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VOLCANOES IN JAVA

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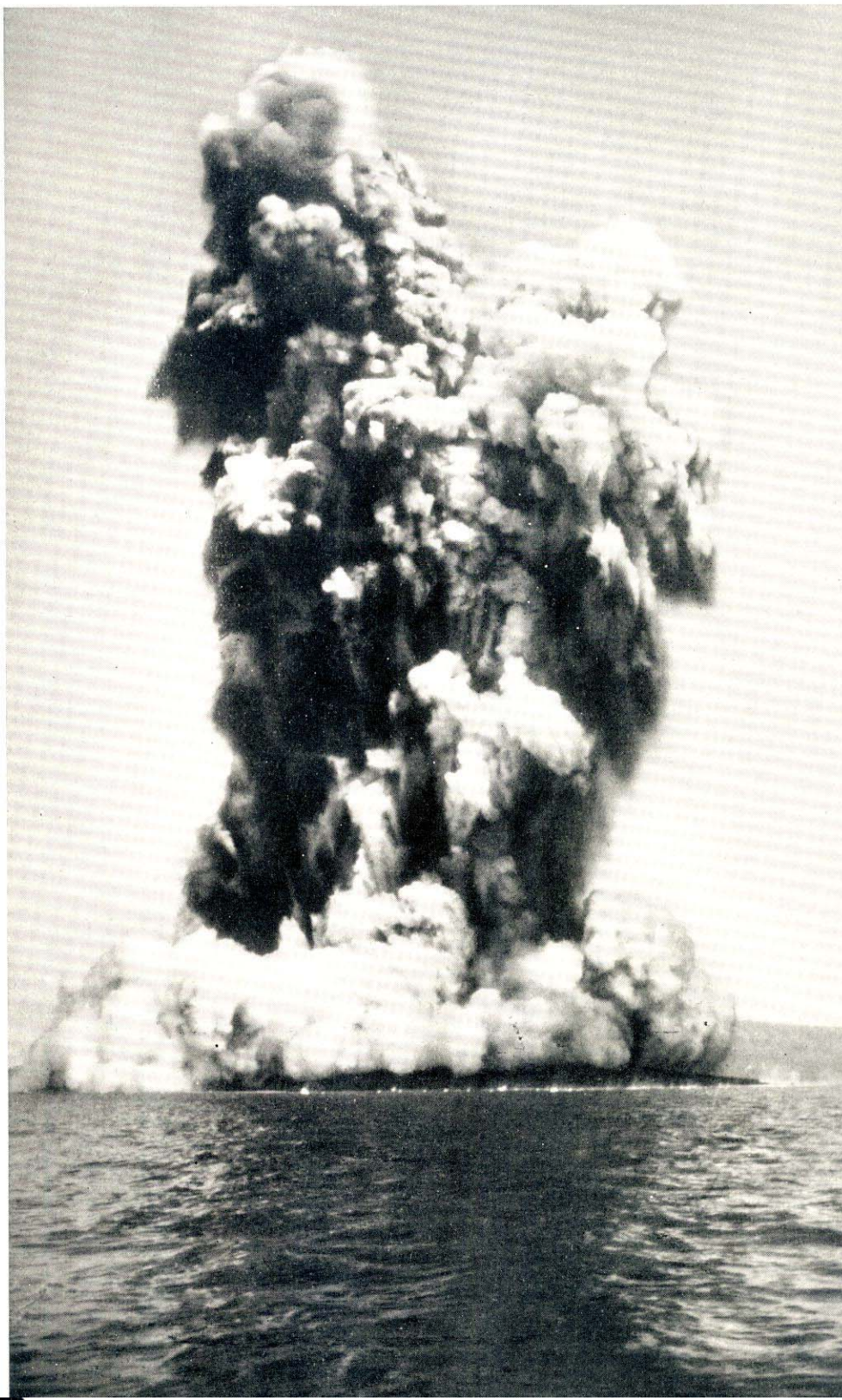
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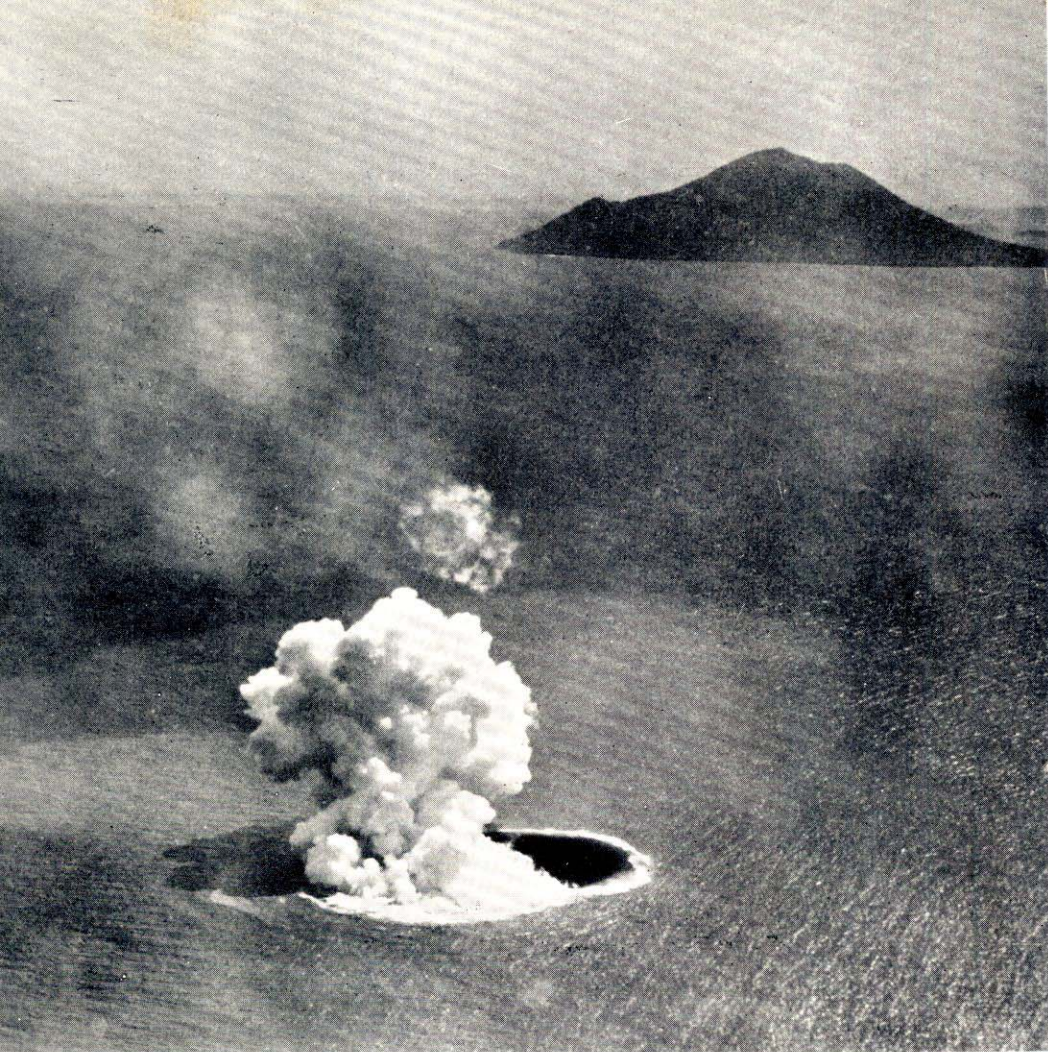
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Java is essentially a mountainous country. The great backbone range that stretches from India to Australia passes in its turn down the west coast of Sumatra and is continued through Java and the lesser Sunda Islands. In West Java the mountains are grouped in a great mass in the Preanger highlands, in Middle Java the peaks are more isolated and in East Java groups are again met with, the most important being the Arjuno-Walirang, the Tengger group and the Yang and Idjen highlands. There are in all some half-a-hundred mountains deserving that name in Java, in one small island, and thirty of them are over 2000 meters (i.e. about 6600 ft.) high. There are nine over 10,000 ft. and the majority, if not all, are volcanoes and either are now or have been in the past quite active. At least 18 of the important volcanoes of

A magnificent explosion of Krakatao in which the cloud reached some 26,000 ft. The whole matter was over in a couple of minutes.





A small eruption
of the "Anak
Krakatau".

(Below):
The Salak near
Buitenzorg.

(Opposite above):
Flying over the
crater of the
Gedeh.

(Opposite below):
The twin craters of
Tangkoeban Prahu
from the air.

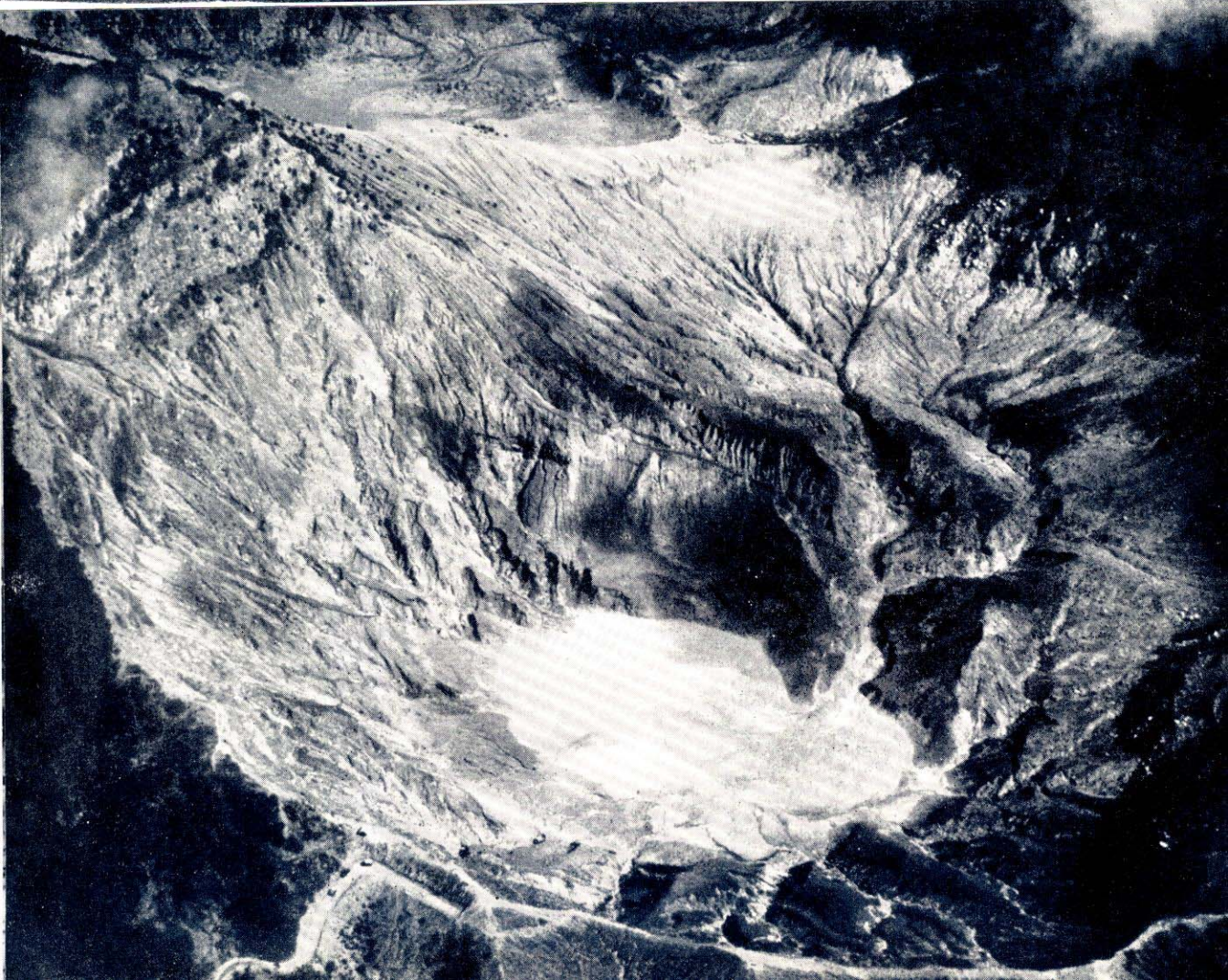
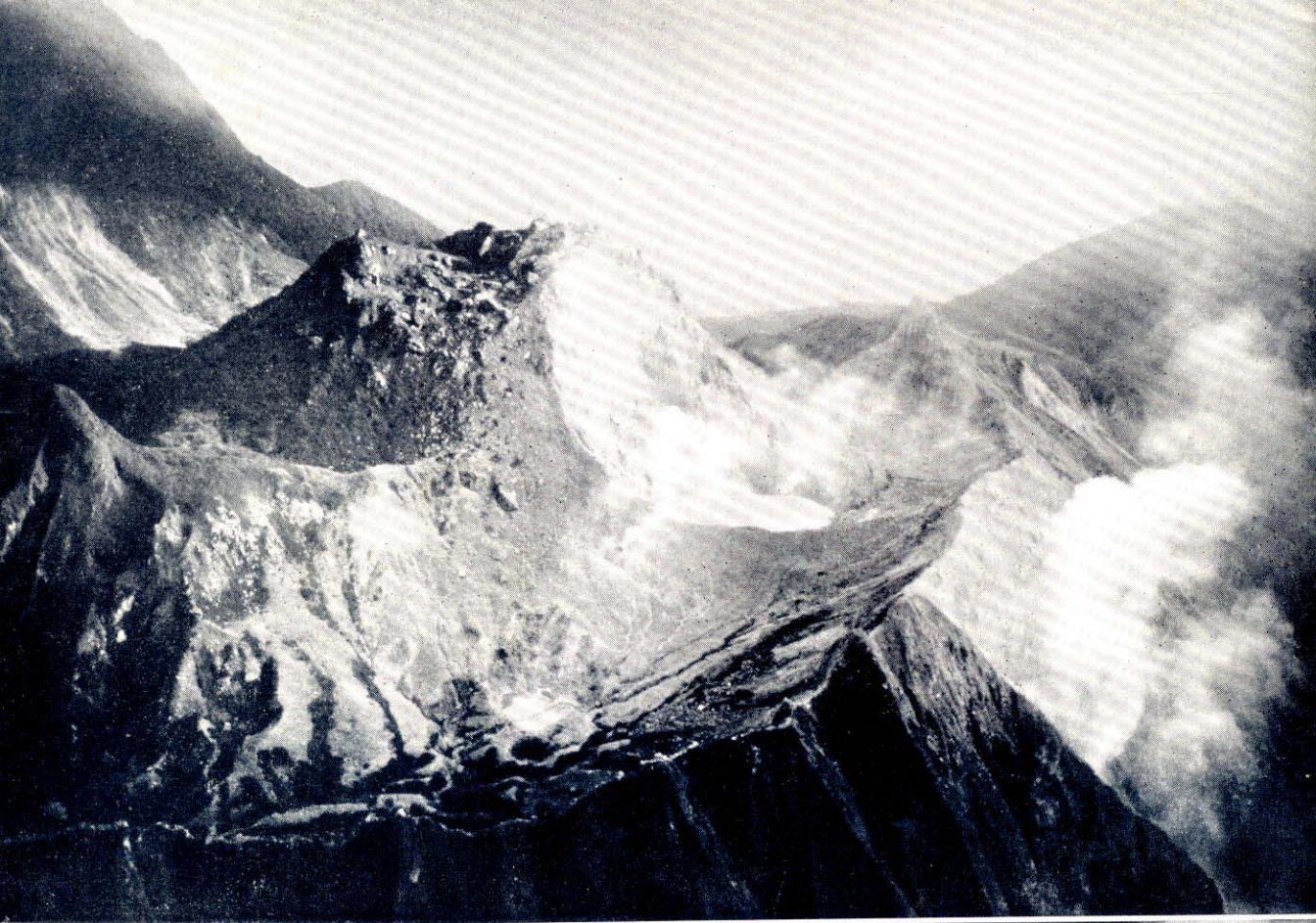




Java, including Krakatao in that category, are always more or less active today, not to mention countless solfataras, hot springs and so forth; the greatest activity is shown by the Krakatao, the Smeroe and the Merapi. Many others are subject to explosions from time to time, but since the inauguration of the excellent

Volcanological Service in this country there has been little loss of life due to volcanic activity. All potential danger spots are kept under constant and close scrutiny and warnings are issued in ample time of any probable or possible eruptions. The Smeroe, the highest mountain in Java, reaches 12,044 ft.









Previous page (1): The rugged scenery of the Tangkoeban Prah from the air.

(2): The first crater of the Tangkoeban Prah showing the end of the motor road and the beginning of the path around the craters.

(3): The Kaleidon near Leles between Bandoeng and Garoet.

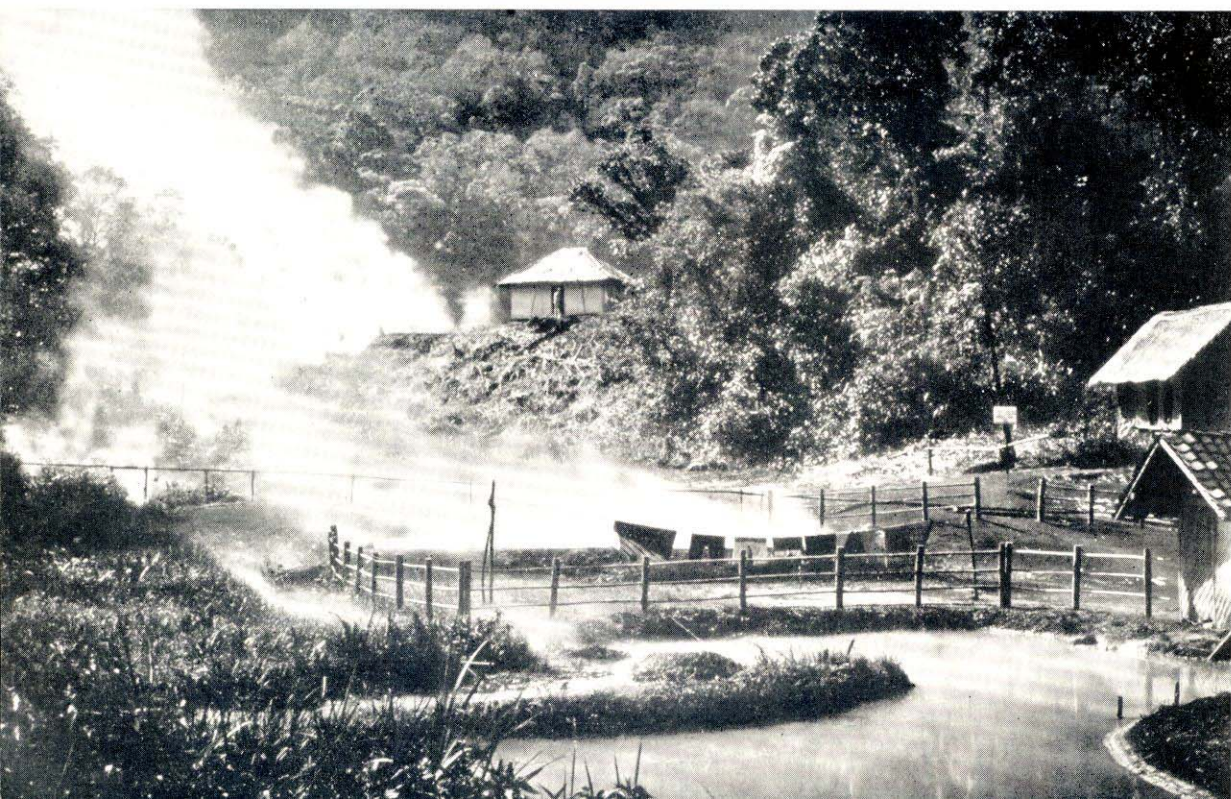
(4): Kawah Mas (The Golden Crater) of the Papandayan near Garoet.

Left (1): Kawah Manoek near Garoet.

(2): Kawah Kamodjan of the Goentoer near Garoet.

Right (1): The beautiful Tjikorai near Garoet.

(2): The Tjerimai near Cheribon from the air showing a part of the coast line.



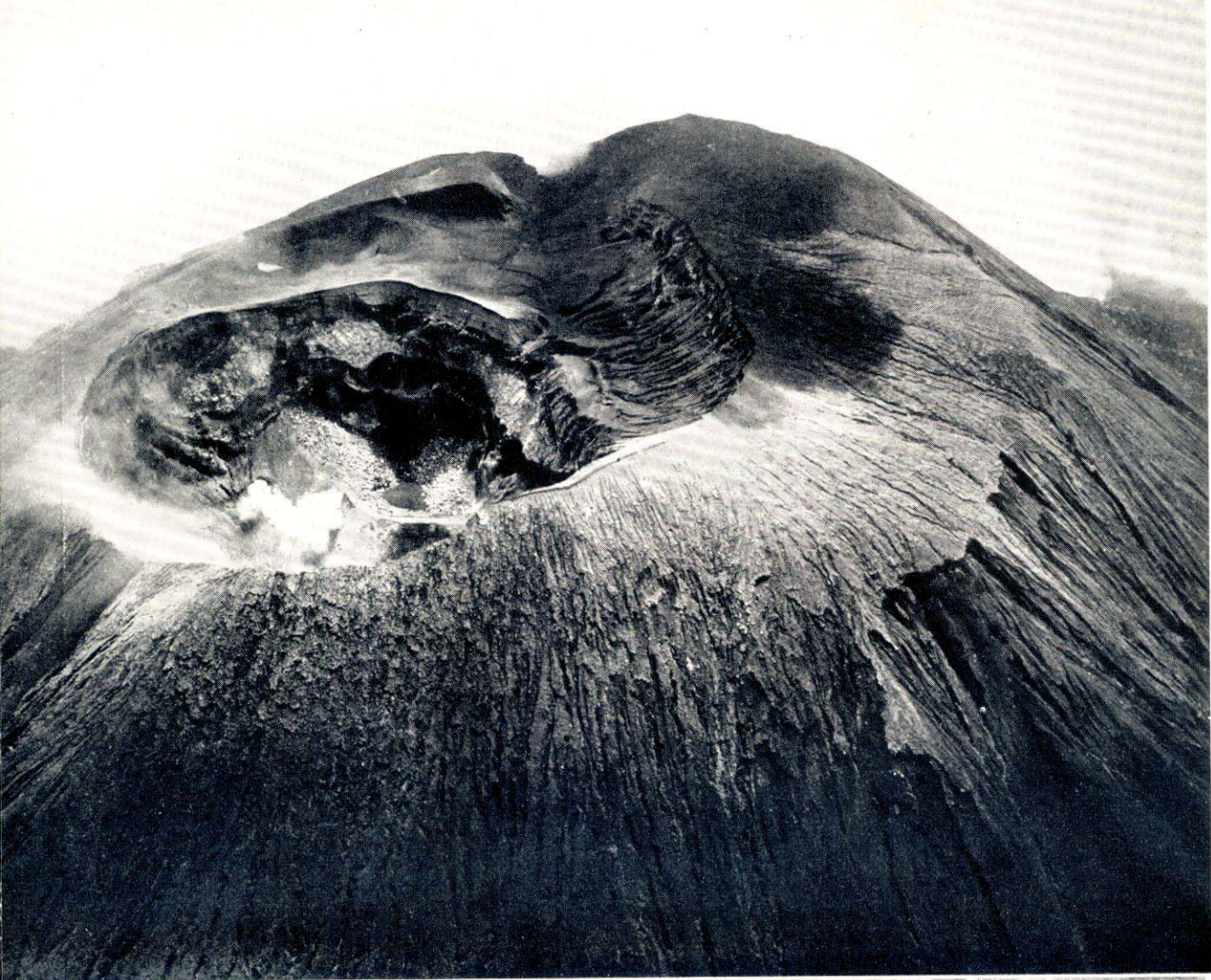


One of the most interesting volcanoes in the world is the Krakatao, an island just off the Java coast in the Straits of Sunda. It was responsible for the terrific eruption of August 26 to 28, 1883, in which it is estimated that over 35,000 persons lost their lives. From contemporary reports it is learned that the sunsets in Europe were particularly ruddy and fine for more than three years afterwards as a result of the masses of volcanic dust hurled up into the stratosphere. In more recent times the volcano has been in almost constant subdued activity with periodical explosions, like that shown in our first illustration, which may reach

between seven and eight thousand meters in height (about 26,000 ft.) and occasionally are projected even higher. For decades no damage has been done, but a few years ago a new island, the Anak Krakatao (Child of Krakatao) gradually (in the course of a few months) reared itself out of the sea close by the parent crater, so that the subterranean activities must still be enormous. The island is under constant observation. Near at hand in Java is the Karang, for generations extinct.

In the immediate vicinity of Batavia, forming as it were the gateway to the Preanger mountain mass, are the Gedeh (Pangerango) and





(Left 1): Air photo
above the Slamet
near Tegal.

(2): A beautiful
villa amongst the
mountains near
Samarang.

(Right): The Merapi
near Jogjakarta.



Salak. Both are easy to climb. The Gedeh is part of a National Park which is strictly preserved. It is easy to ascend from Sindanglaya near the top of the Poentjak Pass. Flowers may not be plucked nor moss removed from trees; no cutting of wood is permitted.

Passing towards the east, the next interesting mountains to be encountered are those of the Preanger. The easiest of these to climb is the Tangkoeban Prahu (overturned boat), the actual edge of the craters of which may be reached by motor car from Bandoeng in an hour or so. The scenery at the top is wild and barren and there are inviting walks around the craters. Another very interesting trip may be made from Bandoeng in about three and a half hours to the crater of Mount Papandayan. The road up this mountain, like that up the Tangkoeban Prahu, was specially built for visiting the craters by car, which may be taken in this case at the present time to within a hundred yards or so of the top. Here again, then, a car may be used as a quick method of approach for pleasant climbs amongst the craters, solfataras and other phenomena of volcanic nature near the top of the mountain. For instance, the car may be sent back via Garoet to the Hotel Tjisoeroepan, the visitor proceeding on foot through the crater field and descending at his leisure to the hotel on the other side of the mountain. If arrangements are made at the hotel beforehand, horses can meet him at the crater for the descent.

Other climbs in the vicinity of Garoet are those to the Kawah (crater) Manoek (via Pasirwangi) and to the crater of the Goentoer, the Kawah Kamodjan, which is easily reached from Garoet by car via the Radium Hotel; a very attractive trip. Another beautiful mountain near

Garoet and Ngamplang is the Tjikorai. There is a magnificent view from the top of this mountain, especially at sunrise, when the peaks of the Galoenggoeng, Kratjak, Tjerimai, Goentoer, Papandayan, Tangkoeban Prahu, Boekit Toenggoel, Gedeh, Slamet and Merapi are in sight and also the south coast of Java with the village of Tjilaoet Eureun.

In the hinterland behind the port of Cheribon, lies the beautiful cone of the Tjerimai. This may be climbed from the west via Madja-Apoei, or from the east; the former route is preferable. The crater is of great interest.

Passing now to Middle Java and the Native States, the Slamet is of imposing height (11,260 ft.) and offers excellent climbing. Probably the easiest approach is via Poerwokerto. The Dieng Plateau with its ancient Hindu ruins and many volcanic phenomena is best reached from Wonosobo. A magnificent view may be had from the upper terrace of the Borobudur of the mountains dominating Central Java, the Soembing, Sindoro, Merbaboe and Merapi. The first two can be climbed from Wonosobo, the Merbaboe from Kopeng and the Merapi from Jogjakarta or Surakarta.

To the east of Surakarta the Lawoe rises 10,646 ft. above sea level, a mighty giant with an interesting crater and a lovely lake in its foothills at Sarangan. This is a very popular mountain resort and from it the mountain can be climbed partly on horseback and partly on foot. To the south east is the Wilis group in which lies the charming lake Ngebel, which may be reached by a picturesque motor road from Madioen or Ponorogo. Between Kediri and Malang is the Keloed, which exploded in 1919 with the loss of many lives. It is quite quiet at present and the crater forms an in-

The wonderful crater lake of the Kelod from the air. It was the overflow of this lake into the molten lava of the crater that caused the last explosion.

(Opposite):
An air photo
of the crater
lake of
Kawah
Idjen.





teresting lake. Somewhat to the east are the Kawi near Malang and, to the north again, the twin volcanoes of Welirang and Arjuna, which are well within sight of Surabaya.

Not far from Surabaya, south of Pasoeroean, is the Tengger complex, which is especially

noted for the Bromo and Smeroe volcanoes and the interesting Java Sand Sea. High up (6000 ft.) in this complex lies the well known hill station of Tosari, from which excursions to these mountains can be made; one of the most popular of these is that on horseback to the

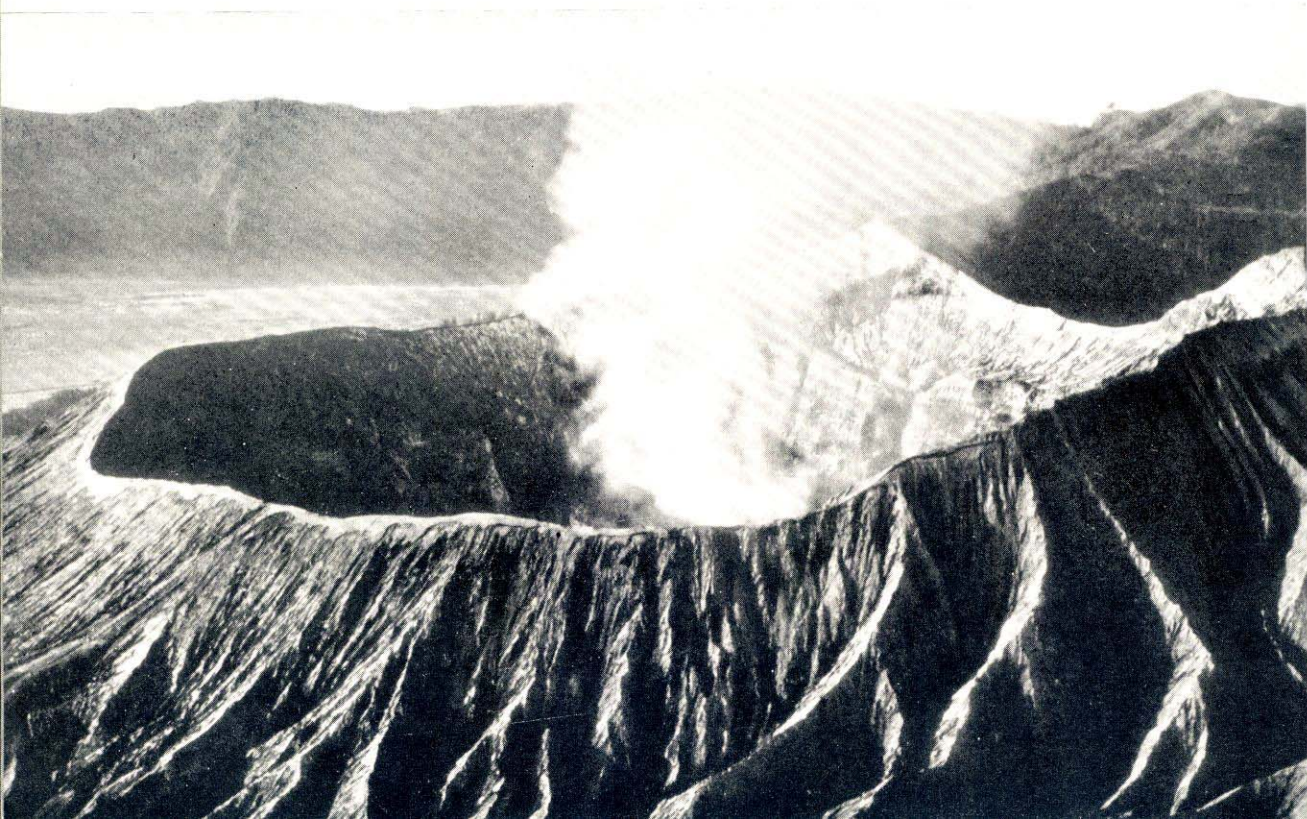


top of the Penandjaän from whose summit an unforgettable panorama of the Tengger Mountains may be enjoyed including the Sand Sea and the Bromo. The illustration above gives an infra-red photograph of this view.

The most easterly Mountain masses in Java are the Yang group with the volcanoes Lamongan and Argopoero, and the Idjen Highlands. In these latter lies the famous Idjen Crater Lake, which may be reached without any difficulty on horseback from the Government Rest-house at Sempol; the most important peaks here are the Raoeng and another Merapi, whose eastern slopes form the coast of Java over against Bali. It may be of interest to know that Merapi is a word compounded from the Malay word "api" a fire and might be loosely translated "the Fire Mountain".

(Above): Infra-red photo of the Smeroe, Bromo and Batok (the cone in the foreground) from the top of the Penandjaän.

(Below): Crater of the Bromo from the Batok.





The smoke plume over the Merapi (2911 meters — 9,606 feet) near Jogjakarta and Solo taken from a plane above the clouds.

A striking view from the air showing the majestic cones of four volcanoes towering above the plains of Centra Java.
In the foreground Mount Merapi.





information can also, of course, be obtained by a personal visit to the office of the Travelers Official Information Bureau at Rijswijk 15, between the Hotel der Nederlanden and the Palace of the Governor General on Rijswijk.

(Above): Craters of the Dieng Plateau.

(Below): Mountain Map of Java. The "flames" above many of the mountains indicate volcanoes.





An interesting photo of part of the western slope of the Merapi during the eruption of 1930 showing the lava stream following an empty river bed and thousands of terraced rice fields covered with light-grey volcanic ashes looking in the photo like snow.

Important volcanic phenomena in recent years (with a few notes on historic eruptions).

A. **Krakatao.** This is probably internationally the best known volcano in Java (actually in the sea just off the coast). The oldest known eruption was in May 1681. The great eruption of modern times was from May to August, 1883, culminating on the 26th and 27th of August when 23,556 million cubic yards of eruptive detritus was hurled into the air and the mountain as such practically disappeared, the island, some seven and three quarters square miles in area, collapsing into the enormous cavern that had been formed. Since December 1927 "Anak Krakatao" has been active with intervals lasting from one month to one year, the eruptions lasting from a day or two to several months.

In 1928 there were 6 eruptions	In 1932 there were 2 eruptions
1929 5	1933 7
1930 5	1934 4
1931 3	1935 3

Around the original submarine crater the ejected detritus has gradually built up a wall which finally rose above the sea level as a new island. This has been destroyed three times by eruptions, but the present island has been in existence since the middle of August, 1930, and is now about 200 ft. high; including the crater it covers an area of over one third of a square mile.

B. **Gedeh.** For a very long time this has been a most well-behaved volcano. In 1909 there was a mild ash eruption and in the nineteenth century on 13 occasions similar light eruptions. Only in 1840 was there on one occasion a rather more severe eruption when fire clouds passed down the north-western slopes of the mountain, but did not reach the plains.

C. **Tangkoeban Prahu.** This is also a peaceful, though still active, volcano, but in its most rough eruption in the past centuries it has done damage only to its own summit. As late as 1929 mild mud eruptions took place.

D. **Goentoer.** Since 1847 there has been no eruption, although between 1800 and 1847 it was one of the most active craters in Java. There was a severe eruption in 1840 with an outpouring of lava towards Tjipanas, while history relates that in 1690 there must have been a catastrophic explosion in which many lives were lost.

E. Kawah Kamodjang. From this crater there have been occasional mud eruptions as late as December 1931. The force was comparatively mild and the mud was flung to no more than a hundred feet or so in the air.

F. Papandajan. Heavy mud eruptions have recently taken place from this mountain and the debris has been flung far into the air, on one recent occasion as high as 3500 ft. or more. These eruptions took place from 1923 to 1925. In 1772 during an eruption the north-east portion of the crater wall collapsed with disastrous results.

G. Galoenggoeng. There was a great eruption of this mountain in 1822 with fire and lava streams causing immense damage in the plain of Tasikmalaya and great loss of life. In recent years the mountain has been quiet with the exception of some slight activity in 1918 during which a small cone was formed in the centre of the old crater.

H. Telaga Bodas. Towards the end of October, 1913, the water in this remarkable crater lake began to steam all over its surface and here and there along the margins geysers sprang up throwing water several feet into the air.

I. Tjerimal. As a volcano this mountain is only of historic interest, although it is one of the most beautifully formed cones in Java. It erupted in 1805 and probably also in 1772.

K. Slamet. This great mountain, although also in almost constant activity, has been very gentle of recent years. Eruptions large enough to be noted separately took place as late as 1933. Rather more severe activity was reported in 1926 and 1932 on one or two occasions, but here, again, it was only the top of the mountain itself that suffered.

L. Timbang (Dieng Plateau). In addition to the many solfatarae and hot springs on this plateau that witness to volcanic activity, there was an eruption of gas, mud and stones near Timbang in 1928. For months afterwards there were dangerous seepages of carbon dioxide gas into the pits and craters in the neighbourhood.

M. Sendoro. Also very gentle. Mild eruptions reported in 1903 and 1906 while from 1882 to 1883 a very prolonged gentle eruption must have taken place.

N. Merapi. This mountain is in constant activity and its top is always crowned with a smoke cloud. It has from time to time caused considerable damage in its neighbourhood by reason of the vast flame eruptions which reach the ground over an area of some eight miles radius from the mountain. Since 1900 there have been many rather violent eruptions and in 1930 tremendous clouds of molten debris destroyed over 20 square kilometers (seven and three-quarters square miles) of land on the mountain slopes and in its vicinity. A lava stream over ten furlongs long was formed. In 1935 a prolonged period of activity gave rise to the formation of a lava cone at the top and a small lava stream. The glowing ash-rain has frequently filled up and completely destroyed the sawahs in the neighbourhood as is shown in our illustration.

O. Kelod. This is one of the most interesting volcanoes in Java. It frequently shows violent activity which is apparently due to the water from the crater lake flowing through cracks into the glowing lava-pool in the crater itself. The resultant sudden steam-formation gives the effect of a veritable explosion, which on more than one occasion has blown the top of the mountain entirely off. For instance, in 1919 somewhat more than 10,500 million gallons of water from the lake were vaporised and hurled into the air. The resultant destruction of the crater caused the overflow of lava streams that did very great damage while thousands of natives lost their lives. Since the crater lake was the guilty party in causing these eruptions to be so very severe, a series of tunnels have been dug by the Volcanological Service to keep the water level below the danger point. Historically, the oldest known eruption is reported to have taken place in A.D. 1000.

P. Bromo. This volcano is more interesting for its situation by the famous Java Sand Sea than for the violence of its volcanic activity, although it has been repeatedly in eruption. The ash has been spread over quite considerable areas. It erupts regularly, the latest occasion being in June 1930.

Q. Semerou. This mountain has been most active in the past but has had no eruption since 1913; the majority of its eruptions have been rather kindly. There was a violent eruption in 1911 in which the lava stream approached quite close to Loemadajang some 30 kilometers (19 miles) from the top. On November 15th, 1911, the smoke cloud over the mountain reached a height of nearly 50,000 ft. and rocks fell at a distance of 25 kilometers (about 16 miles) from the crater.

R. Lamongan. This volcano has been quiescent since 1898, although in the nineteenth century there had been 45 eruptions.

S. Raeng. This is a giant of the old days and the crater is more than one and a quarter miles in diameter. At present activity is confined to a small central crater some 250 yards across in the floor of the old crater. The products of eruption, with the exception of the ash, are all retained within the old crater-wall. The last eruption was in 1933.

T. Kawah Idjen. The only known eruption of this volcano was in 1817, when considerable damage was done through the sulphuric acid belched forth. Increased activity occurred also in 1917.

These notes have been epitomised from a review of the subject kindly furnished us by Dr Neumann van Padang, Assistant Head of the Netherlands Indian Volcanological Service.



The cone and smoke plume of the Merapi as seen from an aeroplane close by.

List of the mountains in Java known to have erupted or where there are still solfataras or other volcanic phenomena indicating activity.

Name	Height		Nearest town	Best starting point for the climb or nearest Mountain Resort
	Meters	Feet		
Semeroe	3,676	12,132	Pasaroean	Tosari (H)
Slamat	3,432	11,326	Tegal	Toewel (H)
Soembing	3,371	11,124	Wonosobo	Kledoeng (R)
Arjuna-Walirang	3,339	11,019	Surabaya	Tretes (H)
Raoeng	3,332	10,996	Bondowoso	Soemberwringin (R)
Lawoe	3,265	10,775	Madioen	Sarangan (H)
Sendoro	3,151	10,398	Wonosobo	Kledoeng (R)
Merbaboe	3,142	10,369	Magelang	Kopeng (H)
Hyang Argopoero	3,142	10,369	Kraksaan	Bremi (R)
Tjerimai	3,078	10,157	Cheribon	Madja (R)
Gedeh-Pangerango	3,019	9,963	Buitenzorg	Sindanglaya (H)
Merapi	2,911	9,606	Surakarta	Surakarta (Solo) (H)
			Jogjakarta	Kalioerang (H)
Papandayan	2,622	8,653	Garoet (Bandoeng)	Bandoeng (by motor car)
Dieng Mountains	2,585	8,531	Wonosobo	Wonosobo (H)
Wilis	2,563	8,458	Ponorogo/Madioen	Ngebel (H)
Patoeha (kawah poeteh)	2,428	8,012	Bandoeng	Bandoeng (H)
Bromo	2,396	7,907	Surabaya/Malang	Tosari (H) or Nongkodjadar (H)
			—	—
Idjen Mountains	2,384	7,867		
Goentoer	2,249	7,422	Garoet	Radium Hotel (H)
Salak	2,211	7,300	Buitenzorg	Tjmelati (H)
Telaga Bodas	2,193	7,237	Garoet	Garoet (H) via Wanaradja
Wajang-Windoe	2,182	7,201	Bandoeng	Pengalengan (H)
Galoengoeng	2,178	7,188	Tasikmalaya	Tasikmalaya (H)
				via Tjiponjo
Tangkoeban Prahū	2,076	6,851	Bandoeng	Lembang (H); (from Bandoeng by motor car)
Oengaran	2,050	6,765	Samarang	Samarang (H)
				via Medini Tea Estate
Karang	1,778	5,867	Serang (Bantam)	Pandeglang via Tjinjoe-roep (R)
Keloed	1,731	5,712	Kediri	Kediri (H) via Babingan
Lamongan	1,669	5,508	Klakah	Klakah (H on lake shore) via Tjoerah
Poelosari	1,346	4,442	Pandeglang	Pandeglang (R) via Pandat
Krakatao (Anak)	60	198	Serang (Bantam)	Best visible from Rest House at Pasaoeran.
	Crater wall variable			
	Crater below sea level.			

H = Hotel
R = Rest House

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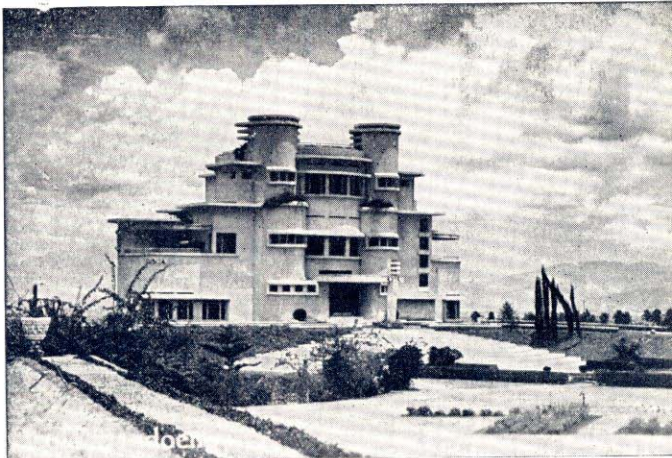
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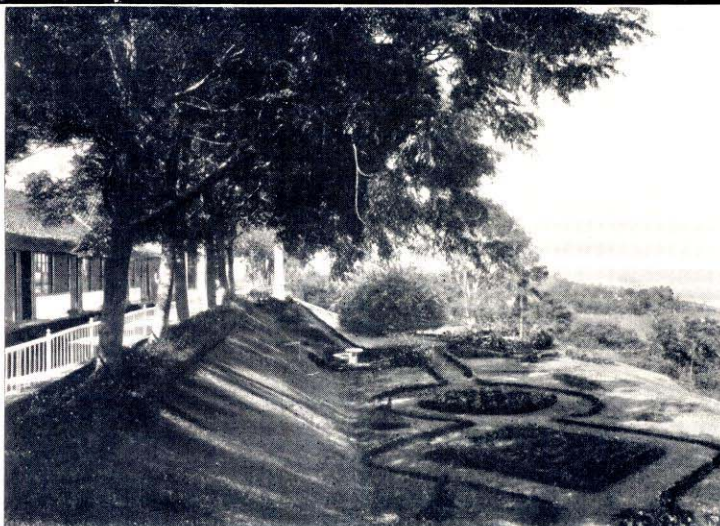
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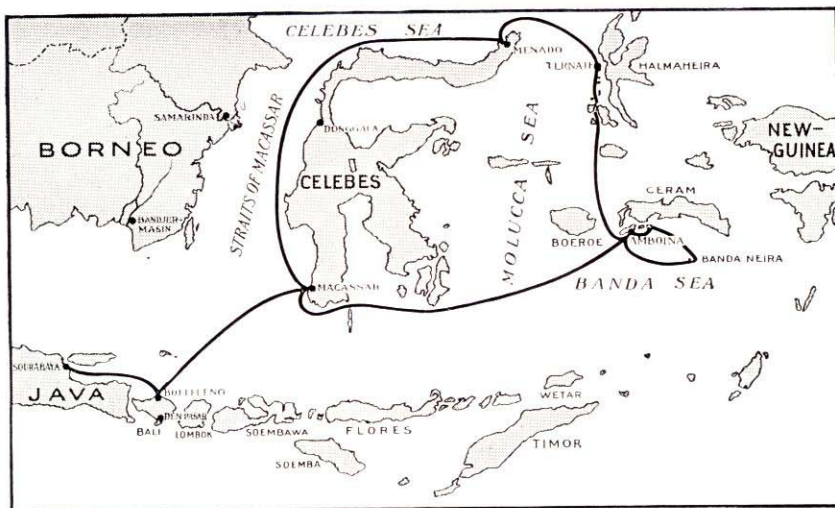
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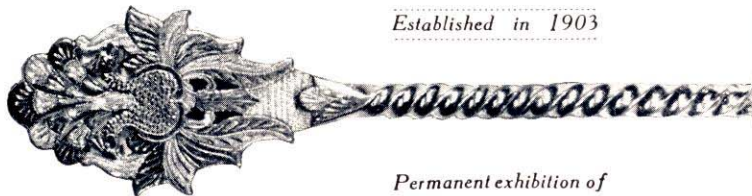
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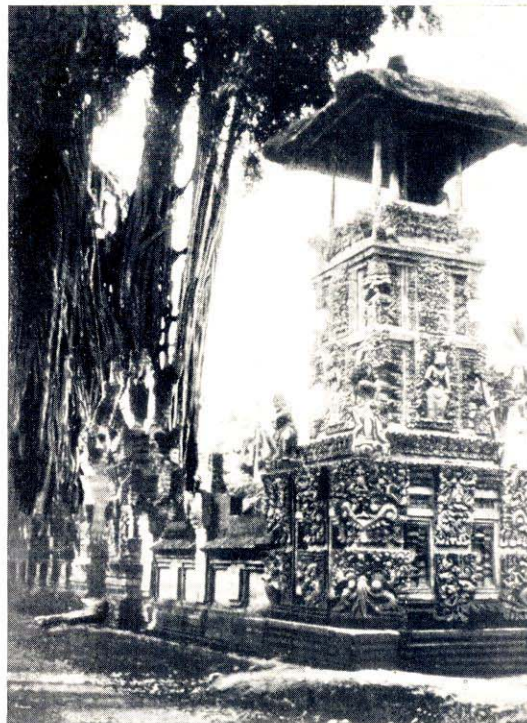
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