

- Maze [Meuse] Admiralty, with HQ at Rotterdam, was the second force supported by Holland; though smaller than the Amsterdam Admiralty, the Maze had seniority and always provided the flagship for the combined Dutch Navy
- Noordkwartier [North Quarter] Admiralty was the third force supported by Holland; HQ was rotated on a quarterly basis between Hoorn and Enkhuisen to avoid jealousy between these cities
- Zeeland Admiralty, with HQ at Middelburg, was supported by Zeeland province

The Admiralty of each ship is indicated in the following lists by an abbreviation in brackets...

[A] = Admiralty of Amsterdam

[Fr] = Admiralty of Friesland

[M] = Admiralty of the Meuse (Maze, Maas)

[N] = Admiralty of the Noordkwartier

[Z] = Admiralty of Zeeland

[U] = Admiralty unknown, or in some cases (mostly prizes) not assigned

In the 17th century the Admiralties fiercely defended their own prerogatives. Despite the drawback of divided control, the healthy rivalry between the various HQ did improve their fighting spirit. The chief rivals of the Amsterdam force were those from the Meuse and Zeeland (the other two Admiralties farther north were much less prominent).

In the 18th century, as Dutch commerce was concentrated almost entirely at Amsterdam and (to a lesser degree) at Rotterdam, the other three admiralties were practically moribund. Since each was self-supporting, the three lesser groups couldn't afford to maintain more than token fleets. However, the conservative Dutch kept all five HQ in existence until the catastrophe of 1794-95.

WAR WITH ENGLAND, 1652-1654

Commanders - Marten Tromp, to Aug 1652; Cornelis de Witt, Aug-Dec 1652; M. Tromp again, Jan-Aug 1653; C. de Witt again, Aug-Dec 1653
(There were no actions in 1654)

The following ships served during this period (armed with 20 or more guns)....
(In all lists, the ship name is followed by the # of guns, dates in service, and Admiralty)

Aartsengel Michael (flute), 40-46 (light), 1652-53 (hired)

Achilles, 32-40, A, 1630-54

Achilles [another!], 28, A, 1644-55

Adam en Eva, 24, A, 1652 only; captured by English (but not commissioned)