

6th September 1987



Mr. William R. Aldorfer

Dear Mr. Aldorfer:

I thank you for your letter of August 31 plus 3 enclosures and your interest. I gather that you had obtained my address from Hans Gally who had once corresponded with me, in 1981?

Re the principal issue of your message, I am afraid that I cannot confirm the "Bismarck's" turret roofs' ever having been painted yellow at all. My own recollection is that when, on 27 May 1941, at the end of the Final Battle, I left my battle station, I had to pass turrets "C" and "D". "C" was in beautiful colour, light grey all over; "D" battle-scarred, part darkgreyish, part black from battle effects - no yellow to be seen anywhere. This is confirmed by another survivor who had eventually saved himself from a position halfway up the front mast from where he had seen all the turrets from above. No yellow anywhere - and this survivor has confirmed this to me yesterday once more, over the telephone. From our combined evidence, I think, the idea has to be dismissed.

What an ingenious idea to have commissioned California artist R.G. Smith to do that scene of the 24th May, 10,00 hours. This is a memorable piece indeed and I am most grateful to have it, as well as your other enclosures. From your letter I take it that this scene had been carried in the "Proceedings", to which I am not a subscriber.

Very sorry am I to have to report the death of Paul Schmalenbach, about whom you have enquired. After a lengthy illness, he passed away on 26 September 1986. I, and many, lost a good friend.

It may interest you that in Germany, Messrs. Ullstein just have published my enlarged (and final) version of "battle-ship Bismarck". Its new subtitle is: A survivor in his time". Whether USNI, Annapolis, will also do the new version, remains to be seen.

Once more I thank you for your interest and enclosures. and I hope to have been of some help.

Most respectfully Yours,



*B. Müllenheim-Rochberg*