

HET VLAGGE-BOECK VAN DEN HERR PAULUS VAN DER DUSSEN,  
CAPITEIN

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Klaes Sierksma

In the library of the National Maritime Museum at London my attention was recently directed towards a manuscript on vexillological and maritime history.

In between the years sixteen hundred and ninety-five and seventeen hundred and eight there is no lack of sometimes very detailed manuscripts and printed sources on flags internationally in use on board of warships.

But, every new "discovery" shows in special details the incompleteness and incorrectness of our knowledge.

The details of the newly discovered flag manuscript form another source to be studied consciously.

The manuscript to be dealt with is in an excellent state, the painted colours are unfaded. It seems rather simple to date the manuscript. On the front-page the manuscript's title one reads:

THE FLAGBOOK OF Mr. PAULUS VAN DER DUSSEN, CAPTAIN.

This Paulus van der Dussen was born on 5th December 1658 at Delft, the famous porcelain-makers town in Holland between The Hague and Amsterdam. His father, Councillor and Pensionary of the city-board, was Arend van der Dussen, his mother Cornelia Briel.

After having chosen for a career in the navy he was very successful. Starting as a naval cadet he was very soon promoted to the rank of lieutenant and in the beginning of 1700 got a commission of captain of the Admiralty of Amsterdam. Yet in the same year the King-Stattholder Willem III promoted him to the rank of rear-admiral of the river Meuse-Admiralty.

Van der Dussen was an able, ardent and courageous navy-officer, excelling at the bombardement of Copenhagen, the capture and (even twice) the relief of Gibraltar, and the liberation of Barcelona. In his older age he was especially commissioned with the command of the squadrons on the North Sea. He commanded famous Dutch ships of war like the Princess Aemilia, the Dordrecht, etc., with a crew of 400 up to 1000.

He died unexpectedly still a bachelor, on 8th October 1707 at The Hague. His funeral was escorted by three members and the sollicitor-general of the Meuse-Admiralty. To his memory a gold coin of honour was struck, with an inscription calling him "the Rear-Admiral of Holland and Western Friesland".

His high ranking relatives had the following coat of arms: Per fess or and black, a saltire checky gules and argent.

On 28th August 1814 Mr. Jacob van der Dussen was admitted to the knights of the province of North-Brabant. Mr. Jacob van der Dussen of Middelharnis-town was made baron on 14th September 1815, using the same coat of arms. Since 16th July 1817 the municipality of Dussen were recognized to the use of the same coat of arms.

And now looking at the London manuscript with its frontpage adorned with the Van der Dussen coat of arms, and the name of Paulus under it with the title of "CAPITEIN" one could readily conclude that the manuscript's date of completion was to be before 1700, the year which saw Van der Dussen's promotion to "Schout-bij-Nacht" (rear-admiral). One has to admit that without any doubt the composer of such a hand-book, after finishing the drawing and painting of his family coat of arms, would have inscribed his real rank and title if it would have been worked out after 1700, or - if not - he would at least have corrected his captain's title

into the title rear-admiral.

On the other hand a watermark can be found here and there in the hand-made paper of the book. This mark can exactly be dated to 1694. And paper of that year never can have been stored during 4 or 5 years after its fabrication. Thus we can conclude that the flag-manuscript was made between 1694 and 1700. We will however, see soon enough that this will cause us some most interesting problems.

In the book one find on each odd page one flag waving to the right, drawn up as if it floated from a masthead. In total a number of 57 flags are documented.

These are the flags of:

the Dutch Republic (9),

France (2),

England - Scotland - Ireland (10),

Scandinavia (4),

Northern Germany (9),

Portugal and Spain (10),

Mediterranean countries (7),

and another 6 flags of diverse origins.

On a first view one finds no flag, which cannot be found in other sources.

But the number of such sources which one has to consult then is enormous. Of course one can assume that Captain Van der Dussen had a certain collection of books on navigation, and perhaps also a few wall-charts showing flags of nations. But it seems impossible to me that he indeed had such an amount of flag sources to copy all the flags in his manuscript. On the contrary, a more sharp view of the painted flags makes it evident that the captain made

sketches of flags, he saw on ships at sea or in the harbours. Afterwards he must have worked out his notes and sketches for this "Vlagge-Boeck".

The manuscript is so exact and the style is so fine that one can hardly doubt its reliability, so that the documentation of some flags, not found in other sources, but only here, can be trusted. In the manuscript we find one special flag which is a real indication of the time when Van der Dussen made his drawings. It is flag number 24 with the caption "PROTESTANT FLAG".

In white-script-letters on the red field there is the text on the flag "For the Protestant Religion and The Liberty of England." It is well known that with this flag in the headmast the Dutch stadtholder Prince Willem III sailed to England, ordered by the Dutch States-General, "to restore law and freedom". This expedition took place in 1688 and was followed by the promotion of William and Mary to King and Queen of England. Most other flag-documentations show this flag with black letters in a red field, which would have been so indistinct, that Van der Dussens documentation seems far more reliable.

But contrary to this date of 1688 there is another flag, "the English Stander", nr. 15. This is the flag to be used by the English kings from 1603 - 1689 and - after King Willem III's death - from 1702 - 1707: it is the Standard of the House of Stuart.

Willem III, however, had on his standard in the middle and on top of the rest the Nassau coat of arms!

It seems to give us an exact dating: William disembarked on November 1688, in February 1689 he was made King of England. Thus this flag nr. 15 can only be noticed by Van der Dussen between December 1688 and February/March 1689.

So another conclusion is possible: either the paper with a watermark 1694 was in use long before we know it to exist up till now,

or - on the other hand - Van der Dussen made sketches of flags during 1688 and 1689, but did not make corrections or alterations after 1694.

The last supposition seems to be likely. So it is possible to follow the 42 years old "capitein" - as he wrote it down himself on the frontpage of the Manuscript. For he was appointed captain of the Admiralty of Amsterdam in the beginning of 1700; only a few months later the King-Stadtholder made him rear-admiral. I think it is impossible that he could have pictured incorrectly the standard of his supreme commander after his own promotion. And this leads to the conclusion that the faircopy of the flagbook was pictured during the first two or three months of 1700.

In the flagbook we didn't find further starting-points to date it. The English flags nr. 18 and nr. 19 show some very interesting differences with the same flags documented in earlier and later sources. One could think of a mistake in the "Particuliere" English flag with 11 stripes in red and white.

Carel Allard, in his wellknown book "Nieuwe Hollandsche Scheepsbouw" (1695) shows a "Range-Flag" with 13 stripes.

Alexandre Justice, in his "Treatise of the Dominion of the Sea" (1704/05) has the same one with 10 stripes.

But the "Engelsche Particuliere Vlagh", red with a white canton charged with a red cross, and a fly with a large white "cross potent" can nowhere be found in any flagdocumentation!

I don't know what could be the meaning of this cross and flag. For a moment one would point at the London flag, but this one has a plain red cross on a white field. Only this flag of the Van der Dussen's flagbook makes it sufficiently interesting.

Among Van der Dussen's flags of Holland the first one is rather

striking, the "H.M.Staete Vlagh": a red field with a crowned yellow lion, its tongue and nails blue -this is a striking proof of the exactitude of Van der Dussen's picture -, with a sword and bundle of arrows in its claws. At first one would think that everything is right and nothing in particular has to be noticed. All the flagbooks of these years are documenting this flag ... except for one detail. The lion does not face the hoist as it normally does, but faces the fly, the other side of the flag!

This is rather striking, especially in a book pictured by a highly ranked officer which he was. One can hardly believe that he has made a mistake here.

And it is even more striking that another flag with the same remarkable alteration can be found. Normally we know the flag of the admiralty-town of Middelburg to be of stripes yellow - white - red. But this nr. 8 here in Van der Dussen's book has red - white - yellow.

The same red - white - yellow, with on white the red Burgundy cross is the next one, nr. 9. It is the flag of Ostend, says Van der Dussen. The fornamed sources however and also three others: De Vries, De Doorlugtige Weereld (1700), Danckerts, Table des pavillons (1693 and following years) Mortier, Pavillons avec explication des Couleurs (1693 and following years up to 1701) ..... all these sources are defining this flag as the one of Flanders.

However, they document the flag of Ostend as a plain white one with a red Burgundy cross. Still more interesting and showing Van der Dussen's flag collecting-system is nr. 42. It point also to fact that he assembled his notes and sketches afterwards into this fair-copy. The flag has its caption: "Port a Port, Rotterdam or Portuguese flag". It is a flag with 11 strips green - white.

Indeed the mentioned source of Allard has the same flag for Rotterdam. But all books and flag charts since 1695 show a Portuguese flag with 7 stripes. No flag documentation except for Van der Dussen confirms a Portuguese flag with the countries name "Portugal" on its armillar sphere like here in nr. 44.

And what to do with nr. 41, a Burgundian Portuguese flag, plain red, and unknown it other sources up till now. Even the flag, always and everywhere identified as a Flandres flag - yellow with a black lion, a black crown and a black tressure flory counter - flory - here has the name of "Burgundy Jack".

We stay in the same region with the "Duykerker Vlagh", nr.11: Six stripes blue and white. Other flagbooks have another order of the colours: seven times white and blue, which has a totally different result - a flag with an even number stripes; an odd number results in a plain colour (here blue) and on it a couple of stripes (here white).

It is really most intriguing, the fact that one has to look at such a number of conversions. One would say: Van der Dussen worked rather inaccurately. But here is his flag nr. 54. on the other hand, the flag of Saint Marc. The flag is known everywhere. But nobody is asexact for the caption; always one finds the flag defined as a "Venetian flag". Remarkable once more is the "Turkish Salé Flag", nr. It is obviously the flag of Moroccan pirates from Salé. But the colour of this flag changed here: all other sources show the use of the Islamatic green.

The Brandenburg West India Company had a white flag with a black two-headed eagle. But here for the first time there is a white eagle with a consciously elaborated Electors crown. (nr. 55). Also the wellknown black eagle on red of Churland has become a

white one in Van der Dussen's drawing, which, of course, fits well in into the further known Churland flag of red and white stripes, which, however, misses in this flagbook.

#### Conclusions

1. The Flagbook of Paulus van der Dussen has been worked out in the first two months of the year 1700, after sketches collected since December 1688.
2. The Flagbook is important in as far as it documents 15 new flags (26% of the total number).
3. These "new" flags offer material for further study to find out the real meaning of the differences with other flag documentation. This, however, can lead to the conclusion that this Dutch rear-admiral was rather inaccurate in his flag documentation.
4. We thank Mr. Timothy Wilson, research-assistant of the National Maritime Museum, who gave us the hints to this manuscript, not guessing its real value for the vexillological research in Europe and especially in The Netherlands.

#### The Japanese Flag, "Hinomaru" and its Origin

Hiroyuki Soejima

As a national flag is the symbol of a state, it is an internationally-accepted idea that the people should acknowledge the dignity of not only their own national flag but also the flags of other countries and treat them respectfully.

There is probably no country on earth without any national flag. Needless to say, every national flag symbolize a state's national history and ideas. The world's national flags can be categorized by design as follows: (1) the sun, (2) stars, (3) a crescent and stars, (4) a cross, (5) a tricolor pattern (some vertical, some horizontal and others carrying symbolic pictures), (6) predominantly red color, (7) anomal designs (eagle, lion and others) and (8) others.

A variety of colors is used in national flags. A color does not necessarily represent the same meaning in different flags. However, white is generally said to mean justice, sacredness, purity and integrity; red, sincerity and the blood of victims in the national construction; blue, freedom, love and eternity; green, hope and life; yellow, mother earth and gold; and black, seriousness, sturdiness and simplicity.

I would like to try to express to you the significance of the Japanese Flag, the "Hinomaru". The national flag of Japan, the "Hinomaru" (Disc of the sun), as the name implies, embodies "Hi", the sun. The origin of this choice is in the Japanes worship of Amaterasu Omikami