

Mr Petit travels far!! Colonial travel 1914

Dirk Teeuwen MSc

Most pictures are from the travel album of Mr Petit, a Dutchman, 1914. This album is part of my library. The sources of the pictures are showed clearly in my text.

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Mr Jacques Petit, a Dutch gentleman from The Hague Holland went on a journey to The Netherlands East-Indies / Indonesia in 1914, April 6. His impressions were summerized by himself in an album with picture postcards. At first his journey brought him over land to France (Paris and Marseille). Then by sea with the steamer Tabanan to Egypt: Port Said, Cairo and the Suez Canal. Next he arrived at Sumatra, Padang. At last he reached Java: Batavia, Bandung, Semarang, Salatiga. That is: as far as we know.

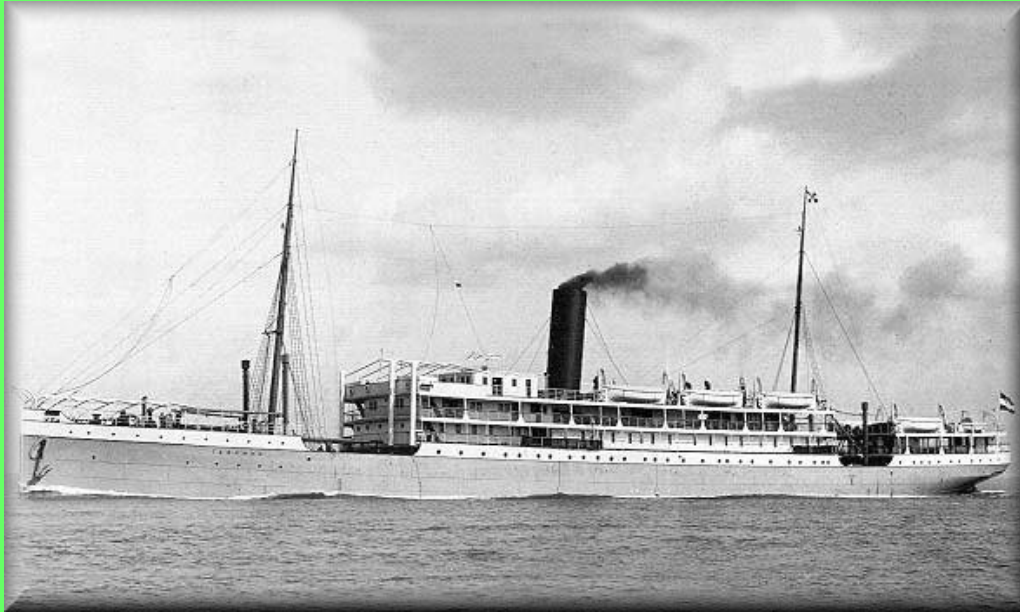
The album is interesting, but not complete. The photographs have been arranged by mr Petit in geographical order and painted in with hotel-bills and with many documents from the Dutch shipping company Rotterdamsche Lloyd.

Mr Petit did not write something like a day-to-day record about his impressions of travel. There is a lot to guess at! Was he travelling alone? What

was his profession?

Jacques Petit payed a visit to the Borobudur . He slept in the Borobudur Hotel. But did he spend a couple of days in nearby Jokyakarta / Djokjakarta or Soerakarta / Solo? We don't have the faintest idea! Mr Petit leaves us, in his album so to say, in Salatiga, Java. He leaves us in doubt!

1. Marseille 1914, a lady from the play-house Palais de Cristal.



2. (page 1) ss Tabanan, owned by the Dutch company "Rotterdamsche Lloyd".
From: www.Arendnet.nl 6-7-2004

Details about the ss Tabanan: see postscript at the end of this article!

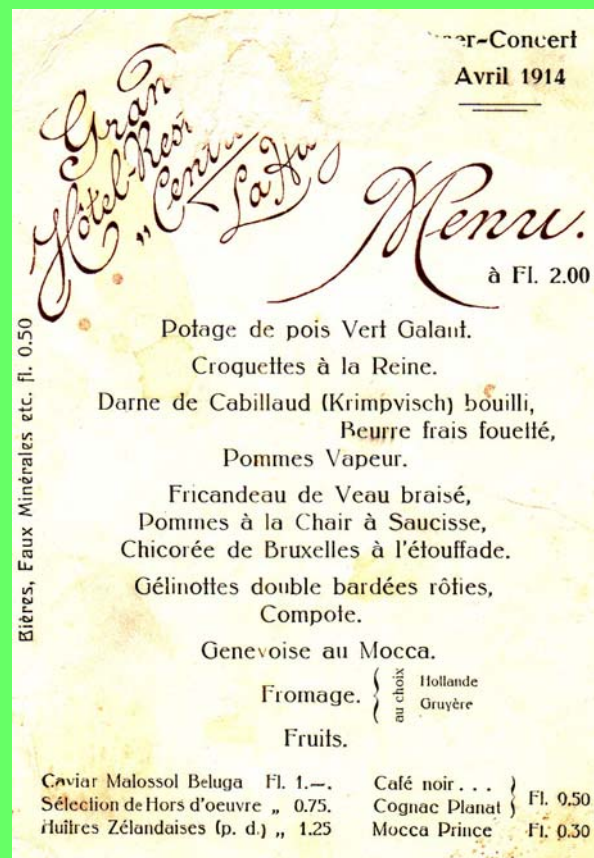
3 . The Hague 2-4-1914: farewell-diner in Grant Hotel Central (family-album Petit).

April 6: mr Petit travelled by train from Amsterdam to Paris and then to Marseille, where he arrived April 12. In Marseille he was staying at the Hotel Continental for three nights. He did the sights of the town, enjoyed the can-can-entertainment in the Palais de Cristal and embarked the Dutch steamer ss Tabanan April 16.

The ss Tabanan continued its way to the Suez Canal and called at Port Said in Egypt April 19. The steamer proceeded its voyage through the Suez Canal. Mr Petit made the most of the delay in Port Said. He went to town for his marketing and even found the opportunity to pay a visit to Cairo and to the pyramids.

May 3: Padang on the western coast of Sumatra. The steamer was brought alongside the quay of Emmahaven / Teluk Bayur (Padang Port). Our globetrotter made a trip to the town of Padang, the Apenberg / Mountain of the Apes at the mouth of the Padang River and the Anei Kloof / Anei Valley in the interior of Sumatra.

Mr Petit disembarked at Tanjung Priok-Batavia May 8. On board he enjoyed his last dinner party.

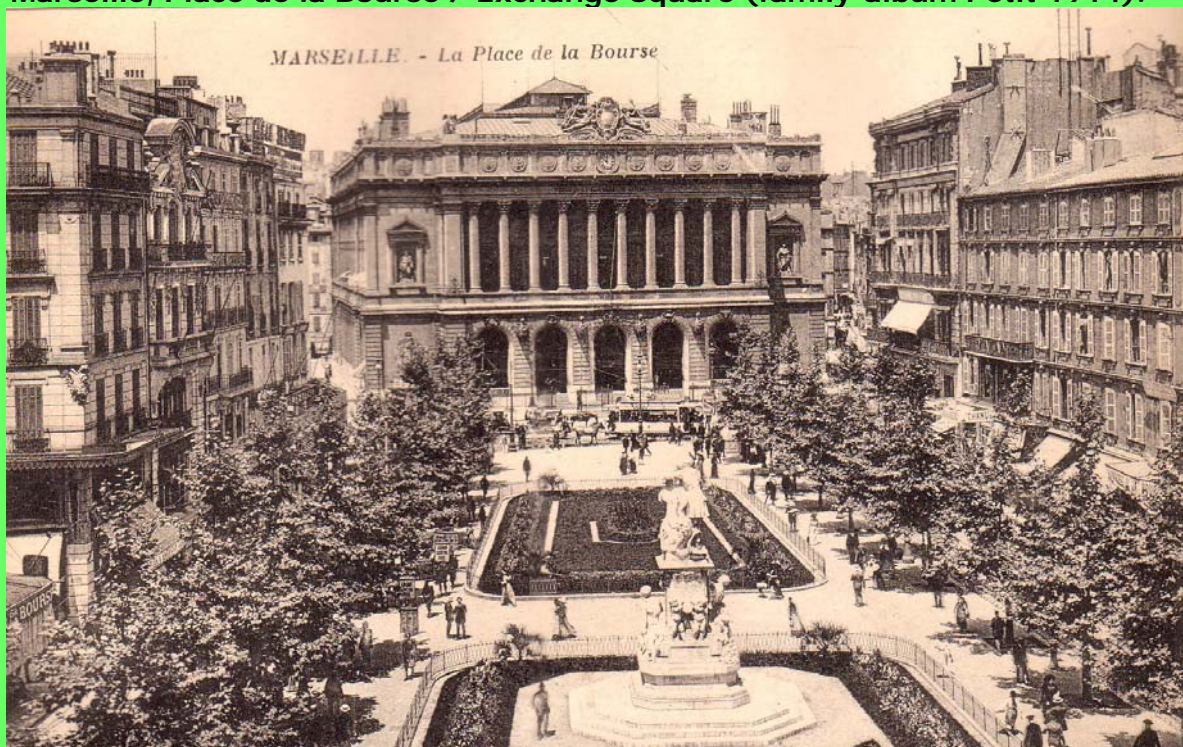


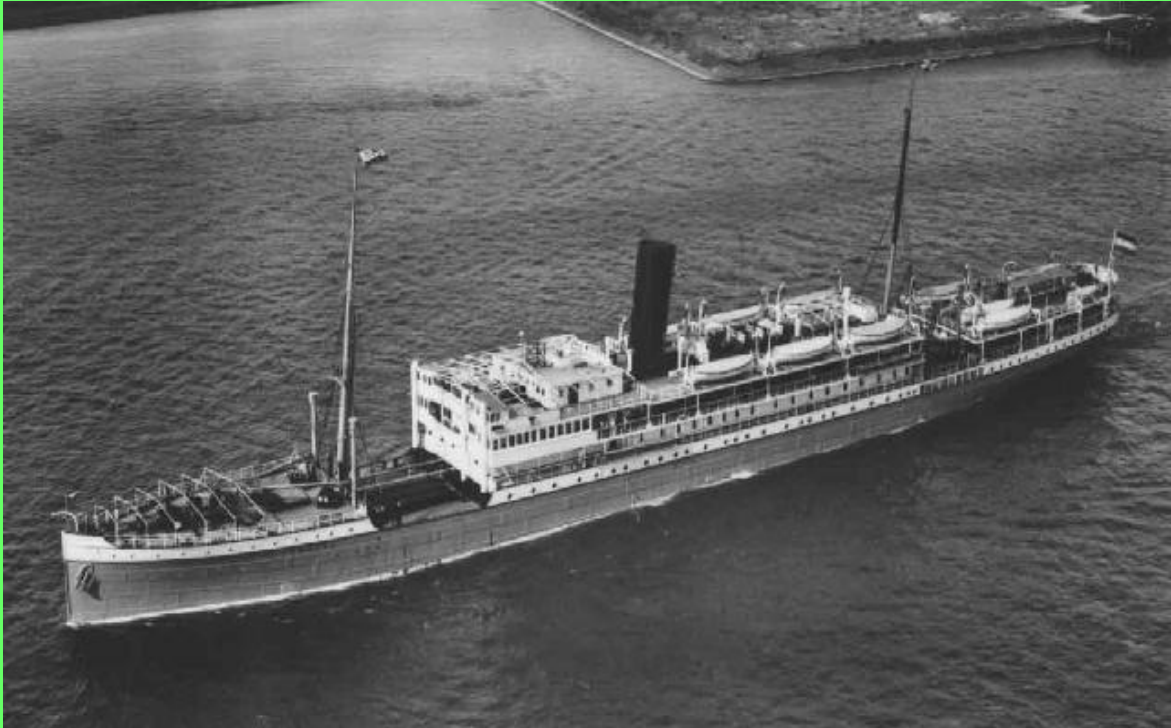
After his arrival he held up a coach and had himself registered at the reception of Hotel des Indes, Molenvliet-West / Jn Gajah Mada.. (See our website-dept. "Roads and squares".)



4. Hotel Continental, Marseille (family-album Petit 1914).

5. Marseille, Place de la Bourse / Exchange Square (family-album Petit 1914).





6. A bird's eye view of the ss Tabanan. From: www.Arendnet.nl 6-7-2004.
 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. Respectively restaurant, contract of insurance, double cabin,
 consulting room of the ship's doctor, barber's shop. Don't overlook the wash-
 basins in the passenger's cabin.
 From: Beknopte encyclopedie van Nederlandsch-Indië, Rotterdamsche Lloyd;
 The Hague 1921, library DT 7



8

№ 111
ROTTERDAMSCH LLOYD.
Ruys & Co., | ROTTERDAM.
 AMSTERDAM.
 ANTWERPEN.
 MARSEILLE.

Assurantiebewijs
 Noodhaven. Embarkement **MARSEILLE.**

De heer J. J. P. Rijk
 Passagier aan boord Stoomschip **TABANAN.**
 Gezagvoerder *W. J. Boon* bestemd om te vertrekken
 van Rotterdam den *4 April* 1914,
 van Marseille den *10 April* 1914,
 met bestemmingsplaats **TANDJONG PRIOK**
 voor *10* dagen à f. *20* - per dag waarvoor de premie à *1/2* % alhier met
 f. *3* - betaald is.

Deze verzekering sluit in het verblijf in noodhaven tusschen Nederland
 en Marseille of Nederland en Java voor hen die te Rotterdam embarkeeren,
 en voor hen die te Marseille embarkeeren het gedwongen verblijf aldaar,
 indien de boot op den vertrekdag niet aangekomen is, alsmede het verblijf
 in noodhaven tusschen Marseille en Java.

Ingeval van reclame zich ten spoedigste doch niet later dan 3 dagen
 na aankomst met dit bewijs te vervoegen bij het Agentschap te **BATAVIA**

ROTTERDAM, *24 April* 1914

[Handwritten signature]

AGENTSCHAP
 ROTTERDAM, AMSTERDAM, ANTWERPEN, MARSEILLE

[Circular stamp: ROTTERDAM, AMSTERDAM, ANTWERPEN, MARSEILLE]

[Vertical text on right: Bij verblijf in Noodhaven kan op verzoek door den Gezagvoerder uitbetaling van het verzekerde bedrag per dag geschieden. Iedere uitbetaling wordt door hem op de achterzijde van dit bewijs afgeschreven en door den Passagier ondertekend.]



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12. Port Said, entrance of the Suez Canal (family-album Petit 1914).

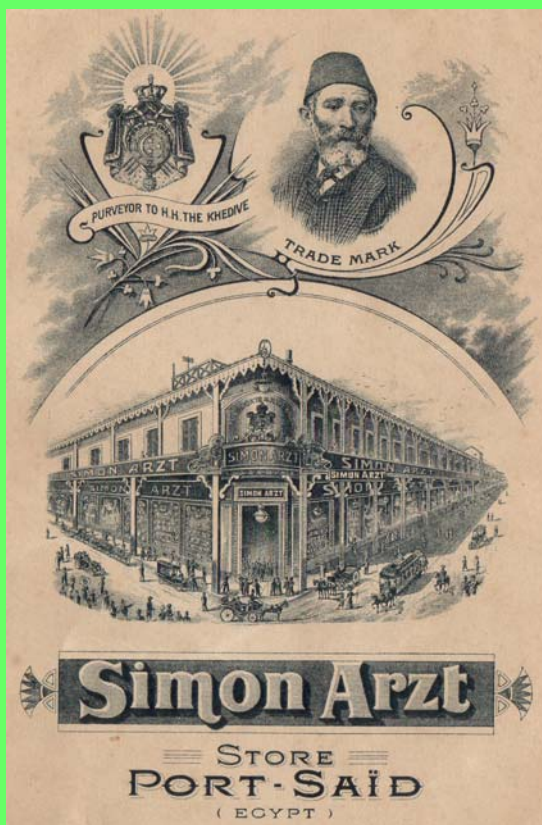
13. Ferdinand de Lesseps overlooking his creation (family-album Petit 1914).

14. A purveyor to H.H. the Khedive of Egypt: Simon Arzt's store established at Port Said, Egypt (family-album Petit 1914).

15. A food-stall in Port Said (family-album Petit 1914).

14

15





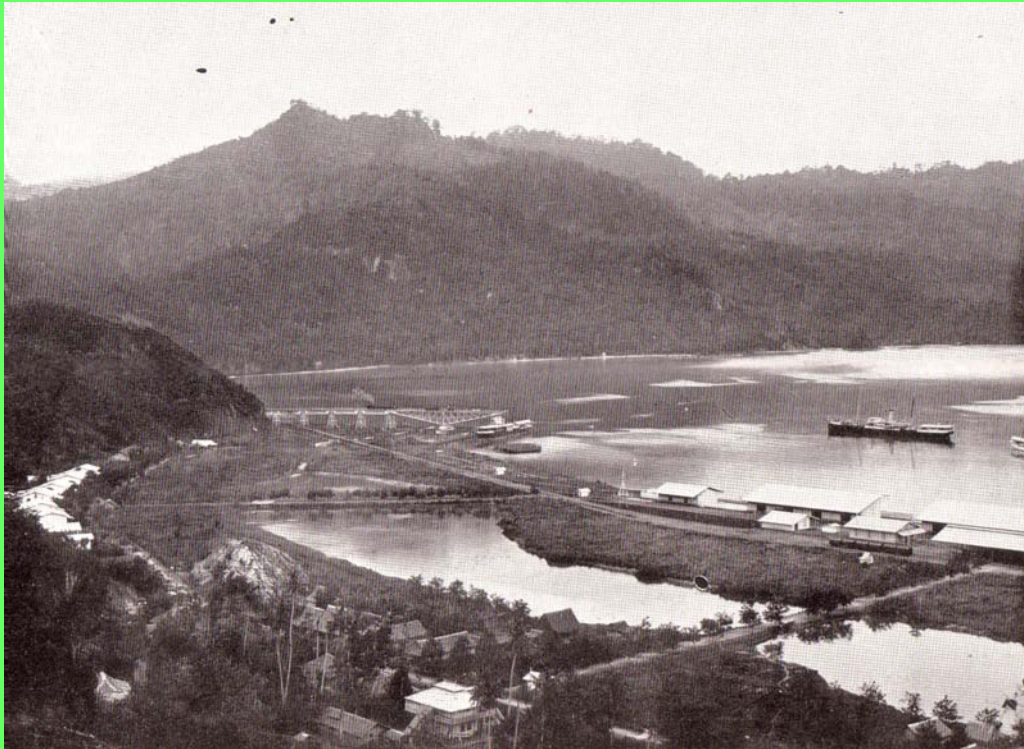
16. Port Said 1920, the entrance to the Suez Canal, offices of the Suez Canal Company and a general view of the harbour (postcard-collection DT).

17. The quay of Port Saïd 1914. (Album Petit)

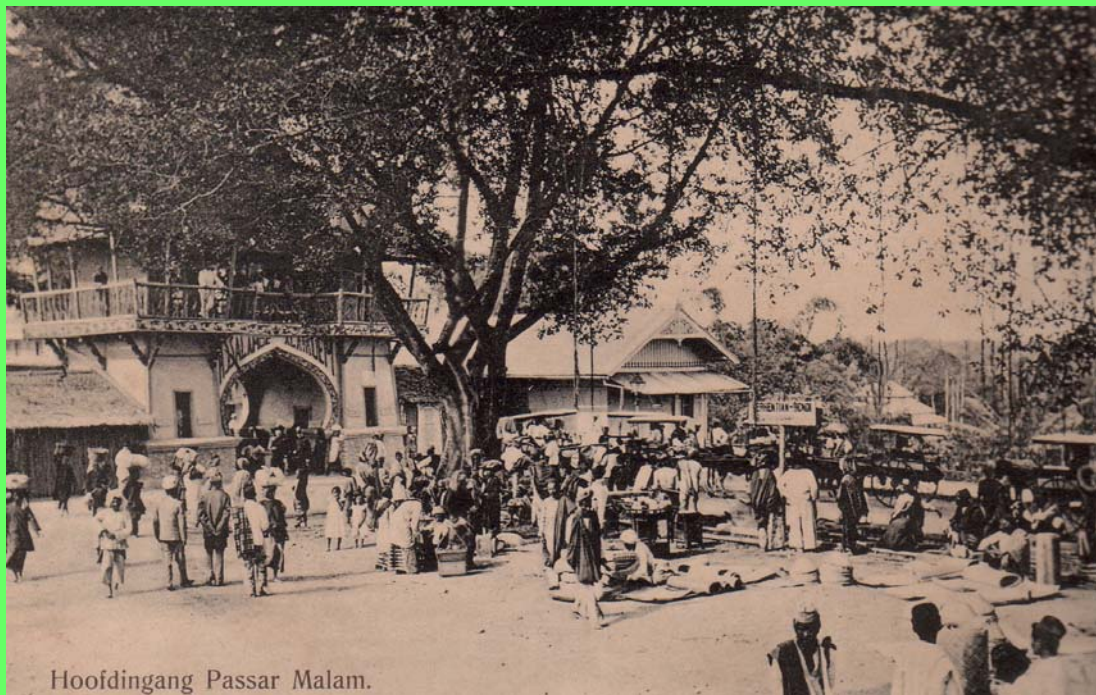
"Port Said, the capital of whores and thieves" according to the Dutch poet and ship's doctor Jan Slauerhoff 1898-1936.



18



19



Hoofdingang Passar Malam.

18. (page 9) Just one of those many very rainy days in Emmahaven / Padang Port: left from the middle (white) the coal-terminal. From: Colijn H. ed., Nederlands Indië: Land en Volk, Geschiedenis en Bestuur, Bedrijf en Samenleving, part 2; Amsterdam 1912, p. 327, library DT.

19. (page 9) Entrance Pasar Malam Padang (family-album Petit 1914).

20. Clubhouse "De Eendracht" Padang (family-album Pettit 1914).



21. Jn Arau / Handelskade ("Trade-Quay") Padang 1895. From: M. Bossenbroek and others ed., Weerzien met Indië; Zwolle 1994 p. 444, library DT. The building far away, behind train wagon in the centre of this photo, is clearly visible on picture 22.

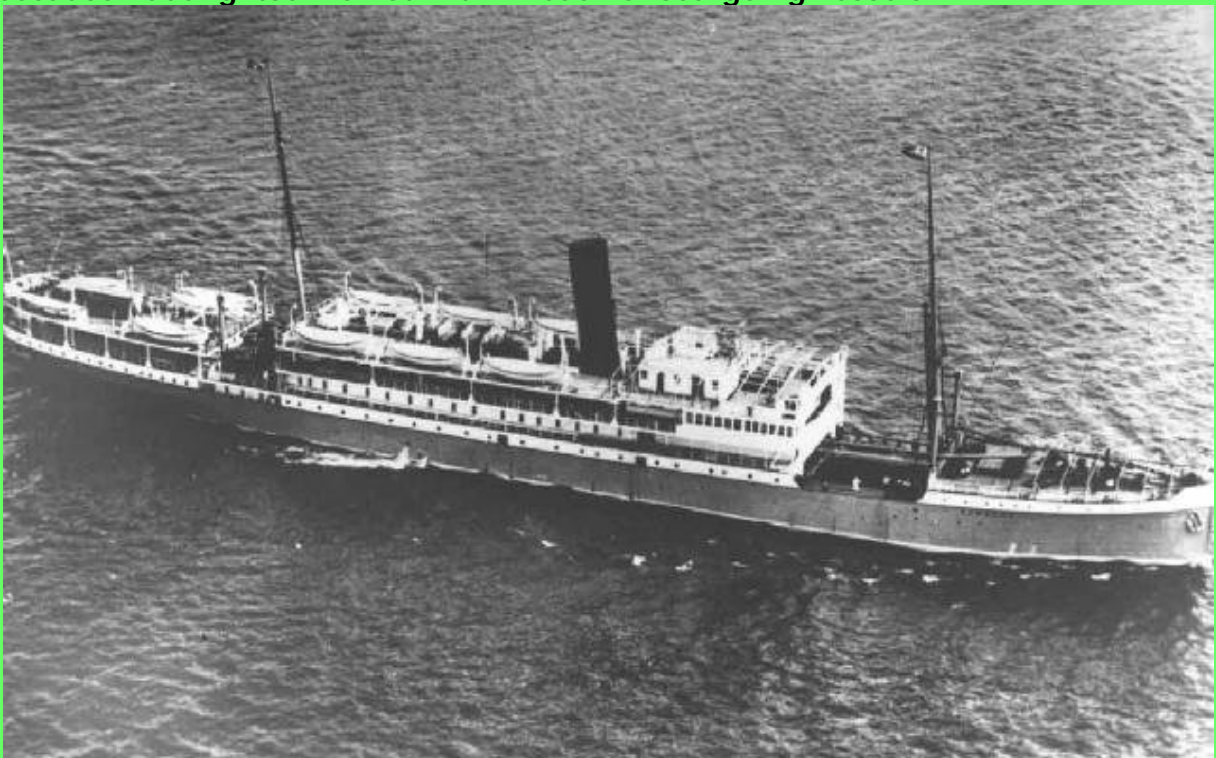


22. One more time (below): Jn Arau / Handelskade (literally "trading-quay"), Padang 1918 (postcard collection DT).

The building with the train-wagon is shown on picture 18 also: follow the railway-track and have a look behind the wagon! Nowadays the railway-track is still there: along Jn Arau, crossing Jn Pasar Mudik, Jn Thamrin, Jn Proklamasi and Jn Wahidin.

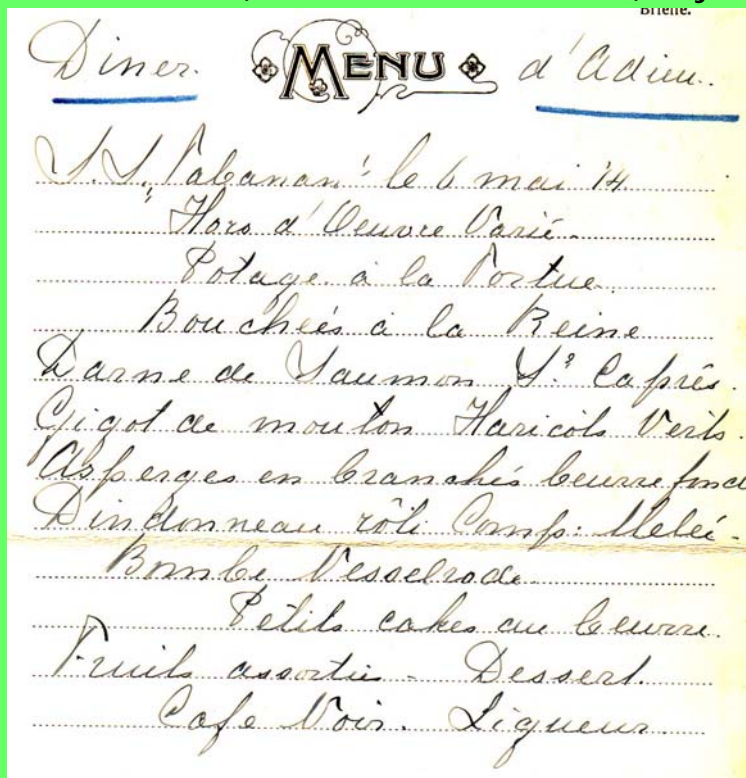


Going west from Padang Port one can reach Padang, at the mouth of the Padang River. The Trading-Quay, along Padang River, is an inland harbour meant for arrivals of goods from Padang Port. Transshipment takes place in Padang Port, because Padang itself is not within reach of sea-going vessels.

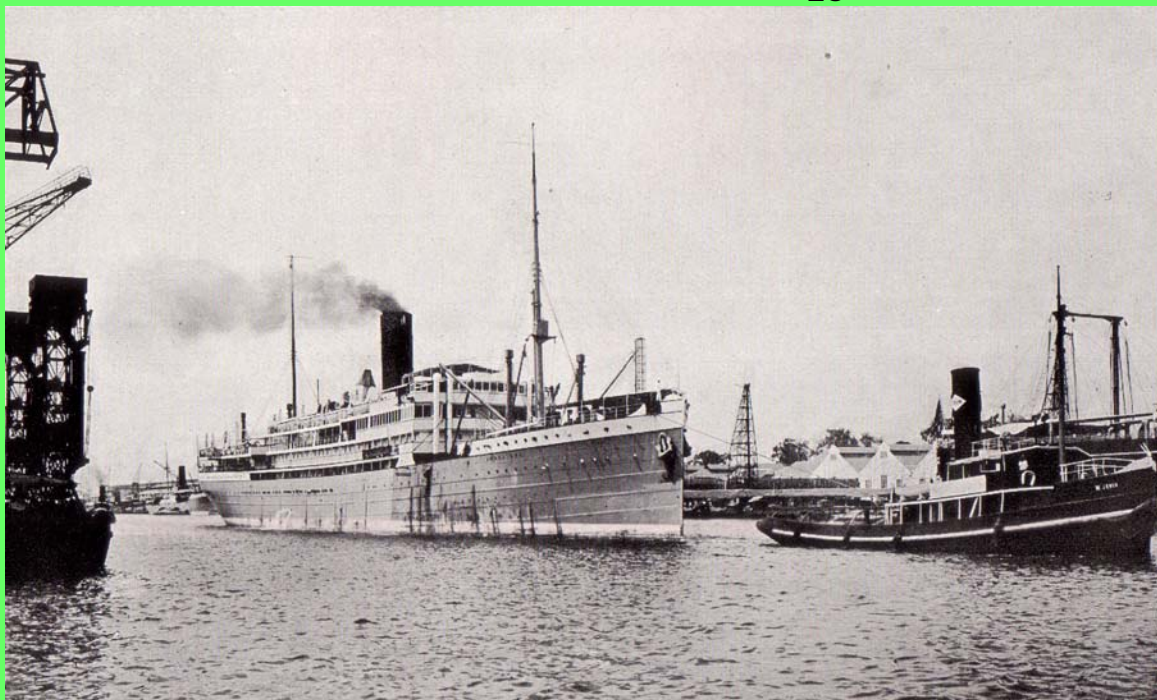


23. Tabanan on its way to Tanjung Priok / Tandjong Priok, arrival May 8. From: website Nedlloyd 6-7-2004

24. Diner d' Adieu, farewell dinner on board, May 6 (family-album Petit 1914).



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25. (page 12) Tanjung Priok, Batavia 1927, ss Insulinde. Pictures of the arrival of the ss Tabanan are not available. From: Gem. Batavia, Jaarboek van Batavia en omstreken; Batavia 1927, p. 525, library DT



26. Hotel des Indes, Batavia circa 1910. From: Vijftig jaar Hotel des Indes, J.B.M. Gelink, Batavia 1948; library DT

Z Folio **164**

Kamer No. **34** BATAVIA **11 mei** 19**14**

De WelEd.G. Heer *Yac Petit* Debet

Aan de Naamlooze Vennootschap HÔTEL DES INDES.

Javasche Boekhandel & Drukkerij.

| | AANGEKOMEN <i>9/5 n.m.</i> | VERTROKKEN <i>11/5 v.m.</i> | |
|-------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <i>11/5</i> | Logies en plakzegel | | 12 10 |
| | Verlichting | | - 50 |
| | Waschgoed | | |
| | Safe deposit | | |
| | <i>Bazynwagen</i> | | 0 75 |
| <i>10/5</i> | <i>26 Great Whiskey</i> | | 8 25 |
| | <i>1 gl. melk</i> | | 0 15 |
| | <i>wasch</i> | | 0 60 |
| <i>11/5</i> | <i>1 pot en 3 paip</i> | | 0 95 |
| | <i>rijtuigspoor</i> | | 1 |
| | | | f 14 05 |

DE DIR. HOTEL DES INDES

den 11/5 1914

TIEN CENT

27. Hotel Des Indes:
Mr Petit checking
out May 11
(family-album
Petit 1914).

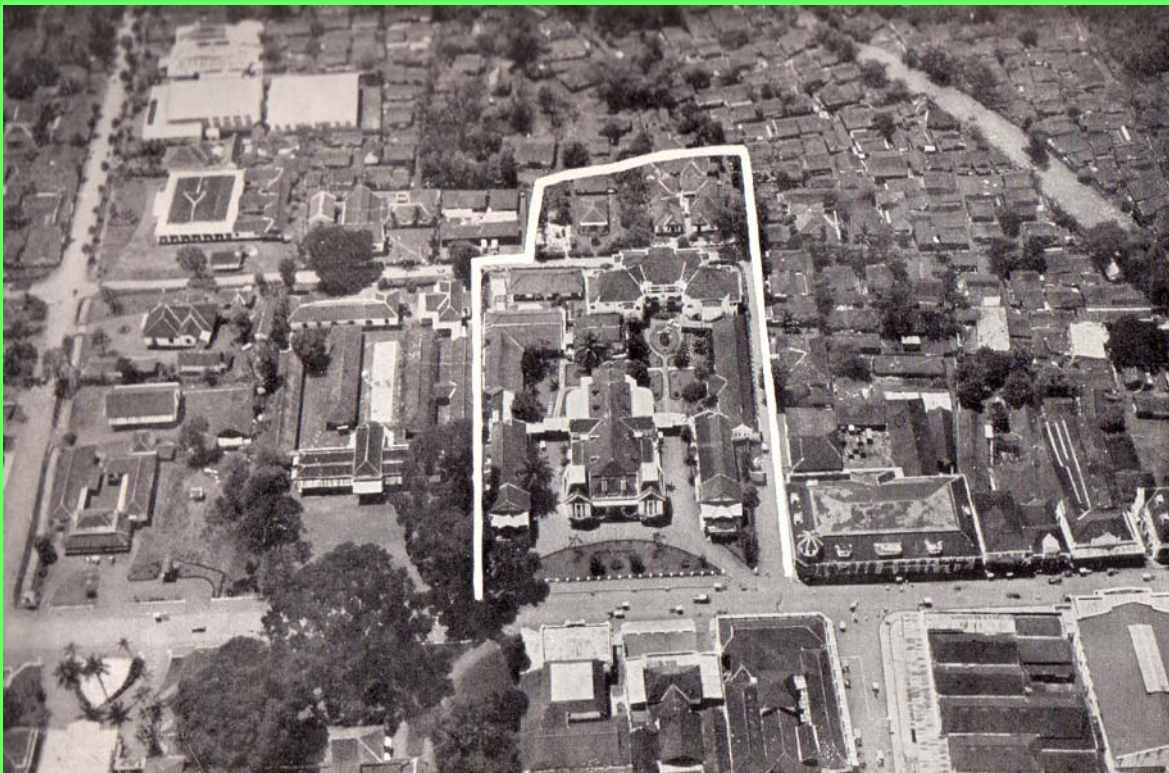
He paid for
accommodation and
taxes fl 12.10, electricity
fl 0,50, transportation of
luggage fl 0,75, whisky fl
1,-, milk fl 0,15, laundry
fl 0,60, port and wine fl
1,95, carriage to the
railway-station fl 1,-.

28. (page 14) Hotel
Homann Bandung, JI
Asia-Afrika / Groote
Postweg (family-album
Petit 1914).

28 (see page 13)



29



(See 30 on page 15)

32. Hotel du Pavillon, Semarang (family-albim Petit 1914).

33. A bird's eye view of a reconstructed Hotel Pavillon in 1928. From: H.M. de Vries, *The Importance of Java from the Air*; Batavia 1928 p. 164, library DT 32



33



34. Semarang Gereja Blenduk Protestan / Koepelkerk (dome-church) along Jn Suprpto / Heerenstraat in 1910, a Dutch church built in 1753 and still functioning (postcard-collection DT).



35. Gereja Blenduk (Immanuel), the old Dutch protestant church from circa 1700. Photo Dirk Teeuwen 2002

36. Encampment of cavalry-officers in Salatiga Java (family-album Petit 1914. Salatiga was an important garrison-town.

37. West-side of the same encampment (family-album Petit 1914).

36



37



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38. (Left) Salatiga Java, Toko Unicum, owner Paul Petersillie (family-album Petit 1914).

39. Salatiga Java, colonial dwelling house, 19th century (photo DT 2002)

40. See 39! Salatiga Java, verandah (photo DT 2002).

40, 41. Salatiga Java, colonial dwelling house, Java style (photo DT 2002).

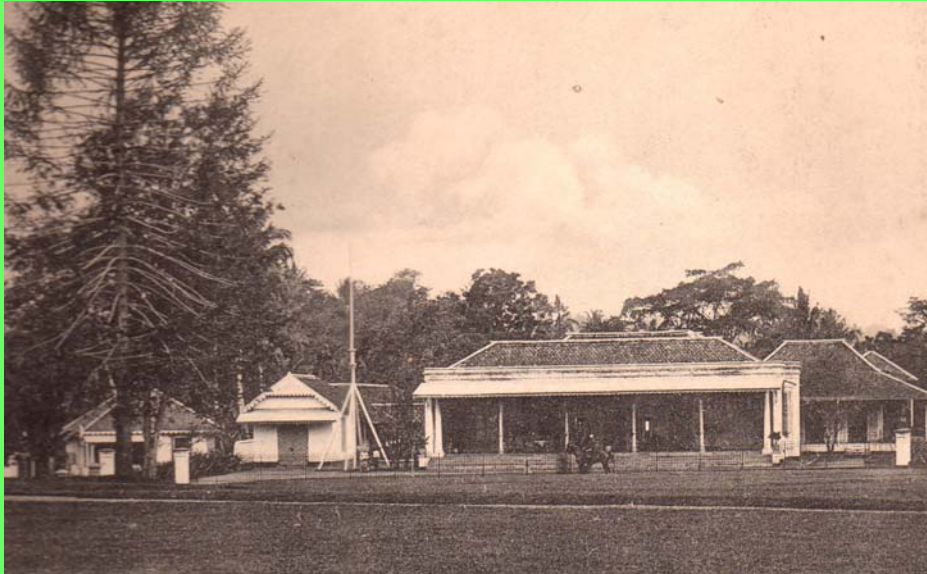
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41 (See page 19)



42. Salatiga, City Hall built in 1921 (photo DT 2002).



43. Salatiga Java, agricultural research station (family-album Petit 1914).

Maybe we know mr Petit a little better now. Our aforesaid doubts are still present. But now we suppose that mr Petit, maybe an agricultural engineer, travelled one way from Holland to Indonesia / Netherland India. He went ashore in Batavia. Then via Bandung and Semarang he arrived at his ultimate destination Salatiga, 35 miles south of Semarang. From Salatiga he made many holiday-trips to the Borobudur, so he shows us in his album.

Postscript: some details about the ss Tabanan

Built by De Schelde in Vlissingen / Flushing Holland (5271 grt; 126*15m; 14kn; 164 passengers in three classes plus 40 troops deck). From 1908 employed in Rotterdam-Java mailservice. Sold to Turkey in 1930 as Ege and scrapped in Genoa in 1954. Sistership: Tambora.

Dirk Teeuwen MSc

End