

*Executing RAS (L) with HNLMS Piet Heyn*



# FAST COMBAT SUPPORT SHIP HNLMS ZUIDERKRUIS

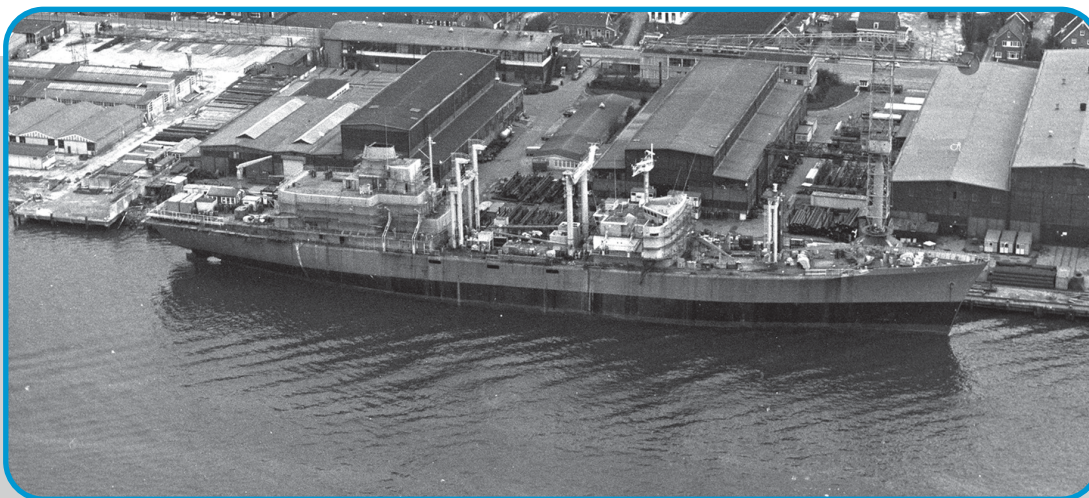
For naval units underway for a long time, it is important that necessary fuel and stores are delivered at sea. Replenishment ships are able to do this under most circumstances, increasing operational capability.

Supply ships are often constructed for specific goods like fuel, food or spare parts, carried in separate ships. For a small Navy, such ships are not cost effective. Therefore a new design was needed. A so-called one stop replenishment vessel was developed.

HNLMS *Poolster* 1962-1964 and *Zuiderkruis* 1973-1975 were built according to this concept. In terms of displacement, they were the largest ships of the Royal Netherlands Navy, designed to replenish national and Allied units at sea.

*Fitting out at Verolme United Shipyards at Alblasterdam.*

*The shipyard was founded in 1812 and taken over in 1950 by Cornelis Verolme who started there the construction of large ships.*



*Construction started in July 1973. After launch (Tuesday 15 October 1974) it would take another 8 months before she was handed over to the navy.*

## The Name



The Southern Cross is a conspicuous constellation, to see practically the whole year easily in the southern hemisphere. Of all the constellations in the sky it has the smallest area. Although it is not even very close to the south celestial pole, in the southern hemisphere might be a similar meaning as the Polar Star in the northern hemisphere. There are various countries in the southern hemisphere (eg, Australia, Brazil, New Zealand) which carry the Southern Cross in their national flag.

The name of the first Dutch surveyor, HNLMS *Poolster* (Polar Star), was taken from the principal supply ship of the former Government Navy. When a second supply ship joined, it was obvious to also name that ship to a constellation -*Zuiderkruis*-.

The ship's badge shows the Southern Cross in silver on an azure (blue) shield. The motto: 'Geduldig Bereid' (Patiently Prepared) expresses the preparedness of HNLMS *Zuiderkruis* to act.



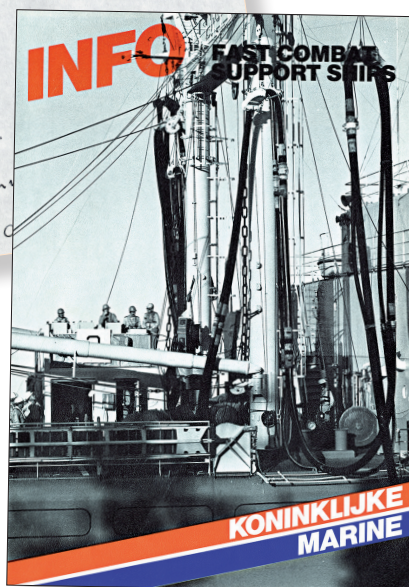
### Naming warships

Names of Dutch naval vessels are determined by a special commission to issue an opinion, which submits the Minister to His Majesty the King. In addition, there are some general guidelines:

- **Surface warships:**  
Famous naval commanders or provinces
- **Submarines:**  
Fishes and marine mammals
- **MCM vessels:**  
Towns in particular the Alkmaar class; named after towns which struggled against Spain in the 80 year Dutch liberation War 1568-1648 and could be reached by water.



Badges for the crew.



Left: Envelope with ships postmark.

Welcome-on-board flyer from the 1980s. Note the derrick, it was removed already after a few years as result of introduction of NATO standard methods.

## HNLMS Zuiderkruis

*During trials, almost completed ...  
Note the absence of pendant number on the transom.*

