

# YHU3316: Singapore Under Japanese Occupation

## Field Reports

**Length:** 500–750 words

**Weighting:** 10% of overall course grade

**Format:** Regular font size (e.g. Times 12), double spacing, reasonable margins

**Don't Forget:** Name and Title on the first page

**Deadline for Submission:** You may submit your two required field reports at any point in the semester, but you must submit your first by 19 February and your second by 16 April

### Overview

In an ideal world, I would have set up a handful of field trips for our class to various parts of Singapore. Unfortunately, under our current pandemic restrictions it is impossible for us to visit sites as a large group. Instead, students will be asked to **visit** and **write two brief reports** about two separate sites related to the Battle of Singapore or the Japanese occupation. These sites might include museums, monuments, historical walking trails, cemeteries, or ruins. Reports should address the wartime history of this site as well as its connections to contemporary memories of the war in Singapore.

### Tasks

#### 1) Visit a site related to the Battle of Singapore or the Japanese Occupation

You can find a list of potential sites on the next page, but if you would like to visit an alternative site please let me know.

There are many sites in Singapore that address the Second World War, especially in the aftermath of the war memory boom that occurred here starting in the 1990s. However, as with the historians we are reading this semester, no one site can fully capture the experience of living through the war in Singapore. The people who have designed these sites, whether they are curators, government officials, educators, or local history enthusiasts, always have to make choices about what to convey to visitors in the limited time they have at any particular site. **Pay particular attention to who made these decisions (look at the small print on plaques!), what details they emphasize, and what might be left out of the story.**

#### 2) Report on your findings

Once you return home, write up a brief report on your observations. What about the site left an impression on you? What was the most important information conveyed by the site? Who was involved in putting together this site of memory? What information was deemphasized, or left out entirely? Did the visit impact you emotionally? What emotions do you think the site was meant to invoke? **Please make reference to particular aspects of the site (take notes).** If you only include information that you could have gleaned from *The Long and Winding Road* or some other website, that will be reflected in your grade.

## Citation Guide

Citations are not required for this assignment, but please be explicit about which plaque or other written materials you might refer to in the body of your report. You may refer to external sources if you like. In these cases, please use parenthetical citations and a reference list.

## Potential Sites

National Museum of Singapore (Singapore History Gallery OR Surviving Syonan Gallery)	Singapore Botanic Gardens Heritage Museum + Corner House (no need to eat there)
Fort Canning Hill and the Battlebox (S\$20 admission)	MacRitchie Reservoir + Lim Bo Seng Burial Site
City Hall, including If These Walls Could Talk	Adam Park Heritage Tour (limited availability)
Civilian War Memorial + Padang	Former Ford Factory
Indian Heritage Centre	Bukit Batok Memorial Site
Malay Heritage Centre	Kranji War Memorial
Chinatown Heritage Centre (S\$18 admission)	Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve + Kranji Reservoir Park (Plaque)
Fort Siloso (Sentosa)	Japanese Cemetery Park (Hougang)
Fort Pasir Panjang (Labrador Park)	Punggol and Changi Beach Massacre Sites
Reflections at Bukit Chandu ( <b>CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS</b> ) + Southern Ridges Walking Trail (Plaques)	Changi Museum ( <b>CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS</b> )
	Any NHB Heritage Trail (if they do not mention WWII, determine what they might be leaving out and why)