



P.1 Poster 1894, Lombok Expedition, The Dutch East-Indies

### Het Koninklijk Nederlands Oost-Indisch Leger KNIL

#### Some remarks about inception, organization and feats of arms of the Royal Dutch East-Indian Army

This article consists of 8 pages and 12 pictures. Pictures are not available.

#### Inception and organization



Because of a Dutch government degree in December 1830 the army in the Dutch East-Indies became an organization separated from the regular Dutch army in Europe. From then this armed force were governed by the colonial authorities autonomously. In December 1830 the East-Indian army comprised eight mobile battalions each consisting of two European and four Native companies. In addition there was a depot company from which the battalions on Java and on the other islands were completed as well as a special depot company on behalf of the artillery, two companies pioneers (engineers, sappers), cavalry and mountain artillery.

In 1839, on the occasion of the introduction three new battalions, new regimental colours with the text "Koninklijk Nederlands Oost-Indisch Leger" (Royal Dutch East-Indian Army) were introduced. In 1840 the East-Indian infantry was made up of sixteen European, nine African (from Dutch Ghana), seventeen Amboinese and forty native companies.

P.2 KNIL soldier on guard in Aceh, 1930



**P.3 KNIL soldiers on patrol, 1930**



**P.4 Charge of KNIL cavalry during parades in Batavia / Jakarta, Waterlooplein / Lapangan Banteng, 1930**

**In 1940 the mobilized KNIL counted 40.000 professional soldiers and 20.000 home reserves (landstorm) as well as conscripts. In the same year the army command tried to place orders for the delivery of 500 planes: bombers, dive bombers and fighters. The command already made a start with the motorization and mechanization of the troops on Java. The aim was to form five mobile brigades with 5.000 men and 90 tanks / armoured cars each.**

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**P.5 Manoeuvre, Java  
1936**

In accordance with these plans finally each brigade could consist of:

- 1 squadron motorized cavalry,
- 1 battalion tanks / armoured cars,
- 3 battalions motorized infantry,
- 1 battalion armoured anti aircraft defence,
- 1 detachment artillery,
- 1 company pioneers,
- 1 medical detachment,
- 1 car train,
- 1 detachment "mobile car repairs".

The delivery of the military purchases came too late. British and Americans in the Far East tried to build up their strategic reserves as well. The market was supercharged with orders. Because of the Japanese attack of Pearl Harbour the Dutch East Indian government declared war to Japan 1941 December 8 and capitulated on Java 1942 March 8. Nevertheless Dutch colonial military on Sumatra, Sulawesi, Timor and New Guinea kept up fighting until 1942 December 18. As far as possible an evacuation of troops to Australia took place. On New Guinea Dutch military resistance continued until the defeat of the Japanese in 1945.



**P.6 Around 1920 somewhere in the archipelago**

### **Military operations of the Royal Dutch East-Indian Army KNIL**

1816 Riots at Krawang West-Java 1817 Riots on the Moluccan Islands  
 1818 Riots at Cheribon / Cirebon Java 1819 Revolt at Palembang on Sumatra, riots on Celebes /  
 Sulawesi 1821 Second expedition to Palembang  
 1822 Start of the Padri-revolt on West-Sumatra (around Fort De Kock / Bukit Tinggi)

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P.7 Recruitment poster

- 1824 Revolt at Boni on Celebes / Sulawesi
- 1825-1830 Java War
- 1827 Hostilities on Borneo with the sultan of Matam
- 1832 Revolt of the Chinese at Krawang West-Java

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**1834 Lampong-expedition on Sumatra**  
**1843 Efforts to destroy pirates in the archipelago**  
**1846 First Bali-expedition**  
**1848 Second Bali-expedition**  
**1850 Riots at Bantam West-Java**  
**1850 Revolt of Chinese on Borneo in the Western District (Wester Afdeling in Dutch)**  
**1851 Expedition on Ceram (Moluccan Islands) against Amahay and Mahariko**  
**1851 Revolt at Palembang**  
**1851 Second Lampong-expedition on Sumatra**  
**1853 Riots of Chinese on Borneo in the Western District (Wester Afdeling)**  
**1854 Riots at Palembang and dependencies on Sumatra**  
**1854 Expedition to Borneo, Western District**  
**1856 Expedition to Tomiri (Moluccan Islands)**  
**1856 Expedition to Mandar on Celebes / Sulawesi**  
**1856 Riots among Chinese on Riouw**



**P.8 Sumatra 1942 KNIL soldiers after heavy fights with the Japanese near Palembang**

**1856 Third Lampong-expedition on Sumatra**  
**1857 Expedition to Timor and Flores**  
**1858 Punishment (tuchtiging in Dutch) of the Mountain Alfoers on Ceram (Moluccan Islands)**  
**1858 Jambi-expedition on Sumatra**  
**1858 Riots at Palembang**  
**1858 Chinese riots at Cheribon / Cirebon and Krawang**  
**1858 Expedition to Retih on East-Sumatra**  
**1858 Riots on North-Bali**  
**1859 Riots at Sintang on Borneo, Western District (Wester Afdeling)**  
**1859 First Boni-expedition, Celebes / Sulawesi**  
**1859 Riots at Palembang on Sumatra**  
**1859-1871 Riots at Banjarmasin on Borneo, Eastern and Southern District (Zuider en Ooster Afdeling)**  
**1859 Second Boni-expedition, Celebes / Sulawesi**  
**1860 Riots on Ceram (Moluccan Islands)**  
**1860 Revolt of Swiss army mercenaries at Semarang**  
**1861 Defeat of pirates on the island of Saljusu**

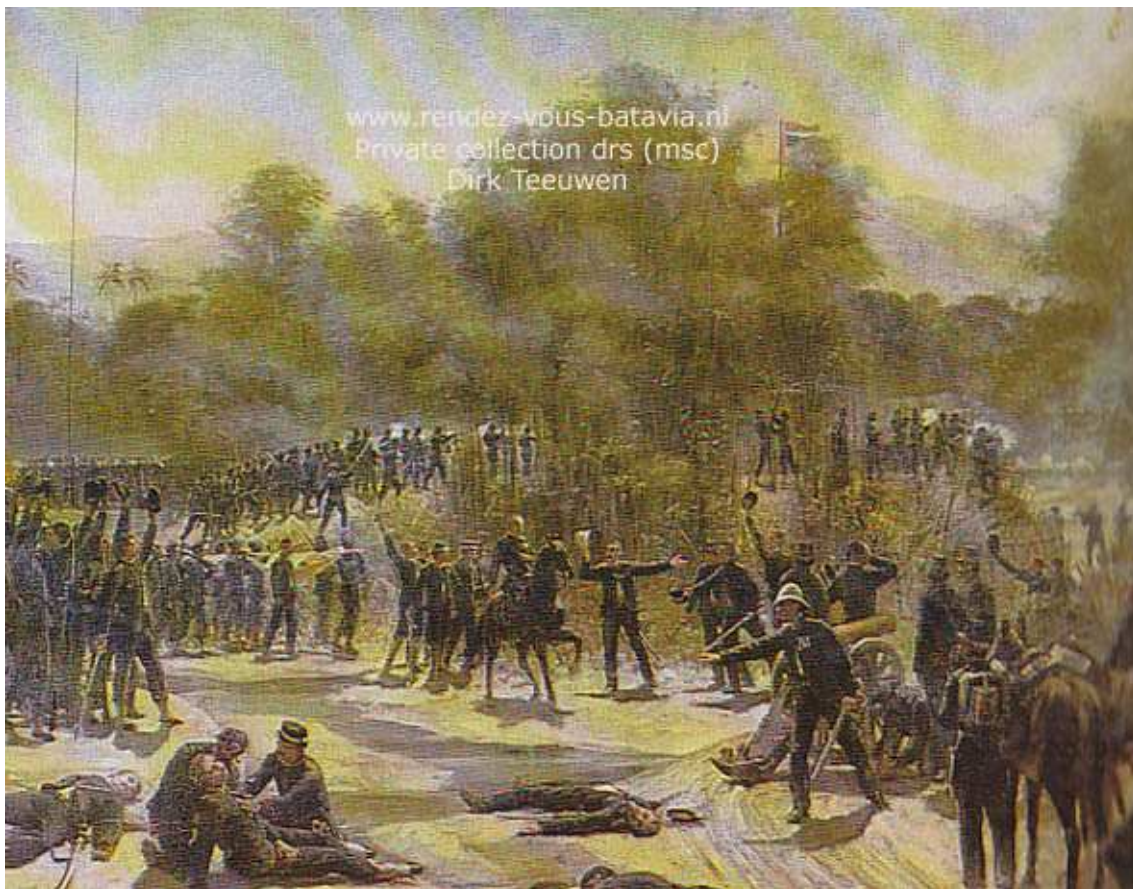


1862 Destruction of a pirates' fleet near the Sangir Islands  
 1862 Expedition to Manipi, Tutungan and Mandar on Celebes / Sulawesi  
 1863 Expedition to Nias  
 1863 Expedition to the Toradja area on Celebes / Sulawesi  
 1864 Expeditions to Sintang and Marahunu  
 1865 Expedition to pirates near Menado / Manado, North-Celebes / Sulawesi  
 1865 Riots on Ceram (Moluccan Islands)  
 1865 Riots at Amunthai on Borneo  
 1866 Expedition to Pasumah, near Palembang on Sumatra  
 1866 Expedition to Ceram (Moluccan Islands)  
 1867 Expedition to Mandar on Celebes / Sulawesi  
 1868 Riots on Bali  
 1871 Riots at Pekalongan  
 1872 Entanglements in Deli on Sumatra  
 1873 Start of the Aceh War (1903 formal end of the Aceh War)  
 1873 First and second expedition to Aceh  
 1875 Riots on Ceram (Moluccan Islands)  
 1876 Expedition to Siak on Sumatra  
 1877 Expedition to Langsar  
 1877 Riots on Celebes / Sulawesi, revolt of Kraeng Bonto Bonto  
 1878 Expedition to Silindung  
 1878 Destruction of a nest of pirates at Manura , South-Flores  
 1880 Riots at Kutuardjo  
 1881 Riots at Takalar on Celebes / Sulawesi  
 1881 Riots at Benkulu and in the vicinity  
 1881 Revolt at Palembang  
 1882 Entanglements in Indragiri, East-Sumatra  
 1882 Riots in Dusson, East-Borneo (Zuider en Ooster Afdeling in Dutch)  
 1883 Riots around Tobah on Sumatra  
 1883 Expedition to Siak on Sumatra  
 1883 Riots around Palembang  
 1884 Expedition to Tenom, West-Sumatra  
 1884 Riots of Chinese at Mandar on Celebes / Sulawesi  
 1885 Expedition to Mandar  
 1885 Riots around Palembang  
 1885 Expedition against pirates, Eastern coast of Sumatra  
 1885 Armed resistance in North Celebes / Sulawesi  
 1885 Riots in and around Madioen  
 1886 Entanglements with Raja Bataks on Sumatra  
 1887 Riots around Toba on Sumatra



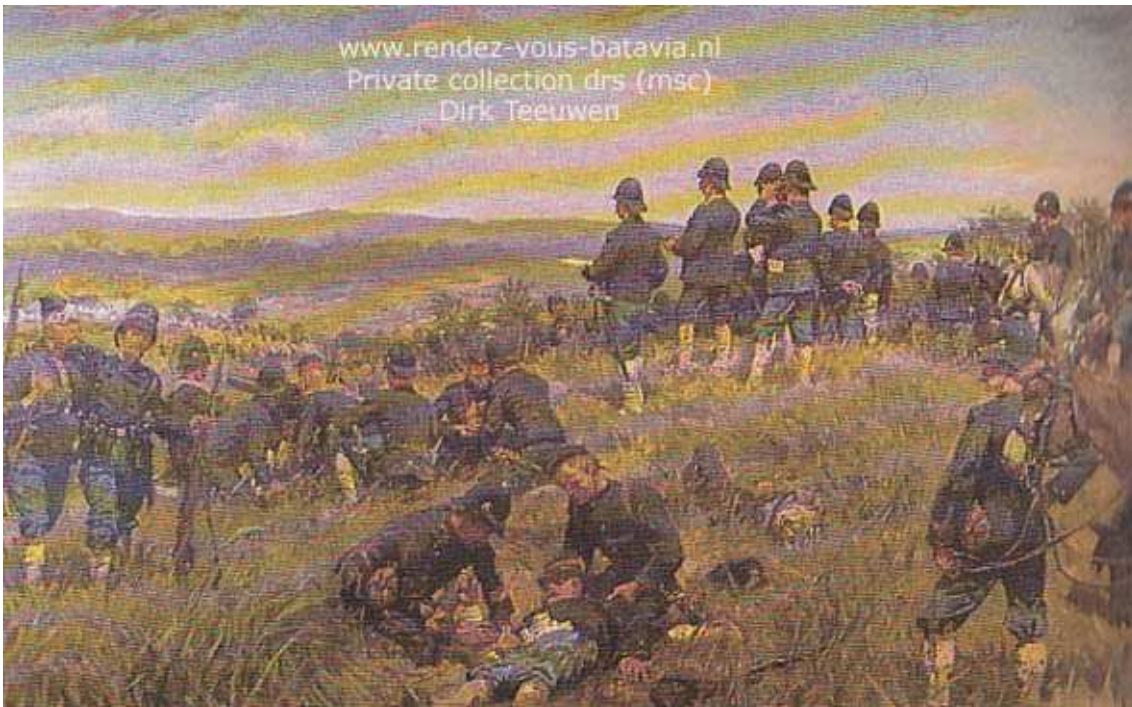
**P.9 and 10**  
**General Van Heutsz 1903 (left)**  
**Colonel Van Daalen 1903**  
**Location: Kota Radja / Banda**  
**Aceh**

**1888 Riots in Bantam, West-Java as well as in Middle- and East-Java**  
**1889 Expedition to Edi, eastern coast of Sumatra**  
**1889 Riots around Toba on Sumatra**  
**1889 Punishment of troublemakers around Geelvink Bay on New Guinea**  
**1890 Expedition to Flores**  
**1890 Expeditions to independent dwarf states on Sumatra's western coast**  
**1891 Expedition to Tebidah, West-Borneo (Wester Afdeling)**  
**1892 Riots on the Aru Islands**  
**1893 Acenese attack Dutch territory on the eastern coast of Sumatra**  
**1893 Punishment of the Aru Islands**  
**1894 First and second expedition to Lombok**  
**1895 Riots at Sampang on Madura**  
**1896 Entanglements at Melawie, West-Borneo (Wester Afdeling)**  
**1896 Riots around Ampuang on Timor**  
**1896 Riots on Lombok**  
**1897 Riots on Lombok**  
**1899 Riots at Parigi near Menado / Manado, North-Celebes / Sulawesi**  
**1899 Continued fightings in Aceh, Dutch initiatives**  
**1899 Chinese riots on Banka**  
**1899 Expeditions against dwarf states on several islands in the archipelago**  
**1900 Riots in Jambi on Sumatra**  
**1903 Korinci-expedition**  
**1904 Colonel Van Dalen conquers Gajo, Alas and Northern Batak on Sumatra**  
**1905 Expedition to Boni**  
**1906-1910 Several small expeditions in the archipelago**  
**1906 Conquest of southern Bali**  
**1916 Jambi-expedition**  
**1926 Riots of communists on Sumatra and Java**  
**1927 Riots at Tapanuli**



**P.11 Aceh 1898, Battle of Samalanga**

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**P.12 Storming Bateë Ilië, Aceh1901**

### **Dissolution in 1950**

**1941-1945 War against Japan**

**1946-1950 Military police actions against nationalists, abuses and massacres (butchery, often cutting up people literally, of thousands and thousands of Europeans, Indo's (half-bloods), Chinese and even many more natives by so-called bersiap-murderers mostly worked up by Japanese)**

**1946-1950 and after: at the same time a civil war against Javanese superiority, according to the feelings of Indo's, Amboinese, Menadonese, etc.**

**1950 July 26 Dissolution of the Royal Dutch East-Indian Army**

**1950 Loyal (to the Dutch and their Royal Family) Amboinese KNIL-soldiers were transhipped to The Netherlands and, on arrival there, were told that their military status had come to an end.**

**The dissolution of the Royal Dutch East-Indian Army leaves a nasty taste in the mouth because of this betrayal by the Dutch government. Loyal and very royalist Amboinese (and others) has been leaved to fend for themselves from that moment. Their correct nationalist aspirations to form a Republic of the South Moluccas were ignored. Thanks to a bunch of cowardice Dutch authorities. By the way: weak and cowardice authorities are a permanent problem in the Netherlands after World War II.**

**End of this article**

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