

Robinsons Singapore's storied past

Robinsons Singapore, set up a century ago, was once one of Singapore's largest retailers. It was, apparently, to Malaysians what Harrods is to Londoners. The department store also survived historical crises such as the Great Depression and World War II. Here's a look at its ups and downs through the years.

1850

1858

John Spicer, an immigrant from Australia, and Philip Robinson, a former jailkeeper in Singapore, start Spicer and Robinson at Commercial Square (now Raffles Place)

1859

The company is renamed Robinson and Company after Spicer leaves the business

1940

1946

Robinsons reopens after the British return to Singapore in World War II, earns a profit of one million dollars for the first time

1950

1955

The company buys over John Little



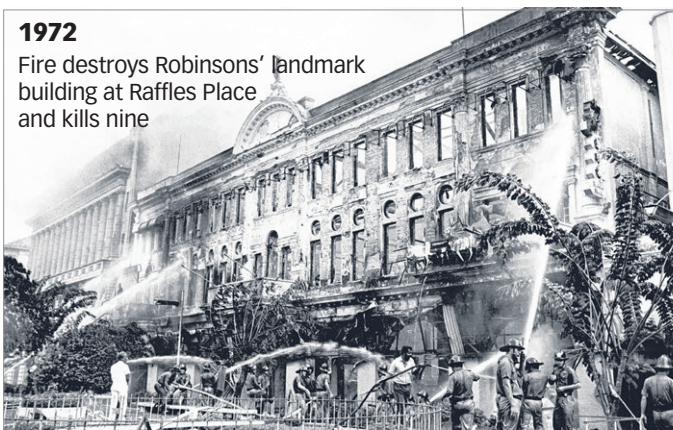
1958

It secures the Singapore franchise for Marks & Spencer

1970

1972

Fire destroys Robinsons' landmark building at Raffles Place and kills nine



1980

1983

Robinsons sets up over five floors at The Centrepont

1989

Shares of Robinsons already trading on what was then known as the Stock Exchange of Singapore

2000

2001

Raffles City store opens

2006

OCBC divests 29.9% stake in Robinsons to Indonesia's Lippo Group for S\$203 million



2008

Dubai-based conglomerate Al-Futtaim Group acquires Robinsons via voluntary delisting from the Singapore Stock Exchange

2010

2011

Marina Bay Sands store opens

2013

Robinsons opens 186,000 sq-ft flagship at The Heeren and outlet at Jem; closes store at Marina Bay Sands

2014

Robinsons exits from The Centrepont



2020

2020

Jem store closes