Robinsons Singapore's storied past

Robinsons Singapore, set up a century ago, was once one of Singapore's largest retailers. It was, apparently, to Malayans 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.

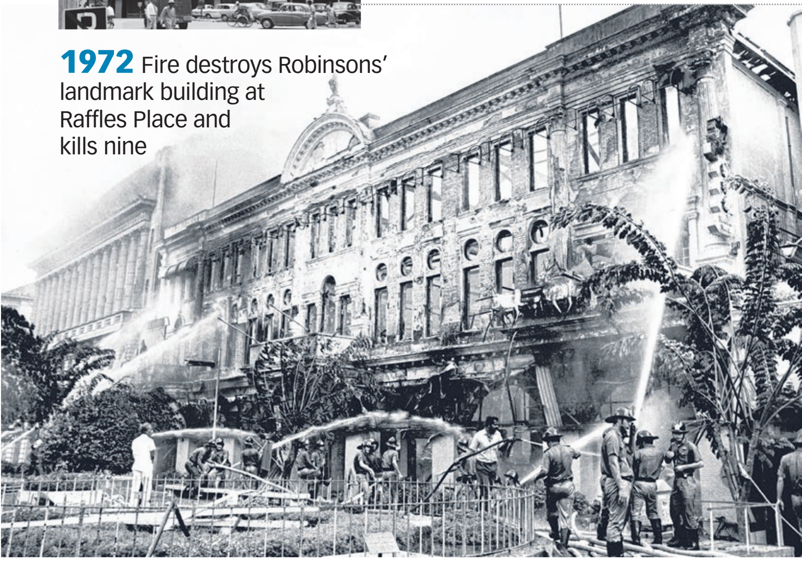
1858 Philip Robinson, an immigrant from Australia, and James Gaborian Spicer, a former jailkeeper in Singapore, start Spicer and Robinson at Commercial Square (now Raffles Place)

1859 The company is renamed Robinson and Company after Spicer leaves the business

1946 Robinsons reopens after the British return to Singapore in World War II, earns a profit of one million dollars for the first time

1955 The company buys over John Little

1958 It secures the Singapore franchise for Marks & Spencer



1972 Fire destroys Robinsons' landmark building at Raffles Place and kills nine

1983 Robinsons sets up over five floors at The Centrepoint

1989 Shares of Robinsons already trading on what was then known as the Stock Exchange of Singapore

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

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 Centrepoint

2020 Jem store closes

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