

RECOMMENDED READS



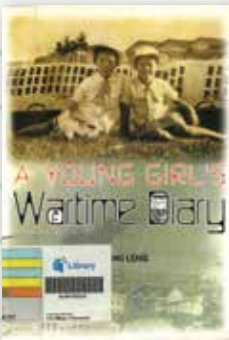
Title: Memories of Singapore and Malaya

Author: Derek Tait

Call No.: SING 959.57050922 TAI

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Relive Singapore in its early days in this collection of memories and stories, gathered from people who lived in Singapore during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.



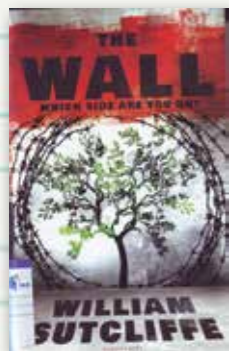
Title: A Young Girl's Wartime Diary: The Journal of a Teenager Written During the Japanese Occupation of Singapore

Author: Debra Driza

Call No.: Y DRI

All Rights Reserved, Lingzi Media, 2007.

Based on a true story, this book looks at the Japanese Occupation through the pages of a teenage girl's journal. Read on to find out what it was like when the war came to Singapore.



Title: The Wall: A Modern Fable

Author: William Sutcliffe

Call No.: Y SUT

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Joshua spends his life thinking that the heavily-guarded Wall is the only thing that separates his community from an unseen enemy outside. One day, he stumbles across a destroyed home that has a tunnel leading to the other side of the Wall. Joshua's discovery will change his life forever, as it challenges everything he has ever known of his side of the Wall.

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50 STORIES FROM MY LIFE

One day I was asked to accompany Kokubu and a group of 50 to 60 soldiers on a work assignment. We set out on bicycles before sunrise. Near the village of Bakri, we stopped at a small government bungalow, where the men set about clearing undergrowth and shrubs. There was a terrible stench. Also working on the site was a contingent of Indian workers. They told me that the smell came from the corpses of soldiers killed in a clash between Japanese and Australian troops three or four months earlier, the last major stand of the British troops at Bakri-Muar. The construction project was a Japanese war memorial. We made two or three such visits. I still have a photo of that memorial.

Lieutenant Kokubu gave me some advice that was valuable not only during the Japanese occupation, but also in later life. We were sitting in the shade of a tree, eating rice from a Japanese *bento*, or food package. He asked me if I smoked, and he was pleased to hear that I didn't. He warned me of the dangers of *sake* (which in Japanese means alcohol in general). Then came a warning. Because of my ability to speak Japanese, my contacts with him and his fellow soldiers, there would be people (he said) who would ask me to help them, and to do 'bad things'. He said I must always ask my conscience if anything I am asked to do is right or wrong. He was right to warn me. During the war many people tried to persuade me to do things that might have made me rich or have got someone else into trouble. Kokubu's advice gave me the determination to stand up to them and resist the temptation. It stood me in good stead after the war. There was no attempt by anyone to take revenge on me for working with the Japanese, including the Japanese civil police.

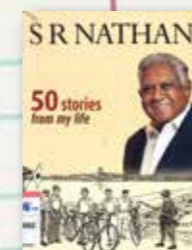
(...)

Two or three months later, although I had not asked him for help, Kokubu did me a final good turn, introducing me to the Japanese manager of a transport company, for whom I would be able to work as an interpreter and intermediary. After the interview, he told me that he would be leaving the following day. In the morning, I went to the camp to say goodbye. The site was deserted; the barbed wire fencing had all disappeared. The soldiers had gone during the night. Years later I was told by one of the soldiers that Kokubu had asked them not to let me know when they were leaving, as I would only feel sad.

It was many years before I met Kokubu again, but I always remembered his kindness and good advice.

Think about these questions:

1. Are you more concerned about doing things right, or doing the right things? Do you know the difference between the two?
2. Some people define "conscience" as the ability to discern right from wrong. What is "conscience" to you?
3. When do you listen to the advice your parents or friends give you? How is the advice helpful to you? Share a piece of good advice which you have followed.



Extract from 50 Stories From My Life, Pages 31-33

Title: S R Nathan: 50 Stories From My Life

Author: S R Nathan

Call No.: J SING 959.5705092 NAT

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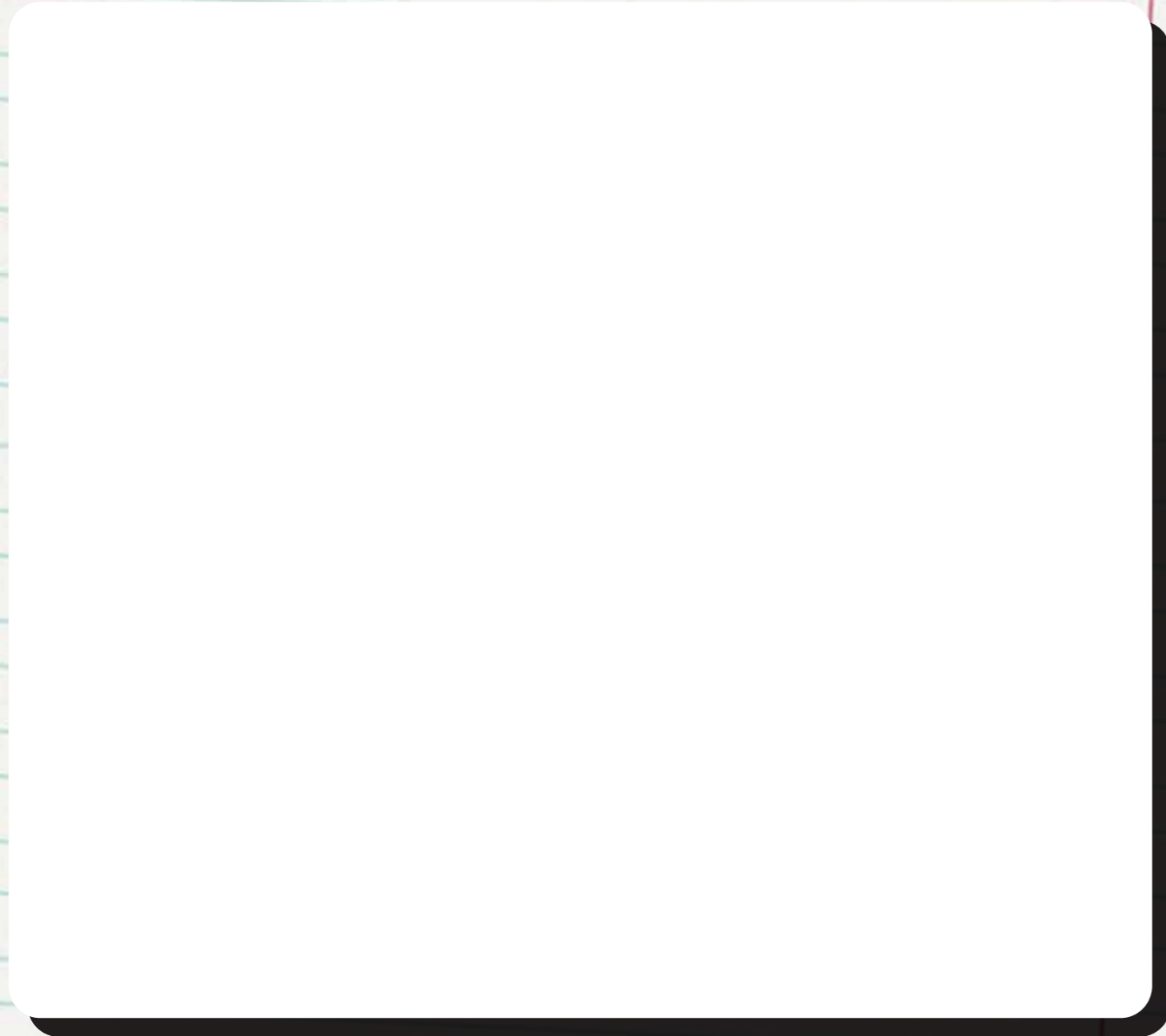


TALKING POINTS: 50 STORIES FROM MY LIFE

WRITE DOWN YOUR ANSWERS BASED ON THE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS BELOW.

ACTIVITY 1: CREATE A PUBLICITY POSTER FOR THE KRANJI WAR MEMORIAL

The Kranji War Memorial commemorates the contributions of 24,000 Allied soldiers who died during World War II. In your groups, use the resources given and discuss why more people should visit the Kranji War Memorial.



To find out more, visit Infopedia's website about the Kranji War Memorial:
http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/infopedia/articles/SIP_183_2004-12-27.html?s=kranji%20war%20memorial (Last accessed on 30 Nov 2014)

ACTIVITY 2: REFLECTIONS ABOUT WAR

Mr. Nathan learnt many positive things as a result of the hardship he faced as a teenager during the war. Write down your views on war in the box below.

