

# Heinrich Julius Wiederhold (1724)

## ***went to the Indies in 1747***

In 1747 a Heinrich Julius Wiederhold, then aged 23, from Wanfried in Hessen joined the Dutch East Indies Company (VOC) as a soldier. In the books of the VOC he is cited as Hendrik Julius, and shown as being on board of the vessel Domburg of the merchant chamber of Zeeland arriving 17 Sep 1747 in Batavia, now Djakarta, Indonesia. The year after he was posted in Malakka, now Malacca in Malaysia, about 250km North of where now Singapore is located. Malakka was an important transshipment harbor for spices, tin, and goods from China, established by the Portuguese, but captured by the VOC by 1641 [Dianne Lewis: Jan Companie in the Straits of Malacca 1741-1795; Ohio University, 1995]. Subsequently some of the trade moved to other ports on the Malaysian peninsula.

Hendrik arrives in 1748 in Malakka and established himself there. He marries a widow, they have three children, of which 2 survive him. In 1764 Hendrik Julius is promoted to governor of Perak, a tin-trading port further north on the Malaysian peninsula, an area still under control of a local, wealthy Sultanate, centered in Northern Sumatra. That area was, and still is fiercely independent.

The Indonesian Islands were controlled to varying degrees, as described in [Gio's mother's ancestry](#), by the VOC. Outlying islands only became a colony of the Netherlands in 1816, after the VOC had lost its ability to control commerce, in part due to having been taken over by the British after the Netherlands were conquered by Napoleon. Thomas Stamford Raffles, the British governor during that time, subsequently founded Singapore in 1819, diminishing the importance of Malakka.

Hendrik Julius W's son, Jan Arnold marries three times and has three sons in Malakka. His first wife, Isabella Sophia Rappa, is the daughter of a seaman from Spain, Pablo Rappa. I have not had success researching the ancestry of his other wives.

A grandson, also named Jan Arnold, and later descendants established tea plantations and sugar factories in East Java. John Edward Wiederhold adopted in 1890 formally the name Hedrich von Wiederhold to recognize a maternal ancestor. After Indonesia gained independence, most went to the Netherlands and a few wound up in the U.S.

The story of [Hendrik Julius Wiederhold](#) was recounted in 2016 in Dutch by George Molenkamp, married to a descendant of John Edward Hedrich von Wiederhold. Later George [translated Hendrik Julius W's story into English](#) for Wiederhold.org



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