

THE FALL OF SINGAPORE – SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

December 8, 1941 – 12.25 am

The Japanese 18th Division lands at Kota Bahru

December 8, 1941 – 1.55 am

The Japanese bomb Pearl Harbour

December 8, 1941

The Japanese land in Singora and Patani (in Southern Thailand) and Kota Bahru (in Northern Malaya) and begin offensive southwards

The first air raid on Singapore occurs on the morning of December 8 (Chinatown and Raffles Square) and air attacks to neutralise Tengah and Seletar air bases (these become inoperable by January 1942)

December 10, 1941

Japanese troops sink Britain's two main warships – the *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* off the coast of Kuantan

December 30, 1941

Martial law proclaimed in Singapore, which made stipulated offences triable by martial courts and empowered military authorities to requisition land, vehicles and property

January 8, 1942

Japanese troops penetrate the outer lines of defence at Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.

January 15, 1942

Muar is captured by the Japanese. Lt-Gen Percival orders remaining 30,000 British troops in Malaya to retreat to Singapore

January 17, 1942

The British blow up the causeway linking Malaya and Singapore to stop the Japanese from entering

January 30 & 31, 1942

British troops completely withdraw from Malaya into Singapore. In just 55 days, the Malay Peninsula was lost. The siege of Singapore begins

February 1, 1942

The Japanese troops repair the destroyed causeway and reach Singapore

February 5, 1942

The Japanese attack Pulau Ubin, drawing the British to move to that region

February 8 & 9, 1942

The Japanese land in northwest Singapore

February 10, 1942

The British Royal Air Force withdraw the small number of aircraft from Singapore to prevent Japanese capture

February 11, 1942

The Japanese 5th Division attacks Indian, Chinese, and British troops along Choa Chu Kang and Bukit Timah Roads

February 13, 1942

The battle between the 1st and 2nd Malay Regiment and the Japanese begins at Bukit Chandu, lasting two days

February 14, 1942

After the fall of Bukit Chandu, the Japanese attack Alexandra Barracks Hospital, killing more than 320 people

February 15, 1942

General Yamashita Tomoyuki and his aides discuss if they should continue fighting or wait for the British to surrender at the Battle Box, a bunker at Fort Canning, before proceeding to Ford Motor Factory

February 15, 1942 – 5.00 pm

The British surrender party led by Lt-Gen Percival arrives at Lt-Gen Yamashita's headquarters at Ford Motor Factory

February 15, 1942 – 6.10 pm

The British surrender at Ford Motor Factory

February 15, 1942 – 8.30pm

British and Japanese troops cease combats, and all guns fall silent

February 16, 1942

Japanese victory parade on the streets of Singapore

Sir Shenton Thomas, Governor of the Straits Settlements and High Commissioner for the Malay States, gives the last broadcast in Singapore

Singapore is renamed "Syonan-to" or "Brilliant South Island"

February 18, 1942

First round of executions take place at Changi Beach

National Archives of Singapore