

weaponery

regelbau factsheet



MAIN ARMAMENT OF LIGHT CRUISER "NIELS JUEL"

The history of the four 150 mm guns that today is the main armament of Bangsbo Fort starts in 1914 with the keel-laying for the Danish Navy's long requested artillery ship on September 21st.

Originally it was considered to arm Niels Juel with four 24 cm cannons in twin turrets. This was changed to two 30,6 cm in single turrets as all European Navies turned to bigger guns, but following the end of WW1 - the war to end all wars - as was the belief of the day, guns of that caliber was considered unnecessary ever again and decision finally fell on ten 15 cm guns in single turrets.

Prior to the war, the 30,6 cm guns was ordered at Krupp factories in Hessen and a down payment was made, but delivery was postponed due to the war. After the war, Krupp was willing to alter the order to 15 cm guns, but was not allowed delivery because of the stiff conditions in the armistice treaty with England and France.

As it were, Swedish Bofors finally manufactured the guns - 13 in total - after blue prints and partly materials from Krupp. Delivery took place in 1922 at a price of 146.000 Swedish Kroner per cannon.

After a service life of only ten years, Niels Juel was taken out of active service from 1932 to 35. In 1936, a much needed refurbishment gave the ship a new fire control system and improved anti-aircraft protection, and it reentered service as a training ship.

Due to the tense situation in Europe, a state of alert was introduced in the Danish Navy in late 1939, and on August 25th Niels Juel - the navy's largest ship - was ordered to prime grenades for immediate use. Tensions calmed however, and at the time of the German onslaught on Denmark April 9th 1940, the ship was in port with a reduced crew and it played no role in the brief skirmish that took place prior to the Danish surrender to vastly superior Nazi forces.

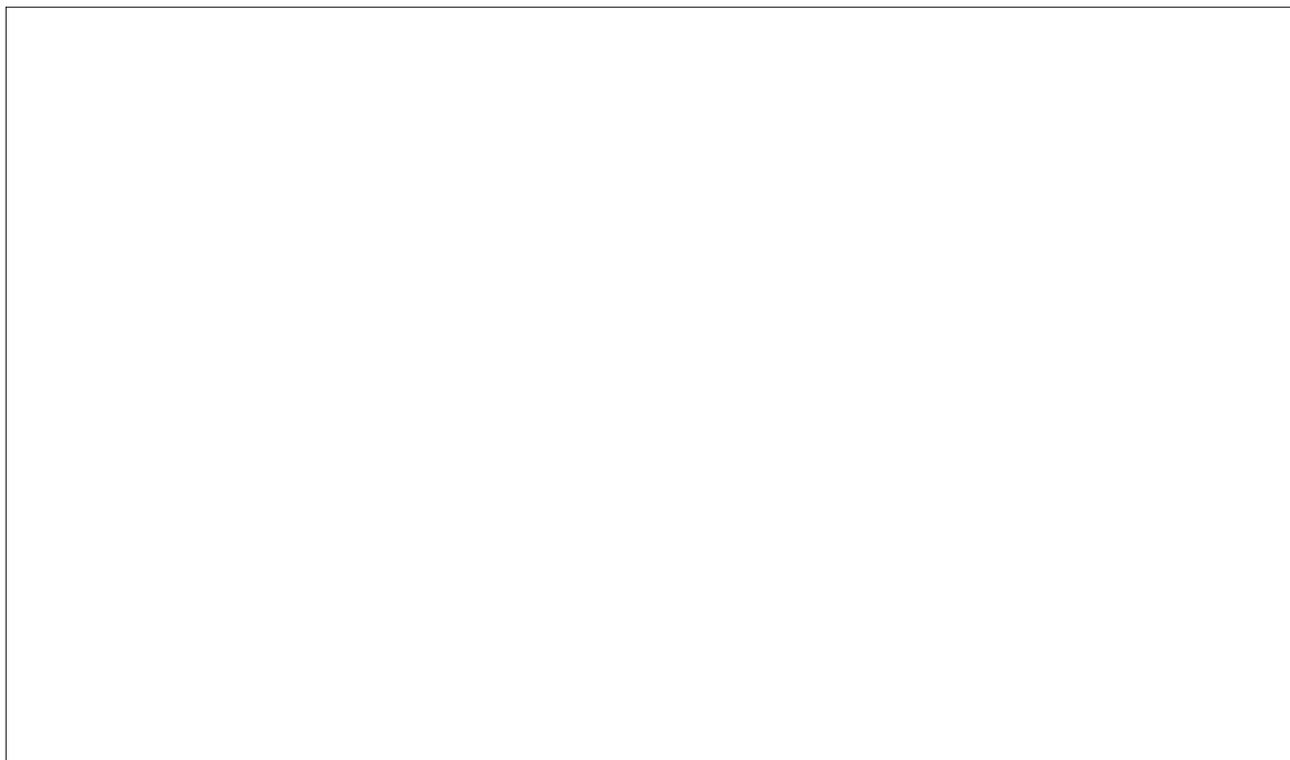
In the early years of German rule in Denmark it

was considered important by the occupants to maintain as good a relationship to the Danes and make the take-over look like a mutual agreement to "protect" the country against the Britons. For that reason, Danish armed forces kept their weapons and were allowed to exercise (under strict German supervision).

stub.com revised and expanded



TECHNICAL DATA



Caliber: 150 mm
Length of barrel:
Etc