

## The History of The Establishment Of The Establishment Of The Father's Country Defender (PETA) And Its Involvement In The Struggle To Achieve The Independence Of The Republic Of Indonesia

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### Abstract

*In the 19th to 20th centuries, Indonesia was a region whose geographical position was bordered by several neighboring countries. In the north it is bordered by the Philippines. In the south it is bordered by the Australian Continent. The territory of Indonesia, which is a fertile region, became one of Japan's desires to dominate Indonesia. It emerged in 1940 after seeing that apart from its natural and human resources, Indonesia was very important for Japan's strategic and political interests. Japan was interested in controlling Java Island because politically Java Island was the center of government, Java Island was also the center of Japan's military defense in the Indonesian archipelago. Java Island is economically one of the important areas for the operation of economic activities in Indonesia. At the time of the Japanese occupation, the island of Java consisted of five Syu (residencies), namely Banten, Jakarta, Bogor, Priangan and Cirebon. These areas had many coffee, tea and sugar cane plantations as well as rice fields which were very useful for food for the population and Japanese soldiers. Marketing of goods - goods produced in Japan. Human resources are also very much needed by Japan to support Japan's victory in the Greater East Asia war (Dai Toa no Senso).*

**Keywords** History, PETA, Independence, Republic of Indonesia

### INTRODUCTION

Throughout the history of Dutch Colonial Colonialism and Japanese Occupation in Indonesia, there have been tens to hundreds of large-scale and small-scale rebellions as a form of protest against colonial systems and practices for hundreds of years. One of them was the rebellion carried out by members of the Homeland Defense Army (PETA), Daidan Blitar against the Japanese Occupation Government. The rebellion reached its climax on February 14, 1945 which greatly suppressed the national life of the surrounding community. At that time the PETA Rebellion was led by Sudanco Soepriyadi so that it made a major contribution to the independence of the Archipelagic State of the Republic of Indonesia and became the forerunner of the current TNI (Afandi, 2008). In mid 1943, the Pacific War reached its climax. United States and Australian forces launched a lengthy military campaign to retake Japanese-occupied portions of the Solomon Islands and New Guinea encountered some of the fiercest resistance of the war. The entire Solomon Islands could only be recaptured in 1943 (Heinrichs & Gallicchio, 2017). Towards the end of 1943, Japan was showing signs of decline in the war. It is not impossible that Japan has various deficiencies, especially in the field of human resources, to think about involving the Indonesian nation in regional defense (Duus, et al, 2021).

A National Figure named Gatot Mangkoe Pradja (1943) submitted a letter of request to Saiko Sikikan which contained "That in my opinion, if the Indonesian people are true and truly want to be deemed competent to intervene in domestic government affairs, they must



provide real jobs, and do not live in desire only. So in my opinion, this is to create a "Defender's Front", as well as a job that will manifest a true will and will later receive an award from a high government. Therefore, I very much beg before your noble majesty, would you mind giving me the opportunity to form the line of defense, under the leadership of the Dai Nippon Army, who really want to participate in defending and maintaining the position and safety of the island of Java and its inhabitants (Eldridge, 2017). The above matter was in fact inseparable from Saiko Sikikan's statement in September 1943 that the Indonesian people would be involved in the domestic government. Not separated from that with the establishment of Chuo Sangi in and Sangi Kai. Defenders of the Motherland (PETA) are the Forerunners of the TNI (Laffan, 2021), with the spirit of fighting for independence this was marked by the occurrence of the Proclamation of Independence on 17 August 1945 which was the climax of the movement for the national independence of the Indonesian people which began with the National Awakening on 20 May 1908, which driven by the pioneers of independence on October 28, 1928 equipped with a Youth Pledge: "One Homeland, One Nation, One Language, Indonesia". The 1908-1945 National Independence Movement consisted of a political wing which included a number of political parties, such as the PSSI, PNI, Perindra and the military wing in the form of PETA (Tentara Pembela Tanah Air) which was formed on the idea of the independence pioneer Gatot Mangkupradja in 1943, so that with a unified struggle between the political wing and the military wing of the national independence movement could finally be realized on August 17, 1945, only two days after the end of World War II, succeeded in establishing the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia on its own strength.

The Homeland Defenders Struggle (PETA) on the island of Java is politically important for the center of Japanese military defense in the Indonesian archipelago. Meanwhile, based on socio-economic factors, Java Island is an area that has many plantations and rice fields to meet the food needs of the Japanese population and soldiers. The heavy occupation of Priangan served very well to support Japanese interests in the Greater East Asia war. On March 1, 1942 the Japanese immediately landed the 2nd Division under the command of the 16th Army led by Lieutenant General Hitoshi Imamura in Banten and Eretan in Indramayu. After the unconditional surrender of the Netherlands to the Japanese government on March 8, 1942 in Kalijati, West Java, Java and Madura came under the control of the 16th Army based in Jakarta. The Japanese government strictly implemented policies and did not hesitate to torture those who resisted. Japan issued regulations that were detrimental to the people, causing resistance such as the resistance of the Sukamanah students and the resistance of the farmers in Indramayu. The Japanese occupation of Priangan in general caused misery for the people of Priangan. The cunning behavior of the colonialists which resulted in harm to the people of Priangan ultimately triggered resistance from the people, including the santri group, which was driven by the clerics. risking body and soul to expel invaders who have colonized this nation for centuries. During colonial rule, Indonesia does not have a military. During the colonial government, the military was only owned by the government and the people only came from Europeans or Dutch and very few from indigenous people. The formation of the military during the

colonial period on December 4, 1830 by Van den Bosh, to quell conflicts or attacks from the royal army in Java. The name of the troops formed by the Dutch East Indies government was Oost Indische Leger (East Indian Army). In 1836 King Willem I wanted to be given the status of Koninklijk Leger (Royal Army), so the full name was Koninklijk Nederlandche Oos Indische Leger (KNIL). During the Japanese occupation of Priangan from 1942 to 1945, the nature of the movement became very militant, with various doctrines given by Japanese troops to the people of Priangan, especially the youths. The mobility of the Priangan population by the Japanese government accelerated the process of absorption and knowledge of the Japanese military. At that time, Japan was carrying out a battle against the allied forces or known as 3 Petrik Matanasi, KNIL Leftover Dutch Time Bombs. World War II and the Pacific War. Japan needed troops to help the Japanese army in the war. Because Japan continued to face defeat, the Japanese government in Indonesia decided to train the Indonesian people in military matters to help the Japanese army fight the Allies. With the formation of the Homeland Defenders Army (PETA) on October 3, 1943, this was the right answer in the effort to form an independent Indonesian state because it was impossible for an independent country not to have an army. It was not during the establishment of Islamic political power and the Sultanate that the Soeltan of Jogjakarta held the title of Senapati Ing Alaga Sajjidin Panatagama Cholifah Rasoeoellah saw Ing Tanah Djawa. Is it possible that Senopati Ing Alaga - the Warlord doesn't have an army or soldiers? Therefore, with the formation of the Homeland Defenders Army (PETA), placing ulemas and students in the history of the Indonesian nation, especially in Priangan, was the pioneer in the development of the first modern weapons organization and in terms of the geographical conditions of the Priangan region, in fact, many Islamic boarding schools were established where Islamic scholars and students have an important role in it, including in the Priangan region. This understanding will be understandable if the continuation of the history of the struggle of the Homeland Defenders Army (PETA) becomes the core of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), October 5, 1945. However, in writing the History of the Homeland Defenders Army (PETA) in Indonesian History, the consequences writing that departs from the de-Islamization of Indonesian History, the names of the ulama and students were omitted. It was only written that the Homeland Defense Army (PETA) was established by the government of the Japanese army as a manifestation of a letter of application written in the blood of Gatot Mangkoepradja, the former leader of the Indonesian National Party (PNI). The above made the author make the title of the paper "The History Of The Establishment Of The Father's Flower (PETA) And Its Involvement In The Struggle To Achieve The Independence Of The Republic Of Indonesia". In this paper,

From the problems above regarding the role of the nation's youth in Defenders of the Homeland (PETA) in Java Island during the Japanese occupation (1942 - 1945) there are at least two goals that the author hopes for, namely:

1. Knowing the socio-political conditions of the island of Java during the Japanese occupation.
2. Do you know the role of the nation's youth in PETA and their struggle to defend their homeland in Java during the Japanese occupation?



## RESEARCH METHODS

To answer the questions and urgency in the introduction, the method used is a descriptive historical research method, namely heuristics, criticism, interpretation, and historiography which aims to identify the role and contribution of the Homeland Defenders Army (PETA) from the perspective of defense science. At this heuristic stage the author uses book sources to support this research. The second stage is criticism. Criticism is the stage of selecting and testing data both externally and internally. The third is interpretation, namely the stage carried out by analyzing existing facts using a particular approach or theory, in order to obtain an objective interpretation. The last is historiography, which is an advanced stage of the interpretation stage, the results of which are written down into a harmonious story. The sources used in this study are various sources such as documents, journals, anecdotes and other supporting references. The tested data is interpreted by the information contained in it through interpretation, and the next stage is historiography, namely compiling a story and a description of its entire history (Sulasman, 2014). At this stage the author seeks and collects as many sources as possible, whether in the form of a document or an archive (Nugroho, 1986). The tested data is interpreted by the information contained in it through interpretation, and the next stage is historiography, namely compiling stories and a description of their entire history (Sulasman, 2014). At this stage the author seeks and collects as many sources as possible, either in the form of a document or an archive (Nugroho, 1986). The tested data is interpreted by the information contained in it through interpretation, and the next stage is historiography, namely compiling stories and a description of their entire history (Sulasman, 2014). At this stage the author seeks and collects as many sources as possible, either in the form of a document or an archive (Nugroho, 1986).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

PETA was formed by the Japanese Government in 1943 with the aim of dealing with the Greater East Asia war from the allied bloc attack. In dealing with this war, Japan asked for help from nationalist and Islamic leaders. PETA was initiated by an Indonesian named R Gatot Mangkupraja. He is a Nationalist leader. Previously, on 8-9 March 1942, the Dutch East Indies government surrendered unconditionally to the Japanese in Kalijati. Since then entered a new chapter in the history of Indonesia. The former Dutch East Indies territory was divided into three Commands: 1. Sumatra Island under the Command of the 25th Army based in Bukittinggi 2. Java-Madura Island under the Command of the 16th Army based in Jakarta 3. Sunda Kecil, Islands (East Nusa Tenggara), Sulawesi, Kalimantan and Maluku under the Command of the Navy's 2nd Fleet based in Makassar. At the end of 1942, Japan was counterattacked by the Allies. Because it was under pressure, the leaders of our National Movement immediately used it to form a national army. So on October 3, 1943 based on Osamu Seirei (Decree) No. 44 of 1943 the Voluntary Defenders of the Motherland (PETA) was born which was announced by the Commander of the 16th Japanese Army, namely Lieutenant General Kumakichi Harada. The purpose of forming the PETA army by the Japanese was to defend its territory from attacks by the Allied forces, but the Indonesian



people saw the formation of the PETA Army as preparation for an independent Indonesia. Figures of the Indonesian Nation Forming the PETA Army, among others: because it began to be urgently used by the leadership of our National Movement to form a national army. So on October 3, 1943 based on Osamu Seirei (Decree) No. 44 of 1943 the Voluntary Defenders of the Motherland (PETA) was born which was announced by the Commander of the 16th Japanese Army, namely Lieutenant General Kumakichi Harada. The purpose of the formation of the PETA army by the Japanese was to defend its territory from attacks by the Allied forces, but the Indonesian people saw the formation of the PETA Army as preparation for an independent Indonesia. Figures of the Indonesian Nation Forming the PETA Army, among others: because it began to be urgently used by the leadership of our National Movement to form a national army.

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1. Ir. Sukarno
2. Drs. Moh. Hatta
3. Ki Ageng Suryomataram
4. Ki Hadjar Dewantara
5. Raden Gatot Mangkoepraja
6. Ki Haji Mas Mansoer
7. Hajj Agus Salim

On October 15, 1943, the first Army Officer Training for PETA candidates began. The Voluntary Defenders of the Homeland Army Officer Education Center in Java or called Jawa Boei Giyugun Kanbu Kyoikutai in Bogor is a former prison camp and KNIL Army Headquarters. Candidates for PETA army officers were trained and educated for 2-4 months, and since then 20 residencies on the islands of Java, Madura and Bali began to be drafted and formed Daidan-daidan (battalions). Until early 1945, the number of battalions that had been formed was 69 battalions. During the period October 1943 - February 1945 the number of officers in the 5-Armed Forces was successfully trained and educated as many as 1,609 officers.



Some of the Rebellion Events were driven by the PETA Army and Giyugun Sumatra. The resistance of the Giyugun army in the Aceh-Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam Crocodile Range, led by Teuku Hamid in November 1944. 2. The PETA Army resistance in Blitar led by Syodancho Supriyadi on February 14, 1945. As for Supriyadi's whereabouts, it is a mystery. Some of Shodancho Supriyadi's parties have died at the hands of the Japanese in battle. 3. The PETA army's resistance in Kumilir Cilacap, Central Java was led by Bundancho Khusaeri on April 21, 1945. 4. The PETA army's resistance in Cileunca Pangalengan Cimahi, West Java, was led by Bundancho Amar Soetisna on May 4, 1945.

### **Ranks in the PETA Army**

Daidancho (Battalion Commander), came from among community leaders or prominent people. Chudancho (Company Commander), comes from among those who are already working, but have not yet reached the rank of teacher, clerk. Shodancho (Platoon Commander), comes from the Giyuhei (Warrior) student circle, comes from among the youth who graduated from elementary school. 01 02 03 05 Bundancho (Team Commander), comes from among the youth who graduated from elementary school.

### **PETA Army Movement**

Since the founding of the PETA Army in 1943, there have been continuous armed clashes, both small and large, between PETA troops and the Japanese army due to the actions of the Japanese army which violated the human rights of the Indonesian people. These armed clashes, among others, occurred in Blitar, Gumilir-Cilacap, Cimahi-Pengalengan, Pematang Siantar and other well-known and unknown places spread across the islands of Java and Sumatra, which were incidents of fighting from the 1945-1950 war of independence.

The climax of the clash occurred in Rengasdengklok on August 16, 1945. The local PETA company managed to free it from Japanese rule, so that the Japanese flag could be lowered and the Red and White flag raised, indicating that Rengasdengklok became the first independent Indonesian region. This is the success of PETA as the military wing in pioneering the proclamation of independence. At the event of the Proclamation of Independence on August 17, 1945, at Bung Karno's residence on Jalan Pegangsaan Timur 56 Central Jakarta, a PETA company led by Chudancho Latief Hendraningrat acted as a bodyguard to face all possibilities from the Japanese army, which received orders from the allies as the winner.

### **Planning for the independence of the Republic of Indonesia**

Many PETA members received training to prepare for independence. Because many Indonesian figures are PETA graduates, such as Major General Soedirman, Suharto, Ahmad Yani, and Supriyadi. Indonesian figures, such as Soekarno, Hatta and others had planned for the independence of the Indonesian nation. They are many who move the people of Indonesia. However, during the Dutch occupation it was difficult to get permission to establish an organization. During the Japanese occupation, several figures also initiated the formation of youth organizations. Many Indonesian youths were able to gain a sense of group

integrity through membership in several organizations created by the Japanese. In March 1944, the Japanese Government felt that PETA served Indonesian interests rather than Japan. There was even an uprising in Blitar on February 14, 1945, led by Supriadi. After Bung Karno proclaimed Indonesia's independence, the Danki of the PETA Army, Latief Hendraningrat, raised the Red and White Heritage Flag, so that the proclamation was carried out safely. However, a few moments later a group of kenpeitai (Japanese Military Police) with full weapons and drawn bayonets threatened the Proclamator to withdraw the proclamation. But after seeing the PETA company around the building in a combat ready position and its members accompanying the Proclamator, the Japanese Kenpeitai group was forced to retreat, so the threat to cancel the proclamation failed. Thus, the PETA Army, as the military wing of the National Movement, has completed its mandate to pioneer and oversee the Proclamation of Independence.

### **PETA of Main Capital Strength of BKR and TNI**

The Voluntary Defenders of the Homeland Army is a "dream come true" for the Republic of Indonesia, or more precisely, it has become a hidden force thanks to the ingenuity of Indonesia's National leaders. The TNI is the result of the transformation of the BKR, thanks to its pioneering members of the ex-PETA Army forming the BKR and has been officially recognized by the Government of Indonesia through Presidential Decree No. 63/1993 which states that BKR is the "Forerunner of the TNI", and the main source of BKR is the PETA Army. It is said "Primary" considering the number of PETA personnel and their pioneering work in the BKR until they became the TNI in the early 1950s, they were in the top place besides elements of Heiho, KNIL, and other struggle agencies.

Within the TNI there is a combination of former PETA who have leadership and solidarity or high corps spirit as reflected in General Soedirman with former KNIL who have experience in the field of military technique and strategy as reflected in Oerip Soemoharjo, AH Nasution and TB. Simatupang. Thanks to the preparations of the PETA Army as the military wing of the independence movement during the Pre-Proclamation period, in an instant, on average, each PETA Army battalion could be formed into a BKR regiment under the leadership of a PETA Officer, who is ready to fight to defend the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Indonesia. In all areas throughout the Republic of Indonesia BKR troops simultaneously began disarming the Japanese army, either through peaceful negotiations or through blood battles in accordance with the nature and wisdom of the local Japanese army commander. At that time, the former PETA Danyon Kasman Singodimedjo was appointed as the head of the Central BKR.

When at the end of September 1945 the Allied troops began to land in Indonesia, that more than half of the Japanese weapons had fallen into the hands of the Republic of Indonesia so that the BKR units with these weapons could carry out effective resistance in all the allied landing sites in Medan, Padang, Palembang, Jakarta, and Semarang with its climax reached in the battle of Surabaya on November 10, 1945, so that after that the advance of the allied forces to further enter the territory of the Republic of Indonesia was practically completely stopped and a total of 35,000 Japanese troops and 40,000 prisoners of war and



Interns. Until the end of November 1945, it was still in the territory of the Republic of Indonesia outside the reach of the Allied forces. This means that the military strategy of the troops of the Republic of Indonesia by force of arms to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Indonesia has been successful thanks to an effective leader. From former PETA officers who became commanders of local BKR units.

The BKR units which had thus been tested in operations to seize weapons from the Japanese army as well as operations to fight against the allied troops in all their landing sites, on October 5, 1945, the structure and organization was increased to become the TKR (People's Security Army) with former Danyon PETA Soedirman was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Republic of Indonesia. On December 18, 1945, according to his success in leading the BKR-TKR troops in the battles against the allies in Ambarawa. Then successively changed its name to TKR (People's Safety Army) then became TRI (Tentara Republik Indonesia), and finally TNI (Indonesian National Army).

Thanks to the success of the universal people's war based on a militia system where thousands of youths/people in local villages were mobilized on a large scale, so that these villages became strongholds of the Republic of Indonesia under the leadership of General Soedirman. Thus, the Dutch Colonial operation experienced a total failure, so that Indonesia's sovereignty at the end of 1949 was recognized by the international community, and the Unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia in September 1950 was officially accepted as a full member of the United Nations Organization in accordance with the objectives of the proclamation of Independence of the Republic of Indonesia on August 17, 1945. PETA Force 43-45 has given birth to the best sons who occupy positions as Army Chief of Staff and received as National Heroes/Heroes of the Revolution. In addition, it also gave birth to several divisions including the Siliwangi Division, the Diponogoro Division and the Brawijaya Division. Until now it has developed into several Regional Military Commands (Kodam) throughout the territory of Indonesia which we all love together.

### **The Role and Contribution of PETAs in the Process of Forming the TNI Viewed from the Defense Aspect**

The Defenders of the Motherland (PETA) in the Sumatra area are called Gyugun. The troops (Gyugun) were trained to help the Japanese face the allied troops who were about to invade and seize Indonesia, how the Gyugun officers played the main role as the backbone of the Republic's armed forces in Sumatra, but why is their role only heard "faintly" in Indonesian military history. The Japanese occupation period (1942-1945) is often seen as a crisis period full of uncertainty, but at the same time it opened up many opportunities for those who wanted to take advantage of it. This is where Gyugun's existence is important, this is the only place for Sumatrans to receive military training for the first time. In contrast to the Javanese, Madurese, Manado, Bugis, Timorese and Ambonese ethnic groups, most Sumatrans barely knew the professional military world, except for those who had individually enrolled in the KNIL in Java. Generally, they join Gyugun who come from educated circles, respected even from Nahdatul Ulama (NU) (Farih, 2016). The Sumatran people, especially the Minangkabau ethnic group, entered the military world more motivated



by security considerations and the opportunity to start a professional military institution. PETA was first established in the Banten area, namely Daidan I under the leadership of Daidan Tyo KH Syam'un and the second Daidan II under the leadership of Daidan Tyo EO Tranaya. Initially, Daidan I was based in Serang and then moved to Labuan. Daidan Tyo KH Syam'un founded Daiand III in Cilegon, and Daidan I which was in Labuan was handed over to K. H Khatib was then promoted to Daidan Tyo after attending Daidan Tyo training. Furthermore, he founded another Daidan to IV and who led it was Uding Suryaatmaja. In Banten there are four PETA battalions (Daidanco), namely Batalayon I in Labuan under Batalayon Commander (Daidanco) KH. Acmad Chatib, Batalayon II in Kandang sapi, Malingping under Commander Entol Ternaja, Batalayon III in Cilegon under Commander KH Syam'un and Batalayon IV in Pandeglang under Commander Uding Soeriaatmaja. With the formation of PETA in Banten, many youths joined the agency. (Handayani, 2018). In Banten there are four PETA battalions (Daidanco), namely Batalayon I in Labuan under Batalayon Commander (Daidanco) KH. Acmad Chatib, Batalayon II in Kandang sapi, Malingping under Commander Entol Ternaja, Batalayon III in Cilegon under Commander KH Syam'un and Batalayon IV in Pandeglang under Commander Uding Soeriaatmaja. With the formation of PETA in Banten, many youths joined the agency. (Handayani, 2018). In Banten there are four PETA battalions (Daidanco), namely Batalayon I in Labuan under Batalayon Commander (Daidanco) KH. Acmad Chatib, Batalayon II in Kandang sapi, Malingping under Commander Entol Ternaja, Batalayon III in Cilegon under Commander KH Syam'un and Batalayon IV in Pandeglang under Commander Uding Soeriaatmaja. With the formation of PETA in Banten, many youths joined the agency. (Handayani, 2018).

## CONCLUSION

Colonization is a form of denial of humanity and justice that was compiled at the beginning of the 1945 Constitution. It should be noted that every event has a lesson behind it. One of the lessons that can be learned is the formation of the PETA Army. The formation of PETA became the forerunner of the TNI which is an element of national defense. From a series of history, it is explained that the PETA army is a people's security apparatus formed during the Japanese occupation of Indonesia which adheres to a fascist system. Where are the various contributions of PETA, who today are PETA veteran soldiers, who have sacrificed their wealth, time, energy and lives to defend and build the independence of the Indonesian State. During the formation of PETA in the period (1943-1945) there were many rebellions against the Japanese occupiers.

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