

MOSLEM BROTHERHOOD, TRACK RECORD INDIAN MUSLIM SOLDIERS IN  
STRUGGLE OF INDONESIAN INDEPENDENCE (1945 -1950)

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*Abstract*

*Moslem brotherhood about Indian Muslim soldiers, especially at the beginning of the independence of the Republic of Indonesia, is very minimal for the audience of the current generation of Indonesia to know. Their track record (Indian Muslim Soldiers) can be achieved by collect fragments of writings from local fighters who interacted directly and fought against Dutch aggression.*

*It started with a patrol of Indian Muslim soldiers finding the Qur'an in a resident's house. They also found a prayer room that had been burned. When faced with Indonesian fighters, they heard the screams of takbir blaring. Furthermore, there are several basic reasons ranging from fellow Muslims, fellow Asians, and fellow people who were colonized by Europeans, so the Indian Muslim soldiers as part of a unity British troops crossed over to the Indonesian fighters, fighting against the Dutch.*

*Keywords: Ukhuwah Islamiyah, Indian Muslim Soldiers, and the struggle for Indonesian independence.*

*Abstrak*

*Persaudaraan muslim atau Ukhuwah Islamiyah prajurit muslim India terutama di awal kemerdekaan RI sangat minim sekali untuk d ketahui para khalayak generasi Indonesia sekarang. Jejak rekam mereka (Prajurit muslim India) dapat dicapai dengan mengumpulkan serpihan tulisan dari pejuang lokal yang berinteraksi langsung serta berjuang melawan agresi Belanda. Berawal dari patroli prajurit muslim India menemukan Al Qur'an di rumah penduduk. Mereka juga menemukan musholla yang telah dibakar. Saat berhadapan dengan pejuang Indonesia, mereka mendengar teriakan takbir yang membahana. Selanjutnya ada beberapa alasan mendasar mulai dari sesama orang Islam, sesama orang asia, serta sesama orang yang dijajah bangsa Eropa, maka para prajurit muslim India sebagai bagian kesatuan tempur pasukan Inggris menyeberang ke pihak pejuang Indonesia, berjuang bertempur melawan Belanda.*

*Kata kunci: Ukhuwah Islamiyah, Prajurit Muslim India, dan perjuangan kemerdekaan Indonesia.*

## 1. Introduction

According to a number of past historical literatures, the relationship between Indonesia and India has actually existed for a long time. The country with a Hindu majority, started his journey to Indonesia starting from the Ramayana era. Indian ancestors who came to Indonesia at that time, carried a mission to spread the teachings of Hinduism and other cultural aspects, such as Indian culture and Sanskrit through trade routes in the seas of Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean. The culture that exists in Indonesia today is also influenced by Indian culture.<sup>1</sup>

Even the flow of the spread of Islam in Indonesia apart from Persia, Yemen, also from Punjab India. This is what makes the relationship between the two nations more dynamic. This relationship continues. Before The Diponegoro war started on July 20, 1825, at that time Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono IV from Yogyakarta who was still young, received religious education from Kyai Ahmad Ngusman, the head of the Indonesian Army Suronatan, and Lieutenant Abbas, an Indian Sepoy officer to teach reading the Qur'an and writing Malay language.<sup>2</sup>

At the beginning of the independence of the Indonesian nation, especially during the Proclamation of the independence of the Indonesian state, it was the intention of the majority of the Indonesian people to be free from the shackles of colonialism from the nation anywhere. Without depending on any foreign nation, Indonesia actually wants to be sovereign, just, prosperous, able to be on par with other nations. This event is the most historic day for Indonesian nation. Indonesia's independence was marked by the reading of the text of the proclamation by Sukarno and signed with Muhammad Hatta on behalf of the Indonesian people. So on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 1945, as the most important day and the history of Indonesian independence that is most remembered by all Indonesian people. The news of Indonesia's independence spread to several regions and abroad country, making Indonesia truly independent and free from the shackles of the colonialists. That's some brief history of Indonesian independence that will be a source of knowledge for people The people of Indonesia. This is expected to be a reference for the memories

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<sup>1</sup> <https://gurupkn.com>; *reason India recognizes Indonesia's independence*, accessed on January 15, 2020

<sup>2</sup> M. Muhibbuddin, *Konflik dan taktik perang Jawa 1825 – 1830*, Araska, Yogyakarta, 2018, page 149.

of the younger generation to continue the struggle of the heroes in order to remember how strong and persistent their struggle was in liberating Indonesia.

Japan as an Asian giant who colonized Indonesia during the period 1942-1945, finally surrendered to the Allies on August 14, 1945. After the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed by the United States On August 6 and 9, 1945, Japan's power slowly dimmed. Surrendering Japanese troops to the Allies, making Britain as a representative of the Allies had to come to Indonesia. Because England will Allied representatives must come to Indonesia. Because the British who will take care of the Japanese army returned to their country and freed the Dutch captured by the Japanese. The British Army consisted of Britain, India and the Gurkhas. But the problem came because the Dutch who were stowaway with the British wanted to return to power in an independent Indonesia.

This is the trigger for clashes between Britain on behalf of allies and Indonesia as a nation that is free from colonialism. At the beginning of the arrival of British troops in a number of areas, such as Jakarta, Bandung, Magelang, Surabaya, they were warmly welcomed by the people. Even the British soldiers and Indonesian fighters were compact in taking care of Japanese prisoners. But this is the beginning of the opening clashes in which the Dutch freed their fellow Dutchmen held captive by the Japanese, then they were armed. Until here it becomes clearer. Dutch efforts openly to start colonization in Indonesia. Even the Dutch used Britain as a shield in an effort to protect their interests. However, among British soldiers who came from Indian Muslims, they actually did things that were not never suspected, either by the British, the Dutch, or by the Indonesian fighters.

## **2. Indian Muslim Soldiers Help Armed Indonesian Fighters**

To maintain the independence of the Republic of Indonesia, the fighters need weapons as an effort to protect themselves from the threat of any foreign nation. The efforts of Indonesian fighters in obtaining weapons with plundered by force from Japan, or made pointed bamboo, arrows, or assembling weapons in perfunctory ways. Another attempt to seize from the allied soldiers who were on patrol. The activity inviting sympathy from Indian Muslim soldiers who joined the allied army. Maybe they feel the same fate as the Indonesian people who are being colonized by Japan. While India is in British shackles. They also support the independence of Indonesia. Many Indians individually fled with weapons and joined the Indonesian fighters. The Tangerang City area has almost a platoon (30 people) of Indian soldiers who formed a separate

unit in collaboration with Indonesian fighters.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, Indonesian fighters also tried to avoid armed confrontation with Indian troops joined by British-led allied forces. For example, in November 1945, at that time Indonesian fighters from the Cikampek regiment intercepted a train used by the British to carry food to Bandung, which was escorted by the British and Gurkha military. So in the battle, a British lieutenant was killed by the Indonesian fighters, but six Gurkha troops were left alive. Furthermore, the six Gurkha troops were handed over to the British in Jakarta, precisely on Jalan Merdeka Timur. Even the Gurkha soldiers shouted "Merdeka" when confronted by a local fighter leader named Major Alex Kawilarang.<sup>4</sup>

Major Muhammad Rivai, an officer from the Siliwangi troops told that on November 15, 1945, the commander of the Allies (British) sent an ultimatum that all West Java people who had weapons to surrender to the Allied troops a maximum of November 17 1945 at 12 midnight. But this didn't work. Even in Jakarta there has been a rebellion by British soldiers of Indian nationality (Muslims). According to the instructions of the Allied Commander in West Java, they as many as 400 people were required to go to Surabaya, strengthening the allied troops who were terrorizing the area. The Muslim Indian soldiers refused to carry out the order, holding a strike on the spot move. The day before the same movement was launched by 200 Muslim Indian soldiers. The 600 Muslim Indian soldiers were finally dealt with by the allied commanders by exiling them to the island of Onrust.<sup>5</sup>

It was further narrated that when we arrived in our area (Bandung), we (Major Rivai) were very surprised because some Muslim Indians were already shaking hands with our troops (Siliwangi). Apparently they turned themselves in to us. A total of approximately 12 people surrendered with all their weapons complete.<sup>6</sup>

British troops who landed in Bandung received a message delivered by attaching and wrapping a stone and then throwing it towards the northern part of Bandung, where the British

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<sup>3</sup> Kemal Idris, *Bertarung dalam Revolusi, pustaka sinar harapan*, Jakarta, 1996, page 59.

<sup>4</sup> Hikmat Israr, *Kolonel Kawilarang, Panglima Pejuang & Perintis Kopassus*, Asmi Publising, Jakarta, 2010, Page 91.

<sup>5</sup> Mohammad Rivai, *Tanpa Pamrih kupertahankan Proklamasi Kemerdekaan 17 Agustus 1945*, Intermedia, Jakarta, 1984, Page 82.

<sup>6</sup> Mohammad Rivai, *Ibid*, Page 98.

troops were located. The message read: "Conquerors of Germany and Japan etc, go home and don't fight for the Netherlands." Propaganda is also broadcast on radio in South Bandung. Captain Rashid believed by the British to be a Muslim Indian defector, airs every night in English and Hindustani. "Our information broadcasts through the RRI Bandung studio were addressed to Gurkha, Sikh, and Muslim soldiers in Urdu and Hindi on November 23, 1945 resulting in 19 soldiers. India 'crossed over' to our side (Indonesia), complete with its weapons and two trucks," said Siliwangi magazine dari masa ke masa. In Surakarta, two Indian soldiers who defected called for their comrades in Urdu over the radio to leave the British army. The defector, wrote "Soeloeh Merdeka", November 21, 1945, also reminded that the Indonesian struggle was similiar with the Indian struggle.<sup>7</sup>

Next, the British troops landed in Surabaya, East Java, with one of its leaders, Brigadier General AWS (Aubertin Walter Sothern) Mallaby. The British troops were mostly made up of Indians, Pakistanis and Nepalese. As part of the Allied army, British troops came to Surabaya as winners of World War II. Their task in Surabaya was to disarm the Japanese soldiers, to free them prisoners of war, and maintain order. Captain P.R.S. Mani, the information officer of the Allied army from India wrote in *Jejak Revolusi 1945: Sebuah Kesaksian Sejarah* (1989: 13), that when they landed in Surabaya, the attitude of the population was indifferent but full of vigilance. They also found many Urdu scribbles on the walls that read: "Azadi ya Kunrezi" which means "Freedom or Bloodshed." This made the Indian Army ponder the situation, and these North African and Burmese veterans then asked their officers if they were expected to fight. against the Indonesian nationalists," Mani wrote. According to intelligence data from the Allied military, Surabaya could be in turmoil because it was considered the center of the rebels led by the communists. British soldiers can considered as one side with the Dutch by the Indonesians who were ready to go blind. It's no wonder that the response to the British troops in Surabaya was not as warm as in Jakarta "We met some local Indians and they warned us (to) be careful," he wrote.

One of the Indians who live in Surabaya is TD Kundan. He became a translator for the Indonesian side and the Allied troops. According to Mani, the educated Kundan was close to the

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<sup>7</sup> <https://wordpress.com/2017/02/17/serdadu-gurkha-di-barisan-republik-indonesia>, accessed on January 18, 2020

Indonesian nationalists. Kundan was an Indian who sympathized with the Indonesian struggle.<sup>8</sup> As the President of the Indian Association of Surabaya and part of the Indian merchant community in the city, Kundan did not expect clashes to occur. “Kundan managed to prevent clashes on the first day of our arrival, on October 25th,” Mani wrote. The next day, Kundan continued to fight to prevent clashes. However, the day after that landing, Captain Mani sees something unpleasant. He saw Brigadier General Mallaby give a press statement that he was moving his base to the city area. Mallaby who is known as a talented officer it even said: *“I have informed the Indonesian governor for Surabaya that I am the ruler of this city.”*

Mallaby was very confident in his well-trained troops, having fought brave, determined and determined Japanese soldiers. According to Mallaby, his army won't have a hard time defeating the people Surabaya in case of fighting. Meanwhile he also seemed indifferent to the condition of his troops who had no desire to go to war with the Indonesians. Long stay in India didn't make Mallaby could always see what his troops were thinking. Mallaby ignored the potential for solidarity that would emerge from his Muslim troops against the people of Surabaya, who were predominantly Muslim. He made a fatal mistake. "I consider Mallaby's approach to be sheer arrogance," wrote Mani, who left the press conference feeling disappointed at the incompetence of the British army leadership in avoiding incidents. Mallaby's attitude of showing off his power eventually led to his death. On October 30, 1945, Mallaby was killed in a riot around Jembatan Merah, Surabaya. Dead Mallaby became the reason for the British to show their military strength by pounding Surabaya all out in a very powerful battle. They are allied troops who come from Indian Muslims eventually defected and supported Republican troops. “About 600 Indian Muslim soldiers defected because they were lured, said the British, who acknowledged that some of them did not like fighting the nation Indonesia," Mani wrote. These Indians were happy to help Indonesia's independence.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Komjen H. Moehammad Jasin, *Memoar Jasin sang polisi pejuang*, Gramedia, Jakarta, 2010, Page 68

<sup>9</sup> <https://tirto.id/keangkuhan-mallaby-dan-pembelotan-pasukan-india>, , accessed on January 11, 2020

There is a personal story of a Muslim Indian soldier named Ghulam Ali, as a member of the 23rd Indian Division I Infantry Brigade. Reporting from [historia.id](#), he was touched when he saw the inscription *bismillahirokhmanirrohim* on the door of the house and found the Qur'an in empty houses. At that time, Ghulam Ali and his unit were on patrol from village to village. From this, he learned that the majority of the Indonesian population is Muslim. According to Firdaus Syam, a lecturer in Political Science at the National University of Jakarta quoted from [historia.id](#), this is where they started to defect and desert. There was a unique incident during the Surabaya battle between British troops and republican fighters. According to Des Alwi During the Battle of Surabaya in November 1945, there was the cry of Allah Akbar from the soldiers of the land of Queen Elizabeth. While he himself does not know whether they are Muslim or not. Not only that, scream takbir also echoed by republican fighters who incidentally are Muslims. So, there are two takbirs that are heard from both sides. Sukarno, the first president of the Republic of Indonesia as quoted from [historia.id](#), suggested that he invite them to join, help the independence of the Republic of Indonesia. *"As fellow Muslims, we are all brothers and sisters, we must not kill each other and be pitted against each other by colonial powers,"* Sukarno reminded. As a result, many of them, mostly Indian Muslims, defected from Britain and sided with Indonesia. Not only contributing in the form of physical struggle, but also through propaganda through leaflets, pamphlets, and English and Hindustani radio broadcasts. As the holy month of Ramadan approaches, the number of defectors is increasing. According to the report of the 26th Indian Division in Sumatra, this activity increased sharply during the month of Ramadan in August 1946.

The North Sumatra region, especially the city of Medan, was the biggest base for the defectors, even though they had created a special unit consisting of their ranks to fight the Dutch military. there," wrote Firdaus Syam and Zahir Khan. Under the leadership of Major Abdul Sattar, a Muslim Indian who, since before the War of Independence, had lived in Medan for a long time, they named his unit as the Men's Battalion of Asia, which is also included in the Regiment III of Division X. According to Muhammad TWH, the Men's Battalion of Asia is involved in various combat operations in the Medan and surrounding areas during the War of Independence. In fact, as training aid workers as well as fighters, they once sent 17 members to Palagan Aceh followed by a British soldier who defected named John Edward, after converting to Islam known as Abdullah England.

His shrewdness in rhetoric and speeches made John and a BIA defector named Chandra lined up to become broadcasters of the Rimba Raya Struggle Radio, which has the power to transmit to Australia and India. Both of them are in charge of the program English and Urdu, India. "Rimba Raya was present at a time when most republican radios died because the Dutch were silenced," said Muhammad TWH. When Vice President Muhammad Hatta visited Pematang Siantar in early 1948, the Putra Asia Bataliyon tasked with guarding the first Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia. However, some time after Vice President Hatta left the city, the Dutch military came to attack. A great battle was inevitable, until the The patriot from south Asia ran out of ammunition. Even though their position was surrounded, they didn't give up immediately, instead they pulled out their bayonets and decided to have a one-on-one duel against the soldiers Netherlands. The close combat resulted in 15 soldiers of the Yon Putra Asia being killed. "Their bodies were then buried in Pematang Siantar, but around the 1950s their skeletons were moved to Taman Medan Heroes Cemetery in a military ceremony," said the manager of the North Sumatra Press Museum. Major Abdul Sattar who managed to escape from death then left the military service after the War of Independence. Then he worked odd jobs before finally deciding to become an amateur boxer due to economic needs. When he became a boxer, Medan people knew him better as Young Sattar.<sup>10</sup>

The Indian soldiers who were there, mostly deserted at night by leaving the barracks. However, there are also those who are desperate to do it when they are carrying out military operations. Referring to the writing of Soeloeh Merdeka, November 21, 1945, which was quoted from [historia.id](http://historia.id) shows that there were two Indian soldiers in Surakarta who defected, calling on their comrades in Urdu over the radio to leave the British army. In a number of places, such as 8/8 Punjab in Sumatra and 6/8 Punjab in Java, two battalions the same, lost many troops who were all Muslim. In the International Volunteers Brigade group, there is a commander named Abdul Matin with his deputy Ghulam Ali. This unit was formed by the Minister of Defense Amir Sjarifuddin on August 30, 1947, where all of its members were foreign volunteers from China, the Philippines, and Malaysia. These troops were finally dispersed to the fronts to help the Indonesian army. They also fought during the Dutch military aggression II from the jungle in a guerrilla manner. After

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<sup>10</sup><https://www.riauonline.co.id/tentara-indiamembelot-jadi-pejuang>, accessed on January 14, 2020



Indonesia's independence, some of the remaining foreign Muslim troops voted for returned home and some settled in their homeland. One of them is the representative of the International Volunteers Brigade group, Ghulam Ali. Reporting from [historia.id](http://historia.id), he remains in Indonesia and continues his career in Indonesia as member of Mobile Brigade Indonesia Police, until he was awarded the Satyalencana Janautama award by President Soeharto in 1967. Ghulam Ali continued his career in the elite unit belonging to the Polri until retiring in 1971 and dying in the 1980s.<sup>11</sup>

### **3. Recognition of sovereignty**

On May 18, 1946, India was officially one of the countries that took part in supporting Indonesia's sovereignty. Diplomatic relations between India and Indonesia began in crisis the famine that was going on in India at that time. On August 20, 1946, Indonesia sent aid to India, in the form of sending 500,000 tons of rice as a result of British colonial rule. The aid was then returned by India with full and active support for issues that occurred in Indonesia while India was at the UN forum. Of course this happened after India announced the sovereignty of its own country on August 15, 1947, two years after Indonesia's independence.<sup>12</sup>

### **4. Drug aid during the Dutch military aggression**

On July 29, 1947, a plane arrived carrying medicines donated from the Indian community for the Indonesian people who were experiencing a health blockade from the Dutch. However, the plane that landed in Maguwo Yogyakarta was actually shot by a Kitty Hawk plane belonging to the Dutch Armed Forces. So pilot Agustinus Adisucipto, co-pilot Abdurrahman Saleh and 8 other people died. The pilot had actually tried to direct the plane to the runway at Maguwo Airfield, but failed ( Irna Hanny Nastoeti Hadi Soewito, dkk., *Awal Kedirgantaraan di Indonesia: Perjuangan AURI1945-1950*, 2008:107).

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.boombastis.com/kisah-tentara-india-muslim-di-ri/222013>, accessed on January 12, 2020

<sup>12</sup> <https://gurupkn.com/alasan-india-mengakui-kemerdekaan-indonesia>, accessed on January 20, 2020

“The plane then exploded and broke in two. All passengers died including Mr Karbol or Mr Abdulrahman Saleh, wing commanders from India and Australia. The only survivor was Mr Gani,” recalled one of the eyewitnesses to the disaster (Kompas, 19 August 1979). Mr. Karbol named Mr. Agustinus Adisucipto, a young Air Force officer who excels as well as one of the pioneers of the Air Force. Same from Air Force, Abdulrahman Saleh, Adisumarmo Wiryokusumo also died. There are still 5 people who died in the incident: there was an Australian co-pilot named Alexandre Noel Constantine and his wife, a British co-pilot Roy Hazelhurst, a technician Indian nationality Bhida Ram, and Indonesian Trade Attaché in Singapore, Zainal Arifin (Reports Service: Southeast Asia Series, 1966:93). The Dakota VT-CLA type aircraft was not for combat, but an aid plane from an Indian businessman. Even the plane was transporting medicine for the Indonesian people who were injured as a result of the Dutch military aggression which began on July 21, 1947. However, the Dutch had lost their eyes and were merciless. attacked a Dakota plane that was preparing to land at Maguwo Airport, Yogyakarta. International condemnation of the Netherlands also came after the incident. Loudest sound came from countries whose citizens were victims, namely Indonesia, Britain, and Australia, as well as India. These countries also demanded compensation from Dutch (Sutrisno, *Marsekal TNI Suryadi Suryadarma*, 1986:76).<sup>13</sup>

## **5. PM Nehru protested the Netherlands through the Asia conference**

Because colonialism, especially Indonesia, generally in Asia has experienced poverty due to colonialism, so the struggle of the Indonesian people for independence is an attempt to revive Asia. Thus we have all been insulted and also challenged. If we can't fight this challenge, then similar events will be experienced by other countries in Asia and can also happen in other parts of Asia another world. We gather here not with an attitude of hostility towards a country and also openly against the Netherlands which has violated the rights of other nations in Indonesia. We argue action attacking other nations must be ended immediately. Because, worse consequences must arise. This is an excerpt from the speech by Jawaharlal Nehru, the prime minister of India, when he addressed the Asian conference in the last week of mid-January 1949. The speech was

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<sup>13</sup><https://tirto.id/mengenang-gugurnya-rombongan-adisucipto>, accessed on January 22, 2020

delivered at Hyderabad House, Nel Delhi, at an international meeting which he initiated to discuss the Dutch military aggression against the Republic of Indonesia.<sup>14</sup>

Furthermore, in an interview with United Press International, Nehru said Asian countries would use economic sanctions to force Dutch troops to withdraw from Indonesia if the security council failed to resolve the dispute between Dutch and Indonesia. The results of the Asian conference in New Delhi have also been able to show the UN, Asia will never be satisfied, if it only gets a secondary role in the international political arena.<sup>15</sup>

## **6. Indian Radio Transmitter broadcasting the March 1, 1949 general attack on the United Nations**

Radio was a vital means of accessing information at that time. To convey information on the struggle of the Indonesian people, radio does play an important role. From the proclamation of independence, the Surabaya war, the Ambarawa battle, the Semarang battle, and many others. A well-known radio transmitter belonging to the Air Force which is located in Wonosari Gunung Kidul Yogyakarta. Dutch intelligence had learned of the existence of the transmitter. Despite experiencing attack, but the transmitter was secured by Indonesian fighters to the Brosot Kulon Progo area of Yogyakarta. In order to show the international world that the Republic of Indonesia still exists, the TNI has open attack on the morning of March 1, 1949. The attack was carried out in the area of Yogyakarta as the nation's capital. Even though the TNI only controlled it for 6 hours, it can be used as evidence that Indonesia still exists.

After “Serangan Umum” on the Dutch in Yogyakarta on March 1, 1949, the crew of radio broadcasters in Banaran, Playen, Gunung Kidul using Morse code prepared news to Bukittinggi. From there news was sent to Aceh which was received and transmitted to the military transmitter in Burma. Then it will be transmitted / relayed again to New Delhi where there is a representative staff the Indonesian government, namely Abu Bakar Lubis, and Miriam Budiharjo. The news of the general attack on March 1, 1949 came from All India Radio, so it was from New Delhi that the news of the general attack on March 1, 1949 arrived at the UN representative in New

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<sup>14</sup> Julius Pour, *Doorstoot Naar Djokja, Pertikaian Pemimpin Sipil Militer*, Kompas, Jakarta, 2010, Page 269.

<sup>15</sup> Julius Pour, *Ibid*, Page 276.

York.<sup>16</sup> During the second Dutch military aggression on December 19, 1948, when almost all Indonesian leaders were captured by the Dutch, there was still one figure, General Sudirman, who refused to remain in the capital Yogyakarta. Together with his men General Sudirman, who had not recovered from lung surgery, carried out a guerrilla war for approximately seven months. While traveling out of Yogyakarta, General Sudirman continued to lead the guerrilla on a mobile basis. Meanwhile, the private driver who accompanied the guerrilla General Sudirman with his subordinate named Kashmi. It should be noted that Kashmi was the driver of the Indian deputy consul who helped in the guerrilla against the Dutch.<sup>17</sup>

## **7. Indian Blockade Air of the Dutch**

The real steps of India and other countries against Dutch aggression were to boycott airplanes from landing in India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Burma, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. As a result of the ban, the Netherlands experienced an increase in transportation costs because flights to Batavia (Jakarta) were double the distance. The Netherlands must pass through South Africa, and so will to east india can no longer pass through the Suez Canal. They must imitate the ancient ministry of their ancestors two hundred years ago, through the Cape of Good Hope, the Cape of Good Hope, at the tail of the African continent.<sup>18</sup>

India's efforts in the air blockade for Dutch hampered the supply of logistics for the troops who were about to re-colonize Indonesia. Moreover, the cost of Dutch transportation from Europe to Indonesia, swelled many fold. Then the next fact, the Netherlands became alone in annexing Indonesia. Countries like the UK finally left Indonesia, considering that the UK always gets persistent and determined resistance from the Indonesian fighters. This was done by the Dutch by offering quasi-negotiations to Indonesia. Although in the future the negotiations were also damaged by the Dutch.

## **8. Relations between Indonesia and India after 1950**

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<sup>16</sup> Tataq Chidmad and Friends, *Penelusuran Sejarah Serangan Oemoem 1 Maret 1949*, Media Pressindo, yogyakarta, 2001, Page 129

<sup>17</sup> R. Eddy Sukamto, *Panglima Besar Tidak Pernah Sakit*, Narasi, Yogyakarta, 2011, Page 139

<sup>18</sup> R. Eddy Sukamto, *Ibid*, Page 272

The friendship between Indonesia and India became clearer when the two countries together with Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Burma took the initiative to bring together Asian and African countries so that one voice against colonialism. So around April 18 to April 24 1955, at Gedung Merdeka, Bandung, Indonesia, several Asian and African countries gathered with the aim of promoting economic and social cooperation. Asian-African culture and against the colonialism or neocolonialism of the United States, the Soviet Union, or other imperialist countries.<sup>19</sup>

After the recognition of Indonesia's sovereignty, the Indonesian air force continues to seriously improve the quality of its members through structured and integrated education and training programs. Because more modern tools and technology, the Air Force leadership appoints several officers to cooperate. Then proceed with orientation for staff officers to the Indian Air Force which has come a long way. The Indian air force at that time was amazing. we visited Palm air base, New Delhi, engineering base at Kanpoor, and maintenance and operations bases in Bangalore and Madras.<sup>20</sup>

In addition to the Air Force, the Indonesian Army regularly sends its officers for military courses to India. In the period 1956, there were several Indonesian military figures such as AR. Soehoed, Minister of Industry during the New Order, General Muhammad Yasin, the commander of Brawijaya and General Pandjaitan, a revolutionary hero who studied military courses at the Senior officers Course, the Infatery School, MHON, Wellington India.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> <https://kominform.go.id/5-Penggagas-KAA-Hadir-di-Asia-Afrika>, accessed on January 22, 2020

<sup>20</sup> AR. Soehoed, *Menyertai Setengah Abad Perjalanan Republik*, Sinar Harapan, Jakarta, 2001, Page 126

<sup>21</sup> Marieke Pandjaitan, *DI Panjaitan gugur dalam seragam kebesaran*, Sinar Harapan, Jakarta, 1997, Page 174

## 9. Conclusion

The struggle of the Indonesian to achieve independence turned out to be the sympathy of the Indians. There are several factors that underlie the beauty of this relationship, namely:

### a. Brotherhood of Diniyah

That fellow Muslims are brothers. The cries of “Allahu Akbar” from Indonesian fighters, mosques as the headquarters of the resistance, even when the Indian army sweeps into people's homes, many discovering the holy book of the Qur'an, made the Indian Muslim soldiers aware that the enemy they were facing was actually brothers and sisters in faith and belief. This incident was around 1945, at the beginning of the Indonesian independence. This is what underlies the Indian Muslim army to help the Indonesian struggle against the Dutch. Real assistance in terms of weapons, food and Indian soldiers.

### b. The spread of Islam to Indonesia started from Gujarat, India

The history of the entry of Islam into Indonesia through several theories. There are Gujarat, Persian, and Mecca theories. In the past, Gujarat, especially the Malabar area, was the gateway to the spread of Islam to the world Indonesia, so that there is a meeting point in the history of Asian Islam, that it was the missionaries who played a role in spreading Islam by means of trade. This theory was expressed by the historian J.P Moquetta (1912). According to him, Gujarat's theory can be proven through the discovery of tombstones in the kingdom of Samudera Pasai (Sultan Malik Al Saleh). On the tombstone of the grave of the Sultan who is believed to have come from the Gujarat. Next, the majority of the Muslim community in Indonesia guided Shafi'i mazhab, as well as the Muslim community in Gujarat.

### c. A fellow Asian nation that was colonized by Europeans

India and Indonesia have the same fate, which was colonized by Europeans. Indonesia was colonized by the Dutch, and India was colonized by the British. Indonesia and India want to realize a world free from colonialism, discrimination, and oppression from various parties. Alternately, the two countries provide mutual support to each other. Indonesia provided food assistance to India when it was experiencing a severe hunger crisis, as well as India which provided medical supplies for Indonesia.

### d. Similarities in culture and customs

There are stories in the Ramayana and Mahabharata. Of course the story is a story that cannot be separated from the Indonesian people, especially the Javanese people. Good character

name, events, as well as the moral teachings of the stories conveyed from the Ramayana and Mahabharata stories. Furthermore, these stories undergo cultural acculturation with those in Indonesia. The story of Ramayana and Mahabharata is integrated from elements of Javanese and Islamic culture. In terms of culture, Indonesia and India cannot be separated. This culture is something that can be developed into a harmonious relationship between the two countries.

**e. Fighting on the international diplomatic**

Together with India, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Indonesia held the Asia-Africa conference in Bandung, West Java, from 18 to 24 April 1955. The aim was to make the cold war between the Soviet and American camps subside. Colonialism that occurred in countries - countries of Asia and Africa should be eliminated as soon as possible. Through This conference also called for all nations to be able to create peace and equal rights and obligations of the Asian and African nations as human beings. The Asian-African Conference later inspired the founding of the Non-Aligned Movement. Together with India, Egypt, Yugoslavia, and Ghana, Indonesia established the Non-Aligned Movement. Exactly 1 to 6 September 1961 in Belgrade Yugoslavia. There are 5 (five) principles of the non-aligned movement including mutual respect for sovereignty, non-aggression agreements, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, and maintaining world peace.

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