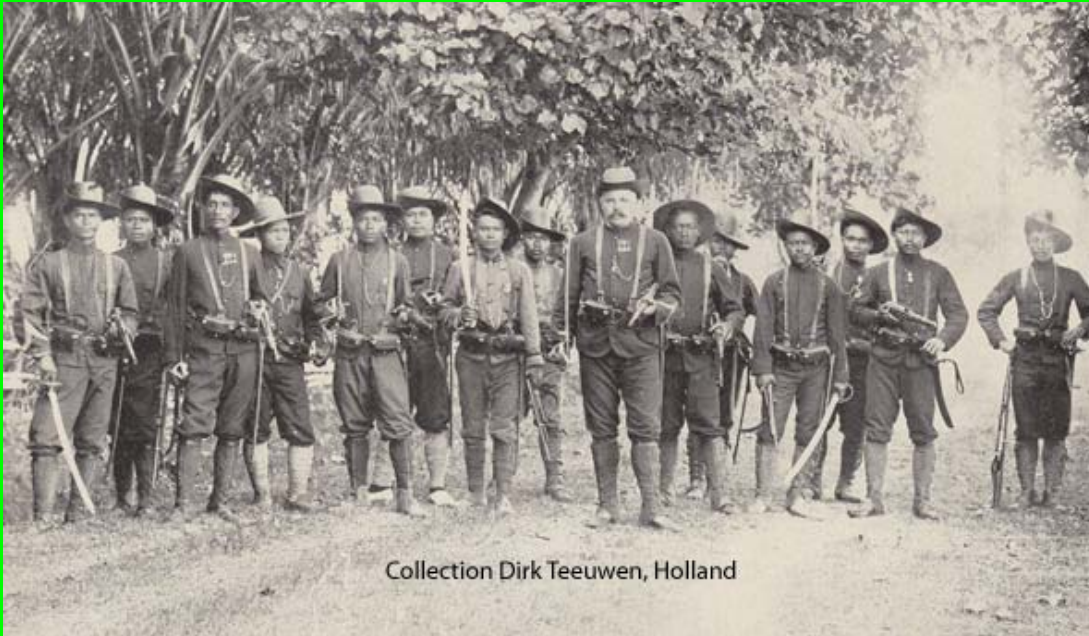


The Dutch Marechaussee (Marsosé) Brigades in Aceh-Atjeh, Battle Song drs Dirk Teeuwen MSc



Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

1. *The Marechaussee Brigade Frank (explanation, see page 2) near Sigli, Aceh in 1908. Brigade Commander Frank, the European in the centre, was decorated in 1909. He received the Dutch MWO, the Militaire Willemsorde (Military Order of William I, a very high decoration). From > Croo, M. H. du: Marechaussee in Atjeh; Maastricht Holland 1943, p. 126*

The Marechaussee Corps unofficial Battle Song! The poet was a native soldier from Manado, Celebes (Sulawesi now). Name unknown.

***O, marsosé, marsosé....ééé!
't Is terlalu marsosé!
Hari-hari naik gunung,
Hantem sadja, marsosé!
Satoe mati, ganti sepuluh,
't Is terlalu marsosé!***

(Translation, see below)



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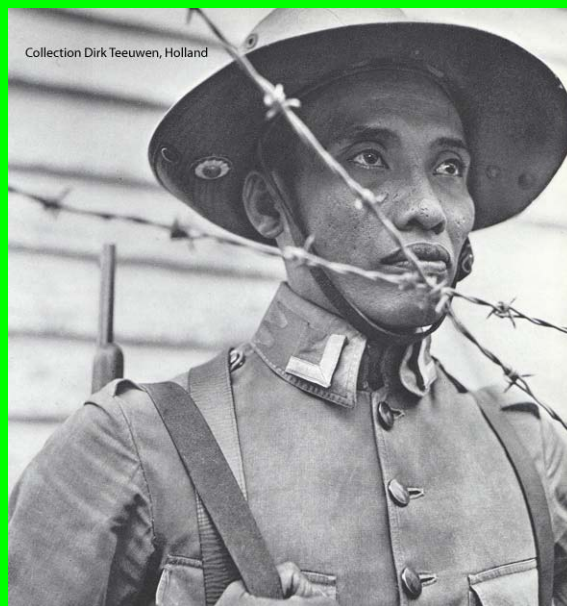
2. *Ready with sabre (right) and gun (left hand). From > Schuh, Gotthard: Eilanden der Goden; Amsterdam 1943, p. 62*



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3. One of the oldest Brigades in Aceh, 1891. Their uniforms are still different, which changed very soon. The men are Indonesian natives. Commanders (sergeants, corporals mostly) as well. From> Zentgraaff, H. C.: Atjeh; Batavia (Jakarta) 1931, p. 131

A Marechaussee soldier is in Bahasa (means Language) Indonesia, and in Bahasa Aceh, a Marsosé. In English Marechaussee means, translated literally, (military) constable. However, this translation puts you on the wrong track! The Marechaussee Corps was a very specialized force consisting of jungle commandos (Brigades) and was, because of that, a corps d' elite as well as corps of shock troops formed by the Royal Dutch East-Indian Army. The formation of the corps took place April 2nd 1890.



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4. From> Schuh, Gotthard: Eilanden der Goden; Amsterdam 1943, p. 103



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6. Shortly after the battle (Marechaussee Brigade near Sigli, Aceh 1902). Detail from a photo in > Pusat Dokumentasi Aceh: Perang colonial Belanda di Aceh; Banda Aceh 1977, p. 176

Translation of the Battle Song on page 1

Marechaussay!
Above all things I am a Marechaussay!
We hit out and
climb mountains every day!
You kill me?
Others will replace me, without any delay!
All I want to do is fighting
shoulder to shoulder with the comrades
of my Brigade Marechaussay!

Note

Marechaussay in this song is misspelled intentionally by me, because I tried to put the couplet into verse in English. Marechaussay must be spelled as Marechaussee (Dutch) of course. The "ee" at the end of the Dutch word Marechaussee has to be pronounced like the "ay" in English. That's why I did so. You, as an English speaker, could try to pronounce the Dutch word "marechaussee" like "marsosay". The very origin of the word, however, is French.



7. Without words. Ok, Aceh circa 1890. But however, besides that, I don't know where this (wonderful) picture comes from. Not the faintest idea.

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8. European Marechaussee
Brasser, J. C.: Soldatenleven in de Indische wildernis; Zutphen Holland 1930, front page. Drawing by Pol Dam.