

# Fort Rotterdam, a Dutch stronghold at Ujung Pandang An example of beautiful Dutch military architecture on South-East Sulawesi / Celebes



**P(icture).1 The very friendly staff of the library of Fort Rotterdam with the author Dirk Teeuwen (at the right of course) in the middle of a very hot day in 1998**

## Contents

**1. Statements 2. History of Fort Rotterdam in a nutshell 3. Pictures and comments**

## 1. Statements

### Sources

#### -Pictures

1. photo's Dirk Teeuwen
2. private postcard/photo/drawing/lithograph collection Dirk Teeuwen
3. books (private library Dirk Teeuwen)

#### -Private library Dirk Teeuwen

### Quotations

1. G.K.H. de Bont: Het Fort Rotterdam te Makassar  
From the periodical "Tropisch Nederland" Amsterdam 1938-1939 p. 404-409
3. W.H. van Helsdingen: Daar werd wat groots verricht...; Amsterdam 1941 p. 129
4. C.A. Heshusius: KNIL 1830-1950, een fotodocumentaire over het dagelijks leven van het koloniale leger in Nederlandsch-Indië; Houten 1986 p. 32
5. Perelaer, M.T.H.: Het kamerlid Van Berkestein in Nederlandsch-Indië; Tekeningen door jhr J.C. van Rappard; Leiden 1888 deel 3  
From > Feith, jhr P.R.: Catalogus der verzameling van boeken en prenten betreffende op de stad Batavia; Batavia 1937
6. T.J. Bezemer: Door Nederlandsch Oost-Indië; Groningen Holland 1906 p. 434-439
7. C.W.M. van de Velde: Gezigten uit Neêrlands Indië; Amsterdam 1845 picture 41
8. dr V.I. van de Wall: Oude Hollandsche bouwkunst in Indonesië; Utrecht Holland 1942 pictures 9, 10, 11, 12

### Recommended

1. J. de Jong: De Waaier van het Fortuin; Den Haag Holland 1998
2. J.R. van Diessen, R.P.G.A. Voskuil; Stedenatlas Nederlands-Indië; Purmerend Holland 1998
3. F. Witkamp (ed.) e.a.: Gedenkboek van het KNIL\*; Amersfoort 1961 \* KNIL=Royal Dutch East-Indian Army
4. R. van Oers: Dutch Town Planning Overseas during VOC and WIC Rule (1600-1800); Zutphen Holland 2000
5. dr C.L. Temminck Groll, W. van Alphen m.a. and others: The Dutch overseas architectural survey; Zwolle 2000

#### -Rendez-vous Batavia (see our disclaimer)

Rendez-vous Batavia is a non-profit organization. The editors have the aim to stimulate the interest for the history of The Dutch East-Indies / Indonesia. To prevent reproduction: this article is transposed into pdf. No part of our articles may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever.

**-Production, where and when: Holland , June 2006**

## More information?

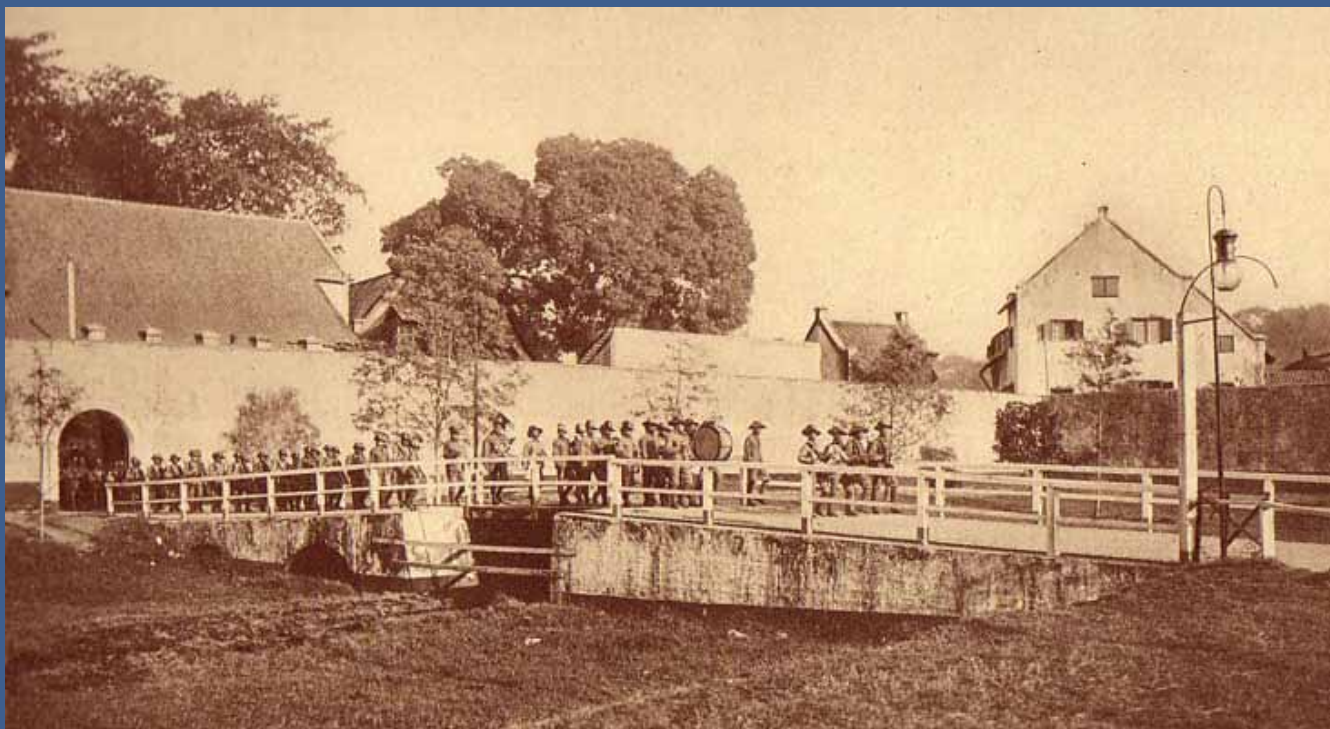
**See our "History of Indonesia" via our index/front page, click "The conquest of Makassar by the Dutch"!!**

Rendez-vous Batavia D. Teeuwen / H. Doorn June 2006

## 2. History of Fort Rotterdam in a nutshell

Ujung Pandang, former Makassar, is one of the largest cities of Indonesia outside Java. The city is worth a visit because of its colonial offices, churches, mosques, markets, Chinese quarter, harbours, boulevards and so on. The culture is very varied: Toradja, Buginese, Makassarese up to and including Javanese, Chinese, Ambonese and Dutch.

North of Hotel Benteng and south of the old Perahu Harbour – Pelabuhan Hatta and Pelabuhan Sukarno - at the coast of Selat (Strait) Makassar the Dutch Fort Rotterdam, to day Fort Ujung Pandang, cannot be overlooked. Nearby the waterfront the defences guard splendid colonial buildings dating from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Fort Rotterdam now houses two museums (Speelman's House and La Galigo) and was, until 1998, a center of Indonesian historical services because of the presence of a V.O.C.-library. In 1998 this public library with a lot of original information about the Dutch East Indian Company (V.O.C.) was moved from the fort to the governor's quarters elsewhere in Ujung Pandang.



**P.2 Fort Rotterdam / Fort Ujung Pandang, the eastern landward gate 1926, private collection Dirk Teeuwen**  
**A detachment of the garrison of Makassar, the band in front, is leaving Fort Rotterdam from the postern gate on the east for a parade. Noteworthy are the characteristic bamboo army hats. The building at the right is the armoury.**

In 1150 the first fortress on this site was built by the Makassarese king of Gowa on a spit of land (ujung) grown over with a marsh plant (pandang) and was rebuilt in brick about 1620 by Gowa's king Allah Udin. In 1667 the trading port Ujung Pandang was taken over by the Dutch admiral Cornelis Speelman to gain a monopoly over the spice trade from the eastern part of the archipelago. In 1667 most of the Makassarese forts were destroyed by the V. O. C. because of the Treaty of Bungaya between the Dutch and the Sultanate of Makassar. One fort, located in the north, had been spared from destruction and became the Dutch headquarter as well as a bastion of eastern Dutch East India. Reconstruction of this benteng took place in 1673 and the Dutch changed the name in Fort Rotterdam after the birthplace of the first colonial governor of Makassar admiral Cornelis Speelman. The new V.O.C.-town consisted of Fort Rotterdam, a small town called Vlaardingen (named after a Dutch fishing town near Rotterdam), kampong Baru, kampong Melayu, a complex of fruit and vegetable gardens and a small Benteng Vredenburg south of these gardens and opposite an European graveyard.

Until about 1880 the structure of the town did not change very much. The municipality was called Makassar in the course of time and Vlaardingen became Balanda and Endeh.

Vlaardingen - now a neighbourhood called Palandingan, former Balanda and Endeh - was situated north of Fort Rotterdam along the coast. This is, more or less, the area between Jl Irian, Jl Yani, Jl. Lembeh and Pelabuhan Hatta.

(Text continues after P.6)

(P.15 and P.16 are aerial photographs of the benteng)

Rendez-vous Batavia D. Teeuwen / H. Doorn June 2006



P.3 Fort Rotterdam, the eastern landward gate from the south 1935, Van de Wall picture 9



P.4 The eastern landward gate from the north 1938, private collection Dirk Teeuwen  
The gate is hardly visible. Have a look at the white bridge and then glance to the right.



P.5 Fort Rotterdam from the east 1842, Van de Velde picture 41

The landward gate is invisible because of the trees. The tall building with the windows at the right behind the wall is the armoury.  
Rendez-vous Batavia D. Teeuwen / H. Doorn June 2006



**P.6 The eastern wall and the landward gate 1884, drawing / litho by Van Rappard**

**The land-gate and the white bridge are visible at the left (see P.1). The armoury stands at the right behind the wall. It is the lofty house with the windows.**

Kampong Beroe was south of the fort (between Jl Supratman and Benteng Rotterdam) and Kampong Melajoe north of Vlaardingen (between Jl Lembeh and Jl Butung). The garden and Fort Vredenburg were situated inland, east of Vlaardingen. Fort Vredenburg was on the corner of Jl Sudirman and Jl Bulusarung, opposite Karebosi Square, former Koningsplein in the Dutch period. As far as I can remember there is a commercial bank on this spot across a hospital. The names Beroe and Melajoe live on in the names of two city districts: Baru and Melayu.

Vlaardingen was inhabited with Dutch, Chinese, Malay and Arab merchants. The population of the kampongs were mixed also: natives, freed slaves, but also some Dutch and Malay.



**P.7 Pelabuhan Sukarno / Prauwenhaven (Prahau Harbour) at Ujung Pandang 1932, private collection Dirk Teeuwen**  
**The photo has been taken from the north. So we are looking to the south. The fish market or pasar ikan is, invisible, at the left.**  
 Rendez-vous Batavia D. Teeuwen / H. Doorn June 2006

Most of the buildings were constructed in the seventeenth and eighteenth century. The church in the centre of the inner court was built in 1725 and rebuilt in 1772. In the nineteenth and twentieth century, until 1937, the fort housed the Dutch garrison of Makassar. The offices of the Governor of Celebes were located in the fort in Speelman's House until 1870. The restoration of the fort began in 1970 and was assisted by financial support from the Netherlands.

### 3. Pictures and comments



**P.8 Soldier of the Royal Dutch East-Indian Army (KNIL) in field-service uniform 1930, Heshusius p. 36**



**P.9 ^**

**P.10**



**P.9 The western gate (seaside) 1998, photo Dirk Teeuwen**

**P.10 The western gate, with gaslight 1930, Heshusius p. 54**

Rendez-vous Batavia D. Teeuwen / H. Doorn June 2006



**P.11 ^ The chapel 1935, Van de Wall picture 10**

**P.12 The chapel 1998, photo Dirk Teeuwen 1998**

**P.13 The chapel 1923, private collection Dirk Teeuwen**

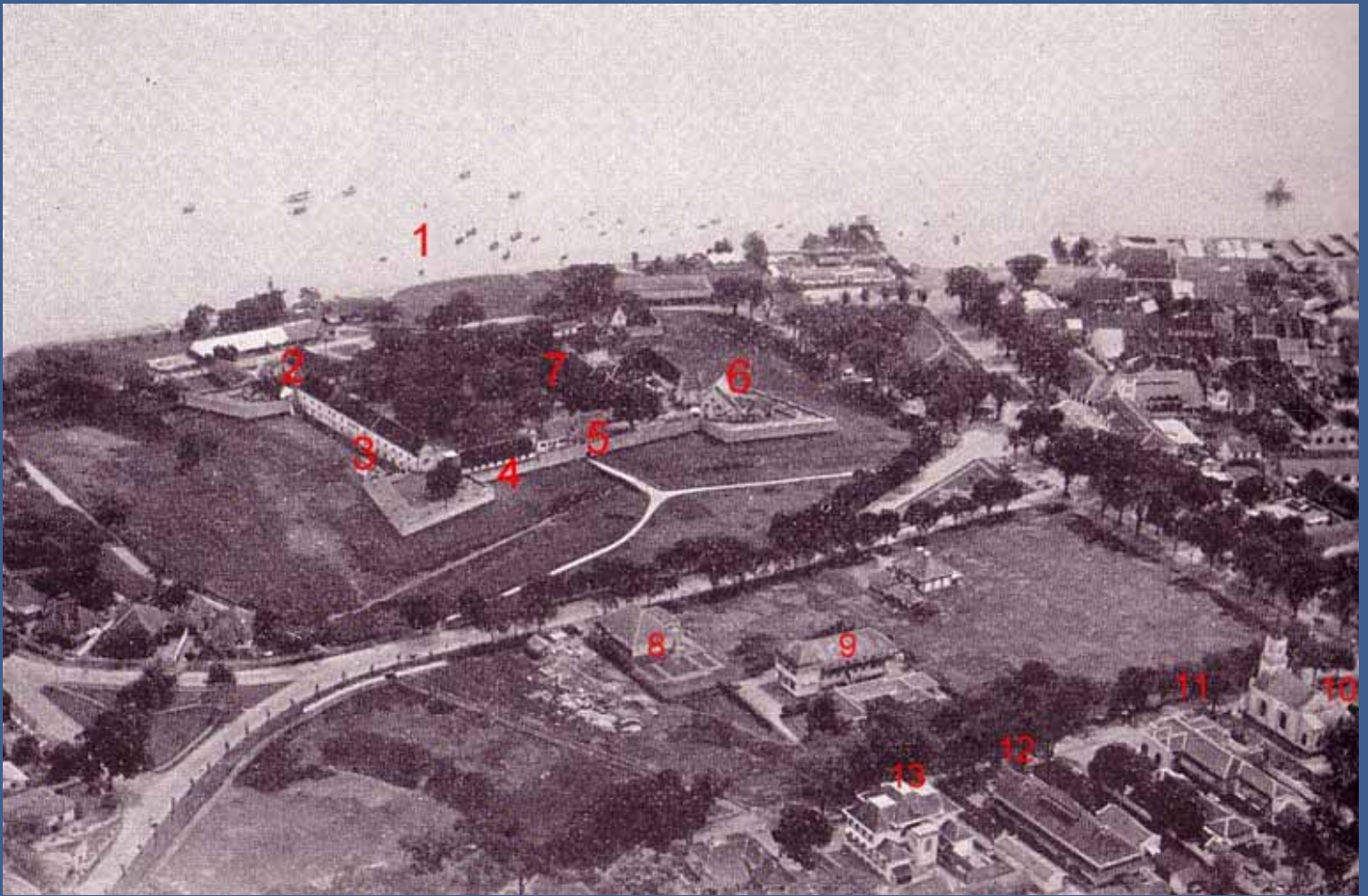
**Mark the double entrance flight of steps and the arched windows. The church forms an unit with the powder magazine at the other side. A small staircase leads to the magazine. Bottom left one can see a passage to prevent fire spreading: left from the small staircase. The chapel is from 1725 and was rebuilt in 1772.**



Rendez-vous Batavia D. Teeuwen / H. Doorn June 2006



**P. 14 An inside view of the western, seaside, gate, photo Dirk Teeuwen 1998  
At the right: a part of the powder magazine.**



**P.15 Ujung Pandang / Makassar 1925, Fort Rotterdam, Van Helsdingen 1941  
A, somewhat vague, bird's eye view! Visible is the fort photographed from the eastern side.**

Rendez-vous Batavia D. Teeuwen / H. Doorn June 2006

Explanation:

1. Ships in the Straits of Makassar,
2. prison,
3. warehouses from the Dutch period (the Dutch East India Company, V.O.C. 1602-1800, to be exactly),
4. soldier's homes and government's offices ,
5. eastern gate, see p.2,
6. armoury,
7. – (hardly visible) Speelman's House,
8. – post-office savings bank,
9. – telephone office,
- 10.- christian (protestant) church,
- 11.- post office,
- 12.- police station,
- 13.- town hall.



**P.16 A worked aerial photograph of Fort Rotterdam, postcard collection Dirk Teeuwen  
The original postcard was published by Periplus Editions about 1990. Photo by Alain Compost.**

Explanation:

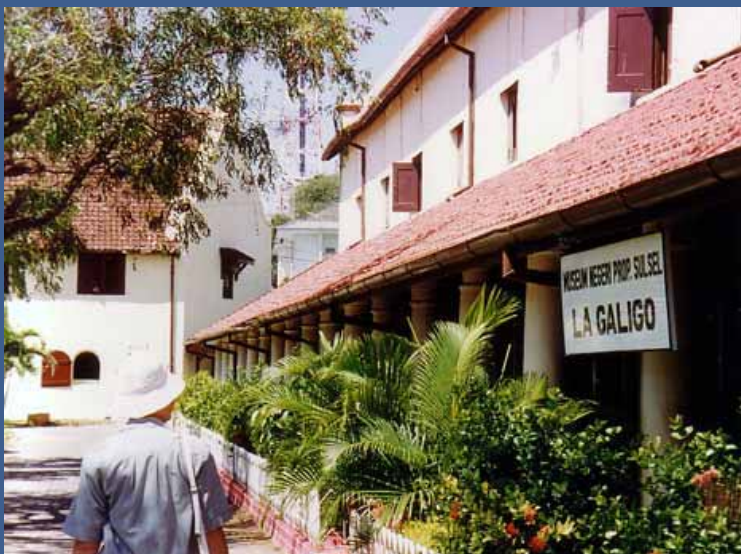
1. Museum Speelman's House, former Governor's Residence;
2. military officer's quarters;
3. armoury;
4. former library and location of the demolished land-gate;
5. office of the Dutch East India Company;
6. warehouses, now Museum La Galigo;
7. prison;
8. warehouses;
9. western (sea-side) gate;
- 10.christian (protestant) chapel.





**P.17** The south-west angle of Fort Rotterdam, from the gate at the sea-side to the left, photo Dirk Teeuwen 1998  
 The building on the left (south side) and the one on the right (west side) with the beautiful verandahs was a warehouses of the Dutch East-India Company, now Museum La Galigo. Later the building functioned as barracks on behalf of the garrison.  
 The house in the corner (only a part of its roof is visible) served as a prison in the olden days. It is possible to pay a visit to the dungeons.

**P.18** (below) The same angle, more or less, 1926, private collection Dirk Teeuwen  
 The building with the pillars, right, is (was) the main gate.



Left: P.19 Below P.20 Explanation next page



P.19 The south-eastern corner, photo Dirk Teeuwen 1998

At the right old warehouses of the Dutch East India Company, now Museum La Galigo. The management of La Galigo Museum displays a model of the fort, ethnographical / archaeological things worth knowing, musical instruments, art objects. The building in front of us at the left was the main administrative accommodation for the Company's local affairs as well as City Hall. The ground floor served as a prison.

P.20 Museum La Galigo, photo Dirk Teeuwen 1998

A bike from the Dutch period. I could not find the brakes.

P. 21



P.22

P.21 The main administrative office, former City Hall and Court House in its entirety, photo Dirk Teeuwen 1998. The beautiful arcaded porch is very remarkable.

P.22 The City Hall in 1935, Van de Wall picture 11

P. 23 next page The armoury from the V.O.C.-period, photo Dirk Teeuwen 1998  
The buildings on P.22 and P.23 can be found at the end of the street on P.26 (by turning off to the left in the north-eastern angle).

P.24 next page The armoury in 1918, private collection Dirk Teeuwen

P.25 next page The armoury in 1935, Van de Wall picture 12



Rendez-vous Batavia D. Teeuwen / H. Doorn June 2006



P.25

P.23 ^



P.24^



Rendez-vous Batavia D. Teeuwen / H. Doorn June 2006



**P.26 Officer's houses from the Dutch period along the northern wall, photo Dirk Teeuwen 1998**

Walk from the main (seaside) gate into the benteng, then along the northern rampart, turn to the left (at the far end on the photo) and you will find the Dutch armoury. See picture p.23, 24 and 25. A beautiful location! Only a part of the Governor's House is visible. It has eight windows and a large inner court. As well as a gallery. The block next to the Governor's House was meant for merchants, army officers, and the protestant priest.

**P.27 These quarters, the small dwellings at the right, have been raised by the Japanese occupying forces, photo Dirk Teeuwen 1998**  
Two of the thirteen buildings in the fort are from Japanese origin.



drs D. Teeuwen msc - H. Doorn  
Rendez-vous Batavia - June 2006 - Holland

All rights reserved