

## Conference Paper

# The Battle of Five Days and Five Nights in Palembang in Defending Indonesia's Independence in 1945

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**Abstract.**

The incident of the five-days and five-nights war, that took place in Palembang on 1-5 January 1947, was a struggle for the people of Palembang, South Sumatra, to maintain Indonesian independence from the Dutch who wanted to occupy the Palembang region. This has received criticism in history related to the struggle of the people of Palembang. They had put efforts not only to maintain the independence. but also to maintain the source power nature. The objective of this study is to analyze the events of five days and five nights of struggle to maintain Indonesian independence in 1945. This study uses the method history with technique data collection using heuristics, data verification, and techniques of data analysis using interpretation history and past historiography. Research results explain that the events of five days and five nights in Palembang which occurred in 1947 were battle among the people of Palembang, South Sumatra, who faced Dutch soldiers in the fierce war in the center of the city of Palembang. Point battles included fort Kuto Besak, Caritas, and the region's old airport or area Tulung betutu. This paper is relevant to the struggle of people for Indonesia's independence, which reflects a sense of kinship and comradeship in liberating.

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## 1. Introduction

Palembang is one of them city the oldest in Indonesia who have history struggle Indonesian independence in particular struggle in face colonial people who want came to power in Palembang after proclamation Indonesian independence. History of struggle in a manner national in Indonesia, of course explain How society and government against enter and return dutch troops to Indonesia after proclamation Indonesian independence was read by Sukarno. Struggle government and society in maintain independence post 1945 experienced various events, specifically in the Palembang region of South Sumatra maintain independence.

Post Indonesian independence in 1945, then challenges and threats from outside and from in keep going arriving especially threat from the Dutch army. at the moment

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entered in Palembang at the end in 1946, the Dutch Colonial army did various actions and fishing provocateurs in the middle city, though the arrival of allied soldiers backed by Dutch soldiers argued as troops to be disarm the already Japanese army lost in World War II in 1945 [1]. With reason the so troops allies who were piggybacked by the Dutch army with one purpose, though at first on behalf of the military sent by the international as the tantara will disarm the Japanese army. But in reality on the ground precisely the Dutch army did provocation and doing intimidation to public civil nor with government local, which is the goal for return colonial government for colonize Palembang city [2].

Precisely on 1-5 January 1947 in Palembang occurred fierce battle between Indonesian troops along with public Palembang civilians against the Dutch army [3]. The Netherlands is trying snatch return Palembang city became its colony but get great fight from the people of Palembang, especially South Sumatra [4]. Incident the happen for five days so that from party Dutch, because superior strength and weaponry, in comparison strength from the army and the people of Palembang, the strategic areas can controlled by the Dutch building Plumbing (now the Mayor's Building), Talang area Ants and strategic territory other . from party fighter the people of Palembang and assisted by force from outside Palembang city like from Lahat and Lampung came help For against the Netherlands. Likewise from the Dutch also got army assistance landing at the airport Gutters Betutu (old airport), but get resistance from army fighters and the people of Palembang.

Condition war actually not yet ended but party hit do stratagem with truce weapons. In truce weapon the party from Indonesia represented by Adnan Kapau Gani, then get agreement for he did truce one of the weapons namely, soldiers and warriors the people of South Sumatra must interesting retreat soldiers and troops other so far not enough more than 20 km from Palembang city [5]. Incident the war of five days and five nights in Palembang as described above is effort the Palembang people of South Sumatra fought and defended Indonesian independence in 1945. Although Palembang people themselves no only interested for maintain Indonesia's independence but also maintain wealth nature and sovereignty owned by the people of Palembang, don't until the Dutch return for control the city of Palembang and its surroundings, because for public independence Already accomplished in 1945.

Problems as stated above Of course become problem in matter looked related the struggle of the people of Palembang or South Sumatra as effort maintain self from Dutch threat due she was afraid source Power nature is controlled by the Dutch, snatch freedom in life and so on in Palembang. Or of course effort battle This was done by the

people of Palembang as effort fully in defend the unitary state the republic of Indonesia from Dutch colonial threats or reason anything else.

With thereby in this paper How make an effort give explore and analyze more in related event battle five days and five nights in Palembang as effort maintain Indonesian independence in 1945.

## 2. Method

Study this use method history. Method history is method reconstruct past events with gather sources history and synthesized in narrative description chronological historical [6]. In study this use approach science multidisciplinary field as knife in analyze event history.

First step in study history heuristic or activity data collection both field data, archives, documentation, literature studies and other data. After the heuristic step second is data verification ie with do critics source Good internally and externally [7]. Third step is data interpretation or activity interpretation history. At stages interpretation history this, author do interpretation history with helped knowledge help other like knowledge political, economic, social, cultural and fields other. Stage last is historiography, or writing history. After the data is obtained so done data verification, data analysis with interpretation history then written or arranged in a report history.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. The history of the five days and five nights war in Palembang

History of struggle Indonesian nation physique by warriors and heroes a nation that is no longer focused think about interest individual but instead focus on thinking How this Indonesian nation truly independent from threat outside or from in . Specifically for the Palembang area, it happened event war of five days and five nights is flakes struggle in history Indonesian nation. Beginning since on Name Indonesian nation Soekarno and Hatta, read out proclamation Indonesian independence on august 17, 1945 then what happened no condition independence completely for throughout Indonesia however still there is threats from outside as in the Palembang region.

Post reading proclamation Indonesia's independence, and previously the declared Japanese army lost war in world war 2 by troops allies (US, UK , Netherlands, France etc ), then condition of the Japanese army in Indonesia pulled back off go home to Japan.

Condition thereby in accordance results agreement post world war 2, the allied armies with bring international world mission enter to Indonesia with objective For disarmed the remaining Japanese soldiers in Indonesia as stated party lost war and must responsible answer on losses suffered by the group allies [8].

The arrival of NICA or the Netherlands led by Hubertus Johannes van Mook under the guise disarm weapon remnants soldier Japan and announced the concept of the Indonesian state. The presence of the Netherlands and the Allies welcomed with appearance resistance by the Indonesian people from various determined area maintain independence [9]. On October 12, 1945, troop The Allies led by Lieutenant Colonel Carmichael landed in Palembang together Netherland Indies Civil Administration (NICA or Dutch) troops. The arrival of the allied troops at first Not yet so suspected by the people of Palembang, because his arrival above name carrying troops task in settlement post world war II. After found out troops ally it turns out piggybacked by the Dutch army then the people of Palembang started suspect exists business from the Dutch army to take return Indonesian rule to dutch hand like before Indonesian independence happened .

Strength The allies inside there are Dutch soldiers in Palembang, then the more day increase Because get help sent by soldiers from Batavia. On October 24, 1946, troop ally has give the mandate to the Dutch army in the city of Palembang. After transition from troops ally to the Dutch army, the whole area of Palembang became place or location for the full Dutch army with arrogance to the people of Palembang. Incident first in Palembang since bestowal authority the happened on December 28 , 1946 at night day there are two grenades hit truck belonging to the Dutch who signaled as form no pleasure the people of Palembang with presence of the Dutch army in Palembang [10]. Incident this causing two Dutch soldiers to die and two others experience injuries.

On December 29, 1946, Army Republic of Indonesia (TRI) As forerunner will Indonesian National Army (TNI), in Palembang and assisted by several local youth troop raided Dutch military outposts. The Governor of South Sumatra at that time, Mohamad Isa, persuaded TRI and all army struggle for withdrew on December 31, 1946 to avoid more victims lots again. On January 1, 1947 approx at 5 am, the Netherlands violated the demarcation line which caused happening incident in the area Ilir Palembang region [10]. This is what makes the rupture Suite battle for 5 days consecutive or so- called with Five Days and Five Nights War in Palembang.

In the morning First replacement that 1947, the cars jeep the property that carries full Dutch soldier. Part of they release shot , in part Again someone stops at an intersection four Palembang Grand Mosques while attack building place army struggle



**Figure 1:** Photo of armed contact between the Indonesian people's army (TRI) and Palembang fighters facing Dutch soldiers who are on the banks of the Palembang Musi River [11].

headquartered . Situation This make clan Indonesian fighters and military in Palembang decided For act . Mentioned in Development History book Government in South Sumatra Region (1996), TRI troops and paramilitary troops Then besiege places Dutch position [10].

Battle January 1, 1947 stopped while at 15.00 WIB or 3 pm after come appeal from Commander of TRI Division II Colonel Bambang Utoyo and Governor Isa. War discontinued after happening agreement cease weapon from Indonesia and the Netherlands. However, not yet 1 hour of approval walkin, the Netherlands instead brought in 2 planes combat air, namely the B-52 mitcel for escort train layered carrying steel ammo. Actions taken by the Dutch considered provocation that causes battle return broke. Trops republic then more intense in do attack. The second and third day, the Dutch returned attack center defense republic in the Palembang Grand Mosque area. Incursion the Can repelled by troops Battalion genius together a number of army fighter . Come reinforcements help for the Netherlands however can was ambushed by units led by First Lieutenant Wahid Luddien. Battle Keep going continued in the heart of Palembang City which resulted Lots destruction [10].

Netherlands which is not want to lost then exert vehicles combat layered steel, plane air, even boat attacking war from the Musi River, to bombed the city of Palembang. on the day fourth, come help from Lampung to clan fighters in Palembang led by Major Noerdin Pandji also help from Lahat below leader Lieutenant General Harun Sohar. However, because weaponry Dutch more sophisticated and modern, troop republic

that started run out stock ammunition and logistics finally overwhelmed finally forced back off approaching day fifth.

Incident war This furthermore done meeting between leader civil and military from second split party For talk about cease weapon after 5 days battle fierce took place in the city of Palembang. The Indonesian side sent Adnan Kapau (AK) Gani, ex Current Resident of South Sumatra That served as Minister of Welfare in the Cabinet Sjahrir III, for roll out negotiation with Holland.



**Figure 2:** Five days and five nights post-war situation in Palembang [12].

Quoted from the Struggle Album Independence 1945-1950 (1975), negotiations cease weapon that produce agreement among them is troops fighter the people of South Sumatra must back off so far 20 kilometers from center of Palembang City. Government civil below leader Governor M. Isa along with police as well as force led sea Commander Regiment Major AR Saroinson still located in Palembang city. Dutch side only can set up military posts so far 14 kilometers from center city. truce weapon apply from January 6 , 1947 at 00.00 time local Then followed with resignation troops start at 06.00. Agreement cease weapon between the Indonesian government and the Dutch end battle 5 days 5 nights in Palembang which took place from January 1st until January 5, 1947 [10].

### **3.2. Palembang community efforts in defending Indonesia 's independence**

The people of South Sumatra and especially Palembang are welcome community comer new because basically the people of Palembang have easy characteristics accept something novelty and though different. But on events entry back among the allied soldiers who were piggybacked by the NICA troops then attitude refuse and no like



that appear as form protests and attempts expel the invaders like Holland for dating back to Palembang.

There are efforts made by the people of Palembang in follow as well as fight for and defend Indonesian independence against threat from outside or from domestic. First, the people of Palembang refused hard to arrogance of the Dutch army in Palembang in 1946 [11]. Arrival Dutch troops increase vigilance for fighter Palembang people because objective beginning For disarm Japanese army weapons only limited no reason can be accepted by the people of Palembang. In fact the Dutch army tried make provocation against the Indonesian people's army and also the fighters the people of Palembang.

Second, effort defend Indonesian independence in the background back with riches Palembang's nature is very abundant so that necessity strong power for hinder the dutch army to take over riches natural it and don't until fall to the hands of the dutch army. It's been a long time Palembang people only limited watch and witness source Power nature itself taken by colonialism and for colonial interests Alone that is start from the Dutch occupation as well as the occupation Japan in Palembang. Post defeat Japan in World War II, hope big for Palembang people wealth very rich nature for controlled and owned by the people of Palembang for the sake of the people of Palembang alone. And to worry the very reasonable of course exists effort refused and expelled the Dutch soldiers who wanted to control back to the Palembang region of South Sumatra.

Third, effort the people of South Sumatra in follow as well as maintain Indonesian independence is there is a sense of following along and care on sovereignty the nation and the independence of Indonesia that has clearly proclaimed Indonesian independence by Ir Soekarno and Hatta on August 1, 1945. With coming back in the Dutch army is efforts to be resisted and expelled from Indonesian territory. The Indonesian state has become a sovereign country, an independent country, and a country that owns similarity position with independent and sovereign states like in an international country other. With thereby effort maintain Indonesian independence is become obligation together as public specifically the people of Palembang, South Sumatra.

## 4. Discussion

In research conducted by Susilo in 2021 with entitled "History of the Struggle". Maintain Indonesian independence in Lubuklinggau 1947-1949 [12]." represents trying research dig more in How the struggles of the characters local in the bottom phallus deep South

Sumatra follow as well as make an effort maintain independence Indonesia. In 1947-1949 was the toughest period for the fighters in maintain Indonesian independence in particular in facing the Dutch army who are trying enter return For do colonization in South Sumatra.

On results another study conducted by Padlefi in 2023 with title research “ Designing Virtual Reality in Introduction to the History of the 5 Days 5 Nights War” [13]. In study This Of course the intended content is effort decipher event war of five days and five nights in Palembang in a form of virtual reality that can used as a learning medium history at school. On research this too of course study How the way event war but in form animation and help technology other.

On results research conducted writer Of course dig more different than results research already done as already described above. In study This How the people of Palembang, South Sumatra, are trying with hard in fight for and defend Indonesian independence with various past struggle he did. These efforts in fight for Indonesian independence ie start from reaction hard with entry returned to the Dutch army in Palembang. So form resistance fighters and people’s soldiers to the Dutch army occurred start from January 1-5, 1947 the so-called as event war of five days and five nights. Effort resistance the nothing else only no pleasure the people of Palembang to the Dutch army but of course the arrogance of the Dutch army in the city of Palembang which became increase how strong For expelled the Dutch army from Palembang.

Effort furthermore is How the people of Palembang want the Dutch army to go from Palembang and don’t until control source Power nature owned by Palembang. Source Power rich nature then became the main factor for the Dutch army to enter and want control the Palembang region returned to being a Dutch colonial territory as before done before. Besides it also exists sense of fate and comradeship for follow as well as maintain Indonesia’s independence already it was clear that Indonesia became independent on August 17, 1945.

## 5. Conclusion

As conclusion in this paper that is five day war five Evening is the war that took place in the city of Palembang on 1-5 January 1947. The war This happen background back dutch army effort piggyback troops ally enter to Indonesia for snatch back in Indonesia, one of which was the Palembang region, which became a colonial area for the Dutch army. In battle the Of course get very great match from fighters and people ’s soldiers in the city of Palembang. As form effort the people of Palembang, South Sumatra in



follow as well as maintain Indonesian independence is with do resistance against the arrogant and provocative Dutch army in the city of Palembang. Besides That form effort maintain Indonesian independence ie Palembang people feel like fate and comrades For maintain Indonesian independence and expel the Dutch army in effort take over riches source Power nature owned by Palembang.

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