



Admiral Willy HERTELEER joined the Brussels Royal Cadet School in 1957 and the Merchant Navy Academy in 1960, with commission in the Belgian Navy in 1962.

From 1963 to 1968, Ensign W. Herteleer served on several mine-sweepers and specialised in maritime mine warfare in 1970. Lieutenant W. Herteleer attended the Belgian War College in Brussels and the *Ecole Supérieure de Guerre Navale* in Paris in 1972/1974.

In 1975 he commanded a Coastal Minesweeper and in 1978 an Ocean Minesweeper/Hunter each time in the Standing Naval Force Channel and the frigate *Westdiep* in 1985/86.

In 1987 as Chief of Staff of the Naval Operational Command he was involved in the *Herald of Free Enterprise* rescue operations and in the start of the operations of the first Gulf war.

Captain W. Herteleer commanded the Belgian-Dutch Mine Warfare School in Ostend in 1987/89 and is appointed Commander Naval Operations in 1990. As such he is responsible for the Belgian ships in the second Gulf war to free Kuwait in 1990/91. He was promoted Rear-Admiral in March 1992 and appointed Chief of Naval Staff 1 January 1993.

Promoted to Vice Admiral, he was appointed Chief of the General Staff on the 1st October 1995, which is renamed into Chief of Defence on the 1st January 2002 with his promotion to Admiral on the 14th January of the same year. In these functions he is responsible, for Belgium, for operations in East-Slavonia (UNPROFOR and UNTAES), in Bosnia (UNPROFOR, IFOR, SFOR), in Kosovo (AIR CAMPAIGN, KFOR) and in Central Africa (1996/1997 and 2001).

Admiral W. Herteleer retired on January 1st 2003 due to legal age limitation regulations.

He has been involved with Allied Command Transformation as Senior Concept Developer from 2003 till 2010. In 2005, he became President of the Royal Work IBIS, a home and school for 100 young boys who come from very difficult social environments. He is also President of EURODEFENSE-BELGIUM, part of an international organization of now 13 European Nations promoting the European Security and Defence concepts.

Admiral W. Herteleer is a widower; he has four children, twelve grandchildren and lives in Ostend, Belgium.