

Paul Schmalenbach

February 6, 1981



Mr. William Aldorfer

Dear Mr. Aldorfer,

thank you for your interesting letter. I am able and willing to answer your questions.

The colours had the intentions

to make difficulties in identifying the ship and  
to make difficulties in recognizing the speed and the  
angle between bearing, seen from the  
firing ship, and the ship's course.

We studied this problem since 1935, but also in WW I and in the years between the wars.

The whole problem is described in a book "Anstriche und Tarnanstriche der deutschen Kriegsmarine" by Dr. Jung and others. It contains 190 photographs of German camouflaged ships (with English captions) indicating the period of this or that painting. I offer this book and will forward it if you will send me \$ 5,- in one note by letter. (I will use this money as probably I will be in the States in May).

Bismarck kept the dark gray colour at the ends of the hull including the white bow water and stern water as indicated on your sketch, leaving Norway May 21. Prinz Eugen took off the whole camouflage, now having a lighter gray on all superstructures, a little darker gray on the hull. - Bismarcks and our black and white stripes ended at the waterline.

I hope to have satisfied you. Sincerely yours,

*Paul Schmalenbach*

Paul Schmalenbach

March 2, 1981



Mr. William Aldorfer

Dear Mr. Aldorfer,

I thank you very cordially for your letter of February 17. I received already the two copies, and I am much obliged for sending incl. the money. I will study the problem "Who sank the HOOD?". This may not be done before I will have received some basic information.

You are right in the assumption of a difference in the behaviour of the government, of our "administration"/ and the opinion of about half of the German population. "Military" items may be written, printed and published naerly in any case. Neo-nazi propaganda is forbidden, but not respectfull, responsible and honourable look backwards.

In the annex you will find your questions with my answers. I hope to have satisfied you. I am not able to give the days, when this or that was altered, more exactly except our taking off of the stripes etc.

The famous book of Admiral Wegener is sold since many years. Maybe it may be found in any public library. I will keep my eyes open and will inform you. Obviously it is known even in English. Is this right, you will probably find it anywhere in Washington, D.C.

Sincerely yours,

*Paul Schmalenbach*



*The book will have under separate cover (Printed matter).*

CONCERNING THE APPEARANCE OF PRINZ EUGEN AND BISMARCK:

I. During the period prior to May 21, 1941 (including the working-up exercises in the Baltic);

- a) Were the tops of the main batteries of Prinz Eugen painted gray or dark red ("weinrot")? *Both colours for a short time to test them.*
- b) Were the tops of the main and secondary batteries of Bismarck painted gray (perhaps even dark gray) or dark red? *During 1941: NO.*
- c) In addition to the black-and-white striped camouflage applied to the superstructure and hull of both ships, did Prinz Eugen carry additional camouflage (sometimes referred to as a "splinter pattern") on A, B, and D Turrets, and on a portion of the superstructure behind the After Fire-Control Station (as depicted in "Warship Profile #6")? *NO* *page 122, the last picture!*

II. In preparation for, and during, "Rheinübung";

- a) Were the tops of the main batteries of Prinz Eugen, and the tops of the main and secondary batteries of Bismarck, painted yellow? *NO.*
- b) Were the Swastikas on the fore ~~and quarter~~ decks of Prinz Eugen, and on the foredeck of Bismarck, painted out or covered over? *L22 Later 1943/5 painted on canvas.*

III. Miscellaneous;

- a) Were the decks above the main deck painted dark gray, or were they the same color as the rest of the superstructure?
- b) During "Cerberus" did Prinz Eugen carry the same camouflage that she had worn in the period prior to May 21, 1941? Were the tops of the main batteries painted light blue for this operation?

*Hull gray a little darker as the whole superstructure!*

*as for as metal deck*

*P.S. - What tedious questions! I hope that I am not straining your memory too much! NO - not yet!*

*Bill*

*Yes! But see also the stripes on the mast, on the gun houses etc!*



