

TESTIMONY TRANSCRIPTION

SUDI SUJONO

DHD 5 No. 049/IX/A/1945/1976

Manuscript

The last seconds of Japanese rule in Indonesia, especially in Surabaya until the birth of
“Heroes Day” November 10, 1945

By: Sudi Suyono

Part I

Foreword from the author

In order to commemorate the 29th anniversary of the independence day of the Republic of Indonesia, here we present a series of incident since the last second of Japanese rule in Indonesia, especially in Surabaya, until the birth of “heroes day” November 10, 1945.

As for our intent to describe this event chronologically, based on my personal experience during the course of the revolution and based on my record that which I still keep, we addressed to the young generation who were not yet born at that time, to realize how great and hard the struggle of their father and brother to regain the independence right that had been stolen by the colonialist for more than 350 years from their ancestors.

Since these descriptions are only based on personal experiences as mentioned above, then I do not dare to speak of events beyond my experiences, I am afraid to deviate from the real events experienced by our comrades beyond my territory. Nevertheless, I am deeply convinced that their struggle is heavy and sacrificial for the benefit of the nation and homeland.

In my description, I mention many names of comrades in arms who are still alive and have important positions, but many of them have fallen as national hero. There are also those who have great services to the country, but forgotten but forgotten by our nation.

Therefore, with these descriptions, I hope that the younger generation to be aware about the sacrifice that have been made by their predecessors, to reclaim the independence.

So they can appreciate the services of their predecessors, and are willing to be the successors of their struggle ideals, by studying as hard as possible, to then to be used to build justice and mutual prosperity, which until now has not reached 100%.

That is all

Sidoarjo, early August 1974

Author

Signed

(SUDI SUYONO)

[Note: Sudi Suyono's testimony consist of 16 pages, this transcript only presents some part of its content, regarding the flag incident in Surabaya, on page of 6-8 of this transcription]

The Flag Incident at Yamato Hotel on Tunjungan Street

Wednesday, September 19, 1945

After Indonesian independence was proclaimed on August 17, 1945, and reverberated in the sky to all corners of the world, then we, the youth of Surabaya united to form fighter squad, feel very proud and relieved. Therefore, we felt obliged to immediately form the squad that will maintain security in the city, organize and gather friends who want to fight. To boost morale of the struggle, we hoist the Red and White flag anywhere. If there was still a Japanese flag that flew, we immediately lowered and replaced with the Red and White flag. The former soldiers of Heiho, Kaigun, PETA, and many others, they all join together and form a unity of struggle led by Soengkono and Dr Moestopo. While the youth who were not former soldiers, united by Bung Tomo in the Rebel Squad of the Republic of Indonesia (BPRI: Barisan Pemberontak Republik Indonesia) and some others established Pesindo [The Socialist Youth of Indonesia] and etc.

They were all the core force in maintaining the security and order of the city.

After the proclamation of independence was about a month old, then we began to consolidate the people and clean up the state apparatus, because it is not impossible, some of them will use these opportunities to screw up for personal gain.

So one day, to be precisely on Wednesday 19, 1945, approximately 09.00 am., seen by the people, a flag waving in the middle of the city of Surabaya, at Oranje Hotel. At that time, I was at Wonokromo, Surabaya Zoo. I heard that there was a Dutch flag flying in the Oranje Hotel. Then without a second thought, I headed straight to the electric tram stop and waited for the tram going north. Shortly after, the tram arrives and after boarding on the tram, I immediately asked the driver (motoris) and the conductor to immediately run the tram directly to Tunjungan and asked for the tram to stop right in front of the Oranje Hotel. Apparently they agree, because also they have heard of a Dutch flag flying in the hotel. All the passengers also agreed.

After arriving in front of the hotel, I saw a group of young men, who were preparing something quietly in front of a store, nowadays the NAM store, who apparently held talks to take action, but silently. After I approached the group, it turns out, that they were a group of youth from the former squad of Djibaku Tay [Dare-to-Die Squad], a militia formed by the

Japanese, it was apparent because of their black outfit and their black songkok [Indonesian national hat]. I saw a young man named Budi Tjokrodjojo, whom I knew personally, was busy giving orders and instructions to his friends, to attack the headquarters of the Dutch and lower their flag, which would be done by only three people, namely Budi Tjokrodjojo himself assisted by Sidik and Harijono.

After Budi Tjokrodjojo gave the order and instruction, he asked permission to his friend, to leave for a while to went back to his office in the headquarter of BKR Kaliasin, need to fill signature of the presence in his office as evidence of having come to work and would be back as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, more and more people and young men gathered in front of the hotel. I myself did not have time to join the squads of Budi Tjokrodjojo, for being busy helping and giving command to all the trams coming from north and south, to stop in front of the hotel in order to be a shield for all of us, because I already thought that there would be a big incident.

Meanwhile, Japanese soldiers who were on duty in front of the hotel to maintain security, had been prepared, but did not act.

But unexpectedly, The Resident of Surabaya, Mr Soedirman came by car and went into the hotel, followed by Sidik and Harijono, so they did not have time to wait for the arrival of Budi Tjokrodjojo. I followed closely, from the hotel porch and saw the Mr Resident met a Dutchman who later turned out to be the leader of the Dutch group in the hotel. Then I knew, that the Dutchman was Mr Ploegman, a familiar Dutchman for most residents of Surabaya City, as he was a leader of the Dutch Indo Movement (I.E.V) [Indo Europeesch Verbond] and former Wethouder of the Gemeente Surabaya office (KMS). Mr Sudirman seems to have known Mr Ploegman, because of the way he asked Mr Ploegman to lower the Dutch flag in a friendly and courteous manner spoken in Dutch. About the content of the dialogue between Mr Resident Sudirman and Mr Ploegman does not need to be described here, although I can capture most of their sayings. But Mr Ploegman simply did not care what Mr Sudirman was asking for, even arrogantly standing in front of Mr Sudirman, saying that the Allied Army had won its war against Japan, and because the Dutch Empire and the Dutch East Indies government became Allied members, then there in Indonesia is also entitled to enforce the reign of the Dutch East Indies. About the government of the Republic of Indonesia spoken by Mr Resident is nothing, that's the way Mr Ploegman thinks. As he said so, he went out to where the Japanese soldiers were and soon returned with a revolver he took from the guard room. He went straight to the place of Mr Soedirman and pointed his revolver towards the Mr Resident. Seeing this very serious situation, Sidik who happened to be standing next to Mr Resident, without giving a

chance at all to Mr Ploegman to go further, kicking his hand which holding the revolver so hard, that the revolver bounced from his hand and exploded in the air, sounding very loud. While Mr Soedirman immediately pulled out by Harijono and immediately put in a car that was immediately escorted by other youths. Because I was unarmed, just brought a samurai, then immediately ran out for cover.

Regarding Sidik, he wrestled with Mr Ploegman. Since Sidik has been perfectly trained as a member of Jibaku Tai squads, it was easy for him to face his enemy. He strangled the Dutch's neck so hard that the Dutch dead suffocated by the hands of Sidik. Then thrown to the floor.

In the meantime, there were several Dutch former members of KNIL [Royal Netherlands East Indies Army], Dutch Indo-European, who had heard the gunfire earlier, coming out the room armed with police swords, immediately raided Sidik. Seeing the very dangerous situation, he then picked up a bicycle in the hotel room for a shield.

In the fight, Sidik deflected the blows and attacks from the Dutch, because of the harshness of the attacks, the Dutch sword broke, but the bicycle broke too, in two pieces. The broken part of the sword hit the head of Sidik and so it bleeds. His whole body was full of blood. Because of his injuries, he became angry and, he's like a wounded bull, he went on a rampage to the right and the left side of the Dutch who attacked him. The bike that had become two part was used as a weapon to attack the enemy, so they fell lying dead because of Sidik attacks.

However, due to his heavy wounds and because of blood loss, Sidik finally fainted, which was immediately helped by friends who were close to him. He was transported out and immediately take to the Simpang Hospital.

Meanwhile, the people outside began to chaotic due to impatience anymore, shouting "let's attack, let's attack!". They started to enter the hotel yard. However, they were somewhat hesitant, including me myself, to go further. Fearing that we would be attacked by the Japanese army who guarded the security in the hotel, even though they did not do anything.

At that time, the one I saw who spearheaded climbed up the roof of the hotel was Harijono, who was helped by other friends by climbing over their shoulder, so shoulder to shoulder that finally reached the roof top of the hotel. After arriving at the top and the flagpole, it turns out that there was a ladder taken from the village behind the hotel. The people under gave encouragement to their comrades who are on the of roof top by screaming "freedom, life, put down the enemy flag". After the flag can be lowered, Harijono try to replace it with the Red-and-White flag. But unfortunately, no one who brought it. What he thought and did? With

a quick and agile way he tried to bite and tear the blue part of the flag, to make the red-and-white flag. Not finished he tore, came another young man who directly help Harijono. It turned out that the youth is Kusno Wibowo. After it succeeds, the flag is hoisted back, as white-and-red flag, replacing the Dutch flag. Accompanied by enormous cheers and full of emotion. The flag seems to be inappropriate, but that's not a matter. The important thing is we have been able to force the enemy not to disturb the independence of our country Indonesia.

In the meantime, there were gunfire from the backyard and the hotel room directed against the person who tore the flag, Harijono. But he was still lucky, because of the protection of God Almighty, the shot missed improperly on his target. Harijono was nearly hit by a shot on his head to the upper left. In a state of unconsciousness, he was immediately transported down and immediately taken to the Simpang Hospital. In the hospital, Harijono met Sidik. But shortly after, because of his injuries suffered, the Sidik passed away. Then according to the statement of Harijono, that before Sidik passed away, he still had time to tell "Brother Har, continue our struggle until the goal is reached, tell the other comrades not to give up!". These are the last words of Sidik to all his comrades.

Meanwhile, the Japanese army guarding security at the hotel no one acted, despite being prepared. Encouraged by their attitude, then we are more convinced that we are indeed in charge of this earth of Indonesia, not others.

The people flocked out of the hotel yard by singing the Indonesian national anthem with rowdy rhythmic, driven by the magnitude of their emotions.

Their spirit burned. This is where their heroic intensions unite together which determined to dispel enemies of our country that will colonize Indonesia again. Without ulterior motives. The goal is only one, the independence of the homeland and Indonesian nation.

Somehow, the Dutch people who were in the hotel, nobody made any further resistance. Probably, because they have lost their leader.

After this was all done, all the invaders of the hotel, including me, left the hotel yard to the street while shouting and singing the national anthem, Indonesia Raya. I no longer thought of going home for a break, or visiting family, but went straight to my workplace at Pasar Turi. My colleagues who did not get involved in the Oranje Hotel asked the result of the incident. At length, I conveyed the incident to them. They were happy too.

Meanwhile, Budi Tjokrodjojo and his friends also left the place heading to their headquarters and continue their struggle, I do know in what section, I never met them anymore during the revolution.

It was only after 1971, about 26 years later, I met Budi Tjokrodjojo in a state of poor, with no proper attention from the authorities or from his former comrades. Without a permanent job. The same conditions are also experienced by Harijono. According to Budi, Harijono, although healed from his wound, still often felt headache and sickly. After the revolution, Harijono ended up staying home alone.

They are the heroes, the designers of the 1945 revolution, who once shocked the Dutch imperialist by tearing their flags, and shocking the international world, and finally their service were simply forgotten, without concern from friend and authorities. So pathetic.

If judged from the struggle point of view, then according to my judgement, who also participated in the incident at the Oranje Hotel, the the action of Sidik was the starting point to fire up the rebellion fire and the struggle of Indonesian to dispel the invaders from Indonesia. With Sidik sacrifice, then burning the struggle spirit of Indonesian nation, to seize out right to freedom.

Sidik no longer with us, has forsaken us forever, sacrificing his body and soul, for our common good, for our children and our generation in the future. He is willing to sacrifice his body and soul without thinking of self-interest. And what he has done, now has been much enjoyed by most people of Indonesia.

But what is the reward for them, only God knows!!

After the occurrence of the flag incident at Oranje Hotel, the spirit of the “Arek-Arek Surabaya” [the youth of Surabaya] flared up so great, so it was a very explosive force that can explode at any time to get rid of anything that hinder the way of the Republic of Indonesia government.

The youths, especially those who had been joined a regular troops, where I also joined, busy, very busy, cleaned up the suspicious element of our nation.

Former members of PETA, Heiho, and others squad have been organized by former leaders of each troops, got a special assignment from government leaders to holding guard in every field.

Those in charge of government offices, wisely took power from the hands of Japanese officers and took over the leadership of these offices.

Mr Radjamin hold the city leadership as Mayor of Surabaya.

I could not follow the process of taking over the government, because of my special task as a security guard at Pasar Turi.

After the news of the proclamation was published in the newspapers such as the daily “Soeara Asia”, it became more and more felt by our youth, how heavy and sacred our duty as

an independent nation. Yet in the meantime, there was a sense of deficiency in us for doing our duty. The vital deficiency for the next struggle was that we have no weapons at all.

News reports claimed that Allied troops would soon land in Indonesia to arrange security, and to capture the Japanese army, and free their colleagues who had been held captive by the Japanese government.

This news was very worrying for us. What did they come for? Since we have been able to maintain security and public order?
