

# The reconstruction of palupuh: The story of the natuurmonument and defense base in 1948

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## The reconstruction of palupuh: The story of the natuurmonument and defense base in 1948

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**Abstrak:** Palupuh pada masa lalu mempunyai peran penting. Daerah yang menjadi bagian dari Oud Agam, Sumatra Westkust di masa Kolonial Belanda itu, pernah ditetapkan oleh pemerintah sebagai kawasan natuurmonument/ konservasi hutan. Dan, di masa Pemerintah Darurat Republik Indonesia (PDRI) pernah menjadi bagian penting untuk pertahanan Mobilie Brigade (Mobbbrig), dan barisan rakyat dari gempuran tentara Belanda. Artikel ini bertujuan menjelaskan keadaan Palupuh jelang kemerdekaan dan pentingnya da<sup>17</sup> ini sebagai basis pertahanan pada tahun 1948-1949. Artikel ini disusun berdasarkan metode sejarah, yakni heuristik, kritik, interpretasi, dan historiografi. Pada tahun 1948-1949, ketika Belanda membombardir Bukittinggi, kesatuan Mobilie Brigade beberapa kali memindahkan basis pertahanannya. Pilihan terakhir adalah di Palupuh –sebagai basis pertahanan melindungi Pasaman yang berada di Utara dan Luhak Limopuluah Koto di bagian Selatan. Pasukan Mobbbrig dan Barisan Pertahanan Nagari/ Kota (BPNK) dengan heroik menjaga basis pertahanan untuk di utara dan selatan.

**Kata kunci:** Palupuh; pertahanan; kemerdekaan

**Abstract:** Palupuh in the past had an important role. The area which was part of Oud Agam, Sumatra Westkust during the Dutch Colonial period, was once <sup>18</sup> designated by the government as a natural monument/forest conservation area. And, during the Emergency Government of the Republic of Indonesia or Pemerintah Darurat Republik Indonesia (PDRI) it was an important part of the defense of the Mobilie Brigade (Mobbbrig) and the ranks of the people from the onslaught of the Dutch army. This article aims to explain the situation of Palupuh ahead of independence and the importance of this <sup>18</sup> as a defense base in 1948-1949. This article is compiled based on historical methods, namely heuristics, criticism, interpretation, and historiography. In 1948-1949, when the Dutch bombarded Bukittinggi, the Mobilie Brigade moved its defense base several times. The final option is Palupuh – as a defense base protecting Pasaman in the north and Luhak Limopuluah Koto in the south. The Mobbbrig troops and the Nagari/Kota Defense Front or Badan Pengawal Nagari/Kota (BPNK) heroically guarded the defense bases for the north and south.

**Keywords:** Palupuh; defense; independence

### Introduction

A sentence delivered by the <sup>2</sup> military Governor of Central Sumatra, Mr. Sutan Moh. Rasjid, exactly a month after the end of the Emergency Government of the Republic of Indonesia or Pemerintah Darurat Republik Indonesia (PDRI) led by Mr. Sjafruddin Prawiranegara (Salim, 1951) Now, entering the age of 74, since PDRI was proclaimed on December 22, 1948, the Indonesian nation commemorates it again on National Defense Day-which was established

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through Presidential Decree No.28 of 2006 by President SBY. As leader, Sjafruddin on 23 December 1948 inspired APRI, the Mobile Terrace Troops or Pasukan Mobil Teras (PMT), the Mobile Brigade (Mobbbrig), and the people of Central Sumatra in his speech which was broadcast by radio sender Y.B.J.6.

"Fight, attack the Dutch anywhere and with anything they can be eradicated. Do not put down your weapons, stop shooting if there is no order from the government we lead. Keep this in mind to avoid the deceptions of the enemy!"

This call from the Chair of the PDRI quickly spread and was known by the public to the interior of the nagari in West Sumatra. Sutan Moh. Rasjid as Chair of the Regional Defense Council or Dewan Pertahanan Daerah (DPD) which oversees all government organs in West Sumatra, issued express instructions to the Military Regent, Wedana, to War Warden, "The government is mobile and moves everywhere. West Sumatra DPD members, executives, and several people's leaders joined together." (Instruksi Kilat Dewan Pertahanan Daerah Sumatra Barat, 1948). In another instruction, Sutan Moh. Rasjid emphasized that during an emergency, a Military Wedana who chaired the District People's Defense Headquarters or Markas Pertahanan Rakyat Kecamatan (MPRK) coordinated the joint defense of civilians, police and soldiers. And, to guarantee logistical needs during an emergency, the DPD Chair instructed the community to plant food in strategic locations (Perintah Dan Instruksi Dewan Pertahanan Daerah Sumatra Barat, 1948). The instructions issued will later be distributed by couriers appointed directly by the Head of DHD who is also the Minister of Security, Minister of Labor and Minister of Social Affairs to the interior of the nagari in West Sumatra. So that after the announcement of the PDRI Cabinet and the call for combat, this has sparked turmoil throughout West Sumatra, including in Palupuh. The narrative about Kawedanaan Palupuh during the PDRI era, strengthened during the PDRI period, especially in the heroic incident of the Palupuh Front. The story that began with instructions to move Mobbbrig's headquarters from Birugo to Jirek, suddenly changed on 21 December 1948 to Sipisang, and ended in Bateh Sariak Palupuh (Kepolisian, 1987).

Onslaught from sporadic Dutch aggressors who wanted to end PDRI's history in the capital of Central Sumatra, the idea of moving the headquarters to Sipisang was dashed. Finally, it was decided quickly to move it to Bateh Sariak, as well as to become Mobbbrig's defense base. In historical narratives it is remembered as the Sector II Headquarters (Palupuh Front), led by Police Inspector I Amir Machmud. The defense base in Bateh Sariak was also supported by organic soldiers from the Indonesian Armed Forces or Angkatan Perang Republik Indonesia (APRI), and BPNK. In early January 1949, Palupuh was visited by Chatib Sulaiman—Head of the Regional Defense Headquarters or Markas Pertahanan Rakyat Daerah (MPRD). As the person responsible for coordinating with the MPRK, BPNK, and Mobbbrig, the assistant to the Military Governor of Central Sumatra, appointed the Palupuh Military Wedana. Apart from that, Chatib also gave instructions to the new chairman of the MPRK, as well as members of the BPNK (Sufyan, 2018). The strong defense base of the Palupuh Front is indeed an important note, especially the still secure position of Nagari Koto Tinggi -as the defense base of Governor Sutan Moh. Rasjid. Because, Kawedanaan is a connecting gate between Bukittinggi -as the initial capital

of PDRI and Koto Tinggi. From the narrative of the importance of the Palupuh Front as the defense base of the PDRI, there are several question items raised. What was the condition of Palupuh during the Dutch Colonial era?, and what was the story of the Palupuh Front during the PDRI? All the questions raised above will be answered in the following discussion. This article about Palupuh is important to write to reveal the role of Palupuh which is rich in flora during the Dutch Colonial period as an area for a nature reserve. And the great role of this area as a defense base from the military and civilians to protect Pasaman and Limapuluh Kota in 1948, from attacks by the Dutch army. No one has written about Palupuh in relation to its designation as a natural monument area and defense base during the PDRI era. Articles in journal form regarding the war of independence, and the PDRI in West Sumatra have discussed it a lot. Maiza Elvira (2019) in the Bandits of the Revolution of Independence emphasized that after the proclamation in West Sumatra sparked tensions between groups who were pro-contra to the existence of the Republic of Indonesia. The group calling itself revolutionary swept the Dutch, including ethnic Chinese, in Padang, Sawahlunto and Bukittinggi. However, in her writing Elvira did not mention the issue of the defense base in Palupuh.

Leopold Scholtz (2018) in *The Dutch strategic and Operational Approach in The Indonesian War of Independence, 1945-1949* wrote, that the Indonesian revolution for independence and the return of the Netherlands to power and fighting the nationalists and republicans ended in failure. In fact, at the end of their reign the Dutch lost the war, mainly because they made crucial mistakes, such as not trying to win the hearts and minds of the local population. However, in his writing, Scholtz did not mention the Palupuh problem during the PDRI era. Abdul Haris Fatgehipon (2017) in the *History of Indonesian Military Role in the Era of Independence Revolution, 1945-1950* emphasized the origins of the birth of the military in Indonesia, after the proclamation of independence. The existence of the military from the beginning, according to the author, is part of the government structure under the President. The existence of the military originated from the formation of the Dutch Colonial period, as well as during the reign of Dai Nippon. However, this article does not in the least mention the existence of Palupuh as a PDRI defense base in West Sumatra. Talking about the Palupuh Front is closely related to the concept of the revolution for independence.

The 1945-1949 independence revolution was one of the most important periods in the history of the Indonesian nation. This period started from the defeat of the Japanese army against the allies, the proclamation of independence to the resistance to the NICA occupation which supported the allies, both resistance through channels or physically (Reid, 1996). *Guerrilla* is one strategy that is widely known because it was widely used during the war for independence in Indonesia in the 1950s. *Guerrilla* is a tactic or strategy that is often used by members of the military both in Indonesia and the world in the war against the enemy, especially the invaders. The word *Guerrilla* itself is a translation of the Spanish *guerrilla* which literally means little war. This tactic is believed to have been first introduced by the Chinese military expert, Sun Tzu who lived around 2000 years ago. The basic idea is to use all your strength (resources) to defeat stronger enemies. Guerrilla war strategy is quite widely known in

the military world, especially in Indonesia because it was widely used during the war of independence against the colonialists in the 1950s (Nasution, 1953). The story of Palupuh in historiographical studies is still limited in its writing. Even though there is, in the heuristic process that was carried out, both from primary and secondary sources, no one has presented it yet. Generally mentions Palupuh as part of the book he wrote.

## Method

This article uses a <sup>5</sup> historical method which includes four stages, namely heuristics, source criticism, synthesis analysis (interpretation), and writing (Gottschalk, 1950). The first stage, is a heuristic. Heuristics is the stage of searching and collecting historical sources. The sources used in this paper are archives both produced by the Dutch and Indonesian colonial governments. These sources include the Republic of Indonesia National Library and the Indonesian National Archives. The archives obtained are in the form of staadblaad, mailrapport, manuscripts, and others. Other archives that can be utilized are personal archives that are still kept by individuals. Other sources that can be used are newspapers and magazines both published in the Dutch Colonial period <sup>5</sup> and contemporary. The second stage is source criticism, which can be divided into external and internal criticism (Pranoto, 2010). External criticism is carried out to seek the authenticity of the archives and documents obtained. While internal criticism is made of the contents of the authentic document to obtain the validity of the data it contains (Kartodirdjo, 1992). External criticism of historical sources is carried out by selecting readings and documents that relate to the research theme. The information provided is then cross-checked with information provided by other reading sources. So that the validity of the information provided can be tested.

The third stage is data analysis and synthesis (interpretation). The facts obtained from written sources were analyzed using processual and structural analysis (LLoyd, 1993). Processual analysis was used to discover the existence of the landscape in Palupuh during the Dutch Colonial period, and its influence as a defense base in 1948. Structural analysis was used to analyze the policies issued by the Dutch colonial government, especially for the establishment of Batang Palupuh as a natural monument, as well as the PDRI's decision to make this area a Mobbbrig defense base. The fourth stage is the writing stage (historiography) (Kuntowijoyo, 2008). Writing in the form of military history, to analyze the role of the landscape from Palupuh in the Dutch Colonial period and in 1948 as the basis of military defense.

## Result and Discussion

### Small Notes: Palupuh, Dutch Colonial Period <sup>14</sup>

During the Dutch Colonial period, Palupuh was under the Tiltang Kamang Village, Afdeling Agam. Its strategic position connects the surrounding areas, such as Palebayan, Pasaman, Koto Tinggi Limapuluh Kota (De locomotief: Samarangsch handels- en advertentieblad, 1901). In Dutch Colonial sources, Palupuh was not much discussed, because it was still

under the Tilatang (Kamang) government, with Pakan Kamih as its capital. And, before the division in 1961, the four regions that became the four nagari today, each Koto Rantang, Pasié Laweh, Pagadih, and Nan Tujuah, were remembered in history with the name Moedik Paloepoeh. With its strategic position, it is often a stopover for the Padri entourage heading to Bonjol, Rao District. The Resident of Sumatra, Westkust Francais, who was already overwhelmed by the Padri War, carried out a cunning tactic to arrest Tuanku Imam Bonjol. Precisely on October 28, 1837, the Marsose envoy announced that Francais wanted to make peace with Padri (Kartodirjo, 1973). An army of marsose who had been waiting in Batang Palupuh, immediately arrested Peto Syarif - then marked the dimming of Padri's resistance (Radjab, 1964). After Padri's defeat, Palupuh became widely known. Several times this area was featured in Dutch-language newspapers. In November 1872, Sumatra-Courant covered the news that a tribal chief from Palupuh caught a large tiger, using a simple trap, in the form of a bathtub. This simple trap was deliberately intended for tigers that often descended on Laras Tilatang Kamang and attacked the community's cattle pens (Sumatra-courant, 1872). Entering the early 20th century, news coverage around Palupuh - especially for awards for princes, replacement/appointment of officials and employees in 1901, 1904 and 1905. In 1901 at the residence of the Resident of Sumatra Westkust in Padang, awards were given to two princes who served to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, who resided in Afdeling Agam, Batipuh and X Koto, as quoted below.

"Honorable servants of the state, panghoeloe-kapau Batang Paloepoeh Negori, Laras Tilatang, Oud-Agam, Afdeling Agam, Si Goeloet Galar Datoe Madjoen 8 Toewa and cultural orderlies in Padang Pandjang, Afdeling Batipoeuh and X Koto" (De locomotief: Samarangsch handels- en advertentie-blad, 1901)

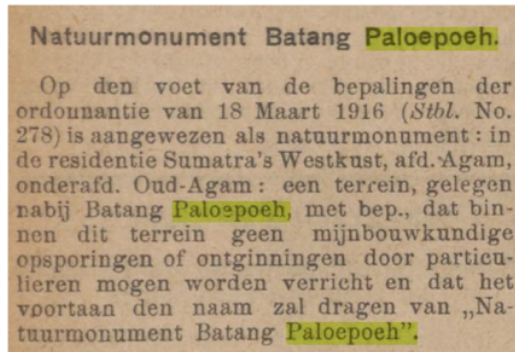
#### Picture 1

News "Inlandsch Bestuur." - which contains the story of employee transfers from/to Palupuh. Source: (De locomotief: Samarangsch handels- en advertentie-blad, 1901)



**Picture 2**

*News that the area around Batang Palupuh is the Batang Paloepoeh Natural Monument*  
Source: *(De Indische courant, 1930)*

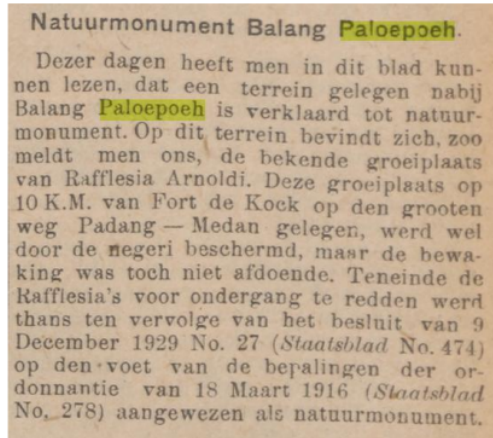


Back in 1904, a Dutch language newspaper reported on the appointment of a grade 2 supervisor named E van Put from Palupuh to Sibolga. Instead, a Dutch national named C.L. van den Akker was placed to work in Palupuh as a grade 3 supervisor. (De nieuwe courant, 1904). A year later, it was reported again the transfer of employees between Afdeling. In 1905 it was reported that "Transformed from Paloepooh to Sidjoendjoeng class 2 mantri by humanist Si Soewit galar Datoek Madjo Indo; from Palembang to Paloepoeh Mohamad Hasan galar Soetan Mangkoeto" (Sumatra-bode, 1905). The employee transfer report in 1904 is certainly interesting to observe. A class 3 supervisor of Dutch nationality, and his relationship with the conservation area for Palupuh. The large number of rare plants found in Palupuh prompted the Dutch Colonial government to protect Palupuh from natural exploration and archaeological reclamation through the Ordonantie dated March 18, 1916 - which was contained in Staatbalad No. 278 (De locomotief, 1930b). In that regulation, it is emphasized that the area around Batang Palupuh will become a natural monument area (read: Natural Monument).

Of course the big question is, why is Batang Palupuh designated as a protected area from logging, large-scale exploration and excavation for archeology? Apparently, this area is endemic for rare plants. In 1925 and 1930 it was reported that in Batang Palupuh a carrion flower, the *Rafflesia Arnoldi* type, was often found. The type of corpse flower found was 93 cm in diameter - which was measured from the tip of one petal to the other (Indische-courant, 1925). In some botanical literature, the diameter of the flower can exceed 1 meter. Five years later, it was reported again the appearance of *Rafflesia Arnoldi*. This corpse flower was found around Batang Palupuh in early September and will still bloom before December 12, 1930. Of course it is interesting to note that this corpse flower of the *Rafflesia Arnoldi* type can grow in Palupuh which is 10 kilometers from Fort de Kock, and is a road. main towards Loebok Attitude. A botanist who lives in Fort de Kock said,

**Picture 3**

News regarding the designation of the Natuurmonument Balang Paloepoeh area in decree no. 27 dated 9 December 1929. Source: (De-locomotief, 1930a).



*"... This rare plant grows well in Batang Palupuh. And, to reach the location takes 15 minutes. One must not fail to see this curiosity in botany, if one were to remain at Fort de Kock (Sumatra-bode, 1930).*

To protect Batang Palupuh from damage, and Rafflesia Arnoldi from extinction, the Dutch East Indies government strengthened the previous rules, by establishing besluit no. 27 dated December 9, 1929 contained in Staatblad No. 474 of 1929. So that after the establishment of these rules, the government added daily supervisors tasked with protecting the conservation area in Batang Palupuh (De-locomotief, 1930a). These small notes confirm that Palupuh was known as a strategic area during the Dutch colonial era and served as a link for Palembang, Lubuk Attitude, Fort de Kock, and Koto Tinggi Luhak Limapuluh Koto. After the Dutch Colonial power shifted to the Dai Nippon government, no records have been found, especially newspapers/archives that narrated Palupuh in 1942-1945.

**Starting from the Presence of Mobbbrig**

After the news of the proclamation spread, all components of the Palupuh community struggled to maintain independence. The narrative of this struggle was strengthened when the Dutch aggressors attacked the capital city of Yogyakarta and detained the two founding fathers Bung Karno and Hatta. Prior to the arrest, the two national leaders still had time to send a wire letter addressed to Mr. Sjafruddin Prawiranegara, to form an emergency government. And, if the emergency government fails to materialize, it is hoped that A.A Maramis and L.N Palar, who are abroad, will form an in exile government. Although historical documents stated that Sjafruddin only found out that there was a mandate letter addressed to him three months later, on a



personal initiative, Hatta's message in 1947, and an agreement with Teuku Moh. Hassan, Col. Hidayat, Mr. Lukman Hakiem formed the Emergency Government of the Republic of Indonesia in Bukittinggi. The aggressor did not remain silent. They immediately bombarded the republican forces and began advancing from Padang to Bukittinggi. Several defense organs belonged to the republic during the emergency period, including APRI, PMT, and Mobbrig. If we examine far back, Mobbrig's presence in West Sumatra stems from the Decree of the Governor of Sumatra, Mr. Moh. Hasan, and the Head of the Sumatra Police Branch in Bukittinggi in August 1947. The initial goal of forming Mobbrig was to form an agile, fast-moving troop, especially for areas experiencing security disturbances. (Penerangan, 1953). The decision to form the Mobbrig reads, "...a Mobbrig Tjabang Djawatan Company was formed with the name Mobiele Brigade Besar (Djawatan Penerangan Sumatra Tengah, 1956). Not only in West Sumatra, Mobbrig was also pioneered in Riau and Jambi. In the early days of its formation, it was still minimal in supplies, especially weapons. At the initiative of the Company Commander and the Head of the Residency Police began to collect from the logistics warehouse and donations from APRI.

The recruitment process for Mobbrig personnel, through recruitment from the general public, was recruited from the Special Police Front (formed in 1946), general police officers, youth from the people's army who were fit and physically strong. And, the one who trained Mobbrig personnel at that time was Police Inspector Raden Jusuf. After the transfer of the capital of Sumatra from Padangsidempuan to Bukittinggi due to Aggression I, it was followed by the relocation of the Branch Office of the State Police for Sumatra. Since then, the Mobbrig Corps has been under the auspices of the Big Mobbrig (Penerangan, 1953). And, all personnel are stationed in Sungai Tanang. In October 1947, Mobbrig's main task in West Sumatra was guarding the demarcation line, guarding douane posts, and guarding the palace of Vice President Bung Hatta. Considering that Bukittinggi is the capital of Sumatra Province, and the density of assignments for Mobbrig, the Head of the Branch Office of the Police added one company, so that in total for West Sumatra two companies were formed with a total of 400 personnel.

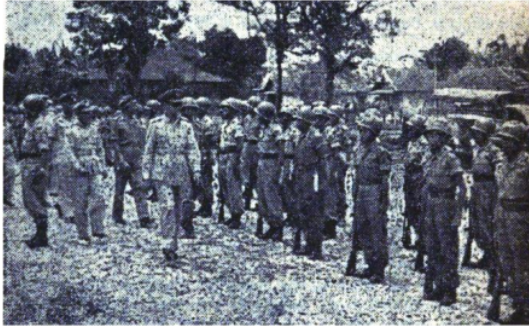
#### Picture 4

*The Central Sumatra State Police Office in Bukittinggi. Source: (Djawatan Penerangan Sumatra Tengah, 1956).*



**Picture 5**

Examination of the Central Sumatran Mobbrig line that was about to depart, to restore security. Source:(Djawatan Penerangan Sumatra Tengah, 1956).



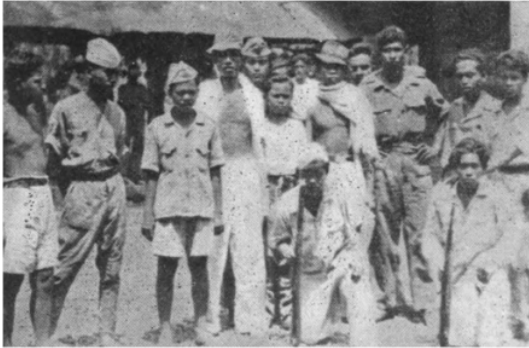
**Moving Against the Aggressor: MPRK and the Role of the Palupuh Front in the PDRI Period**

When the aggressors pushed their way into Bukittinggi, on December 20, 1948, the Head of Central Sumatra Police Service AKBP Sulaiman Efendi moved the defense base to North Bukittinggi. The Mobbrigs of Central Sumatra were forced to move twice, from Birugo to Jirek, and lastly defended themselves at Sipisang Palupuh (21 December 1948), uniting with the Greater Mobbrigs. Meanwhile, Mobbrig of the Riau Residency withdrew to Rantau Berangin to defend the Pekanbaru main road to Payakumbuh – led by Police Inspector Silalahi. Meanwhile, in Jambi, it was led by Inspector A. Bastari who spread his personnel in the Batanghari forest. When news came that Bukittinggi had fallen into the hands of the aggressors, on December 22, 1949, Mobbrig, APRI, and BPNK personnel again withdrew from Sipisang to Bateh Sariak – as Mobbrig's defense base in Central Sumatra (Headquarters Sector II) the Agam battle area with commander Inspector Police I Amir Macmud. Sector II was later remembered as the Palupuh Front (Kepolisian, 1987). In a different case, what happened at the demarcation line in North Tapakis Pariaman Mobbrig personnel were overwhelmed by the onslaught of Dutch aggressors. Together with several APRI personnel, and BPNK, pounded the aggressors for 2.5 hours. In that fierce battle, two Mobbrig personnel were killed, namely Muhamad Noor and Bahaudin. The land and air attacks launched by the aggressors caused the Mobbrig personnel to retreat towards Batang Anai, Pariaman. It was in this area that Mobbrig made Batang Anai a defense base and hindered the Dutch additional troops moving towards Padang Panjang. For almost three days the Dutch were held back because of a barricade from Mobbrig, assisted by APRI and youths who are members of the Batang Anai BPNK. The same condition was also experienced on the Eastern Front in Air Sirah, and the Southern Front which guarded the Siguntur Muda area, Tarusan (Tanumidjaja, 1971).

**Picture 6**

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*BPNK which plays an important role in maintaining the security of the nagari. Source:(Salim, 1951)*



Since the sporadic attacks from the Dutch army on several demarcation lines during the PDRI period, there were only two Mobbrig forces at that time, namely the Djawatan Branch Major Mobbrig and the Residency Mobbrig. For Mobbrig's defense at that time, it was only focused on three areas, respectively: Palupuh (Agam), Lintau (Tanah Datar), and Rantau Berangin (Riau). For unarmed Mobbrig personnel join the General Police and BPNK. A small number, some chose to return and join in their respective hometowns. After moving to Bateh Sariak Palupuh, Mobbrig was moved by A.K.B.P Sulaiman Efendi, Police Inspector II Kaliansa Situmorang (Commander of Police for West Sumatra), and Police Inspector I Amir Machmud as Commander of the Palupuh Front. Coordination from the Military Wedana as Chair of the MPRK, APRI elements, and youth and community leaders who are members of the BPNK, and Mobbrig troops as the main defense base are the success factors of the strong fortifications on the Palupuh Front. Why did the MPRK take part? The MPRK structure was determined by the Military Governor of Central Sumatra and concurrently as the Chairman of the DPD, coordinated by the Military Wedana (Chairman), Military Officer (Deputy Chair), Head of Police/Mobbrig (Head of MPRK Security), and four representatives from BPNK (Sufyan, 2018).

At the end of 1948 the BPNK ranks were commanded and driven by Anwar Datuak Taman Batuah, Zainal Pakiah Muncak, and Syafei (Darwis, 1999). The public kitchen, which was managed by the women, played a big role in helping the struggle in Palupuh. And, sometimes food logistics became a source of problems in its distribution because the war broke out to defend Palupuh from the Dutch attack. The Dutch troops which concentrated their defense base in Palupuh Market moved with tanks by land, and by means of bombers in the air. If their logistics and weapons are reduced, supplies always come and scatter by air. The tactic of defending and breaking forward, inspired by the universal defense within a distance of 5 kilometers, made the Dutch desperate to break through the northern part that connects Bukittinggi and Sibolga. Apart from that, this solid defense also prevented the Dutch from entering south of Koto Tinggi, Limapuluh Kota Regency. However, until one moment, the

Palupuh Front failed. The Dutch managed to push in, attacked blindly, and killed 19 people. To remember the heroics of the Palupuh Front in defending the North and South sectors, four years later, or in 1952 to be precise, a simple memorial was erected in Patapian Palupuh. The inauguration and celebration for the establishment of the Palupuh Front memorial was enlivened by the people of Palupuh, the organs of struggle, and the Head of the Central Sumatra Emergency Area, namely AKBP Sulaiman Effendi. The monument that was inaugurated is a symbol of people's relations, BPNK, Mobbbrig, and APRI have one goal of fighting for the nation and state. In early January 1949, Chatib Sulaiman – the general defense tactician from the MPRD was present in Palupuh, in Pagadih to be precise. He gave instructions to the leaders of the MPRK and MPRN. The last instruction delivered by Chatib was regarding weaknesses in defense in Kawedanaan and Nagari, and solutions for overcoming them (Instruksi Untuk Pertahanan MPRK Dan MPRN, 1949). At the end of his instructions, Chatib specifically expressed his thoughts to all the meeting participants, who participated in the effort to defend Palupuh from the onslaught of the Dutch. He reminded those who have risked their lives with selfless struggle.

“...finally, at some point in a place that is safer than now, we will meet again, and the services rendered now, will be the talk of people in the future. And, know that the motherland is in danger. Indonesia remains independent under the leadership of its own nation. Stay, *Republikein!*” (Haluan, 1952).

And, that was the last visit of the Chairman of the MPRD in Palupuh. He died 13 days later, in an indiscriminate attack by the Dutch army on January 15, 1949 in Nagari Situjuh Batua, Limapuluh Kota District. The attack that killed civil and military officials, then spread to the massacre of anyone the Dutch met, to Limbukan.

## Conclusion

Palupuh – during the Dutch Colonial period was part of Laras Tiltang (Kamang) indeed it is mentioned several times in colonial sources. Starting from the transfer of employees, to the award given to the head of the Batang/Mudik Palupuh village. This area became increasingly known, after the appointment of Batang Palupuh as a natuur monument in decree no. 27 dated December 9, 1929 contained in Staatblad No. 474 of 1929. The decision to designate as a natuur monument aimed at protecting Batang Palupuh as an endemic place for *Rafflesia Arnoldi*, has also been regulated in the Ordonantie dated March 18, 1916 - which was contained in Staatbalad No. 278 of 1916. During the Physical Revolution until 1949, news about Palupuh was widely heard again. The Palupuh Front was beautifully engraved as one of the strongest bases in defense against the Dutch army. Collaboration within the MPRK, Mobbbrig, APRI elements, and BPNK work hand in hand to maintain the road from Palupuh to Lubuk Alung. Palupuh with mountainous landscapes, dense forests, and neighboring rice-producing areas, overwhelmed the Netherlands. The Dutch troops, who attacked by land with armored tanks, and bombarded from the air, were unable to paralyze the fortifications of the Palupuh Front. As a result, this area was able to defend the northern part which borders Pasaman, and the southern part of the Limapuluh Kota. The implications of this research are as follows. First, the landscape in Palupuh

contributed greatly to the birth of the *natuurmonumet* policy <sup>16</sup> during the Dutch Colonial period. During the PDRI era, Palupuh landscape with hills was also the main choice of Mobbrig and civilian forces as a defense base for the Eastern Front. Second, based on the theory used to analyze Palupuh's role in the past, it does have a strong correlation to see that this area far from the crowds is an important area as a nature reserve that has survived to this day. And it becomes an important part of the record for the presence of Palupuh as a basis for maintaining PDRI as the red thread of the Republic of Indonesia in the present.

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