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~~TUES~~ (TOMORROW)

11. 5. 55

NEWS RELEASE

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DUTCH PRESENT TO BRITISH NAVY FOR HOSPITALITY
EXTENDED DURING WORLD WAR II

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On the 11th May at the Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth, Vice-Admiral A. de Booy, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Netherlands Navy, will present the British Navy with a painting by the Dutch marine painter, Lodolf Backhuysen (1631-1708) of the Dutch ship "De Zon". The inscription on the copper plate on the frame of this painting will read: "Presented to the Royal Navy by the Royal Netherlands Navy in recognition of the hospitality received in Great Britain during World War II".

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The picture will be received by the Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth, Admiral of the Fleet Sir George Creasy, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.V.O., in the presence of the Fourth Sea Lord, Vice-Admiral F.R. Parham, C.B., C.B.E.

After the liberation of the Netherlands, the Commander of the Dutch Naval forces set up a Tulip Fund, to which all Dutch naval personnel used to contribute, to express their gratitude for the hospitality extended to them during the war by the Royal Navy. In the post-war period bulbs were sent to The Royal Naval Barracks, Chatham, Royal Naval College, Greenwich; Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth; Royal Naval Air Station, Lee-on-Solent; Royal Naval College, Dartmouth; and Royal Naval Barracks, Devonport. The number of Dutch sailors still in active service, who were stationed in Great Britain during the war, has decreased over the years, and the raising of funds was, therefore, terminated some time ago.

In consultation with the British Admiralty, the Netherlands Authorities have decided to offer a gift of a lasting character, by the presentation of the painting. The rest of the funds will be given to two Benevolent Societies, 10% for King George's Fund for Sailors, and 90% for the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust.

The painting shows the Dutch warship "De Zon" anchoring off Den Helder,

The painter, Lodolf Backhuysen, is one of the most prominent Dutch marine painters of the seventeenth-century. Born at Emden in 1631, he came to Amsterdam as a young man in 1650. He lived and painted there, and died in the Dutch capital in 1708.

VICE-ADMIRAL A De BOOY

Admiral de Booy, who will visit Portsmouth in the Dutch Escort Destroyer H.N.M.S. "ZEELAND", has had a long naval career, since 1918, when he started his training at the Naval College in Den Helder. He spent a great deal of his life in the Dutch East Indies and made several voyages to the West Indies.

From 1936 to 1943 Admiral de Booy was Naval Attache in London, and was created an honorary Officer in the Order of the British Empire.

In 1943 he took command of H.N.M.S. Frigate "JOHAN MAURITS VAN NASSAU", and was engaged on convoy and escort duties in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. After commanding the 37th escort group Admiral de Booy served for some time after the war in the Netherlands Headquarters in London, and in March, 1946 he was appointed to command H.N.M.S. KAREL DOORMAN, auxiliary aircraft carrier. May 1st of that year brought his promotion to Captain.

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In June, 1949 he was appointed Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, was promoted to Commodore in July, 1949, and to Rear-Admiral on March 1st, 1951. On August 1st, 1951 the then Rear-Admiral, who was in command of the Netherlands training squadron, was promoted to acting Vice-Admiral, in the capacity of Chief of Naval Staff, including C. in C. Netherlands Naval Forces. He was confirmed in the rank of Vice-Admiral on March 1st, 1953.

H.N.M.S. ZEELAND

The ZEELAND (Commander A.J. Marcus, R.N.N.), a ship with a length of 360 ft. and a beam of 37½ ft., was completed at Flushing in 1954. She is armed with four 4.7 inch guns and anti-submarine weapons. Her complement is 264.

NOTE TO EDITORS AND PICTURE EDITORS:

Press representatives wishing to attend the ceremony should apply for passes to the Chief of Naval Information, Admiralty, Whitehall, S.W.1., Whitehall 9000, Ext. 1125.

Representatives should be at the Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth, by 11.15 a.m. The Wardroom Library, in which the picture will be handed over, is small and the accommodation for pressmen in it will be limited, but every endeavour will be made to ensure that they obtain the necessary pictures and material. After the ceremony the Dutch Naval Authorities will welcome representatives to visit H.N.M.S. ZEELAND.

A copy of an official photograph of the painting of the De Zon can be obtained through the Sport and General Press Agency, (Central 1161).

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2nd May, 1955
Admiralty, S.W.1.

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