

Title: 20210106 KH Service Record

Version 2.1

Content: Context, Actions *Klein Hollandia*, Biography Captains

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According to the information obtained from the Netherlands' Institute for Military History (NIMH) the navy ship *Hollandia* commanded by Captain Jan de Liefde was active in the Sound and off Dantzig in the Baltic Sea. Whether this action is to be attributed to *Klein Hollandia*, remains to be seen. In those days, the name *Hollandia* appeared as a ship's name in many forms: *Hollandia*, *Klein Hollandia*, *Groot Hollandia*, *Out Hollandia* and *Nieuw Hollandia*. Sometimes *Hollandia* was used as an abbreviation. As the Dutch Republic had five admiralties, that each made their own decisions on the names of their vessels, it could happen that in a combined fleet ships had the same or similar names.

In archives and books the name of *Klein Hollandia* is written in different ways: *Kleen Hollandia*, *Cleyn Hollandia*, *Little Holland*.

Second Northern War

The Second Northern war was a series of conflicts between Sweden that pursued expansion of its territory and other Baltic states. To the Dutch Republic in the 17th century the Baltic was especially important. The trade laid the foundation of the expanding economy. Ships from the republic transported salt, herring, and luxury goods. From the Baltic area the Dutch imported wood and grain. The most important shipping route ran from Amsterdam through the Sound to Dantzig in Poland. Both cities profited from the trade and expanded in size and stature.

Any limitation to trade or shipping was viewed as a danger, which was to be dealt with on a national level. The Sound is a narrow waterway that - along with the Greater Belt and Little Belt - allows access to the Baltic Sea. At times of troubles or war the Dutch were present in the Sound to make sure their trade route remained accessible, and if necessary naval force was used.

In his quest for expansion of power and wealth, the Swedish king Karl X Gustav aimed to eliminate the State of Denmark-Norway. This would clear the way for his desired conquest of Royal Prussia, a dependency of the King of Poland on the shores of the Baltic.

In 1658 the Swedish army surrounded Copenhagen, hoping to starve it into submission. A Dutch fleet under Lieutenant-Admiral Van Wassenaer Obdam was sent to Denmark to help against Sweden. After he had defeated the Swedish fleet on 29 October 1658 in the Sound, admiral Obdam and his fleet stayed the winter at Copenhagen. On 12 February 1659, Swedish troops attacked Copenhagen, but to no avail.

On 20 May, a Dutch fleet of 39 warships under the command of vice-admiral De Ruyter sailed to Denmark to break the deadlock. The fleet sailed the Belt on 10 June and joined Obdam a few days later. The combined fleet numbered 78 warships: 13,000 sailors, 4,000 land soldiers, and 3,200 pieces of artillery.¹

***Klein Hollandia*, under the command of captain Laurens Heemskerk, was part of De Ruyter's fleet in 1659 and 1660. The ship was fitted with 48 cannons and had a crew of 212. Laurens Heemskerk was mentioned in dispatches several times, as in acting with other units of the Dutch navy.²**

Although the Swedes had a slight advantage over the Dutch - more ships, more guns, more troops - they lifted their siege of Copenhagen.

King Karl X Gustav died in February 1660: with him Sweden had lost its drive to carry on with the war. On 27 May, the Second Northern War formally ended with the Treaty of Copenhagen.

¹ Leven en Bedryf van den vermaarden Zeeheld Cornelis Tromp (1692), 197-199.

² G. Brandt, Leven en bedryf van den heere Michiel de Ruyter (2009, dbnl) 160, 187, 190, 198, 214.

On 13 August, the Dutch fleet sailed from Copenhagen via the Sound to return to the Republic.³

Captain of *Klein Hollandia*: Laurens Heemskerk

Commanded *Klein Hollandia* in 1659-1660 during naval operations in the Sound and the Baltic. In the Second Anglo-Dutch War (1665-1667) captain Heemskerk commanded the *Vrede*, a fourth-rate ship-of-the-line.⁴ His second in command was lieutenant Eland du Bois. On 13 June 1665, at Lowestoft, Heemskerk fled the scene of the battle. He failed to appear in court, the 'guilty' was pronounced for his cowardly behaviour. In July 1666, Heemskerk went to England to join the navy. He assisted the English naval commander Holmes in his raid - *Holmes's Bonfire* - on Dutch merchant vessels in the Vlie waterway and the island of Terschelling. Heemskerk was in French service when he engaged in the sea battle at Solebay in 1672.⁵

1664 Guinee - cancelled

To secure a fleet of ships bound for West Africa, the navy prepared a fleet of 39 warships. Lieutenant Admiral Obdam commanded the fleet in his flagship *Eendracht*. **Vice-Admiral Kortenaer was on *Klein Hollandia*, which was fitted with 56 cannons and had 400 men on board.**⁶ The fleet did not sail, and the entire operation was cancelled in November because of the weather.

Captain of *Klein Hollandia*: Egbert Bartolomeusz Kortenaer

Born in 1604, son of a soldier. In 1626 he was boson, ten years later he was officer. In 1637 he was taken prisoner by corsairs from Dunkerque. Shortly after his ransom was paid, he celebrated his release in such a manner that he was arrested for it. In 1643 he became first officer on the flagship of Maarten Tromp, the *Aemilia*. In 1651 he served under admiral Tromp on board his new flagship, the *Bredenrode*. On 21 October 1653, Kortenaer received his captaincy. In the First Anglo-Dutch War (1652-1654) he lost a hand and an eye. Kortenaer was involved in the war in the Sound against Sweden, when he was flag captain on board the *Eendracht*, the flagship of the united admiralties of the Republic between 1655 and 1665. On the 8th of May 1659 Kortenaer was appointed Vice Admiral en received a knighthood from the king of Denmark. On 29 January 1665 he was appointed to Lieutenant Admiral. At the battle of Lowestoft, on 13 June 1665, on board *Groot Hollandia* Kortenaer was killed by a cannonball.⁷

³ G. Brandt, *Leven en bedryf van den heere Michiel de Ruyter* (2009, dbnl) 216.

⁴ *Leven en Bedryf van den vermaarden Zeeheld Cornelis Tromp* (1692), 147.

⁵ Van der Aa et alia, *Biographisch Woordenboek der Nederlanden*.

⁶ *Leven en Bedryf van den vermaarden Zeeheld Cornelis Tromp* (1692), 226.

⁷ A.J. Van der Aa, *Biographisch woordenboek der Nederlanden*. Deel 3, 743.

Second Anglo-Dutch War

The Second Anglo-Dutch War (4 March 1665-31 July 1667⁸) between England and the Dutch Republic was about domination of the world trade, rule over the seas and trade routes.

The Dutch navy ship *Klein Hollandia* was involved in all major battles in this war:

Lowestoft	13 June 1665
Four Days' Battle	11-14 June 1666
St. James' Day Fight	4 en 5 August 1666
Raid on the Medway	19-24 June 1667

In August 1665, the Dutch home fleet relieved the merchant fleet at Bergen after an attack by English navy vessels.

The battle of Lowestoft, 13 June 1665

The first important sea battle of the Second Anglo-Dutch War took place off England's east coast near Lowestoft. On 13 June, the fleet of the Duke of York, the future king Charles II, clashed with the Dutch fleet of admiral Van Wassenaer Obdam.

Earlier, on 27 May, Klein Hollandia had sailed in the fleet from Hellevoetsluis in Holland to sea. Two days later nine English merchant vessels were taken. On 8 June, the fleet set course to the England. Three days later the English fleet was sighted.⁹

Both fleets were of almost equal size: the Dutch had 103 ships and the English had 106 ships in the line.

With so many ships involved on either side, it was extremely difficult to maintain cohesion within the fleet and its squadrons. If the enemy's fleet began to lose its cohesion, common sense demanded complete concentration on the main force to do as much damage to the enemy's fleet as possible: to take, sink, or disable ships, including the flagship of the commander-in-chief.¹⁰

The Dutch fleet had missed a clear opportunity two days earlier to attack the English fleet when they had the advantage. The Dutch admiral Van Wassenaer Obdam seemed to lack the will to engage the enemy. His malfunctioning communication, hesitation, and the confusion in the fleet, contrasted sharply with the order and discipline in the English fleet.

⁸ 22 February 1664-21 July 1667, Julian calendar.

⁹ Ship's Information on *Klein Hollandia*, NIMH, The Hague.

¹⁰ B. Tunstall, Naval warfare in the age of sail, 24

At Lowestoft *Klein Hollandia* was under the command of Vice Admiral Johan de Liefde, it was fitted with 57 cannons and had a crew of 264.¹¹

Admiral Obdam was on the *Eendracht*. The flagship was in a fight with HMS *Royal Charles* for two hours, when the gunpowder magazine exploded, and the vessel was blown up. Only 5 of the crew of 409 survived. Shortly afterwards Dutch ships broke off the fight and began a disorderly retreat. The fight raged on from 4.30 a.m. to about 7.00 p.m.. At the end of the battle the bulk of the beaten Dutch fleet managed to escape destruction. The Dutch had lost 17 ships and had over 2,000 killed and 2,000 taken prisoner. The English lost 1 ship and had approximately 400 killed.

Two days after the humiliating defeat, *Klein Hollandia* arrived in the waters of Hellevoetsluis.¹² Viewing the returning fleet, it was noticed that quite some vessels had minor damage, mostly to rigging and sails. This led to the assumption, that the cause of the defeat was mainly a lack of motivation to fight. The navy's worst defeat ever and the behaviour of crews and captains led to a public uproar.¹³

Nine captains were court-marshalled for cowardice. Three captains were sentenced to death, another three banished from the Dutch Republic and three more were dishonourably discharged from the service.

Former *Klein Hollandia* captain Laurens Heemskerck was found guilty in this trial. Before the trial started, he had fled to England.

The lessons learnt by the Dutch resulted in new and better-armed ships, better fleet-management, and discipline. Admiral Michiel de Ruyter was to command the new fleet.

Captain of *Klein Hollandia*: Johan (Jan) Evertszoon de Liefde (1619-1673)

The De Liefde family was well entrenched in the Admiralty of the Maze in Rotterdam. The father of Johan Evertszoon de Liefde, his five brothers, sons, and nephews, they all had found employment in one capacity or the other.

In 1644, Johan de Liefde was made captain. He fought against Barbary corsairs in the Mediterranean and was involved with his ship *Dordrecht* in the Sound in 1658. At Lowestoft he was in command of *Klein Hollandia*, by then he had the rank of vice admiral. On 15 June 1665 he was appointed Rear Admiral. He earned acclaim in the Four Days Battle (11-14 June 1666). During the Raid on the Medway (20-23 June 1667) Jan de Liefde took the English flagship HMS *Royal Charles*. In 1670 he fought against Algerian corsairs in the Mediterranean. In the Third Anglo-Dutch War he was in all four major sea battles. On the 21st of August 1673 he was killed by a cannon ball in the Battle of Texel.¹⁴

¹¹ J.C. de Jonge, *Geschiedenis van het Nederlandsche Zeewezen*, tweede deel, tweede stuk (1835) 477.

¹² Ship's Information on *Klein Hollandia*, NIMH, The Hague.

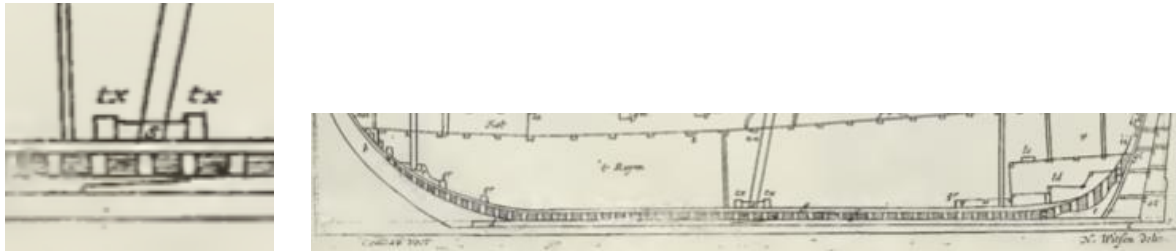
¹³ J.C. M. Warnsinck, *Van vlootvoogden en zeeslagen*, 322-326.

¹⁴ *Leven en Bedryf van den vermaarden Zeeheld Cornelis Tromp*, 453.

Battle in the bay of Bergen, 12 August 1665

Captain Huibert Jakobsz. Huig commanded *Klein Hollandia*, which was fitted with 57 cannons and had a crew of 210, along with 14 marines and 48 soldiers.¹⁵

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.¹⁶ There is no information on repairs.



The image is taken from Nicolaes Witsen's work on shipbuilding "*Aeloude and hedendaegsche Scheepsbouw en Bestier*" in 1671.¹⁷ 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.

When the storm subsided De Ruyter reassembled his fleet. The English navy managed to take a few prizes: both merchant and navy ships. A large majority of the vessels reached a safe port in the Dutch Republic. The English had missed the opportunity of capturing the Dutch Return Fleet from the Indies: it would have enabled them to finance the war.

In October 1665, admiral de Ruyter was in command of two squadrons, when he sailed on board frigate *Gornichem* to Kings Deep in the Thames estuary to await the enemy fleet. However, no vessel was sighted, as the English navy was kept in port, due to the plague that had broken out. The Dutch had the same problem with the disease raging through the fleet. A secret list mentioned 140 crew dead, 355 sick sent home, another 970 remaining in the fleet.

The plague affected 40 of the crew on board *Klein Hollandia*.

Some ships had less infected crew. On the other hand, for example, the *Duivenvoorde*, commanded by captain Henrik van Tol, with a crew of 176, along with 38 marines and 27 soldiers, had 80 victims.¹⁸ The plague had put the ship out of service.¹⁹ Subsequently, the *Duivenvoorde* was sent back to the Republic.²⁰

¹⁵ G. Brandt, *Leven en bedryf van den heere Michiel de Ruyter* (2009) 406.

¹⁶ G. Brandt, *Leven en bedryf van den heere Michiel de Ruyter* (2009) 428.

¹⁷ N. Witsen, *Aaloude en hedendaegsche scheepsbouw en bestier*, https://www.dbnl.org/tekst/wits008arch01_01/242.

¹⁸ G. Brandt, *Leven en bedryf van den heere Michiel de Ruyter* (2009, dbnl) 451.

¹⁹ G. Brandt, *Leven en bedryf van den heere Michiel de Ruyter* (2009, dbnl) 406.

²⁰ G. Brandt, *Leven en bedryf van den heere Michiel de Ruyter* (2009, dbnl) 451.

For three weeks the Dutch navy had blocked the approaches to the Thames, thus also choking off the seaborne commerce of this part of England. In the end, the outbreak of the plague and October storms drove them off.²¹

Captain of *Klein Hollandia*: Huibert Jakobszoon Huygen²²

Was in service of the Maze Admiralty. In August 1665, Huygen was captain of *Klein Hollandia*.²³ In June 1666, he was captain of *Gornichem*, a frigate fitted with 36 cannons, a crew of 130 and 20 soldiers.²⁴ *Gornichem* is mentioned as one of the Dutch warships that fired at Upnor Castle during the Raid on the Medway. A few months later, in August, the *Gornichem* was still in action, it was fitted with 34 cannons, had a 102 crew, 19 soldiers and 9 marines.²⁵

The Four Days' Battle, 11-14 June 1666²⁶, was one of the longest naval engagements in history. After the defeat at Lowestoft, the Dutch reorganized their navy and went all out against the English navy in the southern part of the North Sea.

The Dutch fleet counted over 100 ships, fitted with 4,615 cannons and 21,909 crew, marines, and land soldiers. The Dutch estimated the English fleet to 81 ship-of-the-line, fitted with 4,460 cannons and manned with a total of 21,085 crew and soldiers. plus, smaller vessels and fire ships.

Captain Evert van Gelder was in command of *Klein Hollandia*, which had a 220 crew and 30 soldiers, fitted with 54 cannons. The ship was in the Centre Division led by Rear Admiral Jan Jansz. van Nes of the First Squadron. Admiral-General de Ruyter was in command of the fleet. De Ruyter had selected five captains who would to their utmost second him, and each other, without departure for whatever reason in the world, on pain of death. Captain Van Gelder was one of the chosen ones.²⁷

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 to safety, among them two guests of De Ruyter:

²¹ R. Hainsworth & C. Churches, *The Anglo Dutch Wars 1652-1674* (1998) 134.

²² He is also mentioned as Huybert, Huijbert, Huijbrecht, Huybrecht Jacobsen, Jakobsz Huig, Huige, Huyge.

²³ G. Brandt, G. Brandt, *Leven en bedryf van den heere Michiel de Ruyter* (2009, dbnl) 406.

²⁴ G. Brandt, *Leven en bedryf van den heere Michiel de Ruyter* (2009, dbnl) 468.

²⁵ G. Brandt, *Leven en bedryf van den heere Michiel de Ruyter* (2009, dbnl) 508.

²⁶ 1-4 June 1666, Julian calendar.

²⁷ Michiel Adr. Ruyter, *Orderboek NIMH, Losse Stukken*, nr. 867.

the prince of Monaco and count de Guiche. 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.²⁸ 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.²⁹ There were 15 casualties: 4 killed and 11 wounded.³⁰

After four days of fighting the fleets parted. Seven weeks later the fleets met again.

Captain of *Klein Hollandia*: Evert van Gelder ³¹

His sister Anna van Gelder was the third wife of admiral Michiel Adriaanszoon de Ruyter.³² In 1666 he was in command of *Klein Hollandia* in the Four Days' battle and the Two Days' battle at North Foreland, at both occasions the ship was severely damaged. Van Gelder was also present at the Raid on the Medway in May 1667, and the attempted raid on Harwich in July.

The Two Days' Battle, St. James' Day Battle, St. James's Day Fight, Battle of the North Foreland, Battle of Orfordness, 4-5 August 1666.

Two months after the Four Days' Battle, much to the surprise of the Dutch, the English fleet was back at sea again.

Klein Hollandia, with a crew of 244 and fitted with 54 cannons, was under the command of Evert van Gelder. The vessel was in First Squadron led by Rear Admiral Jan Jansz. Van Nes. Overall commander of the fleet was Admiral-General de Ruyter. As one of the seconds of De Ruyter's flagship *Zeven Provinciën* the *Klein Hollandia* engaged the mighty *Royal Sovereign*, with its crew of 600 and 100 cannons. *Klein Hollandia* suffered a terrible mauling from the great ship.³³

On St. James Day the English navy won a victory off the North Foreland. The Dutch loss in personnel was over tenfold that of the English.

The English followed up on their victory by attacking Dutch ships at the Vlie and invading the island of Terschelling. It was called *Holmes' bonfire*.

²⁸ F.L. Fox, *A distant Storm: The Four Days Battle of 1666* (1996) 239.

²⁹ G. Brandt, *Leven en bedrijf van den heere Michiel de Ruiter* (2009, dbnl) 482.

³⁰ F.L. Fox, *A distant Storm: The Four Days Battle of 1666* (1996) 241.

³¹ G. Brandt, *Uit het leven en bedrijf van den heere Michiel de Ruiter*, 174.

³² G. Brandt, *Uit het leven en bedrijf van den heere Michiel de Ruiter*, 405.

³³ F.L. Fox, *A distant Storm: The Four Days Battle of 1666* (1996) 336.

Raid on the Medway³⁴, 19-24 June 1667

In June 1667, the Dutch navy attacked English warships laid up off Chatham on the river Medway. The Dutch marines landed on English soil, navy ships bombarded Sheerness and sailed up the river Medway, burned English ships of war and seized *Royal Charles*, the pride of the English navy, and towed it to Holland. English defence was practically non-existent. The chaos in and around London was complete. For king Charles II the raid was a disaster. The outcome of the raid impacted the peace negotiations between the Dutch Republic and England. The war was soon over, on favourable conditions for the Dutch.

On the 8th of May 1667, in the south of Holland, the *Klein Hollandia* departed from the river in a squadron to arrive at Goeree straits the next day. The fleet sailed from there on the 26th of May for Texel. On 6 June 1667, the fleet sailed south and anchored at Schooneveld near the mouth of the river Scheldt. On 12 June, the ships weighed anchor and sailed to the point of rendezvous at the Thames.³⁵

On 13 June, the fleet had 61 ships and frigates of war. The fleet consisted of three squadrons. Admiral De Ruyter was in overall command: he was on *Zeven Provinciën*, fitted 80 cannons, a crew of 400 and 60 soldiers. De Ruyter was in first squadron, with vice-admiral De Liefde and rear admiral Jan van Nes.

The *Klein Hollandia*, with 54 cannons, a crew of 180 and 35 soldiers, under the command of captain Jan van Nes de Oude sailed in Second Squadron, led by Lieutenant admiral Aert Jansz van Nes (1626-1693), to whom he was related, on board flagship *Eendragt* with 80 cannons, 315 crew and 55 soldiers.

Lieutenant admiral van Ghent was in command of third squadron, he was in *Dolphyn*, fitted with 84 cannons, a crew of 475 and 75 soldiers.³⁶ During the Raid on the Medway Van Ghent oversaw operations on the river. Bigger ships secured the Thames. On the Medway the Royal Navy lost many ships and suffered a humiliating defeat.

As severe summer storm caused damage and scattered parts of the fleet on the 15th of June. ***Klein Hollandia* lost an anchor and a buoy in the storm**, boats were smashed to pieces, and a few ships ran aground.³⁷ **Two days later *Klein Hollandia* anchored in King's Deep in the approach to the Thames. At the beginning of the raid on the 19th of June, *Klein Hollandia* lay at anchor at Middle Grounds, facing Sheerness. On 21 June, she weighed anchor.**

The movement and action of *Klein Hollandia* between 21 June and 28 June is not known.

³⁴ Ship's information on *Klein Hollandia*, NIMH, The Hague.

³⁵ Ship's information on *Klein Hollandia*, NIMH, The Hague.

³⁶ G. Brandt, *Uit het leven en bedrijf van den heere Michiel de Ruiter*, 565.

³⁷ G. Brandt, *Uit het leven en bedrijf van den heere Michiel de Ruiter*, 567.

On 26 June, most ships of the Medway-expedition joined the fleet. In the nick of time: that evening a south-westerly summer storm swept the seas with showers of rain.³⁸

After the action *Klein Hollandia* anchored on the river near Queensborough, just south of Sheerness, where she remained till 28 June. The presence of the Dutch navy was maintained during the peace talks as means of pressure.

After the raid on the Medway, Lieutenant admiral W.J. baron van Ghent was in command of a Dutch fleet of eighteen ships and frigates, that included *Klein Hollandia*, along six smaller ships, and directed them to the Shetland Islands to escort a fleet of twelve merchant ships from the East. *Klein Hollandia* departed on 28 June from Queensborough.

Van Ghent had received orders to conquer and occupy one of the ports of the Shetlands: it was, however, to take no longer than two or three days. After learning that the English navy was near, and that the defence on land was well organized, the admiral gave up his plans and departed on 14 July. He focused on securing the safety of the expected fleet against the English navy.

Whilst cruising between the Shetlands and the Faroer Islands, the Dutch squadron endured a wide array of problems: storm, fog, rain, damage, sickness, deaths and a lack of supplies and water. The only times troops or crew went ashore was to bury the dead or to change the lookouts on the mountaintops. Late August, forced by sickness, hunger, damage and stormy weather the escort fleet returned to Texel straits in the Dutch Republic for supplies. Eight ships sailed back to their ports for repairs. After a few days of refit and resupply, the remainder of the fleet went back out again and sailed north.³⁹

The fleet they were looking for had departed from the Dutch East India Company settlement at the Cape, on the Southern tip of the African continent on 8 June 1667. Twelve ships, laden with riches from the East, sailed under the command of commodore Johan van Dam. The ships kept their course west of the Azores and further up north around Scotland, thus avoiding the English navy. In times of tension or war, Dutch navy ships usually would escort inbound merchant vessels to a safe port in the Republic. Likewise, in the autumn of 1667, the return fleet - valued at about thirty tons of gold - was expected for an escort in the Northern Atlantic.

Although peace between England and the Dutch Republic was agreed, hostilities on the North Sea could continue till 5 September and outside the North Sea to Cape St. Vincent till 5 October. That is the reason why the Dutch navy was so adamant in her pursuit to find the returning fleet.

³⁸ C.J.W Waning, A. van der Moer, *Dese Aengenaeme Tocht*, 62.

³⁹ J.C.M. Warnsinck, *Van vlootvoogden en zeeslagen*, 364-368.

On 17 September 1667, a storm developed on the North Atlantic. Violent winds and waves, along with torrential rains, resulted in death and destruction on land and at sea. On 18 September, the ships in the convoy had lost sight of each other and sailed to the Faroer Islands. The merchantman *Walcheren* was wrecked on Mykines, one of the Faroers. This ship had played a major role in 1665, in defending the Dutch merchant fleet in the bay of Bergen against the English navy. On 19 September, the richly laden *Wapen van Amsterdam* met a similar fate on the shores of Iceland. The other ships sailed on and arrived on 1 October 1667 at Torshavn on Stremoy, the main island of the Faroer.⁴⁰

On 4 October, after more than a month of patrolling, the Dutch navy found the first vessel from Van Dam's fleet.⁴¹ The ships set course to the Dutch Republic and Germany, to arrive at their destinations between 9 and 25 October.⁴² ***Klein Hollandia*, commanded by Jan Jacobsz. van Nes, arrived at Texel straits on 15 October 1667.**⁴³

Captain of *Klein Hollandia*: Jan Jacobszoon van Nes (1599-1672)⁴⁴

Jan Jacobsz. van Nes joined the Admiralty of the Maze in 1614. Van Nes rose through the ranks to become a captain of a man-of-war in 1625. He fought in the Dutch war of independence (1568-1648) in command of a man-of-war on inland waters. After his father Jacob van Nes - captain in the Admiralty of Maze (Rotterdam) - had died, he was given the command of his father's vessel.

He married three times in Rotterdam: on 29 November 1620, he married Grietgen Jans. On 31 January 1634, he married Maertien Abrams. In April 1636, he married Willempge Joosten van Coulster.

He joined admiral Maarten Harpertszoon Tromp in the fight against Dunkirk pirates and had his share in the battle of the Downs against a Spanish armada on 21 October 1639.

The Battle of the Kentish Knock was a battle between the fleets of the Dutch Republic and England, fought on 8 October 1652, during the First Anglo-Dutch War near the shoal called the Kentish Knock in the North Sea, about thirty kilometres east of the mouth of the river Thames. The Dutch fleet, internally divided on political, regional, and personal grounds, proved incapable of making a determined effort and was soon forced to withdraw, losing two ships and many casualties.

Van Nes was in command of *Gorcum*, with a crew of 131 and fitted with 30 cannons, when it collided with another vessel. His ship lost its foremast, bowsprit, and galleon. Van Nes tried to get his vessel in tow but failed after an enemy vessel had blocked his way. He was accused of dereliction of duty and negligence: without

⁴⁰ *Hollandtze Mercurius*, October 1667, 153-154.

⁴¹ J.C.M. Warnsinck, *Van vlootvoogden en zeeslagen*, 364-368.

⁴² *Hollandtze Mercurius*, October 1667, 153-154.

⁴³ Ship's Information on *Klein Hollandia*, NIMH, The Hague.

⁴⁴ P.J. Blok, P.C. Molhuysen, *Nieuw Nederlandsch Biografisch Woordenboek*, deel 3, [Nes, Jan Jacobsz. van]

apparent cause he had left his vessel. Later, when he was to stand trial, he did, however, not appear in a court set up by the States-General. According to the verdict of 9 April 1653 he was relieved from command. He was considered unworthy and not competent to defend the country and therefore he was banished from the Dutch Republic for a period of twelve years.

He was given the opportunity to wipe out the reproach. On 26 January 1666 he was made captain of admiral De Ruyter's ship. He saw action at the Four Days' Battle, as well as in subsequent battles of the Second Anglo-Dutch War. He received captaincy of *Klein Hollandia*. In 1667 he took part in the Raid on the Medway.

In 1669 Van Nes was in command of warship *Prinses Louise*, built in 1646 for the Maze admiralty, with a crew in the range of 175-200, fitted with 34-40 cannons. On convoy duty, Van Nes fought against six ships of Algerian corsairs in such a manner that the States-General felt obliged to express their gratitude. On his ship the number of casualties was high. Van Nes managed to keep his sinking ship afloat and sailed to a safe port in the Republic.

In 1671-1672 he was captain of *Klein Hollandia*. He guarded the 1671 Smyrna convoy along with five other warships. Jan Jacobsz. van Nes was killed on 24 March 1672 in combat with English navy vessels. King Charles II ordered his burial.