

4. EXCERPTS FROM: *CONCISE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF NAI PRIDI BANOMYONG (1983)*

[N.B. This autobiography was written in the style of notes, and that style is here reproduced in the English.]

3. EDUCATION IN THAILAND

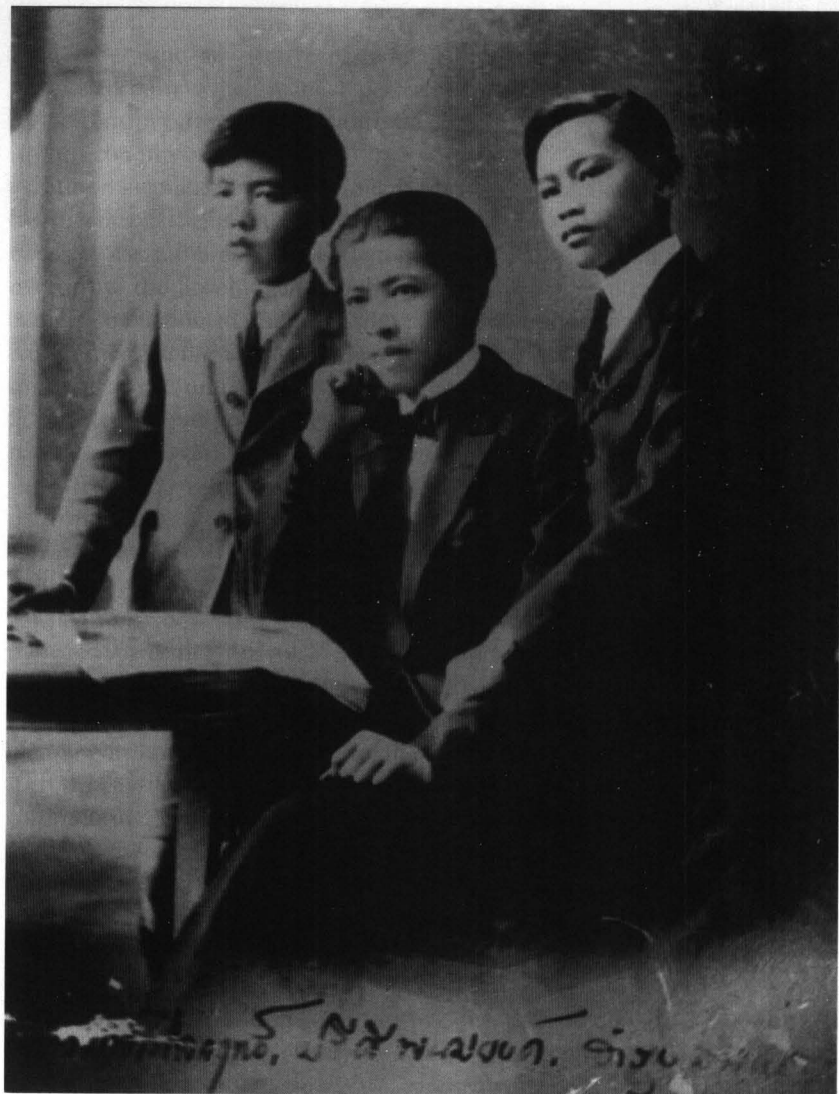
Began studying at the house of teacher Seng in tambon Tha Wasukri, then moved to the house of Luang Prani (Piam) in amphoe Tha Rua.

Once could read and write, entered the school of Wat Ruak which at that time was the government school for amphoe Tha Rua. Passed the first grade at level 1 (in the Education Ministry's curriculum of that time which divided primary education into three levels and four grades; the division into *mun*, *prathom*, *mathayom* did not yet exist).

Later when the Education Ministry set a new curriculum divided into *mun*, *prathom*, *mathayom*, moved to study at the school of Wat Sala Pun, amphoe Krung Kao. Passed *prathom* exams under the new curriculum, then moved to study lower secondary (*mathayom triam*) at Wat Benchamabophit [in Bangkok], and then to the monthon Ayutthaya demonstration school until passed *mathayom* 6 (which was the highest level available in a provincial town). Went to study further at Suan Kulap school [in Bangkok] for six months, then quit to go back to help father with paddy farming. Acquired much practical knowledge from the farmers.

In 1917, entered the law school of the Justice Ministry, and studied French language at the Bar Association under the teacher, E. Ladeker, who was advisor to the foreign court.

In 1919, passed the bar exams, but under the limitations of that time was unable to become a barrister as not yet aged twenty. Had to wait until attained the age of twenty in 1920, and then became an ordinary member of the bar.



M.C. Dilokrit Kridakon, Pridi, and Amrung Sunthonwon

4. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT SERVICE DURING TIME AS A LAW STUDENT

In 1917–18, clerk in the law office of Phra Wichitmontri (Sut Kunthonchinda), former chief judge of monthon Chumphon and former assistant head of the department of military procedure.

In 1919–20, second-grade clerk in the penitentiary department.

Received special permission to act as counsel in some cases.

5. STUDY IN FRANCE

In August 1920, selected by the Justice Ministry for a scholarship to study law in France.

Studied French language and general knowledge at the Lycée in Caen, with special tuition from M. Lebonnois, secretary of the Institut Pédagogique International.

Studied law at the University of Caen, passed the Bachelier de Droit and the Licencié de Droit.

Studied further at the University of Paris, passed the Docteur en Droit in Sciences Juridiques, and also the Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures d'Economie Politique.



8. GOVERNMENT SERVICE PRIOR TO THE REVOLUTION OF 24 JUNE

Judge attached to the Ministry of Justice: trained as a prosecutor in the foreign court and the foreign cases court for six months; took records of cases filed in the High Court for six months

Promoted as assistant secretary in the law-drafting department.

Taught at the law school of the Ministry of Justice: compiled third volume of the civil code on partnerships, companies, and associations; taught private international law; was the first person to teach administrative law.



*The future King Prajadhipok with Thai students in France, 1924.
Pridi is third from right in the second row.*

9. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO THE REVOLUTION OF 24 JUNE

Taught at the law school in a way to arouse, by stages, the consciousness of students to be interested in the necessity of changing the absolute monarchy to a form of monarchy under a democratic constitution.

At the Silom house, began training and critique of law with no teaching fee for law students to foster even closer relations with students, such that many law students joined as type-1 members of the People's Party, and as type-2 and type-3 supporters of the People's Party.