

Provenance report regarding Insigne van de nationalistische Siliwangi divisie
(Emblem pin divisi Siliwangi)

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 <p><i>Photo: Collection Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen. Coll.no. TM-6092-1</i></p>	Custodian	NMVW Tropenmuseum
	Current possessor	Dutch State
	Inventory number	TM-6092-1
	Material/technique	Brass
	Size	3.6 cm (diameter)

Summary of findings

This insignia of the Siliwangi division was donated to the Tropenmuseum by Theodorus Hermanus “Theo” Hummelink (1925-2005) in 2003. Theo Hummelink was a conscripted soldier who was stationed in Java in the years 1946-1949 and took the insignia home as a souvenir. Insignias like this one were part of the uniforms of the Siliwangi division of the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI).

Reconstruction provenance

> **April 1946 – December 1949**
Manufacture of insignia

> **October 1946 – March 2003**
Theodorus Hermanus Hummelink

March 2003 – present

NMVW Tropenmuseum

Introduction and context

The insignia was selected for provenance research because it was acquired during the Indonesian War of Independence. The insignia is made from brass that is pressed into shape. The back has a pin to attach it to clothing. The front depicts the head of a tiger, the symbol of the Siliwangi division (Komando Territorial Militer III/Siliwangi). Above the tiger's head is the Islamic symbol of the five-pointed star, and below it the name Siliwangi. The emblem of the Siliwangi division was designed in 1946 by artist Barli Sasmitawinata (1921-2007),¹ on the request of Colonel Abdul Haris Nasution (1918-2000).² The design incorporates several symbolic elements, such as the four teeth which stand for Teritorium III division IV, and numerical elements referring to the date of founding, 20 May 1946.

The division was formed in May 1946, during the Indonesian National Revolution, by what was then known as the People's Security Army (TKR), and since June 1947 until present the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI).³ It was stationed in West Java, where much of its membership was recruited. The division is named after King Siliwangi, ruler of a fifteenth century kingdom located in this area.



Consultation between Dutch and Indonesian forces, Tasikmalaya February 1948. TNI Colonel Abdul Haris Nasution (centre) wearing the emblem of the Siliwangi division on the sleeve of his uniform. *National Archives* 2.24.04.03/1521-1-3. <http://proxy.handle.net/10648/743beca4-57e6-7855-57e9-d1dbe4b95573>

The Indonesian National Armed Forces were founded in 1945. Being a young army and immediately confronted with a war situation, there was little time to organise uniforms.⁴ In addition, there was an enormous shortage of textiles during the war. Members of the army often improvised by assembling pieces of clothing of diverse origin to form a uniform. Members of the Siliwangi division often repurposed Japanese army uniforms.⁵ To achieve unity and to be able to identify members of the

¹ Digital Archive of Indonesian Contemporary Art. "Barli Sasmitawinata." <http://archive.ivaa-online.org/pelakuseni/barli-sasmitawinata>; TribuneNews: l.d. [wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org). "Museum Barli." <https://www.tribunnewswiki.com/2021/06/01/museum-barli>

² Wikipedia. "Komando Daerah Militer III/Siliwangi." https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Komando_Daerah_Militer_III/Siliwangi

³ Robert Cribb, *Historical Dictionary of Indonesia* (Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press, 2004), 190. <https://siliwangi.mil.id/page/detail/sejarah>

⁴ William H. Frederick, "The Appearance of Revolution: Cloth, Uniforms, and the 'Pemuda Style' in East Java, 1945-1949," in *Outward Appearances: Dressing State and Society in Indonesia*, ed. Henk Schulte Nordholt (Leiden: KITLV Press, 1997), 199-248.

⁵ Wikipedia. "Siliwangidivisie." <https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siliwangidivisie>

various divisions, insignia and patches were sewn on the uniforms.⁶ According to historian William H. Frederick “designs seemed to proliferate rapidly and often to vary from place to place within the same organisation, including specific branches of the Republican armed forces. Furthermore, the use of insignia, sometimes with meanings obscure even to the wearers, became curiously generalised outside the bounds of military and *laskar* life, confusing matters even more.”⁷ This may explain why the design of the present insignia deviates on certain points from the official Siliwangi logo (e.g. seven whiskers instead of five). It may be an earlier prototype or a rough interpretation of the design.

Provenance report

Theo Hummelink donated the insignia to the Tropenmuseum in 2003, after mediation by his nephew Lejo Schenk, the then director of the museum. Hummelink was born into a large farming family in Lichtenvoorde. Having finished primary education, he worked as a driver. During the Indonesian War of Independence, Theo was one of the more than 18,000 conscripted soldiers of the 7 *december divisie*, the first division that was created to fight during the war in Indonesia.⁸ He returned to the Netherlands in 1948,⁹ traumatised by the war.¹⁰ In 1953, he got married and until his retirement he worked in the shoe (repair) shop in Silvolde that was originally owned by his father-in-law.¹¹

The information with the acquisition, probably provided by Lejo Schenk, stated that Theo found the insignia in Indonesia and kept it all those years as a souvenir (*al die jaren als aandenken bewaard*).¹² No information about the precise location or circumstances in which he acquired the insignia was given. Hummelink’s record in the archives of the Dutch Ministry of Defence notes he was conscripted into the army on 7 May 1946 and assigned to 2nd company of the 3rd battalion of the Jagers regiment (2^{de} compagnie 3^{de} bataljon regiment Jagers).¹³ The Jagers (currently known as Garderegiment Jagers) were an infantry regiment that was stationed in West Java during the War of Independence.¹⁴ On 3 November 1946, Hummelink arrived in Indonesia, to return to the Netherlands on 1 December 1949. His *staat van dienst* (military service records) shows a number of transfers, as well as several periods of stay in hospitals in Jakarta, Cianjur, and Cimahi. After May 1948, he mainly served in the Stafcompagnie of the regiment Jagers,¹⁵ a company that was responsible for logistics and other supporting matters, where he was employed as the driver of chaplain (*aalmoezenier*) J.N. Claver.¹⁶

The logbook of the 3rd battalion of the Jagers regiment is kept in the National Archives and covers the period September 1946 to October 1949.¹⁷ In the final months of 1946 and most of 1947, the battalion served in and near Bogor, where the main duty was the occupation and defence of the Kracak (Kratjak) hydropower station. After September 1948, the battalion was active near Sukabumi and later near Cipayung.¹⁸ After Operation Crow (*operatie Kraai*, 19 December 1948-5 January 1949), it was stationed in the Banten area. The logbook mentions many confrontations with TNI forces. It is also

⁶ Marc Lohstein, “Militaire emblemen tijdens de onafhankelijkheidsoorlog 1945-49,” *Bronbeek museumkrant*, August 2020.

⁷ Frederick, “The Appearance of Revolution: Cloth, Uniforms, and the ‘Pemuda Style’ in East Java, 1945-1949,” 219.

⁸ Wikipedia. “Eerste Divisie 7 December.” https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eerste_Divisie_7_December

⁹ “Terug uit Indonesië,” *Zutphensch dagblad voor Achterhoek en Veluwezoom*, November 17, 1949, Dag edition.

¹⁰ Personal communication Lejo Schenk to author, 19 December 2021.

¹¹ Silvoldepedia. “Ulfseweg 063, Seesing - T.H. Hummelink.” <https://www.crsilvolde.nl/index.php?ulfseweg-063>

¹² Digital information with TM-6092-1, TMS Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen. There is no paper record of this acquisition.

¹³ Staat van dienst Theodorus Hermanus Hummelink. Archives Ministry of Defence, no inventory number.

¹⁴ Wikipedia. “Garderegiment Grenadiers en Jagers.” https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garderegiment_Grenadiers_en_Jagers_-_West-Java_1946-1949_en_Oost-Java_1946-1949%E2%80%9D_en_de_Politioenele_Acties_in_Nederlands-Indi%C3%AB

¹⁵ Staat van dienst Theodorus Hermanus Hummelink. Archives Ministry of Defence, no inventory number.

¹⁶ Personal communication Lejo Schenk to author, 19 December 2021. J. van Geemert and C. Sipkes, eds., *Strijd en opbouw: 119 jaar jagers*, 1948, 24.

¹⁷ NL-HaNA, Inventaris van de collectie archieven Strijdkrachten in Nederlands-Indië 2.13.132 inv.nr. 2257.

¹⁸ NIMH, Dekolonisatie van Nederlands-Indië (1945 - 1950), 509, inv.nr. 1106.

frequently noted that weapons, ammunition, uniforms, and other gear were seized during those confrontations. For example, the logbook record for the 29th of April 1949 notes that “on the indication of two former TNI members we dug up in Cikampek 2761 some property of the first battalion TNI, that is 7 grenades, 135 cartridges, 4 helmets, 1 telephone, parts of radios and several hundred Siliwangi badges.”¹⁹ Therefore, it is clear that insignias like this one belonged to the category of goods for which the Dutch army had seizure orders. Theo Hummelink possibly took or received the Siliwangi insignia as a souvenir after it was seized during such an event.

¹⁹ “Op aanwijzing van 2 ex-TNI leden werden te Tjikapek 2761 enkele eigendommen van het 1^e bat. TNI opgegraven, t.w. 7 handgr., 135 patronen, 4 helmen, 1 telf toestel, radio-onderdelen en enkele honderden Siliwangi-badges.”