

Only military personnel are buried (or have been reburied) at this cemetery.

The Kembang Kuning war cemetery at Surabaya

Apart from civilian victims of the camps on East Java and soldiers from the Royal Netherlands Army and the Royal Netherlands Indies Army, this war cemetery also contains the graves of members of the Royal Netherlands Navy. At the centre of the cemetery is the Karel Doorman monument, which commemorates the Battle in the Java Sea. At the front of the monument is the tomb of the 'unknown sailor'.

Historical value

The war cemeteries in Indonesia reflect a piece of Dutch history in Southeast Asia which, when compared to the war in Europe, does not always receive proper attention. This piece of history is alive only for those who were directly involved in the events. This gives added importance to the work of the Netherlands War Graves Foundation. The Netherlands East-Indies also suffered greatly under the Japanese oppression, the fight for independence and the subsequent military actions. By maintaining the war cemeteries in Indonesia, the Netherlands War Graves Foundation ensures that the victims, and thus this piece of history, will always be remembered.



For more information:

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Information leaflets

The Netherlands War Graves Foundation publishes information leaflets in Dutch and English. In English available are:



- The Netherlands War Graves Foundation (general information)
- Dutch War Cemeteries in Europe
- Dutch War Cemeteries in Germany
- Grebbeberg Military War Cemetery
- Loenen War Cemetery

For more information:

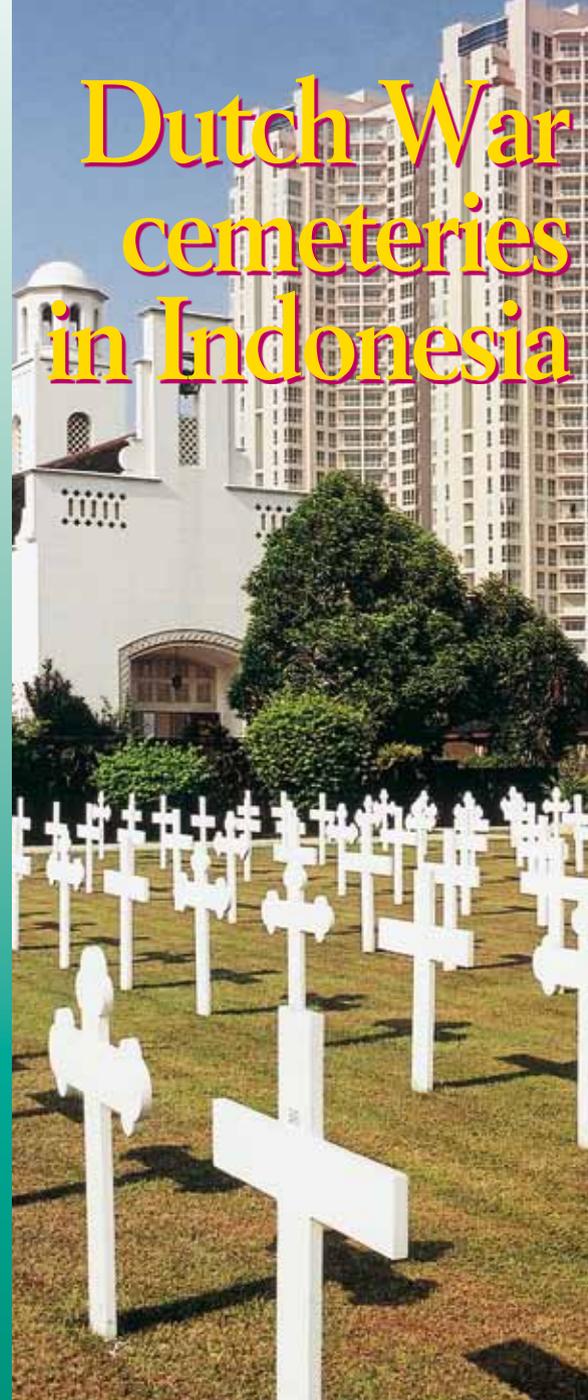
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Netherlands
War Graves
Foundation

Dutch War cemeteries in Indonesia



We can only hope that a later race of people, who have no need for battle, remember how it used to be, and tell their children:

that there were heroes then, young and real, who were greater than the world could stand, who stood up for justice in doing their duty, and who did their duty until their deaths;

that there were mothers then, who saw the suffering they had already endured worsen, with a loss so unfathomable and cruel, a loss which only a mother could bear so proudly;

that there were battles all around then, and sadness for those who could not save themselves from the battle; that not a day went by without someone, somewhere, shedding tears.

People of the later years, if you are lonely and feeling sad on a quiet evening, think then of the sadness of this time, and how many hearts were then crushed.....

H.J. Scheepmaker
From "Het Gedenken"



There are seven Dutch war cemeteries on Java, all maintained by the Netherlands War Graves Foundation; the foundation therefore has a branch office in Jakarta. Over 24,000 victims of the struggle in the Netherlands East-Indies -both civilian and military- are buried in these war cemeteries.

The victims were originally buried in 22 war cemeteries throughout the archipelago.

These cemeteries were established between 1946 and 1950 by the graves registration unit of the Royal Netherlands Indies Army (KNIL). After the transfer of sovereignty, the Indonesian government requested that the mortal remains be concentrated on the seven war cemeteries on Java.

Netherlands East-Indies

During the Second World War, the Netherlands East-Indies (now Indonesia) still formed part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This 'overseas territory' was not spared from the violence of war. In December 1941 the Japanese army invaded the island of Borneo. Because of the wealth of raw materials, especially oil, the Netherlands Indies was a war objective for Japan. The Battle in the Java Sea (27 February 1942) marked the end of a heroic attempt to deny the Japanese the passage to Java. During this battle, rear admiral Karel Doorman and his fleet were vanquished. The Royal Netherlands Indies Army kept up the struggle until March 3rd of that year.

Hard times were to follow. The Dutch civilians were incarcerated in men's, women's and boys' camps. Many prisoners of war were made to work or were transported to Thailand, Burma and Japan, where they faced the ordeal of forced labour. The Indonesian population suffered as a result of food shortages and Japanese cruelty.

15 August 1945 marked the end of the Second World War in Asia. However, in the Netherlands East-Indies things remained unsettled. The struggle for



independence and subsequent military actions after the war claimed many more victims who, wherever possible, were given a final resting place in one of the war cemeteries.



Tragedy

The Ancol war cemetery on the coast near Jakarta (Tandjong Priok) is located on the site where the atrocities actually took place. Each grave marks a tragedy. The area in which the cemetery lies used to be a tidal forest - a tropical swamp, influenced greatly by the sea. The Japanese executed here not only hundreds of men here, but also a number of women.

The other war cemeteries

Victims of the Japanese occupation and the Indonesian fight for independence are buried in the other military cemeteries. These are:

The Menteng Pulo war cemetery at Jakarta

Menteng Pulo contains the graves of victims who did not survive the atrocities of the Japanese camps, as well as Dutch soldiers from units such as the '7 December'



Division, who were killed during the Indonesian fight for independence. The beautiful 'Simultaan' church dominates the cemetery. Next to the church is the Columbarium, which contains the urns of over 700 Dutch prisoners of war died in Japan.

The Pandu war cemetery at Bandung

The Pandu war cemetery lies on a slope, with the flag monument at its highest point. Around the monument are commemorative plaques bearing the names of the fatal casualties from the Tjiater and Soebang positions, which were the last lines of defence before Bandung. This cemetery also contains the KNIL monument, the tomb of the 'unknown soldier' and that of the 'unknown civilian'.

The Leuwigajah war cemetery at Cimahi

This is the war cemetery with the largest number of graves maintained by the Netherlands War Graves Foundation. The mortal remains of many people were re-buried here after having been formerly buried at other war cemeteries in the archipelago (Sumatra, Borneo). This war cemetery contains the graves of over 5,000 victims of war. Here is also a monument in commemoration of those who were killed by the sinking of the transport vessel.



The Kalibanteng and Candi war cemeteries at Semarang

The Kalibanteng cemetery contains the graves of many female victims of war, and those of children. These people died in the notorious women's camps such as Ambarawa and Lampersarie. The women's monument and the boys' camp monument have been erected in their memory.

The Candi military cemetery was established on the initiative of the soldiers in the first contingent of Dutch troops arriving after the war.

