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NAVY DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

No.

WASHINGTON (Date:)

TO: War College. ✓

15 February, 1921.

Commander-in-Chief, Asiatic Fleet.

Source: Military Intelligence Division.

Subject: "Dutch East Indies - Combat Factor."

NAVAL WAR COLLEGE  
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A copy of the compilation on the  
above subject is attached hereto.

A. T. LONG.  
(K.H.)

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NAVAL WAR COLLEGE  
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FEB 18 1921

DUTCH EAST INDIES

COMBAT FACTOR

FROM  
Office of Naval Intelligence

PART I.

MILITARY POWER (2)



CHAPTER I.

STRENGTH (5)

FROM  
Office of Naval Intelligence

30, Dec. 1919.

DUTCH EAST INDIES

(41) Personnel.

The colonial army is composed of about one-quarter Europeans and three-quarters natives. The officers and a proportion of non-commissioned officers are Europeans. The strength of the army in 1918 was 1,447 officers and 40,830 men.

30, Dec. 1919.

DUTCH EAST INDIES  
COMBAT.

(5) Strength.

(14) Composition.

The Dutch forces in the East Indies comprise a colonial army, which is entirely separate from the home army, and a militia.



Composition (14)

Personnel (41)

The Colonial Army in the Dutch East Indies is an organization distinct from the Dutch Home Army. Its personnel is about one-fourth European and three-fourths native.

The Colonial Reserve consist of both Europeans and natives.

The entire force, European (except European militia) and native, is recruited by volunteering. All of the officers and a large proportion of the non-commissioned officers are European.

The policy of conscription has just been adopted and the final measure preliminary to its actual introduction have been taken.

First line (42)

In 1918 the strength of the Colonial Army was:

1,447 officers  
40,830 volunteers of whom 8,416 were  
Europeans, 727 of the number  
are militiamen.

Reserves (43)

The reserves number about 5,500.

There are additional auxiliary troops numbering about  
15,600.

FROM  
Office of Naval Intelligence

30, Dec. 1919.

DUTCH EAST INDIES  
COMBAT

(42) 1st Line.

Besides the regular army, there exist the following organizations of armed troops: (1) The Legion of the Native Prince Mangkoe Negara, consisting of infantry numbering 933 men; (2) The Barisan, a native infantry of Madoera, strength 1,733; (3) The Schuttery, being national guards residing in some of the larger places, and numbering 102 officers and 3481 men, mostly Europeans; (4) The police-soldiers 9,000 men; and (5) various other voluntary corps to be used in time of war or insurrection. It is estimated that altogether 50,000 1st line troops are available.



30, Dec. 1919.

DUTCH EAST INDIES.  
COMBAT.

(43) Reserve.

There is a small colonial reserve.

30, Dec. 1919.

DUTCH EAST INDIES.  
COMBAT.

(44) Peace.

The colonial army is organized into 31 battalions and 3 depot battalions of infantry, 4 machine-gun companies, 1 company of cyclist soldiers, 6 squadrons, 1 depot quadron of cavalry, 4 field batteries, 4 mountain batteries, 10 fortress companies of artillery, and 4 field companies and 1 depot company of engineering troops.

In most battalions there are 4 companies.

FROM  
Office of Naval Intelligence

30, Dec. 1919.

DUTCH EAST INDIES.  
COMBAT.

(45) War.



Organization (15)

Peace (44)

The Colonial Army:

<u>Infantry:</u>	31 battalions 3 depot battalions 4 machine gun companies
<u>Cyclists:</u>	1 company
<u>Cavalry:</u>	6 squadrons 1 depot squadron
<u>Field Artillery:</u>	4 batteries
<u>Mountain Artillery:</u>	4 batteries
<u>Fortress Artillery:</u>	10 companies
<u>Engineers:</u>	4 companies 1 depot company

Auxiliary Troops:

1. Legion of Prince Mhagkoe  
Nagara -- Infantry numbering 933 men.
2. The Barasan, a native infantry  
of Madoera, of 1,733 men.
3. The Schuttery, a local guard mostly  
European, of 102 officers and 3,841 men.
4. Police Soldiers, numbering about  
9,000 men.

War (45) In case of War Holland can call into service  
the Gava troops as an army reserve.

Mobilization (46) Mobilization is by Depot Battalions.

30, Dec. 1919.

DUTCH EAST INDIES  
COMBAT.

(46) Mobilization.

The volunteer system is used to enlist both native and European soldiers for the regular army only.

In the militia the service is compulsory for men between the ages of 19 and 32 for the 1st line, and between 33 and 44 for the landstorm.

Source: Statesmen's Year Book, 1919.

FROM  
Office of Naval Intelligence

Distribution (16)

Strategic (47)

Java being the most wealthy of the Islands the majority of the troops are concentrated there, as Holland is fearful of dispoilation by larger powers, particularly Japan.

Tactical (48)

The regular stations of the troops in Java are at Batavia, Bandoong, Magelang and Soerahaia.

Territorial (49)

Troops are stationed throughout the islands.

FROM  
Office of Naval Intelligence



CHAPTER II.

EFFICIENCY (6)

Discipline (17)

Individual (50)

One effective means of discipline is the pronounced distinction between their privates and non-commissioned officers, who are quartered and messed separately.

In the central part of Java is a reformatory where soldiers are sent for disciplinary purposes.

Morale (18)

Sentiment (53). The officers in general seem to prefer the native to the Dutch Soldiers mainly on account of his not getting drunk. The native soldier is reported as very satisfactory but too often cruel with the people against whom he is fighting.

Elan (54). The elan (pep) of the troops has not been tried in recent years by actual conflict.

Stamina (55). The industry and sobriety of the native (attributed in some degree to the government policy of seizing lands which are not cultivated annually) enhance his value as a soldier.



Training (19)

Individual (56). The Dutch soldier serves an enlistment of six years and can, if physically fit for future tropical service, serve another six years.

The system of drill is so arranged and carried out that all officers and enlisted men have the necessary amount of practice to render and keep them efficient. The skill shown by the natives in the compilation of the sketches in the Topographical Department is of the highest order.

Unit (57). There is but little garrison training. Most of the instruction is devoted to field exercises and problems.

Aviation camps have been established in Java. The Dutch army use the Henry Farman type of plane.

Staff (58). The provincial and garrison staffs for the three military districts into which Java is divided, have their headquarters at Batavia, Semarang, and Soerabaja respectively.

CHAPTER III.

EQUIPMENT (7)

Individual (20)

Arms (59). The infantry is armed with a rifle m.95: a repeating gun, Mannlicher system, with dagger bayonet; calibre 6.5 mm.

Troops in a reconnoitering party against the native enemy are armed with a carbine and bole.

Volunteer Militia and the corps of armed auxiliaries are supplied with the Beaumont rifle (11 mm.). The corps Barisanger, the Legion of Mangkoe Negara and the volunteer corps are armed as the infantry. Each non-commissioned officer carries a Mauser automatic pistol, a compass, whistle and a pair of field glasses.

The cavalry is armed with a carbino M. 95 carried on the back; the sabre is in a scabbard fastened to the saddle.

The personnel of the Engineer Troops is armed with a revolver and hatchet.

Clothing (60): The uniform is of good quality but the style and cut is not conducive to an appearance of neatness.

The insignia of rank is work on the collar, 2nd Lieutenant-one star, 1st Lieutenant-two stars, Captain-three stars, Major-one star and one gold stripe.

Accoutrements (61). The ammunition equipment per combatant amounts is 400 cartridges, of which 100 are carried with the man, 100 with the commissary train and 200 with the ammunition column.

The total weight carried by a private of infantry, European and Amboinese, amounts to 21 K.G. and about 17 K. G. for a native.



30, Dec. 1919

DUTCH EAST INDIES  
COMBAT.

(63) Transport.

The railways of the islands are well developed. Java has a very efficient railway system. The roads are under Government control, and have a mileage of 1,516. Sumatra has a rail mileage of 209.

FROM  
Office of Naval Intelligence



30, Dec. 1919

DUTCH EAST INDIES.  
COMBAT.

(64) Communications.

The construction in Holland of a giant radio telegraphic station which will make it possible to carry on direct wireless communication with the Dutch East Indies is about to commence. It is understood that the sister station is to construct at Bandoeng, Java.

Source: Far Western Review.  
Feb. 1919.

## Organization (21)

Equipage (62). The field artillery is armed with a nickel steel gun, rapid fire return, (mantle construction) of 7.5 cm., 1/30th with slot closure, and provided with shields.

Projectile weight 6.5 K.G. Vo...500 M.  
Weight of Dismounted Gun 900 to 950 K.G.  
Weight of whole carriage 1500 K.G.

The mountain artillery is at present armed with a steel breech loading rifle of 7 cm.

The fort artillery is armed with a repeating carbine of 6.5 mm. provided with a bayonet.

Transport (63). The usual method of transportation is by a high two wheeled cart drawn by bullocks. Ponies are numerous and of sturdy stock. They are used extremely in the country for pack purposes.

Communications (64). The islands of Celebes and Borneo are comparatively developed.

Java, which is highly developed, contains about 3,500 miles of railways of which 2,000 are government owned.

There is also a net work of steam trams covering the north half of Java.

The telegraph and telephone systems of Java are government owned and cover the island thoroughly. The telephonic system is also interurban and a connection may be maintained between the two extreme points of Java.

A broad military highway extends the length of Java from East to West. The other roads are in excellent condition.

Extensive highways are undergoing construction in Celebes.

Progress in road building as well as along other lines is slow in Sumatra, due to native aggression.

PART II

NAVAL POWER (3)

CHAPTER IV.

COMPOSITION (8)



30, Dec. 1919.

DUTCH EAST INDIES.  
COMBAT.

(68) Ships.

The Netherland Navy in the East Indies consists of 28 men-of-war, many of which are old and unserviceable.

There is also, the Colonial Navy consisting of 22 smaller ships, employed for civil service duties.

FROM  
Office of Naval Intelligence

30 Dec. 1919.

DUTCH EAST INDIES  
COMBAT.

(74) Sailor.

The Netherland Navy in the East Indies numbers 326 officers, 1983 European non-commissioned officers and 1,437 native non-commissioned officers.

In the Colonial Navy there are 169 Europeans and 818 natives employed for civil service duties.

Source: S. Y. B. 1919.

Personnel (25).

Sailors: (74). The Netherlands Navy in the East Indies numbers 326 officers and 1,983 European and 1,437 native non-commissioned officers and sailors. The Colonial Navy has 169 Europeans and 818 natives employed for civil service duties.

DUTCH EAST INDIES

Strength (23)

Ships (68). The Netherlands Navy in the East Indies consists of 28 men of war, many of them old and unserviceable. There is besides the Colonial Navy consisting of 22 smaller ships of no naval value.



P A R T III.

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION (4)

CHAPTER VII.

INTERNAL (11)

Mobilization (32)

Methods (95). The method of mobilization is by depot battalions.

Time Table (96). No time table of mobilization is available.

Strength (97). The total army number about 45,500. The total forces available are about 60,200.

The population is 35,000,000, 63,000 of which are European and one-half are Chinese.

Dec. 31, 1919.

DUTCH EAST INDIES  
COMBAT

(11) Internal.

(33) Defense.

Sabany, on north-western coast of Sumatra, is right in the gateway of the Far East. It has a deep fjord entrance 2400 ft. wide, an almost perfect climate, splendid coaling and docking facilities, telegraphic communication with all the world, an ideal harbor, and an abundant supply of fresh water. With these advantages it would be an excellent base for submarine or other naval operations.

The port of Menade, Celebes, offers a poor anchorage on account of exposure to the monsoons.

Macassar, on the southern coast of Celebes, occupies a strategic position near the center of the group of islands. It is fast becoming a second Singapore in importance. Its quay is 550 yds. long. The new wharf has a length of 1475 yds.

FROM  
Office of Naval Intelligence



Defense (33).

Frontier (98) The harbors of the coast line suitable for the landing of troops make these possessions easy prey to an enemy possessing great naval strength. The natural formation of many portions of the coast gives good protection. Sumatra, Borneo and Celebes have few accessible ports or good roadbeds.

Interior. (99). Of the four islands, Java, Sumatra, Borneo and Celebes, Java is by far the most densely populated.

Celebes has been little explored but in general it is mountainous. All of the islands have extensive mountain ranges which form a natural defense. Due to the mountains the rivers are short and few are navigable for any great distance. The rivers of Borneo, however, play an important part both as highways and as lines along which run the main arteries of population. The lowlands are often swampy. This is particularly true of Eastern Sumatra.

Invasion (34)

An invasion of these islands would have to be made through its sea-ports, the leading ones being Batavia and Soerabaya, in Java, (the latter of which possesses a naval dockyard) - Macassar in the Celebes and Padang in Sumatra.

Java being the most thickly populated is the most important island of the group. Her two seaports are connected by a military highway, extending the length of the island, and her other roads are kept in excellent condition. By means of these the interior of the island could be easily penetrated.

CHAPTER IX.

LOCATION (13)

31 Dec. 1919.

DUTCH EAST INDIES,  
COMBAT.

(13) Location.

(115) Seasonal aspect.

The climate of Borneo is damp and oppressive. That of Celebes is very good.

F. E. R. Feb. 1919.

Sources: Far Eastern Review. Feb. 1919.  
Statesman's Year Book. 1919.



Ocean (38)

The location of these islands, makes the occupying of their seaports a prime necessity to an enemy, both because of their strategic importance in operations and as a supply base, in order to maintain an invading army.

DUTCH EAST INDIES

Combat

(28) Bases

(83) Location

Sabany, on northwestern coast of Sumatra, is right in the gateway of the Far East. It has a deep fjord entrance 2400 ft. wide, an almost perfect climate, splendid coaling and docking facilities, telegraphic communication with all the world, an ideal harbor, and an abundant supply of fresh water. With these advantages it would be an excellent base for submarine or other naval operations.

(Source: Old Monograph, no source given.)

DUTCH EAST INDIES

Combat

(33) Defense

(100) Critical Points

Sabany, on the northwestern coast of Sumatra, is right in the gateway of the Far East. It has a deep fjord entrance 2400 ft. wide, an almost perfect climate, splendid coaling and docking facilities, telegraphic communication with all the world, an ideal harbor, and an abundant supply of fresh water. With these advantages it would be an excellent base for submarine or other naval operations.

(Source: Old Monograph, no source given)

The port of Menado, Celebes, offers a poor anchorage on account of exposure of the monsoons.

Macassar, on the southern coast of Celebes, occupies a strategic position near the center of the group of islands, and is a port of commercial importance. Its quay is 550 yards long. The new wharf has a length of 1473 yards.

(Source: Old Monograph, no source given)

Soerabaya, Java, is developing rapidly as a port of great importance, being now second only to Batavia, the capital of the Dutch East Indies.

(Source: Mr. Harry Campbell, American Consul at Soerabaya, Interview 10 Dec. 1920.)



DUTCH EAST INDIES

(39) Land

(116) Strategic Aspect

COMBAT

Communications.

Transportation systems are well developed in Java and Madura, but less well in other islands.

Roads.

The road system of Java and Madura is well developed and adapted to local conditions. The roads in these two islands total some 18,000 miles. In Sumatra are about 950 miles of roads, 430 being of permanent construction.

(Source: Economic Section Monograph on Dutch East Indies, obtained 10 Dec. 1920)

Railways

These are well developed in Java, there being 1516 miles under Government control. Sumatra has 209 miles of railways. There are no railroads on the other islands. Total length of railroads in the islands, (Government and private) including some short, narrow gauge, together with tramways:

About 3914 miles (3130 in Java and 784 in Sumatra)

Cables, telegraph and wireless.

Cables (6254 miles) and telegraphs (6821 miles) operated by the Government. There are seven wireless stations in the Islands.

(Source: Statesman's Year Book, 1920. Estimate, Economic Section, M.I.D., dated 29 Nov. 1919)

FROM  
Office of Naval Intelligence



Land (39)

The total length of railways and tramways in these islands in 1917 was about 2,403 miles. The railroads have a four foot gauge, the rolling stock being similar to the Philippine Railways. The government telegraph in 1917 extended over 6,891 miles and the government cables over 6,250 miles. The number of port and telegraph stations was 603 for Java and Madeira, and 370 for the other islands. The Poles of both telephone and telegraph systems are of iron. Since the railroad line, extending the length of Java, parallels a mountain range where the rainfall is very heavy, it has to cross an exceptionally large number of small streams and rivers. A few of those bridges have their supports of concrete pillars but most of them are entirely of steel construction. There are two tunnels on this line, one west of Gombong and one west of Lampegarr; each of those about three-quarters of a mile in length. Numerous disturbances in the mountains in the vicinity of Bandoeug are likely to cause landslides..

Politico-Economic (40)

Because of her rich resources Java is in constant fear  
of Japan.