

KUALA BATEE AND THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES INVANTION IN ACEH ***(Kuala Batee dan Sejarah Invansi Amerika Serikat di Aceh)***

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Abstract

This study aims to describe the dark history of the United States invasion in 1832 CE through archaeological remains found in the Kingdom of Kuala Batee. The research method used is qualitative research methods with in-depth analysis techniques. The results of the research prove that the United States Invasion in 1832 CE, had destroyed the Kingdom of Kuala Batee which had advanced in its time with its black pepper trade. Black pepper also became the main target for Europeans and the United States at that time. The attacks carried out by the United States have left the archaeological remains of the Kuaasla Batee Kingdom, as a silent witness to the progress and destruction of an empire.

Keywords: *Kuala Batee, Kingdom, United States, Invasion*

1. INTRODUCTION

Aceh Barat Daya is one of the districts of the province of Aceh which has a significant history during the Kingdom of Aceh Darussalam. As part of one of the obstacles of the Kingdom of Aceh Darussalam, this area has quite influential political power. A local kingdom stood there which was known as the Kuala Batee Kingdom. The kingdom that stood for nearly 50 years, 1785-1932 CE[1], is a fraction of the Old Young Kingdom, a continuation of the Old Kingdom of Tuha, which was destroyed by floods in the mid-18th century (1740 CE).[2] The kingdom of Kuala Batee or *Quallah Battoo*, which is touted by westerners, is located in Kuala Batee District, bordering Susoh District, Aceh Barat Daya Regency. This kingdom was one of the largest pepper producers of its time, not only in Aceh but was able to penetrate world exports. It is said that the income of pepper in Kuala Batee and other areas on the west coast of Aceh is up to half of the world's supply of pepper. After its in 1785 under the leadership of Raja Cut Ampon Tuan, this kingdom has been able to print its own currency as a legal medium of exchange for trade.[3]

The reputation of Kuala Batee as one of the best and largest global producers of black pepper attracted many sailors, especially from Europe (Britain, Holland, France, Denmark and Spain) and America, and a number of ships sailing and anchored in Aceh.[4] Historically, ships from the United States – and from the port of Salem, Massachusetts in particular–entered in maritime trade with Asia increasingly from the 1780s. It was recorded that in 1789, it was the US's first visit to Padang and Bengkulu. Then in 1795, these ships found a new shipping route to the center of a large and new pepper plantation on the West coast of Aceh, which lies between Susoh and Trumon.[5] Then Aceh began to establish trade relations with the US, and the US brought these merchant ships to supply pepper and then exported it to the US, Europe and China. The US had been the largest customer of pepper along the coast of Kuala Batee. Until 1803, the coast produced about 5,000 tonnes of pepper, part of which was shipped to the US. Furthermore, the US became the main provider of pepper to Europeans.[6] In that year, it is estimated that 30 US ships have arrived at the coast and transported between 30,000-36,000 pikul of pepper. Then in 1805 US traders bought about 70,000 piculs (7/8 of the total crop). The abundance of pepper in the area had caused the price to drop. In 1804 the price per picul of pepper was around 11 Spanish dollars. In 1809, the price per pikul of pepper fell to 5 Spanish dollars



per picul. In 1819 Pepper prices rose again to around 11-12 dollars after the end of the Napoleonic wars.[7] Pepper production continued to increase from year to year until in 1826, the pepper beach was said to have produced around 150,000 pikul of pepper per year. In fact, in 1821-1822 CE, America succeeded in importing pepper from Kuala Batee Beach worth one million dollars[8], a very large amount of money at that time. As a result of the abundance of pepper production, the price went down again. Tragic events occurred between 1831-1832 CE at Kuala Batee Beach. Initially, in 1831 some local residents of Kuala Batee looted the US merchant vessel *Friendship*. This action occurred as a result of the injustice committed by US traders in measuring the yield of pepper obtained. As Anthony Reid noted: *There are often conflicts with local pepper providers because of price issues. From time to time, US ships were seized by the Acehnese, often as a result of conflicts arising from price issues or illegal behavior on both sides.*[9]

The frequent occurrence of this unfair treatment made some local residents angry and looted and damaged the *Friendship*, and several of the crew were also killed.[10] The action carried out by the local residents of Kuala Batee reached the ears of the then US President, Andrew Jackson. This angered him and then ordered the captain of the *Potomac* to make a voyage to Aceh and demand justice for the actions of these local residents. Not only that, news from the west stated that Kuala Batee was a pirate town, a gang that often robbed merchant ships in the Malacca Strait. For this reason, the *Potomac* attacked and destroyed the city of Kuala Batee and slaughtered almost all its inhabitants.[11] In 1832 CE. The US attacked the feeder points of Kuala Batee, where the Kuta Bahagia Fortress as the center of the city's defense was flattened to the ground. This incident made Kuala Batee's position weaker, and then Susoh again took over the sea system as one of the feeder points on the west coast.

This incident raises the question, why the tragedy of the attack on a small kingdom can cause such large casualties. However, this event was not widely exposed by the world community at that time. On the other hand, many royal ruins that are silent witnesses to the kingdom do not get the attention they deserve. The spread of this historical trace is spread over several villages and sub-districts in Southwest Aceh, especially Kuala Batee District. A full study needs to be done, especially regarding the findings of archaeological objects found around the ruins of the Kuala Batee Kingdom. It is necessary to observe and map the heritage sites of Kuala Batee. And provide recommendations to the government to carry out maintenance or restoration of these sites.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study used qualitative research methods with in-depth analysis techniques.[12] One of the characteristics of qualitative research is the interaction and communication between the researcher and the subjects and objects of the research or with the phenomena under study.[13] Qualitative research aims to understand phenomena within their social context, prioritizing deep communication and interaction between the researcher and the subjects, objects and phenomena under study. This qualitative research will use a descriptive analysis model to describe and analyze phenomena, events, social activities, and archaeological findings.[14] The researcher will study the attitudes of selected Acehnese villagers toward the historical heritage, and their views on knowledge of the history of the Quallah Battoo Kingdom. The researcher will also study phenomenological aspects that are not limited to things that can be sensed, but also including perceptions, thoughts, wishes and beliefs about things outside the physical; where there is something transcendental besides that which can be sensed objectively.[15]

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Archaeological Findings[16]

There are three villages in Kuala Batee District that still have some archaeological traces of the Kuala Batee Kingdom. Lama Tuha Village (Mukim Krueng Batee) as the center of government of the Kuala Batee Kingdom was found a *madat* (earthwork fortification), which is not far from the shoreline of Lama Tuha Village. As access to the Kuala Batee Kingdom trade route, Lama Tuha Village is now about 15 minutes by motorbike from the capital of Kuala Batee District. The village is still very quiet, most of the roads are not yet paved and along the way are community oil palm plantations. In this village, there is also an English inscription, located on the grounds of the SD Negeri 13, Kuala Batee District. Other findings include cannon, bullets and coins that were once used during the Kuala Batee Kingdom. In the village of Keude Baro also found a *madat* (earthwork fortification) around which there are still many scattered ceramic shards and coins. An old cannon was also found in the area of Keude Baro Village mosque. Several other cannon were also found in Krueng Batee Village. An old building believed to be the house of the king of the Kuala Batee Kingdom was found in Pasar Kuta Bahagia Village. Inside the house, there is a marble dressing table, dining table and cupboard. Here are some points from the archaeological remains of the Kuala Batee Kingdom:

Kuala Batee District

1. Madat, located in Lama Tuha Village and Keude Baro Village;
2. Meriam, located in Keude Baro Village and Krueng Batee Village;
3. English inscription, located in Lama Tuha Village;
4. Raja Teuku Tjoet Dhien's house, located in Pasar Kuta Bahagia Village.

Blangpidie District

1. Tomb of Tgk. Syeh Mahmud, located in Kuta Tuha Village;
2. Teuku Nyak Sabi's house, located in the village of Keudai Sibbleh;
3. Teungku Awe Geutah Tomb, located in Geulumpang Payong Village;
4. Tomb of Tgk. Dileubok (Teungku Awaluddin), located in Seunaloh Village;
5. Teuku Peukan Tomb, located in Kuta Tuha Village;
6. Chinese Tombs, located in Babah Lhueng Village;
7. Goa Seumancang, located in Babah Lhueng Village.

Susoh District

1. Teuku Nyak Raja's house, located in Durian Rampak Village;
2. Pusaka Mosque, located in Keudai Pasir Village.

Tangan-tangan District

1. Raja Nagor's house, located in Gunong Cut Village;
2. Utoh Mahyudin Tomb, located in Blang Padang Village;
3. Teuku Miga Tomb, located in Blang Padang Village;
4. Tomb of Panglima Nyak Syeh, located in Padang Kawa Village;
5. Tomb of Tgk. Umar, located in Padang Kawa Village;
6. Batee Sanding Putro, located in Gunong Cut Village.

Jeumpa District

1. Raja Kuala Batee Tomb Complex, located in Alu Sungai Pinang Village;
2. Maklima Maisya, located in the village of Alu Rambot.



Manggeng District

1. Raja Iskandar's house, located in Keudai Village;
2. Madat Ujong Manggeng, located in the Prosperous Village;
3. Madat Lhok Paoh, located in Lhok Paoh Village.

Lembah Sabil District

1. Teuku Agam Tomb, located in Meurandeh Village;
2. Teuku Daod tomb, located in the village of Cot Bak U.

3.2 Description of the Royal Heritage of Kuala Batee

Cannon

There are two locations for the cannon from the Kuala Batee Kingdom. First, a cannon located in the area of the Keude Baro Mosque, precisely behind the mosque, close to the ablution place. Second, a cannon is located in Krueng Batee Village, right in front of the fish market. Both of these cannons have a barrel length of 3 meters, a diameter of 80 cm, and weigh 1 ton. All parts of the cannon are made of iron. Cannon functioned as a weapon of defense of the kingdom.



Photo1.

A cannon behind the mosque of Keude Baro Village
(Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)



Photo 2.

A cannon in Krueng Batee Village
(Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)

Bullet

There were about 50 bullets found in Lama Tuha Village. The bullets found in one of these madats were corroded, and some were kept by Ismail Syah, a resident of Lama Tuha Village. Some of the bullets had been taken by the elements and sold. Apart from the Madat area, bullets were also found in the oil palm plantation area.



Photo 3. A bullet of cannon (Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)

Madat (Earthwork Fortification)

The *madat* found at the Kuala Batee Kingdom site has a height of about 3 meters and a width of 3x4 meters. Apart from this *madat*, fortresses were also found which were generally the same as forts in other parts of the archipelago. This fort in the Kuala Batee Kingdom is called the Benteng Kuta Bahagia. *Madat* serves as a place of defense from enemy attacks, especially from the sea. Cannons were placed around the *madat*. Initially there were still a lot of solids found around the location of the Kuala Batee Kingdom site, but now only a few are left. Among those that still look like a *madat* in Keude Baro Village, in Lama Tuha Village there are 3 remaining *madat* with a distance of about 1 km. In Keude Baro Village, initially there were 7 *madat*, but now only 1 *madat* is left. The reason is that this area has been turned into land for oil palm plantations by the community. The conditions of the *madat* are clean because there are no wild plants that grow around the *madat*.



Madat in Keude Baro Village (Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)

Access road to the *madat* is relatively easy. According to the explanation of Jasmi, a resident of Keude Baro Village, there is about 1 hectare of land that is not planted with oil palm trees so that if someone wants to go to the village, it can be easier.



Photo 4. Access road to madat at the location of Keude Baro Village
(Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)

Meanwhile, there are only 3 madat in Lama Tuha Village. 2 madat in a condition surrounded by wild plants and another if the community has planted oil palm trees on it. According to Ismail Syam's explanation, the 2 madat which were surrounded by wild plants were in the area of land belonging to local residents and were deliberately not cleaned so that the objects that were still in the madat were not taken by irresponsible persons.



Photo 5. Madat in Lama Tuha Village (Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)



Photo 6. Conditions of Madat in Lama Tuha Village where oil palm trees have been planted
(Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)



Photo 8. 'Quallah Battoo' soon at the time of the Battle - map from the account published in Warriner, *Cruise of the United States Frigate Potomac* (New York: Leavitt, Lord & Colk, 1835)



Inscription

A monument with an English language inscription, and capped with a classical urn motif can be found at Kuala Bate. The location of the inscription is in the school yard of SD Negeri 13 Kuala Batee District. The inscription reads:

"This marble points to the grave of SHEWBUNTAR who died at Quallabatto 13 April 1824: Æt. 42. As he was ambitious of distinction, active persevering & energetic, success followed his efforts, & his dominion & reputation were widely extended. Personally brave, he was cautious & calculating. In more cultivated society, his fame would have been probably that of a great conqueror & history would have recorded it.

He had imperfections as well as virtues. He was generous & open towards his friends, severe and implacable towards his enemies. The traditions of his Countrymen will preserve the memory of his abilities & his conquest. Strangers will recollect the kindness of his temper & the friend [li]ness of his conduct."

Today the stone stands fixed in a cement setting inside the grounds of an elementary school (SD Negeri 13 Kuala Batee) set just back from the beach at Kuala Batee. This site is not far from the *madat* in Lama Tuha Village, where the grave marker was originally erected. It was moved on the grounds for greater security. The rescued inscription is still intact, it's just that there is a patch on the lower body of the headstone because the community wanted to destroy it, and has been fixed in cement to make it immovable. On a 2012 visit to its original site on the *madat*. Feener found a matching white footstone that was placed just in front and behind of the small, unadorned river-stone markers of an otherwise unremarkable Malay Muslim grave.



Photo 9. The Inscription of the tombstone of Shewbuntar
(Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)

Coin

Several coins have been found on the website of the Kuala Batee Kingdom. Among them are the coins issued by the British in Malaya With an inscription in Jawi-script Malay: "2 Keping", dated to 1804 CE (1219 H.). Another coin is Spanish, bearing the inscription: "DEI. GRATIA.1806.CAROLUS IIII" and on the back it says "HISPAN 8 R". This coin was kept by a resident of Krueng Batee Village, named Raziman. He found the coin in the cemetery of Lhok Gajah Village, Kuala Batee District.



Photo 10.
British coin front side
(Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)

Photo 11.
British coin back side
(Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)

Free Findings



Photo 12.
Front side of the Spanish coin
(Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)

Photo 13.
The back side of the Spanish coin
(Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)

Ceramic shards

The Kuala Batee Royal Site also leaves traces of free finds in the form of ceramic shards. These ceramics can be found around the madat in Keude Baro Village. The ceramic has an average width of 5 cm and a length of 7 cm with an average weight of 50 grams. The objects found are closely related to human needs in daily activities at that time.



Photo 14. Ceramic shards found around the Royal site Kuala Batee
(Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)

Old building

One old building found here is the house of the last king from the reign of the Kuala Batee Kingdom, namely Teuku Cut Dhien. The house was built in 1930. This old building is located in Pasar Kota Bahagia Village, the distance between the house and the main road is about 200 meters. This house has a length of 30 meters with a width of 30 meters and a floor height with a ground surface of 80 centimeters. At the front of the house is curved. In the center of the house has a left wing and a right wing that function as rooms. Inside the house there is a living room, four bedrooms, a dining room and a kitchen.



Photo 15. The old building which was the home of the last king of the Kuala Batee Kingdom (Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)



Photo 16. Kuala Batee Palace of the last ruling raja of Kuala Batee in West Aceh, Raja Teuku Cut Dien, made in 1930 (Facebook: Ayah Arminsyah)

In the house there are also several objects that are still in use today. These objects are:

1) Cupboard

This cupboard used to be used as a storage area for government papers and other important files. The cupboard is 1 meter wide, 1.5 meters high and 2.5 meters long. This Cupboard is made of teak wood and is very heavy.

2) Dining Table

The dining table in this old building is 1 meter wide, 1 meter high and 2 meters long. However, the table top can be opened and closed. When opened, it will be 4 meters long with a capacity of 10-15 people. This dining table is also made of teak wood. Previously, this dining table was the king's dining table with important guests. In addition, this dining table was also used as a doorstep in order to block the Dutch commander and his troops. They came to the house of King Teuku Cut Dhien because they wanted to destroy the house. At that time Teuku Cut Dhien and his soldiers reached 10 people in the house.

3) Dressing Table

The dressing table in the king's house is in the main room. In the past, this dressing table was used by the king's wife to make up herself. The material for making this dressing table also uses teak wood. The base of the dressing table is made of marble with a width of 80 centimeters, a length of 1.5 meters and a height of 1 meter.



Photo 17.
A cupboard in the palace
(Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)



Photo 18.
Dressing table in the palace
(Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)



Photo 19. Dining table in the palace (Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)

The old building which was the home of the last king of the Kuala Batee Kingdom is in poor condition. On the walls, the wood has been eaten by termites as well as on the floors which are almost all eaten by termites. According to the explanation of Cut Nilawati, the 6th descendant of Raja Teuku Cut Dhien, that from the year the house was founded, namely in 1930, only once had the floorboards replaced in the living room because at that time Cut Nilawati wanted to have a wedding party, and until now she never replaced

again. The condition of the roof is also very worrying, because if it rains it will leak even in almost every room in the house.



Photo 20. The condition of the floor in an old building that has been eaten by termites
(Photo: Ismuha Nurul Hayati)

4. CONCLUSION

From the results of archaeological findings in several villages in Southwest Aceh Regency, it indicates that the Quallah Battoo Kingdom had become the anchoring center of Europeans and Americans. Their purpose of anchoring to the mainland of Sumatra is none other than to get spices, especially black pepper, which is known to be of the highest quality in the world, which is in the South-West region of Aceh. Not only did they make trade contacts, but they also mingled among the people of the Quallah Battoo Kingdom at every port. The intense contact that occurred caused friction when the US fleet, *Friendship*, cheated in measuring the scales of the black pepper transaction and the payment.

Of course this aroused constant suspicion from the royal public at that time. As a result, the attacks carried out by the public on the *Friendship* ship also caused anger from the United States, which then sent the *Potomac* to question the cause of the attack on their previous ship. However, this order turned into an attack in just an instant overnight. In the middle of the octopus dark night, the captain and troops of the *Potomac* ship made a blind attack on the Kingdom of Quallah Battoo and its people. And in the end has killed approximately 150 people from the kingdom.

This incident is of course very sad. In the midst of the prosperity of the Kingdom of Quallah Battoo which is being panned, it must end with an attack and an instant annihilation by the United States seeking revenge. From this incident, a lesson can be drawn so that in every relationship that occurs, whether between people per person, group per group, community per community and country per country, the principles of honesty and fairness must always be prioritized. Especially in conducting trade transactions, which require mutual satisfaction between the seller and the buyer. So that



there will be no disputes that can lead to division and bloodshed. And, in the end, the archaeological remains of the Kingdom of Quallah Battoo became a silent witness of the progress and destruction of the kingdom which at that time was still under the auspices of the Kingdom of Aceh Darussalam.

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