



Commando DienstenCentra  
Ministerie van Defensie

# A VIEW OF WAR

A document  
in images of the past and the present

Koninklijk Tehuis  
voor Oud Militairen en  
Museum Bronbeek

## COLOPHON

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2015

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## A VIEW OF WAR

There have always been and always will be conflicts and wars. At any given time, armed struggles are occurring somewhere in the world.

War means loss of life and, depending on the position you are in, loss of freedom. War brings destruction, violence and terror, and sometimes even the annihilation of a whole people.

War causes military but also civilian victims; people leave everything they have behind to seek protection and shelter elsewhere. They flee because they fear being killed or persecuted for reasons of race, religion, political conviction or belonging to a specific social group. We can already see second and even third generation refugees growing up in camps.

Talks and negotiations lead to possible solutions and give hope for the end of a conflict or war, hope for peace.

War means that many things in our lives change, such as freedom, while our basic necessities become scarcer and restrictive measures are imposed. But at times of war, our everyday life just goes on; eating, drinking, making sure we have a roof over our heads, working, education, theatre. And the children continue their play.

This exhibition focuses on the themes of battle, loss, hope, protection and everyday life.



March 1946. T.K.R. corpsmen and some youths guarding checkpoints during the fights in Bandung (IPPHOS | Antara)

## FOREWORD

### Jakarta - Arnhem

*The past is contained in the present, in the now that will be the future*

Antara Foto, Galeri Foto Jurnalistik Antara and Museum Bronbeek have together organised a photo exhibition that will be held in Indonesia (Jakarta) and the Netherlands (Arnhem). The exhibition mainly comprises images of the events that took place in Indonesia between 1945 and 1950.

The Antara photos are from the Indonesian Press Photo Service (IPPHOS) collection, and the Bronbeek Museum images are from Charles van der Heijden's collection, who was a war correspondent with the Army Contact Service. This is a very special occasion: photos taken from an Indonesian and from a Dutch perspective have been brought together at an exhibition in celebration of the 70th anniversary of independence of the Indonesian Republic. Both Indonesia and the Netherlands can now each in their own way look back at the images taken between 1945 and 1950.

Historically speaking, the freedom of the Indonesian people is strongly linked to its young generation of those days, such as Sukarno, Hatta, Sjahrir and of course many others, who later would be called the founders of the nation. They had a specific goal in common: to free themselves of colonialism and create major change for the Indonesian people.

This exhibition is an attempt to look back on history from both sides of the coin. We can now present these images to today's younger generation, that lives in the hard-won freedom gained by the founders of Indonesia, whose first president Sukarno once said: „History should never ever be forgotten“.

*Hermanus Prihatna, Head, Antara Photo News Agency*

### When history becomes the future

The Antara News Agency was founded in 1937 and would contribute substantially to the formation of the Republic of Indonesia. At the beginning of the 1980s, the agency moved from Jalan Pos Utara 59 to a new twenty-story building at the Medan Merdeka Selatan. The old art deco building had been unoccupied for quite some time, but it was renovated and since December 1992 it houses the Antara Press Museum and Galeri Foto Jurnalistik Antara (GFJA). The street was also given a new name: Jalan Antara.

The Press Museum's mission is to create enthusiasm for a career in journalism among the younger generation. To this end, the news agency's history has been visualised in comic style throughout the building. GFJA both complements and supports the mission.

Both organisations form the basis of the journalistic community; they function as an oasis of appreciation and creativity, which applies to the photography as well. This place gives the journalistic community an excellent location to further develop and express itself.

The Antara building at the Jalan Antara doesn't only show history as a guideline for journalism, but also as the starting point for innovations in Indonesia in the future.

History is not an external issue, but it is part of everyone capable of reflecting on life.

To celebrate the Republic of Indonesia's 70th birthday, Antara Press Museum and Bronbeek Museum together present a photo exhibition and a publication to reflect on this history. The photos were taken by professionals, amateurs and soldiers, and they cover the period from the proclamation of the Republic of Indonesia on 17 August 1945 to the celebrations surrounding the Republic's fifth anniversary near Merdeka Palace on 17 August 1950.

For the Republicans the time has now come to re-examine history, with a clear focus on the future. We have passed the stage of recording data and statistics about victims, tears and material issues and consigning them to filing cabinets. Using the Antara Photo and Bronbeek Museum archives, the latter being a military and Royal Netherlands Indies Army museum, we have tried to make an analysis of life during the war of independence 1 and 2, termed police action 1 and 2 by the Dutch. For too long we have been hearing the same old stories on these events, but after all these years, opinions have changed considerably.

It was a time full of tension, covering several stages of armed combat. At the same time

conferences were held to find ways to end this conflict. All of this and more can be seen at the exhibition.

Journalists played an important role in the birth of the Republic of Indonesia with its complex population. And journalism will have to play the same important role today, by presenting via new media the younger generation with a history that may reflect the future. By doing so, hopefully the new generation will be spared anguish such as colonisation and war.

*Oscar Motuloh, Galeri Foto Jurnalistik Antara*  
*This article has been abridged and summarised.*

## INDONESIAN PRESS PHOTO SERVICE - IPPHOS

IPPHOS was founded on 2 October 1946 by the Mendur brothers, the Umbas brothers, Alex Mamusung, Oscar Ganda and Melvin Jacob, who all came from the Minahassa peninsula on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi (formerly known as Celebes).

In the 1930s, Alex and Frans Mendur worked for the daily newspaper *De Java Bode* and the illustrated magazine *Wereldnieuws en sport in beeld*. During the Japanese occupation of Indonesia (1942-1945), Alex Mandur was a photographer for the Japanese news agency Domei and Frans worked for the daily newspaper *Asia Raya*. They were the only two photo journalists who made a photographic record of the reading of the proclamation of Indonesian independence by Sukarno on 17 August 1945. Six months later, their photos of the proclamation were published in a special edition of the daily newspaper *Merdeka*, for which they also worked as photographers at the time. In October 1946, the Mendur brothers left *Merdeka* and decided to set up the independent press agency Indonesian Press Photo Service (IPPHOS).

As an independent news agency, IPPHOS was in a unique position, particularly because the press agency Antara and the Indonesian state cinema were part of the Republican Government's Ministry of Information. IPPHOS photographed not only the spirit and bravery among the republicans, but also the misery of the

Dutch and Indo-European people that were forced to leave the country.

In order to remain independent, IPPHOS also took on assignments that fell outside of news journalism; they photographed at parties, weddings and functions, and they also took photos for businesses and for the Dutch community in Jakarta.

IPPHOS kept its headquarters in Jakarta, but it also opened a branch in Yogyakarta. Press agency Antara, which had ties with the Republican government, left Jakarta and relocated to Yogyakarta.



As IPPHOS journalists worked for pro-Republicans as well as for the Dutch, both parties often accused them of being traitors. Although the journalists had Christian upbringings and attended Dutch schools, they still took the Republic's side and were co-founders of the youth movement Laskar KRIS (Kebaktian Rakjat Indonesia Soelawesi, the organisation for the wellbeing of the Indonesian people of Sulawesi). In Yogya, the IPPHOS office was also home to the Laskar KRIS and political refugees. Members of the Laskar KRIS infiltrated in organisations such as the Royal Netherlands Indies Army (KNIL). In Jakarta, the office was located at Molenvliet Oost 30, in a neighbourhood the pro-Republicans considered to be enemy territory.

Because of their close ties with the Republican Government and the Sultan of Yogya, many IPPHOS photos were hidden in the sultan's palace during the Second Police Action by the Netherlands armed forces in Indonesia. The good relationship IPPHOS had with the Dutch population in Jakarta prevented their office at Molenvliet from being subjected to raids.

The Suharto era, from 1965, practically meant the end of IPPHOS. In this New Order, there was no place for anything reminding people of Sukarno. IPPHOS moved to smaller premises with few possibilities for adequately preserving their collection.

During their investigation from 1995 to 1997, the team of the Galeri Foto Jurnalistik Antara (GFJA) discovered thousands of photos that had until then been kept from the public eye. These were photos of everyday civilian life, that continues as normally as possible during wartime conditions.

In 2004, the publishing rights of the IPPHOS photo collection were transferred to Antara News Agency, thus saving this important, historical photo collection for the coming generations.

## CHARLES ERNEST VAN DER HEIJDEN

Charles Ernest van der Heijden was born in Amsterdam on 9 May 1923. He grew up in a left wing family and was a member of the Arbeiders Jeugdcentrale or AJC, a Dutch socialist youth movement active in the years right before and after the second world war. He was seventeen years old when the war broke out, and worked as a junior employee for an insurance firm. During the war, he joined the resistance, later going into hiding in Holten.

The eastern part of the Netherlands was liberated on 8 April 1945. Before Van der Heijden returned to Amsterdam, he volunteered for military service. At a later age he wrote: „...initially, I didn't join the army to go to the Dutch East Indies. If possible, I wanted to join the navy or the merchant navy, but from the south of the country we were told that there were already so many applications for these sections of the armed forces that our chance of success was very slim. In the Dutch East Indies though, people were still waiting to be liberated from Japanese occupation, so I provisionally signed up to join the armed forces in the Dutch East Indies...“. This meant he was tied to two years of service, and he added: „...of course we were not aware that in fact people did not see us as liberators, even though we joined the allies in the South East Asia Command.“.

East Java eventually became the region where he spent his service in the Dutch East

Indies, with initially Surabaya, and later the cities of Pasuruan and Malang, as his base. In the kampongs or villages he assisted the battalion doctor in providing medical care to the villagers, dressing wounds and handing out anti-malaria medication. In the same story he says: „...at least I had the idea that I was doing something useful, and I quite enjoyed people calling me Toeian Besar or Toeian Dokter. One of my main tasks was to make sure my patients were really swallowing the pills I gave them...many times we discovered they held the pill under





their tongue, just to take it out later when they were out of sight; after drying the pill, they could sell it to some Chinese dealer“.

For him, Pasuruan was the place where his life started to look like a real soldier's life. The troops were in the front line here and this meant many patrols and many contacts with enemy troops. He started writing about army life in the Dutch East Indies. His stories were published in the *Wapenbroeders* (Brothers in arms) magazine and in other army journals. They also ended up in the regular Dutch press in the Dutch East Indies. Because of his apparent writing talents, he was asked to apply for a role within the *Dienst Legercontacten*, DLC (Army Contact Service). His activities included: supervising civilian journalists on East Java, facilitating contacts, taking photos and writing articles. The transfer to the Army Contact Service meant he was promoted to sergeant. Even though Charles didn't care much about ranks and positions in the armed forces, he had to admit that his promotion brought him many benefits. Apart from higher wages and extra rations of cigarettes and Dutch gin, the work gave him a feeling of freedom: he was dealing with people in civilian roles, with other sections of the armed forces and with providing the population with medical care.

After the first police action by the Netherlands armed forces in 1947, everything changed. There was a lot of suffering in areas where the lines of the belligerent parties started to blur. There were many more firing contacts. Monitoring and controlling occupied areas created a lot of tension. Invading 'enemy' territory in small actions or patrols with only one platoon and sometimes even less, made the soldiers feel abandoned and left at the mercy of the enemy. More troops died in small than in larger actions. In this period, Van der Heijden went from one army unit to the next. He did not need to fire during actions, but he did carry a weapon, a parabellum, for his own protection. Chaos and confusion reigned: in one village the soldiers were welcomed as liberators while in another village they were faced with guerrilla attacks. After two and a half years in the Dutch East Indies, he was to return home to the Netherlands with his battalion by the end of 1948. But the following police action was underway and his return home was postponed. This delay created a lot of unrest and fighting among the soldiers. 'At times it looked like a real mutiny...', Van der Heijden said. His battalion had to stay and was deployed.

On 21 May 1949, he wrote to his parents that he would be leaving for the Netherlands within a few days, which is what happened.

## MARIELLE VAN UITERT

Marielle van Uiter was born in Kerkdriel in 1973. After completing her education at the Netherlands Institute of Tourism and Transport Studies, she worked as a freelance journalist for regional Dutch newspaper *BN De Stem*. During her time as a journalist, she travelled to many different countries, especially in Africa and Asia. The winning World Press photo of napalm victim Kim Phuc, taken in 1972 during the Vietnam War, inspired her to become a war photographer.

To that end, Van Uiter followed a training course at the Dutch Photo Academy at its Amsterdam and Boxtel locations. After finishing her studies, she travelled as a freelance photographer to war and conflict areas in the Middle East and Africa. Van Uiter wants to give war a human face by showing how a war situation affects family life. In addition to war photography, she

specialises in striking and touching personal portraits, with a special focus on women and children. For her work as a war photographer, she took part in the patrols carried out by ground troops of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. She paid several visits to the military operational areas in Afghanistan and Iraq, both independently and under the protection of the Ministry of Defence. In November 2012 she travelled to Syria, where together with her fellow journalist Irene de Zwaan she was held captive by Syrian rebels for several hours. She also sustained injuries to one of her legs during a mortar attack in Aleppo.

At the 2011 edition of the Silver Camera competition, Marielle van Uiter won second prize with a photo of two captured Taliban fighters being held at an American



base in Afghanistan. In 2011 the book 'Bye Bye Bullshit' was published, in which Marielle van Uiterter gives an impression of the of the Dutch troops' last mission in Afghanistan. For the book, she worked together with the since deceased journalist George Marlet, who used to work for Dutch daily newspaper Trouw. Marlet had been reporting about the Dutch military missions in countries such as Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan since 1996. He wrote the texts accompanying Marielle's photos.

She has exhibited her photos, taken in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and various other countries, at the 'A View of War' exhibition held at the Camp Vught National Monument. Not only do her images give an impression of the Dutch infantry's efforts during their stay in the mission area, but they especially show local population living in a state of fear and distrust in a devastated and impoverished area.

## COMBAT

### kebaktian rakjat indonesia soelawesi (kris) foundation for the people of sulawesi

The KRIS was founded in Batavia in October 1945 with the aim of continuing the fight for independence until the united state of Indonesia had become reality.

The KRIS was made up mainly of Medanonese and Makassarrese from North and South Celebes. Some of them had been trained in the Royal Netherlands Indies Army (KNIL) and attended Dutch schools. They carried out attacks on Dutch territory in small groups of three to five people, and infiltrated the Royal Netherlands Indies Army. KRIS members with a Western background were often used for spying and acts of sabotage.

In July 1947, the KRIS became part of the Indonesian army, the Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI).







## THE KORPS BARISAN TJAKRA MADOERA

The Korps Barisan Tjakra Madoera was founded in 1831. Within the command, the sultans of Bankalan and Sumenep held the rank of major general, while the Sultan of Pamekasan held the rank of colonel. These Madurese commands were deployed as Royal Netherlands Indies Army (KNIL) auxiliary troops. They joined several expeditions outside of Java, including expeditions to Bali in 1846 and 1849, to Borneo in 1854 and to Aceh in 1875. Several Barisan commanders were awarded the Military Order of William. After 1900, the size of the commands was reduced to two companies. These came under the command of the sons of the sultans, both

holding the rank of major. The troops volunteered for the command and stayed in their own kampongs when they were not on an expedition. Instructors of these commands were European Royal Netherlands Indies Army officers and NCOs. One of the instructors of the command in Pamekasan was Cornelis Adrianus Rijnders, who was commander of Bronbeek from 1932 to 1946.

The Korps Barisan Tjakra Madoera was refounded in 1947. It comprised two battalions, that were meant to be deployed as auxiliary troops or security battalions to combat terror and maintain peace and public order. The two battalions were made



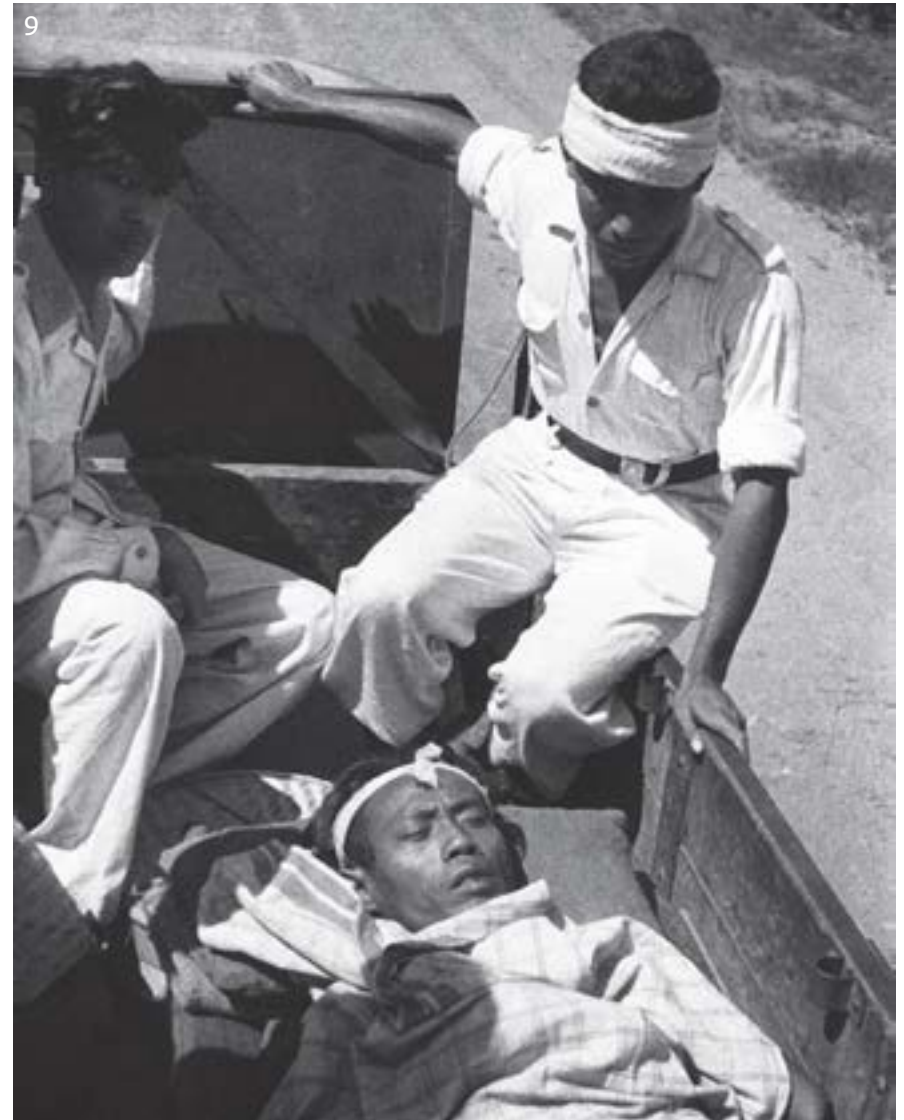
up of locals. In several states on East Sumatra, Pasundan, Madura and Bali, the units Barisan Pengawal, Barisan Tjakra and Prajoda were founded. Together with troops from the Royal Netherlands Army, the Royal Netherlands Indies Army and the Marines, they had to establish peace and public order in their own regions.

On 5 April 1950, the Korps Barisan Tjakra Madoera became part of the Angkatan Perang Republik Indonesia Serikat (APRIS), the Indonesian federal army. The Dutch force commander for East Java, Major General Scheffelaar, placed the 710 troops under the command of the military governor of East Java, Colonel Sungkono.

## PHOTO CAPTIONS COMBAT

- foto 1** *Laskar KRIS, possibly in Yogyakarta after February 1946 (IPPHOS | Antara)*
- foto 2** *Solo, January 1946. Laskar Putri (Women Troops) training session (IPPHOS | Antara)*
- foto 3** *October 1949. T.N.I. troops at Karawang frontlines (IPPHOS | Antara)*
- foto 4** *Paktika | Afghanistan: Soldiers of the American 101 st Airborne Division carry out a nocturnal mountain patrol after the discovery of a hidden Taliban arms dump (Marielle van Uitert)*
- foto 5** *Soldier on patrol in backlight during the first police action (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)*
- foto 6** *Soldiers in the primary forest of Ardji Soembar Brantas during the first police action (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)*
- foto 7** *Marines attempting to cross a bridge shot to pieces by the Republicans near Malang on East Java during the first police action (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)*
- foto 8** *Barisan Tjakra Madura - roll call of indigenous soldiers in Dutch service (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)*

## LOSS



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On 28 January 1949, Charles van der Heijden wrote a letter to his parents. He had just returned from Pasuruan, after a major ten-day operation in Blitar, Kediri and Tulungagung, where four of his comrades were killed and many others injured. He and his column had been surrounded for four days, during which time they came under heavy fire.

An excerpt from his letter: „...unfortunately the 10th Infantry Regiment lost five men as well...our boys have been fighting for 17 hours against a numerical majority of thousands of good and well-disciplined soldiers, almost to their last bullet. I cannot say if we will be going home soon, even though nobody understands why they still want our battalion over here. Less than 500 men remain of the 830 troops we arrived with, and no more than half of those left are ready for combat. One after the other ends up in hospital due to injuries or shock. For several days I was afraid I would start screaming at any moment, but a bromide mixture brought some relief, so for now I feel that I can go on. I cannot recall ever having written a letter like this. Please don't think I am being sensationalist, I just feel the need to express my thoughts, even if only on paper...“.

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#### Checkpoint | 12 januari 2008 | Afghanistan | Uruzgan

„Suddenly, I see a man walking up the garden path. I walk to the door, but just when I'm about to say: 'We do not buy at the door', he extends his hand and introduces himself as an official from the Defence

organisation. That's the moment I realise, I don't want to hear what he has to say'. The man comes in and tells us that our son was killed during a long exchange of fire. My man is crying, while I can only think: this is not possible, this is not possible...“

At two thirty in the morning, the Hercules lands, carrying the bodies of the two deceased soldiers and their comrades. The Hercules crew salutes the dead soldiers: „It was as if the aircraft was waving, very impressive.“

Family and friends respond with empathy and understanding. The Defence organisation provides support and counselling whenever required. Strangers, however, can be very insensitive: „Well, it was his own choice, wasn't it?“ As if young soldiers choose to get killed, as if a soldier deserves to die.“

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#### Groene Amsterdammer | 11-04-2012 | Joeri ten Boom | Ten Oorlog

2006 - A non-commissioned artillery officer tells about his short leave from Kandahar (Afghanistan), during his fifth consecutive mission:

“It feels like I haven't been home at all. (...) I just called my girlfriend, she feels exactly the same. Some small traces are testimony I was home recently, but everything feels very

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unreal to her. I simply couldn't get Afghanistan out of my head during this short leave."

"If I see something, it instantly reminds me of Afghanistan. But I always think: better not to mention anything. It's no use to



burden somebody else with my thoughts. I really had to make an effort to feel at home during those twelve days."

2008 - A nurse at the air base in Kandahar, Afghanistan, with a lively and happy personality. He was very keen on telling all about the good, lifesaving work he did at the hospital. The staff treated mainly Afghan locals, but also soldiers, usually victims of roadside bombs, better known as blast victims. He was eager to show his photos and videos of gruesome wounds, severed limbs in a pool of blood.

Once he was back in the Netherlands, it didn't take long before psychological complaints started to emerge. He couldn't get rid of the stench of burned human flesh, and images of the things he had witnessed kept haunting him, resulting in severe sleeping problems, snapping at people and showing aggressive behaviour. He was diagnosed as suffering from PTSD, post-traumatic stress disorder.

The Defence organisation immediately made sure his complaints were addressed properly. Since then he has fully recovered and he currently runs a successful business in the medical sector.

## PHOTO CAPTIONS LOSS

- foto 9** Evacuation of air raid casualties during the First Dutch military aggression (IPPHOS | Antara)
- foto 10** Wreckage of the Dakota VT-CLA aircraft, shot down by two Dutch jet fighters. Yogyakarta, 29 July 1947 (IPPHOS | Antara)
- foto 11** General Sudirman attended the funeral ceremony of Air commodore Adisutjipto and Abdulrachman Saleh who perished during the attack. July 1947 (IPPHOS | Antara)
- foto 12** Casualties being treated (IPPHOS | Antara)
- foto 13** 2010 - Tarin Kowt | Afghanistan: In Camp Holland, soldiers pay their last respects to three fallen colleagues that are being carried to a Hercules aircraft for repatriation to the Netherlands (Marielle van Uiter)
- foto 14** A fallen soldier is buried with military honours at Kembang Koening Cemetery in Surabaya, East Java, on 8 March 1947 (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)
- foto 15** Prisoners are taken away in a military vehicle during the first police action (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)
- foto 16** Toko Hong Gwan in Malang on East Java shot to pieces during the first police action (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)
- foto 17** An overturned truck after an explosion during the first police action (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)

## HOPE

**Hope that tomorrow may bring peace  
Hope that soon we may live in  
freedom again Hope that life will  
become quiet and peaceful, and that  
we no longer need to be afraid**

A.S. 2015

The hope to bring change to a country or region has always been based on creating goodwill. We achieve more through the courtesy of the local population than through brutal violence and repression. In that respect, nothing has changed. We therefore dedicate a great deal of our efforts to making contact with the local population, with local authorities and informal leaders, including spiritual leaders. The ISAF's task is to stabilise Southern Afghanistan, to establish a central government in Kabul and to create the right conditions for reconstruction. Conducting large scale military operations is not opportune, as we need to win over the local population. The Dutch mission is focused on rehabilitation and reconstruction, with goodwill being our most important weapon. In Afghanistan we can only eliminate the Taliban's influence if we win the support of the local population. This support base is crucial for the success of the mission. By creating better living conditions, safety on the streets and a better Afghan administration, the 'hardcore' Taliban must lose the backing of their still substantial support base. A solid campaign to win over hearts and minds, combined with friendly but

robust action, is essential. To win the hearts of the local population, civilian victims are given medical treatment, just like military victims. In addition to reconstruction, building schools, etc., this will create a different perspective towards the West. By now, Dutch military personnel have extensive experience in this 'Dutch' approach, which is a combination of respect for the local population and knowledge of the religion, local habits and customs, while making sure to avoid any aggressive behaviour.



## PHOTO CAPTIONS HOPE

**foto 18** 2009: Israël | Westbank: A section of the wall between Israel and Palestine (Marielle van Uiter)

**foto 19** Extradition of Republican guerilla fighters and 20 in Djember. Before they disappear beyond the demarcation line, the guerilla fighters are stuffed with food and cigarettes to create goodwill (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)

**foto 21** Talks between Republican and Dutch officers (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)

**foto 22** Lieutenant Colonel Keuning, Commander of the 2-5 Infantry Regiment and the Belgian Captain of the Good Offices Committee hold talks in the Regent of Modjokerto's house on East Java (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)



**foto 23** Tjirebon, 12 November 1946. Lunch break during the Linggadjati negotiations attended by lord Killearn as mediator (IPPHOS | Antara)

**foto 24** Linggadjati, 12 November 1946, foreign press reports about the negotiations on the steps of the Linggadjati Hotel (IPPHOS | Antara)

**foto 25** Jakarta, 25 March 1947. Signing of Linggadjati Agreement in presence of Schermerhorn and Sjahrir (IPPHOS | Antara)



**foto 26** Jakarta 27 December 1949. The transfer of sovereignty. The Dutch High Commissioner A.H.J. Lovink congratulates the Defense minister Sultan Hamengku Buwono IX (IPPHOS | Antara)

## PROTECTION

### Dutch troops on a mission

After the transfer of sovereignty of Indonesia, the western part of New Guinea remained in Dutch hands. From 1956, relations with Indonesia soured and it denounced the Union with the Netherlands, forcing tens of thousands of Dutch nationals to leave the country. Due to growing Indonesian infiltration, the Dutch Defence forces in New Guinea were strengthened. In total, around 30,000 Dutch troops were deployed. On 1 October 1962, the Netherlands transferred sovereignty to the United Nations, which then transferred this sovereignty to Indonesia on 1 May 1963.

In 1950, the Korean war broke out. The UN asked the Netherlands for a military contribution. Initially, the Dutch government thought it would be sufficient to send a destroyer, but under pressure from the United States it eventually sent an infantry battalion. A total of 123 Dutch soldiers were killed in Korea.

In 1979, the first large Dutch military unit was made available to the United Nations for the UNIFIL mission in Lebanon. Israel had entered the country to stop Palestinian attacks. The mission was terminated in 1985 with nine casualties among the Dutch troops.

After the end of the Cold War, the ethnically and religiously divided Yugoslavia fell apart. Civil wars broke out in Croatia and Bosnia-

Herzegovina. The deployment of the Airmobile Brigade in the Bosnian Muslim enclave Srebrenica saw a dramatic end when Bosnian Serbs captured the enclave in July 1995, killing 8,000 Bosnian Muslims. International intervention forced the Bosnian Serbs to sign a peace agreement. This meant the Netherlands could now focus on the reconstruction of the country. Over subsequent years, a total of 30,000 Dutch troops were deployed to the Balkans.

On 11 September 2001, the Islamic fundamentalist terrorist network Al Qaida attacked several targets on US soil simultaneously with hijacked passenger planes. In response, together with British and Australian troops, the US attacked Afghanistan, where the Taliban regime was offering shelter to Al Qaida. The Taliban regime was brought down, but continued to fight in large parts of Afghanistan. The Netherlands provided support by making equipment available. In 2002, the Netherlands sent around 300 troops to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to assist in reconstruction.

In 2004, the Netherlands took part in ISAF by providing air force units and ground troops. From August 2006, the Netherlands led an international task force in the province of Uruzgan, that, from 2007 onwards, increasingly became more like a combat mission. By 2010, the total number of troops killed in Afghanistan was 25.



After Dutch troops had left Uruzgan in 2010, the Dutch armed forces remained active in Afghanistan through a Police Training Mission in Kunduz (2011-2013), the F-16 fighter jets already stationed in the area (until 2014) and participation in the international headquarters.



*The thoughts of a little Chinese boy.*  
In Mondogan, a few kilometers outside of Modjokerto, we have to leave the jeep behind because of a tank trap that looks like a deep wound right through the middle of the road. We walk the final kilometers to the demarcation line, while around us the golden rays of the sun shimmer above the paddy fields.

Another transport of Chinese nationals arrives. Displaced persons, on their way to their former

homes, which they hope to find undamaged, on Dutch territory. While we walk towards the status quo line, a stream of refugees is passing us, on their way to the Motor Transport Service vehicles that are waiting for them further down the road. We have witnessed these scenes many times before. People who are tired and exhausted from continuously having to move on, from one camp to the other, from one place to the next, with only one thing on their minds, to finally find a place where they can stay permanently, where they can find some peace. They are all weighed down with luggage, consisting of clothes, household items, or children who are still too young to walk. We see a father, carrying his son in a small basket attached to a stick, while the other basket holds some food and clothes.

Then we see a young Chinese mother heading our way, holding the hand of a little boy of about six years old, whose brisk steps create small clouds of dust on the road while he is looking up at us with a curious look in his big dark eyes.

We stop for a moment in the middle of the sun-drenched road – the mother and child, together with Dutch soldiers carrying guns and wearing yellow armbands. A lieutenant of the 25th Infantry Regiment pats the boy on his head and smiles at him. The fearful eyes of the boy look up at the big man with his gun. Then a small white hand rises hesitantly, and a clear little voice says “Merdeka!” (Freedom!). We all start to laugh after this sudden move. The little boy is just too young to realize that not all soldiers wish to hear this greeting.  
12 February 1948.

C.E.v.d.Heijden.



## PHOTO CAPTIONS

### PROTECTION

**foto 27** 2011: Paktika | Afghanistan: Everyone is checked during a patrol of the American 101st Airborne Division in the border area with Pakistan (Marielle van Uiter)

**foto 28** Kranji-Bekasi, November 1946, Nica's local militiamen guarding the borders of Dutch controlled areas (IPPHOS | Antara)

**foto 29** Tegal, Central-Java, 26 July 1948. A Dutch militia | landowner keeping watch over a field being tilled by local laborers (IPPHOS | Antara)

**foto 30** Jakarta, February 1949. Dutch East Indies health worker conducting a public inspection during a small pox eradication program (IPPHOS | Antara)

**foto 31** Semarang, April 1947. Dutch soldiers conducting a situational survey residents and children in Dutch-controlled regions (IPPHOS | Antara)

**foto 32** Group of Chinese nationals returning from Republican imprisonment (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)

**foto 33** Group portrait of armed soldiers stationed for protection near the sugar factory in Modjokerto on East Java (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)

**foto 34** A defensive position, consisting of sandbags, put up in Batu near Malang on East Java (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)

**foto 35** Demarcation line, Dutch and Indonesian soldier, East Java 1947 (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)

## DAILY LIFE

### currency

In March 1943 a Royal Decree was issued to replace pre-war banknotes and coins by a new currency, the NICA currency. The banknotes were printed in the United States and temporarily stored in Australia. The name NICA refers to the Netherlands Indies Civil Administration, which was to return to the Dutch East Indies. In 1944, the new currency was put into circulation in the non-occupied parts of New Guinea and in the liberated areas. In January 1946, the Japanese guilder notes had to be replaced by a new currency. To avoid unrest, a transition period was set when it would be possible to exchange Japanese currency for Nica money.

The timeframe was set for one month, after which the old currency would lose its value.

After the proclamation of independence in 1945, the Republic considered the Japanese currency, the pre-war governmental banknotes and the Java banknotes all to be legal tender. In October 1945, the Republic introduced the Oeang Republik Indonesia, ORI. This was also called White Money, oeang poetih. The ORI money was of low quality: there were big differences in paper quality, print and colour. Counterfeiting was rife; to combat this, the Republican government introduced several measures,





such as adding secret codes to serial numbers. When the new currency was issued at the end of October 1945, Japanese money and the Java banknotes were declared invalid.

The NICA currency became known as Red Money, *oeang merah*, because of the widely used ten guilder note, which was red, but also because of the death penalty imposed by the Republican government for the possession of this currency.



## PHOTO CAPTIONS DAILY LIFE

**foto 36** Yogyakarta, 17 December 1947. Archery competition at palace courtyard organized by the Indonesian Army, the T.N.I. (IPPHOS | Antara)

**foto 37** Jakarta 29 January 1946. Exchanging the Yen in Chinatown's black market (IPPHOS | Antara)

**foto 38** Yogyakarta, april 1947. Freshmen orientation Week at Universitas Indonesia, U.I. (IPPHOS | Antara)

**foto 39** Jakarta, 7 oktober 1949. Cornelis d' Elegance, charity night market (IPPHOS | Antara)

**foto 40** 2012: Hatay | Turkey: Refugee camp for Syrian refugees (Marielle van Uiter)

**foto 41** Baboe and djongos busy with everyday activities - for everyday life carries on as usual (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)

**foto 42** Activities at an Indonesian fair during the *bersiap* period on East Java (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)

**foto 43** Soldiers stationed in Patjet near Modjokerto on East Java buying some snacks at a NIWIN stall during the first police action (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)

**foto 44** Members of the Dienst Legercontacten | DLC (Army Contact Service) relaxing on a front veranda with a glass of Indonesian tea and numerous High Way cigarettes - from left to right: film critic Lieutenant Griepink, radio technician and guest Mr. Roosendaal, Lieutenant Grinsven, also known as 'Roomse Toon', Lieutenant Jansen, known from his radio work, and photographer Kellenbach. Standing: the djongos Partaan (Van der Heijden | Museum Bronbeek)

## DIENST LEGERCONTACTEN | DLC (Army Contact Service)

The Dienst Legercontacten | DLC (Army Contact Service) was established on 1 April 1947. The DLC was located in Batavia and was, in fact, the Indonesian section of the Legervoorlichtingsdienst | LVD (Army Information Service). Organisation wise, the army commander was in charge of the service.

It was the DLC's task to provide information, both internally and externally. All troops placed under army command in the Dutch East Indies, had to be and stay informed about military and political events. The tone of these reports was meant to maintain and strengthen high morale among the troops.



The Service focused on preparing press reviews for military authorities, and publishing information bulletins and a weekly magazine for military personnel. In addition, it prepared radio broadcasts for the troops, made and distributed films, provided information for and maintained contacts with both the national and the international press.

The way in which the press informed the outside world was important. The Army Contact Service therefore had to keep close relations with the press and inform them whenever required. It was also the Service's task to create and maintain goodwill by staying in touch with foreign correspondents. Many images didn't make it past the censors. Images of atrocities committed by the Dutch army on the local population, but also by freedom fighters in relation to the Indo-European people and Dutch troops, were not made public. The focus had to be on the peaceful character of the actions; the images had to show how the troops were helping the local population. The term 'war' had to be avoided by all means, so the term 'police actions' was introduced. These days, we often use the term 'peace missions'.

The headquarters in Batavia determined the public's perception of the actions by only publishing carefully selected images. Most important was to stress the work being done to help Indonesia rebuild their country, and the role of the troops in achieving this. The Head of the Service, Lieutenant Colonel W.C. Koenders, underlined that no war had been waged in Indonesia, but that action was required against destructive forces to protect the well-disposed population.

Even though the Army Contact Service tried to present the world with a positive image of the police actions, the foreign press, especially in the US, was opposed to the Dutch interventions. The US supported the Indonesian quest for a democratic republic. When it became clear, however, that the communist party in Indonesia was also playing a part in all of this, the West considered this a threat to the democratic state and the international press became more positive about the Dutch actions. The Army Contact Service was abolished on 22 July 1950, when its then head, Lieutenant Colonel W.C. Koenders, transferred his task and associated equipment to Colonel Wirjono Surjokusumo, Head of the Republik Indonesia Serikat's military information service.

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