



OBITUARY

TH. K. BARON VAN ASBECK

Rear Admiral (Ret.) Thomas Karel Baron van ASBECK, former Hydrographer of the Royal Netherlands Navy, died on 24 October 1966 at the age of 67.

A great part of his life was devoted to hydrography, to which he gave himself heart and soul.

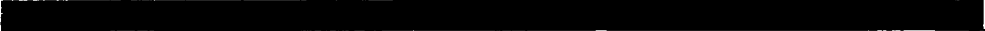
From 1932 to 1936 he was in command of hydrographic survey vessels based in the Netherlands. Then, up to 1939, as Commanding Officer of H.Neth.M. Survey vessel *Willebrord Snellius*, he contributed much to the charting of the waters of the East-Indian Archipelago, then a possession of the Netherlands.

During the first years of the Second World War he was an able escort commander in the West Indies. Late in 1943 he was called to London and appointed Acting Hydrographer of the Royal Netherlands Navy. In this capacity in 1945 he re-established the Hydrographic Office in The Hague almost entirely from scratch.

In the following years Rear Admiral van ASBECK devoted himself to reconstructing the hydrographic fleet and to developing further the activities of the Netherlands Hydrographic Office. All handbooks issued by the Hydrographic Office were revised under his personal guidance. The arrangements regarding relations with the Hydrographic Service in the East-Indian Archipelago and the gradual transfer of hydrographic activities to Indonesia occupied much of his time.

Primarily thanks to his initiative, in 1949 the Netherlands again became a member of the International Hydrographic Bureau. His capacities were acknowledged by his election as President of the International Hydrographic Conference of 1952.

Rear Admiral van ASBECK, who retired on 1 May 1961, was Knight in the Order of the Lion of the Netherlands, and Officer in the Order of





Orange Nassau. He was decorated with the Netherlands War Commemorative Cross with two Bars, and the Long Service (XL) Cross. During the Second World War Rear Admiral van ASBECK received the British decoration of the Distinguished Service Order.