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BIOGRAPHIES OF INDONESIAN PERSONALITIES

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BIOGRAPHIES OF INDONESIAN PERSONALITIES

The following are translations of selected articles in the Indonesian language newspaper, Mimbar Umum, (Public Forum), Medan, 13 March, 3 April, 10 April, 1 May, and 22 May 1960, and in the journal of the Indonesian Veterans Legion, Bulletin, Djakarta, 25 January 1960.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ARTICLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Zainoel Abidin	1
Ali Hjasmy	3
Djundjungan Lubis	6
R. P. Natigor Lumbantobing	9
Lt. Col. Sitompul, H. T.	13
Sjahnan	17
Usman, J. S.	21

ZAINOEL ABIDIN

✓The following is a full translation of an article written by Pm. Sjahry appearing in Mimbar Umum, Medan, (Public Forum), 3 April 1960, page 4.

Zainoel Abidin is Mayor of Tandjung Balai and Chief of Kotapradja district. It is his fervent wish to become a capable judge.

Zainoel Abidin is short, and of medium proportions. He has a pleasant and agreeable disposition. Whenever he gets up to speak in sessions of the People's Representative Council of North Sumatra, he always gives forth with new ideas, ideas which are full of content, interesting, and attention-getting. In general he is well-received by all sides, because his ideas seek a middle way.

These are a few of our personal impressions and views of Zainoel Abidin who up to now has been Mayor of Tandjung Balai and will now add to that post the position of Chief of Kotapradja.

Before his appointment as Mayor of Tandjung Balai in accordance with Government Affidavit 6/59 he was a member of the People's Representative Council, "SWT" 1, North Sumatra and a member of a group politically oriented to the United Islamic Party of Indonesia (PSII).

When asked regarding the prospects and plans for the work before him as Mayor he only replied that he "would wait and see", rather than to enunciate a lot of beautiful-sounding plans and concepts. As the guiding principle of his work the Political Manifesto of the Republic of Indonesia is something to which he firmly adheres; moreover he accepts the tenets of Guided Democracy as the way in which to carry out the government's three-part program of achieving a just and productive society and good cooperation among all levels of society and in particular cooperation with the People's Representative Council as the legislative unit in the respective areas.

He has said that a mayor ought to have militant ideas and an enthusiastically constructive spirit devoted to the interests and welfare of his area.

He said that foremost among his plans of action is to adopt measures both internally and externally in order to create new sources of income, without doing any harm to the social and economic structure, to be used in developing his area of responsibility.

Zainoel Abidin was born 17 February 1917 in Kutaradja, Atjeh. His father, H. Umar died when he was just one year old. So it was that his future care was placed in the hands of his mother and relatives.

He was graduated from the Netherlands Native School in Kutaradja in 1932 and from the More Extensive Lower Education Program, also in Kutaradja, in 1936. He also attended the Public Officials and Administrators School of the Republic of Indonesia, in Bukittinggi, with one year of theory.

Following that he continued on the way toward being a self-made man and continued to work and study. Then in 1953 he successfully achieved the status of Candidate I in the Faculty of Law and Social Philosophy, North Sumatra Islamic University, in Medan. Then in 1955 he achieved Candidate II, and at the present time he is Doctoral Candidate I at the North Sumatra Islamic University.

He expects to become a judge (legal expert) this year. His hobby of reading he regards as the way in which to form life-long acquaintances.

As regards his experience in governmental work, he was from 1936-39 Volunteer and "Stadronds" Clerk in the Office of "HPB", in Biruon. Following that he was for a time Administrative Clerk in Post Telegraph and Telecommunications Service. He also served as Second Secretary of the Military Governor's Committee, Central Sumatra Province, in Bukittinggi, in 1950.

He was also Chief of the Administrative Section, Garuda Indonesian Airways, in Medan, and an official in the financial section, Office of the Governor of North Sumatra, 1953-54.

He was Funds Administrator in the Transmigration Service, assigned to the provinces of North Sumatra and Atjeh, in Medan and at the same time was Secretary of the North Sumatra Province Committee for Rehabilitation of Victims of Uprisings.

Later on he rose to become Chief of Administrative Section of the Transmigration Service, assigned to the provinces of North Sumatra and Atjeh and finally became the Chief Administrator of that Service, which post he still holds.

As a member of the People's Representative Council, "SWT" I, North Sumatra, he also serves as chairman of the political group oriented to the United Islamic Party of Indonesia, and is chairman of Section E (education, information, and religion) and of other sections in the People's Representative Council of North Sumatra.

He has been well acquainted with the situation and conditions in Asahan, and in particular Kotapradja and Tandjung Balai since 1945.

His experiences in social action work include being a

member of the Indonesian Youth Movement in 1935; member of "Muhammadiyah" /an educational section of Islamic Institute/ in 1941; member of Socialist Youth of Indonesia, in Atjeh; chairman of the Labor Union of the Post, Telegraph and Telecommunications service for Atjeh; member of the "HMI", Medan branch, and member of the Student's Senate, North Sumatra Islamic University, in Medan, etc.

He has been a member in good standing of the United Islamic Party of Indonesia since 1953 and Deputy Chairman, Daily Conduct and Guides, of that party's North Sumatra Commissariat from 1957 to the present.

At the time of the second clash /against Dutch forces, during the revolution/ he was assigned to the Secrets and Sabotage Section with the objective of taking Bukittinggi. He was once taken prisoner by the Dutch.

His motto in personal relationships is to live according to the customs and expectations of your environment; and it is his wish to accommodate himself to all levels of society in his environment.

ALI HASJMY

✓The following is a full translation of an article written by Pm. Sjahry in Mimbar Unum, Medan 22 May 1960, page 4.✓

- The Five-Year Plan Bears Fruit.
- His Ideal Was To Become A Great Poet.

The name of Ali Hasjmy is no longer strange to this territory, especially not to Atjeh. He had been known formerly as a writer, poet and correspondent, because his former jobs were in these fields. After 1 January 1957 he was more well known because the Central Government had appointed him as the Governor and Territory Chief of the Atjeh Province.

Based on Government Regulation 6/59, the President of the Republic of Indonesia had promoted him to the rank of the Territory Chief for the Special Territory of Atjeh with the title of Governor.

What are his efforts at the present time for the development of Atjeh?

First of all it should be mentioned that the former plan which had been drawn up together with the Military Authority in Atjeh - and which had been called "Trikarya Bakti" will be continued. It includes: the improvement of security, the implementation of the administrative autonomy, and development in all fields.

In order to avoid failure, time limits were given to the plans, in the form of the first five-year plan, the second five-year plan, etc. Since 1958 the first five-year plan has been started.

And the results, by the Grace of God, are encouraging. Among other things the security situation in Atjeh is improving; efforts in construction programs, such as the construction of the University Campus "Darussalam" are increasing; some new faculties have been started in that city, and in other fields progress is also being made.

The development policy in Atjeh was based on the potentialities of its people and was carried out for their benefit and prosperity. Such a policy was successful in obtaining the confidence and the support of the population.

With regard to his biography we can briefly summarize as follows: He comes from a small retailer family. He was born on 28 February 1914 in Muntasiq, Kutaradja. He was the only child of his mother who died when he was still young. After completing his elementary school he proceeded to Religious

High School in Padangpandjang and Padang; and after that studied for 6 months at the Islamic University of North Sumatra, in Medan.

His work experiences were among others, Religious teacher in Seulimeum, Kutaradja; writer, correspondent, chief editor of Atjeh Simbun during the Japanese occupation; director of the daily Semangat Merdeka during the first year of independence.

He has been also active in the Indonesian Socialist Youth troops.

When the rebellion broke out in Atjeh in 1953 he was imprisoned for about 7 months because they charged him with participating in that event.

But later, on the instructions of the Attorney General he was released and was transferred to the Ministry of Social Work in Djakarta. As one of the Staff Members of the Ministry of Social Work, he had the opportunity to travel over the whole of Indonesia in 1956. But as soon as he had visited Maluku, Ambon and Ternate, his good fortune gave him a new turn in his life, because by a Cabinet decision, he was appointed as the Governor and Territory Chief of Atjeh.

As has been mentioned before, the ideal of Ali Hasjmy was not to become a trader like his father, or civil servant, which he is now, but to become a famous writer and poet.

By becoming a civil servant, he said that some of his works in literary fields have had to be neglected. "By the grace of God, I will try to complete them later when I am no longer Governor." That is what he said with regard to his ideals.

Ali Hasjmy is a sympathetic person, good looking and very polite in his manners.

His life conviction is: Stead faith in God. For God is able to give everything to those who submit themselves to His will."

And his slogan of life is: complete submission to God, praying, worshipping and working.

And as the only source of his vitality and inspiration for success in his life is his faithful wife, Zuriah.

We pray to God that Atjeh will be enabled to make swift and unencumbered advances as in other provinces under his leadership.

KING DJUNDJUNGAN LUBIS

The following is a full translation of an article by PM. Sjahry appearing in Mimbar Umum, (Public Forum) Medan, 10 April 1960, page 4.

King (Radja) Djundjungan Lubis is a descendant of a king who was active in the struggle against the Netherlands. It is his sworn high duty to devote himself to the causes of peace and social welfare of the people.

President Sukarno recently appointed, by declaration, to the post of Governor of North Sumatra King Djundjungan Lubis, Residency Chief of East Sumatra, and also named, as his deputy Lt. Col. King Sjahnan, Chief of Staff of Section 2, Army of the Republic of Indonesia, "Kodam" II, North Sumatra.

The well-known King Djundjungan Lubis, who was recently appointed to the post of Governor of North Sumatra, is not only a highly respected regional figure but also enjoys much celebrity throughout North Sumatra, having been Residency Chief of East Sumatra and, at different times chief of regencies in Tapanuli. Furthermore he is a native of this region.

In order to fulfill his duty as the head of the Province of North Sumatra, the King is actively opposed to any swift implementation of the Political Manifesto of the Republic of Indonesia under the aegis of Guided Democracy to achieve a just and productive society. The King feels that the very first thing that he can and should do is to bring about peace and security and provide for the physical necessities of the people and, in addition, other efforts.

The source of his hopefulness in this regard, as he himself has said, is the spirit of cooperation that is prevalent among his deputies and assistants in carrying out assignments and jobs, a fact which transforms the outcome of efforts and activities that are in perfect harmony with the aspirations of the people. This is one of the main sources of his hopefulness, among others.

King Djundjungan Lubis is a high civil official who figures high among that group of persons empowered with fervor and discipline for work.

He was born in Hutanyagandang Kotanopan, South Tapanuli, on 21 August 1906.

King Djundjungan Lubis is a descendant of King Panusunan Adat Sutan Mangkuto, who was very actively engaged in

opposition to the Dutch in 1837 and was eventually exiled to Ternate.

King Djundjungan's father, Sutan Naga Besar was Chief of People's Council in Kotanopan.

The King comes from a very large family. One of his brothers, Regency Chief Basjarah Lubis is Secretary to the Governor of North Sumatra.

King Djundjungan received his scholastic training in the Netherlands Native School in Kutaradja and in Padang Sidempuan and ultimately graduated from the Training School for Native Administrators, in 1924.

Following his graduation from the last-mentioned school he directly became heir to his father's position as Chief of People's Council as a result of his father's death. The King held that office until 1945.

Other experience: at the age of 39 he was a member of the Laws and Customs Committee in South Tapanuli; at the time of the Japanese occupation of the country he was chairman of Hoko Kai in the Mandailing/Natal districts while at the same time being a member of Tjo Song I Kai in Tapanuli.

In 1945 he was one of the recognized leaders of the people not only in South Tapanuli in particular but also throughout the whole of Tapanuli.

He was once chairman of the Indonesian National Committee (KNI) for the Mandailing/Natal districts.

In December 1945 he was appointed as Assistant Resident assigned to the office of the Tapanuli Residency in Tarutung. Later on he was a member of the Working Unit of the Indonesian Committee in Tapanuli.

In September 1946 he became a member of the People's Representative Council of Sumatra in Bukittinggi.

During the time of the first clash against the Dutch-British forces in 1946 he was transferred in order to become Regency Chief of Batanggadis, in Penjabungan and at the same time held other important posts, among them as member of the Arbiter's Section of the Armed Forces Attack Unit and Minute-men, Tapanuli, East Sumatra.

During that same time he also was Civil Affairs Chief in the Military Staff under the leadership of Major Bedjo. His assignment to this last-mentioned post carried the objective of consolidating the workings of government in Tapanuli in general.

During the time of the second clash with the Dutch forces he was made Coordinator of Civil Affairs, South Tapanuli, in the Military Staff of Army Territory I Sub-district, with authority over an area including the Regencies of Batanggadis, Padanglawas, Padangsidempuan, and South Asahan-Labunan Batu.

In December, 1949 he was transferred to the office of the Military Governor of Tapanuli in Sibolga.

In September, 1950 he was detached to the Committee for Preparation and Construction, Province of North Sumatra, in Medan.

Following the completion of the above-mentioned assignment, he was later given a position in the office of the Governor of North Sumatra while at the same time his rank as Regency Chief continued in effect.

On 1 May 1951 he was again transferred back to South Tapanuli and in 1954 he was invested with the position of Regency Chief of Central Tapanuli, and was Mayor of Sibolga also.

By Presidential declaration, on 14 May 1958 he was appointed Chief of the East Sumatra Residency, in Medan.

Presidential Affidavit No. 212/M, dated 31 March 1960 assigned the date of 1 April 1960 as the time when he would take over the duties of Territory Chief of North Sumatra, with the title of Governor.

These are, briefly, some of the things that can be brought to light, in the reporting of his biography.

The King is a short man, very energetic, and extremely sympathetic and well-intentioned in everything he does. He is a person who wants to intermingle with all levels of society, from the highest to the lowest. He observes strict discipline in his work habits, but he is also a good fellow, likes to chat and joke, and tells stories long into the night.

The principle that guides him in his daily tasks is that of giving first priority to matters which concern the national welfare and the masses of people rather than to matters of private or personal self-interest.

The people of North Sumatra in general are very elated over his appointment as Governor, and we just pray that under his reign and administration the people of North Sumatra can live more abundantly and fruitfully.

R. P. NATIGOR LUMBANTOBING

The following is a full translation of an article written by Pm. Sjahry, in Mimbar Umum, (Public Forum) Medan, 1 May 1960, page 4.

Bearing the full name of King Patuan Natigor Lumbantobing this official was once a territory chief and was active in Indonesia's struggle for her independence. He is now Chief of Tapanuli Residency, with his office in Sibolga. He is one of our own men. He is known as one who has from time to time chosen very hard and exacting tasks and assignments for himself, the kind of things that would be exceedingly difficult for an ordinary person to see through to completion. But the truth cannot be denied that he is a man possessed with qualities for leadership for practically anything. His daily tasks are always approached with equanimity, whatever the circumstances.

It is true that he is a former territory chief and the son of the territory chief of Tarutung. He is a very humble person, not given to greediness or aloofness to others because of his official rank or the fact that he is descended of royalty.

There is proof of his quality of humility in his behavior and actions and his association with common people day by day, people who love him and who are unreservedly enthusiastic in support of him.

Whenever he talks to you about anything he does it in a very winning and refined way; and whenever he just sits quietly and doesn't speak, a person looking at his calm and inscrutable expression may even feel afraid to approach him.

If there are daily assignments to carry out he would rather go directly to the people involved and make a personal observation of the regions, even down to the most remote and inaccessible section rather than just sit behind a desk, which he says can be disheartening.

King Patuan Natigor L. Tobing was born in Tarutung, North Tapanuli on 28 June 1909, the son of King Gajus L. Tobing, former state chief in Tarutung.

R. P. Natigor has 10 brothers and sisters and he is the fourth child.

It can be said that everyone in the family possesses superior intelligence, so that in general all of them are capable of occupying positions of importance and are outstanding figures in society. Among them are Dr. Hulman L. Tobing, a member of the Indonesian Parliament and another

who is Secretary of the Indonesian Embassy in Paris, and another with this or that title, and so on.

Despite all these accomplishments in the family the Tobings nevertheless possess the common touch.

R. P. Natigor L. Tobing studied at the European School and was graduated from there in 1916; he is also a graduate of Gunung Sari Teacher's Normal School, Djakarta, 1927 and of the Training School for Native Administrators, Bukittinggi, 1930.

His career as an official began in 1930 when he was "AIB" /probably some rank of municipal official/ in Sidikalang, Dairi District, North Tapanuli. He later occupied the same post, from 1931-33, in Barus.

From 1933-38 he was Assistant District Chief in Sibolga. He had to interrupt his work there in order to take over as Territory Chief in Tarutung upon the retirement of his father from that position.

He held that post until the revolution in 1945.

During the Japanese occupation he was deputy chairman of "Sang I KAI". In the revolutionary period he was actively engaged in the struggle for freedom, beginning with his job as consultant to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia for North Tapanuli, with the rank of Assistant Residency Chief with offices in Sibolga.

Following that he continued in his post as chairman of the North Tapanuli branch of the Indonesian National Committee; was a member of the People's Representative Council, North Tapanuli, and member of the Works Unit of the People's Representative Council, North Tapanuli, member of the People's Representative Council of Sumatra, etc.

With the outbreak of the first clash /with the Dutch forces/ he was situated in Balige, as Chief of the Toba and Samosir Regencies.

Following the declaration of sovereignty in 1950 he was sworn in as Chairman of the Military Relations Staff, Tapanuli, East Sumatra and then became Secretary to the Governor of the Tapanuli Province, Southeast Sumatra.

After 1951, as a result of a clash of thinking with Governor Hakim, he was transferred to Ambon as a Regency Chief, and assigned to the office of the Governor of the Moluccas.

From 1952-54 he served as Chief of the Regency of Sentang, in West Borneo.

From 1954-55 he was Chief of the Pontianak Regency in Pontianak, Borneo.

From 1955-59 he was chief of the regencies of Sambas and Sengkawang in West Borneo.

He said that as a result of his seven and a half years

of service as chief official over different areas in Borneo he had gained much in experience and knowledge that proved useful in his subsequent assignments.

A Presidential order sets the date of 17 March 1959 as the date of investment of R. P. Natigor as Chief of the Tapanuli Residency, in Sibolga, replacing Farel Pasaribu who had been elevated to the office of Governor in Borneo.

In his youth R. P. Natigor was a member of the Batak Youth Organization and the Sumatra Youth Organization, among others.

Before Government Order 2/59 was issued, which order prohibited governmental officials in group F and above from belonging to any political party, R. P. Natigor was an active member of the Indonesian Nationalist Party and the Constitution Party when he was in Borneo.

When he served as Territory Chief in Tarutung he was for a time chairman of the Association of Kings (an organization of Batak royalty in Tapanuli).

In discussing matters pertaining to the achieving of peace and security in Tapanuli R. P. Natigor said that the conditions had improved and that he would continue to seek to put into effect measures that were in consonant with the policy which had been outlined by General A. H. Nasution, Chief of Staff of Staff of the Armed Forces.

He is convinced that the security situation throughout Tapanuli will return to normal if the people, the government, and the Armed Forces work together cooperatively and diligently in reaching solutions.

R. P. Natigor rates rehabilitation in all areas of life as one of the most important things to be achieved in Tapanuli; he also places great emphasis upon the newly implemented program of moral and spiritual uplifting operations.

As regards efforts toward the development of Tapanuli he is more convinced than ever of the realization of that aim in time to come and that it will come about through the formation of "KOGEM" programs in all areas which have plans for intensifying activities slated to increase food production.

Among other qualities possessed by R. P. Natigor is that of firmness in taking whatever steps are necessary for carrying out his daily duties.

While it is true that R. P. Natigor is not an expert speaker he is all the same an expert on matters pertaining to laws and customs in Tapanuli, and in particular he knows a great deal about Batak practices and laws.

He said that he has a sympathetic feeling for the people of Tapanuli and that he is able to know their way of thinking and behaving, inasmuch as he himself is a native of that area and had gained a lot of experience during his service

as a territory chief.

R. P. Natigor's motto as a leader is: "Work fervently and devotedly for the interests and welfare of the people and the nation."

These are some of the things that you may be interested in learning about the person of the new Chief of the Tapanuli Residency, King Patuan Natigor Lumbantobing.

LT. COL. SITOMPUL H. T.

The following is a full translation of an article in Bulletin Legiun Veteranen (Bulletin of Veterans Legion), Djakarta, 25 January 1960, page 3.7

- Ex Chief of Staff of East Indonesian Inter-Regional Command, now occupying the office of the Secretary General of the Headquarters of the Veterans Legion of the Republic of Indonesia.
- Young officer matured by the revolution for independence.

A few days after Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces had appointed Col. Sambas Atmadinata as the commandant and the chairman of the Veterans Legion, based on Resolution/Regulation "Peperpu" No. 042, two other officers from the Armed Forces, namely Lt. Col. H. T. Sitompul and Maj. Firmansjah who had been assigned to the Headquarters of the Veterans Legion, were also appointed as the Secretary General and the head of the department of the General Defence Obligation, respectively.

Who Lt. Col. Sitompul was and when he would come to Headquarters to take over his new job remained a question for the officers in Headquarters for a few days before he finally showed up and accepted the nomination on January 19, 1960 as the Secretary General of Headquarters.

The name Sitompul could already tell us where he comes from, as is the case when we hear the names Sihaan, Simatupang, Pangabean, Sitorus, etc.

In fact that name is the name of a clan and is commonly used in Tapanuli, that is the territory where our Secretary General was born. That is why, whenever we mention the name Sitompul, we need to know which Sitompul; or if we see it in writing, we have to look at the accompanying initials. So if we mention Lt. Col. Sitompul, our Secretary General, we should not forget the initials H. T. before or after the name Sitompul. H. T. are the initials for Hatma TinioPan, which is his real name.

The reason this should be understood is that there are a lot of people by the name of Sitompul. If we examine the roster of our army in Sumatra in 1946 we will find two division commanders both of whom are called Sitompul. The first one is the Commander of the Second "Gadjah" Division, with the name Col. H. Sitompul, who is our Secretary General, and the other is the Commander of the First "Banteng" Division,

with the name P(andapotan) Sitompul.

Hotma Tinio Pan Sitompul was born in Tanah Djawa the name of a village in Pemantang Siantar, Sumatra. Next to Medan, Pemantang Siantar is the largest city in East Sumatra. Pemantang Siantar played an important role during the war for independence, particularly in East Sumatra, but also generally for all of Sumatra, because it was for a time the location of the Civil and Military Central Administration.

H. Sitompul, who was born on 7 May 1923 completed his elementary school in 1938, in Pemantang Siantar and then went to Junio High School in Medan, where he completed his studies in 1941. The Japanese occupation discouraged him from continuing.

As the Japanese Government formed different units and minutemen in Java for assisting them in the "Great East Asian" war, such as Kaigun, Gyu Gun, Seinendan, Kaibodan etc., the same thing also happened in Sumatra.

The courage of Sitompul H. T. and his consciousness to defend the glory of his fatherland had induced him to participate in the Army for Defending the Fatherland, in East Sumatra.

For more than two years Hotma Tinio Pan had lived as a soldier with its iron discipline, and had received his military training and knowledge until the collapse of the Japanese, which had ruled Indonesia for 3½ years by virtue of the superiority of their weapons.

The proclamation of independence on August 17, 1945, as in Java was also received in Sumatra by the formation of different organizations and forces by its youths. And in the province of East Sumatra the Youth Corps of the Republic of Indonesia had become a rallying point for all youths that were ready to fight for the defense of the independence, which had been proclaimed by Sukarno and Hatta. Sitompul plunged himself in the work of this youth corps and even lead one of the corps units until the formation of the People's Security Army by a decree of October 1945. Young Sitompul at the same time was elected as the commandant of the People's Security Army for Simelungun and Tanah Karo with its headquarters in Pemantangsiantar. At the same time he also became the leader of all local fighting corps. As in Java, also in East Sumatra primarily, very many armed corps emerged such as Pesindo Napindo, Hisbullah, and legions such as Harimau Liar, Naga Terbang, Halilintar, Legiun Penggempur etc.

It can be easily deduced that the experiences in leading these corps into fights against aggression and occupation by enemies had become very valuable training. Such things in fact constituted the Academy of Revolution where the future

leaders and officers were trained and underwent natural selection, and where the people had given birth to their army.

When the organization of the People's Security Army in Sumatra was established, six Divisions were formed. East Sumatra got its Division IV. The division commandant was Col. Ahmad Tahir; and Lt. Col. Sitompul became the Chief of Staff. Not long afterwards Col. Ahmad Tahir was appointed as the commandant of the Military Police over the whole of Sumatra, and Lt. Col. Sitompul had replaced him as the commandant of Division IV which was later called Division Gadjah II. This rank was held by Sitompul until the reorganization of the army had taken place, in which Division Gadjah II (East Sumatra) and the Division Gadjah I (Atjeh) were resolved into one division (Division x). And Lt. Col. Sitompul had been entrusted as the Chief of Staff of this division.

In the framework of reconstruction and reorganization of our army, and before the second Dutch aggression, Sitompul had been transferred to Java to become the Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia, and was situated in the revolutionary capital of Djokdjakarta. Here he started his life with a new task and at a new place, contributing his ability and knowledge to the development of the whole armed forces.

The guerrilla warfare in which he participated in the areas surrounding Djokdjakarta had given him the opportunity to understand the way of life of the people and soldiers in Java.

The recognition of national sovereignty and the transfer of security responsibility over the whole territory to the Government of the United States of Indonesia had necessitated the Armed Forces of the United States of Indonesia to send troops and their officers to places especially outside Java and Sumatra. At the beginning of 1950 Sitompul had to leave Djokdjakarta for his transfer to Borneo where he became the commandant of Brigade F, in Bandjarmasin. From Bandjarmasin he was transferred to Balikpapan, as the commandant of Brigade E, and later he returned to Bandjarmasin to become the Chief of Staff of Territory VI.

In 1953 he was called back to Java, and after taking some Staff courses in Djakarta, he was placed in the Siliwangi Division as the Chief of Staff, Section II, in Tasikmalaja, and later he served as the Chief of General Staff IV, Siliwangi Division, in Bandung. In 1957 he was relieved from his command to enable him to follow the Senior Course at the Armed Forces Commandant Staff School in Bandung. At this place he met Col. Sambas. It was as a matter of fact that all officers coming from different parts of Indonesia gathered at this school and used the opportunity to exchange their views

and thoughts. It was also as a matter of fact that these acquaintances were to result in mutual assistance and cooperation in running the organization of the Armed Forces.

After completing his training at the staff school in 1958, he was promoted to the Chief of Staff of East Indonesian Inter-Regional Command, in Makasar. This important and heavy task was held until the end of 1959 and afterwards, as a middle officer, he was appointed as an assistant to the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces. Later on he was placed at the Headquarters of the Veterans Legion as the Secretary General.

Well, these are some notes on the biography of our Secretary General Lt. Col. H. T. Sitompul who is now 37 years old and who at the age of 23 had once taken the command over a division during the revolution in East Sumatra and who served in posts that took him almost over the whole part of Indonesia.

As it has always been the case with all sons of the territory that inherited the heroism of Si Simangaradja, Lt. Col. Sitompul always speaks frankly and in serious tones, but always in a friendly manner and openly.

In his inauguration speech at the Working Conference of the Veterans Legion, on October 10, the Chief of Staff of Armed Forces said that for the purpose of solution of the Veterans problems the Armed Forces had contributed its best officer. This appraisal was given its right proportion by the appointing of Lt. Col. Sitompul to the Headquarters of the Veterans Legion primarily in the position of the commandant, but also holding simultaneously the rank of a cabinet minister.

In a speech delivered by Col. Sambas at his nomination he said: "Lt. Col. Sitompul is a newcomer for the Veterans Legion, but he is already well-known through his struggle in the Armed Forces since 1945, so that we can expect from him good leadership and a profound understanding of the problems of the mass of our veterans.

This hope is also the hope of all the veterans, and with them we would like to share our best wishes for our Secretary General Lt. Col. Sitompul, H. T.

KING SJAHNAN

✓The following is a full translation of an article written by S. Gus appearing in Mimbar Umum, (Public Forum), Medan, 10 April 1960, page 4.✓

King Sjahnan is a military officer who is also quite active in the field of rehabilitation and reconstruction. As for his scholarly qualities, he passed the oral examination on the subject of state ideology and other related matters. King Sjahnan, who is a Major and a citizen of Labuhan Batu was born in Simatahari (Kotapinang) the royal son of the deceased King Tongah Ahmad (village chief in Simatahari while he was alive). He received his scholastic training at the Netherlands Native School and was a graduate of the More Extensive Lower Education Program, with intensive studies in the field of mathematics. He also graduated from a school for teacher-training, "IVOORNO" in Medan which he attended in 1941-42, and passed High School, with intensive studies in mathematics, ("LPPU"), in Medan also. He was examined and passed by Dr. Mohammed Hatta in the fields of state ideology, state politics, and state organization.

He entered military service during the Japanese occupation, receiving military instruction at the Takunan Kuransyo, in Bangkahulu.

As regards his experiences in the period beginning with 1945, when Indonesia was gaining its independence, the following may be noted. He once trained youths in Pantai Labu; was interpreter for the Japanese in Medan; was placed in charge of a command in the Indonesian National Army, in Medan, and, in 1946 he became Chief of General Staff, Third Battalion, Fourth Division, in Perbaungan. He also served as chief of civil officials in Lapang Pakam (and was also active in bringing irrigation to Lapang Pakam so that it could have rice fields). He also served as Commander of the Fourth Company, Third Battalion, Second Division, with the rank of Second Lieutenant. In 1946-47 he served as a commander at the front in Maksom, South Medan, Bindjai Amplas, and defended these fronts against attacks from the Dutch. He was also commander of the Two Rivers front and Commander, Company 2, Fifth Battalion, etc., etc.

He served in combat action against the Dutch forces also on several other fronts, in the Serdang region, even as far as Tanah Karo and all the way to the shores of Lake Toba.

Once in the year 1949 he penetrated in operations to

Atjeh and then returned to the field of battle in Tanah Karo/Atjeh. During the period of ferocious Dutch attacks against regions which were being defended by guerilla forces of the Republic of Indonesia Major Sjahnan captured two Dutch soldiers without firing a shot, and moreover he even returned them back to the Dutch side, in accordance with the promise made by the Commandant of Headquarters. The Major once served as liason officer in Kabandjahe where the Dutch officers were surprised to learn of his command of international parlance, his humble but fervent spirit but not displaying the stubborn and willful spirit which many of the Dutch soldiers themselves had.

It was in 1949 that Major Sjahnan's forces for the first time entered into the city of Medan. Once he was even Commander of the 111th Battalion of the White Horse troops from Central Java, with the rank of 1st Lieutenant. Forces under his command once even saw action in West Java, and later they again were in operation in Atjeh, this time against Darul Islam and Islamic Forces of Indonesia.

After he had become a captain in 1953, he had the opportunity, in 1956, to attend training courses of the Commandant Staff School of the Army, in Bandung, and after that was given the rank of Major and placed in charge of the 133rd Battalion troops.

Soon after he got married he rejoined his unit and saw action in the Wahab Macmour incident in Siantar, the Sugiharto incident in Medan, and the "OSM" Nainggolan incident, until he was once again forced to return to his area of operation in Tapanuli in order to put down the insurrectionists, all the while having to also quell disturbances among his own troops and prevent adverse influences from affecting them, mete out discipline and justice among them, too.

Some of the hair-raising experiences which Major Sjahnan had to take his forces through were a forced march to Tapanuli via Labuhan Batu, while at the same time breaking through heavy fire from the insurgent forces near Labuhan Batu, Gunung Tua, Nabundong, Aek Godang, Padang Sidempuan, Batangtoru, Pinangsori including its air-strip and finally fought his way to Sibolga, and after that to Sajur Matinggi, Penjabungan, Kotanopan in order to make contact with forces from Commandant 17-8 which had to come from West Sumatra by way of Muara Sipongi, Rao, and Lapang Sikaping. Following that Major Sjahnan had to lead his forces in attacks in and around South and Central Tapanuli.

In addition to his military record not to be forgotten are his activities in behalf of the people in the area of the economy, as he was responsible for economic advances and progress in the places where he was assigned in the Tapanuli

area.

The above is only a very brief recapitulation of the experiences of Major Sjahnan in our national struggle; and they show to what extent he will place his energies at the disposal of the country and the people, to the end that threats to our security that arise from machinations of politically and militarily unstable and shifting persons may be lessened and ultimately made to disappear.

As long as he was Chief of Staff, Regiment 2, and assigned to Siantar Major Sjahnan accommodated himself very well there and got along with the people; he intermingled with all levels of society, from the top to the bottom.

Regardless of the fact that he held the office of Chief of Staff of Regiment Two, he was unswerving in his regard for his subordinates in his daily dealings with them; not unfair; not selfish, but rather just and always ready to give freely of his advice to anyone that asked him.

He is known as a peace-loving man; as one who is not given to arguing or talking a lot. It therefore comes to some as a surprise that he works tirelessly and has forceful opinions; is capable of long-range thinking and planning; can accomplish what he has set out to do with little discussion and within a rather short space of time.

If the question should be asked as to why he was appointed as Deputy Governor of North Sumatra, it must be answered that the appointment was not anticipated or even thought about by him inasmuch as he has never been a member of the People's Representative Council of North Sumatra and he has not even once made himself out to be a candidate either for the post of Governor or Deputy.

As regards his duty to conduct himself in ways that are above reproach in the eyes of God, he is always just and God-fearing, so that, for example, when the present writer asked if he might visit him in his home he was told that it would be much more preferable if he scheduled his visit after evening or morning worship, even though the assignment was an important one (for example an interview, etc.).

He participates actively in efforts directed toward the construction of mosques; the completion of mosques already under construction, also prayer houses and chapels. He has accomplished much of this through the calling of committees, one of which was formed for East Sumatra.

As regards official receptions he has declared that they need not be inordinately long or drawn-out. He has said that at receptions of an official or social character it is only necessary to consider matters of importance and factors which are relevant to the considerations of the moment.

Right at the present time he is invested in the office

of Deputy Governor of North Sumatra, with offices in Medan. He is a man who is always ready to welcome any person cordially and open-heartedly in his own home.

When asked about his appointment to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel King Sjahnan answered that he had not yet received any confirmation regarding that appointment, so that he was still wearing the insignia of a Major.

It may be that when he will have been officially invested in the office of Deputy Governor in Medan he will at the same time learn of the order conferring upon him the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Major Sjahnan's mother is still living and resides with him and his family in Siantar. He is of modest means, and there is no show of excessive wealth or pretentiousness.

USMAN, J. S.
NEW REGENT/CHIEF OF ASAHAN REGENCY
A BUSINESS-MINDED, TACITURN MAN

The following is a complete translation of an article written by Pm. Sjahry which appears in Mimbar Umum (Public Forum) dated 13 March 1960, page 4.

"It is too early to enumerate what I will do as Chief of Asahan Regency. But it is certain that I will work hand in glove with four principles: The Political Manifesto of the Republic of Indonesia, the wishes of the Assembly and the people of Asahan, actions conforming with the purpose of the territorial operation and the Welfare Commando Operation. That will be my working guide as regent, in accordance with Government Regulation No. 6/59." So said Usman, J. S., the new Regent/Chief of Asahan Regency in an interview when he was asked what he would do after he was selected as the regent of Asahan Regency.

As was announced, Usman, J. S., Secretary of the North-Sumatra People's Representative Council was chosen by the Central Government as the Regent/Chief of Asahan Regency based on a nomination by that Council itself.

In our opinion, for someone who has been in Asahan for quite some time, he must have at least a program to work on immediately. In this case, Usman, J. S. said that he has a plan in mind which, of course, has to be discussed first with the Asahan Assembly since it is the highest body in the Regency.

According to Usman, J. S., something which must be avoided is the toleration of cheap praise for accomplishments which by nature are readily visible but are only for purposes of propaganda and arousing extolment. In this connection he would ask that the consciousness of the people be alert as to what is important; certainly it is not such things. So we intend to make preparations and take steps that will form a basis for our development in every field.

How trus is the example of building a house. We work on its foundation and erect it, and the eyes can only see the beauty of its creation but not the importance of the construction of that foundation. Even so, you can rest assured that a house not built on a solid foundation will some day collapse. That a government has to function continuously is only natural. What we will do here will be continued by future generations. It is our duty to lay firm foundations

for the future generations to build upon. In order to realize such endeavors, it is necessary to have a definite development program for Asahan so that the government apparatus will not be snowed under with routine and incidental work that pile up every day.

Usman, J. S. further said that without a basic program it is a certainty that the government will drift with conditions that will alternately arise.

Meanwhile, a democratic body, that is the local Assembly, according to the Regent, is a necessary and important body. Even though according to Government Regulation No. 6/59 the regent is given a great amount of responsibility of the regency government, it must be realized that the findings of the Assembly are of great importance as a democratic body and a channel of the will of the people. Therefore democracy should not be interpreted as half a voice plus one.

A conference is very important, yet it has to be remembered that the quality of the result of a conference must always be raised, especially the opinions of the members of the conference regarding the situation and the people who are leading, according to Usman, J. S.

Usman said in this context that a leader must not allow himself to be led by a majority but he has to be able to indicate distinct lines which we have to follow in order to bring this revolution to conclusion. The Political Manifesto of the Republic of Indonesia will serve as a guide for the successful achievement of that conclusion.

In bringing to the fore the difference between the essence of the duties of the new style regent and the old one, he thought that it is the wish of Government Regulation No. 6/59 that the new style regent not only act as the leader of the Regency Government in general but also that he be an instrument of the revolution with the obligation to work for the completion of our national revolution in his regency. In this way, according to this prominent figure, duplication by the central government and regency government will be avoided; and also in the forefront of those who abolish duplication should be the leaders of the government and the revolution, added Usman, J. S.

Usman, J. S., a prominent figure in the Civil Service is a native of Labuhan Ruku and was born on 15 October 1917. He taught in private schools in various places in East Sumatra until 1945. His last teaching job was at the Government Elementary School in Tandjung Balai. As for his career in the field of the national movement, he was a member of the National Committee of Indonesia in Asahan Regency, Secretary of the Asahan Branch of the Nationalist Party, and District Chief attached to the Regent of Asahan. He was a member of

the Congress of Sumatra at Bukittinggi, District Chief/
Executive Chairman of the East- and South-Sumatra Congress
at Rantau Prapat; Chief of the District of Panel at Labuhan
Bilik, member of the Grand Council/Chairman of the Executive
Committee of the Congress of the People of Sumatra for the
abolition of the State of East-Sumatra in Medan; Chairman of
the People's Defense in Labuhan Bilik; Secretary General of
the Nationalist Party for the East-Sumatra Region in Medan;
District Chief of Batu Bara; Chief of the District of Serbel-
awan; Vice-Regent of the Regency of Central-Atjeh in Takengon,
and finally Secretary of the Assembly of the autonomous Region
of North-Sumatra, in Medan.

Usman, J. S. has a talent for business and does not
like to talk much about unnecessary things. His opinions are
based on the philosophical quotations: "Do not combat a wrong
with another wrong so that this world will be a heap of un-
truths. Always fight a wrong with a right even though it will
be hard to practice." He also has a talent for writing. Many
of his essays were written during his earlier glorious period
when they were always published by Balai Pustaka and cultural
periodicals, etc.

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