



MILITARY EQUIPMENT USED BY PAHANG FIGHTERS IN PAHANG UPRISING

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Research Highlights

The study seek to discover the kinds of military equipment used by the Pahang fighters in both series of the Pahang uprising events which proved that the Pahang fighters and the Malays at the time already possessed the ability to create and diversify their creativity including in the military field.

Research Objectives

The intention of the researchers to examine and identify in this research is the military tools used by Pahang fighters during the Pahang uprising.

Methodology

This study employed the qualitative approach with emphasis on content analysis. This method was chosen since this study did not involve any statistical analysis or any other quantitative measurements. Content analysis was chosen as the research design in analysing the military equipment innovation in the Pahang Uprising. In conducting this study, the researchers need to browse through journals, books, articles, manuscripts, working papers, magazines, notes, documents, working papers and other written materials in order to extract information on the subject of study. Among the sources referenced are 'History of Pahang' by W. Linehan, The Pahang Uprising by Jang Aisjah Muttalib, The History of The Malayan Police by Morrah and many others. The information obtained in this study has enabled the researchers to gain better understanding of the military equipment innovation in Pahang uprising.

Results

Military equipment refers to the tools or weaponries used during combat or warfare. The Pahang fighters used a variety of weaponries or war tools in their enemy. Similarly, they were also making various innovations to produce their own design of weapons and war tools. Guns and explosives were the main weapon used in the battle of the Pahang uprising. However, knowledge of the forest and nature was fully utilised and it had inspired the Pahang fighters to create their own tools or weapons. Dato' Bahaman and his forces knew that they would be killed if they did not use their minds and put in their utmost effort as their weapons were more primitive and their forces was very small (Noriah, 1996). These military innovations demonstrate the greatness of the Pahang fighters in generating ideas and creativity in battle. Although these military innovations seems simple and ordinary in their creation, these tools were enough to help Pahang fighters in facing the war against the British forces.

Findings

The war tools and weapon or military equipment used by Pahang Fighters are guns, *senapang kek* and *senapang kapak*, *sumpit*, roots of the spike moss plant, ring rope, *parang* and *pelias*.

Guns

Guns are one of the weapons used in the Pahang uprising. The Pahang fighters were seen preparing early to obtain firearms before the rebellion materialised. Noriah (1996) writes that weapons and bullets were smuggled from Singapore by a Kelantan man named Awang Ngah who was merchant. In addition to the efficient preparation of the Pahang fighters by buying firearms, there were also those which were acquired through seizure after seizing control or taking over a place. There are records indicating as a result of situation where Dato' Bahaman's





followers were blocked from getting food supplies led to them robbing and killing a few retailers in Temerloh and taking into their possession 40 Malay guns which were seized by the police in previous fight (Morrah, 1963). Similarly, after the raid on Kuala Tembeling police station on June 14, 1894 no less than 250 boxes of guns and other weapons were seized (Linehan, 1936).

Senapang Kek and Senapang Kapak

Senapang Kek and Senapang Kapak are a kind of weapon that is the innovation of the Pahang fighters. These rifles were designed by the Pahang fighters. It is said that the use of this type of shotgun required the ammunition to be placed in dry coir before being loaded. The coir and the bullet had to be thumped or hit several times and only then would it explode (Noriah, 1996).

Sumpit

Sumpit is a manual weapons innovated by the Pahang fighters under Dato' Bahaman. *Sumpit* is a weapon created by the Pahang indigenous people who joined forces with Dato' Bahaman as part of his army and fighters. *Sumpit* is a long wooden blowpipe, from which poison-tipped or barbed darts are blown and were used primarily for hunting. There numerous occasions where the indigenous Pahang fighters used *sumpit* as a tool when a battle took place. Among them is the one where the pahang fighters rolled large builders and used the *sumpit* as a weapons to attack the British forces when the British forces were trawling for Dato' Bahaman and his men (Ismail, Mujani, Jalal, & Zainal Shah, 2019).

Roots of the Spike Moss Plant

Roots of the Spike Moss plant were used as a camouflage when Dato' Bahaman was in the forest. He used this strategy especially when he was pursued by Sikh constables who were tasked to apprehend him in Pasir Dir. He also used roots of spike moss plant wound over the wound on his head and body to the practise of the aborigines. This startled the Sikh constables who fled and jumped into the river (Ismail et al., 2019)

Ring-rope

Ring-rope is another military equipment innovation in the Pahang uprising. This is another strategy used by Dato' Bahaman against the British was where the ring-rope would be laid on the river bed in Lubuk Sanggarat. The ring-rope would be strung across the river and tied to two Merbau trees opposite each other on the river banks.

Parang and Pelias

Parang and Pelias are also weaponry or war tools used in the Pahang uprising particularly in the second series of the rebellions. The fighters realised that the strength of a strong Islamic power would enable them to achieve their goals. They were also given pelias (*azimat* or amulets) and *parang* (long knives) with surahs of the Qur'an carved on these weapon by Tok Ku Paloh. The preparations based in Paloh were accompanied by prayers and blessings Tok Ku Paloh who would hand over several weapons of *hikmat* written with the verses of the Quran (Noriah, 1996, Aruna, 1993).

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