

The Bali Expedition, 1906

Dirk Teeuwen, MSc Holland

Very richly illustrated!!

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Consulted literature

1. Day, Clive: The policy and administration of the Dutch in Java; London 1904 (chapter XII)
2. Vickers, Adrian; A History of modern Indonesia; Cambridge 2005 (page 25, etc.)
3. Furnivall, J. S.: Netherlands India, a study of plural economy; Amsterdam 1976 (chapter IX)
4. Paulus, Dr. J.: Encyclopedie van Nederlandsch-Indië, volume 1; The Hague Holland 1917 (page 117, etc.)
5. Kraan, Alphons van der: Bali at War, the conflict of 1846-49; Clayton Australia 1995 (Introduction)
6. Ide Anak Agung Gde Agung: Bali in the 19th century; Jakarta 1991 (chapter VI)
7. Specially> Weede, dr. H. M. van: Indische reisherinneringen; Haarlem Holland 1908
8. Specially> Klerck, E. S. de: History of the Netherlands East-Indies, volume 2; Rotterdam 1938 (pages 466-470)



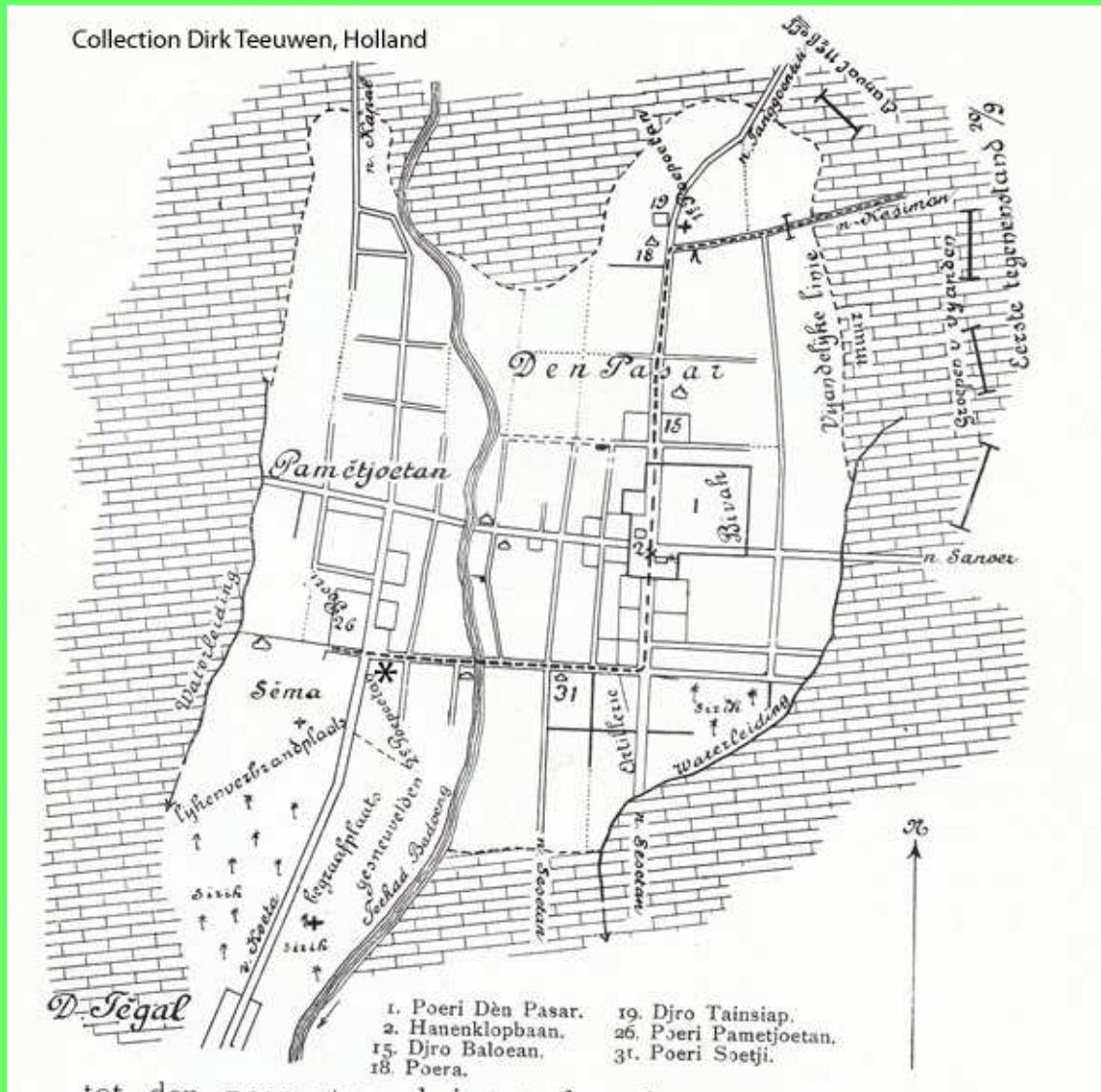
General M. B. Rost van Tonningen 1852-1927; big and very tall, a typical Dutchman. He was Commander-in-chief of the Bali Expedition 1906.

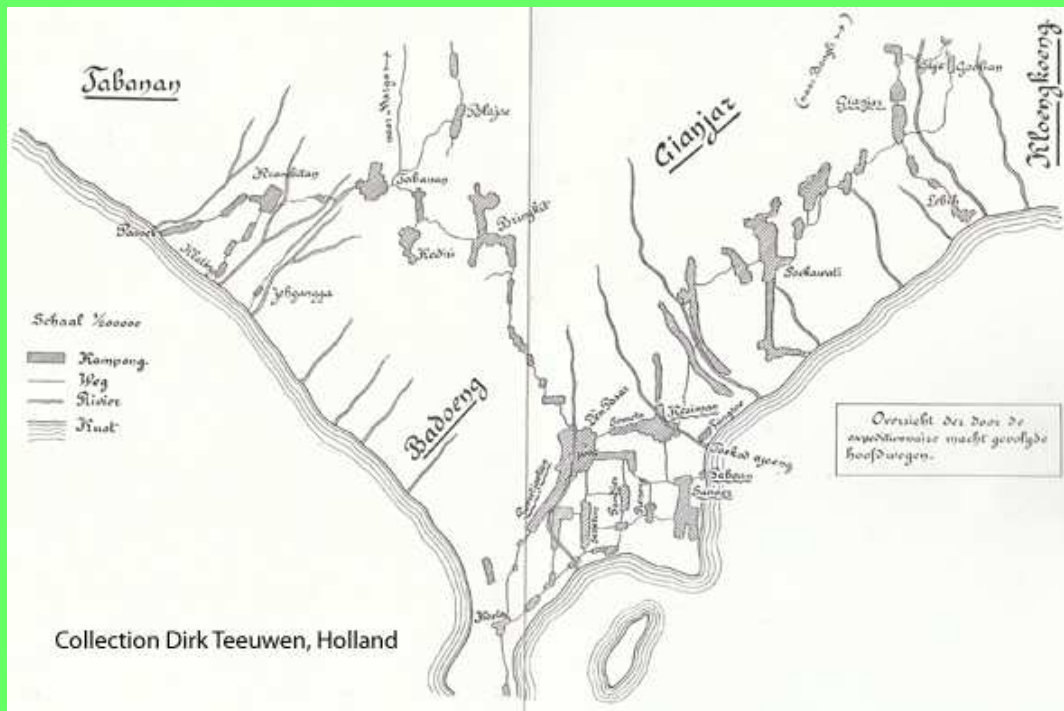
Article, text, starts on page 7.
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The portrait of General Rost van Tonningen is a free picture from Wikipedia.

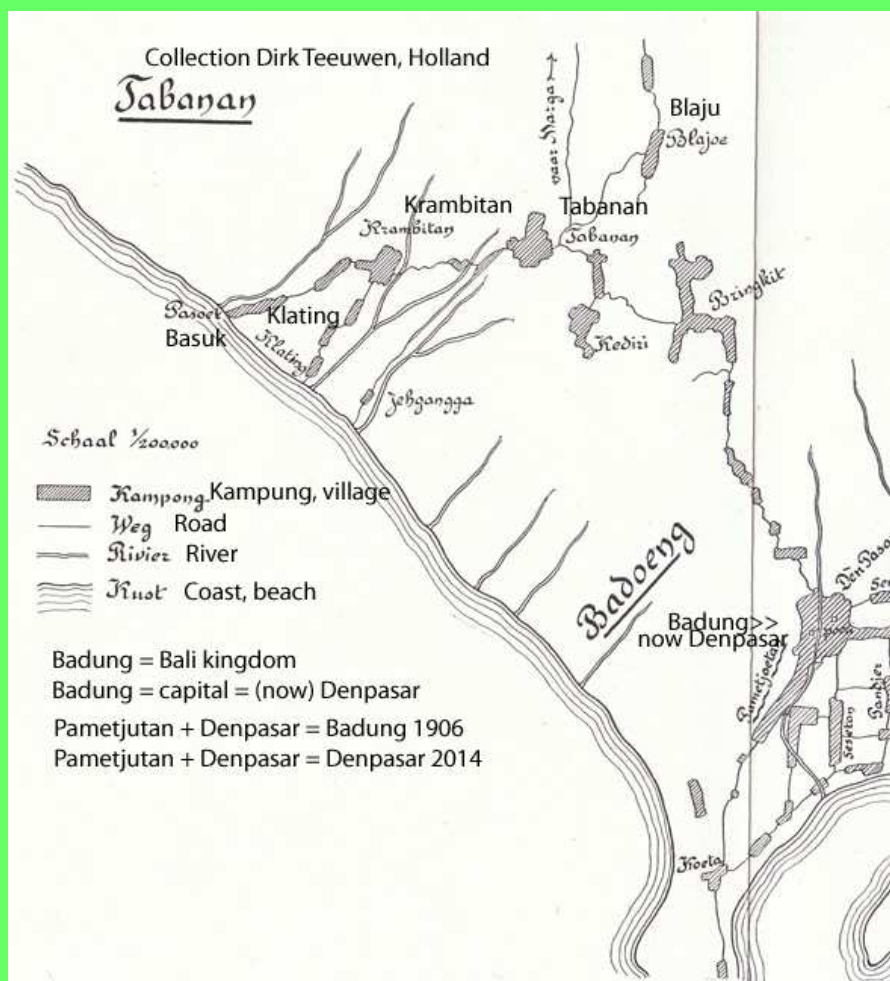
Maps

The maps in this article are from Van Weede, see page 1 "Consulted literature".





Kingdoms, southern Bali 1906



South-west Bali, 1906
Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



**Sanur Beach, Bali 1906
Disembarking cavalry
Van Weede, page 429**



**Sanur Beach, Bali 1906
Arrival
Van Weede, page 431**

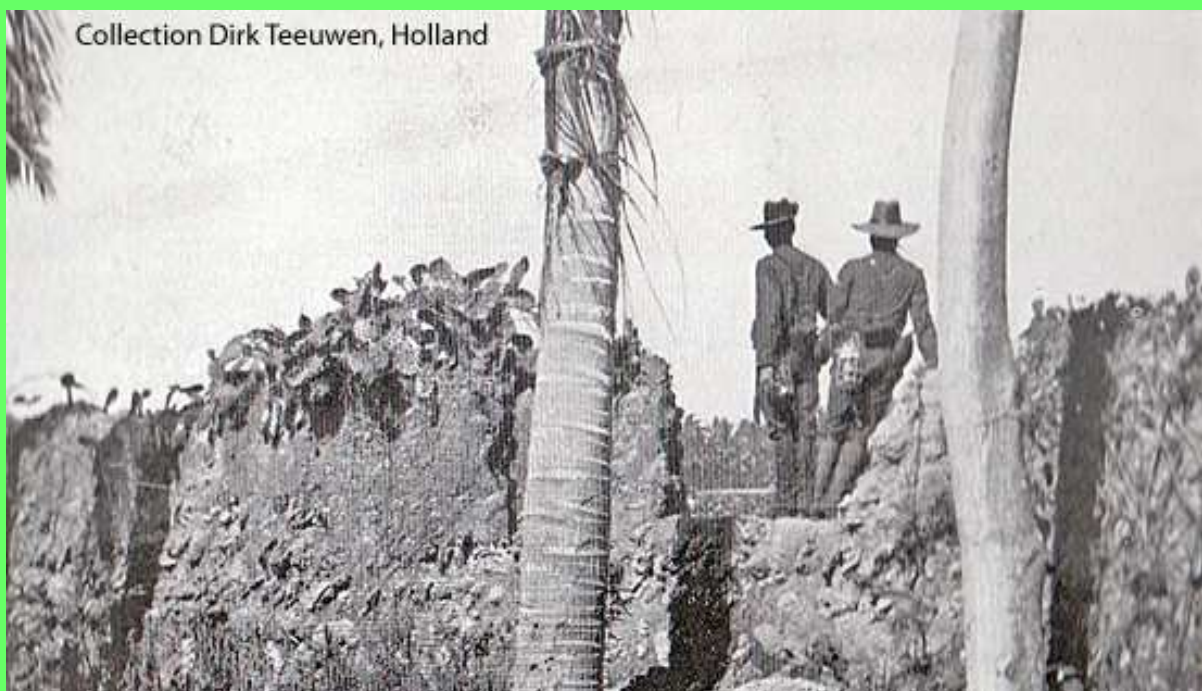
Article , text, starts on page 7.

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Sanur, Bali 1906
Army General Rost van Tonningen takes possession of his headquarters.
Van Weede, page 432



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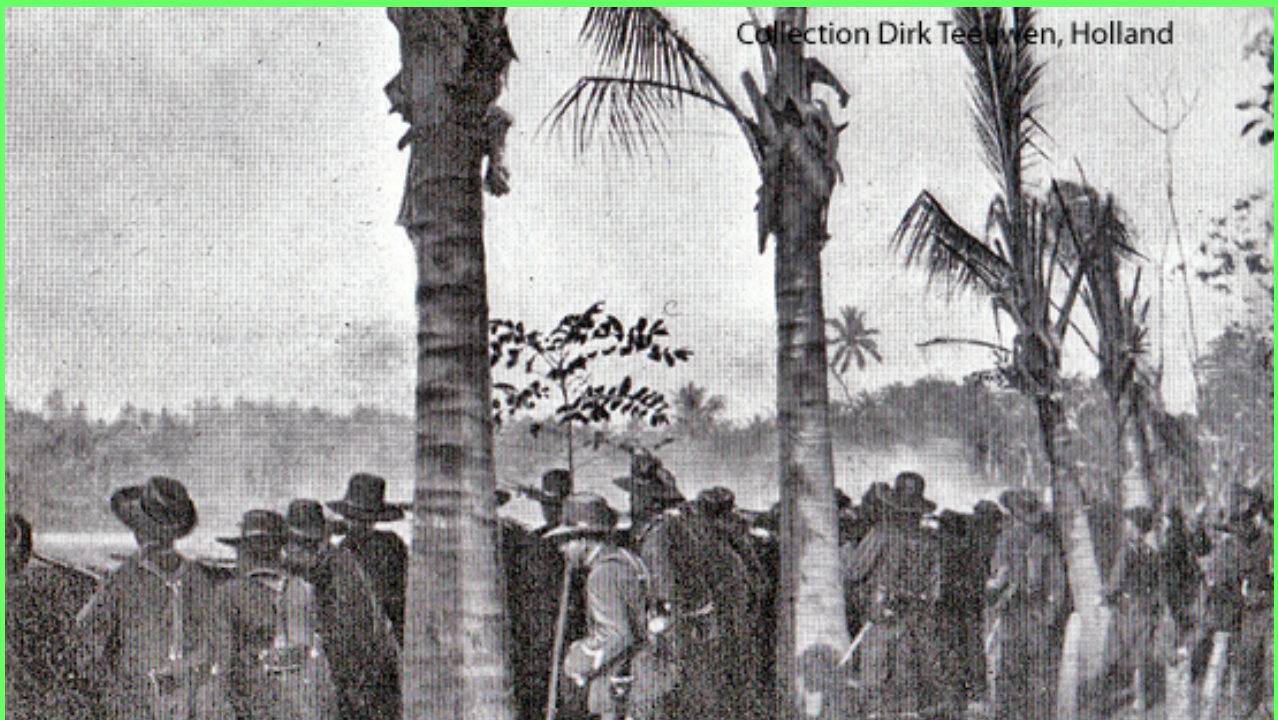
Sanur, defence wall, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 435

1. Bali becomes a Dutch East-Indian Residency

Bali, east from Java, is nowadays a much frequented tourist resort. But in the 19th century as well as in 1906 this island totally necessitated no less than four important Dutch-colonial military expeditions. In 1882 the island, together with Lombok, was made a Dutch Residency (protectorate). Much to the displeasure of the Balinese petty Rajas (kings). To them this measure forebode more meddling in their affairs. Therefore the Rajas of the Bali states of Bangli and Badung combined their military forces with the forces of the state of Klungkung (Bali), which was aspiring to supremacy in the island.

From 1849 the northern part of the Residency of Bali, the former kingdoms of Buleleng and Jembrana, was under direct rule of the Dutch, which, for the time being, did not interfere in affairs in the southern part of the island.

The southern Bali state of Gianyar was seriously menaced by Klungkung, Bangli and Badung. The Raja of Gianyar was so hard pressed that he called in the Dutch Government's aid and requested to be appointed as Governor in Dutch service. So it was done, the self-government being maintained. An official was appointed to assist the new Raja-Governor in order to further the necessary reforms as to administration and jurisdiction. The Raja of Karangkasem in the south of Bali was brought in a similar position in 1894 after the Dutch Lombok Expedition.



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Firing infantry, Sanur Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 436

More text on page 8

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Dutch colonial cavalry leaving Sanur, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 438

2. Difficulties

Gianyar was encircled by the states of Tabanan and Badung in the south-west and by Bangli and Klungkung in the south-east. Klungkung laid claim to Gianyar without good reason. Difficulties arose with Gianyar's neighbours about the distribution of irrigation water. Also about slavery in the self-ruling states, all of which led to endless negotiations. Moreover these states were unwilling to revise the treaties with the Dutch, which were concluded in the middle of the 19th century, so that the Dutch East-Indian Government was unable to put a stop to the oppression of ordinary citizens in those states as well as to the uprisings there from time to time and the resulting atrocities.

The Dutch cup was full when war broke out between Klungkung and Badung-Tabanan, whilst Klungkung refused to withdraw troops from the frontier with Gianyar. Three Dutch men-of-war appeared on the roads of Kusamba between Bali and Lombok to emphasize an ultimatum. The Raja of Klungkung complied with the Dutch demands.

Besides this, there were a lot of social problems in Bali. Tyranny of the Balinese Raja families and their aristocracy regarding to their citizens was normal. Such as legal theft. When a Balinese of lower social rank died without leaving male issue, all his female relations, as well as all his real and personal estate, were appropriated by the Balinese Rajas; as a result of this the girls were mostly converted into a sort of prostitutes. If the deceased left brothers, they got nothing either. Lands were given to the Rajas. When a man died (no sons, one brother), his widow could be converted into a forced concubine of a local aristocrat and the brother got nothing. Heritage of the lower classes went to the Balinese aristocracy very often.

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Then a fresh difficulty cropped up. The Dutch Government wanted to put an end to the widow-burning rite. The Rajas of Gianyar and Karangasem made no objections and the Dutch Government asked for discontinuation of the cruel custom in the rest of the island, because abolition of widow-burning was not against Balinese Hindu conceptions. Nevertheless, when the Raja of Tabanan died in 1903, his widow was burned. As a consequence the Dutch Government refused to acknowledge the new Raja, unless he broke with this cruel tradition. In 1905 the widow-burning on the island became a thing of the past.

Meanwhile the looting of a wrecked Chinese ship, a schooner called Sri Kumala which struck the reef near Sanur, caused a conflict with Badung. The refusal to pay damages was answered by a Dutch seaside blockade. This was to no purpose, because the supply of foods from the land-side to Badung remained unhampered. After a final warning sharp action was decided on against Badung, Tabanan, Bangli and Klungkung. Their Rajas were working hand in hand.



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Marching to Panjer, Bali 1906

Van Weede, page 439



Collection, Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

Approaching Panjer, Bali 1906

Van Weede, page 440

More text on page 14

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**Puri at Panjer, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 442**



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**Army General Rost van Tonningen, left on horseback, marches back to Sanur,
Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 443**

Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

Some Balinese chiefs surrender, Kesiman Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 450



Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

Road in Kesiman, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 451

Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

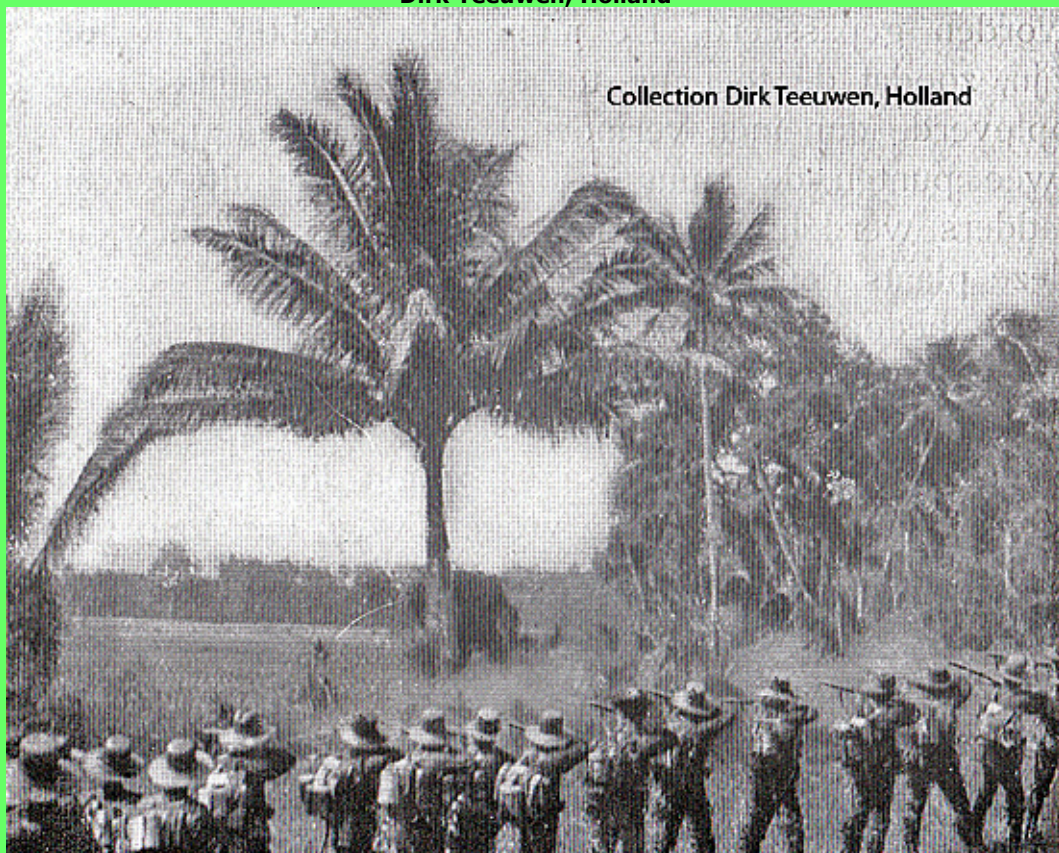


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Marching through Kampung (village) Semeta, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 456
Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



Defence wall, Badung Capital, now Denpasar, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 458
 Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



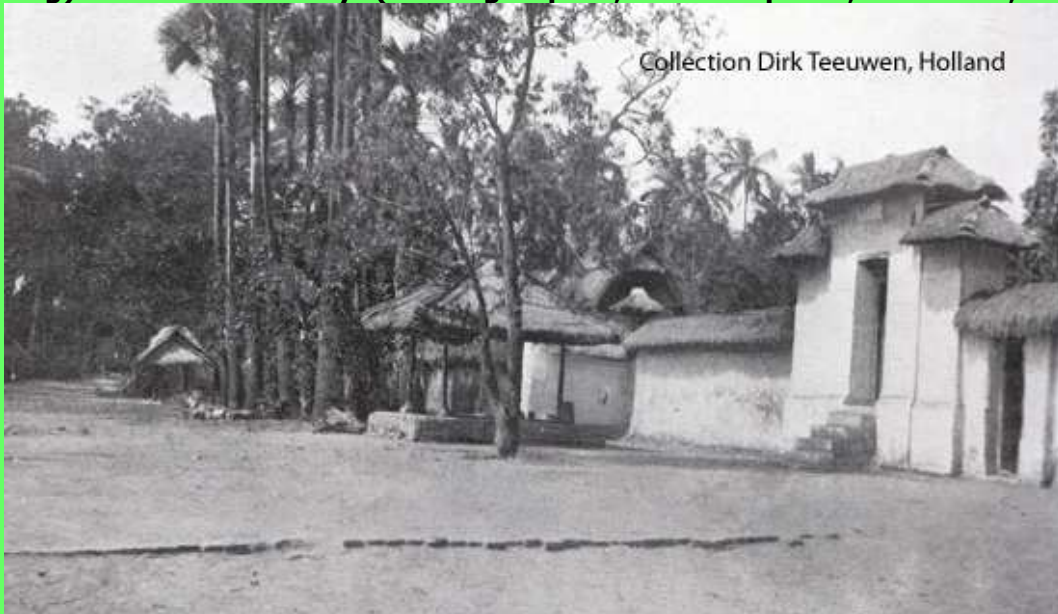
Troops in action, Badung Capital, now Denpasar, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 459

3. The Bali Expedition, 1906

An expedition under General M. B. Rost van Tonningen, consisting of three battalions of infantry, a detachment of cavalry and two batteries of artillery besides auxiliary services, was equipped; whilst the action was to be supported by the navy. The Rajas of Badung and Tabanan had to comply with the following Dutch demands:

- indemnification of all war expenses;
- demolition of the defensive Works;
- surrender of the fire-arms;
- abolish slavery;
- regulate irrigation service;
- the conclusion of a new treaty.

On September 12th 1906 after a rejected Dutch ultimatum the colonial military landed on the 14th. The villages along the coast remained neutral. On September 19th the troops marched to Kesiman. They met some resistance near Kampung (village) Intaran. In Kesiman they were received as liberators. The following day the forces resumed the march to Badung Capital (Denpasar-Pamecutan), now called Denpasar. Looked like a dress parade. They met only slight resistance. The Puri Denpasar was not defended, owing to lack of adequate Badung forces. Obviously the population was disgusted with the tyranny of the Raja family. The result was that the latter, together with their relatives and followers, sought their own deaths by committing Puputan. Twice, i.e. in Puri Denpasar and Puri Pamecutan. Puputan was a suicide attack. People threw themselves on the fixed bayonets of the enemy as well as stabbed (kris) each other deadly. (Badung Capital, now Denpasar, Bali 1906; below)



This was the scene of the first (Denpasar) Puputan. An armed Balinese Raja family, some of its aristocracy and servants (hundreds of people) came running from right to left (on this picture) and committed (drugs opium organized?) adat suicide. Opium was an overwhelming problem as well as anywhere in the archipelago.

Van Weede, page 465

Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

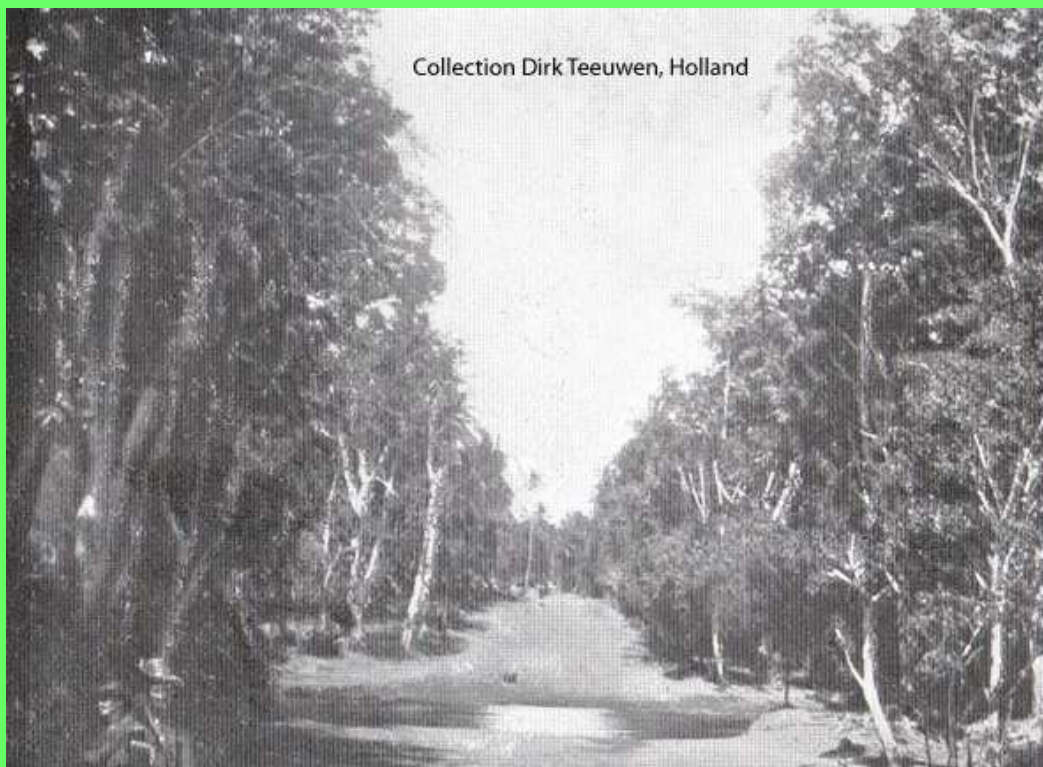


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Denpasar, Bali 1906

Detail of the previous picture. A great part of the (Denpasar Puri) Puputan took place in front of this small building September 20th 1906. From 11.30 until 12.00 noon!! (Hundreds of Badung aristocratic deaths in 30 minutes.)

Van Weede, page 467

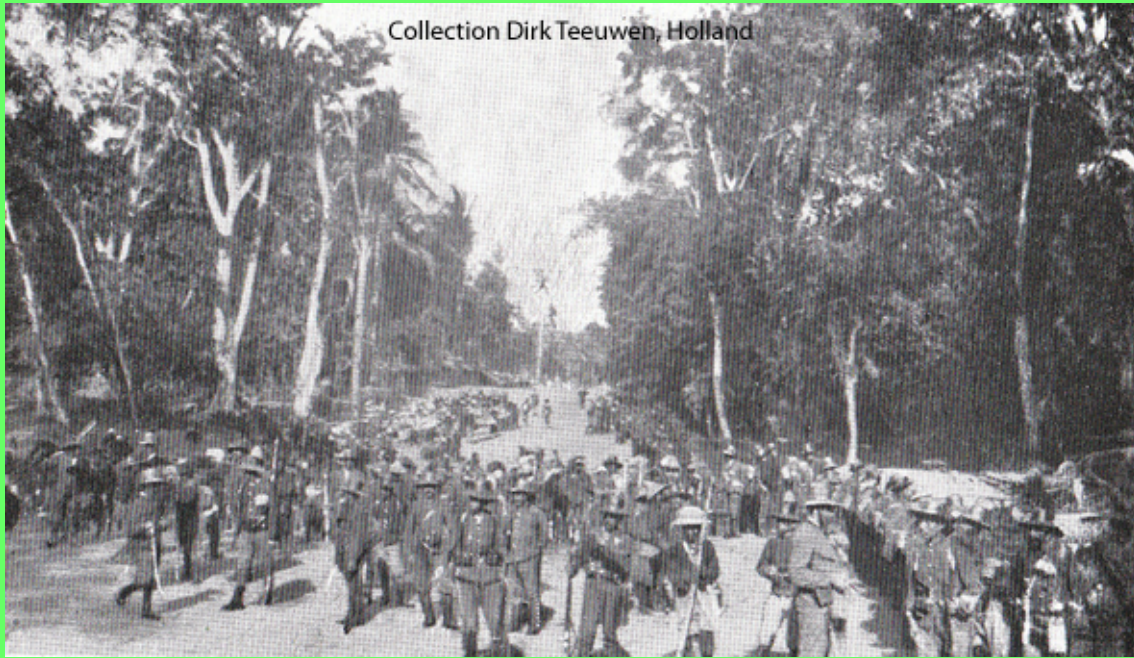


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The road between the quarters of Denpasar and Pamecutan, Badung Capital Bali 1906

Van Weede, page 472

Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



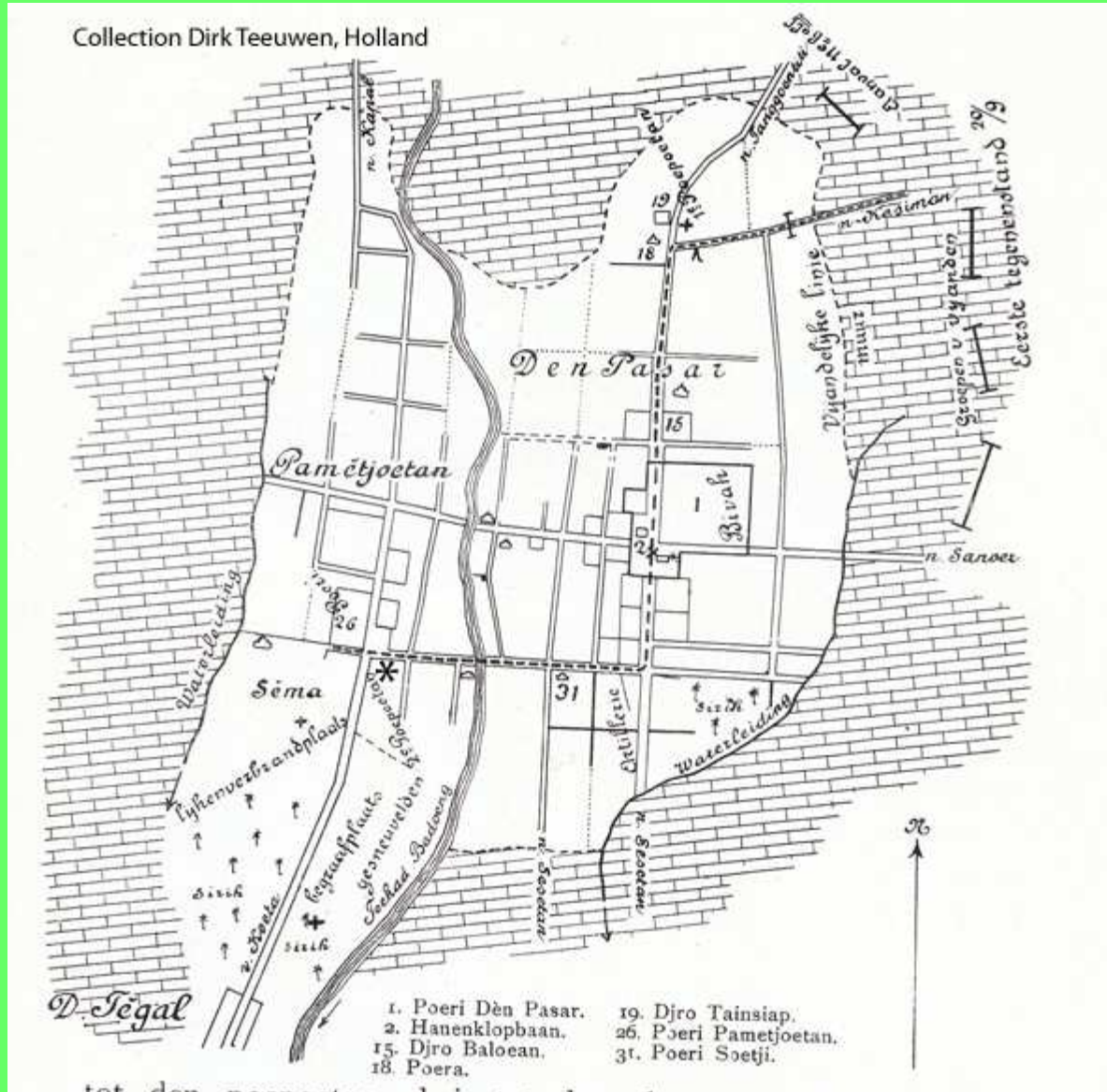
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**Marching to the Puri of Pamecutan.
Van Weede, page 474**



Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

**Forecourt of the Pamecutan Puri after the second Puputan, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 476**



Denpasar and Pamecutan, Bali 1906. The capital of the state of Badung was caled Badung also. Badung capital had two quarters: Pamecutan and Denpasar. Badung capital is called Denpasar now and Pamecutan is part of the modern municipality of Denpasar.

Van Weede, page 463

Between 15 and 19 as well as right from 18: the scène of the (first Badung) Denpasar Puri Puputan. March of the Dutch troops - - - . Site of the (second Badung) Pamecutan Puri Puputan = *

4. Puputan, Badung Capital September 20th 1906

(Van Weede was an eye-witness, I used his story.)

More details about the first Puri Denpasar Puputan (means "fight to death"). Upon their (Dutch) reaching the Puri (palace as well as temple) Denpasar, a silent procession emerged, led by the Raja being borne by four bearers on a palanquin (litter, keen). The Raja was dressed in traditional white cremation garments, wore magnificent jewelry and was armed with a ceremonial kris (razor sharp short scimitar). The other people in the procession consisted of the Raja's officials, guards, priests, wives, children and retainers, all of whom were similarly attired. They had received the rites of death, were dressed in white, and had had their ritual kris blessed. When the procession was a hundred paces from the Dutch force, the procession started to run to the troops. Orders shouted by the Dutch Captain Schutstal, his soldiers and his interpreters had no result. The Balinese ran faster and faster with lances and scimitars (krisses), the Raja continuously in front. A 'stray gunshot' and an 'attack by lance and spear' prompted the Dutch to open fire with rifles. As more people emerged from the Puri, the piles of corpses rose higher and higher. The whole procession numbered hundreds. Its front was mown down by Dutch gunfire. The Dutch had no choice. The Raja was the first to die. What followed was more than horrible. The Balinese, the survivors of the moment, continued their attacks. The light wounded Balinese killed the heavy wounded ones. Women threw valuables to the colonials and showed their breasts to the troops, asking to be killed. Mostly they killed each other or stabbed their own bodies.

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The scene was more than bloody. Many heavy wounded went on hands and feet to the corpse of the Raja and covered him: following him into a world we don't know. Suicide on a large scale. Hundreds of dead bodies piled on top of each other. After about 40 minutes a very old Balinese man stepped forward and stabbed the (wounded) survivors with his scimitar, kris, and continued to do so until he was shot. An old woman took over his kris and stabbed other wounded until she was shot also. But others took over this bloody krissing (stabbing) work again and again, until the very last one was gunned down.

Under a large pile of dead bodies was the Raja and from this mass many lances with golden decorations stuck out.

Then a second procession of about hundred Balinese left Puri Denpasar. The little brother of the Raja (12 years old) ran in front. Captain Schutstal ordered him to stop. The boy seemed to obey in the first place. But his followers encouraged him to go on. A most wild Balinese attack was the result. Gun fire took the life of the boy.

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The Dutch mourned the loss of one killed sergeant. Infantry sergeant J. Bakker paid his humanity with his life. Many soldiers tried to keep the fanatical Balinese women off, ran risks and got wounded. Sergeant Bakker got wounded also and died.

The troops marched to Puri Pamecutan and shot the Puri into flames. The old co-Raja of Badung sitting on a palanquin, borne by bearers, came out with his followers. Then they halted and the Raja stepped down from the palanquin. He gave a signal to a priest who plunged his dagger into the Raja's breast. The rest of the procession began killing themselves and others. Women mockingly threw jewelry and gold coins at the troops.

Below, on the picture. The co-Raja of the state of Badung, the old Prince of Pamecutan, his family and his followers. Death after suicide on a square not far from the Puri Pamecutan. A lot of dead people, a background with colonial soldiers and right the golden sedan chair, his palanquin, of the old Prince. I don't know how old he was.

Military as well as Balinese citizens, stripped the corpses of the valuables and sacked the ruins of the burned palace. The Puri Denpasar was razed to the ground.

Puputan took place according to the custom of the land, called adat. Thereafter, the surviving grandees and chiefs made their obeisance, whilst the people showed themselves kindly disposed. Which was also the case when the forces marched to Tabanan on September 26th. The Raja of Tabanan offered no resistance and surrendered. The Raja family were conveyed to Lombok. However the Raja and his sons committed suicide before departure.



After the Pamecutan (second) Puputan - Badung Capital, now Denpasar - Bali
September 20th 1906. Van Weede, page 474

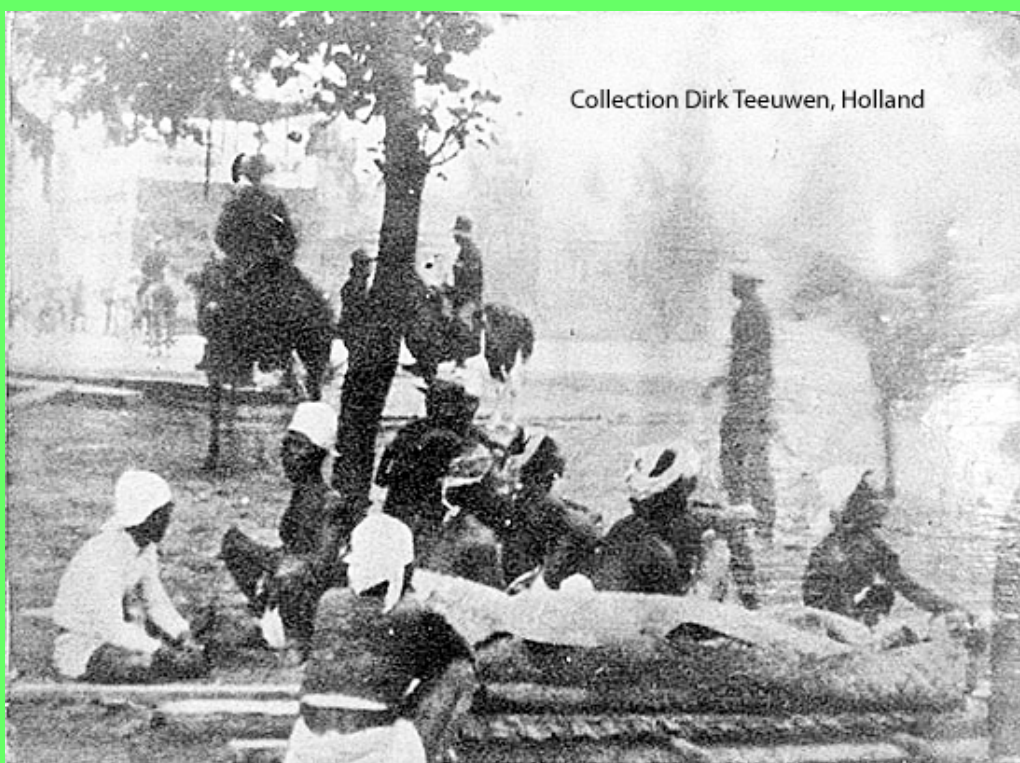
Text continues on page 22

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**Scène of the second (near Puri Pamecutan, see page 13) Puputan, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 475**



Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

**The mortal remains of the Raja of Badung on a litter covered with mats.
The picture was taken in front of the Denpasar Puri, Badung (capital of the state
of Badung, the town is called Denpasar now), Bali 1906.**

**From> Heshusius, C. A.: KNIL 1830-1950; Houten Holland 1986, picture 127
A photo album edited by De Haan/Unieboek, Houten Holland**

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Door of the Kanjamata, door of the accomodation of the Raja in the Denpasar Puri, 1906. Behind this door the Dutch found the lifeless body of the Raja's sister on her bed (Puputan adat suicide). See page 21.
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The sister of the Raja of Badung, Puri Denpasar, as found by the Dutch. She committed Puputan suicide with the help of a priest and his kris, a razor sharp short scimitar. From> Ide Anak Agung Gde Agung: Bali in the 19th century; Jakarta 1991, page 230. Publisher: Yayasan Obor Indonesia Jl Plaju 10, Jakarta

5. The Bali Expedition, 1908

Finally the Rajas of Bangli and Klungkung agreed to all the demands and the expedition could return to Java in November, leaving behind one battalion of infantry to support the civil officers. In 1907 difficulties could be expected because of the introduction of the opium state monopoly in Karangasem and Klungkung. Disturbances broke out, when the Balinese killed a Javanese opium dealer in Gelgel (in the state of Klungkung). On the 16th of April 1908 a Dutch patrol was surprised near Gelgel. Later the Dutch took the Klungkung Capital Puri, whereby the rebels suffered heavy losses.

Shortage of ammunition compelled the forces to withdraw to the beach, but within a few days a flotilla appeared and began to shell Gelgel and the Klungkung Capital. The Raja requested armistice, asked for mercy, but evaded unconditional surrender. The troops marched upon the Klungkung Puri. When the troops had approached to within short distance, the Raja and his relatives rushed upon the Dutch ranks, lances in hand, thus committing suicide, one more traditional Puputan. Peace in Bangli and Karangasem was not disturbed.

The Raja of Bangli made an offer to cede his land to the Dutch Government on the understanding that he should be appointed Raja-Governor. This request was acceded to. In all the Balinese districts it was the intention of the Dutch to grant the greatest possible freedom of action to the native aristocrats. In 1921 all the Rajas on the island became Raja-Governor.

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Some aftereffects

More in general! The English could not claim Bali any more. The Dutch ruled the island. Dutch introduction of modern government as well as their attention to safeguard Balinese traditions and the introduction of a more or less related modern Balinese art were facts. More:

1. The tyranny of Rajas and aristocracy on Bali came to an end, the burning of widows was forbidden, a Dutch modern liberal government was introduced. Partially, the real old traditional Bali was gone forever, I am afraid! However the Dutch tried to save the most of the remaining traditional local lifestyle.

2. So, from 1908 the Dutch in Bali supported students and protectors of Balinese culture and endeavored to preserve this culture in addition to their initial modernization role. Visit Ubud in Bali nowadays and specially the Neka Museum.

3. So, the Dutch made Bali a "living museum" of classical culture (and more than that) as well as opened it for modern arts. See 2. and 3.

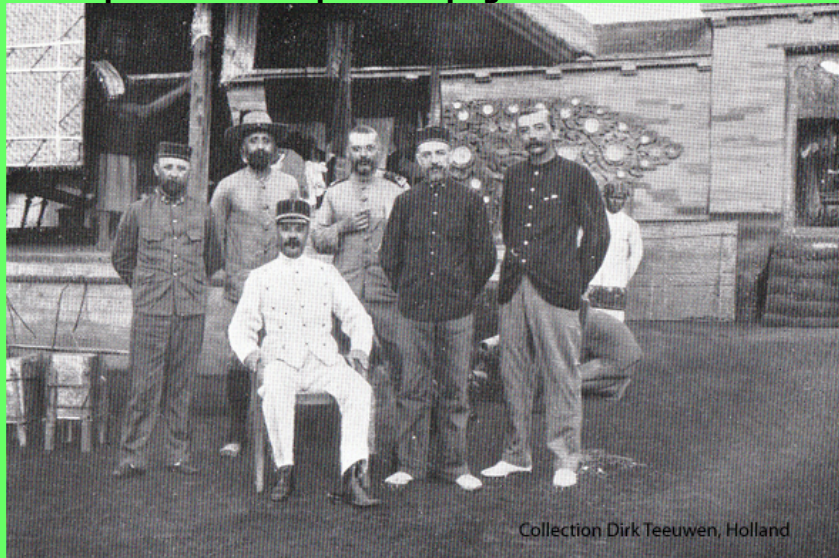
4. Bali was opened to tourism as soon as possible from 1910.

5. The 1906 and 1908 military invasions thus paradoxically triggered Dutch attention to this special island and its culture. which contributed to the preservation, of its Bali's culture, to make the island one of the most popular tourist destinations today.

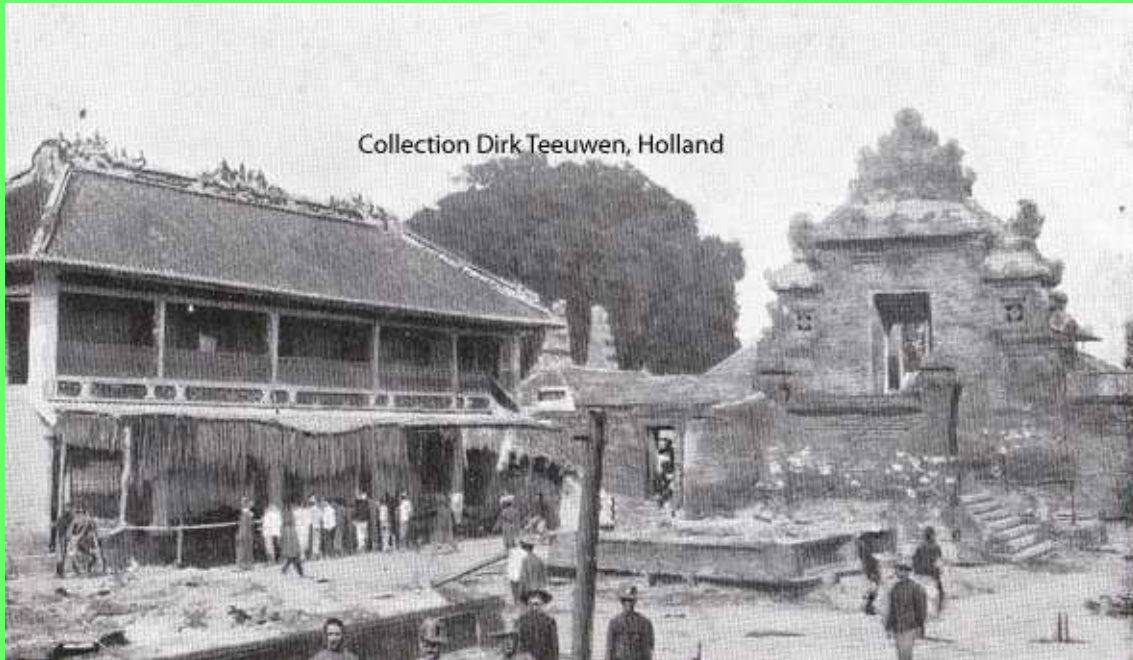
6. Raja families and Balinese aristocracy kept their government tasks under Dutch supervision. President Sukarno made an end to this, the Dutch did not!

7. Christian mission was strictly forbidden by the Dutch in order to protect the Hindu faith and its culture.

By way of conclusion. In my opinion the Puputans (ritual suicides) could, maybe, very maybe, have been prevented by the Dutch. (Don't ask me how!) Their (Dutch) military mission was inevitable in my opinion. But they already experienced a Balinese Puputan in 1894 on the island of Lombok, east from Bali. So they could knew what could happen. Military power, understanding and persuasiveness could go hand-in-hand to prevent such sickening miseries. Puputans, nevertheless an absolutely free choice of Balinese aristocrats to die, was not what the Dutch wanted. So, why not try out whatever to prevent it. The aim of the Dutch was mainly to govern foreign affairs and to leave the internal affairs to the local princes. More pictures page 22-35 :



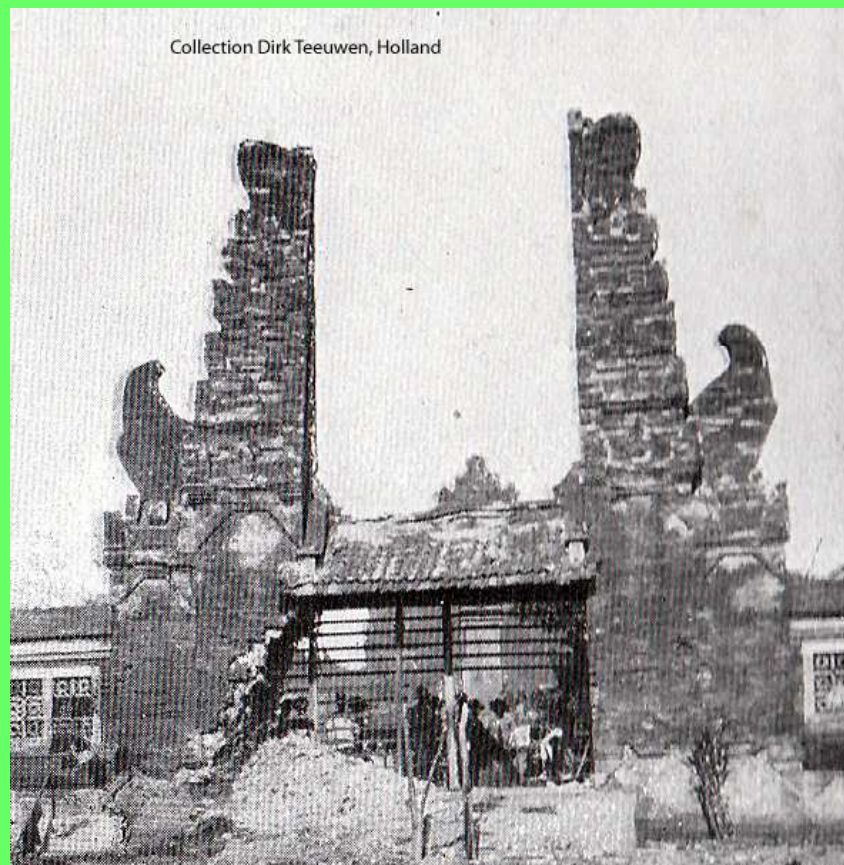
General Rost van Tonningen, sitting, and his staff, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 479
Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

Dutch military quarters in Denpasar, Bali 1906

Van Weede, page 480



Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

Damaged main entrance of the Denpasar Puri, Bali 1906

Van Weede, page 481

Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

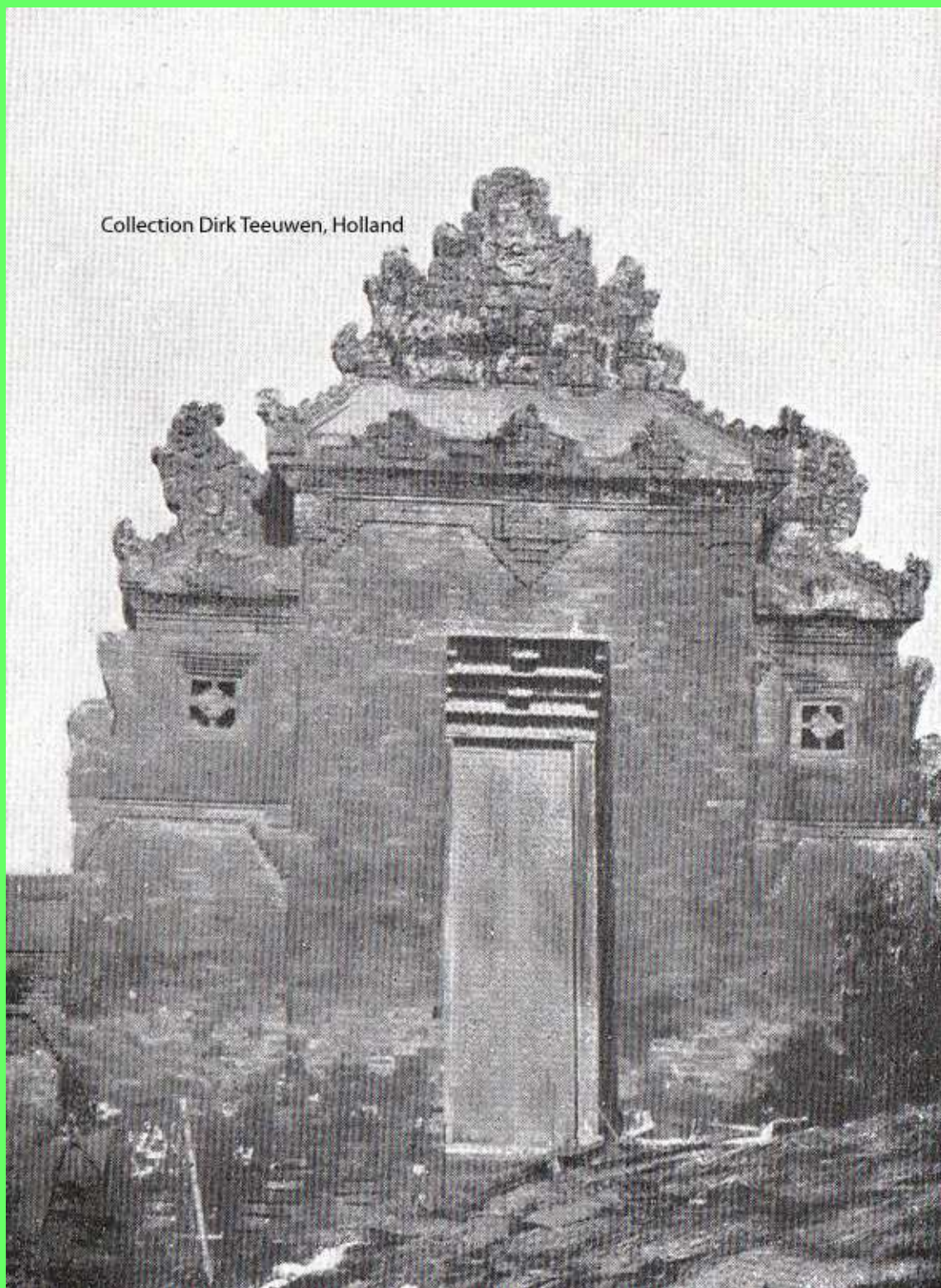
**Outside wall of the Denpasar Puri, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 482**



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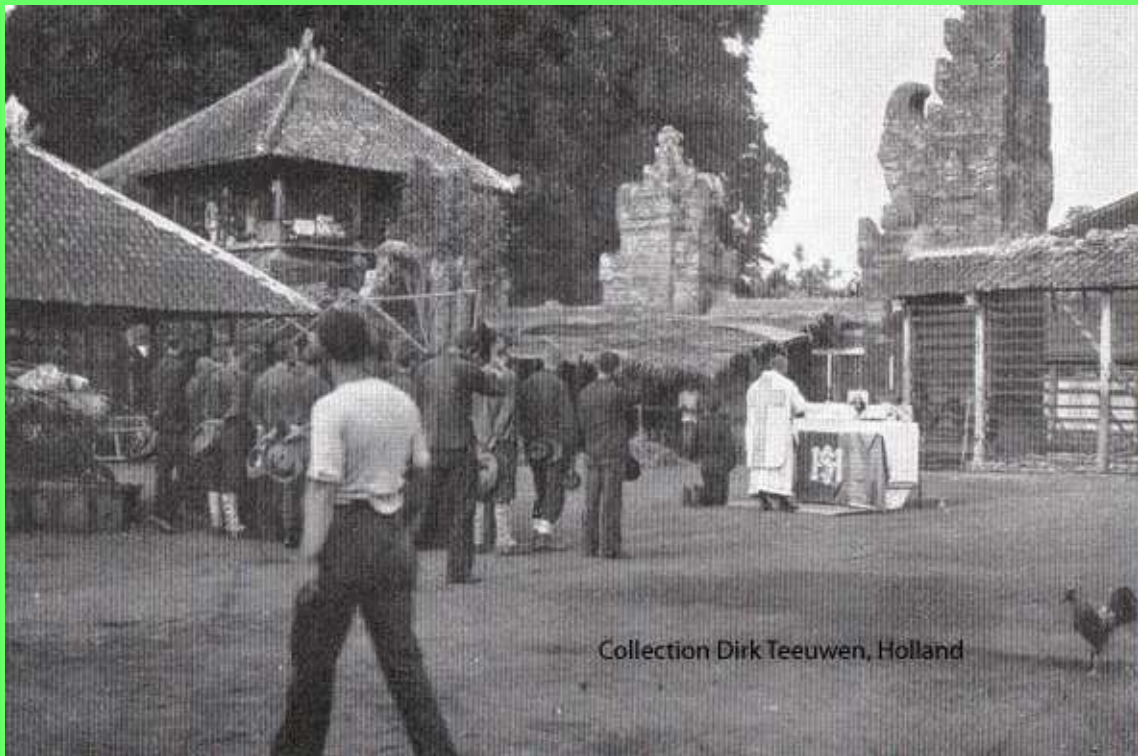
**Dutch in Kuta, south from Badung Capital (Denpasar-Pamecutan), Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 483**

Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



**One more Denpasar Puri entrance, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 484**

Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

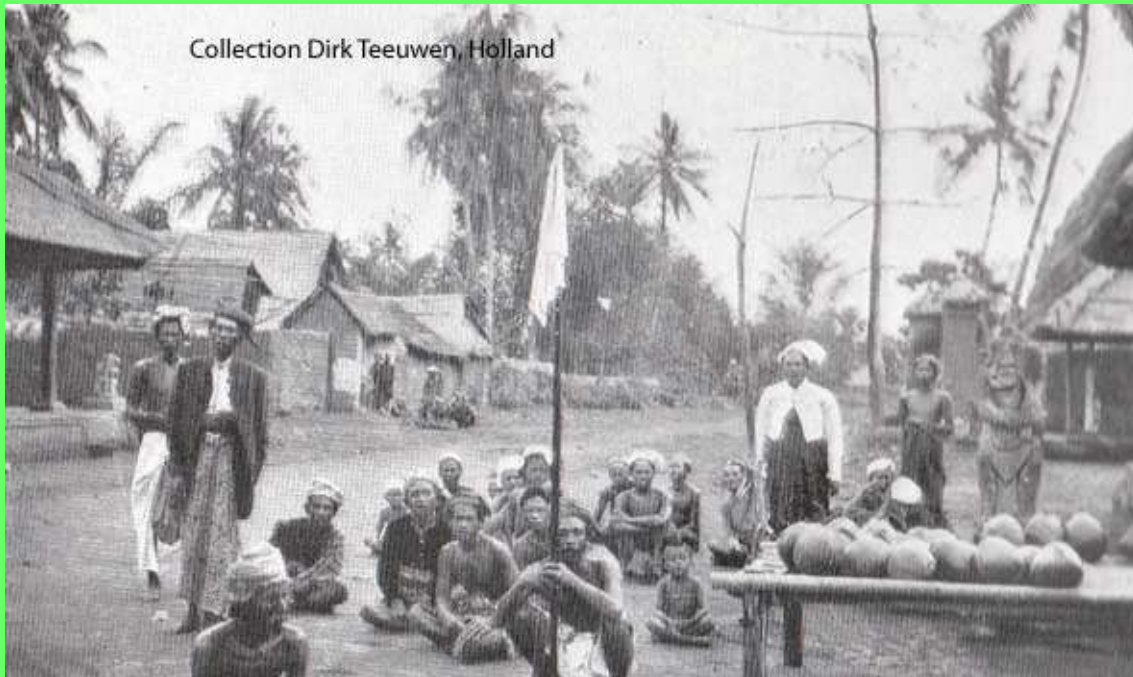


Attending Mass in the forecourt of Denpasar Puri, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 485



Marching to the village of Tabanan, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 486

Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

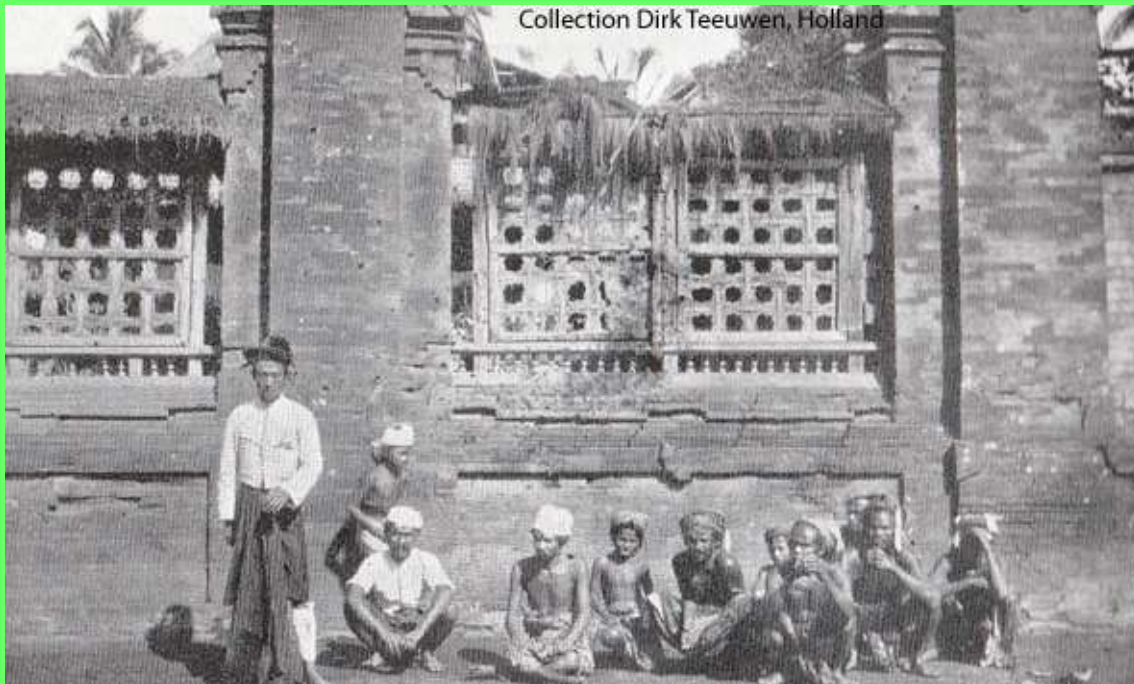


Friendly people in Tabanan, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 489



Bivouac, Tabanan Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 490

Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



Interpreter and natives, Tabanan Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 491



Marching to Krambitan, crossing a river, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 492

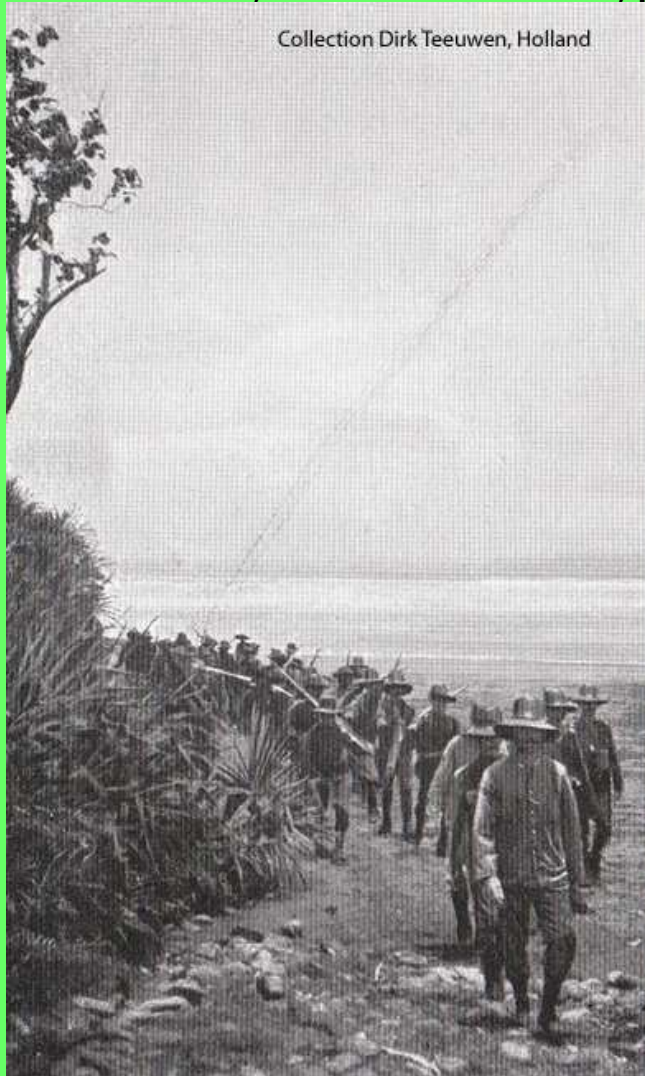
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Beach near Klating, Bali 1906 Van Weede, page 493
Below, beach near Pasut, Bali 1906 Van Weede, page 494

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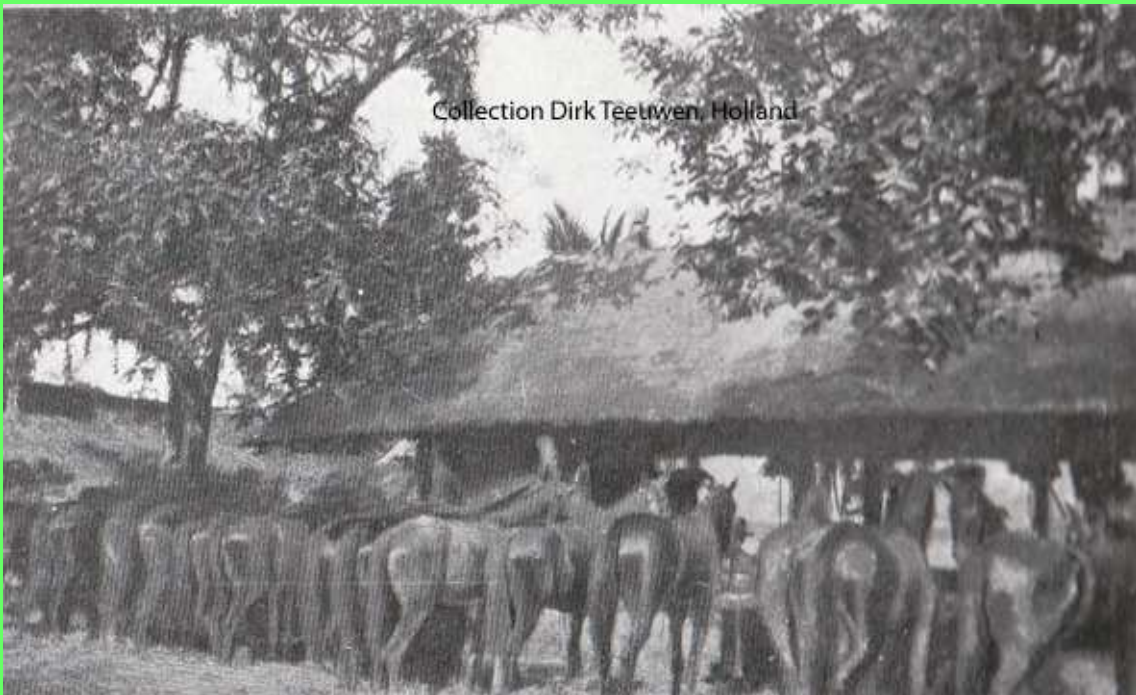
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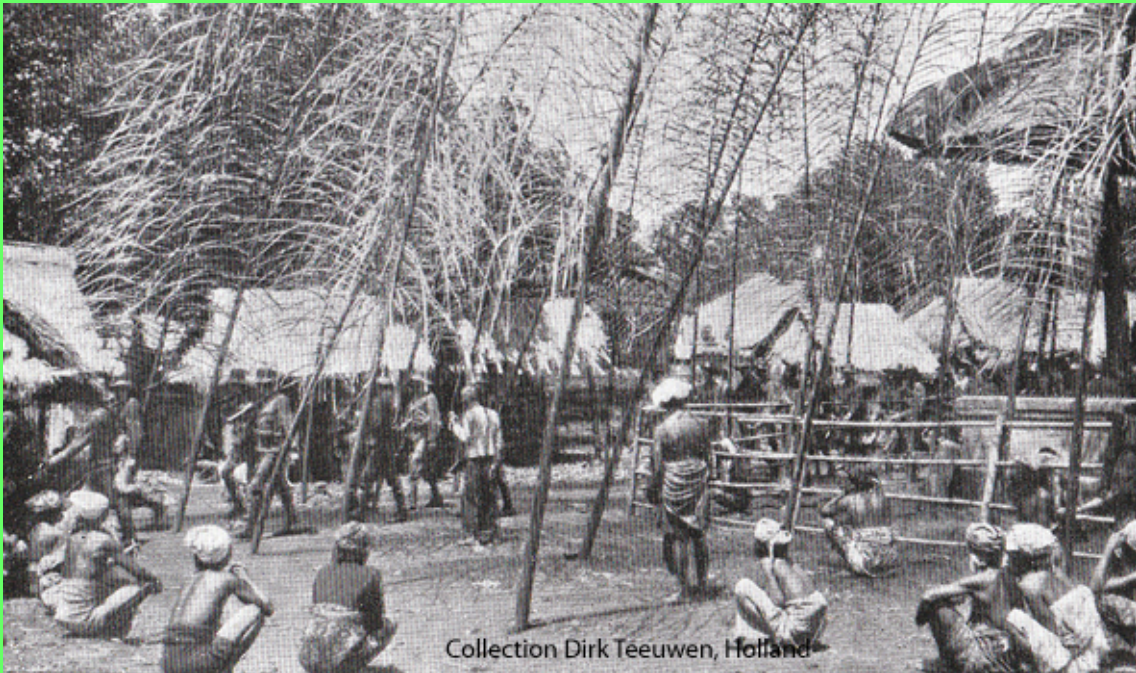
**The Puri of the village of Tabanan, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 496**

Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



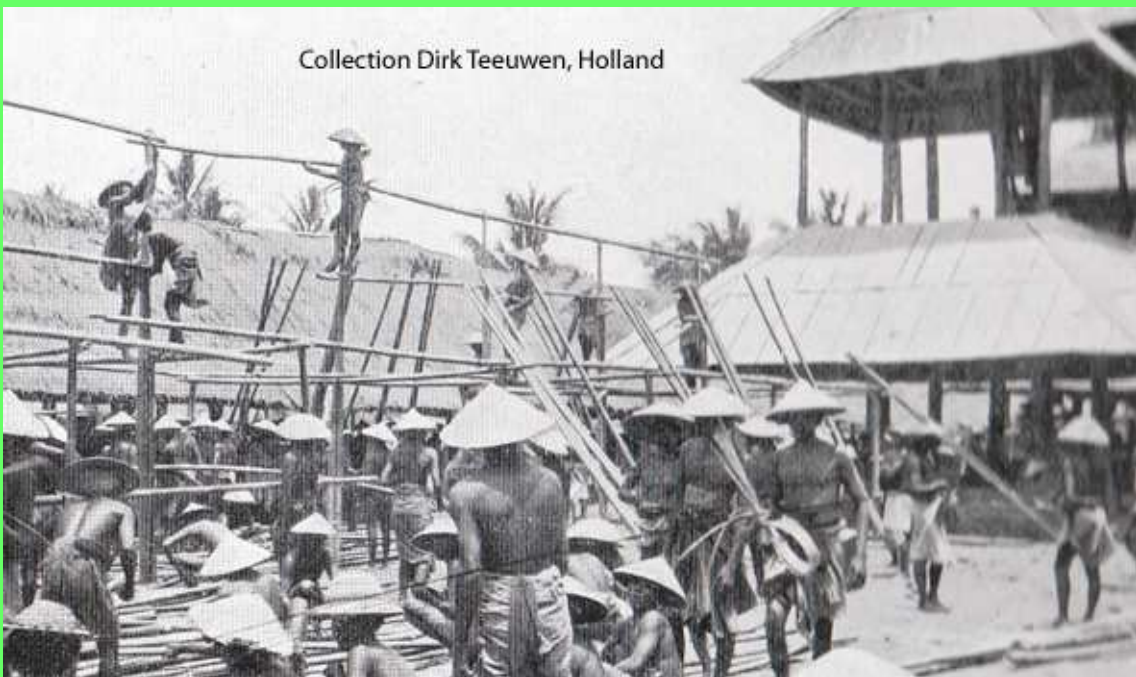
**Cavalry horses, Tabanan Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 497**

Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

**Peaceful Gianyar Capital, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 498**



Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

**Building the Dutch bivouac, Gianyar Capital Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 499**

Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

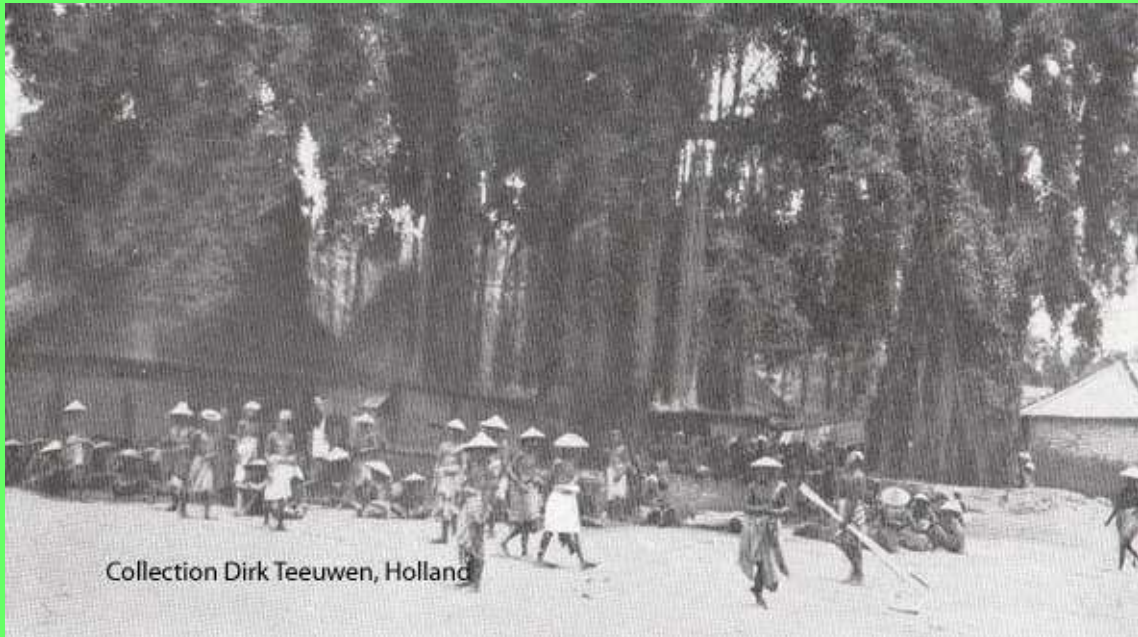


**Gianyar Capital, followers of the Raja, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 500**



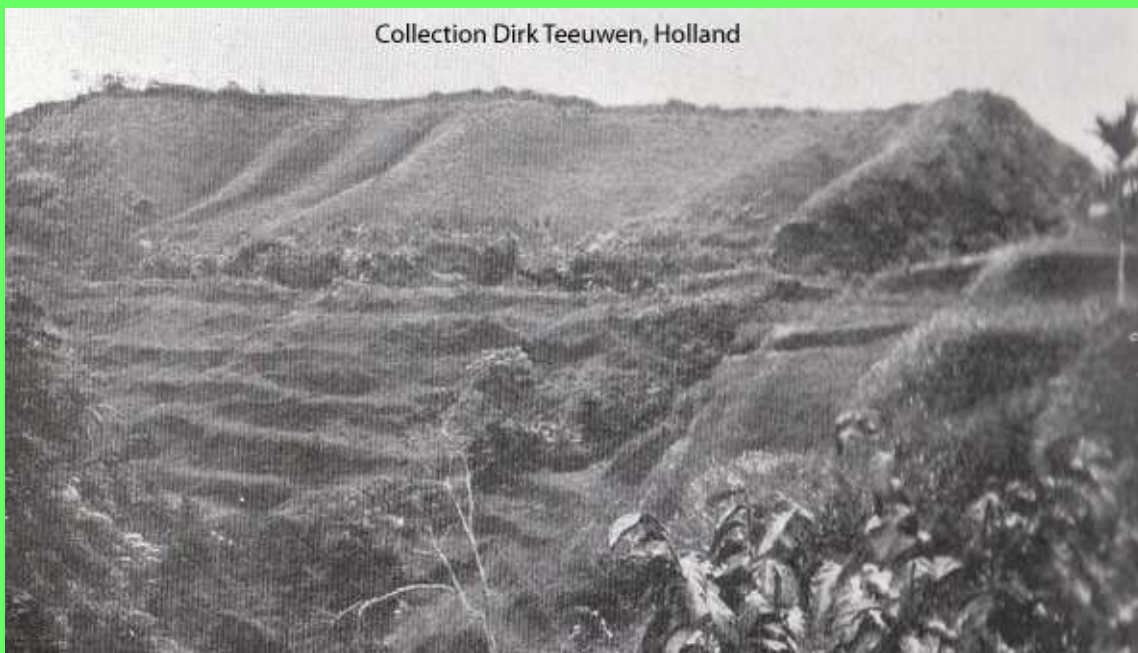
**Gianyar Capital, Punggawa (relative of the Raja) and followers, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 503**

Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

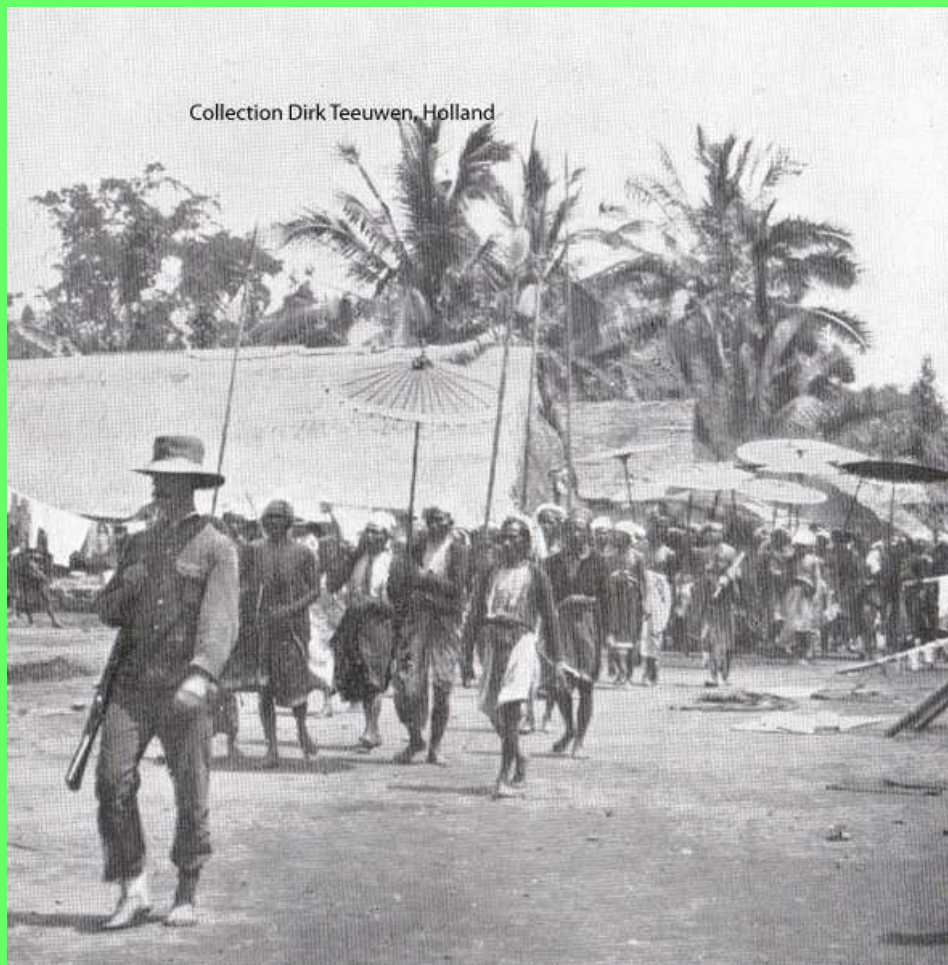
Waringin Tree, Gianyar Capital, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 504



Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

Army position near Gitgit, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 505

Dirk Teeuwen, Holland



Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

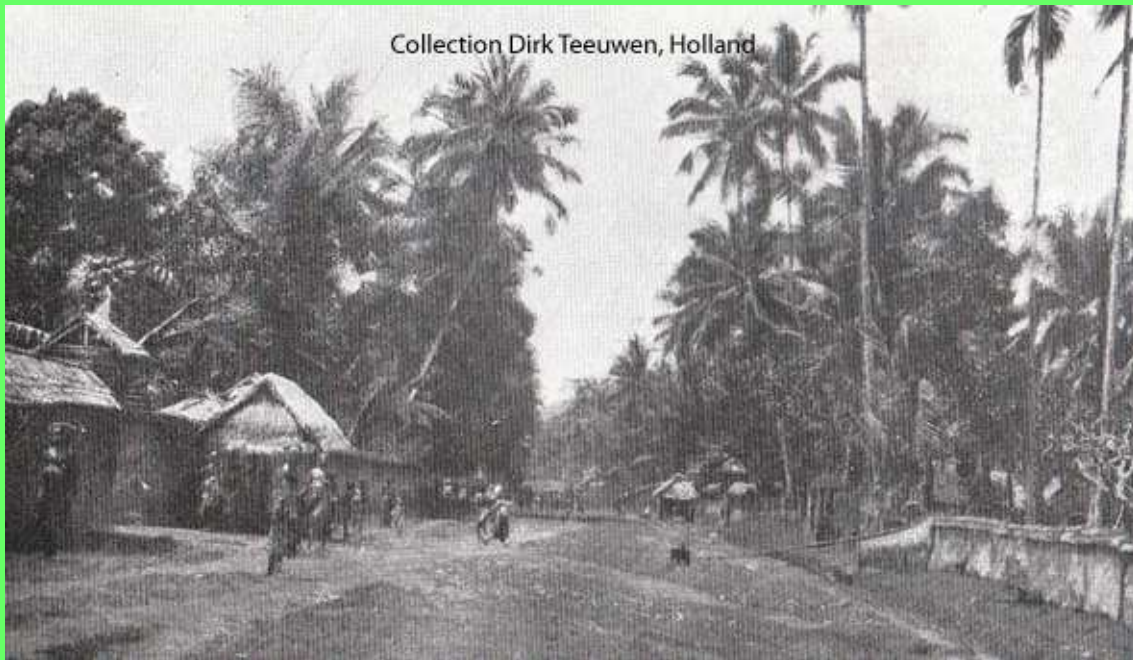
Arrival of the Raja of Klungkung at Gianyar Capital, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 506



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In front of the palace, Bangli Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 507

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**Road from Banglit o the Gunung Batur Mountain, Bali 1906
Van Weede, page 508**



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**Taking pictures of Punggawa Cokorda Ubut and the Crown Prince, Gianjar Town.
Bali 1906**

Van Weede, page 501

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End