

**Introduction.**

On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, the newspapers in Schleswig-Holstein published a supplement with the title:

**"Schleswig-Holstein 1945****Das Kriegsende"**

In addition to a number of articles about the conditions in Schleswig-Holstein, in the last months and a short while after the end of the Second World War, a number of incidents in the period 2 January to 23 May 1945 are reported in diary form.

One of these journal entries caught my eye immediately:

**18 February 1945**

*Der Leichte Kreuzer "Nordland" läuft aus Stolpmünde kommend im Kieler Hafen ein . Die "Nordland" was ein unter dem namen "Niels Juel" das grösste Schiff der dänischen Marine gewesen."*

When I was a child in the early fifties we played with "cardboard soldiers."

Some of them have survived the many years.

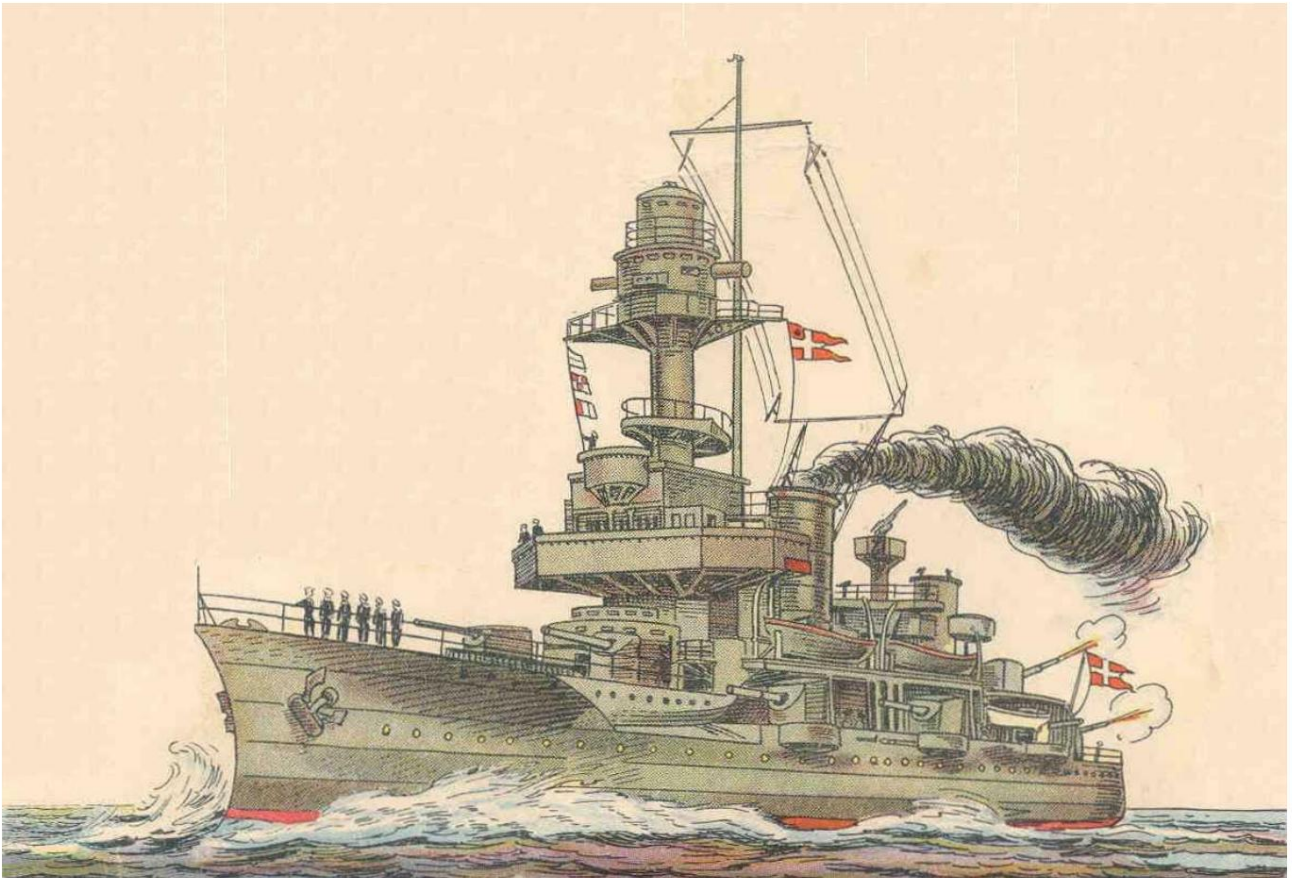
They come from the scrapbook "Danmarks Hær og Flåde" drawn by Ove Meier. It was a very sought-after scrapbook, especially since you couldn't just buy it anymore, but if you rummaged through various bookstores, toy stores and soap houses, you could get lucky - not least if you were lucky enough to have the few kroner that the price was then. I managed to acquire the complete scrapbook last year in Herlev Hallen at the Weapons History Association fair, yes the price had increased somewhat.

Per Finsted has scanned my clippings from my childhood in his article "Scrapbook The Fleet 1941". He has even succeeded in identifying the ships, including "Niels Iul". The drawing appears on the next page.

Niels Iuel was a very popular ship when we played, without us knowing which ship it was and that it was a specific ship.

## The artillery ship Niels Luel 1.

The aforementioned drawing by Niels Luel. Drawn by Over Meier.



In what follows, I will show some of the uniforms that the Danish Navy and Kriegsmarine wore in 1940 - 45, as well as some of the insignia used at that time.

Navy 1940



Admiral (Crown Prince Frederik sener the IX ) War captain



Sea Lieutenant 1



Orloggst



Quartermaster of the 3rd degree.

**The artillery ship Niels Iuel 1.**

The uniforms on Over Meier's drawings are a bit too blue, compared to the normal uniform color for the Navy, which is very dark blue, almost black.

He has quite well captured the service uniform of the two line officers, the war guest and the quartermaster, he has reproduced them in landing uniform, with equipment, this was not worn by the personnel on board NJ in connection with the events of 29 Aug. But several photos show them in white work uniforms.

Note that the Quartermaster degrees corresponded to army officiants. You come across terms like "Artillery Quartermaster" and "Dæks Quartermaster", but this denotes the subject's area of expertise, not their rank.

Ove Meier has drawn the exact rank on his Quartermaster figure. The military guest is drawn, just as the cartoonist Rasmus Christiansen has drawn several guests, in landing gear standing in a pipe position. The pipe position is shown as it was used in Denmark and Germany, until sometime after the war, when we switched to the English one, which is still used.

The boss at NJ was Commander-in-Chief Carl Westermann. Commander captain is one rank higher than the shown war captain, this rank corresponds to lieutenant colonel in the army. The command of the fleet's largest ship at the time is also a service area that can be compared to a battalion commander/department commander, which is the command level in the army.

Part 2 of this document shows the Navy's insignia as they looked in 1943.