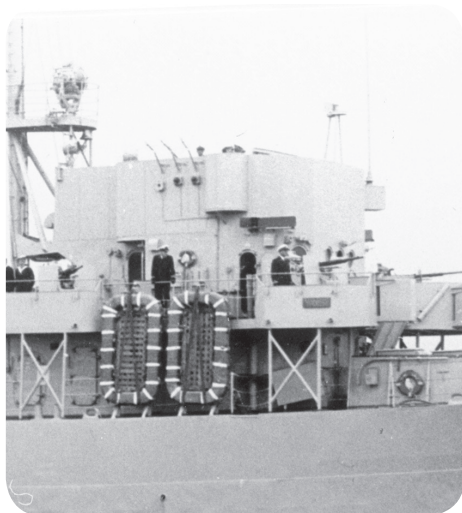




HNLMS Jaguar leaving New Orleans for work-up in spring 1954.



Detail of Wolf, note -20 mm just outside the wheelhouse. - two Carley floats.

Three of the six ships went instantly into reserve / preservation. Jaguar (1609), Fret (1604) and presumably Panter berthed alongside reserve fleet quay.





THE NAME: PANTER

In the Dutch language the Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) is often called 'Panter'. It's a common name, derived from Latin and ancient Greek.

It occurs in a wide range in sub-Saharan Africa, in small parts of Western and Central Asia, on the Indian subcontinent to Southeast and East Asia. Compared to other wild cats, the leopard has relatively short legs and a long body with a large skull. Its fur is marked with rosettes. It is similar in appearance to the jaguar, but has a smaller, lighter physique, and its rosettes are generally smaller, more densely

packed and without central spots. Both leopards and jaguars that are melanistic are known as black panthers. The leopard is distinguished by its well-camouflaged fur, opportunistic hunting behavior, broad diet, strength, and its ability to adapt to a variety of habitats ranging from rainforest to steppe, including arid and montane areas. It can run at speeds of up to 58 kilometers per hour (36 mph). The earliest known leopard fossils excavated in Europe are estimated 600,000 years old, dating to the late Early Pleistocene. Leopard fossils were also found in Japan.

The PCE in

Royal Netherlands Navy

Economical employment for an ever smaller defence budget. The Wolf-class would execute many tasks for a modest price!

Diesel oil fuel, long range, small crew (about 80) compared with a destroyer or frigate.

Duties able to perform:

- ASW in the shallow North Sea
- Escorting Coastal Convoys
- Reporting and shadowing Soviet units passing through NATO areas, sometimes escorting an ELINT (Electronic Intelligence Trawler)
- Fishery Protection "cruiser"
- Assist police and customs (drug enforcement)
- Assist in work-up of fleet units
- Ready Duty ship, North Sea patrol and surveillance of oil rigs also standing by for SAR duties
- Midshipmen training (e.g. a summer cruise with midshipmen embarked in three frigates)
- Showing the Flag, national and in ports of the North Sea, The Channel, Baltic and Biscaye areas

Wolf (PCE 1607) ready for departure to the Netherlands.



Predecessors of Panter

1 1784 – 1796

A 18 guns cutter of the Meuse admiralty (Rotterdam). The ship was purchased in England in 1784. Sailed to East Indies in 1785 and encountered later that year privateers in the North Sea. Sailed in 1796 to Norway and presumably lost.

2 1823 – 1844

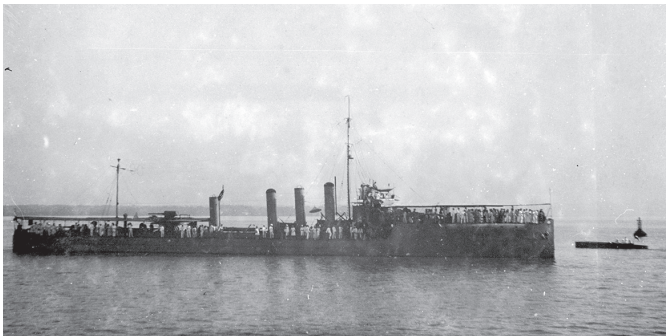
A 18 guns brig of the 1st class. Built in Flushing in 1823. Sailed in 1829 to the West Indies. Between 1830 and 1838 service in home waters. Sailed in 1838 to East Indies for hydrographic activities in western part of Java. Was found unsuitable for the homebound journey in 1842. Became guardship for Surabaya in 1843 and deleted in 1844.

3 1869 – 1906

Second class iron ram monitor of 1560 tons. Laid down in 1869 at the Navy yard in Amsterdam and launched in 1870. The ship was intended for securing the entrance of a port and coastal defence in the south of Netherlands. In the harsh winters of 1880 and 1881 she was dispatched in icebreaking on the rivers. Sold for scrap in 1906. While in service she was stationed in Helvoetsluis, Dordrecht and Rotterdam. In 1887-88 the monitor was reconstructed. Sold for scrap in 1906.

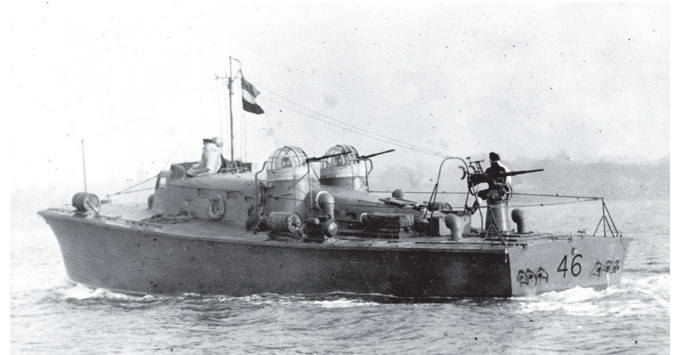
4 1912 – 1934

Torpedo boat of an eight ships class, Built in 1912 at Mij. Voor Scheeps- en Werkuigbouw 'Fijenoord' in Rotterdam. The torpedo boat did only service in the Netherlands Indies. During WWI the ship encountered some German merchants that found shelter in the neutral waters of Netherlands Indies. In 1928 she was reconstructed as a dispatch vessel. Deleted in 1934.



5 1939 – 1941

MGB (Motor Gun Boat) Built in 1939 by Scott Payne at Hythe (GB) and transferred to Royal Neth. Navy as TMB 51. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on 10 May 1940 the boat defended the bridges crossing the Meuse in Rotterdam and took damage. Evaded to Great Britain where the boat was repaired. She rejoined the navy now in exile in 1941 as MGB 46. On her first mission she was damaged by a nearby mine explosion and had to be towed back. In 1942 the boat was transferred to the Royal Navy.



6 1946 – 1963

A World War II built small motor vessel. In 1946 the HDML 1400 (Harbour Defence Motor Launch) was taken over in Sydney for service in the Netherlands Indies as RP 105 (Panter). Saw several times action during the troubles. Was in 1949 converted to inshore minesweeper and till 1950 designated as MV 32 followed by M 882. Decommissioned in 1951 and shipped to the Netherlands. After arrival in Rotterdam in service as minesweeper. In 1953 renamed 'Mastgat'. In 1956 diving tender designated Y 8129 and taken in reserve and sold in 1963.



7 1952 – 1984

Frigate. Subject of this book.

8 2003 -

Patrol vessel of the Dutch Caribbean Coastguard



*The Fret, ex PCE 1604.
Note the tarpaulin stretched over the open bridge.*



Stern of Fret and Wolf in 1984.



OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The ships were intended for nearby protection of merchant ships. The design was based on wartime experience.

A short broad beamed vessel, seaworthy but not fast. Convoy speed seldom exceeded 12 kts. Lively in a seaway despite bilge keels to reduce rolling they were not bad seaboats in the sense of stability.

For ASW sonar-DC racks/projectors and Hedgehog mortar; for AA bristling with guns- 8 -20 mm and 6- 40 mm (twins). Their maximum speed of 14½ kts (engine room telegraph setting "Flank plus 20") was too meagre. E.g. when escorting stragglers and thereafter to resume station in the convoy screen, required much time.

Also the surface speed of U-boats was high -Type VII about 17 kts-.

Within the Royal Netherlands Navy the ships were classified as frigates. The class was named Roofdier (beast of prey)-class. Often appointed for fishery protection duties (called police cruisers) but also as training ship for midshipmen and carrying out NATO exercises. With their ability to stay for longer periods at sea they were very suitable for coast guard duties.



Pennant number	Name	Callsign	Commissioned	Deleted
F 817	Wolf	PACN	1954	1984
F 818	Fret	PAZX	1954	1984
F 819	Hermelijn	PATP	1954	1984
F 820	Vos	PAAZ	1954	1984
F 821	Panter	PALP	1954	1984
F 822	Jaguar	PAQE	1954	1983

In April 1974 Wolf made headlines when she was involved in the interception of the drugs trafficking cutter Lammie, loaded with about 8000 kg hashish.

Frigates Roofdier class	
Length	56,70 m
Beam	10,25 m
Draught	2,99 m
Displacement	945 tons
Max. speed	14 kts
Engines	2 GM diesels
Armament	1 x 7,6 cm gun 4 x 40 mm (twin) 2 x 20 mm 1 x Hedgehog 2 x DC racks
Sensors	Sonar: QCU-1 Radar: SO-8 later KH 14/9 *
Complement	81
*NL indication: can be compared with KH 975 = KH = Kelvin Hughes	
(source: Royal Netherlands Navy)	

