

**Title: 20210106 KH Sustained Damage**

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**Data on sustained damage by *Klein Hollandia*, in view of dendrochronology.**

The Dutch War ship *Klein Hollandia* was put into action on a number of occasions. Mentioned are known actions and whether damage was sustained.

### **Second Northern War, 1659-1660**

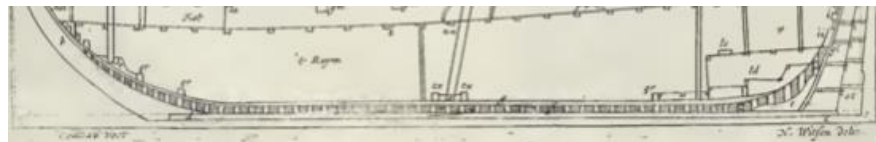
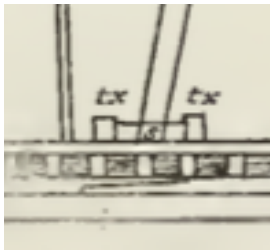
There is no information on damage to *Klein Hollandia*.

### **The battle of Lowestoft, 13 June 1665**

There is no information on damage to *Klein Hollandia*.

### **Battle in the bay of Bergen, 12 August 1665**

In the night of 9 and 10 September 1665, the *Klein Hollandia* had a rogue wave torn her barge sail and mizzen to pieces. She had much water in her holds; the pumping went on all night. Due to damage to their foundations, the feet of the masts had lost their fixation to the keel.<sup>1</sup> There is no information on repairs.



The image is taken from Nicolaes Witsen's work on shipbuilding "*Aeloude and hedendaegsche Scheepsbouw en Bestier*" in 1671.<sup>2</sup> Witsen had no experience in shipbuilding, he compiled his work from earlier publications and drew on experience of shipbuilders from Amsterdam. In his book Witsen describes the technique of *shell-first*, and not *frame-first* construction of a hull.

### **The Four Days' Battle, 11-14 June 1666**

It is not quite clear how it happened, but the *Duivenvoorde* of centre squadron was on fire at some stage of the battle. The flames erupted when the *Duivenvoorde* was a little to windward of the rest of her squadron. Her hull soon became a great floating torch and mortal threat to all the nearby vessels. Searing heat drove the helmsman from his post: with sails still drawing, the ship swerved out of control into the body of the fleet and collided with the *Klein Hollandia*. The two ships locked together. While the crew of the *Klein Hollandia* frantically chopped with axes at the binding wreckage, the men of the *Duivenvoorde* crowded to the beakhead hoping to clamber out on the bowsprit and drop to the deck of the *Klein Hollandia*. About thirty made it.

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<sup>1</sup> Brandt, G., *Leven en bedryf van den heere Michiel de Ruiter* (2009) 428.

<sup>2</sup> N. Witsen, *Aaloude en hedendaagsche scheepsbouw en bestier*, [https://www.dbnl.org/tekst/wits008arch01\\_01/242](https://www.dbnl.org/tekst/wits008arch01_01/242).

Unfortunately for the rest of the crew, the ships then separated. The stricken *Duivenvoorde* drifted aimlessly for an hour or so until the flames reached the magazine, whereupon she disappeared in a fearsome blast. Loss of life mounted to about 170. The *Klein Hollandia* had herself been set afire in the collision. With much difficulty the ship was eventually saved, though the stubborn blaze twice flared up again after the crew thought they had put it out.<sup>3</sup> The damage on *Klein Hollandia* because of the incident was superficial; the vessel had charred timbers at the bow. Captain Van Gelder took her back into the fight. The ship sustained severe damage.<sup>4</sup>

#### **The Two Days' Battle<sup>5</sup>, 4-5 August 1666.**

At North Foreland *Klein Hollandia* sustained severe damage.

#### **Raid on the Medway<sup>6</sup>, 19-24 June 1667**

*Klein Hollandia* took part in the raid. There is no information on damage inflicted on the vessel.

#### **Attack on Smyrna fleet, 24 March 1672**

During the attack, *Klein Hollandia* was riddled with shot.<sup>7</sup> The Dutch warship was *reduced ...to a state of helplessness.*<sup>8</sup> The vessel sailed in the English fleet several hours, but at last it was seen to make two totters, from port to starboard, to drop down right into the sea.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *A distant Storm: The Four Days Battle of 1666, The Greatest Sea Fight of the Age of Sail*, Frank L. Fox (1996), 239.

<sup>4</sup> Brandt, G., *Leven en bedryf van den heere Michiel de Ruiter* (2009) 482.

<sup>5</sup> Also known as St James' Day Battle, St. James's Day Fight, Battle of the North Foreland, Battle of Orfordness.

<sup>6</sup> Ship's information on *Klein Hollandia*, NIMH, The Hague.

<sup>7</sup> Newspaper: *Oprechte Haerlemsche courant*, 9 April 1672.

<sup>8</sup> Clowes, W.L., *The Royal Navy, A History*, Vol. II (1898), 443.

<sup>9</sup> State Paper, Domestic, Car. II. 304, No. 20.