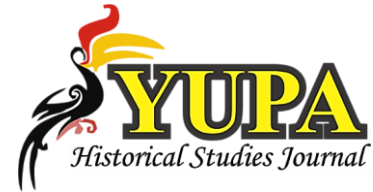


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Pillbox of Kedunglangkap, Kencong, Jember, East Java: A Reminder of The Japanese Colonization Era

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Abstract Many evidence supports that human built structures, sites, or other relic of past activities in places deemed essential to life based on human observations of the geopolitical conditions. Topography and geographic conditions have always had an impact on human decisions to create civilizations, including pillbox construction. There is currently no study using multidisciplinary approaches to analyze the pillbox site history in Kedunglangkap, Kencong, Jember. The purpose of this study is to elucidate the aim and design of pillbox fortifications as a component of the Japanese colonial defense system, as well as the historical context related to pillbox in Kedunglangkap. In addition to the historical research methodology, this research also utilizes the archaeological investigation to explore the construction process of the pillbox in Kedunglangkap and analyze its distribution patterns. The fact that Kedunglangkap had a pillbox indicates how important the area was to the Japanese administration in the past. The pillbox site at Kedunglangkap should be preserved for the purpose of teaching history, since it is an important piece of historically relevant architecture that reminds us of the village's important role in the past.

Keywords: Pillbox, Japanese Colonization Era, Construction.

Abstrak Banyak bukti yang mendukung bahwa bangunan, situs, atau peninggalan aktivitas masa lalu lainnya dibangun oleh manusia di tempat yang dianggap penting bagi kehidupan berdasarkan pengamatan manusia terhadap kondisi geopolitik, topografi, dan kondisi geografis, tidak terkecuali pembangunan pillbox. Saat ini belum ada penelitian yang menggunakan pendekatan multidisiplin untuk menganalisis sejarah situs pillbox di Kedunglangkap, Kencong, Jember. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan fungsi & bentuk konstruksi pillbox sebagai bagian dari sistem pertahanan di masa penjajahan Jepang, dan jiwa zaman yang melingkupi pillbox di Kedunglangkap. Selain metodologi penelitian sejarah, penelitian ini juga menggunakan penyelidikan arkeologi untuk mengeksplorasi bangunan pillbox di Kedunglangkap dan menganalisis pola sebarannya. Fakta bahwa Kedunglangkap mempunyai pillbox pertahanan menunjukkan bahwa betapa pentingnya kawasan itu bagi pemerintahan Jepang di masa lalu. Situs pillbox di Kedunglangkap harus dilestarikan untuk tujuan pengajaran sejarah, karena merupakan bagian penting dari arsitektur yang relevan untuk mengingatkan kita akan peran penting wilayah tersebut di masa lalu.

Kata kunci: Pillbox, Era Kolonialisasi Jepang, Konstruksi.



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INTRODUCTION

Throughout human civilization, it has been common to locate sites, buildings, or other artefacts of past human activity in an area or territory that is seen to be strategically significant. It makes sense that human civilization would locate buildings, locations, or other reminders of past actions in areas thought to be vital to survival. Even in the prehistoric era, such patterns have been present since the rise of early civilizations. Human decisions to establish civilizations are always influenced by the topography or geographical circumstances. The environments in which civilizations emerge frequently have a significant influence on them (Firas 2014).

As a result, in order to accurately portray the patterns of development that a civilization undergoes over time, historical research must make use of specialist methodologies like geography. For example, Fareed Zakaria (2007) employs a similar technique in "The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad" to explain his findings regarding the lack of large territorial states in Europe, which he attributes to the region's topography, which is primarily made up of mountains and rivers, which made military mobilization difficult. Because rivers and oceans offered lucrative trading routes, little areas of Europe were able to prosper and grow independently. On the other hand, armed troops found it simpler to march and deploy in Asia, where the terrain consists of large plains such to the steppes in Russia and the plateaus in China. As a result, these areas were ruled for thousands of years by centralized kingdoms that possessed comparatively large domains. It isn't the same as Africa. Africa is the second-largest continent, yet it presents a different picture. Because of its short and shallow coastlines, which hinder the building of ports, it lacks considerable trading operations. Its rivers are also too shallow and rife with rapids and waterfalls to be navigable.

In "Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed" (2011), Jared Diamond also employs a similar methodology such as Fareed Zakaria. He outlines five potential reasons for a civilization to collapse. These factors include harm to the environment, the effects of climate change, disputes with neighbors, uncooperative trading partners, and society's inadequate reaction to environmental problems. In his another book, "Guns, Germs, and Steel: A Short History of Everybody for the Last 13,000 Years" (2013), Diamond draws the conclusion that environmental variations, not biological differences within specific ethnic groups, are the reason behind the divergent historical trajectories of different ethnic groupings.

In "Nationalists, Soldiers and Separatists: The Ambonese Islands from Colonialism to Revolt, 1880-1950" (2008), Richard Chauvel delves into the geographical and demographic facets of Ambonese society and its environs in the early colonial era, offering a thorough comprehension of the era's context or spirit. In the end, he is able to reach conclusions about the continuity between the 1950 Republic of South Maluku (RMS) revolt and the depiction of

Ambonese culture and its environs throughout the colonial era, findings that are bolstered by solid data.

If a researcher simply looks at one discipline, they won't be able to draw such findings. Thus, in order to obtain a comprehensive knowledge, a social researcher or historian investigating a phenomena or event should take the same approach as the aforementioned Zakaria, Diamond, and Chauvel. This entails using multidisciplinary methods, including geography and other subjects. This study uses pillbox—a shelter built and used by the Japanese during their wartime needs—as its primary research topic in an effort to replicate the work of Zakaria, Diamond, and Chauvel. The pillbox site used for this study is situated in Dusun Kedunglangkap. Kraton Village, Kencong District, Jember Regency.

This study uses a variety of social science-standard methodologies to investigate how the pillbox in Dusun Kedunglangkap were built and to examine the pillbox distribution patterns in the village. This is regarded as a component of the Dusun Kedunglangkap defensive strategy of Japan. Taking into account the background information mentioned above, the following research questions are the main emphasis of this study: What was the atmosphere like at the time of the Japanese colonial period around the pillbox in Kedunglangkap? And how can we examine the pillbox distribution patterns in relation to Dusun Kedunglangkap as a component of the Japanese defense strategy?

METHOD

Historical research methodologies are used in this study. Historical research methods include documenting results based on learned facts that are subsequently presented in historiography, as well as critically examining and analyzing records and artifacts from the past (Hester 2018). In addition to historical research involving heuristic, critical interpretation, and historiography, this study employs the three stages of archaeological inquiry—observation, description, and explanation (Deetz 1967:8). The process of observing and gathering field data is called observation. The primary source of this study is pillbox site located in The Kedunglangkap river. Therefore, the Kedunglangkap river was explored in order to gather field data, which included geographic coordinates, descriptive notes, and images. The process of analyzing field data is called description. Analysis of field data and elaboration of data collected in the field with the assistance of literary data are both necessary for explanation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Pillbox as a Japanese Defense System

The non-Japanese world saw Japan's military incursion into East Asia in the 1930s and 1940s as an attempt to seize control of the region's resources. In contrast, the Japanese perspective saw these measures as a means of freeing East Asia from the bonds of Western

colonialism and establishing prosperity in the region by viewing Japan as an older sibling prepared to mentor younger siblings toward achieving equality in prosperity¹. However, whatever the justification, the Japanese army seized control of Northern China in the 1930s and Southeast Asia in the 1940s (Thomas 1966:630).

According to Japan's Minister of War, Hideki Tojo, the country's ability to maintain psychological and physical control over the people living in the areas it had invaded was essential to the country's success in expanding its borders. Tojo gave instructions to Japanese civilian authorities in the fall of 1942 to honor the locals' customs and traditions when they were posted to administrative positions across Southeast Asia². As long as traditional religious practices did not impede the military government's ability to administer its occupations effectively, Japan's attitude regarding religion and customs was to permit and defend them. The Japanese propaganda theory known as the "three A's" was one example of Tojo's instruction: Asia's Prosperous Japan Asia's Guardian and Japan's Leader (Juwitasari 2019:67).

Japan tried to exert physical control over the people living in the occupied territories in addition to psychological control. Building the facilities or military infrastructure Japan needed to enable its advance into Asian lands was one of these initiatives. The pillbox was one of the equipment or military facilities Japan used. Among the facilities ascribed to Japan's demands during the war is the pillbox (Sato 1998:175). Typically prevalent in Southeast Asia, pillbox is a defining characteristic of Japanese defense during World War II (Al Mujabuddawat and Handoko 2018:117–19). The term "pillbox" itself comes from "veillbox," a compound word made up of the Dutch words "safe" or "security," "veiligheid" (Wasito 2000:715), and "box" (Wasito 2000:104). Consequently, a "pillbox" is a structure that is employed for security; it is usually square or box-shaped, but some may be round, and it has openings and gaps for aim (Marzuki 2015:113–14). Given that Japan was renowned for its rapid and unexpected attacks, the pillbox is a defense facility that fits very well with Japanese traits (Al Mujabuddawat and Handoko 2018:125; Ojong 2001:301).

In order to launch their attacks more successfully, Japanese adversaries were compelled to go closer to the pillboxes during the Pacific War. Trying to take down pillboxes with a bulletproof design from a distance would not be a successful tactic (Al Mujabuddawat and Handoko 2018:125). The fact that numerous intact pillbox sites have been found attests to the resilience of these defenses. Historical evidence supports the view that Japan's downfall resulted from a series of setbacks in a number of areas, including economics, human resources, and protracted wartime exhaustion, rather than mainly from the collapse of pillboxes during

¹ The Eighty Year History of the Education System (Tokyo: Ministry of Education of Japan, 1954), Chap. 23 (in Japanese language)

² Extracted from the October 1942 speech record of Hideki Tojo, held by Isao Sekiguchi, the chief district administrator of Tapanuli under the Japanese 25th Army in Sumatra.

combat. Japan's condition was also made worse by the Allies' sly tactics in cutting off key locations for Japanese logistics interests. In order to meet its logistical needs throughout the war, Japan was forced to heedlessly abuse the resources of the captured areas (Hermawan 2017:226). These actions persisted until August 6 and 9, 1945, the pinnacle of Japan's defeat by the Allies, when Hiroshima and Nagasaki were destroyed, ultimately culminating to Japan's unconditional surrender to the Allies on September 2, 1945 (Al Mujabuddawat and Handoko 2018:126).

The Construction of Kedunglangkap Pillbox

A mixture of cement, sand, and gravel is used in casting techniques to create the concrete pillbox at Kedunglangkap. This approach is paired with mortar. The goal of using mortar is to provide the pillbox walls a smooth interior and exterior surface (Chawari 2016:71). The pillbox is made of robust material, which protects the interior from outside threats including weather, animals, and weapon fire. The pillbox, so named because of its shape, is the smallest defensive building unit that may house a small number of people in several locations. As a result, soldiers can efficiently assault and defend by using pillbox.



Figure 1 Pillbox Kedunglangkap from the south

Both on offensive and defense, the pillbox turns out to be a very useful instrument (Batubara 2015:8; Mansyur 2011:44; Al Mujabuddawat and Handoko 2018:117). On the other hand, the efficiency of a pillbox depends on its specific location. Pillboxes may work differently in a different location. Japan knew that its position in the Pacific War was being weakened by the conflict. Japan therefore built a number of defensive facilities specific to each region in order to defend its land (Chawari 2013:60). Therefore, it can be inferred that the Kedunglangkap region was considered appropriate for pillbox construction at that time.

Type and Size of Kedunglangkap Pillbox

Pillboxes can often be divided into two categories: small and large, depending on their size. Large pillboxes are approximately 3 meters in diameter, more than 2 meters in height, and

40 centimeters thick on the walls. Big pillboxes usually have many shooting apertures of different diameters and a single entrance door that is about one meter tall.



Figure 2 Pillbox Kedunglangkap from the east

On the other hand, small pillboxes usually measure about 2 meters in diameter, 1 to 1.5 meters in height, and 30 cm thick on the walls. Typically, small pillboxes contain many firing loopholes for shooting and one access door.

Location of Pillbox Kedunglangkap

The research site for the pillbox under study is in the village of Kedunglangkap, which is located in Kraton Village, Kencong District, Jember Regency. Situated geographically, the pillbox was built along the north-south banks of a river. This river's eastern bank is where the pillbox is situated. Although several homes had been constructed around the pillbox at the time of this investigation, there are numerous farming plots to the right and left of the pillbox. There's a public road east of the pillbox, then some agricultural or residential areas, and finally the river. This makes the region extremely strategically important for agriculture because it is bordered by two sizable rivers.

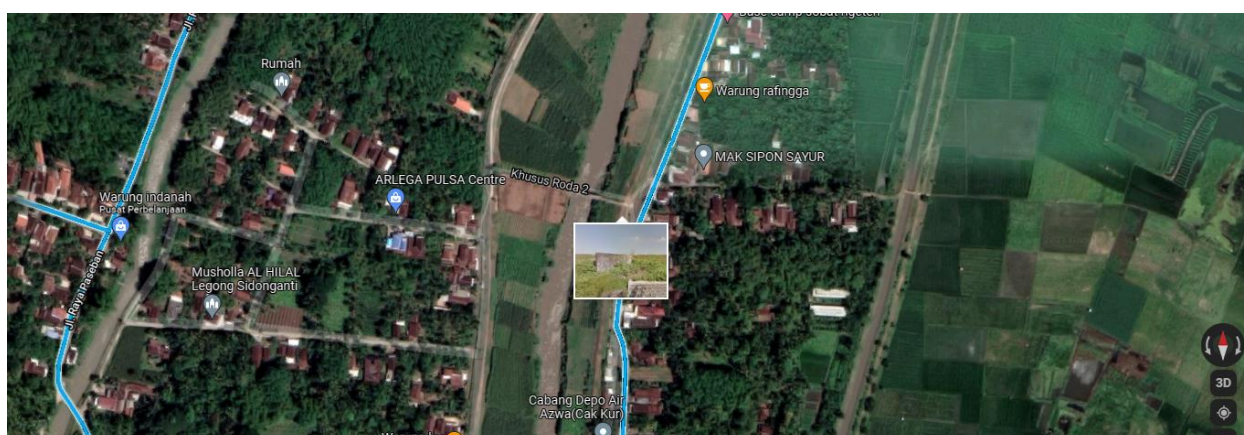


Figure 3 The Satellite Image of Pillbox Kedunglangkap Location

The fields that are currently owned by inhabitants around the Pillbox Kedunglangkap have no official ownership, but there are still residents who have the right to utilize the land. Previously, the region around the Pillbox Kedunglangkap consisted of only around two houses and rice fields. On the other hand, they are comfortable with the purchase and sale of usage rights with a straightforward contract and no documentation. The requirement for land ownership certificates in the region was only heavily pushed under President Soeharto's administration.

Several marshes (tabelan) are still enjoyed by locals despite lacking official land title records because of their right of usage. These kinds of tactics are also present in Kedunglangkap Market, where, according to Mbak Nik, a vendor there, neither she nor the other merchants have ownership rights over the booths they are occupying. Rather, her usage rights are limited to the stalls that she and most other market traders occupy. Because of this, they are still able to purchase and sell market stalls in accordance with their usage rights. They also know that the state owns all of the booths, so they obligingly pay Rp. 2000 daily to the administrators of the next village (Kraton); at the time, Zaenal Abidin handled the collection.³

Atmari claims that these customs stem from the ancestors' ethical practices in Java, where trading takes place in black and white even in the absence of official documents. Since everything in land or stall transactions is based on mutual trust, no legal documentation is necessary to keep the parties' confidence in one another. Since the seller's descendants believe that the land, stall, or other item being sold still belongs to their family, there is no need to worry about them bringing claims.⁴

Zeitgeist of Pillbox Kedunglangkap during the Japanese Occupation

Within the Asian region, Japan served as the impetus for the start of World War II. Japan was the world's fourth-largest military power at the time, behind the US, France, and Britain. The term "The Four Power Treaty" was widely used to refer to these four countries (Dania 2014). It seemed sense, then, that Japan asserted its dominance over the other Asian countries. Under the guise of establishing some kind of Asian prosperity from 1940, Japan's aggressive attempts to annex Asian territory were sparked by this notion (Juwitasari 2019:65). Japan started its invasion of Southeast Asian territory in the middle of 1941 as a result of the United States and Japan's deteriorating diplomatic ties. Finally, on December 11, 1941, Japanese forces descended into the island of Sulawesi in the Dutch East Indies, then known as Indonesia. On January 10, 1942, a month later, they arrived on Borneo (then known as Kalimantan) (Soetan 2001:108–12).

³ Interview conducted on December 27, 2023, at 10:00 AM local time, with Mbak Nik, a vendor at Kedunglangkap Market.

⁴ Interview conducted on December 30, 2023, 9:00 AM local time with Atmari, resident of Kedunglangkap Hamlet,.

In Subang, West Java, on March 9, 1942, three months later, the Kalijati Agreement was signed. The Dutch colonial era in the Dutch East Indies came to an end with this agreement. Nevertheless, the Netherlands' reluctance to give up control over long-held areas made the deal difficult to implement. Nonetheless, the Netherlands was not in a good geopolitical position internationally. In order to protect Dutch territory from German invasion, Queen Wilhelmina, the country's supreme ruler at the time, gave orders for all Dutch forces stationed overseas, including those in the Dutch East Indies, to return to the Netherlands. Japan was able to seize control of Tarakan, Kalimantan's oil resources as a result of this circumstance.

Table 1. Area of Administration during Dutch & Japanese Colonialization

No.	Areas of Administration During Dutch Colonialism	No.	Areas of Administration During Japanese Colonialism
1	Sumatra and surrounding areas	1	Java and Madura
2	Bintang/Riouw Islands	2	Sumatra
3	Lingga Islands	3	Borneo, Celebes/Sulawesi, Maluku, Nusa Tenggara, and Irian Jaya
4	Karimata Islands		
5	Tambilan Island		
6	Anambas Island		
7	Natuna Island		
8	Bangka and Belitung Islands and surrounding areas		
9	Java, Madura, and surrounding areas		
10	Borneo		
11	Celebes and surrounding areas		
12	All islands around East Borneo and Java		
13	Northern Timor region		
14	Northern Borneo region		
15	Sulu Island		

Japan thereafter spread to Palembang, South Sumatra, and eventually Java after seizing control of Borneo's natural resources (Soetan 2001:112). At the time, Java was seen by Japan as a viable area for rice and sugar supply (Ricklefs 2008:34). The Dutch East Indies were split into Army territories (Java and Sumatra) and Navy territories (Sulawesi, South Kalimantan, and other areas) during the Japanese occupation (see Table 1.). The Dutch East Indies was the territory where Japan made the highest-value investments, accounting for up to 30% of Japan's overall investments, in comparison to other Asian regions under Japanese colonialism

(Yasuyuki 1996:137–51). Japanese investments were varied and dispersed over numerous industries, as the Dutch East Indies had a variety of economic potentials dispersed among its islands. But at the time, plantation and agricultural industries accounted for the majority of Japanese investments in the Dutch East Indies, which totaled 12.1% of Japan's total assets in the region (Yasuyuki 1996:137).

It's clear from the description above that Japan's agriculture and plantation industries were essential. It makes sense, then, that Japan built infrastructure in the regions they ruled to facilitate the seamless running of these industries. It seems that Japan regarded the village of Kedunglangkap and its environs as essential regions for their authority, given the connection to the Pillbox at Kedunglangkap and its location. This is demonstrated by the pillbox's location between two rivers and a large area of agricultural land. Large rice fields and river streams make up the topographical composition of Kedunglangkap and its environs, which made them great assets for Japan, especially when it came to meeting their logistical food needs during the war. Then when was this pillbox constructed?

Mapping Japan's mobilization efforts using the human resources under their control—laborers in this case—is important to provide an answer to that question. The stages of labor mobilization during Japanese colonization are split into three categories by Sato (1998:175): Phase I: following the Kalijati Agreement, worker mobilization began in March 1942 and continued until the end of October 1943 with the aim of repairing Dutch-damaged facilities (see Table 2. Chronology of Japan's presence in the Dutch East Indies); Phase II, which ran from mid-August 1943 to the end of 1944, was dedicated to building wartime facilities, including pillboxes, in strategically designated areas; Phase III, which began in early October 1943 and ended with Japan's surrender, saw campaigns to increase production in a variety of fields, including agriculture, particularly rice production. Thus, based on these phase divisions, it is very possible that the building of pillbox in Kedunglangkap village took place between mid-August 1943 and the end of 1944. Moreover, the installation of pillbox in Kedunglangkap hamlet suggests that Japan regarded the Kedunglangkap region and its environs as strategically important.

Table 2. Chronology of Japan's Presence in the Dutch East Indies

Timeline	Events
1938-1939	Japan entered the Dutch East Indies pretending to be on a business trip.
1940-1945	Japan (as fourth-strongest military power, behind the US, France, and Britain) started World War II in Asia.
1940	Alongside the Allied Powers, which included the United States, Britain, Australia, France, the Netherlands, and other countries, the fascist states of Japan, Germany, and Italy formed the Axis Powers.
10 May 1940	The Netherlands was attacked first by Germany.
7 December 1941	The Japanese Navy attacked the US Navy fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in an attempt to stop the US from getting involved in Japan's territorial expansion into the Asia-Pacific region. As a result, Japan started to encroach on the Asia-Pacific region and the United States joined the war. (Gilbert 2014:272)
December 1941	Japan's territorial expansions include the Philippines, Hong Kong, Thailand, Myanmar, and the Malay Peninsula (Soetanto, Hardjijo, and Pribadi 2009). Japan was declared to be at war by Governor General Tjarda van Starckenborgh Stachouwer.
11 December 1941	On the island of Sulawesi in the Dutch East Indies, the Japanese force made their landing.
12 January 1942	Through Tarakan, the Japanese force made their way to the island of Borneo (Fadli and Kumalasari 2019)
1 March 1942	Japan took control of Banten Bay, Eretan Wetan, West Java, and Kragan, Central Java, under the command of General Hitoshi Imamura.
5 March 1942	After seizing control of Batavia, Japan declared that the Dutch government had been replaced.
7 March 1942	The Dutch surrendered to Japan in Bandung.
8 March 1942	The Dutch colonial era in the Dutch East Indies came to an end with the signing of the Kalijati Agreement in Subang, West Java. To defend their territory from Germany, Queen Wilhelmina gave the order for all Dutch troops to return to the Netherlands. As a result, Japan was able to seize control of Tarakan, Kalimantan's oil resources. They then spread to South Sumatra's Palembang and, ultimately, Java. Following this stage, Japan assumed exclusive control over the erstwhile Dutch colonial administrative regions (Subartono 1994).

The Japanese Defense Strategy's Pillbox Distribution Pattern in Kedunglangkap

Both on offensive and defense, pillboxes are incredibly useful equipment (Batubara 2015:8; Mansyur 2011:44; Al Mujabuddawat and Handoko 2018:117). However, the position in which pillboxes are placed affects how successful they are when used. The efficacy of pillboxes may differ depending on the location. Japan recognized that the war was hurting its standing in relation to the Pacific War. Japan therefore built a variety of military installations suited to the unique circumstances of each region in order to preserve control over its territories (Chawari

2013:60). Therefore, it can be presumed that the Kedunglangkap area was thought to be appropriate for pillbox building.

The fact that pillbox can be found in Kedunglangkap hamlet suggests that the area around Kedunglangkap and its environs were important to Japan. What, in Japan's opinion, makes the Kedunglangkap area strategically significant is the question. Geographically speaking, there are vast rice fields around the pillbox structure in the village of Kedunglangkap, which are bounded by two sizable rivers to the west and east. There are also large rice fields to the east of the river in that direction. This type of topography for the rice fields and river substantially supports agricultural activities, particularly rice cultivation, which was crucial for Japan at the time.

Human civilizations have historically developed around rivers as a community, civilization, or group (Aizid 2018:160–61). Rivers are essential to agricultural communities, particularly for irrigation purposes. Although it is no longer in existence, the pillbox in Kedunglangkap is fairly aligned with the pillbox in Jatisari (which is situated close to the bridge, or Gladak), and it is aligned with the pillbox near the Sadaran River. The primary purpose of the Kedunglangkap pillbox, according to Basori, a resident whose home is in front of it, is to act as a security measure for inhabitants' admission and departure during that period⁵. The Japanese military stationed at the pillbox would inspect anyone entering or leaving the area. Residents were often killed and then dumped into the nearby river.

Both the Japanese and the Dutch saw the southern region of Jember as strategically important. Jeni area was once planned for land reclamation using sediment from swallows from the river during the rainy season so that the swamps in the area could be cultivated. The Dutch government wanted to use this strategy because since the Dutch era, the southern region had already been a focus of the government to strengthen its position. Therefore, it is not a surprise that pillbox was installed as security measures at the entrances and exits to and from the southern Jember area. This was done with the intention of controlling the area locally.

Historical events following the Japanese surrender, especially the reoccupation of the Kencong District by the Netherlands with assistance from the *Nederlandsch Indie Civil Administration* (NICA), further strengthened Dusun Kedunglangkap's crucial position. During this period, Kedunglangkap became the new location of the Kencong District's center of government.⁶ Kedunglangkap was rich in historical battle, according to KH. Sadid Jauhari, a caretaker of Pondok Pesantren Assunnayah Kencong Jember. An Islamic scholar in Dusun Kedunglangkap named KH. Nasuha Hilal told him stories about how, in 1946, the Netherlands

⁵ Interview conducted on November 20, 2023, at 10:30 AM local time, with Basori, a resident around the pillbox in Kedunglangkap.

⁶ Interview conducted on November 17, 2023, at 9:30 AM local time, with KH. Sadid Jauhari, a caretaker of Pondok Pesantren Assunnayah Kencong Jember.

moved the capital from Jakarta to Yogyakarta as part of its attempt to retake control of Indonesia with the help of allies (Adam 1984; Wiharyanto 2009), and afterwards to Bukittinggi, West Sumatra (in 1948) as a result of Yogyakarta's disruption by the Dutch Military Aggression II (Basral 2011; Kahin 2005:203; Zed 1997). Analogous changes in the centers of government also took place in Kencong. The district center was originally located at Kencong, but was later moved to Kedunglangkap due to Dutch rule. In order to scare the local freedom fighters, the Dutch at the moment brashly emptied their ammunition—roughly a truckload worth—in front of the Kencong District Office.

Given that the Dutch had taken control of Kencong, the warriors at the time chose to go to Kedunglangkap and establish Kedunglangkap as the seat of the Kencong District government. In a dramatic fashion, Kiai Hayyi, who was the chairman of Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) at the time, was named the district head (camat) at that point. KH. Nawawi Ponjen was named the district police head (Polsek) in the interim. Because of this kind of drama, the Indonesian administration in the region was able to survive even if the Dutch had gained control of the Kencong office at the time. Kedunglangkap's choice to become the Kencong government's replacement center is proof that it was a strategically important location at the time.

CONCLUSION

In contrast to other Asian regions that Japan colonized, the Dutch East Indies, or *India-Belanda*, had the largest amount of Japanese investment. But at that time, plantation and agricultural industries accounted for the majority of Japanese investments in the Dutch East Indies. It follows that the agricultural and plantation industries were essential to Japan. As a result, it made sense for Japan to create and construct a range of facilities that would enable plantation and agricultural operations in the areas under their authority to run smoothly. Japan seems to have valued the territory surrounding Kedunglangkap village as essential to their existence and dominance, as evidenced by the pillbox's placement in Kedunglangkap village, Kraton village, Kencong sub-district, and Jember district. This is demonstrated by the pillbox's location between two rivers and large fields. Kedunglangkap and its environs, with their enormous rice paddies and flowing rivers, were Japan's greatest natural resources during the war, particularly when it came to meeting their logistical food requirements.

For the sake of historical teaching, the pillbox site at Kedunglangkap should be conserved and protected as a historically significant architecture that recalls the village's pivotal place in the past. Furthermore, a more thorough investigation is required to determine the historical significance of items from the colonial era that can be used as symbols of historical collective memory. This includes investigating who was involved in the building process, the political policy stances that encouraged the creation of buildings like pillboxes, and other

relevant topics. The results of this study, which claim that the existence of pillbox in Kedunglangkap hamlet is proof of the area's vitality and its importance for the Japanese government in the past, require more examination.

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