preparations to be completed by xxxx hrs.

No move before xxxx hrs.

“D-Day H-Hr”  
xxxx hrs.

*\*Important consideration for prep but no evidence.*

### COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT

All troops are to carry their gas masks, rations, ammunitions

All troops to conduct SCORCHED EARTH in event of withdrawal

*\*Gas mask relevant in WWI. Was scorched earth properly executed?*

### PERSONNEL

All POWs are to be treated according to the existing MALAYA COMMAND regulations

### COMMAND & SIGNAL

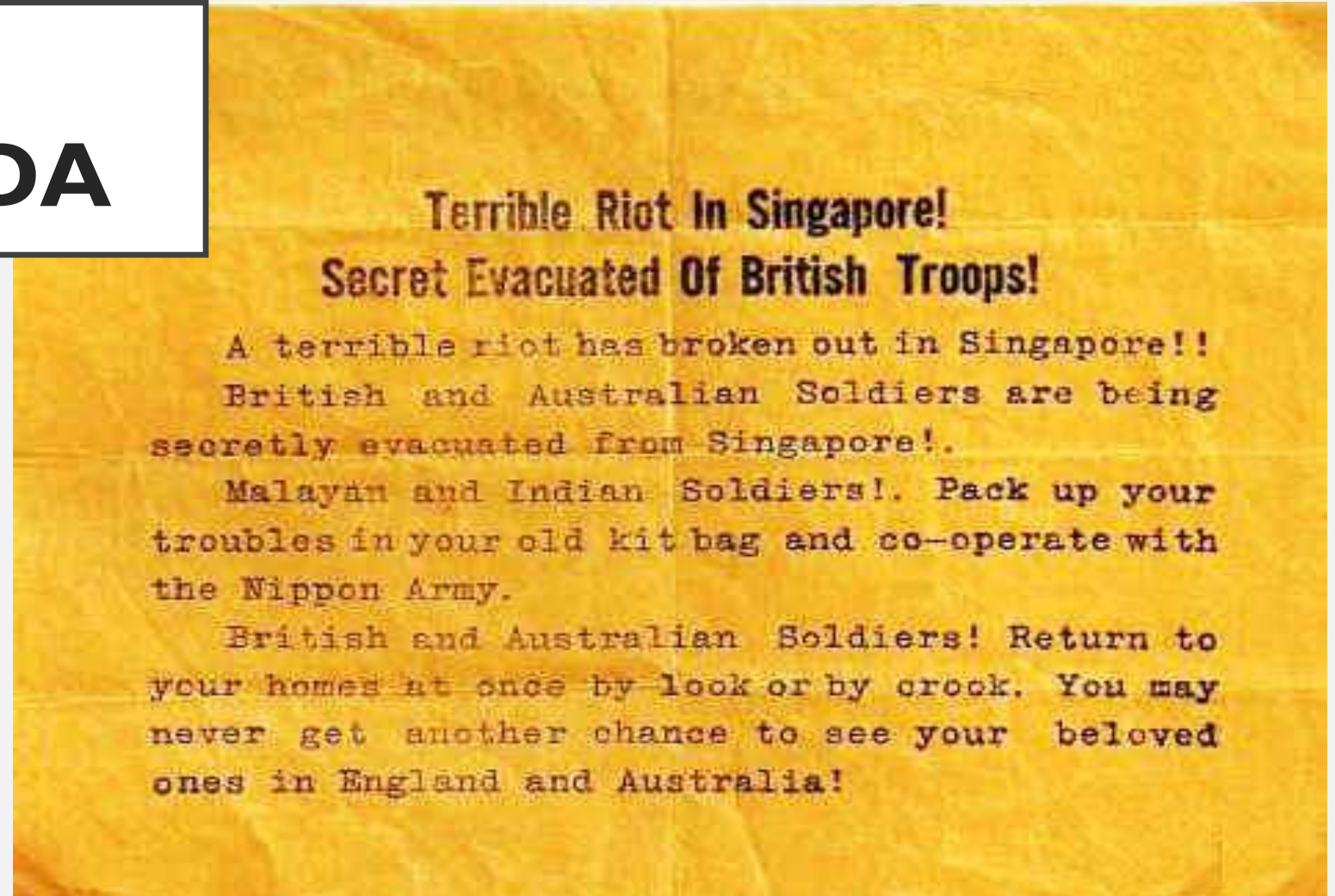
Radio will be the primary means of communication

Passwords

Source B: A leaflet dropped from Japanese airplanes into Malaya on 5 February 1942.

## JAPANESE PROPAGANDA

**Why did the  
Japanese  
publish this  
leaflet?  
Explain your  
answer.**



### **Terrible Riot In Singapore! Secret Evacuated Of British Troops!**

A terrible riot has broken out in Singapore!!  
British and Australian Soldiers are being  
secretly evacuated from Singapore!.

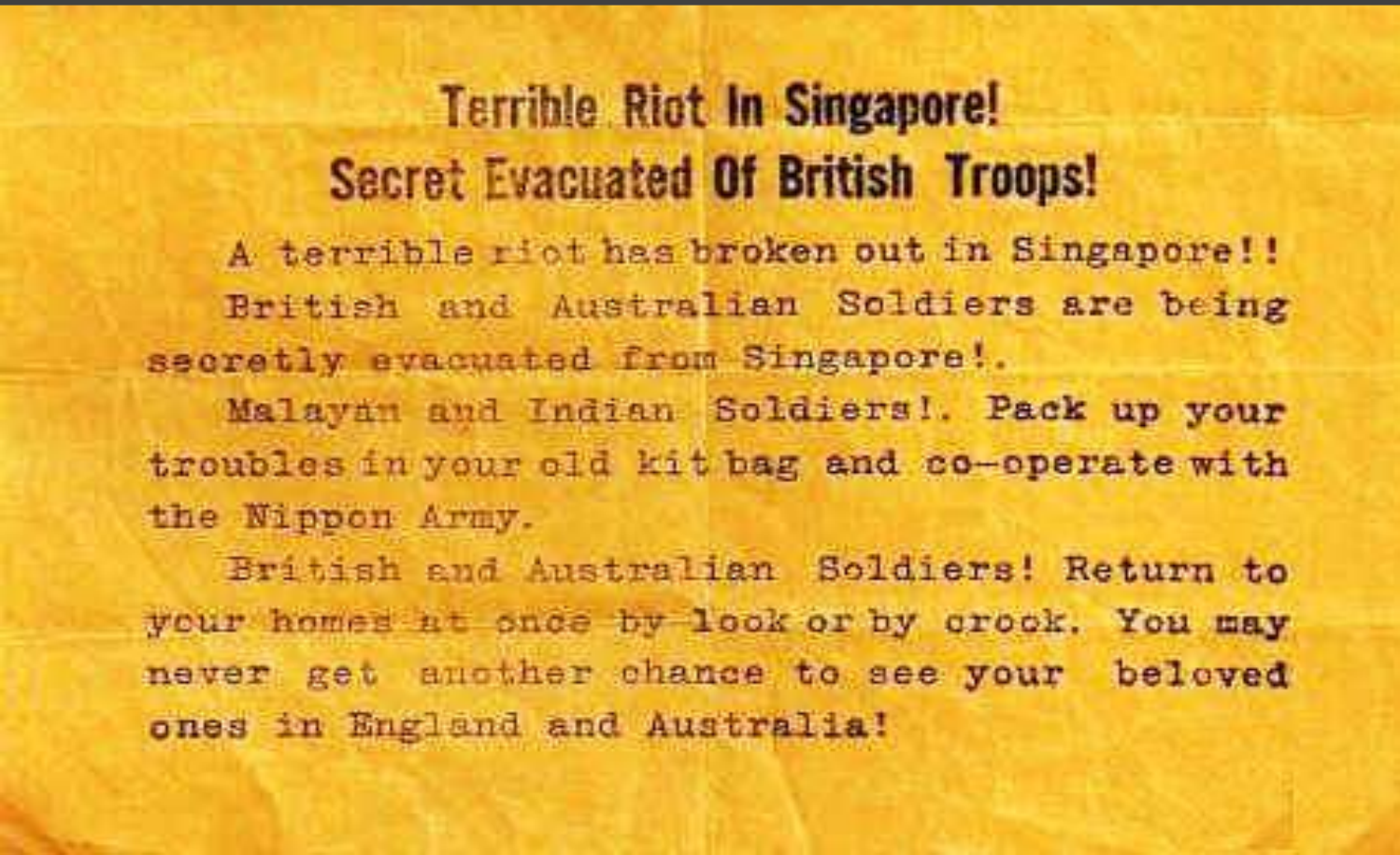
Malayan and Indian Soldiers!. Pack up your  
troubles in your old kit bag and co-operate with  
the Nippon Army.

British and Australian Soldiers! Return to  
your homes at once by hook or by crook. You may  
never get another chance to see your beloved  
ones in England and Australia!

# Why did the Japanese publish this leaflet?

## Explain your answer.

Source B: A leaflet dropped from Japanese airplanes into Malaya on 5 February 1942.



Checklist	How to answer a PURPOSE qn?
Creator	
Strong Verb	
Target Audience	
Message (Evidence)	
Context (When)	
Intended Action	
Desired Outcome	



An aerial photograph of a naval battle. A large ship is on fire, with thick black smoke billowing from its deck. A bomber plane is visible in the lower right, dropping bombs. The sea is dark and choppy.

**THE  
EXECUTION**

**THE BATTLE **BEGINS****  
**- Putting the plan to action**



This map illustrates the Japanese campaign in Malaya, starting from Singapore and Patani in Thailand, and Kota Bharu in north Malaya. The Japanese moved their way down the Malayan peninsula, aided by lorries and tanks. The Japanese continually pushed back the Allied troops until they were forced to retreat to Singapore. The last Allied troops entered the city on 31 January 1942.

# THE MARCH THROUGH MALAYA



## JAPANESE INVASION ROUTES IN 1941



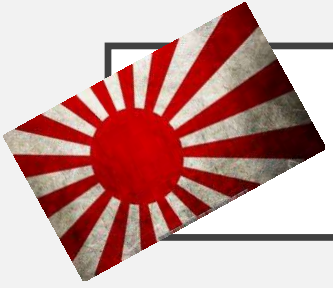
Click  
on flag  
for  
details

**JAPAN:** Planned to use Thailand's ports, railways & airfields; **Secret agreement** with military police (Thailand insecure & unable to defend itself against Japan, Allied powers couldn't guarantee support)

**BRITAIN:** Hesitated on pre-emptive strike which could swing Thailand to Japan's side, **Operation Matador on-hold** → built £23K worth of pillboxes (budget of £60K)







# THE MARCH THROUGH MALAYA



8<sup>th</sup> Dec 1941

## **IJA Landing in SEA**

IJA begins its invasion from the Northern tip of Malaya (through Southern Thailand)

10<sup>th</sup> Dec 1941

## **Sinking of British Battleships**

Repulse & Prince of Wales sunk off Kuantan – British had no more battleships

11<sup>th</sup> Dec 1941

## **Battle of Jitra**

- British Forces had no tanks compared to the IJA (IJA could move fast)
- IJA trained in jungle warfare, making the British no match for them.
- British troops were disorganised and confused (breakdown in communication).
- British troops left behind valuable supplies in defeat/withdrawal [Ammunition, food, weapons & vehicles.]



# JAPANESE AIRCRAFT USED TO SINK FORCE 'Z'





# THE SINKING OF 'FORCE Z'

*Britain's greatest mistake?*







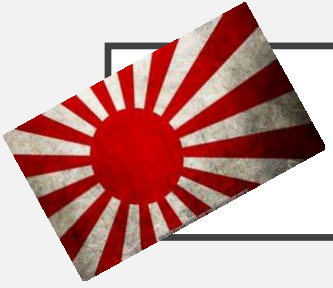
## WHY DID THE BRITISH CHOOSE TO SEND FORCE Z NORTH OF MALAYA?

- **Pressure on the Royal Navy to play a role as the senior branch of the British Armed Forces in defeating the Japanese Invasion**

*“It takes the Navy only 3 years to build a ship, but it will take us 300 years to build a new tradition.” – Admiral Andrew Cunningham, commander of the British Mediterranean Fleet explaining in May 1941 why the British Royal Navy had to persist with evacuating British soldiers from Greece despite it suffering heavy losses to German air attack while doing so.*

- **To intercept and destroy, if possible, Japanese troopships that were landing troops into Northern Malaya**

**What had the British failed to take into account?**



# THE MARCH THROUGH MALAYA



19<sup>th</sup> Dec 1941

**Fall of Penang**

Japan seized boats  
& ships

Dropped bombs on  
the island

7<sup>th</sup> Jan 1942

**Battle of Slim River**

Britain tried to use  
anti-tank guns to  
destroy Japanese tanks  
but failed

Again, Japanese received  
valuable supplies from  
the British.

11<sup>th</sup> Jan 1942

**Japanese troops  
entered KL**

- They found food & ammunition in the railway yards of KL.
- Did not face much resistance from British forces.
- Managed to seize military maps of Singapore & Johor.



# THE MARCH THROUGH MALAYA



17<sup>th</sup> Jan 1942

## Battle of **Gemas**

- Australian & Indian soldiers tried to stop Japanese advance by placing explosives on wooden bridges.
- Although many Japanese were killed, these troops were eventually defeated.

31<sup>st</sup> Jan 1942

## Destruction of the **Causeway**

The British blew up the Causeway in the hope of slowing down Japanese advance towards Singapore.



A black and white historical photograph showing a large group of soldiers marching across a temporary pontoon bridge. The bridge is constructed from wooden planks and floats, spanning a body of water. In the background, a large ship is visible on the water, and a forested hill rises on the far shore. The soldiers are seen from behind, moving away from the camera towards the distant shore.

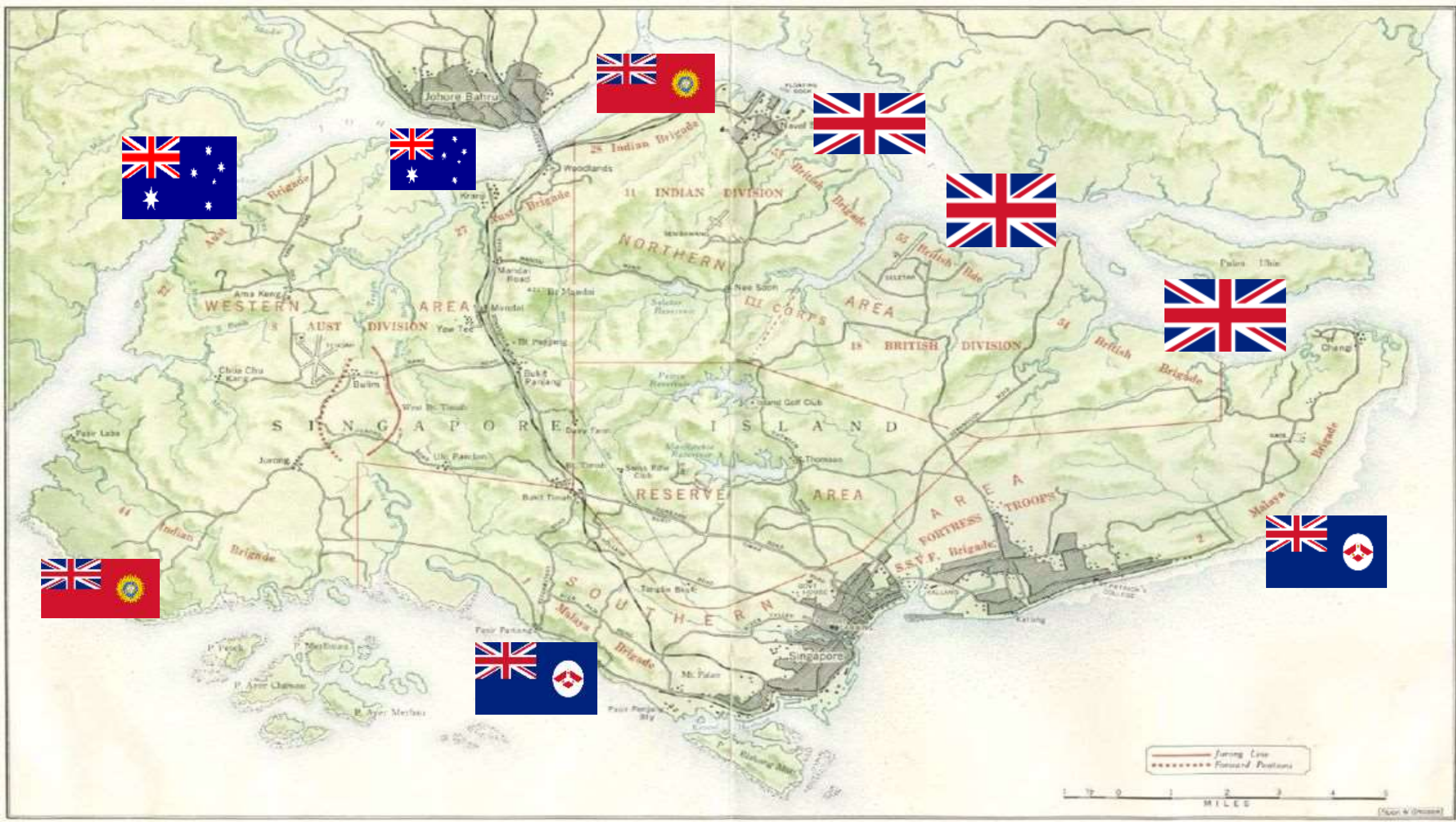
**MALAYA FALLS IN 54 DAYS...**

A map of Singapore with red arrows indicating the Japanese invasion routes. The arrows start from the north and west, moving inland towards the center and south. Key locations labeled on the map include Naval Base, Sembawang, Seletar, Ponggol, Pulau Ubin, Serangoon, Tampines, Bedok, Kallang Airport, Government House, Fort Canning, Railway Station, Pasir Panjang, Alexandra Hospital, Tanjong Barracks, Hokien Village, Tyersall Park, Ulu Pandan, Race Course, Bukit Timah, Old Ford Factory, Jurong, Hong Kah, Lim Chu Kang, Kranji, Mandai, Keat Hong, Nee Soon, and Ang Mo Kio. The title "BATTLE FOR SINGAPORE" is in white and "BEGINS" is in red.

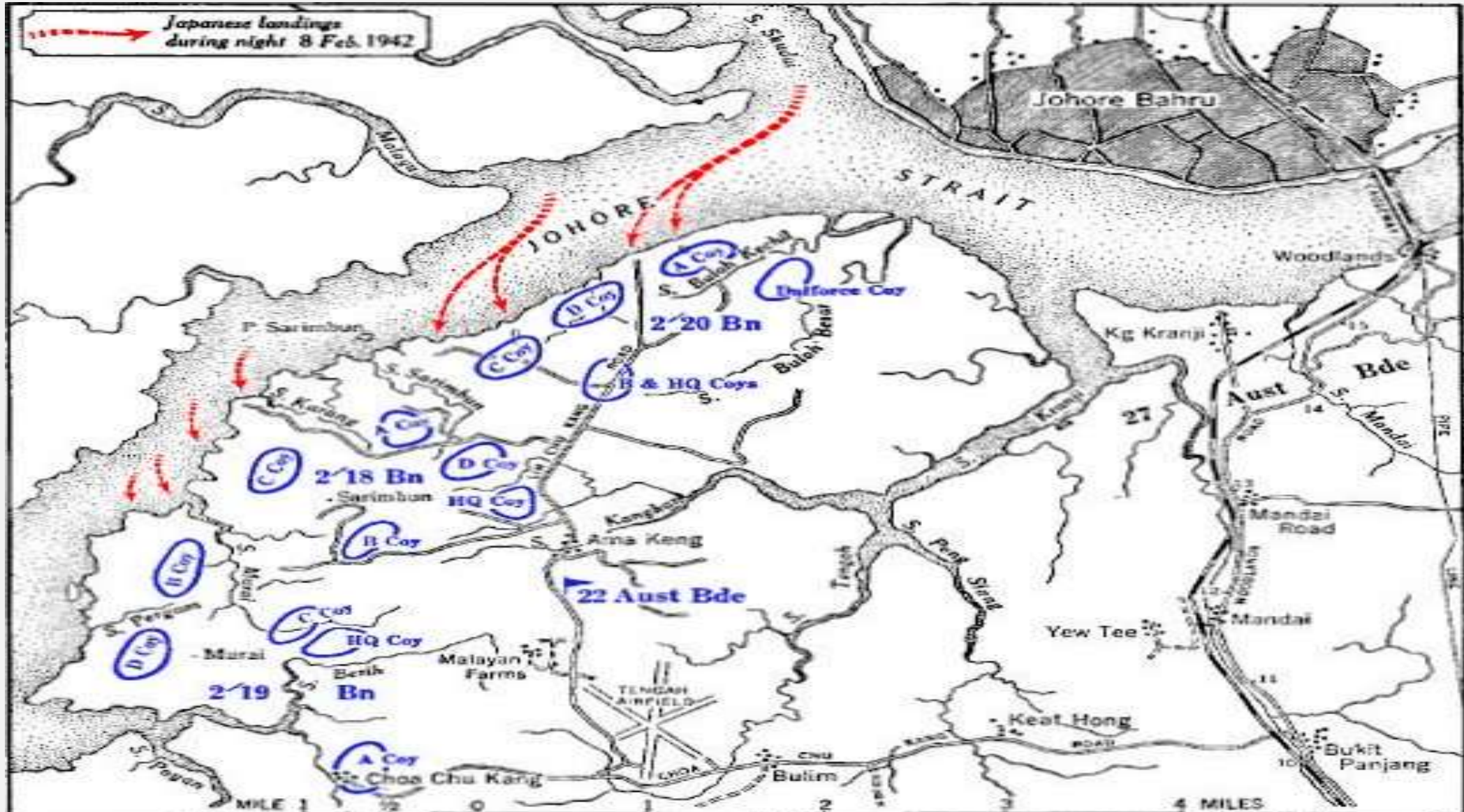
# BATTLE FOR SINGAPORE BEGINS

The Japanese crossed the Straits of Johore and landed on Singapore on 8 and 9 February 1942. Despite several fierce battles, the Japanese continually broke through Allied defense lines. On 15 February, the Allies surrendered to the Japanese.





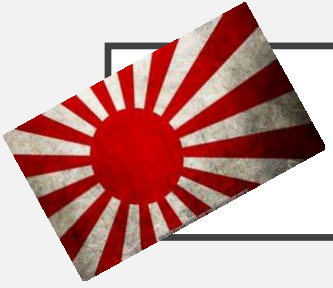






# **MANGROVE SWAMPS IN KRANJI & SARIMBUN**





# BATTLE FOR SINGAPORE



7-8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1942

## Attack on **Pulau Ubin**

Hardly any resistance  
from the British

Japanese gained an  
important observation  
post

11<sup>th</sup> Feb 1942

## Battle of **Bukit Timah**

- Crucial battle for the access to the Town Centre of Singapore
- British Forces had stocked up on food, ammunition, vehicle & machine parts here.
- Battle was fought by local Chinese volunteers but Japanese succeeded.

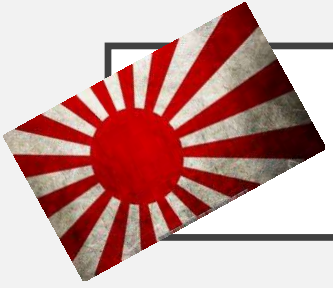
13<sup>th</sup> Feb 1942

## Battle of **Pasir Panjang**

Fifth Malay  
Regiment, under  
Lieutenant Adan  
Saidi

Japanese succeeded





# BATTLE FOR SINGAPORE



14<sup>th</sup> Feb 1942

## Massacre at **Alexandra Hospital**

Japanese killed doctors,  
hospital staff and even  
patients

15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1942

## Decision at **Fort Canning**

- British Forces made the **DECISION TO SURRENDER**
- *What were the reasons that led to the surrender?*
  - Soldiers were tired
  - Supply of food and water were running out

15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1942

## British **Surrender**

British surrendered  
to the Japanese at  
the Ford Motor  
Factory in Bt Timah

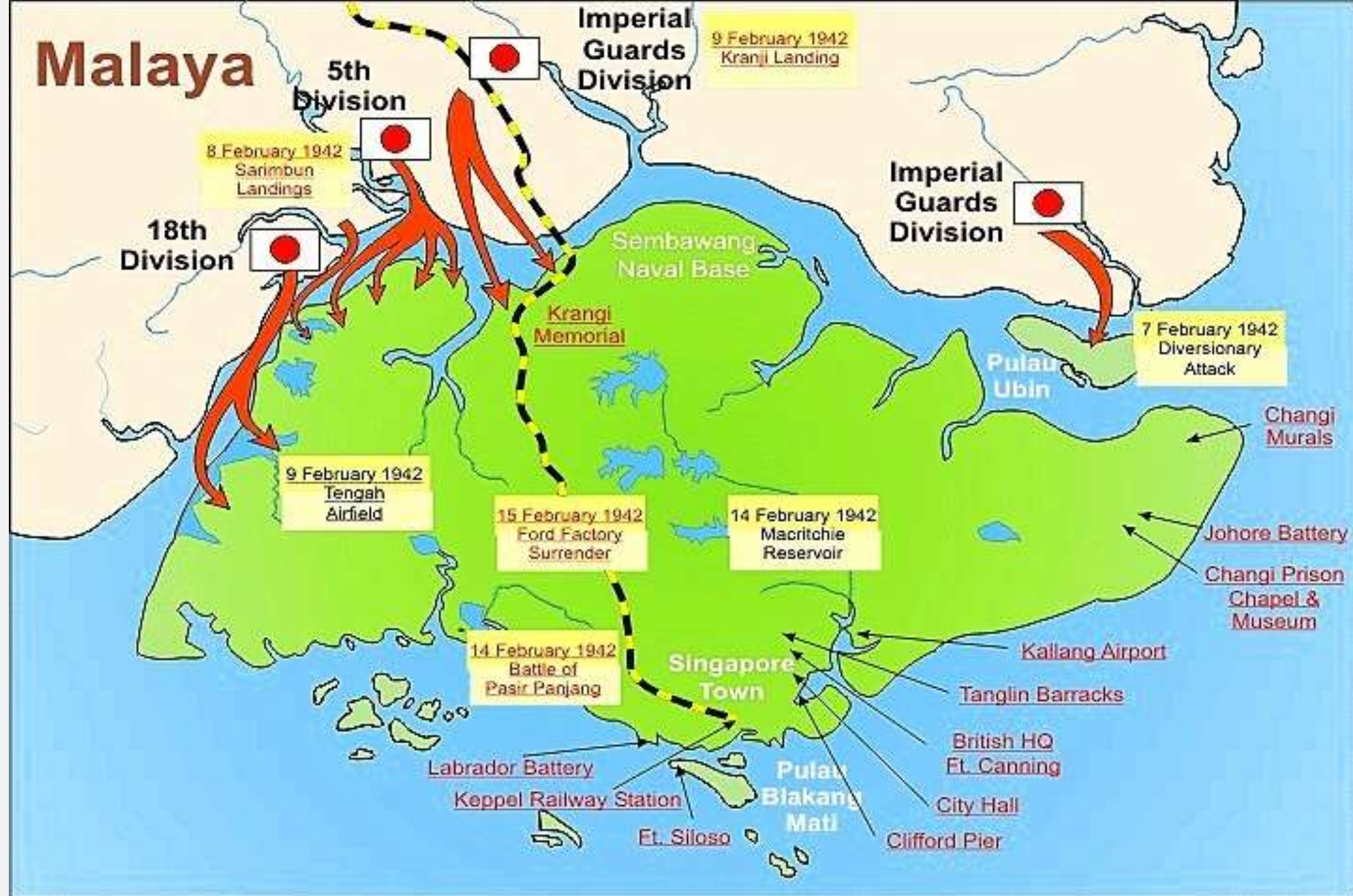


# THE 'MONSTER GUNS' OF SINGAPORE

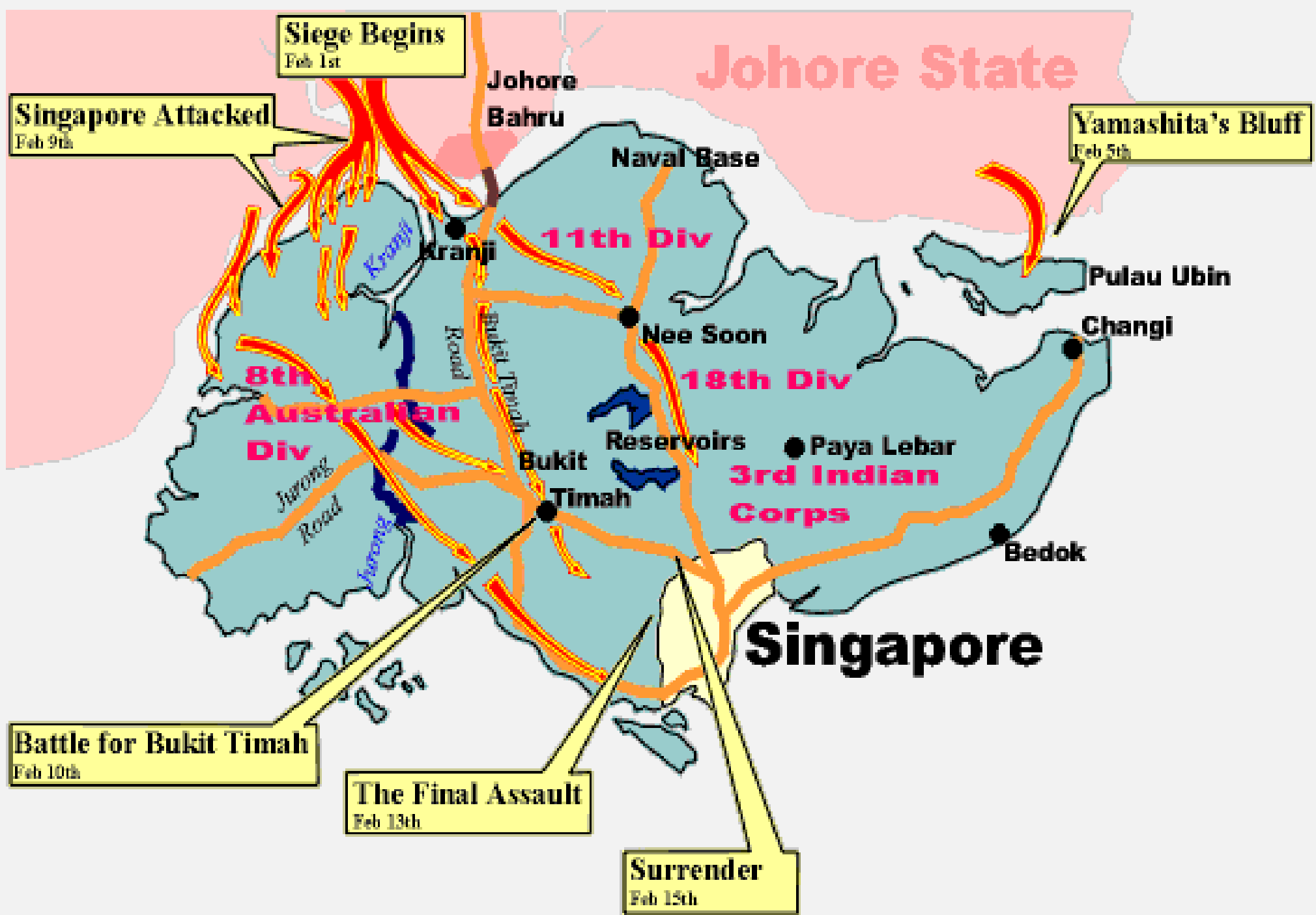


- British had established a **network of coastal artillery** around Singapore
- This included very **large guns of 15-inch calibre**, which were capable of destroying even the most heavily armoured battleships
- However, these guns were given mainly armour piercing ammunition instead of high-explosive ammunition, which made them ineffective against ground troops
- In the end, these guns played only a minor role in the defence of Singapore

# Malaya







A black and white historical photograph showing a group of Japanese military officers in a meeting room. Several officers are standing in the background, while others are seated at a large table in the foreground. The officers are wearing dark uniforms with visible insignia. The room appears to be a formal office or conference room. A semi-transparent dark rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text "SINGAPORE FALLS ON 15 FEB 1942".

# **SINGAPORE FALLS** **ON 15 FEB 1942**




# BATTLE ANALYSIS



# **WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT DETERMINE DEFEAT OR VICTORY OF THE BATTLE?**

- 1. PRIORITY**
- 2. LEADERSHIP** (on the ground)
- 3. MILITARY CAPABILITIES**
- 4. STRATEGY** (Plan, Propaganda, Preparation, Execution)

# CONCLUSION

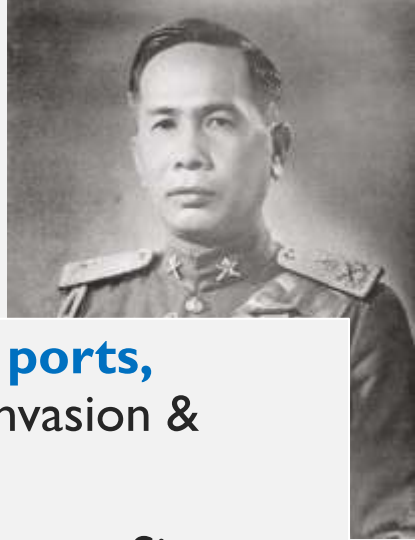


You can choose  
to disagree!

- **As much as the Japanese won the battle, so did the British lose it.**
- **Out of the 4 factors, could priority be the most important since it set the precedence of the way each side prepared and how much capabilities they had?**
- **Or was leadership (decisions) the most critical in determining how the entire battle played out and in whose favour?**
- **Nonetheless, each factor did play an important role in contributing the fall of Malaya and Singapore into the hands of the British.**

Return to  
Invasion  
slide

## WHY DID THAILAND DO WHAT IT DID?



- To conquer SEA, the Japanese military planned to invade Malaya & Burma. Needed to use **Thai ports, railways & airfields**. Japan didn't want conflict with the Thai military, as this would delay the invasion & significantly reduce the element of surprise.
- In 1940, Thailand had invaded neighbouring French Indochina to recover provinces lost in the Franco-Siamese War of 1893. The Japanese wanted to use these Indo-Chinese ports and air-bases, so they **acted as negotiators** to bring about a settlement between the French and Thais on 31 January 1941.
  - As part of the process, **secret discussions** were held with **Thai Prime Minister Phibun Songkhram** in which the Japanese military **sought free passage through Thailand**.
  - Phibun had responded positively, but his later actions showed he may have been **very uncertain**, as he had concluded the **British-Thai Non-Aggression Pact on 12 Jun 1940**. By Feb, the British were beginning to suspect the Japanese were planning to attack their possessions in SEA and were concerned Japan might set up bases in Thailand to that end.
- Phibun's situation: Could not depend on Western Powers. Little choice.
  - France defeated by Germany, Britain busy in Europe; the US neutral on both the European war and the Japanese war with China; and **Japan was a superpower with a growing buildup of forces in French Indochina**. Thai forces **unable to defeat** the Japanese by themselves. Thailand's invasion of French Indochina in 1940 also made it difficult for the United States government to support Phibun (US disapproval).



# INFERRING PURPOSE

- Context
- Author (Creator of Source)
- \* **TONE** informs us of the **Action Word** (strong verb)... can change our perception of the purpose.
- Target Audience
- Message (Inference, Evidence & Elaboration)
- Contextual Background
- Intended Action
- Desired Outcome

## Examples of Tone

Negative – Blaming, Accusatory,  
*Evidence could be the use of exclamation mark or highly emotive words that is disparaging or derogatory*

Positive – Praising, Complimentary, Affirmative,  
Encouraging, Forgiving, Understanding

Neutral – Restrained, Indifferent